THE KING OF STATEN ISLAND

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OPENING TITLE SEQUENCE

EXT. ROAD – AFTERNOON

SCOTT CARLIN (24) is driving. He’s visibly upset. He deliberately closes his eyes tightly and keeps driving. The sounds of horns and swerving snap him out of it and he opens his eyes. He realizes he just nearly killed himself.

SCOTT
I’m sorry.

INT. OSCAR’S BASEMENT – NIGHT

Scott and his friends OSCAR, IGOR, RICHIE, KELSEY and TARA are in Oscar’s basement watching The Purge and smoking weed.

IGOR
I love this movie. They shot this on Staten Island.

KELSEY
This movie makes no sense. Why would the government make a purge legal?

SCOTT
Clearly to let them blow off some steam.

KELSEY
That’s why you go to the spa.

TARA
Or the therapist.

KELSEY
Or get your nails done.

SCOTT
Or murder some folks.

KELSEY
Come on, I brought Tara over so we could get out of this basement. Let’s go out. Let’s go dancing.

TARA
I love dancing.

KELSEY
Let’s do something!
SCOTT
We don’t go out.

OSCAR
We don’t dance.

RICHIE
The Purge is not enough for you?

TARA
Does anybody else like dancing?

KELSEY
Yes me! I love dancing.

IGOR
I like it.

TARA
You do?

KELSEY
Yes. He’s a really good dancer.

TARA
What’s your favorite move?

IGOR
It’s kind of like a shake.

KELSEY
A shake?

IGOR
I don’t know. I just do whatever the music tells me to do.

OSCAR
There’s nothing but douchebags at these clubs.

SCOTT
I love it here, man. It’s safe.

KELSEY
You just sit here all day and smoke weed and jerk each other off.

SCOTT
That sounds amazing.

OSCAR
I’ve never been jerked off by any of my friends.
SCOTT
Me neither.

TARA
(to Oscar)
I like your tattoos.

OSCAR
I knew you would, right?

KELSEY
Don’t talk to him. He has Chlamydia.

OSCAR
I had. Had Chlamydia.

TARA
It’s curable.

OSCAR
(to Kelsey)
And you introduced me to the girl that gave me Chlamydia, so you basically gave me Chlamydia.

SCOTT
You assisted the Chlamydia.

KELSEY
He doesn’t have insurance. He can’t get the meds.

SCOTT
I actually did some of those.

TARA
You did?

OSCAR
You know, I gotta rep the Island. Staten Island.

TARA
Wow, Staten.

OSCAR
S.I., you know?

TARA
Looks so good.

SCOTT
Thank you.
TARA
You have a bunch of tattoos also.

Tara clocks a tattoo of a date on Scott’s arm.

TARA
What is that date?

SCOTT
Oh. That’s the date my dad died.

TARA
Oh my god! Your dad died?! I’m so sorry.

SCOTT
Don’t be. It’s fine. It’s totally cool.

TARA
So what happened?

KELSEY
You don’t need to ask. Don’t ask that. It’s kind of inappropriate.

Scott plays it off.

SCOTT
He was a fireman. He died in a fire.

TARA
Oh my god.

KELSEY
Yeah we knew.

OSCAR
We don’t like to talk about it. That’s why we don’t bring it up. Apologize to Scott.

KELSEY
It’s the right thing to do. You should say sorry. It’s not okay.

OSCAR
Apologize or get out.

TARA
Scott. I wanted to say I’m really sorry I asked about your tattoo.
Everyone but Tara bursts into laughter.

TARA
What?

KELSEY
He doesn’t care. It’s fine. Look at him. He’s laughing so much.

SCOTT
I don’t care!

OSCAR
We talk about his dead dad all the time! Knock, knock.

SCOTT
Who’s there?

OSCAR
Not your dad!

KELSEY
We make so many jokes about it.

Scott laughs crazily. Igor leans over to hug him.

SCOTT
I don’t even miss him at all!

Laughter dies down. Scott nods at Kelsey and she nods back.

3
INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT
Scott and Kelsey are having sex.

4
INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT
Scott and Kelsey now sit in bed.

SCOTT
Did you cum?

KELSEY
Yes, were you there? I did. Like six times.

SCOTT
Awesome.

KELSEY
It was great. Did you?
SCOTT
No but it’s okay. I had fun. I had fun back there.

KELSEY
I feel bad that you never do.

SCOTT
No I do all the time. I just don’t put on a Broadway show like you do. I’m more quiet. I’m more like Charlie Chaplin when I cum.

KELSEY
Like a silent movie. Do you think it’s the antidepressants?

SCOTT
For sure. If I didn’t have the antidepressants, I’d come in like eight seconds and then you wouldn’t cum and then you’d be depressed and then you would have to take antidepressants.

KELSEY
Can I say something? I just still don’t understand why this is such a big secret.

SCOTT
You know why. It’s special. It’s our thing. It wouldn’t be special if everybody knew about it.

KELSEY
But I don’t just want to do this.

SCOTT
I totally get that. So should we stop?

Scott gets out of bed, begins to dress.

KELSEY
No. I don’t know. Like what is this?

SCOTT
This?

KELSEY
I want to do what normal people do.
SCOTT
It might be weird. We’ve known each other forever. Since fourth grade. It would be like incest.

KELSEY
No it wouldn’t.

SCOTT
We’re best pals and I wouldn’t want to jeopardize our friendship or something like that over something-- not silly but it’s just a big risk.

KELSEY
But we’ve already done the deed. What else is there?

SCOTT
Done the deed?

KELSEY
I don’t know.

SCOTT
You deserve somebody way better than me.

KELSEY
You’re a good guy. I like you.

SCOTT
Based on what? I mean I like you, too. It’s just-- can I tell you something but can you not tell anybody? People probably know. But there’s something wrong with me. Like mentally. I’m not okay up there. I get all manic and crazy and I make really insane, impulsive decisions. And I’m scared of myself and I don’t want to scare you or me or hurt anyone. So I think it would just be best and really responsible of me if I just backed off.

KELSEY
I don’t want you to feel like that about yourself.

SCOTT
I just don’t want to offend you. You’re the best. I think you’re the greatest.
KELSEY
I know you think I’m great. I’m awesome. I feel bad that you don’t think you’re great.

INT. MARGIE’S BEDROOM – EARLY MORNING
Scott’s mother MARGIE CARLIN wakes up to her alarm, sits at the edge of the bed and finally gets up to start another day.

INT. MARGIE’S BATHROOM – CONTINUOUS
Margie puts on her makeup. She looks tired.

INT. MARGIE’S HOUSE – KITCHEN/DINING ROOM – MORNING
Margie is making breakfast when Scott enters.

MARGIE
Hey honey, I made you an omelet. What’re you gonna wear to your sister’s graduation party? I was thinking, what about one of your dad’s suits?

SCOTT
I don’t know. I don’t think I’m really a suit guy. Plus all those suits are out of style.

MARGIE
I thought they were back in style. And can you not smoke pot before the party?

SCOTT
Why?

MARGIE
Because it smells. You smell bad. And no vaping because they’re gonna think it’s pot and the uncle’s a cop. We don’t need that kind of trouble.

SCOTT
Fuck that guy. I hate this family. They’re so rich and snooty.

MARGIE
They’ve been really nice to Claire.
Scott’s sister CLAIRE CARLIN (18) enters.

CLAIRE
Hey Mom, you got me the plastic containers. I just need cardboard boxes I can throw away.

MARGIE
But they’re so good for storing things.

CLAIRE
But I don’t have any storage. My closet is like two feet wide.

SCOTT
Hey Claire, do you even want me at your graduation party?

CLAIRE
Do I want you to go? I don’t care. It’s weird if you don’t go.

SCOTT
That wasn’t exactly a warm invitation.

CLAIRE
Yeah well it’s not the part I’m looking forward to the most but I want you to be there.

MARGIE
She wants you to go!

SCOTT
No she doesn’t. She just said it.

CLAIRE
I don’t want him to go.

MARGIE
He has to go.

CLAIRE
Just don’t sit on the couch in the corner the whole time. It’s weird.

SCOTT
I don’t see the problem with sitting in the corner. There’s some people that go to the party and dance and there’s some people that
sit in the corner. I’m the corner guy. Accept your brother.

CLaire
Also don’t try to fuck Layla, okay? She told you she’s not interested.

Scott
What are you talking about? I never try to hook up with her. She’s always trying to fuck me and I have to avoid it at all costs out of respect for you. I just thought she looked really good in those pants.

CLaire
Jesus.

Scott
Thought that was a nice thing to say. I didn’t know I’d get MeToo’d for it.

Margie
Dad’s suits are vacuum sealed in the garage. Just pick yourself a nice one. You have to look nice. We are celebrating your sister’s achievements. You’re gonna miss her when she’s gone.

Claire
Yeah. Celebrate me.

8 INT. GARAGE – MORNING
Scott opens a box in the garage. We see photos and awards of his father Stan, a fallen fireman. Scott opens a vacuum sealed bag and pulls out Stan’s old dress uniform, holds it up to himself and smells it. He then tries on a beige suit. He clears his throat.

Scott
Wow this all happened so fast. I can’t believe you’re graduating already. I’m gonna really miss you.

9 INT. OSCAR’S BASEMENT – NIGHT
Scott, Oscar, Igor and Richie play Xbox and pass a joint.
SCOTT
Where’d you get this? This shit does not taste very good.

OSCAR
What’re you talking about? This shit’s fire, dog.

SCOTT
Do you guys even get high anymore? I don’t think I get high anymore. I think I’m just kind of myself.

OSCAR
I haven’t been high in a while, man. But I still do it. I like the lifestyle.

RICHIE
I’m mad high.

OSCAR
Yo, tell Scotty about how you’re being catfished.

IGOR
Who?

OSCAR
You! How you’re being catfished, bro. Tell him the truth.

SCOTT
You got a girlfriend?

IGOR
Yeah.

SCOTT
That’s awesome.

IGOR
Her name is Carla. We talk on the phone.

RICHIE
Dude, this girl slid into his DMs and she asked him out or whatever but hundred percent a trick.

SCOTT
Why?
OSCAR
She’s bad but that’s not yours.

RICHIE
She’s so hot, dude.

OSCAR
She hangs out on yachts.

SCOTT
Come on.

OSCAR
No like it’s not real.

SCOTT
They’re just jealous because--

Oscar shows Scott a photo of Carla on Igor’s phone.

SCOTT
Oh that’s a catfish. You’re getting catfished like a motherfucker!

OSCAR
Straight up, I’m going to send myself this one.

Igor grabs his phone out of Oscar’s hands.

RICHIE
Honestly dude, she’s fucking fake.

IGOR
She thinks I’m hot.

OSCAR
How? You guys never even seen each other. How come you guys don’t FaceTime? Tell Scotty why you don’t FaceTime.

IGOR
Her phone camera’s broken but she sent me all these photos.

OSCAR
Bro, these are Google images.

RICHIE
Exactly, dude.
SCOTT
You don’t know that. Maybe this girl is into Igor. Look, he’s cute.

OSCAR
You don’t even know how to talk to girls. What do you even talk to her about?

There is a knock on a window in the basement.

OSCAR
Igor, go get that shit. What’re you doing? He is the worst assistant.

SCOTT
He’s clearly going through a lot.

Igor opens the window. We see a high school kid, JACOB.

JACOB
How much for six Xanax?

OSCAR
What do we have?

RICHIE
Who needs six Xanax?

OSCAR
I got three right here, I think.

IGOR
How you doing?

JACOB
I’m alright.

OSCAR
Yo, you’re Jimmy Baggs’s brother, right?

JACOB
Yes.

OSCAR
Tell your brother he’s a bitch. You understand that?

JACOB
Yeah I do.

OSCAR
Say it back to me.
JACOB
He’s a bitch. He’s a bitch.

OSCAR
And now, you know what? I got four but you’re paying for six.

JACOB
Come on. That’s my fucking brother.

OSCAR
No dude, I hate your brother and now you look like a little version of him and I want to punch you in the face so instead of doing that, just give me sixty.

JACOB
I only got forty.

OSCAR
Then go home, do chores and come back. I don’t give a fuck.

JACOB
I can’t. I stole it from my mom’s purse. She only had forty.

OSCAR
Then give me your shoes.

JACOB
No bro, I can’t.

OSCAR
Just give me your shoes and we’ll call it a day.

SCOTT
What size are you?

JACOB
Like a nine.

OSCAR
Igor, you can have those.

RICHIE
Those’ll fit you.

IGOR
I’ll take them.
OSCAR
Look at that, Igor got a gift.

JACOB
He’s not a fucking nine.

OSCAR
Fuck you! You don’t make fun of my friend.

JACOB
He can’t get on fucking roller coasters.

OSCAR
Shut the fuck up!

SCOTT
We make fun of him. You don’t make fun of him.

RICHIE
He’s our friend. He rides roller coasters all the time.

OSCAR
We make fun of him, not you.

JACOB
He’s like a size five, bro.

OSCAR
Yo! Stop! Get the away from my window.

JACOB
You guys are a bunch of fucking pussies.

*  

INT. SCHOOL NURSE’S OFFICE / MARGIE’S HOUSE - DAY

Margie stands by a KID who looks nauseous. She is FaceTiming Claire and Scott. We INTERCUT to them at home.

CLaire (ON THE PHONE)
Mom! He’s saying he’s gonna wear these cargo shorts to the party.

MARGIE
I told you to wear Dad’s suit.
SCOTT (ON THE PHONE)
I don’t want to wear Dad’s suit. I have my own personal style.

KID
I think I’m gonna throw up. I think I have the flu.

MARGIE
Just breathe through your nose.

CLaire (ON THE PHONE)
Mom, he looks like he sells crack under a bridge.

SCOTT (ON THE PHONE)
I know the guy who sells crack under the bridge. He looks awesome.

MARGIE
Just put on the suit Scott. Please.

SCOTT (ON THE PHONE)
No it’s not fair! She thinks she’s like princess of the world because she graduated high school. Everybody graduates high school!

MARGIE
Scott!

SCOTT (ON THE PHONE)
(singing)
“For she’s a jolly good fellow…”

CLaire (ON THE PHONE)
Mom, please!

MARGIE
Just put on the suit. Be respectful. I’ll be home in an hour.

SCOTT (ON THE PHONE)
Fine!

CLaire (ON THE PHONE)
Thank you.

Margie hangs up and turns back to the kid.

MARGIE
How you feeling?
The kid vomits.

KID
I’m sorry. I tried to warn you but you were on the phone.

MARGIE
Thanks for letting me use your phone.

KID
My family has problems, too.

11 EXT. FANCY HOUSE - FRONT LAWN - DAY

Scott, Claire and Margie walk up to a fancy house. Scott wears a suit that is too big for him.

CLAIRE
I love this house.

SCOTT
If you have money why would you ever live in Staten Island?

They enter a send-off party for Claire and her best friend JOANNE at Joanne’s parents’ house. The house is very nice and has a view of Manhattan.

12 EXT. FANCY HOUSE - DAY

Scott stands alone as Joanne’s parents make a toast.

JOANNE’S MOM
We are so proud of our daughter Joanne, and Claire who’s been at our house so much over the years that she feels like our second daughter. Thank you Margie for lending her to us. You guys have worked so hard and we are so, so proud of you.

SCOTT
Jesus Christ, dial it back you fucking fruits.

JOANNE’S DAD
Joanne. You’re a very special girl. You made OUR dreams come true, too.
JOANNE’S MOM
You’re my sweet angel.

SCOTT
No she’s not.

JOANNE’S DAD
It’s such an honor to be your parents. You’ve taught us as much as we’ve taught you. Claire...

JOANNE’S MOM
You’ve been through so much and you’ve done so well, so much better than any of us could’ve handled it.

JOANNE’S DAD
Your dad Stan would be so proud of you. He’s looking down at you right now.

SCOTT
No he’s not.

JOANNE’S MOM
A toast to Joanne and Claire!

INT. FANCY HOUSE – DAY

Scott is talking to Joanne’s brother TODD (16) by the buffet.

SCOTT
What’s up Todd?

TODD
What’s up Scott?

SCOTT
You going to college too someday?

TODD
I’d like to. go study law.

SCOTT
Oh yeah? That’s awesome, man. That sounds really cool. (then)
Have any weed?

TODD
I do.
SCOTT
Could I have some?

TODD
Definitely. I’ll go grab it.

TODD
Thanks Todd. Fucking home run Todd.

EXT. FANCY HOUSE – DAY

Margie and her sister JOY talk privately. Joy is tipsy.

JOY
It makes me sad to think of my little sister sitting in that sad little house waiting for her son to be perfect.

MARGIE
I’m not.

JOY
Then you’re wasting all of this. All of it’s getting wasted.

MARGIE
You’re wasted.

JOY
Mom would be disappointed in you. You’re wasting. It’s like leaving food on the table. Come on!

MARGIE
It’s so hard to meet people. I’m totally open.

JOY
You’re not open at all. You’re a liar. You’re not open. Hard to meet people?

MARGIE
I’m in the ER--

JOY
You meet a hundred people a night.

MARGIE
They’re shot, they’re criminals. Who am I gonna meet?
JOY
Stop limiting yourself.

MARGIE
But I’m at the hospital.

JOY
They’re not all criminals. Some of them are victims.

EXT. FANCY HOUSE – DAY

Scott, Claire, Margie, Joy, Margie’s cousin JOE CONTE (55) and Scott’s grandfather STEPHEN (75) are talking.

JOE
We could put you on two shifts a week just to try it.

SCOTT
I don’t need a job. I got a contact at this tattoo shop. I’m hoping for an apprenticeship.

JOY
Then you’re gonna need some money.

JOE
Some of these guys walk away with eighty bucks in tips.

MARGIE
Scott, your cousin’s offering you a job. Consider it, okay?

JOE
If you’re good at it you can become a waiter.

SCOTT
Why are you offering me a job anyway?

JOE
Because I told your father I’d always look out for you.

SCOTT
How? He died suddenly in a fire. Did you ask his ghost?

JOY
That’s not witty, Scott.
JOE
Your dark sense of humor doesn’t
work for me.

STEPHEN
I find it funny.

JOY
It’s your sister’s big day. Be a
gentleman.

JOE
Okay, we lost a few guys in an ICE
raid.

SCOTT
Shit. Sorry.

JOY
Maybe you should work and go to
college.

STEPHEN
College is bullshit! You know who
went to Harvard? The Unabomber. You
know who went to Temple? Bill
Cosby. You know who else went to
Temple? Ted Bundy. You know who
went to Hofstra? Bernie Madoff. You
know who went to Wharton? Donald
Trump. It’s all a scam!

CLAIRE
Maybe I shouldn’t go then.

STEPHEN
Oh no, you’ll have the time of your
life.

16 INT. CLAIRE’S ROOM - NIGHT
Claire is packing. She calls Scott into her room.

CLAIRE
Sit down.

She hands Scott a gift which he opens.

SCOTT
What is this?
CLAIRE
It’s paint brushes and some paint. I know you’re into art so I thought you could expand your horizons while I’m gone.

SCOTT
You got a gift receipt for this?

CLAIRE
Are you okay?

SCOTT
Fine. What do you mean?

CLAIRE
You gonna be okay without me here?

SCOTT
What, you don’t think I can survive here without you?

CLAIRE
Just don’t be a dick, okay? Be nice to Mom. Don’t give her a hard time. She deserves a break.

SCOTT
I always give her a break. When am I gonna get my break?

CLAIRE
What’re you talking about? All anyone ever does is worry about you. I was ignored my entire childhood because of you.

SCOTT
I forgot that my childhood was so dandy.

CLAIRE
You don’t get to act crazy your whole life just because dad died. At least you got to know him.

SCOTT
Well you’re lucky you didn’t get to know him because that’s why you’re almost normal. If you got to know him you would’ve known that he was the coolest guy ever and that would’ve ruined the rest of your life.
CLAIREF
But what are you gonna do? Are you
gonna get a job or are you gonna
leave the house?

SCOTT
I’m gonna open that tattoo
restaurant.

CLAIREF
No. Like for real.

SCOTT
I am being real. It’s never been
done before. I looked it up. I
Googled it. It’s never been done,
not even as a joke.

CLAIREF
Because no one wants to go to a
restaurant and watch people get
tattooed while they eat. It’s
gross.

SCOTT
It’s the best idea ever. Ruby
Tattoosdays, where everyone’s
welcome. Chicken and tattoos.

CLAIREF
That’s not a business! You gotta
get your shit together. Time is
passing by very quickly.

SCOTT
That’s why I smoke weed all the
time, okay? It slows it all down.

CLAIREF
I’m worried about you.

SCOTT
Why now? You never gave a shit. You
literally never cared until this
second. Like what gives? You never
looked out for me, once.

CLAIREF
You’re my older brother. You’re
supposed to look out for me.

SCOTT
You’re just guilty because you’re
leaving. Now all of a sudden you’re
afraid I’m gonna die? I was gonna
die anyway whether you stay or not.

CLAIRE
Are you gonna hurt yourself?

SCOTT
Probably! Yeah. I don’t know how
but if anybody could do it, it’s
me.

Claire busies herself, upset.

CLAIRE
This is why I don’t talk to you.
The one thing I know is you’re not
gonna listen to my advice.

SCOTT
Why would I? You don’t even give a
shit. You’re leaving. You’re not
part of the family.

CLAIRE
I’m the only normal person in this
family. Every second I’m away from
you I’m worrying about you. That’s
what you do to people.

SCOTT
You should be worried.

CLAIRE
Don’t ruin college for me, okay?
Go!

SCOTT
Fine. You should bring that chipper
personality to college. Guys will
love it.

INT. MARGIE’S HOUSE – MORNING

Scott is on the couch watching TV. Joanne enters the room.

JOANNE
We’re finished packing the car. You
wanna come out and say goodbye or--

SCOTT
This is almost over.
JOANNE
No we’re leaving. Like to go to college.

SCOTT
Oh shit. My bad.

Scott stands but lingers by the TV. Joanne pulls him outside.

EXT. MARGIE’S HOUSE – DAY
Margie and Claire are in the middle of a final goodbye.

MARGIE
Don’t worry about me, okay? This is just really hard right now.

They hug, hard. They’re both crying.

MARGIE
I’m so proud of you.

CLAIRE
I love you.

MARGIE
You’re the light of my life.

Claire tries to compose herself. She turns to Scott.

CLAIRE
Thanks for helping us pack the car.

SCOTT
I’m sorry. I didn’t realize you guys were done already.

CLAIRE
Be nice to Mom. And please respond to my texts.

SCOTT
I will, don’t worry about it. And I’ll come visit you at some point.

Scott hugs Claire.

CLAIRE
I love you.

SCOTT
I love you, too.
MARGIE
Fly!
Claire slowly gets in the car. Scott looks at his mom nervously. Margie lets out a cry and runs into the house before the car pulls away. Scott stands there in a daze.

19
INT. MARGIE’S HOUSE – KITCHEN – MOMENTS LATER
19
Scott finds Margie in the kitchen, cooking for no reason.

MARGIE
Hey I was thinking of finally seeing that Game of Thrones. Should I binge it?

Her voice is shaky.

SCOTT
That’s a pretty violent show. You sure you could watch that?

MARGIE
I work in an emergency room.

SCOTT
Right, so you could probably handle a good pillage.

MARGIE
Maybe I’ll start watching it. You’ll watch it with me?

SCOTT
I actually just kind of finished it so it’s really fresh in my mind. I could watch some of them again but I don’t think I can watch all of them.

MARGIE
I’ll see you later then.

SCOTT
Are you okay?

In response, Margie hugs him for a second too long.

SCOTT
It’s okay. I’m here. Don’t worry about it. She’s only like forty-five minutes away and she’ll
probably call in like five minutes.
But hey, you still got me right?

MARGIE
Yeah.

EXT. RUN DOWN BLACKTOP COURT - DAY (2:00PM)

Scott, Oscar, Richie, Igor, Kelsey and Tara are hanging out.
Tara watches Oscar throw knives. A SECURITY GUARD approaches.

SECURITY GUARD
Hey guys. Look, you can’t be here.
You gotta go.

KELSEY
Why?

SECURITY GUARD
It’s private property, that’s why.

SCOTT
It’s an abandoned orphanage.

RICHIE
Who gives a shit? What are you
doing here? Protecting the ghosts
of dead orphans?

SECURITY GUARD
Look fat Kanye, shut your damn
mouth. I’ll be back in five minutes
for you assholes. If you’re still
here I’m calling the cops. Period.

OSCAR
You better get the cops because
you’re a fake cop. You need the
real ones.

SECURITY GUARD
Motherfuckers, fuck all y’all.

The security guard leaves.

IGOR
I feel bad. We were a little too
mean. He’s nice.

SCOTT
Yeah he’s a really good guy.
KELSEY
See that guy is what is wrong with Staten Island. We don’t get any of the cool people from any of the other boroughs. No one comes here. We’re stuck with the pricks who live here.

OSCAR
You’re talking about us, right in front of us.

KELSEY
Kind of. I mean no one comes here! There’s no flow of people. That guy’s like two hundred. We’ve known him since we were six.

TARA
Why can’t this be like Brooklyn?

KELSEY
There’s no reason we shouldn’t be cool like Brooklyn. We’ve got amazing views. It’s close to the city. It’s cheap. Nice people. It makes no sense.

SCOTT
We’re like the only place New Jersey looks down on. You could see the garbage dump from space. This place is never gonna change.

KELSEY
No. It happened to the Meatpacking District, the Village. Brooklyn used to be a shithole. We’re next. I’m gonna take my civil service test. I’m gonna work for the city in city planning. You watch, this place is going to be fucking Williamsburg in ten years.

RICHIE
Nobody wants that.

SCOTT
Why do you wanna work in the city and do city planning? That sounds so boring.
TARA
I feel like Brooklyn is better. I dated a guy that lived in Brooklyn. He was a mixologist. He made ice cubes out of milk. He was so classy.

OSCAR
Shut up.

KELSEY
I love Staten Island. It’s amazing. And people are gonna see it soon. Trust me.

SCOTT
If you love it so much, why don’t you let me tattoo it on you?

KELSEY
No I’m not letting you tattoo me again.

SCOTT
Well I need somebody to tattoo. Come on Rich, what about you man?

RICHIE
Don’t even look at me, dude.

SCOTT
Why?

Richie points to a tattoo of Obama on his arm.

RICHIE
Your work is mad inconsistent. Obama ain’t right.

SCOTT
I got the eyes wrong, okay?

RICHIE
He’s not right! This has hurt me. I don’t have any black friends anymore. I can’t go to a barber shop no more. You got Obama wrong. Ain’t nothing worse than that.

SCOTT
What about you, Igor? You want a dragon or something?
IGOR
I love your tattoos. My brother?
It’s the spitting image. It’s my favorite. No this is my favorite.

Igor lifts his shirt to reveal a tattoo of a cat. The cat’s anus is on his belly button.

IGOR
You killed that.

SCOTT
I really worked hard on the eyes.

IGOR
He’s so cute. I love his butthole.
It reminds me that I have a belly button. So I’m good.

KELSEY
I gotta go. Watching you beg to
give tattoos is too sad. And that’s freaking me out.

21 EXT. BEACH - LATER

Oscar and Richie are drinking. Scott finishes tattooing Igor.

IGOR
That looks really good.

SCOTT
I wish you’d let me do something cooler but yeah.

We see the tattoo, a smiley face captioned “Unfollow Me.”

IGOR
Fuck no. That hurt so bad.

OSCAR
Another dumb tattoo.

SCOTT
I like the pain. The pain’s the whole point of getting tattoos.
Don’t you just love when you get a tattoo and it hits the bone and
pinches a nerve and you’re like “Ah!”

IGOR
I’m not a fan of the pain.
RICHIE
You shouldn’t let him do it to you. He’s inconsistent.

OSCAR
That tattoo’s dumb.

IGOR
Y’all should’ve told me when you saw the design.

OSCAR
It says “Unfollow Me.” You don’t even have that many followers.

IGOR
Carla follows me.

RICHIE
Bro, she’s imaginary!

SCOTT
Carla not real, dude.

RICHIE
How many times do we have to say this?

Oscar punches a bug.

OSCAR
I hate bugs, dog. I’m a gangster!

SCOTT
That’s a bee, bro!

Oscar spots a boy HAROLD (10) wandering nearby.

OSCAR
There’s a kid down there. Yo, kid!

SCOTT
Oh shit, there is a kid.

OSCAR

Harold walks over.

SCOTT
What’s up, pal?
OSCAR
What’re you doing?

HAROLD
Looking for my friend.

SCOTT
(mocking)
“Looking for my friend.”

OSCAR
You wanna be friends with us? We’re the good guys.

SCOTT
You can hang out with us.

OSCAR
Lemme get some of that. Put it here. You gang. Part of the gang.

Oscar and Harold fist pump. Harold eyes Scott’s tattoo gun.

HAROLD
What’s that?

SCOTT
It’s a tattoo gun. I was giving the homies tattoos.

HAROLD
I want a tattoo.

SCOTT
Sure young guy. You want a tattoo?

HAROLD
Yeah.

OSCAR
Kid wants a tattoo. That’s my guy right there.

IGOR
You can’t give him a tattoo. He’s a little kid.

SCOTT
I gotta practice on something. He seems old enough.

OSCAR
You a tough guy?
HAROLD

Yeah.

OSCAR
You’re a badass. Come on, show those muscles kid. Come on, both arms. Put ‘em up.

Harold flexes.

OSCAR
There we go. What’s your name?

HAROLD
Harold.

OSCAR
I’m gonna call you Harry.

HAROLD
Don’t. It’s Harold.

RICHIE
Hell yeah.

OSCAR
I like this kid. I need him in my life. He has structure.

IGOR
I don’t think that’s a good idea.

SCOTT
We don’t listen to anything you say.

OSCAR
Why do you even try to give us advice?

SCOTT
What do you want a tattoo of?

HAROLD
The Punisher.

SCOTT
The Punisher?

OSCAR
That’s tough, man. He could’ve said anything. He said The Punisher.

Scott pulls up an image on his phone.
SCOTT
I can do that. Is that it?

HAROLD
Yeah that’s him.

SCOTT
Are you sure?

HAROLD
Yes.

SCOTT
Do I have your legal permission to
do this?

HAROLD
Yes.

SCOTT
That’s good enough for me. How
about you guys?

OSCAR
Holds up in court.

SCOTT
You guys heard it.

IGOR
He can’t give consent! He’s ten.

SCOTT
Now hold still, okay? Because it is
permanent.

IGOR
Guys, stop.

OSCAR
Put your game face on.

SCOTT
Don’t worry, dude. This’ll just be
on you for the rest of your life.

The second the needle touches Harold’s skin, he screams.

HAROLD
I DON’T WANNA DO IT I DON’T WANNA!

SCOTT
I gotta finish it. Now there’s just
a line. You’re gonna look stupid.
Harold runs away.

RICHIE
Run little man, run!

OSCAR
Goddamn it. I fucking believed in that kid.

SCOTT
He seemed so tough at first but then immediately wasn’t.

OSCAR
That’s why I don’t fuck with millennials.

SCOTT
Again, we are the millennials.

OSCAR
You keep saying that but I don’t know what that means.

IGOR
I regret my friendship with you guys.

INT. MARGIE’S HOUSE - DAY

Margie hears a loud knock at the door. She answers it to find Harold and his father RAY BISHOP (50).

RAY
Hello, my name is Raymond Bishop. This is my son, Harold. Say hello Harold.

HAROLD
I’m sorry.

MARGIE
What’s going on?

RAY
It seems your son was down in the woods giving out free tattoos and my son was one of his victims.

MARGIE
I don’t understand. How do you know it was my son? How did you get this address?
RAY
I have my ways. Believe me, I have my ways.

MARGIE
You a cop?

RAY
No I’m a fireman. I work for a living.

Harold winces as Ray holds his arm up to Margie.

RAY
Look at this! You believe this? See that there? See that line? I don’t know if you burn these off or what but we’re taking care of this and you’re paying for it, you understand me?

MARGIE
Scott!
(to Ray)
I’m so sorry. There’s an aesthetic laser at the hospital where I work and it can completely remove it. I get a discount. I’m gonna pay for the whole thing. I don’t know what I’m saying. I feel terrible.

RAY
You should feel terrible! Look at that!

Scott enters.

SCOTT
What’s up?
(see’s Harold)
Oh fuck.

RAY
There he is! Get your ass over here.

SCOTT
Hey he said he was eighteen!

RAY
He looks like he’s four you fucking moron!
SCOTT
He consented!

HAROLD
He’s lying.

SCOTT
Harold, come on!

RAY
Of course he’s lying! You can’t have consent. He’s nine years old.

HAROLD
Dad, let’s go. You’re embarrassing me.

RAY
We’re not going anywhere. He’s just a little kid! What the fuck is wrong with you?

SCOTT
He was roaming around in the woods, he wanted a tattoo. Where were you?

RAY
I was at fucking work!

SCOTT
Fuck you!

RAY
If I was you I would shut your fucking mouth because I can call the cops right now and have your ass thrown in jail.

SCOTT
For what?

RAY
For sticking needles in a kid’s arm, you fucking dope! Did you even raise him? Did you even raise him?

MARGIE
There’s no reason to call the cops. I can handle this and I can also handle disciplining him.

RAY
Well clearly you can’t or you wouldn’t have a middle-aged son
still living at home, tattooing
minors against their will.

HAROLD
I asked him to do it.

SCOTT
That’s right. That’s my man.

RAY
Go wait in the car, Harold. And
don’t raise your voice at me
either.

SCOTT
Later Harold.

RAY
Don’t say goodbye to my kid.

Harold crosses the street to the car.

RAY
Look both ways! Look both ways!

HAROLD
I am!

RAY
Watch your mouth!

MARGIE
Go to your room.

SCOTT
For your information I am not
middle-aged. I am a twenty-four
year old man and I am going to my
room because I fucking want to.

Scott leaves.

RAY
What kind of animal are you raising
in this house? I’m bringing you the
bill, I don’t care what it costs. I
mean what the fuck is going on
around here?

MARGIE
Just give me a day to arrange the
laser.
RAY
You know something? Is his father home? Where’s his dad? I don’t want to fucking yell at you.

MARGIE
He’s deceased.

Ray looks at her. Her eyes are so kind.

RAY
Well I’m sorry for your loss. I’m sure if he was still around he would agree with the fact that you should still pay for it.

INT. PIZZA PLACE - DAY

Scott sits with Kelsey, eating pizza.

SCOTT
Comically huge mustache.

Kelsey holds a straw wrapper above her mouth.

KELSEY
Is this what he looked like?

SCOTT
That’s exactly what he looked like.

KELSEY
You’re scared of me?

SCOTT
He burst in the door, started screaming and his mustache was flapping all over the place. He looked like the Monopoly man. It was terrifying. “Look both ways! Look both ways!”

KELSEY
I will say probably not a good idea to tattoo children in the woods. You know, you could get in trouble.

SCOTT
Yeah you could.

KELSEY
Why did you do that?
SCOTT
I don’t know. I thought I would get away with it. Plus I thought he was at least fifteen.

KELSEY
How old was he?

SCOTT
Nine.

KELSEY
You thought he was fifteen? Maybe you’ve been smoking too much.

SCOTT
I think I’m just stupid. You should see my mom though. It’s so weird since my sister left. She’s just crying all the time and she’s trying to talk to me and hang out with me. The other day she asked me to go to Nordstrom Rack. I almost slit my throat.

KELSEY
Did you go?

SCOTT
No. I pretended to be asleep.

KELSEY
Maybe she needs company. She’s lonely without your sister.

SCOTT
Yeah she’s gonna be lonely. I mean you should’ve seen her at my sister’s send-off party. It was really weird.

KELSEY
There was a party?

SCOTT
Yeah.

KELSEY
Why wasn’t I invited?

SCOTT
To a high school graduation party?
KELSEY
Well who was there?

SCOTT
It was just family and shit.

KELSEY
What, you don’t want me to be around your family? I’ve known them since I was ten.

SCOTT
I didn’t think it was something you would want to go to. I’m sorry.

KELSEY
Come on, that’s fucked up.

SCOTT
Why? Why is that fucked up?

KELSEY
Because we’re doing something here.

SCOTT
Are we doing something?

KELSEY
I don’t know. We’re starting a thing. I mean we’re having sex and we’re hanging out a lot.

SCOTT
I thought it was more casual than that.

KELSEY
You don’t want me to go to any life events?

SCOTT
What’s a life event? What does that even mean?

KELSEY
You know what? It’s fine.

EXT. STATEN ISLAND STREET - CONTINUOUS

Scott follows Kelsey down the street.

KELSEY
You’re right!
SCOTT
What are you talking about? I’m never right.

KELSEY
No we shouldn’t do this anymore. I don’t wanna fucking do this anymore.

SCOTT
What are you talking about? I don’t understand.

KELSEY
It was all a mistake. But it’s fine. We’re on the same page. We’ll go back to what it was before. I’ll treat you like I do Oscar and Richie.

SCOTT
It’s just I don’t know what I want yet. I’m trying to figure my shit out.

KELSEY
And you should. Please do. Figure your shit out. But we’re not gonna have sex anymore, okay? I gotta go.

She walks away. Scott calls after her.

SCOTT
I should’ve invited you to the party! I didn’t know it was a life event!

25
INT. MARGIE’S HOUSE – LATE AFTERNOON

Ray knocks on the door, alone this time. Margie answers.

MARGIE
I already arranged to pay directly at the hospital but if you want a check, just give me two minutes.

RAY
No I want to pay for it. I’m gonna pay for it.

MARGIE
No I’m gonna pay for it. And I’m also going to talk to Scott because
that was totally out of line, totally nuts.

RAY
I understand that. But look, I just wanted to apologize, okay? I got a little out of control before. I let my anger get the best of me, broke my stupid resolution. God knows it’s what messed up my marriage. I just really wanted to apologize. I mean I was upset but I shouldn’t have conveyed it that way.

MARGIE
No need to apologize. My kid’s being a fucking lunatic. It’s not cool.

RAY
I overreacted. He’s fine.

MARGIE
No it’s the tip of the iceberg.

RAY
Lots of kids do stuff like this.

MARGIE
No kids don’t do stuff like this. He did the second worst thing you could do to a kid in the woods.

RAY
Either way I shouldn’t have behaved the way I behaved. I’m truly sorry.

MARGIE
Apology accepted. It’s nice. Don’t get many of those around here.

RAY
Hey, this may seem a little crazy but can I take you out for a cup of coffee?

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Margie is showing Ray a tattoo on her wrist.

MARGIE
So Scott did this.
RAY
Is that a cocker spaniel?

MARGIE
No that’s my daughter. That’s Claire.

RAY
Oh. I just thought those were ears. That’s her hair. Okay.

MARGIE
Scott got his first tattoo when he was sixteen. It was Kermit the Frog.

RAY
That’s kind of cute.

MARGIE
Kermit smoking a joint.

RAY
Kermit smoking a joint? Geez I don’t remember that episode on Sesame Street. That’s kind of funny. He’s a funny kid then?

MARGIE
He’s so funny.

RAY
You think he’s gonna stick it out?

MARGIE
That I don’t know. I mean I sent him to art school but he quit. He couldn’t really focus because he also has ADD. Anyway, he’s a tattoo artist with ADD.

RAY
All the guys down at the firehouse have tattoos and stuff. Personally I never got one. Not that I have anything against them. I just always thought I was too pasty.

MARGIE
So the firehouse, huh?

RAY
Yeah.
MARGIE
The old firehouse. So you ladder or engine?

RAY
Ladder.

MARGIE
Knew it.

RAY
You got firefighters in your family?

MARGIE
My husband.

RAY
Sorry. Forgot. I hope this isn’t too forward but do you mind if I ask what happened to your husband?

MARGIE
It was a hotel fire. The roof collapsed. He went in to get somebody. They told him it wasn’t safe but he was like that.

RAY
Wait, Stan Carlin was your husband? Paramount Hotel fire?

MARGIE
Yeah did you know him?

RAY
No I just heard about him. He was a real brave guy. He was kind of a legend to be honest with you.

MARGIE
And Scott was only seven when it happened so a lot of consequences.

RAY
Yeah that’s a tough situation. But I gotta tell you, you did a great job. I know we had a little bit of a difference there but I mean he’s a good kid. And I gotta tell you, if the worst he’s doing is a couple unlawful tattoos, you did a hell of a job.
MARGIE
I don’t think that’s the worst he’s doing though.

RAY
That’s how kids are. Everybody gets it at a different time. Anyways, I’m just sitting here doing all the talking. What do you do?

MARGIE
I’m a nurse. I’m a school nurse. I’m also an ER nurse.

RAY
You work in the ER?

MARGIE
Mm-hmm.

RAY
Jesus Christ Margie, we probably met each other.

MARGIE
Could be.

RAY
So how you doing?

MARGIE
I’m very tired.

RAY
Really? Well you don’t look tired.

Margie laughs.

RAY
No seriously, you look great.

MARGIE
Really?

RAY
Yeah.

MARGIE
Are you flirting with me?

RAY
Yeah a lot. This is what it looks like.
MARGIE
It’s really subtle. I can’t tell what’s going on.

RAY
This is how it looks. I’m very subtle.

MARGIE
I’m rusty. You’re subtle. Nice to meet you.

INT. DENINO’S RESTAURANT - DUSK

Scott is on his first shift at Joe’s restaurant.

JOE
I see you out there. You’re doing great. Just keep doing what you’re doing. Have a good time. The more fun you have, the more fun the customers have.

A waitress named DEENA approaches.

DEENA
Busboy, why’s table 12 still dirty?

SCOTT
Because they were talking. I didn’t think I should interrupt them.

WAITRESS
Interrupt them! Get them out of here. Do your job.

Scott walks by a table where a WOMAN eats alone.

SCOTT
Excuse me, are you done enjoying your meal?

WOMAN
There is food in my mouth and I am chewing. Do you think that I am finished? I’m just holding this for my health? Get me some water.

Scott walks away, passing a table with a HUSBAND and WIFE.

HUSBAND
Hey come here. Can we order?
SCOTT
Yeah I’ll go get your waiter.

HUSBAND
No we don’t have time for that.

WIFE
I’m starving.

HUSBAND
Can I go?

WIFE
Usually the woman goes first but go ahead.

HUSBAND
How about I’m paying? Can I have a chicken parm with meat sauce? No marinara. Thin. Thin chicken parm.

WIFE
Why aren’t you writing it down?

SCOTT
I can’t actually because I’m not a waiter. I’m just a busboy so they don’t even give me a pen.

HUSBAND
Memorize it.

WIFE
Seafood pasta. No clams. Double up on the shrimp. That’s how I always get it. We come here all the time.

SCOTT
I’m not gonna remember a word you guys just said.

HUSBAND
It’s not rocket science. Go.

INT. DENINO’S RESTAURANT - NIGHT

The restaurant is now empty. The staff is clearing the center of the room of tables. Scott sits with Deena.

SCOTT
There a dance party or something?

Joe holds up the tip jar.
JOE
Fight night! Tournament of champions! Who’s going first?

A busboy named ZOOTS volunteers.

DEENA
Everyone fights for their tips.

SCOTT
The tips that we earn?

DEENA
Yeah but you have to fight for them now.

ZOOTS
Who wants some?! Huh?! Who got it?

Deena hands Scott green Hulk hands instead of boxing gloves.

SCOTT
No way.

JOE
Put the gloves on! Get in there!

Scott does as he’s told and walks toward Zoots.

SCOTT
Hey I don’t wanna do this.

ZOOTS
What do you mean?

SCOTT
Because we’re friends, right?

ZOOTS
For the next fifteen seconds this friendship is over, son. Understand that? Fighting is serious. It’s sacred. It’s how I tribute my Lord and Savior, Jesus.

SCOTT
I don’t think Jesus would want you to kick my ass right now.

ZOOTS
He would want me to have the tips.
SCOTT
You can have the tips. I don’t even want them.

They dance around each other without throwing a punch.

SCOTT
What is this shit?

ZOOTS
I don’t know. I’ve seen Creed a couple of time.

SCOTT
Are we about to do the Cotton Eye Joe?

ZOOTS
Come on, son. Come this way, boy. Go ahead, take your shot.

SCOTT
For real?

Zoos knocks Scott out with a single overhand punch.

ZOOTS
Now we are friends, goddamn it! Because that’s what friends are for! Zoos done did it again! Said Zoos done did it again!

JOE
I think we have a winner.

29 INT. MARGIE’S BEDROOM – NIGHT

Margie and Ray are making out against the door.

MARGIE
I want to turn off this light.

Margie turns off a light and goes back to kissing Ray.

MARGIE
Just one second.

She turns off another light and it becomes extremely dark.

RAY
Got a lot of lamps. It’s like a store or something.
MARGIE AND RAY SECRET DATING MONTAGE

30  EXT. MARGIE’S HOUSE – DAY
Scott leaves the house. A moment later, we see Ray look around and then enter.

31  EXT. PIER – DAY
Margie and Ray fish off the pier.

32  EXT. RALPH’S ITALIAN ICE
Margie and Ray walk down the street eating ices.

33  EXT. BASEBALL GAME – DAY
Ray and Margie are at a Staten Island Yankees game.

34  INT. FIRE STATION – DAY
Ray introduces Margie to fellow firefighters PAPA, JOHN, JAYLEN and DONNY. Margie clearly hasn’t been in a fire station for a long time and is very emotional and happy to meet everyone.

35  INT. MARGIE’S HOUSE – NIGHT
Scott goes to his room as Ray sneaks out of Margie’s bedroom.

36  INT. HOSPITAL – DAY
Ray surprises Margie at work, bringing her flowers.

37  EXT. PLAYGROUND – DAY
Ray and Harold introduce Ray’s daughter KELLY (7) to Margie.

38  EXT. TIMES SQUARE – NIGHT
Margie and Ray walk around NYC.

END OF MONTAGE
INT. MARGIE’S HOUSE – DINING ROOM – MORNING

Margie brings Scott’s breakfast to the table and sits.

MARGIE
Come sit down. I need to talk to you about something.

SCOTT
What’s up? Someone die?

MARGIE
No nobody’s dead. Thank God. I’m seeing somebody.

SCOTT
What does that mean?

MARGIE
I’ve been seeing a man. I’ve been dating someone for a little while now.

SCOTT
You’re dating someone? That’s awesome. Why are you dating him secretly, you little slut? Why didn’t you tell me? Is he really old or is he really young? Is it one of my friends? Is it Igor?

MARGIE
No I just didn’t want to bother you unless it was really serious.

SCOTT
Bother? You’re my mom. I hope you’re getting banged out real good. Who’s the lucky guy?

MARGIE
It’s Ray.

SCOTT
Who’s Ray?

MARGIE
Remember the kid you tattooed? His father.

SCOTT
That fucking prick?
MARGIE
I know. He’s a really nice man and he’s really good to me. And he’s a fireman.

SCOTT
He’s a fireman? That’s fucked up.

MARGIE
Why?

SCOTT
What do you mean, why? You haven’t dated anyone in seventeen years since Dad and the first guy you date is a fireman? You don’t think that’s a little fucking weird?

MARGIE
I got nothing against firemen.

SCOTT
Neither do I but the guy doesn’t like me and he has the same job as Dad. I’m fucked up as it is, Mom. I have Crohn’s. There’s something wrong up here. I can’t find my watch. What’re you trying to do to me here? Haven’t I been through enough? What did I do wrong? I’m sorry. What did I do?

MARGIE
I’m not doing it to you. I just don’t want to be alone the rest of my life.

SCOTT
I don’t want you to be alone either. That would suck. But come on, this is pretty obvious this is not a good choice, right?

MARGIE
I would like us to have dinner. This is very, very important to me. I am in a serious relationship with a very nice man.

SCOTT
You’re in a serious relationship? With that guy? You don’t love him, do you? You’re not saying that, right?
MARGIE
We don’t use that word yet but if he said it to me, I’d say it back.

SCOTT
Oh my god! Jesus! Do you not learn? Look what happened last time. You want to do that again?

Scott points to a kind of shrine to his dad in the corner.

MARGIE
How about this? How about we come by the restaurant and we have dinner when you’re working and you just come by and you just say hi a couple of times. How about that?

Scott puts on his dad’s old helmet.

SCOTT
Why don’t you ask him? Why don’t you just build another shrine to Ray while you’re at it? Right across from Dad’s so they can be fucking pals!

INT. DENINO’S RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Scott at the bussing station with Zoots as Joe walks by.

SCOTT
Look at this guy having the time of his life. Acting like he owns the place.

JOE
I know that guy. Eggplant parmesan.

ZOOTS
Your mom is a bit of a baddie. She looks postcoital.

SCOTT
What’s postcoital?

ZOOTS
It’s like post-fucking but it’s your mom so I want to be nice. But it’s definitely happening.

Scott walks over to Margie and Ray’s table.
RAY
How you doing? Good to see you again.

SCOTT
I’m sorry for branding your kid.

RAY
It’s fine. Cost three fifty but I didn’t make your mom pay for it. No harm no foul. Because if that didn’t happen I wouldn’t have met this lovely lady.

SCOTT
Happy to help.

RAY
Things work out.

SCOTT
Thank God I did what I did then. Would you guys like to start with still or sparkling water?

RAY
Let’s go sparkling. You like sparkling?

MARGIE
Yeah. But I usually go still.

RAY
Can we get a new bread, too? Last time I came here it came out hot. It’s perfect. Like my mom made it.

SCOTT
Sure. Sparkling and hot bread.

RAY
Thanks buddy.

41 INT. DENINO’S RESTAURANT – KITCHEN – CONTINUOUS 41

Scott grabs a new bread out of the warmer and spits on it.

ZOOTS
You can’t spit on that. You gotta be crafty. You can’t just go at it. You gotta maneuver. Lick on it or put a boogie in it or something.
SCOTT
Do you think I can fit this whole thing in my ass?

ZOOTS
If you really put your mind to it.

Scott exits as Deena comes up behind Zoots.

DEENA
Hey, I saw him spit in the bread.

INT. DENINO’S RESTAURANT – MOMENTS LATER

Scott returns to find Ray sitting alone.

SCOTT
Scorching hot bread.

RAY
Thank you. Your mom’s in the john, have a seat. You won’t get in trouble. Just for a minute.

Scott reluctantly sits.

RAY
So how are you liking the job here?

SCOTT
It eats ass.

RAY
I remember back in the day I used to work at that pizza parlor down on Main Street. You remember the one? I loved it. Making the pizzas. Girls would come in. It’s like they just had to talk to me.

SCOTT
That’s awesome. I’m glad you got laid a lot at your pizza place.

RAY
Listen, I know this is weird. You and your mother were alone together for a long time without a man around. You got set in your ways. You got used to things. But I just feel like your mother deserves more right now. And I’m serious, I really think that I can make her
happy. She makes me happy. So that’s a good thing, right?

SCOTT
Yeah I think it’s a great thing. I want my mom to be happy more than anything.

RAY
Good. I do too. So what’s your sport?

SCOTT
I like basketball.

RAY
Oh yeah? What position?

SCOTT
I played small forward.

RAY
I’m kind of a baseball guy myself.

SCOTT
Oh yeah?

RAY
I’m an old man. I like that stuff. I got season tickets to the Yankees.

SCOTT
No way, really? That’s cool.

RAY
I think it’s Staten Island’s year.

SCOTT
Oh Staten Island Yankees. Minor league.

RAY
Absolutely, I’m not gonna go pay to see those overpaid crybabies. They try harder at the Minor League level plus I’m a Red Sox fan. I’m never setting foot in that stadium.

SCOTT
I should get back to work before I get yelled at. Enjoy the hot bread.

Scott gets up to leave just as Margie is returning.
MARGIE
What are you fellas talking about?

RAY
I was just asking Scott if he wanted to go to a Yankee game some time.

MARGIE
What does Scott say?

SCOTT
Scott said yeah.

INT. DENINO’S RESTAURANT – LATER

The tables are cleared away quickly.

SCOTT
Who’s fighting tonight?! I wanna fight somebody!

A busboy named PEPE volunteers. They square up.

SCOTT
I’m sorry Pepe. Don’t take this personally--

Pepe jabs Scott on the chin and knocks him out.

PEPE
What happened? That was just a jab.

SCOTT
It’s okay, Pepe.

PEPE
You sure? I mean I’ve never done that before so I feel bad for you.

EXT. MARGIE’S HOUSE – DUSK

Margie sees Scott and Ray off before the baseball game.

EXT. STADIUM – LATER

Scott and Ray approach the stadium, not talking.
INT. STADIUM - LATER

Scott and Ray find their seats next to a few firemen, Papa, Donny, Monty and Rafael.

PAPA
We gonna take these pansy Spinners tonight?

RAY
If we can’t take the Spinners we might as well just shut it down.

MONTY
We should just pack it in, send these guys back to single A. My kid’s Little League team could give these guys a run for their money.

RAY
These guys are all on the job, too. The old ballbuster here, he’s the senior man in the house. He pretty much runs the place.

PAPA
Did you call me a senior? You’re the one who’s bald.

RAY
Come on Papa, I’m just fucking around.

PAPA
You want a hot dog?

SCOTT
I can’t. I have Crohn’s.

PAPA
What’s that?

SCOTT
It’s when the lining of your stomach is all messed up so it makes you shit all the time.

PAPA
Thanks for sharing.

RAY
Next time just say “I don’t want a hot dog.”
SCOTT
Just trying to spread awareness.

They sit for a moment.

RAY
You ever think about putting on the jacket?

Scott laughs.

RAY
What are you laughing about?

SCOTT
Because it’s a stupid question Ray.

RAY
What do you mean, stupid?

SCOTT
Would you ask the kids of that teacher who blew up in space if they want to be an astronaut?

RAFAEL
I don’t think that lady had kids.

SCOTT
I’m sure she didn’t because she died in space. It’s hard to have kids when you’re dead in space. Look, I could tell you how I feel about fireman but I don’t think you guys want to hear my opinion.

PAPA
No please tell us. I wanna hear it.

RAY
You don’t gotta do this, come on.

SCOTT
Alright. How about this? If you’re a fireman, just don’t have kids or a family at all so that way you don’t fucking crush them when you don’t come home that one time. And you’re just so selfish. You just hang out with your boys all day like it’s a fucking frat house. Half the time you’re not even putting out fires. You’re just jerking off watching Scarface.
RAY
Take it easy, man.

SCOTT
I’m just saying. And it’s wrong to tell a kid that you’re gonna be there for him for his whole entire life. You miss graduation, your birthdays, my prom dances. That’s a very mean thing to do to children. And if you have a family, you’re an asshole for being a fireman.

MONTY
That’s one way to look at it.

SCOTT
Tell that to my dad. Oh but you can’t. Because he’s dead. Anybody got a good response to that?

The crowd cheers and Scott joins in.

SCOTT
What a game! What a game!

DONNY
So what, I shouldn’t have kids?

RAFAEL
No you should have kids.

PAPA
(to Scott)
Maybe you should take a cue from your shirt. Smile. Lighten up.

Scott looks down at his shirt which is covered with smiles.

SCOTT
That’s actually kind of funny. Guy’s alright. Why can’t you be more like him?

RAY
Why can’t you not embarrass me like this?

SCOTT
I’m sorry I embarrassed you in front of your friends.
INT. MARGIE’S HOUSE – MORNING

Scott enters, thrown to see Margie serving Ray breakfast.

MARGIE
Hey! Come on in. Come have breakfast with us. I made pancakes and I made the sausage that you like. An omelet? Come sit.

RAY
These eggs are spectacular with the onions and the peppers. I love it.

SCOTT
Did he spend the night?

MARGIE
Yeah he slept here. In this house. I’m an adult, I can do that.

Scott and Margie both sit. Ray gestures for her to begin.

MARGIE
I need to talk to you about something. I was thinking that it’s time to think about getting your own apartment.

SCOTT
What? Why would you say that?

MARGIE
You are so awesome and I think I’ve been there for you too much. Sometimes in life the thing that’s motivating is when people don’t have that safety net.

SCOTT
Right but I need that safety net because I don’t have my shit together. Why are you doing this? Is this because of him?

MARGIE
No it’s just you’re twenty-four years old now.

RAY
Phelps had a fistful of gold medals by twenty-four.
SCOTT
Why are you talking?

RAY
I’m just giving you some perspective. Wayne Gretzky had like 96 goals when he was twenty-four. Roger Staubach graduated West Point, won a Heisman Trophy, fought in the Vietnam War and then joined the Cowboys by the time he was twenty-four.

SCOTT
I don’t know who that is. Who gives a fuck?

MARGIE
I think that maybe you’re ready and you just don’t even know it.

SCOTT
So you’re kicking me out?

MARGIE
No I just want you to get your own apartment by summer.

SCOTT
Right so you’re kicking me out of the house.

RAY
It’s nine months from now. You could have a baby in nine months.

SCOTT
Are you moving in? Are you trying to push me out? What did I do? I though we were cool.

RAY
Let’s all be adults here. Your mother has worked very hard for a very long time and I’m gonna retire in a couple of years so things are gonna change around here but in a good way. We think you can do great things.

SCOTT
I know I’m gonna do great things. I don’t need you to tell me that. What’s going on? I don’t like this.
MARGIE
Be that as it may, until you leave, which is gonna be good for you and it’s gonna be motivating, you’re gonna have to pull your weight a little more around here. And one thing we thought would help you contribute and wouldn’t be hard to do is to help Ray bring his kids back and forth to school when he can’t do it because of work.

RAY
Like now. Like today.

SCOTT
You’re joking, right? You want me to take your kid to school? The kid I tattooed?

RAY
I got two kids. The other’s seven.

SCOTT
You’re gonna make me babysit your kids? I do drugs!

RAY
Looks like you’re walking.

MARGIE
And thank you.

SCOTT
I’m not cool with any of this, okay? And where do you expect me to live? And with what money? You know I’m a fucking bum, right? This is fucked up! Seriously. Especially after last night, all that bonding boy bullshit. You’re full of shit, man. You’re a fucking liar. I’m gonna go walk your kids.

Scott exits.

EXT. GINA’S HOUSE - MORNING

Scott is talking to Ray’s ex-wife GINA.

GINA
No I’m not letting you take them.
Fuck you. Who the fuck are you?
SCOTT
I agree with you completely. It was
Ray’s idea. I don’t think I should
be taking them either.

GINA
Are you a weirdo?

SCOTT
Oh the weirdest. Nobody’s weirder
than me.

GINA
See a weirdo wouldn’t say that. A
weirdo would deny it.

SCOTT
So do I have to take them?

GINA
Yes. I mean Ray was supposed to do
it. I can’t fucking do it. Their
schools start half an hour apart on
the other side of town. So your mom
is banging my ex?

SCOTT
I’m not thrilled about it either.

GINA
You shouldn’t be.

Gina gets Harold and Kelly from inside the house.

GINA
This is Harold and this is Kelly.
This is...

SCOTT
Scott.

GINA
Scott. He’s gonna be taking care of
you.

HAROLD
Nice to meet you, Scott.

SCOTT
Hi Harold. It’s nice to meet you.
For the very first time.
GINA
If he does anything weird, you tell me. Even if he tells you not to tell me, you tell me. I’m pretty sure he’s not weird but I could be wrong. Hold both their hands!

Scott takes their hands before crossing the street.

GINA
Look both ways! Look both ways!

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EXT. SIDEWALK - MOMENTS LATER

Scott walks with Harold and Kelly.

SCOTT
So what do you like to do, Harold?

HAROLD
I like superheroes.

SCOTT
So does everybody.

HAROLD
No I make up my own.

SCOTT
Oh yeah? What kind?

HAROLD
Ice Flash.

SCOTT
What does he do?

HAROLD
He freezes stuff and shoots ice at people.

SCOTT
Well that’s not gonna work.

HAROLD
Why not?

SCOTT
I could just use a hair dryer and ruin him. Keep thinking though.

(to Kelly)
What do you got?
KELLY
I like to sing.

SCOTT
You do? Could you sing for me?

Kelly SINGS “Oh What a Beautiful Mornin’” from Oklahoma.

SCOTT
That shit was dope. High five.

HAROLD
She’s a good singer.

SCOTT
I don’t agree with the sentiment of the song but it was really great.

EXT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - LATER

They arrive at the middle school.

SCOTT
Have a great day at school. I hope it’s not shitty. Give your sister a kiss goodbye.

HAROLD
We don’t do that.

SCOTT
Just do it.

Harold awkwardly kisses Kelly on the head.

SCOTT
See, wasn’t that nice? Now if she dies tomorrow, you’ll remember that you kissed her goodbye. Have a good day at school.

Scott and Kelly walk off.

KELLY
Why would I die?

SCOTT
I don’t know. You never know what’s gonna happen. Think you’re immortal?
INT. KINDERGARTEN - LATER

Scott is dropping Kelly off when her teacher AMY walks over.

AMY
Can I help you?

SCOTT
Hi I’m Ray’s friend. I was just dropping her off.

AMY
You know Ray?

SCOTT
I know Ray a little bit. He’s kind of like banging my mom.

AMY
Did you sign in at the office?

SCOTT
No I didn’t even know you had an office.

AMY
Okay um...Kelly? You okay?

KELLY
Yeah.

AMY
You sure?

KELLY
Yeah.

AMY
You know you can tell me.

KELLY
I’m okay.

AMY
Do you know him?

KELLY
Kind of. He’s a new friend.

AMY
Okay.
SCOTT
Oh I trained her in the car. She’s not going to break. I’m just kidding. I’m not gonna hurt her. But have a great day.

AMY
Actually could you set up the paints and just wash these brushes?

SCOTT
No.

AMY
Thank you so much.

INT. TATTOO SHOP – DAY
Scott approaches IKE, the owner of the shop. He is tattooing a CUSTOMER who is covered in complex, semi-racist tattoos.

SCOTT
Did you happen to get a chance to take a look at the--

IKE
I looked at your book. I drew like that too when I was 14. From what I saw you don’t really have the basics. You gotta figure that out.

SCOTT
That’s why I’m here. I was hoping I can learn from you.

IKE
You’d be my apprentice. You’ll be a slave to the shop.

SCOTT
As long as I get to tattoo people.

IKE
No never. Until I say. You’ll be sterilizing needles, washing my car, taking the trash out. I mean you’re basically our bitch.

SCOTT
So how much will I be making here?

IKE
Dick.
SCOTT
Dick. Okay well...

IKE
It’s a long line of people who want this job.

SCOTT
How do I pay my rent?

IKE
That one right there is not my problem. It’s your first day and you’re already complaining? It’s kind of weird. Yeah let’s not do this. You should take a walk.

CUSTOMER
Pussy.

Scott sees a Confederate flag tattoo on the customer’s chest.

SCOTT
Well could I ask you a question? If I did work here? Let’s say some idiot walks in and he wants to get a tattoo of a Confederate flag wrapped around the Grim Reaper. You could tell that guy to go fuck himself, right? Because that’s a ridiculous tattoo to ask for?

IKE
It’s not my place to judge people, man. I don’t do that.

Scott sees another tattoo. It’s of a dead friend named James.

SCOTT
But what if another guy walked in and he wanted to get a tattoo of his dead friend James on his chest but you know James and you don’t want to give him the tattoo because you know James and he’s an asshole and that the world’s better off without him. What do you do then?

CUSTOMER
You have a death wish?

Scott sees another, a half-naked woman on a motorcycle.
SCOTT
I don’t have a death wish but that lady on that motorcycle does. She’s not even wearing any underwear. She’s gonna burn her pussy.

CUSTOMER
You really wanna fucking do this?

SCOTT
I don’t wanna do anything with you. I just want to know who killed James. Was it the Confederate flag man? Was it the motorcycle lady?

The customer throws a beer bottle at Scott who runs away.

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INT. DENINO’S RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Kelsey is sitting at a table across from a DATE.

DATE
I gotta be honest Kelsey, you look exactly like your picture. Or you’re thicker, more robust.

KELSEY
Thank you. It’s a compliment. You look a little bit like Antonio Banderas if I squint really hard.

DATE
Please squint all night long!

Scott notices Kelsey but continues bussing tables.

DATE
So what do you do?

KELSEY
I’m studying to work in the city. I want to make Staten Island a great place again.

DATE
Staten Island’s already cool, what’re you talking about?

KELSEY
Yeah it is. You’re the first person here to say that.
DATE
It’s the best place on Earth. At least on the East Coast.

Kelsey gets Scott’s attention.

SCOTT
Oh hey. Would you guys want still or sparkling water?

KELSEY
You pick.

DATE
I’m more of a sparkling guy.

KELSEY
Sparkling it is.

DATE
I do like tequila if I could get a Patron with a rock?

KELSEY
That’s fine.

SCOTT
You guys want warm bread?

Kelsey gets a sad look, stands and hurries off. Deena sees.

DEENA
Did you scare off another customer?

Scott follows Kelsey. Deena turns to the date.

DEENA
I’m so sorry about that. He has like nepotism, you know?

DATE
Is that a disease?

DEENA
Yeah. It’s a bad one.

INT. DENINO’S RESTAURANT – OUTSIDE THE RESTROOM

Kelsey comes out of the restroom, wiping away tears.

KELSEY
I brought that guy here to make you jealous. You could give a fuck.
SCOTT
To make me jealous?

KELSEY
You don’t seem jealous or upset at all.

SCOTT
I do care. Of course I care.

KELSEY
I chose the hottest guy on Tinder. Look at me! Look at my tits. It’s literally the Eiffel Tower holding them up in there.

SCOTT
You look great.

KELSEY
Thank you.

SCOTT
Please don’t cry here. Please.

KELSEY
You look awful.

SCOTT
What do you mean?

KELSEY
Your skin looks see-through and the circles around your eyes are so dark you look like an anorexic panda.

SCOTT
I know I do.

KELSEY
You always look sick and pale like you have a disease but you don’t know it yet. You literally look like if I touched you, you’d just turn to dust.

SCOTT
I’m sorry. I’m not doing very well.

She starts to exit the restaurant.

SCOTT
What do I tell your date?
KELSEY
Tell him to fuck off. I met him ten minutes ago. He’s a DJ.

EXT. STATEN ISLAND – DAY

We see a series of shots of Scott walking Harold and Kelly to school. He is effortlessly good with them.

HAROLD
Why do you not think ice is a good superpower? It’s amazing! Ice Flash can do anything with his ice and it’s indestructible because it’s a superhero ice. He can make giant shields that reflect anything. He can make giant ice tanks, giant ice planes and giant jets. Helicopters that shoot giant missiles. I mean think of all the possibilities.

SCOTT
That’s actually kind of cool.

HAROLD
Thanks.

SCOTT
You came up with that?

HAROLD
Yeah.

SCOTT
You’re getting really good at this.

HAROLD
Thanks.

SCOTT
What color is his shield?

HAROLD
It’s the color of ice.

SCOTT
But what’s the color of ice? Is it like see-through? Like blue ice?

HAROLD
It’s blue ice because it’s like superhero ice and it’s cool.
SCOTT  
Right.

EXT. TEMPLE STREET - DAY

Scott, Oscar, Igor and Richie stand across from a pharmacy.

OSCAR  
Remember that kid Ronnie? His uncle owns the pharmacy. He gave me the key. We’re gonna load up on oxys.

SCOTT  
So we’re robbers now. That’s our future?

OSCAR  
No we’re gonna do this one time. Get the money to seed our dreams, get that venture capital, open that tattoo restaurant you want.

IGOR  
It’s not that big a deal. Jay-Z did it. He sold crack to fund his rap career.

SCOTT  
Aren’t most of Jay-Z’s friends dead or in jail?

RICHIE  
Yeah but we’re Jay-Z in this situation. We’re not Jay-Z’s friends.

SCOTT  
We can’t all be Jay-Z. There can’t be four Jay-Zs. That doesn’t make any sense. You guys know I’d do anything for you, right?

OSCAR  
Thank you.

SCOTT  
Just not this. I’m out.

OSCAR  
What are you talking about?

SCOTT  
This is crazy.
RICHIE
We need you. You’re the lookout.

SCOTT
Literally anybody could be the lookout. I don’t need to be a part of this.

OSCAR
No we need you. You’re our best friend. We trust you.

SCOTT
Best friends don’t make other best friends do stupid illegal shit.

OSCAR
You make me do stupid shit for you all the time.

SCOTT
Like what?

OSCAR
What about the time when you thought you had testicular cancer?

SCOTT
Here we go. Knew this was gonna come up.

OSCAR
And then I drive over and you make me touch your nuts.

SCOTT
I would’ve done it for you. If you’re like “Something’s wrong with my ass” I’d be like “Yo bend over.”

OSCAR
Come on. After everything we’ve done for you?

IGOR
What do you do for me? I let you tattoo my whole body.

SCOTT
So what? You love my tattoos.
IGOR
You use me as a human sketchbook.
And I don’t really. I don’t. Not as much as I say I do.

SCOTT
I’m out of here. My bad.

Scott walks off.

OSCAR
You know what? You’re a real bitch!

IGOR
Shh!

OSCAR
Don’t shush me!

EXT. COLLEGE – DAY

Claire runs over to Margie, Scott and Ray.

MARGIE
Oh my god, look how excited she is!

CLaire
I started running too early!

She hugs Margie then Scott.

MARGIE
This is Ray.

RAY
Hey how you doing? Nice to finally meet you.

CLaire
Nice to meet you.

RAY
I feel like I already know you. Your mom talks about you all the time.

CLaire
Oh god.

RAY
No only good stuff.
CLAIRE
Should we go eat? I’m so sick of eating off a tray.

MARGIE
You hungry?

RAY
I could eat. I could always eat.

The three walk off, enjoying each other. Scott hangs back.

SCOTT
“I could eat. I could always eat.”
Fucking asshole.

INT. RESTAURANT – DUSK

Scott, Margie, Claire, Ray and Joanne sit at dinner together. Ray is holding out a photo of Kelly and Harold on his phone.

RAY
Look at those two angels.

SCOTT
Yeah I know them.

CLAIRE
Oh my god! Look at those curls.

MARGIE
We took them to see “Stomp” Off-Broadway. They went crazy!

JOANNE
I love Stomp.

SCOTT
What’s Stomp? What is that?

RAY
The greatest musical of all time.

JOANNE
It’s that show where people play the drums on like garbage cans and tap with broomsticks.

RAY
Stuff around the house. You just see a toaster and make an English muffin. They see a whole song. It’s incredible.
SCOTT
I know a homeless guy that plays trash can lids on the subway for a dollar. And then he took a shit on the platform. I don’t know if he’s going to get a Tony for that.

RAY
Maybe if they keep practicing and get an adult diaper, they can get to Broadway someday.

Everyone but Scott laughs.

CLAIRE
So are you guys really serious?

MARGIE
Actually I’m going up to Boston to meet his parents at Thanksgiving.

SCOTT
You’re going to Boston for Thanksgiving? Where am I gonna go?

MARGIE
You can come. We can all go.

RAY
We’d love to have you up there.

CLAIRE
Do you think you’re gonna get married again?

RAY
Oh boy, look what I got us into.

MARGIE
Claire.

RAY
I’ll answer that. A couple of months ago, I would’ve said no but—

SCOTT
Can we go?

MARGIE
Scott! Don’t be rude.
SCOTT
Me? I’m not being rude. He’s
talking the entire time. He’s the
one being rude.

RAY
Just making conversation.

MARGIE
What’d you wanna say? Tell us now.

SCOTT
All I wanted to say is it’s time to
go. I had a great time. This is
wonderful. I think we all bonded.
It’s time to leave now, alright?

CLAIRE
We’re going to a party later if you
want to come with us. You just
can’t embarrass me.

SCOTT
Let’s just get the fuck outta here.

Scott leaves the restaurant.

RAY
He’s in a good mood.

CLAIRE
Try doing it your entire life.

INT. COLLEGE BAR - NIGHT

Scott, Claire and Joanne enter a crowded bar.

CLAIRE
We’re gonna have a good night.

SCOTT
No we’re not. I hate college
parties.

CLAIRE
You’ve never been to a college
party!

INT. COLLEGE BAR - NIGHT

MUSIC BLASTS as Scott, Claire and Joanne do shots and dance.
INT. COLLEGE BAR - NIGHT
Scott talks to a FEMALE STUDENT in the bar.

FEMALE STUDENT
What’s your major?

SCOTT
It’s evolutionary sociology with a splash of bio.

FEMALE STUDENT
I didn’t know you could do that.

SCOTT
You can do whatever the fuck you want. It’s college.

INT. DORM ROOM - NIGHT
Scott and Claire watch a STUDENT make incredible vape rings.

INT. COLLEGE BAR - NIGHT
Scott talks to a second FEMALE STUDENT in the bar.

FEMALE STUDENT #2
I like your tattoos. I’m an actress so I don’t think I could get that many tattoos because what if I get cast as an angelic role? I’m kind of like a young Winona Ryder so--

Scott smacks himself and falls to the floor.

INT. DORM ROOM - NIGHT
Claire watches Scott draw something on a dorm room wall.

SCOTT
It’s a butthole. Get it?

Claire walks away.

EXT. COLLEGE PATH/STAIRS - NIGHT
Scott and some football players ride bikes through campus.
INT. DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Scott sits on a third FEMALE STUDENT’s bed.

FEMALE STUDENT #3
So we’re talking about how the 1% keeps getting bigger and bigger and bigger and the wealth inequality is just out of control and we can’t continue with capitalism this way.

SCOTT
Yeah I’m sick of the rat race.

FEMALE STUDENT #3
Exactly. Like what happened to the American dream?

SCOTT
I know. It’s like an American nightmare now.

Scott and the student hook up.

INT. DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Scott and Claire watch sparks fly from a homemade hookah.

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - NIGHT

Scott and Claire are walking back from the party.

SCOTT
That was fucking fun.

CLAIRE
I know! It was so fun.

SCOTT
I feel like I kind of fit in for once and not everybody hated me for the first time.

CLAIRE
You should come here.

SCOTT
You think I can get into a place like this?

CLAIRE
I mean you need a good GPA.
SCOTT
Well I don’t have a good one of those. I didn’t even graduate high school. Don’t you have to graduate high school to go to college?

CLAIRE
But it’s not too late to do that.

SCOTT
Even so I’m too old. I’d look like a narc. I would look creepy in the corner. Everybody would be like “What’s that guy doing here?”

CLAIRE
Everybody here is so old.

SCOTT
I’m fucking stupid Claire, is that what you want me to say? I can’t pay attention. I can’t sit still. I’m stupid. I’m a dumb idiot. I would have to work ten times harder than those people and everybody would fucking make fun of me and I’m not ready to deal with that again, alright? So no.

Claire shakes her head and stops walking.

CLAIRE
So that’s it? That’s how long you’re gonna think about going to college for?

SCOTT
I mean that was like a forty second walk. That’s a lotta consideration, don’t you think?

CLAIRE
It’s your journey.

SCOTT
Now let’s get down to brass tacks: what’re we gonna do about Ray?

CLAIRE
What do you mean?

SCOTT
Don’t act stupid. How are we gonna get Mom to break up with him?
CLAIRE
He seems fine.

SCOTT
You think he’s fine?

CLAIRE
What do you want? It’s Mom’s choice to make. We don’t need to get involved.

SCOTT
I know but we should still protect her. She can’t just be with the first guy she’s been with since Dad. She’s gotta peruse some dick.

CLAIRE
Mom doesn’t need to peruse dick.

SCOTT
You know she needs to.

CLAIRE
I think she seems happy. You want her to have sex with a ton of people?

SCOTT
No but...yeah. Kind of.

CLAIRE
That’s gross.

SCOTT
If you knew something was bad before it started, wouldn’t you stop it if you had the chance? It’s like that whole baby Hitler thing. If you had the chance to kill baby Hitler before it grew up, wouldn’t you do it? Wouldn’t you strangle it until it’s eyes popped out?

CLAIRE
So Ray’s baby Hitler?

SCOTT
In this situation he is. So do you wanna help me kill baby Hitler?

CLAIRE
You’re right Scott. I’ll see you tomorrow.
INT. MARGIE’S CAR – NEXT DAY

Ray drives, Margie is shotgun. Scott is in the back with headphones on.

RAY
Claire really seems like she’s enjoying school.

MARGIE
Yeah she’s just blossoming.

RAY
Girl just seems like she can take on the world. Whatever you did with her, you did it right. Dump some of that on Scott, you know?

Margie glances back at Scott whose headphones are still on.

MARGIE
What do you think of his tattoo restaurant idea?

RAY
I think it’s terrible. Getting a tattoos is like a medical procedure. You don’t want to go to the hospital and order supper.

MARGIE
I love that he has big dreams but he’s just so lost. No matter how much I try to fill him with good energy he’s got no self-esteem. He’s really going nowhere.

In the backseat, Scott has taken off his headphones.

RAY
Don’t be so hard on yourself. Scientists have done studies. They say a lot of this stuff’s genetic.

INT. RICHIE’S MOM’S CAR – NIGHT

Scott, Oscar, Igor and Richie are driving in silence.

EXT. PHARMACY – NIGHT

Scott, Oscar, Igor and Richie park near the pharmacy.
RICHIE
Right. If anybody sees us or you hear sirens or anything bad, you text me “you up?”

SCOTT
Can I text you something else? That sounds like I’m trying to bang you.

OSCAR
Just do it.

SCOTT
Fine.

OSCAR
Let’s go.

SCOTT
Good luck.

IGOR
Love you, Scott.

Scott watches them walk toward the pharmacy.

SCOTT
Oh shit. This is real.

INT. PHARMACY - NIGHT
Oscar unlocks the door, disables the alarm and then locks the door from the inside. Richie sprays a camera with shaving cream. Oscar walks behind the counter and sets the key down. He starts rooting through drawers filled with pills.

INT. PHARMACY - CONTINUOUS
Igor breaks a glass case to grab an expensive item.

EXT. PHARMACY - CONTINUOUS
Scott begins to look bored. He plays a game on his phone.

INT. PHARMACY - CONTINUOUS
Richie searches shelves when ALAN (50) exits his office.

ALAN
What’s going on?!
RICHIE
What the fuck?

ALAN
Who are you?

RICHIE
You’re not supposed to be here.

ALAN
What’re you talking about? It’s my store.

Alan’s wife BESS (50) sticks her head out of the office.

BEss
Who are you talking to?

ALAN
Go back inside!

BEss
Don’t tell me to go back inside!

ALAN
I’m handling this!

EXT. PHARMACY – CONTINUOUS

Scott is still on his phone, now swiping through Tinder.

INT. PHARMACY – CONTINUOUS

Richie backs up around the counter as Alan moves toward him.

RICHIE
I just don’t wanna hurt you, okay?

ALAN
We’re not doing this again!

BEss
This is the third time this year!

ALAN
Enough of you guys!

Alan punches Richie in the face and knocks him onto his back.

ALAN
Not today! Today’s Alan Moskowitz’s day!
Oscar drops everything, bolting for the door.

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EXT. PHARMACY - CONTINUOUS

Scott is trying out photo filters. One makes him a woman.

SCOTT
Well who’s the pretty lady? Hello
Angelina Jolie.

79

INT. PHARMACY - CONTINUOUS

Richie runs to Oscar and Igor who are at the front door.

RICHIE
It’s locked!

IGOR
Where are the keys?

OSCAR
We left them on the counter.

IGOR
Why’d you lock the door?

OSCAR
I didn’t want anybody to come in!

Alan emerges from the back carrying a gun.

ALAN
You’re not going to do this to me
again! Not in my store!

RICHIE
We’ve never been here before!

ALAN
I’m standing my ground!

Alan shoots and hits the ceiling above them. Ceiling tiles
rain down as they scatter and hide.

80

EXT. PHARMACY - CONTINUOUS

Scott hears the shot. He starts frantically texting: “YOU
UP?” then “Wanna fuck?!” then “Do you want to fuck?”
Alan hears the notifications from Scott’s texts and makes his way down an aisle, hunting the boys.

Scott starts calling Igor on the phone.

Igor is cowering in a corner. Suddenly his phone starts to RING. Alan shoots in the direction of the sound but just misses Igor. Then Oscar’s phone RINGS. Alan shoots again.

Scott is leaving Oscar a voicemail.

SCOTT
Hey Oscar, it’s Scott. I was just wondering if you’re almost done with that thing?

Oscar crawls over to Igor and Richie.

OSCAR
We need those keys.

He heads to the counter but gets SHOT IN THE SHOULDER and falls to the ground. Reveal Bess holding a gun.

Scott runs toward the pharmacy when a gunshot breaks through the glass front door. He quickly turns around.

Igor and Richie burst out from the now shattered front door but police pull up with SIRENS BLARING and arrest them.

Scott sees his friends getting arrested and runs away.
INT. SCOTT’S ROOM / INT. COLLEGE BAR - NIGHT

Scott calls Claire. She answers from a Halloween party.

CLAIRE
Why would you rob a pharmacy?!

SCOTT
I wasn’t robbing a pharmacy. I was the lookout for your information.

CLAIRE
The lookout is also committing a crime. Are you fucking crazy?

SCOTT
Look, it’s all Ray’s fault. He’s trying to kick me out. So I panicked and made a bad decision, okay? I’m only human.

CLAIRE
A bad decision? That’s a felony!

SCOTT
I didn’t even go inside! I’m untouchable. I didn’t do anything. It’s Ray. He’s up to something. He’s trying to erase Dad.

CLAIRE
Can’t you just let Mom be happy?

SCOTT
She is happy! Or she will be once I get rid of that guy. He’s hiding shit. He’s a weasel. I’m onto him!

CLAIRE
This is why I didn’t want to leave because now all your crazy’s focused on Mom.

SCOTT
I’m not doing anything crazy. Doing nothing would be crazy. I’m doing something. I’m taking action.

CLAIRE
Leave Mom alone! Stop acting like you!

SCOTT
What’s that mean?
CLAIRE
You ruined my Halloween party.

SCOTT
You know what? Go enjoy your party. I got this.

CLAIRE
You don’t got this. Don’t do anything!

EXT. GINA’S HOUSE - DAY
Gina sees Scott approaching from her kitchen window.

GINA
Hey Scott, what’s up?

SCOTT
I just came by to see the kids. Are they around?

GINA
They’re not here. They went to their grandma’s.

SCOTT
What’d you got going on over there?

GINA
I’m trying to open this bottle of wine. I think I mangled the cork.

SCOTT
Do you want me to help?

INT. GINA’S KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER
Scott opens the bottle of wine.

SCOTT
Do you have a friend coming over?

GINA
No I just need some mommy time. Sometimes mommies need to drink when the kids are away.

SCOTT
Can I hang? I could use some mommy time.
GINA
Sure. Are you old enough to drink?

SCOTT
I’m old enough but I’d rather smoke. Do you mind if I smoke in here?

GINA
No! Let’s crack some windows. It’s Tuesday.

SCOTT
Really? Because Ray hates when I smoke weed.

GINA
Well I hate Ray.

SCOTT
Awesome.

INT. GINA’S LIVING ROOM - LATER
Scott and Gina are now both tipsy.

SCOTT
You have the sweetest most adorable kids I’ve ever met in my life. I can’t believe they came out of Ray.

GINA
I know. And you know what the thing is about Ray? I never say a bad word about him in front of the kids which is very difficult because he’s a cunt.

SCOTT
I can imagine. Well I’m not one of your kids so have at it. Let it all out. Tell me everything.

GINA
You know he’s fighting to actively not have custody of his kids?

SCOTT
You can do that? That’s insane!

GINA
I know.
SCOTT
Who wouldn’t wanna hang out with your kids? What monster wouldn’t wanna hang out with those kids?

GINA
Every second!

SCOTT
Your daughter sang the other day.

GINA
What did she sing?

SCOTT
Something from Oklahoma or something. And I hate that shit and I fucking loved it. She’s such a little angel. I thought she was a robot for the first couple of days I was hanging out with her.

GINA
I know, she’s so perfect.

SCOTT
What a fucking putz!

GINA
Yeah so he only wants to see them on Wednesday night for dinner and on Sunday.

SCOTT
You can’t just pick and choose!

GINA
No you can’t!

SCOTT
What’re your kids, the NFL package?

GINA
But why would you want your kids, really, if you don’t have an apartment and you sleep at the firehouse?

SCOTT
Unbelievable. What kind of a grown man can’t afford his own apartment in Staten Island? Fucking loser.
GINA
He lost all our money gambling. He is homeless, he’s penniless and he’s a deadbeat dad. What is your mom doing with him?

SCOTT
My mom hasn’t gotten laid in seventeen years so I think her bar’s pretty low.

GINA
He’s good in bed. I hate to say it.

SCOTT
I didn’t really need to know that.

GINA
He’s got a beautiful cock. I mean it’s his only attribute. That big thick cock kept me in it for eight years longer than I should’ve stayed. That’s a fact.

EXT. MARGIE’S HOUSE – BACKYARD – DAY
Scott hangs outside as Ray comes stomping into the backyard.

RAY
I knew I smelled you. What the fuck Scott, you spying on me now? You’re Magnum P.I.? Telling your mom that I’m homeless? You think it’s funny to tell her that I’m a loser?

SCOTT
What are you talking about?

RAY
What do you mean, what am I talking about? You’ve been talking to my ex-wife?

SCOTT
Yeah she’s actually a really nice person.

RAY
Oh is she? Why don’t you marry her and see what the fuck happens?
SCOTT
Hey I’m just trying to protect my mom from you. You’re a psychopath.

RAY
I’m a psychopath? I’ve been nothing but nice to you! I tried giving you direction but you’re too busy smoking your fucking weed. And all you’ve been doing is trying to destroy everything I have with Margie.

SCOTT
Because you’re a fucking loser, dude! You’re a degenerate gambler in your mid-fifties who bets on the Jets. Have you not learned anything about betting?

RAY
The Jets are gonna come back!

SCOTT
No they’re not!

RAY
They’ve got three #1 draft picks!

SCOTT
They’re never gonna come back!

RAY
I’m trying to give your mother a good life.

SCOTT
No you’re not. You’re a piece of shit, dude.

RAY
You’re a fucking drug addict. I’m a piece of shit?

SCOTT
Yeah you’re a piece of shit. I’m a loser? You’re the biggest loser I ever met in my fucking life.

RAY
Oh really? You should know. You surround yourself with them.
SCOTT
Oh yeah? Why don’t you try me?

RAY
This isn’t gonna go how you think
it’s gonna go. Get the fuck out of
my face--

Scott headbutts Ray. Ray pushes Scott to the ground. Scott
SWINGS at Ray but misses. Ray wraps his arms around Scott.

RAY
You’re gonna throw a fucking punch
at me?!

Ray picks Scott up and tosses him in an above-ground pool.

RAY
You cool off now? You’re in there
because of your own actions.

SCOTT
Are you kidding me? I’m gonna tell
my mom you tried to drown me!

RAY
In an above-ground pool? You’re
like eight feet tall.

SCOTT
You’re lucky my dad isn’t here. He
would kick your ass.

RAY
Oh yeah? Well guess what, I knew
your dad.

SCOTT
Yeah?

RAY
I crossed paths with him a number
of times. You know what? He was an
even bigger asshole than you are!

Scott jumps out of the pool. He swings at Ray but misses. Ray
gets him in a headlock. They fall to the ground. Ray pins
Scott down and smacks him around as Margie runs outside.

MARGIE
What’s the matter with you?!

Scott and Ray quickly get to their feet.
SCOTT
He’s a psycho!

RAY
We were just talking.

MARGIE
About what?

RAY
Him telling you lies about me.

SCOTT
He’s an animal. He picked me up. He threw me in the pool. He has to go!

MARGIE
(to Scott)
No I need you to go. Now.

SCOTT
Me? He’s the one who started it.

RAY
That’s right. Get the hell out of here. And get a job and a life while you’re at it. Your freeloading days are over.

MARGIE
You too. Get going.

RAY
Wait, what did I do?

MARGIE
You put your hands on my son!
You’re not respecting my family.
You’re an animal.

RAY
Listen. Just calm down.

MARGIE
I don’t have to calm down. You’re attacking my son! You’re making up lies. You tricked me into thinking you’re a good guy. You’re not a good guy. You’re a small guy.

RAY
Margie, just let me explain this to you.
Ray touches Margie’s arm. She pulls away.

MARGIE
You are not in control of me.

RAY
Listen you don’t have all the information. Scott’s just acting out because he’s afraid to move on with his life. It’s no different than when the Boston Red Sox finally won a World Series. They had to get to a point where—

MARGIE
Just shut up! Shut the fuck up!

RAY
All I did was just ask him a question and he flipped out so I put him in the water which is soft. I diffused the situation. It’s what my training’s all about.

MARGIE
Do you ever shut up? Do you ever just shut the fuck up? You just talk and you talk and you talk and you don’t know what you’re saying. It makes no sense. It’s like you picked up all these little pieces of information from all over. They don’t make any sense. They’re fragments. No sense! Nonsense.

RAY
I’m not talking.

MARGIE
I’ve had it up to here. I’m done. Both of you. Get your shit out.

Margie runs into the house.

RAY
Margie.

SCOTT
Fuck. Where do we go now?

RAY
What are you asking me for? You created this whole mess, you fucking schmuck.
Ray walks off.

INT. SCOTT’S ROOM – MOMENTS LATER
Scott grabs a baseball bat and smashes his widescreen TV.

INT. COUNTY LOCK UP – DAY
Scott is visiting Oscar in jail.

SCOTT
Hey man.

OSCAR
Are you mad at me?

SCOTT
Of course not. Are you mad at me?

OSCAR
I mean no but...

SCOTT
Are they asking questions about me?

OSCAR
I’m not gonna snitch on you, man. But at the same time, what am I gonna say to them? You were the lookout that didn’t look out.

SCOTT
I’ve been meaning to ask you, since you’re in here, I was wondering if you wouldn’t mind me staying at your house for a little bit.

OSCAR
You came up here to ask me that?

SCOTT
I also came to see you.

OSCAR
No you didn’t come to see me. You came to ask me that. No you can’t stay at my house.

SCOTT
I have nowhere else to go, bro. My mom kicked me out.
OSCAR
What the fuck are you doing with your life? Drive all the way down here just to ask me if you can stay at my house. You don’t love me.

SCOTT
I do love you. I’m sorry. You’re right. I shouldn’t have asked.

OSCAR
And you know what? I need you to do me a favor.

SCOTT
Anything, bro. Just ask.

OSCAR
You gotta feed my cat, alright? For the next three to five months.

SCOTT
Is there anything else I could do? I’m kind of allergic to cats.

OSCAR
You better look out for Sprinkles because I’m looking out for you.

SCOTT
You got it.

OSCAR
I need you to spend time with Sprinkles. I don’t want you just going in there, feeding him and running out. You gotta go in there, scratch his belly. You tell him I miss him and I’ll see him soon.

SCOTT
Right. How are the boys? How are Igor and Richie doing in there?

OSCAR
I’ll tell you right now, I haven’t seen Richie. Igor? Bro, look to your right. That’s Carla.

Scott sees Carla talking to Igor a few seats down.

SCOTT
She’s fucking real?
OSCAR
She’s fucking real. She’s hot, man.

SCOTT
He was telling the truth the entire time.

OSCAR
Good for him, man.

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT
Scott is asleep on a piece of lawn furniture. Lights turn on and a GRUMPY OLD MAN exits the house.

GRUMPY OLD MAN
What the hell are you doing there?!

Scott grabs his bag and runs away.

EXT. KELSEY’S HOUSE - NIGHT
Scott walks up to Kelsey’s house.

INT. KELSEY’S ROOM - LATER
Scott and Kelsey are lying in bed after having sex.

KELSEY
I’m really glad we did that. That was really nice.

SCOTT
Me too. That was awesome.

KELSEY
I missed you.

SCOTT
I missed you, too. Just like old times.

KELSEY
(re his tattoos)
I missed all my friends. Mr. Shark, Mr. Weird Skeleton.

SCOTT
They missed you, too.
(then)
Hey I’m in a bit of a situation. Do
you think I could stay here for a few days?

KELSEY
What are you talking about?

SCOTT
It’s silly. Me and Ray got in this big fight. My mom caught us and she started yelling at us and she threw us out. She kind of lost her mind.

KELSEY
Is that why you’re here right now? Did you just fuck me for shelter?

SCOTT
No I didn’t fuck you for shelter. I just need a place to stay.

KELSEY
How many times do we gotta do this?

SCOTT
What do you mean? It’s just for a couple weeks. It’s not a big deal.

KELSEY
Weeks? You just said a few days.

SCOTT
Or a couple months.

KELSEY
Months?

SCOTT
I’m figuring my stuff out. I don’t know the future.

KELSEY
I’m not gonna let myself be upset by you but I’m gonna tell you something. You make me feel so crazy. I’m not gonna let myself be crazy now but you make me feel crazy. You’re so crazy that you make everyone around you feel crazy. People meet you and they’re normal people and then they hang out with you and they’re fucking Jack Nicholson in “The Shining” or something!
SCOTT
Okay.

KELSEY
I gotta stay Zen. I gotta meditate.
I’m meditating right now. You gotta go.

Kelsey throws Scott his clothes.

KELSEY
Here’s your shit. Staying calm. You gotta leave. It’s time to go. Get out.

SCOTT
I don’t have anywhere to go.

KELSEY
It’s not my problem anymore. Thank you for the sex. It was wonderful until you started talking. You gotta go.

SCOTT
Could I sleep in your brother’s room?

KELSEY
No!

SCOTT
He has bunk beds.

KELSEY
He’s fourteen years old.

INT. KELSEY’S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Scott walks downstairs and sees Kelsey’s brother DOUGIE (14).

SCOTT
Dougie, could I crash in your room?

DOUGIE
That’s not happening, bro.

EXT. KELSEY’S HOUSE - NIGHT

Scott leaves Kelsey’s house while still in his boxers. He puts on shorts then continues walking down the sidewalk.
EXT. FIRE STATION - NIGHT

Scott stands in front of the fire station. He sees Jaylen.

SCOTT
Do you know where Ray Bishop is?

JAYLEN
He’s in the back. Come with me.

INT. FIREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Jaylen walks Scott into the rec area where Donny, John, Monty, Papa, Rafael, JACK, GEORGE and SANDY are hanging out.

JOHN
How about next time you put your mask on before we get off the rig? I mean I’m standing at that front door for a minute waiting for you.

DONNY
Always with the backhanded compliment. Why can’t you just at least say the nice thing?

JOHN
You should be happy with any compliment.

GEORGE
It’s constructive criticism.

DONNY
I would respond better to encouragement.

PAPA
I encourage you to shut the fuck up.

JAYLEN
He’s soft. He can’t take it.

RAY
That’s the problem with his generation. They can’t take criticism. They get all upset.

DONNY
Hey I’m not a whole generation. I’m just a man. A man with feelings.
Scott gets Ray’s attention and the room falls silent.

RAY
Oh Jesus Christ.

103  INT. FIREHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER  103

Ray and Scott talk in another room.

RAY
What are you doing here?

SCOTT
Look, I don’t have anywhere else to go. I’m out of options.

RAY
Why would I care? Go sleep under a tree. Do you have any idea what you took from me? Do you? You do a 60 Minutes interview with my ex-wife to find out what kind of guy I am? What’d you think she was gonna say?

SCOTT
I don’t know.

RAY
By the way, I’m not a gambler. I day-trade.

SCOTT
I don’t know the difference.

RAY
You should’ve found out before you shot your mouth off. I know you smoke a lot of weed but you’re not dumb. You knew what thefuck you were doing. You went to the person that hates me the most to get the worst review you could possibly get. Why didn’t you come down here and ask these guys what they thought of me? Did you ever think of doing that?

SCOTT
I’m sorry. You’re right.

RAY
You’re not sorry or you wouldn’t have done it. Now you don’t have a
place to stay. So you come down
here with your little puppy dog
look on your face and I’m supposed
to feel bad?

SCOTT
All I know is if you’re not nice to
me then my mom’l1l hate you forever
and she’ll never forgive you.

RAY
You’re gonna play that card?

SCOTT
It’s a pretty good card. It’s all I
got.

104 INT. FIREHOUSE BEDROOM – LATER

Scott lays on a couch surrounded by sleeping firefighters.

SCOTT

RAY
What?

SCOTT
I can’t sleep. I never go to bed
this early.

RAY
You know what you should do? You
should shut the fuck up. “Can’t go
to sleep.” Why don’t you dip your
weed in NyQuil, you drug addict?

Suddenly an alarm RINGS. The guys rush out of the room.

SCOTT
Hey what do I do?

RAY
Do what you always do. Sit there
and do nothing.

Ray exits. Scott stares at the ceiling, a little scared.

105 INT. FIREHOUSE BEDROOM – MORNING

Scott wakes up. Everyone is gone.
106 INT. FIREHOUSE HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS
Scott wanders down a hallway and sees John.

SCOTT
Where do you go to the bathroom around here?

JOHN
Number one, down there. Number two, Dunkin’ Donuts across the street.

107 INT. FIREHOUSE BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER
Scott walks to the bathroom and passes Rafael.

RAFAEL
Have a wonderful day, man.

SCOTT
Oh. Thanks.

Sandy crosses from the shower in a towel.

SANDY
How’d you sleep, big man? I hear you’re Stan’s kid. He was a brave man. It’s an honor to meet you.

SCOTT
Thanks. It’s an honor to meet you, too. I didn’t do anything though.

SANDY
You don’t think you did?

SCOTT
No.

SANDY
I appreciate your sacrifice.

Sandy walks off. Scott looks weirded out and confused.

108 INT. FIREHOUSE - LATER
Scott eats breakfast with George, Monty, Jaylen and Papa. George has his arm extended, showing off his tattoos.

GEORGE
I got this one to impress a girl.
SCOTT
And how did that work out?

GEORGE
Not good. We’ve been married eighteen years in July.

PAPA
Poor woman.

SCOTT
Congratulations.

GEORGE
Thank you. The rest I got are Maori, tribal.

SCOTT
It’s beautiful work, man.

GEORGE
Thank you. I appreciate that.

Ray enters.

RAY
What are you still doing here?

SCOTT
Believe it or not, I couldn’t find a place to live in just a night.

RAY
I believe it.

SCOTT
I’m kind of fucked, Ray.

RAY
Yes you are. I’d say finish up your free breakfast and hit the bricks.

PAPA
It’s alright. The kid can stay. But you gotta work. You ready to do some work?

SCOTT
Did you just make me a fireman?

PAPA
No. Go clean the toilets or get the fuck out.
GEORGE
Do me a favor. The bathroom
downstairs? I used it. Start there.

SCOTT
Great.

MONTY
Get gloves. Pretty muddy.

CHORES SEQUENCE BEGINS

109 INT. FIREHOUSE BATHROOM - LATER
Scott scrubs a toilet with Donny.

DONNY
When I see a big stain like that I
go up and down and then I go left
and right. There you go. You gotta
get the splatter.

110 INT. FIRE STATION GARAGE - LATER
Scott watches John rip tape off the newly painted yellow
lines that guide the rig into the garage.

SCOTT
You guys gotta do a lot of shit
work, huh?

JOHN
We don’t refer to it as shit work.
This is our house. We want it to
look nice. Company pride.

111 INT. FIREHOUSE LAUNDRY ROOM - DAY
Jack is showing Scott how to do the firehouse’s laundry.

JACK
You gotta wash it hot. Hot. Not
warm, not cold. Extra hot. Because
of the bedbugs.

SCOTT
What’s bedbugs?

JACK
They’re a tiny insect that get into
your home and they run you out.
INT. FIREHOUSE BEDROOM - DAY
Scott is awoken by a large bucket of water. Donny, George, Monty and Jaylen laugh.

INT. FIRE STATION GARAGE - DAY
Scott sweeps the floor, going the extra mile with it.

INT. FIREHOUSE LAUNDRY ROOM - DAY
Scott listens to Jack rant while doing the laundry.

JACK
You know how they procreate? The male bedbug takes his penis and jams it into the female’s stomach. Does the female have a vagina? Yes she does. It doesn’t matter. He jams it into her stomach.

SCOTT
How do you know all this?

JACK
I researched it.

INT. FIRE STATION GARAGE - DAY
Jaylen, Donny and John show Scott how to fold a flag.

INT. FIREHOUSE LAUNDRY ROOM - DAY
Scott continues to listen to Jack rant.

JACK
When you have bedbugs, everybody leaves. My parents stopped calling. My brothers and sisters stopped coming over. My girl left. Everybody’s gone. And you know who’s there for you at the end? Ironically? The bedbugs.

EXT. FIREHOUSE - NIGHT
Scott is outside smoking a joint which he quickly shoves into his mouth as John and Papa walk by.
INT. FIRE STATION GARAGE - DAY

Scott cleans the rig as Papa and Ray watch from afar.

PAPA
He’s doing a good job.

RAY
He knows how to wash a truck.
Getting ready for his career
working at a car wash.

PAPA
You ever gonna give this kid a
break or what?

RAY
I don’t know what I’m supposed to
do.

PAPA
Then do nothing. Were you on the
job when Stan was killed?

RAY
You know I was.

PAPA
What’s the first thing you thought
of when you heard?

RAY
I wondered if he had kids.

They both look back at Scott who is drinking from the hose.

SCOTT
Why do we have to clean this thing
anyway? It’s just gonna get fire on
it. You think the people that are
burning alive give a fuck if the
truck is shiny? Just saying I don’t
even know why you gotta clean the
truck. What, you’re trying to show
up all sexy to a fire?

PAPA
I like him.

INT. FIREHOUSE BEDROOM - DAY

George uses a hose to blow Scott off his bed as Sandy, Monty,
Ray, Donny, Jaylen, Rafael, Jack and John laugh.
Ray is walking Harold to school.

HAROLD
It’s weird having you walk me to school.

RAY
Why’s that?

HAROLD
Because Scott always walks me.

RAY
I walk you sometimes.

HAROLD
I guess so.

RAY
Is he weird around you guys?

HAROLD
No he’s nice. He asks me how I’m doing.

RAY
What do you tell him?

HAROLD
I say I’m doing fine.

RAY
Look, you don’t have to lie to make me feel better. I know me and your mom could do a better job getting along through all this. I’m sorry if I haven’t handled it so well.

Ray notices a drawing on the outside of Harold’s notebook.

RAY
What’s that?

HAROLD
That’s Ice Flash. Scott drew it for me but it didn’t come out so good.

RAY
Yeah I think his drawings are a little shakey.

Harold opens his notebook and pulls out a different drawing.
HAROLD
That’s the one that I drew. This is how he drew it. It’s good, right?

RAY
It’s better than good. He did a great job.

HAROLD
He said he was gonna teach me.

RAY
He said he’d teach you how to do that?

HAROLD
Yeah. And he stays to his word.

INT. MARGIE’S HOUSE – LIVING ROOM – DAY

Scott enters to find Margie and Joy drinking in the living room which has been redecorated.

SCOTT
Hey. What’s going on in here? Why is everything so different?

JOY
Isn’t it nice? Do you like it?

SCOTT
Is that a pink chair?

MARGIE
We’ve been redecorating.

SCOTT
What’s up with the drapes?

JOY
Your mother has great taste.

MARGIE
Where have you been staying?

SCOTT
I’ve been at the firehouse with Ray.

MARGIE
Well I’m just glad you’re not on the street.
JOY
I told you he wasn’t homeless.

SCOTT
I’ve actually been learning a lot and bonding with the guys. They got me cleaning, they got me washing stuff and working around the firehouse. And I really understand where you were coming from before when you threw me out. I think I really got my shit together now and I’m ready to come back.

MARGIE
So you think you know what hard work is?

SCOTT
I wouldn’t say that but I definitely have an idea.

MARGIE
You mopped a floor. You cooked. You cleaned a bathroom once. How does your shoulder feel after all that very hard work?

Scott is hurt.

SCOTT

JOY
He’s trying to get back!

SCOTT
Eat a dick, Joy.

JOY
Had one for breakfast. I’m full.

SCOTT
And where’s dad’s shrine? All of his stuff is gone. All my shit’s gone. What’s going on?

MARGIE
Honey I’m sorry. I’m sorry I raised my voice. I’m sorry I laughed.

SCOTT
Can we talk in private?
122

INT. FIRE STATION GARAGE - DAY
Scott and the guys are hanging out when the alarm RINGS.

DONNY
Scott you want to ride this one in?

SCOTT
Is that okay?

RAY
Yeah jump in.

123

INT. RIG - DAY
Scott rides on the rig with Ray in silence.

124

EXT. WAREHOUSE - DAY
The crew are among the first to arrive. They spring into action. Ray grabs a portable ladder from the truck as a few of the firefighters head to the entrance of the building. Suddenly a window to the right of the entrance BLOWS OPEN. Ray climbs the ladder. A window next to him BLOWS OPEN as well. Ray indicates he’s unhurt. Papa walks over to Scott.

PAPA
They’ll be fine. They got this.

SCOTT
Yeah I know.

PAPA
I know it looks bad but they know what they’re doing.

Ray disappears through a smoke-filled window. We hear the transmissions between the firemen coming from the truck.

Scott is mesmerized, fearful, excited and fascinated all at once. His heart races as he worries about these guys and he thinks about all of the times his father did this. These goofy men are morphing into very serious and brave professionals. Scott begins to understand the importance of this work and why his father was attracted to this life.
Scott looks relieved when he sees Ray safely exit the building holding a a woman by his side.

125  INT. BAR - NIGHT

Scott sits with Monty, Papa, John and Ray at a bar.

MONTY
Everyone gets nervous during their first fire. When I was a probie I was so scared I would follow my captain everywhere, just holding onto his jacket for dear life.

PAPA
Everybody gets a little scared. Keeps you honest. If you don’t get scared there’s something wrong with you. And by the way, your dad never got scared.

SCOTT
How do you know?

PAPA
Back in the day I was at the same house with him for about six months.

SCOTT
Wait you worked with my dad for six months and you’re just telling me?

PAPA
I didn’t wanna make you feel weird.

MONTY
We didn’t want to insult you because you seem a little delicate.

SCOTT
No please, what was he like?

PAPA
He was kind of like you. If you didn’t know him you’d think he was a crack baby. But he was a good guy. He was a great guy.

MONTY
I heard he was fucking hilarious.
PAPA
He got away with so much shit
because he was so freaking likable.

SCOTT
What kind of stuff?

PAPA
One time we were driving down the
West Side Highway after being out
all night. You know this.

MONTY
This is a good one.

PAPA
And he’s through the sunroof. He’s
like sitting on top of the car. We
couldn’t get him in so we start
speeding up, stopping short. By the
time we hit the bridge he fell onto
the windshield so he’s hanging on,
cursing at us, putting his face up
against the windshield. He’s like
“You motherfuckers!” It was some
real Tom Cruise shit. So we get
into Brooklyn and, sure enough,
there’s cops. Like they were
waiting for us.

SCOTT
Oh shit.

PAPA
So now I’m like “Oh fuck we’re
screwed.” Stan gets off the car. He
goes over to the cop. I’m thinking
“Shit he’s gonna fucking clock this
cop” and he goes right up to him,
grabs his face and kisses him on
the lips. They went to fucking high
school together! Only Stan could
get away with that. I swear to God.

MONTY
The rumor is that he got the coke
from the cops.

PAPA
Not that cop. There was another cop
he knew in Manhattan.

SCOTT
Coke? What?
RAY
Guys, come on. It’s his dad.

MONTY
I didn’t know it was a secret.

SCOTT
You can’t just tease me with that. Please, you don’t understand. My mom tells me all these stories about how much he’s like a saint and all that shit. I would love to hear a coke story.

RAY
The PG-13 version.

SCOTT
No the real version. You don’t understand the pressure I’m under thinking this guy’s perfect.

RAY
Alright, fuck it.

PAPA
We were coked out of our minds. We all were. But that was a different time. I mean we all did it.

RAY
This guy was the cokehead.

PAPA
I stopped four years ago. You know that.

RAY
How do you think he stayed this skinny all these years?

PAPA
I have a high metabolism.

RAY
They should have his face on a nickel in Bolivia.

PAPA
Playtime was playtime. When he was at work he was all business. And he was the guy you wanted by your side if you were going into a fire. If
they were gonna build a fireman
from scratch, he would’ve been...

JOHN
Prototype.

PAPA
Top to bottom, he’s a fireman.

MONTY
As brave as they come.

Papa turns to Scott, serious.

PAPA
You know I was thinking about what
you said at the game about how
firemen shouldn’t have kids. Let me
tell you something. You know your
dad, he didn’t just die saving
those two people that night. He did
that a lot. Like sometimes he
wouldn’t even wait for the line.
He’d just go in a fully evolved
room. And you’re like, what are you
doing? Because if he heard there
was somebody in there he’d just go
in. That’s who he was. That’s how
he was built. He couldn’t not be
that way. You understand?

Scott avoids eye contact but nods.

SCOTT
Thank you. Thank you for sharing.
That’s awesome.

PAPA
He would slap the shit out of me if
he heard me say this about him but
he was a hero. And heroes are
necessary. And they should be
allowed to have families. But I
know it means that people suffer.
And I’m sorry. I’m sorry.

SCOTT
Well I’m sorry for being a dick.
There’s two sides to every story.
Thank you for sharing with me.
Thanks for taking me here.

PAPA
We don’t have to get all Oprah.
Ray raises his glass.

RAY
Hey. To Stan.

They toast.

126 INT. BAR – LATER

Scott and the guys sing along to “One Headlight” by The Wallflowers although no one knows the lyrics. He and Ray hug.

127 INT. FIREHOUSE – NIGHT

Scott lies in the bed next to Ray’s.

SCOTT
My head hurts. This is why I don’t drink. I just smoke weed.

RAY
So what are you gonna do?

SCOTT
With what?

RAY
With your life. You must be passionate about something.

SCOTT
Yeah the tattoo thing. I love that.

RAY
Were you into that?

SCOTT
It takes a lot of practice and none of my friends will let me tattoo them anymore.

RAY
Why don’t you give me a tattoo?

SCOTT
What?

RAY
Come on, I don’t have any tattoos. I’m a blank slate. Put it on my back. Use it for practice.
SCOTT
You’re just saying this because you’re drunk.

RAY
Isn’t everybody drunk when they get their first tattoo?

SCOTT
Touché Ray.

RAY
It’s my back, I don’t give a fuck. I’m never gonna see it. Plus I gotta tell you something. I saw that drawing you did for Harold. I was kind of blown away by it, man. You’re getting really good at it.

SCOTT
I’m practicing a lot.

RAY
Like anything, you keep doing it, you get better at it and I do wanna see you do well. I believe in you.

SCOTT
Thanks, man. You must really love me. I love you, too.

Ray is flummoxed for a moment.

RAY
I appreciate that.

SCOTT
You gonna say it back?

RAY
I’m not ready to say something like that.

SCOTT
You gotta say it back. What if I die tomorrow?

RAY
Then I’ll be that guy saying “You know, even though I never said it...”

They laugh.
SCOTT
I would love to tattoo your back.

RAY
Cool but here’s the deal. No
unicorns, no rainbows, alright?
None of that shit little girls like
to color in. No body parts, no
nudity. No Chinese letters. I wanna
be able to read whatever you put
back there. I don’t need some order
for orange chicken or some shit.

128  INT. FIRE STATION GARAGE - DAY
Scott is behind Ray, holding a tattoo gun.

SCOTT
I really appreciate this. This is
actually very nice.

Scott turns the gun on. Ray winces as Scott begins.

RAY
Fuck. Dude, why do you get these?

SCOTT
I don’t know. Whenever I’m going
through something I get one. It
relaxes me and calms me down. Helps
me think things through.

RAY
This relaxes you? You ever think of
taking a yoga class? Meditating?
Why don’t you just give blood?
There’s still needles involved.

129  INT. FIREHOUSE - DAY
Ray is playing cards with the guys while Scott tattoos his
back. Donny pretends to be surveying Scott’s work.

DONNY
That’s a nice tattoo. It’s aces.

RAY
You looking at my cards, you piece
of shit? What are you doing?

PAPA
What?
RAY
First good hand you’ve dealt me all
night and you’re cheating?

PAPA
He was talking about the tattoo!

RAY
You are the worst liar ever.

130  INT. FIRE STATION GARAGE – DAY
Ray helps Harold with his math homework as Scott tattoos. Ray
doesn’t notice that Scott is mouthing Harold all the answers.

131  EXT. BEACH – DAY
Harold watches Scott tattoo Ray as Kelly paints Ray’s nails.

RAY
I’m trying to guess what you’re
drawing by the way your hand’s
going. Remember nothing weird or
I’ll kill you. It doesn’t look
weird, does it?

HAROLD
No not at all.

RAY
Good because you know I’ll murder
him.

SCOTT
It looks wonderful.

RAY
Is it supposed to hurt that much?

SCOTT
It’s a needle going into your back.

RAY
I know but I thought I had more
back fat than that.

KELLY
Can I get a tattoo?

RAY
Never. Don’t mess with perfection.
INT. FIRE STATION GARAGE - LATE AFTERNOON

The alarm RINGS. Scott seamlessly helps the guys leave.

EXT. FIRE STATION GARAGE - LATER

Now alone, Scott sits on his phone. A man named MAX walks up, bleeding profusely from the abdomen.

MAX
Yoo-hoo! Excuse me. I need some assistance over here please.

Scott looks up from his phone and freaks out.

MAX
Don’t worry about it. Everything’s all good. It’s really nothing, I just need a little assistance.

SCOTT
What happened? Are you okay? Did you get shot? Were you stabbed?

MAX
It’s not really a big deal. My vape exploded in my pocket. I didn’t stretch right before yoga. I was playing tennis. I slipped.

SCOTT
Which is it?

MAX
What do you want me to say? It was nothing. I just need some medical attention but just by you.

SCOTT
Dude, I gotta call 911. I don’t know what to do.

MAX
No police. Please. Not today.

SCOTT
What does that even mean?

MAX
We don’t need to get the government involved into this situation. We can handle this together.
SCOTT
Dude, I’m so high. I can’t help you right now.

MAX
I’m high, too!

SCOTT
Then you know how I feel. What do you want me to do?

MAX
Take a look at this. I need some sorta foam--

Max lifts up his shirt, revealing the full wound.

SCOTT
Holy shit!

MAX
You got some stitching? Do you have a little needle? Something with a needlepoint?

SCOTT
No! What happened?

MAX
It was a misunderstanding. It was an argument but we’re all friends again. We worked it out. You know how buddies get.

SCOTT
We gotta take you to the hospital or you’re gonna die.

MAX
I’m not gonna die.

SCOTT
Yes you are.

MAX
I’m gonna die?

SCOTT
I’m positive that you’re gonna die if we don’t go to the hospital.
INT. FIREHOUSE CAR - DUSK
Scott drives Max to the hospital.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT
Scott and Max walk toward the hospital.

MAX
Are there metal detectors in here?

SCOTT
I’m not sure, why?

MAX
Don’t worry about it. I’ll tell you later.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM WAITING AREA - SOON AFTER
Scott bursts into the ER with Max, calling for help. No one comes. Max sits. Scott runs over to a NURSE at a front desk.

SCOTT
This guy’s been shot or stabbed. He’s been kind of vague about it.

NURSE
Sir, have you been shot? Stabbed?

MAX
No! I fell in a thorn bush.

NURSE
Have him fill out this paperwork. The doctor will call you when he’s ready.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM WAITING AREA - LATER
Scott sits next to Max who is slipping in and out of consciousness.

MAX
Do me a favor, man. Can we just switch identities?

SCOTT
What? No.
MAX
Let me use your driver’s license.

SCOTT
We look nothing alike.

MAX
No one’s gonna know. Just trust me. I’m bleeding! It feels like I have to shit.

Scott approaches the nurse again.

SCOTT
I’m Margie’s son.

NURSE
I don’t know who that is. I’m just filling in.

Scott sits back down.

MAX
Tell the fucking cocksucker, my father, that I hate him but I love him at the same time and I forgive him.

SCOTT
I do not need to do that because you’re gonna live.

MAX
Tell my sister I know she’s my mother.

Ray enters and runs over to them.

RAY
Got here as soon as I could.

SCOTT
We gotta help this guy. He’s bleeding out.

MAX
This a cop? He looks like a cop.

Ray tries to get the nurse’s attention.

RAY
Excuse me ma’am. Ray Bishop, Ladder 57. We gotta get this guy some help. We gotta move it along here.
NURSE
Follow me.

They carry Max into the ER. Margie sees Scott and Ray.

MARGIE
Put him in 2! I’ll meet you at 6.

INT. EXAMINATION ROOM – CONTINUOUS

Ray and Scott wait, covered in Max’s blood. Margie enters.

MARGIE
Is this one of your friends?

SCOTT
No I was just helping him.

RAY
Scott brought him in. Guy just kind of wandered into the firehouse while we were out on a call.

MARGIE
You guys are covered in blood. Take these off. Throw them here.

They undress. Margie notices Ray’s back.

MARGIE
What’s that?

RAY
I let your son practice on me. How’s it look? He won’t let me see it until it’s done.

MARGIE
Let me see it.

From Margie’s POV we reveal the many tattoos. A yin and yang, a shamrock, a ghost with a boner, Jesus smoking a joint.

SCOTT
He let me do whatever I wanted.

MARGIE
Jesus Christ.

RAY
He didn’t put anything stupid on there, did he? Took forever.
Margie notices a tattoo of herself, Claire, Scott and Ray presented as a family. It’s pretty good but the teeth seem a little too big and the eyes aren’t quite right. Next to the family portrait is a tattoo of Scott’s father, Stan, with a big smile on his face. Margie touches it tenderly.

**MARGIE**

No.

**SCOTT**

I can never get the eyes right because I just make them too dark.

**MARGIE**

It’s beautiful. I’m proud of you. You could really do this.

**SCOTT**

Thanks.

**RAY**

There’s not any Chinese characters or anything back there, is there?

There is. Margie looks to Scott.

**SCOTT**

No you told me not to. I would never disobey you.

**MARGIE**

Thank you for letting him do this, Ray.

**RAY**

I didn’t do anything. I just sat there. He did all the work. He liked going over the spine.

**SCOTT**

Took it like a champ.

**RAY**

I sat there wincing.

Margie suddenly kisses Ray. Scott’s happy.

**SCOTT**

Can we at least close the curtain? People die in here.

Margie pulls Scott and Ray into a big hug.
MARGIE
My guys.

SCOTT
Mom I don’t want to hug him. He’s not wearing a shirt.

RAY
Come on, you can handle it.

SCOTT
You’re so smooth, you’re like a sea otter. We have to stop. Please.

INT. MARGIE’S HOUSE – NIGHT
Scott and Margie are watching Game of Thrones in the dark.

SCOTT
I hung out with Ray and the guys from the firehouse the other night at the bar and they were telling all these stories about Dad and they were stories I never heard of before about him like doing coke and being hilarious.

Margie chooses her words carefully.

MARGIE
Well he was hilarious. He was also out of control and crazy.

SCOTT
Why didn’t you tell me?

MARGIE
I don’t know. I just wanted you to have some good memories to offset what happened. I didn’t know what to say. Was I gonna say “Your dad loved watching cartoons with you because he was tripping all the time”?

SCOTT
Sounds like a good dad to me.

Margie gives a half-smile.

SCOTT
No, you know what? I get it. Knowing he had his issues and
problems just like everybody else, it makes me feel better. It really humanizes him.

MARGIE
Well he was a great guy. He was a very complicated guy but he had a really big heart.

SCOTT
Like Ray?

Margie considers this.

MARGIE
I guess like Ray.

SCOTT
I guess you could say that you have a type.

MARGIE
I have a type.

They go back to watching TV.

SCOTT
I know we don’t really talk about it much but I miss Dad. A lot.

Margie is moved.

MARGIE
Yeah. Me too.

SCOTT
And I’m sorry that I’ve been so difficult to deal with. I’ll try and get it together. It’s just hard. I think it’ll always be hard. (then)
I really like Ray but he’s gotta lose that mustache. When we go out in public, people think that I’m kidnapped. People look at me like “Are you okay?” And I’m like “Yeah it’s my mom’s boyfriend.”

Margie laughs hard.

140 INT. CAR – DAY

Ray drops Scott off at the Staten Island ferry.
RAY
Alright, buddy. Good luck.

SCOTT
Thanks for the lift.

RAY
Confidence, right? Go get ‘em.

141  EXT. FERRY - DAY

Scott spots Kelsey waiting for the ferry.

SCOTT
Hey Kelsey! Hi. How are you?

KELSEY
What are you doing here?

SCOTT
I just wanted to talk to you.

KELSEY
I have my civil service test today.

SCOTT
Yeah I remembered.

KELSEY
I gotta go.

SCOTT
Can I come?

KELSEY
What, why?

SCOTT
Moral support. I just want to be there for you.

KELSEY
Well I can’t stop you.

SCOTT
Okay great. Your hair looks nice.

She hesitates.

KELSEY
Thanks.

They get on the ferry and take their seats.
KELSEY
Listen, I know you probably want to talk about relationship stuff and serious bullshit but I can’t. I have to study and focus right now so I don’t screw this up.

SCOTT
I can help you if you like.

KELSEY
You don’t wanna help me.

SCOTT
Yeah I do. I would love to.

KELSEY
Will you just test me on this part?

She hands him her notebook.

SCOTT
Alright, here we go. “Amy must complete three tasks at work. She estimates that the first two tasks will each take her 45 minutes to complete and that the third task will take her 2 hours 10 minutes to complete. If Amy’s estimate is correct, how long will it take her to complete all three tasks?”

KELSEY
3 hours and 40 minutes.

SCOTT
Did you just guess that or did you know the answer?

KELSEY
No that’s correct.

SCOTT
That’s incredible. Wow.

KELSEY
It’s not that amazing. Relax.

SCOTT
It is. Is it all math questions? I thought it was like city shit.
KELSEY
No you have to prove that you’re not stupid and then you can work for the city.

SCOTT
Oh so I can never work for the city.

(then)
Hey. I love you. A lot. I always have and that’s why I always act so weird because I don’t know how to express myself.

Kelsey stares at him. She starts welling up.

SCOTT
Should I ask the next?

KELSEY
Yeah.

SCOTT
“Of the 250 people working at a medical facility, 16% are clerks. How many are—”

She kisses him. He’s dazed.

SCOTT
I’ve lost my place. “Of the 250 people working at a medical facility, 16% are clerks. How many are not clerks?”

KELSEY
You’re showing me the page.

Scott realizes he is. They laugh.

EXT. MANHATTAN — DAY

Scott and Kelsey arrive at the offices at city hall.

KELSEY
Will you wait for me while I do it and then we can go back to Staten Island together?

SCOTT
Of course. How long are you gonna be?
KELSEY
Three and a half hours.

SCOTT
Alright.

KELSEY
Really?

SCOTT
Yeah I’ll go figure something out.

KELSEY
Okay.

SCOTT
Good luck.

KELSEY
Maybe do something cultural. Like broaden your horizons.

SCOTT
Good luck. Have fun.

She turns to walk inside. He watches her go.

KELSEY
I’m freaking out! I’m scared.

Scott heads into the crowd, imagining the possibilities of a future outside Staten Island for the first time.

THE END