

ABRAM AND DANTE TAKE THE CHI

Screenplay by

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INT. CHICAGO DINER- AFTERNOON

JACOB FISHER (42) is a devoted Amish Mennonite from Arthur Amish country, Illinois. He has taken his family out to eat...outside of the community. His son ABRAM FISHER just turned five.

Like any other five-year-old, Abram is excited and curious about everything. He notices a couple making out and points to them.

YOUNG ABRAM

Mother, look! Their lips are stuck together.

Betty, his mother... pulls his hand down.

BETTY

Now Abram, we do not point at others, do we?

Abram is taking everything in.

- Some teens are doing a drinking challenge, one of them laughs... the drink comes out of his nose.

Abram chuckles.

- A baby is staring at him; Abram makes funny faces... the baby giggles.

The waiter arrives at their table.

WAITER

Well, good afternoon! Welcome to Chillis! What can I get started for you today?

JACOB

I would like a Pepsi.

BETTY

A glass of water is fine, and some apple juice for the boy.

WAITER

Alright, now are we celebrating anything?

JACOB

My son's birthday.

WAITER

Alright! Happy birthday little fella!

YOUNG ABRAM

Thank you!

WAITER

So I will be back with the drinks. Maybe I can give you a few minutes to look over the menu?

BETTY

Yes, thank you.

As the waitress leaves, a couple behind them has a son in Abram's age range who is throwing a tantrum. The couple hands him a tablet to shut him up.

Abram stretches out his neck to see what the boy is looking at. He is intrigued with the game.

DINER BOY

Want to play?

Abram nods his head. He turns to his parents for permission.

YOUNG ABRAM

Father, Can I join him?

JACOB

No, now sit straight.

YOUNG ABRAM

My father said no.

DINER BOY

Your dad's a jerk.

DINER DAD

Austin!

The boy's dad tries to apologize.

DINER BOY

I'm sorry about that, he's not usually like this. Give me that!

He snatches the tablet from the boy. The boy throws a tantrum.

JACOB

Abram, turn around.

Abram turns back and sits straight. The waiter returns with the drinks.

WAITER

Alright, so here we go! There. Now are we ready to order?

JACOB

I will get the roasted chicken and baked potato with a house salad on the side.

WAITER

Okay, and the lady?

BETTY

Can I get the half-rack ribs, mashed potatoes, and a side of vegetables, please?

WAITER

Got it! Now for the birthday boy?

Abram turns around again to see the little boy eating chicken tenders.

YOUNG ABRAM

That!

WAITER

Alright! Chicken tenders, anything else?

YOUNG ABRAM

Ice cream!

WAITER

A side of ice cream! Now that's a first! How about I throw in some fries, too?

YOUNG ABRAM

Yes.

The waiter leaves again.

YOUNG ABRAM

Mother, can we return for my next birthday?

BETTY

I'm afraid not.

YOUNG ABRAM

Why not?

JACOB

Ummm... Abram, your mother, and I wanted to talk to you. We have some news.

BETTY

You are going to be a big brother!

YOUNG ABRAM

Why?

INT. ARTHUR AMISH COUNTRY/ FISHER HOME- SUNRISE

Jacob and Betty are awakened by the alarm clock. It is five in the morning. They both get up.

BATHROOM

Jacob washes his face, freshens up.

He gets dressed.

KITCHEN

Heavily pregnant Betty is making breakfast.

BEDROOM

Jacob goes to wake up Abram. His eyes are still droopy. He helps Abram get dressed.

KITCHEN

The family has breakfast together, once they are done Betty clears the table and starts washing the dishes.

- She packs lunch bags for Jacob and Abram.

- Jacob grabs his lunch, kisses his wife and his son before heading out.

BEDROOM

Betty puts on a shawl and some shoes.

EXT. FISHER HOME- MOMENTS LATER

Betty locks up the door, she grabs her son's hand as they walk to school.

EXT. WALKING STREET- CONTINUOUS

Betty and Abram join a few other parents who are also walking their children to school.

YOUNG ABRAM
 Mother, when I become a big
 brother, will they help with the
 chores?

BETTY
 Well, when they can manage them
 yes.

YOUNG ABRAM
 Will they clean the chicken coup in
 my place?

BETTY
 No, they will get their own duties.
 Why?

YOUNG ABRAM
 Because I always smell like rotten
 eggs. Why do we have to wake up so
 early every morning? I am only a
 little boy.

BETTY
 Because it is our way of caring for
 each other and showing gratitude to
 God, you understand?

YOUNG ABRAM
 Yes, but I already show gratitude
 in my daily prayers.

BETTY
 Alright, hurry now...

EXT. ARTHUR AMISH COUNTRY/ SCHOOL- CONTINUOUS

They arrive at the school, Abram's teacher, Mrs. Dienner welcomes the students by the door.

BETTY
 Hello Mrs. Dienner!

MRS DIENNER
 Good morning Mrs. Fisher! Hello
 Abram!

YOUNG ABRAM
 Hello!

BETTY
Go on Abram, be a good boy.

YOUNG ABRAM
Yes Mother.

Abram enters class.

INT. ARTHUR AMISH COUNTRY/ SCHOOL- CONTINUOUS

Abram walks to his seat in the back, next to him is his best friend, Adaline.

YOUNG ABRAM
Good morning, Adaline!

YOUNG ADALINE
Morning Abram! How was your day in the big city?

YOUNG ABRAM
It was the best day of my life!
When I grow up, I will live there.
You should see the buildings! Then
Father took us for a walk, and we
saw these gigantic statues...

Abram continues gushing over his day out with his parents, as Mrs. Dienner starts the class.

MRS DIENNER
All right, children, take out your
history books and let us continue
where we left off. Turn to page
twenty-six, please.

EXT. ARTHUR AMISH COUNTRY/ CHICKEN COUP

Jacob and Abram are on the chicken ranch. He is showing Abram how to collect the eggs.

JACOB
Now you put them safely in the
basket. There you go... slowly.

He helps him put them in the basket. Jacob starts cleaning the chicken coup.

YOUNG ABRAM
It smells bad.

JACOB
Have you been keeping up in class?

YOUNG ABRAM

Yes.

JACOB

What is your favorite subject?

YOUNG ABRAM

History.

JACOB

That's good. So who founded the Amish?

YOUNG ABRAM

I don't remember.

JACOB

Jakob Ammann. You need to pay attention in class, my son. These are essential historical facts that you should know by heart.

YOUNG ABRAM

Father?

JACOB

Yes?

YOUNG ABRAM

Why do we live far away from the city?

JACOB

Because it is better to live far from temptation.

YOUNG ABRAM

What is temptation?

JACOB

Temptation is wanting to do something you know is not good for you.

YOUNG ABRAM

I don't understand.

JACOB

Come here.

They take a quick break and sit down for a bit.

JACOB (CONT'D)

You like sugar and desserts, yes?

YOUNG ABRAM

Yes.

JACOB

How do you feel when you eat too much cake?

YOUNG ABRAM

You get sick and bigger?

JACOB

Right, but when you eat a small slice after dinner... it tastes better and does not make your tummy feel sick, right?

Abram nods his head.

JACOB (CONT'D)

When we went to the city for your birthday, it was that little slice of cake right after dinner. We do not take pleasure in the outside world because it is big...

YOUNG ABRAM

A big slice of cake?

JACOB

You can put it like that.

YOUNG ABRAM

So that means those people in the city are sick?

Jacob hands him the basket of fresh eggs.

JACOB

Take this to your mother...then come back so we can finish.

Abram runs to the house, dropping a few eggs along the way.

I/E. ARTHUR AMISH COUNTRY/ FISHER HOME- DAY

PRESENT DAY

Abram is now a seventeen-year-old. He is running back home as his mother calls for him. In his hands, a bucket with fresh fish he just caught.

BETTY

Would you hurry up? We are late!

ABRAM

Sorry Mother! Look what I caught!

BETTY

Put it in the sink! Now go freshen up, you smell like the whole sea...

LIVING ROOM

Abram is now a big brother, his little twin siblings Annie and Lehi (11) are intrigued with a book. Jacob is seated on the couch, waiting for him.

JACOB

Do we always need to have the same conversation every other Sunday?

ABRAM

I apologize. Zachary and Eli came with me and we lost track of time. I will go change my clothes.

He runs to his room as they wait for him.

EXT. ARTHUR AMISH COUNTRY/ WORSHIP HOME- LATER

The Fisher family just arrived at the home where the service will be held. Bishop Lehman is greeting the attendees.

JACOB

Good morning, Bishop!

BISHOP LEHMAN

Brother Fisher! Happy Sunday! Mrs. Fisher, good to see you!

BETTY

Likewise, Bishop Lehman.

BISHOP LEHMAN

I am hoping you made your famous shoofly pie today. The Mrs has been raving about it.

BETTY

Yes, I made sure to bake a few extra.

BISHOP LEHMAN

How wonderful! Well, I think we are about to start. Let us head in! Oh, brother Abram, may I have a word with you?

ABRAM

Yes, Bishop.

They all enter, leaving Abram and the Bishop outside.

BISHOP LEHMAN

Your eighteenth birthday is coming up; I believe it is time for that discussion. Any plans?

ABRAM

Yes, I think so. I just need to find the right moment to...

The bishop nods his head.

ABRAM (CONT'D)

I am not sure how to go about it.

BISHOP LEHMAN

Well, the day your father turned sixteen, he knew he wanted to get baptized. I am sure he had some expectations that you would follow in his footsteps.

ABRAM

Then you understand my hesitations.

BISHOP LEHMAN

That I do.

ABRAM

It is not as if I despise this place. It is part of who I am.

BISHOP LEHMAN

Certainly not; Rumpsringa is just a part of our traditions, as a good day's work is for each of us. Besides, I was young once. Not to worry, I will put in a good word for you.

ABRAM

Thank you!

BISHOP LEHMAN

Let us go in.

EXT. ARTHUR AMISH COUNTRY/ NEIGHBOR HOUSE- LATER

After the service, there is a get-together for a meal. Benches and tables have been set up outside.

There is a table full of cheese, vegetables, bread, pies and more.

Adaline has grown into a young woman. She comes to say hello to Abram and his family.

ADALINE

Mr. and Mrs. Fisher, hello!

BETTY

Oh Adaline! How are you my dear?

ADALINE

I am well, thank you. I wanted to bring you some jam that I made. It was a big batch, and I know how Mr Fisher enjoys good jams.

JACOB

That's wonderfully kind of you Adaline, thank you.

BETTY

Yes, you are too kind. Please have a seat with us. My, have you grown... I remember when your mother would shout for you when you were climbing trees with the boys.

ABRAM

Oh, mother. You would be surprised to know she still does. She just knows how to hide it better.

BETTY

Oh hush! So, what are your plans for the summer?

ADALINE

I am going to Pennsylvania; my cousin is getting married. Well, I have to pass the last batches around, Have a great day.

BETTY

Likewise, dear.

Betty catches Abram staring at Adaline walking away. He notices he has been caught.

INT. ARTHUR AMISH COUNTRY/ FISHER HOME- NIGHT

Abram and his family are having a quiet family dinner. Abram is a bit anxious, getting himself ready to talk to his father.

ABRAM

I have decided to go for
Rumspringa.

JACOB

I was made aware by the bishop.

ABRAM

I cannot go without your blessing.

JACOB

What are your doubts? You grew up
in this community, this is home.

ABRAM

It is home, it will always be home.

JACOB

Why are you running away then?

ABRAM

I am not running, Father. You made
your choice long ago, and I would
like the same opportunity.

There is silence.

ABRAM (CONT'D)

Mother, what do you think?

BETTY

It is his birthright; why stop him?
When would you leave?

ABRAM

In a week.

JACOB

And how long are you planning on
staying?

ABRAM

Perhaps a year or two.

JACOB

All of our family is in the West. I
have no one you can stay with.

ABRAM

I can manage. I can get a job and find a roommate. Preferably someone who knows the city well and could be my tour guide during my stay.

JACOB

It sounds like you have everything already planned. And where do you suppose you will find that person?

EXT. SOUTHSIDE CHICAGO/ STREET- AFTERNOON

DANTE MORRIS (18) is walking the streets of Downtown Chicago. He is an extroverted, smooth talker, stylish, amateur playboy, and popular kid on the block. He passes a middle-aged woman.

DANTE

How are you doing Miss Coleman?

MS COLEMAN

Not so good; you messed up my bathroom sink, boy. It won't stop leaking.

DANTE

Oh, I'll get that fixed, Ms. Coleman. Don't even worry about it. I got you.

MS COLEMAN

No, thank you! I already got a plumber. You're lucky I know your Mama; I would have whooped that ass.

DANTE

Are you supposed to be talking like that on a Sunday?

Ms. Coleman ignores him and walks away. A few steps later, he crosses a beautiful lady. While still looking back at her, he runs into a pole. Dante plays it off.

He greets a group of men who are hanging out around a bodega.

DANTE (CONT'D)

Man, are you guys getting paid to stand here like Greek statues, or you're just bums?

BODEGA GUY
Shut the hell up man.

DANTE
Carlos, my boy... what's poppin?

CARLOS
What's poppin' is this vein in my head because I'm tired of repeating myself: where's my sneakers? And why is it that every time I stop by your house, you're not there? You messed up my sneakers?

DANTE
Relax man! I was about to drop them off at your house. But since you are here...

Dante hands him a fresh pair of sneakers that have just been customized with cool anime designs. Carlos and his crew are impressed.

CARLOS
Now that's what I'm talking about!

He checks each side of the shoes.

CARLOS (CONT'D)
I'm sorry I flipped out on you, man; it's just that they were a gift from my pops before he...

DANTE
No, I got you bro. It's all good.

CARLOS
We said three hundred, right?

DANTE
Yup.

Carlos sends the money through cashapp.

CARLOS
You got it?

DANTE
Yes Sir! You included the transaction fee, right?

CARLOS

Three hundred dollars? You can't take that from... whatever. Here you go.

He hands him a five-dollar bill.

DANTE

That's what's up! Alright I'll see you punks later.

INT. SOUTHSIDE CHICAGO/ BODEGA- CONTINUOUS

Dante enters the bodega. He walks to the cashier.

DANTE

Kapoor Saahab!

The cashier is turned the other way.

DANTE (CONT'D)

Yo! Mr. Kapoor!

He gets his attention.

MR KAPOOR

Why are you always screaming Dante?

DANTE

I have to; you have to get that hearing aid fixed ASAP. Here you go.

MR KAPOOR

Oh, thank you! Let me check.

He looks through the bag.

DANTE

Is that even necessary?

MR KAPOOR

Last time someone delivered half a burger.

DANTE

Well, I have integrity. I have to stop by my pop's job. Enjoy your grub, alright?

MR KAPOOR

Alright, thank you! And tell your father I said hello!

DANTE

Will do!

EXT. SOUTHSIDE CHICAGO/ STREET-CONTINUOUS

Dante gets in his car and drives off.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF MALL/ CURBSIDE- LATER

Dante is waiting for his father in his car, he notices two teenagers set up their tripod.

They start recording themselves doing a staged fight. Dante cringes.

He is startled by his father knocking on his hood. Lamar Morris works as a security guard at the mall.

DANTE

Heey Pops!

LAMAR

What did I tell you about sitting in your car like an undercover cop?

DANTE

What, you want me to burn like a raisin in the sun instead? Here's your lunch.

Dante hands him the paper bag.

LAMAR

You going home?

DANTE

No, I gotta Uber for a couple of hours.

LAMAR

Did you see the links I sent you for the scholarships?

DANTE

Dad, I already told you... I need more time. I don't want to waste your money when I'm not sure what I want to do. I will take a gap year, put some money aside, and figure it out.

LAMAR
 Just don't get caught up in this
 little chump change you're making,
 you understand?

DANTE
 Yes Sir.

LAMAR
 Alright, I love you.

DANTE
 Love you too.

LAMAR
 And fix your hat.

Dante has his baseball cap backwards; he turns it around.

LAMAR (CONT'D)
 Drive safe.

Lamar goes back inside. Dante drives off.

INT. THRIFT STORE- EVENING

Dante helps the business owner with marketing materials, he shows him some of the vintage logo designs he has already created.

INT. DANTE'S HOUSE- NIGHT

DANTE'S BEDROOM

Dante is on his laptop, taking online surveys. Once done, he is awarded fifty dollars.

BATHROOM

After a long day, he takes a shower. Then, he brushes his teeth and flosses. He even has a nighttime facial routine.

DANTE'S BEDROOM

Dante makes his bed, says a quick prayer then goes to bed.

EXT. ARTHUR AMISH COUNTRY/ ADALINE HOME- AFTERNOON

Abram comes to visit Adaline. He finds her picking fruits from a tree.

ABRAM
 Adaline...

Adaline is startled.

ADALINE

Oh my... You need to stop doing that!

ABRAM

Are you trying to give the whole community cavities?

ADALINE

I was running low. I still need some jars for the Weavers and Eichers. I have been getting more demands.

ABRAM

Mother wanted to thank you for ours, they were delicious.

ADALINE

I am glad. Can you help me carry this inside?

ABRAM

Certainly.

Abram grabs the basket; they go inside her house.

INT. ARTHUR AMISH COUNTRY/ ADALINE HOUSE/ KITCHEN-CONTINUOUS

He puts the basket on the counter. Abram seems a bit anxious, Adaline can tell.

ADALINE

Something on your mind?

ABRAM

Actually, I came to let you know that...

ADALINE

You are leaving? I kind of figured that already. You have been talking about it since we were five. Are you excited? Are you ready?

ABRAM

Very. For the first time, I feel like I made my own choice with no outside influence.

ADALINE
That's always good.

ABRAM
Adaline...

ADALINE
Yes?

ABRAM
I wanted to thank you for being
such a marvelous friend. You have
always been my comfort. No matter
how this ends, you will always be
the greatest friend I ever had.

Adaline starts tearing up.

ADALINE
Do write sometimes, will you?

ABRAM
I will.

INT. ARTHUR AMISH COUNTRY/ FISHER HOME- NIGHT

Abram is packing the last of his stuff. There is a knock on
his door. It's Jacob.

JACOB
May I come in?

ABRAM
Yes.

Jacob looks at the empty room. Then, he hands Abram an
envelope. Abram accepts it and opens it. It's an envelope
full of cash.

JACOB
If you run out, let me know.

ABRAM
Thank you, Father.

JACOB
So, is everything ready? You packed
everything?

ABRAM
I believe so.

JACOB

I did not mean to come off as trying to control your life. It was never my intention. I apologize for my unjust behavior. I just always assumed you knew you belonged here. At least, that is what I had hoped.

ABRAM

I never wanted to let you down.

JACOB

No, there is no need. Be true to your heart and yourself. I am fully behind you and hope you have a great time. And if you decide you want to come back, that is alright as well.

Abram goes to hug his father. Jacob is a bit uneasy but finally gives in.

EXT. ARTHUR AMISH COUNTRY/ FISHER HOME- THE NEXT DAY

It's the big day. Abram's family is seeing him off.

BETTY

Mrs Hill made you some muffins; she brought them over last night. I put them in the small bag so they would not get squished. Oh, and some banana bread!

ABRAM

Mother, they do have food there!

BETTY

Right. Okay what else? What did we forget.

ANNIE

A bed.

ABRAM

Maybe saying goodbye.

He hugs his mother. She starts getting teary eyed.

ABRAM (CONT'D)

We said no tears.

BETTY

Sorry. Now, you take good care of yourself. Make sure to drink your water and eat your vegetables.

ABRAM

I promise.

BETTY

Okay.

Abram says goodbye to his little siblings.

ABRAM

Come here my little bugs.

He picks them both up.

ANNIE

Remember to set your alarm every morning.

LEHI

And don't forget to clean the chicken coop.

ABRAM

That is not how it works over there. Now, do you two promise to behave?

LEHI

Yes.

He puts them down.

JACOB

Let me know if you run short on the cash.

ABRAM

I will be all right; this is enough to cover me while I look for work.

Jacob brings him in for a hug.

JACOB

I love you. Have a wonderful time.

ABRAM

I love you too Dad. Well time to hit the road.

Abram grabs his stuff and waves them all goodbye.

They watch him as he walks away. Abram tries not to look back at them.

EXT. ARTHUR AMISH COUNTRY/ STREETS- MOMENTS LATER

As he passes Adaline's house, he stops. Adaline is standing outside; she waves him goodbye. He waves back. She goes into the house.

EXT. ROAD SIDE- MOMENTS LATER

Abram is now out of Amish country; cars are passing by. He signals for a ride. A young man with music blasting from miles away stops for him. The guy pulls over.

CAR GUY

Hey man! Need a ride?

ABRAM

Yes, I am headed for the city.

CAR GUY

You got gas money?

ABRAM

Surely.

Abram opens the envelope with cash.

CAR GUY

Well, come on in buddy!

ABRAM

Thank you!

Before Abram is fully seated, the guy already driving away.

INT. MOVING CAR- CONTINUOUS

There is trash everywhere. The whole seat is filled with random things. He politely pushes them away.

CAR GUY

Sorry about the mess, man; my girl just threw me out. She's trying to trap me with a kid, and I'm not having it. I already got three baby mamas sucking me dry... and not that way. I can't feed another kid. As soon as these chicks get dickmatized, now all of a sudden, the UDI slips out, and they run out of birth control pills.

(MORE)

CAR GUY (CONT'D)
I could make a run for the border
or something.

The man is smoking a blunt, Abram starts coughing.

CAR GUY (CONT'D)
Oh, I'm sorry dude, do you mind?

ABRAM
No, I just have...

CAR GUY
Cool.

CAR GUY (CONT'D)
So, what's your name?

ABRAM
I am Abram Fisher.

CAR GUY
Abram, you mean Abraham.

ABRAM
No, just Abram.

CAR GUY
I'm guessing you're not from around
here.

ABRAM
You can say that. I am from the
Arthur Amish community.

CAR GUY
What's that?

ABRAM
I'm Amish.

CAR GUY
Oh, that's why you're dressed like
a newsboy? You mean those people
who live in the Stone Age. What are
you guys smoking out there? Get
with the times, man! Enjoy the
forbidden fruit! We're all going to
hell anyway!

ABRAM
I think you misunderstood who we
are.

CAR GUY

No, man. I mean you guys are like a cult, separating yourselves from the rest of the world, all secretive and stuff.

ABRAM

And what do you do?

CAR GUY

Oh, I have a podcast. You should look me up, man. It's called John's revelations. I got like two hundred followers, but we are growing, dude. My cousin and I just talk about politics, the healthcare system, and the government trying to fuck its people blind... we're just really trying to wake up the American people. People need to know what's happening. Look at the Area 51 shit that happened a couple of years ago. My buddy and I were part of that group. I'm telling you, the shit we saw, man. We got the footage, too. We're in talks with a few producers in LA, so the documentary will probably be released by next year.

ABRAM

That sounds very intriguing.

CAR GUY

Ain't it?

ABRAM

So where are you headed?

CAR GUY

South side. That's where I'm from.

ABRAM

What is South side like? Paint me a picture.

CAR GUY

There's always this myth about Southside, but it's just like any other place. You even pronounce the name, and people put on bulletproof vests. I have lived there since I was five and look at me! I'm still here.

(MORE)

CAR GUY (CONT'D)

Trust me, the South Side is the place to be.

ABRAM

Are there many sights and attractions for a rural boy like me to indulge in?

CAR GUY

Oh, absolutely man! You'll have a blast.

ABRAM

Wonderful! Umm...how long is the drive?

CAR GUY

Umm, I'd say about two hours. Why don't you relax and take a nap? I'll let you know when we're almost there.

ABRAM

Alright. I have some pies if you want some.

CAR GUY

Oh no, I'm cool man! I got some Cheetos somewhere.

ABRAM

Cheetos?

CAR GUY

Damn, I forgot. You don't know what Cheetos are? I think there's some in my glove department. Open it.

Abram is confused. He looks around.

CAR GUY (CONT'D)

It's right in front of you, just pull the little thingy. There you go!

While he opens the glove compartment, he touches a snot stain. He wipes it off. He gets the Cheetos and hands them to the guy.

Abram watches him as he munches.

CAR GUY (CONT'D)

Try one.

Abram grabs a piece. As soon as it hits his mouth, he starts turning red.

CAR GUY (CONT'D)
There it is! That first taste
always gets you.

Snot comes out of Abram's nose, he is crying.

CAR GUY (CONT'D)
What do you think?

ABRAM
I don't think I can feel my tongue.

CAR GUY
(laughs)
Don't worry, the first one is the
hardest.

ABRAM
Can I get more?

ABRAM (CONT'D)
Yeah, sure thing! Help yourself.
Just don't be surprised when you're
shitting tonight.

Abram is not listening, just munching on the Cheetos.

ABRAM (CONT'D)
I think this is the best snack I
ever had.

The guy starts blasting some local rap music.

ABRAM (CONT'D)
Is that a famous musician?

CAR GUY
Yeah, that's my cousin El Con, dude
is mad talented man. His Spotify
numbers are going crazy this year.
Look him up

The guy looks at the clock. It is almost ten in the morning.

CAR GUY (CONT'D)
Shit! I need to step on it, I gotta
pick up my son at twelve.

AN HOUR LATER

After an hour of driving, they pass a cop car hiding between bushes. He immediately follows them.

The beacon lights come on.

CAR GUY (CONT'D)
Are you shitting me?

He pulls over. As the cop is still in his car. He hides his vape pen and his weed stash.

ABRAM
Are we in trouble?

He sprays his car with some air freshener.

CAR GUY
Listen, if anything happens...
you're holding me down, right?
Remember, I'm from the South Side;
we don't play with rats. You got
me, right?

ABRAM
Huh?

CAR GUY
Cool. Remember, I know your face.

The cop walks to their car.

CAR GUY (CONT'D)
Evening officer. What can I do for
you?

COP
(southern accent)
Do you know how fast you were
going?

CAR GUY
Oooh, was I going too fast? I did
not notice; my wife is in labor.
I'm just trying to make it there on
time to meet my little man.

COP
At that speed, you'll be lucky if
you get there at all. You were
doing fifty miles above the speed
limit.

CAR GUY
I'm sorry about that.

COP

And I'm sorry too, you're getting a ticket.

CAR GUY

Well, of course... otherwise, how will you sleep at night?

COP

Excuse me?

CAR GUY

I bet you get off writing in that little journal of yours. A bunch of losers with a miserable life... you get paid peanuts and take it out on us model citizens.

COP

Would you like to discuss it in the back of my car?

As the cop looks inside the car, he notices Abram... who is profoundly nervous.

COP (CONT'D)

Who is that?

CAR GUY

Oh, this is my little cousin; he came from Mississippi. I'm showing him around; the little country boy has never been anywhere besides his father's trailer park.

COP

I lived in a trailer park once.

CAR GUY

It is fun isn't' it? Very rustic vibes. Love it.

COP

What area are you from, son?

Abram doesn't answer.

CAR GUY

He's uhh. He's ... he's very introverted. Can we, uh, maybe hurry this up? I got this chick waiting for me... I don't want her to think I ghosted her.

COP
I thought your wife was in labor.

CAR GUY
Oh, so you're the moral police now?

COP
I'll be back.

The cop goes back to his car.

CAR GUY
Now I have to go through my baby
mama's purse. She went upside my
head last time. Fuck! Actually, can
I get that gas money?

ABRAM
Yes.

Abram hands him a twenty-dollar bill.

CAR GUY
Bro, this won't even fill up half a
tank.

ABRAM
Oh, here you go.

He gives him a couple more twenty-dollar bills.

CAR GUY
I appreciate this man.

The cop returns, he hands it to him.

COP
Here you go. And congratulations.
On the... baby. Watch that gas
pedal; you don't want more tickets
with another mouth to feed. Hmm?
You fellas have a good night.

CAR GUY
Oh, fuck off!

They drive off.

INT. MOVING CAR- CONTINUOUS

Abram is still recovering from the little fiasco that just
happened.

CAR GUY

Hey, I'm sorry about that back there. I kind of panicked a little. I'm trying to stay out of trouble, but these fuckers have a scent on me or something. I'm out here minding my own business, and here they come. They're not gonna get me! Hell no!

I/E. MOVING CAR/ DOWNTOWN CHICAGO STREETS- AFTERNOON

They finally arrive downtown. Abram is amazed at the skyscrapers.

TRAFFIC LIGHT

A car full of girls with music blasting pulls up next to them. Abram can't stop staring at their cleavage. One of them gives him the finger. He waves at them.

I/E SOUTHSIDE CHICAGO/ STREETS- LATER

They arrive in South side, the guy pulls over at a bodega.

A group of old men are having drinks and playing games outside a bodega.

CAR GUY

Alright man, here we are. So where should I drop you off?

ABRAM

Where can I find sleeping accommodations?

CAR GUY

You mean a motel? There's a few around here.

ABRAM

Then I will be taking off from here.

CAR GUY

Are you sure? I can take you to a motel.

ABRAM

No, it is quite alright. I want to take a walk and stretch my legs.

CAR GUY

Well alright man! Good luck to you!
And don't forget to susbscribe!

ABRAM

Will do! Thank you very much.

Abram gets out, he gets his bags. He waves as the guy drives off.

I/E. SOUTHSIDE CHICAGO STREETS- CONTINUOUS

Abram walks down the streets, carrying his luggage. He enters the bodega.

INT. SOUTHSIDE BODEGA- CONTINUOUS

There are two influencer girls doing a photoshoot, one of them is sitting in a shopping cart.

INFLUENCER GIRL

Just extend the legs more.

The photographer girl pulls her legs, the girl in the cart hits her head.

INFLUENCER GIRL #2

Ouch! Biatch.

Abram walks to the cashier. It's Mr Kapoor, yelling in Hindi.

ABRAM

Excuse me? Hello?

MR KAPOOR

Oh, sorry, mothers... they never know how to end a conversation. How can I help you?

ABRAM

Can you point me to a motel nearby?

MR KAPOOR

Oh yes! There is one about ten minutes from here.

The influencer girls interrupt their conversation.

INFLUENCER GIRL

Oh my God! Hi, I just wanted to tell you that I just love the whole old-money aesthetic you have going on! Are you on TikTok?

ABRAM

Sorry?

INFLUENCER GIRL #2

Our brand is all about vintage fashion, old money, and everything retro. The whole la Dolce vita kind of vibes, I think you totally fit the look. Would you be interested in doing a collab?

Abram just nods.

INFLUENCER GIRL

Totally! You know what? Let me take a few pics right here. Just act like I'm not here!

ABRAM

Okay. Why not?

Abram looks away from the camera, staring into nothing.

INFLUENCER GIRL #2

I love it! So, what's your username?

ABRAM

I don't know

INFLUENCER GIRL

You're not on Instagram?

ABRAM

No.

INFLUENCER GIRL #2

Oh, I get it! Is it part of your brand? Brilliant! We'll give you a credit on the post.

INFLUENCER GIRL

Alright we gotta go! Bye!

The girls leave. Abram resumes his conversation with the cashier.

ABRAM

Sir, I am looking for ...Teetos?

MR KAPOOR

I'm sorry?

ABRAM

The red spicy snacks, very dusty on your fingers.

MR KAPOOR

Cheetos?

ABRAM

Yes!

MR KAPOOR

Oh, I have Cheetos. How many would you like?

ABRAM

Three.

Dante walks in the store.

DANTE

Yo! Mr. Kapoor? Is my mom's order ready?

MR KAPOOR

Who else would be shouting this early in the day? I have it right here.

While Mr. Kapoor gets the order, Dante turns to his side to notice Abram.

DANTE

Damn, so you Jehovah brothers never take a day off huh?

ABRAM

I am not Jehovah's witness.

DANTE

I can't keep up with these fashion trends.

MR KAPOOR

Here you go. That will be nine twenty-seven. Cash or card?

ABRAM

Cash.

Abram pays.

DANTE

Will you be hosting a Dilwali party again this year? The biryani from last year was the BOMB!

MR KAPOOR

My brother is hosting it this year.

DANTE

Can I come? What's on the menu?

MR KAPOOR

It's in Ohio. And it's family only.

DANTE

You have known me my whole life; you're practically like a second father.

MR KAPOOR

Yet when I need a family discount from your services, you do not budge.

DANTE

Well, that's business. Family and business do not mix.

MR KAPOOR

Sure.

DANTE

Thanks again, Mr. Kapoor.

MR KAPOOR

Give my greetings to your parents.

DANTE

Will do!

Abram has been watching Dante, he grabs the Cheetos.

ABRAM

Thank you, Sir!

He follows Dante outside.

EXT. SOUTHSIDE BODEGA-CONTINUOUS

Dante is about to get in his car. Abram taps him on the shoulder.

ABRAM

Excuse me?

DANTE

Hey man, if you're about to ask me if you could come over, don't waste your time, alright? We're Baptist, and that's not changing anytime soon. AND NO, I already have the pamphlets; I have a whole drawer full of them, so I'm good on that.

ABRAM

Again, I am not a Jehovah's witness.

DANTE

Well, tell your outfit.

ABRAM

I was wondering if I could catch a ride with you. I am looking for a place to stay. I am not from here, and I worry I will get lost.

Dante thinks about it first.

ABRAM (CONT'D)

I have gas money.

DANTE

Fine, get in.

They get in the car. He drives off.

INT. MOVING CAR- MOMENTS LATER

Dante and Abram are on their way to a motel. Dante scans Abram from head to toe.

DANTE

So where are you from dude?

ABRAM

I'm from Arthur Illinois.

DANTE

Oh! You're Amish?

ABRAM

Yes.

DANTE

I know about you guys! Hey, is it true that you don't pay taxes?

ABRAM

No, it is false. We pay taxes,
unless you own a business.

DANTE

Oh. So, what are you doing here?

ABRAM

I am here on my rumspringa. It's a
sort of vacation you take before
you are baptized into the church.

DANTE

So you're here to get your freak
on, eh? Are you trying to sow your
royal oats like Prince Hakeem?

Dante is laughing hysterically, as Abram is confused.

DANTE (CONT'D)

Hey man, I don't blame you.

ABRAM

Are there any sightseeing and fun
activities you recommend?

DANTE

I think what you need is a tour
guide. I don't see you wandering
around these streets on your own.

ABRAM

Would you be willing to take that
task?

DANTE

I can't, man; I already have too
much on my plate. I gotta make some
money.

ABRAM

I would pay you for your time.

DANTE

How much are we talking?

ABRAM

Four hundred dollars.

DANTE

How's tomorrow at nine?

EXT. LOCAL MOTEL- LATER

They arrive at a motel. It's a very low budget, almost run down.

DANTE
Well, here we are!

ABRAM
Suddenly I am concerned for my wellbeing.

DANTE
It's not that bad. Just keep your room locked at all times. Let me give you my phone number.

Dante writes it on a piece of paper.

ABRAM
Okay, I will see you tomorrow then.

DANTE
Maybe wear something from this era.

ABRAM
I will keep that in mind.

DANTE
By the way, what is your name?

ABRAM
Abram.

DANTE
Abram! I'm Dante.

ABRAM
It was a pleasure meeting you, Dante.

DANTE
Okay! Goodnight.

Abram walks to the door.

INT. LOCAL MOTEL- CONTINUOUS

Abram makes his way to the reception. The guy is busy watching anime on the television.

ABRAM
Afternoon! I would like to get a room.

RECEPTIONIST

The rooms start at thirty dollars a night, and we do not accept checks, oral work, or food stamps.

ABRAM

Excuse me?

RECEPTIONIST

Look buddy, I already had three crackheads try to jump me today.

ABRAM

Will this do?

Abram pulls out some cash.

RECEPTIONIST

That will do just fine. So, we have the King side bed available. Just give me a minute; let me see what's available.

A few roaches walk across the desk as he's typing on his keyboard. The receptionist quickly sweeps them off. Abram has already noticed it.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

(clears throat)

So, we have the queen size available. I will need to see some photo ID.

Abram gives his ID. The receptionist looks at it. There is no photo.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

Umm sir, you can't rent out a room. You're not even eighteen.

EXT. LOCAL MOTEL PARKING LOT- CONTINUOUS

Abram walks out disappointed. Dante is still there, talking to a girl.

DANTE

So, what are you, a Leo?

MOTEL GIRL

Capricorn.

DANTE

Well I'm a Virgo. We go together like cookies and milk.

MOTEL GIRL
I'm lactose intolerant.

DANTE
Me too. Maybe we could go get a
green smoothie or something.

The girl walks away. Dante notices Abram.

DANTE (CONT'D)
What happened? They're all booked?

ABRAM
They said I am underage.

DANTE
What do you mean? You look about
twenty-six. So now what?

ABRAM
I don't know.

DANTE
You don't have family or friends
here?

.

Abram shakes his head as he walks around, pensive. He stops.

ABRAM
Can I stay with you?

DANTE
Come again?

ABRAM
Please, just temporarily. Until I
figure this all out.

DANTE
If it were up to me, I wouldn't
have a problem. The issue is my
parents. And if I may offer some
advice, you shouldn't be this
trusting. How do you know we're not
a serial killer family?

ABRAM
Are you? It's my first night. I
have no clue where to go.

DANTE
 (scratches head)
 We can try but don't get your hopes up. But how am I gonna explain you to them when you look like you just came out of the nineteen forties?

ABRAM
 There's nothing wrong with not divulging everything.

DANTE
 I am not lying to my parents.

INT. DANTE'S HOUSE- NIGHT

Abram and Dante are standing in front of Lamar and Georgia, about to introduce Abram.

DANTE
 This is Eric, he... uh... he's a friend of Karan.

GEORGIA
 Then why isn't he staying with Karan?

DANTE
 Well, they don't have enough room. His uncle is visiting, so they have no place to put him.

LAMAR
 Young man, what is Karan's last name?

ABRAM
 Kapoor?

GEORGIA
 What high school does he go to?

ABRAM
 Ummm... I...

DANTE
 Dad, what...

GEORGIA
 Let him answer. You know what? Let me get Mr. Malhotra on the phone; maybe he remembers.

Georgia starts dialing.

DANTE

Alright! Geez! His name is Abram.
He's new in town and has no family
around here, so...

GEORGIA

What are you in town for Abram?

ABRAM

I am from the Mennonite community
in Arthur. I am on Rumspringa; it's
a...

LAMAR

I know what a Rumspringa is.

DANTE

You do? Anyway, He asked me to show
him around so I will be his tour
guide. And it would be easier for
me if he stayed here.

GEORGIA

And what are you getting out of
this?

DANTE

Nothing, I'm just helping him out.

LAMAR

Boy we're not stupid, how much?

DANTE

A thousand. But it's not about the
money. We are Christians, remember?
We help those in need. Come on,
guys, we're all he's got. Jesus
Christ took in the strays and the
vagabonds without judgment. Isn't
that the purpose of being a
Christian? To be Christ-like? We
can start right here.

GEORGIA

Alright. He can stay. I guess you
need that cash if you're misquoting
the Bible.

DANTE

Thank you! You won't even know he's
here.

ABRAM

Thank you very much! I promise this is temporary until I get a place of my own.

LAMAR

That's all well and good, but we have rules in this house. There is no smoking, parties, loud music, girls, or bad company.

GEORGIA

And we are a church-going family, so you have to join us on Sundays for service.

ABRAM

Yes Ma'am.

GEORGIA

Alright, I'll get your room ready. Are you hungry?

ABRAM

Quite famished.

Abram pulls out the pies his mom packed for him out of his bag. He hands it to Georgia.

ABRAM (CONT'D)

These are for you. It is a shoofly pie.

GEORGIA

Shoofly pie huh? Well, thank you! Dante, put them in the fridge.

Lamar takes the pies into the kitchen.

LAMAR

I'll put those away.

Lamar grabs his bags. He follows Georgia into the guest room.

KITCHEN

Abram joins Dante in the kitchen.

DANTE

So, we got some catfish, baked sweet potatoes and some green beans.

ABRAM
Catfish?

DANTE
It's not as it sounds, relax. That
shit slaps, trust me.

Dante heats the plate in the microwave.

DANTE (CONT'D)
Want something to drink?

ABRAM
Water will be fine.

Abram walks around, checking the coffee maker, the toaster,
and other electronics—the microwave rings. Dante brings the
plate to Abram. He closes his eyes, says a quick prayer,
then starts to gobble.

Dante watches in amusement.

DANTE
Well damn! Take a breather my guy!
That plate is not running away.

ABRAM
This is catfish?

DANTE
That's right. But you're not doing
it right, watch this.

Dante grabs a hot sauce from the cupboard. He adds a few
drizzles on the catfish.

DANTE (CONT'D)
Now try it.

Abram takes a minute to savor the bite.

DANTE (CONT'D)
Well?

ABRAM
Is there more?

Abram gets seconds, then thirds and finishes off with some
ice cream.

INT. DANTE'S HOUSE- SUNRISE

Abram sleeps off his food coma. He is awakened by a bee buzzing near his ear. Everyone is still asleep. He gets out of bed and takes a moment to pray.

LIVING ROOM

Abram walks around the living room. He looks at pictures of Dante and his family. He finds a hoverboard in the coat closet and inspects it. He tries to push it with his hands, but it doesn't work.

He finds a button and presses it. It turns on; he gets on it. While trying to get balance, he leans back... the hoverboard starts going back... fast. Abram stands still.

He leans a bit forward, it moves again. He tries to balance himself but runs into chairs.

MASTER BEDROOM

Georgia and Lamar are awakened by the noise.

LAMAR

Get my gun.

Georgia gets the gun in the nightstand. He goes to check.

LIVING ROOM

Lamar finds Abram laying down, things are scattered on the floor.

ABRAM

Good morning Mr Morris. Hope you slept well.

LAMAR

Boy, I'm going to say this once and never again: nobody gets between me and my sleep; you got that?

ABRAM

Yes sir, I apologize.

LAMAR

Now clean this mess up.

ABRAM

Right away.

Lamar goes back to bed. Abram gets up, puts the chairs back.

LATER THAT MORNING

Breakfast is set. Abram and Dante are eating.

DANTE

I heard you had a little incident
this morning. Pops doesn't play
about his sleep.

ABRAM

Oh I was certainly made aware, your
father is quite...

DANTE

Scary as hell, yeah. Try to go with
him to a parent-teacher conference
and have the teacher snitch on you.
That man screamed the dandruff off
my head.

ABRAM

He kind of reminds me of my father.

DANTE

What he's a mean old man too?

ABRAM

He's very reserved, a man of a few
words.

DANTE

Yeah, those are the scary ones. So,
what are you wearing today?

ABRAM

I'm ready.

DANTE

Oh no you're not. I'm not trying to
get jumped because of you.

DANTE'S BEDROOM

Dante picks an outfit for Abram. He is uncomfortable in
Dante's clothes. He can't stop pulling down his shirt and
stretching his pants.

DANTE (CONT'D)

Dude, relax! You look fine.

ABRAM

How do you breathe in this? Why is it so body-hugging? And I feel like my buttocks are showing.

DANTE

Ass is not just for girls nowadays; you gotta have it nice and firm. Girls love it.

Abram is still stretching the jeans.

MONTAGE- VARIOUS

INT. LOCAL BANK- DAY

Abram and Dante are waiting in line for the bank teller.

- They get called next.
- He pulls out the cash from a plastic container.
- The banker sets up his account, she hands him his debit card

INT. ELEVATOR- MOMENTS LATER

- Dante gets in the elevator, Abram is mortified.
- People pass him and enter, Dante holds the door for him.
- Abram finally goes, he is almost squished as the doors close in.
- He holds onto Dante tightly.

INT. CLOTHING STORE- AFTERNOON

Dante helps Abram buy some clothes.

- Abram chooses styles that are too old for him.
- Dante disapproves all of them.
- People are staring at them argue.
- Abram is distracted by a woman whose thong is showing while she kneels to try on a pair of shoes.
- Without looking ahead... Abram bumps head with another customer.

INT. BARBERSHOP- LATER

- Dante is getting a haircut
- Abram is intrigued by one of the clients seated, he has cornrows.
- He asks the barber if he could get the same style, Dante stops him.
- Abram settles for a nice trim, he also shaves his moustache.

EXT. PHONE COMPANY- EVENING

Abram and Dante shop for a new phone, the store employee hands him one to check out its features. Abram's hands start shaking. The employee is confused.

EXT. DOWNTOWN CHICAGO- NIGHT

- They take a walk in Downtown Chicago.
- Abram is startled by a living statue as he tries to take a photo
- Abram tries to take a selfie. he flips the phone the wrong way and takes a photo too close to his face. The flash almost blinds him.

END MONTAGE

INT. GABE'S HOUSE/ BEDROOM - DAY

Abram has accompanied Dante to paint a room at his friend Gabe's house.

DANTE

Hand me that other brush.

ABRAM

I can give you a hand. It's always better to start from the corners, you do not just start in the center like a drawing. It's more work for yourself.

DANTE

So, you wait until I have one wall left to offer help huh?

ABRAM

You never asked.

Abram grabs the other brush and starts on the other corner.
Mr. Quinn, Gabe's stepfather comes in.

MR QUINN
How's it going guys? I brought you
some drinks.

DANTE
Thank you Sir, we're about done.

MR QUINN
If Gabe wasn't such a lazy nitwit,
I wouldn't have to hire you.

ABRAM
I'm assuming you're not familiar
with a paint and a brush yourself?

MR QUINN
No, I'm too busy trying to pay off
this house. Did he even come and
say hello? Gabe? Get in here!

Gabe walks in, he is a socially awkward seventeen-year-old.
He keeps his head down, rarely makes eye contact.

MR QUINN (CONT'D)
Your friend came to do your chores,
the least you could do is say
hello.

GABE
(shy, quietly)
Hi.

DANTE
What's up Gabe? How's your summer
so far?

GABE
Good.

MR QUINN
Why don't you hang here and keep
them company? Get out of your room
for once and maybe let some air in.
I gotta get to work, Dante I'll
Venmo you tonight alright?

DANTE
No problem! Thank you, Sir.

Abram is intrigued with Gabe. He introduces himself.

ABRAM

Hi! I'm Abram. I am a guest at Dante's.

GABE

Hello.

ABRAM

So, what were you doing?

GABE

Just reading some books I got from the library.

ABRAM

I love books as well, what are you reading?

GABE

How to win and influence people.

ABRAM

Oh, Perhaps I could borrow it during my stay. Or we could swap our catalog.

GABE

Okay.

ABRAM

Definitely.

DANTE

What are you doing this weekend, Gabe?

GABE

Not much. Maybe a game session and go skate.

DANTE

Astrid is hosting a party tomorrow, come with us?

GABE

I didn't get an invite.

DANTE

Neither did I, just come.

GABE

I don't know. I have to ...

DANTE

Dude, it's free food, drinks, and some hotties in there. It's better than staying home alone on a Saturday. What do you say?

GABE

Okay.

DANTE

Alright! Do you want me to pick you up?

GABE

No, I can meet you there.

DANTE

Awesome!

ABRAM

Well, I think this was a decent job.

Dante's side has a lighter tone than Abram.

ABRAM (CONT'D)

Allow me.

Abram pushes Dante to the side, he adds another coat.

INT. DANTE'S HOUSE/ MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

While Georgia reads on her tablet, Lamar is too concentrated on his phone.

GEORGIA

Something I should be worried about?

LAMAR

Huh?

GEORGIA

I better not see any booty cheeks on that phone with the way your eyes are about to pop out like that.

Georgia leans over, she sees that Lamar is doing a background check on Abram.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)

Are you serious?

LAMAR

What?

GEORGIA

That boy is probably not even in public records.

LAMAR

I'm just checking.

GEORGIA

Okay grinch. So, what did you find? Let me hear it.

LAMAR

Nothing.

GEORGIA

And there you have it.

Georgia snatches his phone.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)

There is nothing wrong with giving people a chance.

LAMAR

He's staying in my home; I have every right.

GEORGIA

You know you could be the only person on earth who could use rose-colored glasses. Goodnight, you old grinch! Now, turn down that brightness.

I/E. ASTRID HOUSE- NIGHT

They knock on the door, a girl opens. It's Astrid, she's the it girl within Adam's circle. She has a very bohemian look, very outgoing and outspoken. Abram has star eyes.

ASTRID

What's up Dante!

DANTE

Astrid! Don't you look straight out of a seventy's cult.

ASTRID

And where is your costume?

DANTE
Wait, I wasn't aware it was a
costume party.

ASTRID
Come in!

They enter her house. The music is near deafening.

ASTRID (CONT'D)
And who is this?

DANTE
I'm sorry, this is Abram. A new
friend of mine. Are you cool with
it?

ASTRID
Sure, Hi!

ABRAM
Pleasure to make your acquaintance,
Astrid. I have brought a delicacy
from where I am from.

He hands her a shoofly pie.

ASTRID
Oh, thank you so much! So exactly
where are you from?

ABRAM
Arthur Illinois.

ASTRID
Oh! You're a Mennonite?

ABRAM
Yes!

ASTRID
Yeah, we went to visit when I was
little. My grandpa was fascinated
with the whole Amish culture. So
I'm guessing this is your
Rumspringa.

ABRAM
Indeed, it is.

ASTRID

(MORE)

ASTRID (CONT'D)

So, there is one simple rule for entering this party: You need to give your phone away, we will lock it safely, and you get it when you leave.

DANTE

Yeah...no doubt.

They both hand in their phones to her.

ASTRID

Gabe's in the kitchen, he was asking for you.

DANTE

Yeah, I'll go check on him.

ASTRID

Okay, make sure you get some wings. Stacey's dad made them.

Dante and Abram walk into the kitchen, a group of girls dressed as Taylor Swift album covers. Everyone has a costume on.

Dante finds Gabe seated in a corner by himself.

DANTE

Gabe! My guy! Did you just get here too?

GABE

I was the first one here.

DANTE

Oh! So, you want to grab some food?

GABE

Okay.

DANTE

Come on.

ABRAM

Good to see you, Gabe. Now I have someone to hang on to in case Dante is too ...preoccupied.

Dante is already talking to a girl, leaving Abram and Gabe to themselves.

The table is filled with meats, side dishes, snacks and drinks.

- Abram & Gabe fill up their plates.
- They share some laughter as they chow down.
- Dante coaches Abram to play beer pong.
- Astrid and Karan (Mr Kapoor's son) play a nasty food game. They both try to drink a hot sauce shake... Karan throws up halfway.
- Gabe and Dante eat two bananas and a sprite, Dante covers his mouth to keep from puking.
- After, they play spin the bottle. A few rounds into it, it lands on Abram. He starts sweating. The girl leans in, and Abram opens his mouth wide.
 - The DJ puts on some throwback music.
- Abram is cheered on as he takes over the dance floor with questionable moves; Astrid, however, is quite taken by his ambiance.
- She joins him and copies his movements.
- During a dance break, he chugs down some energy drinks. He is fully drenched in sweat.
- Abram gets some cotton candy, Jello and cookies.
- Abram returns to the dance scene.
- Abram whispers gibberish to Dante, who just keeps nodding.
- Gabe and Abram are seated on the floor; Gabe shows him his newly purchased ebooks. Abram can't stop fidgeting; he is in a sugar rush.
- The party is winding down, Abram falls onto the couch, and everything is spinning around him. He smiles.

I/E. DANTE'S HOUSE- NIGHT

DRIVEWAY

Dante and Abram arrive home. Abram is tired from the sugar rush and the physical toll from his dance sequences.

DANTE

Alright party boy. Let's go.

ABRAM
Life is beautiful, isn't it?

DANTE
Okay. Come on...

ABRAM
It is; all you need are some good
friends and great music, and
everything else lines itself up.

Dante gets out of the car. Abram is drowsy, he can't open the door. Dante helps him.

DANTE
I'm not carrying your ass.

Abram can't stop giggling. Dante grabs Abram's arms, he guides him towards the door.

ABRAM
So, let's talk about Astrid, lovely
girl, huh? She couldn't stop being
around me. Oh! I love The Chi!

Abram exhales deeply. Dante gets a whiff of his breath.

DANTE
Dude did you eat racoon's balls or
what?

ABRAM
I believe it was the fisheye balls.

Dante gags. They get to the door. Dante lets go of Abram to find the house keys. Abram is tipsy... he falls back and rolls down the stairs.

INT. DANTE'S HOUSE/ LIVING ROOM- LATER

Abram and Dante are on the couch, watching a movie and snacking on some chips.

ABRAM
I cannot feel my legs.

DANTE
Doesn't surprise me. The way you
danced and moved like you're
elastigirl.

ABRAM

I have never had so much fun in one night. Perhaps we could host one here.

DANTE

Need I remind the rules of the Morris household?

ABRAM

Oh yes, sorry. It slipped my mind. If Father saw me last night, he would have damaged a nerve. This is paradise. I can't believe he was trying to keep me from all this.

DANTE

I'm sure he has his reasons.

ABRAM

No, he's just not a risk-taker. I pity him, to be honest. He will never get a chance to taste what real life is. Even the food tastes like it was made by the angel Gabriel himself. I feel so good, you know?

DANTE

Did you go through my drawer?

INT. DANTE'S HOUSE- THE NEXT DAY

GUEST BEDROOM

Abram is deep asleep. He is abruptly awoken by a loud knock on the door. It's Georgia.

GEORGIA

Rise and shine! It's the Lord's day, and we will respect it! Get up! Get up! Let's go!

DANTE'S BEDROOM

Upon entering his bedroom, Georgia is hit with a smell.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)

Oh, my dear Lord! What died in here?

She starts tapping Dante. He still won't open his eyes.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)

Dante, I'm not gonna do this with you again! I'll give you three seconds to get your behind up and in that shower! ONE, TWO TH...

Dante is up.

DANTE

Ma, we don't need to take one car. I can just take mine and I'll meet you there.

GEORGIA

Not happening! One car, one family... don't make me come back in here. I swear you people have no aspect of time; how many times do I have to wait on you every damn Sunday! If I come back in here, I'm losing a shoe.

LIVING ROOM

Lamar, Dante and Abram are waiting in the living room for Georgia.

She's finally ready.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)

Everyone ready?

DANTE

We have been for TWENTY MINUTES!

GEORGIA

Last minute touch ups, that's all.

As she passes Abram, she almost hits him with her wide church hat. He ducks.

LAMAR

Must you always wear that big old peacock on your head?

GEORGIA

Oh shut up Lamar.

Lamar closes the door as they leave for church.

INT. BAPITST CHURCH- AFTERNOON

Abram and The Morris enter the building. Abram can feel the ground shake from the loud music.

DANTE

Your first church service! How do you feel?

ABRAM

I have attended services back home. How different could it be?

As they enter the church, the choir is full on.

- The church goers are on their feet, singing along and dancing.
- Some people are passing out, getting fanned by the ushers.
- The group is shown to their seats. There are empty spots in the front.
- They quickly sit down, only for Georgia to make them all get up and praise.

The church mothers are seated in front of them, one of them... Mrs. Watkins turns back to say hello.

MRS WATKINS

Georgia, good to see you in the house of the Lord! Traffic again? On a Sunday?

GEORGIA

How are you Mrs. Watkins?

MRS WATKINS

I am blessed and highly favored, my dear. You know, we do have carpool services. Talk to me after church, will you?

GEORGIA

Thank you, Mrs. Watkins.

Abram is taking it all in. His eyes are wandering in every direction.

- A few rows behind him, a child is making noises as he plays on his iPad. His mother smacks him on the head and takes the iPad.
- A man filled with the spirit, is sprinting back and forth in the aisles. Abram is fascinated.

MOMENTS LATER

The choir walks off the stage, while the crowd claps for them.

Pastor Jackson gets on the podium.

PASTOR JACKSON
(to the congregation)
The lord is good!

CONGREGATION
ALL THE TIME!

PASTOR JACKSON
And all the time...

CONGREGATION
THE LORD IS GOOD!

PASTOR JACKSON
Why don't we give our beautiful
choir another round of
appreciation?

The congregation gets on their feet again, clapping.

PASTOR JACKSON (CONT'D)
MY MY MY! I am feeling the Lord's
presence in this place! Can you
hear him? God is in this place of
worship! Thank you, Jesus!

While the crowd cheers, Abram and Dante are having a side conversation.

ABRAM
So, how long does the service
usually last?

DANTE
We just got here. Sit down and get
real comfortable.

TWO HOURS LATER

PASTOR JACKSON
Let me hurry up and get outta here.

CHURCH ATTENDEE
Take your time Pastor!

PASTOR JACKSON

You see, when Jesus told Zacchaeus to come down from that tree and told him that he would be staying at his house... you can imagine the amount of people sucking their teeth. He might as well have had dinner with an atheist in their eyes. But you see Jesus...

ANOTHER HOUR LATER

PASTOR JACKSON (CONT'D)

I don't think y'all are hearing what I'm saying! I said you could be the most perfect, bible-memorizing person, always on time, and seated in the front row at every service, kind of folk.

Mrs. Watkins immediately side eyes Georgia.

PASTOR JACKSON (CONT'D)

Or you could have been a sneaky, liar, greedy man like Zaccheus. It does not matter; as long as you hunger for the Lord... you are worthy to have a seat at the table in the presence of our Savior. In the eyes of the Lord, we are all his children.

The crowd is fired up. Abram is deep asleep.

LATER

Abram wakes up to Dante nodding him.

DANTE

Hello! Anybody in there!?

Abram rubs his eyes.

PASTOR JACKSON

You might want to wipe that drool off your face.

The pastor is at the door, greeting the attendees. Lamar and Georgia are talking to some friends by the entrance.

DANTE

Hello Pastor!

PASTOR JACKSON
 Good to see you, Dante! I'm still
 waiting for you to join the choir
 soon.

DANTE
 Very soon Pastor! Just have a few
 things I need to get done.

PASTOR JACKSON
 Well, I'll be waiting!

Pastor Jackson shakes Abram's hand.

PASTOR JACKSON (CONT'D)
 How are you doing son?

ABRAM
 Very good, thank you Pastor.

Dante sees his parents having a grand time laughing with
 other attendees.

DANTE
 Man, I knew I should have brought
 my car. Ma!

INT. DANTE'S HOUSE/ BEDROOM- AFTERNOON

Once home, Dante and Abram are about to go out. Abram is
 still overdressed, and Dante only shakes his head. He goes
 to his parents' bedroom. He knocks.

DANTE
 Ma!

Georgia opens the door.

GEORGIA
 What?

DANTE
 We're leaving.

LAMAR
 What are you two doing again?

DANTE
 Well, we're gonna hit a couple of
 spots. Maybe the museum, then we'll
 get something to eat. We should be
 back by eleven.

GEORGIA
Alright, be careful.

DANTE
Bye, love you.

He kisses his mother on the cheek.

LAMAR
Do you have your wallet?

DANTE
Yes Sir.

LAMAR
Let me see it.

Dante takes it out of his back pockets. Lamar goes through it. He hands it back to him.

LAMAR (CONT'D)
Is your location on?

DANTE
Dad!

LAMAR
Is it?

DANTE
Okay... I'll turn it on when we get there.

Before Dante leaves, Lamar grabs his shirt by the sleeve.

LAMAR
Now.

Lamar waits. Dante shows him the location is on.

DANTE
Okay I'm out.

LAMAR
I'm expecting you by eleven.

Dante is already out the door.

DRIVEWAY

Dante finds Abram waiting for him, with a more casual look...he has changed the outfit he had on.

DANTE
See? Welcome to the twenty-first
century.

EXT. CHICAGO RIVER- EVENING

Begin montage

Abram and Dante are riding on Chicago's First Lady River
cruise. There is a tour guide sharing facts.

Dante is helping him take photos of the skyscrapers.

DANTE
Here, just zoom out a little. There
we go! Now tap the circle.

Abram keeps tapping the circle, Dante snatches the phone.

DANTE (CONT'D)
Okay, that's enough.

INT. 360 CHICAGO OBSERVATION DECK- LATER

LOBBY

The pair is about to enter an elevator. Abram is hesitant,
people are passing him.

ABRAM
Maybe there are some stairs,
somewhere around?

DANTE
Are you out your damn mind? If you
don't bring your behind...

Dante pulls him in before the elevator doors close in.

OBSERVATION DECK

They are now at the observation deck. Abram is confused.

ABRAM
What are we supposed to do here?

DANTE
You're not scared of heights,
right?

ABRAM
No, why?

MOMENTS LATER

As they lean against the windows, it starts tilting.

Abram shrieks. He closes his eyes.

DANTE

Abram! Relax! You're still here.
You should see the view, man; it's
breathtaking... trust me.

He takes a deep breath, opens one eye.

They enjoy some drinks after, as they walk around the deck.

INT. MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY- EVENING

POMPEI: THE EXHIBITION

Next up, the Museum. They are visiting the Pompei
exhibition.

They visit the full body cast section. Dante is uneasy.

DANTE

You know what, maybe let's see what
else is there.

ABRAM

What happened to Dante the
adventurer, Chicago's finest.

DANTE

I didn't say all that now...

Abram tries to scare him, softly touching the back of his
neck.

DANTE (CONT'D)

Are you trying to lay up here with
them? Let's go.

THE BLUE PARADOX

A tour guide shows Abram and Dante around, he explains the
impact of plastic pollution.

EARTH REVEALED

Abram takes a close look at the 360-degree motion of planet
earth.

EXT. LINCOLN PARK- NIGHT

Abram and Dante are wandering in the park.

ABRAM

I think it's safe to say that Chicago may be the best city I've ever been to.

DANTE

Well, coming from you, that's not saying much. I'm just playing, dude! People just have this image of Chicago being like a terror zone and can't leave your house without getting shot, but... it's not even like that. I mean, there are areas I wouldn't recommend living in, but there's also so much beauty to see and do. I don't see myself leaving this place.

ABRAM

So, is your family originally from here?

DANTE

No, neither of my parents' families is from the South. They moved here in the seventies after my uncle was murdered by one of the KKK members in the sixties.

ABRAM

I read about that.

DANTE

Yeah, we have family down there I don't even know about. He won't even visit them for the holidays. But enough about that, man, do you want to get some grub before we head home? I know this place.

ABRAM

Yeah. Is it another staple of Chicago?

DANTE

Oh, you bet!

INT. DOWNTOWN RESTAURANT- NIGHT

A waiter brings their order. It's deep-dish Pizza.

ABRAM
What's this?

DANTE
Deep dish pizza. Do you know how New York is famous for their pizza and cheesecake? Wait, you wouldn't know about that. You know how you guys have your shoofly pie. This is our staple.

Abram takes a bite.

ABRAM
I don't even have words anymore.

DANTE
I'm telling you. Now you call yourself a Chicagoan in training.

ABRAM
Could we get some more?

DANTE
You sure you're gonna finish that one?

ABRAM
Absolutely, positively, a hundred percent sure.

Later, they bring another order for Abram.

ABRAM (CONT'D)
So how do I get some work? I need to start saving for my apartment.

DANTE
Well, what are you good at?

ABRAM
Cleaning chicken coop, I have a bit of construction experience. And you know I'm an expert in painting.

DANTE
No dude, it doesn't work like that.

ABRAM
I can see myself carrying a brief in a nice suit and going to a big fancy job.

DANTE
Right...

INT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT- AFTERNOON

Dante and Abram are in line to talk to the cashier.

FAST FOOD CASHIER
Hi! What can I get for you today?

DANTE
We saw that you're hiring.

FAST FOOD CASHIER
Oh, one second, let me get my manager.

DANTE
Cool.

Dante notices Abram pacing back and forth.

DANTE (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

ABRAM
I feel so unprepared.

DANTE
Dude, relax. They'll ask you a few questions about your previous work experience, your schedule, and your strengths and weaknesses, and that's about it.

ABRAM
Do I mention every experience I have?

DANTE
I see where you're going with this. And no, you don't need to mention you picking up eggs and being a farm boy. Just finesse it a little.

The manager arrives.

MANAGER
Hello there! You guys here to apply?

DANTE
Yes, Sir.

MANAGER

Here's the application. Fill it out, and when you're done, let me know. We're very short-staffed, so if you are free, we can do the interviews today as well.

DANTE

Yeah, we got all the time in the world.

MANAGER

Perfect! Who wants to go first?

Dante and Abram point at each other.

MANAGER (CONT'D)

Okay... you come with me.

The manager picks Abram to interview first. They head in the back.

INT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT/MANAGER OFFICE-CONTINUOUS

They get seated.

MANAGER

So, Mr... I didn't get your name.

ABRAM

Abram, Abram Fisher.

MANAGER

Okay Mr. Fisher, do you have any previous fast-food experience?

ABRAM

No, but I am very willing to learn. I always put effort into everything I do.

MANAGER

And what about social skills, are you great with people? Do you work well in a group?

ABRAM

Well, Sir, that is pretty much in my blood. Being Amish, you are taught to care for others and the importance of working together.

(MORE)

ABRAM (CONT'D)
My father would disown me for
saying this, but lately, I have
become quite fond of not worrying
about anyone but myself.

The manager is lost. Abram notices he is rambling.

ABRAM (CONT'D)
Yes, I am great with people.

The manager writes a few things down.

MANAGER
What is your highest education?

ABRAM
I finished the eighth grade with
good marks. I was one of the best
students in Mrs Dienner's class.

MANAGER
And what would you say are your
weaknesses?

ABRAM
Oh, I wasn't aware the questions
got that personal.

MANAGER
We can skip this one if you're not
comfortable.

ABRAM
No, it is quite alright. You have
your reasons for asking. I find
women with toned legs in a skirt
very ravishing. Of course, in
Arthur, Illinois, it is a rarity.
As for my strengths, I would say I
am not afraid of change; I embrace
it.

MANAGER
So Mr. Fisher, one last thing. Why
should we hire you?

ABRAM
I'm sorry. I thought you were
hiring. I could remember seeing a
sign outside saying you needed some
help.

MANAGER

Well, that will be all, thank you for coming in.

ABRAM

Thank you, Sir! This was a very pleasant conversation.

MANAGER

Yeah. Tell your friend to come in.

ABRAM

Happily!

INT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT/ DINER-CONTINUOUS

Abram finds Dante still filling out the paperwork.

DANTE

Well?

ABRAM

I absolutely crushed it.

DANTE

My man!

ABRAM

He's ready for you.

DANTE

Here, fill the rest.

He hands Abram his application.

INT. DANTE'S HOUSE/ ROOM- NIGHT

Abram is writing a letter to his family. He's not sure how to start at first.

ABRAM (V.O.)

(writing)

Dear Ma and Pa! I hope you are doing well. How are my little troublemakers? First, let me apologize for taking this long to update you. I was still getting settled in. A nice family has welcomed me into their home. The Morris have been so kind and dear to me.

(MORE)

ABRAM (CONT'D)

Their son Dante has become my tour guide during my stay and is now a good friend of mine.

CUT TO:

INT. ARCADE STORE- DAY

Abram and Dante are playing games at the arcade. Abram scores, Dante turns into a sore loser.

INT. ARTHUR AMISH COUNTRY/ FISHER HOME- DAY

Betty is reading the letter to Jacob, Lehi and Annie.

BETTY

Chicago is mesmerizing and full of
ambiance. There is so much to see
and do. It is what I have been
searching for. I know this is the
place for me. Everything I need is
here to make something of my life.
I already have so many dreams and
ideas. Good news!

INT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT- DAY

MANAGER'S OFFICE

Dante and Abram got the job. They are in their uniforms.
Abram is overly excited, harshly shaking the manager's hand.

KITCHEN

They are shown around the kitchen. After, the manager
introduces them to the rest of the team.

ABRAM(V.O.)

I just landed a position at a fine
dining establishment. What an
experience it will be working
alongside my dear friend.

BACK TO:

INT. DANTE'S HOUSE/ ROOM- NIGHT

Abram folds the letter. He puts it in an envelope.

ABRAM (V.O.)

I miss you all, I think of you
everyday. I hope to hear from you
soon. Greet everyone for me.

I/E. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT- DAY

Abram and Dante are about to get trained by the manager.

MANAGER

So, first things first, we are way
understaffed, which means you two
will be trained in different
positions until we get more people.
For now, I need a drive-thru
cashier and a packer.

DANTE

I can be a packer.

MANAGER

Alright, so you'll take the drive
thru. Come with me.

FIRST DRIVE THRU

- Abram is shown the menu options on the drive thru screen

KITCHEN

Dante watches another employee pack the orders. He is
impressed by his speed.

- It's his turn, he forgets to put on gloves.

PACKER

Are you forgetting something?

DANTE

The sauces?

PACKER

No, check your hands.

DANTE

Oh, my bad!

He puts on the gloves.

FIRST DRIVE THRU

Abram gets his first customer. He clears his throat first.

ABRAM

Hi! Welcome to ... ummm

MANAGER

Joe's grub!

ABRAM

Welcome to Joe's grub! I am Abram,
how is your day?

CUSTOMER (O.S.)

Who gives a shit how my day is? Let
me get the double bacon sandwich,
no cheese, and a large fry. That
will be all.

ABRAM

Alright, anything else?

CUSTOMER (O.S.)

How is the family? They all good?

ABRAM

Oh, how sweet of you to ask. They
are doing very...

He is cut off by the manager.

MANAGER

Please pull up Sir.

He turns to Abram.

MANAGER (CONT'D)

I'm guessing you're not familiar
with the concept of sarcasm. Just
get the order, get the payment, and
move on to the next.

ABRAM

Sorry.

The customer pulls up to the window.

MANAGER

Now you repeat the order, tell them
the price.

ABRAM

So, you have the double bacon sandwich, no cheese, and a large fry. That will be twelve dollars and eighty-eight cents.

The customer hands him the card.

MANAGER

Swipe the card.

Abram processes the card.

ABRAM

Here you go Sir.

The customer pulls to the second window.

MANAGER

And that's pretty much all there is to it.

ABRAM

Well, that's fairly manageable.

MANAGER

You think you got the hang of it?

ABRAM

A hundred percent.

I/E. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT-LATER

It's rush hour. The staff is overly busy, lots of movement in the kitchen.

DRIVE THRU LANE

Cars are lined up, it's the busiest hour. Some customers are getting impatient.

FIRST DRIVE THRU

Abram is trying to get the orders in quickly.

ABRAM

Hi! What can I get for you?

CUSTOMER #2

You just took my order.

ABRAM

I apologize.

Another customer pulls up.

ABRAM (CONT'D)
Hello Ma'am, so you had.

CUSTOMER #3
It's they.

ABRAM
Sorry?

CUSTOMER #3
The pronouns is they.

ABRAM
Okay they ordered the umm....
the...

Abram is lost. The manager had been watching Abram. He quickly comes to intervene. He checks the order price.

MANAGER
It's fifteen dollars and twenty-
five cents.

The customer gives them cash.

KITCHEN

Dante is also completely lost. He hands out the order he just packed.

DRIVE THRU LANE

The customer checks the bag. His order is messed up.

CUSTOMER #4
I didn't order any fries.

DANTE
So what was your order?

CUSTOMER #4
The fish sandwich and the ten-piece
chicken nuggets!

DANTE
My bad man! I'll get that for you.

He asks another employee for help.

DANTE (CONT'D)
Hey man, I'm missing the fish
sandwich.

EMPLOYEE

I gave it you already.

DANTE

I don't have it. Shit! I must have packed it for the previous car! Let me get another.

EMPLOYEE

You gotta tell the manager, and it's coming out of your check.

DANTE

Just get me the damn sandwich dude.

Dante packs the chicken nuggets.

As he waits for the sandwich to get wrapped, he tries not to make eye contact with the customer... who is laser-focused on his every move.

FIRST DRIVE THRU

- Abram can hear the honks of the cars, while trying to put in order. It's throwing him off. He forgets what he was about to put enter.

SECOND DRIVE THRU

- Dante drops a shake while packing it.

DRIVE THRU LANE

- A woman with kids pulls up, her kid throws a toy through the window. It hits Abram on his forehead.

CUSTOMER #5

Hey Jayden! GET BACK TO YOUR SEAT!
NOW! I'm so sorry!

Abram checks for any damages to his forehead.

ABRAM

Sweet little boy.

- Dante is sweating, trying to wrap an item. The order chute keeps piling up.

INT. DANTE'S HOUSE/ BEDROOM- DAY

Dante drops on his bed. His whole body is aching.

INT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT- THE NEXT DAY

Abram is now at the cash register. He is getting the hang of it.

ABRAM

Here's your order Ma'am. Enjoy!

Someone walks in, It's Astrid. They make eye contact.

ASTRID

Abram! Hi! Wait, you work here now?

ABRAM

Hi! Yeah, Dante and I started two days ago. What are the odds?

The manager cuts in their conversation.

MANAGER

You're late.

ASTRID

Sorry, I couldn't leave my brother at home alone.

MANAGER

Abram, you'll be on the grill today.

ASTRID

Good luck!

KITCHEN

- Abram has been trained already. He is grilling the burgers with a big smile.

- Dante just washed the last item; another pile is thrown in the sink.

Astrid comes to check on Abram, she is impressed with his cooking skills.

ASTRID (CONT'D)

Wow! Impressive. It doesn't look like charcoal.

ABRAM

My family would disown me. An Amish who cannot properly cook meat is as unheard of as a pig with wings.

Abram makes her chuckle and brush.

INT. DANTE'S HOUSE/ BEDROOM-NIGHT

Abram is hanging out in Dante's room. He is going through his drawer while Dante plays video games.

ABRAM

Do you even wear half of these clothes?

DANTE

Yeah, you will never catch me in the same outfit, dude. That's a no-no. Anywho, I saw you checking out my girl today.

ABRAM

Your girl? Who?

DANTE

You know who. Astrid.

ABRAM

We were only talking.

DANTE

Well, I don't think her boyfriend would appreciate that.

ABRAM

She has someone?

DANTE

Yeah, sorry man.

ABRAM

Oh.

Abram is quiet. Dante turns back to look at him.

DANTE

I'm just playing kid! Look at you, staring like a sad puppy.

ABRAM

Have you two ever...

DANTE

No, we're just good friends. Not that it can't happen.

Abram finds some drawings in Dante's drawer. They're comics.

ABRAM

Did you do these?

DANTE

I thought I threw those away.

ABRAM

The detailing is impressive. The best I could do was stick figures and a rectangular house.

DANTE

Put them back.

ABRAM

Who is this skinny guy? He reminds me of a buddy of mine.

DANTE

I don't know, give it here.

He snatches the papers from Abram. Dante throws them in the trash bin.

ABRAM

Did I do something wrong?

DANTE

Forget it.

ABRAM

Okay.

Abram sits on the side of the bed, an awkward silence follows.

DANTE

(sighs)

My dad's not a big fan of me pursuing anything in the art world. He believes any job that doesn't give you an office and job security should just be a hobby.

ABRAM

And what do you think?

DANTE

I think as long as he's paying my tuition, I have no room to contradict him.

ABRAM

Well that's not fair, I think you have some say in...

DANTE
Abram, dop it. Should we order some
sushi?

ABRAM
Sure.

INT. DANTE'S HOUSE- NIGHT

LIVING ROOM

Lamar and Georgia are enjoying some old photos, having some
wine.

LAMAR
Damn, you had it going on even back
then huh?

GEORGIA
Had?

LAMAR
I mean, how did I get so lucky?
Come here...

GEORGIA
I see the wine's going down nicely.

LAMAR
It's not the wine baby.

They make out. Lamar takes off Georgia's blouse. She
unbuttons his pants and gets on top of him.

Someone opens the door. They quickly gather themselves.

GEORGIA
Oh My Goodness! Boy can't you
knock?!

LAMAR
Weren't you supposed to be flipping
burgers?

Abram is standing like a statue.

BEDROOM

Lamar is about to have a talk with Abram.

LAMAR (CONT'D)
So, when two people love each other
and ARE MARRIED... they do things.
(MORE)

LAMAR (CONT'D)

Things to show their love for one another. The most important thing to learn here is to ensure privacy. Obviously, tonight was an epic failure, and now I'm going to get an earful tonight, so thanks for that. Anyways, the bottom line is to knock before you come in. Secondly, I know your testosterone at your age can fry an egg, so if you feel like you're ready... be protected. Alright?

Abram nods.

ABRAM

Yes Sir.

LAMAR

Good, word of advice. Stay away from her for the rest of the night.

Lamar leaves. Dante comes in.

He can't stop giggling.

ABRAM

Has that ever happened to you?

DANTE

Never! And I thank God. So, you got the talk huh? At your big age.

Dante is laughing hysterically.

ABRAM

Is there any bleach around here?

EXT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT- NIGHT

Abram and Astrid are throwing the trash in the dumpster outside, before they leave.

ASTRID

God, I'm starting to smell like warm lettuce and mayo.

ABRAM

I think you smell wonderful.

ASTRID

Stop it. You're a bad liar. Ugh, and I have to pick up my brother.

(MORE)

ASTRID (CONT'D)
I hate my life. What are you doing after?

ABRAM
Maybe a movie with Dante.

ASTRID
I'll see you tomorrow then.

Astrid walks away. Abram is uneasy. He finally speaks up.

ABRAM
Astrid!

She turns around.

ASTRID
Yeah?

ABRAM
Are you free this Saturday?

ASTRID
Depends on who's asking?

ABRAM
What about an Amish boy who would love to get to know you a bit more?

ASTRID
What's your zodiac?

ABRAM
Scorpio.

Astrid takes a moment to ponder on it.

ASTRID
Well, I'm a Libra. Hmmm. Okay? Why not?

INT. CHILLIS RESTAURANT- AFTERNOON

Abram and the Morris family are at a restaurant. They already have their orders.

LAMAR
So, what's going on Abram? What's this about?

ABRAM

Well, it's been six months since you took me in, and I wanted to do something nice. Thank you again for your hospitality. I couldn't imagine what this trip would have been like without meeting your family.

GEORGIA

Oooh, we're very happy to have you with us.

LAMAR

Yes, it is our pleasure to have you in our home. Since we're all here, I want to ask you for a favor. I know you're new to all of this, and I'm not sure how much you have seen and noticed since you left your community, but things work differently here. Especially for people who look like us. I am thrilled that you and my son have a great bond and friendship. With that being said, as a young black man in this country, the rules are not the same. If you watch the news, you will know what I am talking about.

Dante is my only son; he's my life. I cannot protect him from everything wrong in this world. Otherwise, I would never let him leave the house. That's where you come in. I want you to look after my son, Abram. I need you to promise me that you will never put him in a situation where he has to defend himself or be a target. Can I trust that Dante is safe with you?

ABRAM

Dante has become more than a friend to me, Mr Morris; he's my brother. I would never put my brother in harm's way, and that's a promise.

LAMAR

Thank you.

GEORGIA

I propose a toast, to family and
learning the meaning of a dollar?

They all laugh as they toast.

LAMAR

To family.

They clink their glasses.

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT- EVENING

It's Abram and Astrid's first date. They have great
conversations and laughs.

EXT. DANTE'S HOUSE/ DRIVEWAY- NIGHT

After the date, Abram gives Astrid a quick peck on the
cheeks before he dashes into the house. Astrid tries not to
laugh.

INT. DANTE'S CAR- DAY

Lamar is teaching Abram how to drive in an empty parking
lot. Dante is in the back. Lamar shows him the brake and gas
pedals.

- Abram pushes the gas pedal, the car takes off.
- He pushes the brake too hard; Dante hits his head on the
driver's seat.
- Abram takes off his seat belt, rolls down the window. He
throws up.

INT. ASTRID'S HOUSE/ BEDROOM-NIGHT

Abram is on the side of the bed; he's hanging out with
Astrid. She sits next to him, shows him how to kiss.

INT. SHOPPING MALL- AFTERNOON

Abram and Astrid are shopping at the mall. Astrid helps him
buy some sneakers.

- They get some food at the food court.
- They take some polaroid photos in the photo booth.

INT. DMV- DAY

Abram is taking his written test. He is stuck on a question.

I.E DMV PARKING LOT/ DANTE'S CAR- CONTINUOUS

After the test, he comes out. Lamar, Astrid and Dante are waiting for him.

- He gets in the car, with a serious face. He finally smiles, shows them his driver's license. They all celebrate.

INT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT- DAY

Abram clocks in for work. He passes a photo of him as the employee of the month. He puts on his tag; he is now the Assistant manager.

In the diner, there is an Amish family with two little kids. The kids are playfully teasing each other, their mother sets them straight. Abram catches himself smiling.

INT. DANTE'S HOUSE- NIGHT

Abram gives Lamar his share of the rent, Lamar refuses to take it. Dante is surprised.

INT. ASTRID'S HOUSE- DAY

Astrid introduces Abram to his parents. He has made them his mother's famous pie.

INT. GABE'S HOUSE- EVENING

BEDROOM

Gabe packs an overnight bag. He grabs his phone and charger.

LIVING ROOM

He waves goodbye to Tanya; his mother and Mr. Quinn before he heads out.

DRIVEWAY

Abram and Dante have come to pick him up. Gabe gets in, they're all excited as they drive off.

INT. DANTE'S HOUSE- EVENING

It's Abram's birthday. His friends are there.

Gabe and Dante bring out a funny Amish themed cake. It gets a good laugh from everyone.

Later, Abram opens his gifts, it's a gold chain from Dante.

INT. DANTE'S HOUSE/ KITCHEN- AFTERNOON

Gabe and his family are at the dinner table. Gabe is stoked as he shares his antics with Abram and Dante to Tanya and his stepfather. Tanya is happy to see him come out of his shell.

INT. DANTE'S HOUSE/ LIVING ROOM- MORNING

Christmas is here. The Morris household woke up very early, Dante and Abram are opening their presents.

Dante gets an iPad from Abram and some tools for his comics.

Lamar and Georgia exchange their gifts.

Dante sets up his phone on the tripod, the family takes a portrait.

INT. DANTE'S HOUSE/ KITCHEN- NIGHT

BASEMENT

There is a New Year's Eve party at the house. Abram has taken over on the dance floor. Dante and his friends laugh hysterically while the elders cheer him on.

KITCHEN

Lamar grabs a drink from the fridge. The Christmas picture is posted up on the fridge.

INT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT- AFTERNOON

Abram and Dante are stocking up on supplies for the day. Abram notices Astrid talking with the new guy. He watches them for a bit.

The new guy flips something off her shirt. Abram intervenes.

He walks up to them.

ABRAM

Hey you!

ASTRID

Hi! Abram, this is Braxton; I'm training him to take over the cashier.

ABRAM

I didn't know there was this much fun in training.

BRAXTON
What's up dude?

ABRAM
How do you do? Kevin wants to see you.

BRAXTON
No problem.

ASTRID
Okay, I'll be back. Why don't you stock up the coins.

BRAXTON
Cool.

Astrid leaves them standing awkwardly.

ABRAM
Just a heads up, we are kind of a thing.

BRAXTON
Oh, you two?

ABRAM
Yes! Why the surprise?

BRAXTON
No man, it's all good. So you're Amish huh?

ABRAM
Perhaps you shouldn't be gossiping on the first day. And maybe don't fraternize with your fellow employees in serious, committed relationships. I would have to know I have a close friendship with the manager.

BRAXTON
Oh so you're that guy.

ABRAM
Don't you have some coins to stack?

Braxton goes back to his task.

As Abram returns to the kitchen, he slips on a wet spot on the floor. He catches himself.

ABRAM (CONT'D)
Who did this?

All his coworkers are quiet.

ABRAM (CONT'D)
How many times do I have to tell
you to put the damn sign before
someone hurts themselves!? Huh?

One employee comes from the back with the wet floor sign.

The manager who was in his office witnessed Abram's
outburst.

EMPLOYEE #2
I couldn't find it, it was
misplaced.

Abram looks around to see some nasty stares, even from
Astrid and Dante.

INT. DANTE'S HOUSE/ BEDROOM- DAY

Abram is busy calling Astrid; he calls a few times. There is
no answer. Dante comes in.

DANTE
Here's your mail, there's more
letters from Arthur Country.

ABRAM
Put them on the dresser.

DANTE
When's the last time you wrote them
back?

ABRAM
I don't know, a few months ago.
What the hell is she doing? She
didn't work today.

DANTE
I'm sure she has her reasons.

ABRAM
Would I be a simp if I stopped by?
You know? Just to make sure she's
okay.

DANTE

No, the correct word there is creep.

ABRAM

No, I'm not. She's my girl, I'm worried. I have every right to check on her.

DANTE

Whatever.

I/E. ASTRID'S HOUSE- LATER

Abram shows up to her house. He rings the door. Astrid opens.

ABRAM

Hey babe!

ASTRID

Hey! What are you doing here?

ABRAM

I tried calling you this morning, your phone was off.

ASTRID

Yeah, I had a lot of research to do. I switched it off, no distractions.

ABRAM

Maybe you could have just put it on silent. I didn't know what to think. Next time, just leave it on, you know?

ASTRID

You can't tell when I can and can't turn off my phone. It's *my phone*. I don't do guys like that.

ABRAM

No, that's not what I was trying to...

ASTRID

Just because we're a couple doesn't mean we spend every second of our lives together. We need some breathing room and space from time to time. I am still me.

(MORE)

ASTRID (CONT'D)

I still have goals and my own hobbies and interests outside of us. It's part of having a healthy relationship.

ABRAM

Got it. I'm sorry. I was just worried.

ASTRID

And please don't pull up at my house like this; that's an absolute no-no. Okay?

ABRAM

Dully noted. Are you busy?

ASTRID

I could spare a few minutes.

She pulls him inside, give him a kiss, then closes the door.

INT. GABE'S HOUSE/ KITCHEN- EVENING

Gabe is getting some snacks ready. There's sandwiches, chips, cookies and drinks.

Someone opens the door, it's his stepdad.

MR QUINN

What's all this?

GABE

I... I'm having some friends over.

MR QUINN

Really? Who?

GABE

Abram and Dante.

MR QUINN

Maybe you should cancel; it's been a long day. I'm trying to get some shut-eye.

GABE

They're already on their way.

MR QUINN

I see.

Mr. Quinn goes to the bedroom.

Gabe pulls out his phone and immediately texts Dante and Abram.

I/E. GABE'S HOUSE/ BEDROOM- LATER

Abram and Dante showed up. They're already playing video games.

Gabe comes in with snacks.

DANTE
Dude, this is a 2017 game.

GABE
Oh sorry, I don't know much about games.

DANTE
Clearly, man you tricked us.

GABE
But I have snacks!

ABRAM
You have cheetos?

GABE
I have Lays and Fritos.

Dante grabs the Fritos chips. Abram gets a sandwich.

ABRAM
How come your mom is never around?

GABE
She travels a lot for work,
actually she's coming tomorrow.

DANTE
Speaking of tomorrow, you are
coming to our party, right?

GABE
Yeah, I'll be there.

DANTE
Cool!

ABRAM
I know who's not coming, Astrid.

DANTE

Man, how many times are you gonna insert her in conversations? We get it! You got a girl now!

ABRAM

I guess she's helping her mom clean their garage.

DANTE

Sus.

ABRAM

I never thought courting was this complicated.

DANTE

Well, this is not Arthur country, buddy. You don't find a girl, have both families get in a binding contract for the kids to marry and that's it.

ABRAM

You are way off but go ahead.

GABE

What is it like for you guys?

ABRAM

I wouldn't know.

DANTE

Wait, what about that girl... damn... What's the name? Abigail!

ABRAM

Adaline. We were only childhood friends.

DANTE

Just say friend zoned.

Gabe and Dante laugh.

ABRAM

From what Astrid told me, you would be familiar with that concept.

GABE

Oooooh...

DANTE

Whatever dude.

GABE

So, can an outsider join your community?

ABRAM

Yeah, it can happen. It's rare, but it's allowed. You just have to learn all the customs, get baptized, and you're in.

DANTE

Why would you want to go back to the stone age?

GABE

I believe a simpler life is a great life. At least they're there for each other. They know what's more important in life.

DANTE

There's a potential convert. Abram, why don't you drop him at your pops' house? Someone needs to look after Abigail.

ABRAM

Shut up!

Abram throws a pillow at him. Gabe joins in.

-Food spills all over the room as the boys fight.

-The boys have a pull up competition, Abram winning.

- They watch a horror movie, Abram covering his face and watching with one eye during jump scares.

BATHROOM

Abram is washing his hands after using the restroom. He looks at the time. It's almost eleven at night.

He goes back to the room.

ABRAM (CONT'D)

D, we have to go.

GABE

It's not even midnight.

ABRAM

We have a curfew, and I have to call Astrid every night before bed.

GABE
How about just one more game? Just
an hour, huh?

ABRAM
I'm sorry, Gabe. We have work
tomorrow, we can do it again next
week.

GABE
Okay.

DRIVEWAY

Gabe walks them to their car. Before Abram gets in, Gabe
grabs his arm.

GABE (CONT'D)
Abram, do you have a minute? I
really need to talk to you.

ABRAM
Umm... I kind of need to talk to
Astrid tonight. We can talk
tomorrow.

GABE
It won't take long. Please.

ABRAM
I can pick you up tomorrow and we
can discuss whatever you want.
Alright, have a good night! This
was really fun!

DANTE
Later Gabe!

He watches them drive away. His stepdad is waiting for him
at the door, he closes it once Gabe's inside.

INT. DANTE'S HOUSE/ KITCHEN- NIGHT

Dante and Abram arrive home. Georgia is still awake,
counting groceries.

DANTE
What's up mother?

GEORGIA
Midnight huh? How do you know this
won't get to your father?

Dante gives his mother a kiss on the cheek.

DANTE

Because you're my favorite parent,
and I wouldn't want to see your son
get his ass whooped.

ABRAM

That is a lot of meat.

GEORGIA

You haven't met his uncles. They
will clear this out in a minute.

DANTE

That's why I'm saving a plate soon
as the food is ready.

GEORGIA

You two need to make sure your
rooms are spotless! You hear me?
Spotless! And get those damn stinky
socks out of there! Clean your
rooms and the basement, and later,
you can set up the chairs. That
means by six in the morning, you
should be making your beds. You got
it!

DANTE

Six? Ma, this thing won't start
until four. We already know they'll
be on BPT. So that means it will
begin at six.

ABRAM

BPT

DANTE

Black people time.

GEORGIA

I don't care. Six AM be awake or
I'm slapping somebody.

DANTE

Yes Ma'm.

The boys head to bed while Georgia continues her count.

I/E. DANTE'S HOUSE- THE NEXT DAY

BACKYARD

Dante and Georgia are bringing the chairs and tables and
setting them up.

Abram is helping Lamar marinate the ribs. There are also burgers and hot dogs.

Lamar sets up the grill and starts putting the meat on top.

KITCHEN

Georgia is now in the kitchen baking the desserts.

LATER

People start showing up, Dante's cousins are among them.

As Lamar is busy grilling, some of the guests are teasing him.

GUEST

Come on, man, what do you know about smoking meats? I don't want any black latex meat now.

LAMAR

I know you're not coming to my house and talking smack.

GUEST #2

He's right, though. I wasn't going to say anything, but I got salmonella the last time you were on the grill.

LAMAR

Both of you got one more time and then you'll lying on here with.

Karan and Mr. Kapoor show up, Georgia goes to greet them. They have brought some food.

Abram goes to a corner; he tries to call Astrid. Her phone is switched off.

KITCHEN

Georgia and other women are in the kitchen, gossiping.

GUEST #3

So where is your young tenderoni? How old is he again?

GUEST #4

Twenty eight.

GUEST #5

Oh my Jesus, I'm guessing your shopping is two for one in the boys department?

They all laugh.

BACKYARD

Dante walks over to Abram, who is still texting Astrid.

DANTE

Dude, didn't Gabe say he was coming?

ABRAM

Yeah, his mom will probably drop him off.

DANTE

Weren't you supposed to pick him up?

ABRAM

I can't. I might need to go get Astrid.

DANTE

You can get them both.

ABRAM

Okay, I will.

Abram walks away to give Astrid another call. Lamar yells out that the food is ready.

LAMAR

Alright everybody! It's go time!

Everyone gathers at the table.

LAMAR (CONT'D)

If Uncle Ray could start us off with a prayer.

UNCLE RAY

If we could all join hands.
Heavenly Father, we come to you with thanks. Thanks for breathing in our lungs, family, friends, and everything else we need, Dear Lord.

(MORE)

UNCLE RAY (CONT'D)

Almighty God, we ask that you bless these delicious plates in front of us that we are about to take, that they nourish our bodies and give us strength. We say these things in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

They all say amen. People start serving themselves.

Once everyone is seated, politics is the main subject of conversation.

GUEST #3

Let me tell you something, Biden is a damn clown. I can't even afford a dozen eggs. Now, I'm not saying Trump was better, but..

UNCLE RAY

Yeah, you know better than that.

GUEST

Trump may be a racist SOB, but damn it, the economy wasn't this bad. What I wouldn't do to get my president back in office. There will never be another Obama in this lifetime, I tell you that.

Abram has been listening to the conversation. He tries to chime in.

ABRAM

Well, it's not like Obama was perfect, the Iraqi war? That man has blood on his hands.

GUEST #2

I'm sorry. Did Obama start it? Where's George W Bush in all this? Huh? If we're going to start pointing fingers, let's start at the top, shall we?

All the men are staring at Abram now.

LAMAR

Why don't you get yourself another plate, son?

ABRAM

For sure. Anyone up for seconds?

Abram leaves the table.

THAT EVENING

Dante sets up the sound system and starts playing some music. Lamar hears an explicit lyric. He immediately goes and grabs Dante's phone.

DANTE
Dad, what are you doing?

LAMAR
Are you out of your mind? Let me introduce you to some real music.

Lamar starts playing some oldies.

LAMAR (CONT'D)
I need you to get some ice. We're running out. Here.

DANTE
Mhmmm.

Lamar gives him his card.

Dante grabs Abram's phone on the table, there are missed calls from Gabe.

DANTE (CONT'D)
Dude, you didn't pick up Gabe.

ABRAM
Do you see him here?

DANTE
What's up with you?

ABRAM
Nothing.

DANTE
Let's go to the gas station, we'll pick him up after.

They leave the party.

I/E. LOCAL GAS STATION- EVENING

They arrive at the gas station. Dante gets out of the car.

DANTE
Can you put in thirty?

ABRAM

Kay.

Dante goes inside to get the ice.

While Abram is pumping gas, he sees a guy and a girl walk out of the gas station. They are all over each other. He double-looks; it's Astrid; she's with Braxton. They haven't noticed him.

Abram puts back the nozzle. He walks to them before they get in the car.

ASTRID

I told my dad to return it. I almost ran into a pole. Those things are a menace to my safety.

ABRAM

Astrid?

Astrid looks back.

ABRAM (CONT'D)

What are you doing here? I thought you had work?

ASTRID

Abram! Hi! Ummm.. I finished my shift early. So....

ABRAM

What's he doing here?

EMPLOYEE

What's up man? We were just grabbing some...

ABRAM

I don't remember talking to you.

He turns to Astrid.

ABRAM (CONT'D)

So, this is why your phone was off? Why am I not surprised? I guess having no labels in relationships is just a front for hoeing around.

Astrid slaps him.

ASTRID

You knew from the get-go this wasn't exclusive. What did you think I meant?

BRAXTON

Yeah man, I mean let somebody else have a turn.

ABRAM

I swear if I hear one more word from you...

BRAXTON

What are you going to do Amish boy? Huh?

ABRAM

What did you say?

Abram pushes the guy; Astrid comes between them.

ASTRID

Stop it! Stop it!

ABRAM

I will bust your freaking head open!

Abram pushes Astrid to the side. Him and Braxton are now exchanging blows.

Dante comes out, he sees the confrontation.

Abram catches a few blows to the face; he tries to hit back. Dante chimes in.

DANTE

Dude! stop it!

ABRAM

Get off me!

Abram gets out of Dante's hold.

ASTRID

Abram stop it!

Meanwhile some bystanders are recording. Braxton tries to hit Dante, who is between him and Abram. He ducks.

A cop comes out with some hot dogs. He intervenes.

DANTE
Are you out of your damn mind? You
trying to go to jail tonight?

ABRAM
Get out of my face Dante!

DANTE
What?! Get in that freaking car
man!

The cop notices Braxton's bleeding on the side of his mouth.

COP
What's going on here gentleman?
(to Braxton)
Are you alright?

No one answers.

COP (CONT'D)
Who did that to you?

He walks towards Dante.

COP (CONT'D)
Were you part of this ruckus young
man?

DANTE
You would think that, wouldn't you?

COP
Excuse me?

DANTE
Look, I didn't do anything! Did you
not just see me trying to break
them up?

COP
Hands against the wall.

DANTE
What?

ASTRID
Officer. It was these two.

COP
Back away Miss.

ASTRID

I'm trying to tell you what happened?

The fireworks start as Dante is pushed against the wall. He is searched. Astrid is trying to explain to the cop what happened.

BYSTANDER

You can't arrest him without a charge! I got you on camera; try something.

COP

(to bystander)

Back away please!

Abram stands still, like he's turned to stone.

GAS STATION REGISTER

The cashier is watching the events outside, he pulls out his phone and makes a call.

EXT. DANTE'S HOUSE/ BACKYARD- MOMENTS LATER

Lamar's phone rings in his pocket. He answers.

I/E. MOVING CAR- MOMENTS LATER

Lamar and Georgia are driving to the gas station.

GEORGIA

Please, God, protect my baby...
please, I beg of you! Oh God! Can
you drive this damn car any faster,
Lamar!?

EXT. LOCAL GAS STATION- CONTINUOUS

They pull up to the station. Georgia sees Dante with his hands placed against the wall.

GEORGIA

I see him!

They park the car and immediately get out.

LAMAR

Dante! Dante! Officer what is going on? That is my son. Please.

COP
 Sir, I'm gonna ask you to stay
 where you are.

LAMAR
 But what did he do?

ASTRID
 Abram! Say something you idiot!

She pushes him towards the cop.

ABRAM
 Sir, it was me. I started it. He
 had nothing to do with it.

COP
 Then why didn't you say anything?

Abram has no response.

Abram avoids any eye contact with Georgia and Lamar.

The cop releases Dante. He runs to his parents.

GEORGIA
 Are you okay baby? Are you hurt?

Dante gets emotional.

LAMAR
 You're alright son. It's alright.

COP
 (to Abram)
 Next time, speak up or you will be
 in a lot of trouble.

Abram nods. As the cop walks back to his car, he stops to
 say something to Dante.

COP (CONT'D)
 I'm sorry. It was a
 misunderstanding.

They ignore him.

LAMAR
 All of you in the car.

The Morris and Abram get in the car.

I/E.MOVING CAR/ NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS- MOMENTS LATER

During the drive, everyone is silent. Each one is looking out the window, staring at fireworks going off in every direction.

INT. DANTE'S HOUSE/ KITCHEN- LATER

There's an emergency family meeting in the kitchen. They all wait for Lamar to start the conversation.

LAMAR

I want you out of my house by tomorrow. I don't care where you go; just never show your face to me ever again.

DANTE

Dad!

LAMAR

You stay out of this.

ABRAM

Mr Morris. I am deeply sorry about this. I never meant to put Dante in that position... I was just scared that...

GEORGIA

That what?! You wanted my son to take the fall for your stupidity?

ABRAM

No.

LAMAR

What if I didn't get the call? What if that girl hadn't recorded the whole thing? My son probably wouldn't even be here right now!!

(pause)

I want you out before I wake up tomorrow.

Lamar goes to bed. Georgia follows.

ABRAM

Dante, I... I
(clicks tongue)

Nothing comes out. Dante goes to his room.

INT. DANTE'S HOUSE/ BEDROOM-THE NEXT DAY

Abram just packed the last of belongings. Dante walks in without knocking.

ABRAM
I'm sorry, I didn't hear the alarm.
Give me five minutes.

Dante is silent for a moment.

DANTE
It's Gabe.

INT. GABE'S HOUSE- MORNING

Dante and Abram visit Gabe's mother, Tanya. There are other family members present. Tanya recalls what happened.

INT. GABE'S HOUSE- NIGHT

Begin flashback.

Tanya enters the house; she turns on the lights in the kitchen and living room.

TANYA
Honey! Gabe!

HALLWAY

She opens Gabe's room. He's in his bed. She closes the door.

INT. GABE'S HOUSE- THE NEXT DAY

Tanya knocks on Gabe's door. There's no answer.

TANYA
Gabe! Honey, want to go to Ihop?
Gabe?

She opens the door and walks towards him. She touches him and pulls him to face her. He is unconscious. Tanya checks his pulse. There is no pulse...

Tanya loses it, she calls the police as her son lays in her arms.

EXT. GABE'S HOUSE/DRIVEWAY- MOMENTS LATER

The ambulance is there. Tanya stands by the door as she watches her son's body brought outside and put in the ambulance.

INT. HOSPITAL/ MORGUE- AFTERNOON

Tanya says goodbye to her son in the morgue. She breaks down as she hugs the body.

INT. GABE'S HOUSE-NIGHT

GABE'S BEDROOM

Tanya makes Gabe's bed. When she takes off the fitted sheet, she sees a piece of paper. She grabs it and starts reading.

Once she's done, she starts looking for something. She goes through his drawers, closet, and his belongings. She finds his phone inside the pillow.

The phone is not locked. She goes to the voice recordings, starts playing each one.

INT. GABE'S HOUSE/ LIVING ROOM-LATER

Tanya sees headlights through the drapes. She gets up, goes to her bedroom.

MASTER BEDROOM

Mr. Quinn arrives, he kisses her on the cheek. She locks the door behind him.

Tanya grabs a baseball bat from behind the headboard. As her husband turns around, she hits him with it.

EXT. GABE'S HOUSE/DRIVEWAY- NIGHT

Mr. Quinn is arrested. She watches him being put in the cop car.

END FLASHBACK.

EXT. CEMETERY- AFTERNOON

Gabe's loved ones are gathered for the last goodbye. The Morris family, Abram, the Kapoor family, Astrid and others.

PASTOR

He will swallow up death forever,
and the Lord God will wipe away
tears from all faces, and the
reproach of his people he will take
away from all the earth, for the
Lord has spoken. Amen.

Tanya gets up for the last goodbye to her son; she kisses his forehead and places a white rose next to him. Other people form a line behind her.

As Abram gets to the coffin, he places a note between Gabe's folded hands. Dante and his parents follow.

Abram passes Astrid, without saying a word. He gets his bags next to his seat. Dante notices him walking away.

INT. DANTE'S HOUSE- SAME TIME

The Morris family has arrived home. Dante passes Abram's room. He opens it to find it empty.

I/E. ARTHUR AMISH COUNTRY/ FISHER HOME- MOMENTS LATER

It's raining heavily; Abram knocks on the door a few times, and Jacob and Betty answer. Abram enters the house. No other words are exchanged.

INT. ARTHUR AMISH COUNTRY/ FISHER HOME/KITCHEN- THE NEXT DAY

The whole family is sitting at the table. Abram is solely focused on his plate. Betty tries to break the ice.

BETTY

Looks like you have been well fed.
Might need to get you new clothes.

ABRAM

I was bulking...

JACOB

Hmmm. How are the Morris?

ABRAM

Good.

The silence fills the room again.

ABRAM (CONT'D)

So, what has been going on around here?

BETTY

Well, the Speichers moved to Pennsylvania a few months ago. Eli and Zachary got baptized this summer.

ABRAM

How's Adaline?

BETTY
She's good. She will be married
soon.

ABRAM
To whom?

BETTY
Eli.

Jacob who was silent the entire conversation, gets up to get ready for the day.

JACOB
You two make sure you clean the
coop thoroughly.

Annie and Lehi nod.

JACOB (CONT'D)
I will see you all this evening.
Have a wonderful day.

Jacob grabs his lunch and leaves.

I/E DANTE'S HOUSE- EVENING

There is a knock on the door. Lamar goes to open. It's Karan.

KARAN
Hello Mr. Morris.

LAMAR
How are you Karan?

KARAN
I'm good, thank you. Is Dante home?
We're going to the basketball game
and couldn't reach him all day.

LAMAR
He is busy, sorry.

SHAWN
Can we talk to him?

LAMAR
No. Enjoy your evening.

KARAN
Wait, but...

Lamar closes the door.

DANTE'S BEDROOM

Dante looks out the window to see his friends drive away. He goes to the living room.

LIVING ROOM

Lamar is back watching a movie. Dante sits next to him.

DANTE

Dad, you can't keep me here like I'm on lockdown. You took my phone, and now you won't let me see my friends. We're just going to a game.

LAMAR

Last time you were going to get some ice.

DANTE

But that wasn't my fault.

LAMAR

Exactly.

DANTE

I have some errands to run, Dad?

LAMAR

Either me or your mom will take you. Simple as that.

DANTE

Are you serious?

LAMAR

As a heart attack.

Dante gives up on trying to convince his father.

LAMAR (CONT'D)

Listen to me; I know it's not fair. But I would rather you be here bored and miserable than out there and having me worried every second you're out of my sight. That's just how it is.

I/E. ARTHUR AMISH COUNTRY/ FISHER HOME- EVENING

BEDROOM

Abram is reading in his room. Annie barges in.

ANNIE
Adaline is here.

ABRAM
I'll be there in a minute.

Abram gets up quickly.

OUTSIDE

Abram comes out of the house.

ADALINE
My! Look at you! I thought they
were playing a joke on me. It's so
good to see you.

ABRAM
Don't you look as glowing as the
morning sunrise.

ADALINE
Oh stop it! When did you get back?

ABRAM
Two days ago.

ADALINE
Wow...

ABRAM
I heard about the ...
Congratulations!

ADALINE
Thank you! I came to give you this.

She hands him a wedding invitation.

ABRAM
Thank you.

There is silence.

ADALINE
You know, I need to drop off more
invitations to the Huyards. Would
you like to accompany me?

ABRAM
Sure.

Abram closes the door. They start walking.

EXT. ARTHUR AMISH COUNTRY/ STREET- MOMENTS LATER

Abram is uneasy at first. They are both quiet.

ABRAM

How is Eli? I wanted to stop by and say hello.

ADALINE

He's in Colorado, visiting some family members.

ABRAM

So how did you two...

ADALINE

When Father got sick, Eli would stop by daily, help with the chores, and keep us company until he passed. When I needed comfort and a friend, there he was. We became close friends. Sometimes, it's hard to believe it is the same Eli who always annoyed me as a kid and ate boogers.

ABRAM

I did not need that picture in my head right now.

They both laugh as they continue their walk.

INT. ARTHUR AMISH COUNTRY/ FISHER HOME- NIGHT

Before going to bed, Abram knocks to his parents' bedroom.

BETTY

Come in!

Abram enters.

ABRAM

I want to get baptized this year.

Betty and Jacob are at a loss for words. Jacob walks over to him and hugs him. Betty joins in on the hug.

INT. ARTHUR AMISH COUNTRY/ CLASSROOM- DAY

BEGIN MONTAGE

Abram is attending his first class. The instructor is showing them the Holy book.

Abram exchanges notes with a girl next to him, as the instructor writes on the board the main values of being Amish.

INT. DANTE'S HOUSE/ BEDROOM- NIGHT

Dante is on Google buying sketch tools. There is a pop-up ad for an animation program at a college. He clicks on it.

EXT. ARTHUR AMISH COUNTRY/ CONSTRUCTION SITE- AFTERNOON

Abram is getting trained at the construction site. He is shown how to measure.

- They show him some woodwork tips.
- He hammers a nail.
- He helps carry equipment to and from the site.

INT. DANTE'S HOUSE/ LIVING ROOM- NIGHT

Lamar and Georgia are having dinner. Dante places a pamphlet of the animation program on the table. He walks away.

EXT. ARTHUR AMISH COUNTRY/ FIELDS- AFTERNOON

Abram is hanging out with Adaline and Eli; he has become the third wheel.

INT. ARTHUR AMISH COUNTRY/ POST OFFICE- MORNING

Abram drops off a letter at the post office. He grabs his family's mail before he leaves.

END MONTAGE

INT. DANTE'S HOUSE- EVENING

Georgia just got home. She puts her purse on the couch and goes to check on Dante.

DANTE'S ROOM

She finds Dante laying in bed, on his phone.

GEORGIA

Hi baby! How was your day?

DANTE

Eventful Mother, can't you tell?

GEORGIA
I'm making enchiladas. Your
favorites right?

DANTE
Sure.

Before she leaves, she gives him a kiss.

MASTER BEDROOM

Lamar just got out of the shower.

LAMAR
Hi Honey! How come you're early?

GEORGIA
This can't go on Lamar.

LAMAR
Huh?

GEORGIA
What are you doing to our son,
Lamar? What kind of life is that?

LAMAR
The kind that will keep him safe.

GEORGIA
Oh, come on!

LAMAR
I'm just doing my job.

GEORGIA
I know. Look, Dante is a good guy;
we both know that. We raised him
well, and I can say we fully trust
him. So what else can we do but
just pray and hope for the best?

I/E. ARTHUR AMISH COUNTRY/ FISHER HOME

Abigail helps Betty set up the tables for the big day. Lehi
and Annie are bringing chairs.

BEDROOM

Abram is getting ready, Jacob walks in. He adjusts his
collar.

JACOB
Do you have a moment?

ABRAM
Yeah, sure

They sit down on his bed.

JACOB
I wanted to apologize for my childish behavior when you left. I was wrong; you have every right to make your own decisions. I just can't help but feel I must ask this question.

ABRAM
What is it?

JACOB
Was there any influence on you making this decision?

ABRAM
No. I made my decision the minute I failed my best friends. The person I became out there terrified me. There's nothing for me out there. I know where I belong now, so don't worry. I know what I'm doing.

Jacob taps him on the back, he helps fix his collar.

INT. ARTHUR AMISH COUNTRY- AFTERNOON

The community is gathered for the baptism. All the ones getting baptized are standing in front of the congregation.

- They are asked to kneel.
- The church leader is addressing them.
- One by one, they accept the commitment to the church.
- Then the church leader starts pouring water on them three times in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.
- The candidate gets up and is given a holy kiss from the leader.
- The women are given a kiss from the leader's wife.
- It's Abram's turn, the same ritual is done.

- In the congregation, Jacob and Betty watch in admiration, as they watch their son join the church.

EXT. ARTHUR AMISH COUNTRY/ FISHER HOME- AFTERNOON

The ceremony is over. The Fisher family has invited people over for a dinner. They are all seated at the table.

- Abram is going around greeting the guests.

- Betty and other women are putting the tasty dishes on the table.

- She runs back to the house, before she enters... she notices new people.

Abram is talking to his fellow baptized friend.

BAPTIZED GIRL

Is it just me or has it not kicked in yet that all of this just happened?

ABRAM

Oh trust me, you're not.

BAPTIZED GIRL

I feel like I want to ask what's next but I don't want to look foolish. Do you know your next plan?

ABRAM

Ummm, I'm not quite sure yet but I mean there's no rush. I might work with my father, get some new skills, and see where life takes me.

BAPTIZED GIRL

Well doesn't that sound like a very structured plan of action.

They both laugh.

BETTY

Abram.

Abram turns around, standing next to his mother is the Morris family.

DANTE

We heard there was a baptism here today.

Abram can't contain his joy; he runs to hug Dante.

Jacob comes to greet the Morris.

JACOB

Mr and Mrs Morris! It is a pleasure
to have you here! Welcome! I am
Jacob Farmer.

LAMAR

Hello! Please it's just Lamar and
Georgia.

After Dante and Abram have hugged, he hugs Georgia.

GEORGIA

Well, look at you? Aren't you
looking sharp!

ABRAM

So good to see you, Georgia.

GEORGIA

Likewise, honey.

Abram hands out his hand to Lamar, Lamar pulls him in.

LAMAR

How are you son?

ABRAM

Immensely overjoyed.

Abram can't stop crying.

DANTE

Well, stop all that waterworks,
man; you'll get snot on your fit.

They all laugh.

ABRAM

Thank you so much for coming; this
is the best day. I couldn't have
asked for more.

The Morris and the Farmers are both touched.

JACOB

Well, we're about to start soon,
let's all take a seat.

The Morris family follows Jacob to the table. There are a
few empty seats in the front. They take place.

ABRAM

What happened to your locs?

DANTE

It's too much work to keep them fresh, so I went to Edward Scissorhands.

ABRAM

It looks good, but you look like you're twelve.

DANTE

Karan said I look like a nutsack.

Abram almost spills out his drink.

ABRAM

So, catch me up, what's new in the Chi?

DANTE

I haven't been around the Chi streets for a while. I'm getting ready to go back to school, so...

ABRAM

Oh, that's good!

DANTE

Yeah.

ABRAM

What major?

DANTE

It's an animation program at the community college. I talked to Pops and he's for it so...

ABRAM

That's amazing.

DANTE

I have you to thank; I needed that push. For the first time, I'm actually excited to attend classes.

ABRAM

Don't mention it. I know you'll do great.

Abram pats him on the shoulder. Dante looks at the dishes prepared.

DANTE

But this food looks smacking. Did your mom make the shoofly?

ABRAM

Hot and ready.

Abram points at the pie a few seats from him.

DANTE

I might leave here on a stretcher.

They both burst out laughing. Georgia smacks him on his hand.

GEORGIA

Boy act like you got some sense.

Once everyone is in place, Jacob gets up.

JACOB

I want to thank you all for coming to this joyous occasion for my family. As a father, this is the second happiest day of my life; my son here couldn't have made me more proud. I would also like to take the opportunity to welcome and publicly thank the Morris family. When Abram left for his Rumspringa. Luckily, he found another family that took him in as his own. I want to thank you for being there for my boy. Abram considers you family, so family you are. In honor of your presence, I would greatly appreciate it if you would give grace before we shared a meal.

LAMAR

With pleasure.

Lamar gets up.

LAMAR (CONT'D)

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your unconditional love and the blessings you pour upon us. I also want to thank the Fisher family for inviting us to this beautiful occasion and welcoming us into their home.

(MORE)

LAMAR (CONT'D)

Lord, we ask you to bless this food
we are about to take and to provide
for those less fortunate. We thank
you for another we get to be on
this earth, as so many of our loved
ones have departed. Thank you for
your mercy, Lord.

Abram looks around, seeing familiar faces. He is content.

THE END