

Production Company:
Dead Zone Production Corp.

THE DEAD ZONE

"CYCLE OF VIOLENCE"

Production #9-3007

Teleplay by
Jill Blotevogel (01/27/04)

Revised Teleplay by
Michael R. Perry (03/08/04)

All color Teleplay revisions by
Michael R. Perry (03/17 thru 03/25)

Directed by
Ellie Kanner

Rev. Production Draft - Full Green	Mar 17/04
Gold Pages - 57,59-63	Mar 18/04
2nd White + Addendum Pages - 62-64	Mar 18/04
2nd Blue Pages - 4,26,28-30,47-48,51,57,59	Mar 19/04
2nd Pink Pages - 3-3A,6-8A,11-13,19-20A,25-26,39,41-46, 50-52,58-59	Mar 19/04
2nd Yellow Pages - 45-46A	Mar 25/04 *

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THE DEAD ZONE"CYCLE OF VIOLENCE"CAST

JOHNNY SMITH		REBECCA CALDWELL	
SARAH BANNERMAN		ROSCOE	
WALT BANNERMAN		PRINCIPAL ROWIN	
J.J. BANNERMAN		MR. TALBOT	
		MAX KOLCHAK	
<u>NON-SPEAKING</u>		DEREK FITZ	*
STUDENTS (VARIOUS AGES)		LENORA TOWERS	
BAND MEMBERS		CHARLES KOLCHAK	
KIDS IN J.J.'S CLASS PLAY		COLIN TALAVERA	*
SUZANNE		SECURITY GUARD McCLATCHY	
ASH			
PETEY			
STUDENTS IN FUTURE			
TEACHERS (PRESENT & FUTURE)		MRS. TOWERS	
ASST. MUSIC CONDUCTOR (PRESENT)		MR. FITZ	*
PARENTS/AUDIENCE FOR PLAY		ZEKE, ages 9, 12, 15	
FIREFIGHTERS		DONALD	
BOMB SQUAD GUY		FRANKIE	
SHERIFF DEPUTIES		REAL ESTATE AGENT	
SECURITY GUARDS		YOUNG MOTHER	
YOUNG FATHER & 5-YR OLD DAUGHTER			
NURSE AT CLINIC	*	CHILDREN'S CHORUS	
LENORA'S BOYFRIEND	*	PANICKED MAN (O.S.)	
PETEY'S MOTHER	*	CHARLES' PARENTS (O.S.)	
		PETEY'S FATHER	
		GUARD TWO	*

THE DEAD ZONE

"CYCLE OF VIOLENCE"

SETS

INTERIORS

RACHEL'S HOUSE

SCHOOL

LITTLE THEATER/BALCONY
CORRIDOR/LOCKERS
PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE
HISTORY CLASS
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
WAITING ROOM
TEACHER'S LOUNGE
MUSIC/BAND ROOM
CORRIDOR (IN FUTURE)
LIBRARY (IN FUTURE)
LOBBY/ENTRY WAY

CHARLES' BEDROOM

COLIN'S BEDROOM

PETEY'S BACK PORCH

*

RANKIN HOUSE

LIVING ROOM

JOHNNY'S HOUSE

FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC

VEHICLES

WALT'S PATROL CAR

JOHNNY'S RANGE ROVER

CORONER'S VAN

EXTERIORS

SCHOOL

DRIVEWAY

PARKING LOT

WOODS

SKATEBOARD PARK

ANOTHER PARKING LOT

THE DEAD ZONE

"CYCLE OF VIOLENCE"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. RACHEL'S HOUSE - DAY

1

In a completely empty living room, JOHNNY stands by REBECCA'S side as a real estate AGENT speaks for a YOUNG FATHER and PREGNANT YOUNG MOTHER who are accompanied by a FIVE-YEAR-OLD GIRL.

AGENT

My clients are willing to pay your price for the house if you're willing to buy a home warranty, and repaint the interior.

Rebecca nods; then looks at the young wife --

REBECCA

When are you due?

YOUNG MOTHER

Nine weeks. It's going to be a girl.

REBECCA

My sister and I were just about as far apart in age as your daughters. This will be a great house for two girls. What color are you going to paint the girls' bedrooms?

YOUNG MOTHER

Sunflower yellow.

REBECCA

That will be lovely. Congratulations.

They all smile; shake hands; the house is sold.

REBECCA

Can I have a few minutes alone?

AGENT

Sure. We'll go for a walk.

The family is excited to get into a new house; they step out, leaving Johnny and Rebecca alone.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

REBECCA

Seeing those buyers, I can't help
imagining Rachel in this house
with a husband and children...

JOHNNY

You're doing a great job, Rebecca.
It's a hard thing to get through.

REBECCA

It's good that a family is moving
in. Make this a happy place again.
But now that it's done, I just
feel kind of empty.

Johnny wraps her in a comforting hug.

REBECCA

Johnny? You want to see a movie,
maybe? A comedy? Just something
silly? Get a big bucket of
popcorn?

JOHNNY

I have another obligation. But
you're welcome to join me.

Off his smile --

2 INT. LITTLE THEATER - SCHOOL - NIGHT

2

The final song in an all-ages production with elementary,
middle-school and high school students; flags and bunting
are everywhere, and children are dressed as presidents.
J.J. is Lincoln; his pal ZEKE is Washington; a dozen or
two others in patriotic costume sing the second verse of
"America the Beautiful" enthusiastically. The band is
led by band teacher MR. TALBOT, dressed as Teddy Roosevelt.

CHILDREN'S CHORUS

*A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness / America!*

IN THE FIFTH ROW OF A PACKED HOUSE

Rebecca is smiling from ear to ear; next to her, Johnny;
behind them, WALT and SARAH; the room is full and everyone
is having a great time.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

CHILDREN'S CHORUS
*America! God mend thine every
flaw / Confirm thy soul in self
control / Thy liberty in law*

THE AUDIENCE

Gives a standing ovation; it's all family and friends.
Rebecca leans close to Johnny.

REBECCA
Johnny, this has been so fun --

JOHNNY
(teasing)
How about that Abe Lincoln, huh?

REBECCA
(she turns to Sarah)
He's just darling!

WALT
And so presidential.

REBECCA
You must be proud.

SARAH
Thanks. I'm glad you could come.

Sarah and Johnny exchange a proud glance. As Johnny and
Rebecca exit, Sarah and Walt linger behind, watching them.

SARAH
It's nice to see Johnny so happy.
Do you think ...

WALT
Oh, yeah.

SARAH
(smiling)
I wonder if they know?

ON THE STAGE

PRINCIPAL ROWIN, smart, committed, the kind of principal
you wish your kids had, stands in the center of the stage --

PRINCIPAL ROWIN
Thank you all for coming down
tonight to the high school!
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (2)

2

PRINCIPAL ROWIN (CONT'D)
I'd like to invite you to meet
our stars in the lobby afterward --

2A IN A BACKSTAGE TECH AREA

2A

used by a few high school kids, the tech crew: there are
a couple light stands, a flat, and a soundboard, which is
operated by DEREK, 15, a wiseacre dressed in black, who
quips to the kid next to him --

DEREK
-- if any of you are still awake --

2A CONTINUED:

2A

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

A special thank-you to Mr. Talbot
for bringing kids of every age
together in this all-city
production. How about one more
round of applause for our talented
performers and musicians!

THE AUDIENCE

Applauds; people start getting out of their seats and
head for the exit.

3 INT. LOBBY - A LITTLE LATER - NIGHT

3

A genial post-show crowd of parents, teachers, and students
(some still in costume) pour into the hallway, all passing
through the same door; it's a happy crowd. Johnny and
Rebecca enter the lobby through the same door. Johnny
touches the door frame, triggering --

4 VISION: INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

4

*A terrified mob composed of different people (not the
theater crowd) runs away from something, terrified. A
GUNSHOT rings out; the people SCREAM and duck.*

THE SHOOTER

*Remains standing. His back is to Johnny, as he heads
away down corridor. As Johnny watches, the shooter
disappears into a doorway and we hear BANG! ending the
vision --*

5 RESUME: INT. SCHOOL LOBBY - NIGHT

5

Everyone is still happy and smiling, except Johnny, who
looks nervously around for the source of the vision.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

REBECCA
Johnny? What did you see?

Off Johnny's weary look...

FADE OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

6 INT. TEACHER'S LOUNGE - NIGHT (FORMERLY PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE) 6

Walt, Johnny and Rebecca stand with Principal Rowin.

JOHNNY

I don't know what triggered the vision -- I was in a crowd when I touched a doorway that hundreds of people had passed through.

WALT

Just tell us again what you saw --

JOHNNY

It was during a school day. I heard gunshots. I went to the hallway. People were scared, running away from something.

WALT

Did you see the shooter's face?

JOHNNY

No. He wore a sweatshirt with a hood. I saw him walk into the room and heard a shot. And then my vision ended.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

These things you see -- they always come true?

JOHNNY

Yes, unless something is done to stop it, this shooting will happen.

WALT

He's right. We can't stand by and let this happen. We've got to close the school.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

But that's just a temporary measure until we can put new security measures in place... guards, metal detectors, whatever it takes to guarantee the safety of these students. In the meantime, we've got to find this shooter.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

WALT

Any idea, John, who we should be looking at?

JOHNNY

I didn't get a good look. I'm pretty sure it was a boy --

WALT

That's not a lot to go on.

JOHNNY

I know. Rebecca, what do you think? You work with troubled kids. Anything we should be looking for?

REBECCA

We have a rare chance to save two people: the victim, and the kid who's going to shoot him. By the time a kid picks up a gun, he may already be dead inside.

JOHNNY

There must be warning signs.

REBECCA

Each kid is different, but there are some things to look for. He'll probably have expressed anger in other ways -- vandalism, making threats, verbally or in writing.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

Some kids go so far as to post their threats on a website.

REBECCA

Yes. A second element all these kids have in common -- and this sounds obvious -- he'll have easy access to a gun.

WALT

We're already pulling any recent missing gun reports -- but there's a lot of firearms out there parents just haven't secured properly.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (2)

6

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

Okay, we'll start by looking at students who fit your profile. I can think of a few suspects.

REBECCA

I can help -- but most kids who fit the profile never act on their threats.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

We have to start somewhere. I think a locker search is in order, too -- metal detectors won't help us if the gun is here already.

JOHNNY

Maybe something from the lockers will help me identify this kid.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

In the meantime, we need to be discrete about this.

WALT

Keep it low-key. Just say there's an unspecified threat against the school and close it tomorrow.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

We don't want to cause a panic. Tomorrow morning, first, we search lockers; after that, interview any student who seems like he might do this kind of thing, and talk to their parents.

Off Johnny --

7 EXT. SCHOOL - DAWN - A ROW OF SAW HORSES

7

block the driveway to the school; a large, handwritten sign says "SCHOOL CLOSED - FOR DETAILS CALL SCHOOL HOTLINE, EXTENSION 1675." A SOCCER MOM in a minivan pulls up, reads the sign, and turns around.

8 INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR / LOCKERS - DAY 8

CLOSE ON A COMBINATION LOCK

Being opened and removed; Roscoe opens the locker and begins fishing through the books and papers and notebooks until he finds a copy of "The Complete Encyclopedia of Serial Killers". Roscoe takes an instant photo of the locker.

ROSCOE

Okay, add one more to the list!

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

PULL BACK TO REVEAL

About every tenth locker is open; Roscoe, two other deputies and Principal Rowin search; Walt supervises, as Johnny and Rebecca arrive.

WALT

(to Johnny)

We pre-screened the contents -- these are the most likely troublemakers.

JOHNNY

All these lockers?

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

We wanted to cast a wide net, and then let you do your thing.

Johnny walks over to Roscoe's locker, the one with the serial killer book inside; touches it, triggering:

9 VISION: INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

9

CHARLES, 15, lays on a single bed and reads the serial killer book. His room is adorned with gory horror posters.

VICIOUS, LOUD OFFSCREEN ARGUING from his parents takes his attention away from his book; then he claps on headphones to drown them out, and continues to read.

10 RESUME: INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR / LOCKERS - DAY

10

All eyes are on Johnny.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

Is he the one?

JOHNNY

I don't know. But I can't rule him out, either.

ROSCOE

(re: another locker)

Try this one. We found a copy of "Soldier of Fortune" and a Marilyn Manson album.

REBECCA

These kinds of things aren't necessarily an indicator...

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: 10

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

Maybe not. But we've got to try.

Johnny touches the locker, triggering --

11 VISION: EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY 11

SUZANNE, 13, rips a photo of a boy and her in half, throws the half with him into a flaming barrel, followed by more photos of him, a CD, gift-jewelry; watches them burn.

12 RESUME: INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR / LOCKERS - DAY 12

All eyes on Johnny again --

JOHNNY

It looked like she was burning pictures of her boyfriend, and gifts from him.

REBECCA

I did that once.
(off the men)
I was thirteen. A lot of girls have done that.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

She stays on the list.

Rowin is holding a yellow pad with several dozen names on it. Of those, only two are crossed out. Rebecca looks askance at the list.

WALT

Come on. We still have a lot of lockers to go.

Johnny touches the next locker door; he FREEZES and we hear a DEAD ZONE WHOOSH; then he tries

THE NEXT LOCKER

again, getting a DEAD ZONE WHOOSH;

Then he runs his hand along several closed lockers -- producing WHOOSH after WHOOSH --

WALT

Those kids aren't suspects --

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: 12

JOHNNY

No, but almost all have traumatic events ahead of them. It's tough being that age. I'm having a hard time ruling anyone out.

REBECCA

Maybe the interviews will be more productive.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

We should get going on that. Some of the parents we called are already here with their children. Who knows? The shooter might be sitting in my outer office.

Off Johnny and Rebecca --

13 INT. PRINCIPAL ROWIN'S OFFICE - DAY 13

MAX KOLCHAK, 40's, square-jawed, sits next to his son Charles; across the desk from them sit Johnny, Rebecca and Principal Rowin.

MAX KOLCHAK

Is my son in some kind of trouble?

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

Probably not. We were given a list of potential problem students, and we'd prefer to clear his name. We're just being careful.

MAX KOLCHAK

So why is he on this list?

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

This was in his locker.

Rowin places "The A to Z Encyclopedia of Serial Killers" on the desk. Max looks at it suspiciously.

REBECCA

Charles? You like this kind of book?

CHARLES

I thought it was funny and weird... Anything can happen at any time, and it's all true --

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: 13

REBECCA

When you read these books, do you ever feel sorry for the victims?

CHARLES

I dunno. Never thought about it.

REBECCA

What about the killers, what do you think about them?

CHARLES

Are you kidding? They're freaks, man. Ed Gein used to wear human skin.

JOHNNY

Here you go.

Almost a clean bill of health; Johnny picks up the book and hands it back to Charles, triggering --

14 EXT. WOODS - DAY 14

Charles and two other jocks, wielding firearms, fire round after round of ammunition into trees and old toys, taking slightly too much pleasure in blowing things away.

15 RESUME 15

JOHNNY

Do you have a gun, Charles?

MAX KOLCHAK

(cutting them off)

Are you going to make list of gun owners, now?

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

We're just trying to clear his name, Mr. Kolchak.

MAX KOLCHAK

Clear his name? For having a book? Come on Charles. We're not doing this.

Max and Charles stand and leave.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

He stays on the list.

16 INT. HOLDING ROOM - DAY 16

Walt escorts Charles and his father into the room, which is filled with every variety of outcast, from goth to nerd to moody loners; each student is accompanied by one or two parents.

WALT
Mr. Fitz? Derek?

Derek Fitz and his strict, stern father, MR. FITZ, 40's, stand and leave with Walt.

17 INT. PRINCIPAL ROWIN'S OFFICE - DAY 17

The following sequence compresses a day's worth of interviews. On one side of the desk sit Johnny, Rebecca, Rowin and Walt; across from them, the occupants change as time goes by; now, it's Derek and his father.

REBECCA
So, Derek? I understand your sense of humor gets you in trouble sometimes. Do you ever joke about destroying school property? Or think about getting back at a teacher for something...?

DEREK
Only when I'm awake.

MR. FITZ
Don't be disrespectful, Derek.
Answer the woman's questions.

DEREK
Sometimes I daydream about smashing things up. So what?

REBECCA
Do you daydream a lot?

DEREK
Do you?

MR. FITZ
Answer her question.

17 CONTINUED: 17

DEREK

Did I say I have violent daydreams?
I misspoke. Really I mostly think
about things like daisies, and
fluffy bunnies. I have nothing
but love and respect for this
institution.

(to Rebecca)

Check out my 'blog if you want to
know what I really think about.

He sets down a couple photocopied slips with a picture
and a URL listed on them; Johnny picks one up, triggering--

18 VISION - EXT. SCHOOL - DAY - DEREK 18

throws a punch at Charles --

19 RESUME 19

JOHNNY

You ever pick fights?

DEREK

No.

JOHNNY

You sure?

DEREK

I never pick fights. But I don't
back down, either, if I'm right.

Rebecca picks up one of the slips --

REBECCA

This is your web site?

DEREK

Yeah. Dereksworld at Maine blog
dot com. I'll be posting my
daydreams about you later today.

MR. FITZ

Show some respect, Derek.

(to Rowin)

I apologize for whatever my son
has done.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: 19

CLOSE ON PRINCIPAL ROWIN

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

Just because we called you in
doesn't mean he's in any kind of
trouble --

20 ACROSS FROM ROWIN 20

now sits another group: LENORA, a soulful Goth girl bends
a paper clip into a little Blair Witch-y shape; she's
accompanied by her mother, a pert, professional secretary,
MRS. TOWERS. It's a few minutes later.

MRS. TOWERS

Well, she's always been a gloomy
girl, especially since her father
moved out. But never dangerous --

REBECCA

What are your feelings about
school?

LENORA

Just another thing to put up with.
I mean, do this until I'm eighteen,
work for forty years, marry,
squeeze out some babies, divorce,
then die.

MRS. TOWERS

Lenora! She's kidding.

LENORA

I'm not kidding. I hope they
close it down for good.

Lenora drops the paper clip. Johnny picks it up,
triggering --

21 VISION: INT. PLANNED PARENTHOOD - CONSULTATION ROOM - DAY 21

*Lenora holds hands with her BOYFRIEND, seated across a
table from A NURSE.*

*The nurse is explaining birth-control options to Lenora,
and on the table in front of them is a diaphragm, a condom,
and a ring of birth control pills.*

22 RESUME: INT. PRINCIPAL ROWIN'S OFFICE - DAY 22

Principal Rowin stares at Johnny.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

What? Did you -- "see" something?

Lenora looks to Johnny, terrified; Johnny looks to her, then turns to the principal --

JOHNNY

No.

Rowin doesn't quite believe him. Lenora is relieved.

REBECCA

Asks a question --

REBECCA

And there's nothing at home to suggest problems here at school?

23 ANOTHER FAMILY 23

Sits across; this time, a middle-class MOTHER and FATHER and a nerdy 16-year-old-boy, PETEY.

FATHER

No. He's better than I was at his age. Even has a kind of homework club.

JOHNNY

Okay. Is that a four color pen? I haven't seen one of those in years!

Petey nods; hands it to Johnny --

24 VISION: EXT. BACK PORCH - DAY (FORMERLY INT. BEDROOM) 24

Petey and three equally geeky pencil-protector wearing friends huff on monstrous bongos while their math books lay unopened on the ground.

25 RESUME 25

Johnny hands back the pen, then turns to the father --

JOHNNY

You might want to encourage him to do his own homework. Sometimes these groups... get sidetracked.

25 CONTINUED: 25

Johnny and Petey lock eyes; he's busted, but Johnny didn't give him up.

FATHER
(confused)
Okay.

JOHNNY
Thanks for coming in.

JOHNNY

reaches out to pat Petey on the back; reveal it's a little later and he's actually reaching out to --

25A ASH 25A

another square-looking kid, surrounded by parents, triggering --

26 VISION: EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY 26

A boring, middle-class sedan BURNING RUBBER and skidding around backwards, doing "donuts" at a high rate of speed and spewing out smoke; when it stops, we see Ash sitting behind the wheel.

27 RESUME: INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY 27

Johnny, Rebecca and Principal Rowin are saying goodbye to Ash and his parents --

PRINCIPAL ROWIN
Thanks for coming in.

JOHNNY
Drive safely. Okay?

The parents think he's talking to them; but Ash gets the message. They leave; Walt enters.

WALT
That's the last one. Did you cross anybody off?

PRINCIPAL ROWIN
No, in fact I added a few names.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

JOHNNY

So, let's keep it closed another day or two. Keep looking.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

I can't keep my school closed indefinitely waiting for you to find something, Mr. Smith. We can't have twelve hundred students with no place to go. The shooter can find his victims at an arcade or skate park just as easily. At least here on campus we have some sort of control. The new security measures are nearly complete. We're opening school tomorrow.

Off Johnny's reaction --

28 EXT. SCHOOL - DAWN - MONTAGE

28

IN THE DRIVEWAY

Two DEPUTIES lay out a barrier of sawhorses and police tape, barring vehicles from passing.

AT A DOORWAY

a SECURITY GUARD chains the door shut.

A BOMB-SNIFFING DOG

escorted by a DEPUTY sniffs his way through the bushes.

A LONG LINE OF SCARED STUDENTS

waits to get through the single available entrance.

A FRAIL, UNTHREATENING GIRL

Takes off her shoes; puts them through a metal detector, passing through the metal detector.

AT THE FRONT OF THE LINE

Security guards wave metal detectors around the head of a GIRL with big hair; they confiscate her bobby pins and ruin her hairdo.

29 INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - DAY 29

Johnny and Rebecca walk down the corridor; the students they pass are fearful and suspicious.

JOHNNY

Look at them, these kids are scared.

REBECCA

That's not surprising. So am I.

Rowin crosses paths with them, greets them --

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

Johnny. Rebecca. Thanks for coming down. Got any new leads? Anything?

Rebecca shakes her head.

JOHNNY

No. How about you?

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

Not much. Another student came to our attention. I was hoping you could talk to him. Name's Colin. Mr. Talbot's expecting you. In the auditorium.

Rowin points them in the right direction.

30 INT. LITTLE THEATER - DAY 30

As Johnny and Rebecca enter the back of a music room, the band leader, Mr. Talbot, finishes a couple bars of a patriotic march, then stops mid-song --

MR. TALBOT

Mr. Smith?

30 CONTINUED: 30

JOHNNY

Hi, we need to talk to one of
your students, Colin?

COLIN TALAVERA, 15, a dark-skinned Puerto Rican kid, is visibly deflated to be singled out; he carries a trumpet as he walks glumly toward Johnny and Rebecca.

31 INT. LITTLE THEATER - IN BACK - MOMENTS LATER - DAY 31
(FORMERLY INT. CORRIDOR)

The muffled sound of the band continues as Johnny and Rebecca listen to Colin --

COLIN

The principal sent you after me,
didn't he?

JOHNNY

Yes, but he didn't say why.

COLIN

It's not because of me. It's
because of my older brother. He
got into the gang stuff. Drugs,
mostly. My parents moved here so
I'd have a chance, and even here,
everyone thinks I'm a criminal or
something. I'm not!

JOHNNY

I believe you. So how long have
you been playing trumpet?

COLIN

Just started this year.

JOHNNY

May I?

Johnny touches the trumpet as if inspecting it.

32 VISION: INT. SUBURBAN BEDROOM - DAY 32

Colin's bedroom is filled with reminders of his youth in New York -- sports pennants and rap posters -- but also a few Cleaves Mills school things. He leans over a desk, intently studying "Malcolm X: On His Own Terms." And the vision ends --

DEAD ZONE: CYCLE OF VIOLENCE - ACT ONE - 3/25/04 YEL-2 20A.

33 RESUME - IN BACK OF LITTLE THEATER - (FORMERLY CORRIDOR) 33

JOHNNY
An autobiography of Malcolm X?
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
(Colin looks worried)
I think it should be required
reading.

COLIN
Oh, yeah? Cool. Can I go back
now?

JOHNNY
Sure. Thanks.

Colin goes back into band class. Johnny and Rebecca walk
from the corridor toward the entry way --

33A INT. ENTRY WAY - DAY

33A

REBECCA
Colin seems like a good kid.

JOHNNY
All those kids we talked to --
they could turn into shooters.
Or they could turn into doctors
and lawyers. There's no telling.

REBECCA
Until it's too late.

They approach the metal detector; there is a line of half
a dozen students waiting to exit the building; and a much
longer line on the other side, waiting to get in. Johnny
looks over and sees --

THE METAL DETECTOR

A security guard, MCCLATCHY, late-twenties, trying a little
too hard to achieve command presence, lets through two
pretty girls, then stops Derek, who carries a backpack.

MCCLATCHY
I need to look in the bag.

DEREK
(re: girls)
You didn't look in their bags.

MCCLATCHY
Son, you're not getting by until
I see what you're carrying.

McClatchy blocks his way; three jocks, including Charles,
stand behind him in line, watch, amused. McClatchy tries
to grab the backpack; Derek won't let go.

(CONTINUED)

33A CONTINUED:

33A

DEREK

I just want to know why you singled me out and no one else.

MCCLATCHY

I don't need a reason. What do you have in there, anyway?

DEREK

None of your business.

MCCLATCHY

Then you're not coming in.

Derek grabs his backpack, then turns and leaves; Charles and the jocks exchange a glance, then chase him.

JOHNNY

turns to Rebecca --

JOHNNY

I'll be right back.

Johnny runs out through the metal detector, past McClatchy, and toward Derek and the three jocks.

34 EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

34

Johnny looks across the field where --

DEREK

runs. Three JOCKS run after him. Charles grabs his backpack, and plays Keep-Away with the two other jocks for a moment; when Derek tries to intercept, Charles trips Derek.

DEREK

Finds his footing; then takes a swing at Charles. Charles ducks the swing, then knocks Derek to the ground.

ANOTHER BOY

Piles on top of Derek, while --

(CONTINUED)

34

CONTINUED:

34

CHARLES

dumps out Derek's backpack. It's typical teen stuff; and one noted-up copy of Thoreau's "Civil Disobedience."

JOHNNY

Catches up with them.

JOHNNY

Knock it off! Get off of him!
Now!

Charles and the three jocks back off; Derek gets up, and cleans himself off. Johnny helps him pick up his stuff.

JOHNNY

Are you okay?

DEREK

Yeah. But that security guy was being a Nazi. He singled me out. For no reason.

JOHNNY

He wouldn't have found anything in your backpack --

DEREK

-- that's not the point. The point is, he has no right. I didn't do anything.

Derek stops Johnny from picking up his stuff.

DEREK

I got it. I got it. You've done enough already.

MCCLATCHY

crosses to Johnny and Derek.

MCCLATCHY

(to Derek)
You come with me.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: (2)

34

JOHNNY

He was the one who got beaten up.

MCCLATCHY

He was making trouble.

(to the jocks)

Thanks...

(to Derek)

You're coming with me.

The guard escorts Derek toward the school. The other kids scatter.

REBECCA

Crosses to Johnny.

DEREK

turns around to shoot a glare at Charles; then he makes his hand into the shape of a gun, and fires a pretend bullet at the boy, smirking.

REBECCA AND JOHNNY

React to Derek's gesture.

35 OMITTED
AND
36

35
AND
36

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

37 INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE / WAITING ROOM - DAY

37

Johnny and Rebecca sit in the principal's waiting room in time to witness (through the window) Derek being chewed out by Principal Rowin. We don't hear what is said, but it's clear that Derek remains defiant. The Principal confiscates "Civil Disobedience" and then releases Derek into the waiting room. The boy plops into a seat, and slouches away from Johnny.

DEREK

What are you looking at?

REBECCA

Derek, Johnny was trying to keep you from getting hurt.

DEREK

He did a great job, too. They're sending me home "to think about the impact I have on my peers, and how I can fit in better."

Stalemate. No one speaks; then --

JOHNNY

I got kicked out of school, once. Some friends and I put out an unauthorized student newspaper. The Cleavage Mills Gazette...
(off Rebecca's look)
Hey, I was fourteen. They were trying to institute mandatory drug tests. We fought it. Your web site reminded me of that -- it's pretty gutsy.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

DEREK

You read it?

JOHNNY

Yes. I liked your essay about the difference between education, and indoctrination. You're a talented writer.

DEREK

(not giving an inch)

Not that anybody around here gives a damn.

JOHNNY

Listen man, I'm just trying to keep everybody safe. I'm not the enemy, okay?

DEREK

Everybody knows you predicted something. What did you see?

JOHNNY

I can't tell you.

Derek shrugs; of course.

JOHNNY

Why are they suspending you?

DEREK

Supposedly for fighting. But I think the real reason is because I'm questioning their rules, and what I write about the school on my 'blog.

JOHNNY

I'll talk to Principal Rowin.

DEREK

That's exactly what got me in trouble in the first place -- you talking to the principal.

JOHNNY

I know that.

Johnny and Rebecca go into Principal Rowin's inner office.

38 INT. PRINCIPAL ROWIN'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER - DAY 38

We pick them up mid-scene; Johnny has clearly already

38 CONTINUED:

38

made his plea, and Rowin is responding --

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

If I don't suspend him it breeds
disrespect for authority. A fight
is a fight.

JOHNNY

There are plenty of kids who have
done much worse.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

Derek will be the example that
puts the others on notice.

REBECCA

Enforcing the rules unevenly will
also breed disrespect for
authority.

JOHNNY

You're just making things worse.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

Fine, I'll let him off with a
warning. But if those bullets
fly, parents will blame me.
There's a gunman in my school,
and you haven't found him yet.
Have you?

Off Johnny's look.

39 INT. HALLWAY CORRIDOR - DAY (FORMERLY LITTLE THEATER)

39

Johnny and Rebecca walk down the same corridor where he
initially had a vision of the shooting. It's quiet now;
the students are in class. Johnny touches the door frame
again; not getting a hit.

REBECCA

Maybe the threat has passed.

JOHNNY

I hope so.

Just to be sure, he keeps feeling his way around,
eventually touching the floor triggering --

40 OMITTED 40

41 *INT. CORRIDOR - DAY - SPLIT REALITY VISION* 41

On the reality side, Rebecca follows Johnny; on the vision side, we reprise the initial vision that Johnny had: A GUNSHOT rings out; the people SCREAM and duck.

41 CONTINUED: 41

THE SHOOTER

Has his back to Johnny, and heads toward the end of the hall. Johnny follows the shooter into --

42 INT. TEACHER'S LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY (SPLIT REALITY) 42

On the reality side, three teachers sit around reading junky magazines and drinking old coffee; among them is Mr. Talbot. They look up as Johnny and Rebecca enter --

MR. TALBOT

Is there some problem?

Rebecca holds up a hand for them to be silent; Johnny is still in his vision --

On the VISION side of the split reality, the furniture is slightly rearranged; the government overtime posters and teachers union pictures slightly different; but the room is substantially the same. Sitting on chairs on the VISION side are three different teachers than the ones in reality.

Johnny stands BEHIND the shooter in the vision as the gunman considers each of the three teachers, then continues on his way toward the door on the opposite side of the room, pausing only to shoot at a --

COFFEE POT

which explodes, ending the vision.

43 RESUME - INT. TEACHER'S LOUNGE 43

The three teachers watch with curiosity, as Johnny touches the coffee pot, then turns to leave, smiling at the concerned teachers but saying nothing. One of the teachers looks at his cup of coffee, then sets it down, afraid to drink.

44 INT. CORRIDOR - (STAGE) - DAY 44

Johnny and Rebecca walk down the hallway. Rebecca can see that Johnny is shaken by his vision.

REBECCA

You alright?

JOHNNY

I saw the shooter walk into the teacher's lounge.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

He aimed at three teachers in there, but didn't shoot, like he was looking for someone...

REBECCA

Do you think he's looking for one particular victim?

JOHNNY

Possibly...

A DISTANT RINGING catches their attention.

REBECCA

Class change?

The bell CONTINUES, nonstop --

JOHNNY

Fire alarm.

Several doors on the hallway open and students rush out, filled with fear, herding past Johnny and Rebecca. They continue into --

44A INT. ENTRY WAY - CONTINUOUS - A MOB OF STUDENTS

44A

rushes toward the doors, but the passageway is narrowed because one door is chained, and the other forces students through the metal detector, causing a back-up. A kid with glasses tries to get out but a mass of humanity smashes into him; the boy falls.

ON THE GROUND

the boy is trampled; his glasses smashed.

AT THE CHECKPOINT

the mass of students smashes through, the metal detector CHIRPING repeatedly as they rush out. Walt passes them, on his way in. He hails Johnny and Rebecca, and takes them a few steps away.

WALT

We got a bomb threat.

Off Johnny and Rebecca --

CUT TO:

45 A METAL BOMB SQUAD BARRIER 45

has been set up around a locker; behind it, a BOMB SQUAD COP in body armor uses a remote sensor to listen to the door. Principal Rowin leads Johnny and Walt into --

45A INT. OUTER PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY - A LARGE MONITOR 45A
(FORMERLY INT. LIBRARY)

Shows the Bomb Squad Cop working in the hall.

JOHNNY, REBECCA, ROWIN AND WALT

watch the video screen, worried. On the screen --

THE BOMB SQUAD COP

Inserts a thin cable through the vents in the locker.

ON THE TELEVISION SCREEN

A window opens, showing magnified imagery of the inside of the locker, through a fish-eye lens;

JOHNNY, REBECCA AND WALT

watch. There's tension in the air. They look at the --

THE VIDEO SCREEN

One window shows the Bomb Squad Cop; the other shows images of the locker's interior play as the camera snakes past books and notebooks to batteries, wires, a lump that could be plastic explosive, and finally, a note. It says, "BOOM. There Go Our Rights." The bomb squad cop relaxes, opens the closet, and pulls out the note.

(CONTINUED)

45A CONTINUED: 45A

JOHNNY, WALT AND PRINCIPAL ROWIN
sigh a sigh of relief.

JOHNNY
It's a prank.

Johnny, Walt and Rowin leave the library.

45B INT. CORRIDOR - DAY 45B

as they walk down the hall toward the site of the bomb
scare --

PRINCIPAL ROWIN
I want to find this kid. I want
him out of my school, and in jail.

They arrive to the locker, and examine the glob of stuff
that the bomb squad cop pulled out.

JOHNNY
It's modeling clay.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN
It's a terroristic threat.

JOHNNY
We should be careful not to
overreact to something like this.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN
Mr. Smith? I set school policy.
I have to maintain order.
(re: locker)
Touch it. I know how your --
your thing -- works. Go ahead.

Rowin waits impatiently, as if Johnny is his employee.
Johnny, slightly insulted, nonetheless touches the locker,
triggering a Dead Zone WHOOSH.

But we do not see what vision Johnny had.

JOHNNY
I can't help you.

45B CONTINUED:

45B

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

(sarcastic)

Maybe it'll come to you later.
First, you predict a shooting.
Now, we have a bomb scare --

JOHNNY

A prank.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

It was a security breach. I'm
calling an emergency parent-teacher
meeting. I'm going public with
everything we know --

JOHNNY

Including the fact that I had a
vision of a shooting?

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

Especially that. People trust
you, and this vague "threat against
the school" isn't helping us find
the shooter.

JOHNNY

I don't want to cause a panic.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

But we have to do something.

46 INT. LITTLE THEATER - EVENING

46

Thirty or forty PARENTS and TEACHERS attend the meeting, among them Mr. Fitz; also attending Johnny and Rebecca; Principal Rowin and Walt sit on the stage. Rowin has the microphone.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

Thank you all for coming tonight.
I suppose I should explain how we
got to the place we are now. You
all know Johnny Smith? Would you
stand up please, Johnny?

IN THE AUDIENCE

A reluctant Johnny doesn't stand, only barely acknowledges Rowin.

ON THE STAGE

Principal Rowin continues --

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

As you probably know, Mr. Smith
has certain abilities that have
allowed him to predict incidents
which have indeed come to pass.
Monday, he saw that a shooting is
going to take place -- here at
our school. But thanks to his
warning, we can take precautions
to avert this tragedy.

In the audience, MAX KOLCHAK stands; he's uncomfortably close to Johnny and divides his attention between Principal Rowin and Johnny --

MAX KOLCHAK

If he saw this all in a vision,
why doesn't he just tell us the
kid's name?

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

JOHNNY

I don't know his name.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

Please, sir -- Johnny Smith has been doing everything he can to help identify the shooter. We've taken precautions. We started today with a visible increase in security. But that is not enough. An incident today, involving a terroristic threat in the north wing...

(off the crowd murmurs)
-- no one was hurt -- but the incident persuaded me to institute a new policy. Please pass the pamphlets down the rows --

IN THE AUDIENCE

Assistants hand out pamphlets labeled "Zero Tolerance: Peace and Education"; the illustration is a line drawing of a happy student in front of a happy teacher.

ON THE STAGE

A white board rolls out behind Rowin; the header says, "Zero Tolerance: Harmony Through Enforcement." Beneath that are hand-written rules -- lots of them.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

We're proud to introduce a new zero-tolerance policy. I think you'll find it reassuring. I'm going to go over some of the highlights. Any infraction is grounds for a one-day-suspension; three infractions, expulsion.

IN THE AUDIENCE

Johnny sees Kolchak staring him down; gets uncomfortable; stands to leave.

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED: (2) 46

JOHNNY
(to Rebecca)
Come on.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN (O.S.)
Any physical confrontation between
students; the use of profanity;
destruction of school property...

The list continues under as Johnny and Rebecca leave.

47 INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT 47

Derek is lurking by the auditorium door as Johnny and
Rebecca walk out. He sees them, and heads for the door.
Johnny and Rebecca watch him pass --

MCCLATCHY AND A JUNIOR GUARD

stare Derek down as he passes then lets himself out.

JOHNNY AND REBECCA

realize Derek is being singled out.

47 CONTINUED:

47

JOHNNY
(re: men)
Did you see that?

REBECCA
Yeah. Weird.

JOHNNY
What have I started?

Off Rebecca --

48 EXT. METAL DETECTOR - SCHOOL - THE NEXT DAY

48

A long line of students waits to get into the school. It's cold outside; they're uncomfortable; in front of the main door to school, the only one that's open, is a metal detector, and several security guards.

JOHNNY AND REBECCA

Walk alongside the long line of students, up to the metal detector. As they get there, MCCLATCHY dumps out the contents of a pretty girl's pink backpack. He thrusts a cylindrical metal detecting wand into the backpack; then pulls it out and runs it along the girl's front and back, before letting her go inside.

JOHNNY
We're supposed to meet with
Principal Rowin.

MCCLATCHY
You'll have to wait in line with
everyone else.

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED: (2)

48

REBECCA

We have an appointment.

MCCLATCHY

I don't set the policy.

Colin is the next student in line --

JOHNNY

Hey, Colin --

MCCLATCHY

No talking. I.D.?

Colin shows a school I.D. MCCLATCHY checks Colin's name against a long computer print-out.

MCCLATCHY

Sorry. You're on the list.

McClatchy points to Colin's name on the list.

COLIN

You suck.

McClatchy gestures to two other guards to watch the check point; he starts to frisk Colin.

Principal Rowin walks out through the metal detector (setting off chimes) and greets Johnny and Rebecca --

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

(to Rebecca)

You know when you pointed out how enforcing the rules unevenly in the case of Derek Fitz would be unfair?

JOHNNY

Yes...

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

You were right. It was unfair to single him out. To be truly fair, I had no choice but to suspend everyone who refused to be searched.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED: (3)

48

PRINCIPAL ROWIN (CONT'D)
Thirty-one possible crimes,
averted. You can take credit for
that, Mr. Smith.

JOHNNY
You suspended thirty one students?

PRINCIPAL ROWIN
Thirty-one potential shooters.

IN THE LINE BEHIND THEM

The kids break formation, and swarm; YELLING indicates a
fight has broken out. Johnny, Rebecca and Principal Rowin
rush to the scene of the fight --

THE FIGHT

pits Colin vs. McClatchy; they're surrounded by a chorus
of students. McClatchy is bigger and tougher than Colin,
and has the upper hand, jamming his knee in Colin's throat.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN
Break it up!

They ignore him; McClatchy continues to pound on the boy
when a BOTTLE flies out of the crowd, SMASHING into
McClatchy's head, sending SHARDS to the ground.

Colin takes advantage of the distraction to stand up, and
run; before he can run very far, two other security guards
have caught him.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN
Who threw that? Who threw that
bottle?

ON THE FACES OF STUDENTS

None of them talking.

JOHNNY AND REBECCA

Johnny makes eye contact with Derek.

49 NEAR THE METAL DETECTOR

49

Colin, suffering a black eye and the remnants of a bloody nose, is held firmly between two beefy Security Guards; a crowd of students stands back, watching curiously.

McClatchy sits on the steps, rubbing the back of his head. He's hurt, but not that badly. As Johnny and Rebecca watch, Principal Rowin kneels next to the guard --

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

Thank god it's not serious. Why did you resort to force?

MCCLATCHY

(wanna-be cop)

He failed to comply with my verbal instruction and resisted letting me search his bag.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

You did the right thing.

STUDENTS

Who are watching and eavesdropping, let out "boo"s. Among them are Derek and Lenora.

ROWIN

turns and faces the crowd; Johnny and Rebecca stand behind him. They stop booing when Rowin glares at them --

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

(to students)

Whatever you may think of my policies, this man put himself on the line to protect all of you!

LENORA

He didn't protect Colin very well!

Laughter. Rowin picks up the bottle cap --

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

49

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

I will not tolerate this behavior
toward any school employee. Now,
who threw this bottle?

No answer.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

Who threw this bottle?

Still no answer. Rowin paces back and forth, then abruptly
tosses the bottle cap to Johnny, who instinctively catches
it, triggering --

50 VISION - REWIND

50

*The glass shards on the ground reassemble in mid-air into
a bottle, which un-bounces off of McClatchy's head and
flies backwards into the crowd, to a person unknown; the
wall of kids blocks Johnny's view. The entire vision
rewinds until it FREEZES as --*

FIXED ARRAY VISION - MCCLATCHY FRISKING COLIN

*Vision Johnny walks close to them; then the vision
unfreezes as McClatchy frisks Colin. McClatchy leans
close to Colin's ear, and whispers something only Johnny
can overhear --*

MCCLATCHY

You must of done something. You
people can't help yourselves.

COLIN

Go to hell.

*Unseen by anyone but Johnny, the security guard jabs an
elbow, hard, into Colin. Colin reacts by raising his arm
defensively; McClatchy hits back, hard, jumping on the
boy. The action freezes --*

JOHNNY

*continues into the frozen crowd, passing several students
until he comes to --*

DEREK

who finishes the last sips of a bottled beverage.

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED: 50

The action un-freezes, and Johnny sees the fight from exactly Derek's perspective:

Colin doubles over and falls to the ground; MCCLATCHY leaps on him and pins him down, jamming his knee in the boy's throat. Colin can't breathe.

DEREK

sees what is about to happen, and hurls the bottle. The vision ends.

51 RESUME: EXT. METAL DETECTOR - DAY 51

Johnny still holds the bottle cap; Principal Rowin looks at him expectantly.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

What did you see?

JOHNNY

The guard overreacted. Colin was defending himself.

51 CONTINUED:

51

PRINCIPAL ROWIN
(siding with guard)
He's here to protect these kids.
The kid resisted.

JOHNNY
I saw what happened. The guard
was out of line.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN
(indulgent)
We're going to have to agree to
disagree on that point, Mr. Smith.
What I really want to know is,
who threw the bottle?

JOHNNY
If it hadn't been for that bottle
Colin might have been injured far
worse -- that guard should be
fired.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN
That's for me to decide. Who
threw the bottle? Mr. Smith?

DEREK

Standing in the crowd, hears this. Becomes worried.

JOHNNY AND PRINCIPAL ROWIN

JOHNNY
I can't help you with this.

Johnny and Rebecca walk away.

IN THE CROWD

They pass Derek; Johnny catches the boy's glance; they
both know that Johnny just did Derek a solid.

MCCLATCHY AND ROWIN

See that Johnny and Derek exchanged the look.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

52 OMITTED 52

53 EXT. SKATEBOARD PARK - DAY 53

Johnny and Rebecca get out of Johnny's car in a seedy part of town; and walk toward a skate park.

REBECCA

Why are we here?

JOHNNY

I want to talk to Derek.

REBECCA

(ahead of him)

He threw the bottle?

JOHNNY

He pulled the locker stunt, too.
He reminds me a lot of myself at
that age.

REBECCA

How do you know Derek's here?
Because of your gift?

JOHNNY

Because I've lived in Cleaves
Mills all my life.

They look ahead into --

THE PARK

Where a dozen or two kids hang out, smoking, skateboarding, reading comic books. Johnny and Rebecca walk past suspicious teens, all of whom stop whatever they're doing or saying as they pass. Johnny approaches a kid --

JOHNNY

I'm trying to find Derek Fitz.

The kid tosses a glance toward a structure in the park; Johnny and Rebecca walk toward it where they see --

DEREK

Sitting on a bench by himself, reading a new copy of "Civil Disobedience." He looks up.

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED:

53

JOHNNY

Hey.

DEREK

Can't you just leave me alone?
Every time you get near me, bad
things happen.

JOHNNY

I just wanted to talk to you.
See if you could help us before
things got out of hand.

DEREK

Little late for that.

JOHNNY

Derek -- I know how you feel.
But now is not the time to bait
the principal.

DEREK

If no one stands up, then they've
won, haven't they?

JOHNNY

If someone shoots up the school,
we've all lost.

REBECCA

We're here because we're worried
about you.

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED: (2)

53

DEREK

You think I'm it. You think I'm
a psycho.

JOHNNY

No --

DEREK

You'd say the same thing if you
did as if you didn't.

JOHNNY

No... that's not what I think...
We just wanted to...

DEREK

...just wanted to get me busted?

Derek points behind Johnny.

ON THE ROAD

Walt's patrol car pulls up and parks; he gets out.

IN THE PARK

The skaters scatter away from Johnny and Rebecca, who
walk toward the street while Walt walks toward them.
When Johnny turns around, Derek is gone. He looks and
sees him running.

JOHNNY

Wait!

REBECCA

That generated a lot of love and
trust.

JOHNNY

And goodwill.

They meet up with Walt.

WALT

Was that Derek Fitz?

JOHNNY

Yes.

WALT

I've got a warrant for him.

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED: (3) 53

JOHNNY

Walt, he's angry; he's a smart
ass; but he's not your shooter.

WALT

Don't be so sure, Johnny.

CUT TO:

54 INT. PRINCIPAL ROWIN'S OFFICE - DAY 54

CLOSE ON A VIDEO SCREEN

From a high, motionless perspective, security camera video catches the fight between Colin and McClatchy. Then, in the foreground, near the security camera, Derek is clearly visible, winding up his arm, then throwing a glass bottle.

JOHNNY, WALT, REBECCA AND PRINCIPAL ROWIN

watch the video together; then Rowin snaps it off.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

Even if you could guarantee me he
would never shoot anyone, I don't
want a kid like that in my school.

JOHNNY

I saw the fight. That guard was
using excessive force. That kid
was defending himself. Derek was
just trying to help him.

REBECCA

Derek's not a bad kid.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

That's not my opinion. If he's
willing to hurt someone who is
armed and in uniform -- imagine
what else he's capable of. I'm
talking to the prosecutor's office
about pressing criminal charges.

JOHNNY

That's overkill -- Walt?

WALT

If the guard wants to press
charges, my hands are tied, Johnny.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DEAD ZONE: CYCLE OF VIOLENCE - ACT THREE - 3/25/04 YEL-2 45.

54 CONTINUED: 54

WALT (CONT'D)
I have to arrest him.

Johnny and Rebecca stand to leave.

55 OMITTED 55

55A EXT. SMITH HOUSE - DAY 55A

Yup that's it alright.

56 INT. JOHNNY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 56

Johnny is in the kitchen downing four extra-strength tylenol when the door bell rings.

56A AT THE FRONT DOOR 56A

Johnny opens the door, revealing Derek.

JOHNNY
Derek? What are you doing here?
They're looking all over for you.

DEREK
I need to talk to you.

JOHNNY
Sure, come in.

Johnny checks to see if anybody is watching as Derek steps inside.

56B BACK IN THE KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER 56B

Derek is wolfing down a sandwich as Johnny gets him a drink.

DEREK
Thanks man, I was starving.

JOHNNY
They got you throwing the bottle
on one of the surveillance cameras.

DEREK
I was afraid of that.

(CONTINUED)

56B CONTINUED:

56B

JOHNNY

You were trying to defend Colin.
I can vouch for you. Why don't
we call your folks and...

DEREK

I can't go home.

JOHNNY

Why not?

DEREK

I just can't... My Dad will
freak... I wish I could wind back
the clock three days. I just
want to go back to class. I like
school, even if sometimes I hate
it.

JOHNNY

Okay... You can stay here for the
afternoon while I sort things
out... You said you had something
you wanted to talk about?

Derek searches for the right words.

JOHNNY

It's okay man, whatever we talk
about stays between us.

DEREK

Is there any chance... could it...
(then)
...Am I the one who shoots up the
school?

JOHNNY

Is that what you think?

DEREK

Look, I don't know what the future
holds. Last week I was an A-minus-
student with good prospects. Now
I'm expelled. A fugitive. I'd
like to know for sure.

JOHNNY

Trust me, you're the same kid you
were last week -- you're not going
to shoot up the school.

DEREK

Then who does?

(CONTINUED)

56B CONTINUED: (2) 56B

JOHNNY
I don't know yet.

Johnny's phone rings, he answers.

JOHNNY
Hey Rebecca... yeah... just talking
to a friend... yeah... look, I
have something I want to check
out... I'll pick you up... five
minutes.

He hangs up.

JOHNNY
You can hang here till I get back.

DEREK
You trust me?

JOHNNY
Yeah. Yeah I do. You got a
phone...?

Off Johnny --

57 INT. CORRIDOR - DAY 57

Rebecca and Johnny walk the hall; classes are in session
so the hall is empty except for them, and a distant
MCCLATCHY. Johnny touches various lockers as they walk
toward the T-intersection where the display case is --

57 CONTINUED: 57

JOHNNY

He came out of the teacher's lounge; then walked down this way. He was looking for someone.

Johnny touches the display case at the T-intersection --

58 VISION - INT. CORRIDOR - DAY (SPLIT REALITY) 58

Rebecca watching in reality, while Johnny, still touching the case in the vision, turns to see:

THE SHOOTER

As he's emerging from the teacher's lounge. Johnny gets a good look at him now: he's fifteen, he's not high or drunk, he's not crazy. In fact, his face is filled with the calm that accompanies determination and a sense of mission.

Johnny watches the shooter fire another shot into the air to clear the hallway, then aims right at Johnny as he passes, pumping three bullets into the display case, shattering it.

The shooter continues on, heading into:

AN OPENING

At the end of the hall. The shooter goes through, and enters a room; but Johnny is abruptly stopped in mid-stride, and the vision ends.

59 RESUME - INT. CORRIDOR

59

Johnny holds a hand to his face; where there had been a corridor in his vision, is now a wall.

JOHNNY

There was another wing. Right here.

Johnny pounds on the wall. It's solid. No door.

REBECCA

Maybe it was another hallway.

JOHNNY

No. This is the only hall with a trophy case.

Johnny is stumped. Rebecca notices something over Johnny's shoulder.

REBECCA

Johnny, look...

IN THE CASE

is a conceptual architectural drawing labeled "PROPOSED NORTH WING;" and blueprints, showing where it will go, with a red dot labeled "YOU ARE HERE."

JOHNNY

They haven't built it yet.
(pointing to blueprints)
See? We're standing right there.
The addition would be there.

Johnny looks at the case, wondering.

JOHNNY

That's it... That's why the corridor in the vision isn't there now...

REBECCA

What do you mean?

JOHNNY

The shooting... it's not going to happen for years.

The SCHOOL BELL rings. Students pour out into the halls; they look dispirited and dejected. They see Johnny, and we can feel the tension in their near silence, their fear of him, of his predictions, is palpable.

(CONTINUED)

DEAD ZONE: CYCLE OF VIOLENCE - ACT THREE - 3/17/04 GREEN 49.

59 CONTINUED: (2) 59

Off Johnny and Rebecca...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

60 INT. PRINCIPAL ROWIN'S OFFICE - DAY

60

Johnny, Rebecca, Principal Rowin.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

What do you mean we don't need
the extra security?

JOHNNY

The shooting isn't going to happen
for years.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

I don't understand. How do you
know?

JOHNNY

There's a plan to build a new
wing.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

Sure, there's a plan. But we
haven't raised the money yet.
Construction is five years off --
at best.

JOHNNY

But one day it will be built; and
the shooter is going to find his
victim in that that wing. I saw
it... You can get rid of the
metal detectors, the security,
all of it. There's more than
enough time to find this kid and
help him before he hurts anyone.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

Even if you're right -- this time --
now that's in place, this extra
security is necessary.

REBECCA

Your students are terrified.
Your school is a fortress.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

Every kid who passes through the
doors of my school could be the
gunman. Or worse, one of his
victims.

(CONTINUED)

60 CONTINUED: (2) 60

JOHNNY

Yes, but --

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

I can't take chances. Especially since everyone in Cleaves Mills knows that you -- Johnny Smith, the psychic who is never wrong -- warned me.

JOHNNY

But your security measures are causing more trouble than they're stopping.

REBECCA

If you don't deal with the root cause of this violence, all the metal detectors in the world won't stop this kind of thing from happening.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

Give me the name of the kid who's going to shoot up my school in the future -- that's a root cause I can do something about.

Off Johnny and Rebecca --

61 INT. PRINCIPAL'S OUTER OFFICE (FORMERLY CORRIDOR) 61

Johnny and Rebecca leave Rowin's inner office, pausing to talk in hushed tones before heading out into the hallway.

JOHNNY

Even if I saw his face, he won't look anything like the shooter I saw. He's a little kid now.

REBECCA

He'd be what, nine or ten now?

JOHNNY

(thinking out loud)
J.J.'s nine.

61 CONTINUED: 61

REBECCA
I'm not suggesting --

JOHNNY
-- there were lots of elementary
school kids at that show. The
vision might have come from one
of them.

CUT TO:

62 INT. LITTLE THEATER - DAY 62

Johnny and Rebecca enter the Holiday Rehearsal for the All-City Band; many of the same kids sing under the direction of Mr. Talbot, among them Zeke and J.J. They're in street clothes, singing "I Like All Kinds of People" from the children's musical "Howdy, Neighbor!" --

CHILDREN'S CHORUS
I like all kinds of people, etc.

As they sing, Johnny walks over to Talbot. Johnny whispers something, then gestures to J.J. and three of his friends. The song ends.

MR. TALBOT
J.J.? Zeke? Donald? Frankie?
Mr. Smith would like to talk to
you.

The four boys follow Johnny to the wings of the stage, while the rest of the chorus continues to rehearse.

BACKSTAGE

Johnny kneels down to be at the level of the four boys.

JOHNNY
Hey, guys. Sounds pretty good.

ZEKE
Thanks, Mr. Smith.

JOHNNY
Just wanted to see if you want to
go to miniature golfing this
weekend?

ALL
Sure -- Awesome -- Really?

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED: 62

JOHNNY
You have to ask your parents first.
And keep it quiet.

J.J.
Thanks!

The boys slap high fives with Johnny; the last one to do so is Zeke, which triggers --

63 VISION - INT. LITTLE THEATER - SPLIT REALITY 63

The stage is deserted, except for Johnny and Zeke; as Johnny watches --

--Zeke MORPHS from the happy-go-lucky nine year old he is today, to:

--a sad, slumped-shoulder twelve-year-old, to:

-- a dead-eyed fifteen-year-old with a handgun: the SHOOTER.

The auditorium match-move-morphs into --

64 INT. GEORGE J. MITCHELL MUSIC ROOM - CONTINUOUS 64

Where a few kids are cowering. Some instruments and music stands let us know where we are; Teen Zeke levels the gun straight at Johnny; Johnny whips around to see --

MR. TALBOT

Teen Zeke's actual target.

TEEN ZEKE
(to kids)
Get out. I'm not going to hurt
you. Get out.

The kids scramble past Teen Shooter Zeke, escaping. Zeke focuses his full attention on:

MR. TALBOT

Cowering, obviously Zeke's only target all along. Teen Zeke aims the gun at Talbot.

64 CONTINUED:

64

TEEN ZEKE

*You're never going to hurt anyone
else again...*

*Teen Zeke pulls the trigger, the gunshot sounding like a
THUNDER CLAP.*

MR. TALBOT

*Realizes he's going to die; sees the barrel flash; then
FREEZES. The band room MORPHS back into the Little
Theater, and Future Mr. Talbot becomes Present Day Mr.
Talbot as the VISION ENDS.*

65 RESUME - INT. LITTLE THEATER - DAY

65

Johnny takes his hand off of Zeke. He stares at Mr. Talbot; then he whispers to Rebecca, who looks at Talbot, then at Zeke, then at Talbot again. Talbot stares back with the fear of a man who's waiting to be caught.

J.J.

Johnny? What's the matter?

JOHNNY

Why don't you boys go with Rebecca.

Johnny gives Rebecca a look -- she knows Johnny well enough by now to know she should follow his lead.

REBECCA

C'mon I'll take you to the library.
You can get any book you want.

ZEKE

What about the rest of rehearsal?
Mr. Talbot gets mad if we miss
out.

JOHNNY

Don't worry, I'll talk to Mr.
Talbot.

They leave; Mr. Talbot watches them go, a little bit worried, even as he continues to conduct. Johnny pulls out his phone.

JOHNNY

(to phone)

Walt? Johnny... I've got a name
I need you to check out. No,
it's not a student, it's a
teacher...

66 INT. PRINCIPAL ROWIN'S OFFICE - DAY - LATER

66

Walt sits close enough to Talbot to keep him from escaping; next to them is Johnny; across the desk is Rowin. Police reports and mugshots of Talbot, and a WANTED FLYER from Minnesota lay on the desk.

JOHNNY

I guess there's some things even
a metal detector can't keep out.

MR. TALBOT

(eyes down)

I thought if I could just start
over some place new... some place
where they didn't know what I'd
done... it would be different...
I could keep it under control.

He looks to Johnny for confirmation; Johnny shakes his
head -- Talbot won't be able to control it.

WALT

You can change your name but you
can't change your fingerprints.

MR. TALBOT

I haven't done anything here...
that's all in my past.

WALT

In Minnesota you did some pretty
awful things. That's not going
to happen here. We're flying you
back to stand trial as soon as
possible.

(to Johnny)

If you don't need him anymore,
I'd like to get him behind bars
now. As far away from our kids
as possible.

Walt pulls Talbot out of his chair and takes him away.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

(to Johnny)

We just hired him... did he...?

JOHNNY

No, we were lucky.

(beat)

It looks like your shooting isn't
going to happen after all.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

So -- who was going to shoot up
my school?

(CONTINUED)

66 CONTINUED: 66

JOHNNY
I'm not going to tell you that.
He deserves to have a normal
childhood.

67 OMITTED 67
THRU THRU
71 71

71A INT. CORRIDOR - DAY 71A

Rebecca, J.J., Zeke and his two friends come out of the library, bearing books.

JOHNNY
Hey guys... What books did you
get?

J.J.
Hardy Boys. I like all the trouble
they get into... It's not boring
like Cleaves Mills.

Johnny suppresses a laugh.

JOHNNY
How bout you Zeke?

ZEKE
"The Keith Moon Story."

JOHNNY
You're into The Who? Let me see --

Johnny touches Zeke's hand as Zeke shows him the book --

72 VISION 72

Zeke grows up happy. It's the same ages from the last vision Johnny had, but for a happy kid:

--Zeke morphs from a happy-go-lucky nine year old, to:

--a thirteen-year-old playing the snare drum in the school band, to:

--a fifteen-year-old rock drummer, in front of a stack of

72 CONTINUED: 72

Marshall amps, doing an outrageous drum solo as we watch over the shoulder of CUTE GROUPIES crowding the stage. And the vision ends --

73 RESUME - INT. CORRIDOR - DAY 73

JOHNNY

You really like the drums, Zeke?

ZEKE

I love them. I want to play sort of like half Dave Grohl, and half Nicko McBrain, and half Keith Moon.

JOHNNY

That's one and a half drummers, Zeke. But, I think you're just the man to do it.

Zeke looks at Johnny Smith and smiles, never knowing the suffering he narrowly avoided, nor what he might have done as a result.

Rebecca shepherds the boys down the hall. Johnny pulls out his cell phone, and dials --

JOHNNY

Derek? It's Johnny Smith. How's it going? Staying out of trouble?

INTERCUT:

74 INT. JOHNNY'S HOUSE - DAY 74

Derek answers his gray metallic cell phone; in front of him is a math text, and a notebook -- he's been doing homework.

74 CONTINUED:

74

DEREK

Ate all your food, went through your drawers and set fire to the house... now I'm doing my homework. What's up?

JOHNNY

They're sounding the all-clear. I just told Rowin there's not going to be a shooting.

DEREK

You're kidding. Did they get the guy?

JOHNNY

There is no guy. We got to him before he even had a reason to shoot anybody.

DEREK

What about me? Am I still public enemy number one?

JOHNNY

Listen, I think you should come back and talk to Rowin... I'll talk to him with you. If you take responsibility for what you did and apologize, I think I can get you back in class.

DEREK

That's all I wanted in the first place.

JOHNNY

Meet me in the principal's office... and oh yeah, put out the fire before you lock up.

Off Derek shaking his head at life's twists and turns.

75 INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

75

A skeptical Rowin looks across the desk at Johnny and Rebecca.

ROWIN

You think I can just let these things slide? He assaulted a security guard...

(CONTINUED)

75 CONTINUED: 75

JOHNNY

He was defending a fellow student
from a security guard who was
using excessive force...

ROWIN

He triggered a false alarm. And
a fake bomb is not a joke.

REBECCA

He saw it as a statement.

ROWIN

Look at this kid's record, he's a
trouble maker...

Johnny takes Derek's "permanent record" from Rowin,
triggering:

76 VISION - EXT. METAL DETECTOR - DAY - LATER 76

*Derek, bookbag in hand, arrives at the back of the line
at the checkpoint where McClatchy and Security Guard Two
keep watch. Derek keeps his head down, hoping McClatchy
doesn't see him as Guard Two searches his bag.*

*Guard Two waves him on, and Derek starts to go through
the metal detector, but then --*

MCCLATCHY

Hey... You!

*Derek keeps walking, hoping McClatchy isn't talking to
him, but before he gets through the metal detector.*

MCCLATCHY

You there. Stop where you are.

*Derek stops, his face to camera, his back still to
McClatchy. We can see the exasperation on Derek's face.*

MCCLATCHY

Turn around... NOW!

*Hearing McClatchey's tone the other guard goes on high
alert.*

(CONTINUED)

76 CONTINUED:

76

MCCLATCHY

That's him. That's the kid that blindsided me.

DEREK

Look, Starsky and Hutch, I'm just here to talk to Principal Rowin...

Guard Two moves to grab Derek. Derek backs away, holding out his hands to show he means no harm.

DEREK

Get your hands off me...

MCCLATCHY

Watch him... he might be the shooter...

The other kids around scatter like frightened deer, spooking the guard even more. Derek is focused on Guard Two and doesn't see McClatchy unbutton his holster.

DEREK

I'm just here to talk to Johnny Smith and Principal Rowin... look if you don't believe me, call him and ask...

Derek reaches into his jacket for his phone...

GUARD TWO

GUN!

BAM!! McClatchy fires. Derek looks down at his stomach, a stunned look on his face as crimson spreads from where he clutches the entry wound. As the phone slips from his hand...

MCCLATCHY

It's a phone...

Derek drops to his knees...

DEREK

Just call him...

(CONTINUED)

76 CONTINUED: (2) 76

THE VIEW WIDENS TO REVEAL: VISION JOHNNY

watching in horror as Derek falls over dead and the VISION ENDS.

77 RESUME PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE 77

As Johnny comes out of the vision, stunned.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN
Something wrong Mr. Smith?

JOHNNY
Derek... they're going to shoot
him... the guards are going to
shoot him...

REBECCA
Oh my god...

ROWIN
What?

Johnny turns to run out the door, Rebecca and Rowin following. Rowin fumbles with the walkie...

PRINCIPAL ROWIN
(into radio)
Unit one... Unit one..

78 INT. HALLWAY - MOVING 78

As Johnny heads for the front door and metal detector. In the distance he can see the standoff developing.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN
They aren't answering.

REBECCA
We've got to stop them...

79 INT. AT THE METAL DETECTOR (SEE ADDENDUM PAGES 63 & 64 79
FOR ALTERNATE VERSIONS OF SCENE 79)

With Rowin and Rebecca just behind him, Johnny arrives to find McClatchy drawing on Derek, and Derek about to reach into his jacket -- Johnny yells above the din --

JOHNNY

Guard! Put down the gun!

McClatchy turns and faces Johnny, this time not shooting Derek, then --

BAM!! A shot rings out. Johnny and McClatchy turn to see

Guard Two suddenly has his gun up, the shot already fired. The damage done.

GUARD TWO

He had a gun.

Derek looks down at his stomach, a stunned look on his face as crimson spreads from where he clutches the entry wound.

DEREK

(quiet surprise)

He shot me? ... It was just a phone.

As the phone slips from his hand, Johnny and Rebecca rush to Derek's side as he collapses.

JOHNNY

Derek. Derek!

Johnny kneels and takes Derek's hand as the boy dies. Rebecca kneels next to them.

Principal Rowin sees what has happened, then --

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

(stunned)

Call nine one one.

McClatchy and the Guards stare in shock, then --

We move up see the entire tableau: surrounded by all the security equipment and good intentions in the world, Derek lies dead in front of his school, as we --

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

THE END

ADDENDUM #1

79A INT. AT THE METAL DETECTOR (FIRST ALTERNATE TO SCENE 79) 79A

With Rowin and Rebecca just behind him, Johnny arrives to find McClatchy drawing on Derek, and Derek about to reach into his jacket -- Johnny yells above the din --

JOHNNY

Guard! Don't shoot!

McClatchy turns and faces Johnny, this time not shooting Derek. Derek raises his empty hands, then --

JOHNNY

It's not a gun...

Johnny walks carefully over to a terrified Derek, who keeps his hands up.

PRINCIPAL ROWIN

Careful Mr. Smith...

JOHNNY

It's not a gun...

Johnny carefully pulls the phone out of Derek's coat and shows everyone. The guards lower their guns.

JOHNNY

...it's a phone. He was trying to call you, Mr. Rowin... They were going to shoot him...

The guards look ashamed at their mistake...

DEREK

I just want to go to school...

Principal Rowin looks horrified by what almost just happened.

DEREK

That's all I ever wanted...

Off everyone's reaction to this averted tragedy...

FADE OUT.

ADDENDUM #2

79B INT. AT THE METAL DETECTOR (SECOND ALTERNATE TO SCENE 79) 79B

With Rowin and Rebecca just behind him, Johnny arrives to find McClatchy drawing on Derek, and Derek about to reach into his jacket -- Johnny yells above the din --

JOHNNY

Guard! Put down the gun!

McClatchy turns and faces Johnny, this time not shooting Derek, then --

Derek, terrified as he realizes he was nearly shot, cautiously pulls his hand out of his pocket, and holds up, for all to see, that he only has a cell phone.

The guards look ashamed at their mistake...

Principal Rowin is horrified by what almost just happened.

Off everyone's reaction to this averted tragedy...

FADE OUT.