

WISH I WAS HERE

Written by

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FIRST DRAFT

IN BLACK:

The SOUND OF A MAN PANTING... FOOTSTEPS racing, TWIGS SNAPPING underfoot... His breath is heavy to feed his pace.

1 INT. FOREST - MORNING 1

TIGHT on AIDAN BLOOM (35) as he sprints through the ethereal morning fog of a BEAUTIFUL FOREST. He wears a FUTURISTIC SPACE SUIT and HELMET and clutches a WARRIOR'S BROAD SWORD in his fist. He squints his eyes as he looks back at SOMETHING unseen and ominous that's CHASING HIM.

Aidan hears a NOISE. He looks up to see A SMALL FLYING ROBOTIC UNIT hovering alongside him. It beeps like R2D2 as if to say "It's gaining on us!"

AIDAN's FRANTIC FACE; he's sprinting with every ounce of energy he has when...

LITTLE BOY (O.S.)
Dad, what's your password?

ON AIDAN: Where the fuck did that come from? TUCKER BLOOM (6) shirtless and carrying an electric drill and an ipad steps out from behind a GIANT REDWOOD.

TUCKER
Dad! What's your password?!

Aidan stops abruptly and stares at his son; confused.

2 INT. BLOOM HOUSE KITCHEN TABLE - MORNING 2

ON AIDAN'S FACE: the CAMERA PULLS BACK QUICKLY to reveal Aidan at the head of his family's chaotic morning breakfast routine. The TV plays EARSPLITTING CARTOONS. Aidan's wife SARAH BLOOM (33) chops carrots for lunches in the background.

TUCKER
Dad!!!???

AIDAN
I have no fucking idea!

TUCKER
Swear jar.

AIDAN
Fuck the swear jar.

SARAH

Aidan.

AIDAN

I'm sorry, but fuck the swear jar.

TUCKER

(singing)

You gotta fuck the swear jar...

SARAH

Tucker! Stop. The password is
1,2,3,4.

(to Aidan)

What are you doing?

AIDAN

The swear jar is full. Look at it.

We see an OVERFLOWING SWEAR JAR on top of the refrigerator.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

The swear jar is all the money we
have to send you kids to college so
you should be happy that I curse so
that you and your sister can one
day blow off class and pull bong
hits in your dorm room.

TUCKER

What's a bong?

AIDAN

It's a type of vase.

TUCKER

What's a vase?

AIDAN

A bong for flowers.

GRACE (12) enters. She is dressed in all black with long
sleeves and a skirt that goes down to her ankles.

GRACE

I heard you, dad. Rabbi Perlman
says cursing is for the weak
minded.

AIDAN

Yeah well Rabbi Perlman's breath
makes God question why he even
bothered creating the universe.

GRACE
If you can curse we all can curse.

AIDAN
Fine.

GRACE
Hairy balls.

SARAH
Gracie!

AIDAN
Wow! I did not see that coming. Way
to dive in.

Tucker holds up the ipad to show a GORGEOUS FERRARI.

TUCKER
Dad, we need this car.

AIDAN
We're not getting a Ferrari, but
right now you can curse.

TUCKER
Fuck and tits.

AIDAN
Went for kind of a combo there, I
like it.

TUCKER
This Ferrari is the coolest car in
the whole universe.

AIDAN
It amazes me how clueless you
people seem to be about our
financial situation. Do you want me
to sell the minivan?

Yes!

TUCKER

Yes!

GRACE

AIDAN (CONT'D)
Well I'm not going to. It has more
beverage caddies than any other
embarrassing car in its class.

TUCKER
That's fucking bullshit!

AIDAN

Ask the Rabbis, that's what we're paying them for.

SARAH

You have to talk to your father today, Aidan. He still hasn't paid this semesters tuition.

AIDAN

Uhhh, I hate talking to him about money. When was it due?

SARAH

A month ago. They're threatening to kick them out if they don't get a check by the end of the week.

AIDAN

Ok. I'll talk to him today.

Aidan backs the car out of the driveway.

SARAH

(calling out)

Avoid the rabbis if you see them!

AIDAN

(with a smile)

I always do!

They pull away.

4

INT. MINIVAN - MOMENTS LATER

4

An AMAZING SONG plays on the car stereo as Tucker struggles to redress his *tzitzit* under his shirt in the moving car.

AIDAN

You need help gearing up back there, *Yentl*?

TUCKER

Don't call me *Yentl*.

GRACE

You can call me *Yentl*. I love that movie.

AIDAN

Unfortunately we know.

GRACE
 (singing)
Papa can you hear me?

AIDAN
 Please don't do that.

She reaches for the stereo.

AIDAN (CONT'D)
 If you change this song I will eat
 your fingers off.

GRACE
 The boys get to do all the cool
 things to honor Hashem. I won't get
 to do anything remotely cool until
 I buy my *sheitel*.

AIDAN
Sheitel? What's that again?

GRACE
 It's a modesty wig. When I get
 married I'll shave my head and wear
 a wig for the rest of my life. That
 way only my husband will find me
 pretty.

AIDAN
 No offense, but that's the weirdest
 tradition I've ever heard. And it
 wouldn't even work on you. You're
 so pretty, you'd look even prettier
 with a shaved head. It'll defeat
 the whole purpose.

Grace can't help but smile at that. Aidan sees something.

AIDAN (CONT'D)
 You've got to be fucking kidding
 me.

GRACE
 What?

He pulls the car over. A LARGE CONCRETE RETAINING WALL near
 their home has been covered with GRAFFITI. It appears to be a
 1950'S ERA ROBOT.

TUCKER
 Who did that?

AIDAN

A douchebag that's who. And you know what? That's gonna be there for years! The city's bankrupt; they're never gonna get around to covering that up.

GRACE

Dad, we're gonna be late for morning prayers.

Aidan shakes his head and floors the minivan down the street.

5 INT. MINIVAN / EXT. YESHIVA - MOMENTS LATER

5

The minivan door flies open in front of a *Yeshiva* (a very religious Jewish private school). Conservative looking parents and their children intermingle with RABBIS in full regalia (black suits, hats, long curled sideburns.)

AIDAN

Wait Tucker, come back here...

Aidan leans into the back seat to tuck in Tucker's shirt and make sure his *tzitzit* are hanging correctly.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

We don't want you to get in trouble like last time. And stop chewing on those knots like you're a Rottweiler; these things are expensive.

(then)

The drill.

Tucker pulls the electric drill from his backpack.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

Good. Now go be Jewish.

TUCKER

Why?

AIDAN

I'm not sure; ask the Rabbis.

The second the door closes Aidan digs into his ash tray to pull out a half-smoked joint. He lights it as he pulls away.

KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK! Aidan whips his head to reveal RABBI ROSENBERG in full Orthodox regalia with the addition of a NEON ORANGE CROSSING GUARD VEST knocking on his window.

Aidan quickly stabs out the roach and rolls down the window.

RABBI ROSENBERG
Shalom, Mr. Bloom.

AIDAN
Shalom, Rabbi Rosenberg.

RABBI ROSENBERG
Mr. Bloom, Rabbi Twersky would like to see you in his office if you have a moment.

AIDAN
Oh, you know, today I really can't. Today, believe it or not, a moment is not something I have. Even for a man as mighty and all-knowing as Rabbi Twersky. I'm gonna have to take a rain-check.

RABBI ROSENBERG
Speaking of rain, as you know every year to celebrate the holiday of *Tu Bishvat* we ask the children to donate money to have a tree planted in Israel.

AIDAN
Yeah I heard about that. But when you think about it, how many trees do they really need over there, Rabbi? Besides, I gave like a forest at my Bar Mitzvah. Right now I need to focus on my own little holy-land over in Reseda. You know; times being what they are...

RABBI ROSENBERG
Which is why, Mr. Bloom, we encourage the children to plant a seedling in their own backyard.

Rabbi Rosenberg leans down and pulls a completely DEAD EVERGREEN SEEDLING out of a cardboard box.

RABBI ROSENBERG (CONT'D)
You never picked up your seedling, Mr. Bloom.

He hands it through the car window.

AIDAN

Wow, thank you. I'm gonna go do some CPR on this thing the second I have absolutely nothing to do.

RABBI ROSENBERG

Just try not to smoke it.

He gives Aidan a wry smile.

AIDAN

Funny. Clever. Have any of the other rabbis told you that you look very sexy in neon.

RABBI ROSENBERG

Talk to Rabbi Twersky about the tuition; don't make it uncomfortable for the children.

(beat)

Times being what they are...

AIDAN

Right.

RABBI ROSENBERG

(big smile)

Baruch Hashem.

AIDAN

Yeah, bless God... bless everybody.

On Aidan's face as he pulls away...

6 INT. MINIVAN - MOMENTS LATER

6

Aidan pulls the minivan over to the side of the road. He stares at something off-screen. He shakes his head.

AIDAN

(to himself)

There were three gunshots. There were three gunshots. One. Two. Three.

He speeds off. The camera pans 180 degrees to REVEAL he was staring at the GRAFFITI COVERED RETAINING WALL.

7 INT. HARDWARE STORE - DAY

7

Aidan, still in his suit, fills a shopping cart with painting supplies: a paint roller on a long pole, paint cans, etc.

AIDAN
 (to himself)
 We've heard that from you time and
 time again over the many weeks that
 we've been assembled here.

A CONTRACTOR passes and stares at Aidan talking to himself.

8 EXT. CONCRETE RETAINING WALL - LATER 8

INSERT: THE ROBOT'S FACE on the wall as a paint roller rolls over his body erasing him forever into the grey nothingness of municipal infrastructure.

WE POP BACK TO REVEAL: Aidan, stripped down to an undershirt, but with his suit pants still on; painting over the graffiti.

AIDAN
 And now you have the audacity to
 insult everyone in this room by
 saying they might not have been
 gunshots?

Aidan takes a step back to admire his work. He turns to his REFLECTION in the minivan window.

AIDAN (CONT'D)
 (to himself in reflection)
 What were they then, Mr. Ortega?

He raises his fingers in the shape of a gun at his reflection and pulls his pointer finger trigger.

AIDAN (CONT'D)
 BANG!

9 INT. CASTING AGENCY, WAITING ROOM - LATER 9

A WIDE SHOT reveals Aidan sitting amongst a room full of AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN dressed in sharp suits.

CLOSE UP on one of the ACTORS.

AFRICAN AMERICAN ACTOR
 (to himself)
 BANG!

CLOSE UP on a SECOND ACTOR holding his finger gun sideways.

AFRICAN AMERICAN ACTOR 2
 BANG!

10

INT. AUDITION ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

10

CLOSE ON AIDAN. Through this speech WE PULL BACK TO REVEAL the SIX PRODUCERS behind a desk watching him.

AIDAN

(He does this well:)

Three bangs you said. Bang, bang, bang. This entire case is dependant on your testimony that on the night of January 7th, outside your food truck you heard three shots. Well now Mr. Ortega, you only have one shot. One shot to tell us who has threatened you with a retribution so terrifying that you'd be willing to change your entire testimony and let an assassin free to hunt down more little boys like Anthony Jackson. You've got a cross around your neck... I ask you, sir... How many "bangs" did Jesus hear?

REVEAL the bewildered expressions on the faces of the Producers. A few whisper to each other.

WE SEE A CLOSE-UP of Aidan's nervous vulnerability through the MONITOR of the CAMCORDER FILMING his audition.

CASTING DIRECTOR

Aidan, that was very good as always. But we asked you to come in for the other role; Mr. Ortega.

AIDAN

Yeah, I know. And thank you for calling me in... but that role only has one line. And plus... Ortega is Hispanic. I mean don't get me wrong, I could tan and really go for it; but I really feel like I got a solid handle on this prosecutor.

CASTING DIRECTOR

Aidan we've already decided to go Black with that role. You probably noticed that you were the only white person in the waiting room. And truthfully we're only seeing those men out of courtesy. We just offered the role to Taye Diggs and he's accepted.

AIDAN

Oh. Wow. I feel really stupid now.
I'm just trying to be as proactive
as possible.

CASTING DIRECTOR

I understand. We'd still love you
to read Mr. Ortega's line...

AIDAN

Oh... yeah... sure. I mean I get
it... If you're going Black, you're
going Black. I can get Ortega tan,
but certainly not Taye Diggs tan...
Unless I had those pills *C. Thomas
Howell* ate in the movie "Soul Man".
Did you ever see that movie?

They stare at him. One PRODUCER puts his head in his hand.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

Well don't. It's totally racist. Or
maybe it isn't. I don't know. Maybe
I only think it's racist cause I'm
white and I feel guilty laughing.
Ask Taye on set. I'm sure Taye's
seen it.

CASTING DIRECTOR

We're ready when you are Aidan.

Aidan takes a deep breath. Shakes the stress out of his body.

AIDAN

(Bad Hispanic accent)

For the last time, I no longer
think that what I heard were
gunshots. Probably just a car
backfiring.

CASTING DIRECTOR

Thank you, Aidan.

OFF AIDAN'S DEFEATED HALF SMILE...

11

INT. MINIVAN - DAY

11

Aidan blasts a GREAT SONG as he flies down the freeway. His
face shows his misery.

AIDAN

Fuck!!!

12

INT. BLOOM HOUSE - AIDAN'S OFFICE - LATER

12

Aidan masturbates while standing to a PORN CLIP on his computer screen. His monitor hides the action.

GIRL IN PORNO (O.S.)

Yeah, you like that? Fuck me harder with that thick Black cock!

VOICE (O.S.)

Catch you at a bad time?

Aidan whips around in shock to reveal his father, SAUL BLOOM (75) he is eating peanuts out of a jar.

AIDAN

Dad, what the fuck?!

GIRL IN PORNO (O.S.)

Yeah, hit me with it. Hit me in the head with it.

Aidan scrambles to stop the VIDEO. Saul seems unfazed.

SAUL

You know Genesis tells us to never spill our seed.

AIDAN

Why would Phil Collins care if I masturbate?

SAUL

The book of the Bible, not the music group.

AIDAN

I'm equally uninterested in what either has to say.

SAUL

Trouble in the bedroom, Aidan? Men have man-needs. Those man-needs need to be met or you end up taking things into your own hands.

AIDAN

Dad, why haven't you paid the yeshiva tuition? I've got aggro rabbis stalking me in crosswalks. It's like an Orthodox Zombie movie.

SAUL
 We need to talk. But can you please
 clean yourself up? I can't talk to
 you with your pants at your ankles.
 I'll meet you outside.

AIDAN
 Fine.

Saul starts to leave, then turns back.

SAUL
 You're not going to return to
 masturbating are you?

AIDAN
 No! Dad, get out!

SAUL
 Ok. Cause I have to be at the
 hospital at five and I don't wanna
 get stuck in traffic on the 101.

AIDAN
 Dad, get out!

He does. Aidan shakes his head; incredulous. Then turns back
 to the monitor, thinks about it for a beat, then hits play
 and continues masturbating.

GIRL IN PORNO (O.S.)
 It's so much! It's so much!

13 EXT. BLOOM HOUSE - DECK - LATER

13

Aidan dries his hands with a dish towel as he crosses to find
 his father standing at the precipice of a HALF-FINISHED DECK.
 The frame has been laid for something much larger, but the
 boards have only been installed on half of it. A GOLDEN
 RETRIEVER (KUGEL) takes a giant shit in the corner of the
 deck.

SAUL
 Kugel, no.
 (to Aidan)
 Sorry, I know you can't stand the
 dog; he's usually so well trained.

AIDAN
 If you trained that dog to shit
 everywhere but the lawn, then
 you've done an incredible job.

SAUL
Deck looks good.

AIDAN
Was that sarcasm or serious? I
couldn't tell.

SAUL
I guess it was half-sarcastic; for
the half that isn't finished.
(then)
And you better have that fence
fixed before it falls on one of the
kids.

AIDAN
Well as I'm sure you know quite
well by now, Dad; we don't have any
money. Sarah's working her ass off,
I'm auditioning every chance I get,
but I haven't gotten a decent check
since that dandruff commercial.

SAUL
And ironically you still have
dandruff.

AIDAN
What is going on with the kids'
tuition? We had a deal; you said
you'd cover it if you got to pick
the school. You got your wish.
they're going to the Yeshiva; you
get to have your brainwashed
grandkids. But come on; you can't
make me hound you for these checks.

SAUL
The cancer's back, Aidan.

AIDAN
Oh my God.

SAUL
I didn't want you to worry you
until I knew for sure...

AIDAN
But now you do.

SAUL
Now I do and it's pretty bad.

AIDAN
How bad is pretty bad?

SAUL
It's all over my lungs.

AIDAN
Oh my God.

SAUL
Funny how even you atheists call
for Hashem when there's nowhere
else to turn.

AIDAN
Once again, I'm an agnostic not an
atheist; I'll believe it when I see
it.

SAUL
Well you may just have a chance.
I've decided to try an experimental
drug trial. They're trying this new
protocol that's shown some very
promising results but I'm gonna
have to pay out of pocket.

AIDAN
So...

SAUL
So I can't afford the school
anymore, Aidan. I'm down to my last
savings and I've decided to spend
it on this. So you win.

AIDAN
My father has cancer, my kids have
to drop out of school and I don't
have a job. How am I winning?

SAUL
God works in mysterious ways.

AIDAN
This one's particularly mysterious.

SAUL
Look I'm gonna be layed up for
awhile. I'm gonna need you to watch
Kugel.

Aidan has to sit down to catch his breath.

AIDAN

Okay, slow down. This is a lot of horrible news at once...

(then)

What do we do?

SAUL

What do you mean what do we do? We move forward. It's the only direction God gave us...

OFF AIDAN'S SHOCKED FACE...

14 INT. DARK ROOM - DAY

14

CLOSE UP ON A TWITTER PAGE:

WE SEE that whomever is typing is going through names of famous celebrities and telling them to "FUCK OFF AND DIE" one by one. eg: @tomcruise FUCK OFF AND DIE, @mileycyrus FUCK OFF AND DIE, @davidhasselhoff FUCK OFF AND DIE

A LOUD KNOCK at the door. The CAMERA PULLS BACK FAST to reveal JONAH BLOOM (29) as he whips his head to the door. HE sits hunched over his computer in a tiny dark room.

AIDAN (O.S.)

Jonah!

JONAH

Go away!

AIDAN (O.S.)

Dude, I drove all the way out here open the fucking door.

JONAH

What's the password?

AIDAN (O.S.)

Is it "My brother once caught me fucking a *Winnie-the-Pooh* stuffed animal."?

JONAH

It was *Eeyore* and I was eight; fuck off.

AIDAN (O.S.)

Oh, I just remembered the password. It's: "Your father's dying and I need to talk to you.

(MORE)

AIDAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 So take a break from trolling the
 internet for two seconds and open
 the door, you lazy, miserable
 fuck."

Jonah stands and opens the door as BRIGHT SUNLIGHT STREAMS
 into his room to reveal WE ARE:

15 EXT. AIRSTREAM TRAILER - MALIBU TRAILER PARK - CONTINUOUS 15

Jonah lives in a trailer park on a cliff in Malibu. The
 setting is 180 degrees different from his dark lair.

AIDAN
 I knew that was it.
 (an introduction)
 Sunlight, Jonah. Jonah, sunlight.

JONAH
 Is Dad really dying again or are
 you just crying wolf?

AIDAN
 It's all over his lungs, Jonah. The
 wolf is here.

They watch as Kugel takes a shit on a neighbors Astroturf.

AIDAN (CONT'D)
 Kugel!

JONAH
 No, don't stop him. I can't fucking
 stand that guy. We'll call that a
 little thank you gift for doing
 crunches to *Nicky Minaj* at 6am.

AIDAN
 Your can looks good.

JONAH
 You know when you make fun of the
 trailer, you make fun of my
 inheritance from Mom. She wanted me
 to live how I choose. And be free
 to pursue the goals that I have.

AIDAN
 Yeah. What are those goals again?
 Weren't you gonna develop some
 iPhone app or something?

JONAH

Fuck apps; saturated market. I'm gonna start blogging. Get some of that ad revenue. Gonna call it: "Fucking Shit I Fucking Hate."

AIDAN

Sounds like web-crack for the miserable. Look I don't care if you sit in there all day searching the web for strangers to hate. But I have two major problems and one I think you might be able to help me with.

JONAH

What?

AIDAN

Kugel.

JONAH

Fuck off.

AIDAN

I can't watch this dog and take care of two kids and go to auditions, Jonah.

JONAH

Absolutely not.

AIDAN

Dude are you fucking kidding me? You've got a rally with me. This is your father we're talking about.

JONAH

So when you get old and sick everyone's just supposed to forget that you were an asshole?

AIDAN

Look, I know he's not easy. He lost it a little when Mom died. We all did. It's time to move on.

JONAH

What's the other one?

AIDAN

What?

JONAH

You said there were two problems.
I'll help with the one that's not
that dog.

AIDAN

The other one's that Dad's gonna
try an experimental treatment this
time. He can't afford the yeshiva
for the kids anymore.

JONAH

Mazel Tov.

AIDAN

Well, they're not going to
Jefferson. It's ranked one of the
worst in the state.

JONAH

Just because you had it rough
doesn't mean they will.

AIDAN

I didn't have it rough.

JONAH

Whatever you need to tell yourself.
Sounds like you got your hands
full, buddy. Live long and prosper.

AIDAN

Are you serious?

JONAH

I have to go back to work. Don't
you dare leave that dog.

He goes back inside. Aidan waits a beat then quietly ties the
dog to a nearby shaded tree. He tosses out a neighbor's
plant, fills the pot with water and sets it beside Kugel.

SARAH (O.S.)

Can I say something that's probably
going to piss you off?

16

INT. VIDEO RENTAL STORE - DAY

16

Aidan, Sarah, Grace and Tucker stroll the aisles. They are
the only ones in the store. The shelves are almost barren.

AIDAN

I can't wait.

SARAH

You could home school them.

AIDAN

Are you out of your fucking mind?

SARAH

I thought we were discussing all options. You're a stay-at-home-dad; is home schooling not one of our options?

AIDAN

What are we fucking Amish?

SARAH

Look online there's a whole new movement out there. Parents are considering other options.

(then)

Think about how well you'd get to know the kids.

AIDAN

I know the kids just fine.

TUCKER

Dad, can we get this?

Aidan looks at it. It looks like soft-core porn.

AIDAN

There's tits right on the cover of the box, man. Why would I rent this for you?

TUCKER

It's about nurses.

AIDAN

I see that. Go look for some animated bullshit. Who's that Hispanic chick you like who's always up in everybody's business?

SARAH

Dora. He hates Dora.

TUCKER

I hate Dora.

AIDAN

Well go find something that doesn't have tits on the cover, man.

(MORE)

AIDAN (CONT'D)

Come on, you want me to get arrested?

(beat, to Sarah)

If you want me to give up acting you should just say it.

SARAH

I think you should give up acting.

AIDAN

I'm not giving up acting.

SARAH

We can't afford private, you're afraid of the public school...

AIDAN

I am not "afraid"! There was that bullying-related suicide at the school and I am a concerned parent. But if you're fine with them killing themselves, let's go check it out.

They have arrived at the counter. Aidan gives the YOUNG CLERK (21) the movies. The clerk is surprised to see them.

CLERK

What are you doing in here?

AIDAN

What are you talking about? We've been members here for 10 years.

CLERK

Oh... yeah, we're closed down, man. Sorry, we're just loading what's left into boxes. Sorry I didn't see you or I would have told you we're out of business. Don't you have *Netflix*?

SARAH

We can't afford *Netflix*; my husband's an actor.

CLERK

Oh, I feel you. As of tomorrow I'm outta work too. The fucking future, man... it's kind of fucking us all. You can just take those though; nobody will care.

(MORE)

CLERK (CONT'D)

I don't even think we've ever
rented this one:
"Serving Your Man, the Hasidic
Way."

Aidan takes the DVD case out of the clerks hand and WINGS it
frisbee style across the store.

AIDAN

No more Yeshiva. Tomorrow your
mother and I are taking you on a
tour of the public school.

17 INT. PUBLIC SCHOOL - DAY

17

Aidan, Sarah, Grace and Tucker enter to find a BIZARRELY
GORGEOUS school. It's perfect: clean, beautifully lit, the
kids are out of a movie. Is it a dream?

A VERY HANDSOME STUDENT (14) comes towards them SINGING HIS
HEART OUT to a DANCE TRACK.

HANDSOME STUDENT

(singing)

*We're breaking all of the rules! Oh
yeah we're breaking all of the
rules...*

SIX INCREDIBLY FIT DANCERS join behind him and dance in
beautiful seductive unison.

HANDSOME STUDENT (CONT'D)

*And we'll do what ever it takes! To
fight Tim's AIDS.*

He stops singing abruptly and looks at the Blooms.

HANDSOME STUDENT (CONT'D)

Who the hell are you?

VOICE (O.S.)

And Cut!

WE REVEAL that the Blooms have wandered into a film shoot
taking place at the school. WE NOW NOTICE: crew members,
lights, cameras.

AIDAN

Oh, sorry. We're looking for the...
school.

An ASSISTANT DIRECTOR wearing a headset rushes over.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
 Sorry, Johnny. We'll get these
 people out of here right away.

JOHNNY
 You gotta lock this place up, man.
 I got an NA meeting in 15 minutes.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
 Yes, our fault. Sorry.

JOHNNY
 Stay in school, kids.

GRACE
 We're trying.

JOHNNY
 Praise Jesus.

GRACE
 We're not allowed to.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
 (to Aidan)
 Hello. As you can see we're filming
 here today. Can I help you with
 something?

AIDAN
 You guys need any extra background
 help today? Maybe a young, well-
 liked teacher... I got a corduroy
 jacket with elbow patches in my
 car.

SARAH
 Aidan!

AIDAN
 (to AD)
 Can you direct us to the
 principal's office please?

18 INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

18

MRS. LUIS, AFRICAN AMERICAN (40's) sits behind her desk.

MRS. LUIS
 I wished you'd called ahead. We've
 switched to a four day school week.
 (MORE)

MRS. LUIS (CONT'D)

Cause of budget cuts, we rent the school out on Fridays to film shoots.

SARAH

Oh my God, really?

MRS. LUIS

Yeah. Unfortunately a lot of schools are going the four day way. After music, arts, gym and air conditioning, what else are we gonna cut? Math?

SARAH

Mrs. Luis, we can no longer afford to send our kids to the religious private school they've been attending. And as I'm sure you can imagine we have some concerns about them adjusting to the public school way of doing things.

MRS. LUIS

Well I'm not gonna lie to you; this is a really tough time for Los Angeles public schools. The state's virtually bankrupt. The government's blaming the unions, the unions blame the government and in the meantime we're pooling our own money for colored pencils.

(To Grace)

Sweetheart, how many kids are in your math class?

GRACE

Twelve. Twelve in almost all my classes except music. In music there's only 7 of us.

MRS. LUIS

I just want you to manage your expectations. We're not one of the magnet schools; here at Jefferson, Grace's math class would have about 37 children in it. And as I mentioned... music has gone the way of SAT test prep: dead as air-conditioning.

Sarah looks to Aidan...

19 INT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - LATER

19

Aidan maddened; walking quickly toward the car - ahead of the rest of the family...

AIDAN

I'm not giving up my dream, Sarah!

SARAH

Well then what's your plan, Dad?

AIDAN

Grace, what's the Hebrew word for charity again?

GRACE

Tzedakah.

WE HEAR the sounds of an OLDER MAN LAUGHING HYSTERICALLY.

20 INT. RABBI'S OFFICE - DAY

20

Rabbi Rosenberg leads Aidan into this beautifully designed lair. The sound of LAUGHTER continues as Aidan is lead through a narrow passage lined with hundreds of dusty books and Judaic tokens. Shafts of light stream through floor to ceiling stained-glass windows.

They come around the corner to find the ancient RABBI TWERSKY belly laughing at a video he is watching on a laptop.

RABBI ROSENBERG

(in Hebrew)

Rabbi, this is Mr. Bloom.

RABBI TWERSKY

Mr. Bloom, Baruch Hashem. Please have a seat. Do you ever watch these Youtubes?

AIDAN

Uh... yeah, sure.

RABBI TWERSKY

This kitten will not allow his brother to sleep. No matter what. I could watch it over and over again. It's the hardest I've laughed since the movie about the Greek Wedding.

RABBI ROSENBERG
 (in Hebrew)
 Fat Greek Wedding.

RABBI TWERSKY
 Fat Girl With A Greek Wedding.

AIDAN
 I'll have to look that one up.

RABBI TWERSKY
 Mr. Bloom, how can I help you
 today?

AIDAN
 Well Rabbi, as you probably know,
 my father has been paying our
 tuition here at Hillel. Recently he
 has taken ill and it looks like
 he's not going to be able to cover
 us anymore.

RABBI TWERSKY
 I am deeply sorry to hear that.
 Your father is a lovely man. Please
 give him our best.

AIDAN
 Thank you. I will.

RABBI TWERSKY
 So you're withdrawing the children
 from the school?

AIDAN
 Well, no. I'd rather not...

RABBI TWERSKY
 Well, they can't go to school for
 free!

The two Rabbis share a hearty laugh...

AIDAN
 We'd pay you back. It would just be
 for a year or so while we... you
 know, while my wife and I weather-
 out this wintery economic climate.

Rabbi Rosenberg says something to Twersky in Hebrew.

RABBI TWERSKY
 Oh yes; you're the actor.

AIDAN

Yes.

RABBI TWERSKY

And your wife provides for the family while you... act.

AIDAN

Yes.

RABBI TWERSKY

Well as both a Synagogue and Yeshiva, we exist for the community, Mr. Bloom. However, in order to do that, we must also remain a business. I'm sure you understand this.

AIDAN

All I'm asking for is a little...

Aidan looks down at a WORD written in his palm in Sharpie.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

Tzedakah.

Twersky and Rosenberg confer briefly in HEBREW.

RABBI TWERSKY

Mr. Bloom, if you want to buy a gallon of milk when you only have enough money for a glass of milk, you must first take that money from somewhere else. So maybe you decided that this week you will give up honey. You will go "honey-less" in order to afford a larger portion of milk.

AIDAN

I don't even like honey, but go on.

RABBI TWERSKY

If I give you charity, I must take away funds from somewhere else in our limited budget to provide your two children with a free education. So how do I do that? Help me. Who, in this yeshiva, should go without honey so that the Blooms can have a gallon of free milk?

AIDAN

All right, look Rabbi; I'm not a religious man...

RABBI TWERSKY

You don't say. Give me a moment to catch my breath.

AIDAN

But I just don't understand how you can justify not helping out a family in need in your Jewish community. I mean... wouldn't the God that you believe in say that you should help us?

RABBI TWERSKY

God works in mysterious ways.

AIDAN

Yeah, I keep hearing that. I feel like that's what religious people say when they can't figure out what their God is up to.

RABBI TWERSKY

Perhaps God is telling you to stop acting and to get a real job so you can properly provide for your family.

AIDAN

But what about my dream? Doesn't God believe in my "pursuit of happiness"?

RABBI TWERSKY

No, that's the Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson cared about your happiness. God wants you to provide for your family, Mr. Bloom. God believes your family deserves both milk and honey.

Both Rabbis stare down at Aidan. He races out of the office.

21

INT. PRAYER ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

21

Aidan BURSTS into a room full of bobbing and bouncing children reciting Hebrew prayers (divided into BOYS and GIRL sections by a partition). Several Rabbis turn to look...

AIDAN

Oh, so sorry to interrupt. Shalom everybody...

The praying STOPS COLD as all eyes turn to Aidan.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

Hi, I'm Grace and Tucker's dad.
Grace, I need you to come with me please...

On GRACE, mortified as she closes her prayer book and follows Aidan to the other side of the partition to find Tucker chewing his tzit-tzits.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

Tucker! Wake-up. Gotta go bud.

RABBI

Is everything okay, Mr. Bloom?

AIDAN

Just fine.
(to the room)
Once again: sorry to interrupt.
Shalom, mazel tov, sayonara.

He ushers them out.

22

INT. MINI-VAN - LATER

22

Aidan CRANKS an AMAZING SONG as he furiously drives.

GRACE

(through tears)
But I don't want to leave school! I like it there. What about all my friends?!

AIDAN

You're gonna make new friends.
Better friends.

TUCKER

Look, dad. The robot's back.

Aidan looks where Tucker is pointing.

NEW GRAFFITI ON THE SAME WALL HE PAINTED. This time the ROBOT IS SCREAMING IN ANGER! He SLAMS on the brakes!

AIDAN
You've got to be fucking kidding
me.

WE HEAR MACHINE GUN NOISES...

23 INT. BLOOM HOUSE - AIDAN'S OFFICE

23

TIGHT INSERT ON: AN INTERNET BROWSER PAGE where we see the words "CumDumpster.com" get highlighted and replaced with the words "Home Schooling".

AIDAN
Turn that down, Tucker!

Tucker is playing CALL OF DUTY on the plasma TV in the living-room. He stands on the couch BLOWING PEOPLE AWAY on the screen. It is VERY LOUD. The place is littered with toys.

GRACE
He didn't turn it down, dad.

AIDAN
Turn it down, Tucker!

TUCKER
I just gotta kill these guys.

AIDAN
Kill them more quietly.

GRACE
You're not seriously thinking of
home schooling us are you?

AIDAN
We're sort of running out of
options.

TUCKER
I want Dad to teach us.

GRACE
But he doesn't know anything.

AIDAN
What? What are you talking about? I
know a lot of things.

24

INT. MINIVAN - LATER

24

SAUL

You don't know anything. It's a horrible idea. What are you gonna teach them? How to act?

Aidan and the kids drive Saul to his treatment.

AIDAN

There's plenty of web-sites and books, Dad. I'll figure it out. It's only till the end of this school year.

SAUL

Oy. You're gonna stunt their growth! Why aren't you sending them to public school?

AIDAN

Because Sarah and I just don't feel that Jefferson is the kind of environment--

SAUL

Will you listen to yourself? You're burdening them with your fears! Just because you got your ass beat down doesn't mean they will.

TUCKER

You got beat up, Dad?

AIDAN

No.

SAUL

Oh, yes.

SAUL

Tell them the truth...
(to kids)

They picked on him. He was a whatyacallit... a nerd. With his UFO club and the scientific fiction movies. It was only a matter of time.

AIDAN

It was one fight.

SAUL

You marry a non-Jew, you provide your children with absolutely no sense of spirituality or faith in a higher power.

(MORE)

SAUL (CONT'D)

And now, for dessert, you spoon-feed them all your fears. What a mess, Aidan. Never make a decision based on fear, children. You must choose to be brave.

(to Aidan)

If you're not going to raise them with the comfort of faith at least teach them that.

(then)

Tucker. What's the capital of Missouri?

TUCKER

Cock-town.

SAUL

This is gonna be a disaster.

25 EXT. SNOW COVERED BEACH - FANTASY

25

AIDAN and JAX (the flying robotic unit) race along a barren snow-covered beach until they encounter a vertical cliff that's impossible to climb. ON Aidan's face in terror.

WIDEN TO REVEAL a SHADOWY CLOAKED FIGURE is gaining on them about 50 yards down the beach. He limps like a MAN IN PAIN.

Suddenly, JAX robotically unfolds two handles from either side of his unit and BEEPS at Aidan. Aidan, confused, quickly grabs hold of the handles as JAX RISES INTO THE AIR LIFTING AIDAN UP THE FACE OF THE CLIFF. Aidan exhales with elation. Saved for the moment... then from JAX'S speaker:

JAX

(a sexy woman's voice)

Do you wanna spank this ass?

AIDAN

What???

26 INT. BLOOM HOUSE - AIDAN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

26

Aidan snaps to in front of one of his porn sites. A PORN GIRL IN A VIDEO is the source of the question.

PORN GIRL

Do you wanna spank this ass?

Aidan quickly closes the porn window.

27

EXT. BLOOM HOUSE - LATER

27

Grace is riding her bike on the driveway when JESSE (12) rides up on his skateboard.

GRACE

Hi Jesse.

JESSE

Hi, Grace.

GRACE

How come you're not in school?

JESSE

Bomb scare. How 'bout you?

GRACE

We're gonna be home-schooled.

JESSE

Are you Amish?

GRACE

No, we're Jewish. We just can't afford private school anymore.

JESSE

But I thought Jews ran Hollywood.

GRACE

I don't know. Maybe we're in the wrong tribe or something. It's just till the end of the year. I'm going to Roosevelt for 6th grade.

NEW ANGLE ON Aidan hearing this conversation FROM HIS OFFICE. He rolls his chair to the window and takes in the sight of a hip, friendly kid (in shorts and a t-shirt) beside his daughter in her ankle length frock.

JESSE

Me too!

GRACE

Really?

JESSE

Yeah.

(then)

Hey, so at the end of the year my sister always has this big pool party. It's usually pretty awesome... Do you want to come?

GRACE

No thanks.

JESSE

Why not? It's fun.

GRACE

I don't know how to swim. I don't even have a bathing suit anymore.

JESSE

How come?

GRACE

God says that a woman should keep her body covered up.

Aidan frowns...

JESSE

Oh. Well, you don't have to swim. I'll hang with you. It'll probably be mostly her friends anyways.

GRACE

I'm not sure.

JESSE

Okay. I guess you got a few months if you change your mind.

GRACE

Ok, I guess I'll see you later.

Jesse skates off; Aidan comes out through the garage.

AIDAN

What's wrong with you? Why did you push him away like that? He could be your first new friend!

GRACE

I don't want him as my friend! I want to be with my old friends!

Tucker rides up on his bicycle.

AIDAN

Ok look you guys. I don't like this anymore than you do, but for a little while, until we figure out some things, I'm gonna be teaching you here at home.

TUCKER
Are we gonna learn Hebrew?

AIDAN
Uh no.

TUCKER
Yes!

Tucker humps the air in celebration.

GRACE
Well, who is going to lead us in morning prayers.

AIDAN
Oh... uh. Guess what? You don't have to pray anymore. God called. He said, "enough already, you're welcome".

GRACE
That's not funny, Dad.

AIDAN
Okay. How can I put this? God... hasn't given us any money to pay for "God School". So God... is gonna have to have Grace and Tucker sit out praising him for a quick beat while we figure out how to live in the real world.

GRACE
So we're just supposed to stay here... and you're our teacher?

AIDAN
Exactly. It's gonna be great.

OFF Aidan's worried look...

28 INT. BLOOM HOUSE, BATHROOM - NIGHT

28

Aidan and Sarah do their getting ready for bed rituals.

AIDAN
Any chance of us having sex tonight? I need to know if I should floss.

SARAH

I'm really not in the mood, babe.
I'm sorry.

AIDAN

I guess on the plus side, I don't
have to floss.

SARAH

So you all ready for your first
day?

AIDAN

I guess. How hard could it be? I
know all the stuff they're
learning. It's not like they're in
law-school or anything.

SARAH

Ok, just don't let them boss you
around. You gotta make sure they
get a clear sense of when it's
school time and when it's playing
around time.

AIDAN

Sarah, I got this. I'm an actor.
I'm just gonna play the part of
teacher.

ON Sarah doing her best to look confident.

29

INT. BLOOM HOUSE, LIVINGROOM - DAY

29

The room has been cleaned up. Grace sits with perfect posture awaiting her father's lesson. Aidan wears the corduroy jacket with elbow patches he mentioned earlier and has taped pieces of white paper over the plasma TV to act as a makeshift blackboard. Tucker is shirtless and sits upside down on his head with a *pixie-stick* dangling from his lips.

AIDAN

Okay. We'll start with attendance.
Grace?

GRACE

Here.

AIDAN

Tucker?

TUCKER

Cock and balls.

AIDAN

We'll take that as a "here". Ok. Now the computer program thingy frankly is a little confusing, so I'm gonna have to have your mother help me figure that out when she gets home. In the meantime, we're gonna focus on what you're doing in school. So, Grace; what are you working on in math these days?

GRACE

Geometry.

AIDAN

Great. Great. I'm gonna let you in on a little secret: you're never gonna need that in real life.

GRACE

Then why do I have to learn it?

AIDAN

I have no idea. In case you wanna be a math teacher or something. Also there's no "R" in the word *colonel*, but I'm getting ahead of myself.

GRACE

What about for the SAT's?

AIDAN

Yeah, geometry's probably on there, good thinking. So far my grade for you is A. Now let's dive in.

He draws a triangle.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

Ok, what is this?

TUCKER

TRIANGLE!!!!

AIDAN

Okay, good. No extra points for yelling, but correct.

TUCKER

Yay! Recess!!!!

AIDAN

No, not recess yet. Can you please sit on your ass and not your head?

TUCKER

An ass is a donkey.

AIDAN

Yes. Currently I'm giving you an A in biology.

TUCKER

An ass has an ass.

AIDAN

These are facts.

GRACE

Dad, I'm in 6th grade. We're working on things like supplementary and complementary angles, determining the areas of three dimensional shapes, circumferences...

AIDAN

Of course... I'm getting there. This one was for him.

TUCKER

Dad, I have to take a *choom*!

AIDAN

What's a *choom*?

TUCKER

It's how we say shit in school.

AIDAN

Swear jar.

TUCKER

I don't have any money.

AIDAN

See that's where the whole swear jar thing falls apart for me.

GRACE

It's Hebrew for *brown*.

AIDAN

Oh. Got it. See; we're all learning. You are free to leave the classroom for your *brown*. Enjoy.

Tucker runs out of the room.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

Ok, Grace. Is this triangle complimentary or supplementary?

GRACE

A triangle can't be complimentary or supplementary. Only the angles that comprise it can be judged that way.

Grace stands and takes the sharpie out of Aidan's hand and begins making perfect notations on the triangle on the "plasma blackboard" as she speaks. Aidan slowly sits down where she was sitting.

GRACE (CONT'D)

The triangle you drew, albeit poorly, is *isosceles*, meaning at least two of it's sides are equal in length.

AIDAN

(totally lost)

Okay wait so then what's the whole complimentary thing? They're just lines; why are they so impressed with one another?

GRACE

Two angles are complimentary if they add up to 90 degrees. For example, what angle is complimentary to a 45 degree angle?

AIDAN

(now the student)

A 45 degree angle?

GRACE

Good. Now a supplementary angle...

We begin to notice that SOLDIERS have appeared behind the white pieces of paper on the plasma and are now shooting guns at the isosceles triangle.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Tucker!

Reveal Tucker has the XBOX REMOTE and is attacking the triangle with his "Call of Duty" troops.

TUCKER

I lied about having to *choom*, Dad.
I just wanted to kill the triangle.

AIDAN

Turn that off; we're in the middle
of a lesson!

TUCKER

I was pretending the triangle was
Arab.

AIDAN

Oh my God. Who told you that? Not
all Arabs are bad.

TUCKER

Levi Goldfarb said all Arabs want
to kill Jews.

AIDAN

No they don't.

TUCKER

Well how do we know which one's are
bad?

AIDAN

(flustered)
Well for starters there's Al
Qaeda...

GRACE

The Black weatherman?

AIDAN

No that's Al Roker.

TUCKER

Oh no; Grace is the teacher?!

AIDAN

Yes.

TUCKER

Grace is so boring!

GRACE

No I'm not!

AIDAN

Ok, both of you stop.

SAUL
My father and I talked baseball.

AIDAN
Well, I'm sorry. Was there good...
bunting?

SAUL
Let's just move on.

AIDAN
Fine. You okay if I pick you up
after your treatment today? I've
got an audition.

SAUL
This auditioning... When are you
gonna give that up?

AIDAN
I don't know, Dad. Not yet.

SAUL
But you can hardly call yourself
head of the household. I know it's
2012, but in my time a man would
rather die than let his wife work
her fingers to the bone while he
clowns around.

AIDAN
Sarah loves her job, Dad. She's
living her dream. Don't forget
that. Everybody's happy.

31 INT. SARAH'S WORKPLACE - DAY

31

Cubicle hell. We have no idea what they do here. But they do
it in a windowless, grey, fluorescent-lit green-ness.

Sarah shares her cubicle with JERRY (31). She is typing on
her computer. He stares at her.

JERRY
You know... sometimes, when I
forget to wear underwear... I get
these little half-boners.

She looks up from her screen but not at him.

JERRY (CONT'D)
It's like a wannabee boner. An
aspirational boner.
(MORE)

JERRY (CONT'D)

(a high pitched voice)

"One day, I'll be a full boner...
one day..."

(beat)

That was the half-boner talking. I
was doing his voice.

SARAH

I figured that out, Jerry. Would
you mind not talking? I've got a
shit ton of work to do.

JERRY

Shit-ton, huh. That's a lot of
shit. You want a back massage?

SARAH

No thank you.

JERRY

Just the shoulders maybe? Something
with a light touch? Almost a
tickle?

SARAH

No.

JERRY

I keep oils in my car...

SARAH

(tight whisper)

Will you please shut the fuck up!?
You are so fucking inappropriate.
This isn't a frat house, it's a
place of business.

JERRY

Ok, easy Jane Fonda. I'm just
trying to have some fun at work.

SARAH

I don't wanna know about your dick.

JERRY

Well he doesn't want to know about
you either.

(beat)

Now we're ignoring you.

(beat)

Me and my penis are giving you the
silent treatment.

(as penis)

"I wanna talk to her."

(MORE)

JERRY (CONT'D)
 (normal voice)
 No, we're ignoring her.

OFF Sarah's misery...

32

EXT. BLOOM HOUSE DECK - LATER

32

Tucker has built a fort on the unfinished side of the deck.

AIDAN
 Alright Tucker, c'mon; time for school.

TUCKER
 I'm building this. I don't want to.

AIDAN
 I don't care what you want; you have to study something. You're gonna have to get a job one day.

TUCKER
 Uncle Jonah doesn't have a job. He gets to play video games.

AIDAN
 Yeah, well. You don't wanna be like Uncle Jonah. He's sad all the time. And he has to take medicine that's supposed to make him happy but it doesn't really seem to work. Don't you think he might be happier if he did something with his life?

TUCKER
 I'm gonna be a fort builder. Here, I drew this.

He slides out a CRAYON DRAWING he has made of an AMAZING TREE-HOUSE- STYLE FORT. (A kid's dream.)

AIDAN
 Wow, this is really cool. But to be a fort builder you gotta know math and how to read and stuff.

TUCKER
 No I don't. I just built this one.

Aidan has an idea.

AIDAN

Tucker how many pillows are in your fort?

TUCKER

One, two, three, four.

AIDAN

If I go get you another one, how many will you have in your fort now?

TUCKER

One, two, three, four, five.

On Aidan's face... this is working. Suddenly SCREAMS from the house. Aidan runs inside, Tucker a step behind.

GRACE

Tucker, you asshole! Dad, look what he did to my dolls!

33

INT. GRACE'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

33

Aidan opens the door with Tucker and Grace next to him to reveal Tucker has created a bacchanal-like doll orgy using Grace's *JEWISH AMERICAN GIRL DOLLS*.

GRACE

Dad! Look what he did to my Jewish American Dolls!

AIDAN

Oh my God.
(noticing)
Is that...

GRACE

Winona Ryder and Ruth Bader-Ginsberg!!

AIDAN

Tucker, who taught you this? What do you think those dolls are doing?

TUCKER

Wrestling like you and mommy.

AIDAN

What?!

TUCKER

You know how you and mommy
sometimes naked wrestle late at
night?

AIDAN

Uhhh... It's been a long time since
we naked wrestled, but yes?

TUCKER

Well one time you woke me so I
watched to see who won.

AIDAN

Oh my God.

TUCKER

It was funny when you pretended to
have a gun.

AIDAN

What?!

TUCKER

You yelled, "I'm gonna shoot!"

AIDAN

I need to sit down.

GRACE

I hate you so much you stupid baby!

Grace pushes Tucker.

TUCKER

I'm not a baby! I hate you too and
you dress like an old lady!

Grace looks down at her dress and starts to cry. Tucker
rushes over and starts kicking the dolls all over the room.

TIGHT SLOW MOTION SHOT OF DOLL FACES FLYING THROUGH THE AIR

GRACE

Dad! Stop him.

On Aidan frozen; he's completely overwhelmed!

GRACE (CONT'D)

(through tears)

Dad!!

Aidan starts BANGING his fist against the wall. THE SOUND OF
THE BANGING continues into...

34 EXT. MALIBU TRAILER PARK - DAY

34

Jonah opens his trailer door to reveal the source of the LOUD BANGING. There stands JANINE, a cute girl in her mid twenties. She wears a tank-top and what look like the bottom half of a stuffed animal costume: FURRY, PURPLE PANTS.

JANINE

Dude, I know you're a hermit and everything, but if you don't stop that fucking dog from barking I'm gonna roll your trailer off that cliff.

JONAH

Kugel, shut the fuck up.

Kugel quiets down.

JONAH (CONT'D)

Why are you wearing Muppet pants?

JANINE

They're not Muppet pants. I'm working on my outfit for Comic Con.

JONAH

What are you going as, one of Elmo's whores?

JANINE

Wow. You're lucky that's a little bit funny or I'd be offended. It's a character I created myself.

JONAH

You're a Furry?

JANINE

I hate that term, I'm a character designer of full size plush toys.

JONAH

So you're a furry.

JANINE

I'm not into the kinky shit. I just like dressing up as someone else.

JONAH

Something else.

JANINE

Something else. Do you ever leave this trailer?

JONAH

Are you always so abrasive?

JANINE

Does your trailer always smell like the *Burger King* himself ate *Grimace* and then shit him out all over your living-room?

JONAH

Grimace is in *Ronald McDonald's* posse. Originally introduced in November 1971 as "Evil Grimace". You're mixing up your fast food character lore.

JANINE

The fact that you know that has told me everything I need to know about you.

JONAH

So what are you like some angry "Joan of Arc" lesbian who hides out in teddy bear fur? I'll bet you listen to Ani DiFranco and have a barbed wire ankle tattoo.

JANINE

I have to get back to work, you smelly fuck. Just get out here and take care of this dog.

She takes off. Jonah steps out of the trailer and unlatches Kugel from his tree. The dog lavishes love upon him as he watches Janine walk off. Jonah is smitten by her.

35

EXT. BLOOM HOUSE, LIVINGROOM - CONTINUOUS

35

The SOUND OF CHAINSAWS as Aidan enters with a colorful girl's outfit on a hanger.

AIDAN

What's going on?

Reveal the kids are watching *Scarface* with their school books open on their laps.

Tucker immediately shuts off the TV and pretends to read...

TUCKER
Learning!

Aidan pops out the movie...

AIDAN
I told you guys to stay out of my
grown-up movies.

TUCKER
Look, Dad: Kenny gave me a candle.

Tucker holds up what looks like a long candle.

AIDAN
Great.

GRACE
(re; outfit)
What's that?

AIDAN
It's a cool new outfit I got you!

GRACE
I'm not wearing that. Why do you
want me to look like I'm on the
Disney Channel?

TUCKER
Where do we keep the matches?

AIDAN
Grace, honey. Your mom and I and
just wanna make sure you'll fit in
with the other kids.

GRACE
I'm an Orthodox Jew. Is there
something wrong with that?

TUCKER
(re: matches)
Oh, I remember.

He leaves the room.

AIDAN
No. I just want you to be prepared
for the public school kids being a
little... different.

GRACE

Jews have been denied access to their faith by warlords and tyrants for like millions of years! But I never thought it would happen in my own house!

Tucker returns with a LIT MATCH and lights the wick of the "candle". Aidan finally notices it's an M80 FIREWORK.

AIDAN

Where did you get that match? And that's not a candle!!!

The FIREWORK explodes LOUDLY blowing Legos EVERYWHERE!

OFF Aidan; losing his mind...

36 INT. BLOOM HOUSE - EVENING 36

An exhausted Sarah closes the front door. She cannot fathom why the house is SO QUIET. She slowly crosses into the living-room to see...

37 INT. BLOOM HOUSE LIVINGROOM - CONTINUOUS 37

Aidan has duct-taped Grace and Aidan to two dining room chairs and sat them in front of the film "Stand and Deliver". On the screen *Edward James Olmos* gives an impassioned lesson to a group of Hispanic high school kids.

EDWARD JAMES OLMOS

You are the true dreamers. Dreams accomplish wonderful things.

38 INT. BLOOM HOUSE KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS 38

Sarah finds Aidan drinking a beer and going over his lines for an audition.

SARAH

What's going on?

AIDAN

They're having a lesson.

SARAH

Aidan. Why are the children duct-taped to chairs?

AIDAN

I couldn't get control of them. They wouldn't listen. Tucker made a doll orgy, they asked about *Al Qaeda*... I panicked. Plus I have to work on this audition for tomorrow. I thought I'd give Edward James Olmos a try; he's so good at it.

SARAH

Aidan, this isn't gonna work. You can't just show them movies and you certainly can't force them into learning.

AIDAN

Well what's your idea? Cause they're fighting everything I try.

SARAH

I think we need to regroup. Why don't we go to dinner?

AIDAN

That movie's only half over; so far they've only *stood*. They've got another hour before they *deliver*.

SARAH

No you and me; alone. Call your brother.

(beat)

I'll give him the *Death Star*.

AIDAN

Are you sure? We had Hanukkah covered.

SARAH

We need this.

OFF AIDAN'S LOOK. DOORBELL.

39

INT. BLOOM HOUSE - LATER

39

The door opens to reveal Jonah.

JONAH

Lego Death Star's worth three hours of baby-sitting if and only if it's in the box and said box is in mint condition.

SARAH
It is. It's brand new.

JONAH
(noticing kids)
Am I allowed to keep them taped up
like that?

SARAH
No.

Jonah flicks open a SWITCHBLADE.

JONAH
I'll free them. You've got two
hours.

40

EXT - SANTA MONICA BEACH - NIGHT

40

Aidan and Sarah sit on a bench by the Santa Monica Pier sharing a bottle of beer in a paper bag. The lights and SOUNDS of the ROLLER-COASTER echo in the distance.

SARAH
What's the happiest you've ever
seen me?

AIDAN
You?

SARAH
Yeah.

AIDAN
Surfing.

SARAH
What? That was like 10 years ago.

AIDAN
It's the first thing that comes to
mind. You were taking those lessons
and I would sit on the beach
reading. And I remember when you
finally stood up after like hours
of trying and wiping out. I
couldn't see your face, you know,
cause you were so far out. But I
could almost feel it... your
elation.

SARAH

The happiest you've ever seen me
was a smile you never saw?

AIDAN

Yeah. Is that bad?

SARAH

No. I suppose it's kind of
beautiful in a bizarre way.

AIDAN

What about me?

She thinks.

SARAH

You were doing some Shakespeare
thing outside at Northwestern.

AIDAN

It was *A Midsummer Night's Dream*...

SARAH

Right. And there was no one there.
I mean like no one. It wasn't even
a real show you were just like
doing it in the middle of the
soccer field. But I remember your
face.

(beat)

You didn't care that no one was
watching or that you were dodging
frisbees in your little fairy
sprite outfit...

She laughs and smiles at the thought.

SARAH (CONT'D)

And you know what? It was fucking
thrilling to watch. You loved
words, you loved poetry.

(then)

But I remember it made me feel
kinda sad.

AIDAN

Why?

She looks off at the roller coasters on the pier.

SARAH

I want to support you. I really do
believe in you...

AIDAN
(pushing her)
Sarah, why did seeing me love
Shakespeare make you sad?

SARAH
(a confession)
Cause I was terrified I'd never
find that kind of passion for
something. And the truth is... I
haven't.

A tear wells in her eye.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Aidan, I know you like to think
we're both out there pursuing our
dreams, but we're not. When I got
this assignment, I thought I'd be
working for the mayor, not the
water department. I input data into
spreadsheets... literally a robot
should be doing my job, there's
just too much bureaucracy for
anyone to notice.

AIDAN
You gotta give it some time, pretty
soon you'll be running that joint.

SARAH
I don't wanna run the fucking water
department.

AIDAN
Then what do you what do you want
to do?!

SARAH
I don't know! But right now I'm on
a fucking a treadmill, and if it
stops, our kids don't eat. And
that's all on me!

AIDAN
But you just said you supported my
dream...

SARAH
When did this relationship become
solely about supporting your dream?

AIDAN
So you're not happy?

SARAH

All I'm saying is... I don't think I can do this forever. Something has to change.

AIDAN

(taken aback)
Is that a threat?

SARAH

No, it's a confession.

Aidan looks like he got punched in the stomach. They stare at each other. WE HEAR the SCREAMS of KIDS on the ROLLER-COASTER.

His CELL PHONE RINGS. He answers.

AIDAN

Hello...
(to Sarah)
It's Dad!

42

INT. HOSPITAL - LATER

42

Aidan and Sarah walk hurriedly down Hallway. Aidan spots Saul's internist, DR. BECKER coming out of a room...

AIDAN

Dr. Becker! What happened?

DR. BECKER

His body totally rejected the treatment.

AIDAN

It didn't work?

DR. BECKER

It didn't really even have a chance to work.

SARAH

So he'll be right back where he started?

DR. BECKER

Not exactly. The treatment seems to have taken an unfortunate toll in your father's case. It's only served to weaken his immune system.

SARAH
Can we see him?

DR. BECKER
He's sleeping, but he's just up
here in ICU.

Aidan and Sarah follow Dr. Becker into...

43 INT. HOSPITAL, ICU - CONTINUOUS 43

The doctor points to a bed with a grey, gaunt man hooked up to all manners of life sustaining apparatus. Aidan almost doesn't recognize his father. When he does...

Aidan swallows hard, his eyes well. Sarah takes his arm.

AIDAN
He's dying?

DR. BECKER
I'm not gonna sugarcoat it, Aidan.
This treatment was a bit of a hail-
mary pass. It's not looking good.
We have to monitor him and see if
he pulls out. We'll be moving him
to his own room tomorrow.

44 INT. BLOOM HOUSE - LATER 44

Aidan opens the door to find Jonah; panicked.

JONAH
Okay, calm down.

AIDAN
What are you talking about? Why am
I not calm?

JONAH
Before you freak out, I still get
the *Death Star*...

SARAH
What happened, Jonah?

GRACE (O.S.)
This.

Reveal Grace has SHAVED HER HEAD to a short crew-cut.

SARAH
OH MY GOD!

AIDAN
What the fuck?!

GRACE (CONT'D)

I'm tired of you not listening to me! I wanna go back to the yeshiva and be with my friends! And I'm sick and tired of Tucker teasing me about Jesse. Now everyone will know who I am.

(to Aidan)

Why are you looking at me like that? You said I'd still be pretty even if I shaved my head!

SARAH
You did?

AIDAN
No! Completely out of context.

JONAH

I was innocently playing video games with the boy one. Yes he was teasing her, but I thought that was their normal banter. I was not expecting this.

SARAH

Aidan you need to say something. I can't form words. I want to cry but it's just hair. I shouldn't cry, right?

AIDAN

Grace go to your room. Jonah, get the fuck out.

JONAH

What about the uh...

AIDAN

My child shaved her head while in your care. I'll be keeping the *Death Star*.

JONAH

That's bullshit, man.

AIDAN

Dad's in the hospital. So whatever shit you have going on with him I think you need to clear it up fast.

JONAH

How long does he have?

AIDAN

They don't know, but the fact that you have to ask that means you're planning on procrastinating. This is real, Jonah. It's not a joke. You need to wake up; life is happening.

Aidan slams the front door in his face.

45 INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - NEXT DAY

45

Aidan is about to open the door to his father's room when Rabbi Rosenberg approaches...

RABBI ROSENBERG

Nice to see you, Mr. Bloom. Sorry it's under such dire circumstances. The Rabbi is in with him now.

AIDAN

Oh good, cause praying cancer away always seems to work.

RABBI ROSENBERG

(ignoring him)

I have something for you.

Rosenberg hands Aidan a PRE-ARRANGEMENT PACKET.

RABBI ROSENBERG (CONT'D)

I'm sorry to throw all of this at you now. But it does have to be dealt with sooner rather than later.

He reads the cover; *So You're Dying...* On the cover: a smiling grey haired couple ride bikes off into the sunset.

The door opens and Rabbi Twerskey shuffles out. He says something in Hebrew to Rabbi Rosenberg who quickly moves to help the old rabbi shuffle onto a *SEGWAY SCOOTER* that's leaned against the wall. Once aboard, Rabbi Twersky GLIDES OFF down the hallway corridor.

46 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

46

Aidan enters to find his father, tubes in his nose and arm. He appears to be staring off at nothing...

SAUL

Oh God. Oh, shit. Shit, shit,
shit...

AIDAN

Jesus, Dad... are you okay?

Reveal Saul is watching a METS GAME on a wall mounted TV with
the sound off...

SAUL

(gesturing to TV)

I'm fine, but this shortstop,
Cedeno is a Nazi pig-fucker! You
know how to work the volume on this
thing?

Aidan doesn't move...

SAUL (CONT'D)

Come over here... Don't be fooled
by all this. It's all to cover
their asses so nobody gets sued.
I'm fine.

Aidan finds a chair at the bedside...

AIDAN

So, this experimental treatment...?

SAUL

They told me from the beginning it
doesn't work for everyone. I rolled
the dice.

AIDAN

Did they give you any new
information? Did they say...

SAUL

How long? Few months, maybe a year.
But if I died every time he said I
was gonna die I'd have more lives
than Shirley Maclaine.

(re; TV)

Jesus? Did you see that pitch? If
Collins doesn't pull Ramirez out of
the bullpen soon I'm gonna yank all
these tubes and call it a day! If
there's one thing in life that's
certain, Aidan, it's that the Mets
will let you down.

ON Aidan stares at his father, who's lost in the game.

47 INT. HOSPITAL, HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

47

Aidan emerges from the room. Rosenberg is still there.

RABBI ROSENBERG

Are you okay, Mr. Bloom? You look a little pale. Maybe you should sit down.

AIDAN

I think I might throw up.

RABBI ROSENBERG

Sit down.

Aidan does. Rosenberg joins him.

RABBI ROSENBERG (CONT'D)

Look, Aidan, if there's anything we can do to support you; please don't hesitate to let us know. I lost my father two years ago. It was the hardest thing I've ever gone through. It's a very unsettling time. You're entering a major transitional stage of your life.

AIDAN

I am?

RABBI ROSENBERG

Yes. Tell you what, I'll avoid the Talmud for you... Sigmund Freud once said: "A boy becomes a man not at his bar-mitzvah, but at the death of his father."

Aidan takes this in...

AIDAN

Thank you, Rabbi. Excuse me.

Rosenberg watches Aidan walk off.

48 EXT. HOSPITAL, PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

48

Aidan almost makes it to his car, but suddenly stops and VOMITS beside it. He slumps down on the ground...

49 EXT. FROZEN FOREST - FANTASY 49

Aidan and JAX runs through the trees of a FROZEN FOREST covered in ICE. In the distance they see a warm orange glow.

Gradually an OBJECT comes into view: A GLOWING BAR OF LIGHT.

As Aidan reaches down to touch it, the bar GLOWS BRIGHTER filling the frame as we burn into a WHITEOUT.

50 INT. AIDAN'S OFFICE - LATER - NIGHT 50

Aidan opens the pre-arrangement packet.

The language of death flashes before his eyes; *Denial, Anger, Burial? Entombment? Cremation? Casket? Open or closed? Urn?*

SARAH (O.S.)

You alright?

AIDAN

Yeah. Well, no I guess: all is not right. You struggle your whole life to have it all matter in some way and ultimately in comes down to one question in a stapled pamphlet: "How should we deal with your bones?"

SARAH

Maybe you shouldn't be looking at that yet, babe.

AIDAN

He drives me crazy sometimes. But that man is such a part of who I am... Seeing him hooked up to all those machines... I never wanted to believe in God so badly. So many moments from our lives together... The happy times, the vacations with Mom, even the fights, good and bad... just life, you know, ups and downs... I just can't believe one day I'll never see him again.

Sarah gives him a kiss on the head.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

How are the kids?

SARAH

They're okay... scared.

(then)

I always wanted to have a better handle on life's mysteries by the time we had kids. So I could talk to them with some certainty.

AIDAN

Right? I mean fuck if I know what we're supposed to be doing here.

SARAH

As parents? Or on Earth?

AIDAN

Both. I mean, listening to what you said tonight... and now this. I never would have imagined I'd feel so fucking lost at 35. There's never any answers, just deeper questions.

SARAH

Maybe we learn these things when the time is right.

AIDAN

When a parent's on his deathbed?

SARAH

Or when you need to teach them to your children.

Aidan reacts to this; has an idea.

51 INT. BEDROOMS - NEXT MORNING

51

A reinvigorated Aidan whips the covers off his sleeping kids.

AIDAN

Wake up!

TUCKER

What's going on?

AIDAN

We're going on a field trip!

52 INT. BLOOM HOUSE, KITCHEN - MORNING 52

Aidan pulls a few bills out of the SWEAR JAR. He slips a few of the bills into an envelope he leaves on the counter. He's about to leave, but comes back and grabs the whole SWEAR JAR.

53 EXT. BLOOM HOUSE - LATER 53

Aidan CRANKS AN AMAZING SONG ON THE STEREO and backs the fully loaded mini-van out of the driveway and speeds off.

54 INT. BLOOM HOUSE, KITCHEN 54

Sarah stumbles in half-awake to find the envelope with "Swear-Jar cash" and a note that reads:

Took the kids camping for the night. Use this to get a massage. Love, your naked wrestling partner.

She smiles.

55 INT. MINIVAN - CONTINUOUS 55

GRACE

Is grandpa going to die?

AIDAN

It looks that way, honey.

TUCKER

Are we gonna put him in the backyard with Whiskers?

AIDAN

No, I don't think we're allowed to do that. We'll have to ask Grandpa what he wants.

TUCKER

I think he'll wanna be with Whiskers.

Grace and Tucker look out their windows...

56 EXT. JOSHUA TREE - CAMP GROUND - EVENING 56

Aidan leaps from the car and heads up a boulder strewn hillside; the kids look after him - confused...

GRACE
Shouldn't we set up our camp?

AIDAN
Later, follow me.

57 EXT. ROCKY BLUFF - SUNSET

57

The kids scamper after Aidan as he scales the hillside.

TUCKER
Seriously. What are we doing way
out here?

AIDAN
I just thought it would be good for
us. Sometime's it's good to get out
of your environment. Helps you get
some perspective on things.

Atop a massive slab at the peak; the SUN IS SETTING.

AIDAN (CONT'D)
This is it... This is the spot.

GRACE
What is it?

AIDAN
This is the spot where I had the
deepest, most sincere spiritual
experience of my life. The last
time I had an epiphany it was here.

TUCKER
What's an aniffany?

AIDAN
An epiphany is when you realize
something you really need to
realize. Sometimes in life you can
get kinda stuck. It's like...
(a thought)
Do you remember when you spilled
that rubber cement all over that
book you liked and we couldn't turn
the pages cause they were all stuck
together?

TUCKER
Yeah.

AIDAN

Well sometimes when you're a grown-up, it's kinda like that. You keep trying to flip the page to the next chapter... but it's stuck. And you feel like you should have changed chapters by now but you can't.

GRACE

Are you stuck because Grandpa's dying?

AIDAN

Yes. That's one of the reasons.

GRACE

And cause you haven't worked since that dandruff commercial.

AIDAN

That's in there too, thanks for reminding me.

TUCKER

Dad, do we go in the sky when we die?

AIDAN

I don't know, buddy. What do you think?

TUCKER

I think those stars are people's grandpas. And the moon is where God lives and he watches them to make sure they're happy.

AIDAN

Wow. That's beautiful. That was like a poem.

TUCKER

But it didn't rhyme.

AIDAN

A poem doesn't have to rhyme. Remember I told you I studied poetry in college?

GRACE

I thought you studied acting.

AIDAN

I did, but poetry's what got me into acting. Your grandma loved poetry. She used to recite poems to me at my bedtime. And poetry can come in lots of different forms. Sometimes if you just say out loud whatever comes to your head it can be a poem.

TUCKER

And then God comes down from the moon to Earth to buy *Reeses Pieces* and his finger glows cause he wants to phone home.

AIDAN

Ok, now I think you've kind of veered off into the plot of "E.T." But the first part was very nice.
(beat)
Let's make a fire.

58

EXT. ROCKY BLUFF - NIGHT

58

They sit around a fire toasting marshmallows.

TUCKER

Will Grandpa be able to see us when he dies?

AIDAN

Nobody knows what happens when you die, buddy. There's as many opinions as there are people.
(re; Grace)
And some of those people will tell you with absolute certainty they know what happens.

GRACE

But they're wrong?

AIDAN

No. They're lucky in a way. The rest of us... until we see an answer we believe, one that makes sense... we're left with nothing.

TUCKER

But how can you have nothing? Can't you see the stars?

AIDAN

I see them. You're right. They're so beautiful aren't they?

TUCKER

Tell us a ghost story, Dad.

AIDAN

I don't know any ghost stories. How about something Grandma used to say to me before I went to bed.

GRACE

Is it scary?

AIDAN

No.

(beat)

*And indeed there will be time
For the yellow smoke that slides
along the street, Rubbing its back
upon the window-panes; There will
be time, there will be time To
prepare a face to meet the faces
that you meet;*

A MONTAGE under Aidan's VO: they toast marshmallows...

AIDAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

*There will be time to murder and
create,*

They laugh, they sing a song... Aidan hugs Grace wrapped in a blanket, close-ups on little hands...

AIDAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

*And time for all the works and days
of hands That lift and drop a
question on your plate;*

DISSOLVE: Aidan appears to be acting out a scary story as the fire dances. His giant silhouette flits about the trees.

59

EXT. ROCKY BLUFF - LATER

59

Aidan sits in a camping chair by firelight. The kids are asleep behind him. He smokes a joint and stares down at the funeral questionnaire.

AIDAN (V.O.)
*Time for you and time for me,
 And time yet for a hundred
 indecisions And for a hundred
 visions and revisions Before the
 taking of a toast and tea.*

WE CRANE BACK WIDE TO REVEAL: AIDAN dressed as the FUTURISTIC SPACE MAN watching over him from an adjacent cliff.

FADE TO BLACK.

60 EXT. ROCKY BLUFF - SUNRISE 60

Aidan and the kids wake up in sleeping bags.

AIDAN
 Wake up sleepyheads. It's a school day.

GRACE
 Did you get unstuck?

AIDAN
 No. But I did have a really good idea.

61 INT. WIG STORE - DAY 61

Aidan, Grace and a shirtless Tucker stand in front of an endless display of every wig type that exists.

AIDAN
 Pick any one you want.

GRACE
 Any one?

AIDAN
 The only rule is: it has to be amazing...
 (off her look)
 Like you.

A small smile on Grace. MUSIC CUE FOR GREAT SONG.

62 EXT. HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD - LATER

62

The AWESOME MUSIC CUE continues as Aidan (carrying the SWEAR JAR), Tucker (shirtless and carrying a power drill and his blankey) and Grace (sporting a HOT PINK BOB WIG) come around the corner in SLOW MOTION. They look like such badasses even the freaks on Hollywood Boulevard can't help but check them out.

63 INT. BLOOM HOUSE - LATER

63

Aidan and the kids return home loud and happy.

SARAH

Oh my God look at your hair.

TUCKER

I slept on a cliff!

SARAH

A cliff?

AIDAN

It was not a cliff. It was a raised area.

GRACE

It was a cliff and it was so amazing. Dad smoked cigarettes.

AIDAN

I did not smoke cigarettes.

GRACE

Dad smoked something.

AIDAN

It was cigarettes. I thought you were asleep.

GRACE

I wasn't.

They run out. He surprises her with a passionate kiss.

AIDAN

Hey baby. I was thinking, maybe I've been going at this thing all wrong. I've been treating it like a punishment. That was actually really fun. Maybe this is a chance for me to spend some real quality time with these guys.

(MORE)

AIDAN (CONT'D)

Really get to know them. I don't know anything about my father. And I can teach them all kinds of things! Important things -- things I actually know something about!

SARAH

But don't you have to follow some sort of curriculum?

AIDAN

Yeah, I'll get to all that. But, these kids have been stuck inside this tiny Orthodox box. I wanna bust them out.

SARAH

Okay. But there's some important things in that box... like math and reading. They have to be able to keep up with the other kids next year.

AIDAN

Keep up? Baby, when I'm done with these guys they're gonna be way ahead of their peers. And for starters, we're going swimming.

SARAH

Grace can't swim.

AIDAN

Exactly.

ON Sarah; apprehensive...

64

EXT. MANSION - MORNING

64

A door opens to REVEAL a HISPANIC MAID.

AIDAN

Hello, are the Shulman's home?

MAID

(broken English)
Nobody home.

AIDAN

Oh, that's ok. We're here to fix the drain at the bottom of the pool.

Tucker holds up his drill and pulls the trigger.

MAID
Pool no working?

AIDAN
Yeah, pool no working and I'm a friend of the Shulman's and they asked me to fix it.

MAID
Oh... but I leaving.

AIDAN
That's fine. I'll close the gate on the way out.

She's a bit flustered, but Aidan seizes on that and walks right past her into the house with the kids.

GRACE
(tight whisper)
Dad, this is so embarrassing.

AIDAN
Don't worry. The Shulman's are in St. Barts all summer. It's their own fault for bragging.

65 EXT. MANSION BACKYARD POOL - MOMENTS LATER

65

Tucker plays in the shallow end. Grace stands on the diving board still wearing her pink bob wig. Aidan treads water in the deep end.

GRACE
I'm scared.

AIDAN
You just gotta dive in. I'm gonna be here when you land.

GRACE
But I don't know anything about swimming.

AIDAN
I know. And today's your first lesson. But first I want you to jump in this water.

GRACE
I'm scared.

AIDAN

I know. That's exactly why you have to jump.

GRACE

If I die I'm gonna be so pissed at you.

AIDAN

Deal.

GRACE

[She says a quick prayer in Hebrew.]

She takes a deep breath and JUMPS!

UNDERWATER:

Grace and her beautiful pink hair PLUNGE into the turquoise water. We SEE ELATION on her face. This is her first time in the deep end. She surface into her Dad's arms.

GRACE (CONT'D)

I DID IT!!!!

AIDAN

Yes you did.

GRACE

That was amazing! Can I do it again?

AIDAN

You can do it till the Shulman's come home from St. Barts in the fall.

On her face: SO HAPPY. She hugs Aidan tightly. She loves her Dad. A GIANT SMILE ON HIS FACE.

66 INT. SARAH'S BOSS' OFFICE - DAY

66

Sarah knocks on her boss ALAN'S (40's) door.

ALAN

Hey pal come on in. I'm just watching this kitten video on Youtube. Check out this kitten.
(as kitten)
Nobody's sleeping on my watch.

She crosses to him to look at his monitor.

SARAH

You're a cat guy, huh?

ALAN

Who doesn't love cats? I mean everybody loves cats, they made a musical about it for God's sake. I forgot what it was called...

SARAH

I think it was just called, "Cats".

ALAN

One ticket sold.

SARAH

Listen, can I talk to you about something?

ALAN

Sure, have a seat. What's on your mind?

SARAH

It's just... I'm having a little trouble getting used to my cubicle partner.

ALAN

Jerry?

SARAH

Yeah...

ALAN

But, he's hilarious.

SARAH

It's just that some of his comments are a little inappropriate and I know I'm relatively new here and I don't wanna ruffle anyone's... status quo. But I do think it's time I told you that he's making me feel uncomfortable.

ALAN

Did he try to touch you inappropriately?

SARAH

God no. No, it was more his words...

ALAN
What did he say?

SARAH
I'd really rather not say it.

ALAN
Sarah, I have to know what he said
so I can suss this thing out.

SARAH
He said... well for starters he
said that... when he doesn't wear
any underwear he gets little...
"half-boners"...

Alan tries as hard as he can but bursts out LAUGHING.

ALAN
I'm so sorry, Sarah. But that is
hilarious. You have to understand
that when we're jangling around
down there anything can happen.

SARAH
He also made it talk to me.

ALAN
Who?

SARAH
His... half-boner.

ALAN
What did it sound like?

SARAH
I don't know, it was kind of high
pitched - almost like a ghost's
voice.

ALAN
(concerned)
Ok, but he didn't do like a Black
guy voice or anything did he? He
didn't do anything racial; like a
Carl Weathers baritone kind of
thing?

SARAH
No it was higher pitched. Like a
mouse. Or... like I said a ghost.

ALAN

Like a ghost mouse.

SARAH

Sure.

ALAN

Look Sarah... we have fun here. And I know that this place isn't always run according to the book. But I think you should loosen up a bit. Nobody's trying to touch you, nobody's giving their penis Black people voices or saying things like:

(bad Asian impression)

"Me love you long time."

(back to normal voice)

Tell you what? I'm gonna move your cubicle. I'll tell Jerry to bring it down a notch. But you gotta promise to smile a little more. A little more "*Hakuna Matata*".

SARAH

I don't know what that means.

ALAN

It means "No worries for the rest of your days."

SARAH

No, I have two children, I know it's from *The Lion King*; I just don't understand how it applies to the water department.

ALAN

It means lighten up a little bit, Sarah. You have something everybody else wants.

SARAH

Remind me what that is...

ALAN

A job.

He smiles. She forces a smile and leaves.

67

EXT. JONAH'S TRAILER - DAY

67

Jonah is wearing a half-finished "Cosplay" outfit he is constructing of a badass Hero from one of his video games. Aidan watches as Grace carefully cuts some foam for the outfit. Tucker plays with the dog.

AIDAN

This should qualify as art class.

JONAH

(to Grace)

Just keep cutting along all the lines I drew. This is for the chest piece.

AIDAN

I never knew you were into playing dress-up.

JONAH

It's hardly playing dress up, dude. It's for Comic-Con. I looked online and no one's ever nailed *Commander Shepard* from *Mass Effect 3* like I'm about to. First prize is a thousand dollars, not to mention the chance for some congratulatory poon-tang from this super cute Furry I just met.

TUCKER

What's poon-tang?

AIDAN

It's what the astronauts drink.

TUCKER

Can I have some poon-tang?

JONAH

One day.

AIDAN

It's only available in space.

(beat)

So you'll meet us over at our house around 6:30 tonight and we'll all go over to see Dad together. Right?

JONAH

I don't know, Aidan. I gotta finish this, and to be totally blunt; I'm not a huge fan of Saul.

(MORE)

JONAH (CONT'D)

My tolerance for being told I was a disappointment every day of my life had an expiration date.

AIDAN

Do you know how many times a day he directly or indirectly insults me? You just have to block it out.

JONAH

I get it worse than you do, Aidan. Come on, you know that. You at least have a wife and a family. When he looks at me all he sees is failure. Mom believed in me; it was different when she was around. She made him a tiny bit nicer. But Dad... I've never given him anything he could brag about.

GRACE

I'm sure he brags about you.

JONAH

He's never bragged about me a day in his life. And I don't care anymore. He created me, and for that I owe him my life. But when he's gone... I won't miss him.

GRACE

Don't you have any happy memories of him?

JONAH

The '86 Mets. Watching USC football. Nothing to do with me.

AIDAN

You're gonna regret this. I know you're gonna regret this.

GRACE

Finished.

JONAH

Ok, let's try it on.

Jonah straps on the foam chest piece that gives him RIPPED ABS. He stands with his hands on his hips like a Hero surveying the horizon.

JONAH (CONT'D)

What do you think?

AIDAN

Being an angel; first job there
was.

GRACE

Oh. Grandpa I pray for you twice a
day. Once in the morning--

SAUL

Pray? I've been praying all my
life. Pray all you want. You still
end up here.

AIDAN

Dad.

TUCKER

Grandpa, I bought you a fart
buzzer.

SAUL

What's a fart buzzer?

Tucker holds up a small sound effects toy.

TUCKER

It's this thing. You press the
different buttons and it makes
different funny fart noises.

Tucker pushes the button. THE SOUND OF A LONG FART. The kids
die with LAUGHTER.

GRANDPA

Well I see school is going well.
Tucker do you know your times
tables yet?

TUCKER

No. But I know this:

He presses a different button. This time a HIGH PITCHED FART.
Everyone but Saul LAUGHS.

SAUL

Gotta learn those times tables.

AIDAN

He's six, Dad.

GRACE

I know them, Grandpa.

SAUL

Good. Study hard and don't become an actor.

SARAH

Maybe I should take the kids outside.

AIDAN

No, no, no...

SAUL

It's fine when you're playing around in college. But sooner or later you have to provide for your family. You're gonna need those times tables.

SARAH

(biting)

Maybe Tucker will have a wife that loves him and supports him and will remind him the answer if he occasionally forgets...

AIDAN

Dad, Gracie and Tuck are here to see you. They came to cheer you up.

GRACE

Grandpa, I found these special sunglasses for you. Now you won't have to squint when you head into the white light.

(off his look)

So you can find grandma.

Saul's eyes water. Grace hands him a pair of WELDERS GOGGLES. He puts them on and looks ridiculous. He hugs Grace tightly. ON Aidan watching...

69

INT. BLOOM HOUSE - DAY

69

Aidan stands in front of a dry erase board holding a yearbook picture of Jonah...

AIDAN

Today's word of the day is "Douchebag".

He writes "Douchebag" on the board.

AIDAN

There is no talking during a movie. The second the previews start, you have to shut-up or you're captain of the S.S. Douchebag.

GRACE

Dad.

AIDAN

What?

GRACE

Now you're the one talking.

AIDAN

Which leads me to another point. Don't interrupt other people when they're talking. Don't assume you know what they're gonna say.

Grace holds her finger to her lips "Shhhhhh!"

73

INT. SAUL'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - LATER

73

Grace looking through old photo albums when Aidan and Tucker enter from the back holding a box.

AIDAN

Okay. I got the favorite pillow and the jewelry box, you get the good slippers?

Aidan's glance drifts to a PICTURE OF HIS DECEASED MOTHER on the wall. He contemplates it for beat, before grabbing it and tucking it under his arm.

GRACE (O.S.)

Dad! Why does Uncle Jonah never smile?

Aidan joins her staring at pictures in a photo album. In every shot, YOUNG JONAH looks melancholy.

AIDAN

Uncle Jonah was sad a lot when we were kids. Then Grandma died and he got even worse.

GRACE

I wish I knew how to make him happy.

AIDAN

Me too.

TUCKER

Ooh! When did Grandpa have that cool car!

Aidan recognizes the picture...

AIDAN

That is a 59 Cadillac. Look at those fins! That was Grandpa's dream car...

(then)

This picture was taken at the dealership. He never could afford it...

Aidan and Tucker share a look...

74

INT. BLOOM HOUSE KITCHEN - MORNING

74

Aidan dials the phone.

AIDAN

(slightly effeminate)

Yes, hello. I'm calling from Mr. Sean "Puffy" Combs' office and Mr. Puffy would like me to come by today and test out the new Ferrari California... I understand that you don't normally test drive them, but Mr. Puffy will not get into a car unless I first drive it. I'm kind of like a food taster for a dictator... except with cars and... for Puffy.

Aidan points at Grace. She reads from a piece of paper.

GRACE

Marco, Puffy needs you in the Grotto!

He points to Tucker.

TUCKER

And bring some *Cristal* for the ho's!

Sarah enters, dressed for work...

SARAH
 (to Tucker)
 Excuse me?

AIDAN
 Okay, I have to go now. We'll be
 down in 20 minutes.

He hangs up. He hi-fives Grace and Tucker.

SARAH
 What's going on?

AIDAN
 School. Love you. Bye.

Aidan exits with the kids. Sarah looks concerned.

75

INT. BEVERLY HILLS FERRARI DEALERSHIP - LATER

75

Aidan, Grace and Tucker walk in dressed in their best
 clothes. Tucker wears a top hat. They are approached by
 ANTHONY, a well-dressed Italian man.

AIDAN
 (slightly effeminate)
 Hello. I'm Marco, I think we spoke
 on the phone. These are Puffy's
 children.

Anthony takes in the look of Aidan and the kids.

ANTHONY
 Sir, can I speak to you privately
 for a minute.

Aidan steps over to Aidan out the earshot of the kids.

AIDAN
 I know what you're thinking. "Why
 are Puffy's kids white?" Well as
 I'm sure you know Puffy is a
 trailblazer and so many celebrities
 were adopting Black children, guess
 what he went and did? Exactly; he
 went and snatched up these two
 honkeys from Switzerland.

ANTHONY
 Sir, I know what you're trying to
 do.

AIDAN

You do?

ANTHONY

We called Mr. Dirty Money's office
after you phoned us.

AIDAN

You did.

ANTHONY

Look, man... people try to talk
their way into driving these cars
all the time. And I never fall for
it. But...

He looks over at Grace. We can see her shaved head since
Tucker has pulled off her wig and put it on himself. She
chases him between the priceless cars.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

I can see that your daughter is
ill. And I'm gonna make an
exception.

AIDAN

(normal voice)

You are?

ANTHONY

She is sick isn't she?

AIDAN

(beat, should he?)

So sick.

ANTHONY

(heartbroken)

What does she have?

AIDAN

Everything. Everything that a
person can get, she currently has.

ANTHONY

Ok. Let's go. But don't tell anyone
I did this.

Aidan and Anthony sit up front. The kids are squeezed into
the back.

AIDAN
Attendance. Grace?

GRACE
Here.

AIDAN
Tucker?

TUCKER
Here.

AIDAN
The important thing with shifting into first gear is to let the clutch out slowly. If you let it out whilst applying just the right amount of gas, it should go a little something like this.

77 EXT. BEVERLY HILLS FERRARI DEALERSHIP - CONTINUOUS 77

Aidan pops the clutch as the GORGEOUS CONVERTIBLE SQUEALS its tires and LAUNCHES onto Santa Monica Boulevard.

78 EXT. PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY - MOMENTS LATER 78

AMAZING MUSIC CUE as an AERIAL shot pulls us back from the KIDS elated faces to a beautiful view of the Malibu coast.

79 INT. SAUL'S HOSPITAL ROOM - MORNING 79

Aidan enters with a box of Saul's things and is surprised to find Saul talking to a handsome guy around Aidan's age, HUGH.

SAUL
Aidan! Come in here. I've got someone I want you to meet. This is one of my old students from Princeton! Came to pay me a visit after all these years. Hugh Foster!

Aidan is taken aback by Saul's verve. He shakes Hugh's hand.

HUGH
Nice to meet you. Your dad was my favorite teacher. So funny.

AIDAN
Funny?

But Saul waves him down...

SAUL

(to Hugh)

Tell this one what you do for a living.

HUGH

I was just made west coast sales manager for Apple.

SAUL

The computers!

Aidan smiles awkwardly...

AIDAN

Wow. Congratulations. That's a big job.

SAUL

Huge. This guy, Aidan... He had a natural talent for business. All I had to do was stay outta his way.

HUGH

You were the one who always said we should find our passion, then hold on tight and never let go.

AIDAN

(sarcastic)

Classic Saul...

Saul gives Aidan a look. Hugh senses the tension...

HUGH

Well I guess I should get going.

SAUL

Of course! You're a busy man.

(to Aidan)

Did you see the arrangement he brought? It's got iPods hanging from it like fruit. Get it? It's an Apple tree!

HUGH

Get well, Saul.

Aidan watches as Hugh exits. Sets down the box.

AIDAN

I brought you the stuff you--

SAUL
 Why the hell hasn't your brother
 come to see me?

AIDAN
 Good morning to you too.

SAUL
 Didn't you tell him I'm circling
 the drain over here?

AIDAN
 He has a money making opportunity
 that he's very excited about. A
 really good... chance to make some
 money. He wanted me to tell you
 that he's really sorry, Dad.

SAUL
 He's probably cooking meth like the
 dad from "*Malcolm in the Middle*".
 Do you know when he was six years
 old we thought something was wrong
 with him?

AIDAN
 Please, Dad; I know the story.

SAUL
 A psychologist at his school gave
 him this battery of tests. When
 they came out the psychologist
 goes, "He's not disabled -- he's a
 genius!"

Aidan smiles at the oft heard story...

SAUL (CONT'D)
 I remember walking around, going
 about my business, thinking that I
 was the father of a genius. Do you
 have any idea how much pride I
 felt.
 (then)
 Such high hopes. Now he snorts anti-
 depressants in a trailer park.

ON Aidan; saddened...

Aidan and Jonah share a joint and stare out at the Pacific.
 The kids chase the dog through shallow tide.

JONAH

I sit on this rock a lot. Solved most of the world's problems a hundred times on this rock.

AIDAN

(with a smile)

Thanks for filling the rest of us in on the answers.

JONAH

Ah, I'm usually baked out of my face so they don't make as much sense once I leave the rock.

They share a LAUGH. Pass the joint.

JONAH (CONT'D)

Do you ever feel like every year you get older, the months go by faster and faster?

AIDAN

You say that like it's coming to an end or something.

JONAH

It's not ending, but I do think I've missed the chance to be precocious at anything. It's kind of hard to get excited about anything if you've been told your whole life you're destined to fail.

AIDAN

God, you're so stuck in the past. None of that shit matters at all. You're crippling yourself with all the things you think you're supposed to be. I wish you'd just let yourself be who you are.

JONAH

How are you giving up the past?! You're still so consumed by being fucked-with in high school that you're actually trying to teach your kids yourself!

AIDAN

I was not "fucked-with" that bad...

JONAH

Yes you were.

(beat)

They tormented you. I remember the day you got beat up by like three of them. What was his name? That evil kid... Ronnie something...

AIDAN

Ronnie Buckman.

JONAH

Fucking Ronnie Buckman. I watched the whole thing happen. And I remember you sobbing in the kitchen. And I'll never forget mom putting frozen meat on your black eye. I thought it was gross. I remember thinking "I hope we don't have to eat that now that it's been on Aidan's bloody face."

(beat)

I should have helped you beat up those kids. But I never moved. We were such pussies. That bothers me most days.

AIDAN

But that was twenty years ago, Jonah! You have to move on from the past. What the fuck are you waiting for? So your Dad was a dick. Find me someone who doesn't have pain...

(beat)

We'll all be dead and gone one day, and the only thing that will have mattered is if we showed-up when it was time. So be a man and show up! It's quite literally, now or never.

Aidan walks off.

A larger wave brings the tide high enough to almost touch Jonah's feet. He quickly moves away so the water doesn't touch him. THE SOUND OF THE TIDE OVERLAPS INTO:

81

INT. AIDAN'S CHILDHOOD HIGH-SCHOOL - FANTASY

81

Aidan in FULL SPACE SUIT AND HELMET walks through the eerily desolate, green fluorescent-lit halls of his own high school. He looks around, unsure why he's here. JAX, the FLYING ROBOT SIDEKICK, BEEPS for Aidan to follow him.

Around the corner Aidan sees a GRAINY PROJECTION of HIS YOUNGER SELF getting the shit kicked out of him by ANOTHER BOY. A DOZEN KIDS stand around cheering the bully on.

TIGHT ON AIDAN'S FACE through his HELMET. THE REFLECTION of the fight dances on the GLASS FACE MASK as AIDAN watches.

82 EXT. MATADOR - CONTINUOUS 82

Aidan snaps out of his fantasy. He has waded out waist-deep into the ocean. He looks back to the beach where his kids are building a sand castle. WE HEAR THE SOUND OF A YOUNG BOY SINGING A JEWISH PRAYER.

83 INT. TEMPLE SANCTUARY - DAY 83

REVEAL the SINGING is coming from a YOUNG BOY standing on the stage of the sanctuary. He is being tutored for his Bar Mitzvah by Rabbi Rosenberg. Aidan enters from the back. They make eye contact.

RABBI ROSENBERG

Avi, go practice in my office for a moment, I'll be with you in a minute.

He leaves.

AIDAN

I'm not here to convert.

RABBI ROSENBERG

Good, cause I've already met my quota...

He smiles.

RABBI ROSENBERG (CONT'D)

Have a seat.

They sit in the front row of the sanctuary.

AIDAN

You know I was kosher until I was 13.

RABBI ROSENBERG

Really?

AIDAN

My father told me I was officially a man at my Bar Mitzvah.

(MORE)

AIDAN (CONT'D)

So I told him that as a man, I wanted to have a bacon double cheeseburger. I think I saw his mind explode.

They both smile.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

But to his credit, he let me eat whatever I wanted... outside of the house. I guess I impressed him with my logic.

RABBI ROSENBERG

What brings you to temple, Aidan.

AIDAN

When we were kids my brother and I used to pretend we were Space Men. We'd go out into the woods behind our house in Jersey and pretend it was some mystical planet and we were the only ones who could save everybody.

RABBI ROSENBERG

From what?

AIDAN

What?

RABBI ROSENBERG

What were you saving them from?

AIDAN

I don't know... some scary shadowy figure. Anyway, I've been thinking about that a lot lately. Imagining those things again for the first time in 25 years.

RABBI ROSENBERG

What do you think it means?

AIDAN

I don't know. I almost feel embarrassed to say this out loud... but do you think maybe... God is trying to tell me something; guide me in some way? And if you say he works in mysterious ways, I'm gonna run out that door.

RABBI ROSENBERG

(smiles)

Maybe your brain is tired of you not listening to it, so it's begun to articulate things for you in a new way. You're losing your father. You're looking for something. You're on a quest for some kind of connection to the universe...

(beat)

Do you feel any spiritual connection at all? To anything?

AIDAN

Space. The infinite. Looking up at the sky with my kids and trying to explain to them the infinity of the universe... How we're these tiny little ants on this tiny little planet. I feel a spiritual power in that: infinity. Could that be God?

RABBI ROSENBERG

God can be whatever you want him to be. You're getting tangled in semantics. Try not to get caught up in the God who wants you to be kosher and the God who wants you to study the Torah. Start with God as the infinite universe and imagine that that force may be trying desperately to guide you through the most challenging part of your life. Even if it has to appear to you in the form of a space man to get you to listen.

Aidan smiles.

AIDAN

Wow. You're like the coolest Rabbi I've ever met. Where have you been hiding?

RABBI ROSENBERG

Aidan, it seems to me there are lots of things in your life that are right in front of you that you've been too busy to notice.

ON AIDAN: taking this in.

84 INT. SAUL'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

84

Sarah stands staring out the window. Saul awakes. He's startled to see her.

SARAH

Did I scare you?

SAUL

I thought if I ever saw you here alone you'd be putting a pillow over my face.

She smiles.

SARAH

I've been watching the paramedics come and go for the last half-hour. It's fascinating: every few minutes they race in at full speed, frantically pull a gurney out, race inside; doing everything they can possibly do to save someone's life... and then a few minutes later they all come outside and smoke cigarettes.

SAUL

You never really think about death until you're here... chemicals pumping into your veins while you watch "The View". I'm unclear which one is killing me faster.

(beat)

Why are you here alone?

SARAH

Aidan's teaching the kids how to parallel park. I thought I'd come say hi.

SAUL

Hi. Welcome to purgatory. Have a seat. Can I offer you some saline?

He holds out his IV. Sarah smiles.

SARAH

I'm glad to see you're keeping your sense of humor.

SAUL

What else am I supposed to do?
Eventually when things get tragic
enough, they circle back to comedy.

She sits down on the chair beside his bed and unfurls his
curling hand.

SARAH

Did I ever tell you that when I
lost my sister you were the most
helpful person to me?

SAUL

Really? I mean I'm glad if I was,
but I don't even remember what I
said...

SARAH

You said something like, "Nothing
in life will call upon you to be
more brave than facing the fact
that it ends. But on the other side
of that heartbreak is wisdom."

SAUL

I said that?

SARAH

Yes.

SAUL

(with a smile)

That was good advice. And now here
I am; a *shiva* waiting to happen...

Sarah smiles.

SARAH

Well, the wisdom that came for me
was that the things we leave unsaid
will stay with us forever. I wanted
so badly to tell my sister how much
I loved her and how I always
idolized her... but we never said
those things; we weren't like
that... And then suddenly she was
gone.

SAUL

Both my boys know how I feel.

SARAH

Are you sure about that, Saul?

Saul considers this, but...

SAUL

Achh! They don't need me to make this more dramatic. They'd roll their eyes at me.

SARAH

I think you'd be surprised.

SAUL

So what is this? Did you come here to tell me I failed as a father?

SARAH

No. Not at all. One parent could never say that to another. I mean, I gotta be honest with you; I have no idea what I'm doing as a parent. I'm just DVR'ing *Oprah* and... kinda making it up as I go along.

(beat)

But what you did, was raise two incredible men, Saul. They don't have quick answers or awards on their mantles, (in fact, neither one of them even has a mantle...)

(she smiles)

But they're incredible men. And right now they need their father. They need to know he loves them... before it's too late.

Saul frowns thoughtfully.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Barbara used to help you with the hard part of parenting.

SAUL

(his eyes well)

Yeah. She brought out the best in me.

SARAH

You need to bring out your best one last time, Saul. Aidan's going to remember this time for the rest of his life. It's going to shape him as a man.

Saul nods.

SAUL

You're going to make a great
matriarch someday.

SARAH

I already am a great matriarch,
Saul.

She smiles and leans over to kiss his forehead. A SIREN is heard in the distance. She leaves. Saul stares out the window.

85

EXT. BLOOM HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

85

Aidan stands with the kids in front of their dilapidated wooden fence.

AIDAN

Today we are going to Mr. Miyagi
the shit out of this fence.

TUCKER

Who's Mr. Miyagi?

AIDAN

Nevermind. I'm tired of staring at
this broken fence. We're gonna take
it down.

GRACE

But Dad, shouldn't we be studying
something?

AIDAN

We are. You are witnessing the
first ever wood-shop/poetry class.
Tucker, here is your crowbar.

He hands Tucker a crowbar.

TUCKER

Awesome!

He hands Grace a book of poetry.

AIDAN

Grace you are going to recite this
poem while Tucker and I attack
these old boards.

GRACE

This is weird.

AIDAN

Think of it as a prayer you're not
expecting anyone to answer.

She stares at him.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

Just read.

He kneels down and helps Tucker crowbar off the first broken
board. Grace reads from atop a nearby tree stump.

GRACE (V.O.)

*Something there is that doesn't
love a wall. That sends the frozen-
ground-swell under it, And spills
the upper boulders in the sun;*

86 INT. SARAH'S WORKPLACE - CONTINUOUS

86

Sarah at work still being tormented by Jerry over the wall of
her new cubicle. Her eyes well.

GRACE (V.O.)

*I let my neighbor know beyond the
hill; And on a day we meet to walk
the line And set the wall between
us once again.*

87 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

87

Saul stares at a PICTURE OF HIS WIFE AND A YOUNG JONAH AND
AIDAN in a photo album as a nurse changes his IV drip.

GRACE (V.O.)

*My apple trees will never get
across And eat the cones under his
pines, I tell him. He only says,
"Good fences make good neighbors."*

88 EXT. COMIC CON - CONVENTION CENTER - CONTINUOUS

88

Jonah MARCHES IN FORMATION with similarly dressed characters
from the video game *Mass Effect 3*. They look super badass.

GRACE (V.O.)

*Spring is the mischief in me, and I
wonder If I could put a notion in
his head: "Why do they make good
neighbors? Isn't it Where there are
cows? But here there are no cows.*

Janine stands with a group of FELLOW FURRIES watching.

GRACE (V.O.)

*Before I built a wall I'd ask to
know What I was walling in or
walling out, And to whom I was like
to give offence.*

89 EXT. BLOOM HOUSE - LATER

89

Aidan and the kids have finished dismantling the fence. The FENCE BOARDS lie in a GIANT PILE. They relax and LAUGH together about something but THE ONLY SOUND WE HEAR IS GRACE'S VOICE OVER FINISHING THE POEM.

GRACE (V.O.)

*He moves in darkness as it seems to
me, Not of woods only and the shade
of trees. He will not go behind his
father's saying, And he likes
having thought of it so well
He says again, "Good fences make
good neighbors.*

90 EXT. MANSION, POOL DECK - LATER

90

Aidan and the Shulman's Hispanic house-keeper, ESPERANZA (50's) are sipping Margaritas in the Shulman's hot tub. Grace does decent free-style laps in the pool behind.

Tucker yells to Esperanza from the diving board...

TUCKER

Has visto mi salto, Esperanza?

ESPERANZA

*Si, Tucker! Ahora una bala de
cañón!*

TUCKER

Aqui voy!

AIDAN

Wait, before you jump; what's 2
times 2?

TUCKER

Eleven-teen.

AIDAN

Good enough for six; bombs away.

Tucker does a cannonball into the pool. Grace swims to the edge of the pool, breathing hard.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

Nice work, Gracie. Your stroke is really improving. You're gonna wow everyone at Jesse's party.

GRACE

Stop bringing that up; I'm not going. And even if I did go, I can't wear a bathing suit in front of all those people. I'm not showing any skin!

AIDAN

Umm. Okay. Let's see. You're too small for mom's wetsuit...

ESPERANZA

Maybe you get for her a "Burquini".

GRACE

What's a Burquini?

ESPERANZA

For religious womens, they have covered suit. Shop in Beverly Hills.

AIDAN

Where in Beverly Hills?

91 INT. BURQUINI STORE - DAY

91

Aidan (with swear jar under his arm), Esperanza (wearing a *Les Miserables* T-shirt), Grace and Tucker stand in an upscale clothing store for religious women. THREE MUSLIM WOMEN wearing religious HIJABS stare at them.

ESPERANZA

Buenos Dias. One small Burquini please... To go.

The religious women stare.

92 INT. CASTING AGENCY - WAITING ROOM

92

Aidan and ANOTHER ACTOR are dressed similarly and sit opposite one another. Aidan stares at the man as he practices the scene.

ACTOR

(to himself)

Let me lead the way, Captain. These *Ractonians* could be hiding anywhere.

(to Aidan)

I'm sorry to bother you, but do you know how to say that word? Is it "*Ractonians*"?

AIDAN

No idea. It's made up.

ACTOR

Well I know it's made up; they're aliens. I just thought you may have seen this show.

AIDAN

No one's seen this show it's an insult to Sci-Fi.

ACTOR

Captain Kirk's probably turning over in his grave.

AIDAN

Well technically *Captain Kirk* isn't even born until 2233, but that's irrelevant. Sorry, I'm a bit of an aficionado... And this dogshit is the reason the genre gets no respect.

The Actor LAUGHS.

ACTOR

How do we keep doing this, huh?

AIDAN

According to my father, forward is the only direction God gave us.

(tentative)

Can I give you one thought?

ACTOR

Uh.. Sure.

AIDAN

You're the first one out of the ship. Now we don't have the rest of the pages, but the guy's got two lines in the whole first act and he wants to be first one off the ship?

ACTOR
 (getting it)
 He's gonna die.

AIDAN
 Of course he's gonna die! He's
 about to get ass-raped by a half-
 dozen *Ractonians*. Amp up your fear.
 This is the scariest moment in
 "Private O'Brien's" life. There's
 nothing cavalier about it.

The ACTOR digests this.

ACTOR
 Cool. Thank you.

AIDAN
 Sure.

ACTOR
 But why are you helping me?

AIDAN
 I don't know. I guess that's
 stupid, right?

ACTOR
 Careful, it might be kindness.

AIDAN
 Oh God, I hope not. I'll get
 devoured alive in this town.

They share a LAUGH.

93

INT. BLOOM HOUSE KITCHEN - LATER

93

Grace is helping Aidan unpack groceries. Aidan is energized.

AIDAN
 I was over near Fairfax for an
 audition and I remembered this
 little kosher market. I mean, check
 out all this stuff...

GRACE
 It's all kosher?

AIDAN
 Yeah. You gotta see this place,
 Grace. You'll love it.

(MORE)

AIDAN (CONT'D)

And also, you know what I was thinking on the way over here? All that wood from the fence we were just gonna throw away? We could finish the deck. Tucker, go grab that drawing you made of your dream fort.

94 EXT. BLOOM HOUSE, DECK - LATER

94

ANGLE ON THE UNFINISHED DECK as AIDAN'S arm LOWERS TUCKER'S FORT DRAWING INTO VIEW so it's situated on the unfinished portion of the deck.

AIDAN

Should we try it?

TUCKER

YES!!!!

GRACE

Thank you, daddy.

Aidan smiles.

95 INT. HOSPITAL - LATER

95

Aidan enters. Saul is VISIBLY WEAKER.

AIDAN

Hi, Dad.

Aidan sits down next to the bed and holds his father's hand.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

Your lips are so chapped. Have some ice.

Aidan puts an ice cube on Saul's chapped lips.

SAUL

(soft and weak)

Remember when that ice cream truck would come around when you were little? You and Jonah would hear the music and light up and then the three of us would chase after him till he stopped; summertime in Jersey... fireflies everywhere.

AIDAN
 (a smile)
 I remember.

SAUL
 What was it that I always used to
 get? I forgot the one I liked.

AIDAN
 A Toasted Almond.

SAUL
 A Toasted Almond. I'll have one of
 those. That's the last thing I
 wanna taste, Aidan. That's how I'll
 go out. It'll remind me of summer.
 Summer and all those fireflies.

AIDAN
 You got it.

SAUL
 Wouldn't it be great if your
 brother could be there too.

AIDAN
 (teary)
 That would be great.

SAUL
 Promise me you'll try to make that
 happen, Aidan. I need to see him. I
 wanna make amends.

AIDAN
 I will. I do. I promise.

96 INT. HOSPITAL, HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER 96

Aidan is pacing the hallway on his cell phone.

AIDAN
 (into phone)
 Where the fuck are you?

97 INT. JONAH'S HOTEL ROOM: INTERCUT 97

Jonah is having sex with Janine in her PURPLE FURRY costume.
 He is dressed in his *Commander Shepard costume*.

JONAH
 Comic-Con.

AIDAN

Look man, I just thought you should know that your father is probably going to pass away any time now. I had to pick out a casket.

Jonah pushes Janine off...

JONAH

Fuck.

AIDAN

Yeah. He says he's sorry, Jonah. He wants to make amends. He needs you to forgive him.

Just then Grace and Tucker rounds a corner with rubber-glove balloons. Grace approaches Aidan; listening in...

JONAH

We've been over this, Aidan.

AIDAN

Maybe you don't really get this until you have kids of your own, but being a father is really hard, Jonah. Some guys are naturally good at it, some aren't. Our Dad was a little in over his head without Mom. He sees that now. He wants to apologize.

Jonah looks over to see Janine snorting a line of coke.

JONAH

Look I gotta go, Aidan. I got a coked-up Furry on my hands and the contest starts in fifteen minutes.

Grace reaches out for the phone...

GRACE

Let me talk to him.

AIDAN

Not now, honey--

Grace grabs the phone...

GRACE

(into phone)

Uncle Jonah...? Hi! It's Grace! Did Janine like the costume? Did she give you some poon-tang?

JONAH

Uh... yeah.

GRACE

Ha! Awesome. You deserve all the poon-tang that's coming your way.

JONAH

Thank you.

GRACE

Uncle Jonah, I've never asked you for anything, have I?

JONAH

No.

GRACE

I never complained when you forgot my birthday or Hannukah or when you got drunk and peed in my closet...

JONAH

Uhh... I got locked in there Grace, someone locked me in.

GRACE

I want you to come see grandpa. I know that you're sad. But we're sad too and we should all be together. I know you don't believe in God... But at least maybe you can believe in family...

JONAH rolls over; scratches his belly...

98

INT. HOSPITAL, HALLWAY - A BEAT LATER

98

Grace hands Aidan the phone.

GRACE

He hung up.

AIDAN

What?!

GRACE

Maybe we got disconnected. But it kinda felt like he hung up.

AIDAN

I'm sorry sweetie. Thank you, for trying.

He hugs her tightly.

99 INT. BLOOM HOUSE - LAUNDRY ROOM

99

Sarah is doing the laundry. Aidan, dirty from building the deck, comes up behind her and kisses her neck.

SARAH
Wow, I'm having Deja-Vu.

AIDAN
Ok, blip in the *Matrix*. Don't panic. Last time did I do this?

Aidan does a bizarre dance move.

SARAH
Yes.

AIDAN
Did I do this?

He backs his butt up against her and shakes it like *Shakira*.

SARAH
(laughing)
Unfortunately, yes.

AIDAN
How about this?

He steps up close and kisses her passionately.

SARAH
Definitely not.

His hand goes up her shirt.

SARAH (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

AIDAN
I have man needs...

SARAH
Why don't you just beat off like every other day?

AIDAN
Are you jealous of my hand?

SARAH
Where are the kids?

AIDAN
Building the deck.

SARAH
Aidan!

AIDAN
I hid the saw.

SARAH
Did you floss?

AIDAN
No, I'm a rugged man now. We don't
floss.

He lifts her onto the DRYER as they start to go at it.

SARAH
I missed you.

AIDAN
I missed you too. Should I go get
your magic wand?

SARAH
(with a laugh)
No. Yours will be just fine.

They laugh and kiss.

100 INT. BLOOM HOUSE MASTER BEDROOM - LATER

100

Aidan and Sarah lie in bed post-coital.

SARAH
I have to tell you something. But I
don't want you to get crazy.

AIDAN
What?

SARAH
It's all under control but I wanted
to you be aware it was happening.

AIDAN
Sarah, what?

SARAH
You know that guy, Jerry, the
chlorine analyst I work with?

AIDAN

Yeah. The one that always wears sweatpants?

SARAH

Yeah... Well, he's been acting... inappropriately.

AIDAN

What kind of shit is he doing? Is he... touching you.

SARAH

No, no nothing like that. Just stuff like, you know... making his dick talk.

A bolt of electricity runs up from Aidan feet...

AIDAN

I will fucking kill him.

SARAH

Calm down.

AIDAN

Have you told human resources?

SARAH

I talked to my boss, but he told me to sing *Hakuna Matada*.

AIDAN

Oh my God. This isn't your dream job. It's a fucking nightmare.

Aidan pulls anxiously at his hair, his mind racing...

AIDAN (CONT'D)

Where does he live?

SARAH

Aidan. You can't do that--

AIDAN

Then I'll come to your work. I will not allow anyone to disrespect you.

SARAH

I don't need a man to come to my rescue. I can handle this.

AIDAN
 But I want to kick his ass.
 (desperate)
 I need to...

SARAH
 You can't.

Aidan broils. KNOCK KNOCK. Grace enters in her black, ankle-length Burquini. They quickly cover up.

GRACE
 How do I look?

SARAH
 Wow! Fantastic!

GRACE
 Why are you in bed?

SARAH
 We're napping.

GRACE
 Why are you napping naked?

AIDAN
 We wrestled. I won. Then we napped.
 Can you get out now?

Grace eyes them suspiciously.

GRACE
 I need a ride.

101 MINIVAN/ EXT. JESSE'S HOUSE - LATER

101

The whole family aboard, Aidan pulls the minivan to the curb and Grace climbs out and marches up the lawn...

SARAH
 Good luck, honey.

AIDAN
 Holy shit. That's brave.

SARAH
 Do you think she's gonna be alright?

AIDAN
 That's our little baby.

GRACE

Hey! Parents! Get lost! I'm okay.
I'll call you later!

Aidan and Sarah drive off smiling with pride.

102

EXT. JESSE HOUSE, POOL DECK - LATER

102

Grace enters; and takes in the scene...

At the far side of the pool, FIVE 15 YEAR OLD GIRLS in bikinis DANCE a provocatively choreographed, routine to a blasting POP SONG. Some CHEAP FIREWORKS go off behind them.

LOUD JOCKS do CANNONBALLS and Jesse's mom TARA (30's), wobbles nearby with a frozen daiquiri in hand...

TARA

(to girls)

Pop the booty, baby! Pop that booty.

Finally Grace spots Jesse, under an umbrella with some other kids her age on the other side of the party.

JESSE

Grace, over here!

Grace begins making her way through the chaos when a group of predatory BULLIES spot her. They point and laugh before crossing over to block her way...

BULLY #1

What the fuck are you wearing?

BULLY #2

Are you going scuba diving?

Unnerved; Grace tries to push past them...

BULLY #3

She's from another planet. She's here to probe us.

GRACE

Please just let me pass...

BULLY #1

Nah. I think she has a skin condition.

(to Grace loudly)

Do you have a skin condition?!

GRACE

My father told me I'd meet people like you.

BULLY #1

What do you mean "people like us"?

Grace holds her head high...

GRACE

Douchebags.

Before they can react, Grace dives in. She pulls a few hard strokes and shoots to the far side of the pool. As she emerges, she is met by Jesse at the steps.

JESSE

Did those idiots say something to you?

GRACE

No. They were just asking where I got my suit.

(re; dancers)

What are those girls doing?

JESSE

That's my sister and her friend's routine for the talent show. They're pretty good dancers aren't they? My dad's in charge of their pyro.

We see JESSE'S DAD continues to LIGHT FIREWORKS behind the dancing girls. Jesse notices her suit...

JESSE (CONT'D)

What are you wearing?

GRACE

(tense)

It's called a Burquini.

(then)

Am I totally lame?

JESSE

Not to me. You look like a surfer chick.

Jesse smiles. Grace smiles back...

103 EXT. BLOOM HOUSE DECK FORT - DAY

103

Aidan and Tucker work on the deck/fort. Aidan's cell RINGS...

AIDAN

Hello? (listening) Okay... put him
on... Dad? You okay?(listening)
Oh...! Are you sure-- Okay, Dad.
I'm on my way.

Aidan hangs up.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

Holy shit.

TUCKER

Who was it?

AIDAN

It was Grandpa. He wants me to
bring him a... Toasted Almond.
(off their looks)
This is it...

Tucker gives his dad a hug.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

Thanks, pal.

104 EXT. SUPERMARKET - LATER

104

Aidan is at a walk-run with Tucker a few steps behind. He has a box of Toasted Almonds under one arm and the SWEAR JAR under the other as he approaches a Cashier.

Aidan hangs up. He's just paid for ice cream bars WHEN...

TUCKER

Dad?

AIDAN

What?

TUCKER

I think I see a guy from mom's
work.

Aidan turns to see a Jerry hitting on a FEMALE EMPLOYEE.

AIDAN

I'm going to talk to him.

TUCKER
What about grandpa?

AIDAN
This will just take a second.

Aidan looks and sees his SPACE MAN SELF standing nearby. He gives Aidan a solemn nod of approval.

Aidan crosses over, Tucker follows just behind.

AIDAN (CONT'D)
Excuse me?

Jerry turns...

AIDAN (CONT'D)
Are you the Jerry with the talking dick?

JERRY
Who the fuck are you?

AIDAN
Aidan Bloom. Sarah's husband.

JERRY
(startled)
Oh. Nice to meet you.

AIDAN
Man, I have been racking my brain trying to figure out the best way to handle this situation...

JERRY
Ok, calm down.

Aidan takes a step closer.

AIDAN
You know, this was supposed to be her dream job. It meant a lot to her. But what you don't understand is how important it was to me. In my situation, to have a wife who is working her dream job; it was essential. It made the whole thing almost work. You fucked that for me, Jerry, understand?

A few shoppers turn to look...

AIDAN (CONT'D)

If you ever so much as exhale near my wife again I promise to dedicate a large portion of the rest of my life to making sure that we sue you for sexual harassment on a level so astronomical that Anita Hill will literally shit her pants and order a diet coke just so she can toast us in celebration.

(beat)

Do you understand me you retched piece of shit?

Jerry reels back and PUNCHES Aidan in the face HARD. Aidan falls to the ground. IN SLOW MOTION: the SWEAR JAR falls to the ground and shatters sending coins everywhere.

105 INT. DILAPIDATED SYNAGOGUE - FANTASY 105

Aidan and JAX rush down the endless aisle of an ancient RUN-DOWN SYNAGOGUE carrying the WHITE LIGHT. RABBI TWERSKEY covered in dust prays on the stage lit only by a shaft of light streaming through a broken window. He looks up when he sees them. THE SHADOWED FIGURE enters behind them.

Aidan turns and braces for a fight, but the figure COLLAPSES. Aidan, JAX and Rabbi Twerskey cross to him and pull back his cape to reveal it is Saul and he's dying. Aidan is shocked to see it's his father.

TUCKER (O.S.)

Dad!

106 INT. SUPERMARKET - CONTINUOUS 106

TUCKER

Dad?

Aidan comes to and looks up at his son; covering his eye in pain and disgrace.

AIDAN

Ow, fuck. That did not go as planned.

107 INT. HOSPITAL, HALLWAY - LATER 107

Aidan runs in holding the Toasted Almond box on his eye; Tucker just behind. Sarah, Grace and Jesse and the Rabbis are there. Sarah spots him...

SARAH

Aidan! What happened to your eye?

AIDAN

I ran into Jerry at the
supermarket.

SARAH

Oh my God.

Aidan moves past her and enters the room.

108

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER

108

A nurse adjusting an IV exits as Aidan enters. He crosses to the bedside. Saul turns to see him. He is very weak.

SAUL

What happened to your eye?

AIDAN

Don't worry about it.
Dad, I'm so sorry, but I don't
think Jonah is going to make it...

SAUL

Oh...

Saul thinks for a bit.

SAUL (CONT'D)

Thank you, Aidan.

AIDAN

For what?

SAUL

For doing your best to hold this
family together... when I couldn't.

Aidan smiles sadly. Saul notices his eye.

SAUL (CONT'D)

How'd ya earn the shiner?

AIDAN

Oh, I just got into it with this
guy that's been harassing Sarah at
work.

SAUL

Jesus. You went after him, huh?

AIDAN
(realizing)
Well... yeah, I did.

SAUL
Takes guts. Good for you. You
showed up.

AIDAN
How do you feel?

SAUL
I'm not afraid. Isn't that funny. I
thought I'd be afraid.

AIDAN
I think that's the bravest thing
I've ever heard.

SAUL
Really? You think I'm brave?

AIDAN
Yes.

SAUL
You promise.

AIDAN
(his eyes well)
I promise.

Aidan studies his father lovingly.

SAUL
Do you see that too, or is God very
different than I imagined?

They turn to see Janine (still in her PINK FURRY outfit)
standing in the doorway.

JANINE
Jonah! In here.

Jonah (still in his FULL COSPLAY UNIFORM) arrives out of
breath.

AIDAN
Oh my God, you made it.

Jonah takes his helmet off and sits in the chair at Saul's
bedside.

SAUL
Jonah. You're a warrior?

JONAH
I'm a pretend warrior.

Saul looks at his two boys standing side by side.

SAUL
(very weak)
So was I.

They watch his eyes begin to fall.

SAUL (CONT'D)
I'm so tired. Jonah... If there's a
next time... I'll do better.

Aidan smiles as tears overflow his eyelids. Jonah cries too.
Saul's eyes slowly drift closed.

109

INT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

109

WE CRANE IN as Jonah speaking at the podium. He still wears his *Commander Shepard* costume; a skullcap sits perched atop his helmet.

JONAH
I associated my father with all the things I wanted to be, but have never really found a way to become. Aidan and I used to pretend we were heroes. We were Superhero Space Men with swords that could save the day. Perhaps we set the bar a little high. Maybe we're just regular people; the ones who get saved.

(he smiles through tears)
Anyway... Aidan recently asked me what my happiest memory of my father was. I told him I couldn't think of one. But recently, after falling in love with that Furry back there... wave hi Janine.

Everybody turns to the back. Janine the Furry waves.

JONAH (CONT'D)
Anyway, I remembered how much my dad loved marching bands. He went to USC and I don't think I ever saw him smile with more pride...
(MORE)

JONAH (CONT'D)

I never saw him more elated than when he listened to their marching band play the fight song. So, this is for you, Dad. As an atheist I doubt that you can hear this... but just in case, I told them to play extra loud.

On his cue, THE ENTIRE USC MARCHING BAND enters from the back of the chapel and begins playing THE FIGHT SONG at FULL VOLUME. Drums. Horns. Aidan smiles. Jonah smiles.

We CRANE UP HIGH...

110

EXT. HOLLYWOOD BACKLOT - DAY

110

Aidan walks past lots of MOVIE-MAKING ACTIVITY looking for the building that houses his audition.

VOICE (O.S.)

Hey!

Aidan turns. It's the ACTOR he helped out in the audition room. He is in a full SPACE CREW uniform and due to AMAZING SPECIAL EFFECTS MAKE-UP, HIS HEAD IS GRUESOMELY BLOWN OPEN.

AIDAN

Oh my God!

ACTOR

Dude, this is cause of you! I got that part.

AIDAN

Wow. They fucked you up.

ACTOR

You were so right; the second I got out of that ship there were fucking Ractonians everywhere, man. I got crushed!

AIDAN

That's cool, man. Congrats. That make-up's incredible.

ACTOR

What make-up? Just kidding. What's your name by the way?

AIDAN

I'm Aidan.

ACTOR

I'm Craig. Thanks again for the tip. Have you ever thought about teaching? My guy Tim Scheffield at The Actor's Studio just got a regular spot on "The Mentalist".

AIDAN

Oh cool. Well, good for him.

ACTOR

They're looking for someone to fill his spot over at the studio. You should give them a call. I told them about you.

Aidan considers this. MUSIC CUE FOR KILLER SONG.

111 EXT. BLOOM HOUSE - DECK 111

Aidan and the kids lead a blindfolded Sarah out the back door. She takes off the blindfold...

Aidan and the kids have finished the deck/fort. It looks exactly like Tucker's drawing. Sarah is thrilled. The kids pull her over for a tour.

112 EXT. MIDDLE SCHOOL / EXT. CHARTER SCHOOL - LATER 112

The kids first day at new school. Grace sits at a desk next to Jesse. She tries hard to play it cool, but we notice a tiny smile creep across her face.

113 INT. ACTING CLASS 113

Aidan stands in front of a small acting class. An OLDER FEMALE ACTING TEACHER observes from the back.

AIDAN

Hey everybody. Um... I'm gonna be subbing for Tim today. He got a job on the Mentalist so he's probably having his mind read as we speak.

The class chuckles.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

Anyway... that lovely lady in the back is here to make sure I don't fuck up and ruin your careers.

They LAUGH harder.

114 INT. ALAN'S OFFICE - DAY

114

Jerry sits across from Alan and a DEFENSE ATTORNEY.

DEFENSE LAWYER

The Blooms are willing to drop both the sexual harassment and public-battery charges as long as you agree to... this.

He slides Jerry a document.

DEFENSE LAWYER (CONT'D)

It's technically community service but the stipulations are fairly unusual...

JERRY

What the hell is this?

ALAN

Apparently there's a concrete retaining wall in their neighborhood that keeps getting tagged with graffiti.

115 EXT. CONCRETE RETAINING WALL - DAY

115

We see the wall with a FRESH ANGRY ROBOT TAG. And then a PAINT ROLLER ON A POLE rolls in, covering it once again. WE PULL BACK TO REVEAL Jerry in an ORANGE VEST on the other end of the pole looking miserable.

DEFENSE LAWYER (V.O.)

They want you to paint it over the first Sunday of every month.

JERRY

For how long?

DEFENSE LAWYER (V.O.)

Until the wall falls down or you die. Whichever comes first.

(beat)

Ooh, also... you're fired.

Aidan's minivan passes behind him; Aidan TOOTS the horn. Jerry turns,

TUCKER

You missed a spot, ass-head.

OFF JERRY'S MISERY, THE SONG BUILDS AGAIN...

116 EXT. MALIBU BEACH - SUNRISE 116

Jonah throws a tennis ball for Kugel on the beach. Janine collects seashells. A CLOSE-UP of Jonah's feet as he allows the tide to wash over his toes.

117 INT. BLOOM BATHROOM - FLASHBACK 117

Grace in the mirror the moment before she chose to shave her head. We see her take a breath of courage and then we watch her shave her head.

THE HAIR AS IT FALLS IN SLOW MOTION THROUGH THE AIR

118 EXT. BEACH - FLASHBACK 118

A younger Aidan lies on the beach holding a book, yet watching Sarah in the distance as she catches her very first wave. He smiles but he can't see her face... But we do:

TIGHT ON SARAH'S ELATED FACE
as she stands up for the first time on a wave. Empowered.

119 EXT. WOODS - DAY 119

Tucker at the top of a hill in the woods holding a BRANCH like a RIFLE.

TUCKER

CHARGE!!!!

From over the hill come A DOZEN YESHIVA BOYS (his old buddies) dressed in full orthodox regalia charging right behind him to face an unknown enemy.

120 EXT. NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY - FLASHBACK 120

A COLLEGIATE SARAH smiles at something OFF CAMERA and we PAN to REVEAL COLLEGIATE AIDAN and a group of fellow THESPIANS performing *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on the soccer field. No one but Sarah is paying them much attention.

121 EXT. AIDAN'S CHILDHOOD STREET - FLASHBACK 121

It's 1982 as we watch a YOUNGER SAUL and AIDAN and JONAH as CHILDREN chase after an ICE CREAM TRUCK in SLOW MOTION. FIREFLIES FLY AROUND THEM AS THEY RUN. Elation on their faces.

DISSOLVE TO:

122 EXT. SMALL OUTDOOR THEATER - SUNSET 122

WE SEE SPACE SUIT Costumes and we wonder for a moment if we're back in Aidan's fantasies. The CAMERA REVEALS:

Aidan is directing a summer outdoor production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The production design is straight out of Aidan's futuristic fantasies. WHITE GLOWING GLOBES like the one in his fantasy dangle from giant trees on the set.

Sarah, Tucker and Grace have a picnic as they watch. FAINTLY in the background we hear the actor playing PUCK delivering his final lines:

PUCK (O.S.)

*If we shadows have offended,
Think but this, and all is mended,
That you have but slumber'd here
While these visions did appear.
And this weak and idle theme,
No more yielding, but a dream*

The last thing we see is a close up on Aidan's face. He lips subtly say the lines along with *Puck* as his eyes dance around taking it how unbelievable perfect his life has become.

HARD CUT TO BLACK.