

LAST NIGHT IN VALIS

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WGA REGISTRATION NUMBER: I362185

EXT. SMALL MIDWEST TOWN - EARLY MORNING

The sky barely illuminates the small midwestern town of Valis.

INT. DJ BOOTH/DOWNTOWN - EARLY MORNING

A DJ (30s) on the radio station gets his routine going before going live. He takes a sip of water, swishes it around in his mouth, spits it out into a different cup, then takes a drink of his coffee.

He grabs a record and places it onto the record player. He then grabs his microphone pulling it closer to his face. The DJ flicks the 'Live' button.

DJ
Good Morning my beautiful people of
Valis!

EXT. VALIS - EARLY MORNING

The town stays silent, street lamps still on. Only a few cars drive around with headlights on maintaining visibility before the sun fully rises.

DJ (CONT'D) (O.S.)
It's a warm Friday morning and in
case ya didn't know.. it's
homecoming! As it's so early in the
day I thought it'd be a great idea
to hear 'Late in the Day' by
Supergrass cause I know we all wish
it was late.

We see the businesses around town with homecoming-themed window paintings on them. There are also banners in between some of the buildings.

INT. DJ BOOTH/DOWNTOWN - EARLY MORNING

We look back at the DJ. He sets the needle on the record.

"Late in the Day" by Supergrass begins to play.

DJ (CONT'D)

If you're going to the game, be sure to stop by the KRSL booth to say hi!

EXT. TRACK/HIGH SCHOOL/FOOTBALL FIELD - SUNRISE

CASEY (18), A high school senior star football player wearing a cut-off Clemson T-shirt, runs around the track for a morning workout. He seems to be running alone when we meet -

CASEY'S DAD (46) standing along the fence watching him. His dad is talking to someone on his flip phone.

Casey stops when he gets closer to his dad. His dad checks a stopwatch he has.

CASEY'S DAD

You got two more laps to go Casey, keep your same pace.

Casey takes a drink from his water bottle and takes off running.

CASEY'S DAD

(yelling)

Gotta be in the best shape for tonight!

Casey doesn't look back at his dad and just runs.

INT. BAND ROOM - SAME TIME

NATALIE (17), a high school senior practices on her saxophone with the band teacher.

She finishes up a beautiful song and starts to put the saxophone away. She doesn't have many feelings towards it, just there and wanting to get out.

INT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - SAME TIME

STEPHANIE (14), Steph, a high school freshman, is at play practice. She is finishing up a scene from the stage play "Beauty in the Beast".

The stage actors perform '*Beauty and the beast*' dance sequence, MRS. POTTS (60s) sings the lyrics.

STEPH (BELLE)

Dance with me.

HIGH SCHOOL BOY (BEAST)
No...I...

HANNA (18), a senior, watches the rehearsal from the seats.

MRS. POTTS
(yelling.)
Good. Stop there. That'll be the last thing we do today, we'll see everyone again Monday after school for regular rehearsal times. Happy Homecoming everyone!

INT. SCHOOL/LOCKER ROOM - MORNING

Casey is in the locker room putting on his football jersey to wear during school. He grabs his protein shake and starts to walk out of the locker room. He's met by a few of his friends, ELI (18) and Travis, TRAV (17).

TRAV
Already on the tein Case?

ELI
What? Who the fuck says tein?

TRAV
Cool kids.

ELI
Our definitions of cool must be vastly different.

Casey laughs.

CASEY
Yeah Trav, I'm already on the tein.

Trav gives Eli a look. Eli ignores him-

ELI
How was the workout this morning?

CASEY
Oh, you know. Dad's same old, same old.

ELI
Looking out for your future I guess.

CASEY

Future is all he cares about. No other moment matters unless it's football.

TRAV

Hey, football is life. I don't think I could live without it, could you imagine waking up every day and not playing football? School is boring enough already it's pointless without sports.

ELI

Trav, what the hell are you on this morning?

CASEY

He's on the tein.

Eli laughs.

TRAV

(Speaks complete gibberish towards both)

ELI

Trav I swear to god.

TRAV

(continues speaking gibberish)

Eli takes a lunge at Trav And he flinches.

ELI

Yeah, keep fucking with me Trav see what happens.

TRAV

oooo, I'm so scared.

CASEY

You guys seen my brother at all?

ELI

No.

TRAV

No.

CASEY

He's probably still at Jackson's.

INT. JACKSON'S HOUSE/BASEMENT BEDROOM - THAT MOMENT

JACKSON (14), a freshman, is passed out on his bed. He lays face down and has half of his blanket covering him. He's also still wearing his shoes from the night before. ERIC (16) and KAYDEN (15) are also passed out on his couch. There's a lot of weed lying out from the night before.

JACKSON'S MOM (32) comes down the stairs. She doesn't seem to care for the weed lying out. She walks up to Jackson and touches him on the shoulder. He doesn't wake up. She taps him on the shoulder again and he jumps a little opening his eyes.

JACKSON
God is that you?

JACKSON'S MOM
If it was you'd be in a shit ton
more trouble with all this laying
around.

Jackson laughs.

JACKSON'S MOM
You're late for school again.

Jackson moans, upset he has to get up.

She walks back upstairs.

He jumps out of bed.

Jackson runs over to put new clothes on.

JACKSON
Eric, Kayden. Wake up!

The both of them wake up slowly.

KAYDEN
Where am I?

ERIC
Hell.

KAYDEN
That's how your mom describes my
dick game.

JACKSON
You're an idiot Kayden, that means
you're bad in bed.

KAYDEN
Shit really?

JACKSON
You guys need to get up now we're
already late.

ERIC
God dammit Jack.

Eric jumps up and reminds himself where he is. He frantically starts getting his things together.

ERIC
Oh god, oh god, oh god.

KAYDEN
Eric, relax.

ERIC
Relax? This is like the fourth time
this month I'm going to be late.
You know my parents are going to
kill me.

JACKSON
You'll be fine, we can still make
it.

Kayden gets himself up.

INT. AUDITORIUM - SAME TIME

Steph heads off the stage and goes to see Hanna.

STEPH
Hey Hanna!

HANNA
Howdy, nice job up there kid.

STEPH
How long were you watching?

HANNA
Oh, just the last like 10 minutes,
not too long. You do fit the beauty
role real nice though.

She nudges Steph on the shoulder. Steph laughs.

STEPH

Thanks. I try.

Steph gives a little curtsey to Hanna.

They make their way out of the auditorium.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAYS - CONTINUOUS

STEPH

Have you seen Nat at all this morning?

Natalie walks around the corner from the band hallway.

NATALIE

Hey guys.

HANNA

Yes, I have.

NATALIE

So Steph, ready for your first homecoming?

STEPH

I think so.

HANNA

Think so?

STEPH

Yeah, I'm just hoping it's really one to remember.

HANNA

We'll make it one to remember, don't worry.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAYS - THAT MOMENT

Casey, Trav, and Eli walk down the hallways.

CASEY

Alright, I'm going to my locker before class. No fighting til I get back.

TRAV

Yes, father.

Trav salutes him. Eli smacks him on the arm. Trav flinches and looks kinda pissed.

TRAV
What the fuck man.

Eli puts his hands up to fight.

ELI
What are you gonna do?

Trav blows him off and starts to walk to class.

ELI
Wait up.

INT. SCHOOL/CLASSROOM - LATER THAT PERIOD

The TEACHER (50s) is sitting at her desk grading papers. The STUDENTS all sit passing around notes and whispering to each other. There are a few students doing homework towards the front of the class and other students mess with them.

Casey and Eli sit next to each other. The room is completely silent.

Casey looks up towards the door and sees Trav standing looking through the glass in the door. He waves Casey and Eli to leave. They stand up and walk up to the teacher.

CASEY
Could we be excused to go talk to coach?

TEACHER
Yeah, just be back by the end of the period.

INT. SCHOOL/HALLWAYS - CONTINUOUS

Casey, Eli, and Trav walk out of the classroom to the hallway.

Trav can't help himself and before the door even closes he starts talking -

TRAV
First fucking period of the day and I'm already pulling shit strings out of my ass.

INT. SCHOOL/CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

The teacher looks over at the door disappointed and the whole class laughs.

INT. SCHOOL/HALLWAYS - CONTINUOUS

Trav starts laughing.

Casey slaps him on the arm.

CASEY

Why do you always have to pull that shit?

TRAV

Lighten up man, no one understands what a sense of humor is.

ELI

We all know what a sense of humor is you just don't have one.

TRAV

Look here you little shit stain, I happen to have the funniest sense of humor in this school. Everyone who disagrees can eat my ass.

ELI

Do you have a poop fetish?

TRAV

What?

ELI

You just talk about poop a lot. I think you actually want people to eat your ass.

TRAV

No dude, it's just an expression.

ELI

Expressions are meant to be used once to make someone think. When something happens over and over again it tends to stop being a coincidence. I think you just like shit.

TRAV

I don't like shit.

CASEY
Why are we still talking about
shit?

ELI
I think I might need to go take a
shit.

He looks directly at Trav but he ignores him.

CASEY
You going to join him Trav?

TRAV
Fuck you.

Eli and Casey laugh.

ELI
I'm gonna go find Beth.

CASEY
I'm probably gonna run to the
vending machine, see if I can get a
snack.

Trav and Eli walk off to find Beth.

Casey is continuing down the hallway. He turns the first
corner and sees Natalie walking around too.

CASEY
Natalie?

NATALIE
Ew, Casey?

CASEY
Ew?

Natalie doesn't answer she just gives a smirk.

CASEY
Skipping class?

NATALIE
No actually, bathroom pass.

CASEY
They still use those?

NATALIE

Apparently they do, I don't think I've ever seen someone actually ask to look at one though.

CASEY

Wanna head to the vending machine with me?

NATALIE

mm, I don't know I'm only supposed to go straight to the bathroom and back to class.

CASEY

Get outta here, don't be a lame ass.

Natalie laughs. They walk down the hallway together.

CASEY

I don't think I've ever even seen a hall monitor walk through the halls.

NATALIE

I don't think we can even afford a hall monitor.

Casey laughs.

CASEY

Tends to happen when you spend all your money on sports.

NATALIE

Are you ready for the game tonight?

CASEY

As ready as I always am.

NATALIE

And that's how ready?

CASEY

Oh you know, we're gonna win, so that's about all I need to be ready for.

They see Jack, Eric, and Kayden walk around the corner.

ERIC

(speaking fast)

I've probably missed a lot of important shit man. My first period on Fridays is chemistry. Chemistry is everything I need for my future. It's the first college course I'm taking through high school and it can set up a lot of my future.

JACKSON

I don't seriously think any colleges care if you take college credit in high school.

KAYDEN

Hey Casey.

CASEY

You guys need to learn what an alarm is.

JACKSON

You need to learn what staying in class is.

CASEY

You're going to lecture me about attending classes?

KAYDEN

Are you ready for the game?

CASEY

Ready as Dad needs me to be.

KAYDEN

I can't believe he actually takes you out on game days too that's so overkill.

CASEY

Everything's overkill with him when it comes to me.

Kayden looks sad after that statement.

JACKSON

Awk-ward. Alright, we'll see ya later, gotta get to class so we don't get an absence.

The three of them walk off.

ERIC

I still am really upset that I'm missing chemistry.

JACKSON

Eric, no one fucking cares about your stupid chemistry class, what do you want us to do about that?

ERIC

At least an apology would be nice, "Hey Eric, sorry we didn't set an alarm last night to get up early when you specifically said you had chemistry class in the morning."

Casey and Natalie continue walking.

NATALIE

Seems like you just know everyone.

CASEY

(laughs)

I know some people.

She laughs.

CASEY

You gotta know a lot of people too though, right?

NATALIE

No, I don't really talk to many people.

CASEY

I always see you with Hanna, Beth and that freshman, sorry, what's her name?

NATALIE

Steph. Yeah, I hang out with them but they're really the only people I talk to.

CASEY

Don't trust other people?

NATALIE

It's not that, more of just them thinking of me a certain way.

CASEY

What do you mean?

The two get to the vending machine.

CASEY
Want anything?

NATALIE
No, I'm alright thank you though.

Casey selects a granola bar, it vends, and Casey grabs it.

NATALIE
Well, everyone kinda just thinks of me as the "Clueless" rich blonde girl who wants nothing to do with anyone.

CASEY
Oh you're not? I thought that was your prominent character trait.

NATALIE
(laughing)
I guess it is.

Casey laughs a little.

CASEY
They don't even give you a chance?

NATALIE
I guess not.

She laughs a little.

Casey isn't sure what to say.

NATALIE
Where's your away Jersey?

CASEY
My away jersey?

NATALIE
Yeah, you know the white one. Did you give it to anyone?

A teacher walks down the hallway in the opposite direction of them.

TEACHER
Shouldn't you be in class Whitt?

CASEY
Just getting a morning snack Mr.
Johnson. Shouldn't you be in class?

MR. JOHNSON
Oh please, no one actually teaches
on homecoming.

Casey laughs.

CASEY
(laughing)
See ya in third period.

MR. JOHNSON
Stay out of trouble.

He continues to walk.

CASEY
But no, I don't have anyone to give
it to.

NATALIE
Really? oh...
I should probably go use this
bathroom pass since that's what I
left class for.

CASEY
Sounds good. Hey, I'll see you
later.

NATALIE
You better hope I see you too.

EXT. BEHIND SCHOOL/DUMPSTERS - SAME TIME

A group of stoners, including Jackson, Eric, and Kayden,
are in the back of the school. They have make-shift bongos
that are clearly thrown together from scraps so they
wouldn't have to buy anything.

JACKSON
I overheard a little bit ago about
a party going on tonight.

RANDOM STONER
I heard about that too. I think
it's at some freshman's house.

JACKSON

Yessir. It's open invitation.

RANDOM STONER

Are there going to be a lot of people there?

JACKSON

Trust, the whole school's going to be there.

INT. SCHOOL/HALLWAYS - AFTERNOON

Casey and Jackson walk through the hallway of the school.

JACKSON

So you ready for the game tonight?

CASEY

You have no idea how many people have asked me that today.

JACKSON

I could imagine. Sports are a bunch of bullshit. It's just a way for adults to make money off their kids and getting upset when a 16-year-old teenager makes a mistake. They only have sports so they can have excuses to yell at us more and torture us without getting in trouble.

CASEY

You may be overthinking that one just a tad bit.

JACKSON

Nah I don't think so, I find it very interesting how much adults find high school and college sports entertaining. It's a very fucked up thing in our culture.

CASEY

I don't really think it's fucked up. I think they're fun.

JACKSON

I'm not saying they're not fun. I just think that the way people watch and react to sports is fucked up. They get upset or sad when their team loses and will send literal death threats to athletes, who are still in school by the way, because they can't win a game.

CASEY

I don't think it's all bad.

JACKSON

I don't think it's all bad either. There are good things that come from sports. Scholarships are pretty cool.

CASEY

You know people always make the assumption of sports with scholarships but it's usually never really about that. Most of the athletes I know don't even care about the schooling stuff at all. They just love everything about the sport and it's all their heart knows. It's their passion and they just wanna do what they love.

JACKSON

Is football your passion?

CASEY

It for sure used to be. Things have changed a lot though. Most people when they come to high school just want to do what everyone else is doing because it's cool. I don't really know what I want to do though. I just want to be on my own a little bit to figure that one out. And my dad's kinda ruining things.

JACKSON

I can't wait til I don't have to deal with my parents anymore.

CASEY

Dude, your parents don't restrict you from doing anything. They don't even force you to go to classes.

JACKSON

I was just trying to be nice, sorry man. Classes are out in like 10 minutes though. I'm gonna grab your brother and Eric before the rush is out here.

CASEY

Make sure my brother doesn't do anything stupid.

JACKSON

Your brother's the smartest person I know I don't think anything could possibly go wrong.

CASEY

Don't fuck with me Jackson.

JACKSON

I'll see ya at the mall. Also, I heard about this party going on tonight. Alex is throwing it.

CASEY

The freshman?

JACKSON

Yeah.

CASEY

That's pretty ballsy.

JACKSON

Better see you there.

Jackson walks away.

EXT. SCHOOL/ENTRANCE/PARKING LOT - AFTER SCHOOL

The bell rings and people start flowing out of the school.

We meet up with Steph, Nat, and Hanna as they walk to the parking lot.

NATALIE

What's the plan right now?

A large truck full of country boys flings around the parking lot in front of the school. They have a big United States flag on the back of it.

HICK
Pre-game hang out at the mall right
now!!!

They drive off kicking out a lot of black smoke.

STEPH
I guess we're going to the mall.

HANNA
I'll meet y'all there in 20.

STEPH
Sounds good, see you then.

Hanna starts to walk away.

HANNA
Hey, this is going to be a big
night. For all of us.

They split ways.

INT. DJ BOOTH - SAME TIME

The DJ sits in his booth.

DJ
School is out and the day has just
begun. Parents, watch the roads out
there this afternoon bunch of crazy
high schoolers will be all over.

EXT. VALIS - SAME TIME

The city of Valis has people driving around, some stand
outside of their stores downtown, and people are all having
good times.

DJ (O.S.) (CONT'D)
A little birdy tells me the mall is
already getting packed with
students so if you're looking to
see some spirit, head down to do
some shopping at the Swingin' Ax
Mall.

INT/EXT. KAYDEN'S CAR - EARLY AFTERNOON

Jackson, Eric, and Kayden are all sitting in Kayden's car, parked.

ERIC

Are you sure we can trust this guy?

JACKSON

You think I'd get ganja from a dealer I wouldn't trust?

KAYDEN

What the hell is ganja?

JACKSON

Grass.

KAYDEN

Why did you call it ganja?

JACKSON

It's a street name.

KAYDEN

Just call it grass.

ERIC

Hey.

Jackson and Kayden look to Eric.

ERIC

We've never gotten stuff from this guy before. You're sure we can trust him?

JACKSON

It's homecoming night, everyone else is out already.

Eric doesn't seem too comforted by that answer.

ERIC

Can we just stay in the car?

JACKSON

What are you a pussy?

ERIC

Shut up, Jack.

KAYDEN

Let's just make this quick.

The three guys get out of the car and start to head for the house.

EXT. DEALERS HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

JACKSON

Wait, anyone got extra cash?

Kayden and Eli start to feel in their pockets and pull out some bills.

KAYDEN

How much do you need?

JACKSON

\$10 each.

ERIC

Jesus and he's overcharging you I thought we were only getting a little bit.

JACKSON

I managed to pull some maneuvers to get us something a little special.

KAYDEN

Special?

JACKSON

You'll see.

Jackson rings the doorbell.

Almost in that exact instant, the DEALER (late 20s) opens the door a crack to greet the three. We can only see his face.

DEALER

Jackson?

JACKSON

Yes sir.

He looks at the other two guys.

DEALER

Come on in.

He opens the door all the way and walks into his living room. He has tattoos on his arms and long hair down to his shoulders covered by a beanie. He is also very skinny. The three boys follow.

INT. DEALERS HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The three boys walk into the living room after the dealer.

As he starts to walk into the living room, he hums the tune of "Deadweight" by Beck. He sets his things down and grabs a Beck record out of his record collection. He places it on the record player.

"Deadweight" by Beck begins to play...

The dealer sits down on one of his two couches that surround a large coffee table. The table has drawers in it and he opens the drawer to start searching.

DEALER

Have a seat.

Eric and Kayden look at each other and at Jackson but Jackson doesn't acknowledge them. He sits down on the couch opposite the dealer.

The two boys look around the room and see a big vase of water with some blue flowers in it.

The dealer sets some baggies on the table full of weed. He doesn't say anything for a bit of time and continues to search in the drawer. Occasionally he looks over at the boys observing their mannerisms.

After a moment of searching, he pulls out a handgun and stands up pointing it at the boys.

DEALER

You guys don't seem old enough to buy this shit.

ERIC

WHAT THE FUCK!?

Eric quickly turns around and stuffs his head into the couch. Kayden and Jackson throw their hands in the air surrendering to him.

The dealer stares at them for a moment and eventually breaks his seriousness. He starts to laugh and puts the gun down.

DEALER
I'm just fucking with ya.

He throws the gun on the table.

DEALER
(still laughing)
It's not even loaded.

Kayden and Jackson look at each other confused and scared.
Eric lifts his head out of the couch.

KAYDEN
(very upset)
What the fuck man?

The dealer goes stone face once again.

DEALER
Listen here you pubescent child I
will do whatever the fuck I want,
to whoever the fuck I want. If you
don't like it you can get the fuck
out of my house and never come
back.

Kayden looks down at the ground.

JACKSON
Okay, seems like we're all off to a
great start!

He claps his hands and leans back on the couch relaxing.

JACKSON
What ya got for us?

The dealer continues to stare at Kayden for a moment. He
eventually looks back at Jackson and smiles.

DEALER
The good shit.

He walks over and sits back down on his couch.

DEALER
I got a bunch of different strands
here that'll get you a bunch of
different highs.

He grabs the first baggie.

DEALER

This one here is called Pizza. It gets you nice and greased up and obviously will make you crave some pizza.

He sets the baggie down and grabs the next one.

DEALER

This little guy is called Paranoia. I think you could get a good idea of what it'll do to ya.

He sets it down and grabs the final baggie.

DEALER

This shit here though. Is my best seller.

The three boys look intrigued.

DEALER

This graceful strand is called The Hajj. Just like the Muslim tradition, it's a once-in-a-lifetime journey to help you discover your inner self. Some people say it's like shrooms without the hallucinations.

He sets the baggie down.

DEALER

So what do we think boys?

The boys all look at each other and share a telepathic connection to the right strand.

JACKSON

I think we'll take The Hajj.

DEALER

Good choice my friends.

He grabs the other two baggies and puts them back into his drawer. He opens up the baggie with The Hajj strand and sets it to the side.

JACKSON

Say, do you still got that special stuff too?

The dealer looks Jackson straight in the eyes. He cracks a smile and laughs a little.

DEALER
You boys looking for a hella good
time tonight huh?
(laughs)
Well, I guess it is homecoming
night.

He reaches into his drawer once again and grabs out a
little baggie with some white powder.

DEALER
The ultimate upper.

He sets it down on the table.

DEALER
Doesn't even need an introduction.

The three boys lean in to get a closer look.

DEALER
Mesmerizing, I know. Gotta be
careful with this stuff though too
much and you might get comatose.

The boys all look up at the dealer.

DEALER
Don't worry though, I won't even
sell it to ya.

JACKSON
You won't?

DEALER
Seriously, you guys are too young
to be trying out that stuff.

The boys look at each other. The dealer stands up.

DEALER
I'll let you boys admire for a
second. I'm gonna go grab my scale
for ya.

The dealer walks out of the room. The other boys look at
each other.

They lean in to whisper.

KAYDEN
So we're not even gonna get what
we're paying extra for.

ERIC
I want my money back.

Eric and Kayden both stick their hands out.

JACKSON
Relax guys, relax. I have a plan.

ERIC
I hate your plans.

JACKSON
It's gonna work. Trust.

Kayden and Eric look at each other for a second and look back at Jackson.

KAYDEN
Let's hear it.

INT. BACK BEDROOM - SAME TIME

The dealer has a baggie in hand and grabs his scale too.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

He gets back into the living room to see the boys standing up around the table. Kayden stands in the middle of the two. Eric stands to the right of Kayden and is next to the big vase of flowers and water. Jackson stands to the left of Kayden blocking off a path from where the dealer was sitting and the door.

DEALER
In a hurry?

ERIC
Just getting a better view.

DEALER
Whatever floats your boat.

He sets his stuff on the table and starts to weigh out the weed.

DEALER
How much ya guys want?

JACKSON
An eighth should be good.

DEALER

Alrighty.

He starts to grab some buds out of the baggie and places them on the scale.

DEALER

I got 30 for an eighth with this bad boy.

JACKSON

30? Most I've ever gotten charged is 20.

The dealer stops what he's doing and stares up at Jackson.

DEALER

This is some good shit man. You're getting what you paid for.

JACKSON

Alright fine.

Jackson reaches into his pocket and pulls out \$30. He hands it over to the dealer.

DEALER

Thank you much.

He places it on the table and is done weighing the bud. He puts it in a little plastic bag and hands it over to Jackson. Jackson reaches for it but he pulls it back for a second.

DEALER

Now y'all be careful with this. Tell your friends you got it from me.

He hands it over to Jackson and Jackson grabs it.

JACKSON

Thank you.

Just as Jackson says 'thank you' Kayden snags the white powder bag and sprints for the door.

DEALER

(angry)

HEY, WHAT THE FUCK DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?

The dealer jumps up quickly and starts to sprint for the door after Kayden. Just as he is getting to Jackson, Jackson trips him and he falls to the ground.

DEALER
You little-

Eric has the vase of water and flowers and splashes it in the face of the dealer. The dealer gets drenched and falls back again. The three boys sprint out of the house and slam the door behind them.

EXT. DEALERS HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The three boys sprint for the car. They are all laughing as they run.

JACKSON
RUN!

They get to the car and jump in.

KAYDEN
LET'S GET THE FUCK OUT OF HERE!

Eric starts up the car just as the dealer smashes his door open.

He throws it in drive and slams on the gas, skidding away.

DEALER
FUCKING THEIFS!

He holds his gun and fires it in the direction of the car. The back window of the car gets blown off.

ERIC
OH SHIT!

They all duck as they continue to drive away. A few more shots are heard then they stop.

The boys all lift their heads up and sit in complete silence.

JACKSON
Well, I guess it was loaded then.

ERIC
I hate your fucking plans man.

INT. NATALIE'S HOUSE - NATALIE'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Natalie and Steph are getting prepared to head to the mall. Natalie is looking for shoes to put on and is almost ready to go. Steph is laying on her bed reading an Allure magazine from October '98.

NATALIE

Did you ever go see The Truman Show?

STEPH

The one with Jim Carrey?

NATALIE

Yeah, I heard really good things about it.

STEPH

I don't really get Jim Carrey's comedy.

NATALIE

That's the thing, it's not a comedy. Let's go downstairs.

Steph jumps out of the bed and follows after Natalie.

STEPH

What's it supposed to be about?

NATALIE

It's about this guy, Jim Carrey's character, who's only lived his entire life inside of a tv show.

STEPH

Sounds dumb, how would that even make sense?

They start heading down the stairs.

NATALIE

What? It doesn't sound dumb. Basically, they built an entire town inside this huge dome studio and everyone around him is a paid actor and he has no idea he's in a TV show.

They get to the bottom of the stairs and see Natalie's dad on the couch reading a book, *A Beautiful Mind*.

NATALIE
Dad, did you watch The Truman Show?

NATALIE'S DAD
With Ed Harris?

NATALIE
Who?

STEPH
(Same time)
Who?

NATALIE'S DAD
Forget it. Yes, I watched it I
thought it was pretty good.

NATALIE
I told you it sounded good.

STEPH
I got nothing going on next week.

NATALIE'S DAD
Nat, your mother wanted to see you
before you leave.

Natalie looks at Steph and rolls her eyes.

NATALIE
Get your shoes on so we can leave
faster.

Steph moves over to start putting their shoes on.

Natalie's mom comes around the corner.

NATALIE'S MOM
Did you go to your saxophone lesson
this morning?

NATALIE
Yes, mom.

NATALIE'S MOM
How'd it go?

NATALIE
(sarcastic)
Good mom, I'm always thrilled to
learn more valuable life traits
from the sax.

Steph has her shoes on and Natalie opens the door. Steph walks outside.

NATALIE'S MOM
I scheduled your next lesson for 6
am Monday morning.

Natalie is halfway out the door.

NATALIE
(sarcastic)
Thanks, mom.

She closes the door.

EXT. NATALIE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Natalie and Steph head for Nat's car.

STEPH
Why do you keep playing?

NATALIE
What?

STEPH
The sax, you obviously hate it, so
why do you keep playing?

NATALIE
I don't know.

They get in Nat's car.

STEPH
Well, you don't have to listen to
her forever.

EXT. KAYDEN'S CAR - AFTERNOON

The stoners drive in complete silence.

Jackson thinks about talking for a second but ends up closing his mouth again.

A beat.

JACKSON
Did you hear about the satellite
wedding last week?

KAYDEN

Jack, I swear to god.

JACKSON

The ceremony wasn't much but the reception was fantastic.

Kayden lets out a laugh under his breath.

KAYDEN

Jackson, I'm going to murder you when we get out of this car.

JACKSON

Hey, I'm just trying to lighten the mood up a bit man.

ERIC

Lighten the mood? Lighten the mood after we about had our heads shot off by a fucking weed dealer? WEED. WEED'S NOT WORTH MY FUCKING HEAD.

The car falls silent.

Jackson's eyes open wide and lets out some air.

JACKSON

Okay.

ERIC

You always get us in those stupid confrontations.

JACKSON

I don't try to.

ERIC

Well, you always fucking do man and it's not cool. Take some responsibility for once and at least apologize.

JACKSON

Okay, I'm sorry. I didn't know it was going to go down like that I thought he was going to be cool. One of my pals sent me his info and he said he was cool, that's on me. We can just go with who we know from now on.

ERIC

I don't know if I want to smoke anymore after that.

JACKSON
Get the fuck outta here yes you do.

ERIC
Not right now, I don't want to be high at the mall.

JACKSON
No shit Eric, we'll smoke after the game.

KAYDEN
Woah, who said anything about we?

Jackson looks at Kayden and laughs.

The guys start to pull into the school parking lot.

EXT. FRONT OF SCHOOL PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Kayden, Jackson, and Eric get out of their car. They look to the end of the parking lot and see a gray truck that's about to fall apart speeding up to the front of the parking lot.

Alex steps outside of the car with his shoulder pads and helmet in his hands.

JACKSON
Showing up late as always Patterson.

ALEX
I don't need to hear it right now Jack.

They all starting walking together to the building.

JACKSON
Patterson, you need to get your priorities straight. Football should be the only goddamn thing on your mind on gameday you can't be forgetting shit all the time.

Alex laughs. They walk into the building.

INT. SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

JACKSON
No laughing Patterson!

ALEX
Sorry coach, I'll fix myself I need
to push myself and be better.

JACKSON
Damn straight. Now about that party
tonight, how many hot babes are
gonna be there?

ALEX
I don't really care as long as
Steph is there.

KAYDEN
Steph, ey?

Alex smiles.

KAYDEN
Steph's a cutie.

Three cheerleaders are walking up to the four guys.

CHEERLEADER
Hey Jackson, I heard about a party
going on tonight any info?

JACKSON
Hosted by here Mr. Patterson
himself, spread the word and invite
anyone and everyone.

CHEERLEADER
Hey, thanks Jackson. And thanks Mr.
Patterson.

The four guys reach the locker room.

Alex does special handshakes with Jackson and Kayden but
only gives Eli a normal handshake.

JACKSON
Good luck.

KAYDEN
I think the seniors are in there so
don't get your ass kicked too
badly.

ALEX

Shit.

Alex slowly opens the door making sure no one is there.

ALEX
I'll catch up with you guys after
the game.

He goes into the locker room.

INT. SCHOOL - LOCKERROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alex walks into the locker room and sees a bunch of the Varsity guys hazing the freshman.

A couple of the freshmen have their pants thrown on the ceiling, stuck in the rafters and they can't reach them.

Other freshmen are being wrestled by another senior.

Eli and Casey stand in an entryway just observing.

Trav is shoving a sophomore in a locker and yelling at him to suck it as he thrusts into the locker door, pushing it against the kid who doesn't fit.

Trav makes eye contact with Alex.

TRAV
Oh, look who decided to join his 2-
inch dicked teammates.

ALEX
(under his breath)
shit.

Trav and two of the other varsity guys walk up to him.

TRAV
That's a pretty wasted move to show
up late to a homecoming game.

ALEX
My bad, won't happen again.

TRAV
Did I say you could speak?

Alex shakes his head.

TRAV

You know where waste belongs?

Alex doesn't make eye contact. The other two varsity guys grab him by the shoulders and lift him up.

TRAV

The fucking trash.

The guys rush him over to a trash can and throw him inside it.

CASEY

Alright, that's enough they have to get prepared for the game.

The varsity guys let go of Alex and step aside.

ELI

We'll meet you guys in the parking lot.

They all start to head outside.

All of the freshmen make their way back into the locker space. Some of them are still trying to get their pants from the rafters and others are recovering from being shoved in lockers.

CASEY

You can get those in a minute I need everyone to sit down for a second.

All of the freshmen sit down and look in Casey's direction.

CASEY

Now I know a lot of the upperclassmen like to fuck around with you guys but I think you should all know none of it's personal. We all went through it coming up, and you'll be on the opposite end of it in what'll feel like tomorrow.

ELI

It's homecoming now guys. Your win is just as important as ours, and even though those guys do fuck with you, we're still all one team. We win and lose as a team. So go out there and kick some ass!

CASEY
Good luck boys!

Casey and Eli head out of the locker room.

INT/EXT. CARS - CONTINUOUS

Kayden, Eric, and Jackson are in Kayden's car heading to the mall.

ERIC
She pisses me off her grading is such bullshit.

KAYDEN
I've been doing fine in her class.

ERIC
How? She doesn't even teach us anything.

KAYDEN
It's algebra. She gives us the equation and you just have to plug the numbers in it's really not that hard.

ERIC
She can't expect us to memorize all of those equations.

KAYDEN
When did America receive its independence?

ERIC
What?

KAYDEN
Just answer the question.

ERIC
1775.

KAYDEN
Who was the non-violent activist of the Civil Rights Movement?

ERIC
Dr. Martin Luthor King. Why does this matter?

JACKSON
Who was the leader of Germany
during World War 2?

ERIC
Hitler. Why the fuck would that
matter.

KAYDEN
If you can memorize all those
things why can't you memorize a
couple of formulas?

Eric doesn't say anything for a second.

ERIC
Fuck you.

He sits back against the backrest.

KAYDEN
It's the same shit man.

ERIC
I'm done talking to both of you.

JACKSON
What did I do?

ERIC
Fuck you.

The three pull up to a red light. A car full of random high school girls and a guy in the back seat, SPHEN, pulls up next to them.

Jackson notices the car and rolls his window down.

JACKSON
Well, hello ladies.

GIRL 1
You guys know if anything's going
on right now?

Eric looks in the back seat across from him and notices Sphen. They make eye contact and Eric looks away.

JACKSON
Yeah actually, bunch of people are
heading to the mall right now and
there's going to be a huge party
tonight at Alex's house.

Girl 1 looks over to her friends.

GIRL 1
Who's Alex?

GIRL 2
I have no idea.

Girl 1 looks back over at the guys.

GIRL 1
Who's Alex?

JACKSON
He's a football player. We'll get
you the address at the game
tonight.

The light turns green.

GIRL 1
Alright, we'll see you boys later.
Tell that cutie in the back he
better be at the party tonight.

The girls drive off and we follow them.

GIRL 2
So, that party tonight?

GIRL 1
What else are we going to do, plus
Spheh needs a date for the dance
tomorrow and it's the best place
for him to find one.

SPHEN
Why are you talking about me like
I'm not here

GIRL 1
Oh Spheh, did I hurt your feelings?

SPHEN
Bitch, my feelings are unbreakable.

The girls laugh.

GIRL 1
We'll get to see him later.

GIRL 2

So, we heading to the mall right now?

GIRL 1
Might as well, everyone else is going there.

GIRL 2
Didn't those guys say they were going there?

GIRL 1
Oh yeah, they did!

Sphen smiles at himself as the girls pull up to another red light. Trav, Casey, and Eli pull up next to them. Casey is driving, Trav is in the passenger seat, and Eli is in the back.

Trav whistles at them.

TRAV
Hey ladies, looking delicious this afternoon.

ELI
God dammit Trav.

The girls and Sphen laugh at them.

CASEY
We're not all like that.

The light turns green and the girls speed away. We stay with Casey, Eli, and Trav.

ELI
Trav, why the fuck do you always gotta perv on the girls.

TRAV
What do you mean man? I'm just juicing 'em up.

ELI
Juicing 'em up? You're fucking disgusting.

TRAV
You're just mad cause you get no bitches.

ELI

I have a girlfriend dipshit.

TRAV

Oh, that's right you're already handcuffed and strapped to the pipe in the corner of the room.

CASEY

Trav, you seriously can't be that gross man come on.

TRAV

I'm not that gross am I?

ELI

You're related to a pig right now.

TRAV

Hey, I still get bitches though.

ELI

That's what really pisses me off.

The guys pull into the mall parking lot.

The big mall sign has neon lights that flash a small ax swinging. The sign says "Swingin' Ax Mall"

INT. MALL ARCADE ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER

We see Casey, Eli, and Trav walk into the mall arcade. Casey carries a white shirt folded up.

TRAV

I'm kicking your ass in hoops.

ELI

You've never beaten me in hoops, I always crush you.

TRAV

This is the day that changes.

Casey catches the eye of Natalie watching her friends play Pacman as they are walking in.

CASEY

I'll catch up with you guys in a bit.

Casey starts to walk over to Natalie.

FOOTBALL PLAYER 2
'Sup Casey. Ready for tonight?

CASEY
Ready to send 'em home on a quiet
bus. You ready?

FOOTBALL PLAYER 2
Readier than you.

Casey laughs it off and keeps walking.

Casey approaches Natalie.

CASEY
Looks like I got to see you again.

NATALIE
And I guess I was forced to see you
too.

Casey laughs. Steph and Hanna continue to play their game.

HANNA
(annoyed)
Hey to you too Casey.

CASEY
Hanna, Steph. How's it hanging?

HANNA
(laughing)
Pretty good, thanks for asking.

STEPH
Also good.

Casey turns back to Natalie.

CASEY
I brought something for you.

NATALIE
Did you now? Trying to make me feel
bad, I didn't bring anything for
you.

CASEY
No, I hate presents.

He grabs his white shirt and unfolds it to show his away
jersey.

Steph and Hanna notice the exchange.

CASEY

I know it's probably cooler to wear it during school but I hope it's still something you'd wanna wear to the game.

NATALIE

I might consider it.

CASEY

Nothing better than being the consideration.

Natalie laughs.

NATALIE

Thank you.

CASEY

Of course.

An awkward beat.

Hanna laughs at the awkwardness.

HANNA

Hey Case, have you seen your brother?

CASEY

No, he's probably out somewhere with Jack and Eric, he should be here soon though.

HANNA

He asked me to the dance yesterday.

CASEY

Oh I know, he couldn't stop showing me his stupid dance.

The three girls laugh.

STEPH

I didn't think it was stupid, seemed sweet.

CASEY

I guess it worked, so I gotta cut him some slack.

HANNA
He's a dork. But he's a cute dork.

CASEY
Don't know if I'd agree with the
second part.

He laughs.

CASEY
Hey, you guys going to the party
tonight?

NATALIE
Party?

CASEY
Yeah, a freshman named Alex is
having a big party after the game
tonight.

Steph looks intrigued at the mention of Alex.

HANNA
You guys didn't hear about that?

STEPH
You did?

HANNA
Yeah, Kayden told me about it.

STEPH
And you didn't think to tell us?

HANNA
I guess it slipped my mind.

NATALIE
We might just have to go.

STEPH
I'm gonna have to make that might a
must.

Hanna and Natalie laugh.

Natalie turns to Casey.

NATALIE
I'm sure we'll see you there then.

CASEY
I'll be looking for ya.

NATALIE
Don't look too hard though.

Trav yells from across the room.

TRAV
EAT SHITTTTTT!!!

Casey looks over and sees Trav celebrating.

CASEY
Oh man, I better go make sure Eli
doesn't knock out Trav again. I'll
see you guys in a bit.

NATALIE
See ya Casey.

Casey makes his way over to Trav and Eli arguing.

ELI
YOU JUST GOT LUCKY, YOU BEAT ME BY
A LITERAL POINT.

TRAV
Point differential doesn't mean
shit. A win is a fucking win.

ELI
Rematch me.

TRAV
Nah, suck a dick, I beat you fair
and square. I'm letting this ride
all weekend.

Casey runs up to the two.

ELI
You're a cunt.

Casey laughs.

TRAV
I think our definitions of cunt
must be a little different, cause a
cunt isn't a winner to me.

ELI

I've beaten you like a hundred times.

TRAV

All that matters is the last.

Trav flips off Eli with both his middle fingers.

ELI

Oh, that's it I'm gonna kill you.

Eli rushes at Trav and tackles him to the ground. The two of them wrestle.

Casey watches until it escalates to violence.

CASEY

Alright alright alright, quit it.

Casey grabs Eli off of Trav and lifts him up.

CASEY

How'd you let him beat you?

ELI

Exactly, let him.

TRAV

Watch it or I'll fucking get you.

ELI

I just kicked your ass and everyone here watched it.

TRAV

Yeah right, I let you kick my ass like you let me beat you.

Eli tries to lunge at Trav again but Casey stops him.

CASEY

(laughing)

Relax. Both of you, save the anger for the game tonight. We've got like 20 minutes to grab grub before we have to be back.

The three start to walk out of the arcade and run into the stoners. Jack and Kayden talk to each other as they walk. Eric is still mad from before and doesn't engage.

CASEY

Showing up late as always.

JACKSON
You left out the fashionably.

ELI
Don't look too fashionable to me.

Eric continues to walk by them and goes to a game.

JACKSON
Someone's time of the month.

KAYDEN
Hey Case, have you seen Hanna?

CASEY
Yeah, she's with Steph and Nat
playing Pacman. She was asking if I
knew where you were, so I think she
wanted to see you.

JACKSON
As if anyone would want to talk to
your dorky ass.

Casey laughs.

KAYDEN
Fuck off Jack.

CASEY
We're going to go grab a bite to
eat, I think everyone's heading
there in a bit.

KAYDEN
We might see you over there a
little later then.

Casey, Eli, and Trav continue to walk.

Eric is playing a game when Spheh walks up to him.

SPHEN
Hey, I'm Spheh.

Spheh reaches out to shake his hand.

Eric's expression turns from angry to slight smile.

ERIC
Eric.

They shake hands.

We look back to Kayden approaching the girls.

KAYDEN
Hey Hanna.

HANNA
Hey Kaydy.

KAYDEN
Where you going?

STEPH
Hey Kayden.

KAYDEN
Oh sorry. Hey Steph, hey Natalie.
Nice jersey

NATALIE
Recognize it?

KAYDEN
Might be a bit famililar.

HANNA
We're heading to get a bite to eat.
Wanna come with?

KAYDEN
We just got here so I think we're
gonna play a couple games first.

HANNA
We'll see ya later then.

She grabs his hand and gives him a cute look before heading out with the girls.

INT. MALL FOOD COURTS - FOOD LINE - MOMENTS LATER

Natalie stands in line looking at the menu. Casey comes up behind her and grabs her shoulders, scaring her.

NATALIE
Jesus.

She punches him on the arm.

CASEY

(laughing)
I'm sorry.

NATALIE
You know what you're getting?

CASEY
Probably just a burger, what about you?

NATALIE
I was thinking about the salad.

CASEY
I thought you weren't trying to fit the rich blonde girl stereotype.

NATALIE
(laughing)
Shut up. I'm just not very hungry we just had lunch a bit ago.

CASEY
Wish I had the same problem, I can never not be hungry.

NATALIE
Oh yeah?

CASEY
When your dad works you as hard as mine, you tend to burn a lot of calories.

NATALIE
Strict dad?

CASEY
That's one way to put it.

NATALIE
Also guilty, but with me mom. Why do you think your dad pushes you so much?

CASEY

He always played football growing up. His junior and senior year he got in the party scene too hard. He didn't practice as much and he thinks his partying led to him not playing in college. So now he just pushes me to become the player he never was.

NATALIE

You know my parents are controlling too. I really don't know why they make some of the decisions they do but they're always having me go to the stupid saxophone classes.

Casey laughs.

NATALIE

What.

CASEY

Nothing.

NATALIE

What?

CASEY

Nothing, it's just...Saxophone is such an interesting choice of instrument.

NATALIE

(laughing)

Thank my mom for that one. I'm sure I'll just be stuck taking lessons until the day I move out.

CASEY

What if you didn't go?

NATALIE

My mom would literally kill me.

CASEY

Guess you'll just have to suffer.

NATALIE

Guess you'll just have to suffer through your dad then too.

They both laugh a little.

NATALIE
Maybe we both just have to quit.

Casey laughs.

CASEY
I wish.

INT. MALL ARCADE - SAME TIME

Jackson and Kayden finish their hoops game and start to move in separate directions.

INT. MALL FOOD COURTS - SAME TIME

Eric and Spheon sit together at a table eating dinner.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD ENTRANCE - LATER

The Varsity guys start to arrive.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - SAME TIME

The Freshman coach whistles.

FRESHMAN COACH
Alright boys, let's head in.

The football players all run toward the locker rooms.

Alex runs out last. Casey is outside the locker room.

CASEY
Hey Alex, wait up.

Casey runs up to Alex.

ALEX
What's up Casey?

CASEY
I just wanted to say it's pretty cool to still throw this party after the guys kicking the shit outta you.

Alex is a little nervous.

ALEX

Thanks. You know, shit happens you just gotta just go with the punches.

CASEY

Hey, listen, since you're hosting tonight. I'll make sure the guys don't pull any funny shit on you. What time's it start again?

ALEX

11.

CASEY

I'll spread the word.

Alex runs into the locker room.

INT. MALL ARCADE - SAME TIME

Kayden plays on the pinball machine. Jackson plays Mario. Eric is across the room playing Pacman now by himself.

INT. MALL ARCADE ENTRANCE - SAME TIME

The Dealer from before walks down the mall entryways. He looks pissed beyond belief. The Dealer mumbles to himself as he speed walks.

The dealer walks past the arcade quickly glancing at the last second and notices Kayden.

The Dealer mumbles to himself and swiftly turns to go into the arcade.

INT. MALL ARCADE - CONTINUOUS

The Dealer storms towards Kayden but Kayden doesn't notice him at first.

The Dealer continues to mumble to himself as he picks up the pace to a run at Kayden.

Kayden gets tackled by the Dealer.

JACKSON

Oh shit!

Jackson runs over to Kayden to help out.

The Dealer wrestles him around pinning him to the ground.

DEALER
(yelling)
YOU THINK YOU CAN STEAL FROM ME AND
GET AWAY WITH IT?!

KAYDEN
(scared)
No.

The Dealer loads his arm back and strikes Kayden in the face.

DEALER
(yelling)
I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU
FUCK WITH THE WRONG GUY!

He loads his arm back again but Jack pushes him off of Kayden.

The Dealer catches himself quickly and turns to the two.

DEALER
Came for backup, huh?

Kayden is on the ground. Jackson stands alone, facing the Dealer.

The Dealer stands up.

Eric notices them from across the room. He starts to run over to help.

DEALER
I'll just have to show all of you
what happens when you steal from
me.

The Dealer starts to charge at Jackson and goes to throw a very obvious punch. Jackson dodges the punch and pushes the Dealer forward falling with his momentum.

The Dealer doesn't fall over and catches himself on a gun case.

Eric gets to Kayden to see if he's okay.

He turns around and charges at Jackson once again tackling him to the ground.

KAYDEN

Eric, I'm good. Help Jack.

Eric turns and grabs the Dealer attempting to throw him off, Jackson. He disrupts him enough for the dealer to turn to Eric.

The Dealer grabs Eric by the shirt and throws him against the Pinball machine. He slams his head onto the glass and it cracks. Eric falls to the ground.

Jackson is on one knee and is wiping blood off his lip.

Kayden stands up.

The Dealer turns to the two, not a scratch on him.

He cracks a smile.

DEALER

You're gonna give me my shit back,
or you're gonna regret it for the
rest of your lives.

The owner of the store runs up in front of the Dealer.

OWNER

Hey fuck stick, get the hell out of
my store. Security's already on
your ass. I don't care what
happened between you and these kids
but you need to leave.

The Dealer's smile stays large.

DEALER

I'll find you again.

He slowly stands up and walks out of the store.

OWNER

You kids alright?

They look in pretty bad shape. Kayden has a huge bruise on his face with a black eye and Jackson is bleeding from his lip still. Eric has blood gushing from his eyebrow and doesn't look good at all.

KAYDEN

I wouldn't say that.

OWNER

Well, I'm gonna have to ask you
guys to leave too. You've already
made a fucking mess you're lucky I
don't make you clean it up.

The three still compose themselves.

OWNER

Out, come on.

The three walk out.

"Eugene's Lament" by the Beastie Boys starts to play.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - SAME TIME

The freshman football game continues. The freshmen are up
big.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD STANDS - SAME TIME

Casey sits in the front row watching the game, ignoring all
his teammates talking behind him.

EXT. MALL PARKING LOT - SAME TIME

Jackson, Kayden, and Eric walk to their car in silence.

INT. HANNA'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Hanna is getting ready for the game in her school spirit.
She looks very happy, oblivious to the events that unfolded
at the mall.

INT. STEPH'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Steph is finishing up her makeup and is getting ready to
leave with Natalie to go back to Natalie's house.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD STANDS - SAME TIME

Casey notices his dad walk into the stadium. He looks back
to the field.

The varsity football guys all head to the locker room to
get ready for the game.

EXT. WATER TOWER - GOLDEN HOUR - SAME TIME

The sun sets behind the water tower.

Jackson, Eric, and Kayden all sit on the top of the water tower with their legs hanging off the edge. Jackson passes a joint to Eric who shakes his head no. He passes it to Kayden.

The music stops.

INT. NATALIE'S ROOM - LATER

Steph sits on Natalie's bed once again looking at her magazines.

Natalie is almost ready. She's finishing up by choosing a pair of shoes.

Natalie grabs two pairs. All white vans, and black and gold checkered vans.

NATALIE

Which pair?

STEPH

Umm, I think I like the black and gold ones more.

NATALIE

They don't take up too much attention?

STEPH

You're worried about that taking up attention?

Natalie laughs.

NATALIE

Ready to go?

STEPH

Ready as I'll ever be.

The girls head down the stairs.

Natalie's mom is waiting at the end of the stairs.

NATALIE'S MOM

You need to be home by 10.

NATALIE
10? It's Friday night on
homecoming.

NATALIE'S MOM
Don't argue with me.

NATALIE
Dad a little help?

NATALIE'S DAD
Listen to your mother Hunny.

NATALIE
Ugh.

NATALIE'S MOM
I need you to get up early with me
to go into town.

NATALIE
Can't you get a friend to go?

NATALIE'S MOM
No, you're coming with me.

Natalie doesn't answer, she looks pissed. She turns to
Steph.

NATALIE
Let's go.

The girls leave.

INT. KAYDEN'S CAR - SAME TIME

Kayden, Jackson, and Eric drive to the game. They don't say
anything and just drive with the radio turned up quietly.

INT/EXT. NATALIE'S CAR - HANNA'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Natalie and Steph pull up to Hanna's house. There's an off
vibe in the car from Natalie being upset.

Hanna comes out the door.

HANNA
(to someone inside)
Love you.

Hanna closes the door and runs to the car. She jumps in the back seat.

HANNA
Ready for the game?

STEPH
Ready for the night of our lives.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - GOLDEN HOUR

The freshman game is coming to an end. It's a blowout.

The freshman quarterback kneels the ball on the last play ending the game.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DJ BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

The DJ is set up at the football game.

DJ
It's almost game time and things are about to get crazy! Your Valis High Vikings are squaring off against rivals Overland Park!

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Hanna, Steph, Natalie, and Beth walk into the football game at the same time.

DJ (O.S)
Be sure to get here in time for the game to grab a seat, spots are filling up fast on this beautiful 70-degree night!

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DJ BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

The Dj sits at his booth.

DJ
Don't forget to stop by our stand when you walk in for some free swag as well. If you can't make the game, we're giving a live broadcast throughout the whole thing so stay tuned!

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

The freshmen are running off the field into the locker room.

The varsity guys make a tunnel as the freshman run off the field.

Casey stands at the end of the tunnel slapping each player on the helmet as they run by. Alex is the last player to reach Casey.

ALEX

Good luck bro.

CASEY

They're the ones who're gonna need it.

The varsity guys take the field and begin to warm up.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD ENTRANCE - LATER

Fans roll into the game and begin to fill the stands. The small stadium is packed and nearly every seat is taken.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Casey is on the field warming up with the guys. The starters run through some of their plays while the bench players form a line behind them, shielding their view from the opposing team.

Casey is standing 8 yards from the huddle waiting for a coach to come to tell him what play to run. His face shows little to no emotion about the game. He looks at the crowd in the student section and sees Natalie.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - STUDENT SECTION - CONTINUOUS

Natalie and Steph talk to each other separately from the other girl's conversation.

NATALIE

Did you know last year we did a womenless pageant for homecoming week?

STEPH

Really?

NATALIE

Yeah, a few of the football guys participated and Casey was one of them.

STEPH

How am I hearing about this for the first time now?

NATALIE

Everyone had to do their own act. Some guys sang horribly, others had some interesting dances, and some other random talents, but Casey's was the most outrageous.

STEPH

How so?

NATALIE

The spokesperson for the event was Mr. Johnson and he has to give an introduction.

Natalie reenacts the performance.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

He holds up the piece of paper.
"I'm told the final beauty of the night saved for last, recently voted as hottest single, none other than Lolita."

She puts her hands in the air pretending to show off "Lolita".

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - SAME TIME

Casey walks into the huddle.

NATALIE (CONT'D) (O.S)

Out walks Casey, dressed in a pink cloth that's covering his chest tied behind his back, a black and white striped skirt, high heels, and a flower cap to top it off.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - STUDENT SECTION - SAME TIME

NATALIE (CONT'D)

He walks out with a model strut and stops in front of the crowd. Once he stops the song Baby Got Back clicks on and he starts this routine that was out of this world. He turned around and squatted to the ground, slowly standing up and sticking his butt out. He even grabbed Trav from the audience and gave him a little strip dance it was so funny.

STEPH

Wait, wait, wait What?! He did this at the school?!

NATALIE

Yeah! In front of all of the teachers too. I don't think I'll ever forget it. Definitely the greatest thing I've ever seen.

STEPH

I don't know if I can believe you.

NATALIE

Hanna.

Hanna turns to join the conversation.

HANNA

Yes ma'am?

NATALIE

Do you remember Lolita?

HANNA

Lolita? Like Casey's pageant routine?

NATALIE

Yeah, I was just telling Steph about it.

HANNA

I completely forgot about that. How do you remember that?

NATALIE

I don't know, it's just something that's always stuck with me.

STEPH

Next time I talk to him, I'm
calling him Lolita.

The girls laugh.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

The football guys all run off the field to the locker room
for the coach's pregame speech.

Casey stays behind for a moment. He stands at the end
goalpost before running off the field and looks over the
whole stadium. He looks at the crowd, the other team, and
turns around to see the guys running off the field.

A coach runs up to Casey.

ASSISTANT COACH
On the hop Casey, let's go.

Casey follows the coach into the locker room.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - STUDENT SECTION - CONTINUOUS

The stoners arrive at the student section.

They make their way up a few rows to sit down.

JACKSON
Why do we have to go so far up?

ERIC
I'm not standing during this boring
ass game.

KAYDEN
Have some spirit.

ERIC
I've been spirited out since we got
shot at by that fucking drug
dealer.

Jackson looks around to make sure no one heard.

JACKSON
There are people here Eric, you
gotta think.

ERIC

Oh like you thought about how we all just got our our asses handed to us.

KAYDEN

I didn't get my ass beat.

ERIC

Right, you just have a black eye for nothing.

JACKSON

Look, I didn't think that was going to happen.

ERIC

That's the problem, you never just stop and think.

JACKSON

Alright, I admitted I was wrong. I didn't think all that was going to happen, otherwise I wouldn't have done it.

ERIC

That doesn't change the fact that it happened.

KAYDEN

You can't live your life reflecting on the mistakes of your past.

ERIC

I think I just need a minute to take a deep breath and reflect.

JACKSON

What are you a Buddhist?

ERIC

Do you even know what a Buddhist does?

Jackson doesn't answer.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Just leave me alone for a bit.

Jackson and Kayden look at each other. They both shrug and decide to join the student section below.

They make their way down to the front row and walk up to Natalie, Hanna, and Steph.

STEPH
(yelling over loud crowd)
Jackson.

Jackson looks around and sees Steph.

JACKSON
What's up Steph, ready for the game?

STEPH
Ready to not pay attention but cheer my ass off.

Jackson laughs. Hanna notices Kayden's black eye.

HANNA
Oh my god, what happened to you Kayden?

KAYDEN
Oh, some asshole punched me at the arcade.

HANNA
What?

JACKSON
We were just minding our business and some dude cracked up on something got really pissed at him. He got a few swings in before Eric and I could pull him off.

HANNA
Holy shit. Are you okay?

KAYDEN
Yeah, I'm good.

JACKSON
Any spots for us down here?

NATALIE
Yeah, I'm sure you can jump on the stands right there.

Jackson makes his way to stand in the front rows of the seats.

KAYDEN
(to Hanna)
Wanna come stand with us?

HANNA
Yeah sounds good.

They go to stand.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

The varsity guys run back onto the field. The fans all cheer as they come out.

They play the national anthem before the game.

The kick-off goes to the opposing team.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - LATER

Casey walks up to the huddle on the 20-yard line. The clock has 7 seconds left in the first half.

CASEY
Ram 17 Shotgun on set. Ready?

EVERYONE
Break.

They line up on the field for the play.

CASEY
Down, set.

The ball is snapped. Casey takes a couple of drop steps back and scans the field quickly. He sees pressure coming from the D-line on his left and scrambles right.

He goes running but at the last second throws the ball to the back corner of the endzone. The receiver can't make it there in time and it falls incomplete.

Valis is down, 17-10 as time expires in the first half.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Casey sits next to Eli and Trav. The locker room is silent.

The coach comes storming into the locker room.

He doesn't say much at first and just prances around the room.

COACH
Homecoming used to mean something
at this school.

He seems pretty calm until-

COACH (CONT'D)
(yelling)
It doesn't even look like any of
you want to be here.

He kicks a chair.

COACH (CONT'D)
Gentlemen. You need to get your
priorities straight. I don't care
if your girlfriend just broke up
with you, you failed a test today,
or your grandma just died. The only
thing that should be on your mind
is this goddamn game.

The coach turns to Casey.

COACH (CONT'D)
Casey. You have a whole career of
football in front of you and you
can barely even make a completion.
Get your head out of your ass and
do the one thing you were born to
do.

The coach turns to the rest of the team.

COACH (CONT'D)
Show your school and your town some
fucking respect and get back out
there and win that game.

The coaches leave the locker room.

Casey continues to sit with his head down, looking at the ground. The rest of the football guys get up and start to talk to each other about the game but Casey just sits.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

The band is performing at halftime in front of the crowd. They don't sound the best but you can make out the *Star Wars* set piece they're performing.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - STUDENT SECTION - SAME TIME

Steph, Hanna, and Natalie are sitting, watching the band perform. Natalie sits in the middle of the two. Natalie looks down the isle and sees Alex walking towards the students section.

NATALIE
(to Hanna)
We gotta get Steph to sit by Alex.

HANNA
Where's he at?

Natalie looks towards Alex again, Hanna's head follows.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - SAME TIME

The band finishes their song.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
Let's hear it for the Valis Viking
Band!

The crowd cheers.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - STUDENT SECTION - SAME TIME

Natalie motions towards Alex.

NATALIE
(yelling over crowd)
Alex.

Alex looks over. Natalie motions him over. Alex walks over to them.

ALEX
Yeah?

NATALIE (CONT'D)
This is my friend Steph. You should sit down here for a little bit and get to know each other.

Alex looks over to Steph and Steph smiles at him, she gives him a shrug.

ALEX

Nice to meet you Steph.

He shakes her hand.

He sits in the spot next to her.

ALEX

Front row, are you a Senior?

STEPH

No, I'm a freshman. I just get the perks of being friends with only seniors.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

The Varsity guys take the field once again.

The game continues. We see the game play out in certain plays with the kickoff, some throwing plays where Casey makes a lot of completions. The opposing team scores, Valis scores. The game comes down to the wire where our team has the ball at the 30-yard line on 2nd and 10. 15 seconds left.

Casey calls a pass play and the team goes out.

CASEY

Down, set, hut!

The ball is snapped. Casey runs a play-action and drops back to scan the field. He scrambles right when he sees pressure coming and scans more. He tries directing traffic but it's too late. A big D-Lineman sacks him from behind.

3rd and 15. 4 seconds left. They call time out.

COACH

Alright, we're running Ram 22 Shotgun. Casey, find the open man downfield and for the love of god do the one thing you can, and complete the pass.

Casey doesn't say anything. He goes back on the field.

Casey calls the play. They snap the ball and Casey drops back for another pass. The time expires. He sees an open player 5 yards downfield and pump-fakes it, making a D-Lineman jump and avoiding the tackle.

Casey takes another drop step back and fires down the field. The player catches it as the game is over. The players and fans go wild as they win the game.

Casey takes his helmet off and doesn't seem to really care about what happened. Players rush around him celebrating but he doesn't join in with full effort.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD STANDS - MOMENTS LATER

Alex and Steph walk down to the exit.

ALEX

So not sure if you heard but I'm having this party tonight, would you be interested in coming?

STEPH

Yeah, that sounds like a lot of fun!

ALEX

Awesome, the party starts at 11, and fair warning, there might be a lot of people there.

STEPH

That's alright, people don't bother me. Except for you.

ALEX

Oh right, cause why would you talk to the freshman drunk?

STEPH

Oh, so you're a drunk too?

ALEX

Oh of course. I just love drinking uncontrollably until I either pass out or black out so I can feel like complete shit and regret all my decisions in the morning.

STEPH

Right! It's just the best thing ever.

Alex and Steph laugh.

ALEX

Hey, this might be a wild question too, but do you have a date to the dance tomorrow?

STEPH

No, I do not.

ALEX

Well, if you're planning on going, not that you have to I mean who would actually wanna go to a stupid social event where a bunch of awkward teenagers just dance and stumble over each other's feet, would you wanna go with me?

STEPH

You know, I think I could endure it for one night. I'd love to go with you.

ALEX

I mean you don't have to. It's completely up to you.

STEPH

Do you not want me to?

ALEX

No, I mean yeah, I mean no, fuck I mean I want you to go with me. I think it'd be really fun!

STEPH

Well, I'll see if I can handle your alcoholism tonight and I'll give you an answer before I leave the party.

ALEX

Yeah, totally no rush on the answer.

STEPH

I'm gonna go find the girls, I'll see you tonight.

ALEX

See you tonight.

She walks to her friends. Alex looks around for his friends.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - STUDENT SECTION - SAME TIME

Eric sits in the student section with only a few people around him looking for their stuff.

He sits and watches over the field.

Sphen comes up to him.

SPHEN
Care if I sit?

Eric motions him to sit down.

SPHEN
What's going on?

Eric takes a deep breath.

ERIC
I don't know.

Sphen doesn't say anything.

ERIC
I'm just very confused.

A long beat.

SPHEN
What are you thinking?

A beat.

ERIC
Jack's kinda making me scared. He usually has plans and most of the time they turn out funny but this time it hasn't turned out very funny...
I think I just need to wait the night out. I'm sure everything will be fine in the morning.

Sphen goes to lay his head on Eric's shoulder but Eric moves away looking at his surroundings.

He stands up and looks back at Sphen.

ERIC
I'm sorry.

SPHEN
It's okay.

ERIC
I don't really know how my parents
would react.

Sphen looks down towards the field.

SPHEN
I get it.

Eric doesn't know what to say. He starts to walk away. His eyes begin to water.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - EXIT - SAME TIME

Jackson, Kayden, and Hanna stand in the entryway waiting for the other players to come out.

HANNA
Do you guys know where the party
is?

KAYDEN
Well yeah, it's at Alex's.

HANNA
No shit, but do you know how to get
there?

JACKSON
He said he was going to tell us
after the game.

Alex comes over to the group.

ALEX
Yo, you guys wanna help me spread
the word about the address?

JACKSON
Woah, great minds think alike.

KAYDEN
Yeah, we can do that.

Some varsity guys come up behind him and start roughing him up.

VARSITY PLAYER 2
Hey man, where's the party at?

 VARSITY PLAYER 3
Yeah dude, what's the address?

 ALEX
317 Hillview Ave.

 VARSITY PLAYER 2
We'll spread the word.

 VARSITY PLAYER 3
See ya there freshie.

Varsity Player 3 dick slaps Alex and he hunches over a bit.

 KAYDEN
Oh shit, that looked painful.

 ALEX
I hate those guys.

Eric comes up to the group.

 KAYDEN
What's up Eric?

 ERIC
I'm ready to get out of here.

 HANNA
I think the girls are calling me,
I'll see you tonight Kaydy.

Hanna kisses Kayden on the cheek and we follow Hanna.

 HANNA
What are we waiting on?

 NATALIE
I was going to stay for a sec and
congratulate Casey on the win.

 HANNA
Nat showing a boy attention? I
didn't think I'd ever see the day.

Casey comes running off the field towards the exit. He sees
Natalie waiting for him and smiles. He starts to head in
her direction when-

Casey's dad steps in front of him with a college coach.

CASEY'S DAD

Casey. I'd like you to mean Coach Farrel.

CASEY

Nice to meet you sir, if you don't mind I was going to talk to a friend real quick.

CASEY'S DAD

Your friend can wait for a bit, this is important now.

Casey tries not to show emotion because of the college coach but he looks over to Natalie and gives her an "I'm sorry" look.

COACH FARREL

Pretty good second half out there son. You got one hell of a throw.

CASEY'S DAD

Learned from his old man.

The coach gives the dad an awkward laugh and tries to continue the conversation with Casey.

COACH FARREL

One of these days I'd like to have you on campus to meet some of the guys, what do you think about that?

CASEY

Sounds like an honor, sir.

Natalie, Hanna, and Steph watch as it seems more and more hopeless that they'll be able to talk to Casey.

Sweet Surrender by Sarah Mclauchlan starts to play.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - THAT MOMENT

The varsity guys all run to the locker room.

The fans all leave the stadium.

The girls get in their cars.

The fans drive out of the stadium.

EXT. VALIS - THAT MOMENT

Downtown lights are all on and there are people in the streets.

The kids play outside as their parents have bonfires.

INT/EXT. NATALIE'S CAR - LATER

Steph, Natalie, Beth, and Hanna drive in Natalie's car. Hanna and Beth sit in the back seat.

They listen to the music as they drive with the windows down.

NATALIE

I think I'm ready to stop listening.

BETH

Stop listening?

NATALIE

About my parent's rules.

STEPH

Eventually, you'll have to.

BETH

You talking about the saxophone?

NATALIE

That's one problem. Like I just turned 18 and I'm an adult now but they keep forcing me to do these lessons when they know I don't like it, and they still give me a 10 o'clock curfew on homecoming of all nights.

No one says anything.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

I'm getting close to the breaking point.

HANNA

What's the breaking point?

Natalie looks back at Hanna in the mirror.

NATALIE

I'm just going home.

The girls look at each other in the back seat.

STEPH
What about our cars?

NATALIE
I'll get you back to them, it'll
just be a pit stop.

The time on the clock reads 9:46 pm.

EXT. NATALIE'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Natalie pulls her car on the street corner in front of her house. 9:57 pm.

She swings the door open, not closing it, and storms up the front yard.

She gets to the door and swings it open, also not closing it.

INT. NATALIE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

9:58 pm.

Natalie's Dad is sitting in the living room watching *Boogie Nights* on the TV and it's playing the "I'm ready now Jack" scene.

The TV plays: "I want you to go in there, I want you to cool off..."

Natalie's mom is in the kitchen.

NATALIE'S MOM
Hey honey.

Natalie ignores her mom and storms up the stairs.

NATALIE'S MOM (CONT'D)
Are you alright?

Natalie storms down the hallway to her room. She swings the door open and speed walks to her saxophone. She grabs it out of the case and goes back down the stairs with it.

NATALIE'S MOM

What are you doing Natalie?

Natalie's mom tries to step in Natalie's way but she pushes through her mom and goes to the front yard.

9:59 pm.

The TV plays: "I AM THE KING OF ME"

Natalie's dad gets up from the couch.

NATALIE
(yelling)
YOU WANNA KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT ALL
THIS BULLSHIT YOU FORCE ME TO DO?

NATALIE'S MOM
What are you talking about?

NATALIE
(yelling)
THIS IS HOW I FEEL!

Natalie lifts the saxophone up and slams it on the ground.

Her mom screams and covers her mouth.

INT. NATALIE'S CAR - SAME TIME

10:00 pm. The girls watch as she destroys her saxophone.

HANNA
Holy shit.

EXT. NATALIE'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

Natalie continues to slam it on the ground over and over again.

Natalie's dad comes outside.

Natalie continues to smash the saxophone on the ground.

Natalie's dad comes up to her but she backs up before he gets to her.

NATALIE

I'M DONE WITH YOUR STUPID SAXOPHONE
LESSONS, AND I'M DONE WITH YOUR
STUPID CURFEW RULES. YOU'RE NOT THE
BOSS OF ME, I'M THE BOSS OF ME.

She slams the saxophone on the ground again and it completely breaks.

She storms back to her car and drives away.

Her parents look confused and a little scared.

10:01 pm.

INT/EXT. KAYDEN'S CAR - SAME TIME

Kayden, Jackson, and Eric are driving around smoking weed in the car. They have a little pipe that Jackson hits and passes to Eric. Jackson coughs.

JACKSON
We should go to a gas station for
beer.

KAYDEN
Why?

JACKSON
There's a party dumbass.

KAYDEN
No shit, but how are we going to
get any alcohol?

JACKSON
Don't worry, I've got a plan.

Eric passes it up to Kayden. Eric holds in his cough.

ERIC
Kay.

KAYDEN
Huh? Oh, I think I'm good for a
sec. I'll wait til we're out of the
gas station.

He holds it to Jackson but doesn't say anything just holds it there.

KAYDEN

I gotta get gas too so we should probably head there anyway. What's your plan?

JACKSON
Magician never reveals his secrets.

ERIC
We're not going through one of your stupid ass plans again.

JACKSON
It's not stupid trust me, there's literally nothing that could go wrong. Worst case scenario, he just denies us.

KAYDEN
You better not come up with some stupid shit along the way.

JACKSON
Trust me, I learned from my mistake. No more danger.

Eric is still holding up the pipe still.

ERIC
Don't worry Jack, my arm isn't getting tired.

JACKSON
Oh shit. Is there anything left in it?

ERIC
No, it's out.

Jackson takes the pipe. He dumps the ash out the window.

EXT. GAS STATION - LATER

Kayden's car pulls up to the gas station.

KAYDEN (O.S.)
Alright, Jack, what's the plan?

They pull into a parking spot.

INT. KAYDEN'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

JACKSON

Well, Kayden you do look the oldest, so my plan was to have you go in and try to get some.

KAYDEN

I look the oldest?

He turns back to Eric who's giving him a shrug "yes". He turns again to Jackson who doesn't say anything.

He looks at himself in the rearview mirror and tries to look for some facial hair but there's nothing.

KAYDEN

Oh for fuck sake.

Kayden unbuckles his seat belt.

KAYDEN

Hand me that hat on the ground back there.

Eric reaches to the ground and grabs a baseball cap. He hands it to Kayden.

Kayden puts it on and checks himself in the mirror again. He opens the door and before he moves he looks back to Jackson.

KAYDEN

Fuck you.

Kayden pulls himself out of the car.

JACKSON

Good lu-

Kayden slams the door.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

-ck.

A beat.

JACKSON

There's no way this is gonna work.

INT. GAS STATION - SAME TIME

Kayden walks into the gas station. He goes back to the alcohol section.

He scans the choices not sure what to get. He checks his head around one of the aisles to see if the cashier is watching him.

The cashier is looking at *"Life Magazine, March 1998"*.

Kayden quickly goes back to looking at the alcohol. He's still not sure what to get. He sees Miller Lite and decides to grab it.

Kayden walks up to the cashier. He places the beer on the counter.

KAYDEN

How's your night going?

CASHIER

Oh, it's going alright. Just waiting for something to happen with those junkies from Overland Park. They're always trying to cause some shit here, especially being homecoming.

KAYDEN

Well, I hope nothing bad happens.

CASHIER

Hasn't yet. You are of age, right?

KAYDEN

Yes, sir.

CASHIER

Alright, that'll be \$5.77.

Kayden pulls out a \$10 bill.

KAYDEN

You can keep the change.

CASHIER

Thank you.

Kayden grabs the beer and starts to leave.

INT. KAYDEN'S CAR - SAME TIME

JACKSON

I think we should just save it.

ERIC

I don't even know if I want to do it ever after what just happened today.

JACKSON

It's in the past man, you have one bad hangover and do you stop drinking?

ERIC

I don't drink.

JACKSON

You're difficult. Fine, you green out tonight, what do you think you'll be doing tomorrow?

Eric thinks about it for a second.

Kayden opens the door to the car and gets inside. He hands the beer over to Jackson.

JACKSON

Holy shit. You actually got it?

KAYDEN

Yeah, you think I was gonna fail?

JACKSON

I mean kinda, you don't look a day over 14.

ERIC

Did he even ask to see your ID?

KAYDEN

No, we just made a little small talk and I paid and was on my way.

JACKSON

Shit, it was that easy the whole time.

Kayden puts the car in reverse and starts to drive away.

KAYDEN

You owe me five bucks.

JACKSON

I'm not paying for the whole thing
we gotta split it.

KAYDEN
I gave him a ten-dollar bill.

JACKSON
Why the fuck did you do that?

KAYDEN
I was nervous. Didn't want to have
to spend any more time in there
than I had to.

JACKSON
God dammit.

Jackson reaches into his pockets.

They continue down the road.

EXT/INT. KAYDEN'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

The three continue and get to a stop sign at the end of the
gas station road. Kayden takes a right towards some houses
and a nearby cemetery. Eric is mid-hit on the pipe.

JACKSON
What do you think?

KAYDEN
Well. I definitely don't think we
should do it tonight.

JACKSON
Alright, it's a done deal. We won't
do it tonight. But another night?

Eric passes it up to Kayden.

KAYDEN
Do you mind?

JACKSON
I'd light you off any day.

Kayden passes the lighter to Jackson but puts the pipe in
his mouth. He leans over, keeping his eyes on the road, and
Jackson lights the pipe as he hits it.

Kayden holds in a cough for a moment.

KAYDEN

Another.

JACKSON

Feign.

Jackson lights up the pipe again. Kayden takes it out of his mouth and passes it over to Jackson. He puts the pipe to his mouth.

JACKSON

So another night?

He lights the pipe.

KAYDEN

Eric?

ERIC

I wanna hear what you think.

Kayden thinks for a moment. Jackson stops hitting the pipe.

KAYDEN

Let's decide at the end of the night. 12 o'clock once we're at the party, someone there will probably want it and we could easily sell it if we wanted to.

JACKSON

I think that's a good decision.

Jackson looks around confused for a second and remembers where he's at. He holds the pipe up to Eric.

JACKSON

Last go around.

EXT. KAYDEN'S CAR - STREET - SAME TIME

Kayden's tire spins around a few times before the car runs out of gas and comes to a stop at the top of a hill.

INT. KAYDEN'S CAR - STREET - SAME TIME

The three look around confused.

KAYDEN

Oh, fuck.

ERIC
What happened?

JACKSON
You forgot to get gas.

KAYDEN
Shit.

Kayden slams his head on the wheel.

JACKSON
(urgent)
Get out of the car.

Jackson opens his door and gets out. He walks to the front of the car. Eric and Kayden stay in the car and watch him.

JACKSON
(yelling)
GET THE FUCK OUT!

EXT. KAYDEN'S CAR - STREET - CONTINUOUS

Kayden jumps at this a little and gets out of the car. Eric follows.

JACKSON
(yelling)
WHY THE FUCK DID YOU HAVE TO FORGET
THE GAS!

KAYDEN
I'm sorry, my mind got distracted.

JACKSON
(yelling)
YOU ALWAYS FUCKING DO THIS SHIT AND
IT PISSES ME OFF. I REALLY DON'T
KNOW HOW MUCH MORE OF YOUR FUCKING
STUPIDITY I CAN TAKE!

Eric just watches on.

KAYDEN
I'm sorry man.

Jackson brushes him off. He moves to the front of the car and turns back to Kayden.

JACKSON
Nah, I'm just fucking with ya.

Jackson starts to laugh. Kayden and Eric don't find it too funny.

ERIC
What the fuck man?

JACKSON
Gotta keep you on your toes.

Kayden gives a little laugh.

KAYDEN
Okay, I did fuck up though so we'll have to probably go run back to the gas station.

Eric smiles and nods in agreement.

Jackson stands looking at the car and doesn't answer for a moment.

JACKSON
Hey, what if we pushed it?

Kayden and Eric look at each other.

KAYDEN
Pushed it?

JACKSON
Yeah yeah yeah, look, we can't just leave it here in the middle of the street ya know. Some cop will see it and definitely search it, find your registration and the beer and we're fucked. Okay, so see that parking lot over there? Let's just try to push it there.

ERIC
Well, he's got a point there. Once we get the initial push it won't be too hard to keep moving with the hill.

JACKSON
See, fuck it. Kayden hop in and steer, Eric and I will push from the front.

KAYDEN
Uh, I'm not very good at steering in reverse.

JACKSON
Fine, I'll drive, you and Eric
push.

KAYDEN
You've only got a permit and
there's no passenger with a
license.

JACKSON
Well then you better not crash it.

Kayden looks at Eric who doesn't give him anything, he's pretty out of it from the weed.

Jackson moves to the front of the car. Eric and Kayden stand still.

JACKSON
Faster we do this, faster it'll be
over.

Kayden sighs and hops in the front seat of his car. Jackson looks over to Eric whose mouth is open as he stares down the street.

JACKSON
Eric, get over here.

Eric comes back to reality and runs over to the car.

JACKSON
Remember don't break cause you'll
lose the momentum.

Kayden pauses for a moment. He takes a deep breath.

JACKSON
Ready?

Kayden gives him a thumbs up.

JACKSON
Push!

Eric and Jackson push the car, it creeps backward and Kayden has his head turned around to see behind him.

The car slowly starts to pick up speed. It slowly outguns the pushing of Jackson and Eric and they stumble but keep themselves up as the car rolls.

INT/EXT. KAYDEN'S CAR - STREET - CONTINUOUS

Kayden continues to watch out the back window as he steers the car down the hill. He's only moving the wheel in slight movements. His movements become harder and harder as he picks up speed.

Kayden's car reaches the bottom of the hill and he's at about 40 mph. He hits his max speed.

EXT. STREET - TOP OF HILL - CONTINUOUS

JACKSON
He's fucking flying.

EXT. STREET - END OF THE ROAD - CONTINUOUS

A car pulls out on the road driving towards Kayden's car.

EXT. STREET - TOP OF HILL - CONTINUOUS

JACKSON
Oh shit.

INT/EXT. KAYDEN'S CAR - STREET - CONTINUOUS

Kayden notices the car pull out.

KAYDEN
Oh fuck. You've got to be fucking kidding me.

Kayden steers the car to the right side of the road to try and avoid the car. He's still traveling at a high speed. The car gets closer and closer. Kayden is having trouble controlling the car and he veers to the middle of the road.

The car continues to get closer and they slam on their breaks.

Kayden whips his steering wheel, flies around the car, smashing the passenger-side mirror off as he hits a mailbox. The car continues to fly, getting close to the parking lot.

EXT. STREET - TOP OF HILL - CONTINUOUS

JACKSON

He's going way too fast.

Jackson starts to run down the hill. Eric follows.

INT/EXT. KAYDEN'S CAR - STREET - PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Kayden reaches the parking lot and swings his wheel around. The car spins and luckily doesn't flip. The car skids as it spins and loses its speed quickly. It stops spinning and skids until it bumps into a curb outside the building. The curb nor the car is damaged.

EXT. KAYDEN'S CAR - PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Kayden's Car is sitting in the parking spot, there are tire marks from where the car skidded.

Jackson and Eric run up to the car.

JACKSON

Kayden!

The door kicks open. Kayden gets out of the car and steps out.

JACKSON

Are you good?

Kayden collects himself but still isn't fully there. He's just looking ahead across the street.

KAYDEN

Am I dead?

ERIC

Somehow, no.

KAYDEN

Are you sure I'm not just going there?

Jackson and Eric look where Kayden is looking and they see a cemetery.

JACKSON

No, but it's kinda funny that's there.

Kayden sits down against his car on the ground.

JACKSON

Okay, we need to go get some gas.

Kayden puts his hands up.

KAYDEN

Can we just...

Kayden takes a deep breath and closes his eyes for a moment.

KAYDEN

Okay, I have an empty gas can in my trunk.

Jackson moves to the trunk to grab the gas can.

He walks back to the front of the car by Kayden.

JACKSON

We can take a shortcut through the cemetery.

Kayden continues to sit, staring forward. Jackson ponders to himself.

JACKSON

Okay... Eric, can I talk to you real quick?

ERIC

Huh?

JACKSON

I asked if I could talk to you.

ERIC

Yeah, I'm here man what's up?

JACKSON

Uh, over here?

ERIC

But I'm right here.

JACKSON

No, can we talk over here?

ERIC

Oh, yeah. Lead the way.

Jackson and Eric walk a little distance away from Kayden.

JACKSON
You think Kayden's alright?

ERIC
Yeah, he's alright, I don't have
any problems with him.

JACKSON
What? No, I mean do you think he's
okay?

ERIC
Oh. Yeah, I think he's good he
might just need a minute.

Jackson and Eric look back to Kayden. Kayden just sits and
continues to stare ahead. Jackson turns back to Eric.

JACKSON
How long is a minute?

ERIC
Sixty seconds.

JACKSON
No shit. How long do you think
he'll need to relax?

Kayden stands behind Jackson now.

KAYDEN
Ready to go?

Jackson jumps.

JACKSON
Holy shit!

He relaxes a bit.

JACKSON
Uh yeah, are *you* ready to go?

KAYDEN
Yes, I just wanna move on.

Kayden starts to walk across the street to the cemetery.

JACKSON
Alrighty then.

Eric and Jackson follow.

EXT. CEMETARY - CONTINUOUS

KAYDEN

Was I close to the car?

JACKSON

uh, I don't know if-

ERIC

Yeah, you took out your own mirror.

KAYDEN

My mirror?

ERIC

Yeah, you almost had a head-on collision but you swerved and saved it, well except the mirror obviously.

KAYDEN

Shit.

Eric and Jackson look ahead, and Kayden is looking at the gravestones. He then looks up to the stars.

He continues to look, thinking. Eric and Jackson walk in front of him.

KAYDEN

How many of the stars do you think are still alive?

Jackson and Eric turn around to walk backward.

JACKSON

Huh?

KAYDEN

You know how stars work, they're millions and some even billions of lightyears away but they can't just live forever. We see what they looked like those millions and billions of years ago but we don't see them how they are now. How many of them do you think are still alive?

Jackson and Eric don't know how to answer.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)

It's the same thing with these gravestones. We all live for a certain amount of time and we're buried to never be seen again. All we have left is a visual representation of what once was but we'll never be able to see how they actually are now.

Jackson and Eric think about what he's saying.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)

With every moment that passes by, we inch closer and closer to the moment when we'll see each other for the last. It's a scary thing to think about but it's the truth and most people go through their lives ignoring that truth. I don't really fear much but the idea of just feeling nothing and thinking nothing is impossible to comprehend. If you try to imagine nothing, you can't. There's always something, even thinking of a black empty space is something, there's a physical space there, but in death, there's no physical space, it's just nothing. And that's really scary.

The trio continues to walk for a long pause.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)

I don't think it's a bad thing to think and be scared of death, but it shouldn't drive your life to not do things. There are experiences we're meant to have and everything has to happen for a reason whether it's for our own minds or for the greater consciousness of us all.

JACKSON

What are you getting at?

KAYDEN

Oh, I don't know. I just know it's important to think about those things and talk about them. There's no reason really. We're all here and then we're not, no one's broken that cycle, and I don't think anyone ever will. We just have to accept it.

The trio continues to walk. After a long pause of silence, a light turns on from a house. The three stop.

ERIC

What's that?

The front door of the house slams open and a figure walks outside.

KAYDEN

Is that the groundskeeper?

The figure lifts his arms up as if he's holding a firearm.

JACKSON

RUN!

A GUNSHOT is fired at the boys and hits a gravestone.

The boys jump and start to run.

KAYDEN

WHY DOES THIS KEEP HAPPENING TO US?!

The GROUNDSKEEPER (60) runs after them with his rifle.

GROUNDSKEEPER

STAY OFF MY GODDAMN PROPERTY YOU KIDS!

He holds up the rifle again and takes another shot.

It whizzes by the trio and hits another gravestone, blowing a top chunk off.

JACKSON

ISN'T THAT SUPER DISRESPECTFUL?

The trio gets close to the exit when they see a car pull up. It's a varsity football guy.

VARSITY PLAYER 4

WOOHOOOO!!! HOP IN BOYS!

VARSAITY PLAYER 4

Well, I appreciate that boys.

The player pulls up to a stop sign. He opens up the baggie and pulls out a pocket knife. He dips the knife in and pulls out a bit of powder. He lifts it up to his nose and snorts it.

VARSAITY PLAYER 4

WOO! Goddamn that shit feels good.

The boys just watch.

VARSAITY PLAYER 4

Alright, I'll take you to a gas station, where are you guys parked at?

KAYDEN

The church across from the cemetery.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT - SAME TIME

Eli, Trav, and Casey walk out of the school towards their cars.

Casey notices Alex and his friends in their car.

CASEY

Hey, there's Alex. We should get him to come with us to get beer.

TRAV

What the fuck? Casey, you don't drink.

CASEY

It's homecoming night. One night won't kill me.

ELI

Your dad's gonna kill you.

Casey shrugs it off. He runs over to Alex.

CASEY

Alex.

ALEX

What's up, Casey?

CASEY
What's going on guys?

Alex's friends wave.

CASEY
You wanna come hangout with us for
a bit? We can drop you off at your
place whenever you need to set up.

ALEX
Uh, yeah. I got about 30 minutes.

CASEY
Awesome, we'll be in my car.

Casey walks back to his car with Eli and Trav.

INT/EXT. CASEY'S CAR - LATER

Casey drives and Alex sits in the passenger seat. Trav and Eli sit in the back seat.

ELI
Why are you throwing this party?

ALEX
Oh, I don't know. My parents were
gone for the weekend and we've got
a ton of space so I thought I'd try
it out. I didn't really intend for
that many people to know but I
probably screwed up telling
Jackson.

CASEY
That'll happen with Jackson.

TRAV
Where are your parents at?

ALEX
My Dad's a traveling doctor so he
fills in with random hospitals
around the country when they need a
doctor to perform surgeries when
one doctor is sick. He's gone quite
a bit but my Mom would usually stay
back to take care of me.

CASEY
Not this weekend though?

ALEX

Nah, ever since school started this year she hasn't been staying home much she trusts me a lot more.

ELI

We'll have to make sure she keeps trusting you for future events then.

They laugh.

CASEY

Do you know what you want to do yet?

ALEX

What do you mean?

CASEY

Like after high school. What would you be interested in?

ALEX

Well, I really enjoy playing sports. Anything athletics would be awesome.

CASEY

I'd be careful with it. Unless you really want 100% of your life to revolve around sports and absolutely nothing else then it'll be a great time. But if there's any doubt whatsoever in maybe not wanting to play one practice or just feeling lazy then it's not for everyone.

Alex looks out the side window away from Casey.

CASEY

I'm not trying to scare you. I'm just trying to shed some light and be completely honest about everything that could happen. A lot of people do have the determination to get to the next level, I think you do and you might think you do. But you have to know you do.

A beat.

ALEX
So what're your plans?

CASEY
I couldn't even tell ya anymore.
Ask anyone besides me and they'll
say I'll be throwing in the NFL in
two years.

ALEX
What would you say though?

Eli and Trav listen in the back seat, very intrigued.

CASEY
If every person wasn't breathing
down my back about it. I don't
think I'd ever touch a football
again.

EXT. GAS STATION - MOMENTS LATER

The four pull into the gas station parking lot. They pull to the side of the building where no one from inside can see the car.

INT/EXT. CASEY'S CAR - GAS STATION - SAME TIME

Casey looks back at Trav and gives him a nod.

Trav sits up.

TRAV
Alright, here's the deal. You
listening to me freshie?

Trav punches him on the arm a little hard.

TRAV
You gotta go in and get us a six-
pack, then we'll provide a keg for
the party.

ALEX
How am I supposed to do that?

Eli hands Alex a \$10 bill. Alex grabs the bill.

ALEX
I don't even have an ID.

TRAV

You better make it work then if you want to have a good party.

Alex opens the car door and steps outside. He walks to the front of the building.

INT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

Alex walks into the store. He looks to the cash register immediately and sees a 50-year-old man getting ID'd. He's screwed.

Alex still walks to the back of the store toward the beer section. As he's walking back he passes some other high schoolers. They hold bottles of liquor.

HIGH SCHOOLER 1

It's an easy distraction. I've done it a million times.

HIGH SCHOOLER 2

Okay, you distract. I'll run.

Alex hears the conversation but keeps walking.

Alex reaches the beer section and grabs a six-pack. He walks to the front of the store with them and gets in line behind the high school guys. They are up to pay and go to the stand.

HIGH SCHOOLER 1

Happy homecoming night.

CASHIER

Yeah. You guys got any ID?

HIGH SCHOOLER 1

Here's the thing. I forgot mine at home but I thought since it's homecoming night and everything, no one's really gonna care. So if we give you a little extra cash would that work?

The cashier stares at them. He looks down at the beer, then back up to the two high schoolers.

CASHIER

No.

The high schoolers look at each other and then back to the cashier.

High schooler 1 grabs the cashier's tie and slams him on the desk.

HIGH SCHOOLER 1
CHEESE IT!

Both high schoolers run for it and Alex stays put. The cashier lifts his head up and his nose is bleeding.

CASHIER
Mother fuckers.

The Cashier wipes the blood off his nose and reaches below the desk. He grabs a shotgun and runs out of the store after them.

EXT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

The cashier points the shotgun at their car and fires a shot. They jump in the car and start to speed off. The cashier jumps in his car and speeds after them.

INT. GAS STATION - SAME TIME

Alex looks around confused. There's no one else in the gas station but him.

INT/EXT. CASEY'S CAR - SAME TIME

Casey, Eli, and Trav look at each other confused. They share a scared look.

Casey throws the car in reverse to pull around the corner and they see Alex standing in front of them with a six-pack and a bag of Fritos.

ELI
Holy shit. The sum' bitch is a star.

The guys look even more confused as Alex walks around and gets in the passenger seat.

Alex hands the six-pack to Trav in the back seat.

ALEX
You owe me a keg.

INT/EXT. CASEY'S CAR - ALEX'S HOUSE - LATER

The guys all arrive at Alex's house. It's a huge two-story house with a porch on the first floor going towards the entrance and a balcony on the second floor.

ELI

Well, I don't think anyone could mistake it for the wrong house.

Alex's two friends wait outside the front door.

ALEX

Thanks for the ride. I'll see you guys at 11.

CASEY

See you at 11 kid.

Alex runs to get ready for the party.

EXT. PARKING LOT - SAME TIME

Kayden and Jackson fill up the car with gas.

Eric stands on the other side of the car looking out into the empty parking lot. He doesn't interact with Kayden or Jackson.

INT/EXT. NATALIE'S CAR - LATER

Natalie, Steph, Hanna, and Beth all ride in the car.

BETH

Look, there's no need to be nervous. It's not anything scary. It's exactly like school lunch breaks but we all are drunk too.

STEPH

How is it like lunch break?

HANNA

Well, there's games the guys usually play, a lot of conversation, and just a big hangout really.

NATALIE

If it makes you feel better, I also am pretty nervous.

STEPH

Your nerves make sense. Is Casey inviting you to the dance?

NATALIE

I don't know. I want him to.

BETH

Just keep showing interest. If you hang out with him tonight then he'll probably end up asking you. I don't really see him ever trying to talk to any other girls besides you.

Natalie smiles a little.

HANNA

Holy shit, is that it?

They pull up to the house where there's already a bunch of cars parked in the driveway. They can hear the music from outside and some lights from the backyard.

STEPH

That's where he lives?

All the girls are in a little bit of disbelief.

NATALIE

Well, this might be one hell of a night.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - PARTY - MOMENTS LATER

"Celebrity Skin" by Hole begins to play.

The girls walk into the party. There are already a lot of people there. They go into the living room and see a bunch of people dancing. There are also people standing around talking as well. There are speakers set up but no DJ in sight.

Beth stays back to talk to some of her other friends. Steph, Natalie, and Hanna continue to look around.

They head into the kitchen to see some of the boys playing a drinking game. They are playing *Kings Cup*.

They continue to the next hallways where people are just talking and having a good time.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - PARTY - POOL - CONTINUOUS

They then walk outside in the backyard and see the pool.

A bunch of people are swimming in it, and others are hanging out around it talking. There's a DJ set up outside connected to all the speakers in the house. He has a huge setup and people dance in front of him.

We follow around the pool to see some of the people talking and having fun. People start to point to the top balcony.

On the top balcony, Varsity Player 4 stands on the edge in a speedo. He holds his arms out in a T-pose. He takes a deep breath.

 VARSITY PLAYER 4
 (yelling)
 LET'S GET THIS SHIT GOING!

He leaps off the balcony and does a backflip before landing in the pool.

Everyone around the pool cheers. He comes up out of the water and takes in the moment.

 VARSITY PLAYER 4
 WOOOOOOOO!

Natalie, Hanna, and Steph run into Casey, Eli, and Trav. Trav and Eli are arguing about something when they see them.

 CASEY
 Hey Nat!

 NATALIE
 Hey Case!

 CASEY
 This is one hell of a party.

 STEPH
 You're telling me Lolita, this is
 the first party I've ever been to.

 CASEY
 Lolita? Who told her about that?

Natalie and Steph laugh.

 ELI
 This your first party Steph?

STEPH

Yeah.

ELI

I wish this could've been my first.

HANNA

Have you guys seen Kayden?

CASEY

Take a wild guess.

He points to the stoners around a campfire.

HANNA

(laughing)

Figures.

She laughs and heads over to them. We stay with the group.

ELI

Did Beth come with you guys?

STEPH

Yeah, she got distracted and started to talk to people.

ELI

She's always gotta be talking to someone.

He laughs.

ELI

I'll catch up with you guys later.

Eli heads to go look for Beth.

CASEY

Sorry I couldn't talk after the game.

NATALIE

It's okay.

An awkward beat. Steph starts to laugh at the awkwardness.

STEPH

(laughing)

I'm gonna go look for Alex. You two love birds have some fun.

Steph leaves. Trav stands there awkwardly.

Casey and Natalie embrace their moment together, then look over to Trav who's still standing there.

TRAV
I'll just, uh, go find something
else to do.

CASEY
Thanks Trav.

Casey and Natalie laugh as Trav walks away.

CASEY
Wanna go for a little walk?

NATALIE
Sure.

Casey and Natalie walk past the pool to the backyard.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - PARTY - BONFIRE - SAME TIME

The stoners sit around the bonfire next to the pool and pass a blunt around. Hanna sits on Kayden's lap.

JACKSON
He told us we were too young, can
you believe the nerve?

The group looks very invested in the story. Eric does not.

JACKSON (CONT'D)
He left the room to go get his
scale and that's when the idea hit
me, we went there for a good time
and he was trying to take that away
from us. Now I'm not a big fan of
stealing but when it comes to an
agreement we had made and him
backing out, I felt it was only
fair.

STONER GIRL
Wait, you stole it?

JACKSON

We had this whole plan lined out. The guy came out and started weighing the weed. He handed it over and I gave him the cash. Right after that, Kayden snagged the coke. He B-lined it for the door and the guy got pissed.

Everyone agrees he would've been pissed. Eric still isn't enjoying the conversation.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

He jumped up off the couch and tried to run after Kayden but Eric was there to trip him. He fell on his face and as soon as he started to get back up I splashed water all over his face from a flower vase he had sitting out. He fell backward and we all got out of there as soon as we could.

STONER

That didn't happen.

ERIC

As much as I wish it didn't, it did.

Eric gets up and walks away from the stoners.

Kayden notices him walking away and points at him.

Jackson just motions to let it go.

STONER

Well, do you still have the coke?

JACKSON

No, we had to give it away to someone else.

STONER GIRL

You went through all of that just to give it up?

JACKSON

It was for the better.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - PARTY - STAIRWAY - SAME TIME

Alex and Steph sit on the stairway. They sit for a moment and share a moment of awkward silence.

ALEX

My friends and I started a cult one time.

STEPH

I'm sorry, what?

ALEX

No, no it's nothing bad. Funny more than anything it was just a one-night thing.

STEPH

I'm going to need more.

ALEX

Alright, well basically, we all went to Walmart one night and were hanging out getting some matching pajama outfits. We got these shirts and when we got back to my place, we cut the sleeves off. We took the sleeves and used them as face covers. We lit a bunch of candles and pretended like we were some high council that had control over all of the world. It was hilarious.

STEPH

Well, it does sound like a cult that's for sure.

ALEX

I mean yeah, if anyone walked in during that it would've been a pretty awkward situation, but it's those little fun times that I don't think I'll ever forget. We literally have never talked about it or mentioned it again to one another but it happened, and it was pretty funny.

They both laugh.

STEPH

If you're going to have a cult you gotta be rich so looks like you're set.

ALEX
I'm not rich.

Steph stares at Alex and doesn't say anything.

ALEX
What?

No answer.

ALEX
Seriously, I'm not rich. My parents are, obviously from the house, but they don't give me anything. Have you seen my car?

Steph laughs.

STEPH
I'm really curious, what do your parents do?

Alex laughs.

ALEX
Well, my mom works for a non-profit organization that deals with farming pollution in the area. My dad is a traveling surgeon and that's where the house came from.

STEPH
Sounds like you got some badass parents. Mine are pretty cool. They both started their own business a few years ago, it's a boring printing business, but I still always love going down to the shop and just watching them work. I don't know what it is but they can just never stop talking to each other. They always find new things to talk about and it amazes me. Sure they fight sometimes, just like everyone does, but every night, they end up in the same exact bed next to each other and share their love.

Alex just looks at her, listening.

Steph laughs.

STEPH

Do you think a love like that is possible for everyone?

ALEX

Yeah, I don't see why it couldn't be. Everyone has someone they could talk to forever and even when they fight they still love playing more if that makes sense.

STEPH

You don't think you'll ever get sick of the person you marry?

ALEX

No, I don't think I would. If I marry them then there's a connection that's stronger than anything on Earth. I believe it's important to find that connection and it's not really something anyone should rush through.

STEPH

I find myself getting sick of my dog all the time. I love her to death but when she eats shit it really makes me mad and I can't stand her.

ALEX

Do you go back to cuddling with her?

STEPH

Well yeah, she sleeps with me every night.

ALEX

It's pretty much the same thing then. Everyone has something that'll not be ideal for a certain situation, but that doesn't define their entire being. The good always outweighs the bad, at least it should be that way with the person you marry.

Steph doesn't really know how to answer yet. She thinks for a moment.

ALEX

Do you wanna go swim?

STEPH
I didn't bring my swimsuit.

ALEX
That's alright, you don't need one.

He grabs her hand and pulls her up. They run down the hallway.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - PARTY - BACK YARD - SAME TIME

Casey and Natalie sit together in the backyard watching the party. They see some random guys jumping off the balcony into the water.

CASEY
What do you think your future looks like?

NATALIE
I don't know quite yet. I'm interested in going into physical therapy because I've always loved anatomy and helping people. I've gotten accepted to the state schools but haven't chosen where I want to go exactly yet. What about you?

CASEY
I'm getting looks from a lot of schools around the country but I also haven't decided. My coaches keep telling me I have to commit somewhere in a month from now at the latest but I really just don't know where I want to go.

NATALIE
What do you think you'd study?

CASEY
Haven't put much thought into it. Probably business.

NATALIE
That's boring.

CASEY
You're boring.

NATALIE
Physical therapy isn't boring,
business is boring.

CASEY
How is business boring?

NATALIE
You're gonna be stuck behind a desk
the rest of your life.

CASEY
I'd much rather sit behind a desk
during the day and do what I'd
actually be interested in during
the night.

NATALIE
And what is it that you're
interested in?

CASEY
Don't laugh.

NATALIE
I won't.

A beat.

CASEY
Saxophone.

Natalie smacks him on the side.

NATALIE
(laughing)
I hate you.

CASEY
(laughing)
I'm joking. I think I'd just want
to spend time with my family, but
not like my dad does.

NATALIE
Small family or big family?

CASEY
Whatever happens, happens. I
wouldn't complain either way.

Natalie laughs and smiles, looking at Casey.

CASEY
Are you going to the dance
tomorrow?

NATALIE
No one's asked.

CASEY
Well, no one's asked me either.

They both laugh.

CASEY (CONT'D)
Would you like to go with me?

Natalie laughs. She leans over and kisses Casey.

"The Seven Seas of Rhye" by Queen begins to play.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - PARTY - HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Eli and Beth stand in the hallway talking to people.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - PARTY - POOL - SAME TIME

Trav talks to a group of girls who are laughing at a story he's telling.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - ENTRANCE - SAME TIME

The dealer from before approaches the house. He barges in.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - PARTY - ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

The dealer scrambles around the house asking everyone where Kayden is. No one gives him an answer.

A bunch of varsity football guys get annoyed with him.

VARSITY PLAYER 1
Alright buddy, time to go.

The dealer tries to push the varsity player.

The other varsity guys grab onto him and start dragging him out of the house.

They throw him out the front door.

VARSITY PLAYER 2
Go find another party to ruin you
pathetic no-life.

The dealer watches as they close the door behind him.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - PARTY - KITCHEN - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Eric is standing between the kitchen and the living room. People stand around playing games in the kitchen, and people in the living room dance.

The lights flash through a lot of colors.

Eric looks towards the living room and sees Spheon dancing alone.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - PARTY - BACKYARD - SAME TIME

Natalie and Casey face the party as they sit on the grass at the end of the yard.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - PARTY - BONFIRE - SAME TIME

The group still talks to each other, now passing around a few blunts.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - PARTY - LIVING ROOM - KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Spheon looks up at Eric. They make eye contact.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - PARTY - POOL - SAME TIME

Alex and Steph jump into the water and swim. They play fight a little and Alex hugs Steph.

The music begins to slow down and becomes minimal.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - PARTY - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Eric moves into the living room walking towards Spheon.

People dance around the two as a tunnel is formed for Eric to walk right to Spheon.

The colors move slowly as Spheh watches Eric approach.

Eric gets to Spheh.

SPHEN

Hey.

Eric moves closer to Spheh as they begin to slow dance.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - PARTY - BUSHES - SAME TIME

The dealer moves through the bushes on the outside of the house. He scans the backyard looking for Kayden.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - PARTY - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Eric and Spheh continue to dance.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - PARTY - BONFIRE - SAME TIME

The group sits around the bonfire.

STONER

You think you'll run into him again?

JACKSON

I don't know how he'd find us.

STONER

If he found you at the mall, I wouldn't be surprised if he found you here too.

JACKSON

If he was here, I don't think we'd be scared with how many other people there are.

Kayden is looking towards the bushes.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - PARTY - BUSHES - SAME TIME

The dealer makes eye contact with Kayden. Kayden doesn't notice him in the bushes and looks away.

The dealer pushes himself through the bushes and starts walking toward the bonfire. A fiery of rage and anger turns his face as bright as a tomato.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - PARTY - BONFIRE - CONTINUOUS

The dealer gets closer and closer and starts to run after him now. He sprints up to Kayden, Kayden makes eye contact with him.

KAYDEN
(surprised)
Oh shit.

The dealer sprints directly to him and doesn't stop, pushing him to the ground.

HANNA
Kayden!

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - PARTY - POOL - CONTINUOUS

Alex and Steph notice what's going on and move to get out of the water.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - PARTY - BONFIRE - CONTINUOUS

Jackson starts to move toward him but the stoners hold him back.

STONER
Wait, he won't kill him just see
what he has to say.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - PARTY - BACKYARD - SAME TIME

Casey and Natalie stand up to see what's going on.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - PARTY - BONFIRE - SAME TIME

A large crowd forms around the two of them.

DEALER
Stand up.

Kayden looks into his eyes, and all he sees is death.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - PARTY - BACK PATIO - SAME TIME

Eric and Spheh come out to see what's going on.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - PARTY - BONFIRE - SAME TIME

Kayden reluctantly stands up slowly, he looks around to see no one will help him.

KAYDEN

Look man, I don't want any trouble.

DEALER

Should've thought of that before
you stole from me.

The dealer moves towards Kayden but Kayden backs up away from him.

DEALER

Oh my god, and you're a fucking
pussy.

The dealer charges at Kayden once again at a full sprint.

He gets closer and goes to swing. Kayden ducks and shuffles to the side, tripping the dealer in a complete accident. The dealer falls to the ground.

Casey and Natalie run up to the crowd and start pushing their way through.

The dealer gets himself up on one knee. He's even more furious than before.

Casey pushes his way to the front of the circle to see what's going on.

The dealer pushes himself up off the ground and grabs a handgun out of his shoe.

Casey notices the gun.

CASEY

(yelling)

GUN!

He sprints out towards the dealer but it's too late. The dealer pulls the trigger.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - PARTY - PATIO - SAME TIME

Eric looks away in shock.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - PARTY - BONFIRE - SAME TIME

Casey tackles the dealer and the gun goes flying across the yard. He throws him to the ground and jumps on top of him, repeatedly punching him over and over in the face. The football guys pull him off before he can do too much damage.

Casey forgets about the dealer and looks back to Kayden.

Jackson is holding him in his arms, tears falling down his cheeks. Casey looks at the wound in his chest as it bleeds uncontrollably.

The backyard is dead silent.

KAYDEN
(to Jackson)
Jack?

JACKSON
(crying)
I'm here. I'm here Kayden.

KAYDEN
(to Jackson)
We need to stop making plans. They
never work out.

He laughs a little but is in an extreme amount of pain.

He coughs up some blood.

CASEY
(to Alex)
Call 9-1-1.

Alex runs inside.

Casey runs over to Kayden and Jackson. Casey grabs Kayden's hand.

CASEY
You're good Kayden. You're gonna be
okay. Put some pressure on it.

Casey puts his hands over the wound. Kayden screams out in pain.

KAYDEN

Stop!

Kayden throws his hand off.

CASEY

I need to keep the pressure on.

KAYDEN

The pressure's always been there
Casey.

Casey stops applying pressure. Tears start to fall down his cheeks. Kayden grabs Casey's hand.

KAYDEN

It's time to let go.

Kayden takes one last look into Casey's eyes. He looks over to the crowd and sees Hanna. He looks into her eyes one last time and smiles. He lays his head back.

Kayden has let go.

Casey starts sobbing. He puts his head on Kayden's chest and cries.

The crowd is in shock about what has happened.

INT/EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - PARTY - BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER

Everyone inside and outside the house is now standing. No one says anything, they all watch as Casey and Jackson hold Kayden.

Hanna is in complete shock. Tears run from her eyes but she doesn't audibly cry. Steph and Natalie stand around her to comfort her.

Eric moves to stand closer to the circle. Jackson and Casey sit on their knees near Kayden's lifeless body.

Eric's eyes start to water.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Ambulances and police cars pull into Alex's driveway.

There's a line of people that make a tunnel for the police and ambulance crew to come through.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - PARTY - CONTINUOUS

The line and tunnel continue throughout the house and into the backyard.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - PARTY - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

The ambulance crew gets to the end of the tunnel and sees the crowd around Jackson, Eric, Casey, and Kayden. Casey stays by Kayden's side the entire time he's checked out and carried onto the stretcher.

They wheel him through the house and into the ambulance.

Jackson, Eric, Casey, Natalie, Steph, Hanna, Beth, Eli, Trav, and Alex all stand outside as they watch the ambulance drive away. Eric stands as far from Jackson as possible.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

The ambulance drives away.

EXT. FOREST HILLTOP - ABOVE VALIS - LATER THAT NIGHT

Jackson, Eric, Casey, Natalie, Steph, Hanna, Beth, Eli, Trav, and Alex all sit on the forest hilltop in Alex's backyard that overlooks the town.

They sit, all comforting each other.

CASEY

I'd like to say something if you guys don't mind.

Everyone looks up to Casey.

CASEY

(holding back tears)

Most of us are getting into our last year of high school, and some of you are just getting in... I think it's important for all of us to think about our future.

(starts to cry)

We all have to face it but it's nothing we should have planned out. Spend too much time thinking about the future and you won't be able to live in the now...

We're here, now, and we just need
to live.

Casey takes a lot of time to collect himself. Everyone else
around him is crying again as well.

CASEY
I love you guys.

Eric gets up to walk away.

JACKSON
Eric?

Eric keeps walking.

Jackson jumps up and catches up to Eric.

JACKSON
Eric, you alright?

Eric turns around.

ERIC
No Jackson, I'm not.

Everyone watches.

ERIC
I don't know what the fuck to think
Jackson. What am I supposed to do?

JACKSON
I don't know if there is an answer
to that.

ERIC
What Jackson, no plan this time?

Jackson doesn't respond.

ERIC (CONT'D)
I don't think I can do your plans
anymore anyway.

Eric continues to walk. Jackson doesn't follow him this
time.

EXT. VALIS - SUNRISE

The city is dead. No cars drive around as the sun rises.
The radio station DJ goes live on air.

DJ
Sad vibes in the air for the day
after homecoming.

INT. HOSPITAL - SUNRISE

Casey arrives at the hospital.

We see him and his Dad sitting next to one another, not saying a word.

DJ (O.S.)
Painful feelings all over from
everyone in town as we are sad to
report the death of high school
freshman Kayden Whitt last night
around 1 am. No details have been
released at this time but we're
sending prayers toward the Whitt
family.

EXT. FOOTBALL - SAME TIME

We see the empty football field with trash blowing.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - SUNRISE

Alex and Steph sit together on the couch in his living room. The house is pretty trashed.

DJ (CONT'D) (O.S.)
Remember to always keep your loved
ones close. Something I always wish
I would've done when I was younger
was to say I love you to everyone.

INT. SCHOOL - SAME TIME

The school is completely empty.

EXT. WATER TOWER - SUNRISE

Jackson sits alone on top of the water tower. His eyes are very baggy and he looks very pale as he watches the sunrise.

DJ (CONT'D) (O.S.)
 Sometimes, the unexpected happens
 and it's not something we can
 control. Always keep your friends
 and family close and don't forget
 to drop that I-L-Y.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - SAME TIME

Alex's backyard is full of trash, no one is outside and it's very quiet.

INT. HOMECOMING DANCE - NIGHT

The dance is quiet. No one dances and people stand in groups talking quietly. There's a table with a huge banner made of paper. There is writing all over it for messages to Kayden.

The students all stand in a crowd. Our friend groups stand in the front. Eric stands with Sphen, away from Jackson. The banner is raised with the messages on it. The biggest message says "Fly High, Kayden"

Everyone holds their own candles. They are all lit and each student raises their candles up to the sky.

We see a single message on the banner:

Kayden,
 I'll never forget the last thing
 you ever said to me. "It's time to
 let go" I think I know what you
 meant. I'll tell you, I'm letting
 go. I'm letting go because I love
 you and because I need to. There's
 just one thing I can't let go of
 though, and that's you. Kayden,
 fuck you.
 Love you forever,
 Casey

FADE TO BLACK.