

Rock Hard

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. MODEST NEIGHBORHOOD - MORNING

A humble home in the middle of a frosty Colorado winter. A rusted baby blue Buick parks in front. The horn noisily honks.

INT. CAR - MORNING

TERRANCE(17), restlessly looks toward the house. His giant winter clothes can't hide his lanky physique, yet quirky good looks. He pulls out his phone.

INT. DANTE'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

A phone buzzes to life. DANTE (17), a humble looking kid with a kind face, picks up the phone. He walks toward the front door.

DANTE
Alright, bye Ma.

CONNIE
Wait, wait, wait!!

CONNIE, Dante's petite mother rushes in and gives him a big hug.

CONNIE
I don't know how many more times I
can do this before you run away
from me.

Dante looks miserable in his mom's embrace. He tries to break away, but she won't let him go.

CONNIE
My baby boy.

DANTE
Please god, Mom let me go to
school.

INT. CAR - MORNING

Dante gets in the car.

TERRANCE

Jesus, I figured losing all that weight would make you a bit faster.

DANTE

I thought sucking all those cocks would let you afford a better car.

TERRANCE

Don't you dare talk about Bessie that way.

Terrance rubs the dash.

DANTE

It took a bit to escape the claws of guilt.

TERRANCE

You want your only Mother, the woman who suffered to get your fat head out of her frail body to be happy your abandoning your family and most importantly friends?

Terrance points to his chest, then shakes his head. Dante just smiles and turns the radio up.

TERRANCE

(yelling)

Don't hide from your feelings!

INT. CAR - LATER

Terrance and Dante drive along the snowy lanes. They sing and scream to the metal song playing on the radio.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

Terrance and Dante pull closer to the school.

TERRANCE

You sound great man, gotta come to one of our practices.

(CONTINUED)

DANTE

Eh, I can sing along to the radio,
no big whoop.

TERRANCE

Don't ever down play your whoop.

INT. CAR - SAME TIME

Terrance slows down to a snails pace for every girl who
crosses the street.

DANTE

Dude, just go.

TERRANCE

Lesson 47: show them chivalry isn't
dead. I hope you're writing these
down. I'm trying to get a third
party to touch that lonely penis of
yours.

DANTE

I do feel like an old married
couple with my hand. I just look at
it, and say "I guess you wanna?"

TERRANCE

That might be the saddest story
I've ever heard.

DANTE

Yeah well, you should still go,
we're gonna get stuck or be late.

TERRANCE

Stop being such a bitch, Lesson 48.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

Dante struggles as he pushes the car.

TERRANCE

(out the window)

You're gonna miss this in New York!

DANTE

(out of breath)

Lesson 49: Shut the fuck up!

INT. CAR - MORNING

Dante's face and nose are flushed red. Terrance looks happy and warm.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (VO)
Are you ready....for BATTLE!!

Terrance lights up like Christmas.

TERRANCE
Oh shit, this is that thing I was
telling you about!

Terrance turns up the radio. Dante is unamused.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (VO)
This is a call to arms to all the
talented youth who are ready rock!
The 4th annual High School Battle
of the Bands! Show off the rock god
in you as your band squares off
against the most talented teenagers
in the city. If you think you have
the skill, energy and kick ass
sound to be the next big thing;
make sure you enter your band by
March 31st! Prizes include gear,
merch, and maybe even...a record
deal!!! The Battle begins May
15th!!

Terrance is ecstatic.

TERRANCE
Holy shit that's not too far away!
A record deal?! You think we could
win?

Dante forces a smile.

DANTE
Sure man.

INT. ENGLISH - MORNING

Terrance and Dante sit next to each other. Dante sleeps with his head on his desk. Terrance doodles a picture of him on stage holding a trophy. Dialogue bubbles from the crowd say things like "You rock!" and "Terry for President".

He smiles and closes his eyes like he's daydreaming.

(CONTINUED)

ENGLISH TEACHER (V.O.)
What do you think Dante?

Terrance looks over at Dante sleeping. He nudges him a little.

ENGLISH TEACHER (V.O.)
Dante?

Terrance shoves hard. He wakes violently.

DANTE
No, not in my pants again!

The CLASS erupts in laughter. A group of PRETTY GIRLS giggle and point at Dante. Dante looks mortified. Terrance shakes his head.

INT. GYM - LATER

Terrance and Dante sit on a bench dressed in cheap jerseys as a basketball game is going on.

TERRANCE
So were you shitting, pissing or coming?

DANTE
I told you it wasn't like that. I don't know why I blurted that out, ok?

TERRANCE
You can tell me, remember that time in Spanish I thought I just had a really wet fart, but I definitely sharted.

DANTE
You know you swore me to secrecy about that, then told everybody.

TERRANCE
It was hilarious!

DANTE
I can't believe I'm taking female advise from you. Most people still call you Sharts.

(CONTINUED)

TERRANCE

Ah, they're just teasing.

The COACH runs over to the bench.

COACH

Terry get in there.

Terrance checks his shoes are tied. Groans are heard from the other CLASSMATES.

BOY #1

Come on, we don't want shit stain!

BOY #2

Yeah, clean up aisle 3!

COACH

Hey, enough! Terry let's go.

Terrance jumps up and into position. The ball is tipped his way and he looks awful. He sloppily dribbles, losing the ball constantly. He travels with the ball, seemingly no idea he's breaking rules.

The other classmates constantly yell at Terrance to do something different. Dante longingly looks over at group of girls cheer leading.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - LATER

Terrance and Dante are awkwardly changing in the locker room.

TERRANCE

I mean this could really be our chance to get noticed man. You really think we could win?

DANTE

I don't know, I guess stranger things have happened.

TERRANCE

What are you going to?

DANTE

Chem.

TERRANCE

Oh, you gonna make a move?

Dante gives a small shrug.

(CONTINUED)

TERRANCE
Come on man, I'm telling you,
Cassie wants the D.

DANTE
Not from me.

TERRANCE
Dude, you are the D! You just gotta
go for it. Stop being the nice guy
all the time.

Terrance closes his locker and leaves.

TERRANCE
(walking away)
Confidence buddy.

Dante looks into his locker.

DANTE
(whispers to himself)
Confidence. Confidence.

INT. CHEMISTRY CLASS - LATER

Dante sits at his desk. MS. NORTON, the chemistry teacher explains something, but Dante isn't listening. He stares at a very beautiful girl a few seats away, this is CASSIE.

MS. NORTON
Alright, find your lab partner. Get
to work.

Dante looks around as all the other STUDENTS move from there seat.

DANTE
Ms. Norton, my partner's not here.

The chem teacher searches for another classmate for him.

MS. NORTON
Just join another group.

Dante moves toward Cassie. He has determination in his eyes.

MS. NORTON
Actually, Preston's without a
partner also, pair up with him.

Dante looks over at a fat kid with stains all over his shirt with a wolf howling at the moon on it. This is PRESTON.

(CONTINUED)

DANTE
God damn it.

INT. DRAMA CLASS - SAME TIME

Terrance performs on stage with a few other DRAMA KIDS. The kids in the audience look on with awe.

Terrance moves across the stage with confidence and poise. It's a semi-romantic scene with ASHLEY (16), a pretty, slender girl. The girls in the audience seem to swoon over his charisma. Ashley looks unimpressed.

Terrance takes Ashley in his arms. He dips her and leans in for the kiss

DRAMA TEACHER (O.S.)
CUT!!

Ashley smiles with relief.

ASHLEY
Thank god.

TERRANCE
(smiles)
Don't act like you're not curious.

Ashley scoffs. Terrance still holds her close.

ASHLEY
He said cut.

TERRANCE
But, what does your heart say?

Ashley bursts out laughing, pushes Terrance away and walks off stage.

TERRANCE
To be continued!

INT. CHEMISTRY CLASS - SAME TIME

Dante flips through a work packet. He looks at the supplies on the table.

DANTE
Ok, so it's mixed, I think if we just bring it to a boil we'll get what she's looking for. What do you think?

(CONTINUED)

Preston sits picking his nose.

DANTE

No? Finding the answers up there?
Nothing...?

Preston stares off in the distance. Dante nods his head. Dante looks over at Cassie. She's laughing with her partner. Cassie looks at Dante. He instantly looks away.

DANTE

Confidence.

Dante looks back at Cassie. She's still looking in his direction. He smiles. She smiles back. It's beautiful until Dante's experiment bursts into flames.

DANTE

What the fuck?!

PRESTON

You said to bring it to a boil!

The students around them freak out. Ms. Norton runs over with a fire extinguisher and puts the fire out. Dante is covered in white spray. He notices Cassie and some other girls laughing at them.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

Dante and Terrance stand in front of a water fountain. Dante tries to clean the white spray off, while Terry can't stop laughing.

TERRANCE

Just tell people you spilled paint
all over you.

DANTE

How is that better?!

TERRANCE

It's better than thinking an
elephant came all over you.

DANTE

Yeah man that's what happened. At
school! An elephant just burst
through the doors and came ALL over
me.

Terrance sees Cassie walking up behind Dante. He motions to stop talking. Dante doesn't notice as he continues to clean.

(CONTINUED)

DANTE

Shit, that's what I'm into anyway.
I love when giant circus animals
blow their load all over me.
Hopefully I got some in my mouth
right!?

CASSIE

Uh, hey Dante.

Dante looks horrified. He turns around. Cassie awkwardly smiles at him.

DANTE

Hey Cassie.

Awkward silence.

DANTE

I didn't mean what I said about
the...circus...cum, I was
just...what's up?

CASSIE

I just wanted to make sure you were
alright. That was a pretty big
burst of flames.

DANTE

(laughs)

Oh yeah, no I'm fine. I like heat.
You know what they say don't stand
in the... I mean don't be in the
kitchen if you can't stand the
heat...and that's where I am. The
kitchen.

Terrance looks embarrassed. Dante quickly looks back at him. Terrance mouths "what the fuck". Terrance makes a motion with his hands as if to say "come on buddy".

CASSIE

Well, hope you clean that stuff
off. I'll talk to you later.

Dante awkwardly waves. As Cassie walks away:

DANTE

Yeah, you too. I mean, yeah, um
thanks!

Terrance grabs his bag off the floor.

TERRANCE

Dude.

DANTE

I know.

INT. GUITAR CLASS - AFTERNOON

Posters of bands from the 80's like Bon Jovi line the walls of the modest music room. Dante and Terrance play guitar reading music off of a stand.

MAC, short, stocky like a thick tree with long flowing hair comes out of his office. He does not look like a typical teacher.

MAC

Quick announcement before the end of the day my little guitar gods and goddesses. The talent show is tomorrow night. Liberty's brightest stars will be performing and yours truly will be the master of ceremonies. If you're not performing, you should be attending and supporting your fellow classmates! If you are performing...

Mac looks over at Terrance.

MAC

...I salute you!

Mac salutes Terrance. Terrance smiles back. The final bell RINGS.

MAC

Make sure you gather all your things, and practice, practice my little minions!

Mac gives the devil horns and retreats back into his office. Terrance turns to Dante as they gather their stuff.

TERRANCE

Fucking Mac...You're coming right? The band needs supporters.

DANTE

I show up to everything, why would this be any different?

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

Dante and Terrance walk with their guitars in hand as STUDENTS frantically try to leave. Ashley walks by.

TERRANCE

Can't stay away, Ashley? That scene was pretty romantic today. What do you say we practice at my place later?

Terrance smiles. Ashley snorts.

ASHLEY

Full of classic lines today! And although *real* smooth, I'm all set. (beat) Hey Dante.

DANTE

Hey.

Ashley smiles then walks away.

TERRANCE

Well, offer's always on the table.

They keep walking.

TERRANCE

Dude, I think she's in to me.

DANTE

You think everyone is in to you.

EXT. PARKING LOT - SAME TIME

A football lands in the snow right by Terrance's foot. A JOCK kid signals to him.

JOCK

Toss it here!

Terrance excitedly picks up the ball.

TERRANCE

Sure thing bro. Go long!

JOCK

(unamused)

Just toss the ball Sharts.

Terrance crappily throws the ball wide right. It hits a car and bounces away.

(CONTINUED)

TERRANCE

You gotta jump for that man.

The jock jogs after the ball annoyed.

DANTE

You should stay away from sports man.

Dante and Terrance walk through the large parking lot.

TERRANCE

Oh I forgot to ask, what'd you think of In Flames live DVD?!

DANTE

God, they're so fucking awesome.

TERRANCE

I know! They're just bad ass, the way they play and everything.

DANTE

Can you imagine? All those chicks flashing their titties, all over the world. It's like the U.N. of titties.

TERRANCE

That could be us man!

Terrance stops and grabs Dante's arm.

TERRANCE

Dude, I know I talk a lot, but I'm gonna get serious for the next couple minutes.

DANTE

Oh, that's your serious face?

TERRANCE

You have to join the band. With the way you sing and your scream, dude we would be so much better.

Dante shakes his head and smiles out of the corner of his mouth.

TERRANCE

Come on, I know you've thought about it! You just gotta nut up.

(CONTINUED)

DANTE

I have thought about it, but I just don't wanna join man.

TERRANCE

Why not!?

DANTE

I just don't want to, alright?!

Dante walks away, Terrance follows.

TERRANCE

You know who loves singers, GIRLS! Front men, no matter how ugly they are they always bag the hottest chicks!

DANTE

Wow, so you're saying even with my ugly face I can get chicks.

TERRANCE

Exactly! Even with your disgusting, mutated, pimply mug, you can land chicks.

DANTE

You're an asshole.

TERRANCE

Whatever. Be lame, you'll regret it when you see how awesome we are tomorrow!

They arrive at the old Buick. Terrance pops the trunk. As Dante puts his guitar in the trunk Cassie walks up.

CASSIE

Hey Dante, is that yours?

DANTE

Oh this shit box? No it's Terry's.

CASSIE

No, the guitar?

DANTE

Oh, yeah it's mine.

CASSIE

I didn't know you played.

Terrance hovers near the front of the car.

(CONTINUED)

TERRANCE
(whispers)
Dude, this is it. She wants it.

DANTE
Yeah, a couple years.

CASSIE
Cool, you any good?

TERRANCE
(whispers)
You're amazing, you have the
fingers of Hendrix.

DANTE
Uh, I'm ok I guess.

CASSIE
I've always wanted to learn, I have
a guitar, but I don't even know the
notes or anything.

DANTE
(chuckles)
Oh man.

TERRANCE
(whispers)
DUUUUUUDE!!

DANTE
I mean, I could show you some
things, uh if you want.

Cassie smiles. Terrance smiles and nods.

CASSIE
Yeah? That'd be awesome. How about
my place tomorrow night?

Terrance shakes his head.

DANTE
Uh, after school?

CASSIE
Perfect.

DANTE
Alright, awesome.

Cassie walks away. Dante is ecstatic.

TERRANCE

Dude?!

DANTE

Dude, I'll still be there, got plenty of time. But, come on?!

He motions to Cassie. Terrance smiles.

TERRANCE

That was a good job. I thought you were gonna bring up animal jizm again.

INT. DANTE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Dante sits at his dinner table. Dante's Dad TOM, a tech savvy hippie type in his forties, sits at the head of the table. Connie runs back and forth between the kitchen and dining room with food.

Tom reads a thick IT manual of some kind. Connie continues to bring out food.

DANTE

Mom are you trying to fatten me up again?

CONNIE

What do you mean again!? And you need to eat, you're a growing boy.

DANTE

Yeah, outward.

TOM

Let him be, Con.

DANTE

What are you reading Dad?

TOM

(sighs)

Those rat bastard pimps I work for want me to learn a new language for the next project.

CONNIE

Have you heard back yet?

(CONTINUED)

DANTE

It's only been like a week Ma.

CONNIE

We're gonna miss you so much,
aren't we Tom?

TOM

Yeah, definitely. My new PM is such
a little prick. Although, I don't
think we're the ones you need to
worry about.

CONNIE

Yeah, what are all your friends
going to do?!

DANTE

I'm not even sure if I've gotten
in. But, my friends will be fine,
just like you guys.

TOM

We're talking more about Terry and
that estrogen den he's stuck in.

INT. TERRY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Terry sits at his dinner table with his two younger sisters
LAURA (13) and SANDY (10). The meal is much healthier than
at Dante's house.

His Mom, JOANNE, a free-spirited lady, and her cougar friend
WILLOW walk around the kitchen drinking wine.

WILLOW

Men just suck, Jo. I mean, too
needy? Is it needy to want to spend
time together? Needy to go out
sometimes? Needy to want to meet
your mother?! Jesus, he makes me so
crazy.

JOANNE

You just want him to let you in.

WILLOW

Exactly. Is that so wrong?

They move to the table to join the kids. The girls are
playing with their food. Terrance eats quietly.

(CONTINUED)

JOANNE

Not at all. We are all one, Willow.
It's important that we connect on a
deeper level, both physically and
spiritually.

WILLOW

Well, physically, he's a stallion.
No problem there.

Terrance shakes his head as he eats.

WILLOW

Just every time I show emotion he
thinks I'm on my period! I just
wish I knew how he felt; how he
really feels.

Tears well in Willow's eyes.

TERRANCE

Maybe he's just afraid to jump into
something...

Joanne and Willow look at him.

TERRANCE

You know since he's divorced...he
probably really likes you, he just
doesn't want to mess it up.

Willow smiles.

WILLOW

You looking for a date Terry?

They laugh.

WILLOW

Why can't more "grown" men be like
you? He's amazing.

JOANNE

He truly is.

Terrance blushes a little.

WILLOW

What are you doing after
graduation?

TERRANCE
Oh, I'm not really sure.

JOANNE
He's going to be a famous musician.

TERRANCE
Mom!

JOANNE
It's true, you're so talented. You
can do anything. You should hear
him play, he's so great.

Joanne beams with pride at her son.

WILLOW
What are your friends doing?

TERRANCE
Well, my best friend is going to
New York for film probably.

WILLOW
Oh, that's exciting.

TERRANCE
(unexcited)
Yeah, real great.

EXT. SCHOOL - NIGHT

KIDS and PARENTS walk into the school.

INT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Terrance paces back and forth backstage. He looks pale and
sweaty.

TERRANCE
It's ok, nothing to freak out
about, we're going to be awesome.
We're going to be awesome.

Terrance peeks onto the stage. A DORKY GIRL is doing a very
strange ventriloquist act. The crowd looks bored.

TERRANCE
How are we ever gonna follow this?

Terrance paces. He pulls out his phone and texts.

INT. CASSIE'S ROOM - SAME TIME

Dante slowly walks in with Cassie behind him. The room is very girly with a giant smiley face painted on the wall.

DANTE
Cool room.

CASSIE
Oh, thanks.

Dante's phone buzzes. Dante looks at it, the message is from Terrance. It reads "you're still coming right?!".

CASSIE
You ready?

Dante puts the phone back in his pocket without responding.

DANTE
Definitely.

INT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - SAME TIME

Terrance stares at his lifeless phone.

TERRANCE
You better be here you bastard.

A fellow PERFORMER walks by.

PERFORMER
(cheerfully)
Hey, break a leg Terry.

TERRANCE
Hey fuck you too! I hope you break your legs walking through the parking lot you sick son of a bitch!

The performer is shocked.

TERRANCE
Sorry, I mean, Thanks!

Ashley, dressed in all black with a head set walks up to Terrance.

ASHLEY
You guys gonna be ready?

Terrance looks nervous.

INT. CASSIE'S ROOM - SAME TIME

Cassie is sloppily trying to place her fingers on the frets.

DANTE

There you go, so put your ring
finger there...and put your pinky
there. Now strum.

Cassie strums and it sounds terrible. She laughs, Dante smiles. He picks up his own guitar.

DANTE

It should sound like this.

He strums and it sounds perfect.

CASSIE

What the hell!? I can't do that!

DANTE

Yes you can, just try again. Make
sure you really press on the
strings.

Cassie tries again and it sounds really rough. She whines a little. Dante puts down his guitar.

DANTE

Here.

He shifts very close to her. He puts his arm around her to show her where to put her fingers.

INT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - SAME TIME

Terrance dry heaves into a trash can. Students around him are disgusted. He wipes his mouth and runs back to the curtain to peek on stage. A PORTLY KID sings a shaky opera song. Once again the crowd seems disinterested.

TERRANCE

Jesus what is this the most
talented high school on the planet.
How are we ever gonna follow this!?

Mac walks by the trash can Terrance just threw up in. He looks in and gags. He spots Terrance.

MAC

Terry, you alright?

(CONTINUED)

TERRANCE

Oh yeah Mac, just some pre-show jitters.

MAC

Well have some water or something you look as white as (sings like the Nirvana song) an albino, a mosquito, my libido, yeah!

Terrance looks confused.

TERRANCE

Was that Nirvana?

Mac nods.

MAC

Between you and me, I'm getting a little bored of opera and weird puppets. Counting on you to rock the house buddy.

Mac walks away. Terrance runs over to the trash and dry heaves more. He stands and wipes his mouth. Terrance checks his phone. He angrily shoves his phone back into his pocket.

INT. CASSIE'S ROOM - SAME TIME

Cassie strums with Dante's hand still on her's. It sounds ok.

DANTE

See, you're getting it.

Dante starts to pull away. Cassie quickly throws her strumming hand on his leg.

CASSIE

No, don't you dare. I need you.

Dante smiles and snuggles back in. She continues to play and it's the best it's sounded so far. She turns to Dante extremely excited.

DANTE

See, I told you, you could do it.

CASSIE

Well, I have a great teacher.

Cassie nudges Dante playfully. She looks at him.

(CONTINUED)

CASSIE

(softly)

Thank you again, for coming over
and showing me this stuff. It's
really sweet.

DANTE

Anytime.

She looks down at the neck of the guitar. He looks away.

DANTE

(to himself)

Confidence. Don't be a pussy.

Dante closes his eyes, puckers up his lips and slowly leans
toward Cassie.

CASSIE

You know I was thinking-

She finally looks at him.

CASSIE

What are you doing?

Dante snaps out of the moment and is instantly embarrassed.

DANTE

Nothing. What do you mean? Just
waiting for you to keep playing.

CASSIE

Were you going in for...

Cassie points to her lips.

DANTE

What!? No...

CASSIE

Cause you're a really nice guy, but
we're just friends.

DANTE

Yeah, no of course, and thank you,
you too. We were just having a
moment...and I thought...

Dante loses the words. Cassie awkwardly rubs his shoulder.

(CONTINUED)

CASSIE

Uh, it's ok. But, like I said we're just friends.

DANTE

Yeah...I just. I like you, you know. You're awesome and we were playing and I just didn't think I was...in the friend zone.

CASSIE

Yeah, you're like the mayor of the friend zone. Just...no chance.

Dante nods his head. Cassie opens her mouth to speak, but says nothing.

DANTE

I'm gonna go. I gotta get to the talent show.

Dante stands up and clearly has a raging boner.

CASSIE

Oh my god!

Dante quickly tries to cover it up.

DANTE

I'm sorry, like I said, the moment.

CASSIE

Just go.

Dante picks up his guitar and leaves.

INT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - SAME TIME

Terrance keeps looking at the clock. He looks more nervous than ever. His band mates look indifferent. CHAD, stocky semi-goth kid, tunes his guitar.

CHAD

You remember the lyrics?

TERRANCE

Of course I remember the lyrics.

CHAD

Just saying, wouldn't be the first time. You tune up?

(CONTINUED)

TERRANCE

Oh! Do guitars need to be in tune before you play them?! Jesus, it's not my first time!

CHAD

Then why you so nervous?

TERRANCE

Because the whole school is out there!

CHAD

(chuckles)

Whatever man.

Ashley walks up to the band.

ASHLEY

(into her walkie)

Yeah, sound is a little shaky, fix the right monitor. (to the band)
Alright, you guys are up.

The rest of the band picks up their gear. Terrance does last minute breathing exercises.

ASHLEY

Hey, is Dante coming?

TERRANCE

He better.

Terrance looks at the clock once more. He nods his head with a little more confidence. He takes a step toward the stage.

DANTE

Terry!

Terrance turns around. Dante runs up.

DANTE

You going on?

TERRANCE

Thank Christ you're here.

Terrance gives him a big hug. Dante smiles.

TERRANCE

Alright, give it to me, quick.

Terrance runs in place, like he's pumping himself up.

(CONTINUED)

DANTE

You are the man, you're going to be awesome. Are you ready to fucking rock? Are you ready to be a bad ass?!

TERRANCE

(nods vigorously)
Fuck yeah!

DANTE

Then get out there!

Terrance runs off. Before he crosses the curtain Terrance looks back to see Dante being mopey.

TERRANCE

Hey, how'd it go with Cassie? You uh...

He pumps his fist back and forth while biting his lip. Dante tries to smile. He shakes his head.

DANTE

I'll tell you later. Just kill it, alright.

Terrance runs on stage. Mac gives him a big pat on the back. Dante watches just behind the curtain. The band starts to play and they sound extremely disorganized.

Terrance sings and plays well, obviously the highlight of the band. But Chad keeps missing chords and incoherently screeching things into his mic. The DRUMMER drops a stick regularly and the BASSIST seems to be playing a completely different song.

DANTE

(laughs)
Jesus.

Dante looks at the front row where a couple of attractive GIRLS watch Terrance. They hold a sign that says "I heart you Terry". They can't keep their eyes off him.

Terrance nods to one of them, and they all start to giggle. Terrance looks at a group of guys all pointing, laughing and making fun of the band. Terrance looks embarrassed but keeps playing.

Dante continues to look at the girls as they swoon over his friend.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Dante sits on the hood of Terrance's car. Terrance walks out of the school with his guitar in hand.

DANTE

There he is ladies! Terry the Titan!

Dante claps loudly.

DANTE

(high pitch girl voice)
Oh my god, he's so hot! I bet he's got a big--

Dante moans like a girl having an orgasm. Terrance laughs.

TERRANCE

Why thank you. But seriously, how were we?

Dante pauses.

DANTE

You were great!

TERRANCE

Thanks, but how was the band?

Dante struggles with how to say it...

DANTE

You guys are rough. Like, you suck kinda. Yeah, you suck...balls.

Terrance looks disappointed, but like he knew it already.

DANTE

But you were awesome, and there were definitely people in the audience who liked you... A lot.

TERRANCE

You never told me what happened with Cassie. You make a move?

Dante nods.

DANTE

Let's just say she doesn't want the D. At least not mine.

(CONTINUED)

TERRANCE

Are you sure?

DANTE

Oh yeah, she made it very clear.
Practically poking her in the eye
with it didn't help either.

TERRANCE

I'm sorry man.

Dante waves it off.

TERRANCE

Yeah. Well, I guess Battle of the
Bands is a long shot.

DANTE

You guys just gotta practice more.

TERRANCE

No man, you're right we suck. They
fucking suck! We would just be
laughed at. Even more than we were
tonight. (Beat) I just wish they
were into it like I am, you know. I
wish there were people on stage
with me that I knew had my back.

Terrance shakes his head. He looks in his back seat.

TERRANCE

Shit, I forgot my stand. I'll be
right back. You leaving?

DANTE

I'll wait for you.

TERRANCE

Thanks sweetie!

Terrance runs off. Dante looks pensive.

INT. BACKSTAGE AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Chad and the band discuss something in hushed voices.
Terrance hears them and stops before walking in.

CHAD

I don't think I can take it any
longer. He's a joke. You saw them
laughing! You think that was at
us?!

(CONTINUED)

Terrance listens just outside the door.

BASSIST

But he's really good.

CHAD

He's not that good. We can find someone better. And we need to find someone who's not such a pussy. Did you see him puking before we went on?! I mean, seriously!?

They laugh. Terrance walks in. The laughter stops.

CHAD

Oh hey man, what are you still doing here?

TERRANCE

Just getting my stand. What's up?

They are silent.

TERRANCE

Oh, pretty quiet now. You want me to leave so you can talk more shit?

Chad scoffs, the bassist gets defensive.

BASSIST

Oh no man, it's not like tha-

CHAD

Shut up! He heard us idiot. It is like that. We want you out of the band. No one can take you seriously! I mean, before your boyfriend showed up you were a mess. We need a real leader. Me! And we need leadership to win that battle of the bands.

TERRANCE

(laughs)

You're the Leader?! I didn't no such huge balls could squeeze into such skinny jeans. And you wouldn't even know about that if it wasn't for me!

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Dante sits on the roof of Terrance's car.

DANTE

(to himself)

Mayor of the fucking friend zone.
At least I hold office. (beat)
Terry, I want in the band. Terry, I
wanna give ear-gasms with you.
Terry I wanna rock...hard. No.
Terry, I wanna get pussy with my
voice.

INT. BACKSTAGE AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

CHAD

There's no point in arguing man. We
decided. You're gone!

Terrance slowly nods. Rushes over to his stand, grabs it and
storms away.

BASSIST

(weakly)

Good luck man

TERRANCE

Fuck you guys.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Terrance marches to his car where Dante still sits.

DANTE & TERRANCE

(same time)

I want in the band- I'm out
of the band. Wait, what?

DANTE

They kicked you out?

TERRANCE

You want in, really?!

DANTE

Why'd they kick you out?

(CONTINUED)

TERRANCE
Cause they're assholes, who cares!?

DANTE
Shit, I'm sorry man.

TERRANCE
I'm not!! You want in!!

Terrance grabs Dante by the shoulders.

TERRANCE
I'm so excited, I've been waiting for this day forever. That was the only thing you could've said to make me feel better. What made you come around?!

DANTE
I don't know. I saw the way those chicks were looking at you on stage. I want somebody to look at me like that. And I'm tired of being the nice guy, I'm tired of being in the fucking friend zone.

Terrance gives him a huge hug.

DANTE
Okay buddy!

Terrance lets go.

DANTE
Uh, I guess we gotta start from scratch?

TERRANCE
Good! Fuck those ball sucking half goth wannabe's! We're gonna find some new blood, write some bad ass songs, and together, win that fucking BATTLE OF THE BANDS!! Nobody will be fucking laughing then.

DANTE
Alright, so we'll start this weekend.

TERRANCE
Holy Shit! I'm so pumped right now. I could kill something with my bare
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TERRANCE (cont'd)
hands! Wait, this isn't like that
time you said we were gonna streak
through the mall and then I did it
by myself right?

DANTE
No dude, I'm in.

Terrance gives the devil horns.

TERRANCE
YEEEEAAAAHHHH!!!!

INT. TERRY'S BASEMENT - DAY

Dante walks down the stairs. Terrance meets him with a huge
smile and gives him a hug.

DANTE
You high?

TERRANCE
High on metal and friendship. I
have assembled the next great rock
band to destroy the boredom of this
town and reinvigorate the peoples
measly lives.

DANTE
You sure you're okay from the other
day?

TERRANCE
You mean getting kicked out of the
band that I started? Yeah I'm
great! I'm sure Chad and those
other morons are crying and
pretending to cut each
other somewhere. Plus we will be a
hundred times better than them. Nay
a thousand!!

Dante laughs.

TERRANCE
Come on meet the guys!

A husky Asian kid wearing baggy jeans awkwardly stands in
the middle of the basement in front of pieces of a drum set.
This is YOUNG.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG

What's up?

TERRANCE

Dante, this is Young. Our new drummer!

Dante shakes his hand.

YOUNG

Nice to fucking meet you man. Yo, is it cool if I set up my shit?

TERRANCE

Yeah man, set that shit up!

Terrance picks up his guitar, tuning the strings. Young sets up his drums

DANTE

Have you been playing for awhile?

YOUNG

Yeah...yeah, fuck yeah. Never in a band, or with other people but Terry was telling me what you guys wanna do, sounds fucking awesome, so figured I'd beat the shit outta some drums you know?

DANTE

How long you been playing?

YOUNG

(thinks)
What day is it?

DANTE

Saturday.

YOUNG

Two weeks. Almost.

Dante laughs and walks over to Terrance.

DANTE

So... almost two weeks?!

TERRANCE

Oh ye have little faith.

A toilet flushes. Out of the bathroom walks an out of shape jock looking kid wearing a baseball cap. This is LEVI. He smiles at Dante.

(CONTINUED)

LEVI

Hey, what's up man.

TERRANCE

Dante, you know Levi right?

Dante and Levi shake hands.

TERRANCE

Lead guitarist. Guy shreds.

DANTE

I didn't know you played.

LEVI

I didn't know you sang!

DANTE

Eh, to be determined. What about baseball?

LEVI

I can't, with my arm anymore. That's actually why I got so good at guitar, couldn't play ball.

DANTE

That sucks.

TERRANCE

Yeah, let's cry about it later. We ready, I wanna jam!

Levi sets up his guitar. The mics are all ready. Dante looks around.

DANTE

What about bass?

Terrance plays with the knobs on his amp.

TERRANCE

Pat is here somewhere.

Dante looks around the room, but sees nobody.

DANTE

What are you talking about?

TERRANCE

Pat, our new bassist.

(CONTINUED)

DANTE

There is no one here!

Dante turns to see a tall, lanky, dirty looking man with a tattered Megadeth shirt who seemed to appear out of thin air. This is PAT

DANTE

Aah!

Dante looks embarrassed by his girlish scream. Pat doesn't react. Terrance looks up.

TERRANCE

See, he's right there. Let's get going before my mom comes home.

Dante looks at Pat a little terrified.

DANTE

Dude, how old are you?

PAT

(very deep voice)
Fifteen.

TERRANCE

Let's do this!

SEQUENCE OF SHOTS

- Young smacks his sticks together, 1, 2, 3, 4!
- Terrance and Levi coordinate what chords to play.
- Pat head bangs violently while Dante just stares at him.
- Young drops a stick. And keeps dropping sticks again and again.
- Terrance shows an annoyed Dante what pitch he should be singing.
- Levi breaks a string on his guitar.

END SEQUENCE

Dante let's out a badass scream. Half way through the electricity dies. They look around at each other confused.

TERRANCE

Fuck! We must've blown a fuse!

(CONTINUED)

DANTE

I think it's a sign that that's
enough blowing for one day.

The guys collectively sigh. Terrance looks disappointed. The
guys pack their gear.

INT. SCHOOL - DAY

Dante walks through the halls minding his own business. He
sees Cassie with a group of her friends. Cassie gives him a
weird look while the other girls giggle. Dante speeds up his
pace.

TERRANCE

Dante!

Dante doesn't look back. Terrance catches up to him.

TERRANCE

(out of breath)

Jesus, you that excited to go to
class?

DANTE

No, just...walking.

TERRANCE

What'd you think of practice?

DANTE

It was fun. Rough, real rough, but
near the end I thought we actually
started to sound oka--

TERRANCE

Good cause I signed us up for a
show.

Terrance runs in the other direction. Dante stops.

DANTE

Wait, What!?

TERRANCE

Like a mini-battle of the bands!
I'll text you! See ya!

DANTE

Wha--

Dante looks like he doesn't even know what just happened.

INT. CHURCH - NIGHT

A small stage has been set up in the cafeteria of the church. A Banner hangs above the door that reads "New Life Church Music Contest".

An older FOLK DUO perform. The AUDIENCE is a small group of very homely boring looking people who smile politely toward the stage while showing little enthusiasm.

Terry, Dante, Young, and Levi are near the back of the room. Levi tunes his guitar, Terry frantically paces. Dante looks around worried.

TERRANCE

Jesus Christ they're good. How are we gonna follow that?

YOUNG

I'm fucking pumped, I think we're gonna kill this shit.

LEVI

Kill this shit isn't a bad name.

DANTE

True. I don't know if this crowd will like it. Or us for that matter. It's like some Pleasantville, Stepford Wives shit in here. I'm surprised they let the women out of the kitchen to listen to music. (points) That family is literally from Leave it to Beaver.

LEVI

You know, I think we're on next.

DANTE

Cool.

TERRANCE

Fuck me in the ass!

DANTE

Terry, calm down buddy. Anybody heard from or seen Pat?

Young and Levi shake their heads.

TERRANCE

Our first show outside of school and--

(CONTINUED)

Terrance runs to the trash can and dry heaves.

DANTE
You have his number?

LEVI
Doesn't have a cell.

Terrance stumbles back wiping his mouth.

TERRANCE
Of course not. Stinky
vampire-looking bastard. Nowhere to
be found! We're gonna sound
terrible, everybody is going to boo
and hiss. The crowd looks like
pilgrims, they're gonna burn us at
the stake for witch craft-

Dante turns Terrance around and slaps him across the face.

DANTE
What are you talking about!? We're
gonna be fine. Let's just set up,
hopefully he shows up...soon.

They pick up their gear and walk toward the stage. Dante's
parents stand in the middle of the floor, they look
uncomfortable. They give Dante and the band a small wave.

TOM
God I fucking hate church.

CONNIE
It's not church, it's our son
finally getting involved.

Terrance's Mom walks in with his sisters armed with a video
camera. She spots Dante's parents.

JOANNE
Connie! Tommy!

She walks with a spring in her step. Tom and Connie are less
than thrilled.

CONNIE
Oh shit.

TOM
When Dante leaves, do we have to
deal with her anymore?

Joanne stops right in front of them.

(CONTINUED)

JOANNE

I had no idea you were coming!

CONNIE

You either!

Tom fakes a smile.

JOANNE

Connie. Your essence is just radiant today, as I'm sure it is most days.

Joanne forcefully hugs Connie.

CONNIE

Thank you Joanne.

The hug stops. Joanne looks at Tom.

JOANNE

How are you Tommy?

TOM

Good Joanne, thanks. Got the camera huh?

JOANNE

I never miss Terry's performances. He's just inspiring to watch. You can tell he feels the music, deep in his soul. It's almost spiritual. I'm so proud of him... Girls!

Joanne runs after her daughters.

TOM

She calls me Tommy like we're god damn best friends.

CONNIE

(mocking)

"Your essence is just so radiant".

The guys stand to the side of the stage as the previous act cleans up their equipment. Dante looks around nervously.

TERRANCE

This is a disaster. Where could he be?

They walk on stage with their gear. Dante turns to them.

(CONTINUED)

DANTE

Alright, we'll just do what we can.
Hopefully we sound fine without the
bass. Or Lurch miraculously shows
up.

Dante turns and faces Pat who seemed to appear out of
nowhere.

DANTE

AAH! Jesus!

Pat just stares at Dante, bass in hand.

DANTE

You ready?

Pat grunts and checks his amp. Dante approaches the mic,
then looks to his parents. His Mom gives him a big smile.

Ashley walks in from the back of the church. She's too far
for the band to see her.

Dante looks back at the band. Ready as they'll ever be.
Young counts it off 1-2-3-4! They sound okay, but they are
all over the place.

Young changes tempo without warning. Pat furiously
head-bangs with his wild mane of hair, Levi furiously
thrusts, humping his guitar. Dante's stands stiff almost
refusing to move.

No one in the crowd enjoys the performance except Joanne.
Tom and Connie wince every time there's a mistake but they
force smiles. Ashley fakes enthusiasm. The LEAVE IT TO
BEAVER FAMILY cover the ears of their children.

LEAVE IT TO BEAVER DAD

The devil's music I tell ya!!

INT. DINER - NIGHT

The band sits at a large table with Dante's parents.
Remnants of their meal remain as a BUSSER picks up their
dishes. Young, Levi and the parents collect their things.
Terrance looks upset.

TOM

Good job tonight fellas.

(CONTINUED)

DANTE
Thanks Dad.

YOUNG AND LEVI
Thanks.

Terrance forces a smile, but says nothing.

CONNIE
Not too late ok?

DANTE
Alright, I'll just be a little
longer, thanks mom.

Tom and Connie leave.

YOUNG
We're out of here too.

They all shake hands.

DANTE
Practice, Saturday at 1! See ya
guys!

Young and Levi leave. Pat follows.

DANTE
Good show tonight Pat.

Pat menacingly stares at Dante. He grunts, gives a creepy
half smile and vanishes.

DANTE
He legitimately frightens me. I'm
afraid I'm gonna wake up one night
with him standing over me, like
covered in animal blood, speaking
Latin or Arabic, I don't even know.

Dante looks at Terrance who plays with the bits of food on
his plate.

DANTE
What?

TERRANCE
We lost.

DANTE
Did you really think we were gonna
win?

TERRANCE

Yeah! I did!

Dante gives him a look that says "really?"

TERRANCE

Maybe.

DANTE

It was our first show man. You always throw out the first pancake, right? We were lucky we sounded as good as we did. And that church crowd was stuck in 1952 so you can't get too mad cuz they've never heard Rock and/or Roll before.

Terrance scoffs. Dante laughs a little. Terrance's phone buzzes to life. He picks it up.

TERRANCE

Wow...my mom already posted our show to Youtube.

DANTE

She does get excited. She'll probably try to write lyrics for us next.

Terrance continues to look at his phone. Dante stands up and grabs his coat.

DANTE

Saturday right.

Terrance looks up and nods. Dante leaves. Terrance watches their show on his phone. Terrance shakes his head in disappointment.

INT. DANTE'S ROOM - LATE NIGHT

Dante sits on his bed in the dark watching the video of their performance on his phone. He looks at how rigid he is. He closes his eyes and shakes his head.

DANTE

(to himself)

Come on man, confidence...
confidence.

KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK. Dante hears his Mom through the door.

(CONTINUED)

CONNIE

Dante, it's late why are you up?
(beat) Are you watching porn?!

DANTE

What?! No!

Dante puts his phone away.

DANTE

I'm not watching anything!

CONNIE

Don't lie to me Dante! It's disgusting. (beat) Are you touching yourself?

DANTE

MOM!!

TOM

Con, if the boy is stroking his monkey leave him alone!

CONNIE

I know Tommy, but... Dante it's ok if you are but it's late honey; can't you wait til morning?

DANTE

OH MY GOD! I'm going to bed!!

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Dante, Young, Levi and Terrance walk down the hallway as students scurry the halls. Terrance looks pensive.

DANTE

Well, how fat are we talking?

YOUNG

She's fucking big. Like crush a man's fucking skull big.

LEVI

More cushion for the pushin.

DANTE

Now that's the perfect band name.

Young grabs his stomach flab.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG

Shit, I got enough of that!

DANTE

Well, you come from a sumo culture
so it's not that big of a deal.

They all laugh except Terrance. They stop walking.

LEVI

Well, I'm this way. We'll see you
guys later.

They all shake hands, but Terrance is distant. Levi and
Young leave. Dante looks at Terrance.

DANTE

Oh no, I know that face. You wanna
hug?

TERRANCE

Just don't.

Chad walks by with a couple FRIENDS. Terrance doesn't turn.

CHAD

Hey sharts! Nice show! How much
puke does it take to choke that
bad!?

Chad and his cronies laugh and walk off. Dante fake laughs
with them, then brings his hand across his throat like he's
slashing it.

DANTE

Chad's an asshole, ignore him. It
was rough, but it'll get smoother
with practice.

TERRANCE

Just practicing isn't going to
solve everything! It takes more
than that, and we don't know what
the hell we're doing! And I just
can't lose--

Terrance looks supremely upset like he can't put it into
words.

DANTE

We'll figure it out. (beat) You
coming?

Terrance slowly nods. He takes a deep breath.

(CONTINUED)

TERRANCE

I'll be there in a sec.

Dante leaves.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

Terrance sullenly walks down the hall. He hears loud metal music coming from further down the hall. He stops in front of his guitar classroom and peeks inside.

INT. GUITAR CLASS - SAME TIME

Mac sports a bandanna around his head and holds a mic stand with a bandanna tied around the top. A hair metal song blasts from the stereo. Mac sings along and really gets into it.

Mac climbs on the piano. He fake screams to the imaginary audience in front of him. He tenderly caresses the mic stand. Mac jumps down, runs across the room and into a power slide. He passionately plays air guitar.

He rocks out like a pro and looks like he's having the time of his life. Terrance watches in amazement. The song fades out. Mac points to his imaginary band mates behind him.

Terrance walks in clapping with a big smile on his face. Mac turns to him sweat pouring down his cheek.

MAC

(out of breath)

Oh, Terrance. I didn't see... how long you been standing there?

TERRANCE

Long enough. That was awesome!

Mac blushes a bit.

MAC

Didn't think there were any students still here.

TERRANCE

Don't be embarrassed that was fucking incredible, I mean... incredible.

Mac laughs.

(CONTINUED)

TERRANCE

Where did you learn that?

MAC

Learn what?

TERRANCE

Like, all that... all those moves.
I don't know, watching you I
would've thought you were on a real
stage or something.

Mac smiles. Mac walks to the door and checks the hall for people. He walks towards his office.

MAC

Come on, I'll show you something.

INT. MAC'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

The office looks a lot like the classroom, lined with posters and memorabilia. But, unlike the classroom there are tour posters and pictures of Mac on stage in wild outfits.

Terrance looks at a shelf full of pictures of Mac with different celebrities. Mac sits behind his cluttered desk.

TERRANCE

(amazed)

You were in a metal band?

MAC

Oh yeah. Kreature we were called.
With a "K".

Mac chuckles. Terrance continues to be amazed by the pictures.

TERRANCE

You know Metallica?!

MAC

Yup. We did a couple shows with
those guys way back in the day. We
weren't nearly as good, but we were
loud and fast!

TERRANCE

And Bon Jovi?

(CONTINUED)

MAC

Yeah, that's me and Jon at a tiny little dump in Jersey. Those were good times. I did a lot of things I shouldn't have back then.

TERRANCE

Sex, drugs, and Rock n Roll!?

MAC

Something like that. We were just crazy kids. Didn't care about anything.

TERRANCE

Well, I gotta say this makes a lot of sense. I thought you were just really into to teaching. But this... this is so cool.

MAC

It was a long time ago. But it was pretty damn cool.

TERRANCE

What happened?

MAC

Well, the band started to go in a direction I didn't quite agree with.

Terrance stops at a picture of a younger Mac dressed in full make-up and a nightgown with his similarly dressed bandmates.

TERRANCE

Yeesh, I see that.

MAC

They wanted to change the band name to "Neglected Daughter". Didn't seem right.

TERRANCE

You miss it?

MAC

Sometimes. I miss the crowd, the stage. I miss writing songs with my best buds. What I don't miss is waking up not remembering how I got somewhere, or in a pile of vomit,

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MAC (cont'd)
or realizing Nikki Sixx stole all
the chicks and my money. (beat) I
couldn't do it forever. It's not
for everyone. And when I met
Claire... the road wasn't that
appealing anymore.

TERRANCE
Wow. Mac, you have to teach me your
ways.

Mac laughs. Terrance looks at him completely stone faced.

MAC
Oh, you're serious. I'm washed up,
man.

Terrance points to the classroom.

TERRANCE
Could've fooled me! Come on Mac, I
gotta win that battle of the bands.
WE have to. But we can't do it
alone!

MAC
Terry...

TERRANCE
Why not!? You won't wake up in any
vomit, I always make it into the
trash can!

Terrance moves right in front of Mac.

TERRANCE
You might be a washed up old hippie
rocker-

MAC
This is truly inspiring.

TERRANCE
But, we're not *THAT* bad; here,
listen to us.

Terrance pulls out his phone. Mac stops him.

MAC
I saw the church show online.

TERRANCE

You did?

MAC

I can't tell students to support each other if I don't do the same.

TERRANCE

Then you really know we need help. We got no balls!

Mac nods in agreement. He exhales, clearly thinking it over.

TERRANCE

Please? (beat) This guy wouldn't say no!

Terrance pulls one of the photos off the shelf and shoves it in Mac's face. Mac snorts.

MAC

Alright.

TERRANCE

YES!

MAC

But I'm only teaching you Rock n Roll, the sex you gotta learn on your own and stay away from drugs!

TERRANCE

Whatever you say Mr. Miyagi. We are your loyal padawans.

INT. GUITAR CLASS - AFTERNOON

Levi, Young, Pat and Dante sit around a semi circle. Terrance stands in front of them.

TERRANCE

I'm telling you, he's the real deal.

LEVI

Mac is a cool teacher and all, but other than learning boring ass acoustic songs, what are we gonna get from him?

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG

Yeah, he seems like more of a fucking has been. It's cool he rocked in the 80's or whatever but shit has changed.

Pat grunts.

TERRANCE

He has rocked with some of the biggest names; legendary bands.

LEVI

Yeah well, if they were about to walk in I might be a bit more excited. There might be a reason he ended up a high school teacher and they didn't.

YOUNG

Shit man, look around. We don't look like any of these guys, fucking guy is stuck in the glory days.

Pat grunts and nods. Terrance stumbles over his words. Dante notices he's stressing out.

YOUNG

He tells me to put on eye liner I'm gonna fuckin knock his ass out.

LEVI

Probably hasn't been on a stage since the Cold War.

Terrance begins to sweat. Dante bolts up.

DANTE

Oh but we're fucking experts because we were on stage last week!?

The other three turn to him in shock.

DANTE

Did you guys actually watch our show? It's not like we have a great handle on this. Levi, you were humping your guitar so much I thought we were gonna have to bring it to planned parenthood.

Young laughs.

(CONTINUED)

DANTE

And Young, you wanted to "bang on some shit" so bad yet you kept dropping your sticks. I bet you wouldn't drop em so much if it was a bowl of chicken lo mein!

Levi laughs.

DANTE

Pat, I'm convinced you would bite the head off a bat, dog or person who looked at you sideways...kinda like me right now.

Pat gives him a menacing glare.

DANTE

And me! I looked like Kristen Stewart in every movie, stiff as a board!

Dante goes rigid. They all laugh, even Pat smirks.

DANTE

I mean, we've had one incredibly mediocre show, but now we're fucking epic and don't need help!? Terry's right, Mac has knowledge AND hands on experience; even if it was before cell phones. So let's give him a chance.

They all nod in agreement. Terrance smiles at Dante. Mac walks in. Terrance takes a seat next to Dante. Mac slowly walks by all of them, like a general in front of his troops.

MAC

I've agreed to help you gentlemen. But under a few conditions. First, no matter how dangerous or insane, you will listen to everything I have to say.

They all look a little frightened. Mac stops in front of Young.

MAC

So, when I tell you to slaughter and cook me a wild chicken you better ask me Grilled or Fried!?

They look at each other in disbelief. Mac stands up and breaks out laughing. He points at the band.

(CONTINUED)

MAC
(laughing)
You should see your faces.

They all slowly laugh.

YOUNG
Crazy mother fucker.

MAC
Alright fellas. Terry tells me I have just four weeks to turn you sorry sacks into rock gods. You posers into the real mccoys. You wannabe's into legends. It won't be easy, but I promise I won't quit on you guys if you won't quit on me. We'll meet after school three days a week as that is all my wife will allow me to dedicate. Everyday I expect you to practice your respective instrument for at least two hours.

YOUNG
Aren't we going to be practicing here?

MAC
Of course! But I've heard you play and it's rougher than wiping your ass with sandpaper! You're gonna need to learn to multi-task. We're gonna focus on how you sound, how you feel and how you look under those lights. A band's true test is their live show. Anyone can sound good in a studio. It's your energy that's going to bring people in. I've seen the footage and it's ugly, but nothing we can't make purdy. You ready?

ALL
YEAH!!

INT. AUDITORIUM - LATER

The band awkwardly stand in nothing but their boxers on the stage. Mac sits in the audience.

(CONTINUED)

TERRANCE

Mac, I fail to see what the hell this is supposed to accomplish.

MAC

Your problem is you guys are not comfortable on stage.

DANTE

I'm so cold.

TERRANCE

Yeah, it's freezing up here.

YOUNG

I'm alright.

LEVI

No shit! How is this more comfortable for us?!

MAC

It's not! That's the point. If you guys can become comfortable in this incredibly uncomfortable situation, you're gonna be amazing on stage.

DANTE

I can feel my balls in my stomach.

Mac runs onto the stage.

MAC

You all have jobs to do, roles to play. So, let's go!

- Mac lines them up and shows them the power slide. First, Mac does one, and he puts down a hoodie so they slide on it with their bare legs.

- They go one at a time. Young misses the hoodie and slides on the hardwood with his knees with a loud terrible squeak of his bare skin.

YOUNG

Mother fucking rug burn!

DANTE

Shake it off, buddy.

Mac stands in front of Levi and Terrance.

(CONTINUED)

MAC

As the guitarists you guys are on the front lines. There are a couple key moves to show it.

- Levi and Terrance hold their guitars. Mac shows them different epic strums like the windmill and the slow raise of the arm.

- Mac picks the guitar strings with his teeth. Levi and Terrance try on their own guitars. Terrance gags on the taste.

- Mac grabs the guitar strapped around his neck and hurls it over his shoulder and catches it ready to play. Levi and Terrance look at each other with doubt. Mac nods. They shrug and try it unsuccessfully.

Mac stands in front of Young.

MAC

Young, you are the life blood and rock of this band. Everything must flow from you, including the energy.

- Mac sits at Young's drum set. Young watches Mac raises one hand in the air while the other plays the snare drum.

- Mac bangs his head with the beat and sticks his tongue out with a demonic look. He gets up and lets Young try.

- Mac plays a drum beat then throws a stick in the air and catches it to keep playing.

- Young sits down and tries dozens upon dozens of times until he finally catches it and keeps playing. He's ecstatic!

Mac stands in front of Pat.

MAC

Pat, I get it. You're big and scary, which is good, cause the bass is the balls of the band. But, that's no excuse to be a one trick pony.

- Pat headbangs while he plays. Mac stops him. Mac takes the bass and kinda "headbangs" the neck.

- Mac pretends the bass is like a gun and points to the crowd and into the air. Pat tries.

(CONTINUED)

Mac stops in front of Dante.

MAC

Finally, the front man. You are the
General of fun, the King of Chaos
and the leader of these psychos. If
there is one member of the band
that cannot afford to be
rigid...it's you.

- Dante stiffly sings into the mic. Mac grabs it from him
and caresses it tenderly.

- Dante tries to caresses the mic stand but looks incredibly
awkward. Mac picks up the entire stands and whirls it
around. Dante picks it up and falls.

- Mac takes the mic off the stand, twirls it rapidly, then
catches it and sings.

- Dante tries the twirl over and over, sometimes dodging the
mic, sometimes letting go of it completely. He tries one
more time and hits himself straight in the nose.

The guys slowly pack up and get dressed. They look beat.

MAC

You guys did great today!

TERRANCE

Really?!

MAC

No, not really. BUT, you didn't
give up!

Dante holds tissues in his nose.

DANTE

I hate you.

MAC

Alright, alright...homework for the
weekend. Go see a live show. See
what they do right, and what you
think they're doing wrong. No
matter what, meet the performers
afterward and praise their show.

DANTE

Even if they suck?

(CONTINUED)

MAC

Praising and glorifying people with no talent is the back bone of the music industry, so you may as well get used to it now. Plus, we could all use a little encouragement.

INT. CLASSICS BAR - NIGHT

Terrance, Dante, Young, and Levi walk into a dingy little dive bar with a very eclectic group of PATRONS. A medium sized stage sits near the back of the bar.

LEVI

Are we allowed in here?

TERRANCE

Sign said show was 16 and up.

DANTE

Where's Pat?

YOUNG

Said he was checking out a different kind of show.

INT. STRIP CLUB - SAME TIME

Pat sits in a plush chair with a beautiful, yet uncomfortable STRIPPER hesitating to give him a lap dance.

INT. CLASSICS BAR - NIGHT

DANTE

Jesus, I can't even imagine what that means.

TERRANCE

(points)

There's a table.

The guys sit at a table close to the stage. A seasoned WAITRESS approaches the table.

WAITRESS

What can I get for you fellas?

They look at one another.

(CONTINUED)

LEVI

Beer.

DANTE

Yeah, brewsky's all around.

YOUNG

And some Hennessy.

They look sideways at Young.

WAITRESS

Nice try boys.

TERRANCE

Four coke's please.

The waitress walks off. A skinny guy with massive dreadlocks runs on stage. This is T-BONE.

T-BONE

Hey Classics, how the hell are ya?
Are you ready to rock!?

The crowd doesn't react much. Terrance and Dante clap.

TERRANCE

WOOOOO!!!

T-BONE

Alright, then get ready for Bawling
Cavity!

T-Bone runs off stage into his little sound booth. The BAND gets on stage. Dante looks at the band and then at Terrance who hasn't noticed yet.

DANTE

I think we should go.

TERRANCE

What, why? They're about to start!

DANTE

Exactly, let's go.

LEAD SINGER

Thank you, we are Bawling Cavity.

The band starts. Terrance looks to the stage, but before he can Dante grabs his face and pulls it to face him.

(CONTINUED)

DANTE
This is a bad idea!

TERRANCE
(confused)
They sound pretty good, calm down.

Terrance brushes Dante's hands away and looks toward the stage. Dante shakes his head. Terrance claps enthusiastically until he sees...

Chad smiling at him from the stage. Terrance immediately deflates. Dante looks at him concerned. Terrance gets up and walks out. Young and Levi look at Dante confused.

EXT. CLASSICS - SAME TIME

Terrance storms out and paces in front of the bar furious. He can hear the song end from inside. The small crowd is loud with cheers. Terrance shakes his head

TERRANCE
Fuck.

INT. CLASSICS - NIGHT - LATER

The guys stand around as the band packs up their gear.

LEVI
You think he's alright?

DANTE
Yeah, I'm sure he's not on the news
or anything yet.

Terrance bursts in.

YOUNG
Where you been man?

DANTE
Terry, did you buy a gun or
anything?

Terrance smiles.

TERRANCE
I'm good. Supposed to praise the
band right?

Terrance walks past them toward the band.

(CONTINUED)

DANTE

Oh shit.

The guys follow him. Terrance stops in front of Chad and his band.

TERRANCE

Hey asshole! Nice fucking show.

Terrance turns to walk away.

CHAD

You know that's the second time I saw you walk away like a little bitch tonight. But don't worry, I got to see you clapping along before your little PMS tantrum.

Terrance slowly turns toward Chad. Chad leans closer.

CHAD

Must be hard. Seeing how fucking awesome we are. Especially after the shit stain that was your last show!

Chad and his band laugh.

CHAD

I'm gonna love kicking your ass at Battle of the Bands.

DANTE

That's a high school contest.

Dante looks at Chad's clearly older band mates.

CHAD

They are in high school dickwad! They go to Wasson.

DANTE

I thought that was a prison.

CHAD

It's a correctional institution for troubled teen...students! And it doesn't matter because it qualifies. So get ready to eat my record deal ass.

(CONTINUED)

TERRANCE

I don't care who's in your band. Or what online band name generator you used. We're gonna fuck you up on that stage. We're gonna fuck you so hard, you're gonna have to wear a diaper for fear of shit slipping out of your pummeled asshole.

The band looks disgusted.

LEVI

Terr-

DANTE

He's rolling, just let him go.

TERRANCE

I'm gonna fuck you. And then fuck all of them. And when you're all crying about your assholes and broken dreams then I'm gonna wipe my sloppy dick and OUR new record deal all over your battered fucking faces.

CHAD

(laughs)

You can't even play at a high school talent show without throwing up like a drunk white girl!

Chad gets uncomfortably close.

CHAD

You will never, ever make it. Because the only thing you're fucking at that show, is up.

Dante, Young, and Levi look slightly confused.

CHAD

You're gonna fuck up I mean-

TERRANCE

I get it.

CHAD

I'm gonna go count what we made tonight, have fun at school ladies.

Chad and his band mates walk away laughing. Terrance stands looking defeated. Dante taps his shoulder.

(CONTINUED)

DANTE

Come on man.

INT. AUDITORIUM - AFTERNOON

The guys, minus Terrance, are back on the stage in their boxers. Mac impatiently paces in front of them.

LEVI

Have you seen him?

DANTE

Nope, starting to get a little worried.

Terrance bursts in fully clothed. Dante smiles with relief. Mac looks at his watch.

TERRANCE

Sorry I'm late.

Terrance instantly gets into his boxers.

TERRANCE

Let's do this shit!

Mac looks a little annoyed, but continues.

MAC

Remember, you're playing for them.

DANTE

(whispers to Terrance)

You ok?

TERRANCE

(whispers to Dante)

We have to fucking win. No matter what.

Dante and Terrance shake their head in agreement. Mac points to the empty chairs.

MAC

For the roar of your adoring fans.
So remember to give them some love
too! You three, this is a power
move, come here.

Ashley and a FRIEND sneak in the back of the auditorium. They quickly sit in the back row.

(CONTINUED)

Mac shows Levi, Terrance, and Pat how to stand on the PA speaker at the front of the stage.

MAC

You look out over the crowd and
rock upon your altar! Levi, you're
up!

Levi leans on the PA speaker and starts to hump the air. Mac stops him and shakes his head.

MAC

It's great, we know you can thrust.
But you gotta feel the music...and
you're not completely off. You ever
see a guitarist mid solo? Looks
like he's coming in his pants.

Mac closes his eyes, tilts his head back, strums the guitar while looking like blowing a load. The guys all laugh.

MAC

Looks kinda silly, but close your
eyes and just feel it. Hump your
guitar on your own time.

Mac and Dante are on their knees at the front of the stage mics in hand.

MAC

Once you power slide, now you're on
the front lines. Nothing separating
you and the crowd, so work it!

Mac holds out his hands to the invisible crowd. Dante imitates him.

MAC

Don't be afraid to wrap the mic
cord around anything and
everything. Wrap it around the
hottest chick in the front row and
make out with her while there's a
solo or something.

DANTE

(laughs)
Okay.

MAC

Just don't do that at any of the
shows here, you'll get suspended
for sure.

(CONTINUED)

Young sits behind his drums.

YOUNG

How am I supposed to interact with
the crowd way the fuck back here?

MAC

Just cause you're behind everyone
else doesn't mean anyone out there
should forget about you. Stand up!

Young stands up.

MAC

What can you see now?

YOUNG

Everything.

MAC

Exactly! After a song, stand up!
Show em who you are. Throw a stick
into the crowd. Then count it off,
jump back down and rock some more!

LATER

MAC

Now, you guys are a united front.
And even if you're all doing you're
own awesome things it's going to
look lame so don't forget to play
with each other.

DANTE

Can you use a different phrase
while we're all in our boxers?

- Mac shows Levi and Terrance how to play back to back. Mac
pulls Dante over and he and Terrance perform back to back.

- Ashley looks at Dante in awe.

- Mac tries to pull someone over to play back to back with
Pat. Pat just grimaces.

- Mac pulls out one of Young's sticks and plays along with
him. He motions for Dante to come over and they play on the
drums together with Young.

- Young taps 1-2-3-4 with his sticks. Mac gets the rest of
the guys lined up. On 4 they all jump in the air and come
down when Young starts to play.

(CONTINUED)

- Mac sits in one of the empty seats and watches the guys play. They're doing all the things he showed them, still in their boxers.

- They look completely comfortable and they're smiling and laughing like it's nothing.

The guys are fully clothed and stand in front of Mac.

MAC

You guys look good. How do you feel?

DANTE

Kinda bad ass actually.

MAC

Good! I'm proud of you guys, you put yourselves out there. Practice everything this weekend. And remember, look like a bad ass, feel like a bad ass, people are going to assume you're a bad ass!

INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY

Terrance and Dante walk around a huge department store.

TERRANCE

Dude, Mac is the fucking man. That was awesome.

DANTE

Yeah, I feel like we really learned a lot. Our next show is going to be way better.

TERRANCE

I'm so pumped. What the hell are we doing here anyway?

DANTE

My mom gave me some money to buy sheets and stuff for school next semester.

Terrance looks nervous.

TERRANCE

Oh, you heard back?

(CONTINUED)

DANTE

Not yet, but either way, wherever I go I'm gonna need something for next year.

Dante sifts through some of the sheets. Terrance looks almost sick.

DANTE

You know, I don't think I've ever bought sheets before. It's just something your parents have in your house ready for you. Like blankets. I've never seen anyone actually buy a blanket yet they have whole closets full of them.

TERRANCE

Well, what happens when we win, then what?

Dante looks at Terrance.

DANTE

I mean... I'm still going to college. Aren't you?

TERRANCE

We win, we get a record deal. That's how it works.

DANTE

I think it was more "win a chance to get a record deal" but even still, what if we don't win?

TERRANCE

What the fuck are you saying?

DANTE

That it's more likely I go to college than become a rock star.

Terrance looks utterly shocked.

DANTE

Aren't you getting ready for college next semester?

TERRANCE

(scoffs)

Did Ozzy Osbourne study for college!? Did Van Halen worry about next semester?!

(CONTINUED)

DANTE

Yeah, how do you think they got hot for teacher?

Terrance shakes his head.

DANTE

(laughs)

You see what I there?

TERRANCE

It's not funny.

DANTE

Hey man, I'm just hoping for the best but planning for the worst kinda thing.

TERRANCE

So, if we get a record deal you'll stay?

DANTE

(scoffs)

Uh...sure man I'll stay for a record deal.

TERRANCE

Good, cause...the guys are depending on you.

DANTE

Haven't left yet.

Dante looks through more of the sheets.

DANTE

Fuck this, let's go check out the movies.

Dante moves into the aisle without looking. He accidentally bumps into somebody walking by. She falls on the floor. It happens to be Ashley.

DANTE

Oh shit, I'm so sorry.

ASHLEY

Ow, my ass! It's ok, I'm fine.

Dante helps her up. Ashley looks at Dante embarrassed and then Terrance.

(CONTINUED)

ASHLEY

Oh hey guys! I didn't even see you there.

TERRANCE

Your ass ok?

ASHLEY

Oh that old thing. I'm sure it's fine. What are you guys doing here?

DANTE

Just grab--

TERRANCE

Just abandoning all our hard work and friends. What about you?

Dante shakes his head. Ashley notices.

ASHLEY

Whoa...trouble in paradise. I'm just buying some underpa...shirts. Undershirts.

TERRANCE

You're buying panties?

Ashley cringes.

ASHLEY

I hate that word. But you got me. I better get back to it, I got massive amounts of homework.

Ashley turns to walk away, but quickly turns back.

ASHLEY

Oh, I almost forgot I saw you guys practice in the auditorium the other day. Not bad.

TERRANCE

Spying on us, uh?

Terrance gives her a devilish smile.

DANTE

Thank you.

ASHLEY

I was wondering if you guys wanted to play at my party this weekend?

TERRANCE

Eh...I don't know

DANTE

We probably have stuff...

ASHLEY

Actually it's my sisters party.
She's in college. My parents are
out of town and we're getting a keg
and like 200 jello shots.

TERRANCE

What night?

DANTE

We're there.

EXT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A large house occupied by groups of TEENAGERS all stand around with red solo cups and cans of beer. Loud music blasts from inside. Terrance and Dante pull up in Terry's old Buick, smiles plastered across their faces.

INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

The band walks in with their gear one by one. The PARTY-GOER'S give them mixed looks. Levi, Young, and Terrance are all set up in a corner of the living room.

TERRANCE

Lot of people.

YOUNG

This is fucking awesome.

Levi looks around at all the beautiful COLLEGE GIRLS.

LEVI

God I can't wait for college.

Dante walks in with a tray of shots.

DANTE

Alright boys, some liquid courage.

Young and Levi light up. Terrance looks nervous.

(CONTINUED)

TERRANCE
We shouldn't get drunk.

DANTE
Calm down Dad, we're just getting a little buzz.

LEVI
He's 98 pounds he gets buzzed just looking at booze.

TERRANCE
I'm serious, I want this to be-
Terrance dry heaves. Dante rushes over to him.

DANTE
Hey, look at me! You're the most creative fucking person I have ever met. You have no reason to be nervous. It's just a party. You're supposed to have fun.

Terrance stops heaving and look sat Dante with more confidence.

DANTE
We got this. I got your back remember? Have a shot.

Dante hands Terrance a shot. They drink it together.

TERRANCE
Uh, holy shit.

DANTE
Tastes so good.

A crowd forms around the band. Ashley runs up to them clearly a little drunk.

ASHLEY
You guys made it!

DANTE
Hell yeah!

ASHLEY
I'm so horn- Ready to hear you guys.

Dante looks around to the guys. Terrance takes two more shots.

(CONTINUED)

DANTE

Well, I think we're ready!

ASHLEY

Awesome, good luck.

Ashley wraps her arms around Dante's neck and gives him a huge kiss. She walks away. Dante looks pleasantly shocked.

TERRANCE

(smiles)

Ready?

DANTE

Fuck yeah. Pat you ready?

Suddenly Pat is behind Terrance bass in hand. Young counts it off. Dante confidently grabs the mic.

DANTE

LET'S GOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!

The band kicks in and all the guys look great and sound even better. They use the moves from Mac's lessons. More and more people flood the living room trying to listen.

Terrance wobbles in place looking sick. Dante plays to the crowd like a pro. The music builds. Dante let's out a deafening scream, then all the music stops as he points to Terrance. It's the solo.

Terrance stands there about to get sick. Dante looks at him like "what the hell is going on?!" Terrance looks to the eager crowd through cloudy eyes. His time to shine.

Then he shreds. His fingers are lightning as he plays the most epic solo of his life. The rest of the band looks shocked.

The crowd eats it up and as the rest of the band kicks back in, the whole house moves with the pulse of the crowd. The song ends and the crowd goes wild.

A GIRL sitting on top of a GUY'S shoulders flashes the band.

LEVI

Our first titties.

DANTE

God, I love this.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG
Fuck Yeah!!

Young stands up, counts it off 1-2-3-4 and they kick right back into the music.

SERIES OF SHOTS

- Levi solos. The ladies melt.
- Terrance gives the crowd the devil horns and they gladly return it.
- Dante wraps the mic chord around Ashley and makes out with her.
- Pat screams like a battle cry.
- Young throws off his shirt into the crowd.
- Dante and Terrance crowd surf.

END SERIES

The song ends. The crowd roars.

DANTE
Thank you!

Ashley runs up to Dante and makes out with him some more. She grabs his hand.

ASHLEY
Come on!

Ashley and Dante run away.

TERRANCE
(smiles)
Have fun you two!!

The band puts their gear down.

LEVI
Dude, that was fucking awesome. I'm so fucking amped right now, holy fucking shit!!

YOUNG
Exactly.

(CONTINUED)

JOCK
Great job guys that was awesome!

GIRL
I love you guys!

TERRANCE
(beaming)
Should we pack up?

Pat stands tall.

PAT
Let's GET DRUNK!!!!

The guys cheer and so does the remaining crowd.

INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Party music starts. Ashley and Dante are making out the whole way down the hallway. They finally stop.

ASHLEY
I'm gonna get us some more drinks.

DANTE
Good call.

Ashley walks away. At that same moment Cassie walks in with some friends from the other side of the hall.

CASSIE
Dante!

DANTE
Oh hey Cassie.

CASSIE
I'll catch up with you guys.

Cassie's friends leave and she walks up to Dante.

CASSIE
That was incredible, I had no idea.

DANTE
Yeah I guess you wouldn't, would you?

CASSIE
What?

(CONTINUED)

She can't hear over the music. Dante shakes his head as if to say "nevermind". Cassie awkwardly stands like she wants Dante to do something.

CASSIE

Do you wanna go somewhere to talk?

DANTE

What?!

Cassie talks right into Dante's ear like a whisper.

CASSIE

Do you wanna go somewhere quiet?

Ashley walks back into the hallway drinks in hand and stops. Dante looks at Ashley, then back at Cassie.

DANTE

No thanks.

Dante pulls away from Cassie, walks straight up to Ashley and gives her a massive kiss like from old movies. Ashley smiles and drags him upstairs. Cassie looks disappointed.

MONTAGE - BAND ENJOYS THE PARTY

-- Terrance, Levi, Young, and Pat take shots with a group of people. They all cheer.

-- INT. ASHLEY'S ROOM -- Ashley throws Dante onto her bed. She mounts him and takes off her shirt. Dante smiles.

DANTE

Awesome.

-- Young stands in a karate pose with his shirt wrapped around his head.

YOUNG

HII-YYA!

He breaks a piece of wood with his hand, the party loves it.

-- Several JOCKS hold up Terrance as he does a keg stand. They all pat him on the back when he finishes.

JOCK

Terry is the fucking king!

TERRANCE

(a little touched)

You didn't call me sharts...

(CONTINUED)

JOCK

What!?

TERRANCE

I said let's do it again!!!

They cheer and lift him again.

-- Pat struggles to open a bottle of beer. Levi tries to hand him an opener. Pat bites the top of the bottle off instead. Levi looks horrified.

-- INT. ASHLEY'S ROOM -- Ashley and Dante make out. Ashley moves down his body and takes off his pants. Her head begins to bob up and down. Dante can't possibly smile any bigger.

-- Young and Pat dance with a couple girls. Pat actually smiles.

-- Terrance takes a massive bong hit. Then Levi follows.

-- INT. ASHLEY'S ROOM -- Ashley and Dante are under the covers. Ashley moans as Dante thrusts back and forth.

-- Levi and Young play beer pong with a couple girls. Levi makes a cup. The guys celebrate. The girls take off a layer of clothes.

-- Terrance makes out with a girl in a hot tub. Pat fully clothed makes out with a goth girl on the other side of the hot tub.

- INT. ASHLEY'S ROOM -- Ashley and Dante lay out of breath. They both look so happy. She turns to him.

ASHLEY

Round 2?

DANTE

Hell yeah.

Ashley mounts him again.

END MONTAGE.

EXT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE - MORNING

Dante and Terrance sit on the roof in just their boxers.

DANTE

Well, the first time, I did not go for too long. I mean, fuck it feels amazing.

(CONTINUED)

TERRANCE
Aww, my little boy's all grown up.

DANTE
The second time though I was a god.

TERRANCE
You were Thor.

DANTE
Yes dude! Thundercock!

Terrance laughs.

DANTE
That's why she's sleeping so soundly. She got the storm.

TERRANCE
(laughs)
Exactly.

The window behind them opens. Levi and Young carefully walk out onto the roof.

LEVI
What's up fellas?

DANTE
How are ya boys?

Young and Levi sit down.

YOUNG
That was an epic fucking night son.

They nod in agreement. Levi nudges Terrance.

LEVI
Should've seen this guy drink?
Didn't know he had it in him!

Terrance blushes. Dante smiles.

DANTE
Well, I know Pat had a good night.

Dante points down to the lawn.

DANTE
Look at him.

Pat lies completely butt naked cuddling a weird inflatable decoration in the front yard. They all laugh hysterically.

(CONTINUED)

LEVI

Classic.

DANTE

It was a good night. A damn good night.

Dante gazes at the sunrise. Terrance looks at Dante with a huge smile on his face.

INT. TERRY'S HOUSE - MORNING

Terrance walks into his house looking a little ragged, but happy. His mom makes breakfast in the kitchen.

JOANNE

Hey, sweetie. How was your show?

TERRANCE

I think we did it Mom. We were amazing!! We sounded great, the crowd ate it up!

JOANNE

I'm glad you had a fun.

TERRANCE

Well, most importantly, Dante had fun. Lots of fun. I think I've shown him the way.

Terrance sits at his kitchen table. Joanne looks unconvinced.

INT. SCHOOL - DAY

The end of the day bell rings. Terrance and Dante walk through the halls.

DANTE

That already exists.

TERRANCE

Yeah, but it's with a "K" instead.

DANTE

Kold with a "K", Korpse with a "K". What is with you and "K's"?!

(CONTINUED)

TERRANCE

It's awesome!

KIDS in the hall turn toward the two of them. Every CLIQUE looks their way. They continue to walk.

DANTE

Is it just me, or is everyone looking at us?

TERRANCE

I don't have any shit on my face do I?

A jock in a letter jacket turns to them.

JOCK

Awesome show guys!

DANTE

(awkward)

Thanks man.

A GROUP OF STONERS high five Terrance.

STONER

Sick show man.

Terrance smiles. Chad stands by his locker and looks miserable as he watches everyone compliment them. A GROUP OF GIRLS longingly look at Dante.

GIRL

We love you Dante!

Dante points to them.

DANTE

Love you!

They swoon. More and more people congratulate them on their show. They pat Terrance on the back. Throw pieces of paper in their faces to sign. The girls adore Dante. The guys give Terrance respect. They finally get through the crowd.

TERRANCE

Fuck dude, we're famous! Damn that got me so jacked up for practice.

DANTE

I know. Oh shit!

Dante rummages through his bag.

(CONTINUED)

DANTE
I forgot the mic chord. I'll run
home real quick. I'll catch up.

Dante runs the opposite way.

TERRANCE
Not too long!

INT. DANTE'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Dante bursts through the door.

CONNIE
Dante, is that you!?

DANTE
Yeah ma. I'm just grabbing
something.

Dante runs into his room. Tom stands in the doorway as Dante
looks for the chord.

TOM
Hey Dante.

DANTE
Hey Dad.

TOM
You've got mail.

DANTE
Meg Ryan, little sappy for you Dad.

TOM
Thanks clown boy, but you should
open it.

Dante digs deep beneath his bed.

DANTE
I'll check it later. Gotcha!

Dante pulls out the chord. He stands up and Tom hands him an
envelope.

TOM
For your mother's sake.

Dante reads the NYU stamp in the upper left corner. Connie
rushes to the doorway.

(CONTINUED)

CONNIE
Did he open it?!

TOM
Not yet, Con.

Dante just looks at the envelope then back at his eager parents. He rips it open. He reads the letter to himself.

CONNIE
Well!?

Dante looks up from the paper.

INT. GUITAR CLASS - AFTERNOON

Terrance, Levi, Young, and Pat are playing. They stop often trying to compose the elements of a song together. Dante walks in looking distracted.

TERRANCE
Yes, dude, yes! So when you do that, I'll be doing this.

Terrance plays a riff.

DANTE
Sounds awesome, what is it?

LEVI
New song baby.

YOUNG
Fucking sick.

TERRANCE
Just in time to blow them away for the battle next week!

DANTE
Where's Mac?

TERRANCE
Said he'd be late. Alright, let's take it from the top. Dante, you got the chord right? Gonna have to figure out some vocals!

Dante starts setting up his mic stand.

(CONTINUED)

TERRANCE

You ok?

DANTE

(distracted)

What? Oh yeah, I'm fine. Let's do this!

Dante forces a smile. The band plays.

They start with the chorus. Terrance and Levi play together, then Young joins in. They stop.

TERRANCE

Alright Young, you kick in when I do this.

Terrance plays a chord.

TERRANCE

And bring the double bass, don't be shy with it, just keep it in time.

YOUNG

My shit's always in time.

LATER

The band plays more of the song and it sounds better. Dante softly sings what he has.

TERRANCE

Sing louder buddy!

Levi stops.

LEVI

Can we start from the top, I have an idea.

TERRANCE

Sure, Young count it off.

Young counts 1-2-3-4. Outside the door Mac walks up. He's about to open the door when hears them playing. He sees them collaborating. He smiles.

MAC

They don't need me.

Mac walks down the hallway beaming. The band plays completely in synch. They look like they're having an amazing time. The song ends and they look at one another with pride.

(CONTINUED)

TERRANCE
We're gonna fucking kill it!!

LATER

Levi and Young are leaving with their gear.

TERRANCE
See ya guys! One more practice
before the big show!!

Levi and Young leave. Terrance and Dante pack up and
straighten the room. Dante still looks distant.

TERRANCE
Dude. I'm so excited. I've never
been so confident that we're going
to crush it.

DANTE
Mhmm.

TERRANCE
I mean, how bad ass is that fucking
song? Chuck fucking Norris couldn't
write a more epic song.

DANTE
Yup.

TERRANCE
The riff is awesome. Levi's solo.
Young with the double bass; I
didn't know he had it in him. And
your vocals! Fuck man, we're going
to win. We're going to win and then
we're going to get the record deal,
and then we'll just have groupies
and like a fucking private jet.
This is it man.

DANTE
Sure is.

TERRANCE
What bug bit your ass?

Dante stops packing and takes a deep breath.

DANTE
I got in.

Terrance stops.

DANTE

I got the letter today. I got in.

TERRANCE

CU?

Dante shakes his head.

TERRANCE

Well, you don't have to go.

DANTE

(scoffs)

It's an amazing school and program.

TERRANCE

I mean, even YOU said you would be in debt forever if you went there.

DANTE

They're offering me a partial scholarship.

TERRANCE

Plus New York is dangerous, everybody gets mugged.

DANTE

I want to go.

TERRANCE

Well, what about this? What about us?!

DANTE

I love this, it's fun, but that's all it is for me. Just temporary.

TERRANCE

So, working to get the band together, working with Mac, writing songs with your friends; having my fucking back, that was all just temporary!?

DANTE

So, it's not "what about us", it's what about you?

TERRANCE

I can't believe you're leaving! You are such a selfish asshole!

(CONTINUED)

DANTE

Me?! You're telling me to throw away a dream opportunity, my dream, so that we can what? Play shitty little bars in Colorado until we make it "big"?

TERRANCE

Oh, sorry it's not good enough for you Scorsese! And you don't think we can win Battle of the Bands!?

DANTE

I do think we can win, but I don't think winning a Battle of the Bands is going to set us up for life dude. You have this weird vision of Battle of the Bands being the end all be all of shows, like the most important event in fucking human history!

TERRANCE

It is fucking important, more important than fucking school!

DANTE

Okay drama queen, why is it so important?

TERRANCE

We've been working so hard! All the practices! The party! What did you say to me? Tired of being the nice guy, tired of being alone. This band got you pussy for the first time ever, you dick! How can you just abandon all that!?

DANTE

I've been talking about going to New York for years. I'm sorry if you never took those talks seriously, but I have a real chance to do what I want! Why is this battle of the bands so important?

TERRANCE

What you want!? That's fucking rich! For more school, you hate school and I mean it's not like--

(CONTINUED)

DANTE

What is your problem with college?!
Seriously, why is *THIS* SO IMPORTANT
TO YOU!?

TERRANCE

CAUSE I DIDN'T APPLY TO ANY
SCHOOLS!

Dante is shocked.

TERRANCE

Okay!? None. I didn't apply
anywhere, because I don't want to
go to school! I want to play music,
I want to make music. I want to
tour and play in front of thousands
of people. And this show...is...was
my best chance. But, now what the
fuck am I going to do?

DANTE

(scoffs, shakes head)
I don't know! Live your own fucking
life. Jesus, stop guiltting me and
holding me back and do your own
thing! You don't need me.

TERRANCE

Well, you're fucking right about
that. I don't need you!

Terrance moves for the door with his stuff.

TERRANCE

I don't need you. The band doesn't
fucking need you. And you're gonna
beg me to come back when you
fucking fail in New York. Fuck you
Dante!

DANTE

Fuck you too!

Dante paces.

DANTE

Fuck!

INT. TERRY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Joanne calmly sits on a yoga mat. Tranquil music plays delicately. Willow, Laura, and Sandy sit across from her in an identical pose.

JOANNE

Just breathe. Feel your spirit
lifting to a peaceful place.

Terrance storms into the house.

TERRANCE

Mother fucking selfish asshole
piece of shit!

Terrance storms into the kitchen. Joanne bows to her "students", gets up, and walks to the kitchen.

JOANNE

What's wrong Terrance?

TERRANCE

Everything. Everything is fucking
wrong. Selfish prick.

JOANNE

Honey, I know you're upset but do
you have to use the language?

TERRANCE

Rolling around on mats and inhaling
ridiculous scents doesn't calm me
down, so yes dammit, the language
is fucking necessary!

JOANNE

(stern)

Terrance.

TERRANCE

I just. I can't. (beat) I'm gonna go
downstairs and play.

Terrance moves for the basement door. Then he stops.

TERRANCE

(chuckles)

Nope, I left my shit at school!
GREAT!!

Terrance storms back through the front door and slams it.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

Mac walks toward his car carrying his things. Terrance's blue Buick comes tearing into the parking lot and screeches to a stop. Terrance bolts out.

MAC

Whoa Terry, you gotta be careful!

TERRANCE

Is it open, I need my guitar?

Terrance marches toward the door, tears welling.

MAC

Whoa, it's already locked up, you can get it tomorrow.

TERRANCE

That's bullshit! I want it now, just let me in!

MAC

Janitor already set the alarm, you can get it tomorrow.

TERRANCE

What are you deaf too you fucking has-been, I want my fucking gear!

Mac looks shocked. Terrance can't keep up the act any longer. He turns away from Mac with tears in his eyes.

MAC

What's wrong buddy?

Terrance wipes his eyes.

TERRANCE

Dante got into the school of his dreams. So he's leaving. Leaving the band, leaving me.

MAC

Good for him.

TERRANCE

(snorts)

Yup. Fucking great for him. Leaving me up shits creek. But, who cares!? His dreams get to come true, so...

(CONTINUED)

MAC

(smiles)

You think Dante is ruining your dreams?

TERRANCE

Yeah, we were supposed to be in this together! He was supposed to have my fucking back! I mean...what a fucking asshole!

Mac leans against his car.

MAC

When I told my band I wanted to leave, Jerry, the lead singer was furious. I had no idea why, we never even got along that well, but he was pissed. "You asshole, how could you do this", the works. He just couldn't understand why I would walk away.

TERRANCE

Why did you?

Terrance leans next to Mac.

MAC

My wife and newborn were a big reason. I missed them, mostly. But the main reason... I just lost my passion for it. It's not an easy life. Constant judgment and let downs; you have to be in it 100% all the time or it's just not worth it. And there were parts I still loved and even now parts I still miss but...I don't regret walking away when I did.

Terrance looks down. Mac turns to him.

MAC

Jerry couldn't understand because he thought I was doing something TO HIM, when in reality I was doing something FOR ME and my family that I couldn't share with them. He was insecure and thought that changing things too much would undo everything HE wanted.

Terrance nods.

(CONTINUED)

MAC

He wasn't a very good friend. But I know...that you are.

Mac smiles.

MAC

So, you still going emo on me?

Terrance laughs and shakes his head.

MAC

Sleep on it. And remember we are eternal, all this pain is an illusion.

Terrance smiles as Mac gets into his car and drives away.

MONTAGE - MISSING EACH OTHER

-INT. TERRANCE'S BASEMENT - AFTERNOON - The band practices. They keep stopping and starting. Terrance looks at the lonely mic stand where Dante would sing. He brushes it off and keeps practicing.

-EXT. STREET - DAY - Dante and Ashley stroll down the street, holding hands, laughing, kissing, having a great time. She stops to go into a store. Dante sees an advertisement for the Battle of the Bands on a street lamp. He looks disappointed.

-INT. TERRANCE'S HOUSE - NIGHT - Terrance blankly stares at his TV playing the In Flames DVD he previously watched with Dante.

-INT. MALL - DAY - Dante looks bored as his mom tries to show him some clothes, etc. He looks across the aisle to a music store where a couple kids are playing and doing moves like the ones Mac taught the band. Dante smiles.

-EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY - Terrance hands out fliers for the Battle of the Bands. A decent amount of people take them, give him compliments. Suddenly, loud music blasts through the parking lot. Chad stands next to an old van where the music is coming from. Hot GIRLS in bikinis jump out of the van. Everyone rushes over to Chad.

-INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE - NIGHT - Dante checks his phone.

ASHLEY

You got a hot date?

Dante laughs.

(CONTINUED)

DANTE
Not as hot as you!

They kiss. They watch TV. He checks his phone again.

ASHLEY
Why don't you just... I don't know,
call him?

Dante shakes his head.

DANTE
Cause he doesn't want to hear from
me. And he was the one who was a
prick to me, so.

ASHLEY
Are you going to go to the Battle
of the Bands? It's tomorrow night
right?

Dante nods.

DANTE
I don't know. Let's just watch the
movie.

Dante and Ashley cuddle, but his mind is clearly elsewhere.

END MONTAGE.

INT. TERRANCE'S ROOM - EVENING

Terrance stands in front of a mirror making sure he looks
properly bad ass.

TERRANCE
Let's do this.

Terrance looks down at a picture of him and Dante on his
desk. He walks out.

EXT. PHIL LONG EXPO CENTER - EVENING

A banner hangs on the outside of the large building that
reads "3rd Annual High School Battle of the Bands". PARENTS,
SIBLINGS, and BANDS are all enthusiastically walking into
the entrance.

INT. BACKSTAGE - SAME TIME

Dozens of people are helping bands move their gear. Some bands are quietly practicing or just hanging out. Young, Levi, and Pat are sitting with their gear around them.

YOUNG

What, now we've lost fucking both of them?

Levi checks his phone.

LEVI

Terry is on his way. He's probably just hacking into a trash can somewhere.

PAT

What about Dante?

Levi looks at him.

INT. PHIL LONG EXPO CENTER - SAME TIME

The crowd gathers. Mac stands among a sea of supporters. The ANNOUNCER jumps onto the stage. The crowd cheers. The announcer grabs the mic.

ANNOUNCER

Hello Colorado Springs! Thank you for coming to the 3rd annual high school battle of the bands!

Mac looks around the crowd. The three JUDGES sit at a table to the side of the stage.

ANNOUNCER

All the voting is done by our lovely panel of judges. They're scored on appearance/stage presence, crowd interaction, and of course musical ability. Every one of these talented young bands gets 5 minutes of playing time to show us what they can do. You're still in school, so sadly there are some rules. All songs performed must be original and written by the members of the band. All members of the band must be present when they're set starts. And of course, running over the time will lead to

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ANNOUNCER (cont'd)
disqualification. Now that that's
out of the way...are you ready to
rock!?

INT. DANTE'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

Dante sits on his couch. He looks at the Battle of the Bands
pass and then quickly to the TV several times.

DANTE
(to himself)
He doesn't want me there. He says
he doesn't need me.

He looks at the pass. He picks it up. He looks to the
microwave clock.

DANTE
I mean, I don't even know when
they're going on, so...

He puts the pass down. He starts to move back toward the
couch but stops. He moves back to the table. He picks up the
pass.

DANTE
You know what, no!

He throws the pass down and walks away, but stops. He goes
back to the table.

DANTE
Who cares what he says, I wanna go.

He picks up the pass.

DANTE
But fuck him.

He throws it down.

DANTE
But-

TOM
Dante?

DANTE
(high pitched)
AHHH!

Dante stumbles back.

(CONTINUED)

DANTE
Jesus Dad, you scared me.

TOM
Sorry. You ok?

Dante shakes his head.

DANTE
I should go right?

Tom shrugs.

TOM
What do you wanna do?

INT. PHIL LONG EXPO CENTER - SAME TIME

A PUNK BAND ends their song. The crowd roars. The announcer jumps back onto the stage.

ANNOUNCER
Yeah, great job!! Give a big hand
for Snot Rocket! Remember all
scores are tallied and the winners
are announced at the end for their
chance at the big time, so don't go
anywhere!!

Mac looks nervous as he reads the performer list. Some students recognize Mac.

STUDENT
Hey Mac!

Mac smiles and waves.

MAC
God, I hate seeing students outside
of school...

INT. BACKSTAGE - SAME TIME

Levi paces. Young and Pat sit.

LEVI
Well, not having any singers or our
rhythm guitarist could be
worse...right?

Young and Pat look unconvinced. Chad and his band members walk by.

(CONTINUED)

CHAD

I knew Terry was too big of a pussy to show up!? You're probably better without him.

LEVI

Why don't you go fuck off into something!?

Chad and his band laugh and walk away. Young looks sideways at Levi.

LEVI

I'm not as mad as Terry, I said the first thing that came to mind.

YOUNG

Yo, where the fuck is he?! We're almost on.

Terrance appears.

TERRANCE

Where the fuck is who?

They all look slightly relieved.

YOUNG

You motha fucka!

LEVI

You puking somewhere?

TERRANCE

No need. Took a little extra time, but I feel ready. You guys?

LEVI

Good.

YOUNG

Ready to fucking rock.

PAT

What about Dante?

Terrance looks a little hurt. He instantly gets defensive.

TERRANCE

What about him? We don't need him!

(CONTINUED)

PAT

Who's going to sing?

TERRANCE

Me! You got a problem with that Groot? He made his choice. We can do it without him.

The guys look at one another trying to force smiles.

TERRANCE

Right?

LEVI

I mean this is what we've been working for. I know he's leaving, and you guys are fighting or whatever but I'm sure if you ask he wouldn't bail-

TERRANCE

It's just us! And we're going to be fine! We're going to win!

Terrance storms off pissed.

TERRANCE

(to himself)

We're going to win. We're going to win.

INT. PHIL LONG EXPO CENTER - SAME TIME

The floor is jam packed with people. Joanne and her daughters walk in.

ANNOUNCER

Give a big hand for Elektronix!

A techno looking band walk off stage as the crowd roars. Mac stands in the crowd reading over the list of performers. Elektronix is just two bands ahead of Terrance.

MAC

Hope you're ready boys.

INT. BACKSTAGE - SAME TIME

Terrance, Young, Levi, and Pat stand just behind the curtain.

LEVI

Holy shit there's a lot of people here.

Terrance gulps.

TERRANCE

Yup.

Chad and his band walk by them intentionally bumping into them.

CHAD

Oh sorry, I didn't know they let little girls back stage. Nice of you to actually show up Terry, wouldn't wanna win without you watching!

Chad looks at the band.

CHAD

Where's Dante!?

Terrance just stares at him.

CHAD

Oh my GOD! Even your best friend bailed on you, you must really fucking suck.

Terrance goes to hit Chad, but Levi and Young hold him back.

LEVI

He's not worth it.

A STAGEHAND approaches Chad.

STAGEHAND

Bawling Cavity? You're up!

CHAD

Have fun ladies!

Chad and his band go on stage.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG
Don't fucking listen to him. We're
going to kill it.

INT. PHIL LONG EXPO CENTER - SAME TIME

Chad and the band rush onto the stage.

ANNOUNCER
Here they are. Give it up for
Bawling Cavity!

The crowd roars.

INT. BACKSTAGE - SAME TIME

Terrance watches his old band mates play. The crowd loves
it. He's looks so depressed as they eat up everything the
band does. He focuses on all their smiling cheering faces.
He starts to look sick.

EXT. PHIL LONG EXPO CENTER - SAME TIME

A car screeches to a stop in front of the entrance. A person
gets out and runs into the front doors. The car peels away
toward the back of the expo center.

INT. PHIL LONG EXPO CENTER - SAME TIME

Ashley rushes into the crowd and is immediately blocked. She
jumps up and down over the crowd and spots Mac. She fights
through the crowd and finally reaches him.

ASHLEY
Mac! Have they gone on yet!?

MAC
What!?

ASHLEY
Have they played yet!?

MAC
No! They're on next!

Ashley looks relieved. She smiles!

ASHLEY

Good!!

She looks toward the stage.

ASHLEY

Fuck you guys!!!

She gives Chad's band the finger. Mac is shocked, but mildly impressed.

INT. BACKSTAGE - SAME TIME

Terrance looks even more ill. The stagehand comes over to them.

STAGEHAND

You guys are up next.

Levi, Young, and Pat start moving their things. Terrance stands still.

LEVI

Come on man, we're up.

The song ends.

INT. PHIL LONG EXPO CENTER - SAME TIME

Chad and his band are standing on the edge of the stage as the crowd screams for them. The announcer runs out.

ANNOUNCER

Whoa, showing huge love for Bawling
Cavity. Save some of that energy,
we got one more band for ya!

Ashley and Mac look nervous.

INT. BACKSTAGE - SAME TIME

Terrance hasn't moved. His eyes are closed.

TERRANCE

(to himself)

Don't throw up, don't throw up.

Chad pushes his shoulder into Terrance. His eyes open.

(CONTINUED)

CHAD

You're up sharts!

Levi, Young, and Pat move the things onto the stage.

LEVI

Terry, come on!

Terrance forces himself on stage.

INT. PHIL LONG EXPO CENTER - SAME TIME

Terrance slowly walks out. The crowd is fairly quiet.

JOANNE

Whoo! Terrance!!

Ashley shakes her head.

MAC

I think he's going to puke on everyone.

Terrance looks out over the crowd. He puts his gear down and stands up. He looks at the faces of the crowd again.

Chad laughs and points at Terrance from the side of the stage. Terrance covers his mouth. He runs off stage.

INT. BACKSTAGE - SAME TIME

Terrance finds the nearest trash can and heaves. Someone hands him a towel.

TERRANCE

Thank you.

DANTE

No problem.

Terrance looks up at Dante.

DANTE

I told you I have your back. No matter what.

TERRANCE

I'm so sorry man. I was a fucking dick. I shouldn't have been so selfish. And I should've been more supportive. You've always been

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TERRANCE (cont'd)
there for me, for everything, so
you leaving just freaked me out.
You're my best friend and I wasn't
there for you.

Dante smiles.

TERRANCE
But of course I want you to follow
your dream! You know? I mean,
you're fucking Dante!

They both laugh.

DANTE
Well, if it's okay with you...I'd
like to make sure Chad and those
assholes don't win this thing.

TERRANCE
Really?!

DANTE
Hell yeah. Didn't come all this way
to watch.

Terrance gives him a huge hug.

TERRANCE
Thank you man.

Levi, Young, and Pat all stand at the curtain on the edge of
the stage.

LEVI
I hate to break up this Kodak
moment, but can you guys finish
jerking each other off later?

YOUNG
We got a fucking Battle to win!

DANTE
Let's do it!

Levi, Young, and Pat run on stage. Dante tries to pull away,
but Terrance won't let go.

DANTE
Terry, let's go.

TERRANCE
(eyes closed)
Don't run away from your feelings.

DANTE
(annoyed)
Terry.

TERRANCE
(whispers)
Just live in the moment.

DANTE
Okay, get the fuck off me.

They break apart.

INT. PHIL LONG EXPO CENTER - SAME TIME

Terrance and Dante run on stage. The crowd roars. Mac and Ashley cheer.

ANNOUNCER
Here they are. Let them hear you
Phil Long Expo Center!!

The crowd cheers more. The judges look ready. Chad looks mildly scared with his band mates.

CHAD
They got nothing.

Joanne spots Connie and Tom in the crowd and makes her way over to them.

TOM
Jesus fucking Christ.

CONNIE
How did she even spot us?

TOM
Thank god this is the last time.

The band sets up on stage. Dante approaches his mic. He looks back. Everyone is ready. He looks over at Terrance.

DANTE
You ready?

(CONTINUED)

TERRANCE

Fuck yeah.

The announcer comes over to them talking into the mic.

ANNOUNCER

Keep it going! This is our final act, give it up for... (to the guys) what's your name guys, it's not listed.

Dante grabs the mic.

DANTE

We are Rock Hard!! Now, LET'S GOOOOOOOOOO!

The band kicks in. The announcer quickly leaves the stage. They play the song they've been writing together and the crowd is loving every second of it.

-Dante works the front row of the crowd.

-Terrance and Levi play back to back.

-Young throws his sticks up in the air and catches them like a pro.

-Mac looks proud.

-Ashley and all the parents are cheering and loving the show.

-The judges look impressed.

-Chad catches his bandmates enjoying the music. He gives them a menacing look and they stop.

-Pat licks the neck of his bass.

-Levi powerslides.

-Dante and Terrance sing into the same mic.

They look amazing and the crowd lets them hear it. The song ends. All the band members can't stop smiling. Ashley and Mac cheer from the crowd. Joanne jumps up and down as Connie and Tom clap and whistle.

The five of them line up and bow for the crowd. They give them thunderous cheering and applause. Terrance throws a pick into the crowd and people fight to get it.

LATER

(CONTINUED)

The announcer is on stage with the three judges. The band stands in the crowd. Ashley, Mac and the parents are all standing around them.

ANNOUNCER

Let's give all our performers another hand. This was the best year yet.

The crowd claps.

ANNOUNCER

The judges have debated and tallied and the results are in. The top three bands will receive tons of merch and tons of respect. And of course our top band will get a private meeting with our producer all the way from Los Angeles!!

The crowd roars. Dante and Terrance look at each other.

ANNOUNCER

So without further ado. In third place...Snot Rocket!

The punk band cheers and run up on stage. Dante and Terrance and the guys clap. The judges hand them various prizes.

ANNOUNCER

Congrats guys. In second place... Immortal Kombat!

Another band runs up on stage. Terrance looks nervous. Dante gives him a smile.

ANNOUNCER

And finally, our best in show.

One of the judges, a pretty PUNK JUDGE, walks off the stage and into the crowd.

ANNOUNCER

Winning the grand prize of merch, plus the exclusive meeting...

Dante turns to Terrance.

DANTE

Whatever happens man, don't give up because we fucking killed it! No matter what, this is the beginning, no the end.

(CONTINUED)

ANNOUNCER

...with the producer from LA is...
Bawling Cavity!!

Terrance looks down disappointed. The crowd doesn't like the announcement. The whole band deflates. Dante turns to Terrance and gives him a hug.

DANTE

I'm sorry man, I thought we had it.

Terrance feels someone tap on his shoulder. He pulls away from Dante and looks at the pretty punk judge who tapped his shoulder.

PUNK JUDGE

I don't mean to interrupt, I just wanted to say I thought you guys were by far the best band here and you deserved to win.

Terrance wipes his eyes. Chad and his band jump on stage ecstatic.

DANTE

Thanks!

TERRANCE

Well, then why the hell didn't we!?

PUNK JUDGE

As good as you were, rules are rules. You guys went ten seconds over the time limit. I tried to argue for ya, but...

The band looks crushed.

PAT

Well, Fuck.

The Punk Judge laughs.

JUDGE

Don't give up yet. This is my card. I'm the producer they keep talking about. I'd love to meet with you guys anyway.

Terrance takes the card looking like a kid looking at a brand new toy. But then he looks sad.

(CONTINUED)

PUNK JUDGE

You do want to meet right?

TERRANCE

Yeah, but... you see the band...

DANTE

Is all the brain child of this guy.

Dante puts his hand on Terry's shoulder.

DANTE

He writes the songs, he brought us
all together.

Dante points to the rest of the band.

DANTE

All of these guys are the talent
and they deserve a meeting.

PUNK JUDGE

(to Terrance)

So you're the man to talk to?

Dante slowly backs away, giving Terrance his moment.
Terrance looks at the rest of the band, turns back to the
judge, puffs his chest out.

TERRANCE

Yes I am.

PUNK JUDGE

Good. I can't wait for you to call.

She walks away. The band look at one another.

YOUNG

Fuck yeah, we're gonna be famous
baby!

TERRANCE

I think she wanted me.

Dante shakes his head at Terrance. The band hugs each other.
Ashley rushes over and kisses Dante. Mac congratulates the
band. As they walk out people in the crowd give them high
fives.

EXT. NYU CAMPUS - DAY

SUPER: Three Months Later

COLLEGE KIDS roam around the busy streets.

INT. DORM ROOM- SAME TIME

Dante sits on a small bed with his laptop on his lap.

DANTE

It's small, but pretty fucking
awesome.

INT. APARTMENT - SAME TIME

Terrance sits at a desk with his laptop open.

TERRANCE

When do classes start?

INT. DORM ROOM- SAME TIME

DANTE

Next week. I've only got one film
class, gotta get the pre-req's out
of the way. But, whatever. You said
it's soundcloud.com?

INT. APARTMENT - SAME TIME

TERRANCE

Yeah dude! They put it on there
like an hour ago!

Dante clicks on something on his laptop. Music starts
playing. Dante on screen

DANTE

Holy Shit! It's you!

TERRANCE

I know man!

DANTE

Can I download it!?

(CONTINUED)

TERRANCE

I think so! But we'll put more on their once it's done mixing!

INT. DORM ROOM- SAME TIME

DANTE

That's fucking awesome man, keep me posted.

Ashley runs and tackles Dante.

INT. APARTMENT - SAME TIME

TERRANCE

Oh, great. Can't you guys wait a little!

Ashley and Dante compose themselves.

INT. DORM ROOM- SAME TIME

ASHLEY

Sorry, hi Terry!

TERRANCE

Hey Ashley.

DANTE

Alright buddy, I'm gonna let you go, we're gonna have sex.

Ashley slaps his chest.

DANTE

Ow! What?! It's just Terry. I'll talk to you later!

INT. APARTMENT - SAME TIME

TERRANCE

Yeah I got practice. So, have fun. Remember she can't get pregnant with anal.

Dante makes a face that says "that's true". Ashley closes Dante's laptop. Terrance gets up and leaves his apartment.

INT. PRACTICE SPACE - SAME TIME

Levi, Young and Pat are all set up with their gear. Levi smiles when he walks in.

LEVI

How is he!?

TERRANCE

Good! He's good. We ready?

YOUNG

Fuck yeah!

Terrance grabs his guitar.

TERRANCE

Let's do this!

FADE OUT.