

SCRIPT TITLE
Raised By Warriors

Written by
Tom Brannagan

Tombrannagan@icloud.com
(519)259-9685

Address Windsor Ontario, Canada N8W-4E2

Phone Number 519 259 9685

EXT. BACKYARD-DAY-WINDSOR ONTARIO - 2019

A sixty something year old man(TIM)and ten year old girl(SAMANTHA)sit at a table beside a swimming pool. They alternate looking between the sky and the tablet.

TIM

How many vapor trails Sam?

Samantha is peering through binoculars.

SAMANTHA

Four Gran Pa.

TIM

Ok then, that narrows it down.
What's the App show?

Looking down from the sky to an I-pad.

SAMANTHA

That's right, most jets have two engines. Here it is, Gran Pa, ORD to FRA Airbus 380, wow it's a 380.

Sixty-ish year old woman(GRAMMY)enters carrying refreshments.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Grammy it's a perfect day for plane spotting, look its an Airbus 380, they have two floors like a house. It's going from Chicago O'Hare to Frankfurt Germany!

GRAMMY

Oh my! Quite the event.

Tim and Grammy make eye contact and smile.

SAMANTHA

I want to be a pilot, Grammy.

While accepting a drink and a quick kiss.

TIM

Thanks, love you.

GRAMMY

You're lucky Sam, Grammy couldn't be a pilot even if I wanted to.

SAMANTHA
How come Grammy?

Grammy gives Samantha a drink and a kiss.

GRAMMY
Because back then there were boy
jobs and girl jobs and girls
couldn't be pilots.

SAMANTHA
That sucks! Thanks Grammy, What
kind of jobs could girls do?

GRAMMY
We could be, nurses, cashiers,
waitresses, or secretaries. A lot
of us were secretaries.

Grammy kisses Samantha on the forehead.

TIM
Besides, planes might fly
themselves by then Sam. The
military already uses drones.

Grammy heads back to the house.

SAMANTHA
I hope not, I want to fly. Did you
always like airplanes Gran Pa?

Tim puts down his drink looks at Samantha.

TIM
Yep. Yes, I always did, Sam.

EXT. PLAYGROUND OF ONE ROOM SCHOOL HOUSE - DAY 1965
FLASHBACK

A dozen students of varying ages mingle and play on the yard
of a rural, one room school house. A pretty, young female
teacher(MISS LEWIS)is standing by the door.

Girls are skipping rope and playing Holla Hoops. Two boys
with brush cuts are playing catch, one boy(TIM)stops and
stares into the sky. He squints and then points up.

TIM
Hey Stewy, I think it's your dad.

The other boy(STEWY)turns to look behind him.

STEWY

He was supposed to be crop-dusting
Mr. Van Dalen's orchard.

INT. COCKPIT VIEW FROM PIPER PAWNEE CROP DUSTER - DAY

A canopy of green trees below, and a clearing with a road running along side grows larger.

Montage:

The scene shifts between the serene present day and a flashback of a WW2 strafing run.

EXT: SKIES OVER DREUX FRANCE 1944-DAY FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

Two camouflaged RCAF Spitfires fly at tree top level they make a tight turn in unison and are headed straight for a clearing with columns of smoke rising from it.

INT: COCKPIT VIEW FROM SPITFIRE # 1 - DAY

The clearing grows larger and an airport comes into focus, tracers leave the aircraft and slam in to a row of parked aircraft, two burst into flames.

SKY OVER DREUX:

Tracers from Spitfire #2 slam into a flack battery firing at the Spitfire #1. The flak battery is silenced.

EXT. PLAYGROUND OF ONE ROOM SCHOOL HOUSE - DAY

TIM

Hey Michelle, It's Stewy's dad.

A girl with pigtails(MICHELLE)stops skipping rope and looks to the sky. The crop duster roars in low over the school yard. Every child in the yard waves.

The aircraft tips it's wings and makes a hard turn at treetop levels and climbs into the sky with a victory roll then fades into the horizon.

EXT. SKIES OVER DREUX FRANCE 1944 - DAY FLASHBACK

2 Spitfires fly away from the crippled airfield, turn in unison and climb into the sky, one does a victory roll.

END FLASHBACK:

Michelle to her Sisters (COLLEEN and DANIELLE)

MICHELLE

Mrs. Stewart is going to be mad.

Miss Lewis looks at her watch and begins to ring a bell. All the children run to the door. The older kids pick up the smallest ones and carry them to the schoolhouse. Tim overhears his sister.

DANIELLE

What kind of airplane was that Timmy?

TIM

That was a Piper Pawnee Sis, best crop dusting aircraft in the world.

Tim and the students approach the door. Tim smiles and looks at the young teacher.

TIM (CONT'D)

Miss Lewis, I'm gonna be a pilot when I grow up.

MISS LEWIS

I think that would be wonderful Tim especially since you'd be following in your fathers footsteps.

Tim stops to talk with Miss Lewis as others pass by.

TIM

Oh, my Dad is an Engineer now, he doesn't fly anymore, my Dad and Stewy's Dad flew Spitfires together in the war. Stewy's family is from here, my Dad is from Windsor but they were in the same squadron so they know each other. Stewy's dad still flies.

MISS LEWIS

Yes, and I can see that, and he likes to fly very low.

Tim Whispers.

TIM

My mom thinks he's kind of crazy.
You know, because of the war. My
dad thinks he was always crazy.

Tim makes a circular motion with a finger near his temple.

TIM (CONT'D)

Not retarded crazy just kind of,
you know, cuckoo?

MISS LEWIS

Ok, well, lets keep that to our
selves Timothy.

TIM

Ok Miss, I will.

INT. ONE ROOM SCHOOL HOUSE - DAY

The children sit in desks scattered around one room.

MISS LEWIS

Children, I have a treat for you.
Since today is our last day of
classes, I am going to give each of
you a Root Beer float.

CHILDREN

Cheering.

Miss Lewis puts one scoop of vanilla ice cream in each tall
glass. One of the older children adds root-beer and a straw.

The other older children bring the full floats to the
youngest children first. Eventually all have been served and
Miss Lewis takes a sip from hers.

MISS LEWIS

Class, I have an announcement to
make about my plans for next year.

All the children's faces are painted with anticipation.

MISS LEWIS (CONT'D)

I will be returning next year.

CHILDREN

Wild cheering.

The students rejoice.

Danielle tears up when she spills her float. Stewy gives his to the child, as Michelle comforts Danielle.

COLLEEN

Tim I'm so happy that Miss Lewis is our teacher again next year.

TIM

Yea, me too. She's really pretty.

Tim stares at Miss Lewis with adoring eyes.

EXT. ONE ROOM SCHOOL HOUSE PARKING LOT - DAY

A yellow school bus pulls out of the school yard and journeys along a tree lined winding road.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - DAY

Children smile and laugh, as they sing "Mickey Mouse".

The bus driver sings along, looks in his rear view mirror and smiles at the scene.

EXT WINDING TREE LINED COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Two women wait by the side of the road as the bus slows to a stop. One woman has a Collie beside her (HILDA STEWART) and the other woman (BABBETTE FLANNIGAN) has a young girl (MARY) in her arms, and a pair of small boys (MARK AND MATTHEW) standing by her side.

The bus stops and two boys and three girls exit.

HILDA STEWART

(With a Dutch accent)

Welcome home Martin Jr.

Hilda kisses Stewy, as the Collie brushes up against him. The other children gather around their mother.

BABBETTE

How was your last day of school kids?

DANIELLE

We had Root-Beer floats but I spilled mine.

COLLEEN

But Stewy gave Danny his float.

Hilda beams. Hilda and the Collie give Stewy more affection.

HILDA STEWART
I'm so proud of you Martin Jr.

Stewy blushes again, Tim laughs at him.

COLLEEN
Mrs. Stewy, Mr. Stewy flew over our
school today.

Tim, Michelle and Stewy try to signal her not to talk about
it but it's too late.

HILDA STEWART
He did now, did he? Well he's a
crazy Canuck, what do you expect!
But I love all the crazy Canucks
because they liberated our country
during the war.

Hilda bends over to give Colleen a kiss on the forehead.

HILDA STEWART (CONT'D)
I'll ask him about it tonight.

DANIELLE
What country are you from?

HILDA STEWART
I was born in Holland.

STEWY
That's why we have so many tulips
and sometimes we wear wooden shoes.

COLLEEN
Holyee! Wooden shoes, do the
children in Holland wear wooden
shoes?

STEWY
Yep, I have a pair but I don't want
to wear them. Dad says I look like
a little Dyke Hopper.

Hilda laughs, looks at Stewy.

HILDA STEWART
Come along my little Dyke Hopper,
Come along Lassie. So Babbette, a
fire by the cliff tonight?

BABBETTE
Yes, we'll bring some marshmallows.

HILDA STEWART
No please, our treat, not Dutch
Treat.

Hilda laughs.

BABBETTE
No, Dutch Treat, it's not fair,
there's nine of us.

HILDA STEWART
Oh don't be silly.

BABBETTE
I insist Hilda, please.

HILDA STEWART
Ok then, you bring the
marshmallows. And bring your Crazy
Canuck too.

Hilda turns to Stewy.

HILDA STEWART (CONT'D)
Come on Martin Jr., We have some
chores to do before dinner.

Stewy waves to Tim. Babbette and the kids look both ways before crossing the road. They walk up a long tree lined driveway towards an old farmhouse. Tim turns and yells.

TIM
Good bye Martin Jr.!

STEWY
Good Bye Timothy!

Both boys laugh. Tim starts running to catch the others.

INT. OLD FARMHOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Babbette holds Mary in her arms, Tim and Michelle help Colleen and Danielle with their school books.

Matthew and Mark enter wearing towels as capes and race around the kitchen table like Superman. Mary squirms out of her mother's arms to join her twin brothers.

TIM
What's for dinner Mom?

BABBETTE
Well it's Friday so?

TIM
Fish and chips?

COLLEEN
I like the chips but not the fish.

BABBETTE
Well we're Catholics so we can't
eat meat on Fridays. You love
everything but mayonnaise.

MICHELLE
Why doesn't he like mayonnaise?

BABBETTE
Because your father hates
mayonnaise and he has always wanted
to be like him.

COLLEEN
I don't like mayonnaise either.

BABBETTE
Don't you start Missy, you love
potato salad and it has mayonnaise.

COLLEEN
If Dad and Timmy don't like
mayonnaise then neither do I.

Colleen walks away with her chin in the air.

BABBETTE
Colleen you should be an actress,
you're so dramatic!

Babbette speaks over her shoulder as she drops a blob of
crisco in a frying pan.

BABBETTE (CONT'D)
Don't forget to change out of your
school close kids, we don't need
grass stains on everything.

MICHELLE
OK mom.

Sounds of children running up the stairs.

BABBETTE
Who's going to make the milk?

MICHELLE
It's your turn Tim.

TIM
No it's not I made it yesterday.

MICHELLE
No! I did you liar.

BABBETTE
Michelle! Stop that. Timmy, please?

Tim looks at Michelle with a scowl.

TIM
Sure Mom.

Michelle relishes her win but Babbette sees the interaction.

BABBETTE
Michelle you can break the bead in
the margarine and mix it.

Michelle's expression changes as she gets up from the table.
Tim holds a bag of white powder over an empty jug.

BABBETTE (CONT'D)
Timmy, remember to put the water in
to the jug first, you get less
lumps in the milk.

Tim fills the jug with tap water and adds two scoops of
powdered milk and begins to stir.

Michelle squeezes a plastic bag with a small bead of color in
it. She frowns as she mixes the ingredients.

Later:

TIM
We're done, can we go now Mom?

BABBETTE
Ok, change your clothes.

MICHELLE
We will ,Mom.

Tim and Michelle run out of the kitchen.

EXT. OLD FARMHOUSE YARD - DAY

Tim and Michelle play catch with a ball and gloves, Mary and the twins are on swings being pushed by Colleen and Danielle.

A blue woodgrained station wagon pulls into the driveway. A fortyish man(TOM FLANNAGAN)steps out, puts on his fedora. All the children stop what their doing and mob the car.

CHILDREN

Daddy's home, hi Dad.

TOM

Hi kids, you're all done school eh?

Tim grabs the glove from Michelle and tosses it to his father. The two exchange the ball a couple of times while the smaller children grab their father's legs.

TIM

How was work today Dad?

Tom looks at Tim as if he knows something.

TOM

It was good Timmy. Just a normal day at Family Motor Company.

TIM

What were you working on today?

TOM

Just meetings about door handles and hinges, nothing earth shattering Son.

TIM

Dad, Stewy's dad flew real low over our school today, it was neat!

Tom shakes his head.

TOM

How low?

TIM

Really low, just over the trees.

Tom mumbles under his breath, shaking his head.

TOM

Crazy son of a bitch.

MARK

Son of a bitch. Son of a bitch.

MARK AND MATTHEW

Son of a bitch.

TOM

Ok forget I said that Twins, I didn't mean anything. Don't say that in front of your mother, Ok?

MATTHEW

No son of a bitch. Ok, Dad.

Matthew salutes, Tom returns the salute.

TOM

Thats right, no son of a bitch.

Babbette comes out of house and waits on the porch with an apron on. Tom hands the baseball glove to Tim and walks towards the porch. Tom and Babbette embrace. Tom whispers.

TOM (CONT'D)

(In French)I have news.

BABBETTE

(In French)

What kind of news.

TOM

(In French)

Good news... I think?

Tom scans his children's faces.

TOM (CONT'D)

(In French)

I think it's good news.

Babbette stares into Tom's eyes.

BABBETTE

(In French)

Well what is it?

TOM

(In English)

I'll tell you inside.

BABBETTE

Ok kids, keep playing outside, dinner will be ready in fifteen minutes, stay close by.

CHILDREN

Ok Mom.

MICHELLE

(To Tim)

They're speaking French, it's a secret.

The kids go back to play as Babbette and Tom go into the farmhouse.

INT. OLD FARMHOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Babbette serves fish and chips. Tom seated at a the head of a table with the Twins and Mary. Tim, Michelle and Colleen sit at a smaller round table against the wall.

DANIELLE

Mom, when can we get real milk not this powdered stuff. It's yucky. Other kids get real milk.

MATTHEW

You're stupid Danielle, money doesn't grow on trees.

MARK

Yea Danielle you're stupid.

TOM

That's enough, everyone quiet.

TIM

Mom, why can't Catholics eat meat on Friday.

BABBETTE

It's one of the Pope's rules.

TIM

Why does he care if we eat meat?

BABBETTE

We don't ask why, we know that the Heavenly Father is infallible so we do what he says.

DANIELLE

Is the Pope from heaven?

BABBETTE

No, he's human, but can't make a mistake.

Tim processes this information for a minute.

MICHELLE

Was the Pope born that way? Did he ever make a mistake when he was a boy?

To Tom

BABBETTE

(In French)

You could help me out here?

TOM

(In French)

You're doing fine, Im staying out of this one. I have the same questions.

Babbette to the kids.

(In English)

BABBETTE

I'm not sure kids. Maybe angels come down one night and bless him with perfect judgement. We don't ask a lot of questions.

TOM

It's not easy being a Catholic.

TIM

Dad, how come you don't fly anymore?

TOM

It was a job Tim, I joined the air-force because I didn't want to be in the army. The airplanes were smelly and loud, it was a job.

MICHELLE

Why did you have to go away, why couldn't you just stay home?

TOM

It was our duty, we had to go. Everybody enlisted, did our part.

COLLEEN

What's duty, Dad?

TOM

Well, as a citizen of Canada we had to live up to our country's obligations and treaties with Great Britain and our allies. When Germany attacked Poland, England declared war and we were in it whether we liked it or not.

COLLEEN

But Germany didn't attack us did they?

TOM

It doesn't matter Colleen, if you say you're going to stand by your friends... then you stand by your friends, end of story.

TIM

Besides Hitler was trying to take over the whole world, right Dad?

TOM

Yep, that's right Tim.

DANIELLE

Why did he want to do that?

TOM

It's a long story Danny, a very long story. It was unfinished business from World War One.

BABBETTE

Kids, we're going to the Stewarts for a bon-fire tonight.

CHILDREN

Yea, marshmallows.

BABBETTE

Only if you're good.

EXT. OLD FARMHOUSE DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Tom, Babbette and family walk hand in hand along the driveway. Tom carries a bottle of Scotch, Babbette carries Mary. Tim carries two bags of marshmallows.

MICHELLE

Look both ways everybody.

The Family crosses the road and walk along a flower lined drive and are greeted by the Stewarts.(MARTIN STEWART SR.)Is holding a beer bottle. The two men shake hands.

MARTIN STEWART SR.
I see you brought the good stuff.

TOM
Saving it for a suitable occasion.

Martin Stewart Sr. Holds up his bottle.

MARTIN STEWART SR.
I've had a bit of a head start.

TOM
Roger that. I plan to get caught up in hurry. I hear you buzzed the school today, eh.

MARTIN STEWART SR.
Yep just a bit of fun. I sort of relived our attack on Dreux Aerodrome. Funny how that stuff pops in your head eh?

Tom nods in agreement.

MARTIN STEWART SR. (CONT'D)
Jesus, you did a great job navigating that day, I remember us coming out of the last turn and there it was, the aerodrome right in front of us, brilliant.

TOM
It's just math. Speed, distance timed turns. And the Yankee B25s were right on time and on target that day.

MARTIN STEWART SR.
Still brilliant navigation.

MICHELLE
Can we go to the barn Mr. Stewart?

MARTIN STEWART SR.
You sure can young lady.

Yelling to his son.

MARTIN STEWART SR. (CONT'D)
 Stewy, take the kids to the barn
 and load the wagon with some hay.

STEWY
 Sure thing dad.

Stewy jumps up on the tractor connected to a flat wagon. The women and kids jump on board.

HILDA STEWART
 Go slow now Martin Jr. Remember you
 have passengers.

STEWY
 I will mom.

Stewy drives the tractor slowly to the barn. Hilda, Babbette and the Flannigan children sit on the trailer. The children swing their legs with delight.

INT. BARN - NIGHT

The tractor stops in the barn underneath a hay loft. The fathers walk behind. Stewy jumps off the tractor.

HILDA STEWART
 Did you put on the emergency brake
 Martin Jr.?

STEWY
 Of course Mom, it's part of my shut
 down check list.

HILDA STEWART
 Oh my, listen to you.

STEWY
 A good pilot has a before and after
 checklist Mom!

HILDA STEWART
 Of course...my mistake Mr. Jr.

STEWY
 Michelle, want to help me throw
 some hay down on the wagon?

MICHELLE
 Oh yea, I have to do it because
 Tim's afraid of heights.

Tim looks down at the ground.

TIM
 (Angry))
 I can't help it! I get dizzy!

Babbette steps towards Tim.

BABBETTE
 Zip it Missy, that will be enough.
 Understand!

MICHELLE
 Yes Mom. Come on Stewy.

Michelle and Stewy climb the ladder to the loft. The duo tag team and toss bales of hay onto the wagon. Tim breaks the bales and spreads hay.

Later:

TIM
 Ok were ready everybody, jump on.

Stewy gets back on the tractor and everyone else takes their spots on the trailer. The fathers walk behind the trailer.

ORCHARD ROAD

MARTIN STEWART SR.
 Take it slow Stewy, precious cargo
 on board.

STEWY
 Yes sir.

Stewy drives the tractor towards the back of the orchard.

FIRE PIT

Stewy stops near a small wooden tower that sits in the middle of a large circular stone fire pit. Everyone jumps off the trailer and sits down on logs arranged around the pit.

Martin Sr., lights a piece of paper with his Zippo lighter, tosses it into the pit and tower erupts into flames. Everyone cheers as the fire erupts.

MARTIN STEWART SR.
 Gas as a fire starter! Brilliant.

MARK
 Can we have our marshmallows now?

BABBETTE

No, Markie we have to wait until
the flame die down, remember last
time yours kept catching on fire?

Tim, Michelle and Stewy are gathering sticks suitable for
roasting marshmallows on the edge of the adjacent orchard.

Tom pulls two shot glasses and a cigar from his pocket.
Martin Sr. lights Tom's cigar and grabs one of the shot
glasses. Tom pours Scotch into each glass. The men toast.

TOM

To 441 squadron!

The men slam down the Scotch. Tom pours two more short ones.
The men repeat the ritual.

MARTIN STEWART SR.

To Hill, Dover, Dowding and the
others that didn't make it home!

TOM

To Hill, Dover and Dowding.

EXT SKIES OVER FRANCE - DAY - 1943 FLASHBACK

A flaming Spitfire plunges towards the ground.

END FLASHBACK

TOM

(Under his breath)

Fuck.

MARTIN STEWART SR.

What's the matter?

TOM

Nothing, fuck me, just thinking
about the way Hill bought it!

MARTIN STEWART SR.

Best not to think about the
details, Squadron Leader.

TOM

I guess your right, but.

Tom stops himself from saying more and pours another shot.
Hilda is keeping a close eye on her husband.

MARTIN STEWART SR.
To the living!

The fire is subsiding into steady but smaller flames. Children begin to put marshmallows on their sticks. Hilda pulls out a transistor radio and turns it on.

RADIO (V.O.)
This is Niagara's best country,
here's Roger Miller and "King of
the Road".

Hilda yells to her husband as the song starts playing.

HILDA STEWART
Hey Canuck, it's Roger Miller, I
love this song, lets dance.

To Tom.

MARTIN STEWART SR.
I've been called to action.

To Hilda.

MARTIN STEWART SR. (CONT'D)
Sure thing Wooden Shoes.

Martin Sr. And Hilda dance together beautifully.

Tom walks to the edge of the yard and looks over the cliff at the lights in the distance. Tim walks over to stand beside his father.

TIM
What are you thinking about dad?

Tom snaps out of his thoughts.

TOM
Nothing in particular son. Hey, see
those lights down there?

TIM
Yep.

TOM
Ok, those lights are the city of
Hamilton, the Steel City.

TIM
Yep.

TOM
And see way over there? Across the
lake?

TIM
Yes

TOM
Ok, those lights are Toronto.

Tim nods in agreement.

TOM (CONT'D)
Ok, so about half way between
Hamilton and Toronto is Oakville.
That's were I used to work.

Tom catches himself.

TOM (CONT'D)
That's where I work.

Tim looks at his dad quizzically.

TIM
Dad, you still work for the Family
don't you? You didn't loose your
job did you?

TOM
No Tim, I still work for the
Family. Nothing to worry about Son.

The two separate as they walk back to the fire pit. Tim
stares at the ground with a concerned look on his face.

Tom sits down beside Babette, he puts his arm around her.
Mary reaches out to her dad. He puts her on his lap.

TOM (CONT'D)
(In French)
I think I slipped up, Tim might be
thinking somethings up.

BABBETTE
(In French)
Tom, you know kids don't miss a
trick. What happened?

TOM
(In French)
Nothing happened. Shit, we have to
tell them eventually. We're staying
in the same province.

(MORE)

TOM (CONT'D)

Hell, I moved here from the old country when I was his age, in the middle of the bloody depression to boot. Jesus H Murphy.

BABBETTE

(In French)

I know. I know but not tonight. Besides, times have changed Tom. They love it here. They love their teacher, the house, everything. It's going to be hard for them.

MARY

What do you have to tell us daddy.

BABBETTE

(In French)

Now the cat's out of the bag.

Tom looking frustrated.

TOM

(In French)

Jesus H, does she understand us?

To Mary.

(In English)

Nothing to worry about Mary, daddy got a promotion at work. Everything is going to be OK. This is our little secret OK?

MARY

Are we getting a cat? Is Jesus getting a cat for us?

BABBETTE

(Laughing))

No, no cats Mary. Just a figure of speech.

MARY

Can we get a kitty? Why not a kitty Mommy.

BABBETTE

We'll see, I mean no. No cats Mary.

MARY

Who's Murphy?

BABBETTE
 (To Tom.)
 Never a dull moment.

Tom sees Mark's marshmallow catches on fire and he runs through the yard holding the flaming stick in the air.

EXT. SKIES OVER FRANCE 1943 - DAY FLASHBACK

Hill's flaming Spitfire plunges towards the ground.

END FLASHBACK

Hilda returns.

HILDA STEWART
 That was fun, he's such a good dancer.

BABBETTE
 You two are such good dance partners. You move like one.

HILDA STEWART
 My mother was a dance teacher in Holland, she taught me all my steps and I taught him. Besides if he's dancing he's not drinking.

Hilda winks. Babette nods in agreement.

Martin Sr. is teaching a smiling Michelle to waltz. The other children are roasting marshmallows.

Tom and Babette look at each other as they see Tim and Stewy sitting side by side laughing and eating marshmallows. A sad smile comes over Babbette's face. Tom turns away and takes a pull of his cigar, while "Is It Really Over" by Jim Reeves plays on the radio. Matthew's marshmallow catches fire.

MATTHEW
 Son of a bitch.

BABBETTE
 Matthew what did you say? Where did you learn that?

Babbette immediately looks at Tom, they make eye contact. Tom holds back laughter and looks away. Tim and Stewy laugh.

INT. OLD FARMHOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Babbette is holding Mary on her hip while she cooks bacon and eggs. The children are at their usual positions at the two tables eating cheerios. Babbette opens the oven door.

BABBETTE

Timmy can you flip the toast?

TIM

Sure mom.

Tim puts on an oven mitt, pulls the oven rack out exposing nine pieces of toast. He flips each piece and pushes the rack back in the oven.

BABBETTE

Stay with it Tim, don't let them burn. Remember to leave the oven door open a crack.

TIM

I won't let 'em burn Mom.

Tom comes into the room with two small pieces of blood stained tissue stuck to his face.

BABBETTE

Hands a little shaky this morning, Squadron Leader?

Babbette chuckles. Tom gives her a puzzled look.

TOM

I don't know what your talking about.

Tom gives Babbette a peck on the cheek.

MICHELLE

Mr. Stewart is a really good dancer Daddy, he taught me the Waltz last night. I love living here, I love going to bon-fires at the Stewarts.

DANIELLE

Yea and I like it when Mr. Stewy flies real low over our school too!

Tom and Babbette look at each other. Tom grunts to himself.

TIM

And Stewy is the very best pal any guy could have.

DANIELLE

Daddy, Stewy gave me his Root Beer float when I spilled mine.

MATTHEW

Can we have another fire tonight?

MARK

Yea more marshmallows.

The Twins pound the table with their fists on the table.

MARK AND MATTHEW

Marshmallows, marshmallows, marshmallows.

The parents make eye contact, Babbette shakes her head no.

TIM

Yea I want to live here forever.

The parents make eye contact again.

TOM

I need your help, I'm cutting the lawn after breakfast, so Tim and Michelle, you can pick up sticks.

TIM

Ok Dad.

MICHELLE

Ok.

EXT. OLD FARMHOUSE YARD - DAY

Tim and Michelle scan the yard for twigs and branches ahead of their father. Tim carries a bushel basket. Tom is pushing a lawn mower with a cigar clenched in his teeth.

INT. OLD FARMHOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Everyone is sitting down at their tables eating breakfast when Tom enters wearing a white shirt and tie.

MARK

Are you going to work Daddy?

TOM

Nope, going to church Mark.

MATTHEW

Can we go too?

TOM

No, not until you get older.

MICHELLE

When can we go to church?

BABBETTE

Maybe sooner than you think.

Tom gives Babbette a quick kiss and heads out the door.

TOM

Ok see you later kids. Be good for
your mother.

INT. BLUE WOOD-GRAINED STATION WAGON - DAY

Tom drives slowly down the winding tree lined road, he pulls into the parking lot of a diner. He exits the car and walks towards the diner.

INT. ROADSIDE DINER - DAY

Tom enters the diner and is greeted by an older lady (ETHEL) with painted on eye brows and bright red lipstick. She is smoking a cigarette and wears an Ethel name badge.

ETHEL

Morning, Mr. Flannigan?

TOM

Morning Ethel.

ETHEL

The Church Special?

Tom nods in agreement.

ETHEL (CONT'D)

One toasted fried egg sandwich to
go, don't break the yoke.

ETHEL (CONT'D)

(TO TOM)

I'll get you your "church coffee".

Ethel cackles followed by a smoker's cough.

Ethel pours the coffee into a foam cup, pulls a bottle of Canadian Club whisky from below the counter and pours a shot into the coffee. She hands it to Tom with a wink.

ETHEL (CONT'D)
Enjoy mass Mr. Flannigan.

Tom hands the waitress a two dollar bill.

TOM
Keep the change, thanks Ethel see
you next Sunday.

ETHEL
Thank you!

TOM
I'm buying your silence Ethel.

Ethel cackles and coughs again. Tom turns and exits.

INT. BLUE WOOD-GRAINED STATION WAGON - DAY

Tom drives a little way down the winding tree lined road and turns into a park.

EXT. COUNTY PARK - DAY

Tom opens the rear tailgate and sits down on it. He takes a sip of his coffee and a big drag on his cigar. He blows smoke rings into the air and begins to read his newspaper.

INT. OLD FARMHOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

The kids are seated in their respective tables. Tom is carving roast beef. Babbette is walking from child to child serving mashed potatoes.

Later:

Tom sits at his seat. The parents make eye contact, Babbette nods.

TOM
Kids, your mom and I have an
announcement to make.

The children look at their parents.

BABBETTE
Daddy has been given a promotion.

TOM
And that means we have to move.

Tim drops his fork on the floor.

BABBETTE
The good news is we're going to be
close to your Grand Parents and.

Michelle cuts her off. She makes eye contact with Tim then
back to her parents.

MICHELLE
Where are we moving to?

TOM
We're moving back to Windsor, I'm
going to be driving back and forth
to Detroit every day.

Tim picks his fork up off the floor. He stares into the
distance.

DANIELLE
We can see, Aunty Monique, eh?

Babbette smiles.

BABBETTE
And she'll be so happy to see us.

MARK
Why don't we live in Detroit.

TOM
Nope, not with Vietnam! I don't
want my boys going to Vietnam.

MARK
What's that!

TOM
The Americans are having a war
there. We're staying in Canada.

MICHELLE
What school will we go to?

TOM

You'll be going to a Catholic school right around the corner from our house.

COLLEEN

What's our new house like?

BABBETTE

Well it's bigger. More bedrooms. And a full basement with a rec-room!

TOM

And we have a new big kitchen table coming, we can all sit together.

The parents are keeping an eye on Tim's reaction. Tim is disengaged and in his own space. He finally speaks up.

TIM

When do we move?

TOM

In a month and a half.

BABBETTE

We want you kids to have some time to get used to the neighborhood before school starts.

TIM

I'm not hungry. Excuse me.

Tim gets up and slowly walks to the stairs and up to his bedroom. Tom looks angry and is about to move to stop him. Babbette grabs Tom's arm.

BABBETTE

No, let him be.

(MONTAGE)

EXT. STEWARTS ORCHARD LANE - DAY

Stewy and Tim ride their bikes between rows of apple trees on a beautiful morning. Lassie leads the way past a Piper Pawnee on a grass air field with an orange wind sock.

WATERFALL

The children dismount from their bikes and run towards a high, narrow waterfall. They take turns standing under the water. The Collie watches wagging her tail.

ORCHARD

The boys play "war" with plastic helmets and toy WW2 rifles.

EXT. ORCHARD WATERFALL - DAY

The children sit on the ground and eat peanut butter and jelly sandwiches as Lassie stands guard.

EXT: ORCHARD WATERFALL - DAY

The children lay in the sun as Lassie stands guard.

EXT. OLD FARMHOUSE YARD - DAY

Tim and Stewy play catch, wearing New York Yankee ball caps.

EXT. ORCHARD LANE - DAY

The children ride by the grass runway and stop to watch the Piper Pawnee take off. The aircraft gains height, turns tightly, buzzes the kids, and speeds off into the distance.

EXT: ORCHARD FIRE PIT - NIGHT

The two families sit around the fire. Some roast marshmallows, everyone is having fun.

ACT TWO

Six Weeks Later:

EXT. STEWARTS DRIVEWAY - DAY

Babbette and Hilda embrace. Babbette lurches forward slightly and grabs her stomach. Hilda takes a step back and gives Babbette a questioning look.

HILDA STEWART

Are you?

BABBETTE

(Whispering)

I might be.

HILDA STEWART

Again! What about an abortion?

BABBETTE

I'd be excommunicated! Oh no.

Hilda looks at her friend compassionately as Tom and Martin Sr. shake hands and pat each other on the back.

Tim and Stewy are standing away from the others, both holding back tears. The women look at the boys with sad smiles. Both boys kick the dirt, looking at the ground.

TIM

I'm gonna miss you Stewy.

STEWY

Me too Timmy, me too.

Both boys tear up.

TIM

Do you think we'll ever see each other again?

STEWY

Dad said you can spend some time with us next summer.

TIM

(Weakly)

Neat.

TOM

Ok Tim, time to go.

The boys shake hands without making eye contact.

Stewy runs to his mother. The Stewarts wave goodbye as the Flannigan's walk towards the waiting station wagon. Tom puts his hand on Tim's shoulder but Tim pulls away.

TIM

It's your fault. I don't want to move away from here. I love it here. It's not fair.

TOM

Tim, Jesus Christ...life isn't fair; the world doesn't give a shit if you like what happens to you or not! It only cares about how you deal with it. This is happening so figure it out, Son. Figure it out!

Tom continues walking and Tim remains still.

To Babette,

(In French)

Lets go Babbette.

Whispering.

BABBETTE

(In French)

Tom, for God's sake he's a child.

TOM

(In French)

Jesus Christ Babbette. He's the oldest and things are going to change in a hurry. Windsor is going to be a hell of a shock. He better figure it out in a hurry.

BABBETTE

(In French)

Then help him! Help him! You can't just expect him to figure it out.

Babbette walks to her son. Tom catches himself.

TOM

(To himself)

Jesus Christ!

Tom pivots and walks to his son.

TOM (CONT'D)

Tim, listen.

Tom puts his hand on Tim's shoulder again. Tim is sobbing.

TOM (CONT'D)

Get a hold of yourself. Be a man
eh. It's time to grow up. Come on
now. You'll laugh at this in a
couple of weeks.

The trio walk to the rear of station wagon. Tom opens the rear hatch for Tim. The Twins are waiting in the rear facing seat. Babbette hovers at the rear of the car.

BABBETTE

It will be OK Tim, take care of the
Twins for me, eh?

Trying to compose himself.

TIM

Ok, Mom.

Tim, eyes filled with tears, hops in the middle of the rear seat between the Twins. Babbette closes the door.

EXT. STEWARTS ORCHARD DRIVEWAY - DAY

The Blue Wood-grained Station wagon pulls away from the driveway and turns onto the tree lined country road. The Stewarts wave goodbye.

INT. BLUE WOOD-GRAINED STATION WAGON - DAY

The station wagon drives down a two lane highway. Everyone is silent. Babbette will not look at Tom. Mary looks back and forth between her parents.

Michelle, Colleen and Danielle sit in the middle back seat.

Tim and the Twins stare out the back window. Mark pats his older brothers leg. Tom finally breaks the silence.

TOM

Hey kids lets play a game. We will
have two teams. One team gets the
port side of the car, the other
team gets the starboard. Each team
counts the cows on their side and
whoever counts the most cows by the
time we get to Windsor wins. But!
Listen up, but, if you see a
graveyard on your side you go back
to zero.

COLLEEN
How do we pick teams?

MARK
Boys against girls.

MATTHEW
Yea boys against girls.

COLLEEN
Yea girls against boys.

MICHELLE
Come on Mom, we can beat them.

Babbette hesitates.

MARK
Mom's chicken.

DANIELLE
She is not.

TOM
Ok boys we're gonna take the port
side.

MATTHEW
What side is that Dad?

TOM
My side of the car Matt.

Babbette finally joins in, no longer angry.

BABBETTE
(Protesting)
Hey, why do you want that side.
He's up to something girls. I know
how this guy thinks.

TOM
I am not.

BABBETTE
Give us that side. You probably
know where the grave yards are.

TOM
Ok you win.

BABBETTE
You gave up to easy. Ok we'll keep
our side.

TOM
No, I insist. Please.

MICHELLE
Lets play.

TWINS
Lets play, lets play.

TOM
Ok, Mary you pick.

MARY
Ok, I'm the boss...and I say boys
on Daddy's side girls on Mommy's.

Later:

INT. BLUE WOOD GRAINED STATION WAGON - DAY

DANIELLE
Oh, cows, there. Cows, cows!

Pointing.

BABBETTE
Ok count them girls.

With a smile. The girls are counting out loud.

To Tom

BABBETTE (CONT'D)
Don't you speed up.

COLLEEN
Thirty two!

MICHELLE
Thirty two to nothing.

MARY
Ha ha, we're winning Mommy.

Later:

TOM
Ok boys, look out our side.

TIM
Count you guys.

TWINS
One, two, three, four..eight

The twins take a breath.

TWINS (CONT'D)
Twenty one, twenty two.

TOM
Ok kids. If the girls have thirty two and the boys have twenty two. How many cows are the girls ahead.

MICHELLE
Ten.

Proud she answered first.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
I love arithmetic. Dad do engineers have to be good at arithmetic?

TOM
It helps honey.

MICHELLE
I want to be an engineer.

TIM
You can't be an engineer that's a man's job.

MICHELLE
Your lying! Dad are there any lady Engineers?

BABBETTE
You can be a teacher, or a nurse, they're good at arithmetic.

TOM
There's female bookkeepers at work. Who knows? The world is changing, maybe some day.

The children are vigilant. On the lookout for cows.

LATER.

INT. BLUE WOOD GRAINED STATION WAGON - DAY

BABBETTE
The score is girls 136, boys 87.

A cheer from the girls.

DANIELLE

Boys have cooties.

Later:

The station wagon moves down a four lane highway. Tom drives, smoking a cigar with Mary on his lap.

Back Seat:

Tim points to a picture in the book.

TIM

Thats a Spitfire, that's what Dad
flew in the war.

Twin one looks up at his older brother wide eyed.

TIM (CONT'D)

I want to be a pilot. Maybe not in
the Air force, but I want to fly.

Tim becomes more serious and he whispers to the Twins.

TIM (CONT'D)

Dad never talks about it, but
sometimes at night I hear him
yelling.

MATTHEW

Whats he say Timmy?

TIM

I don't know , something about Red
Leader and Blue Leader. Once I
heard him yell, he's on fire.

MATTHEW

Was, Jesus in the war with Daddy?

Tim laughs.

TIM

No, Dad was just swearing.

From the front seat.

BABBETTE

Tim? Get the twins ready please,
we'll be there soon.

TIM

Ok Mom.

Tim looks at his brothers with a stern face.

TIM (CONT'D)
Ok lets pack up.

Tim points at an invisible object with mock concern.

TIM (CONT'D)
Oh what's that?

When the twins look outside Tim begins to tickle his brothers and they laugh with glee.

Front Seat:

Tom blows cigar smoke out the window and looks at his watch.

BABBETTE
I know it's faster, but I miss all the little towns. What's going to happen to all the gas stations and restaurants?

Colleen points to a highway sign asking citizens to stop littering.

COLLEEN
Dad, what's littering?

TOM
It means you shouldn't shit in your own nest.

BABBETTE
Tom!

Tom smiles.

TOM
It means you shouldn't throw garbage out the window, it's called littering. It's now against the law to throw garbage on the street.

COLLEEN
Margaret's mother throws cigarette packs out the window. Can we call the police?

DANIELLE
We don't live there any more Colleen so mind your own bees wax.

BABBETTE
Ok enough, both of you.

MICHELLE

How come it's so flat here?

Looking out the front window.

DANIELLE

Dad, is it going to rain. The sky looks kind of dark.

TOM

That's smog Danny. It's from the factories. Windsor and Detroit have a lot of foundries.

DANIELLE

Dad, isn't that littering the sky?

TOM

It's the cost of having jobs. Factories make smog and jobs.

Colleen pushes Danielle away.

TIM

Graveyard!

TWINS

Graveyard, Ha,Ha Graveyard, Graveyard, Graveyard.

BABBETTE

(To Tom)

You knew!

Tom smiles but doesn't answer. Babbette smiles too.

Tom looks into rear view mirror.

TOM

What's the score boys?

TIM

Boys 82 girls nothing!

TWINS

Ha ha. Girls nothing, girls nothing. Boys are the best!

MICHELLE

Mom, boys have Cooties.

DANIELLE

Yea cooties.

COLLEEN

Cooties!

TOM

OK girls quit the bickering, we'll
be at Mim and Pips in 18 minutes.

Tom looks in the rear view mirror at the boys in the back.

TOM (CONT'D)

That means we win because we're
about to turn off the freeway
boys...game over.

COLLEEN

Hey that's not fair, you changed
the rules.

TOM

No I didn't. Besides life isn't
fair, Colleen.

TWINS

Boys win! Boys win!

BABBETTE

Ok, come on now everyone, let's
listen to the radio.

Babbette turns on the car radio and tunes it to CKLW the Big
8. Wooly Bully by Sam the Sham and the Pharaohs is playing.

RADIO (V.O.)

Wooly Bully, Wooly Bully.

TOM

Did I just hear that? Wooly Bully?
Wooly Bully, is that what they call
a song lyric now?

The kids are laughing and singing along with the chorus.

BABBETTE

Don't be so old fashioned.

EXT. DRIVEWAY CAZA FARM SUBURBAN WINDSOR ONTARIO - DAY

Three young girls skip rope in front of an open barn door
under "Welcome Home Flannigans" sign. Four older girls dance
and mime the words to "Stop in the Name of Love".

YOUNG GIRL 1
 They're here, Mom, Dad... Aunt Babs
 and Uncle Tom and the kids are
 here!

The girls stop as the Flannigans pour out of the car, people enter the barn from the backyard, lots of hugging, kissing and laughter.

INT CAZA FARM BARN SUBURBAN WINDSOR - DAY

A tall, dark, distinguished looking, elderly man and a much shorter elderly woman lead a group of noisy people into the barn. Some are speaking English some French.

Achille (ARCHIE CAZA) and (JOCELYN CAZA) embrace their Daughter Babbette. The Flannigan children mob their Grand Parents, hugs and kisses all around. Tim is moping.

ARCHIE CAZA
 Bienvenue Babs

JOCELYN CAZA
 It's so good to have you home, we
 have all missed you so much.

BABBETTE
 It's good to be back on the farm
 Dad.

JOCELYN CAZA
 Monique talks about you every day.
 She Misses her big sister.

BABETTE
 Well all's well again. We're home.

Archie and Tom shake hands

ARCHIE CAZA
 (In French)
 Welcome home Irish, it's gonna be
 good to have you home, I need my
 Euchre partner back.

TOM
 (In French)
 Good to be back Archie.

Smiling, nodding his head, taking in his surroundings.

TOM (CONT'D)
 (In English)
 Good to be back.

Tom nods towards Tim. Archie looks over. Tim is standing by his mother, not interacting much.

TOM (CONT'D)
 Not everyone is happy to be here.

ARCHIE CAZA
 Ah, he's young, He'll adjust. Give him a couple of days he'll be ok. Any good stock tips?

TOM
 Yea, plastics, invest in plastics. We're experimenting with it, maybe even plastic compound car bumpers.

ARCHIE CAZA
 No! Modzee, Plastic car bumpers? Unbelievable, what's next a man on the moon?

The two men light cigars.

ARCHIE CAZA (CONT'D)
 The Family Motor Company has been good to us, my 30 thirty years in the foundry, now you a big shot at the Chrome House in Detroit.

TOM
 Yea I agree, Archie. The Family has been good to us. Hate to think where we'd be without the car jobs.

ARCHIE CAZA
 We'd be back in the Depression scraping to get by, hand to mouth. Never forget those days boy, they could come back again. Never take this prosperity for granted. Money doesn't grow on trees.

Archie shaking his head. Tom nods in agreement as cousins mingle and laugh.

A young woman (MONIQUE CAZA) barges in between Jocelyn and Babbette and plants a kiss on Babbette's cheek that leaves a red lipstick imprint.

MONIQUE CAZA

Welcome home Sis, I have missed you
guys so much.

Tears well up in both of their eyes as they embrace. Tim watches the reunion and smiles. Little Mary grabs Monique by the leg.

MARY

Aunty Monique, give me a smooch.

Monique picks up Mary with a big hug and a kiss that also leaves a red lipstick imprint on Mary's forehead.

A tall quiet man lurks in the corner of the barn. (PHILIP CAZA), holds a beer in his hand and has a sullen look. He makes brief eye contact with his sisters and walks out.

BABBETTE

How's Phil been?

Monique shakes her head. Tim is listening in on the conversation.

MONIQUE CAZA

Not good, he's never been the same
since the war.

BABBETTE

Dieppe?

MONIQUE CAZA

I think so. He lives in the shed
behind the chicken coop, he's drunk
most days by noon.

MARY

What's a Dieppe?

TIM

It's a town in France, where we had
a big battle with the Germans.

BABBETTE

The Germans knew our boys were
coming and they ambushed them on
the beach. They didn't have a
chance. Uncle Phil was captured by
the Germans there.

Mary looks at her mother in awe.

MARY

Were the Germans nice to Uncle
Phil?

FLASHBACK SEQUENCE:

EXT. DIEPPE FRANCE BEACH AUGUST 19 1942 - DAY

Three men with Essex Scottish shoulder patches huddle behind a concrete sea wall as machine gun fire rakes the wall. One man peeks over the wall and is immediately shot in the head.

PHIL

Wally, fuck me Wally's dead,

Phil and the second soldier toss hand grenades over the wall with out seeing where they land. Enemy fire rakes the top of the sea wall. Motors shells start to hit the ground close by.

The second soldier points to the sea as ships and landing craft pull away from the beach. A German aircraft flies low overhead and strafes the beach, more Canadians are hit.

SECOND CANADIAN SOLDIER

Jesus Christ Phil, look, they're
leaving us here.

PHIL

Who's leaving?

SECOND CANADIAN SOLDIER

Our ships, the fucking Navy is
leaving us.

Phil looks at the sea in disbelief as mortar shells continue to explode close in on them.

PHIL

You Fuckers, come back, you Fucking
assholes. Don't leave us here!
Cowards!

Stranded soldiers scream obscenities toward the sea, others are silent, resigned to their fate. Some fight on.

The second Canadian soldier with Phil panics. He jumps up and runs towards the water and immediately cut down by machine gun fire. Phil sees this and curls up beside the sea wall.

Later:

It's dusk and Phil and dozens of other Canadian soldiers are being led away in shackles by German guards. Some of the Guards are prodding the prisoners along with bayonets.

END FLASHBACKS

INT. BARN - DAY

Babbette kisses Mary and hands her to Monique.

BABBETTE

I don't think so, they made him
work on a farm.

Babbette whispers into Monique's ear.

BABBETTE (CONT'D)

I'm going to talk to Philip.

MONIQUE CAZA

I wouldn't waste my time, Sis.

Jocelyn Caza watches Babbette leave the barn.

MONIQUE CAZA (CONT'D)

Come on Baby, lets go find the
Euchre game.

EXT. BEHIND BARN - DAY

Running after Phil and shouting.

BABBETTE

Phil, Philip, wait.

Philip doesn't acknowledge his sister until she catches up to him and grabs his arm.

BABBETTE (CONT'D)

Phil, what's wrong with you, you
didn't say hi to any of us.

Slurring his words.

PHIL

So now you're home with your
fucking war hero husband. Big Deal,
big fucking deal. Now we're all
supposed change everything we do
because you assholes are home!

(MORE)

PHIL. (CONT'D)

Who fucking cares...I've been here
all along and no one gives a shit.

Babbette moves in but Phil pushes her away and heads to his shed, Babbette's eyes fill up with tears. Jocelyn walks from the barn to console Monique. Tim is watching.

JOCELYN CAZA

Babs, we don't know what to do with
him. He lost his job and now he
only leaves the farm to buy liquor.

Babbette hugs her mother.

BABBETTE

Mom we need to help him.

JOCELYN CAZA

The good lord helps those that help
themselves. He would rather feel
sorry for himself.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET WINDSOR - DAY

The blue station wagon drives slowly down a tree lined street. As the car passes dozens of children hanging from trees, in driveways and on lawns.

INT. WOOD-GRAINED STATION WAGON - DAY

MICHELLE

Dad, how come the houses are so
close together.

TOM

Well, were in the city now
Michelle.

MARK

Can we have a fire tonight?

BABBETTE

Sorry Mark no more fires. We live
in the city now.

Children are on the move everywhere. The station wagon approaches a road hockey game. Children grab the net and pull it off the road.

FIRST HOCKEY PLAYER

Car, car.

SECOND HOCKEY PLAYER
 Hey I think that's the new kids
 moving into Springers' house.

INT. BLUE WOOD GRAINED STATION WAGON - DAY

TOM
 Well kids, this is your new house.

The station wagon pulls to a stop in the drive way behind a moving van. Men are carrying furniture from the van to the house. Children pour out of the car and into the house.

EXT. DRIVEWAY SUBURBAN WINDSOR - DAY

COLLEEN
 Where's my bedroom Mom?

MATTHEW
 Where are me and Mark gonna sleep?

BABBETTE
 All three of you boys are in the
 same room. And you two will still
 have bunk beds.

Babbette stops walking and feels her stomach briefly. A worried look comes over her face. She quickly composes herself and continues towards the house.

MARK
 That's neat Matthew we're still in
 the same room as Tim.

Tim puts his hands on the Twin's shoulders.

TIM
 Come on you guys, lets see our new
 room.

The boys run down the hall.

INT. KITCHEN NEW HOUSE - DAY

Tom and Babbette embrace as they survey their new kitchen. A ten foot long kitchen table is covered with boxes of dishes. Michelle and Colleen unpack boxes. Tim and the twins enter.

MARK
 Mommy we like our bedroom. I'm
 hungry, can I have a hot dog.

BABBETTE

Honey we don't have the hot dogs
unpacked yet, do you want an apple.

Babbette points to a bushel basket full of apples.

MARK

OK Mom.

The twins run over grab an apple. They shine the apples on
their shirts. Babbette looks up and notices that the light
bulb is out of the ceiling lamp. She call over to Tim.

BABBETTE

Tim can you get the ladder? We need
to change that bulb.

Tim nods to his mom and leaves the room.

BABBETTE (CONT'D)

Michelle, look in that box for a
light bulb please.

Colleen rummages through a box as Tim returns with the ladder
and sets it up. He starts to climb the ladder but stops,
looking pale. Babbette stands by holding up the bulb.

BABBETTE (CONT'D)

It's Ok Tim. I can do it.

TIM

No. I want to try Mom.

Tim slowly makes his way to the top of the ladder.

MICHELLE

Come on you chicken get up there. I
can do it for Mr. Chicken.

BABBETTE

Michelle, stop! You know he's
afraid of heights.

Michelle walks around flapping her arms like chicken wings.

MICHELLE

Cluck, cluck , cluck ,let me do it
Mr. Chicken.

BABBETTE

Michelle, STOP. Leave now!

Babbette whispers to Tim.

BABBETTE (CONT'D)

Are you sure? I'm happy to do it.

Tim climbs up another step, looks up and starts to unscrew the light bulb. He suddenly looks down and grabbed the top of the ladder and starts to sweat.

TIM

Mom, I get dizzy. I can't help it.
I don't know why?

BABBETTE

It's Ok Timmy, come down.

Tim walks out of the kitchen with slumped shoulders.

BABBETTE (CONT'D)

Tim come here, please. Why don't you go outside and meet some of the neighbours. There's lots of boys playing close by.

TIM

I miss Stewy mom. I miss the orchard and the waterfall. I hate it here! Hate it!

Tim leaves the room. Babbette sighs and climbs the ladder.

INT. FLANNIGAN HOUSE RECREATION ROOM - NIGHT

The family sits around the TV as an ad for Marlboro Cigarettes plays. The parents sit on chairs, the kids sit on the floor sharing two bowls of popcorn. A squabble erupts.

BABBETTE

Share boys, only take your share.

DANIELLE

What are going to watch Mommy?

BABBETTE

I Dream of Jeannie.

MARY

Yea, I Dream of Jeannie.

MARK

I want watch *F Troop*.

MATTHEW

I want *Get Smart*.

COLLEEN

I like *The Adams Family*.

DANIELLE

That's on tomorrow night.

BABBETTE

Ok kids, quiet, here we go.

Everyone is quiet as the show begins. Tim looks miserable, he lays back on the floor, not watching the TV.

INT. FLANNIGAN HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Tom and Babbette sip coffee at the table. Tom is distracted as he reads a newspaper.

BABBETTE

Timmy's having a rough time of it.
He just mopes around the house all day. Why don't you take him to your mothers when you go there today?

Tom puts down his paper, looks at Babbette and nods.

TOM

Sure.

INT. BLUE WOOD-GRAINED STATION WAGON - DAY

Tom and Tim drive into the city from the suburbs. The names of the business begin to change. They pass Ukrainian and Greek Orthodox Churches and a Jewish Synagogue. Past Lebanese, Italian and Chinese restaurants.

Tim sees Asian and black people walking down the street, he gawks at them. A man with a black hat and long sideburns stands on a corner holding a briefcase.

TOM

That man is on Orthodox Jew.

TIM

Hmm.

Tom catches Tim's reaction from the corner of his eye.

TOM

You're gonna meet people from all over the country, hell from all over the world here Tim.

(MORE)

TOM (CONT'D)

People come here for the auto jobs,
just like our family did.

Tim nods.

TIM

What about Mom's family?

TOM

That's a different story. This area
was settled by the French. Look at
the names of side streets, many are
French. The streets are named after
the French families that settled
the area two hundred years ago.
Detroit was founded in 1701 by
Cadillac. Archie figures the Caza
family moved here from Quebec
shortly after that.

TIM

Wow, neat. They must have lived
with Indians.

TOM

Probably married into Indian
families.

TIM

So we could be part Indian?

TOM

Probably, but you may never know
for sure though. Archie says his
Grand Mother was a Wyandotte.

TIM

Neat. Hey that's the name of the
street we're on.

TOM

Yep, and most of the other east
west streets are named after Indian
Tribes like Erie, Seminole or
Ottawa or Indian Chiefs like
Tecumseh.

Tom puts on the turn signal and stops at a light in front of
a Catholic church.

TIM

Is this your mom's street?

TOM

Yep, and this is the church I went to. Sacred Heart.

Tim takes in the scene. The station wagon moves slowly down a city street.

TIM

Hey the houses don't have driveways! The roof are almost touching each other.

TOM

You're right no driveways, Most people didn't have cars when these homes were built. That's why it's always a pain in the ass finding a parking spot.

Tom points out his mother's home as they pass it, still looking for an open spot. Tom finds an opening and parallel parks the station wagon.

EXT. CITY STREET WINDSOR - DAY

They exit the car and walk back towards the house. A voice from across the street.

MRS. SANTORINI

(Italian accent)

Good morning Tommy.

Tom looks over and sees an elderly woman cutting roses. He waves.

TOM

Buon Giorno Mrs. Santorini. This is my oldest, Tim.

MRS. SANTORINI

Buon Giorno Tim. Your momma is so happy to see you come home. So happy to turn your children into good little Catholics. Welcome home.

TOM

(To Tim, quietly.)

Say hello Tim.

TIM

Hello Mrs. Santori.

Laughing and waving.

MRS. SANTORINI
Close enough Bambino. Ciao to your
Momma Tommy. Ciao.

Tom and Tim wave goodbye, Tom opens a chain link gate and they walk up the sidewalk to a large brick house with a covered porch. They climb the stairs and knock on the door.

The Door opens and they are greeted by a short thick women with chubby cheeks and a huge smile(MOLLY FLANNIGAN). A small grey terrier jumps and barks beside her.

INT. MOLLY FLANNIGAN'S HOUSE - DAY

MOLLY FLANNIGAN
Come on in, come on in. It's a
great day, welcome.

Grabbing Tim's cheeks.

MOLLY FLANNIGAN (CONT'D)
Look at you, looky here, aye,
you've grown so much. Shush up
O'Toole.

Tom smiles, and bends over to pick up the Terrier.

TOM
Now, now O'Toole.

To Tim.

TOM (CONT'D)
You're Grand Pa named him.

MOLLY FLANNIGAN
God rest his soul. Come into the
kitchen. This way.

HALLWAY:

They move down a dark corridor lined with religious pictures. Pictures of hearts with daggers through them, others of the crucification. A picture of Pope Pius XII is the largest.

A picture of John Flannigan in hung by a picture of Tom sitting on the wing of a Spitfire. The Spitfire has a red idealized wolf head on it's nose.

KITCHEN:

Molly turns on a gas stove and begins to heat up a tea kettle. Tom and Tim sit at the small table. Molly leaves the room and returns with a scrap book. Tom stands up.

TOM

Ma, not the scrap book again. I've seen that thing so many times.

MOLLY FLANNIGAN

Ah hush will ya, the wee one hasn't seen it.

Tom gives his mother a hug and leaves the room.

TOM

I'm gonna go cut your lawn.

MOLLY FLANNIGAN

Suit yourself. Take O'Toole he needs the fresh air.

TOM

Come on O'Toole.

Tom and the Terrier leave and Tim settles into the chair and is looking around the kitchen. Molly puts bread in the toaster. She pours a glass of milk and hands it to Tim.

Later:

Molly clears the table and then Tim and her look through a scrap book. Molly points and explains each picture.

MOLLY FLANNIGAN

This is your Grand Da, John, in his kilt with Scottish Highland Light Infantry Regiment. He was in the trenches during the Great War. He was never the same. He couldn't hold a knife in his hand. I had to cut his meat for him. That's why our Tommy joined the air-force. He never wanted to be in the trenches. Tom saw what it did to his Da.

Tim looks at his Gran Ma

TIM

Grand Ma, if you lived in Scotland, how come you say we're Irish, not Scottish?

MOLLY FLANNIGAN
If you're born in a barn does it
make you horse?

Tim laughs.

TIM
No.

Molly nods in agreement.

MOLLY FLANNIGAN
Of course not. We've just been in
exile since the Great Famine. So
you're a wee Irishman and don't you
forget it! Besides they treated us
like second class citizens. John
would pass his millwright exams but
they wouldn't give it to him
because he wore the wrong colours.

TIM
Colours?

MOLLY FLANNIGAN
Religion, the wrong religion, the
wrong bloody religion. Aye we
Catholics were persecuted in the
old country.

Tim is enthralled. Molly points to a newspaper article.

MOLLY FLANNIGAN (CONT'D)
Here is a picture of us on the
jetty in Quebec City when we came
to Canada from Scotland. John was a
coal miner there and he got a job
in a gold mine in Val Dor, Quebec.
That's where your father learned
French. The Frenchies at least were
all Catholics. Aye, good people
they were.

TIM
How old was my father when you
moved to Canada?

Molly thinks for a moment.

MOLLY FLANNIGAN
About your age I recon? Oh that was
hard on him. He had to learn French
in a hurry.

(MORE)

MOLLY FLANNIGAN (CONT'D)
 And he had a few punch ups with the local boys but he soon earned their respect.

TIM
 How long did you live in Quebec?

MOLLY FLANNIGAN
 Five years.

Excited, pointing.

MOLLY FLANNIGAN (CONT'D)
 Aha, here's the article describing how your father earned his D.F.C.

TIM
 D.F.C?

MOLLY FLANNIGAN
 Distinguished Flying Cross. Your father led his squadron against an equal number of FW190s...they destroyed 10 of 12 Germans with no loss of their own. Here it quotes your father. Squadron Leader Flannigan said " The squadron found itself in an advantages tactical position and we made the best of the situation." Ah, John was so proud of him. Nay say a word about it but proud none the less.

Tim points to another picture of John and Molly.

TIM
 What's this picture Grand Ma? You look sad.

MOLLY FLANNIGAN
 Aye. That was when we found out that your father was missing in action. He force landed behind enemy lines. We didn't know if he was dead or alive for three months.

Tim looks at his Gran Ma.

TIM
 Were you scared Grand Ma?

MOLLY FLANNIGAN
 Aye wee one, yes I was, but poor John.

(MORE)

MOLLY FLANNIGAN (CONT'D)

He had trouble talking about his feelings and such. Your father was our only child. The good Lord took two babies from us before your da came along. Born dead they were. Two wee girls. Such is life. The road to hell is covered with roses but the road to heaven is paved with thorns.

Molly shakes her head.

MOLLY FLANNIGAN (CONT'D)

Poor John, such a kind gentle soul. The poor man didn't get more than an hour of sleep any night during the whole war. Aye but that was the worst stretch for him. Not knowing was the hardest.

Molly points to another.

MOLLY FLANNIGAN (CONT'D)

And here is a picture of us when we found out from the Red Cross that your father was alive and a P.O.W.

TIM

P.O.W.?

MOLLY FLANNIGAN

A prisoner of war. Aye, at least we knew he was alive. We still had to worry about him, there was talk that the Nazis might murder all their prisoners. Who knew?

TIM

Wow! It must have been scary. Did Dad have to work on a farm?

MOLLY FLANNIGAN

No, being an Officer and all he got treated better. But, they were still starving much of the time and covered with bed bugs and lice. Ah Tom was lucky that the right bunch of Germans captured him.

TIM

What do you mean?

MOLLY FLANNIGAN

Not all the Germans were Nazis. If your da was captured by the murdering SS you probably wouldn't be here today.

TIM

The S.S.?

MOLLY FLANNIGAN

Hitler's private army of true Nazi fanatics. Thank Jesus that your father was captured by regular German Army soldiers not those murdering heathen S.S. bastards.

Tim looks impressed by his Grand Mother's passion. He points to a wedding picture.

TIM

Hey there's my mom and dad!

MOLLY FLANNIGAN

Indeed, look at your mother, a classic beauty. She was the best thing that happened to your father. Got him to settle down. He had a tough time finding a purpose after the war. He bounced between jobs. I would get so frustrated with him but John let him be. I guess he understood what war does to a man.

TIM

How did they meet? My mom and dad?

MOLLY FLANNIGAN

Your father went back to school to get his degree after the war and he met your mother there. He was much older than most of the other students. Aye, your mother is ten years younger. Robbed the cradle he did. But I'm happy he did.

Tom enters through the back door with O'Toole right behind him. Tom is sweating, O'Toole jumps on Tim's lap and begins to lick his face. Tim giggles and hugs the Terrier.

TOM

It's done Ma. I forgot how bloody hot it gets here. The humidity!

MOLLY FLANNIGAN
A cup of tea, Son?

Tom sits down. Shakes his head no.

TOM
No thanks Ma, too hot for tea. I'm gonna give Tim a tour of the waterfront.

MOLLY FLANNIGAN
When will I see the others?

TOM
We'll have you over to the new place once we get everything in order. Maybe a week or so.

MOLLY FLANNIGAN
Aye, guess that will have to do. Give everyone a big hug from me.

Tom stands up and kisses his mother. Tim gives Molly a big hug. The three of them walk to the front door, O'Toole follows them. Hugs and kisses again as Tom and Tim exit.

INT. BLUE WOOD-GRAINED STATION WAGON - DAY

They drive along the riverfront in . Tom points across the river as two large ore carriers ply the Detroit River. Art deco sky-scrapers tower on the opposite shore.

TIM
Dad, are Protestants bad?

Tom looks at his son.

TOM
Tim, don't listen to your Grand Ma when it comes to religion. She should leave that crap in the old country. Hell, Stewy is protestant!

TIM
Why does she say those things?

TOM
I don't know. It's not even about religion, it's about clans and tribes and revenge.

(MORE)

TOM (CONT'D)

Believe me, in war, when it's life or death you don't give damn what religion the guy beside you is.

Tim looks out his side of the car at Detroit.

TIM

Is that Detroit?

TOM

It sure is. The Motor City, Car capital of the world.

Tim smiles as he takes it all in.

EXT. FLANNIGAN HOUSE SIDE DOOR - DAY

A boy(MIKEY TULOWITSKI) wearing a Detroit Tiger baseball cap, and holding a baseball and glove, knocks on the door continuously until Babbette answers the door.

BABBETTE

Hello, Who are you?

Mikey tugs at his baseball hat.

MIKEY

I'm Michael Tulowitski, I live two doors down. Can your son come out to play? The one that's my age?

Babbette smiles and invites him in.

ENTRANCE:

BABBETTE

Welcome Michael, What are you boys going to do?

Mikey enters and takes off his Tigers baseball cap exposing thin, longish hair.

MIKEY

Everybody calls me Mikey. Mom says I should introduce myself as Michael.

BABBETTE

Ok then, Mikey it is.

MIKEY

I want to play catch, does your son play baseball?

BABBETTE

Why yes he does, just a moment.

Tim has come to the door to investigate.

BABBETTE (CONT'D)

Tim, this is our neighbor Mikey
Tulo..

Mikey jumps in.

MIKEY

Tulowitski, Mikey Tulowitski.

Tim and Mikey shake hands. Tim looks at his mother.

TIM

Can I go Mom?

Babbette smiles and nods her head yes. Tim smiles at Mikey

TIM (CONT'D)

I'm gonna get my ball and glove.

Tim runs up the stairs as Mikey looks up at Babbette.

MIKEY

Are you guys Catholic?

BABBETTE

Yes, why do you ask?

MIKEY

(Excited)

Good, that means Tim will be going
to St. Rafael's School, I go there.

Babbette picks up Mary who is pulling at her skirt.

BABBETTE

Yes that's right, Tim and the girls
will all be going to there. It will
be new for them, there were no
Catholic schools.

Mikey makes a sour face.

MIKEY

I don't like mass but I like our
school. Too many girls though.
Girls have cooties!

Babbette Smiles and kisses Mary.

BABBETTE
This little girl doesn't have
Cooties.

Mary giggles.

MARY
Colleen has Cooties.

Babbette fakes an angry face.

BABBETTE
Mary?

Mary laughs and buries her head in her mothers arms.

MIKEY
Do your kids go to mass?

BABBETTE
No, not yet, but they will soon.

Tim runs down the stairs with a glove in hand on, wearing a
New York Yankees baseball hat.

MIKEY
Oh, you better not wear that hat,
we're Tiger fans here. We hate the
Yankees. My Dad calls them the Evil
Empire.

Tim looks slightly puzzled but tosses the Yankee hat on the
floor and looks at his mother.

TIM
Ok?

Babbette holds the door open for the boys, Mikey and Tim run
down the porch and down the street. They stop in the street
and begin throwing the ball back and forth.

Two girls stop skipping and walk over to Tim and Mikey. The
four children start talking. Babbette smiles.

BABBETTE
Finally!

INT. FLANNIGAN HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Babbette is working in the kitchen when Tim arrives.

BABBETTE
How was it Timmy?

TIM

Really neat Mom. I like Mikey. He's really nice. And I met some other kids. There are sooo many kids here. A lot of girls though.

Babbette smiles.

TIM (CONT'D)

I told Mikey that I really miss the orchard but Mikey said there's a forest at the end of the street.

BABBETTE

That's good Tim.

TIM

Mikey said that him and his older brother are going to play war in the forest tomorrow, can I go?

While getting something from the fridge.

BABBETTE

We'll see, it's probably Ok.

TIM

Mom, can I get a Tigers hat? All the kids here have them. They don't even like Mickey Mantle!

BABBETTE

You'll have to start cheering for Al Kaline and Norm Cash.

Smiling again but somewhat distracted as she works at the kitchen counter.

BABBETTE (CONT'D)

Sure Timmy, I saw a K-Mart, I'm making a back to school trip there with Aunt Monique tomorrow.

TIM

Thanks mom.

Tim runs out of the kitchen.

BABBETTE

(Too herself.)

I'm sure it will help you fit in.

EXT. FLANNIGAN HOUSE DRIVEWAY - DAY

Tim bursts out of the door wearing a plastic helmet and holding a toy rifle, moments later Babbette appears.

BABBETTE

Be home for dinner Corporal
Flannigan, synchronize your watch,
be home at 5 sharp.

Tim looks back while running and holding his rifle.

TIM

I'm a Sergeant Mom.

Babbette waves.

BABBETTE

Ok Sergeant.

EXT. FOREST TRAIL - DAY

Tim and Mikey walk slowly along the trail. Mikey leads and Tim follows takes in his new surroundings.

MIKEY

(Whispering.)

We're looking for Marty and Jimmy.
They're setting up to ambush us.

TIM

Who's Jimmy.

MIKEY

My older brother Marty's friend
Jimmy Ryan. Jimmy is getting
initiated into our club today.

TIM

What's the club?

MIKEY

The Blood Brothers club. Jimmy does
his tree ride today.

TIM

What's a tree ride?

MIKEY

Jimmy's gonna climb up a poplar
tree and we're gonna cut it down.

Tim looks horrified. The boys still whispering.

TIM
With Jimmy in the tree?

MIKEY
Yea, it's fun...as long as you
don't get hurt.

TIM
Did you get initiated?

MIKEY
Yea, I got a black eye when my head
smashed into the tree when it hit
the ground. It was a blast.

Tim looks concerned.

TIM
How many people are in the club.

MIKEY
Only Marty and me now, Georgie
Springer was in the club but he
moved away. Now there's just
two..but today there will be three!

Tim follows Mikey slowly down the trail, Mikey grabs Tim and
pulls him off the trail. Whispering.

MIKEY (CONT'D)
My dad said a soldier shouldn't
walk on the trail in case there's a
land mine or a booby trap.

TIM
Was your dad in the war?

MIKEY
Yep, he was a US Marine. He was in
the Pacific fighting Japs.

TIM
How come he was in the Marines?

MIKEY
My dad was playing minor league
baseball in the States when the
Japs surprise attacked Pearl
Harbor, so he joined the Marines.
He was in Iwo Jima.

TIM
What's Iwo Jima?

MIKEY

I'm not sure, an island I think, I know a lot of his friends got killed there. He hates the Japs, he calls them Nips. Was your dad in the war?

TIM

Yea, he flew Spitfires in Europe, he was a Squadron Leader in the R.C.A.F.

MIKEY

Whats the R.C.A.F?

TIM

Royal Canadian Air Force.

MIKEY

Oh, Ok, did he kill any Nazis?

TIM

I know he was an Ace so he shot down some Germans. Did your dad kill any Japs?

MIKEY (V.O.)

He doesn't talk about it but once we had a family reunion and I heard him tell my uncle Pete about burning the Japs up with flame throwers. Said they looked like burnt chickens when they pulled them out. Said they smelled real bad too. He said some of the Marines would throw up the first couple of times they used the flame thrower. Sometimes I hear him screaming at night.

FLASHBACK:

EXT. IWO JIMA MARCH 1945 DAY

Two U.S. MARINES approach a cave entrance as artillery shells explode nearby. The first Marine tosses a hand grenade into the cave and the second Marine fills the opening with flames.

END FLASHBACK:

FOREST TRAIL

TIM

Wow, flamethrowers. My Dad too, he has bad dreams. I can hear him talking in his sleep sometimes.

The boys come to a trail crossing and slither across the path on their stomachs. Half way across the path two boys(MARTY & JIMMY)come crashing out of the trees.

MARTY

Ack ack ack, your dead.

JIMMY

Bang, hand grenade your dead.

Mikey and Tim pretend to shoot back.

MARTY

Too late you're dead, We win.

Marty smiles at Jimmy.

MARTY (CONT'D)

We win, we win. Jimmy looks at Tim.

JIMMY

Hey, who's the new kid?

Tim puts out his hand, the two boys shake hands.

TIM

Tim Flannigan.

JIMMY

Jimmy Ryan.

Marty and Tim shake hands.

TIM

Hi Marty.

MARTY

Did you move in to Springers?

TIM

Yea, we moved here from Niagara, my Dad got back by the Family.

MARTY

A Family guy eh, our dad works for the General. The General the best.

JIMMY

No they aren't Tulowitski, the Family is.

MARTY

You're just saying that because your dad works for the Family too.

JIMMY

No way, Family cars are the best looking cars, lots of chrome!

MIKEY

Did you guys bring the axe?

Marty searches in some tall grass and returns with an axe.

MARTY

Sure did, even have the tree picked out. Come on guys, this way.

The four boys walk single file through the forest, military style with helmets on, holding their guns on their shoulders.

TIM

Jimmy was your dad in the war?

JIMMY (V.O.)

Yep, he was in the Navy, on the Skeena and he fired the depth charges at Kraut U-Boats.

FLASHBACK:

EXT H.M.C.S SKEENA DECK - NIGHT MARCH 1943

Four sailors hang on in driving sleet and snow as a ship makes a hard turn. Two depth charges launch into the air. Seconds later a huge explosion a geyser of water and cheers.

END FLASHBACK:

FOREST CLEARING:

Marty points to A tree, with a notch cut in its trunk.

MARTY

We want it to fall this way.

Jimmy stands by trying not to look nervous. Tim is standing well back, looking concerned. Mikey and Marty a smiling.

MARTY (CONT'D)

You ready Ryan? You aren't gonna chicken out are you?

JIMMY

No way, I'm not chicken.

MARTY

Make sure you climb up the opposite side from the side with the notch in it. You want to be on the top side when you hit the ground.

Jimmy starts to climb up the tree. Tim watches intently as he takes his final position in the tree.

JIMMY

Ok, start chopping.

Marty starts to chop the tree. After about twenty good blows the tree slowly starts to fall. Marty and Mikey run away.

MARTY

Timber!

The tree falls to the ground. Jimmy is launched a few feet in the air, falls back into the tree and the branches send him back into the air. He lands a few feet away.

JIMMY

Groaning. Ooh, whoa, that was neat.

The Tulowitski boys run to Jimmy's side laughing. Tim looks to be in shock as he walks slowly towards the fallen tree.

MARTY

You Ok Ryan?

MIKEY

That was neat!

Tim reaches down to help Jimmy up. Jimmy dusts himself off. His jeans have a rip in the knee.

JIMMY

My mom will have to put on a patch.

MARTY

We have a new Blood Brother!

Marty and Mikey pick up Jimmy and carry him on their shoulders. They wobble down the trail. Tim follows behind singing with the others.

MIKEY, MARTY, TIM
 For he's a jolly good fellow, for
 he's a jolly good fellow, for he's
 a jolly good fellow, that nobody
 can deny.

INT. FLANNIGAN HOUSE BASEMENT - NIGHT

Tim looks concerned as he watches his father shear off Mark's hair with a pair of electric clippers. Tom uses a bowl placed upside down on Mark's head as a guide

TOM
 So what did you do today Tim?

TIM
 Me and Mikey and we went to the
 bush at the end of the street. We
 played guns.

MARK
 Were you the Canadians?

TIM
 Yep.

Tim looks up at his father.

TIM (CONT'D)
 Dad?

No answer as Tom concentrates on the job at hand.

TIM (CONT'D)
 Dad, can you leave my hair a little
 bit longer?

Tom looks at him.

TOM
 Why?

TIM
 Some of the other boys go to a
 barber and have longer hair.

Tom continues shearing Mark's head.

TOM
 Yea, well money doesn't grow on
 trees and some other boys look like
 girls. Ok Matthew, you're next.

Matthew rubs his twin's head as they switch positions. Tim stands by, the razor buzzes, hair falls on the floor. Mark looks up at his older brother.

MARK

It's OK Timmy.

Tim looks down at the floor. Tom notices Tim's concern as he finishes up Matthew's buzz cut.

TOM

Ok Timmy, let me see what I can do.

Tom looks at the array of plastic guards that came with the razor. He selects one and attaches it to the razor.

TOM (CONT'D)

Ok your turn Tim.

Tim pouts in the chair as Tom turns on the razor.

INT. KITCHEN FLANNIGAN HOUSE - DAY

Babbette serves oatmeal as the children bump into each other in the kitchen. Tom enters the chaotic scene and sits down to plate of bacon and eggs wearing a shirt and tie.

TOM

Ok kids if you want me to drive you to your first day of school you better be ready in 30 minutes.

MATTHEW

Not me Daddy, me and Mark and Mary and Momma are staying.

Tom silent behind his newspaper.

EXT. NEW SCHOOL FRONT DOOR - DAY

The station wagon stops in the school parking lot. Tom, Tim, Colleen, Michelle and Danielle exit car and head towards the school front doors.

INT. PRINCIPALS OFFICE - DAY

A stern faced, middle aged Nun(SISTER CONCEPTION) with wire rimmed glasses shakes hands with Tom Flannigan.

SISTER CONCEPTION

Welcome Mr. Flannigan, welcome children. I understand you have eight children, is that correct ?

TOM

Actually seven Sister, but we'll start you off with these four.

Tom points to his children one at a time. When introduced each child steps forward, shakes hands and nods to the Nun.

SISTER CONCEPTION

We start each week with mass at our Parish Church next door. We also run a very tight ship here. Is your oldest an Alter Boy?

TOM

Well, actually...No. They haven't. They went to Public Schools, there weren't any Catholic schools in our old location.

SISTER CONCEPTION

I see. Humph. Well then. We have our work cut out for us don't we.

The Nun stares coldly at Tim.

TOM

In any event, I'm sure you'll find that they listen and are generally well behaved Sister.

SISTER CONCEPTION

Besides my duties as Principal I also teach some Mathematics. Tim, and ,Michelle, will be in my classes. I look forward to it.

The children nod in agreement. The Nun surveys their faces and rocks back and forth on her heels with arms crossed.

SISTER CONCEPTION (CONT'D)

Good, that will be good.

Tom Tips his hat and nods as he leaves the room.

TOM

See you tonight for dinner kids,
Good day Sister.

INT. SCHOOL ROOM - DAY

A young teacher(Miss Renaud)stands at the front of a large classroom of children. She has her hand on Tim's shoulder as he looks at the ground. Children stare at him.

MISS RENAUD

Class, this is Tim Flannigan, he has moved here and will be in our class. Please welcome Tim.

In Unison.

ENTIRE CLASS

Welcome to Saint Rafael's Tim.

Tim stands and nods while still looking at the floor.

MISS RENAUD

Now as usual we will start our week with mass, so begin lining up in alphabetical order , one line, and lets remember to be silent in church. No murmuring, make Sister Conception happy.

The children begin to form up by the door.

EXT. SIDEWALK JOINING SCHOOL AND CHURCH - DAY

Sister Conception stares at the children as they file by in two lines. She holds a short wooden stick, all the children are facing forward, no one is talking.

INT. ST. RAFAEL'S CHURCH - DAY

ALTAR:

A priest chants loudly in Latin as alter boys spread incense.

PEWS:

Children kneel in silence as Sister Conceptions scans for offenders. Two first grade boys try not to giggle. She Clocks eyes with them and they look down in fear.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Miss Renaud is writing on the chalk board at the front of the class. The word SCIENCE appears and is underlined.

To the left side are three sub headings, Herbivore, Carnivore and Omnivore.

MISS RENAUD
Class, who remembers the definition
of the word Herbivore?

Several student's hands go up in the air. One young girl is shaking harder than the others.

MISS RENAUD (CONT'D)
Suzie?

The girl exits her chair with perfect posture and stands beside her desk at attention.

SUZIE
Herbivore, a herbivore is a
creature that eats only vegetation.

MISS RENAUD
Well done Suzie, and who knows the
definition of carnivore?

Hands go up again. Miss Renaud points to a boy.

MISS RENAUD (CONT'D)
Yes, Johnny.

Johnny half stands, half sits, looking at the floor.

JOHNNY
Carnivores eat meat, Miss.

Suzie protests. Arm thrust into the air. Indignant.

SUZIE
Miss, Miss, Johnny didn't stand at
attention when he gave his answer!

Johnny stares at the floor.

MISS RENAUD
Well, I did hear Johnny get the
correct answer.

Johnny looks up briefly and smiles.

MISS RENAUD (CONT'D)
Thank you Johnny. And finally
omnivore?

Tim has his hand up and Miss Renaud points to him.

MISS RENAUD (CONT'D)
Yes Tim, please?

Tim stands up beside his desk. Everyone else stares at him. He hesitates for a second. Tim looks around the room, faces stare back at him.

MISS RENAUD (CONT'D)
Tim?

Tim takes a deep breath and another. He can't speak. Tim nods towards his desk. Miss Renaud nods approval and Tim sits.

MISS RENAUD (CONT'D)
You may be seated Tim.

Suzie almost jumps out of her seat. Again thrusting her arm into the air.

SUZIE
Miss. Miss, Miss, I know, Miss?

MISS RENAUD
(Reluctantly)
Yes Suzie.

SUZIE
An omnivore eats both meat and
vegetation.

Suzie turns to look arrogantly at Tim. Miss Renaud writes FOOD CHAIN on the chalk board.

MISS RENAUD
Children, we humans are omnivorous,
that means we can eat whatever is
available to us. This gives us more
options during times of famine or
drought. That's why we are at the
top of the food chain.

Suzie puts her hand up frantically again. Miss Renaud acknowledges her, even more reluctantly.

SUZIE
Miss, Miss. Was that like the
Depression? My Gran Ma said they
were always hungry during the
depression.

Other children chime in.

SEVERAL STUDENTS
Mine too, yea my Gran Ma too.

MISS RENAUD

Ok, Quiet please put your hand up before speaking. Yes children, all of our families have sad stories about the Depression. It was a difficult time for all. So students, Sister Conception will be here shortly for your arithmetic class.

Children groan.

MISS RENAUD (CONT'D)

Now, now children.

SEVERAL STUDENTS

She's mean, I had her last year.

Sister Conception enters the room unexpectedly early, walking briskly with perfect posture. She is carrying a pointer in her hand. Silence engulfs the room.

SISTER CONCEPTION

That's better! I'll take over now Miss Renaud.

Miss Renaud nods and starts toward the door. Sister Conception intercepts her in the doorway and whispers in the young teacher's ear.

SISTER CONCEPTION (CONT'D)

We need to discuss your lack of control over this class. It is vital to lay down the law and assert dominance on day one.

Miss Renaud begins to speak.

SISTER CONCEPTION (CONT'D)

Dismissed Miss Renaud!

Sister Conception pivots on her heels and returns to her position in front of the class. Only Suzie looks directly at the nun.

SISTER CONCEPTION (CONT'D)

Class, listen to my instructions. We are going to do a multiplication table drill to assess your abilities. I will select a student and you will stand up beside your desk, look directly in front of you and answer my questions as quickly as possible.

(MORE)

SISTER CONCEPTION

Each student will be required to
answer five multiplication
questions without hesitation.

The nun scans the room, no child speaks up.

SISTER CONCEPTION (CONT'D)

Ok then, let us begin.

Sister Conception looks around the room. She sees a girl(SALLY CIPPERONE) looking down at her desk.

The nun walks over to her and puts the tip of her pointer under the girl's chin and lifts her head up.

SISTER CONCEPTION (CONT'D)

Look at me child. What is your
name?

SALLY

Sally, Sister, Sally Ciperone.

SISTER CONCEPTION

You will be first, lets go, stand
up.

Sally stands beside her desk shaking.

SISTER CONCEPTION (CONT'D)

Stand up straight girl. The Good
Lord doesn't like a slouch. Two
times two.

SALLY

Four.

SISTER CONCEPTION

What is four?

SALLY

The answer is four.

SISTER CONCEPTION

Don't be smart with me young lady.
You have the correct answer but the
wrong attitude.

(Yelling.)

How do we answer? Do you understand
me child?

Sally is shaking by her desk.

SALLY

No sister.

SISTER CONCEPTION
Who can tell Sally how we correctly
answer?

Suzie almost launches herself out of her seat. Sr. Conception
points to her.

SISTER CONCEPTION (CONT'D)
Suzy, please.

Suzy again stands beside her seat at perfect attention.

SUZIE
Sister, the correct way to answer
is as follows. Two times two is
four.

SISTER CONCEPTION
Bravo. Thank you Suzie.

Suzy looks down her nose at Sally and sits down.

SISTER CONCEPTION (CONT'D)
Let us continue Sally. Three times
two.

SALLY
Three times two is six, Sister.

SISTER CONCEPTION
Seven times three.

Sally stands silently. Tim looks on with pity.

SISTER CONCEPTION (CONT'D)
(Louder)
Seven times three!

SALLY
I don't know Sister.

SISTER CONCEPTION
Who knows the answer?

Suzie is almost jumping out of her desk to answer the
question. No other students want to get involved. The nun
points to Suzie who again jumps to attention.

SUZIE
Sister, the answer is seven times
three is twenty one.

SISTER CONCEPTION
Correct Suzie, thanks you again.

SUZIE
Thank you Sister.

Suzie makes the sign of the cross.

SUZIE (CONT'D)
Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Suzie returns to her desk and sits down with perfect posture and a smug look on her face.

SISTER CONCEPTION
Sally, to the front, on the chalk
board, I want twenty five lines of
7 times 3 = 21.

Suzie walks slowly to the front of the class, picks up the chalk and begins to write.

SISTER CONCEPTION (CONT'D)
Master Flannigan, your turn.

Tim stands up beside his desk. He makes quick eye contact with Mikey as if looking for help. Mikey looks down.

TIM
Yes Sister.

SISTER CONCEPTION
Five times five.

TIM
Twenty five.

Sister Conception dashes towards Tim and smashes her pointer on his desk. Tim jumps.

SISTER CONCEPTION
(Voice Raised)
Are you thick between the ears
young man? You just heard Suzy do a
perfect job. Weren't you paying
attention? Now, lets try again! How
do we answer here at St. Rafael's
Mr. Flannigan?

TIM
Oh, yea, five times five is twenty
five.

SISTER CONCEPTION
It's Sister! Not oh yea. Maybe you
are thick? Seven times seven.

TIM
Seven times seven is forty nine.

SISTER CONCEPTION
Eight times four.

Tim hesitates for a second.

SISTER CONCEPTION (CONT'D)
Quickly, quickly.

TIM
Thirty two? Eight times four is
thirty two.

SISTER CONCEPTION
Six times nine?

TIM
Six times nine is sixty three, no,
no I mean fifty four.

MIKEY
(To himself)
Whoa, close call.

SISTER CONCEPTION
What's your final answer Master
Flannigan?

TIM
Fifty four Sister.

SISTER CONCEPTION
Ok last question, thirty six times
three?

A gasp from the class. Tim stands still.

TIM
(to him self)
Thirty times three is ninety,

SISTER CONCEPTION
Master Flannigan? We are waiting!

TIM
(TO himself)
Six times three is eighteen, ninety
and eighteen are. A hundred and
eight!

A small cheer from some students.

SISTER CONCEPTION

Silence class. Correct answer but it took too long and you didn't answer in the proper form. My instructions if you remember, stated " without hesitation" , clearly you hesitated Master Flannigan. Give me a hundred lines on the board, 36 times 3 = 108.

Tim walks dejectedly to the front of the class, picks up the chalk and looks over and sees Sally writing lines. They make eye contact and smile weakly at each other

Later:

Tim continues to write. He stops briefly to shake his arm out when he is jolted from his stupor by a loud bell ringing.

SISTER CONCEPTION (CONT'D)

Recess, single file, slowly!

Students file out of the class.

EXT. SCHOOL YARD - DAY

Boys play catch, or basketball, some play tag. Girls are skipping. Tim and Mikey watch some boys playing marbles.

Sister Conception surveys the school yard from the steps of the school. She is holding her short wooden stick.

Two girls work two skipping ropes, one in each hand, as several girls take turns jumping in and out of the action. A younger, athletic nun(SISTER URSULA)jumps in to cheers.

SISTER URSULA

(With Polish accent)

One, two three four.

Four boys with "Beatle" hair cuts move through the yard like a school of sharks. The leader(BOBBY BAINS aka PAUL)is much larger and chubbier than his three cheerleaders.(ANGELO CAPUTO, PAUL MCKAY, MARCEL BENOIT)

Suzie and another girl run to Sister Ursula. Sister Ursula jumps out, two girls replace her without missing a step.

SUZIE

Sister Ursula, Bobby Bains and his friends are pushing us.

Sister Ursula is cut off by the older Nun.

Sister Conception grabs Bobby by the ear at the exact moment he pushes another boy from behind. She pulls up on his ear so he has to stand up on his toes. His disciples are silent.

SISTER CONCEPTION

Well Master Bains, I see we're up
to our old tricks again. This is my
school!

(Yelling)

Do you understand?

Sister Conception releases her grip on Bobby Bains. She looks at the other three boys and motions to them to line up.

SISTER CONCEPTION (CONT'D)

Angelo, Paul and Marcel obey.

The boys look at the ground.

SISTER CONCEPTION (CONT'D)

All four of you, on your knees and
twenty Hail Marys.

The four Beatles kneel down, fold their hands, and in unison.

THE BEATLES

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord
is with thee...

Tim and Mikey watch from sidelines.

TIM

Who are those guys?

MIKEY

The porky kid is Bobby Bain, he
makes everyone call him Paul, like
Paul from the Beatles. The tall guy
is Angelo Caputo, he's John, the
carrot top is Paul McKay, George
and the other kid is Ringo, Marcel
Benoit. Stay away from them,
especially if you're alone.

Bobby makes eye contact with Suzie. She makes sure Sr. Conception isn't looking at her and she sticks her tongue out at him. Bobby turns red with anger.

Conception continues to stare down Bobby Bains, tapping her stick in the palm of her hand. He looks at ground and prays.

INT. FLANNIGAN HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Babbette works in the kitchen making dinner as the twins run through the kitchen chasing each with toy guns. Tim comes into the house looking dejected. He drops his books on the table and sits down.

BABBETTE
How was school Timmy?

TIM
Horrible.

BABBETTE
Why what happened?

Tim throws his hands in the air.

TIM
I don't want to talk about it. Miss Renaud is nice but I hate Sister Conception. I wish we never moved.

BABBETTE
Oh well, give it some time, kido it's your first day. Would you run down to the Corner Store for me Tim? You know we need more bread. Do you know where it is?

TIM
Sure Mom. Mikey showed me.

BABBETTE
Take a dollar out of my purse. Two loaves of Wonder Bread, OK?

TIM
Okay.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

Tim walks down the sidewalk with a bag of bread. A group of boys are approaching on the street from the opposite direction on 4 bikes.

STREET

Each bike has suicide bars with streamers and banana seats, baseball cards pinned to the front forks click on rotating spokes. The pack shift to the sidewalk Tim is on.

SIDEWALK

Tim crosses to the other side of the street. The Beatles follow him. The bikes mob converge on Tim and have him circled. Bobby Bains bumps the front wheel into Tim's leg.

BOBBY BAINS

Hey skin head. I saw you at school.

ANGELO CAPUTO

Yea puss head.

PAUL MCKAY

Let's beat him up.

The other three Beatles surround Tim and bump him, chanting.

BOBBY BAINS, MARCEL, PAUL, ANGELO

Skin head, skin head.

Tim escapes the circle and runs as the Beatles follow. Tim turns up a driveway where a tall teenaged girl (SHANNON) is washing a car. Tim runs past her and stops panting.

Shannon she steps away from the car holding the hose and places herself between Tim and his tormentors.

SHANNON KELLY

Four against one isn't fair. Lets go tough guys, four against two.

The Beatles freeze. Shannon stairs at Bobby.

SHANNON KELLY (CONT'D)

Where do you live Pugsly?

BOBBY BAINS

In a house!

The Beatles laugh. Shannon immediately hits Bobby in the nose with a full high pressure blast of water from the hose. Silence. Shannon gave Bobby another blast in the crotch.

SHANNON KELLY

Well you better hurry back to that house and get some diapers. Looks like you just pissed your pants.

The Beatles stifle giggles. Bobby points at Tim.

BOBBY BAINS

You're dead skin head.

ANGELO CAPUTO
Yea, we're gonna get you.

PAUL MCKAY
Yea look out Cootie Boy.

Shannon runs towards the Beatles spraying them with water as they escape. Shannon shuts off the hose and turns to Tim.

SHANNON KELLY
What's your name kid? You're new around here?

TIM
Tim Flannigan.

SHANNON KELLY
Ah, another Mick. Nice to meet you Tim.

Shannon puts out her hand, and they shake.

TIM
Thanks for your help. What's a Mick?

SHANNON KELLY
An Irishman, a Mick. You know there's Wops, Frogs, Chinks, Niggers.

TIM
Oh.

SHANNON KELLY
Bullies! You let me know if they bug you again, I'll take care of them. You want me to walk you home?

Shannon rubs her knuckles gently on Tim's brush-cut head.

TIM
No, that's OK. Thanks though.

SHANNON KELLY
Where do you live?

TIM
Next street over, 1033 Fairview.

SHANNON KELLY

Ok.... Well, probably best to jump the fence. That way you won't run into the Pugsly Gang again.

Tim laughs, Shannon points towards her back yard.

SHANNON KELLY (CONT'D)

That way, need help over the fence?

TIM

No I can jump it.

Tim runs into the back yard and tosses the bag of bread over first and then easily jumps over the fence.

INT. FLANNIGAN HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Babbette is working in the kitchen, Mary on her hip. Tim walks in with the bread.

BABBETTE

That you Timmy?

TIM

Yea Mom.

BABBETTE

Did you get the bread?

TIM

Yep here it is.

BABBETTE

Thanks Tim. Any problems finding the store?

TIM

No, but I was walking home and the.

Tim stops talking as Matthew starts crying because he fell down playing Superman. Tim has to stop in mid sentence.

BABBETTE

Tim please go help Mark, my hands are full.

TIM

Sure mom.

Tim frowns as he runs to his brother's aid. Babbette stops and feels her stomach for a second, sighs.

INT. FLANNIGAN HOUSE KITCHEN NIGHT

Tom sits at the head of the table, Babbette to his left with the Twins and Mary on the same side. Tim, Colleen, Danielle and Michelle on the other side of the table.

TOM

So kids how's was your first day at school?

MARK

We didn't go to school Daddy, we helped Mom.

BABBETTE

Yes you did.

MARY

Me too Mom, I helped.

BABBETTE

You too Mary.

DANIELLE

We learned how to drop, duck and roll.

MATTHEW

Quack, Quack.

Mark and Mary start to laugh and make duck sounds.

DANIELLE

Not that duck you retard.

TOM

Ok, go ahead, Danny.

DANIELLE

We do it when the Russians attack?

Danielle gets up from her chair and demonstrates.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

You drop to the floor, duck your head and roll under the desk.

MICHELLE

Daddy why do the Russians hate us?

TIM

Would they want to attack us?

TOM

It's complicated kids, they would attack here because we have industry and Detroit is a major target, so yea we are a target too.

The kids look concerned.

MICHELLE

Dad can we dig a bomb shelter in the back yard? You know in case the Ruskies drop a bomb on us?

Tom shakes his head.

TOM

No way kids, we go out in the first strike. You wouldn't want to be around for nuclear winter.

MICHELLE

Would it be winter for ever after the Atomic Bomb?

TOM

It's a figure of speech Honey, it means the world would be dead as we know it, poisoned! We wouldn't want to be around. Babies would be born with two heads and stuff like that.

MARK

Whoa, two heads!

MARY

I don't want to die.

MARK

I want two heads!

MARK & MATTHEW

Two heads, two heads.

TOM

Ok, quiet down you two.

The Twins stop chanting. Tom looks at Mary.

TOM (CONT'D)

It would be all over before we knew a it Mary, so we wouldn't suffer. Hell, if we're lucky it might happen when we're all asleep. Wouldn't know a thing!

The kids don't look comforted.

INT. PATIENT ROOM DOCTOR'S OFFICE DAY

Babbette sits in a chair holding her purse on her lap. The door opens and an elderly man enters. He is dressed in white. Babbette begins to stand.

BABBETTE

Dr. Bergman.

DR. BERGMAN

No Mrs. Flannigan please. Please stay seated.

He pauses, and looks at the floor.

DR. BERGMAN (CONT'D)

Well, your suspicions were right, you are indeed pregnant again.

Babbette tears up and begins to sob. Dr. Bergman gets her a tissue and sits back.

BABBETTE

I guess it's God's will.

Dr. Bergman looks at Babbette.

DR. BERGMAN

Was this planned?

Babbette is silent.

DR. BERGMAN (CONT'D)

Mrs. Flannigan, have you and your husband considered birth control?

BABBETTE

We have, we try to be aware of my rhythms but sometimes we just need each other, we love. Oh, you know.

Dr. Bergman chuckles.

DR. BERGMAN

I understand, sometimes you just need each other. Have you considered condoms? Or, I have other options for you.

BABBETTE

But the church is against it.

Dr. Bergman smiles again.

DR. BERGMAN

I understand, your beliefs are important to you. I'm a doctor, I only deal with medical facts.

Dr. Bergman looks at Babbette.

DR. BERGMAN (CONT'D)

Mrs. Flannigan, you're not a machine, you can't continue to produce children indefinitely. We need a short and long term solution here. Long term we can review some options for birth control. Short term. Short term. Mrs. Flannigan I'm concerned that this pregnancy might be one too many.

BABBETTE

What are you saying Doctor?

DR. BERGMAN

That you are high risk. Think about possibly ending the pregnancy.

Babbette sits staring at the floor. After a long silence.

BABBETTE

I'm a Catholic, I don't think. I'll be excommunicated. Oh?

DR. BERGMAN

Only if the mother's life is at risk and you fit the category.

BABBETTE

I'm a strong farm girl Dr. Bergman, I can still toss a bale of hay over my head. Are you sure?

DR. BERGMAN

Mrs. Flannigan, you and your child almost died last pregnancy, you do remember that night don't you.

BABBETTE

Yes, poor little Mary had such a rough time.

DR. BERGMAN

And you Mrs. Flannigan! You had a rough time also.

(MORE)

DR. BERGMAN (CONT'D)

My job is to keep you alive for
your husband and the seven children
you already have.

Babbette sits alone, sobbing.

EXT. SCHOOL YARD - DAY

The Beatles push and elbow through the schoolyard. Tim keeps an eye on them as he play marbles. He sees Bobby grab Tim's sister by the pig tails and violently pull her to the ground

(slow motion)

Tim runs through the schoolyard and tackles Bobby. Sister Ursula stops skipping and runs toward the commotion.

Tim and Bobby roll on the ground. Tim ends up on top and starts landing punches to Bobby's head. Sister Ursula looks away and allows Tim to land a couple more on shots.

Yelling from afar.

SISTER CONCEPTION

Stop, stop now, Master Flannigan.

Both Nuns converge on the scene and pull the boys apart. Sister Conception grabs both boys by an ear and pulls them in the direction of the school door.

INT. PRINCIPALS OFFICE - DAY

Bobby and Tim stand with their heads down facing Sister Conception. Conception is holding an inch thick leather strap. Sister Ursula stands behind the boys.

SISTER CONCEPTION

You are both going to receive the
strap for fighting.

TIM

But, I was protecting my family.

SISTER CONCEPTION

Jesus said to turn the other cheek.

Sister Conception motions for Tim to hold out his hand, they lock eyes and presents his palm. The nun raises the strap high over her head and it makes a loud crack as it lands.

The nun checks for a reaction but Tim is defiant. Two, three, four times the strap lands on Tim's hand but still no tears.

Sister Ursula takes one step forward and reaches out towards Tim but stops.

SISTER CONCEPTION!
Sister Ursula!

The strap cracks down two more times. Sister Conception is sweating.

Breathing heavily.

SISTER CONCEPTION
You are dismissed for the day
Master Flannigan.

Sister Conception motions to Bobby. He pees his pants.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Tim runs down the hall fighting back tears. The crack of the strap followed by a scream and blubbering from Bobby Bains.

EXT. STREET SUBURBAN WINDSOR - DAY

Tim exits the school and starts running down the street. He doesn't stop until he gets home.

INT. FLANNIGAN HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Babbette stops vacuuming when she sees Tim enter.

BABBETTE
Tim, Honey what's wrong. You're.

Tim hugs his mother as he sobs uncontrollably

ACT THREE

INT. FLANNIGAN HOUSE NIGHT HALLWAY OUTSIDE PARENTS BEDROOM - NIGHT

The Twins and Mary listen outside parents bedroom door.

MARY

Tim got the strap today at school
for fighting.

Looking at his twin.

MATTHEW

Did Tim win?

Shrugging his shoulders and straining to listen.

MARK

I think he punched him in the nose!

VOICES FROM INSIDE BEDROOM

TOM

But that's ridiculous, he was
protecting his sister, that's what
he's supposed to do! God Damned
Penguins. Jesus H Christ.

BABBETTE

Tom, come on, I'm sure Sister was.

Tom cuts her off in mid-sentence.

TOM

Sure she was what, doing what Baby
Jesus wants? I didn't see Jesus in
Europe for Christ's sakes. Nuns, a
bunch of frustrated goddam.

BABBETTE

Tom Please!

Mary and the twins look at each other wide eyed. They sneak away and run down the stairs.

STAIRCASE

MATTHEW

I'm gonna tell Tim.

Elbowing his brother,

MARK

No I'm gonna.

Both boys elbow each other, stumble and fall down, Mary jumps over them and runs down the stairs.

INT. FLANNIGAN HOUSE RECREATION ROOM - NIGHT

Tim lays on couch watching TV, Mary jumps on his chest, she is out of breath. The twins scuffle in the background.

MARY

Dad thinks you were right to punch that boy. He's mad at Sister Consumption.

TIM

Conception Mary, but thanks.

MARY

Are your hands still sore?

Tim nods yes. Mary gives him a big hug and kisses his hands for him.

MARY (CONT'D)

There you go, all better now.

From another room

TOM

Hey Timmy you want to go for a ride?

Tim jumps up

TIM

Sure Dad.

INT. WOOD-GRAINED STATION WAGON - NIGHT

Tom drives smoking a cigar, Tim is in the passenger seat. They drive through suburban neighborhood. A Detroit Tiger radio broadcast in the background.

TOM

So tell me what happened at school?

TIM

Dad, I saw Bobby hurting Michelle.
I couldn't help it. I, I just went
kind of, I don't know, I wanted to.

Tom reaches over on rubs Tim's head.

TOM

You did the right thing Son. You
protected the your family. We take
care of the those that can't
protect themselves.

Timmy shaking his head.

TIM

Then why did I get in trouble?

TOM

Son, life isn't fair. Do you know
what that means?

TIM

No, that's not fair!

TOM

That's what I mean, sometimes you
do the right thing and things don't
work out right for you. It's, just
that there's the way things should
be in a perfect world and then
there's the way things really are.
The French have a saying, C'est la
vie, that's life.

Tim looking off in the distance.

TIM

So what should I do, Dad.

TOM

Do about what, Tim?

TIM

About getting the strap.

TOM

Don't let the Bastards grind you
down! My father used to say that.
Some old Irish proverb.

TIM

What's it mean?

TOM

Son, people don't always have good intentions and will do things to hurt you or control you.

Tim gazes out the window.

TIM

Dad, I didn't know I could fight! I couldn't control myself.

TOM

It's wired into us Tim, It's survival instinct.

A long silence.

TIM

Dad, is there a God?

Tom hesitates.

TOM

Tim, it doesn't matter whether there's a god or not. It's about doing the right thing whether or not there is a god.

TIM

I tried to do the right thing today.

TOM

You did son, I'm proud of you.

TIM

Thanks Dad. Who are the Bastards?

Tom chuckles.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

The station wagon pulls up to the front of the school. Mikey and the Flannigan kids say good bye to Tom and head to the playground. Tom heads for the front door of the school.

INT. SCHOOL OUTSIDE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Tom stands outside the office waiting for Sister Conception. The Door opens, Sister Conception nods to Tom.

SISTER CONCEPTION
Mr Flannigan, please come in.

Tom removes his fedora and enters. Sister Conception motions to Tom to sit.

TOM
No thank you, Sister, I prefer to stand. Sister, I have my son's version of what happened yesterday, I would like to hear your side.

SISTER CONCEPTION
Well it's quite simple Mr. Flannigan, your son was caught fighting with another student.

TOM
Sister I am always inclined to support the school in discipline matters but with all due respect, do you know the circumstances leading up to the fight?

SISTER CONCEPTION
Those details are of no consequence Mr. Flannigan. Your son violated our no fighting policy and the strap is our punishment. That and saying the Hail Marys of course.

TOM
Sister, of course the circumstances are of consequence, they are the most important thing to consider. The why is always the most important thing.

SISTER CONCEPTION
Your son was caught fighting with another student, and Jesus told us to turn the other cheek.

TOM
We'd all be speaking German today if we had a no fighting policy. Sister, I teach my family to protect each other, the weak and the old.

SISTER CONCEPTION
That maybe your teachings..

Tom cuts her off.

TOM

If you EVER discipline my boy for protecting his family again I will take my children out of your school and enroll them in the public school. This is an experiment for our family...one I had to be talked into by the way.

SISTER CONCEPTION

Thank you for your suggestions Mr. Flannigan. Jesus is my North Star, I follow him as my Lord and Savior. If you have little concern for your children's souls their sins will be the fruits of your decision.

EXT. DAY SKIES OVER FRANCE - DAY 1943 (MONTAGE OF SHORT FLASHBACKS)

A Spitfire dives toward the earth, it's cockpit engulfed in flames.

INT. SKIES OVER FRANCE COCKPIT VIEW FROM SPITFIRE - DAY 1944

Cannon shells from aircraft rip into column of trucks, tanks, horses and wagons. Vehicles explode, bits and pieces of horse fly in the air.

EXT. EASTERN GERMANY - NIGHT JANUARY 1945

Allied Prisoners and German Guards trudge slowly through knee high snow, a prisoner falls out of line and drops into the snow, a fellow prisoner attempts to help him but a Guard persuades him to move on.

END FLASHBACKS

TOM

Sister, I didn't see a lot of Jesus when I was in Europe.

Puts is fedora on,

TOM (CONT'D)

Good day. My views haven't changed.

SISTER CONCEPTION

Nor have mine Mr. Flannigan.

EXT. SCHOOL YARD - DAY

Tim and Mikey walk through the school yard. Other children approach them.

STUDENT NUMBER ONE
Good for you Timmy.

STUDENT NUMBER TWO
Bobby is a Rat Fink!

STUDENT NUMBER ONE
Did you get the strap?

Sister Ursula rings the bell and the children scurry.

INT. FLANNIGAN HOUSE BOYS BEDROOM - NIGHT (DREAM)

Tim falls out of a very high tree and free falls back towards the ground for several seconds.

(END DREAM)

INT. FLANNIGAN HOUSE BOYS BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tim wakes up from dream, wide eyed, sweating, sits up quickly, breathing heavily.

INT. FLANNIGAN HOUSE KITCHEN - NIGHT

Tim and Michelle work through a pile of dishes. The Twins and Mary run through the room with capes playing Superman.

MICHELLE
Are you gonna do it?

TIM
Yea, I'm pretty sure I'm gonna do it.

MICHELLE
You're too chicken to climb a ladder, no way you're climbing up a tree and ...

Tim cuts her off

TIM
I can do it!

EXT. FOREST TRAIL DAY

Mikey, Marty, Jimmy and Tim walk single file down the trail, Mickey leading with axe over shoulder, Tim in the rear looking concerned.

MIKEY

It's your big day Timmy, in about one hour you'll be a member.

MARTY

Or you'll have a broken neck.

Everyone but Tim laughs.

JIMMY

Or a broken ass.

Everyone but Tim laughs even harder. Mikey looks back and sees that Tim is scared.

MIKEY

No one's ever gotten hurt.

Marty cuts him off.

MARTY

Yet!

Marty and Jimmy laugh hilariously.

JIMMY

First time for everything.

Laughing continues.

MIKEY

Come on Tim.

Tim walks with his head down.

The boys come to a spot on the trail marked with a can with bullet holes stuck to a branch.

MARTY

Here we are, in this way. The boys walk through thick brush and emerge into a small clearing. Jimmy points to the tree with a notch in it.

JIMMY

There's your tree Tim.

Tim looks at the tree. Swallows hard, walks towards the tree and stands at the bottom. He grabs on to the lowest branch and swings up into the tree. He starts to grab the next branch and stops abruptly.

MARTY

Come on , get going Tim, we don't have all day.

JIMMY

He's scared! What a baby. Baby Timmy.

MIKEY

Shut up Marty! Come on Tim you can do it.

MARTY

He's Chicken!

Marty walks like a chicken and makes chicken sounds. Jimmy joins in, both laughing.

Mikey jumps into the tree and climbs like a monkey until he is beside Tim. He stares Tim in the eye.

MIKEY

Follow me, do what I do, Ok?

MARTY & JIMMY

Chicken, chicken.

MARTY

Hey you can't do that! You can't do it with him Mikey.

MIKEY

Shut up Marty, there's no rule against it.

Mikey climbs effortlessly up the tree, Tim slowly follows and hangs on for dear life. Marty and Jimmy continue to protest from below. Mikey stops three quarters of the way up the tree.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

Tim, look at me. You will feel really great in two minutes from now. Tim!

Tim looks at Mikey.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

You're gonna be ok, the hard part's over. Remember the tree's gonna fall that way. What ever you do, hang on tight.

Tim nods, sweating and hanging on for dear life. Mikey starts down the tree.

TIM

Mikey!

MIKEY

What?

TIM

Thanks, eh.

MIKEY

Hang on tight.

Marty starts to chop at the tree, Tim hangs on tighter as the tree vibrates. Tim eyes closed, prays under his breath.

TIM

Hail Mary, full of grace.

The tree begins to move slowly, creaking sounds intensify. Marty chops in a rhythm. Each blow echos in the woods. The tree stops moving for a split second and snaps.

MARTY

Timber.

MIKEY

Hang on Tim.

The tree leans slowly then a crack and it slams in to the ground, springs back up and launches Tim into the air.

Tim stops in mid air and falls back towards the tree smacking his mouth on a branch as he comes to a halt. The other boys run to Tim's side.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

Wow, that was neat.

MARTY

Whoa! Laughing.

JIMMY

Holy cow! That was the best one ever.

Tim stands up looking stunned, blood dripping from a fat lip. He looks around at his buddies laughing and cheering him on and he starts to smile. The other boys run towards him and Marty and Jimmy hoist Tim onto their shoulders.

MARTY, MIKEY & JIMMY
For he's a jolly good fellow, for
he's a jolly good fellow.

Tim, relieved takes a deep breath and smiles as he bumps along the trail on his friend's shoulders.

Fade out