

ESCAPE VELOCITY

Written by

Ralph walker

243 Spruce Street
Bloomfield, NJ 07003
973-803-9938
RWalker12813@gmail.com

Twenty FIFTH GRADERS work in teams building parts for a miniature moon rover. One group tests a *working robotic arm*. Another group has drives a *crawler over a desk*. A third works with an array of *magnifying lenses* and *high powered lights*.

MS. WEIR (62) an experienced teacher, orbits her students checking on their progress. She stops at a table of four kids. Three tap away on their school issued laptops.

The fourth, CHIP CLARKE (11) stares ovetop his personalized laptop at the clock. He hasn't slept much. He wears his oversized *lucky 76er's Jersey* and taps repeatedly on the keyboard without looking at his screen.

Ms. Weir leans in next to Chip.

MS. WEIR

Are you making any progress?

Deadpan, Chip holds up his smart watch. It shows a countdown.

CHIP

How can I? Its T Minus two minutes!

MS. WEIR

Yes. I see Chip.

Wrap up your work class.

We have something special today.

Ms. Weir turns on the smartboard. The screen fills with live images of a massive rocket on a launch pad. A countdown clock matches Chip's watch.

Everyone in the class turns to see.

Chip bounces his leg, clearly nervous.

STUDENT 1

Is that Falcon Heavy?

MS. WEIR

No this is the NASA rocket;
ARTIMIS IV.

STUDENT 2

And it's going straight up Uranus!

Students laugh. Chip is laser focused on the countdown.

MS. WEIR

Not funny. This an important mission - to Saturn and its moons.

CHIP

Its mainly getting close to Rhea - Saturn's only moon with oxygen.

STUDENT 3

Ten seconds.

The class hushes as the countdown clock winds down to zero.

The launch begins. The rocket rises without fire or smoke. The air seems to vibrate around it as it lifts off.

STUDENT 2

(in awe)

How's it doing that?

CHIP

(focused)

Sonic burst technology.

STUDENT 1

Why are you such a know it all Chip?

CHIP

My Mom.

MS. WEIR

This is so special! I remember when we used to watch all of NASA's space launches together at school.

STUDENT 3

Why don't we do that anymore?

Ms. Weir faces her class, turning her back to the screen, seeing the learning opportunity in front of her.

MS. WEIR

There was once a terrible tragedy, with a space shuttle. It was a failure on many levels -

STUDENT 4

Um. Ms. Weir?

Behind the teacher, on the screen ARTIMIS IV shakes and vibrates. Wings flutter unnaturally. Metal twists and shears.

THE ROCKET EXPLODES into a fantastic cloud of debris!

STUDENT 2

Holy shit!

Ms. Weir turns back to see the explosion on screen.

MS. WEIR

Oh my god!

Chip puts his hands over his face, but keeps watching through parted fingers.

CHIP

I guess we're moving, *again*.

2

INT. SONIC PROPULSION LABS (SPL) - CONTINUOUS

2

LUCY CLARKE (35) holds her face in her hands, peeking through parted fingers exactly like Chip. This can't be real.

LUCY

No. NO! **NO!**

50 ENGINEERS, SCIENTISTS and TECHNICIANS are crowded into a manufacturing warehouse watching the same failed rocket launch. A giant countdown clock runs in time with the screen.

Above the screen a banner reads: SONIC PROPULSION LABORATORY: MAKERS OF THE ARTIMIS SONIC BURST ENGINES

The place has gone silent. 16 years of their work just exploded. Every person in the room is devastated.

MABERRY

(breaking the silence)

Well that sure sucked!

MABERRY (59) is a beefy Texan shop steward dressed in his cleanest overalls for the occasion. His exclamation is a heavy brick thrown in a still pond.

The crowd shatters. Heads droop. Tears fall freely. The whole company is wrecked, unsure, scared. Knots of whispers, start to ask 'what went wrong?'

Lucy is frozen in place. She can't take her eyes off the screen. She talks to herself through her fingers.

LUCY

Not a bird strike.

Lift off looked clean.

Wind shear wouldn't do that.

The cargo was secure.

(MORE)

LUCY (CONT'D)
 Fuselage breaks should be seen.
 The sound. What was the sound?

CHRISTIAN (34) an engineer from Peru also stares at the screen. His natural reaction is to analyze what went wrong. He taps Lucy on the shoulder. She jumps at his touch.

LUCY (CONT'D)
WHAT?!

CHRISTIAN
 Do you think it was the resonance?

Lucy's hands drop. We finally see her face.

LUCY CLARKE, is a spitfire. She is physically petite and beautiful, even in work boots and safety glasses. She's usually the smartest person in the room, but she's never let that stop her from outworking everyone else.

Lucy is the lead aerospace engineer on the SPL Engine team. Today is the biggest day of her career. That is her engine exploding. Even if this isn't her fault this is her failure.

She rebuffs Christian.

LUCY
 It wasn't the resonance.

CHRISTIAN
 Are you sure? Maybe the material science is off. There wasn't time to check the frequency of every -

LUCY
 There was time.

CHRISTIAN
 But don't you think -

LUCY
 (calculating)
 Seven days, ten hours a day, three years, nine scientists, twenty two engineers, eleven mechanics, three programmers, two shop stewards.

We had over four hundred ninety two thousand hours poured into that engine. There was time.

CHRISTIAN
 Then what was it?

LUCY

I don't know but, it wasn't the resonance.

They both look back at the screen. The image looks like the aftermath of a fireworks display.

CHRISTIAN

(convincing self?)

The next engine will be tighter. We'll test longer. Failures are a necessary part of the engineering process.

LUCY

People could have died.

CHRISTIAN

It's only a satellite.

LUCY

A ninety million dollar satellite strapped to a two hundred million dollar rocket in pieces raining over the Atlantic. Are you ready to cut a check for that?

CHRISTIAN

Costs less than one of your American football teams.

Lucy can't. She walks away, crossing the shop floor to a celebration table filled with champagne glasses. She downs a glass. Maberry, stands near her with a glass in each hand. He downs one, following suit.

MABERRY

I think we'll be closing early today.

He downs the second. He looks ill.

Probably tomorrow too. Sixteen years of work gone. Just like that.

LUCY

It wasn't the resonance. It wasn't the build. It wasn't the design.

Maberry nods to a line of people climbing a metal stair up to the office of the SPL company President.

MABERRY

There they all go. Poof! All gone.

Distracted he drops a glass. It shatters on the concrete floor. He looks the mess.

LUCY

It wasn't the resonance Maberry.
I know it wasn't.

Maberry drains another glass lets it shatter on the floor.

MABERRY

Sixteen years. Poof! All gone.

Lucy carefully places her glass on the table and rushes up the stair after the growing line of workers.

3

INT. OUTSIDE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE - DAY

3

Four people wait in line outside a solid wood door. A hundred dollar bill is screwed to the door like a name tag.

The door cracks opens. A BEEFY TECH covered in biker tattoos emerges. He is openly crying. He blows his nose.

BEEFY TECH

Thank you.
I won't let you down again.

MEGAN (20) a punky programmer is next in line. She files in for what will either be her execution or her suicide.

The door closes.

Lucy runs up the stair, cutting ahead and catching the door before it latches. She pushes into the office.

4

INT. PRESIDENT'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

4

REBECCA FOWLER (68) sits at her desk in a press-ready suit. She has been through it all; military, business, government, marriage, divorce, children. Her battle scars have battle scars. She is chiseled in granite; cold, hard and unreadable.

The office is a homage to her successes. The walls are covered with photographs of famous people shaking her hand. Her desk is crowded with trophies. A NASA model of the Challenger Shuttle sits front and center.

Over her shoulder a panoramic window looks down on the factory. The screen still shows the explosion. Another partially assembled engine can be seen in the background.

LUCY

Fowler, this isn't anyone else's fault. I was the last one to join the build team.

Lucy sees the *Challenger model* on Fowler's desk.

I am your O-Ring.

FOWLER

Wait your turn!

MEGAN

Lucy isn't the problem. My simulation wasn't perfect. I could only model so many variations of sound waves. The resonance -

LUCY

It wasn't the GODDAMNED RESONANCE!

Fowler stands, glaring at Lucy.

Megan you modeled every variable we needed. You did it right. Everyone here did.

I'm the last one to the party. The problem was MY build, not your simulation. Blood is on MY hands. There isn't another answer. You can't pin this on anyone but me.

FOWLER

Megan, Lucy is right.

Your simulation was fine.
Get out of here.

Megan scurries out. Lucy looks towards the door.

Lucy stay.

The door closes. Lucy and Fowler face each other.

First off, check yourself. There's no blood. This was an unmanned flight. It isn't good, but no one died, so sit down.

Lucy sits. Fowler comes around the desk, she is controlled, but losing her patience.

(MORE)

FOWLER (CONT'D)

Now listen, I busted my hump to pry you away from Musk and NASA, so don't give me some bullshit line about your youth or lack of experience. I know what you are capable of.

Second, you and I both know the science will point to Acoustic Resonance as the only plausible answer. The amount of vibration running through that engine is enough to rip apart the vault at Fort Knox. If something was off by a micro-fraction the investigation will uncover it.

LUCY

Investigation?

FOWLER

You know an investigation is coming. That's how this works.

The phone rings. Fowler ignores it.

Third, pull yourself together. You'll do better next time.

LUCY

Next time? When is that? Fifteen years from now? Twenty? Maybe when I'm eighty five? Maybe never.

FOWLER

What do you want me to tell you? We pushed science. Science pushed back. I don't know why that engine failed yet? Do you?

LUCY

No, but I know it wasn't the science. The science was sound. This was human error. Me. I failed. Not any of them. I am the O-Ring.

The phone rings again.

FOWLER

Do you want to guess who that is? Some snot nosed congressional aide telling me that there is going to be an investigation into SPL, NASA and the whole ARTIMIS program.

(MORE)

FOWLER (CONT'D)

You know why? Because they don't know what went wrong either, and they sure as shit don't understand the science.

The phone rings again. Lucy stares at it.

LUCY

Aren't you going to pick it up?

FOWLER

Are you quitting?

LUCY

Yes! Resigning, not quitting.

FOWLER

No one resigns to day. I don't accept that Lucy. No one quits. No one runs away from this.

Fowler looks at the pictures on her wall, her history of success. She talks about herself and Lucy at the same time.

You need a break? You deserve it. Take a leave of absence. Get out of town. Spend some time with your son. Whatever. But you don't get to quit today.

The phone rings again. It breaks Fowler's concentration. She focuses on Lucy.

No one quits today. Now **GET OUT!**

Lucy hustles out of Fowler's office. Fowler follows.

5

INT. OUTSIDE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

5

The door slams behind Lucy blowing her hair back. A crowd has gathered at the door. They can all hear.

FOWLER (O.S)

BECAUSE NO ONE IS QUITTING TODAY

Or I'm going to **fucking quit.**

Everyone is shocked. Lucy sees the whole line of people, her co-workers, her friends, all looking at her.

LUCY

I'm the O-Ring, not any of you.

Lucy heads down the stairs, defeated.

6

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

6

TABITHA (22) studies Calculus II at the kitchen table. She is in her daily attire; pony tail & UT Austin sweats. A partially eaten box of cookies is within reach. A lonely plate of untouched Mac and Cheese is getting cold.

Lucy comes in through the back door, dressed the same as before. She drops her bag and rips into the mail. Between the circulars and bills is a blue Hallmark card. The postmark reads MONTGOMERY. She doesn't open it.

Lucy slumps into a chair and pulls off her boots. She has tried to pull herself together, but remains a total wreck.

LUCY

Thanks for staying. Is he asleep?

TABITHA

He should be. He wanted to wait up, but I bribed him.

Lucy pokes at the plate, unsure of what she is seeing.

LUCY

Hot dogs?

TABITHA

And Carrots. I spiked it.

LUCY

You're a better mother than me.

TABITHA

I let him have two Oreoes too.

LUCY

The carrot and the cookie. I can get behind that.

Tabitha offers the box to Lucy. She takes two cookies. Lucy examines the card without opening it.

TABITHA

Was it as bad as it looked on TV?

LUCY

Do you know anyone in Montgomery County?

TABITHA

I don't even know where that is.

LUCY

Purgatory.

Lucy rips open the card. It's a child's graduation card with a rocket ship on the front. It reads REACH FOR THE STARS. Inside it is hand signed Love Mom and Dad.

My parents live there.

You want to come with us? You could home school Chip and take your astro-dynamics class remotely. I'll pay you with the money I'll make slinging coffee at the local -

Lucy finally loses it, breaking into tears.

TABITHA

Starbucks?

LUCY

Gas Station.

Tabitha gathers her things, unsure how to act as Lucy tries to stop crying.

I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

I'm not crazy. Here.

Lucy hands Tabitha some cash. Tabitha takes it.

TABITHA

You don't have to go.

LUCY

I can't stay here. What else am I going to do in Rocket Town USA? No one is going to hire an acoustic propulsion engineer after today's disaster.

My parents have to take me.

TABITHA

But you'll be back?

LUCY

I don't know.

Tabitha leaves. Lucy cries at the kitchen table. She is broken, not just about the rocket, but about her choices; losing balance between career and family, her failures both professionally and as a parent.

7

INT. CHIP'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

7

Chip is tucked into bed. His room is littered with the usual suspects of comic books and space heroes. He has posters of planets and space exploration vehicles on the walls. Over his bed is a mobile of Saturn and all its moons.

The door cracks open, spilling in light from the hall. Lucy stares at her sleeping son from the door. She has stopped crying. A smile peaks out seeing her son.

He rustles, hearing her. She pulls the door closed to a sliver of light, not wanting to wake him.

CHIP
(sleepy)
Mom? Is that you?

She pushes back in.

LUCY
Yeah buddy.
Sorry I'm so late again.

CHIP
Was it as bad as it looked?

Lucy thinks about it, then crawls into bed with her son wrapping him up in her arms. He pulls her close. A photograph of Chip with his father, DEREK, at a 76ers game sits on the night stand staring at her.

LUCY
Worse.

CHIP
Its okay Mom. We'll make it to the
moons of Saturn someday.

He snuggles tight against his mother, falling asleep. Lucy reaches across him and quietly turns the photograph so she doesn't have to stare at her ex. She pulls her son tight.

LUCY
Some day.

8

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

8

Lucy and Chip live in a low rise garden apartment. Tabitha sits on her balcony, next apartment down, studying. Chip comes out lugging a heavy bag. Lucy follows carrying her own bag. She locks up and tosses a set of keys to Tabitha.

LUCY
Make sure it doesn't burn down. OK?

TABITHA
No problem.

CHIP
Bye Tabitha.

TABITHA
Bye smarty pants. Take care of your Mom.

LUCY
Sure you don't want to come?

TABITHA
My tests are here. I've got the fire department on speed dial. Have a good time in purgatory.

Chip and Lucy head down the stairs to a Blue Tesla parked in the lot. The car is packed solid with bags. Chip gets in.

9

INT. TESLA - CONTINUOUS

9

The car is a masterpiece of engineering. Lucy hits a button and the car hums to life. The screen on the console reads 'Launch Sequence'. Lucy gets a shiver at the words.

CHIP
Ready for takeoff?

Lucy looks at her son. This is their joke. He means well.

LUCY
Too soon.

CHIP
Are we there yet?

LUCY
Better.

10

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

10

The Tesla pulls out and heads toward the highway, going east. Behind them a street sign reads "Taking off from Boca Chica Village aka *ROCKET TOWN USA*. Come back soon."

11 **EXT. MONTGOMERY REGIONAL COMBINED SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY** 11

The school parking lot is packed with nondescript cars and trucks. The parking spaces closest to the front entrance are marked with signs: Handicap Parking, Stork Parking, Five Minute Parking, Electric Vehicle Parking. All are empty.

A bike rack is marked: Teacher Rack. A single mountain bike with saddle bags is locked to the rack.

12 **INT. MR SAMUEL'S CLASSROOM - DAY** 12

SAM SAMUELS lays out brand new comic books on each lab table in his science classroom.

Mr. Samuels (34) is dressed to impress the students in his class. Bright plaid shirt, coordinated tie, dad sneakers, superhero socks, and an oversized green lantern ring. While he hides behind his geeky clothes, Sam is a total catch.

Two dozen FIFTH GRADERS enter the classroom, finding their seats. A Green Lantern comic book waits for each of them.

SAM

Let's start with last night's bonus question. Turn to page eight.

Sam holds open one of the comic books.

Could our hero, Hal Jordan, hit
Evil Star with enough force to send
this villain into orbit?

Hands go up.

Emily. What do you think?

EMILY

No way. He'd be pulled back to
Earth by gravity.

SAM

Gravity, the force that keeps us
grounded. One point to Emily.

Doug what have you got for me?

DOUG

I think Green Lantern would smack
the bad guy with enough force to
send him flying on a trajectory
where he might obtain orbit.

Sam writes GRAVITY, TRAJECTORY and ORBIT on the board with a plus 1 next to each.

SAM

Nicely done, Doug. Plus two. Who else did last night's extra credit?

Five hands remain in the air. Sam picks a kid in the back.

DEVON

I don't think Hal can pull it off.

SAM

Why not?

DEVON

Because this is fiction.

SAM

Fair, but if it was real, why wouldn't it work?

DEVON

Because if Green Lantern actually had these powers Evil Star would achieve an exit vector and break free of the Earth's gravitational pull. He'd never make it into orbit. He'd just keep going.

SAM

You think?

DEVON

No doubt.

SAM

Devon you have the concept right, but the term is wrong. Plus one.

Who knows the term for what Devon is describing.

Eight hands fly up. Mr. Samuels points.

Jackie

JACKIE

Terminal Velocity

SAM

Nope. Tim.

TIM
Maximum Velocity

SAM
Nope. Maria.

MARIA
Escape Velocity

SAM
Good Maria. Now can you tell us the definition?

MARIA
Escape Velocity is the lowest speed that a body must achieve in order to escape the gravitational attraction of a another object.

SAM
Three points Maria! Well done.

Sam writes ESCAPE VELOCITY. The phone rings. Sam picks it up.

Yes? Now? I have a class. Okay.

He hangs up.

Everyone who thinks Green Lantern has the strength to send villains off planet turn to the chapter on Orbits. Everyone who doesn't turn to the chapter on Gravity. We'll debate in ten.

MS. GRANT (41) the school secretary, arrives to cover. She is an attractive mom who steals outfits from her 19 year old daughter's closet in a fruitless attempt to be cool.

MS. GRANT
I've got it covered Sam.

Timothy, get your nose out of that comic book. This is physics.

Sam winks to Tim. Ms. Grant blushes thinking he's winking to her. The students take out their science books.

SAM
Thanks. I'll be right back.

MS. GRANT
(flustered)
Oh anytime, Sam.

13

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

13

The wide locker lined hallway is empty. Sam walks towards the Principal's office. As he passes, a classroom door pops open.

MS. PEACOCK (22) a round 5th grade teacher leans out bright and smiling. She is in her daily attire of too short skirts and too high heels.

MS. PEACOCK

Hi-ya Mr. Samuels. Who's covering your class?

SAM

Mrs. Grant has it in hand.

MS. LEE (24) a boxy 5th grade teacher comes out next. She is in her Tuesday workout gear; skin tight yoga pants and an almost, but not quite, appropriate top.

MS. LEE

Hi Mr. Samuels. Everything okay?

SAM

I told Ms. Peacock. Ms. Grant has my class in hand.

Ms. Lee eyes Ms. Peacock as if she has killed her puppy. Both women have been pursuing Sam's affections all school year.

Sam continues down the hall. The teachers leer after him.

MS. LEE

I'd like to have Sam's class in my hands too.

MS. PEACOCK

You wish. He'll never ask you to handle his class.

MS. LEE

You can't even cover your own class.

Ms. Lee goes back in her room. Ms. Peacock straightens her skirt and returns to class in a huff.

14

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

14

PRINCIPAL GRICE waits impatiently. He is a lifer. He stumbled up the ladder from alumni to Track Coach, Gym Teacher, Home EC teacher; all the way to Principal. His office is a trophy case of 35 years at the school.

Sam enters, closing the door. They both sit.

SAM

I'm supposed to be teaching.

PRINCIPAL GRICE

Teaching from the text provided, but I didn't invite you down here to revisit your use of alternate text in lessons on Newton's Laws.

SAM

We teach Newton in 4th grade. I'm onto Kelper in my class.

PRINCIPAL GRICE

The funding for your little science club trip is cut.

SAM

My little science club. To the Presidential Science Fair? In Washington DC?

PRINCIPAL GRICE

Yes. The district's accountant put the White House grant in the SAT Prep account instead of Science Achievement Team account.

You are going to have to have a few more bake sales.

SAM

Twenty thousand dollars?! I wrote that grant! Can't they move the money back?

PRINCIPAL GRICE

Already spent. Besides, your remote control car club isn't close to ready anyway.

SAM

We're building a working robot. This isn't like on TV, these builds take resources. It was all in the grant application.

PRINCIPAL GRICE

And you did a fantastic job on that! I'm sure you'll be recognized for it at the staff dinner.

Sam gets up to leave.

Oh and Sam, the labs are being painted this week so you'll have to double up with another activity. Yearbook meets Monday and Thursday. Wrestling has away meets.

SAM

We're building a robot! This isn't arts and crafts. I can't just -

PRINCIPAL GRICE

Jazzercise shares the stage with Drama and they get along great. I'm sure you'll figure it out.

Sam leaves disgusted.

15

EXT. ROADWAY - DAY

15

Dusk. Shadows are long. The Blue Tesla takes the off ramp from Route 70 East onto a wooded two lane road, Route 529.

The speed limit drops to 25. A carved wooden sign with chipping gold paint reads Welcome to Ambler.

Ambler is sleepy. A few shops line each side of the street. The Tesla silently passes THE WATERING HOLE, a local bar, THE BOAR'S TUSK, a white tablecloth restaurant, and THE BAT CAVE, a weird comic book shop. Chip stares out the window.

Beyond downtown the houses are farther and farther apart. The woods creep in, crowding the road.

The Tesla passes Montgomery Regional. The parking lot is almost empty, save for a few cars and one lone mountain bike.

16

EXT. CLARKE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

16

The Tesla pulls into a gravel driveway. The Clarke family home is a modest two story clapboard house; dark and empty. A large barn style garage peeks out from behind the house.

A For Sale sign is set on the freshly mowed lawn.

Lucy and Chip get out of the car. Chip dances, urgently needing to go to the bathroom.

LUCY

Do you remember which rock?

Chip runs to the front porch searching.

CHIP

No!

LUCY

The one with the handprint.

She examines the For Sale sign. A picture of ANTHONY LAMBRETTI, a handsome broker, smiles at passing drivers.

CHIP

Mom! MOM! It's not there!

LUCY

I'm sure it is.

Lucy strides back to Chip looking for the rock. It isn't where its supposed to be.

Go over by the big tree.

Chip goes running to relieve himself.

Lucy pulls out her cell phone and dials.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Mom? We're here.

I told you we were coming.
Where is the rock?

Thanks.
Food in the fridge. I know. No you
don't need to -

What's with the for sale sign?

In the morning. After I get Chip
settled.

Ok. Tomorrow. Love you. Bye.

Chip finishes peeing against the tree. He zips up.

CHIP

Where's Grandma?

LUCY

With Pops. We'll see them tomorrow.
Come on. They moved the rock on us.

Lucy and Chip walk around the side of the house. Lucy finds a white rock with a child's handprints laying in a bed of happy painted rocks. A keybox is hidden underneath. She unlocks the side door and they enter. One by one lights go on inside warming up the house.

17 **EXT. MONTGOMERY REGIONAL COMBINED SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY** 17

Every space in the parking lot is full except the front row. The school is a war era brick building, solid but run down. Everyone is inside and school is already in full swing.

Lucy's Tesla pulls into the Electric Vehicle Parking spot between the empty Stork Parking space and the empty Ride Share parking space. An *electric charger* waits, never used.

18 **INT. LUCY'S TESLA - CONTINUOUS** 18

The radio blasts a silly pop song. Lucy and Chip sing along, overcompensating for their individual nerves.

The Tesla's charge is down to 30 percent.

The song finishes. Lucy and Chip each stare out the windshield at the school.

CHIP
It's so different.

LUCY
It hasn't changed.

19 **INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY** 19

Outside Ms. Grant, Principal Grice's gatekeeper, sits at her desk typing on a typewriter. Chip plays on his laptop.

Principal Grice flips through a thick file. Lucy sits across from him, drumming her fingers nervously.

PRINCIPAL GRICE
Tennessee, Florida, California,
Texas. If his grades weren't so
good I'd guess you were running
from the law.

LUCY
My work takes me a lot of places.

PRINCIPAL GRICE

Too bad he already missed
standardized testing. He could have
helped pull up our scores.

The principal lets loose a hearty laugh.

Not that we need the help. So.
You're coming home to settle down?

LUCY

I'm not really sure.

Look, Chip is a really special kid.
I need to get him enrolled, and to
get him involved in something.

PRINCIPAL GRICE

Every child is special.

Outside Principal Grice's window Sam comes into the office.
He starts talking to Ms. Grant. She gets flustered.

LUCY

Right. I just -
He needs some stimulation,
and I need him to be here after
school for a while.

PRINCIPAL GRICE

Stimulation? Like what?

LUCY

Swim Team? Didn't Amblin have a
good swim team? Chip isn't any
good, but with practice -

PRINCIPAL GRICE

Before we went regional. Pool
closed after the water moccasin
scare, but we have other sports;
Lacrosse, and Baseball?

LUCY

I don't know. Chip isn't a fan of
having balls fly at his head.

PRINCIPAL GRICE

Fishing club is pretty good. I
coach it myself. We won the last
three competitions for fishermen
under nine.

The principal shows off his casting moves. Through the window Sam makes a motion to speak with the Principal. The Principal sees but ignores Sam.

LUCY

He's eleven.
What about other clubs?

PRINCIPAL GRICE

There is yearbook and key club and the recycling club, but those are tough to join this late in the year. Lots of girls with too much makeup, if you know what I mean.

LUCY

I don't.
Is there still a Chess club or anything with computers?

Sam gets more animated with Ms. Grant outside.

PRINCIPAL GRICE

We gave up Chess in solidarity against the Russians rigging our election. Least we could do.

But Rockets and Rovers is getting ready for a big science fair. Mr. Samuels runs the program. Let me introduce you.

20

INT. SCHOOL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

20

Sam is ready to fly off the handle. Ms. Grant is both thrilled and flustered. Chip isn't interested.

SAM

- he dumps my funding, kicks me out of my room and **now I can't schedule a fundraiser until AFTER the trip!**
Donna what do you expect me to do?

Principal Grice and Lucy enter the office.

PRINCIPAL GRICE

Mr. Samuels. Good timing. We have a new student for your Science Club.

SAM

It isn't much of a club if we don't have any funding Principal Grice.

Sam notices Chip and Lucy. Sam settles down.

Besides it's merit based, he'll
have to apply.

PRINCIPAL GRICE

His grades are up to par. You can
take him on Sam.

SAM

It isn't just about grades
Lawrence. I need grit, passion.

LUCY

The Principal says you work late on
experiments.

SAM

We're building a robot.

Sam takes a closer look at Lucy. He recognizes her, but is so
angry he can't connect the dots.

LUCY

How late does it go?

SAM

We leave after the Administration
most days.

MS. GRANT

Its true. Mr. Samuels, is a very
committed educator.

LUCY

Want to build a robot Chip?

CHIP

(distracted)

Sure.

SAM

I wasn't kidding about the
application. This is an exclusive
program. Students apply in the
fall. I can't just shoehorn him in.

Chip stands up and walks over to Ms. Grant's desk with the
Laptop. He's been building a Minecraft model of the office,
and has finished animating to match the scene. A block
character dressed like Sam jumps up and down in the center.

CHIP

Can I use this for my application?

Everyone gathers around Chip's Laptop.

SAM
How long did that take you?

Chip checks his smartwatch

CHIP
Twenty three minutes.

SAM
Can you free up some funding?

PRINCIPAL GRICE
I'll find a slot for a bake sale.

SAM
(to Chip)
We meet four days a week. You get
Wednesday's off. Get ready.

LUCY
Thanks. We'll be back Tomorrow.

PRINCIPAL GRICE
You're welcome. As I said, all
children are special here in
Montgomery. Right Charles?

CHIP
It's Chip.

PRINCIPAL GRICE
Sorry Chip.
(to Lucy)
Not short for Charles?

LUCY
Micro.
Come on Chip. Let's go.

Lucy and Chip leave. Principal Grice, Sam and Ms. Grant watch
them go.

PRINCIPAL GRICE
All students are special -

SAM
What is that student's name?

MS. GRANT
Chip Clarke

PRINCIPAL GRICE

No. Microchip Clarke. First time
for everything.

You can have a bake sale next
Saturday Mr. Samuels.

Principal Grice goes back into his office and closes the
door. Sam stares after him, furious.

SAM

Saturday?
There is NO SCHOOL Saturday!

21 **EXT. MONTGOMERY REGIONAL PARKING LOT - DAY** 21

Lucy and Chip exit the school. The charger is plugged into
the Tesla. Chip gets in. Lucy unhooks the charger and
holsters it on its stand. She gets in the car.

22 **INT. LUCY'S TESLA - CONTINUOUS** 22

Lucy starts up the car. The charge gage shows 29 percent.

CHIP

Ready for takeoff?

LUCY

Still too soon.

CHIP

Are we there yet?

Chip and Lucy speed away from the school.

LUCY

You know you're going to have to
walk to school Chip. The house is
just up through that thicket.

CHIP

You can't give me a ride?

LUCY

Maybe. Sometimes, but you should
really walk.

CHIP

What if it's raining?

LUCY

You're old enough.

CHIP

Dad would give me a ride.
Or he'd call me an Uber, I'm old
enough for that too you know.

LUCY

I don't think they have Ubers in
this part of the world, Chip.

Chip turns on the radio.

They drive past the house, and through a beautiful wooded
area. After a series of turns they emerge into a manicured
landscape complete with a golf course and fountains.

A sign by the side of a gated drive reads: Welcome to OAKWOOD
ESTATES; Time to live your BEST life!

23

EXT. OAKWOOD ESTATES - CONTINUOUS

23

The Tesla turns into the circular drive for Oakwood Estates.

A series of shots:

- A well dressed elderly foursome get into a pair of golf
carts and head out to the links.
- A pretty nurse carries a silver plate like a waitress.
- An old woman emerges from the main house in designer swim
gear with sunglasses and a parasol and heads to the pool.

This isn't an assisted living home, it's a resort for people
waiting to die.

24

INT. OAKWOOD MAIN HOUSE LOBBY - DAY

24

The lobby is a cross between a hotel and a mansion. A large
marble desk is manned by TAREK BIRD, an 'over-tanned' man in
his early 40s with a sporty mustache and a turban. His
presence adds to the rich, exotic ambiance.

Chip runs up to the desk. He knows Tarek.

TAREK

May I help you?

CHIP

Is it movie night tonight?

TAREK

This isn't Cineplex 10. Aren't you here to see your grandparents?

CHIP

I am, but - movie night?

TAREK

Every night is movie night here.

CHIP

Which movie?

Tarek checks his clipboard.

TAREK

Cocoon.

Lucy catches up with Chip.

CHIP

Mom, will I like Cocoon?

LUCY

No one likes Cocoon until they're collecting social security. What else are you showing?

TAREK

Cocoon, *by request*, at five. Then The Avengers Endgame at eight.

Chip's eyes go wide and a huge smile fills his face.

CHIP

In 4d?

TAREK

In 4d with surround sound and rumble seats!

CHIP

Mom! MOM! You never took me to Avengers Endgame! Can we stay?

Can we? Can we? Can we?

LUCY

We didn't come here to watch movies Chip.

CHIP

But you promised you'd take me.

LUCY
When did I promise that?

CHIP
March eighth, after my cupcake.

LUCY
You eat alot of cupcakes buddy.

CHIP
My birthday cupcake.

LUCY
(remembers)
Right before the launch. Maybe.

Do you know where they are?

TAREK
Your mother should be on the back
nine with her regular foursome.

Your father is probably at the
guest lecture. Most of the
gentlemen are.

Would you like a map of the
grounds?

LUCY
I'll find my way. Who is the guest?

TAREK
A nutritionist. From Lithuania, I
think. Wally booked her.

LUCY
Her?

Tarek nods slow. Lucy walks away. Chip lingers.

CHIP
Avengers Endgame? For real?

TAREK
Popcorn starts at Seven.

Tarek pulls a hard candy from his turban and slides it across
the counter. Chip gobbles it up before his mom can see.

They fist bump.

Eighteen elderly men sit in a wide arc around a stage. JOSEPH CLARKE aka POPS sits near the center in a wheelchair, one leg fully extended. His friend WALLY is next to him with a walker and wrap around sunglasses. They both wear Hawaiian shirts like they're on vacation. Pops has a rye grin on his face.

BOJANA, a buxom 26 year old woman "nutritionist" in a tight tennis dress is giving a lecture. Her accent is thick, but clear. A table with various fruits is in front of her.

BOJANA

-- the ratio of fruit and vegetables to animal protein needs to be at least three to one. Try to spice things up and try something more exotic between regular meals.

Any questions?

POPS

Wally and I were wondering when you pick up something new, something you haven't tried before, how do you know it is ripe?

BOJANA

By feel. Just squeeze it.

Bojana picks up two cantaloupes, one in each hand and squeezes them. She strides over to the gentlemen and gives one each to Wally and one to Pops. She shines some attention on Wally, placing her hand over his and squeezing.

BOJANA (CONT'D)

That's right. Make sure you get your palm over the whole thing and squeeze gently. Now doesn't that feel delicious?

Wally almost has a heart attack. The whole room is aroused.

Lucy opens one door of the lecture hall. Chip crashes through the other and runs to the front to find Pops.

Pops is Chip's hero. Joseph Clarke is a big man with a big personality. He was once a house of a man; commanding and strong. Now confined to a wheelchair his barrel chest and thick arms have sagged. Pops isn't long for this world.

CHIP

POPS!

Pops drops the canteloupe in surprise. The bubble bursts in the room. Bojana returns to the podium.

POPS
Chip? Lucy!!

BOJANA
If anyone would like a personal consultation I'll be here for the next hour.

The seniors all get up and follow Wally's lead, crowding around Bojana as fast as their walkers will take them.

WALLY
Can you tell the virility of a pair of wrinkled avocados with a healthy squeeze too?

Pops peels off with Lucy and Chip.

26

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

26

Chip, Lucy and Pops walk / roll through Oakwood's main building towards the elevators.

POPS
I was wondering when two were going to show up.

CHIP
Can we fly the drone?

POPS
In a little bit, Chip.

Sorry about the launch.
Are you doing okay?

Lucy shrugs.

LUCY
I'm here. When were you going to tell me about the house?

POPS
Nothing to tell. Are you hungry?

CHIP
Starving.

LUCY

Are you trying some new diet Dad? A little extra melon on the side.

POPS

We don't need to rile your mother up about that, do we?

LUCY

So what's the story with the house?

POPS

I can't do the stairs anymore.

LUCY

Ever?

POPS

That's what it looks like.

LUCY

And Mom?

CHIP

Grammy likes it here. I like it here. Who wouldn't like it here. They have movies and video games and popcorn and -

POPS

Your grandmother does like it here.

LUCY

Really?

Pops shakes his head no emphatically as Chip walks ahead.

POPS

She likes it just as much as I do.

27

INT. DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

27

Chip, Lucy and Pops arrive at the main dining room. The space is fitted out in a plantation style motif and looks like it belongs in an island resort. Wicker tables and chairs overlook the golf course. Lunch is casual, but busy.

They find a table for four and get settled. MARIE CLARKE aka GRAMMY shows up in her golf attire. She is 72 and beautiful. Marie has always been the boss of the family.

Grammy showers her grandson in kisses, and gives her only daughter a hug. She pecks Pops on the head before sitting.

GRAMMY

How was the lecture, Joseph?

POPS

Good. Very educational.

LUCY

Indeed. You seemed very interested in proper techniques for checking the ripeness of fruit.

GRAMMY

Does that mean you can run to the market for me and sort out the canteloupe from the melons?

POPS

Chip we might get to fly that drone sooner than you think.

The women laugh.

GRAMMY

Marge told me about Bojana. She said she is going to have to switch Wally's heart medicine with his viagra for a couple of days. You better watch it or I might pull that on you too, Joseph.

POPS

I never needed viagra.

CHIP

Grammy?

GRAMMY

Yes Chip.

CHIP

Why aren't you staying with us at the house?

GRAMMY

Aren't you comfortable?

CHIP

I mean, yeah, it's great but -

LUCY

Are you really selling it?

GRAMMY

Why? Do you want to buy it?
I'm not living there. It's just
gathering dust.

CHIP

Why not?

GRAMMY

Your grandfather can't manage the
stairs, not like this. Oakwood has
everything I need.

I'm here all the time anyway.

CHIP

That doesn't mean you need to sell
it. When Pops gets better you could
move back.

GRAMMY

No you're right Chip. I don't have
to sell it. Maybe you want it?

CHIP

I'll take it, but you'd need to get
Wi-Fi. And a charger for Mom's
Tesla. And a bigger TV.

LUCY

I enrolled Chip at Amblin.

POPS

Amblin? You mean Montgomery
Regional?

LUCY

I'll never get used to that.

POPS

You're planning on staying that
long?

LUCY

I don't know. It's only ten weeks
until the end of the school year.
Nothing is going to happen until
after the investigation is over and
that will take months.

GRAMMY

You think? They've been covering it
in all the papers.

(MORE)

GRAMMY (CONT'D)

I haven't seen your name yet, but
your company is all over the
headlines -

LUCY

I know Mom.

GRAMMY

Well while you're here you can help
me get the house ready. We're
starting to show it.

Anthony will be by later. He's
fantastic, and very worldly. You'll
like him.

LUCY

Anthony? Who's Anthony?

POPS

You Mother's fancy broker.

GRAMMY

He moved here from Naples. Florida,
not Italy, but he's been to Italy,
and Spain, and Portugal. He really
is so nice. You'll see.

LUCY

Is she setting me up Dad?

POPS

This is your mother you are talking
about. She has been trying to set
you up from a thousand miles away
for years. As soon as she heard you
were coming to town she put up the
Bat Signal

LUCY

(Deadpan)
Great.

GRAMMY

Oh come on. You need a distraction.
At the very least he's easy on the
eyes, and he'll probably buy you
dinner.

It's better than roving the grocery
store manhandling the produce
aisle, right Joseph.

POPS

Come on Chip. Let's get the drone
up in the air.

28

EXT. MONTGOMERY REGIONAL PARKING LOT - DAY

28

Students of all ages trickle into school.

The parking lot is full except for the front row of special spaces. The Tesla pulls into the electric vehicle charging space. Lucy gets out. Chip is in the car. He doesn't move.

Lucy pulls the charger off and plugs her car in. She opens the driver door and pokes her head back inside.

LUCY

Do you need an invitation?

CHIP

I don't want to go.

LUCY

Its going to be fine.

CHIP

I don't know anybody.

Lucy climbs into the car.

29

INT. LUCY'S TESLA - CONTINUOUS

29

LUCY

You have to go to school Chip.

CHIP

No I don't. I could get my lessons on YouTube or TED or watch some college channel. You could force me to watch Planet Earth for the eighteen thousandth time. I'd learn the same stuff.

LUCY

You love Planet Earth.

CHIP

I love shark attacks.

LUCY

Me too.

Look buddy.

(MORE)

LUCY (CONT'D)

You have to go to school. It's going to be fine. I went to this school and I turned out OK.

Chip rolls his eyes at his mother.

OK I turned out all screwed up, but it is a good school. Nice teachers. Nice kids. You can do this.

CHIP

Planet Earth? Shark attacks?

LUCY

Go!

CHIP

Do I have to?

LUCY

You do. I'll get you after your robot club.

CHIP

Fine.

LUCY

Love you.

CHIP (O.S.)

Love you too. Shark attacks.

Chip gets out of the car. He heads into school. Lucy looks at the dash. The Tesla's charge is 5%.

30 **EXT. MONTGOMERY REGIONAL PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS** 30

Lucy watches Chip, making sure he makes it all the way into the building. Once he's inside she locks the Tesla and walks around the school, back towards the house.

31 **EXT. WOODED PATH - CONTINUOUS** 31

The route Lucy takes winds around the school building, up a hill and through a wooded path. She hasn't walked this path in years, but she knows every step. The path winds behind a few homes to the back of her parent's property.

There is a small picket gate with no fence. It was painted once, but the paint is gone. Clarke is carved into a wood post. She opens the gate and heads into the back.

LUCY

I left it at the school to charge.

MARIE

Lucy, this is Anthony.
Anthony, my daughter Lucy.

ANTHONY

The rocket scientist. Your mother raves about your accomplishments, but she failed to highlight your natural gifts.

LUCY

Propulsion engineer.
Nice to meet you.

They shake hands.

MARIE

Lucy, there was a delivery for you. The box is by the front door. Can you make sure you put it away? Anthony thinks the house is almost ready to show.

ANTHONY

I'd like to do an open house next week, but you'll need to clean this out first.

MARIE

Lucy is here to help me out.

LUCY

I am?

MARIE

You know what's in there. It all has to go if we are going to show this place.

ANTHONY

Next week. The weather looks perfect. There'll be lots of people out looking at property if they aren't on the golf course.

MARIE

You know Lucy is an excellent golfer. She was on her college golf team at Stanford.

LUCY
No. That was at ASU.

ANTHONY
We should find your mother a
companion and we could make it a
foursome.

LUCY
I don't really golf anymore. Not in
a long time.

ANTHONY
Then something else. You're here.
We'll see each other.

Marie, a pleasure as always.

Anthony shakes Lucy's hand and kisses Marie on the cheek.
Marie and Lucy watch him go.

LUCY
Why does he talk like that?

MARIE
He's from Venice. It's so charming.

LUCY
Venice?

MARIE
Venice Florida. He's very handsome.

LUCY
It's weird. Handsome, in weird
shiny, kind of way.

MARIE
You could do worse.

LUCY
I already have Mom. Twice.

The women turn their attention to the garage.

35

INT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

35

LUCY
Dad should really be the one to
clean this out.

MARIE
He can't do it.

LUCY
Because of his hip?

MARIE
Because he won't. Maybe we can
donate a few things to the vo-tech.

LUCY
Or a museum. I'll take a pass, but
Dad should still have the last
word. It's his collection. He'll
want to tinker when he comes back.

Beat

He's not coming back.

MARIE
The open house is next weekend.
I won't close until after you and
Chip leave.

Marie leaves Lucy in the garage.

This is going to be hard. This was her safe place growing up.
The place where she could get lost in the machines, tinkering
with her father.

Lucy's cell phone rings. She looks at the screen. The readout
shows SONIC PROPULSION LABS. Her past is chasing her.

She turns the phone off.

36

INT. WRESTLING ROOM - DAY

36

The room is a windowless cinder block space, just large
enough for a set of mats on the floor. There are stains on
the walls and floor from the sixth grade 'fight club'.

Sam paces in front of a wall with three poster sized pieces
of paper hung. He is wearing HULK GLOVES.

The kids who make up the Rockets and Rovers class sit cross
legged on the mat, books spread out around them. The kids are
HENRY AARON, coke bottle glasses, fifth grade, VERONICA
JULES, Wonder Woman shirt, crazy hair, sixth grade, STAN LEE,
runt boy fourth grade, SUZY STORM, lanky sixth grader, MIKEY
JAGGER over-tired, over-scheduled fifth grader and Chip.

SAM
I'm not going to sugar coat it. We
have been through plans A to L. we
need a new plan.

STAN

What's wrong with Dunker? I think he's a pretty cool robot.

HENRY

It doesn't work. It never worked.

SAM

It might work, but we can't get to a working robot without a major overhaul and some expensive parts. We need all the money we have left to pay for the trip. It's time to move on. We need a design that uses what we already have.

He goes to a poster showing a pogo jumping robot with a basketball hoop. The robot design looks impressive and complicated. He hits the wall and the design is covered by a poster of a rocket exploding.

Even the smartest engineers fail sometimes.

VERONICA

How are we going to figure this out. We aren't even in the lab?

SAM

Maybe a change of scenery will make all the difference. Dig deep. I want you to smell the blood, sweat, and tears of the ones who came before you.

HENRY

They used to hold science club in the Wrestling Room?

VERONICA

Only when they dissect goats.

STAN

For Biology Class?

SUZY

For Sloppy Joe day.

Everyone laughs, except Stan.

STAN

Hey! I like sloppy joe day.

SAM

Let's focus. The presidential science fair is four weeks away. We aren't going to miss it, and we can't phone it in. We need to come up with a redesign we can build with parts we can actually get.

CHIP

What does the robot have to do?

MIKEY

It's a sport robot. It has to play a sport.

Suzy gets up and starts drawing on a fresh sheet of paper, cartooning what they describe.

SUZY

I still think the Sumo robot would be pretty cool. Big body. Low center of gravity. Like a hulky battle bot.

SAM

That's cool, but the rules state the robot has to interact with a ball. Sumo is out.

SUZY

What if it was a sumo ninja robot?

JAGGER

And it could cut the ball in half!

SUZY

Exactly. Fruit ninja style! That would be awesome.

Sam joins her, cartooning a giant sumo style robot ninja cutting a basketball in half on a piece of paper.

SAM

This doesn't really meet the rules. Let's start again. What was special about Dunker?

JAGGER

He could dunk on Shaq.

VERONICA

He? Watch your pronouns.

JAGGER

It could dunk on Shaq. That was the idea.

SAM

Right. But the problem was getting both enough air under the robot and having the control to dunk the ball in the basket.

Lucy sits. Henry steps up, drawing on a fresh paper.

HENRY

What if we just hit a ball?

SAM

Are you thinking baseball Henry?

HENRY

No. Everybody does baseball. We need something different.

STAN

What about tennis?

CHIP

Wouldn't you need two robots?

SAM

Probably not, but if we want to win we need something special, like a tennis playing robot that can hit harder than Serena.

Sam sketches a robot with a tennis racket as the kids talk.

VERONICA

If it has to hit a tennis ball it will also have to run or roll and position.

STAN

It'll need a tracking system to see the ball.

SUZY

And the court.

HENRY

And the net.

JAGGER

And power. It has to have power for big swings.

Sam and Henry finish up the sketch showing a complicated robot with a bunch of features. The robot looks heavy.

SAM

I don't know if this is realistic.
It's ambitious, but with so little
time. Let's try again.

He hits the wall and a poster of the challenger explosion
unfurls over the design.

37

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

37

A few kids are in the hallway gathering their things to
leave. Lucy is looking for Mr. Samuels Lab. She finds the lab
and sees two custodians painting the walls.

Ms. Lee comes out of her classroom with her yoga mat and
workout bag. She passes Lucy.

LUCY

Do you know where Rockets and
Robots is?

MS. LEE

Sam's club? I think they set up in
the wrestling room today.

38

INT. WRESTLING ROOM - DAY

38

The wrestling room is filled with posters of explosions and
failures. The last poster is a screenshot of the Artimis
explosion. Big red letters read FAILURE on each poster.

The kids are restless. They've been at this for hours.

SAM

Failure isn't an option. We aren't
going to crash and burn. This robot
needs to be based on simple
physics.

CHIP

Like a trebuchet?

SUZY

A what?

STAN

Ancient catapult.

HENRY

What would it throw? A football?

VERONICA

You'd never get a good spiral.

CHIP

No. But I bet it could whack a ball
hard enough to break a record.

Chip's smile grows as he taps on his laptop. He has an idea!

Do we have an arc welder?

Henry and Veronica each get into a batting type stance and
model hitting motions.

Jagger draws a picture in his notebook.

Stan and Suzy bounce from poster to poster

STAN

WE WILL NOT FAIL

SUZY

WE WILL NOT FAIL

The room has devolved into controlled chaos.

Sam glows in the ambition of these kids. He raises up his
Hulk Gloves and starts running with Stan and Suzy hitting the
posters.

Veronica, Jagger and Henry join the parade yelling out ideas
for the new robot.

VERONICA

Longer lever arms!

JAGGER

Hydraulic anchors!

HENRY

Laser array tracking!

Lucy enters the Wrestling Room.

The parade of kids are running in circles around the room
hitting the posters, Sam leads the chaos.

Chip is cross legged on the mat typing frantically. A thumb
drive sticks out from his laptop.

The posters on the wall show Columbia, Challenger and
Artimis, among other terrible engineering disasters all with
the word FAILURE painted over them.

Lucy focuses on the Artimis poster. She is appalled.

LUCY
 (To self)
 Failure?
 (To chip)
 Chip! We need to go.

Sam sees Lucy and comes over. He offers a Hulk Glove.

SAM
 (out of breath)
 Nice to see you again Mrs. Clarke.

LUCY
 (Nonplused)
 Lucy. This is Rockets and Robots?
 What are you teaching them?

SAM
 We're doing a motivating exercise
 about failure.

LUCY
 Motivating about failure?
 With Green Fists?

Lucy is not impressed.
 Chip we have to go.

Chip hustles to pack up his bag.

SAM
 Hulk gloves.
 You've got a really smart kid here.

LUCY
 I know I do.
 Chip, let's go. We're late.

39

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

39

Lucy hustles Chip down the hall.

CHIP
 Mom, hang on.

Mr. Samuels lingers at the door, half watching the class,
 half watching Lucy.

Chip runs back and hands Sam a thumb drive.

Here. I had an idea. We can use
 this tomorrow.

LUCY

Come on Chip. Let's go!

Chip runs back to his Mom. Sam looks at the thumb drive. It has a NASA logo on it. He watches Lucy and Chip leave.

40 **EXT. AMBLIN DOWNTOWN - NIGHT**

40

Sam leaves a darkened school and rides his mountain bike, past the Clarke's House into downtown Amblin. The downtown is modest with a few stalwart shops and restaurants hanging on.

A dark colonial building with a glassed in porch sits at the end of the street. Sam parks his bike on the side and goes up the stairs into the front.

THE BATCAVE: Comics, Coffee and Cravings. All are welcome.

41 **INT. THE BATCAVE - CONTINUOUS**

41

Four college-aged boys and two girls sit around a carved wooden table playing Magic The Gathering. Two grown men sit in refurbished barber chairs reading comic books. HARMONY JONES a 22 year old artist is behind the counter cleaning up.

SAM

Hi, Harmony

HARMONY

You're late. I need to cash out.

SAM

Ok. Give me a minute.

Sam stashes his bike helmet and bag in the back. He pulls off his tie and unbuttons his school shirt. Underneath is a throw-back Superman T-Shirt.

What's the rush?

HARMONY

They sent the story. I've got panels due next week.

SAM

Is it yours?

HARMONY

It's never yours. I'm still competing for this job.

SAM

Ok. I'm ready. Cash out. Go draw.

Harmony packs up a sketchbook and tablet.

HARMONY

Thanks. You've got Friday covered?

SAM

No problem.

Harmony leaves. Sam pulls a ragged ledger from under the register and flips to today's sales. The numbers are modest. He flips ahead a few pages. Bills due are noted in red.

LUTHER, a 53 year old regular comes to the counter. He's got a small stack of hyper-violent comics; Punisher, Walking Dead, etc, and a ceramic mug with the Joker's face on it.

LUTHER

Can I get a refill?

Sam puts the ledger away and pours a cup of coffee for Luther. Luther passes over a dollar and pulls a small flask from his pocket.

SAM

I wish you wouldn't.

LUTHER

You can't stop me.

SAM

Did you read the Captain Marvel I put aside for you?

LUTHER

Didn't bother.

SAM

You should try it.

LUTHER

A woman superhero? To unrealistic.

SAM

You know what year it is right Luther? We've sent women into outer space. We almost had a woman president.

LUTHER

Fake news.

Sam looks back at the ledger. He pencils in 1\$ and an LL next to it. There are other LL's on the page. As much as it pains him, Luther is Sam's best customer.

Sam settles into his second job. He pulls out papers to grade. A few comic books are in the pile with pages marked by his physics students. He smiles at their creativity.

42

INT. KITCHEN - NEXT DAY

42

Chip sits at the kitchen table dressed for school eating a bowl of cereal. He is looking at a comic book. Lucy enters, still in her pajamas.

LUCY

(to self)

Rot your teeth or rot your brain?

Both I guess.

Lucy smiles and pours herself a bowl of the sugary cereal.

CHIP

I can hear you.

Can you drive me today?

LUCY

It's sunny out. You can walk.

CHIP

Dad would drive me. He'd be worried about my how much solar radiation exposure I'm getting.

LUCY

You sit inside all day. You need your vitamin D.

Beaten, Chip keeps eating.

The doorbell rings.

CHIP

I got it.

Chip runs to the front door and opens it. Lucy watches, in no rush to get up. A DELIVERY MAN holds three boxes.

DELIVERY MAN

Lucy Clarke?

CHIP

She's my mom. I can sign for it.

DELIVERY MAN

Actually you can't.

Lucy stands and crosses. She signs for the boxes and carries

them back to the kitchen table. She opens one. Inside is a thick binder titled SONIC PROPULSION LABS: CONFIDENTIAL on the cover. She frowns looking at it. Chip watches her.

CHIP

Homework?

LUCY

Trouble.

Finish up. You have to get to school.

Chip eats two more bites and throws on his backpack. Still holding the binder, Lucy walks him to the door and kisses her boy on the head.

Have a great day. I'll pick you up right after school?

CHIP

No. I have Rockets and Robots.

LUCY

Are you sure Chip? You don't really know those kids yet, and I didn't appreciate what your teacher was doing yesterday --

CHIP

We're trying to build a robot mom. Something really cool. Mr. Samuels barely has any supplies, so he's just reminding us how hard it is to do something that awesome.

It wasn't personal.

LUCY

No?

CHIP

Mr. Samuels doesn't even know what you do.

LUCY

Ok buddy. Love you.

CHIP

Love you too. Bye mom.

He scurries off. Lucy watches him go. Once he is out of sight she closes the door and drops the binder on a pile of similar boxes near the front door.

43

INT. GARAGE - DAY

43

Sunlight shines through gaps around the doors. The center garage door opens, letting in more light. The other doors open, pouring light inside. The garage is crowded with junk.

Lucy steps into the light. She is in work jeans, a plaid work shirt, gloves and safety goggles. A screw gun is holstered on one hip. A crowbar on the other. She looks bad-ass.

A SERIES OF SHOTS: LUCY DOES SURGERY ON THE MACHINES

-- Lucy takes apart an old washer, removing all the hoses like intestines

-- Lucy takes apart a dryer removing the drums like lungs

-- Lucy wheels out the dirt bike and removes the engine block like a heart.

-- Most of the machines in the garage have been disassembled to their basic parts. Parts are sorted into piles.

-- Lucy sets aside two large boxes filled with parts. One is labeled Rockets. The other labeled Robots.

-- Lucy is dirty. Her arms are greasy, her face is striped with dirt. She can't help but smile, this has been fun. She holsters her screw gun.

44

EXT. BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

44

Lucy hefts the Rockets and Robots box into the back of the Tesla, closes the garage doors, and heads inside to clean up.

An Italian Convertible pulls into the drive behind the Tesla. Anthony gets out of the car looking like a million dollars. He has a YOUNG COUPLE with him who are under his spell.

ANTHONY

Now this one isn't on the market just yet, but if you like what you see we could stay one step ahead and get you to a closing without a bidding war.

WIFE

It looks close to the school.

ANTHONY

Walking distance. There has only been one owner here for 30 years.

HUSBAND

That says alot.

Through an upstairs window Lucy undresses. No one notices.

ANTHONY

Would you like to go inside?

Anthony pulls the key from under the HANDPRINT ROCK and takes them around to the front.

Inside the shower starts to run.

45

INT. FOYER - CONTINUOUS

45

A pile of Fed Ex boxes, some opened, some not are stacked by the door. They are all addressed to Lucy from SPL.

ANTHONY

The house is modest, but the property is large. It continues all the way back behind the carriage house towards the school.

Should we start upstairs?

WIFE

Lead the way.

46

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

46

Lucy, naked, except for the goggles she's forgotten to remove is dancing around looking for a clean towel. She finds one and slips into the bathroom and pulls the door shut.

Anthony gets to the top of the stairs and sees clothes strewn on the floor of a guest bedroom. He frowns, closes the door, and leads them to the empty master bedroom.

ANTHONY

This is the largest bedroom in the house. It isn't a classic master suite, but you could easily expand into the adjacent sitting room.

HUSBAND

It's bigger than it looks from the outside.

Anthony and the couple go deeper into the master bedroom.

The bathroom door opens and Lucy quietly runs wet and naked from the bath to the guest room. Her hair is full of shampoo and she still has the goggles on. She forgot her razor. Lucy runs back to the bathroom and shuts the door. She hasn't noticed the visitors and they haven't noticed her.

Anthony emerges and leads the couple down the hall towards the bath. He hears it running and stops short.

ANTHONY

You said you love to cook?

WIFE

Actually he does, but I really want to see the kitchen?

ANTHONY

Of course. This one has been upgraded to be both functional and...

The three of them go downstairs to continue the tour.

The shower turns off.

Lucy emerges from the bathroom. Her hair is wrapped in a towel, and the goggles are on, but fogged up. She wears an undersized robe that barely covers her. She wipes the fog off the goggles, but keeps them on.

Lucy steps out to the hallway, happy, calm. She goes downstairs to get a snack.

47

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

47

Anthony and the couple are staring through a sliding door out to the yard. Anthony is frowning at the new mess.

ANTHONY

This will all be cleaned up soon,
but the back deck is really lovely.
They get great sunlight.

The couple walks out onto the deck.

Lucy walks into the kitchen and opens the refrigerator. She still doesn't see them.

Anthony turns, shocked to see mostly naked Lucy standing at the fridge. He muffles a yelp and breaks into a smile.

Lucy turns with an apple in her hand and goes white. Her robe hangs loose. Anthony is staring at her with his finger to his lips. She is shocked, but not embarrassed.

Anthony points to the couple outside.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

(whispers)

I'm showing the house.

LUCY

Next week!

ANTHONY

Early buyers.

(to the couple)

That's right. If you head straight back you'll find the path to the school.

LUCY

(whisper yell)

What the hell? Mom said next week!

ANTHONY

Do you want to put some clothes on?

LUCY

No. Actually, I don't. This is my house, and I didn't invite you in.

ANTHONY

(whisper)

I told you mother. I would have called you, but I didn't have your number. They're coming back in a second, and if you could pull yourself together they might just buy the place.

(to the couple)

To your right. That is a wonderful spot for a vegetable garden.

(whisper)

Give me your number so this won't happen again.

Unless you want it too.

He flashes a million dollar smile. Lucy, frustrated but intrigued, pulls a piece of paper off the fridge and writes her phone number on it.

LUCY
 (flirty mad)
 You've practically seen me naked.

You better buy dinner!

Lucy ducks out of the kitchen and heads back upstairs.

The couple comes back inside.

HUSBAND
 When does it go on the market?

ANTHONY
 Friday.

WIFE
 A week Friday? It doesn't seem
 ready yet.

ANTHONY
 Oh it'll be ready. You'll see. The
 transformation is well underway.

48

EXT. MONTGOMERY REGIONAL PARKING LOT - DAY

48

Lucy's tesla pulls into the EV parking spot. She pops the trunk and pulls out a golf bag and the robot parts box. She struggles to balance both and heads to the door.

Ms. Peacock and Ms. Lee are leaving for the day. They walk out as Lucy walks in, holding the door for her.

LUCY
 Do you know where Rockets and
 Rovers is today?

MS. PEACOCK
 Mr. Samuel's club?

LUCY
 Yes.

MS. LEE
 I think they moved it to the
 library, if it's happening.

LUCY
 If?

MS. PEACOCK

It's optional. If they don't get some more fundraising done they aren't going to do much this year.

LUCY

Thanks.

49

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

49

The library is the only carpeted room in the school. It is filled with bookshelves and stacks of books. Three sets of encyclopedia dominate the front of the room. A giant sign reads NO COMPUTERS over the bookshelves.

The rockets and robots class is spread out, each student with a stack of books and a notepad. Sam wanders between groups with a Blue Beast Wig and glasses.

SAM

How many Apollo missions were there?

VERONICA

Seventeen.

STAN

No. Six.

VERONICA

There were seventeen. Says so right here.

Holds up a history of space book from 1986

STAN

But only six achieved their goal. Says so right here.

Holds up an encyclopedia from 1982

SAM

You're both right. What was their mission?

HENRY

The Apollo program was designed to land humans on the Moon and bring them back safely to Earth.

SAM

Correct. They only pulled it off six times, but the achievement was tremendous.

MICKEY

What does this have to do with sports?

SAM

Good question. Did anyone find anything in these books about sports played on the moon?

The class shakes their heads no.

Me neither.

Lucy crashes into the library. She stumbles about trying to balance, but trips over the golf bag and falls headlong into a table, spilling her box out all over. Machine parts, hoses, connectors, a small engine block, and batteries fall out.

The class is surprised, Sam most of all. Chip grins.

SAM (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

LUCY

I'm fine. Sorry to interrupt. We just had these lying around and I thought you could put them to good use for your Moon Shot.

Sam picks up a piece of machinery and looks at the array on the table.

SAM

Moon shot? I'm sure we can --

But he has no idea how.

LUCY

I have an old set of clubs. There is even a six iron, but you might want the driver. Doesn't matter, take what you need. I can collect them after the science fair.

SAM

Chip didn't tell you? It's not just any science fair. It is the presidential symposium on science in elementary education.

LUCY
Impressive. How'd you get invited?

SUZY
He didn't. We did.

The students gather around the table, examining the parts.

SAM
It's a long story. Thanks for bringing the parts, but I'm not sure we'll need the clubs.

LUCY
You have your own?

SAM
No. Yes?

LUCY
You do know what the moon shot is don't you?

The entire class shakes their heads no.

Sam, defeated, also shakes his head no.

LUCY (CONT'D)
Chip can I borrow your laptop?

Chip reluctantly points to the sign in the library. Lucy, Chip and Sam share a look. Sam nods. Chip pulls his laptop from his bag and hands it over. Lucy taps on it.

She turns it over to show a famous photograph of Alan Shepard swinging a golf club on the Moon.

1971, Apollo 14. Alan Shepard smuggles a golf ball and a six iron on board. In full gear he hits a ball on the moon. It is said that it went more than two miles. No one has played golf on the moon since.

SAM
You want to play golf on the moon?

LUCY
(Deadpan)
I thought you did.

SAM
I'm going to need some help.

LUCY
I can see that.

50

INT. SCIENCE LAB - DAY

50

Lucy, Sam and the Rockets and Rovers crew are gathered around two lab tables pushed together in the center of the partially painted lab. They are all building models or drawing pictures. Chip is working his laptop.

MIKEY
It has to get over the terrain;
grass, rough, sand, pavement.

STAN
It is going to need a serious
targeting system.

SUZY
Don't forget about the water
features.

SAM
There isn't water on the moon.

SUZY
But there might be on other
planets.

LUCY
Touche'

Lucy high fives Suzy.

HENRY
How are we going to swing the club?

STAN
Electric motor?

VERONICA
Hydraulics?

CHIP
Trebuchet!

MIKEY
Water means mud. The wheels need to
be serious, like my BMX.

VERONICA
Knobbier. Like my Dad's jeep.

LUCY
Knobbier than that, but I wouldn't
stress about the tires.

A picture starts to emerge. A roughly sketched rover with six knobby tires, an A-Frame catapult type side arm, pinball flippers with putter heads and golfbag on its back.

Chip moves to the center and in big marker letters writes CADDY-01

MIKEY

What's that name mean?

CHIP

I don't know, but I like it.

LUCY

Me too.

SAM

Me three.

51

INT. SCIENCE LAB - DAY

51

The lab is mostly cleaned up. All of the students except Chip have left. Lucy and Sam are putting equipment away.

LUCY

If you use a turntable assembly you can probably set up a few different clubs to be loaded onto the catapult arm.

SAM

It won't be balanced.

LUCY

Offset the A Frame and load your electronics and batteries to even out the loads. I assume you have a few car batteries.

Sam has a blank look

There must be ten of them in my garage, I mean my carriage house. I'll bring some by.

SAM

You know you're a natural at this.

LUCY

Engineering?

SAM

Teaching.

LUCY

I'm not so sure about that --
either one really.

SAM

I am. Can you come back and help us
with the build? I'm not sure how we
are going to pull this off in three
weeks.

LUCY

For the Presidential Science Fair?
That's for real?

SAM

Afraid so. The students petitioned
for me in the fall, after -

LUCY

After what?

SAM

It doesn't matter.

Sam notices the NASA thumb drive Chip gave him the first day.
He hands it back to Lucy.

I think this is yours.

Do you work for NASA?

LUCY

I did.

SAM

Doing what?

LUCY

Propulsion engines. I led the
Acoustics Team for the last few
shuttle engines. We did some ground
breaking stuff with sound waves. I
left NASA to work for a company
you've probably never heard of,
building the next generation of
rockets.

SAM

(puts two and two
together)

SPL?

Artemis?

You were -

LUCY
I was.

SAM
Oh.

I'm so sorry.

LUCY
You didn't know.

Lucy looks at the explosion posters with the word FAILURE plastered on his wall. She flattens.

LUCY (CONT'D)
Chip we should get going.

Sam sees where she is looking.

SAM
Wait, are you mad about my pep talk? I was trying to...
(He begins to understand)

I didn't mean you -

Chip and Lucy gather their things.

LUCY
A lecture on failures doesn't sound much like a pep talk, at least not to me, but I'm no teacher.

Come on Chip.

Lucy doesn't wait. She heads out to the hall.

SAM
I don't think you're a -

Chip finishes packing up and heads to the door.

CHIP
Failure?

Why not. The rest of the world does.

Chip leaves.

Sam is left in the science lab alone.

52 **EXT. MONTGOMERY REGIONAL PARKING LOT - NIGHT**

52

The lot is almost empty.

Lucy walks directly to the Tesla, not waiting for Chip. She unplugs the car, gets in and starts it up.

Chip follows, rushing.

53 **INT. LUCY'S TESLA - CONTINUOUS**

53

The dashboard shows a full charge.

Lucy pulls her phone and turns it on. It sinks up with the car. An array of messages fill the dashboard screen. She sees the list of numbers from all over the country.

LUCY

Shit.

Chip gets in the car.

CHIP

You shouldn't be so mean to Mr. Samuels.

LUCY

Why?

CHIP

He's trying. Maybe he's not as smart as you, but he's trying.

LUCY

Maybe he's not as smart as you.

CHIP

Still.

Lucy turns back to face her son.

LUCY

What.

CHIP

Its just. Don't me be mean to him. He's not like Dad. And you aren't fair when you are mean to guys like him.

LUCY

You think?

Chip nods.

He's a pretty good teacher huh?

CHIP

We only used legos in the robot class I had in Arizona.

LUCY

I'll try to go easy on him, but you too mister.

You could have told him about Alan Shepard.

CHIP

I thought he knew and was just stringing us along.

Both Lucy and Chip laugh. Chip notices the phone list.

Do you need to call them back?

LUCY

No. They don't need me. I've already done enough.

Let's get dinner.

54

INT. CLARKE'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

54

Chinese take out boxes litter the counter. A bottle of wine is half finished. Chip's chromebook is charging. Three of the **SPL binders** are open on the kitchen table.

Lucy paces, barefoot with her phone and a half empty glass.

Lucy dials the next number.

LUCY

Yes. Hi. This is Lucy Clarke. You called.

Okay.

I did.

Propulsion. Chief Engineer.

No. Did you?

She flips a page in one binder. It shows a sketch in her hand with her name on the bottom.

No comment. Thanks.
I'm sure. No. Those are patented. I
can't talk about that. No.

No.
No comment.

Goodbye.

Lucy hangs up. She marks the number 'Press', takes a swig of
wine and dials the next number.

Hi. This is Lucy Clarke. You called
me.

Okay.

You work for SPL. Legal?
I see.
Do you know -
Oh. Right.

Am I in trouble?

She flips to another page that reads APPROVAL TO BUILD. Her
signature is next to the approval.

Do I need -

Oh. Yes, I have a kid too.
Tomorrow.

Lucy hangs up. She marks the number 'Lawyer', finishes the
glass of wine and dials the next number.

Hi. This is Lucy Clarke. You called
my number.

Okay.

Congressional Aide? For who?

They've moved up the hearings?

I see.

You have my patents?

She turns to a page filled with a list of PATENTS PENDING.
Her name is next to seven of them.

And my sketches? And if -

(MORE)

LUCY (CONT'D)

Oh. I see. Yes.

I'll need time.

She pours another glass as she talks.

Okay. Yes I see.

Goodbye.

Lucy hangs up. She marks the number '**Completely Fucked**'. She downs the rest of the wine and looks back at her phone. There is only one number left.

Yes. Hi. This is Lucy Clarke. You called my number.

Okay.

Sam?

Oh hi! Yes, sorry I didn't recognize the number. Things are a little - yes.

Sure. No, me neither. I did have fun today. Yeah, until - you know what, let's not talk about it.

Did you get your hands on some car batteries?

Ok, I have some here. I'll bring them down.

No. Not as good as the battery in my Tesla, but I think it'll probably do.

You are. I don't know. I can't leave Chip on his own.

Maybe.

Not then, but another - you know what. I shouldn't. Not right now.

I'm not in the right - No, it's not like that, but I can't.

Thanks Sam.

I'll see you.

Lucy hangs up. She marks the contact *Mister Samuels*, then deletes it and writes *Sam Samuels Teacher*, then deletes it and writes **Sam Samuels?** She isn't sure what he is to her.

55 **INT. SAM'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS**

55

Sam is in a plain white T-Shirt and shorts. He looks at his phone and marks the number **Lucy Clarke**. Their High School yearbook is on the table in front of him, opened to a picture of Lucy from graduation.

Sam flips back to his text screen. There is a photograph of Ms. Lee and Ms. Peacock toasting him at the local bar. The text underneath reads 'Staff Meeting Mandatory'.

Sam puts on a 'going out' shirt and leaves the apartment.

56 **EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT**

56

Main street is quiet and dark.

Sam gets on his mountain bike and heads to the other side of town. It gets brighter and more lively as he goes farther.

Sam arrives at THE WATERING HOLE and locks up his bike.

The Watering Hole is a honky tonk saloon. A local band is inside playing covers. The place isn't full, but it is full enough to feel crowded.

Through the window Sam can see most of the teachers in the school including Ms. Lee and Ms. Peacock laughing and drinking. They don't see him yet. He pauses, not sure he wants to go in, but he's here.

Sam enters THE WATERING HOLE.

57 **INT. SCIENCE LAB - DAY**

57

Sam is in a full Batman Cowl and Cape. His voice is scratchy.

The Rockets and Robots kids are all working on pieces of CADDY-01. Three students have the frame of a catapult started. Two others are working on the chassis. Chip is on his laptop taking notes and looking things up.

CHIP

The frame needs to handle more than
4000 pounds of force.

SUZY
No wonder Tiger has back trouble.

HENRY
Tiger?

VERONICA
Famous Golfer. At least he was. Old
guy now. Look him up.

CHIP
Do we have any welding gear?

Sam raises his head from the desk where it has been resting.

SAM
No.

CHIP
Do we have any epoxy adhesives?

SAM
No.

CHIP
Do we have any duct tape?

SAM
No.

Henry, Veronica and Suzy have been moving the A Frame of
CADDY-01 to the chasis Mikey and Stan are building. They set
it down carefully.

CHIP
What do we have?

Everyone can see the robot coming together. They back away
slowly knowing it is a house of cards.

Sam pulls out a giant bottle of Elmers glue.

CADDY-01 falls to pieces.

STAN
This isn't going to work.

VERONICA
We need real tools.

MIKEY
We need real materials.

SUZY

We need a real workshop.

Sam pulls himself together and joins them at the heap of materials.

SAM

Listen. We might not have everything we need, but we need to do the most with what we do have. Make me a list of what you need and I'll see what I can do.

MIKEY

We can have another bake sale?

STAN

There isn't time.

SAM

We don't need a bake sale. Stan is right, there isn't time. Give me your list. I'll work it out.

CHIP

Look at your phone.

Sam picks up his phone. Chip has emailed a list of parts. Sam scrolls and scrolls.

SAM

All of this?

The whole class nods.

I'll see what I can do. Let's regroup tomorrow.

The class starts to clean up and gather their things.

CHIP

(To Stan)

Why are we in the Presidential Science Fair if we can't get basic parts?

STAN

Because of the video?

CHIP

What video?

STAN

Mr. Samuels video.

VERONICA

It went viral. Bigger than cats
dancing to K-Pop for a hot second.

MIKEY

I still think the K-Pop videos are
better.

58 **EXT. PATH - DAY**

58

Chip walks home from school. His backpack is heavy. He winds around the backside of the school and through the woods up to the gate at the back of the Clarke House.

The garage is wide open. Lucy has cleaned out half of the garage. Machine parts lay in piles everywhere. It looks like a huge workshop inside.

Chip goes to the back door and opens it. He can hear his mother inside.

LUCY (O.S.)

There is no way I can be there
tomorrow. Maybe in a few days. I've
barely gotten settled. No Chip can
stay with my Mom, but - Yes. I
know. Let me see what I can do.

59 **INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS**

59

Chip steps inside, making sure to be heard.

Lucy stands at the counter with a notepad, still on the phone. She looks at him and smiles. She mouths 'wipe your feet'. Chip dutifully does.

LUCY

I know. I know. I didn't expect
this happen so fast. I know. Okay.
Look I told you, I'll make
arrangements. I will. Talk to you
soon. Goodbye.

She hangs up.

Hey buddy! How was your day?

CHIP

Do we have an arc welder?

LUCY

Why do you ask?

CHIP

You've always said welded connections are stronger than bolted connections.

LUCY

Have I? They can be. They aren't always.

CHIP

So do we?

LUCY

I had one back at the shop. I don't think your grandfather has one here.

CHIP

Can we look?

LUCY

No Chip. Are you okay?

CHIP

Have you talked to my Dad?

LUCY

Only to tell him that we are here. Why?

CHIP

Maybe I should go stay with him for a while.

LUCY

Why would you say that?

Did something happen today.

CHIP

No. I just figured with all your *arrangements*, it might be easier.

LUCY

No sweetie. No. This doesn't need to be 'easier'. We are fine right here.

CHIP

But you have to leave again?

LUCY

I might. Only for a few days. With everything that happened with Artimis some people want to talk to me.

CHIP

But you didn't do anything wrong.

LUCY

But they need to find out who did.

CHIP

Are they going to put you in jail?

LUCY

No. Nothing like that. Don't jump to conclusions.

CHIP

(Worried)

Didn't they put the O-Ring guy in Jail?

LUCY

No buddy. No one went to jail for Challenger. It was a terrible accident, but no one went to jail.

CHIP

(Ready to cry)

Do you think someone will go to jail for Artimis?

LUCY

I don't know buddy.

What happened at school today?

CHIP

Nothing an arc welder can't fix.

Chip dumps his backpack on a chair and rushes up to his room upset. Lucy watches after him. Her phone rings.

LUCY

Chip?

CHIP (O.S.)

(Through tears)

I need an arc welder!

The phone rings again. Lucy picks up.

LUCY

Hi Mom. Yes. Okay. Thanks. I'll drop by with Chip in a little bit.

I'm only doing this because it's a free dinner. Don't get your hopes up.

And Mom. Don't let Dad tell Chip where the Arc Welder is.

60 **EXT. OAKWOOD ESTATES - NIGHT**

60

The Tesla drives up the circular drive. Tarek is waiting. He opens the passenger door. Chip gets out with his backpack.

LUCY

Bye buddy. Have fun tonight.

CHIP

What's the movie?

TAREK

Cocoon

LUCY

I love you buddy.

TAREK

Your mother is talking to you Chip.

CHIP

(Cold)

Bye. What's after Cocoon?

Chip closes the door. He is frustrated with his mom and can't express it except through a cold shoulder.

61 **INT. LUCY'S TESLA - CONTINUOUS**

61

Lucy watches Chip go. She's seen this before. It worries her, but she knows he will be okay, especially here.

62 **INT. BOAR'S TUSK RESTAURANT - NIGHT**

62

White tablecloth restaurant. The room is not crowded. Anthony looks like he came straight from a Calvin Klein photo shoot. Lucy is more casual, but looks great. She has even put on lipstick. She chases her steak tips around the plate.

ANTHONY

So after eight years selling million dollar homes on the gold coast I wanted to find the next great opportunity. Ironically there is more upside in these transitional towns than anywhere else this side of the country.

LUCY

Is that so?

ANTHONY

With mortgages where they are right now buyers are frothing over the opportunities.

So you came back to help your Mom sell the house?

LUCY

Not exactly.

ANTHONY

You could buy it. Make it easy for everyone. It's a great property.

LUCY

My mom would love that, but I've never been one to stay in any one place very long.

ANTHONY

So why did you come back?

LUCY

I told you. I blew up a rocket.

ANTHONY

Fireworks aside, you could go anywhere. Why here?

Lucy downs her drink and puts her napkin on the table. His banter isn't cutting it. She is annoyed but not at Anthony. He is nice enough and very nice to look at.

LUCY

I don't want to talk about it.

The WAITER comes by with a desert tray.

WAITER

Can I interest you in -

Lucy wait! That wasn't fair.

LUCY
What wasn't fair?

Anthony reaches her. He embrace/tackles her in a suave move.

ANTHONY
You didn't give me a chance to
appropriately distract you.

Anthony kisses Lucy. Lucy is surprised.

68 **INT. BATCAVE - CONTINUOUS** 68

Sam sees the embrace and the kiss. He is still holding the Wonder Woman mug.

Lucy and Anthony kiss long and deep.

Slowly Sam puts down the mug. He puts the yearbook back under the counter. He turns away, not needing to watch.

69 **EXT. MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS** 69

Lucy breaks the embrace. She knocks Anthony back playfully.

LUCY
(Flirty)
That's certainly a better
distraction than small talk, but
I'm not that kind of girl.

ANTHONY
No?

LUCY
Dinner wasn't that good.

ANTHONY
I guess I'll have to try again.
Drive me to my car.

They walk to Lucy's Tesla. Lucy looks back over her shoulder towards the Batcave. Sam is busy cleaning up.

70

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

70

Its the dead of night. Lucy is alone in the house. She wears an old night shirt, something comfortable and safe. She opens the refrigerator and gets herself a glass of water.

Chip's laptop is open on the counter. She notices that YouTube is open. She clicks back through his recent history.

MONTAGE You Tube Video

The video cuts between the kids from Rockets and Rovers in a variety of school settings, talking directly to the camera. They each give their own testimonial about Mr. Samuels

In front of school:

STAN

Mr. Samuels is the best teacher in all of America. He never misses a day. He always has fun projects.

In library:

SUZY

He's the only teacher I've ever met to use comic books to explain science. I love it!

In school cafeteria:

MIKEY

He really showed me how science and math work together. I was never excited about school until I came to his class.

At football field:

HENRY

I've never had another teacher like him. He showed me how to build a cardboard glider that loops in the sky. We even worked out the physics of the wings.

At intersection

VERONICA

Mr. Samuels is special. He comes to school every day, even after the accident. He never misses a day for us. Not one. He is amazing.

Veronica holds up her phone to the video camera. She is playing a second video. This one is a news video of a horrible accident at the same intersection. A REPORTER does a stand up from the same point of view.

REPORTER

...and the son of the victims, a local science teacher, pulled the driver from the burning car before it exploded.

NEWSCASTER (O.S.)

What a tragedy!

REPORTER

What a samaritan! I can't imagine saving the life of the drunk driver who killed your parents.

The image shows Sam holding up a limping Luther.

Veronica lowers the phone.

Two wreaths lay at the base of a mangled telephone pole.

VERONICA

He came to class that day, for us.

In classroom:

All five students are there together. They each have parts of a superhero costume; hulk hands, batman cowl, wonder woman bracelets, green lantern ring, superman cape.

The board behind them reads MR. SAMUELS: TEACHER OF THE YEAR

STAN

For all of us.

TOGETHER

Mr. Samuels is our Superhero!

The kids strike a pose.

Lucy puts the tablet down. Her hand is over her mouth. Tears well in her eyes. She had no idea.

71

EXT. MONTGOMERY REGIONAL PARKING LOT

71

The parking lot is full. Kids pour into school.

The bell rings.

Lucy's tesla pulls into the electric vehicle spot.

72

INT. LUCY'S TESLA - CONTINUOUS

72

Chip unclips his seatbelt and goes to rush out to school.

CHIP
Thanks Mom.

LUCY
Excuse me mister! Not so fast.

She points to her cheek.

CHIP
Yes mom.

He give her a kiss. She kisses him back and musses his hair.
Momm-mm.
(annoyed)

LUCY
Here. Make sure you give them to
everyone in Rockets and Rovers.

Lucy hands over a small pile of colored envelopes.

CHIP
It's not even my birthday.

LUCY
That's not the point. This will be
fun. Everyone okay.

CHIP
Yes mom.

LUCY
Love you.

CHIP
Love you too.

Chip gets out of the car.

74

INT. SCIENCE LAB - DAY

74

Sam sets up the classroom. He lays out the drawings for the robot, and the few parts they have; a mix of school supplies and the leftover parts that Lucy dropped off.

The students start filing in.

VERONICA
Are we actually building today?

SAM
That's the plan.

STAN
Did you get the pipes we asked for?

MIKEY
Or the epoxy?

SUZY
Or the drummel?

SAM
Not yet.

Chip walks in and pulls out the pile of invitations Lucy gave him earlier. One by one he hands them out to the class.

HENRY
So you want us to build a rover
that can hit a golf ball on the
moon out of cardboard and bendy
straws?

SAM
For now. I'm working on getting the
parts we need, but we have to keep
going if we are going to finish on
time.

Chip hands Sam the last invitation.

What's this?

CHIP
Open it.
All of you. Open them.

Everyone in the class rips into their invitations. They look like kids birthday invitations.

Sam looks at Chip

SAM
Really?

Chip nods.
You're sure?

CHIP
Yes.

SAM

Is everybody on board with this?

The whole class nods enthusiastically.

Then you know what to do.

Everyone rushes out of the Science Lab. Sam and Chip stay in the classroom.

SAM (CONT'D)

Your mom. She's pretty special huh?

CHIP

She's my superhero.

75

EXT. CLARKE'S HOUSE - DAY

75

It is a perfect day. The lawn is mowed. The house is pristine. Anthony's convertible is in the drive along with Marie's minivan. The tesla is nowhere to be seen.

The broker's sign in the front reads OPEN HOUSE TODAY 10:00 AM and has colorful balloons decorating it.

76

INT. CLARKE'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

76

Anthony's Assistant Bojana, the nutritionist, is in the kitchen pulling fresh rolls from the oven. Dressed in a floral top and pencil skirt she is the perfect accessory to this home.

Marie and Anthony enter the kitchen.

MARIE

It doesn't feel like I even live here.

ANTHONY

A proper cleaning, a new coat of paint and something fresh in the oven. It's like getting your toes done before going out on the town.

Marie looks at Anthony sideways. It sounds like he is speaking from personal experience.

MARIE

I guess I haven't been out on the town in a long time.

BOJANA

Would you like a rugelach?

She speaks with a heavy guttural accent.

MARIE

They look delicious. Thank you.

BOJANA

Healthy too. My family's recipe.

MARIE

From the old country?

BOJANA

Everyone asks me that. My family is from Trenton, so if you count New Jersey as the old country then yes.

ANTHONY

Bojana is such a find. Her baking has helped me sell more homes than any broker in the county. Today is a perfect day. I'm sure we'll have multiple offers by sunset.

Anthony strikes a pose that matches his broker sign exactly.

Marie isn't so sure about all of this.

77

EXT. MONTGOMERY REGIONAL PARKING LOT - DAY

77

Lucy waits by the Tesla. Chip sits on the sidewalk tapping on his laptop. They both have cool wraparound safety goggles propped on their foreheads like sunglasses.

One by one the kids from Rockets and Rovers show up. They each have a part of CADDY-01 with them. Each kid silently walks up, hands Lucy a signed permission slip, takes a set of safety glasses and fist bumps Chip.

Sam arrives last, skidding to a stop at the bike rack. He has a heavy backpack on his back and is wearing a Robin T-Shirt. Sam hands Lucy his own permission slip. We see it reads

BUILD A GOLFING ROBOT WITH A NASA ENGINEER

SATURDAY 11:00 MEET IN THE PARKING LOT BY THE ELECTRIC CAR

Sam collects a his own set of glasses and fist bumps Chip with a Hulk Glove.

SAM

Lead the way.

78 **INT. CLARKE'S KITCHEN - DAY** 78

The kitchen is packed with HOUSE HUNTERS. Bojana pulls a fresh set of rugelach from the oven. Anthony holds court.

ANTHONY

It's a real steal. If you have kids, the school is literally walking distance from the back door, just through those woods.

79 **EXT. PATH - DAY** 79

Chip leads the way. The kids trudge through the woods like they are heading into battle. Sam and Lucy take up the rear.

SAM

This isn't too much trouble?

LUCY

You want to win don't you?

They come through the old wooden gate one by one. A rock anthem (The Final Countdown or similar) starts.

80 **INT. CLARKE'S KITCHEN - INT.** 80

Anthony continues, talking to three couples at once.

ANTHONY

We're taking offers today, but don't let the number of people arriving deter you. Marie here is really more interested in putting this gem of a house in the right person's hands.

Everyone turns their attention to Marie, smiling and reaching out to introduce themselves. Marie is overwhelmed.

81 **EXT. CARRIAGE HOUSE - DAY** 81

Rock music builds. The kids arrive at the Carriage House and line up.

Sam walks down the line and gives each one their superhero item (*same as from the video*). Lucy opens the Carriage house and hands each student a power tool.

Stan: Screwgun

Veronica: Sawsaw

Mikey: Pnematic Wrench

Suzy: Chainsaw

Henry: Rotary Saw

Chip: Arc Welder!

Chip drops a welder's mask over his face and lights the torch!

The rest of the students start their tools. The kids look bad ass. Together they head inside the garage.

SAM

Is this where you used to go to
build rockets?

LUCY

No. This is where I used to go to
build dreams.

They go inside.

82

INT. CLARKE'S KITCHEN - DAY

82

Marie is surrounded by three couples all peppering her with questions.

WOMAN 1

When was the last time you replaced
the floors?

MARIE

Never

MAN 1

What is the neighborhood like?

MARIE

Lovely

WOMAN 2

Have you ever had a roof leak

MARIE

Once in 98, but the roof was
replaced after that.

Marie sees DEREK ZANG arrive. She is shocked to see him. He is looking for someone, but doesn't attempt to engage Marie.

83 **INT. GARAGE - DAY**

83

The kids are all working. Sam, Henry and Veronica assemble the robot frame. They are making real progress.

84 **INT. CLARKE'S KITCHEN - DAY**

84

Anthony speaks with a couple near the kitchen window. Over his shoulder there is major activity in the Carriage House.

 ANTHONY

The driveway parks five. The carriage house hasn't been used as a garage in years, but fits three more cars side by side.

 MAN 3

And a boat?

 ANTHONY

Well it wouldn't fit my cruiser, but you could get a small fishing vessel in there.

85 **INT. GARAGE - DAY**

85

Lucy and Mikey work together on Chip's laptop. They program the robot making the wheels spin.

86 **INT. CLARKE'S KITCHEN - DAY**

86

Derek makes his way to the counter where Bojana has pulled out another round of rugelach.

 DEREK

Have you seen any children here?

 BOJANA

Children? No.

Derek cocks his head listening to Bojana's guttural accent.

 DEREK

Dutch?

 BOJANA

How did you know?

 DEREK

I study dialects as a hobby.

Bojana smiles wide.

BOJANA
(flirty)
Everyone thinks I am German.

DEREK
(not interested)
So no ten year old boys here today?

BOJANA
(in Dutch)
Nee

87 **INT. GARAGE - DAY**

87

Sparks fly.

Chip raises his welding helmet. Stan and Suzy are next to him with goggles, each holding golf clubs.

Sam and Lucy watch the kids from opposite corners of the garage. They catch each other's eye and smile. They are both having a great time doing this build, together.

Chip drops the helmet back down and relights the torch.

88 **INT. CLARKE'S KITCHEN - DAY**

88

There is a **HUGE CRASH** outside that rises over the din. Through the windows there is a shot of flame and the sound of a fire extinguisher. A cloud of smoke puffs out from the doors of the Carriage House.

ANTHONY
What is going on out there!?

89 **EXT. BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS**

89

Anthony heads to the garage. Smoke trickles out.

ANTHONY
You know we are trying to sell this house today!

Sam comes out from the Carriage House. His blue Beast wig is singed and he holds a fire extinguisher. He is giddy.

SAM
You learn something new every day.

ANTHONY

Did you hear me?

SAM

What? Oh sorry, we just blew up a paint can. Everybody is OK.

The students start trickling out of the Carriage House. Everyone is dirty but happy. They laugh and high five.

ANTHONY

What is going on here?
How many of you are there?
Does Marie know about this?

People interested in the house gather on the back deck. Derek and Bojana watch from inside.

Marie pushes through the crowd.

MARIE

What's going on here? Lucy?

Lucy emerges from the Carriage House.

LUCY

Hi Mom. I didn't expect you were getting so many people today.

ANTHONY

Didn't expect. I told both of you I would be bringing real buyers. You can't have a play group in the garage while this is going on if I'm going to sell this house today!

SAM

Play group? Hey Fancy Pants this is Rockets and Robots!

(Anthony's pants are pretty fancy)

Besides this isn't your house. They can do what they want.

MARIE

This isn't your house either.

Lucy what is going on here?

LUCY

This is Amblin High - I mean Montgomery Rockets and Robots club.
(MORE)

LUCY (CONT'D)

I'm helping them build a robot that can hit a golf ball as far as Alan Shepard.

MARIE

You're hiding in the garage with a bunch of school kids taking things apart?

ANTHONY

Carriage House.

(To the buyers)

It's a Carr-iage House people.

LUCY

I've taken enough things apart.

I'm putting something back together.

The crowd parts and a robot, CADDIE-01 rolls out. The robot is the size of one of Chip. The machine is an amalgamation of washer dryer parts with a golf bag on its back.

Veronica runs up and pulls a pink golf ball from her pocket. She puts it on a tee in front of the robot.

STAN

You might want to stand back.

Chip walks out of the Carriage House with his tablet. He is controlling the robot.

Derek sees Chip through the kitchen window and heads outside.

CHIP

Let's see what CADDIE can do!

A mechanism on the robot's back selects a 4 iron loads it into an extended arm. On the other side a weighted arm of similar length extend into the air. Two 'feet' extend and plant. A laser points at the strike point on the ball.

FOOOORRRREEE

The golf club cocks back. A catapult contraption drops. The club swings with incredible force, striking the ball perfectly. The golf ball slices through the crowd and smashes the kitchen window.

Bojana is pulling another tray from the oven. The ball hits the tray, sending rugelach flying.

Another perfect couple is just arriving at the open house. They open the screen door just in time to see the golf ball fly between the two of them. They turn around.

The ball ricochets off the broker sign, leaving a dent in Anthony's face and rolls on the lawn.

The kids rush up to Chip.

MIKEY

That was amazing!

SUZY

Nice shot!

Anthony pulls Marie back.

ANTHONY

You have to get this under control and get them out of here. I can feel the numbers dropping the longer we stand out here.

Sam joins the kids giving them all high fives and fist bumps.

Derek pushes through the crowd. Lucy sees him. Her face falls.

DEREK

Micro?

Marie clasps Anthony on the shoulders.

MARIE

You know what. You are right. You are exactly right. This isn't appropriate

ANTHONY

I know I'm right.

MARIE

Yes indeed. Shoo. **Shoo!**

Marie starts pushing the visitors to the open house back into the kitchen and out the door.

Yes you. This open house is over. Please leave. Right now.

Anthony doesn't understand.

ANTHONY

We were going to sell this house in one day. Marie we had a plan.

MARIE

Yes. I like your plan, but not now. Not today. Now go. Take your lawn sign and your aromatic rolls and your German Barbie Doll housemaid and go.

ANTHONY

She's dutch.

MARIE

I don't care if she is Lithuanian. Get out!

The crowd pushes back into the house. Derek fights through the visitors and makes it outside.

DEREK

Microchip?

Chip sees his father. He drops the tablet on the ground.

CHIP

Dad? Dad!

DEREK

Hey buddy.

Father and son embrace. Lucy watches Chip. Sam watches Lucy.

What do you have here.

CHIP

We built a robot that can hit a golf ball as far as Alan Shepard.

DEREK

The astronaut?

CHIP

Yes.

DEREK

I didn't know he was a famous golfer.

SAM

On the moon he is.

CHIP
Mom taught us that.

Derek nods, understanding.

What are you doing here?

DEREK
I came to take you back to New York
with me for a while.

CHIP
Really?

DEREK
That's the plan. I have to talk to
your Mom about it.

CHIP
Ok.

Marie comes back outside with a full tray of rolls and a
pitcher of lemonade. She sets up a snack on the patio.

MARIE
I'll bet we have some hungry junior
engineers. Who needs a snack?

The kids go to Marie for refreshments.

Chip looks at Lucy for forgiveness.

CHIP
I didn't ask to go, but I thought
you were going to jail.

LUCY
I'm not going to jail.

DEREK
No. She isn't. Not yet.

LUCY
What do you mean, not yet?

DEREK
You haven't been following?
Congress called for hearings. They
want your head on a platter.

SAM
We've all been pretty busy here.

DEREK

I'm sorry, who are you?

Sam puts out a Hulk Glove to shake his hand, catches himself and takes off the glove.

SAM

Sam Samuels. I teach Chip at Montgomery. I'm guessing you're his father?

DEREK

Biological. Yes. Dr. Derek Zang. Chief Acoustical Scientist at Space X. I work with Elon on the Falcon rockets.

I'd still be working with Lucy if she hadn't run off to work with on acoustic propulsion at SPL.

LUCY

Sam's helping.

DEREK

I'm sure. Can we talk somewhere.

LUCY

Here is fine. Sam can you take -

SAM

Sure. Come on Chip. Bring CADDIE

Sam, Chip and Caddie leave.

DEREK

You know you're in serious trouble.

LUCY

I know. I'm on leave. They'll be firing me soon.

DEREK

Worse than that. Chip isn't wrong about jail. Your engine blew up. You could have killed someone.

LUCY

I know.

Beat

Why do you know?

DEREK
They called me in.

LUCY
For what?

DEREK
To recreate it, and to take it
apart.

LUCY
My engine?! They gave you my
schematics? My patents?

Derek nods.

And?

DEREK
We're building a scale model.
It doesn't look good. You should
get things in order.

LUCY
What does that mean?

DEREK
Something was definitely wrong with
the engine. We can't even get a
proper liftoff. The resonance is
too strong.

LUCY
You're using the wrong materials.

DEREK
We're using the same specs you did.
It has crashed in all five
simulations so far. You did
something wrong.

LUCY
No shit Derek, but I didn't pour my
heart and soul into something for
years just to watch it explode.

DEREK
No?

He looks at Chip and back at her.

LUCY
Don't make this about us.

DEREK

He's going to needs a stable home.

LUCY

A research lab is not a home.

DEREK

At least one parent will be there.

LUCY

Really? This is stupid. You aren't doing this out of the goodness of your heart. You'd rather be in the lab. Why are you here?

DEREK

Chip called me.

LUCY

He did?

DEREK

He's worried about you. He knows you are avoiding things and he thinks he's the excuse.

I think he's right.

Lucy looks at the group huddled around the robot. The robot is spinning and dancing about. The kids are laughing.

LUCY

Damn smart kid.

DEREK

Let me take him for a few weeks. Go get things sorted out at SPL and we'll figure it out from there.

LUCY

There is only a few weeks left in school. I already pulled him once. I've got my parents here.

DEREK

Aren't they moving?

Beat

LUCY

This is going too fast.

DEREK

Twenty Five Thousand miles per hour.

LUCY

Twenty Five Thousand and Twenty. You never round orbit speed. You taught me that. (beat) Give me a day to work things out. If not take Chip until the hearings, but no longer.

DEREK

Depending on the results.

Chip runs over to Lucy. Marie and Sam follow.

CHIP

Hey Mom!

LUCY

Yes Chip.

CHIP

Who do you think can hit a golf ball father; The Incredible Hulk, Wonder Woman or our Robot?

LUCY

On Earth or the Moon?

MARIE

Off the back nine at Oakview Links.

SAM

Marie offered us her four o'clock tee time to test this guy out.

Lucy looks at Derek

DEREK

You've miscalculated your ability to achieve Escape Velocity with that rocket of yours. It's not going to go well.

I'll come by in the morning. Have him packed.

Derek goes to leave. He stops at Chip.

I'll see you in the morning Micro.

They embrace.

Spend some time with your Mom
tonight. You probably won't see her
much for a while.

Derek leaves.

CHIP
Can we try it?

Lucy watches Derek go. He might be right.

LUCY
Sure. Let's go.

92

EXT. GOLF COURSE - SUNSET

92

The sun is getting low. The golf course is mostly empty.

The final hole on this course is a 3 par island shot. The water feature is a small lake, easy to hit over but wide enough to create a challenge.

Lucy steps to the tee.

LUCY
(taunting, but fun)
Onto the green in one.

She swings. Perfect arc, long shot. **Plunk** in the water.
Dammit!

Sam steps in behind her. He gives her a fist bump and sets a green ball on the tee. He turns to his bag, pulls his driver and puts on the HULK GLOVES. It looks ridiculous.

SAM
Green in one? Hulk smash!

He swings. Perfect arc, long shot. **Plunk** in the water.
Dammit.

Lucy tries not to laugh.

CHIP
Green in autopilot!

Chip taps his laptop. Caddie rolls to the tee.

A laser pointer finds the flag. The catapult locks into place. A series of weights are loaded. There is a mechanical snap and the catapult fires, swinging the driver.

The robot gears up and smashes the ball. It easily flies over the water feature and lands on the green a few feet from the hole. Chip raises his arms in victory.

LUCY
Best ball?

SAM
Best ball.

They all start down the fairway.

93

EXT. GOLF COURSE - FAIRWAY - CONTINUOUS

93

Chip and Caddie lead the way. Sam and Lucy follow behind.

LUCY
I saw the video.

SAM
Video? The one that got the team into Presidential Science Fair.

LUCY
The one about your parents. I'm so sorry.

SAM
Yeah.

Chip turns to follow the bridge to the green. The robot doesn't turn.

I saw you with the Broker.

LUCY
The other night?

SAM
Yeah. Not that its my business, but I didn't know you were -

LUCY
We're not. He was just a distraction.

SAM
Oh.

Chip, you should watch your steering.

CHIP

I am. I can't turn off the
autopilot.

The robot gets closer to the water. The adults run to catch
up.

LUCY

Chip! Use the override code. Chip!

The robot rolls into the lake and keeps going.

SAM

Shit. I'll go get it.

The robot submerges.

Sam drops his hulk gloves and starts to unbutton his shirt.
He has a superman T-shirt on underneath.

LUCY

Easy Superman. I'll get it. I
helped him write the code.

She pulls off her top. She has a Wonder Woman bra and boy
shorts on underneath.

Sam is distracted by Lucy in her underwear. She ignores him
and dives into the water after the robot.

Sam finishes undressing and dives in after her.

Chip climbs up onto the bridge and keeps punching his tablet.

Sam and Lucy swim and dive looking for the robot.

94

EXT. WATER FEATURE - CONTINUOUS

94

Underwater.

Lucy dives down looking for the robot. Nothing.

Sam dives down looking for the robot. Nothing.

They both dive down again.

This time they find each other. Sam smiles at Lucy. Lucy
smiles back. Their hands clasp.

They break the surface together. The sun is setting. Chip
runs onto the green. Lucy and Sam are alone.

LUCY
I don't see it.

SAM
Me neither.

LUCY
But I see you.

Lucy kisses Sam, hard.

While they kiss Lucy's golf ball goes flying onto the green. Then Sam's golf ball goes flying onto the green. Finally Caddie emerges, rolling up onto the green.

CHIP (O.S.)
MOM! **MOM!!** Caddie made it out!!

Lucy and Sam break apart to see what has happened. Both laugh out loud.

95

EXT. OAKVIEW - DUSK

95

Lucy drives a golf cart to the main entry building. Sam is next to Lucy. Chip is on the back and they tow CADDIE. Sam and Lucy look like two drowned rats. They try to hide their infatuation with each other, but it spills over.

Marie, Tarek and Pops wait in the driveway. No one looks happy.

TAREK
The swimming pool is on that side of campus. Water features are NOT swimming pools. This isn't Cocoon!

SAM
I love that movie.

LUCY
Me too!

POPS
What are you towing?

CHIP
Grandpop this is the robot I told you about.

MARIE
The one that broke the kitchen window.

POPS

What did you do? Run this guy
through the carwash?

LUCY

The autopilot didn't account for
water features. We need to dry out
all the parts.

POPS

You're going to need some
industrial hair dryers. There might
be some in my garage.

MARIE

Carriage house. I'm afraid not.
Lucy helped me clean everything out
for the open house.

TAREK

This is your robot Chip?

Chip nods. Tarek sighs.

Come with me. We'll take it to the
salon. It might come back with blue
hair, but we can dry it out.

Tarek gets into the driver seat of the golf cart and putters
off with Chip and Caddie.

POPS

I'll supervise.

LUCY

Thanks Dad.

Pops rolls after the cart and robot.

Marie hands Lucy a thick package of official papers.

MARIE

This came to the house today. It
looked important.

Lucy opens it. Her face falls. Her world is crashing down.

LUCY

Damn.

SAM

What is it?

LUCY

Congress's subpoena to Fowler.
They're claiming SPL is at fault.
The lawyers need me as a witness.
The hearings are scheduled.

I've got to go.

SAM

Who's saying you're at fault? When?

Lucy flips through a few more pages. She fully expected this, but it is still terrifying.

LUCY

Congress. Monday.

MARIE

Do you need to call Derek?

LUCY

Damn.

Damn Damn Damn!
Looks like they found their O-Ring.

SAM

Monday is the day of the Science
Fair. How long is your hearing?

Lucy pulls an attorney's summary statement from the folder. It shows the potential sentencing guidelines.

LUCY

Three to seven.

SAM

Days?

LUCY

Years. If they charge me I could
get three to seven years.

This isn't only Fowler's fault.

She finally looks at Sam and Marie. Tears are in her eyes.

SAM

Maybe it isn't your's either.

MARIE

Why don't you let Chip stay here.
Go talk to a few people, figure
things out.

(MORE)

MARIE (CONT'D)

It would be crazy for them to send you to jail. You were just doing your job.

LUCY

I'm the O-Ring Mom. I could have killed somebody. I am the failure.

Sam leads her away.

96

INT. TESLA - CONTINUOUS

96

The Tesla is parked overlooking the golf course. It is dusk over the pristine fairways.

Sam and Lucy sit in the car still disheveled from their swim. Lucy cries behind the wheel. Sam watches her carefully, trying to help, but unsure.

SAM

Did anyone go to jail for Challenger?

LUCY

No.

SAM

Did anyone go to jail for Columbia?

LUCY

No.

SAM

You aren't going to jail.

LUCY

No. Maybe not, but I'll never get to work on another spaceship again.

She cries harder.

SAM

Is that the worst thing in the world? From what Chip tells me that's all you've been doing for years. Maybe you need to change things up for a while.

LUCY

Chip said that?

SAM

Lucy don't you know? He's so proud of you, of everything you do. That's all he talks about; Artemis, Acoustic Propulsion, the moons of Saturn, all of it. And how YOU are making this all possible.

Honestly I don't understand him half the time. But that kid of yours, he sees it all, and he is uber proud of his mom. You are his idol.

Lucy watches Sam. As hard as it is, she needs to hear this. She tries to pull herself together.

LUCY

That kid.

That's the unfair part. I used to neglect him to build that rocket. Now I have to neglect him because I blew the damn thing up.

SAM

Lucy. You didn't blow it up. You aren't the O-Ring.

You poured your heart and soul into that rocket. You tried your best.

LUCY

You don't know that.

SAM

No. I don't.

They don't know either. No one knows. No one except you.

Not in your head, but in your heart you know you are not a failure, and **you know why**.

Lucy looks at Sam. She wipes her tears.

You aren't the O-Ring.

97

EXT. MONTGOMERY REGIONAL PARKING LOT - DAY

97

A short yellow school bus idles in the parking lot, door open.

A gaggle of parents are standing around waiting with their children, the kids of the ROCKETS AND ROBOTS TEAM. Everyone is packed for an overnight trip.

Principal Grice stands next to Sam, each with a clipboard.

PRINCIPAL GRICE

Remember to do a tick check before and after the fair. You start at the top of the head, behind the ears, armpits --

SAM

It's not like the state fair. There isn't a petting zoo. We're going to be indoors the whole time.

PRINCIPAL GRICE

Those little bastards get into everything. Do you have a tourniquet in the first aid kit? You've been trained in case of a rattler bite.

SAM

The Museum of Air and Space, is a building. Indoors.

PRINCIPAL GRICE

It's breeding season for Rattlers. Don't get surprised by the little ones. Their venom is just as potent-

Sam steps away from the Principal.

SAM

Okay kids. Time to load up. Everybody on the bus.

One by one the students load up onto the bus.

The back of the bus is rigged with a trailer for CADDIE. Lucy busies herself checking all of the hold downs for the robot. Chip is standing with Marie and Pops in his *lucky 76er's Jersey*. They all watch Lucy.

MARIE

This is going to be great Chip. You're robot looks fantastic.

POPS

One night under the hair dryers and it has a better dome than me.

Pops rubs his bald head.

CHIP

Thanks. I've got to go.

He gives them each a hug and hoists on a backpack. Lucy steps off the trailer and looks at her son. They're both melancholy.

You're sure you can't come with us?
With me?

LUCY

Mr. Samuels is going to record it.
I'll see the whole thing.

CHIP

But you help us build it.

LUCY

I know.

She kneels, getting on eye level with her son.
You know, I don't care how you do
in the Science Fair. I'm really
proud of you Chip. You'll always be
the best son ever.

CHIP

And I don't care how you do in
front of Congress. You're my only
Mom and I'm super proud of you --
as long as you don't go to jail!

They embrace.

98

EXT. MONTGOMERY REGIONAL PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

98

The loaded school bus pulls away. The students line the windows, waving at their parents. The trailer with the robot bounces behind them.

Lucy leaves the gaggle of parents and goes to her Tesla, parked in it's typical spot. She gets in the car.

99

INT. TESLA - CONTINUOUS

99

The car starts up silently. Lucy looks at the launch sequence screen, then at herself in the mirror.

LUCY

Ready for takeoff?

The walnut paneled room is fill with PRESS. Seven seats with congressional names fill the dias. Two tables are set in front. One table holds a model of the Artemis IV rocket. The other is filled with key pieces from the wreckage.

Derek and THREE ASSISTANTS sit at the table with the wreckage. Derek is in his best suit.

Fowler sits in the first row along with Maberry and Christian from SPL. Dozens of LAWYERS sit with them.

Seven CONGRESSMEN, all men, all in suits, file in and find their seats. A gavel is pounded bringing the room to order.

Lucy slips in the back and finds a seat in the back row. She has a backpack over her shoulder.

CONGRESSMAN DAVIES

Please continue with your testimony.

DEREK

Our task at Columbia was to recreate the engine from the specifications provided by SPL. We built a scale model to spec using the same materials and methods. While the technology employed is theoretically sound we found failures at multiple levels.

CONGRESSMAN CLANCY

You found a smoking gun?

DEREK

Not exactly, but we see the problem. Similar to the O-Ring failure in Challenger this engine failed due to an environmental consideration that was not properly understood, nor communicated.

LUCY

(to self)

It's not the resonance Derek.

DEREK

Our review shows acoustic resonance as the primary culprit for the break up of the Artemis Engine mid-flight.

CONGRESSMAN LOVECRAFT

What do you mean by acoustic resonance?

Derek taps a tuning fork on the table. It rings loudly.

DEREK

Acoustic Resonance is a real consideration for any craft flying beyond the speed of sound, but becomes critical for an engine which relies on sonic propulsion.

He holds the ringing tuning fork to his scale model.

This amplification of sound can cause microscopic separations in materials which when under stress can create failures.

He holds the model up for everyone to see. Nothing seems to happen.

LUCY

(louder)

It's not the resonance *Derek*.

CONGRESSMAN DAVIES

Microscopic failures?

DEREK

Think of them like stress fractures in a bone. Under normal conditions these fractures might be painful, but won't cause real problems, but under extreme stress of a say a launch this resonance is likely the source of failure.

Derek places the model on the table softly. It looks fine.
Start it up.

His assistant hits a button on a tablet. The model rocket rises a few feet in the air and immediately comes apart sending pieces flying in all directions.

Lucy is furious. For a split second she loses control.

LUCY

(TOO LOUD)

It's not the FUCKING RESONANCE!

The whole room turns to see Lucy. She shrinks at the attention.

CONGRESSMAN LOVECRAFT

Who are you?

Fowler stands and sees her prized engineer.

FOWLER

Lucy?

Lucy waves humbly from the back

Fowler turns to the Congressman

Lucy Clarke is our Chief Engineer
for the Artemis Engine.

CONGRESSMAN DAVIES

So nice of you to join us. Please
come forward.

LUCY

Sorry for the interruption, but it
wasn't the resonance. We tested
extensively for that.

Lucy picks up her backpack and joins Fowler at the front
table.

DEREK

Then what was it?

LUCY

A failure of imagination.

101

INT. PRESIDENTIAL SCIENCE FAIR - DAY

101

The Montgomery Regional Rockets and Robots team arrives at
the Presidential Elementary School Science Fair. Teams of
kids from all over the country are assembled throughout the
main floor of the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.

A banner reads SCIENCE AND SPORT

The kids from Montgomery check out the competition:

-- A team from Texas has a crash running back dummy plowing
into a blocking dummy both with inflatable pads, showing ways
to reduce force without dropping the football.

-- A team from Michigan has a drone with a tennis racket
hitting balls at an incredible speed.

-- A team from Colorado has a robot with pogo legs spiking a volleyball over a net. Each volleyball it hits pops with the force.

-- CADDIE-01 seems to sputter as it rolls, clearly not the same since its swim.

STAN

We're toast.

MIKEY

We're french toast with syrup and butter.

SAM

No way. We've got this in the bag.

Chip lags behind. He's not thrilled about their prospects. Sam waits for him.

You coming?

CHIP

Yeah.

SAM

Worried about your Mom?

CHIP

Yes.

SAM

Me too, but let's do her proud today, ok?

Behind Sam and Chip the JUDGES start to evaluate the teams.

102

INT. CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ROOM - DAY

102

Lucy sits beside Fowler. She has unloaded two SPL binders from her backpack. They are both tagged with colored notes.

Derek stands and continues to testify. Models are laid out in pieces in front of him.

DEREK

Acoustic Resonance is the only explanation that fits all of the criteria.

(MORE)

DEREK (CONT'D)

The superstructure connectors came loose due to resonance which in turn created a cascade of failures loosening each fastener and breaking the whole engine apart.

LUCY

(Scoffs)

Loosening? Not on my build.

Derek picks up two pieces fastened with a tech screw.

DEREK

(Scolding)

Yes loosening.

Lucy looks at Fowler.

LUCY

You gave him revision fifteen?

FOWLER

That was the last one in the files.

DEREK

And we matched it perfectly.

Lucy starts to giggle. She tries to muffle it, but she can't help but laugh uncontrollably.

LUCY

Revision fifteen?

DEREK

Yes.

CONGRESSMAN LOVECRAFT

What is so funny young lady?

LUCY

With all due respect, we don't get our parts at Ikea sir.

CONGRESSMAN DAVIES

Excuse me?

LUCY

Rockets aren't made to be fastened together with screws and bolts. Derek is right. His engine did come apart by Acoustic Resonance. That engine. Revision Fifteen.

Lucy stands and takes the pieces out of Derek's hands.

Six months ago we were asked by your oversight committee to do a final round of value engineering in order to bring the engine in for fewer dollars.

She flips of the binders to a page that matches the piece in her hands. It is clearly labeled REVISION 15. She pulls out the page to show the Senators.

Our whole team worked around the clock to come up with design innovations for a lower price. We drew up revision fifteen to show the engine could be built cheaper. In that revision every connection was bolted instead of welded. It made for a faster build, saved time, saved dollars.

Fowler is catching on. She flips pages to find REVISION 14.

FOWLER

But it never passed our quality control guidelines.

LUCY

That's right. We tested extensively. The connections failed as the engine achieved escape velocity.

CONGRESSMAN CLANCY

So why did you build it?

LUCY

We didn't. We went back to the welded connections in Revision Fourteen.

Fowler pulls out the Revision 14 page showing a weld. She hands it to Lucy. Lucy picks up a malformed piece of metal with a clearly matching weld pattern on it and shows both to the Congressmen.

CONGRESSMAN LOVECRAFT

So now we are back to theories of bird strikes or UFOs?

LUCY

No.

DEREK

Then what caused such a catastrophic failure?

LUCY

I told you. A lack of imagination.

103

INT. PRESIDENTIAL SCIENCE FAIR - DAY

103

The Montgomery team has CADDIE-01 set up. Mikey and Veronica have a cup and a flag set up on the other side of the conference floor more than 300 yards away. All the other teams are in between the two halves of this team.

Chip taps on his laptop.

SAM

Any updates?

CHIP

Nothing on C-Span. Nothing on the news outlets.

STAN

What type of club should CADDIE use?

SAM

In here? I really don't know.

PRESIDENT OBAMA

I'd suggest a five iron.

PRESIDENT OBAMA has unexpectedly walked up to the Montgomery Rockets and Robots team along with the rest of the JUDGES. He smiles wide at the team while they inspect the robot.

Sam and his students are all shocked.

JUDGE 1

What do we have here?

VERONICA

This is CADDIE Version one point zero. He is an autonomous golfing robot who can hit a ball farther than Alan Shepard.

JUDGE 2

Wouldn't you want him to hit farther than Tiger Woods?

STAN
No Alan Shepard.

PRESIDENT OBAMA
Apollo fourteen?

SAM
Yes sir.

PRESIDENT OBAMA
It'll be pretty hard to recreate a
moon shot in our gravity.

STAN
It'll be pretty hard to send Tiger
Woods to the moon too.

PRESIDENT OBAMA
I don't know. I think I might have
a little pull on that one.
Start it up. Let's see how we do.

Chip taps his screen. CADDIE comes to life. Veronica places a
golf ball in front of him.

104

INT. CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ROOM - DAY

104

Lucy continues to stand, talking directly to the Senators.

LUCY
Look, failures are a natural part
of the engineering cycle. No one
wants to face this, but sending
people or machines hurling into
space at thousands of miles an hour
is an unnatural act. Let me explain
it to you in terms I know you'll
understand. It harder than hitting
a hole in one on a par five in a
stiff breeze.

She goes to the table and pulls a small stack of comic books
from the backpack.

We are doing the damn near
impossible and at every turn you
folks signing the checks are asking
us to do it faster, farther and
with less.

She hands out the comic books. Green Lantern

(MORE)

LUCY (CONT'D)

You cut our budgets, question our process and demand results. The lack of imagination comes from the top. It comes from leadership that misses the fact that our schools are the fertile ground for the next generation of engineers,

Captain Marvel

but to convince those young minds to engage we have to both inspire them to reach higher and build fortitude to persevere through inevitable failures. They don't learn that in school anymore, they learn it in comic books.

Fantastic Four

I remember when Challenger blew up. It was a seminal moment in my childhood, sitting in the Amblin High School auditorium awestruck with every one of my classmates. We grieved like the rest of the nation watching that failure, but we were also inspired and fortified to reach higher, to work harder.

CONGRESSMAN LOVECRAFT

And our lack of imaginative school funding is what made your engine blow up?

LUCY

No this did.

She returns to Derek's side of the table, winks at him and picks up a brick sized black box.

You didn't trust us.

She turns to Derek.

None of you did.

FOWLER

What is that?

LUCY

A set of tracer instruments. In the same request for revision fifteen you asked for an access port to set up additional instrumentation. We provided an access hatch for three of these 'black bricks' as requested.

DEREK

What do they have to do with your engine failure.

Lucy points to a set of ripped screw holes. She takes a tech screw from Derek's tools, spins it into place on the last intact screw hole and holds it up for all to see.

LUCY

They mounted these the morning of the launch. We never tested the engine with them in place.

She picks up the tuning fork and bangs it on the table. The fork vibrates making a loud tone. Lucy holds the end to the black brick. The screw starts to shake and quickly twists itself free. The screw falls on the carpet.

I was wrong. You were right Derek. Acoustic Resonance, just not from my engine, from your instruments.

She tosses the brick to Derek. He barely catches it, almost falling from the weight.

It's OK Derek. You can try again. Only 6 of the Apollo missions achieved their goals.

Failure isn't always an ending.

Sometimes it's just the beginning.

A dozen people ask questions simultaneously. The press all snap photos. The room is mayhem.

Lucy heads for the exit.

105

INT. PRESIDENTIAL SCIENCE FAIR - DAY

105

President Obama and the judges watch the robot. Sam, Chip and the whole Montgomery team watch, sweating the details.

CADDIE goes through its wind up motions. The arms extend. The catapult loads. The laser finds the flag, its target.

The robot unloads, swinging the club, striking the ball. The golf ball flies high, hitting the ceiling, ricocheting off a wall and flying past people before bouncing on the carpet and rolling softly to the cup, where it circles the lip...

...and rolls out.

Chip, Sam and the rest of the team exhale in disappointment. This was their one shot and they failed, again.

The Judges give a polite golf clap, record scores on their clipboards and move on. President Obama is intrigued.

CADDIE starts to roll away from the team and into the crowd.

SAM

What is going on?

CHIP

Autopilot is locked in. I don't think it's done yet.

The robot gets ahead, weaving through the crowd, stowing its five iron as it rolls. The Montgomery team follows, trying in vain to clear a path. The judges have moved on, but President Obama follows, curious.

106 **EXT. WASHINGTON DC - DAY**

106

Lucy leaves the congressional building in a rush. She crosses the Mall in DC, rushing towards the Air and Space Museum.

107 **INT. PRESIDENTIAL SCIENCE FAIR - CONTINUOUS**

107

CADDIE rolls a circuitous route through the fair causing havoc, but not doing damage.

- Around two Transformers playing pool
- Through a gaggle of kids watching Battle Bots on a phone.
- Through a soccer game between Wall-E and R2D2

The parade of people follow.

108 **EXT. WASHINGTON DC - DAY**

108

Lucy arrives at the Air and Space Museum. Banners show our country's success in space exploration. A huge banner shows images of various rockets including Lucy's. Underneath it reads *THE MOON, MARS, JUPITER, WHAT'S NEXT?*

Lucy rushes in.

109 **INT. PRESIDENTIAL SCIENCE FAIR - CONTINUOUS**

109

CADDIE makes his way to the 'green' where its ball waits. The robot comes up to the golf ball and positions itself.

Everyone crowds around it talking in a low rumble. Chip and Sam push to the front.

President Obama is right behind them. The judges join him. The crowd is humming.

SAM

What is it waiting for?

CHIP

Mom helped me program in the golf etiquette protocols.

President Obama holds up his hands, like they are on the green at Augusta.

PRESIDENT OBAMA

Quiet please.

The crowd hushes.

110 **INT. PRESIDENTIAL SCIENCE FAIR - CONTINUOUS**

110

Lucy enters the science fair and sees the crowd. Everyone has hushed watching CADDIE prepare for a putt. She works her way through finding the other side of the 'green'.

Sam sees Lucy across the way. He smiles at her.

Lucy sees Chip standing next to President Obama. She glows with a mother's pride.

Chip taps his laptop, seeing nothing but his robot.

CADDIE slowly rolls around the ball and the hole. It is a seven foot putt, makable, but hard. The robot spins around once, then lines up on the ball. It crouches, but does not have a club loaded.

The crowd hushes.

From the front bumper, a pinball flipper flips out, striking the golf ball.

The ball rolls perfectly towards the hole, and drops in!

The crowd goes bananas!

Lucy rushes over to Chip and raises him up in a bear hug. The Rockets and Rovers team all race in to join the celebration.

LUCY
YOU DID IT!

CHIP
MOM! WE DID IT!

Sam looks on with a huge grin.

President Obama offers Sam a handshake.

PRESIDENT OBAMA
Well done. That was the best trick shot I've seen in a while. I might even take that robot for a partner on the course someday. I'm not sure you'll beat Tiger, but I think you'll give Alan Shepard a run for his money.

SAM
Thank you Mister President.

PRESIDENT OBAMA
That was also one heck of a video. You are a real superhero.

SAM
I don't know sir. Anybody would have pulled that guy from his car.

PRESIDENT OBAMA
I don't mean pulling a drunk driver out of a burning vehicle Mr. Samuels. I mean for those kids. Keep doing what you're doing. You've got something special going on here.

SAM
Thanks. I sure do.

Lucy and Chip are dancing around. The kids are all celebrating. CADDIE-01 is spinning.

CHIP

I didn't think you were coming back. You aren't going to jail?

LUCY

No jail. I'm back.

CHIP

But you were so sure? You were the O-Ring? Their point of failure?

LUCY

No Chip. My only failure was not spending enough time with the love of my life.

You.

And lucky for me, I can learn from that mistake.

Lucy and Chip embrace. Everyone celebrates. Robots and teams from around the hall join the celebration.

111

INT. PRESIDENTIAL SCIENCE FAIR - DAY

111

The teams have all received their awards. All the Montgomery kids walk around with Bronze Medals around their necks. CADDIE has a third place trophy strapped to its back.

Lucy and Sam walk behind the kids, still glowing with pride. They both seem to be magnetized towards each other.

SAM

He did a pretty great job, that kid of yours.

LUCY

Chip? Yeah. He has a pretty fantastic teacher.

SAM

Two fantastic teachers.

LUCY

Maybe. You taught them how to push through failure.

SAM

Sure, but you taught them how to
build a real robot.

Derek wanders into the Air and Space Museum looking for Chip.
He finds his son, who shows him the robot. Sam and Lucy keep
their distance letting father and son have some time.

LUCY

(Melancholy)

Best mistake I ever made.

Sam sees where she is looking. Chip smiles wide as CADDIE
spins. He shows his father his medal and turns back, pointing
to Sam and his Mom. They all wave to each other.

SAM

He's a special kid, and he's got a
special mom.

Lucy smiles at Sam.

Are you going to come back to stay
in Montgomery County?

LUCY

Amblin? For a little while longer.
Chip seems to like it there.

Lucy takes Sam's hand and squeezes it.

END CREDITS

112

EXT. GOLF COURSE - DAY

112

Lucy hits a golf ball off the tee box with a driver. It is a
long straight shot into the fairway.

Sam hits a golf ball off the tee box with a driver. It
doesn't go as far, but is also in the fairway.

CADDIE-02 hits a golf ball off the tee box. Chip stands
behind him with his Laptop. The ball skies all the way to the
green and rolls within 8 feet of the pin.

President Obama, wearing Hulk gloves, hits a ball off the tee
box. His shot goes farther than Lucy's.

They all walk off down the course together.

THE END