

MY SECRET FRIEND

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EXT. A SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

A yellow school bus pulls up and picks up a LITTLE GIRL(6) wearing pink with a matching bow in her hair in a wooded suburban sprawl.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - DAY

The crowded bus is filled with excited little kids except for the last two seats in the back where a strange boy sits alone.

The little girl in pink hesitantly sits in an already full seat. She is pushed out into the aisle and begrudgingly sits next to RIVER BERTOLINO(6) a meek-looking kid with glasses who talks to himself in the back.

River seems excited to have someone sit next to him but she has the body language of annoyance.

RIVER

Hey!

LITTLE GIRL

Don't talk to me.

River looks down disappointed and whispers to himself.

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - DAY

The school grounds are full of kids who are, talking and running around.

The bus stops and lets everyone out. River gets off last and all the kids look and start to head inside as if he were the plague.

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HALLWAY- DAY

River walks towards his class as kids whisper and avoid him.

KID #1

There he is, stay away from him.

KID #2

I heard he hurt some kids.

KID #1

Yeah, he's crazy or something.

INT. MRS. SLATON'S 2ND GRADE CLASS - DAY

River walks into class. It's full of 2nd graders and there are decorations up for Halloween.

MRS. SLATON (55), wearing a red cardigan, silvery black hair in a bun and who has had about enough of kids. The fidgety children eventually get into their seats.

MRS. SLATON
Class, settle down. I hope you remembered your things for show and tell.

She walks over to River who is crudely drawing a yellow cat in a pork pie hat with a bow tie on a rainbow.

MRS. SLATON (CONT'D)
So, is that him?

RIVER
Yes ma'am.

MRS. SLATON
Why is he on a rainbow?

RIVER
That's just where he lives.

MRS. SLATON
Well, River, you're up, let me remind you that I won't tolerate you or your little invisible friend's shenanigans.

River hesitantly walks up to the front of the class.

RIVER
Uhm-mm, I'm a little nervous, sorry, but... I'm ready to show everyone Cartoon Cat's "special dance."

MRS. SLATON
(whispers to herself)
This ought to be good.

River stops and appears to listen to something no one but him can hear. The other kids look confused. He nods his head and continues.

RIVER
I'm sorry, Cartoon Cat's Crazy Cool Amazing Dizzy Dance.

River steps back and reacts to the most spectacular imaginary dance he has ever seen. The teacher and children look at each other puzzled and start to snicker.

MRS. SLATON
 (annoyed)
 Alright, alright, that's enough.
 River, we're done here.

Mrs. Slaton gets up, storms over, and puts her hands on him.

RIVER
 Wait, wait, he's about to do his
 big finish.

She ignores his plea and is pushed back and spun in place like a tornado. She screams in confusion.

The kids start to cheer and begin to laugh as she spins around the room. She crashes around the bookshelf, tables, and chairs. Papers, crayons, glitter, and confetti spew everywhere.

She is then thrown into the window, smashing through the glass.

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - DAY

She lies on the ground covered in shattered glass, bruised and badly cut. The kids start to scream and cry in shock.

RIVER
 (panicking)
 It was an accident, I swear. He
 would never hurt anyone!

River runs over and peers out the window and we see the horror on his face.

BEGIN TITLE SEQUENCE:

A SERIES OF SHOTS:

- River draws pictures of Cartoon Cat while his parents argue in the background.

- In the lunch room, a bully pulls his pants down and food flies everywhere.

- At a carnival, a clown accidentally scares River. The clown is running scared with his costume ripped up and bleeding.

- A bunch of punk kids push an older River around outside of school. He falls to the ground. He looks up; to his surprise, they're all mysteriously tied to the school flagpole.

- In the principal's office, River gets kicked out of school.

END TITLE SEQUENCE.

CHYRON: TEN YEARS LATER

INT. MRS. CERVANTES' BEHAVIOR THERAPIST OFFICE - DAY

RIVER (16), a thin, glasses-wearing, baby-faced, shy kid, wearing a Super Mario shirt and MRS. CERVANTES (42), a Latina professional with a bit too much makeup to cover her distracting mole, sits in opposite chairs in her office. There is a bunch of kid's stuff laid around -- toys, crayons, and stuffed animals.

MRS. CERVANTES
So, today's the big day.

RIVER
(signs)
Thanks for reminding me. I don't want to have to move anymore. If it happens again, my dad will send me to military school.

MRS. CERVANTES
I'm sure Studemont Academy will be a real eye-opener for you. It'll have the structure you need.

She puts down her notes and takes off her glasses.

MRS. CERVANTES (CONT'D)
How does this make you feel?

RIVER
It's frustrating, I'm pissed off! My parents are so clueless. They make me feel as invisible as Cartoon Cat.

MRS. CERVANTES
Uh-huh

RIVER
They only care when something goes wrong and interrupts their busy social lives.

MRS. CERVANTES

I have been vocal about my displeasure with their parenting style.

RIVER

They never wanted me, yet they pretend to care by sending me here.

MRS. CERVANTES

I understand, they're selfish and you're lost in your own home.

RIVER

Selfish is an understatement.

She walks over and sits next to him.

MRS. CERVANTES

So... one last question. Is he in the room right now?

RIVER

Of course.

MRS. CERVANTES

How long?

RIVER

The whole time.

MRS. CERVANTES

Does he have anything to add?

RIVER

Yes.

MRS. CERVANTES

And what's that?

RIVER

Our time is up here.

She gives him a look and they both stand up.

MRS. CERVANTES

If things get too overwhelming, you give me a call, okay? Also, tell him to stop being such a smart ass.

RIVER

Sure thing.

EXT/INT. THERAPIST OFFICE/MOM'S CAR - DAY

River leaves the office and gets in the car with his mom who we don't see. He puts on headphones and pretends to listen to music.

RIVER
 (whispering)
 Dude, you got to be nicer to her.
 (beat)
 She is only trying to help us.
 (beat)
 Yeah, I was getting bored too.
 (beat)
 Just stop being a jerk.

INT. RIVER'S HOUSE - RIVER'S ROOM - NIGHT

Packed boxes fill his room. He takes a Skeleton Smashers poster off the wall and then a binder labeled Cartoon Cat into a box. He sits on the bed shaking with a face that's holding back tears.

RIVER
 I want you to chill out at this new place.
 (beat)
 I can't have any more incidents.
 (beat)
 Let me take care of myself now... I know you're looking out for me. But... I can't go to military school.

He overhears his parents yelling downstairs.

RIVER (CONT'D)
 If you care about me you'll butt out. This is my last chance.

EXT. STUDEMONT ACADEMY - DAY - ESTABLISHING

A nice private school with beautifully kept grounds and matching uniforms. Kids rush to enter as the late bell rings.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

River walks in and sees a nontypical office, filled with celebrity photos, memorabilia, and many peculiar office desk toys. PRINCIPAL PUELER (48) takes a swig out of a flask, her hair a mess, and makeup is hastily done.

She offers a drink with a half smile. River, confused signals no.

PRINCIPAL PUELER
So you're the imagination kid?

RIVER
Ehh, River is fine.

She lights a Virginia Slim and takes a long drag.

PRINCIPAL PUELER
That stunt you pulled at Hedgemore
isn't gonna fly here.

River looks down in shame.

She blows a smoke ring and puts her cigarette in the ashtray.

PRINCIPAL PUELER (CONT'D)
Your report says you've been kicked
out of three schools.

River shakes his head and adjusts his newly fitted school uniform.

RIVER
I swear you won't have any problems
with me.

She puts down his folder and takes a little wooden horse figure off her shelf.

PRINCIPAL PUELER
I read your file and you seem like
a smart kid but boy, does trouble
follow you.

RIVER
Trouble...

He glances at the corner of the room.

RIVER (CONT'D)
...is something I'm trying to put
behind me.

PRINCIPAL PUELER
It's normal to have one.

RIVER
One what?

She plays with the little wooden horse.

PRINCIPAL PUELER
An imaginary friend.

She puts down the toy and walks over.

PRINCIPAL PUELER (CONT'D)
But they're only imaginary, right?

RIVER
Yes ma'am.

He exits as she takes another drag of her cigarette.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

River fidgets anxiously in a boring front office. He is greeted by a spunky redhead, ANNIE (16), who has sass to spare.

ANNIE
Hey new kid, I'm Annie. Follow me.

They both exchange a gentle wave.

EXT. STUDEMONT HALLWAYS - DAY

Annie and River walk down the hall.

ANNIE
Welcome to Studemont, River is it?

RIVER
Yeah.

ANNIE
Listen up, there are three types of kids here, the assholes, their victims... And those who stay invisible.

RIVER
(sarcastically)
Wow, sounds fun, which one are you?

ANNIE
The one that stays out of the way

They pass by JOLIET (16), a plainly dressed skinny Asian girl with glasses and a ponytail, and KIMBER (17), a tall fake-smiled blonde with not enough make-up to hide that she's a bitch.

KIMBER
Do you have my homework?

JOLIET
Yes, anything for my bestie...

KIMBER
Also, thanks for tutoring Jason,
all those hours have paid off.

JOLIET
Oh, I don't mind helping him, I
mean y'all.

As they walk past, Joliet gives Annie a look.

ANNIE (O.C.)
That resting bitch face is Kimber,
she's the Lindsey Lohan of
Studemont, and that tagging along
is her token doormat slave, Joliet.

They continue on down the busy hallway.

RIVER
I can feel the sunshine they're
beaming from here.

ANNIE
Are you gonna comment on everyone I
introduce?

RIVER
Maybe if your school wasn't full of
clichés.

They walk a little further and see a letterman-wearing, jock,
JASON (17), and his two goon friends, CURTIS (17), the only
black kid to wear boat shoes, and SHANE (18), a red-head who
gives a bad name to redheads.

ANNIE
Speaking of clichés, that's Jason
Kinglord the 3rd, and his
appendages, Curtis and Shane.

RIVER
Kinglord the 3rd, sounds
pretentious.

Jason and his goons stare down River as they walk by. Annie
and River arrive in front of a classroom.

ANNIE

Ok, so this is us.

RIVER

Oh wow, we have the same class,
neat!

ANNIE

Yeah, that's why they had me get
you, thought it would be easier
this way. There's a desk open
behind me.

RIVER

Cool.

INT. FIRST PERIOD - DAY

River sits down and class begins.

We see Annie is the first hand up when asked questions. Some of the kids in class call her names. She notices River talking to himself a few times but tries not to look obvious.

INT. CAFETERIA - NOON

River walks over nervously to Annie, eating alone.

RIVER

Do you mind if I sit with you?

ANNIE

Sure. You can't possibly bring my
social status down any further.

RIVER

Wait, what's that supposed to mean?
Has my reputation traveled here
already?

ANNIE

No, I'm sorry, that's not what I
meant. I'm not exactly popular
here. So if you want to leave
before you get labeled too, I won't
blame you.

RIVER

Nah, I'm used to it at this point.

He sits with her but before he can take a bite, Jason and his crew walk over to him.

JASON
(snooty)
Hello River, I'm Jason, the
resident bully here at Studemont.

RIVER
Wow, pleased to me you, a bully
with such good manners, your mom
must be proud.

JASON
You bet your ass she is.

Curtis gives him a fist bump.

JASON (CONT'D)
I come from a lineage of bullies --
my dad, grandfather, and great-
grandfather have been kicking asses
at this prestigious establishment
for over five decades.

ANNIE
Yup, that's a long line of
assholes.

JASON
(smirks)
Father says bullies are good for
us. They let you know that the
world isn't all sunshine and
rainbows.

ANNIE
(scoffs)
What a service you're doing for
mankind.

JASON
He did a little research on your
new BFF here Red, and apparently,
he has a 4.0 GPA.

River looks down in embarrassment.

JASON (CONT'D)
But looks like he has been kicked
out of a few schools for having a --
wow, you're gonna love this... an
imaginary friend?

A few students begin to chuckle along with Jason and his
goons.

CURTIS
Isn't that precious?

SHANE
(Does the sign for crazy)
Cuckoo cuckoo.

JASON
Careful, you might upset him and
have his special friend come after
us.

Jason playfully slaps Shane and all three bullies start to
laugh harder.

KIMBER
What about Mr. Jazz Hands?

JASON
(whispering)
I thought I told you not to bring
him up.

RIVER
Y'all have nothing to worry about,
I'd like to just finish my food,
thanks.

Jason knocks River's drink into his food and ruins it.
I'll be seeing you
around.

Jason starts to walk away but trips up on his shoes that are
tied together. He spills his food all over his friends.
Kimber screams and runs off while Joliet helps Jason back up.

Everyone in the cafeteria starts to laugh hard. Shane and
Curtis grab River and start to punch him until Principal
Pueler breaks it up.

PRINCIPAL PUELER
That's enough! Let's get this
cleaned up and everyone back to
their seats. And you two...

She points to Shane and Curtis.

PRINCIPAL PUELER (CONT'D)
My office now!

Annie helps River up as Jason's goons leave the cafeteria.

RIVER
Thanks for that.

ANNIE

Those smelly taints need to be lobotomized.

PRINCIPAL PUELER

Miss Kendrick, language. Mr. Bertilino, making friends so soon?

RIVER

Yeah...

She leaves as the crowd applauds. River picks up his tray and dumps it. He walks back to Annie.

RIVER (CONT'D)

I'm sorry if I embarrassed you, I just can't do this right now.

ANNIE

It's not your fault...

River walks away embarrassed, shaking his head in shame.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Wait, are you gonna be okay?

EXT. STUDEMONT HIGH SCHOOL COURTYARD - DAY

River starts to walk home but is grabbed from behind by Jason, Curtis and Shane.

JASON

Hey dip shit, didn't think I forget about you, huh?

They grab him by all fours and move him toward the flag pole. River struggles and shouts for help.

CURTIS

Shut your little bitch ass up.

SHANE

It's time we show you the proper Studemont welcome.

They rack River's balls against the flag pole several times. He falls to the ground and throws up.

JASON

See ya tomorrow numb nuts.

SHANE

Good one!

INT. RIVER'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

River plays guitar on his bed with an icepack on his crotch while the TV plays in the background

RIVER

So it wasn't a terrible first day... Yeah, she seems nice... Yeah, I'll ask her... Yup, he's a huge asshole... Maybe, I'll have a little more courage tomorrow. Also, I know that was you at lunch... You are so predictable. Let me fight my own battles. Please.

MAN ON THE T.V. (V.O.)

This weekend the most prolific old-school gamer of his generation is coming to Crestpointe Mall, the one and only, his majesty... Gary "The Gamer" Galaxy! Come meet and compete in the tournament of champions. The record and galaxy could be yours!

River perks up real fast in anticipation.

RIVER

Oh, hell yeah let's go. That record is mine.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

River and Annie sit at lunch together.

ANNIE

So were you talking to him yesterday?

RIVER

Who?

ANNIE

You know, your friend?

RIVER

Was it that obvious?

ANNIE

It's ok man, we've all had imaginary friends. Mine was Lamby, I actually legit miss her.

RIVER
That's cool, what was she like?

ANNIE
She was a ton of fun, we played all
the time, made each other laugh.
Good times.

Jason and his numb skulls walk past pointing and laughing.

RIVER
Sorry about yesterday. I'm trying
to stay away from any more...
complications.

ANNIE
Dude, Jason, and his short bus crew
need to back off. They think they
run this school.

RIVER
Don't worry about it. So, I had a
personal question, if you don't
mind.

She combs her hair behind her ear, nervous.

ANNIE
Whaa... what's on your mind?

RIVER
(nervous)
Well, you know, it's really not my
place, never mind. I'm sorry.

ANNIE
(smiling)
Oh, now I really wanna know.

RIVER
(nervously)
Ehh, so do you have a boy... have
you ever had a boyfriend?

ANNIE
Oh, that?! No, not really.

RIVER
Oh, I just wanted to see if you
wanted to hang out... you barely
know me, that was stupid.

She notices his disappointment,.

ANNIE

It's cool, if you want, we could hang out after school.

RIVER

I know we've just met, but there's this thing I was going to this weekend. You wanna tag along?

ANNIE

What kind of thing?

RIVER

It's just this retro game tournament with a gaming celebrity.

ANNIE

A gaming celebrity? So that's a thing?

RIVER

Ehh, yeah... but it should be fun.

ANNIE

Gaming really isn't my scene but I don't see why not. It's a dat--
(blushing)
I mean... I'll be there.

EXT. CRESTPOINTE MALL - DAY

A busy mall parking lot.

INT. CRESTPOINT MALL [ICE SKATE RINK] - DAY

In front of the busy ice skating rink, Joliet is waiting alone when Annie notices and walks up to her.

ANNIE

Hey, what's been up?

JOLIET

Oh... hey. Not much, just waiting on the others.

ANNIE

It's been a while.

Joliet looks around awkwardly.

Annie puts her hands on the glass and smiles.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Remember when our moms would drop us off here and we'd skate for hours?

Joliet smiles and looks on.

JOLIET

Yeah, and we'd fall on purpose just to have the hot guys rescue us?

They both exchange light chuckles.

Kimber parades over with a look of disgust.

KIMBER

Hey Ann, what chu you doing here? Don't they have malls in the ghetto? (laughing)

ANNIE

Yup, look what I bought half off...

She pulls out giving her the bird from her purse.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

It was BOGO

She flips another bird.

Joliet laughs a little with her hands over her mouth.

KIMBER

Cute.

Annie walks away with both middle fingers up.

INT. CRESTEPOINT MALL FOOD COURT - DAY

River sits at a cramped table. He waves down Annie on the escalator. She walks over to him through a crowded food court.

RIVER

Hey, wassup, thanks for meeting me. That outfit looks, killer.

She blushes and does a fun little pose.

ANNIE

Oh, shucks you are too much. So whose this celebrity you're so horny to meet.

RIVER
Gary "The Gamer" Galaxy. He has
over eleven world records and is a
two-time Golden Gamer Cup Champion.

He pounds the table in excitement. She gives him a look and
he calms his demeanor.

RIVER (CONT'D)
I'm gonna enter the tournament
after the meet and greet if that's
cool?

ANNIE
Calm down dude, I can see your
boner from here.

River looks down like an idiot. She looks up and notices
Jason and his crew.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
Speaking of dicks, is that Jason?

They both look up to the escalator and see Jason and his
entourage.

RIVER
Jesus, does he have to ruin every
moment?

ANNIE
Him and Kimber have always radiated
an aura of suckage.

RIVER
Yeah, I think it's time to jet.

INT. CRESTEPOINTE ARCADE - DAY

They enter the noisy arcade and see a long line of nerdy fans
wanting autographs.

ANNIE
(sarcastically) This looks like a
ton of fun.

RIVER
Sorry, I swear I'll try and keep
this short.

They shuffle through the line and finally get up front. SHELDON(16) chubby kid with glasses in front of them hands some memorabilia to GARY GALAXY (50), a salt and pepper-haired wannabe rock star in leather who reeks of booze.

GARY GALAXY

(annoyed)

OK, who am I making this out to?

SHELDON

It's Sheldon, I'm one of your biggest fans. Your world record for Skeleton Smasher was absolutely brilliant! But what's your secret for AstroBall 2000?

GARY GALAXY

Hey kid, you wanna know the secret?

He points to his nose.

GARY GALAXY (CONT'D)

You need a little of that white lightning.

Gary winks.

SHELDON

(confused)

Ehh... Thanks?

GARY GALAXY

OK, next!

River steps up.

RIVER

It's for River.

GARY GALAXY

So, are you gonna enter our little tourney?

RIVER

Yeah, I've actually come pretty close to beating your record a few times. I hope to do it one day.

GARY GALAXY

(laughs)

Listen, kid, I get it, you think you can beat me, the best.

(maliciously)

(MORE)

GARY GALAXY (CONT'D)

Well, if that day ever comes, I'll
be the first to congratulate you.

Gary stands up and shakes River's hand so hard it hurts. He walks away to his dressing room. River grimaces and starts to rub his hand in pain.

INT. ARCADE TOURNAMENT - DAY

The tournament has begun.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

It's four games -- Skeleton Smashers, Super Road Hogs, Frankenstein's Coffin Crashers, and AstroBall 2000.

River plays Skeleton Smashers, a game where a knight uses various weapons to fend off swarms of skeletons from the castle gates and Sheldon plays AstroBall 2000 a weird asteroids clone.

Throughout the tournament, players are eliminated one by one till there are only four left playing for a world record.

River, Sheldon, and two others are the last ones left. Eventually, the other guys are eliminated, and River is the last one standing.

INT. ARCADE (SKELETON SMASHERS ARCADE CABINET) - DAY

River is hyper-focused as he sweats profusely. The crowd surrounds him, including Sheldon, Annie, and Gary.

ANNIE

Not sure what's happening but keep
it up, I think you're really close,
man.

SHELDON

Dude, all you need is that score
multiplier bonus and you got it,
man!

GARY GALAXY

(nervously)

Don't be so sure, it rarely spawns
in this level.

River is shaking with anticipation and suddenly the power-up appears and his character is surrounded. The crowd starts to cheer louder.

ANNIE

Dude, there it is! Quick, get it!

Gary, seeing this, moves out from the crowd and snakes his way to the back. The game goes black and is turned off and the crowd jeers.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

What the hell happened?

A loud crashing sound is heard and the arcade cabinet shakes. Gary appears from behind the machine.

GARY GALAXY

Awww shit, sorry mate! It was an honest blunder.

River's eyes and face turn red with anger. He rushes over to Gary and grabs him by the shirt.

RIVER

You cheating son of a bitch!

The judge separates them but not before Gary pushes him to the ground. The crowd starts booing.

GARY GALAXY

He's crazy if he thinks he can put his hands on "The Galaxy"!

River is helped up off the ground by Annie and Sheldon. Still angry, he lunges again at Gary.

RIVER

Don't call me crazy!

River is separated again by a judge.

Jason and his squad show up after all the commotion.

JASON

What's wrong River? Didn't smash enough skeletons?

Jason and the rest laugh.

CURTIS

Looks like his special friend whoopsied his game.

KIMBER

Can we hurry? I don't wanna be surrounded by all these nerds, except you Tol-iet.

JOLIET

I told you to stop calling me that!

Gary walks by frustrated and brushes his hands, groping Kimber and Joliet's breasts. Shane grabs him, but Gary punches him in his jaw and he falls to the ground.

SHANE

Nobody punches me without permission.

Gary's ASSISTANT grabs Shane before he starts to hit Gary.

GARY GALAXY

I don't have to deal with these children!

He walks by the ladies.

GARY GALAXY (CONT'D)

Sorry my darlings, was an honest mistake.

KIMBER

Jason! He grabbed my boobs!

JOLIET

Not cool dude, not cool at all.

Jason runs at Gary but is stopped by two security guards as Gary runs off.

KIMBER

Nice one, asshole. You really defended my honor.

JASON

There was nothing I could do.

The two girls and Jason roam through the arcade to play games while Kimber continues to yell at him.

Annie and Sheldon help River up off the ground. River goes to sit and Sheldon brings him a drink.

SHELDON

As far as I'm concerned, the record is yours. I can't believe I ever looked up to that asshole.

ANNIE

That Galaxy guy needs his balls chopped off for pulling a stunt like that.

RIVER

Thanks for cheering me on.

ANNIE

Well, it was exciting, for a video game. Not sure what was going on but I was having fun.

River gets up quietly and appears to talk to himself. He walks toward the back where Gary exited.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Umm, where are you going?

Moments later, there is a scream and everyone rushes to the back. The crowd sees River in the hallway with a pool of blood on the floor pooling out of Gary's dressing room.

To the horror of everyone, they rush in and see Gary's body, mangled in his own margarita machine pouring blood on the floor. The crowd all look at River in disgust and confusion.

EXT. CRESTEPOINTE MALL - DAY

Outside a busy parking lot DETECTIVE FREEMAN(42) questions River who appears nervous and shaken.

DETECTIVE FREEMAN

So you are saying you just arrived at his room and saw no one come out?

RIVER

Yes, there was already a pool of blood on the floor.

DETECTIVE FREEMAN

What about the many witnesses who said they saw you and the victim in a confrontation? Is that true?

RIVER

Yes, he cheated me out of a world record, but I'm not gonna kill someone.

DETECTIVE FREEMAN

Look, kid, you're not under arrest. We will continue the investigation but I'm sorry, I'll have to contact your parents.

RIVER

Crap!

EXT. STUDEMONT HIGH SCHOOL COURTYARD -

Kids scurry in to the late bell ringing.

INT. FIRST-PERIOD - DAY

River sits down. Annie eagerly awaits his arrival. She can hardly sit still.

ANNIE

Are you ok? Are you going to prison?

RIVER

I'm ok for now but my parents are so pissed.

ANNIE

Damn, I'm sorry. Dude, that Galaxy guy. I mean, that was freaking disgusting.

RIVER

Yeah, it was super messed up and he definitely didn't deserve that.

ANNIE

For sure, so... did Cartoon Cat have anything to do with this?

RIVER

No, I've never even seen a dead body before.

ANNIE

I believe you, It's just that everyone in school is talking about it.

He scratches his head and looks around.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Honestly, I don't want you to feel like an outcast again.

RIVER

It's not your fault, I would probably think the same in your shoes.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

River walks into the hall and Jason comes up behind and slaps him on the back.

JASON
Hey wassup killa. Eww, too soon?

Everyone laughs and River darts away.

INT. MUSIC ROOM - NOON

Kimber and her friends, TRINITY (15) and STACEY (16) gossip around a table, while Joliet begins to play a beautiful song on the piano.

KIMBER
So that nerd guy totally grabbed my
tits.

She adjusts her bra.

KIMBER (CONT'D)
Then someone totally murdered him,
it was horrific!

TRINITY
Yeah, I heard, why didn't Jason do
anything?

STACY
For sure, sounds like he has other
things on his mind.

KIMBER
(shaking her head)
I'm so disappointed in him.

TRINITY
You should be.

KIMBER
Also, that new kid was totally
there at the murder scene.

STACY
I heard he put a teacher in the
hospital.

TRINITY
I heard he was put in a mental ward
for burning down a Chuck E. Cheese.

Shane walks in with a stupid smile on his face.

SHANE
Hey Ladies, what's shaken?

TRINITY
Oh, just shitting on the new kid.

SHANE
Oh, him, watch out, he has a body count now.

The girls giggle and stare at him.

KIMBER
Thanks again for the other day.

Shane and Kimber stare at each other. She gives him a wink and then grabs his butt before he walks away. Joliet comes from behind the piano.

JOLIET
You know I saw that, right?

KIMBER
I don't know what you're talking about.

INT. MR. BURNS'S SCIENCE CLASS - DAY

Kimber hugs Jason goodbye near the front door and River walks in. Jason slaps his books out of his hands and gives him a look. River quickly picks them up and finds his seat. Kimber joins Joliet in class.

MR. BURNS
Hey guys, Get with your partner and do exercises one through five in your lab books on page 35.

JOLIET
You're really gonna hurt Jason.

KIMBER
Bitch, mind your business.

JOLIET
I just think --

KIMBER
-- and when did I tell you to think?!

Mr. Burns comes over and breaks them up while the students "ohh" and "ahh."

MR. BURNS

Ok, that's enough ladies, Kimber go sit with Denise and Joliet team up with River.

They both pick up their things and give each other a look before they join their new partners.

RIVER

Why do you let her treat you like that?

JOLIET

Why do you let Jason push you around?

RIVER

Maybe I just wanna keep my head low.

JOLIET

How's that working out for you?

RIVER

Well, I'm still enrolled.

JOLIET

For now.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

The room is musty and filled with smoke, she takes a long drag while on the phone.

DETECTIVE FREEMAN (O.S.)

Please keep an eye on those kids we found at the scene.

PRINCIPAL PUELER

Uh-huh, yeah.

DETECTIVE FREEMAN (O.S.)

And especially that Bertilino kid.

PRINCIPAL PUELER

Yes sir, with two eyes.

DETECTIVE FREEMAN (O.S.)

So, has Philip got all his stuff outta the house?

PRINCIPAL PUELER
Everything but the damn dog.

She plays with her little wooden horse toy.

DETECTIVE FREEMAN (O.S.)
If you want, we can grab some
drinks after work.

She smiles while wrapping the phone cord around her finger.

PRINCIPAL PUELER
Yeah, I'd like that, talk to you
soon.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

The students exit the classroom and Joliet is tripped at the door by Kimber. Waiting outside, Curtis catches her and pulls her up, groping her ass and boobs but masking it as help.

CURTIS
Careful sweet thang.

She pushes him off and gives him a stone-cold stare.

JOLIET
Keep your pervy hands off me.

She darts off as Kimber laughs. She sees Jason and gives him a look.

JASON
What did I do?

KIMBER
Nothing. That's the problem.

JASON
Excuse me?

She walks away in disgust.

River exits the class last and is immediately tripped by Curtis. He falls and busts his head open. Blood sprays everywhere. Curtis laughs but Jason looks concerned. He picks River off the ground and shoves Curtis.

JASON (CONT'D)
Dude, you're taking it too far.

SHANE
Man... whatever.

Curtis looks annoyed and walks off.

JASON
Sorry dude, he's an idiot.

RIVER
Thanks, I can see that.

Annie sees the commotion and rushes over.

ANNIE
What the hell did you do?

JASON
It was Curtis being a moron. Help
me bring him to the nurse's office.

River pushes away in anger and storms off with Annie.

RIVER
I don't need your help.

INT. NURSES OFFICE - DAY

River sits as the nurse attends to his needs. Annie and Jason look in from the window outside.

NURSE
So you tripped?

RIVER
Yeah, I'm a little clumsy.

NURSE
Well, you're lucky. Any deeper and
you'd need stitches.

Annie slaps Jason.

ANNIE
You need to get your goons in
check.

JASON
Hey, I'm sorry, this isn't what I'm
about.

ANNIE
Your lucky he's lying for y'all. He
doesn't deserve this. You have no
idea what he's been through.

She walks into the office.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Hey, are you gonna be ok?

RIVER

Yeah, I'm seeing two of you so that's cool.

ANNIE

I think the fall broke your funny bone, but seriously let me know if you need anything.

RIVER

Actually... Do you wanna help me kill Curtis?

ANNIE

What?!

He takes an ice pack from the nurse and holds it on his wound.

RIVER

I'm joking... but for real. I was gonna ask earlier if you wanted to come over.

ANNIE

Sure... It's a da-- I mean, you got it.

They both exchange a smile.

INT. WEIGHT ROOM - AFTERNOON

River does bench presses alone in a sweaty weight room. He struggles to bench and drops the weight on his chest. Curtis walks up and grabs the bar.

CURTIS

Hey new kid, why can't you read the sign if you're so smart?

He points to the sign that says "Always Have A Spotter."

RIVER

Yeah, I didn't wanna interrupt y'all tickle fights over there.

He looks over and sees some of the jocks with Jason pop each other with towels and do other gross things with their crotches.

Curtis releases the bar and River catches it on his chest.

RIVER (CONT'D)
(struggles in pain)
I'm sorry, I'm just kidding man.

Jason comes over and lifts the bar back on the rack.

JASON
Dude, are you trying to put him in
the hospital?

CURTIS
Just teaching our friend here a
lesson.

Curtis walks away back to the crowd but is tripped by something unknown and goes flying face-first into a fat guy's ass crack.

River and Jason try to hide their laughter but can't contain it.

RIVER
Looks like karma is a bitch.

JASON
I may be a dick sometimes but I'm
not a bad guy.

RIVER
I agree you're a dick but just
don't be an asshole and I think
we'll be fine.

Jason helps him up.

JASON
If you wanna get on my good side,
be helpful. Rack them up for me...
please.

River racks up the weights. Jason begins to bench press much more than River ever could.

RIVER
So, is there more to you than the
typical football player who likes
to torment others?

Jason drops the bar and sits up.

JASON
(smiling)
You know we're not too different.

He looks around to make sure no one is close.

JASON (CONT'D)
When I was a little kid. I had an
invisible friend too.

RIVER
Really?

JASON
Don't go telling anyone or I swear
I'll rearrange your face.

RIVER
Promise.

JASON
Mr. Jazz Hands, when I was about
seven, I was the new kid at
football camp, and they picked on
me way worse than you have it now.

RIVER
Hard to believe but I'm listening.

JASON
I was originally in dance, my mom's
idea but I kinda liked but my dad
said I needed to do something more
manly, so he threw me to the
wolves, even paid a few of them to
torture me extra, what an asshole.

RIVER
How did he appear to you?

Jason puts a towel around his neck and seems lost in thought.

JASON
He came to me in the woods, I had
no friends and would hide there
after practice. He was just so
happy to make me laugh. Helping me
get back at those dicks. Well,
that's how I imagined it. But it's
just bullshit, right?

River gives him a hesitant look of sympathy.

JASON (CONT'D)
Whatever, you don't wanna hear
about all this kiddie crap.

RIVER
No dude, it's cool, no worries. I
understand.

JASON
Look, I'll stop being an asshole to
you but it doesn't mean I won't be
a dick.

RIVER
Thanks?

JASON
Do you want some advice?

RIVER
Sure...

JASON
Stop being such a loner, and come
show some support at our next game.
Deal?

RIVER
Deal.

Troy reaches out to shake Jason's hand.

Jason gets up and playfully punches River in the balls.

JASON
Think fast! Too slow.

He laughs and walks off as the rest of the class begins to
exit except Curtis who looks pissed and hits up the bench
press.

COACH COLE(32) wearing a tight shirt and a comb over, comes
out of his office and addresses the students.

COACH COLE
Were closing down till next week.
So grab your stuff and let's go.

CURTIS
Coach, just let me get a few more
reps in.

COACH COLE

Alright but keep it short. I'm
going to lunch.

Coach Cole leaves. Before River exits last, he eyes Curtis on the bench press.

As Curtis starts to bench angrily, a large shadowy figure walks by. He racks the barbell and sits up.

CURTIS

Who's there? Y'all stop playing.

He looks around some more then continues to bench.

A large dark figure appears over him covering his mouth. His muffled screams and struggles go unheard.

UNKNOWN VOICE

Need a spot, big guy?

We see the shadow of the barbell come down on him and followed by a horrific crushing sound.

INT. LOU'S BAR - DAY

A mostly empty bar filled with cigarette smoke and unhappy people. Principal Pueler sits with Detective Freeman with a few empty glasses in front of her.

DETECTIVE FREEMAN

Pam, you look a mess.

PRINCIPAL PUELER

It's been a tough couple of weeks.

She signals another martini to the bartender.

PRINCIPAL PUELER (CONT'D)

Can you believe he said I was
selfish? The nerve!

DETECTIVE FREEMAN

Well, you did lose like 20k at the
casino.

PRINCIPAL PUELER

He's a lawyer, he can afford it.

DETECTIVE FREEMAN

That's not the point... look, David
is a good guy.

(MORE)

DETECTIVE FREEMAN (CONT'D)

For the past 8 years he has been supporting you, and this lifestyle.

She grabs her drink and takes a swig.

PRINCIPAL PUELER

I'm sorry I couldn't give him a child, we wanted to adopt but, I just couldn't do it.

DETECTIVE FREEMAN

My brother just wanted a family. Can you understand?

She sobs a little while struggling to light another cigarette.

PRINCIPAL PUELER

Well, good luck to him! I wish him nothing but the best. I got my job. I got my students. I'm happy.

DETECTIVE FREEMAN

Speaking of students... my buddy down at the DA did a little digging.

PRINCIPAL PUELER

Uh-huh?

DETECTIVE FREEMAN

That Bertolino kid, he has a record, sealed. Apparently, he was institutionalized. Three months at Devro Behavioral Hospital.

PRINCIPAL PUELER

You think he is a danger to the students.

DETECTIVE FREEMAN

Maybe, but what I do know is there is something he isn't telling us.

EXT. ROAD TO RIVER'S HOUSE - DAY

River and Annie walk down a winding country road with trees lining it and a green creek nearby.

RIVER

I appreciate you hanging out with me.

ANNIE

No prob, so what are your hobbies?
Interests? Don't tell me it's just
Smashing Skeletons.

RIVER

No, I wanna smash goblins, ogres,
and three-headed cyclops. Maybe
even a few bullies.

She gives him a look and then laughs.

RIVER (CONT'D)

I love games, movies, and music, I
can play a little too. I also enjoy
living for the simple pleasures of
life.

He picks up a rock and throws it. It skips a few times into a
beautiful creek nearby.

Annie picks up one and throws it. It skips even farther.

ANNIE

Sorry, I'm a little competitive.

EXT. TROY'S HOUSE - DAY

They arrive at his new, blue, two-story suburban home and
walk in.

INT. RIVER'S HOUSE - DAY

They enter his gorgeous home and Annie stands there in awe.
There is new furniture, beautiful glassware, and gorgeous
rugs. She runs her fingers up the banister and notices it's
tidy and clean.

RIVER

(smiles)

Don't mind the mess.

ANNIE

(sarcastically)

You are so funny. This is way nicer
than my pad.

RIVER

You wanna drink?

ANNIE

Yeah, I'll take a Dr. Pepper if you got one.

He rummages through the fridge and tosses her one.

RIVER

Nice catch! So, you wanna check out my room?

She cracks open the soda and takes a swig.

ANNIE

Sure, can't suck more than mine does.

He gives her a look.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Sorry, that came out weird.

INT. RIVER'S ROOM - DAY

They enter his room and Annie inspects all of his posters, figurines from video games, and comic books. She picks up one of the figurines and puts it down.

ANNIE

You definitely have an impressively nerdy room.

RIVER

Well, I'll take that as a compliment.

Annie jumps on his bed and lays on his pillow.

ANNIE

This one is just right.

RIVER

Shoes off if you're gonna lay down.

She kicks off her shoes and then sits up and sees his guitar and picks it up. She plays a few chords that she knows.

ANNIE

Sorry, that's all I know.

She hands him it.

RIVER
You wanna hear something I've been
working on for a while?

ANNIE
Woo-hoo, free concert!

RIVER
I'm no expert but I'll give you a
little sumthin'-sumthin'.

He plays the catchy full-chord chorus of "My Secret Friend."

RIVER (CONT'D)
(singing)
"You're my best friend, won't you
play with me? Come outside and we
can share some dreams. About
anything or anywhere, you wish you
could know. Take my hand, oh the
places, we're about to go."

ANNIE
Impressive, you might have a career
there. No joke, that was legit
really good.

RIVER
Thanks, I'll show you more when
it's finished.

ANNIE
So, I want to know about him, your
imaginary friend, who is he?

River goes into his closet and pulls out a little binder and
hands it to her. She opens it and sees a bunch of drawings of
Cartoon Cat.

RIVER
Yup, that's him. Cartoon Cat, he's
a little out there but you'd
probably like him.

Annie looks through the binder and sees crude drawings of
this yellow cat with a vest, tie, porkpie hat, and cane.

ANNIE
Wow, not much of an artist are you?
(laughs softly)
I'm kidding, of course.

RIVER
Yeah, I try though.

ANNIE

So are you saying he's... real? I mean, you think he's real?

RIVER

He's real, sort of like how Santa Claus is real I suppose. Maybe people can't see others' imaginary friends cause they don't believe in them.

ANNIE

(hesitant)

Interesting theory. I felt Lamby was real but just in my mind, you know? Not in the physical world. She could never touch or hurt anyone, that would be crazy.

She sees that River is hurt a little by the comment.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, I didn't mean it like that.

RIVER

It's ok, I've come to terms with it. It's not about if I believe in him or not, it's about if others believe me.

River joins Annie on the bed and sits next to her. She puts her hand on his shoulder and they both look at each other.

ANNIE

Dude, I want to believe you, it's just like trying to believe in ghosts or something. It's just a hard sell.

(beat)

So, I heard people got hurt. What happened?

River feels a little more comfortable with her hand on his shoulder. He takes a deep breath and begins.

RIVER

I had a teacher who got injured in the 2nd grade, a carnival clown, and on my 8th birthday...

(upset)

This one just really sticks with me.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. DIPPY DAWG'S PIZZERIA - DAY

River's 8th birthday party at a mascot pizzeria. Kids sit at a long party table with River at the head. His custom Cartoon Cat birthday cake is lit and everyone sings "Happy Birthday". It's time to blow out the cake, but he's nervous and the kids shout for him to blow them out.

RIVER (V.O.)

It was my first birthday that anyone ever showed up. They bring me the cake and they're all cheering and singing the birthday song. I think really hard about my wish but I freeze up with all the attention on me and I just can't blow out the candles.

As he starts to blow air whooshes like a storm and the flames shoot out everywhere and catch the mascot "Dippy Dawg" on fire. He runs around frantically and spreads the fire. Adults help put out the fires as River and the other kids cry.

RIVER (V.O.)

Cartoon Cat tells me he'll help and he blows like a hurricane. It fans the flames in a freak accident. Dippy Dawg goes up like a freaking fireball! Kids are screaming. Dippy is running around spreading it everywhere. It's complete chaos.

END FLASHBACK:

INT. RIVER'S ROOM - DAY - BACK TO SCENE

Annie seems shaken by the story and puts her soda down on the counter.

ANNIE

Wow... ehh... I don't know what to say.

River gets up, takes the binder, and puts it back in the closet.

RIVER

He said it was an accident.

He looks at her and sees a blank stare of confusion.

RIVER (CONT'D)
See! I knew you wouldn't understand.

ANNIE
Chill man, it's ok, it's just a lot to take in... So, what did you wish for?

RIVER
To have real friends. You're the first person I've ever told that story to. See, I really like you, and I don't wanna weird you out.

ANNIE
I like you too but I have to be honest with you. I don't think they are real.

RIVER
Really?

ANNIE
Yeah, I just think we just make them up in our heads.

River gets a little closer.

RIVER
I know you'll think I'm crazy but I wanna tell you a secret.

She looks at him puzzled and takes a nervous gulp of her soda.

ANNIE
Ok...?

RIVER
They're real, imaginary friends. They're here in our world.

ANNIE
Uhh... I think I need to go.

River bursts up and runs to the door and closes it.

RIVER
(furiously serious)
Annie, you have to believe me!

ANNIE

Dude, you're scaring me. Cut it out.

RIVER

I'll prove it to you!

She storms toward the door and shoves him out of the way.

She continues down the hall and darts down the stairs.

RIVER (CONT'D)

Please, Annie, I don't wanna scare you but you're my only friend!

She stops and looks at him cowering on the ground, beside himself. She hesitantly walks back over.

ANNIE

Pull a stunt like that again, and I'll call the police.

River picks himself off the floor and makes his way to the bed. She joins him and looks at him with mixed feelings.

RIVER

I'm so sorry, I just feel... I'm so close to showing someone the truth.

ANNIE

You could've just said that... So what now?

RIVER

In order for it to work, you have to have 100% belief, it will not work unless you do.

ANNIE

Ok, but what do I actually have to do?

RIVER

Sing the song with me while focusing on his picture.

They begin singing "My Secret Friend", she is half-heartedly invested but sees River really getting into it. She seems more confident and reveals her true singing voice.

His closed closet starts to emit rainbow-colored lights from the cracks. She stops singing as it bursts open. With a look of wonder and fear, she stares as CARTOON CAT appears out of the closet looking very animated.

ANNIE
What the actual F --

CARTOON CAT
HEY THERE HOTSHOTS!

ANNIE
Is this real? What's happening?

CARTOON CAT
Of course, it is. Here's my card.

He hands her a card that reads CARTOON CAT AUTOMOTIVE - YOU WRECK'EM WE SELL'EM.

RIVER
I like to introduce my best friend... Cartoon Cat.

INT. JOLIET'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Joliet enters the front door to a clean and neat house with many pictures of family on the walls. Her mom MRS. JONES, is cooking dinner and signals her.

MRS. JONES
Hey baby, how was school?

JOLIET
Eh, could have been better. Got in a fight with Kimber and some perv grabbed my butt.

MRS. JONES
Oh dear, did you tell the principal?

JOLIET
Mom, I can handle it myself. I did get a 100 on my algebra test.

MRS. JONES
I'm so proud of you. Your father would have been proud of you too.

Her mother looks over at a picture of the family on the wall.

JOLIET
I got some more work to do before dinner.

MRS. JONES

Ok sweetie, I'll call you down when
it's done.

Joliet heads upstairs and Mom continues to cook. We see a
memorial plaque of the father.

INT. JOLIET'S ROOM - NIGHT

She enters to equally nice and tidy room, with many books on
her shelves, a keyboard, and a desktop. She tosses her bags
on the floor and sits at the computer.

She logs on to a private chat room and enters
KIMMYPRINCESS69.

ONSCREEN -

JASONSCORES69 - Hey sexy, how you doing?

xxKIMMYPRINCESSxx - I'm good babe, now that I'm finally alone
with you ;)

JASONSCORES69 - So you're not mad at me anymore?

Joliet thinks for a second, next to the keyboard is an old
damnit doll with one button eye and many tears and stiches.

xxKIMMYPRINCESSxx - I could never stay mad at you honey. All
that anger got me really worked up, I need to take off some
clothes.

INT. JASON'S ROOM - NIGHT

We see Jason in his messy room with trophies and football
gear thrown about.

He takes off his jacket and gets more focused into the
conversation.

JASONSCORES69 - Oh really? I think I'll join you.

xxKIMMYPRINCESSxx - I just love to feel you big muscular
arms...all the way down your sexy stomach.

Jason takes off his shirt and begins rubbing his torso all
over.

JASONSCORES69 - Ohh baby I want you to feel me all over.

INT. JOLIET'S ROOM - NIGHT

She sips a juice box with a smile, the damnit doll has moved to the other side of the keyboard.

xXKIMMYPRINCESSXx - Yes baby, I want you to touch it for me, tell me how it feels.

INT. JASON'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jason takes his pants off and sits there on the computer with just his white undies.

JASONSCORES69 - I'm gonna touch it for you, eww its so hard, I want you so bad.

Jason's door burst open and his father, MR. KINGLORD stands there in shock. Jason quickly takes his hands out of his underwear and grabs his pants

MR. KINGLORD
Jesus son, what the hell are you doing?

JASON
Sorry sir, I was... studying.

MR. KINGLORD
Studying my ass.

They both give each other an awkward look.

MR. KINGLORD (CONT'D)
Hurry your ass up here and come down for dinner. And wash your hands. That's an order.

JASON
Yes... Sir!

His dad exits and he quickly messages and turns off his computer.

JASONSCORES69 - gotta go

INT. JOLIET'S ROOM - NIGHT

JOLIET
Shit!

She stares at the screen and then posts on a public message board as Kimber.

xXKIMMYPRINCESSXx - I'm a dumb slut, send me all your naughtiest pics!!! ;)

She laughs as the damnit doll is now on her shoulder.

INT. FIRST-PERIOD HISTORY CLASS - DAY

River takes his seat. Annie ignores him, but suddenly can't take it anymore and turns around with excitement.

ANNIE

RIVER!

She shouts and then realizes people are staring. She leans in and whispers.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

What the hell happened last night?
Did you put something in my drink?

RIVER

I told you it's real, all of it.

ANNIE

I don't know what to think...

RIVER

There is something else I wanted to ask you, but not right now.

Annie shakes her head in disbelief.

ANNIE

Really?

RIVER

Will you come with me to the football game tonight?

ANNIE

(sighs)
I suppose...

INT. PRINCIPALS OFFICE - DAY

Pamela pours something from her flask into a coffee mug, looking like she just rolled out of bed.

The phone rings and she answers.

PRINCIPAL PUELER

Hey, this is Pam.

DETECTIVE FREEMAN (O.S.)
So, I just got off the phone with
the parents of Curtis Boyd.

PRINCIPAL PUELER
And.

DETECTIVE FREEMAN (O.S.)
He didn't come home last night.

She sits up with a sobering look.

PRINCIPAL PUELER
Really?

DETECTIVE FREEMAN (O.S.)
Yeah, can you find out which class
he was last seen at?

PRINCIPAL PUELER
Absolutely. Hold one moment

She looks at the schedule on her computer after typing a few
things in.

PRINCIPAL PUELER (CONT'D)
Hey, it looks like he had
weightlifting last. We have cameras
right outside it.

DETECTIVE FREEMAN
Great, don't do anything till I get
there.

PRINCIPAL PUELER
You got it.

INT. HALLWAY BY LOCKERS - DAY

Joliet approaches Kimber putting things in her locker as kids
pass by.

JOLIET
Hey, I'm sorry about yesterday.

KIMBER
I'm already over it. Are you coming
with me to the game?

JOLIET
Wouldn't miss it.

Jason comes over with a reluctant smile.

JASON
Babe, I'm sorry about last night.

KIMBER
It's all good... wait... last
night?

JASON
Yeah, I had to bounce prematurely.

KIMBER
What are you talking about?

They both give each other confused looks and Joliet interjects.

JOLIET
I think your myspace account got
hacked.

KIMBER
Oh... that would explain all those
dick pics.

JASON
Huh?

Shane greets Jason and they do an embarrassing synchronized handshake.

SHANE
Yo, my dawg we whupping up North
Point tonight!

JASON
Fo sho. Hey, have you seen Curtis?

SHANE
Not since yesterday, he better not
skip our homecoming game.

INT. GYM - DAY

All four of them make their way to the gym where the entire school is mustering for assembly.

The gym is decorated in blue and silver, while cheerleaders in matching colors shake their pom poms by the entrance.

River straggles in last and as he walks in, Shane pants him in front of the cheerleaders.

The entire assembly laughs. River struggles to pull his pants up and then pushes Shane with much anger.

SHANE

Don't be a baby, it's just a joke.

River makes his way up the bleachers looking for Annie but doesn't see her and sits alone with his head down while students keep cracking jokes.

The principal walks to the center court and the students quiet down.

PRINCIPAL PUELER (O.S.)

Good afternoon class It is with a heavy heart I must announce that your classmate Curtis Boyd has been reported missing. We are working with local police to help find clues of his disappearance.

Annie makes her way during her speech awkwardly through the stands towards River, many students give her looks and call her names as she sits next to him.

ANNIE

What did I miss?

RIVER

Just Shane, embarrassing me in front of everyone.

ANNIE

I'm so sorry dude.

RIVER

It's ok, he's gonna get his. I promise

PRINCIPAL PUELER

His parents informed us they want to continue the game tonight as he would want that. So let's win big tonight against North Point. Slay Stallions!

ENTIRE ASSEMBLY

Slay Stallions

PRINCIPAL PUELER

Your dismissed!

The crowd cheers and exits while River stares at Shane laughing.

EXT. STUDEMONT FOOTBALL STADIUM - NIGHT

River and Annie sit in the crowded stands watching the game. He cheers after a big play.

ANNIE

Don't get too excited, we usually lose.

RIVER

Just trying to be supportive.

She looks over at River and nudges him.

ANNIE

So, I was wondering if you wanted to come over to my place after the game?

RIVER

I'll see what I can do, I'll have to look at my schedule but I might be able to fit you in.

She punches him on the arm.

ANNIE

Don't be a dork.

EXT. OTHER SIDE OF FOOTBALL STANDS - NIGHT

Kimber and Joliet cheer in the crowded stands after Jason throws a touchdown.

KIMBER

(shouting)

Let's go, baby!

JOLIET

Yeah! Go sports ball team!

Kimber turns to Joliet with a look of disgust.

KIMBER

So, that was you last night?

JOLIET

What do you mean?

KIMBER

You! You, hacked my account.

JOLIET
 (changing the subject)
 Jason seems to --

KIMBER
 Don't change the subject and don't
 think I haven't noticed the way
 you've been looking at him.

JOLIET
 But Kimmy --

KIMBER
 Stay away from him!

At halftime, Kimber and Shane give each other a look and they both head toward the restroom, while the teams head to the locker room.

EXT. FOOTBALL STANDS - NIGHT

River and Annie sit up in the stands as people disperse for halftime. He sees Shane and Kimber going to the restroom.

RIVER
 I gotta use the restroom.

ANNIE
 Alright but don't keep me waiting.

River gets up and walks away towards the restroom.

INT. BOY'S RESTROOM - NIGHT

Shane and Kimber are in the restroom stall making out with lots of groping.

KIMBER
 (pouty)
 Hey, what's the matter with Lil
 Shane?

She looks down at his soft package.

SHANE
 Can't you help me out here? I got
 to get back out there.

Kimber puts her hair in a ponytail.

EXT. FOOTBALL STANDS - NIGHT

Joliet appears impatient and exits the bleachers.

INT. WEIGHT ROOM - NIGHT

Detective Freeman enters the room and is blown away by a terrible smell. He looks around till he finds a locker with a dent in it.

He opens it to reveal a gruesomely compacted corpse of Curtis.'

DETECTIVE FREEMAN

Dear god!

He quickly makes a cellphone call.

PRINCIPAL PUELER (O.S.)

Hello.

DETECTIVE FREEMAN

I found the body.

PRINCIPAL PUELER (O.S.)

Jesus!

DETECTIVE FREEMAN

Check those cameras. See who was the last one out.

He hears some typing and clicking.

PRINCIPAL PUELER

Paul, it was that Bertolino boy.
He's here at the game.

INT. BOY'S RESTROOM - NIGHT

Kimber exits the stall wiping her mouth and leaves the restroom. Shane pulls his pants up and then the stall door slams open.

SHANE

What the hell are you doing here?

The stall shakes and water is splashed about. But we can't see what is happening in the stall. We then hear cracking and breaking sounds followed by gurgling.

EXT. BLEACHERS - NIGHT

River comes back to Annie, who looks impatient.

RIVER
Hey let's get out of here.

ANNIE
Finally! My social battery is run
pretty dry.

As they start to exit Detective Freeman and Principal Pueler
appear behind him.

DETECTIVE FREEMAN
Not so fast. You're under arrest
for the murder of Curtis Boyd.

ANNIE
NO! Let him go! He didn't kill
anyone.

The detective puts handcuffs on River and takes him away with
the principal following behind.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE BLEACHERS - NIGHT

The detective is leading River out of the stadium while
people stare in shock and whisper to each other.

RIVER
I didn't kill him and I can prove
it.

DETECTIVE FREEMAN
Oh yeah. How so?

RIVER
I will show you my secret. It will
explain everything.

DETECTIVE FREEMAN
Sure kid.

RIVER
Take me to the restroom right there
and I'll show you the biggest
secret known to man.

DETECTIVE FREEMAN
Ok, I don't know why... But I'll
bite.

INT. BOY'S RESTROOM - NIGHT

They both enter and notice the water all over the floor.

DETECTIVE FREEMAN
Ok, where's this secret kid?

RIVER
In my back pocket is a drawing.
Pull it out, please.

He obliges his request and looks at a crude drawing of Cartoon Cat.

DETECTIVE FREEMAN
Is this supposed to be a joke?

RIVER
Behind that stall over there is
Cartoon Cat.

They both walk over to the stall and open it. Disgustingly the legs of Shane stick out of the toilet while the rest of his body appears to be pushed down the pipes.

RIVER (CONT'D)
Uhh... wrong stall?

They hear a girl's scream outside and they both quickly exit.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE RESTROOMS - NIGHT

A crowd of people including the principal and Annie circles Joliet and Kimber.

Joliet talks to STUFFY DOLL, her imaginary friend who looks like a beat-up old dirty dammit doll. She grabs Kimber by her neck with inhuman strength.

STUFFY DOLL
You must end her, Jollee. She can
never hurt Jason again.

KIMBER
What the hell is that thing?! I
don't understand, we're best
friends.

JOLIET
Best friends? We're not friends.
You're not the only one who can use
people and then throw them away.

(MORE)

JOLIET (CONT'D)

I got what I wanted out of you, I got closer to Jason.

KIMBER

But, but, I was there for you when your dad died. Who visited you in the hospital when you tried to kill yourself?

JOLIET

You were only there for me so you could tell people how nice you are. But most importantly you've been playing fast and loose with Jason for far too long.

Joliet squeezes Kimber's neck harder.

KIMBER

You can have him. He's all yours.

JOLIET

You're a shitty friend and a shittier person.

Detective Freeman enters the circle while Troy finds Annie.

DETECTIVE FREEMAN

Let her go!

She grows in size as she and Stuffy Doll merge into a monstrous ragged STUFFY MONSTER. Many people in the circle begin to scream and start to run.

He fires a shot at her and she drops Kimber who runs toward the football field with River and Annie.

STUFFY MONSTER

Back off!

Stuffy monster slaps the detective and he goes flying into the concession stand and appears unconscious.

STUFFY MONSTER (CONT'D)

Where are you going, Kimmy? We just started playing.

The doll laughs maniacally.

EXT. FOOTBALL STADIUM - NIGHT

Joliet smashes up the bleachers and people go flying around, injuring many.

The chaos ensues as many people evacuate, running for their lives. Kimber runs toward the center of the field, where Annie, River, and Jason stop to meet up with her.

Joliet and Stuffy Doll break their merge and the rest finally see a small stuffy doll sitting on Joliet's shoulder. She walks out to them, leaving behind her wake of destruction. Jason runs out onto the field to meet the rest.

JASON

Joliet, is that you?

Joliet walks up to Jason, putting her hand in his.

KIMBER

Get away from her baby, she's crazy.

Joliet gives her a look and she cowers in fear.

JOLIET

Jason, I've loved you since the 6th grade. But you've always had the worst taste in women -- Ashley, Tera, Misty, and Kiesha. We could be perfect together but you can't see past big tits and asses.

JASON

We're friends, right? Why complicate that?

JOLIET

I didn't complicate this, she did.
(pointing to Kimber)
She's been screwing Shane behind your back.

JASON

Seriously, babe? I thought you loved me.

KIMBER

It was an accident, I swear.

Stuffy doll merges again and grows in size. She quickly kicks Kimber and she goes flying, hitting the uprights and cutting her in half.

STUFFY MONSTER

It was an accident I swear!

JASON

CHRIST ON A CRACKER!

Jason balls up in disgust and starts to cry.
She breaks her merge and walks over to Jason.

JOLIET

Kimber was the worst, a completely fake person who treated me like shit.

ANNIE

Joliet, this has to stop, this isn't like you.

JOLIET

You don't even know me anymore, what I've been through.

ANNIE

Help us understand, and we can help you. No one else has to die.

A series of shots -

- Joliet killing her father with a shovel.
- Joliet kills her brother by burying him alive.
- Stuffy Doll kills Gary Galaxy.
- Stuffy Doll kills Curtis.

JOLIET (V.O.)

(crying)

I didn't mean for any of this to happen. My entire life I've been hurt by the people who are supposed to love me. My birth parents gave me up. My foster dad, that asshole, couldn't keep his hands off me. That Galaxy creep, Curtis, always trying to force himself on me. Everyone I have ever killed, had it coming.

ANNIE

What about them?

She looks out at the dead and injured in the aftermath.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Did they have it coming?

Joliet and Stuffy Doll merge again and grow in size.

STUFFY DOLL
(in a monstrous tone)
Maybe they did!

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Stuffy Monster is about to smash them but from out of nowhere Cartoon Cat tackles her.

CARTOON CAT
Back off, you overgrown Raggedy Ann.

RIVER
You made it!

JASON
What in the acid trip looney tunes shit is this?

CARTOON CAT
Sorry, I was tardy, had to put my car in the shop.

A fight ensues between Cartoon Cat and Stuffy Monster. It consists of thrown benches, port-o-potties, and even a mascot.

As the fight continues they make their way toward the gym. Cartoon Cat scampers inside and locks the door, boards it up, superglues and duck-tapes it. Where Stuffy Monster punches through the wall.

STUFFY MONSTER
Come here you stupid cat!

INT. SCHOOL GYM - NIGHT

Both charge at each other with all their might and collide creating a blast of light, knocking everyone down. A rainbow-colored light is emitted from the cracks in the ground made by the blast. The cracks spread across the entire school property, splitting it in two.

EXT. ENTRANCE TO THE IMAGINARY WORLD - NIGHT

A giant rainbow explodes from the crack in reality, stretching miles, dazzling and beautiful for all those who witness it. Each color of the rainbow appears to have an entire world living in it, with houses, trees, and animals. Suddenly, a bunch of imaginary friends come flying out of it.

LAMBY, a sassy, perverted, wooden lamb with real wool, lands in Annie's arms as she starts to cry.

ANNIE

(crying)

Oh my god, I forgot what you looked like.

LAMBY

I never forgot about you.

They both hug and each other.

MR. JAZZ HANDS, an eccentric mime with diamond gloves, opens an invisible door in front of Jason and walks through, giving Jason a hug. He gets very excited but tries to play it off as people stare.

YEEHAW, a marionette horse comes trotting out to Pueler. She is surprised and embraces him.

YEEHAW

Hey there little cowgirl, did ya miss me?

PRINCIPAL PUELER

It's really you. I can't believe it.

River picks up Cartoon Cat off the floor, weakened by the fight.

RIVER

Thanks for saving us. Are you ok?

CARTOON CAT

I'll be fine.

ANNIE

What is this?

CARTOON CAT

This is our home. The Imaginary World.

RIVER

This is what I wanted to tell you about.

ANNIE

It's incredible! You knew about this?

RIVER
Cartoon Cat told me about when I
was young.

ANNIE
So how is it here? How can everyone
see it? What the hell is going on?

LAMBY
Ehh? Magic?

EXT. ENTRANCE TO THE IMAGINARY WORLD - NIGHT

Everyone stares in awe at this enormous and majestic world
layered into colors of a rainbow. They notice Stuffie Doll and
Joliet traveling into the red zone.

LAMBY
Quick, we gotta stop her, she's
headed for the well.

They all gather up around River and make a plan.

CARTOON CAT
I'm gonna need help hotshots. Who
wants to help?

RIVER
Of course, I'm coming.

ANNIE
Me too.

LAMBY
This will be more fun than a game
of soggy biscuit, don't look that
up.

They all look at Lamby in disgust and then to Jason.

JASON
Yeah, you're gonna need my help as
well.

He looks over at Mr. Jazz Hands who is doing a typical stuck-
in-a-box trick but the box closes in on him flattening him.

RIVER
Do you promise to stop being a
douche?

JASON

I promise to keep the douching to a minimum.

CARTOON CAT

Didn't know that was possible.

Principal Pueler and Yeehaw meet them at the entrance.

CARTOON CAT (CONT'D)

You coming?

PRINCIPAL PUELER

Well this is the craziest thing I've ever seen, but I guess y'all need an adult.

She takes a big swig of her flask.

YEEHAW

Can I get some of that?

She gives him a sip and he perks up.

PRINCIPAL PUELER

I might need something stronger.

CARTOON CAT

Alright, everyone, things are about to get strange.

EXT. PATH TO THE RED ZONE - DAY

They step inside the rainbow as the colors rain down multi-colored sparkles on them.

CARTOON CAT

So my friends, welcome to my world. You might be wondering where this all came from.

RIVER

Yeah, I definitely have some questions.

Animated sequence of the history of the Imaginary World, starting with the dawn of man. A caveman's head opens up to visions of a wheel, fire, beautiful women, beer, swords, guns, buildings, TV, a sofa and beer again. It progresses throughout our history with different men's heads opening up and new thoughts from around the world gathering into a central cloud above the world forming the Imaginary world,

CARTOON CAT (V.O.)

It all began with the first idea,
from the first person. The birth of
an entire world from a single
thought. As time passed, the bigger
our world has grown. To infinite
possibilities and endless things to
see. Us friends, started a few
thousand years ago and it was just
a ragged team of motivated
individuals that wanted to make a
positive impact on mankind.
Aristotle, DaVinci, Einstein, and
Britney Spears all were inspired by
their secret friend.

ANNIE

So imaginary friends are different
from... imaginary people?

CARTOON CAT

You bet your ass, hot shot! Us
friends have extensive training
before going out into the field. If
you work hard enough and ace all
the exams, you can earn this.

He pulls out his Imaginary Friend badge.

RIVER

Oh, nice and shiny!

CARTOON CAT

Thanks! I graduated top of my
class.

Annie looks at the other friends and they all pull out their
badges too.

CARTOON CAT (CONT'D)

We are entering the red zone,
Hometown USA, everything wholesome
you could ever imagine.

EXT. RED ZONE HOME TOWN USA - DAY

They walk and see a small town with a main street USA vibe.
Kids run in the street, anthropomorphic people play baseball
in a field, and a parade with balloons comes their way.
Everyone is friendly, smiling, and waving.

JASON

Hey, cat, this looks just like our world. I don't really see a difference.

CARTOON CAT

Are you sure? Look at your clothes. And do you smell that?

They smell lovely baked goods and sweetness in the air. They look down and are wearing typical Southern clothes.

ANNIE

Now that you mention it, I'm getting blasted with the smell of fresh apple pies.

JASON

Dude, why the hell are we dressed like a bunch of hicks?

CARTOON CAT

That's kind of the thing here, each zone has sort of a theme.

ANNIE

This dress is actually really cute... are those bunnies playing hopscotch?

There are bunnies in the distance playing hopscotch and other games. She runs over to them with great excitement.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Oh my god! They're butterscotch bunnies playing hopscotch! I wonder...

She grabs one and takes a bite. The other bunnies scream and cry.

BUTTERSCOTCH BUNNY

Jesus Christ lady, what the hell is wrong with you?!

ANNIE

Oh... shit I'm so sorry.

She drops the half-eaten bunny. The other rabbits take pieces out of themselves and repair him.

LAMBY

Annie, that was weirder than a dildo saddle rodeo.

ANNIE

Well, he was very tasty.

PRINCIPAL PUELER

I'm too sober for this right now.

Annie walks back over to the group in shame.

CARTOON CAT

Ok, we're gonna just try and forget that atrocity and keep moving.

They pass sunflowers singing "Put On A Happy Face" made of lemon drops.

CARTOON CAT (CONT'D)

It's like this 24/7.

JASON

24/7? Jeez, That's annoying.

CARTOON CAT

Yeah, a little bit.

EXT. FARM - AFTERNOON

The group arrives at a farm with the most unusual crops, apple pie trees, cheeseburger bushes, pizza plants, and french fry flowers. They walk up to a small yellow house with a typical FARMER with overalls on a rocking chair, with wheat in his mouth.

CARTOON CAT

Hey there, good sir! Your crops smell wonderful. Do you mind if I grab me one?

FARMER FRED

Sorry partner, they ain't ripe yet.

River and the group give him a look.

CARTOON CAT

Apologies, but have you seen these two?

He shows a crude drawing of Joliet and Stuffy Doll.

FARMER FRED

Hmmm, yeah, let me ask Nana.

He turns to someone off-screen.

FARMER FRED (CONT'D)
 Hey Nana, have you seen these
 ladies?

NA-NA (O.S.)
 Actually, yes, didn't they take the
 banana mobile?

FARMER FRED
 What in tarnation?! They stole my
 nana mobile.

RIVER
 Sorry, sir, we'll try and track it
 down for you. Do you know where
 they went?

NA-NA (O.C.)
 I reckon you better follow them
 there peels.

They all see a trail of banana peels going left down a road
 toward the orange zone.

JASON
 Thank you mister, and thank you,
 eh, Nana? What the f --?

They wave goodbye and we see NA-NA walk out, a sexy young
 banana woman in Daisy Dukes and other skimpy clothing.

JASON (CONT'D)
 Do you think they?

Mr. Jazz Hands makes some suggestive miming that involves
 peeling a banana and swallowing it.

LAMBY
 (confused)
 Sucking a dick?

ANNIE
 I'd do fine not imagining that for
 the rest of the trip, thanks.

YEEHAW
 We better hurry up, she's hauling
 ass to the next zone.

He stretches his body long and little saddles appear.
 Everyone gets on his long horse bus body. Pueler sits up
 front and grabs his reins.

PUELER

Giddy up, and move out... I always
wanted to say that.

They gallop their way toward the orange metropolis following
the trail of banana peels.

EXT. ORANGE ZONE DIRTY DOWNTOWN - DAWN

They stride into the orange zone and see a vast sprawling
city, like something out of the 1930's. Citizens are dressed
like exaggerated gangsters and flappers.

CARTOON CAT

This here is Dirty Downtown, also
known as Double D's.

Cartoon Cat snickers. Mr. Jazz Hands does more naughty mimes
and feels up his pretend boobs. Annie finally slaps him and
he then pretends to cry. They now wear nice suits and dresses
like mobsters.

ANNIE

You better cut that crap out.

CARTOON CAT

This place is the exact opposite of
Hometown, everything adult and
dirty we all think about.

Down a very strange road that twists and turns, the gang
shuffles into a city that glows from many neon signs that
line the streets. The clouds suddenly get dark and it starts
to rain.

CARTOON CAT (CONT'D)

The weather is very random here,
just like the traffic.

Yeehaw swerves out of the way of an accident as various mafia
guys spill out from a truck. Another mobster van drives by
and shoots at them.

Cartoon Cat pulls out a Tommy gun and starts to shoot back.

CARTOON CAT (CONT'D)

Eat lead, hot shots!

EXT. ARCADE-X PARKING LOT - SUNSET

They escape being chased and follow the banana peels till
they see the banana mobile has crashed outside Arcade-X.

RIVER

So I guess she went in here.

JASON

How long did it take you to figure that out, genius?

ANNIE

Don't be an asshole.

Mr. Jazz Hands bends over and grabs his butt checks and swings them at Jason

JASON

Ok, ok, I get it, enough.

RIVER

Are we even old enough to get into this place?

CARTOON CAT

It'll be fine, let's stick together till we eventually have to split up.

He winks at River.

RIVER

Huh?

INT. ARCADE X - DAY

They walk inside and are greeted by scantily clad women hosts. Jason and River ogle the many different varieties of women giving them winks and offering them suggestive drinks.

Cartoon Cat walks up to the cashier, BRIDGETTE (19), a sexy long-haired vixen with a uniform that is essentially a bikini that covers up her intimate parts with brightly colored game controllers, and pays to get the gang in.

BRIDGETTE THE CASHIER

Hey CC baby, it's not Tuesday. Whatchu doing here so early?

Cartoon Cat looks over at River and nervously laughs.

CARTOON CAT

Oh, Bridgy, my friends are new in town, so I wanted to show them around.

BRIDGETTE THE CASHIER
Are you getting the usual triple-
tickle tasty pickle?

CARTOON CAT
Not today baby, we gotta save the
world.

PRINCIPAL PUELER
I'm not gonna even ask what that
is.

YEEHAW
I'll tell you later.

They walk through the host gate to enter the arcade.

LAMBY
Ok girls, split up and look for
her.

Lamby splits up into six lambs and goes through the various
aisles.

ANNIE
Oh, I forgot you could do that.

LAMBY
How do you think I always found you
at hide and seek?

While walking down the arcade floor, River looks over and
sees an arcade that is so bizarre he has to say something.

RIVER
Wait! What the! Laura Croft - Boob
Raider?

He sees an arcade game that has breasts for buttons.

RIVER (CONT'D)
What the hell is this place?

LAMBY
It's a sex arcade, obviously.

ANNIE
But why?

CARTOON CAT
It's the Imaginary World, some
people have thought of some sick
shit.

They look around and notice other suggestive games -- a four-player game with cucumbers as controllers where a group depththroats them. There's an ass game where you have to smack the bottom to win, with the prizes coming out of the butthole; and finally, an eggplant game where you have to make it bigger by stroking it. We also see that Lamby has a couple of high scores on a few of the machines. Annie looks over at her.

ANNIE

Dang, Lamby, I didn't know you were soooo... freaky.

LAMBY

I've seen some things.

Mr. Jazz hands does some inappropriate miming and Lamby giggles.

ANNIE

Can we hurry and get out of here though? This place is grossing me out. My shoes keep sticking to the floor.

River finds a token on the floor and puts it in the machine.

PRINCIPAL PUELER

We don't have time for this, we got to find her.

RIVER

Come on, when am I ever gonna get a chance to play this again?

Annie and Pueler pull him away.

RIVER (CONT'D)

Stop, I just got the boob multiplier! Damn it!

JASON

Come on guys, let him play with the breasts. This might be his only chance.

Jason walks by it and grazes his fingers on the button, surprised at how soft and realistic they are, then he pinches the nipple.

To his surprise, the nipple sprays him in the face.

ANNIE

Ha! That's what you get.

They continue walking through the arcade and see a small movement that looks like Stuffly Doll. Lamby's clones are distracted playing naughty games in the background.

LAMBY

Hey guys, cut that out.

ANNIE

They always like this?

LAMBY

Sorry this place gets them hotter than a jalapeno-chapped asshole.

CARTOON CAT

I think it's time to split up and cover more ground.

He again winks at River.

RIVER

See, there it is again, why do you keep winking?

CARTOON CAT

That's the signal.

RIVER

The signal for what?

CARTOON CAT

Remember when we were younger? We played super duper spies and would infiltrate your mom's closet.

RIVER

Yeah, good and confusing times, but what was the signal? And what were we supposed to be doing when the signal was made?

CARTOON CAT

Honestly... I don't remember. I just never got a chance to be on a thrilling hunt before.

Cartoon Cat hums a chase song while searching around with finger guns pointed. He notices a concession stand and reaches for nachos but River pulls his hands away.

RIVER

We don't have time, we have to find her remember?

CARTOON CAT

I know, but you wouldn't want to
see me when I'm hangry.

One of the gross eggplant games is pushed over on Annie,
pinning her leg, while the nasty eggplant touches her face.
Joliet and Stuffy Doll appear and then merge again, growing
in size. She starts to throw arcade machines at them. One of
the Ass games falls on Jason, with his face pinned in the
cracks of the ass.

STUFFY DOLL

That's what you get, you degenerate
perverts.

The patrons start screaming and scattering while she gets
away again. Mr. Jazz Hands lifts up the arcade trapping Jason
with an invisible rope and pulley system.

JASON

Hurry, this smells like shit!

Mr. Jazz Hands helps Jason wipe poop from his face

JASON (CONT'D)

No one must speak of this.

Yeehaw kicks Stuffy Monster and she is thrown into an
escalator, breaking their merge.

YEEHAW

No, no, no, not upstairs.

PRINCIPAL PUELER

Why what's upstairs?

INT. ARCADE X CASINO - NIGHT

The crew follows her up the escalator and sees a shiny golden
casino with more slots and poker tables than you can shake a
stick at.

Principal Pueler's eyes light up like she has witnessed a
miracle.

PRINCIPAL PUELER

My god, it's perfect.

Annie quickly grabs Joliet by the shoulder. Joliet pushes her
to the ground.

ANNIE

What's gotten into you?

JOLIET

I'm sorry Ann. I didn't think you'd be involved.

Joliet rushes through a fire exit. The heroes watch as she steals a jet car and flies toward the next zone.

RIVER

Shit!

JASON

Where? Do I got something on me?

He starts wiping his face frantically.

CARTOON CAT

If we're gonna catch her we'll need some transportation.

JASON

Ok, let's call a cab or something.

CARTOON CAT

We'll need a ride better than that. I have an idea.

EXT. CARTOON CAT AUTOMOTIVE - NIGHT

They walk up to a closed dealership with many strange vehicles, including a double-decker sandwich bus, a lemon car, and a unicycle helicopter.

CARTOON CAT

Guys, I'm running in real quick, y'all stay here and don't touch the merchandise.

We see Cartoon Cat scurry up into a little beat up trailer.

RIVER

So what was that back there? Did you and Joliet have a history?

ANNIE

We used to be best friends. After her dad died or, I guess murdered, she changed.

RIVER

Obviously.

ANNIE

Once she became friends with Kimber, that was it. We rarely spoke again.

RIVER

Speaking of which. Hey Jason, how are you holding up with all of this?

JASON

I dunno... ask me again when we're not in an imaginary world, questioning my sanity.

RIVER

You make a good point.

JASON

I know Kimber was sort of a bitch...

ANNIE

A huge bitch!

JASON

Ok, so she was a terrible person. But she didn't deserve to die like that.

ANNIE

You're right.

Mr. Jazz Hands taps on Jason's shoulders while Lamby is taking a nap with little sheep dancing in her dreams as a thought bubble.

JASON

Wait a minute... where's the principal?

INT. CASINO - NIGHT

We see Principal Pueler at a high-stakes table with some very strange Tim Burtonesque individuals. She wins big and goes around the table collecting high fives and their winnings.

INT. CARTOON CAT AUTOMOTIVE TRAILER - NIGHT

Inside a very cluttered interior, we see a small tuxedo cat ROMEO turning off the computer monitor when Cartoon Cat rushes in.

ROMEO

Uncle! I wasn't expecting you.

CARTOON CAT

Sorry, I'm in a hurry. I need the keys to my car.

ROMEO

Gosh, I don't think it's ready yet.

CARTOON CAT

No time, we have to save the world.

ROMEO

Huh? Well... hold on you have an important message for you plus we need to talk.

Cartoon Cat pushes a button on the answering machine.

CAPTAIN LOVERSTUFFER (O.S.)

Listen here you swine. This is Capt. Loverstuffer and you sold me this ship last week and it's already falling apart. If you don't answer me, I'm sending my men down there to tear you a new rear end and to collect my booty...

Cartoon Cat turns off the machine and grabs his keys off the hook.

CARTOON CAT

Blah, blah, blah, Romeo, I need you to watch the place while I'm gone.

ROMEO

I have, plus you're not even paying me.

CARTOON CAT

Ok, you're now on the payroll but don't make any sales till I get back.

ROMEO

But uncle I needed to tell you, I accidentally made a sale today.

Cartoon Cat turns around furious.

CARTOON CAT

You what!

ROMEO

Yeah, a nice couple came in and wanted the lemon.

CARTOON CAT

The lemon? You don't sell lemons, they're "display" only.

He calms his demeanor and walks over to his nephew.

CARTOON CAT (CONT'D)

Actually, I'm proud of you. But don't do it again.

He pats his nephew's head and makes his way out the door.

ROMEO

Ok... Bye...

Romeo opens the register and takes some money for himself.

EXT. CARTOON CAT AUTOMOTIVE - NIGHT

Cartoon Cat puts on white gloves and turn on his 1955 orange Thunderbird and peel out. The posse jumps in and admires the vehicle.

JASON

Nice ride.

ANNIE

Sweet.

RIVER

Wow, it's as beautiful as you described.

CARTOON CAT

Appreciate that hot shots, now let's boogie.

He flips a switch and the car turns into a flying car and they take off toward the yellow zone.

EXT. YELLOW ZONE GALAXY CITY/GALAXICITY - NIGHT

While Joliet and Stuffy Doll fly through space. Joliet lets go of the controls with a look of contemplation.

JOLIET

What are we doing? None of this makes sense.

STUFFY DOLL

Don't worry Jo-Jo, everything is gonna be fine when we get to the well.

JOLIET

Why am I not so convinced?

STUFFY DOLL

Look, who was there when your dad hurt you? Who was there when everyone took advantage of you?

JOLIET

I get it, but this just doesn't feel right.

Stuffy Doll climbs on Joliet's shoulder. Stuffy Doll pats her head and plays with her hair.

STUFFY DOLL

Jo-Jo bear, you're my best friend. I would never steer you wrong.

EXT. GALAXYCITY - NIGHT

The gang changes into space suits and are in awe as they fly through space. They enter the zone and see many strangely-themed small planetoids revolving around a giant Elon Musk-looking central Space Station.

CARTOON CAT

(changes outfits)

So this is Galaxy City, or is it Galaxicity? I'm not sure. You do have to be careful here, never know when you're gonna get into a dog fiiight!!!

A sequenced attack of space fighter jets starts shooting lasers at them.

CARTOON CAT (CONT'D)

Hold on to your hot shots!

RIVER

That doesn't even make sennnse!!!

Cartoon Cat nosedives, swerves, and shoots back at them. Lamby and Mr. Jazz Hands help by operating newly installed turrets in Cartoon Cat's spaceship. A scoreboard lights up as they shoot them.

CARTOON CAT

Dang it, nowhere near my highest score.

They fly by and see various novelty planets that look like they're run by B-rated sci-fi characters.

CARTOON CAT (CONT'D)

Guys, I'm starved. Let's stop and grab some spicy steak space tacos.

They see a floating cosmic fast food place, Taco Star with a drive-thru full of notable sci-fi monsters.

RIVER

Hey, aren't we in a hurry? Are we not trying to stop her?

CARTOON CAT

It's just a quick stop. Plus, if I don't eat soon, bad things will happen.

Their ship shakes violently as they witness a larger ship fly above them.

ANNIE

What the hell is happening?

LAMBY

They're pulling us in harder than a hoover on a hotdog.

The heroes look in awe and disgust as a ship in the shape of a butt pulls them in with a tractor beam from the hole.

CARTOON CAT

Sorry guys this is my fault.

LAMBY

How is this your fault?

CARTOON CAT

I sold them this clunker.

RIVER

Great, just another Cartoon Cat blunder?

CARTOON CAT

Eh, I'm a car salesman. They can't all be winners.

INT. A.S.S. EXPLORER - NIGHT

The car is pulled into a storage bay, where they're met by three goofy-looking penguin pirates, LOU, STU, and DREW. Holding strange alien weapons, looking like space batons, the triplets pull everyone out and handcuff them.

LOU

Ok wise guys, don't do anything stupid.

Drew leans over to Lou and whispers.

DREW

I forgot to bring my rod.

Stu slaps him over the head.

STU

Not you idiot, "they" don't do anything stupid.

LOU

Sorry brother but you're incapable of not doing something idiotic.

Jason sees an opportunity and grabs one of the penguin's stun batons.

JASON

Quick guys, we can take them, it's just a bunch of harmless space birds.

The rest of the gang looks in confusion as Stu trips Jason and Lou snatches the baton back. Then they both continue to stun him till he pisses himself unconscious. The good guys look on in embarrassment.

LOU

Hey Drew, looks like you're not the only idiot on board.

EXT. ELON MUSK-ESQUE SPACE STATION - NIGHT

Joliet and Stuffy Doll fly by a crowded station with many flying cars and ships going in and out of it. Two typical green space policeman hanging around a donut shop with the sign, "Dark Matter Do-nuts" in the front, notice the suspicious vehicle slow down. They jump in their squad car, hit their lights and chase down Joliet.

INT. JOLIET'S STOLEN YELLOW CAR - NIGHT

Joliet looks over nervously at Stuffy Doll who is moving around maniacally. Joliet slows down and awaits the police.

JOLIET
Calm down, let me handle this.

STUFFY DOLL
If they catch on to us, I'll have to kill them.

JOLIET
Chill, no one has to die.

EXT/INT. SITE OF THE PULLED-OVER VEHICLE - NIGHT

The green aliens with matching blue uniforms float over to both sides of the car. Stuffy Doll moves over to the driver's side and hesitantly clicks on the intercom.

STUFFY DOLL
What seems to be the trouble, officer?

OFFICER 1
License and registration, please?

She drops her license and a folded paper into an airlock chamber. They grab the materials and then float back to their car.

JOLIET
Calm down, and do what I said.

The two officers quickly come back and knock on the window again.

OFFICER 1
We're gonna need you two to step on out.

STUFFY DOLL
What's wrong, we gave you everything you needed.

OFFICER 2
This vehicle has been reported stolen and your "registration" is just a crudely drawn car with your name on it.

He shows them the paper that has a crappy drawing of the yellow car with them as stick figures in it, with the words, REJUSTRATION in red crayon.

JOLIET
Shit, floor it!

They take off quickly as the cops jump back in their car and pursue them.

INT. HALLWAYS OF A.S.S EXPLORER - NIGHT

The crew escorts the prisoners to the bridge.

They see the wear and tear of the ship as it looks like it's falling apart.

JASON
This ship has seen better days.

CARTOON CAT
It could probably just use a fresh coat of paint.

ANNIE
Sure, a coat of paint and an entirely new ship.

INT. A.S.S. EXPLORER/ BRIDGE - NIGHT

The three goons sit the prisoners down at a round table.

Sitting on a rusty old throne is a grizzled pirate captain, with an eye patch, hook, black beard, and torn clothes.

CAPTAIN LOVERSTUFFER
There is a deliciously large bounty on your head, cartoon crap! And I'm gonna cash it in.

RIVER
Wait, what the hell did you do?

CARTOON CAT
It's a long story.

The penguins start playing flute, violin, and accordion. Captain Loverstuffer starts singing and dancing to a sea shanty.

CAPTAIN LOVERSTUFFER

(singing)

Hello fellas, welcome to my ship. I know it's a little trashy but will get to that in a bit. This is my crew, my pirate penguin gang. They may not be the smartest but they're loyal all the same.

He looks over and sees them with goofy looks on their faces.

CAPTAIN LOVERSTUFFER

(singing)

Let me introduce myself, I'm Captain Loverstuffer. I've always wanted to be a pirate since I came out to my mother, (out of my)

RIVER

(To Cartoon Cat) does he always do this?

CAPTAIN LOVERSTUFFER

(singing)

I started as a bottom, and I battled to the top. Won my own vessel, now we thicken the plot.

The Captain tears off his clothes and reveals a very flamboyant sequence outfit that a drag queen would wear.

CAPTAIN LOVERSTUFFER (CONT'D)

(singing) I have the life you'd be dreaming for...To collect the biggest booty, the biggest score...

He winks at Jason, who shudders in disgust.

The music turns into an upbeat disco tune. Captain Loverstuffer sings and dances to images he describes in his song.

CAPTAIN LOVERSTUFFER (CONT'D)

(singing) I found the ship of my dreams in a dirty lot of lies. He said (Cartoon Cat) it was fully loaded but much to my surprise. After our first voyage, it quickly fell apart. The steering wheel broke and the engine wouldn't start. Rats in the galley, rats in my bed.

Rats scurry past the group and Annie screams while Cartoon Cat snatches one and eats it.

CAPTAIN LOVERSTUFFER (CONT'D)
 (singing) Pipes are all busted,
 leaking on my head. Spiders in the
 vents, Rust everywhere, short
 circuits popping and shocking my
 derriere.

The music turns angry and dark. The lighting turns red and
 eerie.

CAPTAIN LOVERSTUFFER (CONT'D)
 (singing) I'm mad as hell and now
 you're gonna pay. Everything's
 expired, even the warranty. Now I'm
 turning you in, your bounty will be
 mine. I'm gonna torture you too,
 just for wasting my time.

Mr. Jazz Hands joins the dance. Captain Loverstuffer picks up
 Cartoon Cat in an aggressive and threatening tone. Cartoon
 Cat scratches him and runs into a corner scared.

CAPTAIN LOVERSTUFFER (CONT'D)
 (singing) You gonna try and hurt
 me? Well, I can get rougher. You're
 gonna find out why they call me
 Loverstuffer!

Suddenly Joliet's ship crashes into the hull sucking out the
 captain and his crew into space. The heroes desperately fight
 to get to the other side of the entrance hallway and close
 the airlock.

INT. A.S.S. EXPLORER BRIDGE HALLWAY - NIGHT

River gathers up his friends and looks through the peephole
 at Joliet struggling to back her vehicle out the hull.

RIVER
 Dude, she's right there. We gotta
 get off this ship quickly.

CARTOON CAT
 I think we're stuck.

LAMBY
 The airlocks closed down all the
 sections.

ANNIE
 Well, what are we supposed to do
 then?

JASON

Maybe there is something in that room.

They all look at a door that has the words DO NOT ENTER.

RIVER

Let's check it out.

CARTOON CAT

I guess we don't have much choice.

LAMBY

Ewww, what if there's treasure?

ANNIE

Are luck, it's probably a bunch of jun --

INT A.S.S. EXPLORER SECRET ROOM - NIGHT

Jason kicks open the door and everybody's jaws drop open. They see a single gold and red throne.

JASON

That's it? I'm not impressed but it does look my size.

He takes a seat on it and stretches and gets comfortable. He eyes a little red button and pushes it.

The throne clamps down his hands and feet and turns him around with his butt hanging out while blindfolding and gagging him.

LAMBY

That looks more fun than an orgy on ice.

ANNIE

Girl, you got issues.

Mr. Jazz hands finds a cat of nine tails off the wall and gives it a few swipes. A giant device comes down from the ceiling that has a spinning phallic device, with feathers and paddles. Jason grunts and tries to shake free.

CARTOON CAT

As much fun as this is to watch, I think we need to help him down.

RIVER
You're right, but how do we shut
this thing off.

River looks around the room and sees a little toaster-like
robot move from under the throne and reveal a paper.

RIVER (CONT'D)
I think I found something.

He shows Cartoon Cat a piece of paper that says SAFE WORD.

CARTOON CAT
Uh, I'm not saying that.

RIVER
Me neither.

LAMBY
What's the big deal?

She looks down at the paper.

LAMBY (CONT'D)
Why can't you say N --

Annie slaps her mouth before uttering the word.

ANNIE
Are you crazy? You can't say that.
We need to find something to free
him before this thing rearranges
his colon.

The device starts to tear into Jason but stops suddenly. They
looked over and the little toaster robot pressed the red
button. Jason is freed and falls to the ground.

JASON
Jesus Christ! What took y'all so
long? Was about to have to wear a
diaper for the rest of my life.

The little robot scurries down the hall beeping and booping.

ANNIE
That thing literally saved your
butt, maybe it can get us out of
here.

RIVER
We still need a way to the vehicle.

They watch as the little robot's top hatch opens and hands them a key.

CARTOON CAT
Well, that was convenient.

INT/EXT. A.S.S. EXPLORER - NIGHT

Cartoon Cat grabs it and opens the door to their vehicle. They pile in and take off from the ship as it shakes and is quickly falling apart. They shoot out of its hole as it explodes.

INT. CARTOON CAT'S SPACE CAR - NIGHT

Cartoon Cat looks behind at the explosion and River sees the utter fear in his eyes. River looks in the back seat at the others still shaking, he shakes his head in disbelief.

RIVER
Wow, another mess you got us in,
and even worse, you could have got
them killed.

CARTOON CAT
Sorry guy, I never wanted you to
get involved in that but my
mistakes keep coming back to haunt
me.

RIVER
See that it doesn't happen again.

Cartoon Cat sees Joliet's space car and takes off after it but looks down and he sees his stomach rumble and make noises.

RIVER (CONT'D)
There she is, headed to the next
zone.

ANNIE
I can't be too mad at her, she did
save us.

JASON
On accident, plus I have plenty of
reasons to hate her.

His stomach growls again. He hisses and becomes feral for a moment.

CARTOON CAT
I'll be ok, but we need to hurry.

INT. CASINO TABLE - NIGHT

Principal Pueler is mulling over after losing everything. She slowly walks away to the exit with her head down low in disbelief. Yeehaw trails behind her and snags a few chips from unaware patrons.

PRINCIPAL PUELER
I can't believe I lost it all. What was I thinking?

YEEHAW
Could've been worse, you still have all your limbs.

EXT. CASINO - NIGHT

She lights a cigarette as it begins pouring down outside, she and Yeehaw mull around under a small awning to stay out the rain.

PRINCIPAL PUELER
Damnit! I'm such an idiot. I lost my students and they probably think I'm fricking asshole!

YEEHAW
It's my fault really, I should of spoke up. But after so many years, all those old feelings came back.

PRINCIPAL PUELER
Remember the good times?

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

[Flashback]While kids play at a playground, a fiercely spirited girl is running a small-time gambling operation under the jungle gym. Children offer their toys, candy and loose change for bets.

KID PRINCIPAL PUELER
Come on place your bets, don't just stand around, I got a business to run here!

EXT. CASINO - NIGHT

She tosses her cigarette in the rain.

PRINCIPAL PUELER

I got to get it together. This place has brought out the worst in me.

YEEHAW

Yeah, it's pretty tempting, I've been banned here, twice. Let's get back to the others.

PRINCIPAL PUELER

How can we find them?

Out the back door to the arcade comes Romeo accompanied by a cat hooker with multiple tassels covering her breasts. He stumbles over toward them. Obviously drunk.

YEEHAW

I think I know who to ask.

EXT. GREEN ZONE CASTLE FANTASY VILLAGE - MORNING

They fly in and land at the village. Their clothes have changed again to medieval ware. The village overlooks a beautiful green forest with fantasy creatures dancing about. In the center is a magnificent castle with clouds surrounding it.

JASON

So what is this place? Some kind of nerd village?

CARTOON CAT

No! This is the Castle Fantasy Village, Nerd Village is on the other side.

INT. INSIDE THE KINGDOM'S FIRST WALLED GATES - DAY

They stop inside the inner courtyard and look confused about which of the many paths Joliet may have taken. Out of the shadows, surprising everyone comes a gentleman who looks like he fell out a larping guidebook.

The hooded young man walks over to the gang and pulls out a mystic scroll.

QUEST GIVER

(reading)

Hello, weary travelers. If you want to proceed to the next zone, you must seek the golden MacGuffin. Hurry into the round table court and there is where you will find this treasure.

He shows them a drawing of an egg-like item with strange markings.

JASON

So... what, is this supposed to be a regular thing here? Is that the gimmick?

CARTOON CAT

First off, yes, and second, shut up and follow me.

RIVER

Sweet! My first real quest!

ANNIE

Calm down skeleton smasher, we wouldn't want you to blow your load too quick.

They walk to a side door from the main entrance of the castle.

CARTOON CAT

Ok, here is what it looks like.

He shows everyone a picture of the inside of the castle.

CARTOON CAT (CONT'D)

I'm gonna sneak around back and y'all go in through the main entrance.

ANNIE

So, what are supposed to do?

CARTOON CAT

I dunno, look around, ask questions.

JASON

This is the dumbest plan I've ever heard.

CARTOON CAT

Ok, genius got any better ideas?

JASON

Actually--

Cartoon cat disappears. Mr. Jazz Hands listens to Jason's head and knocks on it as if he doesn't hear anything.

INT. CASTLE'S ROUND TABLE COURT - DAY

There is a large room with royal emblems and décor surrounding a round table with different notable leaders of fantasy properties who celebrate the negotiations with KING ARTHUR (50) and the fearsome DRAGON KING. HARRY HOTTER (22), a sexier buff wizard, BRO'NAN (35), a bro-like barbarian, DINK (45), from the legend of Smelda, who wears a purple tunic, and FILBO (27), a version of Bilbo Baggins with a little sugar in the tank, all drink and cheer. King Arthur stands up and it gets quiet.

KING ARTHUR

We are gathered here today with our most illustrious guest, the Dragon King. We have worked hard to get to this point after decades of fighting and bloodshed. Today we offer you peace, good sir. I present to you the seven lost dragon eggs of Northoros.

A large knocking on the front door stops the celebration.

HARRY HOTTER

What in the nimble nipples is that?
Bro'nan, get the door.

Bro'nan gets up but is soon met by River and the gang walking through the hall and into the round table.

BRO'NAN THE BARBARIAN

My dudes, why do you interrupt us on this most special of occasions?

RIVER

I'm sorry, we're looking for the golden... is that a Dragon?

DRAGON KING

That would be Dragon King to you.
What are these normies doing here?

RIVER

Oh my god, it's Link! You know,
from Zelda. Can you sign my... ehh,
arm?

He runs over to him, being a total fanboy.

DINK

Yes, and the name is Dink from the
Legend of Smelda.

He signs his arm, loving the attention.

RIVER

Holy crap! You talk? Hey guys, he
talks.

He gets up, offended.

DINK

Of course I can talk. The
adventures I've endured. The
battles I've won against Hamon. You
don't think me, the hero of
Gyurule, could just keep that all
to myself? I'm not like the weak,
mime imitation y'all have back in
your world.

RIVER

(disappointed)

I got to stop meeting my heroes.

Harry Hotter notices Annie looking at her, gushing.

HARRY HOTTER

Hey cutie, you wanna see my wand?

He winks at her.

ANNIE

Yeah, sure.

He opens up his robe revealing a glistening six-pack of abs
and starts to reveal more.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Gross!

She slaps him in the face.

FILBO
 (a little gay)
 Can we continue with the ceremony,
 please?

KING ARTHUR
 You're right, Filbo. I'm sorry,
 Dragon King.

DRAGON KING
 It's fine, on with it though.

KING ARTHUR
 I present the legendary eggs of
 Northoros!

There is a round of applause and the large red velvet curtains open up. They gaze in awe upon the large marvelous scaled eggs laying in a custom golden carton. To their horror, the court sees one missing and being cooked by Cartoon Cat in a small kitchen next to them that was keeping them warm. Everyone stares at him appalled. He looks at them and becomes feral. He hisses and then quickly consumes the very large omelet.

CARTOON CAT
 Ahh yeah, thats the stuff... eh,
 gotta go!

He zips past them running for his life out of the castle. The entire room chases after him including the Dragon King breathing fire his way while swords and axes are also thrown.

JASON
 Your little pussy sure gets you in
 a lot of trouble.

ANNIE
 (To River)
 Everything he's put you through. Is
 he worth it?

RIVER
 I dunno anymore.

The others sneak around in an empty round table court. They search around for clues. Then on the table, Lamby notices a tile picture puzzle.

LAMBY
 Oh wow, I love these things.

She quickly solves the puzzle and a picture of a treasure chest appears.

They hear a clicking sound and then the round table turns into a spiral staircase that goes down into a dark chamber.

ANNIE

Looks pretty dark in there. Does anyone have a light?

Lamby takes off some wool, wraps it around a stick and lights it with a zippo. Lil Bot pulls out a lantern and Mr. Jazz Hands bonks his head and his eyes light up like flashlight bulbs.

INT. UNDERGROUND CHAMBER/LAVA TREASURE ROOM - AFTERNOON

They head down the stairs and finally arrive in a magnificent chamber that's surrounded by molten lava with a golden treasure in the distance on a pedestal.

As they get near it, they see three spotlights with fearsome creatures under them. A scary chimera, a slimy basilisk, and finally an overly cute jackalope. They line up in front of the creatures, Lil Bot and River in front of the chimera, Lamby and Annie in front of the basilisk, and Jason and Mr. Jazz Hands in front of the cute little jackalope.

JASON

How can y'all expect me to hurt this little guy?

Then the jackalope's horns grow bigger and sharper. It lets out an outer-worldly roar. Mr. Jazz Hands hides behind him.

JASON (CONT'D)

Hey guys? Guys?! Do any of y'all wanna trade?

LAMBY

Stop it Jason, you're being a bigger pussy than Pam's vagina after she met Tommy Lee.

ANNIE

What are we supposed to do though? We're at a serious disadvantage.

RIVER

Yeah, we really need some weapons.

Lil Bot's hatch opens up. He goes digging through his piles and pulls out three weapons, an axe, sword, and hammer. They each grab one and engage with the creatures with the help of their imaginary friends. While fighting, River sneaks to the altar of the golden MacGuffin.

During the fight, the chimera notices River about to grab it, then knocks over Annie and rushes at him.

RIVER (CONT'D)
Shit! Little help over here.

Everyone is preoccupied and River is forced to dodge the chimera's attacks.

RIVER (CONT'D)
Jason! I need your help!

Jason sees Lil Bot rush over to help River but is quickly knocked away. Jason rushes as River is cornered and is pulled back by the Jackelope.

The chimera opens its snarling jaws and is about to kill River when something grabs the snake's head and makes it bite it's own butt. It screams and starts running in circles chasing its tail till it falls into the lava.

Cowering, River looks up and it's Principal Pueler taking his hand and pulling him back on his feet.

RIVER (CONT'D)
You saved me! Wait, how did you find us?

PRINCIPAL PUELER
I had a little help

He looks on as Yeehaw is kicking the crap out of the other monsters into the lava.

RIVER
Holy crap! He's kicking their asses!

With the monsters defeated, River grabs the MacGuffin.

ANNIE
We got this.

Out of the ground comes armored skeletons. They all look at River.

RIVER
Give me a hammer.

River proceeds the beat the utter living crap out of them in a most impressive way.

RIVER (CONT'D)
Easy day...

Everything starts to shake as rocks fall from the ceiling. Out of the lava emerges a humongous intimidating three-headed cyclops.

LAMBY

We're screwed.

EXT. CASTLE GROUNDS CROSSROADS - AFTERNOON

They limp up to the quest giver, battered, bruised, and slightly charred. River hands him the MacGuffin. He takes a long look at it, and then back to them, and then back to it, and then finally back to them.

QUEST GIVER

This ain't fucking it.

They all let out a frustrated sigh and whine.

JASON

Are you serious? I almost got stabbed, burned, crushed, and sodomized, for nothing.

While he talks Mr. Jazz Hands mimes what he went through in graphic detail.

The quest giver looks at the quest paper and sees there is a smudge on it and rubs it away and reveals its true name.

QUEST GIVER

Ohhh, the Golden McMuffin. Sorry, guys.

RIVER

Great, what are we supposed to do now? And where the hell is Cartoon Cat?

Just then, Cartoon Cat comes running in from the distance with his clothes torn and burned.

CARTOON CAT

Hey there, hot shots, did y'all find the muffin thing? I just barely got away and they're definitely still looking for me, so we don't have a lot of time.

ANNIE

Hey, doesn't Lil Bot like, get you anything you ask him? Why not have him give this a try?

RIVER

Hey, you're right. Lil Bot, find
the Golden McMuffin.

Lil Bot opens up his hatch and starts to search. Curiously,
River takes a peak inside and is amazed, it's just miles and
miles of piles of things, it seems endless.

He sticks his head in to get a closer look and falls in
halfway getting stuck. He shouts and kicks his legs and they
help him back up. Lil Bot beeps and pulls out a McMuffin.

ANNIE

Finally, let's get out of here.

They hand it to the quest giver and she reveals a path that
was hidden but now they see it. Cartoon Cat snaps his fingers
and his car pulls up, but Stuffy Doll and Joliet jump out of
the bushes and steal his car. They quickly run after her into
the blue zone.

STUFFY DOLL

(driving away)

Thanks for the ride, losers!

They all watch her drive away in the distance covered in
dust.

JASON

That bitch!

RIVER

(to Cartoon Cat, upset)

You know, you really screwed us
over back there.

CARTOON CAT

Sorry buddy, my hunger got the best
of me.

RIVER

And you wonder why we have trust
issues.

He walks away toward the blue zone.

ANNIE

There he goes walking away again.
How do we catch her now? The next
zone looks like it's miles away.

JASON

Thanks, Cartoon klutz you really
screwed up big time.

The crew start walking toward the next zone with Cartoon Cat dragging behind looking down at his mistakes.

They turn around and see Principal Pueler riding Yeehaw.

YEEHAW
Why the long faces?

CARTOON CAT
Took you long enough.

LAMBY
Yeah, where ya been this whole time?

PRINCIPAL PUELER
(looking at Yeehaw)
We... had to make a pit stop.

LAMBY
The casinos again? Man, you gamble more than my asshole when I go to taco bell.

Yeehaw looks a little nervous and then rolls his eyes.

YEEHAW
No... Ok, maybe we played a few rounds. But we made it here, clearly in the nick of time. So let's saddle up.

Yeehaw grows longer and more saddles are added for everyone. They climb aboard as he takes off like a horse passenger train.

INT. CARTOON CAT'S CAR - DAY

Stuffy Doll drives manically as Joliet looks behind at the others with concern.

JOLIET
We didn't have to steal their car.

STUFFY DOLL
Wake up! They're trying to stop us from getting to the well.

JOLIET
I'm not sure this is the best idea. Is this well really gonna solve all my problems?

STUFFY DOLL

Trust me Jolly bear. You gotta believe in me.

EXT. BLUE ZONE PARADISE PARADOX - SUNRISE

They arrive at the blue zone. It is a gorgeous tropical paradise, surrounded by beautiful beaches. The crew now wears swimsuits and beach attire. Mr. Jazz Hands and Jason run and jump into the beautiful blue ocean. Yeehaw runs along the shore splashing water while Pueler in her bikini, stands on top of him, with her arms up.

Annie runs through the shore and playfully splashes River.

ANNIE

This beach is amazing. Don't you think?

River doesn't respond and looks off in the distance.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Hello! Where you at?

RIVER

I'm sorry, I just have a lot on my mind.

Annie comes closer and puts her arms around him.

ANNIE

Dude it's gonna be okay, he's having a tough time. Plus he's not the only friend you got now.

River shoots her a smile and playfully tosses her in the water.

RIVER

You're right, now you have to put up with me.

Lamby walks over to Cartoon Cat and puts an arm on his shoulder and he sits on the beach and looks on in sadness.

LAMBY

You know, me and Annie never had a relationship as long as you too. A lot of "friends" would be envious of such a friendship like that.

He lifts his head up in shame, with a tear in his eye.

CARTOON CAT

Lamby, I've done messed it up. All the good times have vanished cause I'm just a big screw-up.

LAMBY

You're not a screw-up, you're just a dumbass.

CARTOON CAT

Thanks that makes me feel so much better.

LAMBY

Listen, he loves you, y'all been through more than a whore on payday. You just gotta show him why y'all were friends from the beginning.

He smiles and they walk toward the others.

EXT. PARADOX PARADISE - DAY

Jason is riding a porpoise and is swimming with much joy but it keeps going in circles.

JASON

Hell Yeah, this is exactly what I needed.

It starts spinning in tighter circles and he gets sick to his stomach.

JASON (CONT'D)

Ok, I'd like to get off now... help!

Cartoon Cat grabs a coconut off the ground and hits Jason off the porpoise.

ANNIE

Wow, that was a little harsh, even for you.

The porpoise keeps going in smaller and smaller circles until it goes infinite and disappears.

CARTOON CAT

Listen hotshots, this paradise is very misleading. Let's hurry before they come.

RIVER
Who are "they"?

Cartoon Cat looks up and points.

CARTOON CAT
Them!

In the air are floating clouds of three-dimensional figures with visual paradoxes in them, bouncing around like screen-saver logos.

CARTOON CAT (CONT'D)
We do not want to get caught up in them or we will never catch her.

They see Joliet in the distance got his car stuck in one and they run after her.

JASON
That's what you get, stuck in an MC Escher screensaver!

YEEHAW
Quick! Evasive maneuvers.

PRINCIPAL PUELER
They're closing in on us.

They look up and see one headed toward them. They try to run but are surrounded quickly and get pushed inside.

CARTOON CAT
Damn!

INT. PARADOX - DAY

Inside the paradox, they wander around endless stairs, looping holes, and endless boxes that seem to be going nowhere. After a while, exhausted, they sit down frustrated.

CARTOON CAT
Sorry guys, we have to wait till we get hit by another one.

JASON
I don't understand any of this. I wish I paid attention in geometry class.

PRINCIPAL PUELER

Didn't you learn anything in school? These are paradoxes. They have no beginning or end.

JASON

Maybe there is an answer over here.

Jason runs over to a staircase and ends up upside down and his pocket change comes loose and falls on the gang.

JASON (CONT'D)

Nope, we're stuck.

ANNIE

Damn it, dumbass, we already tried that.

RIVER

At least he's trying to help. Okay, one of us has to have an answer.

PRINCIPAL PUELER

As the only adult here I wish I had something for you guys, but I also suck at math. Don't tell anyone, please.

INT. PARADOX - DAY

Joliet and Stuffy Doll pace around nervously.

STUFFY DOLL

Stupid paradoxes! I hate this zone!

JOLIET

This is all my fault. I should never have hurt Jason or Annie. Stuffy I think I need to go home.

STUFFY DOLL

What's this, I? We are a team. Without me, your dad would still be hurting you.

JOLIET

I know but all those others at the game, they didn't deserve that.

STUFFY DOLL

When we get to the well it will all make sense, I promise.

They see Joliet stuck in one in the distance -- she finally hits another and is shaken free.

STUFFY DOLL (CONT'D)
Finally, lets blow this place!

INT. PARADOX - DAY

The gang looks desperate in finding a way to escape.

RIVER
Oh my god! She's getting away.
We're never getting out of here!

ANNIE
Does anyone have any ideas?

JASON
Can't we call the police or something? Surely she's breaking some laws?

CARTOON CAT
Nah, the police are not reliable here.

JASON
So what are the laws here?

Lamby and Cartoon Cat look at the others and sigh.

CARTOON CAT
Legally, all we're allowed to say is, "different."

RIVER
Ok, so, different how?

LAMBY
Hey, hey, hey, we told you, we are only allowed to say, "different."

YEEHAW
I need a drink.

ANNIE
Ok, so this is what insanity must feel like.

Jason turns to Mr. Jazz Hands.

RIVER
Lil bot, can you help us?

Lil bot starts pulling out weird stuff, double-sided pogo sticks, num-chuk bracelet, yo-yo suspenders.

ANNIE

I think this place has broke him.

JASON

What about you? Do you have something that can help us out?

Mr. Jazz Hands pops up and opens his invisible door and on the other side, they see the entrance to the purple section.

ANNIE

What the hell? We've been stuck here for god knows how long, Joliet is getting away and you could have helped us this entire time!

MR. JAZZ HANDS

(shrugs his shoulders)
You never asked.

EXT. PURPLE ZONE - DAWN

They walk through the door and see Cartoon Cat's car abandoned and wrecked at the entrance. He snaps his fingers and it repairs itself, grows larger to fit everyone, and spouts wings for flying. They climb in and fly into the zone.

EXT. PURPLE ZONE BIG OAK TREE - DAWN

As they fly high over the purple zone, River turns to Cartoon Cat.

CARTOON CAT

Hey buddy, I'm sorry about the casino fiasco, the space blunder, the castle disaster...

He pulls out a list and puts on some bifocals.

CARTOON CAT (CONT'D)

Your 8th birthday party, the carnival clown incident, the crusty sock dra--

RIVER

Yo, yo, yo, I get, I get it.

ANNIE

The carnival clown?

CARTOON CAT
He was trying to eat us!

JASON
Wait, was it you who tied my shoes?

CARTOON CAT
Ok, I'm sorry for everything.

RIVER
(smiles and nods)
It's ok dude. So, where are we going?

CARTOON CAT
The Well of Nightmares. It's at the end of the rainbow in the darkest part.

RIVER
Sounds spooky?

CARTOON CAT
When a secret friend merges with their host for too long, they can get corrupted and psychotic.

ANNIE
That makes a lot of sense.

CARTOON CAT
The authorities put them all in that well but they're drawn to each other like a magnet. She gonna try and release them.

RIVER
Wait, so anyone can just go there and do that? There isn't some sort of security?

CARTOON CAT
Yeah, we really need to put a fence around that thing.

River looks out the window and sees a vast purple forest with controversial and offensive characters.

RIVER
So what section are we in now?

CARTOON CAT

Yeah, you guys are nice folks, you don't need to worry about this place.

RIVER

(confused)

Why?

CARTOON CAT

The purple zone is pretty controversial, it's a place I wish didn't exist.

RIVER

Ok, now I really wanna know, what kind of controversy?

CARTOON CAT

Trust me, you don't wanna be associated with Big-Oak-Tree -- bigotry.

River looks down again and sees some ethnic stereotypes then shakes his head in disgust.

RIVER

Oh... kay... yeah, probably best to skip this place.

They exit the purple zone with some ethnic slurs overheard in the background.

EXT. INDIGO ZONE WILD WEIRD WEST - NOON

They arrive in the indigo section, the western-themed, Wild Weird West. They're all dressed accordingly, boots, buckles and spurs. While they fly overhead River looks outside and see a vast desert area with very odd creatures with multiple eyes, limbs, and heads, in a western theme. Even the vegetation is weird, with a group of cacti made of strange heads with afros. One of the afros flies off and rolls in the desert like tumbleweeds.

They arrive at the fancy saloon, which has a giant sign on top. While they walk up toward the doors in full cowboy getup, no one notices the wanted posters with their faces on them.

INT. SALOON AT THE END OF THE WORLD - HIGH NOON

When entering, the gang are greeted by ragtime music, smoke rings, dirty boots, gambling, the sent of stale beer and the weirdest looking patrons they've ever seen.

River studies someone's hand at a poker table.

RIVER

Hey man, nice wristwatch.

The long bearded two-faced thing, grabs the cheater with six arms and reveals a device that pockets cards. They all start to punch and chairs are thrown.

RIVER (CONT'D)

Stop! We don't need to fight.

A chandelier drops from the ceiling in the middle of the bar fight. People move out of the way before it crashes. They see wanted posters rain from the ceiling with their names on them. Two ugly three-eyed, four-armed BANDITOS grab one of the flyers.

THE MUSTACHE KID

Hang my momma and hide her body!

T-BONE TOM

What?!

THE MUSTACHE KID

There's a reward for these fellas.
Two-week vacation at Space Island
Resort!

T-BONE TOM

Holy mackerel! I'd kill your momma
for a trip like that.

The hooded piano player starts to play fast ragtime hooks. People fly around the bar with windows, tables, and chairs being smashed into pieces. River and the gang each pull out a weapon given to them by their imaginary friends. Mr. Jazz Hands has two simple orange flowers that surprisingly grow into long vines with man-eating plants on some of their bulbs, while Jason is given an invisible mallet.

Lil Bot hands River the master sword and shield. Lamby splits into multiple ninja selves and gives Annie some nun-chucks. Cartoon Cat whips out two plasma guns that, when combined, make a powerful cannon. Pueler jumps on Yeehaw and lets his hooves do the talking.

INT. SALOON STAGE - NIGHT

They then trade blows with the enemies till they are all defeated. River walks up to the stage and the music gets more dramatic. Joliet takes off the hood and reveals she was the piano player with Stuffy Doll on her shoulder.

JOLIET

(singing)

I got a bad case... I'm in a sad
space... been in a mad place, for
way too long.

JASON

You don't have to do this.

JOLIET

You don't understand me. Dolly told
me the nightmare friends would help
my suffering.

RIVER

Jason is right, we didn't come here
to hurt you but to help you.

JOLIET

You could never help me, All these
unforgivable things I done.

She looks over into the darkness outside toward the well.

STUFFY DOLL

But they will love me for who I am.

Yeehaw with Pueler ride up to her.

PRINCIPAL PUELER

I know all about your past darling,
I can help you, but this has to
stop right now. Don't think of me
as an adult, but as a friend.

She grabs Jason, River and Annie with a group hug.

PRINCIPAL PUELER (CONT'D)

Come on and get in here.

Joliet and Stuffy doll merge again and grow in size. Yeehaw and Pueler shake with fear.

YEEHAW

Ehh... Please?

She punches Yeehaw and he and Pueler go flying right out the window.

STUFFY MONSTER
Schools out... permanently.

She starts to punch and kick the rest around, dealing them much pain and damage. She picks up a table and throws it at them. Trapped and hurt under the wreckage they cry out in pain. Lil bot keeps running into her ankles but she flicks it away. Stuffy Monster reaches for a barrel of TNT from behind the bar that's in a "break in case of emergency" glass.

ANNIE
Stop, Jolly this isn't you. We're trying to help.

STUFFY MONSTER
You can't help me, you don't even know who I am.

ANNIE
I know you better than anyone. You're the girl who'd play with me every day after school, the same girl who would beg me to go skating even when I knew you hated the cold. The same girl who told me everything and when I mentioned going to the police, you made me swear to never to tell anyone and it killed me ever since and god damnit Joliet, you're the same girl who never talked to me again since high school.

Annie starts to tear up at the end.

Stuffy Monster sits down with a blank stare and drops the TNT. They split their merge and Joliet pulls Annie from the wreckage and hugs her with tears in her eyes.

JOLIET
I'm such an idiot. I never wanted to hurt you, Jason, anyone.

ANNIE
It's ok, it's not your fault.

JASON
Yeah, it's hers.

Jason points to Stuffy Doll.

STUFFY DOLL

You think you know her? I am a part
of her!

RIVER

An imaginary friend would never do
this.

The gang starts to surround Stuffy Doll as she quivers
nervously.

LAMBY

A real friend would never
manipulate someone.

YEEHAW

Hurt someone.

CARTOON CAT

Kill someone.

Mr. Jazz Hands shakes his head in disapproval. Stuffy doll
starts to laugh manically.

STUFFY DOLL

Well you're not gonna like this
next part

She jumps into Joliet's body and merges. Then picks up the
TNT and lights it. They all run towards the exit as it flies
towards them.

Mr. Jazz Hands sees this danger and steps onto a ring-bell
game. He hits the target with a pretend mallet. He flies up
to the ceiling, past the bell, and hits the dynamite barrel.
He redirects it into the roof as it explodes.

The BOOM knocks everyone back and ends the merge between
Joliet and Stuffy Doll. Mr. Jazz Hands shoots into the night
sky and explodes like bright fireworks. His silhouette
illuminates the sky with sparkling lights. Colorful flowers
rain down from the blast.

JASON

No! Jazzy!

Hurt on the ground and covered in debris, Annie and Lamby
start to lightly chuckle, then they get a look from everyone.

ANNIE

You know he would have wanted us to
laugh at that!

River tries to help her up but she is hurt. Stuffy Doll limps away, dragging Joliet toward the well.

River and Jason pull Annie from the debris, she is cut up and bleeding.

RIVER

Are you ok?

ANNIE

Yeah, I'm pretty sure something is broken on me, but I'll live.

RIVER

Thank god! And the way you stood up to her was... sexy as hell.

She smiles and blows him a kiss. She looks over at Cartoon Cat in dismay.

ANNIE

Cartoon Cat, can I call you CC?

Cartoon Cat holds her hand and straightens up her hair.

CARTOON CAT

Ok, just this once.

ANNIE

It's up to you, you have to stop her. But do me one favor. Make sure you bring him back with all his limbs? I've really grown attached to him.

CARTOON CAT

No promises, but I'll do my best.

River gives him a look and then an elbow.

CARTOON CAT (CONT'D)

I'm kidding, I'm kidding. He's lucky to have a girl like you.

ANNIE

Well, it's not official... well let me see. Hey (to River) you wanna be my boyfriend?

RIVER

This could be the worst time to ask that, but absolutefreakinglutely!

ANNIE

Perfect, now go avenge me!

CARTOON CAT

Oh you crazy kids, and your terrible timing.

JASON

Nice! Now go get her!

He gives River a high five. River is entranced by the new developments. Cartoon Cat paws him the face. He rubs it, in confusion.

CARTOON CAT

Let's get that hotshot!

EXT. THE WELL OF NIGHTMARES - NIGHT

Cartoon Cat and River arrive and, to their surprise, there is a construction site for a fence around it. They meet a construction worker, SETH (30), near the entrance.

CARTOON CAT

Hey buddy, wow, I can't believe it. Finally, they're putting a fence around this thing.

CONSTRUCTION WORKER SETH

I'm telling you man, I've been saying it for years.

CARTOON CAT

(points to himself)
Decades!

CONSTRUCTION WORKER SETH

You get it, any ole Joe Blow comes walking in here, and bam! Doomsday!

CARTOON CAT

I know, like who is in charge of this?

CONSTRUCTION WORKER SETH

(sarcastically)
Whoever it is obviously has better things to do.

CARTOON CAT

I felt that.

They both high-five each other and then a giant crane comes crashing down toward them and crushes Seth.

CONSTRUCTION WORKER SETH

Ugh... Not the way I imagined going out but at least it wasn't that gruesome.

Stuffy Doll gathers strength and merges again with a weakened Joliet. Stuffy Monster pulls out the plug to the well. The wind picks up and debris starts to suck into the well. Seth's body gets pulled into it where we see shadowy figures with red eyes. He lets out a scream, and then body parts come flying out.

Some of the nightmare friends absorb into Stuffy Doll Monster, she grows even bigger and more fearsome. Cartoon Cat looks at River very seriously.

CARTOON CAT

Do you trust me?

RIVER

I've been trying for years.

CARTOON CAT

I was just a rookie when I met you, my first assignment. I didn't know what I was doing. I've screwed you over countless times, I get it. But I've always tried to protect you. Help your confidence. Your parents could never see what an awesome kid they really had. You're like a brother to me.

BEGIN FLASHBACK MONTAGE:

We see River and Cartoon Cat draw together in his room, play at the park, and share game time.

END FLASHBACK MONTAGE.

EXT. THE WELL OF NIGHTMARES - NIGHT

Cartoon Cat is getting emotional while hell is being unleashed around them.

CARTOON CAT

I've always been there for you. I just want you to believe in me as much as I believe in you.

RIVER
 (choked up)
 Come here, hotshot.

They embrace and hug.

The two begin to merge into SUPER CARTOON CAT, a giant superhero version of Cartoon Cat with a cape and outfit. They fly towards Stuffy Monster with a giant glowing fist.

It hits her, and breaks their merge. Joliet and Stuffy fall into the well and the plug closes the entrance.

Super Cartoon Cat pumps its fist.

SUPER CARTOON CAT
 Right in the hot shots!

They break their merge but then quickly are swarmed by two shadowy nightmare friends. The nightmare friends corner them and all looks lost.

Pueler merged with Yeehaw appears as a beautiful centaur marionette. She kicks one of them away but they gang up on her.

Lamby merges with Annie, covered in sheep armor and a hammer, and smashes them into bits.

They all hug and celebrate. Annie walks over to the well and picks up Joliet's glasses.

ANNIE
 You think she's dead?

LAMBY
 I'm not sure what can happen to a human in the well. Maybe?

ANNIE
 It's just messed up we couldn't save her.

LAMBY
 I think in the end, you made her realize who her real friends were and that's worth something.

Jason walks up with little flowers in his hands with a single tear that hits a flower and then falls to the ground.

JASON
 I never knew how much he meant to me, how much I'd missed him.

Jason tears up, looks up to the sky as flowers continue to rain down. River and Annie walk over to him and put their hands on his shoulders.

ANNIE

Hey man, he saved us. We can never forget that.

RIVER

He's a hero, man. You were lucky to have him as a friend.

JASON

You're right, he was pretty awesome, wasn't he?

They all get into Cartoon Cat's car and River looks to Principal Pueler.

RIVER

You know you're one tough principal.

PRINCIPAL PUELER

Thanks, that's sweet of you to say. Y'all made me realize how much my students mean to me. Now let's get back to real world

Lil bot beeps and boops and Jason picks it up and they take off back to the entrance.

EXT. RED ZONE ENTRANCE TO THE REAL WORLD - SUNRISE

They exit the car. Pueler and Yeehaw walk towards the exit.

PRINCIPAL PUELER

I missed you big guy, will you come and visit me?

She runs her fingers through his mane and scratches him behind the ears.

YEEHAW

As long as you never forget me, I'll always be around.

She walks back into the real world. Annie looks over at Lamby and grabs her by the hand.

ANNIE

Are you coming?

LAMBY

I don't want you to forget again.
Plus, we have so much time to make
up.

Jason looks over Lil bot as it happily shakes and beeps.

JASON

Hey lil guy, wanna come back with
me? I could use the company.

It opens its hatch and pulls out Mr. Jazz Hands diamond
sparkle gloves.

JASON (CONT'D)

Oh my god yes! Perfect.

He slips them on admiring them with the biggest smile on his
face.

Lamby notices Annie needs a moment with River and grabs
Jason's arm and pulls him and Lil bot into the real world.
Cartoon Cat walks up to River and gives him a soft punch.

CARTOON CAT

We did it hot shot. You have a
friend that I can trust to keep an
eye out on you... I was thinking,
what if we took a small break? You
know, let you live your life a
little and maybe I'll check on you
every once in a while?

RIVER

Yeah, I'd like that. Best friends?

CARTOON CAT

The most best-est friends.

They both synchronize a handshake and then fist bump and end
on a hug. Cartoon Cat flies away in his car into the rainbow.

RIVER

So we're dating?

ANNIE

Oh totally, you don't go on an
absolutely bat shit, death
defining, journey into the mind
adventure like that and not get
some sort of consolation prize.

RIVER

Oh, I'm just a consolation?

ANNIE

You just can't stop being a pain in the ass, huh?

River smiles and moves in close to her.

RIVER

Thank you for believing in me and just... for everything.

She moves in closer and puts her arms around him.

ANNIE

I couldn't imagine being here with anyone else but you.

They both have a long kiss and then wave goodbye to Cartoon Cat as he flies off in his car, leaving behind rainbow-colored sparkles. He flips a switch and blasts toward the screen.

ONSCREEN: ONE WEEK LATER

SERIES OF SHOTS:

- Principal Pueler is on a date with Detective Freeman, in a cast, at a café sitting on the patio, she is well put together and looks happier than she has ever been. The waiter brings her a beer and she declines.

- At a football game the cheerleaders have gathered with their pom poms shaking hiding something, they unveil Jason who has the diamond gloves on and in full garb, doing an elaborate dance.

INT. RIVER'S ROOM - DAY

River is on his bead strumming away at his guitar as the TV news is playing in the background.

NEWS REPORTER (O.S.)

New reports are still coming out from the incident at Studemont Academy. Many witnesses say they saw a monster injure over 50 people and killing two others. Others report a giant rainbow at the scene. Student River Bertilino has had all charges dropped from the incident...

Anne knocks and walks in. River perks up and turns off the TV.

ANNIE

If we're going on a date, you're gonna have to clean up better than that.

RIVER

Stop, I haven't even gotten ready yet.

ANNIE

Hurry up dude, I don't wanna miss the previews.

RIVER

Ok, ok... I'll hurry.

He starts to look through his closet for clothes as Annie sits on the bed.

ANNIE

So, what do your parents know?

RIVER

Oh, they're pretty clueless.

ANNIE

I figured that out when you weren't grounded forever.

He closes the closet and has a button-up on. Annie helps him button it up.

RIVER

So I never told you, I found something.

ANNIE

Something? What do you mean?

RIVER

I found a way back.

ANNIE

Are you out of your mind?

RIVER

No, but you could imagine.

Under the closet door, it starts to illuminate with a rainbow of colors.

THE END