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FADE IN:

EXT. ST. JUDE'S HOSPITAL - LATE NIGHT

It's a torrential downfall with sheets of rain. LIGHTNING and THUNDER BOOMING.

We see a brightly lighted window from the parking lot. Shadows move inside the room.

INT. ROOM 302, ST JUDE'S HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

It's a typical hospital room in the maternity ward. Lying in bed is a pregnant KATIE KELLEY. Holding her hand is her husband JEFF KELLEY. Both in their mid 20s, the epitome of health, still very much in love expecting their first child.

DR. HAMMOND (O.S.)
And how are we feeling?

DR. HAMMOND enters the room and picks up the chart.

DR. HAMMOND
First child?

Katie and Jeff smile and nod.

DR. HAMMOND
Contractions?

Katie SHAKES her head NO.

KATIE
(curious)
Where's Dr. Simmons?

A BLAST OF LIGHTNING BLINKS THE LIGHTS. A second later THUNDER FOLLOWS. Katie cowers.

JEFF
The hospital has backup generators,
right? My wife is scared to death
of lightning.

Dr. Hammond hangs the chart on the end of the bed. Nods assurance to Jeff.

DR. HAMMOND
Dr. Simmons will not be joining us
tonight. The bridge is out,... so
it's me and
(MORE)

DR. HAMMOND(cont'd)
(counting on his fingers)
Four very expectant young mothers.

Katie and Jeff look at each other. Dr. Hammond checks for dilation.

JEFF
Should we be concerned.

The doctor finishes his examination.

DR. HAMMOND
No sign of dilation yet. But you
were smart to come in when you did,
before the bridge shut down. This
is your first; should be a while.

Katie squeezes Jeff's hand and smiles.

KATIE
How about that, Honey, we're
smarter than the doctors.

OVER THE LOUD SPEAKER we hear the CODE for Dr. Hammond.

DR. HAMMOND
Gotta go!

And the doctor hurries out the door.

LIGHTNING AND THUNDER, almost simultaneous. Could be a direct hit.

Katie is petrified. She cradles her belly and GASPS from pain.

Jeff in concerned.

JEFF
Are you alright?

Katie NODS quickly.

KATIE
He said it would be a while.

Jeff kisses her hand.

JEFF
Have I told you I love you lately

OVER THE LOUD SPEAKER we hear the CODE for Dr. Hammond again to another room.

KATIE
 (with a sly smile)
 Not that I recall.

THUNDER and another LIGHTNING BOLT and the LIGHTS FLICKER.
 Again, Katie cradles her belly. This time the pain lasts
 longer. Katie lets out a LONG MOAN.

KATIE
 (embarrassed)
 I think I just peed myself.

Jeff, somewhat panicked, presses the button for the nurse.

A moment passes and finally a nurse responds over the speaker

NURSE (V.O.)
 Yes, may I help you?

JEFF
 (panicked)
 I think my wife's water just broke.

NURSE (V.O.)
 We'll get there as soon as we can.

Another LIGHTNING BLAST and THUNDER. Katie SCREAMS OUT!

Jeff lifts the sheet, his EYES BULGE.

JEFF
 Oh my God, I see the baby!

Katie SCREAMS, almost in rhythm with the contractions.

Jeff runs to the door.

JEFF
 The baby's coming!!!

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL CONFERENCE ROOM - NEXT MORNING

Jeff is in the middle of a conversation with 3 doctors. The
 look on his face is almost blank as though he's trying to
 comprehend what happened. The doctors are all business.

DR. HAMMOND
 ,... is called Neonatal
 Encephalopathy. NE for short.

Jeff shakes his head,

JEFF
Short or long, what does that mean?

2ND DOCTOR
There's a possibility that there
may have been some brain damage.

3RD DOCTOR
It really depends on how long the
cord was wrapped around.

2ND DOCTOR
His APGAR scores were quite
promising.

Jeff tosses his hands up,

JEFF
APGAR?

CUT TO:

INT. KATIE'S ROOM - AN HOUR LATER

Katie is lying in bed. Her newborn is in her arms. He's
adorable and seems to be normal.

She sees Jeff come through the door and smiles. She holds out
her hand for him. Jeff takes her hand and sits on the edge of
the bed.

KATIE
What did they say?

JEFF
Maybe if I had a dictionary, I
could tell you.
(shrugging)
They asked me if I believe in God.

Katie kisses the baby on the forehead,

KATIE
Look at him. How could you not
believe in God?

JEFF
They said there is a chance he has
brain damage.

Katie hints at a smile,

KATIE

Do you know what the nurse told me?

Jeff gives a quick shake of his head.

KATIE

She told me she was in the nursery last night, she heard a slight scream, and she watched our baby roll over.

Jeff smiles,

JEFF

What? He's not a day old, how could he roll over?

Katie kisses the top of the baby's head,

KATIE

You, are destined for great things, little man. Mommy's hero!

Jeff puts his finger out for the baby to grab it. The baby pulls the finger down even though Jeff resists.

JEFF

Whoa, what a grip!
(beat)

Have we come up with a name yet?

Katie hesitates only a second,

KATIE

I was thinking about Toby.

Jeff smiles, knowing what the name means.

JEFF

Hey Toby, welcome to the world.
Like your mommy says, you are
destined for great things.

Katie kisses Toby's forehead,

KATIE

(almost a whisper)
Mommy's little hero.

Jeff extends his finger again for Toby to grab.

Toby pulls the finger down.

Jeff smiles, proud of the strength.

JEFF
Let's see what ya' got, little man.
My new training partner.

JEFF'S ARM as he does a curl pulling Toby's body up.

MATCH CUT TO:

JEFF'S ARM

releasing the curl with a dumbbell.

INT. GYM AT HIS POLICE STATION

It's a well equipped gym with all the bells and whistles. All kinds of weights, weight machines, cardiovascular machines, and a row of heavy bags.

There are a few other people catching a workout. All are law enforcement.

Jeff is on a curl machine. It's obvious that he is a very strong, ripped athlete. He's lifting a good portion of the stack.

DAVE JOHNSON, early 30s, somewhat in shape, but sporting a bit of a belly is watching Jeff work the curl machine. Dave is putting on some hand wraps.

Jeff is at the end of his set and it's getting tougher to do the curls.

DAVE
(almost snarling)
C'mon, fat man!

Jeff cracks a bit of smile as he struggles for that last curl. A determined look, piercing eyes, arms convulsing, he takes a DEEP BREATH,

JEFF
(screams)
AUUUUUGHHHHHHH!!!!

And cranks out the last curl. He lets go of the machine and the stack SLAMS DOWN.

Dave finishes putting his wraps on.

DAVE
That's what I'm talkin' about!

Jeff stands up and they HIGH FIVE.

DAVE
How 'bout a few rounds

Jeff is shaking his arms out.

JEFF
(smiling suspiciously)
How is it you always want to spar
right after I do arms.

Dave holds up a wise finger,

DAVE
I'm doing you a favor. Anyone can
fight when their fresh. Making sure
you're ready for the streets.

Jeff NODS condescendingly, mouthing the word THANKS.

DAVE
This'll be just like rolling around
with some loser on PCP. You know
what those animals are like.

Jeff thinks about the offer, then, looking at the clock, he quickly gets his things together. Puts his wallet and badge in his pocket and wads up his sweaty towel.

JEFF
(regretfully)
I gotta get out of here. Katie's
going to kill me, I still have to
get some baby food.

DAVE
Sure, hide behind your wife,... and
your son.

Jeff cracks a wide smile and gives him a thumbs up.

DAVE
How old is the little guy now?

JEFF
6 months,... the happiest 6 months
of our lives.

(MORE)

JEFF(cont'd)

I've never seen her like this. Toby smiles and her whole world lights up.

Dave tugs his bag gloves on and walks toward the heavy bag.

DAVE

Of course it lights up! Before he came along, what did she have to look at?

Jeff throws the wadded towel at Dave and hits him in the back of the head. Jeff leaves the gym.

CUT TO:

INT. JEFF AND KATIE'S HOME - AFTERNOON

It's a quaint house, modest with no frills. Katie is sitting on the sofa SINGING to Toby. She hears the CAR DOOR SLAM,

KATIE

(making an excited face)
I think daddy is home!

Toby, 6 months old, let's her CLAP HIS HANDS TOGETHER. He smiles.

THE DOOR OPENS(O.S.)

JEFF (O.S.)

(fake yelling)
I need to see some happy faces!

Jeff walks into the living room.

Katie waves Toby's hand at Jeff.

JEFF

Hey there, little man!

Jeff kisses Katie hello.

KATIE

Tough day?

Jeff takes Toby from Katie and lifts him high in the air over his head.

Toby's little fist BOPS Jeff on the head.

JEFF
(just short of laughing)
Did you teach him that?

Katie fakes being shocked,

KATIE
Excuse me!,... Who bought him
boxing gloves and can't wait for
him to grow into them?

Jeff lowers Toby so they are eye to eye. Toby BOPS Jeff in the forehead,

JEFF
He already hits harder than Dave.

Katie raises her hands up in victory, "YAY!!! Toby smiles.

JEFF
(a little too serious)
It's a crazy world out there,
little man. We have to get you
ready.

Katie's look changes to one of concern,

KATIE
Everything go okay with the buy
last night?

Jeff lets out a HEAVY SIGH,

JEFF
I don't get it. People who have
everything,... willing to just
throw it away,... and for what?
(beat)
Man, it's depressing sometimes.

Katie regrets being the barer of bad news.

KATIE
Well, your day is not going to get
much brighter any time soon. Dr.
Simmons called today.

Jeff looks up to get strength from somewhere.

CUT TO:

EXT. DR. SIMMONS' OFFICE - NEXT MORNING

The building consists of a series of small offices like a strip mall. Dr. Simmons name is on the door. It's a beautiful, HOT, sunny summer day.

Jeff is wearing a no sleeved shirt and jeans. He wipes sweat from his brow as he opens the door and enters the hallway leading into the office.

INT. DR. SIMMONS' OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

It's a typical doctor's office filled with parents and children. Jeff is the only parent without a child.

The nurse comes out into the waiting room.

NURSE
(calls out)
Toby Kelley!

Jeff stands up.

NURSE
Mr. Kelley, where's Toby?

JEFF
The doc wants to talk to me.

The nurse looks at her paper.

JEFF
(almost threatening, slow,
clipped tones)
He wants to talk to me.

The nurse backs away from his tone. Her presenting hand waves him through the door leading to the examination rooms.

Jeff bows his head slightly and makes his way back.

INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

It's a typical examination room. Dr. Simmons is sitting, studying notes from his file on Toby.

Jeff walks in. Dr. Simmons looks up at him, then behind him wondering where Toby is.

JEFF
Just me today.

Dr. Simmons shrugs, questioning. Jeff controls himself with a little effort.

JEFF
Every time we come here you do nothing but warn us that 'he may not be normal'.

Dr. Simmons' demeanor is one of hoping Jeff remains calm.

JEFF (CONT'D)
I don't need to hear that,... and I don't want Toby to hear that. He's a happy little boy!

DR. SIMMONS
He may be that happy little boy for the rest of his life.

Jeff does a double take,

JEFF
You say that as though it's a bad thing.

Dr. Simmons is obviously getting more nervous.

JEFF
Remember when you asked me if I believed in God?

Dr. Simmons nods.

JEFF
Was that a rhetorical question?

DR. SIMMONS
(defensive)
No, of course not!

JEFF
Every morning, when my wife and I get up, we thank God for that beautiful little guy.

Dr. Simmons feels almost embarrassed.

DR. SIMMONS
I just don't want him to be disappointed.

JEFF
(controlled anger)
Disappointed? Every time we come
here all you do is 'prepare' me and
my wife for the worst.

Dr. Simmons shoots a look at Jeff as to protest. Jeff holds
up a halting hand.

JEFF
You said his AP-something-scores
were promising.

Dr. Simmons quickly interjects.

DR. SIMMONS
APGAR scores.

Jeff really doesn't care what it's called.

JEFF
Which is it, doc, is he going to be
a normal little boy with all the
cuts and bruises,...

Jeff waits for a reply. Getting none, he continues,

JEFF
Here's what I do know. God may have
given us the most perfect little
person He's ever created. Not a
care, not a worry,... always happy.

Dr. Simmons almost smiles.

JEFF
Will there be pain in his life? Of
course. That will be the job of my
wife and I to ease that pain.

DR. SIMMONS
There may be some serious
limitations; we could do some
testing.

Jeff almost laughs because the doctor just doesn't get it.

JEFF
Why would I want to know his
limitations?

DOCTOR
That way you can know what to
expect.

JEFF
I 'expect' that he'll do his best.
I've always done my best, my wife
has always done hers.

Doctor is getting frustrated.

DOCTOR
You don't understand, he will,...

JEFF
(cutting the doctor off)
God has already laid out his life;
limitations and all. My job is to
keep him healthy and happy.

The doctor is getting more irritated.

DOCTOR
All I'm trying to do, is make sure
you know that he won't live a
normal life.

Jeff HUFFS A LAUGH,

JEFF
Well, thank God Almighty for that!

Jeff heads to the door, grabs the door knob, pauses, and
turns to the doctor.

JEFF
Maybe you haven't noticed, Doc, but
sometimes life is not only not
normal, but it's just not fair,...
and it sucks!

He turns back to the door, pauses a moment, and looks up.

JEFF
Maybe God has plans that we're not
aware of.
(beat)
All I know is, Toby makes people
happy.

Jeff finally turns to the doctor again.

JEFF

Everyday, I deal with the most vial scum this world has to offer. Do I enjoy it; not so much. Does it need to be done,... oh yeah.

Dr. Simmons almost cracks a smile, surrendering,

DR. SIMMONS

I'm sure your son is a welcomed contrast.

JEFF

He is what's good in this world.

Jeff heads toward the door to leave the office.

INT. OFFICE HALLWAY LEADING TO THE EXIT

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. DOOR TO DR. SIMMONS OFFICE

Jeff EXITS THE DOOR into a frigid snow storm that has covered his car. He's dressed accordingly for the weather.

Some of the stores in the area are adorned with Christmas decorations.

Jeff uses the sleeve of his jacket to wipe the snow from his windows. He wipes the snow off his watch and looks at it.

JEFF

(to himself)

Still have time to do a little Christmas shopping. Ho, Ho, Ho!

CUT TO:

EXT. JEFF AND KATIE'S HOME - HOURS LATER

Jeff pulls up to his house which is modestly decorated for Christmas. There's a strange vehicle, a HUMMER, in the driveway. He doesn't recognize it. He bundles the presents he bought in his arms and starts toward his house.

From inside he hears BOISTEROUS LAUGHTER and recognizes it. He stops in his tracks and closes his eyes.

JEFF
(under his breath)
Sweet Lord, give me strength.

Jeff makes his way to the front door balancing the packages the best he can as he fumbles for his keys. As he gets close, THE DOOR OPENS.

Katie is almost hiding behind the door, not thrilled.

KATIE
Guess who's here.

Jeff squeezes past the door with all the packages. Also not thrilled.

Inside is also decorated for Christmas; tree and all.

JEFF
(quietly)
I heard the yuletide laughter.
Where is he?

Katie backs away from the door with a presenting hand.

CHARLIE (O.S.)
(bellowing)
Where is he?!

Coming out of the kitchen into the living room is Jeff's dad, CHARLIE KELLEY, early 50s, very gruff; carries himself every bit a drill instructor, right down to his buzz cut hair.

JEFF
(not overly enthusiastic)
Hey Pop, how you doing?

Katie makes her way up the stairs.

Charlie gestures that he'll take some of the packages from Jeff to help out.

CHARLIE
You're not going to spoil that boy,
are ya', Santy Claus?

Jeff lets Charlie take the packages, closes his eyes and shakes his head trying to end this bad dream.

Charlie walks over to the Christmas tree to put the presents under it. When he gets the last one placed he asks Jeff,

CHARLIE

Where is he? I've been here an hour
and haven't seen him.

Katie comes down stairs with Toby in her arms. He just woke
up but smiling big.

KATIE

Toby, this is your Grandfather.

Charlie puts his arms out to take Toby.

Katie hesitates for just a moment.

CHARLIE

C'mon, let me hold him. He's my
flesh and blood!

Jeff cocks his brow,

JEFF

Flesh and blood? Where you been for
almost the last year?

Charlie ignores Jeff and takes Toby from Katie.

CHARLIE

(to Toby)

Hey, buddy, I'm your Grandpa!

Toby smiles at Charlie.

CHARLIE

I think he likes me.

JEFF

Well, he's still young. Let him get
to know you.

Charlie pays no attention to the wise crack as he holds Toby
up high, over his head. Toby BOPS him on the forehead.

CHARLIE

Ouch! Hey, he's got a pretty good
punch.

Katie covers her mouth to suppress her laugh.

JEFF

Katie taught him that.

Katie shoots Jeff a look.

CHARLIE

Someone better teach him. It's a
cruel world out there.

Toby hugs Charlie's neck.

Charlie starts to melt, the tough guy gone. He takes a good
look at Toby. Toby is still smiling.

CHARLIE

You know, he really does look
normal.

Jeff puts his hand on his forehead as to say, 'I can't
believe you just said that.'

KATIE

So do you, Charlie. So,...

Katie takes Toby from Charlie.

KATIE (CONT'D)

I guess looks really don't set the
standard now, do they?

Toby waves at Charlie. Charlie waves back; he's like a little
kid himself. Charlie is oblivious to any wisecracks now.

Jeff looks at his watch.

JEFF

I've got to get ready for work.

Katie, still holding Toby, is suddenly concerned.

KATIE

I didn't have time to make you
anything.

Charlie sees his opportunity. Hands reach out for Toby.

CHARLIE

I could watch the little guy while
you throw something together.

Jeff and Katie study Charlie as to ask, 'Who is this guy?'

Katie, half shrugging, looking at Jeff, hands Toby over to
Charlie.

KATIE

(hesitant)
Thanks, Charlie.

Jeff shrugs and hurries upstairs. Katie disappears into the kitchen to make sandwiches.

Charlie walks over to the couch, puts Toby on his knee and starts bouncing him. Charlie is intoxicated by Toby's LAUGHTER.

CHARLIE

How about standing up? Do you do any of that yet?

Charlie takes Toby from sitting on his knee to standing on both knees. Toby stands pretty well.

In the background Jeff comes down the stairs and stops at the bottom step. He's wearing his undercover outfit and looks like a bum. He studies his dad and son for a moment.

Katie walks out of the kitchen with a brown paper bag. She walks to Jeff and hands the bag to him.

KATIE

(quietly)
Couple of roast beef in there.

Jeff shoves the bag of sandwiches into his coat pocket as he watches Charlie and Toby.

JEFF

(quietly)
You think he's dying or something?

Katie SMACKS Jeff's arm.

Charlie hears the smack and turns to them. He pulls back at Jeff's outfit.

CHARLIE

That's how you dress for work?

JEFF

Yeah, Pop, I've been demoted. They took away my clothing allowance.

Jeff walks over and kisses Toby on the forehead. Big smile from Toby.

JEFF

You sticking around for a while?

CHARLIE
(looking at Katie)
Maybe a few days, if you don't
mind.

JEFF
Mi casa, es su casa.

CHARLIE
That's how you gotta talk when
you're undercover and all?

Katie CHUCKLES at the comment.

KATIE
Stay as long as you like, Charlie.

Katie pulls Jeff close and kisses him. Charlie , feeling more
welcome, smiles at Toby.

Jeff makes his way to the door.

CHARLIE
Stay safe, Son.

Jeff looks back, both confused and suspicious.

CUT TO:

INT. JEFF AND KATIE'S HOME - 4 A.M.

Jeff KEYS THE LOCK(O.S.) as quietly as he can. The door
swings open and Jeff, as quiet as a mouse, tiptoes in.

CHARLIE (O.S.)
(softly)
Everything go alright?

Jeff is somewhat startled. He turns to where the voice came
from, walks to it and takes a seat in the living room.

JEFF
(whispering)
What are you doing awake?
(beat)
Are you sure you're alright, Pop?

Charlie replies like he's trying to convince himself.

CHARLIE

Yeah, I really am. I don't know why but for the first time since your mother died, I'm really happy.

Jeff pats his dad's knee.

JEFF

You going to sit here for a while?

CHARLIE

Yeah, I think so.

(beat)

Okay if I turn the Christmas lights on?

JEFF

Sure, Pop, whatever you want.

Jeff gets up and leaves his dad. The tree lights come on as he heads upstairs.

INT. JEFF AND KATIE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jeff opens the door and enters the bedroom. He's trying to be quiet.

KATIE (O.S.)

Everything go okay?

Jeff tosses his hands up in surrender.

JEFF

Doesn't anybody sleep?

KATIE

(wisecrack)

Toby?

Jeff waves the notion off.

JEFF

No, just checked in on him, wide awake.

(jokingly)

I was going to ask him what he did to Pop, but didn't want to get into a deep, philosophical discussion.

Katie sits up in bed.

KATIE

I know you're just kidding, but
I've been thinking.

(beat)

All night.

Jeff sits on the bed.

KATIE

Yesterday when your dad got here,
he was the same old grumpy codger
he's always been.

JEFF

And when I got here, he was no
different,... old,... grumpy,...
codger. Same person you recognized.

Jeff reflects back to that time.

JEFF

Then you came down and
(changes tone)
,...everything changes?

KATIE

I came down with Toby.

Jeff thinks back again,

JEFF

Yeah, Pop was like a kid himself
after that. After he met Toby.

Jeff sports a huge smile,

JEFF

What do you know, our son can work
miracles!

KATIE

I don't know if I would consider
that a miracle.

JEFF

Pop, being happy,... miracle, full
blown.

Katie lies back down, ready to sleep,

KATIE

They played together all night. Not sure which one was happier. One smile bigger than the other.

Jeff turns the night light off and crawls into bed.

CUT TO:

INT. JEFF AND KATIE'S HOUSE - DINNING ROOM - EVENING

All we see is a STACKED UP PILE OF PRESENTS WITH BOWS on the dinning room table. As the scene widens we see that there is a birthday cake on the table with 2 lighted candles.

BIRTHDAY CAKE

Reads HAPPY BIRTHDAY TOBY

INT. JEFF AND KATIE'S HOUSE - DINNING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Seated at the table for Toby's second birthday is Charlie, Jeff, Katie, and Toby. They are all dressed festively with party hats on. As usual, Toby, now 2 years old, is smiling from ear to ear.

Toby is in all his glory. Not a care in the world. Charlie, Katie, and Jeff all take turns watching Toby. His smile is infectious.

They SING HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Toby. After they finish,

KATIE

Make a wish, Toby,... and blow out the candle.

Toby closes his eyes, NODS as he makes a wish, then blows out the candles.

JEFF

Who's cutting the cake?

Toby points at Charlie. Charlie smiles proud.

Jeff and Katie look at each other. Katie shrugs as she pulls the candles off of the cake.

JEFF

You want Grandpa to cut the cake?

Toby NODS quickly.

CHARLIE

That's because he knows I'll give
him a man sized piece.

Charlie starts to cut a huge slice. Toby's eyes light up.
Katie closes her eyes not wanting to ruin the mood.

JEFF

Little man with a big appetite.

Toby rubs his hands together devilishly in anticipation.

Jeff opens the freezer and takes out a half gallon of ice
cream, then walks to the wall where there hangs a GIANT SET
OF DECORATIVE FORK AND SPOON. Jeff grabs the spoon off the
wall.

As he hands the ice cream and spoon to Charlie,

JEFF

Don't forget the ice cream.

Katie suppresses her laugh,

Toby's eyes widen to match the spoon. He CLAPS in approval.

Jeff clears the presents off the table onto the floor making
room for cake to be passed out.

Charlie cuts 3 more normal sized slices of cake and slides
them to the place mats.

Jeff places the last present under the table.

PILE OF BIRTHDAY PRESENTS

MATCH CUT TO:

PILE OF BIRTHDAY PRESENTS

A set of hands is grabbing the top present.

INT. JEFF AND KATIE'S HOUSE - DINNING ROOM - AFTER CAKE

The table is cleared making room for PRESENTS. Charlie places
his present in front of Toby. Toby tries to pick it up but
it's way too heavy. Toby scowls for only a moment then he
tears into it revealing a beginner weight lifting set.

Toby doesn't really know what it is but is very happy just the same.

Jeff has a 'I can't believe it!' look on his face.

JEFF
(disgusted)
You got to be kidding me.

CHARLIE
(defensive)
What?! He's strong like a bull. We
have to capitalize, make the most
of it!

Katie leans over to whisper into Charlie's ear MOS telling him that Jeff got Toby the same gift.

CHARLIE
(apologetic)
Sorry, Son.

Jeff shrugs, not really upset because Toby is having the best day of his life.

Another present is handed to Toby to open.

Jeff looks at the time and realizes he has to go to work.

JEFF
Hey, I've got to do something.

Jeff kisses Katie goodbye and kisses Toby on top of the head.

JEFF
Happy birthday, little man.

Katie, visually disappointed,

KATIE
You're working on Toby's birthday.

Jeff shows his own disappointment.

JEFF
I won't be long, starting a new
case. Just making a couple of buys
to establish contact.

Jeff grabs his unopened present off the table.

Toby squints, wondering where his present is going.

JEFF
Don't worry, buddy, I'll be back in
a couple hours.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALLEYWAY - HOUR LATER

It's the worst part of town. On both sides of the alley are burned out row houses. Scattered along the way are bums and trash. At the end of the alley is a drug house where methamphetamines are manufactured.

EXT. DRUG HOUSE - STREET - CONTINUOUS

The house has most of the inside lights on. Silhouettes of people are seen moving about inside.

INT. DRUG HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Zombie-like people walk about. A CODED KNOCK ON THE DOOR (O.S.) draws the attention of Six Gun, the man who runs the operation.

On the first floor landing, a frail, filthy, sickly looking, TEENAGE GIRL in a torn dress scrambles on her hands and knees trying to recover the vial that fell from her hands.

Six Gun OPENS THE FRONT DOOR and Jeff enters.

JEFF
You the guy they call Six Gun?

Six Gun pulls his jacket aside and reveals a revolver.

SIX GUN
I've had semi-autos jam on me too
many times. With this,
(patting the gun with his
fingers)
If the bullet's a dud, just got to
pull the trigger again.

They make their way upstairs.

INT. DRUG HOUSE - BEDROOM

has a few pieces of ratty furniture. The floor is covered with trash and users.

A half dozen men are hunched over a crushed soda can heroin cooker. A few of them snug rubber tubes around their arms with their teeth. Others suck on a glass crack pipe, then just sink to the floor.

INT. JEFF AND KATIE'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - HOURS LATER

Jeff enters, very focused, sits down, and takes his shoes off. He takes a small notebook from his pocket and starts to write. He doesn't realize Charlie is sitting in the chair opposite him.

CHARLIE
Is it dangerous?

Jeff looks up for a second, sees his dad and holds up a pausing finger.

Charlie sits back in his chair and waits.

Jeff finishes and puts his note book away.

JEFF
What's that, Pop?
(beat)
Dangerous? It would be more dangerous to do nothing to stop them.

Jeff gets up to get a cup of tea. Katie passes him on her way into the living room with her own cup of tea.

CHARLIE
Wouldn't they just eventually kill each other?

Jeff looks at her tea as she walks by as to ask, 'Where's mine?'

Katie cutely gestures with a playful shrug.

KATIE
(to Charlie)
They're not that selective,...
sorry to say.

JEFF (O.S.)
(from the kitchen)
Is there anymore Rooibos left?

CHARLIE
Is that the South African tea?

Jeff comes back into the living room to see Katie pointing at Charlie.

JEFF
You drinking my tea?

Charlie quickly points at Katie and sees her pointing at him.

CHARLIE
(sarcastic)
Thanks

Jeff laughs and waves it off,

JEFF
That's fine. It's good for you.

CHARLIE
I do feel good. Is the tea doing that?

KATIE
It's actually an herb, but either way, very healthy.

Charlie sits forward in his chair.

CHARLIE
(seriously)
Does it drive you nuts.

Katie and Jeff look at each other wondering where that came from.

CHARLIE
(anxious to explain)
You two are healthy, feel good, almost never sick.
(beat)
You, ...
(pointing at Jeff)
deal with nothing but scum who destroy God's gift of life.

Jeff sits forward with a shrug.

JEFF
I don't get it. Never have, never will.
(thinking)
It's more than destroying God's gift; it's spitting in His face.

Jeff closes his eyes trying to get an image out of his mind.

JEFF

Yesterday, girl, couldn't have been
15 years old. Bad shape. Real bad
shape.

(disgusted)

Looked to be at least 8 months
pregnant. Judging by her 'Meth
mouth' she,...

CHARLIE

(interrupting)

Meth mouth?

JEFF

Gums shot, teeth all rotted.

(more disgusted)

Who knows what she's going to give
birth to.

Charlie sits back.

CHARLIE

Why do you think Toby doesn't talk.

KATIE

(quickly adds)

Yet.

Katie lets out a heavy sigh,

KATIE

(a little frustrated)

Doctor said there's no physical
reason they can see that would
prevent him from talking.

CHARLIE

He seems alert. Certainly aware of
what's going on. Answers all our
questions, in his way. He's sharp.

(beat, pointing at Jeff)

Reminds me of you a bit.

Katie suddenly sits forward, very interested.

KATIE

Wait, what? What are you saying?

Katie looks to Jeff.

Jeff shrugs.

CHARLIE
 Jeff was well over 2 years old
 before he said his first word.

KATIE
 Jeff, why didn't you say anything?

JEFF
 (incredulous)
 Uh, I don't remember. I... was...
 very... young, at the time.

Charlie comes to his defence, somewhat,

CHARLIE
 When he did start to talk, it was
 sentences,... and couldn't shut him
 up. I knew he would excel at
 whatever he did.

JEFF
 (pleasantly surprised)
 Really!?

Charlie sees an opportunity to investigate.

CHARLIE
 (curious)
 What exactly do you do for your
 work? Can you talk about it?

JEFF
 Sure, a little bit.

Katie knows where this is going,

KATIE
 You guys are going to talk shop,
 I'm going to bed.

Katie heads upstairs. Charlie gets comfortable for what could
 be a long night.

JEFF
 Well, where should I start?

Jeff sits back. Looks up, reflecting,

SERIES OF SHOTS

The following are activities describing Jeff's job a bit.

A) Junkie uses a cotton ball to strain heroin into a needle from the cooker. He shoots up. Moments later he drops to a bucket and vomits in it. Then relaxes against the wall.

B) Another junkie pours bleach into a dirty glass, picks up a dirty needle, draws bleach into it and squirts it out. He ties a rubber tube around his arm.

C) Dealers drive up in a very expensive ride and exchange suitcases full of money for drugs.

D) A crack head sucks out of a glass crack pipe. A second later, CONVULSIONS drop him to the floor. He SHAKES a moment, then stops. Another crack head scrambles for the crack pipe. The man running the crack house grabs the unconscious crack head and tosses him out the window.

E) Two junkies fighting over a fix. Junkie #1 takes out a razor and threatens junkie #2. #2 backs off and waits for #1 to get so involved with booting up he stops paying attention to #2. #2 picks up a length of pipe and WHACKS #1 in the head. Another junkie rushes over to check #1's pockets and takes his dollar.

F) A pregnant woman, jonesing bad, comes in and begs for a fix. She's tossed out the door and down a stair case.

G) One junkie is injecting heroin into the carotid artery of another. The injected junkie's eyes roll, he smiles, and drifts to the floor.

The collage ends and we find Jeff back in that bad neighborhood, different house.

INT. DRUG HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jeff hands over a small backpack full of money.

The dealer dumps it out, quickly assesses that it's all there and shoves a duffel bag toward Jeff.

JEFF

We good?

SIX GUN

Good as it gets.

EXT./INT. DRUG HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The door opens and Jeff walks out with the duffel bag.

As he walks to his car, two junkies approach him.

Jeff pauses just a moment as he reaches inside his jacket for his gun.

The junkies think maybe they should find an easier target and quickly back off. They trip over each other trying to get to the other side of the street.

Jeff tosses the duffel in his car, jumps in and drives away.

CUT TO:

INT. JEFF AND KATIE'S HOME - BEDROOM - MORNING

Jeff and Katie are sound asleep. Sun shining through the window.

ALARM CLOCK RINGS

A hand reaches over and shuts off the alarm.

BACK TO SCENE

Katie rolls toward Jeff, throws her arm around him and kisses him.

KATIE
Good morning.

JEFF
This is nice.

KATIE
Ever since we got that live in baby
sitter,... life of luxury.

Jeff kisses Katie's forehead.

JEFF
How long has he been here?

Katie thinks for only a moment,

KATIE
It was back when you started the
case you're on now.

Jeff looks up, counting to himself,

JEFF
That was over a year ago!
(beat)
And we still haven't killed each
other.

Katie smacks Jeff's arm.

KATIE
He's been a God send. And Toby
loves him so much. There like best
friends.

Katie gets up and pulls a brush through her hair.

KATIE
He's been a good influence on him.

Jeff looks up for a moment, confused, then,

JEFF
Who's influencing who?

KATIE
(shrugging)
Either way works.

Jeff gets himself out of bed and heads into the bathroom to
brush his teeth.

JEFF (O.S.)
You think anybody made breakfast?

Katie thinks for a moment,

KATIE
Anybody meaning, ... Charlie or
Toby?

Jeff pokes his head into the doorway,

JEFF
Either way works.

Jeff disappears back into the bathroom.

Katie grabs a pillow, hides by the bathroom door, and waits
to ambush him. When he walks out, she BOPS him on the head.

Jeff tackles her onto the bed. LAUGHTER as they wrestle.

CHARLIE (O.S.)
(yelling)
Breakfast! Come and get it, before
I slop it to the hogs.

Toby, with Charlie, is slightly heard LAUGHING (O.S.)

Jeff and Katie hear the call to breakfast and stop. Jeff has her hands pinned.

JEFF
I guess breakfast in bed would be
pushing it a little?

KATIE
Maybe a little.

Jeff and Katie head out of the bedroom.

INT. JEFF AND KATIE'S DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Toby, now 3 years old, is seated at the table eyeing the stacks of pancakes.

Jeff and Katie walk into the dining room and wave to Toby. Toby waves back.

Charlie walks in with a plate full of bacon and a pitcher of orange juice. He places them on the table.

KATIE
Is that fresh squeezed?

Charlie holds his hands up, almost insulted, as to say, "Of course." Toby imitates Charlie with the spread hands.

Katie and Jeff smile at how cute the two are as they simultaneously put their hands down.

Charlie starts serving the pancakes and bacon.

CUT TO:

INT. JEFF AND KATIE'S HOME - DINNING ROOM - HOUR LATER

The breakfast is over. Charlie starts to get up to clear the table. Katie stops him with her hand on his arm.

KATIE
I got this. You two just sit and
relax.

Charlie and Toby smile at each other and HIGH FIVE.

Charlie puts his hand on his belly as though he ate too much. Toby copies him.

JEFF

I can help clear the table, then I have to go.

KATIE

Big day today!

Jeff puts the plates in the sink and gives Katie a kiss. He slaps Charlie on the shoulder and kisses Toby on the head.

JEFF

Later guys!

Jeff hurries out the door.

Katie starts to scrape the little bit of leftover food from the plates to the waste basket, as she does, she sees something in the waste basket.

KATIE'S POV - WASTE BASKET

half full of trash, slightly hidden is a broken plate.

BACK TO SCENE

Katie reaches down and pulls out one of her favorite plates that has been broken.

In the b.g. we see Charlie put his finger to his own lips to tell Toby to not say anything. This is strange because Toby has yet to say his first word.

KATIE

I'd like to know who broke this plate

Katie turns and stares at the two sitting at the table.

Charlie is not admitting that he broke the plate. Toby is staring at him. Charlie sees him staring. Charlie is getting nervous from Toby staring.

Toby continues to stare at Charlie, kind of tilts his head to put a little pressure on Charlie.

Charlie is SWEATING now from the pressure that Toby is putting on him.

There in an INTERCUTTING between Toby's stare to Charlie worrying and SWEATING. After a dozen quick intercuts, Toby simply says.

TOBY
Grandpa did it.

Katie scowls at Charlie, for only a second, then realizes Toby spoke.

Charlie raises a clenched fist in victory!

CHARLIE
He talked!
(beat)
He ratted me out,... but he talked!

Katie is very pleasantly surprised. She wants to know if he knows what he's saying. After she gives Charlie the evil eye.

KATIE
Grandpa did what, Toby?

TOBY
(clearly)
Broke the plate.

Katie rushes over to give Toby a big hug, all the while giving Charlie the evil eye. Charlie really doesn't care.

CHARLIE
That's okay, at least it made him talk.

CUT TO:

EXT. DRUG HOUSE - EVENING

Jeff, Dave, and four other agents; two with sledge hammers, approach the front door of the drug house.

Jeff and Dave lead the way. Up on the porch; Jeff is on the left side of the door, Dave is on the right.

Next up the steps are the two with the sledge hammers. Jeff motions and the two hammers meet the hinge and lock at the same time. The DOOR SPLINTERS OPEN. SCREAMS FOLLOW.

Immediately Jeff and Dave enter the room like synchronized dancers.

JEFF AND TOBY

The following scene intercuts between Jeff carrying out the raid and Toby who is at home with Katie.

JEFF'S POV

Junkies scattering and Six Gun heading up the stairs 3 steps at a time.

TOBY'S eyes widen as though he's watching something he doesn't like.

JEFF hurries up the stairs. As he gets to the top, the door at the end of the hall SLAMS SHUT. Jeff hurries to the door and KICKS IT OPEN.

TOBY has a very concerned look on his face. His mom notices,

KATIE
Toby, what's the matter?

JEFF'S POV

It's not a large room. Empty with curtains blowing at the opened window. A couple of feet from the window is a closet door perpendicular to the window.

TOBY, just shy of crying, is starting to get angry. The clock in the living room CHIMES 8 times. The angrier Toby gets, the louder the CHIMES SOUND.

JEFF runs to the window; he carefully sticks his head out to look.

JEFF'S POV

Trash, bums, and junkies in the alleyway

TOBY closes his eyes. Katie is trying to talk to him but gets no response.

JEFF starts to pull his head back inside.

The closet door opens. The arm of Six Gun extends to put the barrel of his gun just inches away from Jeff's head.

TOBY, is breathing harder. Katie doesn't know what to do.

JEFF is about to turn around; Six Gun pulls the trigger, CLICK,... misfire.

Jeff, hearing the click, quickly turns and in one motion he hits Six Gun in the temple with a back fist then flows through and uses his left upper arm to trap the gun under his arm and past his back. Six Gun pulls the trigger again and the gun FIRES hitting the wall behind Jeff.

Jeff puts the Barrel of his gun in Six Gun's eye socket. Six Gun drops the revolver.

DAVE (O.S.)
(screaming)
Jeff, you okay?

JEFF
Yeah, all clear.

TOBY, relieved, is smiling. Katie is still a bit in panic mode.

TOBY
Mommy, Daddy's okay.

KATIE
Wait, what are you saying?

TOBY
I'm saying Daddy's okay.

KATIE
Why are you saying that?

TOBY
So you don't worry.

Katie has no idea what to make of this.

CUT TO:

INT. JEFF AND KATIE'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - HOURS LATER

It's late. Charlie and Katie are sitting, watching the fire, and talking about the events of the evening. Katie is bringing Charlie up to speed.

CHARLIE
And what time was this happening?

Katie is thinking for a minute, then,

KATIE

About an hour after you left. It was really kind of eerie because while Toby was entranced, the clock was chiming for 8 o'clock. Seemed louder than usual.

(beat)

Where did you go, anyway?

CHARLIE

(almost embarrassed)

Tried to find you another plate to replace the one I broke.

KATIE

Awww. That's so sweet!

CHARLIE

Must have gone to 10 different stores.

Charlie looks up the stairs,

CHARLIE

I was hoping to get home before Toby went to sleep.

KATIE

That's the thing,...

(looking around for eavesdroppers)

It wasn't a few minutes after all this happened, he feel asleep. Dead to the world like something wore him out.

The DOOR LOCK IS BEING KEYED. The DOOR OPENS. Jeff walks in.

Charlie and Katie stay quiet for just a moment.

CHARLIE

Good evening, Son. Everything go alright?

JEFF

Hey, Pop.

Jeff sees Katie sitting in the other chair.

JEFF

Hi, Honey.

(beat)

You're up late. What time is it?

Charlie points at Jeff wrist watch.

CHARLIE

What's wrong with your watch.

Jeff shakes it a bit and holds it to his ear.

JEFF

Stopped working. Stuck on 8
o'clock.

Charlie is somewhat shocked but almost expected that answer.

CHARLIE

8 o'clock?

KATIE

What happened at 8 o'clock,... To
stop your watch?

Jeff pulls back a little wondering why he's being
interrogated.

KATIE

Toby told me you were okay,... at 8
o'clock.

JEFF

(somewhat shocked)

What do you mean, he told you? He
talked?

CHARLIE

All day long. Right after you left,
(disappointed again)
he squealed on me.

JEFF

How do you like that. Little man
finally talked.

(afterthought)

Maybe that's what wore him out?

Katie smacked Jeff on the head,

KATIE

Whatever he did for you is what
wore him out.

CHARLIE
(adding)
At 8 o'clock.
(beat)
When your watch stopped.

Jeff looks at his watch again and hears the hammer of Six Gun's revolver CLICK. He's startled just a bit.

Katie and Charlie look at each other then at Jeff.

Jeff heads upstairs,

JEFF
I'm going to tuck him in.

INT. JEFF AND KATIE'S HOME - TOBY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS
Jeff enters and makes the SIGN OF THE CROSS on Toby's pillow.
Toby sleeps peacefully with a big smile on his face.

JEFF
(whispering)
Thanks, little man.

Jeff walks out of Toby's bedroom and pulls the DOOR CLOSED.

MATCH CUT TO:

Jeff's hand is still on the door knob. He OPENS THE DOOR and walks in.

Toby, now 5 years old, is sleeping peacefully.

Jeff gently shakes his shoulder.

JEFF
Hey Toby, it's 7 o'clock. You want
to catch that lift?

Toby awakes, big smile, and nods.

CUT TO:

INT. GYM AT THE POLICE STATION - EARLY MORNING

It's more crowded than usual; a dozen people are working on various machines.

Jeff walks in with Toby. Many of the people take notice. Jeff introduces Toby.

JEFF
(to everyone)
Hey guys, the little man here is
Toby.

Most of the people respond with a simple wave or a "Hi, Toby."

JIM FALVEY, mid 30s, 1st Grade Detective, always wise cracking, approaches Jeff and Toby. Jim offers his hand to Toby. Toby looks at Jeff for permission to shake Jim's hand.

Jeff nods and Toby shakes Jim's hand.

JIM FALVEY
You going to spot for this crazy
man?

Toby shrugs.

JIM FALVEY
That's okay, you wanna help me?

Again, Toby looks for the ok from Jeff. Jeff nods. Toby nods.

JIM FALVEY
Okay, let's start out with a
kettlebell.

Jim walks over to a rubber mat and starts to stretch out.

TOBY
(quietly asks Jeff)
Daddy, what's kettlebell?

Jeff points to the colorful kettlebells.

JEFF
The colorful balls with the
handles.

TOBY
Oh, okay.

Jim is still warming up as Toby walks to the rack and pulls off a yellow kettlebell with both hands.

TOBY
(to himself)
Hmmm, my favorite color.

Toby struggles just a little and waddles over to where Jim is warming up.

The guys in the gym start tapping each others' arms to watch Toby carrying the kettlebell.

Toby makes it to Jim's mat and places the kettlebell down.

JIM FALVEY
Thanks, little man.

Toby waves a 'You're welcome' as he walks back to Jeff.

Jim doesn't really look at which kettlebell Toby brought to him. He just bends down and tries to yank it up.

JIM FALVEY
(straining)
Oh Jeez!

Embarrassed, Jim looks around to see if anyone was watching. Obviously from the LAUGHTER, everybody was watching.

BOB SHEA, 30s, short but stocky is another undercover cop, he finds it most funny. He calls out to Jeff giving him a thumbs up.

BOB SHEA
Hey, Crazy man, chip off the ol'
block!

Jeff smiles proud.

JEFF
Ready to work out?

Toby nods, excited. Jeff scans the area and spots STAN.

JEFF
Hey Stan, got a minute?

Stan walks to Jeff and Toby at the bench press machine. Stan messes Toby's hair. Toby smiles and combs it with his fingers.

STAN
What's up?

JEFF
Can you show Toby how to spot me?

STAN
Sure.

Stan positions himself where he needs to be in case Jeff needs some assistance.

STAN

Okay, Toby, everything's connected together so you don't have to worry about knocking the bar off balance.

Toby's trying to follow the instructions. He looks determined. Stan continues,

STAN

You want to make sure he's putting everything into it. That's the most important thing.

Another quick nod from Toby.

STAN

The last rep is the most important.

Toby squints, a little unsure,

TOBY

What's a rep?

Stan looks up, never having to explain this before.

STAN

It's a, it's short for repetitive movement. Every time he completes a movement, that's a rep.

Toby nods.

STAN

Most important,

Toby nods quicker.

STAN (CONT'D)

to get every bit of strength, your dad may scream.

(beat)

We all do it. It gives us that last bit of strength; just enough to make the difference between life and death maybe.

Toby stops nodding. His eyes bulge, realizing the importance of that scream.

Jeff lies down on the bench and starts to press the weight up. Toby is at the ready. Jeff does 10 reps and rests.

Toby, questioning hands up, wonders where the scream was.

JEFF
I'm just warming up, buddy.

Jeff puts another 20 pounds on the stack, lies back down, and presses another 10 reps. Toby is wondering what's going on. Jeff puts another 20 pounds on the stack.

Jeff sees Toby's frustration and explains.

JEFF
Third times a charm, little man.
I'm going to need you this time.

Toby is at the ready. Jeff gets to 7 reps and in starting to strain a bit. He's pushing #8 off his chest. As it stalls, Toby is ready to help; hands lightly on the bar,

JEFF
(screaming)
AUUUUGGGGHHH!

Jeff locks his arms out. Toby CLAPS HIS HANDS.

Jeff lets the plates down and sits up. He puts his hand up and Toby HIGH FIVES him.

Stan walks back over to Toby and Jeff. Stan messes Toby's hair again. Toby smiles.

STAN
Nice job, Toby. I was watching what
you did. You made your dad work;
that makes all the difference.

TOBY
Between life and death maybe?

Stan answers with a thumbs up.

STAN
(to Toby)
Are you going to be a crazy man
like your dad?

Stan puts a hand on Toby's shoulder then walks away.

Toby leans over to Jeff and quietly asks,

TOBY
Daddy, are you really crazy?

Jeff smiles.

 JEFF
Are you ready for another saying to
memorize?

Toby nods quickly.

 JEFF
Repeat after me,...

Toby is excited with anticipation.

 JEFF (CONT'D)
In an insane society,...

Toby bites his lip, then,

 TOBY
In an insane society,...

Jeff smiles,

 JEFF
a sane man often appears crazy.

 TOBY
a sane man often appears crazy.

Jeff hugs Toby.

 JEFF
Do you know what that means?

Toby leans back and shakes his head 'no'. Jeff looks him in the eye.

 JEFF
There ARE a lot of lunatics in this
world, but that ain't us.

Toby nods, then stops quickly. He points at the other cops in the gym.

 TOBY
They're on our side, aren't they?

Jeff hugs Toby,

JEFF
They're the good guys, Toby.

Jeff stands so Toby can lie on the bench.

JEFF
Your turn.

Toby, very serious, takes Jeff's place.

Jeff puts the stack on the minimum. Toby lies down and grabs the bars. Jeff holds Toby's arms to assure he has good technique. Toby extends his arms and does a perfect rep.

JEFF
Just like that, every time.

Jeff moves the pin to add 10 pounds to the stack. Toby repeats the movement. Perfect again.

JEFF
Another 10?

Toby nods and Jeff moves the pin up another hole.

JEFF
We're going to do 10 repetitions
this time.

TOBY
10 reps?

JEFF
Yeah, 10 reps.

Toby starts doing the reps.

CUT TO:

EXT. JEFF AND KATIE'S HOME - HOUR LATER

Jeff and Toby pull up into the driveway. Parked in front of the home is Dave Johnson's car. As they pull up, Dave gets out of his car.

Jeff and Toby get out of their car.

DAVE
Hey, Fat man!

JEFF
Dave, what's new and exciting?

DAVE
Nothing exciting till the next
case.

(beat)
Where you guys been?

Toby, holding Jeff's hand, can't hold back.

TOBY
We've been working out. I'm strong,
like bull!

Dave LAUGHS.

DAVE
Strong like bull, huh?

Jeff looks inquisitively at Toby.

DAVE
Where'd he hear that?

Jeff, somewhat confused.

JEFF
I'm not sure.
(recalling)
I think my dad said it once,... the
day of his second birthday.

DAVE
And he remembered that. I thought
you said the doctors said he would
have problems?

Toby is holding his gym bag waiting to go into the house.

JEFF
Hey buddy, why don't you take our
smelly clothes in and toss them in
the washer.

Toby grabs Jeff's gym bag and smells it. He pinches off his
nose with two fingers.

Toby heads into the house.

Jeff waits till Toby is in the house.

JEFF
Doctors don't know squat.
(quietly)
(MORE)

JEFF(cont'd)

You got to keep this just between us.

DAVE

Sure. What's up?

Jeff, very self conscious talking about this. He points to the house, meaning Toby,

JEFF

He's got powers!

Dave pulls back thinking he heard wrong. He looks to the house for a moment.

JEFF

Remember the night of the raid?

DAVE

(looking back at Jeff)
Rhetorical question, right?

Jeff jokingly threatens Dave with a back hand. The broken watch is on that wrist.

JEFF

Hey, your watch is broke!

Jeff pulls his hand back and glances down at his watch.

JEFF

Yeah, been broke, I'll get to that.
(getting serious)
I didn't tell you, but when I went up stairs,...the night of the raid, that guy, Six Gun, had me.

Dave, somewhat confused,

DAVE

What do you mean, he had you?

Jeff takes a deep breath, looks up and breathes out.

JEFF

I mean, his gun was at the back of my head, and he pulled the trigger.

Dave, blank stare, can't imagine what that would be like.

DAVE

Misfire!?
(Beat)
Man, someone is watching over you!

Jeff points at the house again as to say, 'What have we been talking about?'

Dave still not understanding.

JEFF
The minute it happened,...
(hesitant)
Toby told Katie that I was okay.

DAVE
Excuse me?

JEFF
The little guy knows stuff.

DAVE
Now you're scaring me, dude. What do you mean, he knows stuff? And how do you know it was the minute it happened?

JEFF
When that gun misfired, and I heard that hammer CLICK,
(intensely)
right next to my head!
(back to normal)
I hit him with a back fist that stopped my watch.

DAVE
(slowly)
Okay?

JEFF
Katie said the clock chimed 8 when Toby told her I was okay.

Jeff has no idea how to explain. He shows him his watch.

DAVE'S POV

Jeff wrist watch broken and stuck at 8 o'clock.

BACK TO SCENE

Dave looks from the watch to Jeff.

DAVE
You going to get that fixed?

Jeff thinks for a moment.

JEFF

I kind of like it for a reminder
that someone is looking out for me.

Dave remembers something,

DAVE

You always said that. That's why
you were always the first guy
through the door.

Jeff slightly shrugs.

DAVE

You know, I'm not that religious,
but this is some pretty good
persuasion going on here.

Dave has another afterthought.

DAVE

You always did referred to him as
'God's gift.'

Jeff shrugs his shoulders knowing every parent thinks that.

JEFF

Who doesn't think their child is
gift from God?

DAVE

Yeah, I get that, but yours is the
real deal.

Dave slaps Jeff on the shoulder and walks to his car. As he
gets in he calls out to Jeff,

DAVE

Hey, Fat Man, you think he's good
for some lottery numbers?

Jeff drops his head and CHUCKLES. He waves good bye to Dave
without looking up.

JEFF

(calling out)

I think you may need a wee bit more
persuading.

CUT TO:

INT. JEFF AND KATIE'S HOME - GARAGE - AFTERNOON

Typical garage that is full of things, but no cars. That leaves plenty of room for Dave to teach Toby some boxing lessons.

Dave grabs one of Toby's gloves and holds it facing down so Toby can drive his hand down into it.

DAVE

This is how the pros do it!

Toby drives his hand down assuring it's all the way in.

Dave grabs the other glove,

DAVE

And one more.

Toby drives his hand into the glove.

DAVE

Okay, you got your fighting stance.

Toby moves his right foot back a bit. Dave grabs it and slides it a few more inches back.

DAVE

Hands up!

Toby puts his hands up but not anywhere near his head.

Dave hits him with a jab in the forehead. Toby gives him a dirty look.

DAVE

Was that fun.

Toby still giving Dave a dirty look, shakes his head, 'NO'.

DAVE

Then we shall have to remedy that.

TOBY

What's 'remedy'?

DAVE

We are going to fix that because you don't like it.

Toby gets it, and smiles,

TOBY
Okay, remedy away.

With Dave's guidance, Toby brings both hands up where they belong.

DAVE
That's right. Hold on to your ear with the right hand and keep the left out in front.

Toby claps his gloves together then grabs his right ear.

DAVE
And right heel up.

TOBY
To push off with the jab.

Dave smiles, very proud.

DAVE
Now, you remember getting hit with that jab, correct?

Toby frowns as he nods.

DAVE
I'm going to hold my fist about 6 inches from your face.

Dave extends his fist. Toby's look intensifies.

DAVE
Now, what I want you to do is, take your right hand from your ear and, with the palm of that hand, you're going to drive my fist back.

Toby tries but hits with the side of his glove. Dave shows him how the move should be, rotating the hand as it extends.

Toby does it a couple times, satisfied, he get back in his fighting stance.

Dave extends his fist again, Toby meets it with the palm of his right hand.

DAVE
Very nice. We're going to do that 10 times. So, you're going to count along with me, right?

TOBY

Right!

Toby addresses Dave's fist and returns his own right hand back to his ear. 10 times.

DAVE

Very good.

Toby's smile broadens.

TOBY

I like that,... a lot.

DAVE

Well, it's going to get tougher

Toby's eyes widen.

DAVE

Now, I'm actually going to throw the punch out toward your face.

Toby's smile disappears.

DAVE

I'm going to throw it slow and controlled.

Some of Toby's smile returns.

DAVE

Fighting stance!

Toby readies himself.

Dave slowly throws his left jab. Toby's right hand leaves his ear and the palm stops the jab with a SMACK.

DAVE

One!

TOBY

One!

Dave pulls his fist back and Toby returns his right hand to his ear.

Dave throws another jab and Toby addresses it.

DAVE/TOBY

Two!

CUT TO:

INT. DR. SIMMONS' OFFICE - YEAR LATER

Toby is now 6 years old. He and his dad are waiting with some other parent/child combinations.

The nurse comes out into the waiting room.

NURSE

Mr. Kelley!

Jeff stands up with Toby. The nurse is somewhat confused.

NURSE

(to Toby)

And who might you be?

TOBY

I might be anybody, but I AM Toby
Kelley

NURSE

Oh, the elusive little man.

Jeff and Toby follow the nurse into the doctor's examination room.

NURSE

The doctor will be in shortly.

The nurse leaves the room.

Jeff and Toby just look at each other, not knowing what to say.

Doctor Simmons enters the room.

DR. SIMMONS

Well hello there. It's been a while
since I've seen you.

Toby just stares at the doctor.

Dr. Simmons looks through Toby's chart. Not much in there.

DR. SIMMONS

He's 6 years old now.

Jeff, barely noticeable, nods his head.

DR. SIMMONS
It might be a good thing that
you've waited another year to send
him to kindergarten.

The nodding stops as Jeff pulls back just a bit.

JEFF
He's not going to kindergarten.

DR. SIMMONS
It's recommended that children go
to kindergarten. It gets them in
the habit of socializing.

JEFF
He socializes fine.

The doctor has a frustrated look which is commonplace at
these meetings.

DR. SIMMONS
There is more to it than just
socializing.

JEFF
I don't think he's going to have
any trouble. He's capable of
learning.
(as an afterthought)
And we got the whole chocolate milk
thing covered. So, that shouldn't
be a problem.

The doctor stares at Toby, Toby stares back.

DR. SIMMONS
He seems somewhat withdrawn. Almost
reclusive.

Jeff attempts to maintain his calm.

JEFF
It's little wonder why I don't want
to bring him here.

The doctor truly would like to understand what's going on.

DR. SIMMONS
I know you're very protective of
Toby.

(MORE)

DR. SIMMONS(cont'd)

You say he's capable of learning.
You must admit, he's shown no
evidence to the contrary.

JEFF

(starts slowly)

Do you know why they call boxing
the sweet science?

The doctor is looking around the room for a hint as to why
that question was asked.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Physics, kinesiology, physiology.

The doctor sits up. He's listening to Jeff but watching Toby.
Toby is staring back at the doctor.

JEFF (CONT'D)

He may not know the terminology,
but he surely knows the principles
behind the movements.

(beat)

Toby,

Toby breaks the staring contest with the doctor and focuses
on his dad.

JEFF'S DAD

why is the left hook such a
powerful punch?

The doctor looks at Jeff, wondering what kind of question
that was.

TOBY

It's only powerful if you throw the
right hand properly.

The doctor's glance shoots back to Toby as though someone hit
him with a good left hook.

DR. SIMMONS

That's interesting, Toby, why is
that?

Toby looks to his dad, The doctor smirks because he thinks
Toby only remembered that one line.

JEFF

Go ahead, you know this.

Toby glances back to the doctor.

TOBY

Because when you throw the right hand, properly, your body becomes a giant rubber band plane.

Toby stands up to demonstrate.

TOBY

When you throw all your weight over top your left knee and foot, and your right shoulder drives past your left shoulder,

Toby stops, takes a deep breath, and wipes his brow.

TOBY

Wow, this is the first time I ever explained this. There's a lot to it.

The doctor is impressed, Toby won him over.

DR. SIMMONS

You're doing fine, Toby, Please continue.

Toby nods quickly,

TOBY

Well, when that weight is over the left foot and the body is twisted, that's a lot of retained energy waiting to be released.

Dr. Simmons is really getting into this explanation.

DR. SIMMONS

Go on!

TOBY

The right heel pivots down,...

(pausing)

Did I say that the right heel comes up and that foot points at the left foot?

Dr. Simmons thinks for only a second and shake his head.

DR. SIMMONS

No, you didn't. Why is that important?

TOBY

The heel has to come up because the foot has to pivot. And you can't pivot on two points.

Dr. Simmons is getting excited.

DR. SIMMONS

That's right, you can't pivot on two points.

TOBY

Now, before you move any of the weight that's ovetop of the left foot and knee, you pivot and plant the right heel.

DR. SIMMONS

(more excited)

And why did we do that?

TOBY

Because that is where all our body weight is going to end up. We don't want that foot to move.

Dr. Simmons gets up and he's trying to do the movement.

Toby just shakes his head no.

TOBY

That's not it.

The doctor, somewhat embarrassed, sits back down.

TOBY

As you start to distribute the weight back, the left elbow lefts and yanks back, the body locks up so you hit as one unit.

Toby demonstrates the movement with flawless execution.

DR. SIMMONS

Have you considered home schooling?

JEFF

He does socialize, but mostly with the people I work with. They love him and treat him like an equal. But,

The doctor interrupts.

DR. SIMMONS
 But he SHOULD be with children his
 own age,... sometimes.

Jeff stands up and takes Toby by the hand.

The doctor kneels down to shake Toby's hand.

DR. SIMMONS
 Well, young man, it was a pleasure
 seeing you again.
 (beat)
 Do you have any questions for me?

Toby thinks hard, then looks at his dad, wondering if it's
 okay to ask a question. Jeff give him the nod.

TOBY
 Were you the doctor who asked my
 daddy if he believed in God?

Both Jeff and the doctor are shocked. Toby is calmly waiting
 for his answer. Dr. Simmons answers to Jeff, still holding
 Toby's hand.

DR. SIMMONS
 (slowly, to Jeff)
 That was Dr. Hammond. I remember
 that. You were very upset
 (reflecting back)
 That was the day after Toby was
 born.

The doctor is confused, almost panicked. He releases Toby's
 hand.

DR. SIMMONS
 (to Jeff)
 Did you tell him anyth,.

Jeff tosses his hands up.

JEFF
 I don't know how he does this
 stuff?
 (reflecting back)
 I remember that day; I told Katie,
 she was holding Toby.

The doctor is searching his mind for an explanation.

DR. SIMMONS
 A day after he was born?

The doctor just realizes what Jeff said.

DR. SIMMONS

What a minute, You said 'this stuff' Does he do this often?

JEFF

Often enough.

Toby tugs on the doctor's coat sleeve. The doctor looks down at Toby.

TOBY

I don't understand how anyone, especially a doctor who sees miracles everyday, can question if there is a God.

The doctor shrugs and shakes his head.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOBY'S SCHOOL - DROP OFF LANE - MORNING

Katie pulls up to the curb to let Toby out for his first day of school. Katie is visibly worried. Toby, not a care in the world, is taking everything in stride.

KATIE

Is it okay to give you a hug?

Toby looks at her strangely, wondering what kind of question was that?

They hug.

TOBY

You never asked me that before.

Katie kisses the top of Toby's head.

KATIE

Some kids are afraid of being made fun of.

Toby is confused.

TOBY

Why would they be made fun of; for hugging their mommy? I would hope they love their mommy like I love you.

Katie, fighting tears, gives Toby another hug.

Toby exits the car, adorned with everything needed for his first day of school.

KATIE'S POV

Toby makes his way toward the school entrance. Many of the children are in pairs or groups.

KATIE (O.S.)
Mommy's little hero.

As she says that, Toby gets to the door, turns, nods, and waves to her.

BACK TO SCENE

Standing to the side of the entrance are two of the 1st grade class bullies, BRUNO MALMAN JR., called BRUNI, and HECTOR SANCHEZ, both bigger than most 6 year olds. They watch Toby wave to his mom.

BRUNI
(pointing to Toby)
That kid's retarded.

HECTOR
The kid waving?

Bruni nods.

BRUNI
Yeah, he lives in my neighborhood.

HECTOR
(mumbling)
I hate retards.

Toby, sporting his usual smile, walk past them and into the school.

The school is the typical chaos for the first day of classes, everyone trying to find where they should be.

Toby looks for the room he's supposed to be in. Eventually, he finds the number on the door that matches the one on HIS PAPER: C113.

ROOM C113

Toby enters the room and sees the teacher, BETSY MALMON, early 30s, sitting at her desk. Her hairdo in a big beehive like something from the 1960s. She is the mother of Bruni.

BETSY

Take any seat you like.

Toby smiles and takes a seat in the back of the room. He looks up at the clock.

CLOCK

reads 8:25

SPFX

Clock quickly spins to 11:45

BACK TO SCENE

The room is full of children sitting attentively. The SCHOOL BELL RINGS for lunch.

BETSY

We will pick up after lunch.

She points to the first row,

BETSY

We will exit one row at a time.
Make your way into the hall then
wait for me.

CLASS

Yes, Mrs. Malmon.

LUNCHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Toby's class files into the lunchroom like a little platoon.

Toby is standing right behind MARY ALCORN, a cute girl with braids and glasses.

Toby is anxious to get some lunch. He's close to Mary, looking over her shoulder to see what's for lunch.

Mary notices Toby, kind of hard not to, and introduces herself.

MARY
Hello, I'm Mary Alcorn. Just in case you forgot.

TOBY
No, I remember. You sit right in front of me. I'm Toby Kelley

Mary offers her hand,

MARY
Hello, Toby Kelley, glad to know you. I think we are going to be the best of friends.

TOBY
(shrugging)
Okay!

CUT TO:

INT. JEFF AND KATIE'S HOME - KITCHEN - EVENING

Katie is at the stove making dinner.

The FRONT DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES (O.S.)

JEFF (O.S.)
Something smells great!

Jeff walks into the kitchen,

JEFF
Well, how was his first day?

Katie checks one of the pots on the stove.

KATIE
Well, he says he's got a best friend.

JEFF
That was fast. What's his name?

KATIE
HER name is Mary Alcorn.

JEFF
Really!? A chip of the ol' block.

KATIE
 (fake coughing)
 Excuse me? If you recall, I had to
 ask you out!

Katie, stops and reflects on what Toby said,

KATIE
 What a minute, he did say it was
 her idea.
 (beat)
 So, yeah, I guess you're right,
 chip off the ol' block.

Jeff steals a little kiss,

JEFF
 We Kelley men are just
 irresistible.
 (beat)
 Hmmm, what's for dinner?

MATCH CUT TO:

INT./EXT. BRUNO AND BETSY'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

It's a nice middle class home. The FRONT DOOR OPENS, in
 staggers BRUNO MALMON SR., mid 30s, drunk most of the time.
 He SLAMS THE DOOR SHUT.

BRUNO
 (yelling, slurred)
 What's for dinner?!!!

INT. BRUNO AND BETSY'S HOME - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Betsy is cooking dinner. She hears the drunken question and
 looks up for strength from somewhere.

BETSY
 (to herself)
 God help me.

Bruno staggers into the kitchen.

BRUNO
 (slurred)
 Why isn't dinner on the table?

Betsy, obviously nervous, opens the oven door to check the
 roast. She burns her fingers. Bruno watches in disbelief,

BRUNO
(slurred)
Unbelievable.
(beat)
Where's Bruni?

Betsy gets ice for her fingers.

BETSY
He's in his room.

Bruno walks out of the kitchen,

BRUNO (O.S.)
Bruni!

INT. BRUNO AND BETSY'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bruno is stumbling to the couch.

BRUNI (O.S.)
Be right there, Dad!

Bruno is searching for the TV remote which is right next to him on the end table. He can barely sit up.

Finally, Bruni comes down,

BRUNI
Hey Dad.

BRUNO
(slurred)
You seen the remote?

Bruni CHUCKLES a bit, walks to the remote, picks it up and hands it to Bruno.

BRUNI
It's right here, Dad.

Bruno back hands his son across the face,

BRUNO
You think that's funny?

Bruni takes it well as though it's nothing out of the ordinary.

BRUNO
Not laughing now, are you?

INT. BRUNO AND BETSY'S HOME - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Betsy hears the commotion and says a little prayer.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM C113 - AFTERNOON

CLOCK

reads 2:59, until the second hand reaches the 12. The BELL RINGS and another day of school is complete. The students start to file out.

BACK TO SCENE

Mary turns to Toby,

MARY
(deep thought)
So, we're going to help people, are we?

TOBY
(nodding)
That's the plan.

MARY
Oh, do we have a plan.

Toby shrugs. Mary scowls,

MARY
Do we at least know who we're going to start with?

Toby, with his usual shrug, is willing to help anyone.

TOBY
That's your job; you tell me.

FLASHBACK - CLASSROOM C113 - 3RD PERIOD - READING

Betsy studies the class, looks at her seating chart, and eventually calls on Bobby who was trying not to be noticed.

BETSY

Bobby, how about you; we've yet to hear from you.

The look of fear quickly comes over Bobby.

Bruni and Hector CLEAR THEIR THROATS.

Bobby casts a quick glance their way, takes a deep breath, and slowly begins,

BOBBY

(stuttering)

Th-th-the c-c-ca-cat ran up-up-up
th-the

Many in the class start to LAUGH. Bobby simply closes his eyes and wishes he was anywhere else.

BETSY

That's okay, Bobby.

(beat)

Hector, please continue.

HECTOR

(smiling devilishly)

O-o-o-k-k-kay.

END FLASHBACK

MARY

How about Bobby?

Toby looks over at Bobby. Bobby is looking at the floor afraid to make eye contact with anyone.

TOBY

(nodding)

Yeah, I think he could use our help.

(beat)

I've never heard him stutter before today.

(beat)

Come to think of it, I've never heard him say a word before today.

MARY

(slowly)

That's because he's a stutterer.

TOBY
You knew that?

Mary looks at Bruni and Hector, gives them the evil eye.

MARY
Hector and Bruni made fun of him
ALL the time.

Toby looks at Hector and Bruni.

TOBY
I've never heard them say anything
to him.

MARY
That's why Bobby doesn't talk. As
long as he keeps quiet, they won't
bother him.

TOBY
That's just wrong.
(beat)
Why would they do that?

MARY
They're horrible bullies, that's
why.

Toby shrugs.

MARY
That's right, you weren't in our
Kindergarten class.
(beat)
Why weren't you?

TOBY
I learned how to drink chocolate
milk years ago at home.

Mary looks at him strangely. She decides to just ignore that
comment.

MARY
Well, if you had gone, you would
have learned that Hector and Bruni
are bullies.

Mary looks down, hiding a secret,

MARY
(quietly)
They pick on me, too.

Toby looks a little confused.

TOBY
Really?
(beat)
But you're like perfect.

Mary blushes a bit, takes off her glasses, and holds them up in front of Toby.

MARY
Did you forget about these?

Toby shrugs,

TOBY
No. You're cute with or without them. But without them, you may not be able to see how cute I am.

Toby smiles and bats his eye lashes.

Mary puts her glasses back on, looks at Toby, and jokingly screams,

MARY
AUUUUUUGHHH!!!

Toby smiles,

TOBY
Cute,... and funny.

Mary tugs on her braids, bashful.

MARY
You think we can help him?

TOBY
We can try.

Most of the class has gone.

Bobby is packing things in his backpack.

Mary walks over to his desk and just stands next to him.

Bobby doesn't know what to do so he just sheepishly sits there.

When everyone in the class is gone, Toby joins Mary in surrounding Bobby.

MARY

Hi, Bobby. This is my friend, Toby.

Bobby still doesn't say anything, but he half waves.

TOBY

It's okay, Bobby, you can talk as much as you want. People want to hear what you have to say.

Bobby smiles from the kind words. Then he looks around for Hector and Bruni.

TOBY

You don't have to worry about Bruni and Hector, they won't bother you if you're not stuttering.

BOBBY

I kn-n-n-ow. B-b-b-ut I dd-d-do,
(pointing at his mouth)
St-st-stut-er-ter.

(beat)

M-m-msyb-b-be yo-you d-d-d-didn't n-n-notice.

TOBY

You don't like stuttering, do you?

BOBBY

N-n-n-nnno, of c-c-c-course n-n-not.

MARY

Then we shall remedy that. But you have to promise, you'll never say anything hurtful.

Bobby thinks for just a moment, then agrees with a nod.

Toby puts his hand on Bobby's shoulder. Mary's hand is on the other shoulder; Bobby closes his eyes for a moment, then smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL - ROOM C113 - NEXT MORNING

It's a typical day in the classroom. It's the 3rd period class.

BETSY

Alright, everyone take out your readers.

There are a few seconds of DESKS BEING SEARCHED then all books are on top of the desks.

BETSY

Turn to page 27. Who will start today?

Quickly, Bobby raises his hand. Bruni and Hector scowl at him.

Bobby notices but doesn't let it bother him.

Betsy's look turns to one of concern.

BETSY

Are you sure, Bobby?

Bobby NODS QUICKLY.

BETSY

Well, you may begin when you're ready.

Bobby FLIPS TO THE BACK of the book to the more difficult words, takes a deep breath, and begins to read,

BOBBY

This morning I helped my mother cook breakfast. We had a lot to do to get ready. Eggs in one frying pan and bacon in the other.

Excited, Mary turns around in her seat and HIGH FIVES Toby.

Betsy sees this and wonders what is going on.

Bruni and Hector are just confused. Bruni stares at Toby,

BRUNI

(whispering)

That's okay, we just concentrate on the retard now.

HECTOR
(whispering)
I hate retards!
(beat)
My dad said in the 40s they used to
just do away with them. A place
called Germaine or something.

CUT TO:

EXT. JEFF AND KATIE'S HOME - FRONT PORCH - MORNING

Mary is approaching the house. As she starts up the steps, Jeff pulls into the driveway. Jeff steps out of the truck and makes his way toward Mary.

JEFF
(somewhat joking)
What miracles are you two going off
to do today?

Mary looks a bit startled.

MARY
(quietly)
You know, don't you?

Jeff pulls back, wondering if he accidentally stumbled on to some secret of the universe.

Mary, realizing Jeff was just using the word 'Miracle' flippantly, smiles her cute smile and pats Jeff's arm.

MARY
I had you going there for a second,
didn't I, Mr. Kelley?

Jeff eyes her suspiciously.

Toby exits the house and waves to Mary.

JEFF
(to Toby)
Not training today?

Before Toby could answer,

MARY
Training? What kind of training do
you do? Training for what?

Toby waves it off as nothing.

TOBY
 (to his dad)
 How 'bout this evening?

Jeff gives Toby a 'thumbs up' and heads into the house.

Mary looks concerned.

MARY
 Are you sure you shouldn't do your
 training?

Toby hints at a smile,

TOBY
 Training is good, but sometimes you
 have to test what you've trained
 for.

Mary, inquisitive,

MARY
 And that's what we're going to do?
 Some kind of test?

TOBY
 I'm pretty sure.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOBY'S NEIGHBORHOOD - HOUR LATER

Toby and Mary have been walking for what seems an eternity to Mary. Every now and again she casts a glance toward Toby out of the corner of her eye. Finally,

MARY
 Is this what you trained for? I
 don't get it.

Bruni is approaching from behind.

TOBY
 Soon.

Bruni is getting closer.

MARY
 Soon? What soon? When?

TOBY
 Just about now.

Toby turns quickly which startles Bruni.

Bruni stops in his tracks. It's only a moment before Bruni regains his composure as Mary also turns to face him; she's somewhat worried.

BRUNI
(almost singing)
Retard walking with his girlfriend.

Mary scowls.

MARY
What's he talking about?

TOBY
(shrugging)
He thinks your my girlfriend.

Mary gives a big smile toward Toby, but for only a second,

MARY
No, not that. Why did he call
you,..
(to Bruni)
What did you call him?

BRUNI
Retard, because he's retarded!

Toby thinks about the word for a moment.

TOBY
(calm)
In what way?

Bruni tries to stare down Toby for a moment, then a dazed look takes over.

BRUNI
Huh?

TOBY
(clipped tones)
In,... what,... way?

Toby calmly waits for his answer. Getting none, he continues,

TOBY
(nonchalantly)
I think you just helped me to learn
the difference between ignorant and
stupid.

Mary is reluctant, then, almost blurting out,

MARY
Bruni Malmon said Toby was
retarded.

INTERCUT:

INT. JEFF AND KATIE'S HOME - BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Jeff and Toby are training with boxing gloves on. Jeff throws two jabs, which Toby catches, then Jeff adds a straight right hand which Toby rolls back with.

The BELL ON THE TIMER RINGS

Jeff holds out his glove and Toby slaps it down for the end of the round.

Toby appears to be in deep thought, then,

TOBY
Daddy, am I retarded?

Jeff is taken aback, somewhat angry.

JEFF
What?!

Jeff's response shocks Toby a bit. Jeff, realizing that, takes a deep breath.

JEFF
Sorry.
(calmer)
Why would you ask that?

TOBY
Bruni Malmon said I am retarded.

Jeff nods slightly, expecting that answer.

JEFF
Bruno Malmon's son.
(beat)
There's a prime example of the
acorn not falling far from the
tree.

Toby now has a confused look on his face. Jeff sees the look.

JEFF
 Forget the acorn/tree thing.

INTERCUT:

KITCHEN

The BACK DOOR OPENS and CLOSES and Charlie walks in.

CHARLIE
 Good evening, ladies.
 (lame British accent)
 Having a spot of tea, are we?

Mary thinks it's cute. Katie, not so much,

KATIE
 Needs work, Charlie.

Charlie walks toward the basement door.

CHARLIE
 The guys training?

Katie holds both hands up as to say, 'Where else?'. Mary sees Katie's hands up and quickly imitates the gesture.

CHARLIE
 (to Mary)
 You're cute.

INTERCUT:

BASEMENT

Jeff and Toby are in a discussion.

JEFF
 I think it's time for another
 saying.

Toby nods.

JEFF
 This may be the most important one
 we will ever do.

Toby gets very serious.

JEFF
 Ready?

Toby nods. The DOOR TO THE BASEMENT OPENS AND CLOSES.

JEFF
Never,... let anyone's opinion
become your reality.

Toby nods a bit, then,

TOBY
Never let anyone's opinion become
your reality.

Toby thinks about it for a moment, then,

TOBY
Why is that one so important? What
does it mean?

CHARLIE (O.S.)
It means you have to stand tall,
which is not always an easy thing
to do.

Charlie enters the scene and takes on the persona of an old Baptist preacher. He points a finger at Toby,

CHARLIE
(dramatic)
If someone says, "YOU SIR, ARE NOT
CAPABLE of achieving your goals!

Toby does not like the way that sounds. Jeff is starting to get into this.

CHARLIE
Do they know you?

Both Toby and Jeff are slowly shaking their heads.

CHARLIE
Do they know it's Kelley blood
running through those veins?

The head shaking starts to pick up speed.

CHARLIE
No matter what's put in front of
us, With the Lord's help, we can
climb the highest mountain and
conquer our greatest fears!

Toby is ready to start clapping, but he's not sure.

Jeff does start to applaud for a few seconds.

JEFF
Well said, Pop. Beautiful.

Toby's hands are hesitant, then Toby finally APPLAUDS.

JEFF
What he's saying is, that makes
Bruni's opinion of you,...

Charlie looks at Jeff as to ask, 'Who's Bruni?'

Toby gets it,

TOBY
(excited)
Not real!

Charlie holds his hand up for a HIGH FIVE. Toby throws a beautiful right hand punch at it instead. SMACK!

JEFF
Nice right!

Charlie tries to shake the sting out of his hand.

JEFF
You better get Mary home, buddy.
It's getting late.

Toby yanks his gloves off and heads up stairs.

Charlie eyes Toby until he's out of range.

CHARLIE
(quietly)
So, who's this Bruni kid?

Jeff shakes his head,

JEFF
The son of Bruno Malmon. The ol'
man is a piece of work. Can't
remember the last time I saw him
sober.

CHARLIE
Nice role model for the kid.

Charlie starts to turn and leave,

CHARLIE
Does he have a favorite watering
hole?

Jeff puts up a halting hand,

JEFF
This is my battle.

CHARLIE
Are you going to deprive me of a
little excitement in my twilight
years?

Jeff waves that notion off, thinking it a joke.

JEFF
Twilight years? You'll probably
outlive us all.

CHARLIE
Besides, you're a pillar in the
community.

Charlie waves his hand as though across the sky.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
I can see the headlines,
"UNDERCOVER cop punishes drunk!"

Jeff thinks better of blowing his cover. He knows he's losing
the argument,

JEFF
McFeeney's
(beat)
What if you end up in jail?

Charlie heads up stairs,

CHARLIE
(shrugging)
Bail me out.

Jeff calls out one last bit of advice,

JEFF
It's illegal to have cameras in the
bathroom!

CHARLIE (O.S.)
Bathroom,... gotcha!

CUT TO:

EXT. MCFEENEY'S BAR - LATER THAT EVENING

It's a run down bar with only a few 'NEON BEER BRANDS' in the windows.

Charlie walks up the sidewalk and enters the bar.

CUT TO:

INT. JEFF AND KATIE'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - NEXT MORNING

It's before sunrise. Jeff, catlike, quietly walks down the steps. When he gets to the bottom of the stairs he notices the kitchen light on and some movement.

As he approaches the kitchen he sees his dad.

JEFF
(quietly)
Pop, what are you doing up?

Charlie pours himself some orange juice. Raises the pitcher as to ask Jeff if he wants some. A quick NOD and Charlie takes another glass from the cupboard.

CHARLIE
Haven't slept yet.

Charlie pours Jeff a glass of juice.

JEFF
You been up all night?

Charlie hands Jeff his glass.

CHARLIE
Walked a couple hours after I went
to McFeeney's.

The glass freezes in mid-air.

JEFF
(stern)
What did you do?

Charlie waves it off.

CHARLIE

Just felt good to bring a little justice into this world.

(beat)

Used to do that kind of stuff all the time. Your mother called me her 'Crazy Old Man!'

Jeff puts his glass down. He asks the question like he's afraid of the answer.

JEFF

You didn't hurt him too bad, did you?

Charlie waves it off again,

CHARLIE

No, just explained a few things.

JEFF

You think you got through to him?

CHARLIE

Not really sure if he heard me that well. His head was in the toilet.

JEFF

(laughing)

IN the toilet? I imagine you may have gotten through to him, even if he didn't hear you.

CHARLIE

Then, I don't know what came over me, ... I prayed for him. It was like he was being baptized.

Jeff cringes just a little, then raises up his glass to toast Charlie. The glasses CLINK together.

JEFF

Here's to a crazy old man.

Charlie pauses a moment, then,

CHARLIE

My God, I miss your mom.

Jeff raises his glass one more time,

JEFF

To Mom!

They drink some juice, put the glasses down, and stare. A tear rolls down Charlie's face.

CUT TO:

INT. JEFF AND KATIE'S HOME - KITCHEN - HOURS LATER

Katie and Toby are sitting at the breakfast table just finishing up.

The FRONT DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES (O.S.), a moment later Jeff walks into the kitchen.

Jeff and Katie's conversation goes on like Toby's not even in the room. Toby is seen in the b.g. throughout.

Katie looks around Jeff thinking Charlie was with him.

KATIE
Where's Charlie?

JEFF
Sleeping, I guess. He was up all night and still up when I left for the office.

Toby drinks his juice but is listening closely.

JEFF (CONT'D)
He really misses Mom.
(beat)
I miss her too, but,...

KATIE
But you have me and Toby.

Toby nods quickly.

JEFF
You guys love him!

Toby nods again.

KATIE
Not the same.

Toby shakes his head NO.

KATIE
You know your dad; he's always needed to take care of someone. Since Grace died, he has no one.

JEFF

Well, he kind of has Toby. Thank God for Toby.

Toby interrupts his juice drinking, puts the glass down and gives a thumbs up.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Pop feels like he has someone to teach, to help. He needs that.

KATIE

A lot of people need that. For some it's the cause for their existence.

JEFF

And Toby HAS taught Charlie a thing or two.

Toby humbly shrugs and nods his head.

JEFF (CONT'D)

They do feed off each other,... and need each other.

Toby nods quicker now. All of a sudden Toby stops.

TOBY

May I please be excused?

Katie and Jeff both look at him as though he just appeared.

JEFF

Sure,... wait,
(looking at his watch)
Why aren't you in school?

KATIE

Teacher's meetings.

Jeff seizes the opportunity,

JEFF

Want to catch a workout?

Toby looks at his wrist, which has no watch on it,

TOBY

It's getting late. I have to meet Mary.

JEFF

Maybe later?

Toby nods and makes his way upstairs. Once he's at the top, he tip toes into Charlie's room. He leaves the door open to allow a little light in.

INT. JEFF AND KATIE'S HOME - CHARLIE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

It's pretty dark except for the light coming in with Toby. Charlie is sound asleep. Toby slowly makes his way toward Charlie. Once he's next to the bed he put his hand on Charlie's forehead. A moment passes and we see what's happening in Charlie's mind.

DREAMLIKE SCENE

Charlie is walking in what seems like clouds, somewhat heavenly. He's walking up a small incline and the clouds are slightly parting. Sitting on a blanket spread out, as though for a picnic, is Grace, a beautiful woman in her twenties. As Charlie approaches, he gets younger himself.

GRACE

I saw what you did last night. My crazy man, my hero. Always fighting the good fight.

Charlie sits on the blanket with Grace.

CHARLIE

Isn't that why you married me.

Grace takes Charlie's hand in hers.

GRACE

I've missed you so much.

CHARLIE

Well, Grace, my love, I'm here now. It's so good to hold you again.

BACK TO SCENE

Toby lifts his hand from Charlie's forehead. Charlie, still asleep, is smiling. Toby sneaks out of Charlie's room.

CUT TO:

EXT. MARY'S HOUSE - HOURS LATER

Toby and Mary walk out of her house. It's a beautiful day. Mary looks back at her house to make sure they're alone. She is anxious to tell Toby a secret.

MARY

My mom said Mrs. Sanchez finally
had her baby. He's a boy.
(down to a whisper)
There's something wrong with him.

Toby stops.

TOBY

What do you mean? What's wrong?

MARY

(shrugs)
Don't know. They really don't talk
about it when I'm around.
(condescending)
I'm just a kid.

Toby starts walking with purpose now,

TOBY

Maybe there's something we can do.

Mary picks up the pace to catch up with Toby.

MARY

Are we on another mission?

Toby checks his pockets, he's got a few coins. Mary check her pocket and finds a few of her own. Simultaneously, they start to run.

EXT./INT. SMALL GROCERY STORE - A WHILE LATER

It's a quaint little town. There are stores on both sides of the street. Toby and Mary walk out of the store carrying a small paper bag. They continue to walk down the side walk.

TOBY

We need a few more things.

MARY

Mommy says it's always good to make
a list.

Toby and Mary walk toward a store front with a few small tables in front. On one of the tables is a small pad, a pencil, and a few unopened sugar packs.

 TOBY
 Okay, lemonade. What are we going
 to need?

Mary holds the paper bag up high,

 MARY
 Got lemons!

Mary taps her chin, thinking for a moment, then,

 MARY
 We'll need sugar.

Toby scoops up the packets on the table. Mary opens the bag and he drops them in.

 MARY
 Water, of course.
 (beat)
 Table.

Toby writes in the pad.

 TOBY
 And chairs. It may be a long day

Mary opens the bag, studies the two lemons.

 MARY
 With two lemons?

 TOBY
 (smiling)
 Instead of loaves and fish, we'll
 use lemons and sugar.

Mary casts the usual glance at him when she is really not sure what he's talking about. Toby writes in the pad.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUST OUTSIDE OF TOWN - SIDEWALK - HOUR LATER

Toby is pulling a wagon filled with all they need. Mary is behind the wagon pushing. People are quickly getting out of their way.

Toby and Mary make their way back to the little grocery store. They start to set up shop. A huge woman eyes them as they hurry to get everything situated. The huge woman walks into the store.

MATCH CUT TO:

The huge woman walks out of the store carrying a good sized paper bag full of groceries.

The scene widens to see Toby and Mary's lemonade stand all up and ready for business. In front of the table is a hand printed sign "LEMONADE - 50 CENTS A CUP - BENEFITS A CHILD IN NEED"

The squeezed lemons sit on a plate almost like advertisement. There is one pitcher of lemonade that never runs out. Two stacks of paper cups that never decrease. No one questions the fact that one pitcher is all that's needed. It's ice cold on a hot day and it makes everyone smile and feel good about themselves.

Throughout the day, everyone either buys two glasses or leaves a tip of fifty cents because Toby and Mary don't do change. And no one cares because they all leave smiling and happy.

Throughout the day, there is a line stretched out, and that one pitcher of lemonade is more than enough. The paper bag that held the lemons in now filled with cash.

TOBY'S POV

Toby sees Betsy and Bruni waiting in line.

BACK TO SCENE

Toby pours out two cups of lemonade and carries them down to Betsy and Bruni.

BETSY

Well, thank you, young man!

Bruni eyes Toby suspiciously.

TOBY

(to Bruni)

You got a minute?

Mary waves to Betsy. Betsy raises her cup to say hello then gets out of line and walks to Mary.

Toby and Bruni step to the side.

TOBY
Is your daddy okay?

Bruni looks at Toby, suspicious.

BRUNI
Why, wait, what? Why are you asking?

Toby just stares at him, waiting for an answer. Bruni is somewhat troubled.

BRUNI
He did say something about being baptized. I thought it was just more of his drunk talk.

TOBY
I think that was my Grandpop who did that.

BRUNI
Your Grandpop baptized my daddy? Is he a preacher or something?

TOBY
I don't think so.

BRUNI
Doesn't matter, he hasn't had a drink since.
(beat)
And he hasn't hit me either.

Toby nods, and starts back to the table.

TOBY
Well, that's a good thing.

Bruni raises his cup,

BRUNI
Thanks,... for the lemonade.

Toby gets back to the table where Betsy has been talking MOS to Mary. Betsy backs up a bit and reads the sign.

BETSY
Hi, Toby, I see you guys are making good use of your day off. Who's the child in need?

Toby and Mary look at each other for a second, then

MARY
Hector's little brother.

CUT TO:

EXT. BANK BUILDING - AFTERNOON

The front entrance door to the bank opens and Mary and Toby exit. Mary has a bank book in her hand. She's looking at it.

MARY
\$1244. Man-o-man, that's a lot of
money.
(beat)
Those must have been the two
juiciest lemons God ever grewed!

Mary hands the bank book to Toby.

MARY
I think my mom said they're coming
home from the hospital today. Wanna
take it over now?

TOBY
Sure, maybe it will cheer them up.

CUT TO:

EXT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - SHORT WHILE AFTER

Toby and Mary walk up the path to the front door.

Mary RINGS THE BELL. A moment passes and the door opens. Mrs. Sanchez smiles, but it is obvious that she's been crying. She wipes her eyes.

MR. SANCHEZ
Well, hello there. What may I do
for you?

MARY
Hi. We go to school with Hector.

Mrs. Sanchez opens the door wider to invite them in.

It's a nice middle class house. Nothing fancy but Mrs. Sanchez keeps it clean.

MRS. SANCHEZ
Oh, you're friends of Hector.

Mary and Toby enter.

TOBY
Uh, well, we do go to school with
him.

Mrs. Sanchez closes her eyes because she knows her son is not likable.

MRS. SANCHEZ
I am sad to say he is much like his
father.

Toby thinks for a moment, then he remembers something and blurts it out.

TOBY
I guess the acorn didn't fall far
from the tree.

MRS. SANCHEZ
(impressed)
You are such an insightful little
boy.

Toby smiles, then gets serious,

TOBY
I was born with neonatal
encephalopathy.

Mary thinks Toby is speaking gibberish. Mrs. Sanchez suddenly gets weak in the legs and sits down quickly. She hears a voice in her head.

DELIVERY DOCTOR (V.O.)
Mrs. Sanchez, the cord was wrapped
around your baby's neck. There may
be some damage.

Mrs. Sanchez suddenly snaps to.

MRS. SANCHEZ
Would you like to see the baby?

Mary nods quickly. Mrs. Sanchez puts her finger to her lips.

MRS. SANCHEZ
Be very quiet, he may be sleeping.

Both Mary and Toby start to tip toe.

They enter the baby's room and the baby is wide awake.

Toby walks to the crib and puts his head against the slats.

Toby takes the baby's hand; there is some sort of exchange while Toby touches the baby's hand. The baby has an incredible grip.

TOBY
 (to the baby)
 My daddy says what makes life great
 are the challenges we accept and
 overcome.

Toby looks up from the baby,

TOBY
 What's his name?

MRS. SANCHEZ
 Aaron.

Toby nods, pleased with the name. Mary sneakily slides the bank book into the diaper bag.

TOBY
 Aaron,... Mountain of strength. I
 think you are destined for great
 things.

Mrs. Sanchez is not sure as to what to do. Toby makes her nervous. She picks up Aaron almost shielding him from Toby.

Mary watches this, then,

MARY
 You don't have to worry. He just
 does stuff that people don't
 understand. Used to scare me too,
 now I just shrug and say, "That's
 Toby."

Mrs. Sanchez accepts that explanation and smiles.

MRS. SANCHEZ
 I guess I'm just a little over
 protective.

Mary and Toby understandingly nod and start out the bedroom door.

EXT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - MINUTES LATER

The front door opens and Toby and Mary exit. They walk a few steps, turn and wave goodbye to Mrs. Sanchez.

Mrs. Sanchez waves and goes back into the house.

In the b.g. is Mr. Sanchez's car coming up the street.

MR. SANCHEZ'S POV

From his car, Mr. Sanchez sees Toby and Mary leaving his yard.

INT. MR. SANCHEZ'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Mr. Sanchez and Hector are both looking.

MR. SANCHEZ
Isn't that the little retard?

HECTOR
,... and his girlfriend.

Toby and Mary walk up the street heading back home.

TOBY AND MARY - WALKING HOME - CONTINUOUS

Mary and Toby, happy with their 'mission'. Mary, remembering something, is a little confused and asks,

MARY
What's neon little and so sloppy?

TOBY
I give up, what?

MARY
No, you told Mrs. Sanchez you were born with it. What is it?

Toby thinks for a moment, then it hits him,

TOBY
Oh, neonatal encephalopathy.

MARY
Ooooookay, what is it?

TOBY

In my case, it was just a test for
my parents.

Mary doesn't get it.

MARY

What did they have to do, spell it?

Toby LAUGHS,

TOBY

No, it was a test of their faith in
God.

MARY

Did they pass?

TOBY

I can say, 'neonatal
encephalopathy', can't I?

Mary shakes her head,

MARY

Some times you're really weird.

INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - BABY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mrs. Sanchez is changing the baby. She reaches inside the
diaper bag for a diaper and finds the bank book. Confused at
first, then she smiles, thanking God. Then she slips the book
into her pocket and starts to change Aaron.

INTERCUT:

EXT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

The car is parked and Hector and his dad get out and walk to
the front door.

INTERCUT:

INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Mrs. Sanchez is coming down the stairs. The front door OPENS.

As Mrs. Sanchez gets to the bottom of the stairs, her husband
enters the house with Hector right behind.

MR. SANCHEZ
What was the retard doing here?

Mrs. Sanchez is hurtfully shocked by the question.

MRS. SANCHEZ
How can you,...

Mr. Sanchez SLAPS his wife and knocks her to the floor.

Hector casually closes the door and steps over his mom, shaking his head ruefully.

Mrs. Sanchez starts to crawl up the stairs.

CUT TO:

INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - AARON'S ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Mrs. Sanchez is packing a small bag to make her escape. She has Aaron bundled up.

MRS. SANCHEZ
Aaron, my love, you must be quiet.

INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Hector and his dad are watching TV, enthralled.

In the b.g. Mrs. Sanchez is quietly coming down the stairs. Aaron is as quiet as can be. She heads toward the kitchen like a bandit in the night. She opens the back door and sneaks out.

EXT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

As Mrs. Sanchez gets to the end of the driveway, an Uber pulls up. She and Aaron get in.

CUT TO:

EXT. JEFF AND KATIE'S HOME - A WHILE LATER

The Uber pulls up and parks in front of the house.

Mrs. Sanchez, holding Aaron, gets out of the car and walks up to the house. She KNOCKS QUIETLY.

INT. JEFF AND KATIE'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jeff, Katie, Charlie, and Toby are watching TV.

There is another SOFT KNOCK(O.S.) on the door.

TOBY

I think someone's at the door.

Charlie mutes the TV in time to hear the next KNOCK(O.S.)

Jeff gets up and goes to the door. Toby is right behind him.

Jeff opens the door and sees Mrs. Sanchez holding Aaron.

JEFF

May I help you?

TOBY

(blurting out)

Mrs. Sanchez and Aaron!

Jeff looks down at Toby.

JEFF

Toby, you know this lady?

Toby grabs her hand and all but drags her into the house.

TOBY

This is Hector's mom.

JEFF

Hector, the bully?

MRS. SANCHEZ

(ashamed)

He is his father's son.

Jeff waves an inviting hand for Mrs. Sanchez to go into the living room. He starts to close the front door.

JEFF'S POV

The Uber vehicle is parked in front of his house.

BACK TO SCENE

Jeff heads outside.

Mrs. Sanchez, obviously worried about something, sits on the sofa. Toby is right next to her on the arm of the sofa. Toby is gently rubbing Aaron's head and making funny faces.

Katie studies the situation.

KATIE

Are you in some kind of trouble?

Mrs. Sanchez hugs Aaron a little tighter and kisses his cheek.

KATIE

(cautiously)

Does your husband abuse you?

Mrs. Sanchez quickly looks to Katie wondering how she could possibly know. Mrs. Sanchez is fighting back tears.

KATIE

It's not hard to figure; your son's a bully. He learned that from someone,... and I don't think it was you.

Charlie, somewhat concerned,

CHARLIE

What may we do for you?

Mrs. Sanchez is watching Toby play with Aaron.

Jeff enters the house and joins them in the living room.

JEFF

So, what may we do for you?

CHARLIE

I just asked her that.

JEFF

And?

Charlie shrugs,

CHARLIE

She did hint at her husband being abusive. I thought maybe I should have a talk with him.

Jeff casts a sideways glance.

JEFF

You going to baptize him too?

Charlie shrugs. Mrs. Sanchez perks up when she hears Jeff's comment.

MRS. SANCHEZ

That's why I'm here, for the baptism.

JEFF

You want Pop to baptize your husband?

Katie puts her head down in her hand embarrassed that Jeff asked such a question.

Mrs. Sanchez looks at Jeff like he's nuts. Then she holds Aaron up high. All eyes are on him.

MRS. SANCHEZ

I would like Toby to be Aaron's Godfather.

The atmosphere in the room is now one of celebration. Toby is very excited.

MRS. SANCHEZ

I just wanted to share some good news. Toby will be so good for Aaron.

Toby nods in agreement. Mrs. Sanchez stands.

MRS. SANCHEZ

I should be going. I have a car waiting for me.

JEFF

The Uber guy? I sent him away. I'll take you home,... if you're going home?

Mrs. Sanchez looks somewhat worried as she nods.

MRS. SANCHEZ

I would walk but I don't like having Aaron out in this night air too long.

JEFF

Let me get my work clothes on and we'll be on our way.

Mrs. Sanchez feels really guilty. She has no idea what Jeff does for a living.

MRS. SANCHEZ

If you have to go to work, I don't want to put you out.

Jeff heads upstairs. Katie assures Mrs. Sanchez,

KATIE

It's what he does. He loves helping people.

CUT TO:

EXT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - WHILE LATER

Jeff's truck pulls up in front of Hector's house. Jeff gets out of the truck, dressed in full riot gear, badge, and sidearm. Mrs. Sanchez and Aaron stay in the truck.

Jeff walks up to the front door, armed with the key, and enters.

INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Jeff enters the house.

JEFF

(yelling)
Sanchez!

Mr. Sanchez, angry, walks out of the living room. When he sees Jeff he slows his pace.

MR. SANCHEZ

What the, ... What's going on? Get out of my house! I know my rights.

Mr. Sanchez attempts to shove Jeff out of his house. Just as Mr. Sanchez's right hand contacts Jeff's left shoulder, Jeff uses the same compliance move that Toby used.

JEFF

Rights? You think you have the right to hit your wife? The mother of your children.

Jeff increases the pressure on the elbow bringing Mr. Sanchez to his knees.

JEFF

Here's what's going to happen.
(beat)
Are you listening?

Mr. Sanchez quickly nods.

JEFF

Your wife is going to call me every
night and tell me that she's
alright. Life is good.

Mr. Sanchez scowls, not expecting that.

JEFF

If I don't hear from her, I will
come here and beat you within an
inch of your life.
(beat)
That's every night I don't hear
from her.

Scowling eyes are now bulging.

MR. SANCHEZ

What if she forgets?!

JEFF

Then you will be well advised to
remind her.

This entire time Hector has remained hidden but watching.

CUT TO:

INT. ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH - BAPTISM - MORNING

Small gathering of family members around the baptismal alter.
Toby is dressed in his suit; very proud to be part of this.
Toby's parents are there. Mr. Sanchez is just going through
the motions. Hector also would rather be somewhere else.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE OF SCENES

The following are short scenes that advance Toby's age by a
few months a scene.

EXT. SKID ROW ALLEYWAY - DAY

Toby, (8 Years Old), is walking toward an alleyway. Mary is with him and confident that somehow they are protected. Toby is wearing a backpack full of sandwiches. As they walk down the alleyway Mary grabs sandwiches from the backpack and hands them out to all the homeless. As with the lemonade, the backpack never gets empty.

CUT TO:

INT. CHURCH - CONFSSIONAL - DAY

The door opens and Toby steps out.

 TOBY
 Thank you, Father Kola.

Toby takes a small glass bottle out of his pocket and fills it in the Holy Water font.

CUT TO:

EXT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - 15 MINUTES LATER

Toby RINGS THE DOORBELL. A moment later Mrs. Sanchez opens the door.

 TOBY
 I brought some more Holy Water for Aaron. How's he feeling?

 MRS. SANCHEZ
 He's doing much better. You, Toby, are a life saver.

 TOBY
 Got to keep him strong. Another few years he'll be my training partner.

CUT TO:

INT. GYM AT HIS POLICE STATION - DAY

Toby, (9 years old), and Jeff walk into the gym. All quiet except for Dave Johnson doing a set on the bench. As he finishes,

DAVE JOHNSON
He gets bigger every time I see
him.

Toby and Dave do the fist pump.

CUT TO:

EXT./INT. RETIREMENT HOME - AFTERNOON

Toby and Mary, with backpack, walk in the front door.

INT. RETIREMENT HOME - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

They're walking down the hall passing doorways. As they pass
one room, Mary notices a woman.

MARY'S POV

A very old woman suffering from Parkinson's.

BACK TO SCENE

Mary tugs on Toby's shirt.

MARY
Hey, here!

Toby does an about face and they enter the room. Mary waves
hello. The old woman somewhat embarrassed from her tremors,
lifts her hand just a little bit. Mary walks up to her.

MARY
Hello.

FLORENCE
Aren't you the cutest thing.

Mary smiles her exaggerated smile.

MARY
My name is Mary.
(hiking a thumb)
This is Toby.

FLORENCE
My hair used to be that exact
color.

Toby digs through the backpack and finds a hairbrush.

TOBY
Would you like to brush her hair.

Florence, somewhat embarrassed, holds her shaking hands up,

FLORENCE
I would love to. But I don't think
there's anything I can do with
these.

TOBY
May I help you.

Toby gently takes Florence's hand and places the brush in it. His hands gently caress her hands. As she lifts her hands to Mary's head, the tremors stop. She brushes Mary's hair and smiles all around.

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

Toby (10 years old) sneaks into the room and puts his hand on Charlie's forehead. Charlie SMILES and whispers,

CHARLIE
Hi Grace.

CUT TO:

INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - DAY

Toby, carrying a shopping bag, enters the house and greets Mrs. Sanchez,

TOBY
I brought Aaron something.

Toby takes out the weights Charlie gave him years ago.

CUT TO:

INT. JEFF AND KATIE'S HOME - OUTSIDE TOBY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Katie walks by and overhears Toby saying his prayers.

TOBY (O.S.)

Father, please give me the strength to be heroic when the time comes. I want to make Mommy proud of me. She always calls me her hero. Allow me to act without fear. With Your love all things are possible.

Katie smiles as a tear rolls down her cheek.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD MALL - DAY

During a blizzard, Jeff and Toby pull up and park. A lady with a small car is stuck in the snow. Toby and Jeff jump out of their truck and come to the rescue.

Both Jeff and Toby are trying to push the car backwards to get it out of a snow bank.

JEFF

Ready? 1,2,3 Push!

The small car is barely moving. Jeff digs in and SCREAMS. Toby joins him and the car breaks free. The lady HONKS and is on her way.

JEFF

All we needed was that little extra UMPH.

Toby and Jeff high five!

CUT TO:

INT. RETIREMENT HOME - AFTERNOON

Mary and Toby (11 years old) have found their way to another room with very old residents. GUS, in his late 80s, sits by himself because he's deaf and overall he seems to be an angry person. Toby approaches Gus and starts talking MOS to him.

GUS' POV

Toby is talking to him but Gus hears nothing.

BACK TO SCENE

Mary stays back and just watches Toby and Gus in the b.g..

OLD LADY
(to Mary)
Your friend is wasting his time.
Gus is deaf.

Mary simply shrugs and watches as Toby continues to talk MOS.

MARY
Probably not for long.

TOBY AND GUS

Toby is still talking and is heard but not by Gus. His world remains silent but not for long.

GUS' POV

Toby is talking and not heard. Slowly the volume increases. Gus shakes his head for a moment and leans forward. The volume steadily increases incrementally as Toby talks.

TOBY
,... sometimes I think maybe I'm
not doing people a favor. A lot of
people say a lot of stupid stuff
that you probably don't want to
hear.

BACK TO SCENE

Toby is talking and Gus is smiling.

GUS
Ain't that the truth!

Mary sees that the old lady is amazed,

MARY
,... and there you go!

Mary walks to Toby and Gus.

GUS
But I do miss the sound of children
laughing more than anything.

As if on cue, Toby tickles Mary and she LAUGHS.

MARY
 (a little shocked)
 You talk with him?

TOBY
 (chuckling)
 He's funny. Still insists that my
 grandpa baptized his dad.

CUT TO:

INT. JEFF AND KATIE'S HOME - BASEMENT - AFTERNOON

Jeff, Toby, and Aaron have been lifting weights. Aaron is a bit on the slow side but Jeff and Toby treat him as they would anyone else. Jeff just finished his set.

TOBY
 You're up, Aaron.

Jeff removes a couple of plates off the bar.

TOBY,
 Ye of little faith.

CUT TO:

EXT. FLORIST - MAIN STREET - EVENING

Irene, a gentle, bent, old woman, sits on the bench looking at the flowers in the window. The walker she uses is by her side.

Toby and Mary exit the store with a small bouquet of flowers and present them to Irene. Toby and Mary sit next to her.

TOBY
 We got you some flowers.

Irene is delighted, and surprised. A tear rolls down her cheek. She takes the bouquet.

IRENE
 They're beautiful!
 (then disappointed)
 I have no way to carry them.

Mary and Toby jump up,

TOBY
 Then allow us.

Toby offers his hand to help her up. Mary on the other side helps by gently grabbing Irene's elbow. At first, Irene is all bent over. After a few steps she asks,

IRENE
I'll need my walker.

Toby places his hand on her spine and she slowly straightens.

MARY
Maybe,... Maybe not.

CUT TO:

INT. JEFF AND KATIE'S HOME - BASEMENT - EVENING

Toby, 14 years old, is wearing bag gloves and shin pads. Jeff is holding focus pads for Toby to hit. Toby runs through a series of combinations with hands and feet. The BELL RINGS.

CUT TO:

INT. GYM AT HIS POLICE STATION - AFTERNOON

The gym is quiet except in the far corner where Jeff, Toby, and Aaron are training with weights.

JEFF
Your mom wants you home by 6.

AARON
(excited)
Yeah, birthday party!

Toby high fives him,

TOBY
8 years old!

JEFF
Wishing for anything special?

AARON
Having a party, on my dad's boat.
(beat)
You and Mary are invited.

Jeff and Toby smile. Jeff puts another 10 pounds on the bar.

JEFF
Do you like the water?

Aaron approaches the bar.

AARON
I want to learn to swim. I want to
learn everything!

JEFF
Don't ever let anyone's opinion,

TOBY/AARON
Become your reality.

CUT TO:

INT. JEFF AND KATIE'S HOME - TOBY'S BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

Toby is asleep in bed. He tosses for a moment, then sits up,

TOBY
NO!

Jeff, walking by, steps into the room.

JEFF
You all right, Toby?

TOBY
I had a dream about the boat ride
tomorrow.

JEFF
I'm guessing a bad dream.

Toby nods.

JEFF
Are you sure you want to go?

Toby thinks for just a moment.

TOBY,
Remember when God tested you and
Mom about me? I think this is my
test.

Jeff takes a deep breath, accepting his son is not the
average child.

CUT TO:

EXT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - MORNING

Mr. and Mrs. Sanchez are putting a few things in their vehicle. Aaron is very excited; Hector, not so much.

Jeff pulls into the driveway. Toby and Mary jump out of the truck. Aaron runs to them and hugs them both.

AARON

I got you guys something!

MARY

But it's your birthday, you're not suppose to give us stuff.

AARON

You're here, that's my present from you.

Jeff gets out and approaches Mrs. Sanchez. Mr. Sanchez watches them.

JEFF

Mrs. Sanchez, I trust you are well?

MR. SANCHEZ

(fuming)

She's fine!

JEFF

And she will stay that way.

Jeff checks his phone for the weather.

JEFF

It should be a beautiful day on the water.

(looking up)

Not a cloud in the sky.

Toby and Mary open their little boxes and remove very colorful bracelets.

TOBY

It's got my name on it! Thanks.

Mary gives Aaron a hug. They both put the bracelets on.

CUT TO:

EXT. MARINA - A WHILE LATER

Mr. Sanchez drives up to the marina and everyone gets out. They head for the docks.

EXT. DOCK - FEW MINUTES LATER

It's a good sized boat with railings on the side.

Everyone jumps on the boat carrying their life vests. Just before they get onto the boat, they put their vests on.

Hector helps with Aaron's. While Hector is fastening it, he looks to his dad. Mr. Sanchez ever so lightly shakes his head no.

Everyone piles onto the boat. Mr. Sanchez backs out of the dock and slowly heads out.

CUT TO:

EXT. BOAT ON THE WATER - 30 MINUTES LATER

They finally reached where they want to be. Hector breaks out the fishing gear. Mary, Toby, Aaron, and Mrs. Sanchez are enjoying the day.

Mr. Sanchez and Hector are nothing but bad energy.

EXT. BOAT ON THE WATER - HOUR LATER

It's a good sized boat with hand railings on the sides. It's a peaceful day, not a care in the world. Aaron has a continuous smile on his face. Mary and Toby can't help but smile when they look at him.

The fish aren't really biting but no one really cares.

Very dark clouds start to come over the horizon. They're moving fast and the water starts to get rough.

MR. SANCHEZ

Was there a storm in the forecast?

Toby leans over to Mary,

TOBY

I was expecting this.

Toby quickly goes below deck looking for something.

Mary watches Toby, then looks at the storm coming. The boat continues to rock worse and worse.

Aaron is all in a panic now. He's turning every which way. The darker the sky gets the more he panics. The combination of him spinning, the boat rocking, and tripping over Hector's foot, and over he goes in the water.

AARON

Mommy!!!

Mrs. Sanchez jumps up,

MRS. SANCHEZ

Aaron!

(to her husband)

Aaron fell overboard!

Neither Mr. Sanchez or Hector make a move to save Aaron.

The look on Mrs. Sanchez's face is utter disgust. She heads for the side of the boat to jump in. Her husband grabs her,

MR. SANCHEZ

Oh, no you don't. I'll not have
that lunatic cop coming after me
because you drowned!

Toby comes up to see what the commotion is all about.

MRS. SANCHEZ

Toby, Aaron fell in. You have,...

Before she gets the words out, Toby jumps in.

Aaron is flailing about. So much that his life vest works its way off. Toby is doing everything he can to try and grab him.

TOBY

Aaron, you have to calm down!

Aaron, panicking so much, is hard for Toby to grab good enough to lift him out to Mary. He tries but can't lift him high enough. Mary is close to falling in herself.

Toby tries to go further under him to get a better hold but his life vest won't permit it. Toby rips the vest off. He dives under Aaron and gets a better hold of him. He leaves him, but still not high enough. But he's close.

Mr. Sanchez continues to hold his wife who is CRYING OUT FOR AARON.

Hector couldn't care less.

Mary is trying to figure out how she can get closer to them to help lift Aaron out. She is leaning over to the point of almost falling in herself.

Toby dives under and pushes Aaron up by the seat of his pants. He's almost there, but Mary is still inches away.

UNDER THE WATER - CONTINUOUS

This time when Toby dives under and grabs Aaron to push him up, he hears a medley of the guys he has train with.

VARIOUS TRAINING PARTNERS
(collage of voices)
You know what you have to do, Toby,
to get that last bit of strength.

JEFF
SCREAM!

DAVE JOHNSON
SCREAM!

BOB SHEA
SCREAM!

One after another, everyone he's ever trained with has the same advice. So, of course, Toby gets a good grip of Aaron, under the water and pushes up and SCREAMS.

TOBY
AUUUGGGGHHHHH!!

BACK TO SCENE

Aaron comes flying out of the water enough for Mary to grab him and drag him aboard. We only see the hands and wrists of Toby. The colorful bracelet is seen only for a moment then down the hands go.

UNDER THE WATER

Toby, lungs filled with water, drifts down toward the bottom. His mom's voice is heard, the slightest of a smile is on his face.

KATIE (V.O.)
 Mommy's little hero.

As Toby continues to drift down, he's heading for the arms of his grandmother, Grace. As he reaches the bottom, she cradles him.

As she does, Toby's eyes open.

TOBY
 Hi, Grandma, ... now I know why
 Grandpa's always smiling when he
 sees you. You're so pretty.

Grace kisses his forehead,

GRACE
 You're such a darling little boy.
 (beat)
 But it's not time for you. Not yet.
 You have much to do. So, give me a
 hug and it's back you go.

Grace raises her arms to lift Toby and he floats to the surface.

BACK TO SCENE

The storm clouds, as fast as they came, went. The water is smooth again.

Mrs. Sanchez, crying, is hugging Aaron too hard. She's looking over the side for Toby as she does.

Hector and Mr. Sanchez are somewhat celebrating silently.

Mary is on the other side of the boat, looking up, praying.

MARY
 Please God, he's my best friend. I
 understand if you need him, ... but
 I need him too.

The sun gets extraordinarily bright. Mary puts one hand high to block the sun. The other hand, with the bracelet, holds the rail.

There is the sound of water splashing, then the hand with the matching bracelet grabs right next to Mary's hand.

FADE OUT.