

The World According to Barnes

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TEASER:

INT. THE BARNES KITCHEN - DAY

8-YEAR-OLD BOBBY BARNES stands on a chair in his kitchen and smears grape jelly on a slice of toast.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.)

Plato wrote: *Necessity...the mother of invention.*

(pause)

Plato also wrote: *He was a wise man who invented beer.* But I digress.

8-year-old Bobby unscrews the top of the jar of peanut butter. He sees there are only a few swipes left.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.) (CONT'D)

In 1990, 8-year-old Bobby Barnes saw the need for a new kind of peanut butter jar.

Bobby toils with his knife to reach the peanut butter.

INT. THE BARNES GARAGE - DAY

8-YEAR-OLD BOBBY BARNES wears goggles and uses a glass saw to cleave the end off the peanut butter jar.

INT. THE BARNES KITCHEN - DAY

8-YEAR OLD BOBBY BARNES watches his FATHER clink away in futility at the bottom of the peanut butter jar. Bobby takes the jar from his father and unscrews the BOTTOM LID allowing his father easy access to those hard-to-reach swipes.

The father is very impressed. He pats Bobby on the head.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.)

(beat)

Actually, I'm Bobby. That's me in my Grover pajamas - I miss those.

INT. THE BARNES LIVING ROOM - DAY

As his SISTERS jump on the sofa - SCREECHING - 12-YEAR-OLD BARNES lays on the floor watching RICHARD DEAN ANDERSON kick ass, lassoing BAD GUYS with a jerry-rigged-rope-cannon.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.)

It probably comes as no surprise that I semi-worshipped MacGyver.

EXT. SCHOOL YARD - JUNIOR HIGH - DAY

Far from the teachers, 14-YEAR-OLD-BARNES plays Spin-the-Bottle with a GROUP OF OLDER KIDS and a couple HOT GIRLS.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.)
 From an early age I tried to model
 MacGyver's skill at inventing
 solutions to unique situations.

Barnes has his eye on a sassy 16-YEAR-OLD with pigtails and lots of lipstick. She pays him no mind.

CLOSE ON THE GAME: As the bottle spins past Barnes...

WE SEE Barnes lift his wrist ever-so-slightly revealing some kind of SILVERY MAGNET ATTACHMENT on his wrist.

BACK TO THE BOTTLE: which wobbles, halts its trajectory and SPINS BACKWARDS to land on Barnes.

Barnes looks up at pigtails - smiles. She frowns - suspicious.

EXT. PRINCETON UNIVERSITY - DAY

BARNES hugs his MOM and DAD goodbye at the steps of the formidable and prestigious Princeton University.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.)
 My first and only choice for
 college was Princeton University, a
 school with a tradition of
 nurturing scientific non-
 conformists.

INT. PRISM SCHOOL LABORATORY - PRINCETON UNIVERSITY - DAY

BARNES and his best friend NASSER (Pakistani, 20s) wear RADIATION SUITS and GIGANTIC GLOVES that reach through a containment shield. They're carefully handling some GREEN GLOWING GOO that looks a lot like Plutonium.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.)
 My creative obsession became the
 PRISM labs. PRISM stands for the
 Princeton Institute For the Science
 and Technology of Materials. But it
 wasn't just the sexy name, to me
 PRISM was the perfect environment
 for uncluttered scientific
 expression.

A SMOKING HOT UNDERGRAD in a lab coat wanders by Barnes and Nasser.

Barnes turns in his radiation suit and watches her go SPILLING THE PLUTONIUM.

Nasser SHOUTS at his friend through his radiation suit and PUNCHES him in the chest.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.) (CONT'D)
That's my best friend Nasser. He's
a brilliant Chemist and an all
around great guy.

INT. PRISM SCHOOL LABORATORY - DAY

DEAN KNOX (50s, very high blood pressure) reads the riot act to a quivering freshman - RONALD THE VIRGIN (17, rail-thin). Knox RIPS UP Ronald's term paper in his face.

PAN OVER TO BARNES and NASSER watching this, disapproving.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.)
But not everyone at PRISM shares my
Utopian ideals. The Dean of PRISM,
for example, Frank Knox is an
aerospace engineer and a miserable
human being.

Dean Knox leaves Ronald the Virgin in tears and stalks past Barnes and Nasser - glaring.

INT. DEAN'S KNOX'S OFFICE - PRISM SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

DEAN KNOX enters his office and flips the light switch.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.)
Some teachers lead by example,
others by experience. Some, like
Dean Knox, lead by crushing the
human spirit.

There is a disturbing HUM from above.

Dean Knox's combover magically swings upward.

Suddenly, Dean Knox's entire desk WOBBLER and LIFTS into the air where it sticks on the ceiling with a CLANG. Followed by his steel chair which magically flies up to the ceiling - WHAM. Pens. Computer. Wire waste basket. Then his file cabinet and even Dean Knox's watch RIPS off his wrist and rise up to the ceiling.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 TESLA 2 electro-magnetic-field was a little strong. I was just trying to get his combover to stand up. Still, fighting injustice is a great way to run field tests on new inventions.

DEAN KNOX
 (boiling)
 Barnes!

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.)
 Don't hate the player.

INT. PRESIDENT PRIOR'S OFFICE - PRINCETON SCHOOL - DAY

BARNES enters the red leather and mahogany offices of PRESIDENT PRIOR. Waiting like a hangman's jury are DEAN KNOX and the respective Deans of the Plasma Physics School, Mathematics, Chemistry and Chemical Engineering.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.)
 Princeton's President, Barkley Prior, was Mr. Family Values. You might've missed his bestselling: God's Family.

WE PAN ACROSS framed photos of Prior's SMILING CHILDREN and BEAUTIFUL WIFE. Frighteningly perfect.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Apparently Prior was gearing up for another run at national office. I was honored that he was taking the time to tear me a new one.

PRESIDENT PRIOR
 Mr. Barnes. Dean Knox believes you're the one behind these infantile pranks at the PRISM school. I'm inclined to believe him.

BOBBY BARNES
 Really? I find that shocking. And, I must add, disappointing.

PRESIDENT PRIOR
 You came to us with great promise. You're a senior now. And that promise has not been realized.

(MORE)

PRESIDENT PRIOR (CONT'D)

For example, we invited you to participate in the prestigious MacRyan Fellowship, to invent something that would better mankind and what did you do?

(pause)

You invented a forehead rest for public urinals.

The Deans shake their heads, disapproving.

FLASH TO:

INT. PRESIDENT PRIOR'S BATHROOM - DAY

We catch PRESIDENT PRIOR actually using Barnes's FOREHEAD REST as he stands at the urinal.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. PRESIDENT PRIOR'S OFFICE - PRINCETON SCHOOL - PRESENT

PRESIDENT PRIOR turns up the heat on BARNES.

PRESIDENT PRIOR

It is true that we have no evidence against you but from this moment onward evidence no longer matters to me. Consider it my One Percent Doctrine. If there is a one percent chance that you were involved in anything...be it a scientific prank or if we run out of paper towels in Hagardon Hall, you will be blamed and you will be thrown out of the PRISM School.

BOBBY BARNES

Thrown out?

PRESIDENT PRIOR

So now you have to ask yourself one question: Do I feel lucky?

(pause)

Well, do you...Mr. Barnes?

Dean Knox CHUCKLES and SNORTS his approval. Bobby finds it difficult to swallow.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.)

They wanted to break me. Fat chance.

CUT TO:

INT. TYLER PETE'S DORM ROOM - PRINCETON DORMS - NIGHT

BARNES leans back in a chair against the window consulting with TYLER PETE, Everybody's All American (20s, midwest stud) and JENNIFER LIM a total cutie and a Finance whiz.

TYLER PETE

Gotta lay low, Barnes. At least until the heat dies down.

JENNIFER LIM

Tyler's right. They mean it this time.

BOBBY BARNES

Did Eisenhower back down when Napoleon invaded Malta?

JENNIFER LIM

Different wars.

TYLER PETE

Dude, don't you want to graduate?

BOBBY BARNES

(pauses)

I've never really thought about it.

Tyler and Jennifer share a look of concern.

WE FREEZE THE IMAGE ON TYLER:

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Tyler Pete. Mr. All American. Look at those dimples. He's got it all.

FLASH TO:

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

TYLER PETE leaps a blocker and SACKS a fleeing QUARTERBACK.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.)

Starting middle linebacker.

FLASH TO:

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

TYLER PETE crawls under barbed wire slicked in mud.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.)
 ROTC scholarship.

FLASH TO:

INT. THE PRISM LABORATORY - DAY

TYLER PETE wears goggles and fires up an acetylene torch.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.)
 PRISM's most promising engineer...

FLASH TO:

INT. COED'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A coed's bedroom. Lots of movement under the sheets.

COED (O.S.)
 Oh! Oh! Oh!

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.)
 ...and it should come as no
 surprise: a man that gets laid more
 than nylon carpeting.

INT. TYLER'S DORM ROOM - PRINCETON DORMS - DAY - END MONTAGE

The image UNFREEZES:

TYLER PETE
 I'm just saying...some caution
 might be warranted.

BOBBY BARNES
 Don't go soft on me, Dimples.

RONALD THE VIRGIN enters. Some of his GEEKY FRIENDS in the hallway, try to look past Tyler to get a glimpse of Barnes.

RONALD THE VIRGIN
 Hey Barnes, me and the crew just
 wanted to thank you for all the
 times you stood up for us little
 guys. So, we wanted to give you
 these.

Ronald leaves a bag of Tater Tots on Tyler's desk.

RONALD THE VIRGIN (CONT'D)
 We know how you love Tots.

BOBBY BARNES
 (moved)
 Thank you, Ronald. Crew.

Ronald and the boys exit.

BOBBY BARNES (CONT'D)
 (to Jennifer and Tyler)
 If I let them silence me what
 happens to them?

Behind Barnes's head there is a KNOCK on the window.

On cue Barnes lifts the window for NASSER who climbs into the room. Note: Nasser has a slight Pakistani accent.

NASSER
 (to Barnes)
 Heard you got busted man. That is
 total BS.

WE FREEZE on Nasser.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.)
 Nasser isn't actually a student
 anymore. He graduated. But he
 misses the comforts of his
 Princeton home.

FLASH TO:

INT. SCRATCH-AND-SNIFF LABS - DAY

NASSER toils with a bunch of chemicals. He hands a petri dish to a LINE UP OF BOSSES.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.)
 The guy's one of the top Chemists
 in the country and the only job he
 could find was at a Scratch-and-
 Sniff company. I mean just shoot me
 now.

The bosses RECOIL at the smell of the petri dish. Nasser frowns.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 So, me and Ronald hacked the
 Housing Database and subtracted a
 room from the Upperclassmen Dorms.
 And that's where Nass lives.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. TYLER PETE'S DORM ROOM - PRINCETON DORMS - NIGHT

NASSER unfreezes. BARNES closes the window.

BOBBY BARNES
 (to Nasser)
 How was work?

NASSER
 It blows, man.

JENNIFER LIM
 (to Barnes)
 My Dad works at the IRS. If you
 want I can manipulate President
 Prior's credit score, subtract a
 few hundred points.

BOBBY BARNES
 All this and a black belt too.
 You're a dangerous woman, Jennifer
 Lim.

JENNIFER LIM
 You know it.

NASSER
 Are we still having Movies That
 Suck Night? I need downtime, man.

TYLER PETE
 (holds up book of DVDs)
 Got the goods right here.

Tyler's image FREEZES.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.)
 Sucky Movie Night was a hallowed
 tradition in our crew. We'd gather
 in Tyler's room, watch really awful
 films, get irresponsibly drunk and
 blow off our futures.

Tyler's image UNFREEZES. Tyler goes about picking out some
 movies. Chairs are gathered. People settle in.

TYLER PETE
 (looks over DVDs)
 Okay: Battlefield Earth? Or Road
 House?

NASSER

Road House doesn't suck, man. It has that great sex scene with Kelly Lynch.

TYLER PETE

Road House it is.
(tries to choose discs)
I think this is it. These are all pirated copies.

JENNIFER LIM

What kind of loser has a pirated copy of Road House?

TYLER PETE

I'm a cinephile.
(to Barnes)
Barnes, you seen 'Mote?'

BOBBY BARNES

(claps his hands,
whistles)
Mote!

There is a small engine WHIR as A REMOTE CONTROL rolls out from under Tyler's bed. It has been fitted with matchbox wheels and a tiny motor. 'MOTE' rolls up to Tyler who picks it up and presses PLAY.

JENNIFER LIM

(approving)
Mote rules.

ANGLE ON THE AUDIENCE: The blue light of the TV screen bathes their faces. Then, an image appears on screen. We only see Barnes and his friends' reactions. They look confused.

MUFFLED WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Is it on?

There is more MUFFLED TALKING.

MUFFLED WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

*Da-da, da da da da, my milkshake
brings the boys to the yard and
damn right, it's better than yours!*

We hear the unmistakable sounds of LOVE MAKING.

JENNIFER LIM

(confused)
Is that Kelly Lynch?

NASSER

Hey look man, it's Tyler. I can see his ass.

TYLER suddenly lunges out of his seat.

TYLER PETE

Oh my God!

Tyler presses buttons on the DVD like a madman.

BOBBY BARNES

Nasser!

Nasser and Ronald the Virgin get Tyler by the legs and drag him kicking and SHOUTING into the bathroom, SLAMMING the door. Nasser fits a chair under the knob.

TYLER PETE (O.S.)

Guys, I'm serious! Barnes!

Everyone returns to their seats.

Things are getting crazier on the TV. Like a sex fandango.

MUFFLED WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

There! There!

All heads tilt sideways to appreciate the camera work.

JENNIFER LIM

(like she's seeing her at a party)

Oh hey! Isn't that President Prior's wife?

A weighty silence fills the air as this sinks in.

BOBBY BARNES

Jennifer...I believe that is in fact...the wife of our University President.

MUFFLED WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Mmm, yeah!

JENNIFER LIM

Okay, ew.

RONALD THE VIRGIN

Can I borrow this?

MUFFLED WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Oh! Oh!

(beat)

Yes! *Barnes! Barnes! Oh baby, baby*
Barnes! Yes!!

Every jaw in the room drops.

MUFFLED WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Barnes don't stop!

Everyone turns and looks at Barnes.

BOBBY BARNES

Did she just call Tyler 'Barnes?'

MUFFLED WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Barnes!

BOBBY BARNES

Okay. That's a problem.

END TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. TYLER'S BATHROOM - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

TYLER sits on the bathtub with his head in his hands. BARNES and NASSER confront him.

BOBBY BARNES

Why my name?

TYLER PETE

It just came out. It's not really you. It's me on the tape.

BOBBY BARNES

Oh that's a relief, President Prior's wife only *thinks* she made a sex video with me. This doesn't exactly help the current situation.

TYLER PETE

President Prior won't find out.

BOBBY BARNES

What're you their marriage counselor?

TYLER PETE

I'll just tell her I'm me.

BOBBY BARNES

No. Destroy the disc. Kill it. Dean Knox I can handle, not your perverted identity theft thing.

TYLER PETE

But it's part of the Tyler Pete Memorial Library.

BOBBY BARNES

How many of these things have you made?

TYLER PETE

(pause)

A lot.

NASSER

(high-fives Tyler)

The man says 'a lot.' Oh, that's too excellent.

BOBBY BARNES

And how many of these women think
you're me?

TYLER PETE

(swallows)

Just a couple.

BOBBY BARNES

You know you got a dark side,
Dimples. I'm on to you. Bury that
video. I don't care. Just make it
gone.

(wags a finger)

I'm very disappointed. Very.

Tyler and Nasser frown, ashamed of themselves.

CUT TO:

INT. SHERI MCCOY'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

BARNES drums on the door of his girlfriend's apartment.

BOBBY BARNES

(in Thai accent)

Someone order sensual massage? Lots
of oil? Mmm, me love you long time!

Sheri McCoy's father - SPECIAL AGENT CHARLIE MCCOY, FBI
(retired, flattop) - answers the door.

BOBBY BARNES (CONT'D)

Oh. Hey, Mr. McCo--

Special Agent McCoy raises an eyebrow.

BOBBY BARNES (CONT'D)

(corrects himself)

Special Agent McCoy.

(clears his throat)

You're visiting. How nice. Sheri
around?

Special Agent McCoy grimaces and steps aside just barely
enough for Barnes to pass. Barnes must turn sideways to
squeeze into the apartment.

INT. SHERI MCCOY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

SPECIAL AGENT MCCOY sits directly across from BARNES with a
Manhattan clutched in his fist.

BOBBY BARNES
 So, how's Mrs. Mc--
 (thinks this over)
 --Special Agent McCoy?

SPECIAL AGENT MCCOY
 At her mothers. She had her spleen
 removed.

BOBBY BARNES
 (surprised)
 Mrs. Special Agent McCoy?

SPECIAL AGENT MCCOY
 (irritated)
 No, her mother.

BOBBY BARNES
 Oh.
 (beat)
 How is she?

SPECIAL AGENT MCCOY
 Still alive, unfortunately.

SHERI breezes into the room. 20s. Beautiful. Always rushing.

SHERI
 Sorry.
 (explains to Barnes)
 Dad's putting new locks in.

BOBBY BARNES
 Oh cool, when do I get my keys?

Special Agent McCoy's face reddens.

BOBBY BARNES (CONT'D)
 (to Special Agent McCoy)
 Joke. Joking.

Special Agent McCoy takes a long gulp of his Manhattan. Sheri
 kisses her Dad on the cheek.

CUT TO:

INT. SHERI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT - LATER

CLOSE ON: The shiny new locks Sheri's Dad installed sadly
 haven't done their job because...

WIDER NOW: WE PAN ACROSS discarded clothes to the bed where
 BARNES and SHERI have sex.

SHERI
 (inbetween kisses)
 Dad really likes you. He's just shy.

BOBBY BARNES
 I know, I sense a real warmth
 beneath that murderous rage.

Sheri giggles as Barnes disappears under the covers.

SHERI
 He just thinks you need to set some
 goals for yourself.

BOBBY BARNES (O.S.)
 I love talking dirty with you.

SHERI
 (laughs at whatever Barnes
 is doing)
 Are you lost? What's going on in
 there?

BOBBY BARNES (O.S.)
 It's dark! I need a lantern or
 something.

Suddenly, A VOICE comes from Barnes's jeans on the floor.

RONALD THE VIRGIN (O.S.)
*Barnes, you copy? Can Pablo and I
 use your Foosball Table?*

Barnes is quiet under the covers. Uh-oh.

SHERI
 (freaked)
 What was that?

Barnes climbs out from under the covers, leans over, picks up
 his jeans, speaks into the pocket.

BOBBY BARNES
 I'm off-matrix!

RONALD THE VIRGIN (O.S.)
Roger that. Sorry.

BOBBY BARNES
 (throws his jeans on the
 floor)
 (MORE)

BOBBY BARNES (CONT'D)
I've designed signal-carrying-circuitry that can thread between the fibres of my jeans...

SHERI
(not happy)
So you can be in constant communication with Ronald?

BOBBY BARNES
We're just running field tests.

SHERI
You know you could be making millions with this stuff? Instead you're still just...messaging around with your friends.

Barnes is stung by this.

SHERI (CONT'D)
(defends her point)
Last year you couldn't study for finals because you were too busy trying to make Nasser invisible--

BOBBY BARNES
It would've worked if Nass hadn't wussed out. The radiation levels were totally safe--

SHERI
Barnes, I'm tired of always having to be the grown-up. I mean, God, don't make me agree with my Dad.

BOBBY BARNES
I love you.

SHERI
(disarmed)
I love you too. But is there a future here? Do you ever plan to graduate? Are we going to live together?

BOBBY BARNES
That's a lot coming at me but: Yes. Probably. And...you know, sure, if you want.

SHERI
Maybe Nasser can get you in at--

BOBBY BARNES

At Scratch-and-Sniff? No thank you.
Besides, he's losing his sense of
smell.

SHERI

Do I love getting up at 6am every
morning to go to City Hall? Not
really.

BOBBY BARNES

So getting some job like Nasser,
that'll prove I love you or
something?

SHERI

No, I don't know.

Sheri gets up, puts her shirt and jeans back on.

BOBBY BARNES

Sheri...

SHERI

You don't want to walk the same
path as everyone else, I get it.
But ignoring the future won't make
it go away. What do you want to be
when you grow up, Barnes?

Off Barnes's confusion and concern we...

CUT TO:

INT. BARNES'S DORM ROOM - THE FOLLOWING MORNING

BARNES wears his bathrobe and has his slippered feet up on
his desk. He reads the New York Times and eats Cap'n Crunch.

There is a furious KNOCKING on the door.

BOBBY BARNES

(not getting up)
Chill on the door.

TYLER PETE (O.S.)

Barnes, open up!

Barnes sighs, gets up and opens his door to TYLER.

TYLER PETE (CONT'D)

Barnes it's gone. The DVD is gone.

BOBBY BARNES

Good.

(turns, shuffles back into
the room)

Want some Cap'n Crunch?

TYLER PETE

Dude, hello! It's gone. I went to
get rid of it like you said and it
wasn't in the machine.

BOBBY BARNES

(turns around)

You mean "gone" like somebody took
it "gone?"

TYLER PETE

That's what I'm saying.

Barnes FLINGS the box of Cap'n Crunch at Tyler's head.

BOBBY BARNES

You lost it?!

NASSER and JENNIFER LIM poke their heads in to see what's
going on.

TYLER PETE

They're gonna take my scholarship--

BOBBY BARNES

You? What about me? Everybody's
just waiting for me to screw up and
you give 'em this?!

Barnes and Tyler scream at each other while Jen and Nasser
try to get between them, until...

BOBBY BARNES (CONT'D)

Wait! Hold it! Wait just one
minute.

Barnes shakes Tyler off. He looks quite stung.

BOBBY BARNES (CONT'D)

This is what they want. They want
us to turn on each other. Brother
against brother.

(to all)

But just remember: what value do we
hold most dear in this group?

NASSER

Pi?

BOBBY BARNES

Not math, Nasser, I'm talking about personal values.

TYLER PETE

Women?

JENNIFER LIM

Money?

BOBBY BARNES

These aren't---
(shakes it off)
Loyalty, nimrods.

NASSER

Oh yeah.

BOBBY BARNES

If we lose that we may as well pack it in. 'Cause it's all we got!
(beat)

This. You and me. This is our community. It's not our parents anymore. It's not the government. We have left the reservation, people, and it is a harsh world out there. Is having sex with President Prior's wife a crime? Perverted, yes. To be applauded, certainly. But should our shared future fall to ruin over such an indiscretion? I say thee nay.

JENNIFER LIM

This is dangerous Barnes. You could lose everything.

BOBBY BARNES

(inspired)
Who's looking out for us, huh? Between our student loans and an increasingly competitive global economy? Who's looking out for the little guy, here? Tyler can't afford a lawyer and we don't know anyone in the mob. So it's up to us. Tyler's plight is our plight! At least my plight!

TYLER PETE

Yes!

BOBBY BARNES

Jennifer!

JENNIFER LIM
Yes, Barnes?

BOBBY BARNES
I need a list of suspects.

JENNIFER LIM
Got it.

BOBBY BARNES
Nass!

NASSER
(startles)
What? I'm right here.

BOBBY BARNES
Sorry. Run forensics on Tyler's room.

NASSER
What the hell are you talking about?
I've got Scratch-and-Sniff tomorrow.

BOBBY BARNES
Tyler, try to keep it in your pants
for 24 hours.

TYLER PETE
Right.

BOBBY BARNES
The question we need to answer is:
who's got an interest in stealing a
sex video with President Prior's
hot, insane wife?
(beat)
I mean, other than everybody?
(beat)
Now fly!

The team shuffles off to their duties, leaving Barnes alone.

BOBBY BARNES (CONT'D)
(to himself)
Just when I think I'm out...
(beat)
...they pull me back in.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. DORMS - PRINCETON - DAY

NASSER (wearing surgical gloves, goggles and a lab coat) stretches tape across Tyler's doorway and hangs a sign which reads: **OFF LIMITS - A FRESHMAN THREW UP IN HERE.**

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.)

I was dancing with Shiva on this one. Zero margin for error. If President Prior kicked me out then Sheri would assume I didn't care about my future ergo our relationship. I had to put the pieces together before this became the perfect storm.

INT. TYLER'S ROOM - PRINCETON DORMS - DAY

NASSER sprays Tyler's dorm room with ultra-violet light.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.)

I trusted my team but I had to admit, there was one weak link. But could it be that simple?

INT. BARNES'S DORM ROOM - PRINCETON DORMS - DAY

BARNES shines a desk lamp in the eyes of RONALD THE VIRGIN. Ronald sits in his underwear - scared to death. NASSER fits electronic diodes to Ronald's earlobes, his armpits, neck.

RONALD

Guys, I swear to God--

BOBBY BARNES

Just answer the questions honestly and everything will be fine. Are you Ronald Lavitt of Levittown, Pa? A freshman and a virgin?

RONALD

Yes.

Barnes checks with Nasser monitoring the equipment. Nasser gives Barnes a 'thumbs-up.'

BOBBY BARNES

Are you aware of the existence of a homemade DVD that shows senior Tyler Pete engaged in numerous sex acts with the University President's wife?

RONALD
 I was there with you guys--
 (the diodes ZAP him)
 D'OW!!

Ronald jumps in his seat.

RONALD (CONT'D)
 Are you crazy?!

BOBBY BARNES
 (to Nasser)
 Nass, what's with the electric
 shocks?

NASSER
 Barnes, I've been up all night
 putting this crap together. I
 thought we could just cut to the
 chase, man!

BOBBY BARNES
 Okay, all right, don't have a cow.
 How about we only shock him if he
 doesn't tell the truth?

NASSER
 (irritated)
 Whatever, dude.

RONALD
 Are you nuts?!
 (rips diodes off his body)
 Screw you guys!

Ronald storms out.

BOBBY BARNES
 (to Nasser)
 I don't think he did it.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DOWNTOWN PRINCETON - DAY

VIDEO IMAGE: TYLER PETE waits nervously outside a NAILZ&TOZE.
 Our view is shaky and handheld from inside a car.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.)
 Our next course of action carried
 inherent risks but was necessary to
 eliminate the most obvious
 suspects.

TYLER PETE
 (whispers into his collar)
 I feel like an idiot.

Tyler wears a microphone. WE HEAR it on the radio inside the surveillance car.

BOBBY BARNES (O.S.)
 Quit pacing, you look like you have
 to pee.

TYLER PETE
 (hisses)
 I do have to pee.

CAMERA SWERVES over to the door of NAILZ&TOZE where ELIZABETH PRIOR - the Dean's wife - (40s, knockout) exits.

TYLER PETE (CONT'D)
 Wow, Mrs. Prior. Hey.

ELIZABETH
 (flirty)
 Barnes. Were you following me?

TYLER PETE
 Kind of. I'd been sort of wondering
 if you remembered the, uh, the
 ...video that we made?

ELIZABETH
 How could I forget?

TYLER PETE
 You didn't...happen to stop by the
 room and...you know, borrow it?

BOBBY BARNES (O.S.)
 Very subtle.

ELIZABETH
 Borrow it?

TYLER PETE
 I guess not.

ELIZABETH
 Are you telling me you don't know
 where it is?

TYLER PETE
 No, no.
 (voice gets higher)
 'Course not.

ELIZABETH

That's very good, Barnes. Because if it was lost and I was to become, say, the MILF of the Month on some cheap college sex website then words cannot fully describe the hell that would rain down on you. My husband is a very powerful man. He already hates you. A contract killing wouldn't be out of the question.

(beat, then full of charm)

So nice to see you.

TYLER PETE

'Kay, thanks. Bye.

Elizabeth walks on. Tyler sort of looks around.

TYLER PETE (CONT'D)

(into his collar)

I know you probably don't want to hear this, Barnes. But I'm really glad I used your name.

WE HEAR Barnes futz with the machinery as FEEDBACK blasts in Tyler's ear.

TYLER PETE (CONT'D)

(clutches his head)

Aaah!

CUT TO:

INT. PRISM LAB - DAY

This is where the magic happens. BARNES leans over RONALD THE VIRGIN's shoulder as he types into a computer. (Note: Ronald has a serious eye twitch.)

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.)

This was beginning to look like an outside job. But who? Some ex of Tyler's? That narrowed it down to a thousand. Or did someone want to kill President Prior's political comeback? We needed a break.

ON SCREEN: They've hacked into several different screens of SECURITY VIDEO from the Princeton campus. A number of images of college life scroll quickly across the screen. Someone MOONS the camera. A COUPLE makes out. Then...

BOBBY BARNES (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Who's that?

Ronald freezes on the image of a NERVOUS MIDDLE-AGED MAN in a flat brown suit, loitering in the dorm hallways.

RONALD THE VIRGIN
Too old for a student.

Ronald's eye twitches weirdly. His neck clenches and a shiver runs down his arm. Barnes notices.

BOBBY BARNES
Ronald...what are you doing?

RONALD THE VIRGIN
I think the electric shocks messed
with my nervous system.
(has a mild eye spasm as
his arm flails)
Is it really bad?

BOBBY BARNES
(freaked out)
No...can barely tell.
(back to security video)
Can we walk him back to the parking
lot? Any cameras there?

DEAN KNOX (O.S.)
Barnes!

BOBBY BARNES
(to Ronald, hisses)
'Zilla!

Barnes swings around to DEAN KNOX. Ronald swings the computer screen away from Knox's view.

BOBBY BARNES (CONT'D)
Dean Knox. Did you grow more hair?

DEAN KNOX
I've added a midterm project due next
week. More a Sociology experiment.
Call it Career Day. If you oxygen
breathers won't plan your futures,
I'll plan 'em for you. You will state
your career intentions, including the
integration of sciences, industrial
partners and long-term impact on
society. Counts as half your grade.
(beat)
Get to work, losers.

Dean Knox stomps off.

BOBBY BARNES

Was he raised in a wire cage?

Ronald studies FROZEN IMAGES of the NERVOUS MAN climbing into his car from the security video.

RONALD THE VIRGIN

Plates are registered under an SP-171. Some special designation.

Barnes turns back to the computer and the FROZEN IMAGE of the parking lot and Nervous Guy's car.

BOBBY BARNES

What, like handicapped or something?

Ronald shrugs and has an eye spasm.

RONALD THE VIRGIN

Have to find out through DMV. Maybe City Hall?

(beat)

So now what?

BOBBY BARNES

This is a conspiracy Ronald.

(holds up his hand to illustrate)

A quilt, if you will, of many evil threads.

(wiggles his fingers)

Pull one of these threads and there's no telling what may be revealed. Laws broken. Lives lost. Ronald? Are you brave?

RONALD THE VIRGIN

(twitches)

I think so.

BOBBY BARNES

(points at him)

Pull my finger.

Ronald frowns at this. As we...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. PRESIDENT PRIOR'S HOUSE - PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY - NIGHT

WIDE ON: A beautiful COLONIAL - six bedrooms. A big yard. An evening in the Princeton suburbs. Tranquil.

WE HEAR VOICES over cell phone radios.

RONALD THE VIRGIN (O.S.)
Why do I have to climb the
telephone pole?

BOBBY BARNES (O.S.)
Because the odds of you being
electrocuted twice in three days
are very low.

BARNES plays lookout behind a large pine tree wearing a sweatshirt with the hood pulled up.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Before I tracked down Mr. Nervous
Guy in the brown suit, we had to
cut him off at the pass. I'd thrown
together a rudimentary phone tap
using a 2.2uF capacitor in case
someone called President Prior to
extort him.

Barnes glances right then left.

BOBBY BARNES (CONT'D)
(into his cell-phone
walkie-talkie)
All clear, Condor.

RONALD THE VIRGIN emerges from a copse of trees wearing a stocking cap and a trench coat. He spider-climbs his way up the telephone pole to the CIRCUIT BOX.

Barnes checks the street, panics. A POLICE CAR rolls along on patrol - the way they do in wealthy neighborhoods.

BOBBY BARNES (CONT'D)
(into cell phone)
Fuzz!

The police car pauses beneath the telephone pole.

ON RONALD: Who cranes his neck to see, catches his belt on the circuit box, loses his footing and TIPS OVER...

...and dangles like a Christmas ornament above the squad car.

ON BARNES: He hisses into his cell phone walkie-talkie.

BOBBY BARNES (CONT'D)
 Ronald, what the hell're you doing?

RONALD THE VIRGIN (V.O.)
 (hisses)
 Like this was a plan! I can't feel
 my testicles!

Somehow, the police miss this spectacle. They roll off in search of other prey.

EXT. PRINCETON CAMPUS - NIGHT

BARNES and RONALD THE VIRGIN walk towards camera and past us, as we watch them go WE SEE Ronald's underwear has been stretched to his shoulder blades.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY HALL - PHILADELPHIA, PA - DAY

Good ol' William Penn looks down on the City of Brotherly Love from his perch atop the spire of City Hall.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.)
 With President Prior's phone now tapped it was time to figure out who our mysterious lurker was. But all I had were a grainy security video and an obscure license plate to go on.

INT. DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES - CITY HALL - DAY

JENNIFER LIM does her best just-got-off-the-boat-impression for the DMV LADY...

...while BARNES pretends to fill out a form behind her.

JENNIFER LIM
 (holds up application)
 Me...no...car?

DMV LADY
 (very loud, as if volume crosses the language barrier)
 THAT'S A MOTORCYCLE LICENSE APPLICATION! DO YOU WANT TO RIDE A MOTORCYCLE?

JENNIFER LIM
Oh! Okay...sign paper?

DMV LADY
WHAT LANGUAGE DO YOU SPEAK? Oh to
hell with this.
(into microphone)
Supervisor to the front.

THE CHUBBY SUPERVISOR exits his office to deal with the confused Jennifer Lim.

As he does so, WE SEE Barnes slip into the office.

INT. SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE - DMV - DAY - SAME

BARNES types away on the supervisor's computer with the PRINTOUT of the NERVOUS MAN and a PHOTO of his car and plates. INFORMATION scrolls across the screen.

BOBBY BARNES
Private detective?

Barnes pushes PRINT. He searches through the supervisor's drawers for anything interesting. He pulls out some ID BADGES. Then, Barnes sees the SUPERVISOR coming, so he SNATCHES the printout from the printer tray, takes a HUGE GULP of coffee from the supervisor's mug and as THE SUPERVISOR re-enters his office.

SUPERVISOR
(sees Barnes)
Hey!

Barnes swings around with the supervisor's trash can and pretends to THROW UP, loudly and awfully, coffee and all.

SUPERVISOR (CONT'D)
Dear God!

BOBBY BARNES
Sorry...oh man...so sick...I'll
just take the wastebasket...

SUPERVISOR
Get out of here! Ugh!

INT. CORRIDOR - CITY HALL - DAY

BARNES and JENNIFER knock knuckles in the hallway.

BOBBY BARNES
Mission Accomplished.

JENNIFER LIM
You headed back to school?

BOBBY BARNES
You go. I gotta follow up on something.

INT. PERSONNEL OFFICE - PHOTO BOOTH - DAY

BARNES sits and waits to have his photograph taken.

BOBBY BARNES
(into cell phone)
His name's Sam Scully. 533 Burlington Avenue. Guy's a real Private Dick. We gotta get in those offices and find Tyler's DVD.

NASSER (V.O.)
You smoking some Mowie-Wowie something, man. I work for a living.

BOBBY BARNES
(into cell phone)
You know you're turning into a real whiner, Nass. I need you. Just pick me up at City Hall in one hour.

BARNES hangs up the phone, smiles for the camera.

INT. CORRIDOR - CITY HALL - DAY

BARNES attaches his photo to an ID BADGE that reads: SOCIAL SERVICES. He counts his ten other new ID BADGES like playing cards, all have his smiling face on them.

Barnes looks up at a HOMELESS MAN - RUFUS - watching him from a bench across the hall.

BOBBY BARNES
(to Rufus)
Figured these might come in handy, someday.

RUFUS
Uh-huh.

BOBBY BARNES
(pause)
Want one?

RUFUS
I'm fine, thanks.

SHERI (O.S.)

Barnes?

Barnes looks up and sees SHERI staring at him.

BOBBY BARNES

Hey! What a surprise! I thought you were in court today.

SHERI

I am. We're on break. What are you doing?

(looks at his lap)

What are you doing with ten ID badges?

BOBBY BARNES

Those...are two great questions.

(pause, looks down)

Great shoes. Those new?

SHERI

(annoyed)

What the hell is going on?

BOBBY BARNES

I'm...I'm...

(looks over at Rufus)

Volunteering.

SHERI

(not buying it)

Really?

Barnes walks over to RUFUS seated on the bench.

BOBBY BARNES

Talking with John here--

RUFUS

Rufus.

BOBBY BARNES

I call him John, about, you know, life on the street. Job options.

SHERI

What do you know about job options?

BOBBY BARNES

Ah, very quick.

RUFUS

Say, Mr. Barnes, do you have that
twenty bucks we were talking about?

BOBBY BARNES

(pause)

Uh...yes.

(reaches in his pocket,
hands him a twenty)

Here you are.

(to Sheri)

You said, you know, I needed
direction.

(beat)

John Rufus and I are now going to
get a sandwich.

RUFUS

(brightens)

All right.

SHERI

I have to get back. You're acting
weird.

BOBBY BARNES

(kisses her)

Okay, love you, bye.

Sheri walks off, shaking her head, befuddled.

Barnes turns to Rufus.

BOBBY BARNES (CONT'D)

You were pretty fast on your feet
there old timer.

RUFUS

Can we go to Chilis?

BOBBY BARNES

You want a job? I may be able to
swing shelter and possibly beer.

RUFUS

What's the work?

BOBBY BARNES

I need someone with his ear to the
ground...so to speak. I need my
Huggy Bear.

RUFUS

"Huggy Bear?" I will knock you unconscious.

BOBBY BARNES

Whoa, no, didn't you ever see Starsky and Hutch? Don't you remember Huggy Bear?

RUFUS

Oh yeah. Okay. I wasn't sure what you meant.

CUT TO:

INT. NASSER'S CAR - DAY

NASSER and BARNES pull up to Scully's building.

BOBBY BARNES

This is it. Scully's office.

NASSER

Great, man. Hurry your ass.

BOBBY BARNES

What is your problem?

NASSER

I haven't slept in two days, man. I'm making Scratch-and-Sniff recipes at night, you've got me dusting Tyler's undies for prints. I'm losing it.

BOBBY BARNES

(annoyed)
Wait here.

Barnes gets out of the car.

NASSER

(checks his watch)
This is B.S., man.

INT. SCULLY'S OFFICE - DAY

SAM SCULLY (the nervous man from the dorms) looks up from his desk as BARNES opens the door.

SAM SCULLY

Can I help you?

The offices are drab, dirty and in dire need of ventilation.

BOBBY BARNES
Hi, I'm Tony. Chet's grandson.

SAM SCULLY
Okay.
(pause)
Who's Chet?

BOBBY BARNES
He's the night janitor.

SAM SCULLY
I thought Louis was the night
janitor.

BOBBY BARNES
Chet's his sub.
(pause)
And this is kind of embarrassing
but he actually left his teeth in
here last night. He doesn't really
use that sticky stuff he's supposed
to. Efferdent?

Scully looks around his office, grossed out.

Barnes checks a few drawers, searches the shelves, obviously
looking for the TYLER DVD.

SAM SCULLY
How the hell did he lose his teeth?

BOBBY BARNES
Grandpa Chet might've been,
y'know...
(mimes smoking a joint)
...tootin' the bone.

SAM SCULLY
Oh terrific.

INT. NASSER'S CAR - OUTSIDE OF SAM SCULLY'S OFFICES - DAY

NASSER is fast asleep, SNORING loudly stretched out in the
back seat. Dead to the world.

Suddenly, the back of Nasser's car lifts into the air. We
hear the WHINE of a tow cable. Nasser JOLTS awake, turns and
sees that he is being towed.

NASSER
No, please! There is a passenger!

THE TOW TRUCK drives off with Nasser's car...and Nasser.

NASSER (CONT'D)
Where are you taking me?!

INT. SCULLY'S OFFICE - DAY

BARNES gets down on his knees, looks under Scully's desk.

BOBBY BARNES
I really need those choppers.
Freaks me out when he doesn't wear
'em.

SCULLY looks around too, window sills, file cabinets.

SAM SCULLY
I don't see them anywhere.

Barnes picks up a framed photo of Scully in his cop blues from years ago.

BOBBY BARNES
(looks at picture)
Is this you? You're so thin.

Scully gets up, takes the picture.

SAM SCULLY
Okay, let's go. I find 'em I'll
drop 'em in the lost and found.

As Scully shepherds Barnes to the door, Barnes spots TYLER'S DVD on Scully's desk, half-hidden beneath a copy of MAXIM.

BOBBY BARNES
(lunges for Scully's desk)
Oh! That's the Maxim with the Tara Reid interview!

SAM SCULLY
(pulls Bobby towards the door)
Let's go!

BOBBY BARNES
(gets shoved along)
I'll bring it back--

Scully SLAMS the door on Barnes before he has a chance to grab the DVD.

SAM SCULLY
Jesus, I need a secretary.

CUT TO:

INT. NASSER'S DORM ROOM - PRINCETON DORMS - NIGHT

There is repeated knocking. NASSER answers the door. Standing in the hallway are BARNES and RUFUS the Homeless Man.

BOBBY BARNES

What the hell, Nass? You took off?

NASSER

You owe me three-hundred-and-fifty-four-dollars-and-twenty-two-cents.

BOBBY BARNES

For what?

NASSER

My parents traversed the Hindu-Kush mountains on donkey-back to leave Pakistan. They worked four jobs as immigrants to get me to Princeton and to a nice job in the private sector. I'm not blowing it because Tyler had some perverted sexual relations.

(looks at Rufus then at Barnes)

Who is this man?

BOBBY BARNES

This is Rufus. Your new roommate.

RUFUS

(to Barnes)

What's he mean perverted sex relations?

NASSER

Roommate?

BOBBY BARNES

Technically, you don't go to school here, Nass. You can't complain to Administration.

CUT TO:

INT. NASSER'S DORM ROOM - PRINCETON DORMS - NIGHT - LATER

The team is assembled in poor Nasser's room: BARNES, RUFUS (who munches on a SUBWAY), TYLER PETE, JENNIFER LIM and NASSER who is trying to sleep.

RONALD THE VIRGIN is at the desk listening to an i-Pod that is attached to a TRANSMITTER. *He is listening to A LIVE FEED from President Prior's bugged phone.*

RONALD THE VIRGIN
(to group)
He's getting another call!

Barnes, Tyler and Jennifer try to piece the mystery together.

JENNIFER LIM
(to Barnes)
Can we break into Scully's offices?

BOBBY BARNES
Rufus, what do you think?

Everyone turns to Rufus, waiting for his pearls of wisdom.

RUFUS
(mouth full)
This sandwich is good.

BOBBY BARNES
(absorbs this)
He's right. Let's keep perspective people.

NASSER
(gets out of bed)
That's it. This is BS, man.

Nasser takes his blankets. He's wearing purple undies.

INT. HALLWAY - OUTSIDE TYLER'S ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

NASSER drags his blanket to Tyler's room and ducks under the yellow tape.

INT. NASSER'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The phone rings again. RONALD THE VIRGIN jumps up, earphone to his ear. Listens a beat...

RONALD
This must be him! I think it's him!

Ronald turns on the receiver so they can listen in on the conversation.

PRESIDENT PRIOR (V.O.)
Who the hell is this?

SAM SCULLY (V.O.)
*Hello, Mr. Family Values. Go to
 your computer.*

PRESIDENT PRIOR (V.O.)
*Is this a joke? Is this you,
 Barnes?*

Barnes rolls his eyes, of course he gets the blame.

SAM SCULLY (V.O.)
*Type in www.youtube.com. Featured
 video: mystery woman.*

BOBBY BARNES
 Ronald!

Ronald punches the site up on Barnes's desktop. Finds the
 'mystery woman.'

BOBBY BARNES (CONT'D)
 (sees what's on screen)
 Holy Moses.

ON SCREEN: It is a frozen image of the TYLER/MRS. PRIOR SEX
 VIDEO with the faces fuzzed out.

SAM SCULLY (V.O.)
Press play.

Ronald the Virgin presses 'play.'

ON SCREEN: It is a five-second-clip of the video to the tune
 of MILKSHAKE with accompanying MOANS and GIGGLES. When the
 teaser ends. Tabloid-headlines scroll across the screen.

**WHO IS THIS WOMAN? WHAT FAMOUS POLITICIAN IS SHE MARRIED TO?
 WHO IS HER YOUNG FRIEND? WANT TO KNOW? CHECK OUT THE PREMIERE
 OF MYSTERY WOMAN IN 36 HOURS.**

PRESIDENT PRIOR (V.O.)
Dear God.

SAM SCULLY (V.O.)
*Two million dollars or say goodbye
 to your Senate candidacy and your
 beloved reputation. Get your
 finances in order.*

The line goes DEAD.

BOBBY BARNES
 Jesus, I feel like Jack Bauer.

INT. TYLER'S ROOM - PRINCETON DORMS - NIGHT

NASSER sleeps blissfully when the door CREAKS.

PRESIDENT PRIOR'S WIFE (O.S.)
(whispering, total
slurring drunk)
Da-da-da, da-da-da...

Nasser's eyes pop open. In the total darkness, ELIZABETH, the President's wife - absolutely smashed to the bejeezus - staggers into the room and shuts the door behind her. WE CANNOT SEE anything but shapes. Pitch black.

ELIZABETH
(drunk, slurred speech)
*My milkshake brings the boys to the
yard...and they're like it's better
than yours...*

A blouse and bra drop to the floor.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
Miss me, Barnes?

Nasser is FROZEN. Elizabeth climbs under the covers.

ELIZABETH (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Wow! That's not how I remember it.

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. HALLWAY - PRINCETON DORMS - DAY

BARNES walks down the hall studying architectural plans. He stops - sees that Nasser's door is open.

INT. NASSER'S DORM ROOM - PRINCETON DORMS - DAY - CONTINUOUS

BARNES pushes the door open. NASSER sits on his bed, half-dressed, a stunned expression on his face.

RUFUS reads People Magazine on his bed.

BOBBY BARNES

(to Nasser)

You okay?

NASSER

I need to be held.

Rufus frowns. Barnes sits down on the bed next to Nasser and sort of awkwardly puts his arm around him. Nasser puts his head on Barnes's shoulder.

NASSER (CONT'D)

President Prior's wife came to Tyler's room last night.

BOBBY BARNES

She...

(realizes what this means)

You didn't.

NASSER

What choice did I have?! She was freakin' drunk, man. She climbed into Tyler's bed. I was treated like some kind of electronic rodeo bull. Just pop in the quarters.

RUFUS

That don't sound too bad. Especially the quarters.

NASSER

When she finally fell asleep I ran, man. I didn't stop. I'm through with this Tyler B.S.. It's not my problem!

BOBBY BARNES
 Right. You're off duty.
 (hands him architectural
 plans)
 As soon as you help me break into
 Sam Scully's office.

Nasser looks at Barnes with pleading eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. BARNES'S CAR - OUTSIDE SCULLY'S BUILDING - NIGHT

BARNES and NASSER sit in Barnes's car with ski masks pulled up above their eyes.

NASSER
 This is illegal.

BOBBY BARNES
 Not if they do it to you first.

Barnes consults an architectural diagram and keeps looking up to the corresponding window of Scully's building.

BOBBY BARNES (CONT'D)
 Air vents take us right to his
 office. And nobody's home.

NASSER
 (to diagrams)
 Where did you get this?

BOBBY BARNES
 (holds up an ID badge)
 I work for City Records.

EXT. SAM SCULLY'S BUILDING - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The electronic garage door opens for the underground parking lot to Scully's building. As a CAR exits, BARNES and NASSER slip under the gate before it electronically closes again.

INT. UNDERGROUND PARKING LOT - SCULLY'S BUILDING - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

BARNES and NASSER drill the screws out of the air vent screen. Barnes hustles Nasser inside, throws a duffel bag after him and climbs in.

INT. AIR VENT ABOVE SCULLY'S OFFICE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

NASSER pulls BARNES to the next level. Through the grating they see a dark office.

NASSER
 (looks through vent)
 Damn man, that's like fifteen feet.

Barnes unzips the duffel bag and pulls out a thicket of ropes and harnesses.

NASSER (CONT'D)
 We'll break our frikkin' legs.

BOBBY BARNES
 No, I designed some titanium-enforced tubular webbing. Very strong.
 (throws a harness over Nasser's head)
 It's just like rapelling.

NASSER
 I don't rappel.
 (beat)
 Why do I go first?

BOBBY BARNES
 Because I'm the inventor. There're knots involved and things.

With a power drill, Barnes unscrews the vent screen. Nasser gulps, looking down. Barnes latches Nasser into the buckle.

NASSER
 You'll guide me?

BOBBY BARNES
 It's like floating.
 (back to knots)
 Let me just secure--

But without warning, Nasser goes through the vent.

BOBBY BARNES (CONT'D)
 Nass!

The unbolted rope goes ZIPPING through the vent after him.

NASSER (O.S.)
 Aaaahh!!

There is an unholy SMACK of a body landing on a file cabinet.

NASSER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Oh God!

Followed by several, equally ugly-sounding, BODY SLAPS as furniture topples.

BOBBY BARNES
(whispers)
Nass, you all right?

NASSER (O.S.)
(weakly)
Oh...

BOBBY BARNES
It looks like the file cabinet
broke most of the fall.
(holds onto one end of the
rope)
I'm coming down. Just let go of the
rope.
(jolts)
No, no, don't pull it! Nass, don't--

Barnes gets YANKED through the vent also.

INT. PODIATRIST OFFICE - SCULLY'S BUILDING - NIGHT -
CONTINUOUS

BARNES plummets from the ceiling straight down - THUMP - on
top of NASSER.

NASSER
Oh God again!

BOBBY BARNES
I'm okay, I'm okay.

NASSER
Because you landed on me, you
bastard. My hip.

BOBBY BARNES
Why the hell did you pull the rope?

NASSER
(hissing)
Why?! Because you moved a hobo into
my room! Because my mother's car
was towed away to jail! Because you
have important mental parts missing
from your brain, man!

BOBBY BARNES
Hey, I'm trying to solve the
problem here!

Nasser lifts up a life-size-plaster-cast of a HUMAN FOOT. He frowns, confused.

NASSER

This guy's obsessed with feet, man.

Barnes looks around and notices the walls are covered in anatomical drawings of SKELETON FEET.

BOBBY BARNES

Wrong office.

(checks architectural
designs then he turns
them right-side-up)

Maybe that's how it goes.

INT. HALLWAY - SCULLY'S BUILDING - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

BARNES and NASSER sneak out of the podiatrist's office and tip-toe/limp across the hall to SCULLY INVESTIGATIONS.

Barnes turns the knob...it's open.

INT. SCULLY'S OFFICE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

This office is dark.

BOBBY BARNES

(hisses)

The desk!

Nasser limps over to the desk, searches, lifts up the MAXIM magazine and FUMBLES with the DVD. He takes the disc from the case and stuffs it in his pants.

NASSER

I've got it!

A toilet FLUSHES. Barnes and Nasser freeze.

SAM SCULLY exits the bathroom. He sees the boys in their facemasks and drops his Penthouse magazine.

SAM SCULLY

Okay. No trouble. Just let me get
my wallet.

Scully reaches over to the coat rack where his overcoat hangs. He dips his hand in his pocket and comes out with...

...A REVOLVER. He points it at the boys.

SAM SCULLY (CONT'D)
(shaking voice)
Clothes off. Masks too. Now!

Barnes and Nasser just kind of look at each other. Then, with no real choice in the matter, start with their sneakers, pull off their jeans, lose the shirts and finally pull the face masks from their heads.

SAM SCULLY (CONT'D)
You're Chet's grandson.

NASSER
(to Barnes)
Who the hell is Chet?

SAM SCULLY
Handcuffs. Top drawer. Hurry up.

A petrified Nasser digs in the drawer, pulls out handcuffs.

SAM SCULLY (CONT'D)
Now cuff yourselves.

BOBBY BARNES
Look, we get it--

SAM SCULLY
I'm not screwing around, kid!

Nasser and Barnes handcuff their wrists together. And there they stand, together, handcuffed, in their underwear.

SAM SCULLY (CONT'D)
(to Nasser)
Now take the DVD out of your underwear.

Barnes turns to Nasser. Nasser nods and reaches for his undies and brings Barnes's cuffed hand along.

BOBBY BARNES
Use your other hand, idiot.

Nasser pulls out the BROKEN DVD with his non-cuffed hand.

SAM SCULLY
So that's what this is all about?
(chuckles, pats his
titanium laptop)
It's been uploaded into the laptop,
geniuses.

Sam Scully shakes his head, holsters his weapon and as he picks up the phone--

BOBBY BARNES

Run Nass!!

Barnes and Nasser tear ass out of Scully's office, handcuffed and in their underwear.

SAM SCULLY (O.S.)

Hey! Get back here!

EXT. THE STREETS OF BURLINGTON - NIGHT

BARNES and NASSER jog on the side of the road, still handcuffed together.

NASSER

How far is it to Princeton?

BOBBY BARNES

About fifteen miles.

A car rolls up behind them and they hear the familiar BLOOP-BLOOP of a squad car.

COP VOICE (O.S.)

(loudspeaker)

Pull over.

Barnes cranes his neck to see the squad car. Nasser picks up his pace.

NASSER

Come on, Barnes!

BOBBY BARNES

(slows down)

Nass, give it up!

NASSER

(runs faster)

This can't be happening!

Nasser is now half-dragging Barnes along with him.

COP VOICE (O.S.)

Pull over. Now.

NASSER

I'm a Pakistani Chemist! I'm in my
underwear! I know how this story
ends!

CUT TO:

INT. BURLINGTON SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - NIGHT

NASSER and BARNES shiver together, still cuffed, still in their underwear as they sit next to SHERIFF'S DEPUTY CARL (40s, by-the-book, humorless). Sheriff's Deputy Carl does a lot of writing. We just hear the scribble of his pencil.

NASSER

(leans in, to Deputy Carl)
I love America.

BOBBY BARNES

Nass, shut up.

Deputy Carl keeps scribbling.

INT. BURLINGTON SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - NIGHT

BARNES and NASSER shuffle - still handcuffed and in their underwear - under the escort of DEPUTY CARL to a large GROUP CELL where TWENTY DRUG DEALERS and VIOLENT DRUNKS sulk and stew in their angry juices.

Barnes and Nasser are led into the cell and the door shut.

BOBBY BARNES

(to Nasser, whispers)
Try to look tough.

NASSER

(whispers)
Please don't speak to me.

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. LARGE PRISON CELL - BURLINGTON SHERIFF'S DEPT. - NIGHT

DEPUTY CARL appears at the barred door.

DEPUTY CARL
Bobby Barnes?

REVERSE ANGLE: On NASSER and BARNES each of whom are seated in the laps of much larger, much more terrifying PRISONERS.

BOBBY BARNES
(gently)
That's me.

DEPUTY CARL
Bail's posted, Thelma.
(indicates Nasser)
You too, Louise.

INT. LOBBY - BURLINGTON SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - NIGHT

BARNES and NASSER enter the lobby wrapped in prison blankets. SHERI MCCOY waits for them. There are tears in her eyes.

BOBBY BARNES
(feels awful)
Sheri--

SHERI
Are you kidding me, Barnes? I'm too young to have an idiot teenage son.

BOBBY BARNES
Look, there's a very good reason for all of this.

SHERI
(folds her arms)
Okay.

BOBBY BARNES
You want the reason now?

SHERI
(rolls her eyes)
You're one of the best scientific minds of your generation, Barnes. My God, I've never met someone with your potential. And you're blowing it. I just...I don't understand you.

Sheri turns and marches out of the building.

INT. SPECIAL AGENT MCCOY'S CAR - NIGHT

BARNES and NASSER are in the back seat of SPECIAL AGENT MCCOY'S car. They look pretty miserable.

WE PULL OUT WIDER to see SHERI in the front seat, snuffling away tears of disappointment and shame.

WE PAN OVER RIGHT to the driver - SPECIAL AGENT MCCOY - who is doing everything in his power to suppress a smile.

IN THE REARVIEW MIRROR: His and Barnes's eyes meet. Special Agent McCoy's look says it all: 'Got ya sucka.'

CUT TO:

INT. THE PRISM LABORATORY - PRINCETON UNIVERSITY - DAY

It is the following morning. The PRISM labs. RONALD THE VIRGIN and TYLER PETE huddle anxiously.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.)

In small towns like Princeton word travels fast when you're caught in a low-speed police pursuit naked and handcuffed to your best friend.

The door to Dean Knox's office opens. BARNES emerges, clutching his books and private articles. DEAN KNOX stands in the doorway to his office wearing a smug look of contentment.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Obviously, this fell within the parameters of the One Percent Doctrine.

We've never seen Barnes so defeated as when he passes by Ronald and Tyler.

TYLER PETE

(feels terrible)

Hey, Barnes.

Barnes just keeps on walking.

INT. NASSER'S DORM ROOM - PRINCETON DORMS - NIGHT

BARNES knocks and opens the door.

BOBBY BARNES

Nass?

But Nasser is gone. So is his stuff. RUFUS reads STAR magazine on Nasser's bed.

BOBBY BARNES (CONT'D)
 (to Rufus)
 Where's Nass?

RUFUS
 Moved out.

This is a real body blow for Barnes.

INT. HALLWAY - OUTSIDE TYLER'S ROOM - PRINCETON DORMS - NIGHT

Doors open. Curious heads poke out. There are MURMURS as a disheveled BARNES takes his last walk down the hallway to his room.

RONALD THE VIRGIN and his POSSE stand outside Barnes's dorm room. They fight to hold back the tears. It's like a wake.

INT. BARNES'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

BARNES enters to find his friends JENNIFER LIM and TYLER getting his things together. It's a somber mood.

Jennifer gives Barnes a kiss on the cheek. Tyler pats him on the back.

TYLER PETE
 Thought we'd help you pack up.

BOBBY BARNES
 Thanks, guys.

There is a mechanical WHIRRING sound.

JENNIFER LIM
 (looks down)
 'Mote' wants to say goodbye.

Barnes looks down at 'mote' - the remote control - sort of banging up against Barnes's sneaker. Barnes picks him up.

BOBBY BARNES
 (to mote)
 We had a good run, pal, didn't we?

Little mote's wheels just spin and spin.

BOBBY BARNES (CONT'D)
 (to mote)
 I know you want to help.
 (MORE)

BOBBY BARNES (CONT'D)
 But we just can't turn on the TV
 and...catch the bad guys.

Barnes's words trail off as he studies 'mote's' keypad.

JENNIFER LIM
 Barnes?

BOBBY BARNES
 (whispers to himself as he
 presses buttons)
 North. South.
 (his fingers graze the
 numbers on the keypad)
 Gyroscope.
 (thinks to himself)
 Huh.

In his own world, Barnes wanders over to the window.

BOBBY BARNES (CONT'D)
 In military conflict, who can tell
 me what is the single most crucial
 advantage one side can have over
 another. Jen?

JENNIFER LIM
 High ground?

BOBBY BARNES
 No. Tyler?

TYLER PETE
 Overwhelming forces?

BOBBY BARNES
 Superior technology.
 (counts on his hand)
 218 B.C., Hannibal wins the Second
 Punic War by inventing the Dead Cow
 Catapult. 900 A.D. Genghis Kahn -
 crossbow. 1300 Merlin invents
 Excalibur. King Arthur kicks
 everyone's ass.

JENNIFER LIM
 Barnes, that's fiction.

RONALD and his GEEK FRIENDS crowd the doorway to listen.
Barnes is showing signs of life.

BOBBY BARNES
 You're missing the point, Jen: You
 see, you may outwork me.
 (MORE)

BOBBY BARNES (CONT'D)

You may hold a black belt in red tape. You may align the forces of bureaucracy to bend and force my will. Perhaps yes, even to break my spirit. But do not for a second think you will beat me in the war of ideas.

TYLER

(to Jen)

He's on a roll.

BOBBY BARNES

This isn't about the PRISM labs or a sex video. It's about who determines our future. Will it be the Dean Knox's and the Sam Scully's of the world? Or will this generation finally shake loose the chains of expectation and stop living the futures they were told to live and start living the futures they were meant to live?

(on a roll)

Plato wrote: It is easy to forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.

Ronald and his friends flick their lighters and hold them up like they're at a U2 concert. Tears roll down their cheeks.

TYLER PETE

The man is back!

BOBBY BARNES

Now that I have your attention:
here's what we're going to do.

CUT TO:

INT. PRISM SCHOOL LABORATORY - DAY - MONTAGE

RONALD THE VIRGIN surreptitiously slips electronic components into his pants, careful to avoid DEAN KNOX's suspicious eyes.

BOBBY BARNES (O.S.)

Ronald, get to the lab. I need a sub-miniature ccd single chip fixed lens and a pair of servos.

INT. BARNES'S DORM ROOM - PRINCETON DORMS - MONTAGE

Barnes's dorm room has been transformed into an Operating Room. BARNES wears a smock and is attended by TYLER, JENNIFER and RONALD wearing surgical masks.

BOBBY BARNES

P-4.

Several desk lamps illuminate MOTE who's been opened up and its circuitry laid bare.

Tyler hands a super-small-screwdriver to Barnes.

INT. THE PRISM LABORATORY - DAY - MONTAGE

TYLER PETE slaps the visor down on his welding helmet and lights an acetylene torch, applies the blue flame to gold shell casings.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.)

As "Hannibal" Smith of the A-Team used to say: "I love it when a plan comes together." But there was still a crucial element missing.

CUT TO:

INT. THE YOUSEF HOME - MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY - NIGHT

NASSER'S DAD (professorial, 50s) opens his door to BARNES. He's not happy to see him.

INT. NASSER'S ROOM - THE YOUSEF HOME - NIGHT

BARNES enters the bedroom. NASSER is at his desk.

NASSER

(sullen)

What do you want?

BOBBY BARNES

Look, I know I haven't been a great friend recently. You know...the arrest...Rufus...the drunken rape.

NASSER

My Dad thinks I'm a junkie now. He put a padlock on the medicine cabinet. There's only Tylenol in there, man.

BOBBY BARNES

Sorry about that. But I know they've been on your case at work, so I...whipped up a little Scratch-and-Sniff for you.

(hands him a coaster)

It's a beer coaster.

Nasser takes the coaster, scratches and sniffs. Smiles.

NASSER

Pretzels.

BOBBY BARNES

And I'm moving Rufus in with Ronald the Virgin. You've got seniority.

(pause)

C'mon, Nass. We've only got a few hours before this Scully guy goes global with Tyler's naked butt.

NASSER

Let's get out of here. I'm tired of peeing in Dixie cups, man.

CUT TO:

INT. SCULLY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

SAM SCULLY is on the phone with the YOUTUBE folks.

SAM SCULLY

(on phone, looks at his computer, checks clock)

At 8:00 I push send. And then it goes everywhere, right? Same time?

(hangs up, sings)

My milkshake brings the boys to the yard...

CAMERA MOVES OVER SCULLY to his window, where, outside we see a BLACK VAN roll to a stop across the street.

INT. CARGO VAN - NIGHT - SAME

NASSER, TYLER and RONALD THE VIRGIN huddle in the van in front of a boatload of electronics. JENNIFER LIM drives. BARNES holds up a revamped MOTE.

BOBBY BARNES

Everything ready?

Ronald works the dials on a sophisticated SATELLITE TV module.

RONALD THE VIRGIN

Set.

Nasser opens his hands to Barnes revealing a FLYING CAMERA no larger than a hummingbird. It has golden wings.

BOBBY BARNES

Mote meet FlyGirl.

(to Ronald)

Screen.

Ronald flips on the monitor screen.

ON SCREEN: WE SEE Barnes in super-close-up.

ON BARNES: Who presses buttons on MOTE transmitting signals to FlyGirl. She adjusts her camera angle per Mote's instructions and the signal is then sent to the TV.

RONALD THE VIRGIN

(adjusts TV picture)

Looks good.

BOBBY BARNES

Nass?

Nasser goes to the window, holds out FlyGirl. Barnes pushes a few buttons on Mote. FlyGirl's golden wings BUZZ and she lifts off into the night.

EXT. SCULLY'S BUILDING - NIGHT - SAME

FLYGIRL buzzes between the bars of the parking lot cage door.

INT. CARGO VAN - NIGHT - SAME

ON SCREEN: Through Flygirl's lens WE SWERVE up through the air conditioning vent portal, along twisting tunnels to...

INT. SCULLY'S OFFICE - NIGHT - SAME

CLOSE AS: FLYGIRL crawls like a beetle out of the AC vent and onto the ceiling where she takes video of the room, unseen.

EXT. FIRE ESCAPE - SCULLY'S BUILDING - NIGHT - SAME

RUFUS is precariously perched on the fire escape beside a window that opens onto Scully's floor.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.)

Rufus, are you in position?

Rufus opens his overcoat TO REVEAL a *sophisticated looking piece of technology - about the size of a football.*

RUFUS
 (into radio)
 Is this thing gonna irradiate my
 man parts?

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.)
 No. Just flip the switch on my
 signal.

INT. CARGO VAN - NIGHT - SAME

TYLER and JENNIFER look at BARNES with concern.

JENNIFER LIM
 Why is Rufus in charge of getting
 the laptop?

BOBBY BARNES
 He's cool under pressure. Don't
 worry.

ON SCREEN: SCULLY opens his office door to ELIZABETH, the
 President's wife. They make out like frenzied sucker fish.

JENNIFER LIM (O.S.)
 Oh my God, Prior's wife is in on
 it. She must've hired Scully to
 steal the DVD. Why?

SCULLY
 (to Elizabeth)
Ready to be famous?

ELIZABETH
 (sighs)
Step aside Paris. Mrowr!

More gross smooching.

BOBBY BARNES (O.S.)
 And...record.

ON SCREEN: FlyGirl starts filming. Limbs are everywhere.

INT. SCULLY'S OFFICE - NIGHT - SAME

SCULLY pulls away from his smooch with ELIZABETH.

SCULLY
 (checks his watch)
 8:00.

Scully hustles over to his desk and sits. He puts on his
 glasses. His finger poises over the SEND button.

INT. CARGO VAN - NIGHT

BARNES shouts into the radio.

BOBBY BARNES
Rufus, hit it!

EXT. FIRE ESCAPE - SCULLY'S BUILDING - NIGHT

RUFUS throws open his overcoat and flips a switch on the techno-football. There is a HUM. The object VIBRATES.

INT. SCULLY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

SCULLY'S titanium laptop SHUDDERS and SLIDES across his desk.

SCULLY
What the--?

EXT. FIRE ESCAPE - SCULLY'S BUILDING - NIGHT

The techno-football begins to SQUEAL and SMOKE.

RUFUS panics. He bolts down the fire escape with the techno-football, clutching his man parts.

INT. SCULLY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

SHWOOP! The laptop flies off the desk onto the floor and SOARS down the hallway.

SCULLY
Oh my God!

SCULLY blasts past ELIZABETH, chasing his escaping computer.

INT. CARGO VAN - NIGHT

BARNES doesn't know what the hell is going on.

BOBBY BARNES
(into radio)
Rufus, where are you!?

EXT. FIRE ESCAPE - SCULLY'S BUILDING - NIGHT

RUFUS throws the techno-football, which is actually the *Tesla-2-magnet* (last seen torturing Dean Knox) over the railing of the fire escape.

INT. HALLWAY - SCULLY'S BUILDING - NIGHT - SAME

Because of the falling magnet, the LAPTOP changes its trajectory and goes WHIPPING past SCULLY'S HEAD at about 40-miles-per-hour. Scully dives to the ground.

SCULLY

Help!

INT. CARGO VAN - NIGHT

BARNES sees RUFUS running from the scene.

BOBBY BARNES

Rufus, where are you--?

(to Ronald)

Ronald, go get the magnet! And Scully's computer!

EXT. STREET - OUTSIDE SCULLY'S BUILDING - NIGHT

RONALD leaps out of the van and runs over to the alley, he picks up the Tesla Magnet as...

...LARGE STEEL ITEMS come flying out of the bursting windows of Scully's building: file cabinets, tables, lamps...

Ronald SHRIEKS and zig-zags to avoid plummeting artillery fire from Scully's building.

CLOSE AS: SCULLY'S COMPUTER cartwheels out a window and BURSTS into fifty pieces on the cement.

INT. CARGO VAN - NIGHT - SAME

BARNES contemplates as the chaos continues.

BOBBY BARNES

(to no one in particular)

I think the magnet still needs some work.

CUT TO:

INT. PRIVATE OFFICE - PRIOR RESIDENCE - DAY

ON SCREEN: SCULLY and ELIZABETH make out in Scully's office.

ON UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT PRIOR: His jaw set like granite.

PRESIDENT PRIOR

Elizabeth and I are in the middle of a separation.

(MORE)

PRESIDENT PRIOR (CONT'D)

It seems she wasn't happy with the terms of our pre-nuptial agreement. She thought I would pay her millions to preserve my political reputation.

(pause)

What do you want for it?

WIDER TO INCLUDE BARNES who is sympathetic and the only other person in President Prior's office.

BOBBY BARNES

Keep it.

Barnes shakes his head, walks to the door.

PRESIDENT PRIOR

Mr. Barnes?

(Barnes turns back to him)

I won't consider it extortion to grant a favor.

Barnes thinks this over.

CUT TO:

INT. LECTURE HALL - THE PRISM LABORATORY - DAY

A soft-spoken CHINESE STUDENT - HENRY LU - puts the finishing touches on a highly technical presentation. It's CAREER DAY.

HENRY LU

(almost inaudible)

And that is my goal to create a mid-infrared optical trace gas sensing system based on the technologies of quantum cascade lasers.

HALF THE CLASS is asleep. Henry gathers his slides and shuffles off. A STUDENT elbows DEAN KNOX awake. He GRUNTS.

DEAN KNOX

Let's keep it to fifteen minutes, assheads!

INT. CORRIDOR - OUTSIDE PRISM LABORATORY - DAY - SAME

RONALD THE VIRGIN approaches JENNIFER LIM outside the lecture hall at the PRISM laboratory.

RONALD

Any word from Sheri?

JENNIFER LIM
I left a message.

RONALD
(disappointed)
I'll tell Barnes.

INT. LECTURE HALL - PRISM SCHOOL LABORATORY - DAY - SAME

Down by the lectern, DEAN KNOX swivels his head searching for students, ready to call it a day.

DEAN KNOX
So is that everyone?

The door nearest to the lectern opens.

NASSER - wearing sunglasses, a fedora and a trench coat - enters the lecture hall pushing a rolling desk with an i-Mac 24-inch-screen on top of it.

DEAN KNOX (CONT'D)
What the hell is this?

NASSER
Lights.

Magically, the lights dim. Dean Knox looks around, confused. Unseen by anyone, SHERI slips into the lecture hall.

ON SCREEN: BOBBY BARNES appears at his desk in his dorm room.

BOBBY BARNES
Hi. Do you ever get the feeling
that you've fallen between the
cracks?

Barnes is replaced by a full body shot of RONALD THE VIRGIN in his underwear, half-wrapped in toilet paper, with a black eye, unconscious on the dorm steps.

BOBBY BARNES (CONT'D)
That the institutions we've come to
rely upon simply aren't equipped to
handle the issues of a modern-day
25-year-old?

The screen is filled with staccato images: KILLER BEES - FOX NEWS LOGO - BLOW UP SEX DOLLS - SOMEONE DOING A KEG STAND -

BOBBY BARNES (CONT'D)
Who's looking out for you?

IN FRONT OF THE CLASS: Nasser opens his palm and FLYGIRL buzzes into the air to the CHUCKLES of the class.

ON SCREEN: WE SEE the class through FlyGirl's camera.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.) (CONT'D)
High-tech-discretion is the name of
the game.

ON SCREEN: BARNES reappears on the Upperclassmen Dorm steps. He steps over Ronald the Virgin's still-unconscious body.

BOBBY BARNES (CONT'D)
Got a trust fund? Cool, we'll take
your money. So pay now, pay later,
maybe we can trade or barter. What
makes me happy is being able to
serve.

Barnes is joined on his inspiring stroll by JENNIFER LIM, TYLER PETE, NASSER and RUFUS.

BOBBY BARNES (CONT'D)
We have specialists in a variety of
fields: Finance, Law, Quantum
Physics and Homelessness.
(beat)
For the lowly intern sabotaged at
work by an evil manager. For the
undergrad who accidentally gives the
Dean's dog four tabs of LSD and the
dog wanders off. For the grad student
who's started a dating service and
gotten in trouble with the local
pimp. I'm all about inventing
solutions to your problems. Who am
I? I'm - Bobby Barnes: The Private
Eye for the Little Guy.

The class rises as one and CHEERS.

SHERI hears the door behind her CLICK. She turns to BARNES who looks at her with eyes seeking approval.

SHERI
This is crazy.

BOBBY BARNES
Could be fun.

SHERI
You're not exactly the 9-to-5 type?

BOBBY BARNES
I'm sorry you had to post bail.

SHERI
I don't exactly know what the plan
is here. I don't even know if it's
legal. But if you want it...I
believe in you.

BARNES wraps her in his arms.

BOBBY BARNES (V.O.)
Plato also wrote: Love is a serious
mental disease.

END PILOT