

LEARNING TO CRAWL  
An original Screenplay  
by  
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© 2106

WGA Registration #1843740

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FADE IN  
BEGIN CREDITS

EXT. BETHANY'S RESIDENCE  
THE ATMOSPHERE IS HAZY, DREAMY  
ANDREW III (male, black, 20's) storms out of the front door of  
the house.

CUT TO:

(stock footage) EXPENSIVE SPORTS CAR peeling out.

CUT TO:

INT. OCCUPANT CAR- NIGHT  
(POSSIBLE STOCK FOOTAGE) POV DRIVER ANDREW driving the sports  
car. He is speeding, and weaving in and out of freeway traffic.

ANDREW(O.C.)  
This little piggy chased Andrew. THIS  
little piggy- fail!

CUT TO:

EXT. MAJOR FREEWAY THROUGH THE CITY- NIGHT  
(STOCK FOOTAGE) State Police cars are on a high speed chase down  
the freeway.

CUT TO:

(STOCK FOOTAGE) POV DRIVER ANDREW driving the sports car. He is  
speeding, and weaving in and out of freeway traffic.

(STOCK FOOTAGE) POLICE LIGHTS appear in rearview mirror.

POV ANDREW speedometer which reads 130/140.

POV ANDREW sees POLICE LIGHTS in the distance coming closer.

ANDREW(O.C.)  
Damn.

POV ANDREW attempts a high speed bat-turn with the hand brake and  
crashes the car.

STOCK FOOTAGE He smashes the car, coming to a stop on side of  
road.

CUT TO:

EXT. EMPTY FREEWAY- NIGHT

ANDREW rises from the rolled vehicle. He stands up on the freeway.

ANDREW

I'm ok! I'm OK!

Andrew collapses on the freeway pavement.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM- DAY

Andrew III is in a hospital bed, and hooked up to medical monitoring devices, a breathing tube, and an IV. His right arm is in a cast.

His father, Andrew II (black, 50s, fit) is sitting across the room in a wood chair, with his feet upon another chair, and covered with his jacket.

ANDREW II

Welcome back to the land of the living.

ANDREW

Dad? Where am I?

His father looks around casually.

ANDREW II

Looks like a hospital to me.

ANDREW

How long have I been here?

ANDREW II

3 weeks. Mind if I ask a question?

ANDREW

Go ahead.

ANDREW II

What were you doing?

ANDREW

Driving too fast. Screwing around.

Andrew II grimaces.

ANDREW

It won't happen again.

ANDREW II  
That's absolutely true.

The door to his room opens and a nurse (30s, female, black) enters.

NURSE  
You ARE awake.

ANDREW  
Kind of.

The nurse checks his vitals.

NURSE  
What are you feeling like?

ANDREW  
Thirsty. And a little hungry.

NURSE  
Both good signs. The doctor is on his way.  
We'll see what he says.

The nurse exits. James, Andrew II's personal assistant (30s male Asian) enters the room holding up a smart phone.

JAMES  
Benjamin Cox. He says he needs to talk to  
you today.

ANDREW II  
Tell him I'll call him back within the  
hour.

James exits talking into the phone.

JAMES  
Mr. Cox? Mr. Lowle says he will call you  
back within the hour.

Andrew II turns his attention back to his son.

ANDREW II  
You want to talk about it?

ANDREW  
Talk about what? I was driving too fast.  
Screwing around.

ANDREW II

The nurse found quite a bit of pot and alcohol in your system when they brought you in.

ANDREW

You going all Victorian on me now?

ANDREW II

Don't get smart-assy. I need to know that you are going to be able to take over some of the family responsibilities. That you can perform.

ANDREW

And what if I can't?

ANDREW II

You're the only one there is.

ANDREW

I know. I've been told and told- and told.

ANDREW II

It's not my fault you're the only son of an only son. God knows your mother and I tried for more. Do you know what actually happened out there?

A knock at the door and the Doctor (white, male, 40s) enters the room extending his hand to Andrew II.

DR MILLER

Mister Lowle, and Mister Lowle the third?  
I'm Doctor Miller. How are we feeling?

ANDREW

I feel like crap. Can I eat something?

DR MILLER

Now this is the hardest part about doctoring. The patient feels like he is fine and we have to pull the reins back on him.

ANDREW II

Why? What's wrong?

DR MILLER

Nothing serious. He will just have to take care of himself, inside and out until he

heals up. So things like, bland food,  
minimal activity, no drinking. Things a  
young man usually doesn't want to hear.

ANDREW

But I will be fine?

DR MILLER

You were miraculously preserved through  
that wreck. I don't know how to explain it.  
You should have come in needing major  
surgery. But aside from the broken arm, and  
the fact that you need to give your liver a  
rest, you will be fine.

(beat)

If you rest.

ANDREW II

He will.

Doctor Miller checks his vitals.

DR MILLER

I'll let the nurse know you can have some  
broth and saltines. We'll see how that  
does.

Doctor Miller exits.

ANDREW

So what now?

ANDREW II

We'll talk about that when you get out of  
here.

ANDREW

What does that mean?

ANDREW II

It means we'll talk about that when you get  
out of here.

ANDREW

I know THAT tone.

ANDREW II

Andrew don't push me. You're not in a spot  
where you have any kind of leverage. I'll  
check on you in a bit. I have to catch up  
on some phone calls.

Andrew II exits.

CUT TO:

EXT. HAYNES RESIDENCE- DAY

Jim Bob Haynes (20s, white, 6' 4", 300) is working in the the small yard surrounding his shabby mobile home (eastern Oregon), raking and pulling weeds.

He hears a LOUD FEMALE HOWL from the house.

He drops his rake and runs in the house.

CUT TO:

INT. HAYNES RESIDENCE- DAY

Jim Bob finds his mother MABELINE (white, heavy set, 50s) sitting in a recliner, leaned forward, with her head in her hands.

JIM BOB

Mama!

He runs over and begins rubbing her shoulders to relieve the pain of a migraine.

MABELINE

Jimmy! Jimmy! It's a bad one!

He grabs the electronic massage unit and sets it for heavy massage and heat. He rubs her upper back and shoulders. The pain subsides and MABELINE visibly relaxes.

MABELINE (panting)

That's better. That's better. I love you son.

JIM BOB

I love you too. You need your pain pills?

MABELINE

No, I'll be fine now.

Jim Bon grabs the bottle off the table anyway and looks at the pills. He walks over to the calendar and counts the days left in the month, and then the pills left in the bottle.

JIM BOB

There ain't enough medicine left for the end of the month.

MABELINE

I had to take extra.

JIM BOB

Will the doctor give you some extras if you call him?

MABELINE

They said they would have to monitor me for that. And having a hospice nurse come out here every week, costs more money than we got.

JIM BOB

I think I can fix that.

MABELINE

Fix what? Have you been talking to that recruiter again?

JIM BOB

It's a good chance for me mama. And no one else is going to hire a hillbilly with no skills except farming.

(beat)

I miss dad.

MABELINE

I miss him too. Every day. And life would be better if he were here. And if I didn't have headaches. And if we didn't have to live in this little trailer. But he's not, and I do, and we do. We got what we got.

JIM BOB

Right. And I'm not going to sit around waiting for good luck to fall on us. Not if I can make things better by tryin.

MABELINE

I won't have you either then.

JIM BOB

For only two years. The recruiter told me that I can send every dollar of my pay home. That I won't even need it. Then you can get the home care and your pain pills. And when I get out, I can get a good job with my new skills I learned.



MABELINE

You got it all figured huh?

JIM BOB

I'm the man of the house mama. I have to do something.

MABELINE

I don't want you to stay, but I don't want you to go.

JIM BOB

It will be all right.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM 1215- DAY

Andrew is on his cell phone ordering a pizza when his nurse enters his room.

ANDREW (TO PHONE)

No just mushrooms and extra cheese. I'm supposed to be taking it easy on my digestive system.

(beat)

Mercy Hospital, room 1215. Thanks.

NURSE

You know the doctor isn't going to like that.

ANDREW

Last time I checked, I am an adult. A very rich adult. I usually do what I want.

NURSE

Yeah, speaking of that, you in some kind of trouble with your dad?

ANDREW

What?

NURSE

You're in the county hospital, and your dad's a billionaire. It just seems like he would have had you moved to some kind of private medical facility.

ANDREW

Kind of nosey for a nurse aren't you?

NURSE

I get paid to take care of people who often don't want to get taken care of. People like you for example.

ANDREW

Got a mouth on you. Is it good for anything else besides runnin'?

NURSE

You think you should talk to me like that because you're rich- or because you think that's how you talk to black women?

(beat)

How about I check your vitals, and we can forget this whole conversation.

ANDREW

That's fine. But let's not pretend you won't think about me. We both know you will.

The nurse exits without responding.

ANDREW

You will!

FLASHBACK

Andrew is in a motel room with a woman who is getting dressed in the background.

Andrew holds up \$300.

ANDREW

Worth every penny.

The woman walks by Andrew and takes the money. He slaps her on the butt as she walks out the door.

Andrew's phone rings.

ANDREW

Bethany! I was just thinking about you.

END FLASHBACK

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM 1215- DAY

Andrew's phone is ringing beside him.

ANDREW

Hello?

BETHANY (ON PHONE)

It's Beth. Are you OK?

ANDREW

Bethany? When are you going to come see me?  
And, yes I'm fine.

BETHANY (ON PHONE)

Good. I was so worried. Your dad told me it  
would be OK to call.

ANDREW

So when are you going to come see me?

BETHANY (ON PHONE)

Andrew, I can't. I'm trying to sort out my  
life right now. Your accident scared me  
pretty badly. I just wanted to know you  
were alright.

ANDREW

So you really aren't coming.

BETHANY (ON PHONE)

I can't. I wish I could. I just can't. I'm  
glad you are OK.

ANDREW

So now what?

BETHANY (ON PHONE)

Andrew please don't. I just need to get a  
bunch of things in my life figured out.  
Take care OK?

ANDREW

And that's it?

BETHANY (ON PHONE)

Andrew please don't be mad. I don't mean to  
hurt you. I just need some time. Take care.

Andrew hangs up and stares at the wall.

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK

INT. BETHANY RESIDENCE

THE ATMOSPHERE IS HAZY, DREAMY

Andrew and Bethany (20s, white, thin, brunette) are on her couch.

They are cozy but in a heated discussion.

ANDREW

It won't be much longer. As soon as I can get my hands on the money dad stashed for me, then we get to do whatever we want.

BETHANY

It's not about the money. Let's go do what we want right now.

ANDREW

And not know if I'll be able to be as comfortable as I want? No way. I'm not living like that.

BETHANY

That's more important?

ANDREW

It's not a matter of importance. It's a matter of necessity. What do you want to do? Go live in a hippie bus?

BETHANY

You're never going to break away. You say you will but-

(beat)

Goodnight Andrew. You can let yourself out.

She walks into her own room and slams the door.

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK CONT.

EXT. MAJOR FREEWAY THROUGH THE CITY- NIGHT

State Police cars are on a high speed chase down the freeway, chasing a HIGH PERFORMANCE sports car with ONE MALE OCCUPANT.

END FLASHBACK

CUT TO:

INT. LOWLE RESIDENCE- EVENING

VICTORIA LOWLE (30s, Asian, slim), sister of personal assistant James.

VICTORIA

So when is Andrew due home?

ANDREW II

In another week or so. Are you going to go see him at all?

VICTORIA

It's always been so uncomfortable between us. It's not like I'm his mom. I wouldn't know what to say.

ANDREW II

You could try "glad you're alive".

A knock at the door and JAMES enters with the smart phone.

JAMES

Sorry to interrupt sir, but the doctor is on the phone about Andrew.

(beat)

Hey sis.

Victoria gives her brother a princess wave. James hands the phone to Andrew.

ANDREW II

Doctor Miller. What can I do for you?

(listening)

He is? Alright I'll be there tomorrow to straighten it out. Thank you for calling.

Andrew II hands the phone back to James.

ANDREW II

It seems Andrew has been disregarding the doctor's recommendations to speed maximum healing, and I need to go enlighten him.

(to Victoria)

You coming?

VICTORIA

Yeah, I'm going.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM 1215- DAY

Andrew is on his cell phone when Andrew II and Victoria enter his room, with James in tow.

ANDREW

Dad! Hi!

(beat)

And Victoria.  
                  (to phone)  
I gotta go.

Andrew hangs up the phone.

                          ANDREW II  
Hello Andrew.

Victoria smiles a paste-on smile.

                          VICTORIA  
Andrew.

                          ANDREW II  
Your phone son, may I see it?

                          ANDREW  
Sure. The reception is not great in here,  
but-

Andrew II takes his phone and drops it in his pants pocket.

                          ANDREW II  
What about your wallet? Where is it?

                          ANDREW  
On the table over there. What's all this  
about?

Andrew II takes his cash and credit cards.

                          ANDREW II  
How are you feeling?

                          ANDREW  
Fine. Why?

                          ANDREW II  
We need to have a talk son. You and me.  
                  (to Victoria and James)  
Would you two excuse us?

Victoria and James exit.

                          ANDREW  
Is this about what I said to the nurse?

                          ANDREW II  
I don't know anything about that.  
                  (beat)

Andrew, I wanted to wait until you get home to do this. But things like the pizza, which isn't going to help your recovery, and trying to get employees to sneak alcohol in here for you, which could get them fired.

ANDREW

I'm sorry?

ANDREW II

I don't want you to say what you think I want to hear. I want you dialogue with me, and I want you to be honest.

ANDREW

That's not going to help me.

ANDREW II

What won't? Being honest?

Andrew does not answer.

ANDREW II

OK we can do it like this if you like. You will be released next week. After which you will be in 6 weeks of physical rehab. After which you will be given a physical. If you do not pass you will be back in rehab. If you pass, you will be enlisting in the U.S. Army.

ANDREW

I'll what? It sounded like you said enlist.

ANDREW II

I did.

ANDREW

That's ridiculous. I won't do it.

ANDREW II

Then I will cut you out of my will.

ANDREW

And leave everything to Victoria? I knew it! That conniving bi-

ANDREW II

This had nothing to do with Victoria. It has to do with me. And you.

ANDREW

I won't do it. I'll get a lawyer, and sue the living crap out of you.

ANDREW II

You can if you wish. You will have to earn your own money first. I have frozen your bank account, I'm cancelling your cards, and I will let the DA know I'm agreeable to him bringing charges over the car wreck.

ANDREW

You can't do this to me.

ANDREW II

I don't want to, but you're going to end up killing yourself. This is a solution that won't kill you, or land you in jail. Do you want to be in jail? I don't want it. I've done plenty of negotiating to prevent it.

ANDREW

I don't care what you think. You're a prick, you know that?

They just stare silently. Finally Andrew speaks.

ANDREW

What happens if I embrace this process and just go ahead with it? What rank do I get?

ANDREW II

You're go in as an E1. No special chances. No privilege.

ANDREW

I'm going to beat this. And I'm not ever going to forgive you for this.

ANDREW II

That's your choice.