Ezekiel Spelling

an original screenplay by

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FADE IN:

INT. ENGLISH CASTLE - CORRIDOR - NIGHT - 14TH CENTURY

In the cold, isolated interior of a stoutly built castle, an exhausted, weather-beaten SERVANT scampers through the darkness.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The year is 1321. Edward II's reputed homosexuality and his passive policies toward the Scots have caused unrest in the kingdom.

The servant trips hard on a protruding stone, quickly gathers himself, continues running.

INT. ENGLISH CASTLE - BALLROOM

NOBLEMEN and NOBLEWOMEN dance to frivolous music. They're surrounded with remnants of Bacchanalian party: tables lined with half eaten food, overturned cups, etc.

Playing the role of Edward II, BEN MORGAN, ruggedly handsome, 24, sits on a throne wearing the crown and ermine of a king. He claps along to the music and laughs devilishly.

The servant BURSTS through the chamber door. The courtiers stop dancing, but the musicians continue to play.

The servant climbs the throne and whispers in Ben's ear.

Ben looks into the servant's eyes, "it can't be true." The servant nods slightly, "it's true."

INT. DUNGEON

ZEKE SPELLING, 24, shackled and bloody, is dragged by dungeon GUARDS to a dark, damp cell lit by torches.

The guards force Zeke to bend over a table and bind his hands.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

King Edward has just received word that his lover is to be executed for the charge of sodomy.

INT. ENGLISH CASTLE - BALLROOM

Ben stands on his throne, and in heartbroken rage...

BEN

Out! Everyone get out! Leave me be! Out!

All the courtiers scamper out the door. The servant leans over to comfort the king, but Ben wraps himself in his ermine and balls into a fetal position and cries.

The servant reluctantly leaves.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

King Edward is helpless for he knows he cannot pardon his lover and maintain his throne.

INT. DUNGEON

Zeke struggles to break loose from the his bonds.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

In fourteenth century England, death sentences are especially Draconian.

With sadistic delight, one of the guards pulls a red-hot poker from the fire.

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

The lover is put to death with a redhot iron thrust up his rectum.

The guard with the poker kicks Zeke's feet out wide and, with zealous enthusiasm, thrusts the poker into Zeke.

Zeke screams in agony.

BEN (V.O.)

Whooooo!

INT. BAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Zeke and Ben, wearing t-shirts and jeans, sit at a table with a beautiful BLONDE and her unattractive, CHUBBY FRIEND. Ben next to Blonde, Zeke next to Chubby Friend.

Ben holds up a beer and motions to the TV showing the documentary.

BEN

To the best damn actors the History Channel has ever seen.

Zeke and Ben take a drink.

BLONDE

So, that's you on T.V.?

BEN

Hell yeah, it's us.

Zeke, ignoring Chubby Friend finishes his beer.

CHUBBY FRIEND

(to Zeke)

I think you look cute on T.V.

ZEKE

Sodomy really makes me glow.

A GUY walks buy with FRIENDS.

GUY

What's up Ben?

Ben waves.

GUY (CONT'D)

Hey Zeke, nice pull.

Embarrassed, Zeke nods. The guy LAUGHS with his friends.

BEN

How about another round?

Everyone nods. Ben walks to the bar, motions Zeke to follow.

Ben holds up two fingers, and the BARTENDER pours two beers.

Zeke slumps down on the bar. Ben pats him on the shoulder.

BEN (CONT'D)

You're kind of killin' it for me, man. You need to pick it up on your end. That girl thinks you're a star.

ZEKE

My starring role has me spread-eagled with a red-hot poker in my anal cavity. You're the movie star.

BEN

The movie hasn't even come out, yet.

ZEKE

But you know it's going to be a success.

Ben looks back at the Blonde who looks back and smiles.

BEN

Dude, just pull through this last time.

I can't. Look at her. She's a tank and you know it. She's in the marines. She's about to be deployed.

BEN

Her dad's Bam Bam Bigalow.

ZEKE

The wrestler?

Zeke looks back at Chubby Friend. She smiles, he smiles back.

BEN

Yeah the wrestler.

ZEKE

Do you think he could help me land some roles?

BEN

Um, uh, yeah, I'm sure he has some connections.

ZEKE

It couldn't hurt. Could it?

Ben scratches his eyebrow and looks away.

BEN

No, it couldn't hurt.

Zeke holds up two fingers to the bartender.

ZEKE

I'm going to need a couple more.

EXT. LOS ANGELES - DAY

The sounds of morning traffic litter the air as the early sun casts golden rays over the surrounding hillsides.

INT. CHUBBY FRIEND'S ROOM - DAY

Zeke's sprawled out asleep in bed next Chubby Friend. Sheets cover his lower half.

The room is small and decorated very femininely in a teenagegirl sort of way.

Zeke's eyes slowly open. Not realizing his surroundings, he jolts out of bed.

Zeke's wearing blue knee-high wrestling boots with a speedo.

What the fuck?

Chubby Friend rolls over.

CHUBBY FRIEND

Hey, you don't have to leave.

ZEKE

I have work.

Zeke takes off the boots. He gets up and puts on his pants over the speedo.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Is it cool if I keep the speedo?

CHUBBY FRIEND

Yeah, sure.

Zeke quickly throws on his shirt and shoes and grabs the door handle. Before he opens it, he stops and turns.

ZEKE

Hey, I really do have to get to work.

CHUBBY FRIEND

No, that's fine I understand.

Zeke turns to the door.

CHUBBY FRIEND (CONT'D)

So, do you think you can get me a role in the Valkyrie documentary?

Without looking back...

ZEKE

I'll see what I can do.

Giddy, Chubby Friend laughs and turns in bed. Zeke rolls his eyes as he walks out the door.

INT. BEN'S CAR - DAY

In an early model SUV, Ben drives, fools with the radio. Zeke sits shotgun, stares out the window, sad, motionless.

Ben turns off the radio.

ZEKE

I've been thinking. Maybe I should go back to Mississippi. My parents were right--

BEN

What? Don't say that.

ZEKE

I should've never moved out here. Never should've changed my name to Spelling.

BEN

We've only been out here four years.

ZEKE

Exactly, four years. At least you have a little bit to show for it. I should've gone to school like Jeff.

BEN

Fuck your brother.

ZEKE

My parents love him. He's so successful. He's in nursing school. He just bought a Prius...

Zeke looks directly at Ben.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

My little brother bought a Prius, and I can't afford rent.

BEN

Well look, this guy just started working and is looking for a place to stay--

ZEKE

Did you tell him he could stay with us?

BEN

I mentioned it. I wanted to run it by you first.

Zeke nods.

BEN (CONT'D)

He'll only stay for a couple of months, till he can find a place. He would have to sleep in your room, though.

ZEKE

I would have to sleep on the couch?

BEN

Dude, you pull in three-hundred bucks a week. If one of us has to sleep on the couch--

ZEKE

No, I get it.

BEN

Don't give up, Zeke.

Zeke looks out the window.

ZEKE

What's your part today?

BEN

I'm Braveheart.

ZEKE

Of course you are.

Zeke sighs.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

My role sucks. I mean what the hell does a sperm whaler do?

BEN

It'll probably be some Moby Dick type stuff. The prized sperm-whale oil shit.

(matter-of-factly)

The whales are now in danger because they used to be hunted for their sperm.

ZEKE

I don't think it was their actual sperm.

BEN

Yeah, their sperm was used for many things: candles, lamp oil...uh, glue...naturally.

ZEKE

How the fuck do you get their sperm?

EXT. HISTORY CHANNEL STUDIOS - DAY

The studio lot is made of around six large, plain studios. Looming large in front of the studios is a huge sign displaying the famous: "H" of the History Channel.

Zeke and Ben pull into a parking space.

INT. BEN'S CAR - DAY

ZEKE

... No, that doesn't sound right.

BEN

I swear that's how they did it.

Zeke shakes his head in disbelief.

ZEKE

I just have a hard time picturing people beating off whales.

INT. HISTORY CHANNEL STUDIOS - HALLWAY - DAY

Zeke, dressed as a sailor, and Ben, as Braveheart, walk to set. Zeke carries several film canisters.

On the hallway walls are H-Channel Documentary Posters; several have Ben playing the lead role: Attila the Hun, The Real Robin Hood, etc.

BEN

I talked to Chuck. He wants to move in today.

ZEKE

This soon?

BEN

Yeah, he's really excited.

Zeke nods.

ZEKE

I have to drop these off.

Zeke holds up the film canisters and opens the door to the

EDITING ROOM

where Tom and ALLAN sit in the dark watching porn on four massive TV screens.

Tom and Allan scramble to turn off the porn.

ZEKE

Don't worry guys. It's just me.

Tom and Allan stop.

ALLAN

What's up Zeke?

ZEKE

Not much. Same old, same old.

ALLAN

I see George is still making you do bitch work.

ZEKE

He keeps getting me roles.

ALLAN

Stay off the casting couch.

Zeke sets down the cans on a table.

Zeke picks up a piece of paper on the table and reads: "RULES OF FIGHT CLUB." The whole page is covered with rules. Zeke's baffled.

ZEKE

(reading)

The Rules Of Fight Club. The first rule: Don't talk about fight club. The second rule: don't talk about fight club. The third...

(looks at Tom)

Tom, is this yours?

At first, Tom is panicked but quickly turns indifferent. Tom looks directly at Zeke, revealing a bruised, cut face.

TOM

Is it yours, Zeke?

ZEKE

What? No.

TOM

If I were you, I'd be careful who I share that with.

Zeke looks like, what the fuck? Tom coughs and looks away.

Zeke hurriedly exits to the

HALLWAY

where Ben awaits. They start to walk.

A star-struck INTERN passes, notices Ben.

INTERN

Hey Mr. Morgan, I think you're great.

Ben doesn't slow down.

BEN

Thanks, bud.

INTERN

Have a good show.

Ben looks at a clock on the wall.

BEN

I have to head to Studio Four.

ZEKE

I have to head to Three.

GEORGE, effeminate, stressed, carrying a clipboard, drags through the studio. He sees Ben and is instantly rejuvenated. He smiles, star-struck.

GEORGE

Hey Ben. I guess you're going to set.

George reaches out and tenderly touches Ben's arm.

BEN

Yeah, George. I'm playing Braveheart. It's the last day of shooting.

Ben pulls his arm away.

GEORGE

Great...

George's eye contact lingers a little long.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

...great.

ZEKE

I just dropped off that film you gave me.

George turns to Zeke, eyes him puzzlingly.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

I'm a sperm-whaler.

George quickly flips through his clipboard.

GEORGE

I don't think so.

ZEKE

I don't understand.

GEORGE

You're not whaling for sperm today.

ZEKE

But that's the role that I was preparing for.

George grabs Zeke's arm, pulls him away like a child. They walk.

GEORGE

Yeah, well I'm not sure you're ready to be a whaler yet. That show's been postponed. You're going on location with Wes Styles on the Viking shoot.

Zeke looks back at Ben. Ben gives a fist pump, go for it.

George looks back at Ben, smiles, very femininely waves bye.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Have a good shoot, Ben.

EXT. HILLTOP - DAY

On a grassy hilltop overlooking the ocean, dressed as a Viking, Zeke stands ready. He holds a battle axe in front of a cadaver crudely tied to a stake.

The film CREW prepares equipment for the scene.

WES STYLES, 40, strong-jawed, warrior-like build, also carrying an axe, walks up.

WES

Are you ready for the scene?

Zeke could not look more unsure of himself.

ZEKE

Yeah, I think so.

WES

Good. It's pretty straight forward. I'm going to do a quick intro. Just follow my lead.

Alright, easy enough.

Wes walks off to the side.

A worker's HANDS holds a clacker in front of the H-Channel camera.

HANDS (O.S.)

Viking Battle Axe. Take one.

CLACK!

Wes walks into the shot carrying his axe.

WES

Now, the Vikings were fierce warriors who raided and plundered villages all along the British Isles. They were specially trained in the use of the deadly Viking axe.

Wes stops beside Zeke and holds up the axe for the camera. Zeke examines his own battle axe.

WES (CONT'D)

The double-bladed axe easily loped off the limbs of citizens brave enough to stand up to Viking resistance.

Wes motions to Zeke.

WES (CONT'D)

Here we have a Viking to demonstrate the deadliness of this masterful weapon.

Wes grabs the cadaver's shoulder.

WES (CONT'D)

This cadaver will simulate one of the victims of the Vikings' deadly raids.

(to Zeke)

Attack away.

Zeke rears back the axe with trepidation. He looks over at Wes, drops the axe.

ZEKE

Hey man, I don't think I can do this.

WES

Cut! Cut!

Wes throws up his hands in frustration. The crew all relax: drop microphone boom, stand back from camera, etc.

ZEKE

This is a real body.

WES

It is a real body. The person donated his body to science. You're doing this to educate thousands.

ZEKE

I doubt the person knew he'd end up here. I just don't think I can--

WES

Goddammit! We have fifteen minutes to get this shot!

Zeke cowers, scared, intimidated.

LATER

HANDS puts the clacker in front of the camera.

HANDS (O.S.)

Viking Battle Axe. Take two.

CLACK!

Zeke takes a swing at the cadaver, misses completely, and falls down.

LATER

CLACK!

Zeke takes a wussy swing, clips the cadaver's head, and cuts off its ear.

Wes yells at Zeke.

LATER

CLACK!

Zeke overshoots the head with the blade of the axe and smashes the cadaver in the face with the handle.

LATER

CLACK!

Zeke cries hysterically as he swings wildly at the cadaver. He quickly tires out and sobs in the fetal position as Wes yells at him.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Zeke, exhausted, enters the apartment toting his bag from work.

CHUCK SCOTT, 29, stands in front of the TV watching Wheel of Fortune as he works out with a shake-weight. Chuck is a slightly overweight, bearded slob.

Chuck, jerking the shake-weight like a champ, turns around as he hears Zeke close the door.

ZEKE

Wow, you're really jerking it there. Hi, I'm Zeke.

Chuck, sweaty and out of breath, holds out his hand to shake.

CHUCK

Hey roomie. I'm Chuck.

Zeke chuckles.

ZEKE

For a moment there I thought you were feeding the geese.

CHUCK

What?

Zeke makes feeding-the-geese gesture.

ZEKE

Masturbating. It looked like you were masturbating.

Chuck answers deadpan.

CHUCK

Oh, no, I wasn't doing that.

Zeke shifts uncomfortably.

ZEKE

I didn't think you were really masturb--so, how long have you been doing that?

CHUCK

Probably since I was thirteen...

Zeke stammers.

CHUCK (CONT'D)

...Oh, you mean working out with the shake weight. Probably a couple of months.

Zeke makes a masturbation gesture.

ZEKE

If you're talking about the other thing, I've been doing it since the womb...

Zeke makes a slightly over-the-top masturbation gesture.

Chuck looks puzzled.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

...placenta all over me.

CHUCK

Are you talking about the shake-weight now?

ZEKE

No, I was talking about masturbating then. Feeding the geese, ha...ahem.

The two both shift uncomfortably and squint their eyes to the TV like they're suddenly interested in Wheel of Fortune.

Ben enters from his room, drying his hair after showering.

BEN

Hey, Zeke. So you met Chuck?

Zeke nods.

BEN (CONT'D)

How was work?

ZEKE

Oh, I just beat a dead guy with an axe. I don't have anything lined up now for a couple of weeks.

Chuck slowly jerks the shake-weight.

CHUCK

My sister's doing a documentary about Helen Keller. She got me a role. I'm sure she could get you one.

Really? Because that'd be great.

CHUCK

Yeah, Claire will have an open role for you.

Ben smiles at Zeke. Zeke smiles back.

ZEKE

Thanks, Chuck.

CHUCK

No, problem. If we're going to be bedfellows, we should help each other out.

ZEKE

Oh, we're not sleeping together.

CHUCK

But there's only two beds.

ZEKE

Yeah, there are only two beds, and I can see how that can be a bit confusing...but I'm going to sleep on the couch.

CHUCK

Well, Ben and I can stay--

BEN

Zeke already claimed the couch, so his room's going to be empty anyway.

They all stare at each other for a second.

ZEKE

No one is sleeping in the same bed.

Chuck laughs.

CHUCK

That's good. I was wondering what I'd do if I brought a girl over to bang. Whew, no more worries.

Zeke and Ben laugh uncomfortably.

ZEKE

Yeah, no more worries.

BEN

We all have our own beds.

Chuck laughs.

CHUCK

We're all sleeping by ourselves...

Everyone laughs very fake laughs.

CHUCK (CONT'D)

...unless it's late, and we all fall asleep on the couch watching a movie.

Chuck turns around toward the TV and starts jerking the shake-weight.

INT. HISTORY CHANNEL STUDIOS - KELLER SET - DAY

Ben, dressed as Valkyrie, waits watches while the Helen-Keller documentary set is being prepared for a scene.

Zeke enters in early 19th-century attire.

ZEKE

Is Claire on set?

BEN

Yeah, she's over there talking to Chuck.

Ben points to CLAIRE SMITH, 20s, gorgeous. Claire and two of her CREW listen intently as Chuck, dressed similar to Zeke, tells a story.

Zeke stares at Claire, strongly attracted.

ZEKE

Wow, she's beautiful.

Ben points across the set.

BEN

Holy shit, look at her!

Zeke's attention turns.

Across the set, SARAH, 20s, cute, voluptuous, rehearses her lines as Helen Keller with her TUTOR, 30s. The scene is the famous water-pump scene.

ZEKE

The girl playing Helen Keller?

BEN

Yeah!

(pantomiming breasts)

Holy shit. Helen Keller is stacked!

Zeke gazes back at Claire.

ZEKE

I'm going to meet Claire.

BEN

Alright, I'll catch you later.

Zeke walks over to the group with Claire. Ben, transfixed, walks over to Sarah.

As Zeke approaches, Chuck continues a story. The three others listen with rapt, serious faces.

CHUCK

...and that's when he touched me in my swimsuit area. It was weird because I still liked Mr. Dave. He let me watch wrestling, something my dad would never allow...

Chuck sees Zeke, smiles.

CHUCK (CONT'D)

...Oh, hi Zeke.

ZEKE

Hi, Chuck. Uh, is this Claire?

Claire smiles.

CLAIRE

Claire Smith.

ZEKE

Zeke Spelling.

Zeke and Claire shake.

CHUCK

I should go prepare for my scene.

Claire points to the two others in the group, CAMERAMAN and BOOM MIC man.

CLAIRE

You guys better get to your spots, too.

They nod and walk off.

Claire looks back to Zeke. He shifts uncomfortably.

ZEKE

Thanks for letting me get a role.

CLAIRE

Oh, don't mention it.

ZEKE

Are you ready for today?

CLAIRE

Yeah, but I'm kind of nervous, I'm always nervous on the first day of a shoot.

ZEKE

I'm sure you'll do fine.

Claire gives an appreciative smile.

CLAIRE

I feel I should warn you about Chuck. He's a very messy roommate.

Zeke flirtingly smiles.

ZEKE

I'm sure he'll end up being a lot better than the guy we talked to from Craig's List. However, Chuck probably isn't going to be able to get us meth like that guy can.

Claire laughs.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

But Chuck probably won't steal our stuff either.

CLAIRE

Chuck's very sweet. He had it tough growing up. We went to this private school in New York and kids really picked on him.

ZEKE

Wow, really? Well, I promise we won't take his lunch money.

Claire smiles.

WORKER (O.S.)

Claire, where does this mark go?

Claire turns to worker, points in the direction of the set.

CLAIRE

It goes next to...no not there.

Claire gets up and takes a few steps toward the worker.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Excuse me, Zeke.

ZEKE

Go ahead.

Zeke stands up, relieved to have broken the ice.

INT. HISTORY CHANNEL STUDIOS - KELLER SET - DAY

Claire paces, reviews notes on a clipboard.

Zeke sits next to Chuck.

Zeke shows something to Chuck on his phone.

CHUCK

Horoscopes don't work for me because I was born on July twenty-first at exactly midnight. My head was out, but my legs were still in my mother's vaginal canal. So, I'm neither a Gemini or a Cancer.

ZEKE

You couldn't have been exactly halfin, half-out. It had to be something like sixty-forty.

Claire playfully admonishes them.

CLAIRE

Hey, guys you need to stop playing on the phone and get to your places.

ZEKE

Claire, I just texted our names to a horoscope matchmaking service. We're ninety-six percent compatible.

Claire laughs.

CLAIRE

Get to your spot, Romeo.

ZEKE

It cost fifteen bucks, so I'm pretty sure it's legit.

Claire laughs.

Zeke cockily walks on set with Chuck.

Claire bites her lip, shakes her head, smiles, focuses back on reviewing notes.

CHUCK

(to Zeke)

I'm going to jump over to the Valkyrie doc. There's only a few more scenes for extras here. Do you want 'em?

Zeke looks over at Claire.

ZEKE

Yeah, I'll take 'em.

EXT. HISTORY CHANNEL STUDIOS - NIGHT

Zeke, toting his work bag, walks to his car wearing jeans and a t-shirt.

In front of Zeke, Claire makes her way to her car, also.

ZEKE

Have a good night, Claire.

Claire turns, smiles.

CLAIRE

You too, Zeke. See you tomorrow.

Zeke smiles.

The cameraman walks up to Zeke.

CAMERAMAN

Nice. You're hittin' on the right girl.

ZEKE

What do you mean?

CAMERAMAN

Ha, quit fooling around. You know.

ZEKE

No, I don't.

CAMERAMAN

She's the daughter of Michael Scott.

ZEKE

Michael Scott, the biggest producer in Hollywood?

The cameraman smiles.

CAMERAMAN

I knew you knew.

The cameraman walks off.

Claire drives past Zeke and waves. Zeke waves, smiles.

INT. BEN'S CAR - NIGHT

Ben drives Chuck and Zeke.

ZEKE

Chuck, why didn't you tell us your dad was Michael Scott?

BEN

Your dad's Michael Scott?!

CHUCK

Yeah, that's my dad. I just didn't think to tell you guys.

ZEKE

Why are you living with us? Can't you live off your dad?

CHUCK

We don't have a good relationship. When I was a kid, my parents divorced after my dad was caught boning his secretary.

BEN

Ouch, I bet that was rough.

CHUCK

I only saw my dad every other weekend. Then there was this thing with a gun and the high school. I mean, I didn't go through with it, but my dad called the cops anyway. They sent me up county.

ZEKE

Up county?

CHUCK

Juvie.

Zeke turns to Chuck, skeptical.

ZEKE

You were in juvie?

CHUCK

For three months.

BEN

That's bad ass!

ZEKE

Did you get into any fights on the inside?

CHUCK

No, it was a minimum-security center. There weren't any fences. Just boundary lines.

Ben and Zeke nod, disappointed.

CHUCK (CONT'D)

I did become really adept at homemade weapons.

BEN

You said it was a minimum-security--

CHUCK

I was an expert at keyster stashing shivs. The guards could never find them.

ZEKE

You put homemade knives up your ass? How big were they?

CHUCK

Uh, never bigger than a baby's arm.

BEN

That skill is really only helpful on the inside, right?

CHUCK

You can still do it on the outside.

ZEKE

Why wouldn't you just put your knife in your pocket?

Chuck looks out the window like it was a rhetorical question.

BEN

I'm hooking up with Sarah.

ZEKE

Helen Keller?

BEN

Yeah, she's a handful. Fuckin' voracious.

CHUCK

You better wrap up with a condom.

Ben shakes his head, perplexed.

BEN

The other day we fucked in the woods outside the apartment.

ZEKE

In the woods outside the apartment?

BEN

Yeah, tt was pouring down rain too.

CHUCK

Ooh, like 'The Notebook.'

INT. HISTORY CHANNEL STUDIOS - HALLWAY - DAY

Zeke, toting his work bag with his cell phone to his ear, carries several canisters of film.

ZEKE

Hi, is this Casey?

CASEY (V.O.)

Yeah, this is Casey.

Zeke opens the door and enters the

EDITING ROOM

where Allan and Tom again scramble to turn off the porn until they see it's Zeke.

ZEKE

(into phone)

Hey Casey, this is Zeke Spelling. You tried calling earlier. You said you're interested in representing me.

ALLAN

Shit, Zeke. Knock next time.

TOM

We thought you were George.

Zeke waves them off as he sets down the film canisters.

CASEY (V.O.)

Oh, hi Zeke. Yeah, I'd love to represent your talents.

Zeke smiles very big and walks back into the

HALLWAY

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

First of all, I love your work with the History Channel. I watched your screen test for 'The Mad Henry the Eighth' on YouTube.

ZEKE

That's on YouTube?

CASEY

Yeah, it blew me away.

ZEKE

Wow, thanks. I really felt I deserved the part, but it just didn't work out.

CASEY

Some people just don't know talent when they see it. Having an agent will help you out a lot.

Zeke shakes his head, smiles, rubs his forehead in relief.

ZEKE

Hew, it's been so hard for me to find representation.

CASEY (V.O.)

I understand. Hollywood is a very insular world, but I feel lucky to be able to represent you and your talents.

ZEKE

Man, I uh...Hew, I'm happy.

Zeke opens up a glass door and walks outside to the

PATTO

where a lot of the crew sit at picnic tables eating lunch.

CASEY (V.O.)

Great. So, are you on Facebook?

What?

CASEY

I would like to get your name around high school.

Zeke looks around, walks close to the wall, trying to hide his conversation.

ZEKE

Like, a high school or your high school? How old are you?

CASEY (V.O.)

Eighteen.

Zeke drops his head in despair.

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

O.K., I'm seventeen.

Zeke takes down the phone down from his ear and puts his head to the wall.

Zeke pulls the phone back to his ear.

ZEKE

Yeah, I'm on Facebook.

The boom mic man walks past. Zeke quickly hangs up the phone.

Zeke sits down at an empty picnic table and pulls his laptop from his bag.

Zeke opens his laptop and types.

ON THE MONITOR

Zeke Googles: "How to make it in Hollywood."

BACK TO ZEKE

Zeke punches enter, but before the search finishes, Claire sits down at the table. Zeke quickly closes his computer.

CLAIRE

Your friend really hit it off with Sarah.

Across the patio, Sarah, trying to be sexy, force feeds Ben. Resisting, Ben almost chokes on a spoonful of rice.

ZEKE

Yeah, they seem quite the item.

CLAIRE

Mind if I sit?

ZEKE

(playful)

Yeah I do, I'm really trying to get into character. In my next scene, I walk to a drug store.

CLAIRE

You're a true professional.

ZEKE

I've built my career on characters that walk in backgrounds.

CLAIRE

(flirty)

So you're a character actor?

Zeke smiles at first, but then looks down in sad recognition.

ZEKE

It's hard for me to get jobs. You know, me being a character actor and all.

CLAIRE

I've always been coddled because of my dad. He's probably the only reason I got into film school.

Claire pauses then continues.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Even in film school people treated me differently. Senior year I changed my last name and moved to Vancouver and shot some short Indy documentaries. This is my first shoot since I moved back to L.A.

ZEKE

That's great, though. You did it yourself.

CLAIRE

I finally feel that I'm getting recognized for my talent and not because I have a famous dad. Hopefully, I'll get the opportunity to shoot a major feature soon.

Well, you're a really motivated person. I moved here from Mississippi with Ben around five years ago.

Zeke pauses.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

You know, you just get this image in your head of how your life's gonna be, and...it never seems to work out.

Zeke looks down at the table, avoiding eye contact.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

I know this dream is a long shot, but I don't want to look back at my life twenty years from now and know that I didn't even try. That's why I take the risks...because I know I won't regret taking risks. I will regret not trying.

Claire touches Zeke's hand. Zeke looks up with vulnerable eyes.

CLAIRE

Zeke, you're a terrific actor.

Zeke appreciatively smiles.

ZEKE

It's just...

Claire leans in, carefully listening. Zeke laughs.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Maybe the best way to break through is to write your own movie.

CLAIRE

Ha yeah, we should write a movie.

Zeke stops laughing, thinks for a sec.

ZEKE

Let's do it.

CLAIRE

Ha, yeah.

ZEKE

No, I'm serious. We should write a movie together.

Claire smiles.

CLAIRE

O.K., what the hell. Let's do it.

INT. HISTORY CHANNEL STUDIOS - KELLER SET - DAY Claire and Zeke walk to set.

ZEKE

'The Notebook' is your favorite movie of all time?

CLAIRE

I know. I know. It's a sappy love story, but I love that movie.

ZEKE

To be honest, I really like chick flicks. If my friends saw my Netflix account, they'd rag me so bad.

CLAIRE

Like which movies?

ZEKE

You wanna know the most embarrassing one?

CLAIRE

Yeah. Come on what is it?

ZEKE

You're gonna laugh out loud?

Claire playfully pushes Zeke.

CLAIRE

Tell me.

ZEKE

'Under the Tuscan Sun.'

Claire laughs.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

I knew you were going to laugh.

CLAIRE

I'm sorry. I just wasn't expecting that one. Why would you ever rent 'Under the Tuscan Sun?'

ZEKE

My grandmother told me it was good.

CLAIRE

Well, how 'bout we keep it light and write a romantic comedy?

ZEKE

Yeah, that's what I was thinking.

DREW (O.S.)

Claire Bear!

Claire looks in the direction of Drew, and her face glows with excitement.

CLAIRE

Drew!

DREW, late 20's, Izod shirt tucked into his pressed khakis, stands with his arms wide.

Claire runs up to Drew and gives him a big hug.

DREW

Boo Bear! Oh, I missed you so much!

Zeke grabs a script off a chair and pretends to prepare for a scene as he watches Drew and Claire.

Ben and Chuck, dressed in Valkyrie costumes, walk on the set and talk to Drew and Claire.

Claire gives Chuck and Ben friendly hugs and introduces Ben to Drew.

CLAIRE

How'd you find me?

DREW

The producer told me you were here.

CLAIRE

George?

DREW

Uh, yeah, the faggy one.

Drew turns to Chuck.

DREW (CONT'D)

Chuck, you still doin' the...

Drew makes a shooting motion.

DREW (CONT'D)

...toy gun thing?

CHUCK

It's called paintball!

Chuck storms off. Drew shrugs his shoulders to Claire.

DREW

What'd I say?

She shakes her head.

Claire turns and yells to Zeke.

CLAIRE

Zeke!

Zeke, with a huge phoney smile, walks up to the group.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

This is my boyfriend, Drew.

DREW

Hi, Zeke.

ZEKE

Hi.

CLAIRE

Drew's been in Africa.

DREW

I helped to establish a cancer ward exclusively for children.

Ben's very impressed.

BEN

Wow.

DREW

Yeah, it really makes my life worth while that I can help save children.

BEN

Fuck yeah. Saving kids, that's awesome.

DREW

Yeah, working with all of those kids really makes me want one of my own soon.

Drew pulls Claire close.

DREW (CONT'D)

This past week, though, I was in Arizona fighting homelessness.

Ben pulls out his German Luger and cocks it.

BEN

I'll end homelessness, haha.

No one laughs. Ben shakes his head playfully.

BEN (CONT'D)

No, no I won't.

DREW

Ah, most of the homeless are just lazy.

Zeke makes an uncomfortable shift and walks away. Ben notices him leave and walks after him.

Claire and Drew continue to catch up.

INT. HISTORY CHANNEL STUDIOS - BATHROOM - DAY

Zeke leans over the sink, splashes water on his face.

Ben rushes in, concerned.

ZEKE

I'm alright.

A bathroom stall opens; Chuck's inside.

Chuck attempts to flush the toilet. He takes a step back, but the toilet doesn't flush all the way. Chuck turns to flush again.

BEN

Yeah, you seem alright.

Studying the toilet bowl, Chuck repeatedly tries to flush to no avail. He walks out of the stall.

ZEKE

I thought me and Claire had a thing.

Chuck washes his hands.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

This Drew guy's even talking about having kids soon.

CHUCK

Zeke, if there's anyone I picture conceiving a child with my sister, it's you.

ZEKE

Thanks, Chuck. Drew's such a douche bag.

CHUCK

Fuck Drew. He calls my paintball guns toys. Well this is no toy...

Chuck puts his foot up on the counter, pulling up his pant leg to reveal an ankle holster.

BEN AND ZEKE

Holy shit!

INT. HISTORY CHANNEL STUDIOS - DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Zeke sits on a couch staring at a marker board on the wall in front of him.

On the board are ideas for the screenplay: "Soccer Player falls for Referee; Honeymoon Disaster; Journey to the center of the earth; and Break-up and raising baby."

The door opens. Claire pokes her head in.

CLATRE

Hey, I've been looking everywhere for you.

ZEKE

I've been here.

Claire steps in, looks at the board.

CLAIRE

What is this?

ZEKE

It's nothing. I was just scribbling down some ideas.

Claire looks the board over, nods head.

Claire goes down the list.

CLAIRE

(pointing)

I don't know anything about sports. Ooh, this could work. Journey to the center of the the earth?

I had an idea of a couple traveling to the center of the earth after falling in a volcano.

Claire bursts out laughing.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

O.K., some of the ideas are better than others.

CLAIRE

Break-up and raising baby?

ZEKE

Maybe a couple is about to end their relationship when one of their sisters dies, leaving them to raise her baby.

Claire's eyes widen.

CLAIRE

Ooh, that's good. We should do that.

Claire jumps down on the couch and starts writing on a pad as she talks. Their words cannot be heard.

INT. HISTORY CHANNEL STUDIOS - DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Claire and Zeke laugh. Zeke reads from his note pad.

ZEKE

How about this line. "They say that the birthing process is a beautiful thing. They haven't seen the tapes that we have."

Claire laughs hard for a moment.

A beat of silence.

CLAIRE

I'm glad that we've become friends.

ZEKE

Oh, you think we're friends.

Claire cocks her head.

CLAIRE

What do you mean by that? Are we not friends?

Zeke hesitates.

Well, I'm rather particular about my friends. I only have a select number at a time.

Claire laughs.

CLAIRE

Is that so?

ZEKE

Yeah, but you can be an alternate if you want. When one of the select few dies or does something horrible, you can take their place.

CLAIRE

(laughing)

Yes! I'm an alternate! I'm so pumped! I never thought I'd almost be in Zeke's upper-elite circle of friends!

ZEKE

I'm glad for you too. Of course there are already several alternates above you, around five. You'll have to wait until they die also.

Claire's smitten.

CLATRE

I think I can take care of 'em.

Zeke can't stop smiling.

ZEKE

I'm glad you're so determined. I'll tell you what. Let's start hanging out a bit, and if I deem you worthy to be one of The Select, I'll pull some strings and get you in.

Zeke and Claire lock eyes for a short, magical moment.

The door opens. Drew sticks his head in.

DREW

Hey, Claire. Are you about ready to head home?

CLAIRE

Um, uh, yeah, we were just working on ideas for a script.

DREW

What is it?

ZEKE

It's a romantic comedy.

Claire grabs her notebook off the table, gets up.

DREW

We don't have to leave.

CLAIRE

It's late.

DREW

If you guys want to keep writing, I can help with the jokes.

Zeke shakes his head.

ZEKE

No, you guys go.

DREW

I'd love to help.

CLAIRE

Drew, don't take this the wrong way. You're funny, but we are looking for really edgy jokes.

DREW

What do you mean edgy?

ZEKE

Jokes that make people laugh.

Claire starts pushing Drew to the door.

DREW

(upset)

I know some good jokes.

CLAIRE

No, we have to go.

Claire gets Drew out the door and turns and smiles.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

See ya tomorrow.

Zeke smiles.

ZEKE

See ya.

Claire leaves. Zeke slumps down on the couch.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Zeke lies awake on the pull-out couch staring out the window. Rain patters on the window sill and light from the street dances on Zeke's face.

The door BURSTS open and Ben and Sarah tumble in arm-in-arm. Zeke doesn't look back.

Sarah pulls at an uncomfortable, bashful Ben.

BEN

Shhhh--

SARAH

I can't wait to get you alone.

BEN

Can't we just watch a movie?

Sarah drags Ben to his room.

SARAH

You're funny.

Ben's door slams, and his room becomes full of strange, muffled noises.

Zeke sits up in bed and opens his laptop.

ON THE MONITOR

At the top of a blank document, he types: "SCREENPLAY IDEAS."

BACK TO ZEKE

Zeke sets the computer down and lies on his back, thinking.

Zeke's phone rings.

ZEKE

(into the phone)

Hello.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

Hey Zeke, this is Claire.

ZEKE

Hi.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

I know it's late, but I was wondering if you wanted to meet up to work on the screenplay some more. I felt we had some good ideas flowing earlier.

ZEKE

Yeah, sure.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

Do you want to meet at your place?

Ben SCREAMS in pain as Sarah GIGGLES with delight.

ZEKE

How 'bout the studio?

INT. HISTORY CHANNEL STUDIOS - DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Zeke writes on the board and Claire laughs uncontrollably. Zeke starts to laugh hard, too.

Their words cannot be heard.

EXT. HISTORY CHANNEL STUDIOS - NIGHT

Zeke and Claire walk to their cars together.

ZEKE

...I had this axe and had to actually swing at this body, but I never could connect. I clipped his ear, smashed him in the face.

Claire laughs.

CLAIRE

That sounds awful.

ZEKE

It wasn't as cool as you'd think.

CLAIRE

So, how did you get started with the History Channel?

ZEKE

Ben landed a part on the series 'The Mad Henry the Eighth' with Channing Douglas.

CLAIRE

Wow, that sounds pretty big.

He had a cameo role. He was a servant in the king's bedchamber...

INT. HENRY VIII'S BEDCHAMBER - DAY - FLASHBACK

ZEKE (V.O.)

...It was the episode when Henry was going crazy for Anne Boleyn...

Henry VIII, played by CHANNING DOUGLAS, 20s, good looking, masturbates to flashback images of ANNE BOLEYN, 20s, stunning.

INT. CASTLE ROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

Anne knits a scarf. In her low-cut dress, her breasts rise and fall with each breath.

INT. HENRY VIII'S BEDCHAMBER - DAY - FLASHBACK

Channing is really going to town on himself.

Channing orgasms, and a servant, played by Ben, stands up holding a pillow. Ben caught Channing's ejaculate on an ornately decorated pillow.

As Channing breathes heavily, relieved, Ben walks away with the soiled pillow.

Almost out of the shot, Ben slyly looks back at the camera and gives a smirk.

EXT. HISTORY CHANNEL STUDIOS - NIGHT - PRESENT DAY

ZEKE

...that was his big break.

CLAIRE

That's quite a story.

ZEKE

Yeah. He's pretty lucky. Ever since then, he's been able to get all sorts of roles with the History Channel. He even gets me roles.

They stop at Claire's car.

CLAIRE

He's seems like a pretty good friend.

Zeke nods his head slightly.

There's an awkward moment where the two don't know what to do.

Claire smiles shyly. Zeke tilts his head like he's about to go in for a kiss but then looks away.

ZEKE

Wow, it's getting late--

CLAIRE

I should probably get going.

ZEKE

Yeah.

CLAIRE

We got a lot done.

ZEKE

Yeah, we did.

Claire gets in her car.

CLAIRE

See ya tomorrow.

Zeke waves bye.

INT. HISTORY CHANNEL STUDIOS - HALLWAY - DAY

Zeke, in costume, tucks in his shirt as he walks past the editing room.

Tom, carrying film canisters, walks up. He has a fresh bandage on his hand along with cuts and bruises on his face.

As he walks by, Tom smiles at Zeke with a mouth full of blood.

Zeke shakes head and walks to the

KELLER SET

where he sees Drew in the distance flirting with a cute GIRL.

Seeing Drew, Zeke stops and lingers around the refreshment table.

Drew touches the girl, pulls her close, kisses her on the nose. She playfully pushes him and walks away. Drew waves bye, sits down in a chair.

Claire steps out of the hallway.

CLAIRE

What are you doing standing around back here?

Zeke, startled.

I, uh, I'm guarding the donuts. I'm an authority figure around here. If you want a donut, you have to go through me.

A child ACTRESS grabs a donut.

CLAIRE

She got a donut.

Zeke turns.

ZEKE

I gave her permission earlier.

Claire laughs and turns.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Claire.

Claire turns.

DREW (O.S.)

Claire!

ZEKE

(shaking head)

Never mind.

CLAIRE

(to Zeke)

We'll talk later.

ZEKE

Yeah, alright.

Zeke forces a smile.

Claire walks over to Drew.

A few seconds later, MICHAEL SCOTT (60s), slicked-back gray hair, wearing a suit, enters from the hallway with Chuck, wearing only a loin cloth and moccasins.

Zeke turns.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Hey, Chuck.

CHUCK

Michael, this is my best friend Zeke Spelling.

Michael holds out his hand to shake.

MICHAEL

Nice to meet you, Zeke. I'm--

ZEKE

Michael Scott. I'm a big fan.

MICHAEL

I'm Chuck's dad.

CHUCK

Michael came down to visit Claire.

MICHAEL

I'm here to visit you too.

Chuck pats Zeke's back.

CHUCK

Zeke's been writing a screenplay with Claire.

MICHAEL

You're the comedian?

ZEKE

No, I don't do stand-up. Thought about it but never done it.

MICHAEL

You should.

Zeke nods.

Chuck looks over to Claire.

CHUCK

We'll talk to you later, Zeke.

ZEKE

Alright, yeah.

Chuck walks toward Claire. Michael takes a step toward her but steps back.

MICHAEL

(to Zeke)

Has Chuck said anything about me?

ZEKE

Not specifically.

Michael nods.

MICHAEL

Oh, huh, I was just wondering. I didn't have a great relationship--ahem, so do you have an acting reel or--

ZEKE

I have a screen test. For 'The Mad Henry the Eighth.'"

MICHAEL

Send it to me. I'll see what's out there.

Zeke and Michael walk towards Claire, Drew, and Chuck.

ZEKE

Thanks. I really appreciate that.

DREW

Mr. Scott.

MICHAEL

Hey, Drew.

CLAIRE

Hi, Dad.

MICHAEL

Hi, sweetie.

DREW

(to Zeke)

Michael's having a hunting trip at the lodge this weekend. You and Ben should come.

ZEKE

Yeah, uh...

Zeke looks around.

Over in a far corner, Ben stands on gallows with Sarah. Sarah tightens a hangmen's noose around Ben's neck. Uncomfortable, he coughs, and Sarah jumps on him, kisses his face.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

...we'd love to go.

Drew grabs Claire's hand. Zeke looks disappointed.

CHUCK

Are you a pretty good hunter, Drew?

DREW

I haven't shot a gun in a while. The last time I went hunting was with a tribe in the Amazon, and we used blowguns.

ZEKE

Of course it was.

DREW

I shot a tree frog with a bow and arrow.

MICHAEL

Wow! That's something.

CHUCK

That's nothing. I can kill one with my bare hands. Was it a compound bow? Because that's even easier.

Drew, flustered by Chuck's offensive tone...

DREW

Uh, no, it was a pull back bow. A straight one.

Chuck shakes his head like, you're an idiot.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Zeke dials a number on his phone as Ben watches TV on the couch.

ZEKE

(into phone)

Hey, Claire. Do you want to meet up to work on the script?

CLAIRE (V.O.)

I can't tonight.

ZEKE

Alright.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

Drew's renting a movie for us to watch, and I should do that.

ZEKE

O.K. We'll have to get together sometime soon, though.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

Yeah, definitely.

I'll talk to you later.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

Good night.

ZEKE

Night.

Zeke sits down at the table. He opens his laptop, studiously studies the screen. Paper's strewn across the table.

Chuck enters from his room wearing buckskins and carrying a rifle. He pumps the rifle.

CHUCK

Where's the high school?

Chuck laughs.

BEN

Where are you headed, Chuck?

CHUCK

I'm headed to the lodge. I like to spend the night in the woods before a hunt.

Ben cocks his head, confused.

CHUCK (CONT'D)

(to Zeke)

What are you writing?

ZEKE

I'm putting together an outline for a screenplay.

CHUCK

Yeah, I'm sort of a writer myself.

ZEKE

Yeah? You written anything good?

CHUCK

Yeah.

Zeke expects Chuck to continue, but he doesn't. Zeke looks back down as Chuck stands silently.

CHUCK (CONT'D)

I wrote a poem. Do you want to hear it?

Uh, yeah, sure. Let's hear it.

Chuck pulls out a piece of notebook paper from his wallet.

BEN

You keep it in your wallet.

CHUCK

Always. I wrote it when I was a teenager. It's about my dad. It really speaks about the relationship I had with him.

Chuck unfolds the piece of notebook paper. Zeke puts down everything, Ben turns off the TV, they listen attentively.

CHUCK (CONT'D)

Ahem...

(reading)

"Why don't you love me?"

Chuck looks up, continues reading.

CHUCK (CONT'D)

"Everything I touch falls to shit/ My life is a black pit/ The love I feel, it is not real/ I put the gun to my head, let loose the lead/ <u>Dead!</u> Are you happy now Dad!"

Zeke and Ben sit back in shock as Chuck catches his breath.

CHUCK (CONT'D)

What do ya think?

ZEKE

Um, uh, it was good.

Chuck nods thanks. Chuck looks at Ben for a critique.

BEN

Well, it's...powerful.

CHUCK

Yeah. It comes off a little strong at the end. I think the rhymes are rather good, but I haven't tried to get it published or anything.

Ben nods.

CHUCK (CONT'D)

I didn't write it for the money.

That's very noble.

Awkward silence.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Well, I'm going to keep working on this screenplay.

CHUCK

O.K.

Chuck still stands there.

Zeke, uncomfortable, starts working again.

Chuck finally moves, opens the door.

CHUCK (CONT'D)

See ya guys in the woods.

BEN

Alright, Chuck. See ya out there.

Chuck leaves.

Ben rubs his face with his hand.

BEN (CONT'D)

Sarah's early.

ZEKE

Sarah's what?

BEN

(distressed)

Early. She's early. She's fucking early man.

ZEKE

You mean, like, her period?

BEN

Yes, I mean her period.

ZEKE

Do you want to have a baby?

Shocked, Ben looks at Zeke like he's an idiot.

BEN

Does it look like I want a baby?

ZEKE

Well, early's good.

BEN

I thought she needed to be on time.

ZEKE

No, man. It's when it's late that you worry.

Ben relaxes, wipes his brow.

BEN

Hew, that's great news.

ZEKE

Is it not going great with you and Sarah?

BEN

I think I'm going to end it, dude.

ZEKE

I thought you said she was some sex robot or something.

BEN

That's the problem. She is. Too much of one.

ZEKE

You're saying she wants to have sex too much?

BEN

Yeah, man. You don't know how it feels. Last night she asked if I wanted to fool around. We already had sex like ten times that day, and I just couldn't go.

Ben pulls his head back in frustration.

BEN (CONT'D)

I told her: I'm tired, my pelvis is bruised. I just need to drink some water. She looked at me like, you're not enough man for me. There's no man that's man enough for her! I'm glad to be on this hunting trip to refuel the engines. I'm tired of faking orgasms.

EXT. HUNTING LODGE - DAY

The hunting lodge is a millionaire version of a log cabin.

Ben's car pulls up.

Carrying duffel bags, Zeke and Ben get out the car and walk around to the

BACKYARD

where several people are gathered on the deck.

Gathered near the railing of the deck are Channing Douglas, the guy who played Henry VIII, and IAN TURNER (50s), pompadour haircut, sophisticated in his hunting clothes.

Across the deck are Michael and Drew.

Ben and Zeke step up on the deck.

BEN

Hey Channing.

Channing turns.

CHANNING

Holy shit! Ben Morgan. How ya been?

BEN

I'm good.

(to Ian)

Hey, I'm Ben Morgan.

IAN

Ian Turner.

BEN

(smiling)

Yeah, I know. I'm a huge fan.

Channing puts his arm around Ben like a frat brother.

CHANNING

(to Ian)

This guy thought he'd rocket to the top after beating me off.

Ben's face turns red.

BEN

I didn't technically beat him off. I caught his semen on a pillow. It was on film.

Ian looks grossed out.

BEN (CONT'D)

Let me clarify further. It was on the show 'The Mad Henry the Eighth.' Channing squeezes Ben harder.

CHANNING

It didn't matter. This guy would've done anything to get a role.

Zeke steps up.

ZEKE

Hey Channing, what was your last project?

CHANNING

I'm working on getting the lead role in a war movie in Italy, right now...

Channing looks at Ian.

CHANNING (CONT'D)

...so don't worry about me.

ZEKE

Well, that's great, but what was your latest work?

Channing hesitates, embarrassed.

CHANNING

I played Suzie's uncle in 'Suzie Louisiana: The Movie.'

ZEKE

The kid's movie?

(snide, sarcastic)

Cool.

Channing fidgets with his drink.

CHANNING

I'm going to get me another drink.

Channing heads toward the lodge.

ZEKE

I'm gonna see if anyone has seen Chuck.

Zeke walks over to Drew and Michael.

BEN

Ha, that Channing. He's uh...he's an--

IAN

Asshole?

Ben chuckles.

BEN

Exactly. I don't know if you caught it, but I'm Ben Morgan.

Ian points his finger at Ben.

IAN

I know you. You did a horror movie with David Brenner.

BEN

Yeah, it hasn't been released yet.

IAN

I know. I saw it at a private screening. I thought you were brilliant.

Ben gasps with joy.

Across the deck, Michael and Drew have a conversation.

DREW

Everyone of the kids at the orphanage called me Dad.

Zeke walks up.

DREW (CONT'D)

Then I realized, I am their dad. Not their biological dad but better--

MICHAEL

Hi, Zeke.

ZEKE

Hey guys. Is Chuck around?

DREW

He's still in the woods.

ZEKE

What about Claire?

MICHAEL

She's caught up at work. Probably won't make it.

ZEKE

She's probably working on the screenplay.

Drew gives Zeke a quick look.

Meanwhile, Ian and Ben continue to talk.

IAN

What are you doing now?

BEN

I've been working for the History Channel. I've played Braveheart, Valkyrie--

IAN

That's good. Have you seen any of my films?

BEN

Yeah, of course.

IAN

I know what you're thinking, my movies are chick flicks. They are, but I'm looking to make a change. I'm thinking about doing a real gritty movie.

Ben nods, listens to every word.

IAN (CONT'D)

You have a very masculine presence, very virile. I like a Braveheart soul. I'll keep you in mind in discussions with my next project.

Ben smiles ultra big.

BEN

Great. Aw man, I appreciate that.

Michael, Drew, and Zeke walk up to Ian and Ben. Channing steps up a few moments later.

DREW

Do you guys have cammo?

Ben and Zeke hold up the duffel bags.

MICHAEL

Great. Is it tree cammo?

Ben shakes his head.

ZEKE

Not exactly.

LATER

Zeke and Ben exit the hunting lodge wearing Nazi uniforms.

ZEKE

We look like a bunch of idiots.

BEN

It'll be fine.

Zeke and Ben walk up to the crowd beside a pick-up: Michael, Ian, Channing, Drew, and Brian.

MICHAEL

Ha, guys. Nice cammo. Are you guys going to try to herd the deer to the...

(hand quotes)

...showers?

Ian, Channing, and Drew chuckle. Zeke and Ben give nervous laughs.

ZEKE

We're only obeying orders.

Everyone chuckles, but Drew.

DREW

We'll stack the deer up and burn them with gasoline!

No one laughs. They look like, whoa...

Chuck emerges from the woods, walks to the deck.

CHUCK

(doing Nazi salute)

Heil Hitler!

Chuck laughs hard.

CHUCK (CONT'D)

What's up guys?

Michael beams, glad to see Chuck.

MICHAEL

Hey, son. What's it look like?

CHUCK

I saw several deer around two this morning.

Michael, pulling Chuck close...

MICHAEL

Aw, me and Chuck used to have some good ol' times when he was kid. Do you remember that time with Uncle Jimmy when you shot that seven point in the pine grove?

Chuck smiles.

CHUCK

Was that the one I had to finish off with a tire iron?

Michael cocks his head.

MICHAEL

Um, I'm thinking of a different time. But yeah, we had some good times back then.

DREW

(to Zeke)

Did you see any sign when you came in?

ZEKE

Sign?

DREW

Yeah, did you see any sign of deer, like, tracks or rubs?

ZEKE

Ben did you see any deer signs?

BEN

Deer signs?

ZEKE

Yeah like tracks or rubs?

MICHAEL

Yeah, did you see any sign of deer in the area when you drove up?

Zeke looks at Ben.

ZEKE

Oh, yeah. We saw sign down by the...

Ben points in the direction of the road.

BEN

Down by the...

...crick. We saw some sign down by the crick.

DREW

The creek? How far back?

BEN

Three miles. Three miles how the crow flies.

IAN

Oh, good. You guys take the area down by the creek then.

CHUCK

I'll take 'em.

MICHAEL

So, Ian and Channing are heading South to hunt those woods. Drew and I will go North. You guys take the west near the creek.

ZEKE

Alright. Sounds good.

Michael grabs two rifles.

MICHAEL

Here are some rifles for you guys.

BEN

Sweet.

Chuck pulls out a small spray bottle.

CHUCK

You guys need deer urine to cover up your scent.

BEN

Huh?--

Chuck sprays him in the face with the urine. Ben immediately starts spitting.

EXT. DEEP IN THE WOODS - DAY

Ben, Zeke, and Chuck walk through the woods. Zeke cradles his gun in his arms carelessly, pointing the barrel directly at Ben.

Ben notices the barrel near his face, pushes it away.

BEN

Geez, watch where you point that thing. And take your finger out of the trigger guard.

ZEKE

Sorry.

CHUCK

It's beautiful out here.

Zeke and Ben look around. Zeke sighs.

ZEKE

This sucks. I think Drew's keeping Claire away from me. She's not even going to be here today. I'm here for nothing. Walking in the woods, covered with urine...

CHUCK

That actually isn't urine. I accidentally ordered from a wildlife fertility clinic. It's semen.

BEN

What?! That stuff got in my mouth.

ZEKE

Claire totally gave me an opening the other night, but I froze up. I'm such a pussy.

BEN

You'll have another opportunity.

They walk a few more steps.

ZEKE

So, you're going to end it with Sarah?

BEN

Yeah, I think so. She's been freaking me out lately. She's been bringing up double penetration a lot.

CHUCK

Double penetration? Is that a paintball gun?

BEN

No, she want's to get a threesome...with another dude.

Ouch.

CHUCK

What's he look like?

Ben stares at Chuck.

ZEKE

The sex isn't great?

BEN

It's not even consensual.

ZEKE

She's raping you?

Ben laughs a very fake laugh.

BEN

No she's not raping me...

Ben's smile falls from his face.

BEN (CONT'D)

...well, technically--

Chuck suddenly drops to his knees and signals Ben and Zeke to hold up.

ZEKE

What is it?

CHUCK

Shhh!

Ben and Zeke kneel down.

Chuck pulls out a deer bugle, makes a loud grunting sound.

A doe walks out in front of the three.

Chuck motions Ben to raise his gun.

Ben takes aim and shoots. The deer falls.

Chuck immediately sprints toward the deer; Zeke and Ben follow.

Chuck kneels down and puts his hand lovingly on the deer, whispers in its ear.

CHUCK (CONT'D)

I see you there sister, and I thank you--

BOOM!!!

Everyone jumps. The deer's leg blows off.

Zeke looks at his gun; the barrel's smoking.

ZEKE

Sorry. I had my finger in the trigger quard.

EXT. HUNTING LODGE - DAY

On the deck, Zeke tells a joke to the entire hunting party.

ZEKE

So we get on the elevator at the apartment. We live on the sixth floor.

CHUCK

I was there.

ZEKE

Uh, yeah, Chuck and Ben and me. We get on the elevator and it's packed. A small child could probably squeeze on but that's it. It was tight.

Everyone chuckles softly.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

So we're going to the sixth floor. The elevator stops on the second floor. The door opens up, this massive lady is standing there...

People chuckle.

CHUCK

She wasn't too fat.

ZEKE

She wasn't fat compared to a walrus or something like that. Um, uh, anyway, so she's standing there in a swimsuit hoping to get on. I guess she was at the pool or something, but there's no way she's getting on this thing.

CHUCK

Was she dripping wet?

(irritated)

Chuck, you were there.

Zeke tries to regain his train of thought.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

So...they uh...no, she says, I guess I'll wait for the next one. Ben says under his breath, 'damn right.'

CHUCK

I thought he said, 'yeah you will.'

ZEKE

I'm trying to hide it, but I'm laughing my ass off. I'm in the front of the elevator, and this door is taking for ever to close.

CHUCK

I believe they are installing specially-designed elevators to accommodate the obese now.

No one laughs at Zeke's story.

DREW

Poor lady's probably diabetic.

MICHAEL

Well, that's enough talking. We better dress those deer.

Everyone gets up, and Michael, Ian, Ben, and Channing walk off the deck. Zeke, Drew, and Chuck are the only ones still on the deck.

Zeke rubs his face in frustration.

ZEKE

Chuck, way to kill the funny.

CHUCK

You weren't telling it right.

To the side, Drew privately texts on his phone.

Claire enters form the lodge.

CLAIRE

Hey quys!

ZEKE

Claire!

Drew quickly puts his phone away.

DREW

Hey, Sweet Tart.

Drew gives Claire a hug.

Claire eyes Zeke's clothes.

CLAIRE

Nice camouflage.

Zeke smiles and shrugs.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Did you kill one?

Zeke nods, but before he can respond--

DREW

He was only obeying orders.

Chuck and Claire laugh. Drew really milks the joke by doing a Nazi salute and march.

Zeke glares at Drew then smiles at Claire.

ZEKE

It was either him or me. There was no malice.

Claire laughs. Drew glares at Zeke.

CLAIRE

How big was the deer?

ZEKE

(joking)

About six-point-two hands tall. Weighed about twenty stones.

Claire smiles flirtingly.

MICHAEL (O.S.)

Guys, let's get a group pic. Claire, you too.

Everyone gathers in the yard.

Holding a camera, Chuck gathers everyone in front of him. On the back row, Zeke and Claire are right next to each other.

Zeke smiles at Claire. She smiles back.

Drew wedges himself in between them, and Zeke looks upset.

CHUCK

Alright, everyone ready.

DREW

Cheese.

CHUCK

One, two, three...four, five.

ZEKE

Wait, what are you counting to--

FLASH. Chuck takes the picture.

MICHAEL

Alright Chuck, take the deer down the hill and dress 'em.

CHUCK

Yes, sir.

Ben, Chuck, Zeke, Drew, and Claire start down the hill.

MICHAEL

Zeke, come here.

Zeke walks over.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

I sent your screen test to a director about to start a project in Toronto. He wants you for a supporting role in his film.

ZEKE

In Toronto?

MICHAEL

Yeah, it's a low-budget film, but it has a lot of potential. It could definitely jump start your career.

Zeke nods.

ZEKE

Thanks. That's great.

Michael pats Zeke on the shoulder.

CHUCK (O.S.)

Zeke, come on.

MICHAEL

You better get going. I'll be in touch.

Zeke forces a smile.

LATER

Down the hill, the deer hang by ropes from their back legs.

At one tree, Chuck shows Ben and Zeke how to dress the deer. Further down, Claire and Drew work on his deer.

Zeke looks over in the direction of Claire and Drew.

Drew is focused on his deer. Claire looks over at Zeke and smiles. Zeke smiles back.

BEN

(to Zeke)

Are you alright, man?

ZEKE

That fucker stole my joke.

BEN

What joke?

ZEKE

The one about obeying orders.

Chuck laughs.

CHUCK

That was a good one.

Zeke looks over at Drew who has his arm around Claire.

Chuck examines the deer.

CHUCK (CONT'D)

Oh, boy the bucks are in rut.

A sadness fills Zeke's eyes as he watches Drew lovingly rub Claire's back.

CHUCK (CONT'D)

(to Zeke)

Are you listening?

Zeke suddenly turns back.

ZEKE

Uh, yeah, I'm listening.

CHUCK

See how I know the bucks are in rut? Take a look at the deer's vagina.

Zeke and Ben look like, no thanks.

INT. HISTORY CHANNEL STUDIOS - KELLER SET - NIGHT

On the set of a schoolroom, Sarah, playing Helen, sits in a desk, writing in the dark. The only light comes from an artificial moon beaming through a window.

Claire, with great care, directs the cameraman.

CLAIRE

Alright, good Joe. Swing around to her right and go in for a close-up.

The cameraman swings around.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Excellent! Now hold it on her for a couple of beats...and cut! Great work guys. That's a wrap.

Everyone relaxes.

Zeke walks up to Claire smiling.

ZEKE

Congratulations!

CLAIRE

Thanks, but I couldn't have done it without the entire crew.

ZEKE

Quit being modest. So, where's the wrap party going to be?

Claire's surprised at the question.

CLAIRE

What? For a documentary? Have you had wrap parties before?

Zeke tries to play it off like he was joking.

ZEKE

Yeah...I mean no.

Zeke looks down at his feet.

CLAIRE

Well, it was great working with you.

Claire smiles at Zeke.

Yeah. You, too.

Claire sees Sarah in the background talking to the cameraman.

CLAIRE

Sarah!

Claire walks toward Sarah and the cameraman.

Drew walks on set carrying flowers. He's wearing medical scrubs.

DREW

Monkey!

CLAIRE

Drew! You didn't have to buy flowers.

DREW

There for my mistress.

Claire laughs, playfully pushes Drew.

CLAIRE

Did you come from the hospital?

DREW

(joking)

No, I'm trying out for E.R.

Claire laughs a little.

DREW (CONT'D)

That was a good joke wasn't it?

Zeke turns and mopes away.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ben and Chuck sit on the sofa watching TV.

BEN

Sarah broke up with me?

CHUCK

What? How come?

BEN

She's dating a guy on Dancing with the Stars. Mark Ballas. I just couldn't handle that chick, man. CHUCK

Forget about her. So what if Mark has a great body and an amazing sex drive. You have a fuckin' movie comin' out.

Zeke trudges into the apartment.

BEN

The birthday boy. How was the last day of shooting?

ZEKE

It was all right I guess.

BEN

Where's the wrap party going to be?

ZEKE

There's not going to be one.

BEN

What? Well, I'll tell you what. How about me and the ol' Chuckster take you out. We'll have our own little celebration.

CHUCK

Hooters has wing specials tonight.

BEN

No, we're not going to Hooters. We're going to go to that new Japanese restaurant near the dentist.

ZEKE

That's cool guys. I don't really feel like it.

Ben puts his shoes on.

BEN

Change your clothes because we're going. No questions asked.

Chuck laughs hyena like.

CHUCK

Drop your socks and grab your cocks, we're going to a party!

EXT. JAPANESE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

The Japanese restaurant is like a Benihana.

INT. JAPANESE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A HOSTESS waits at the counter.

HOSTESS

(to Ben)

Sir, do you have reservations.

BEN

Yeah, party of Morgan.

HOSTESS

Right this way.

The hostess leads the guys to the back of the restaurant.

ZEKE

(to Ben)

You had reservations?

The hostess opens the door to the

BACK ROOM

where the whole crew from the shoot sits at a huge table. A banner hanging from the ceiling reads: "HAPPY BIRTHDAY ZEKE!"

EVERYONE

Surprise!

Zeke is completely taken off-guard, instantly beams.

ZEKE

Wow, you guys! This is great. I had no clue.

CLAIRE

Ben and Chuck set everything up. We were going to have a wrap party, but then we noticed that your birthday was the same day.

Zeke looks at Chuck and Ben, then at everyone else.

ZEKE

Guys this is really great.

Zeke locks eyes with Claire and looks as happy as can be.

LATER

Finished eating, everyone chats amongst themselves around the table.

Ben stands up, pulls out a piece of paper for a toast.

BEN

Guys, may I have your attention...I prepared something special to say about my best friend, Zeke.

Everyone listens. Ben glances down at the paper and begins, heartfelt:

BEN (CONT'D)

When I first met Zeke--

Chuck, drunk, holding a bottle of wine, stumbles in the room.

CHUCK

Everyone, through a friend on Facebook, I ordered several ladies of the night. Any takers?

Chuck shrugs, looks around for takers.

Ben walks over and grabs Chuck's shoulders.

BEN

I don't think we need hookers.

Chuck breaks away.

CHUCK

Two promise to kiss on the mouth.

Everyone tries to avoid Chuck's eye contact.

CLAIRE

Ahem...Presents!

BEN

Yeah, presents!

Ben excitedly grabs a gift bag and hands it to Zeke.

BEN (CONT'D)

Open this one first.

Zeke takes the bag, pulls out a white tee shirt, holds it up.

The shirt has a picture of Ben's face smiling a goofy-ass smile with "BEN" written underneath it.

Zeke chuckles.

ZEKE

Is this from everyone?

Everyone laughs, but Ben.

BEN

It's from me.

ZEKE

I know, it's great. Exactly what I asked for. Thanks.

CHUCK

Open mine!

Zeke grabs a small present wrapped in newspaper, and opens it. It's a DVD.

Zeke reads the cover.

ZEKE

Moby Dick. Wait I'm sorry. Maybe Dick.

Chuck laughs loud.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Chuck, you bought me gay porn.

Chuck grabs the box and scans the back.

CHUCK

The internet said it was bi-sexual. I really shot my wad with that.

ZEKE

I'm sure it's a good one. Thanks Chuck.

Chuck smiles.

CLAIRE

There's one more. It's from Drew and I.

Drew texts on his phone, not paying attention.

Ben hands Zeke another DVD-sized present.

ZEKE

Oh, is this the sequel?

CLAIRE

Just open it, smartass.

Zeke opens the present. It's a DVD of 'Under the Tuscan Sun.'

Zeke holds up the DVD and laughs.

(sarcastic)

Oh my god! How did you know?

Claire and Zeke both laugh.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Thank you, Claire.

LATER

Everyone sits at the table engrossed as they listen to Drew tell a story.

Zeke leans back, eying his glass of scotch with disdain as he listens.

DREW

When I met Saheed, he was in a refugee camp. His family lost their lives to violence, and Saheed lost his entire left arm to a rebel's machete.

Everyone's appalled.

Claire, bored from hearing the story for the umpteenth time, gets up.

CLAIRE

I'm going to the ladies' room.

DREW

Okay, Claire Bear.

Zeke eyes Claire as she leaves the room.

DREW (CONT'D)

Saheed had the heart of a fighter. As he told me his story, he never once cried.

Drew leans in.

DREW (CONT'D)

Ten years later, I saw Saheed again.

Everyone's rapt with the story.

DREW (CONT'D)

Saheed learned to swim in the rivers near his village. The same rivers in which the diamonds were mined that led to the death of his parents.

Drew lets the statement sink in.

DREW (CONT'D)

Saheed didn't know how to swim before he lost his arm. He practiced everyday until he became the best swimmer amongst his friends. Then he became the best swimmer in the village. Then he became the best swimmer in the region, so he tried out for the Olympics, and...he made the team.

Everyone smiles at the heart-warming story.

ZEKE

Did he swim in circles?

People laugh under their breath. Drew can't believe Zeke's comment.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Come on, Drew. This is a birthday party, not a UNICEF benefit. Tell a fucking joke every now and then. Jesus Christ.

Claire walks back in and sits back down.

CLAIRE

Wow, why is everyone so quiet?

ZEKE

Drew just told a joke.

Zeke finishes his scotch and gets up from the table.

CLAIRE

(to Drew)

What joke did you tell?

EXT. JAPANESE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Zeke stands outside alone looking longingly at Claire through the window.

He pulls out his cell phone and dials a number.

INT. HUNTING LODGE - NIGHT

Michael Scott's phone rings.

INTERCUT - TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

MICHAEL

Hello.

Hi, Mr. Scott. This is Zeke Spelling. I've been thinking a lot about your offer, and I have to turn it down. The timing just isn't right.

MICHAEL

What do you have going on?

ZEKE

I'm working on that screenplay with Claire, and I don't want to let her down.

Michael smiles.

MICHAEL

I understand. Well, maybe there'll be another opportunity where the timing's right.

ZEKE

Yeah, hopefully. I'd like to thank you again.

MICHAEL

No problem. Take care Zeke.

Michael hangs up, and so does Zeke.

Claire exits the restaurant.

CLAIRE

Hey, what are you doing?

ZEKE

Just waiting on Ben and Chuck. I wish they'd hurry up.

CLAIRE

Do you have somewhere to be?

ZEKE

Yeah, I'm reading to kids at the orphanage. I really don't want to disappoint them.

CLAIRE

Oh yeah. What orphanage is that?

ZEKE

The one that takes in kids that don't have parents.

Claire laughs.

Silent moment.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Hey, walk with me.

CLAIRE

Alright.

They walk for a few feet.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

(upbeat)

Was this your best birthday ever?

ZEKE

It was a pretty good one. Claire,
I, uh, we're friends, right?

CLAIRE

Yeah.

ZEKE

Well, you and Drew are pretty solid, right?

Claire shrugs her shoulders.

CLAIRE

Yeah, I think so.

ZEKE

Suppose that a friend of mine wanted to know how solid you and Drew are. What would tell him?

Claire knows Zeke's talking about himself but still acts playful.

CLAIRE

Is your friend in love with me or something?

Zeke nods his head, looks down, sullenly...

ZEKE

He's deeply in love.

Claire drops the charade.

CLAIRE

Zeke, I can't.

Zeke shakes his head holding back tears.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Drew and I have been together for three years. I'm satisfied with where I'm at.

Zeke shakes his head as he chokes up.

ZEKE

Don't. You don't--

CLAIRE

I'm sorry if I sent any signals that might have been misinterpreted, but I can't. I just can't.

A tear rolls down Zeke's cheek. He looks at Claire, sadly smiles.

ZEKE

I'll pass that along to my friend.

Zeke wipes his cheek as he walks away.

CLAIRE

Zeke! Don't go.

INT. HISTORY CHANNEL STUDIOS - HALLWAY - DAY

SUPER: "THREE WEEKS LATER."

Ben walks, carrying several film canisters. He opens a door and steps into the

EDITING ROOM

where Zeke, unshaven, messy-looking, Tom, and Allan watch porn on the big screen.

When Ben opens the door, they scramble to turn off the TV until they see it's him.

Ben drops the film canisters on the table.

BEN

You're welcome, Zeke.

Zeke turns, insulted.

ZEKE

For what?

BEN

For covering your ass. George has had these film canisters sitting in his office for two weeks.

Well, I didn't ask you to grab them.

BEN

What the fuck are you doing with these guys? You haven't done a shoot since your birthday. You're falling off--

ZEKE

Don't worry about me. I'll be fine.

BEN

Whatever, man. Maybe you should call Michael about that job.

Ben leaves, slams the door.

Zeke sits thinking.

INT. BASEMENT - HARD CANDY 2 TRAILER

Ben's face is beaded with sweat as he sleeps.

He jolts awake and looks around.

Ben's in his boxers tied spread eagled to a table. The basement is lit only by a surgical light shining brightly on his outstretched body.

Several KIDS walk out of the shadows.

KID 1

Relax. We just want to show you our van.

BEN

What are you doing to me?

KID 2

Relax. My cousin told me how to perform a castration.

Ben screams.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The kids fight back, <u>again</u>. 'Hard Candy 2: Harder Candy.' Now playing.

The trailer shows the credit screen.

EXT. LA SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Zeke, Ben, and Chuck walk down the sidewalk. Zeke still looks a mess.

Ben leans over and smells Zeke.

BEN

Shit man, are you drunk?

ZEKE

I was drinking earlier.

As they walk along, PEOPLE recognize Ben from 'Hard Candy 2' and ask for autographs. Ben takes it all in.

Chuck loves that Ben is getting attention. Zeke's slightly jealous. Ben is very playful with the autograph seekers.

A TEEN asks Ben to sign an autograph. Seconds later, another teen with an excessive OVERBITE asks for a picture. Right before overbite's FRIEND takes the picture, Ben sets his jaw mimicking his overbite.

They walk a little further and pass a comedy club. Zeke looks at the sign outside the door: "OPEN MIC NIGHT."

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Guys, I want to try a little standup.

CHUCK

Do you have any material?

ZEKE

A little. Maybe enough for a set.

BEN

I don't think you should do it.

ZEKE

You guys are always telling me to try it. I want to do it.

Zeke steps into the club. Chuck and Ben follow.

INT. COMEDY CLUB - NIGHT

Zeke stands at the mic, talks in a slow-depressing voice.

ZEKE

Hi, my name's Ezekiel Taylor.

Zeke looks at the audience for an uncomfortable few seconds.

Chuck and Ben sit at a back table.

BEN

What the fuck is he waiting for?

The crowd gets a little restless.

ZEKE

I'm so lonely. I've never experienced it, but my soul feels like I've had a miscarriage every day for the past two weeks.

The crowd fidgets uncomfortably, a few laugh.

In the middle of the audience, sit two EMO GIRLS (20s).

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Has anyone here had a miscarriage. Several miscarriages perhaps? Show of hands.

Zeke shields his eyes as he looks over the audience.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

No one?

One of the emo girls, NAZI GIRL, laughs hard.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

I had my first sexual experience when I was thirteen.

The crowd reluctantly applauds, some holler.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

My uncle touched me on a family outing.

Shocked, the audience doesn't laugh at all.

Chuck and Ben shake their heads.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Chuck lies on the couch watching TV. Ben eats cereal at the table.

Zeke enters the kitchen from Chuck's bedroom.

BEN

Hey man, what time did you get in last night? I thought you were going to stay at that emo chick's house.

Zeke shrugs.

BEN (CONT'D)

(sarcastic)

I bet she was a real shot of life?

INT. NAZI GIRL'S ROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

In bed, Zeke is in on his back with the Nazi girl riding him.

NAZI GIRL

You like that?

ZEKE

Oh yeah.

The Nazi girl arches her back and screams in pleasure.

NAZI GIRL

Third Reich!

Through the walls, the Nazi girl's ROOMMATES scream back.

ROOMMATES (O.S.)

Heil Hitler!

Zeke's eyes widen like, what the fuck!

INT. APARTMENT - DAY - PRESENT DAY

ZEKE

You know what, she was a shot of life, O.K.?

Ben takes a bite of his cereal.

BEN

Why did you sleep in Chuck's room?

ZEKE

I don't know. That's just sort of how it ended up.

CHUCK

It's cool, Ben. I didn't mind sleeping on the couch.

BEN

No Chuck, it's not cool. Zeke, you can't take Chuck's room.

Zeke opens a kitchen drawer and grabs a spatula. Zeke carefully inspects the spatula.

ZEKE

Hey dude, this spatula is dirty. You put dirty dishes in the cabinets. BEN

My bad I thought they were clean. Are you listening to me about Chuck's room?

Zeke seethes over the spatula.

ZEKE

You didn't know they were dirty? You need to flip the fucking horsey on the front of the dish washer!

Zeke grabs the wooden horse that dangles on the front of the dishwasher. One side says "CLEAN" and the other says "DIRTY."

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Flip the fucking horsey when the dishes are dirty.

BEN

Sleep in your fucking room!

Chuck looks up from the couch.

Zeke points to Chuck's room.

ZEKE

That was my fucking room! You gave it away. You know what dude, you think you're the shit because you've made a movie, and O.K. maybe you deserve a little bit of props, but you're a shitty friend.

BEN

What?!

CHUCK

Guys, calm down.

BEN

You need to get over this fuckin' depression, man.

Zeke turns away and heads for the door.

ZEKE

Whatever. I'm late for work.

Zeke walks out the door. Ben looks over at Chuck like, what's with Zeke? Chuck shrugs and looks down back at the couch.

CHUCK

I soiled the couch.

Ben sighs.

BEN

Just flip the cushion. It'll be alright.

INT. HISTORY CHANNEL STUDIOS - EDITING ROOM - DAY

Alone, Zeke watches porn on all four of the big screens.

The door opens. It's George with an armful of film canisters.

George can't believe what he's seeing. Zeke drops his head, embarrassed.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Zeke drags in, takes off his button-up shirt. His undershirt is Ben's-face tee shirt.

Zeke grabs a bottle of whiskey out of the kitchen cabinet and takes a couple of big swigs.

He walks over and sinks into the couch.

ZEKE

Fuck my life.

Zeke pulls out his cell phone and looks at the number for: "MICHAEL SCOTT."

Zeke presses: "CALL."

The phone RINGS three times.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

Hello.

Zeke hangs up.

Zeke looks over and sees the 'Maybe Dick' porno near the DVD player.

LATER

Ben and Chuck enter laughing.

Zeke stands in front of the TV with his pants down masturbating to 'Maybe Dick.'

Ben freaks out. Chuck remains calm.

BEN

Oh my God!

Zeke turns his head and frantically pulls up his pants, tries to cooly play it off.

ZEKE

Hey, guys. What's up?

CHUCK

Are you using the shake weight?

Zeke turns around.

ZEKE

Uh, yeah.

Ben nods toward the weight across the room, and he and Chuck both stare at it.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

It's over there now, but I was using it earlier.

BEN

Dude, you were wanking it.

Ben notices Zeke's shirt.

BEN (CONT'D)

And oh my god, dude, you're wearing my shirt!

Zeke gets upset.

ZEKE

Oh, what do you expect me to do, change shirts when I jerk off because they have your face printed on them?

BEN

Yeah. I think that's a pretty reasonable request.

ZEKE

You can't tell me not to masturbate! You're not my father!

Chuck points to the TV.

CHUCK

Maybe Dick is pretty good though. Those dick-poons are deadly.

BEN

(to Zeke)

What the fuck are you doing home so early?

(muttering)

George caught me looking at porn. He sent me home for the day.

Ben runs his hands through his hair.

BEN

Goddammit man. What the fuck?

Ben sees the whiskey bottle.

BEN (CONT'D)

Fuck, you've been drinking, too?

ZEKE

So?

CHUCK

We have the awards show tonight.

Zeke's shoulders drop.

Ben storms off to his room.

ZEKE

I can drink if I want!

Zeke takes some more swigs from the bottle.

Chuck sits down on the couch and starts to work out with the shake weight. Zeke looks at him blankly.

INT. LARGE MUSIC HALL - ANTEROOM - NIGHT

The Documentary Channel Awards show is carried on the Documentary Channel. The introduction to the show plays on monitors throughout the anteroom.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Live from Radio City Music Hall we have the 10th annual Documentary Channel Awards show.

INT. LARGE MUSIC HALL - AUDITORIUM

Zeke, Chuck, and Ben sit in the large audience. Very drunk, sitting between Chuck and Ben, Zeke sneaks a sip from a flask in his pocket.

Ben looks at his watch.

BEN

This is the longest, most boring awards show ever--

Hey man, I'm totally sorry about flipping out about the spatula.

BEN

No man, it's cool. No big deal.

Zeke touches Ben's face in a very sensual way. Ben's uncomfortable.

Zeke turns to Chuck and puts his hand on his shoulder.

ZEKE

Chuck, I should never have slept in your room the other night.

CHUCK

I was going to jump in, but we made those rules when I moved in.

Two PRESENTERS walk on stage.

PRESENTER 1

Now, to announce the the winner for Historical Drama. The nominees are: Wandering Orphan: The Life of Rouseau, My Voice: The Story of Helen Keller, and While We Had Snakes: The Early History of Ireland.

PRESENTER 2

And the winner is...My Voice: The Story of Helen Keller.

Loud applause.

BEN

Saving the best for first!

Zeke flips; he's so pumped up. Ben tries to calm him down, but Zeke quickly makes his way to the stage, joining the rest of the crew.

On stage, Claire accepts the award and approaches the microphone. Zeke gets on stage as Claire begins to speak.

CLAIRE

Wow, thank you so much. I've got so many people to thank--

Zeke jumps in front of the microphone.

(drunk)

Excuse me. I just want to say that this movie could not have been made by a better person.

The audience applauds.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

This girl is terrific.

Zeke looks back at Claire.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

And I love her.

Claire looks at him like, what the fuck are you doing? Cameraman tries to pull Zeke back, but Zeke's reluctant to let go of the mic.

Wrap-up music plays, the crew exits backstage.

Cameraman tries to pull Zeke backstage, but before Zeke gets going, he bends over and vomits all over the stage.

Ben and Chuck get up and make their way backstage.

INT. LARGE MUSIC HALL - BACKSTAGE

Cameraman holds up Zeke as he dry heaves. Ben and Chuck run up.

Claire walks up to Zeke and pushes him. Zeke falls down pitifully.

Claire's upset and crying.

Drew runs up with Michael.

Zeke staggers to his feet. Drunkenly happy to see her...

ZEKE

Claire.

CLAIRE

What?!

Zeke, with sincere conviction...

ZEKE

Maybe I'm unsure about what love is, but if it's dreaming about you every night, waking up in cold sweats, then I'm in love with you.

Zeke's eyes pour out his heart.

CLAIRE

Why are you embarrassing me like this?!

ZEKE

I'm confessing my love for you.

DREW

She's my fiancee now, dude.

ZEKE

You're engaged to Drew? I turned down a job offer from your dad because of you.

Zeke looks into Claire's eyes pitifully.

Claire looks at Michael.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Claire, you can't say you don't love me.

Claire looks down, doesn't respond.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Ah, don't worry about it. This is the story of my life. I've always been the one on the outside.

CLAIRE

What are you talking about, Zeke?

ZEKE

Claire, come on. I wasn't born in Hollywood.

CLAIRE

You don't think I've had obstacles?

Zeke is in a depressed rage.

ZEKE

I fucking changed my last name to Spelling. You have every advantage that I don't. I've never had connections. I'm the guy who has to suck up to people like you.

CLAIRE

What do you mean suck up to me?

No one's going to look at my resume and say, 'oh! You walked in the backgrounds of some of the best documentaries ever made.'

CLAIRE

Fuck you Zeke!

ZEKE

Please! Then I might actually land a good fucking role!

Claire shakes her head, fights back tears.

Zeke stops, realizes his mistake.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Claire.

Claire runs away. Drew runs after her.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, Claire! That's not what I wanted to say!

EXT. LARGE MUSIC HALL - NIGHT

Zeke walks to the street by himself.

Ben and Chuck run and catch up with him.

BEN

Hey, man. Are you alright?

ZEKE

Yeah, I'm fine. I'm just gonna go home and think some things through.

Chuck tenderly touches Zeke's shoulder.

CHUCK

Zeke, I know it hurts right now. We all have stories of heart break.

Zeke blankly stares at Chuck.

CHUCK (CONT'D)

I want to tell you about my girlfriend...ex-girlfriend...well, internet ex. She was terrific. She liked to read, she made her own clothes...

Ben smiles, sincere.

BEN

She sounds great.

CHUCK

She was. Then out of the blue she ended it. It really freaked her out that I drove thirty-six hours to Ohio to see her.

Ben and Zeke shake their heads in disbelief.

CHUCK (CONT'D)

It was her birthday. I mean, I met her three days earlier online. What else was I supposed to do?

BEN

That's a tough situation.

Zeke reaches out, pats Chuck on the shoulder.

ZEKE

Thanks for sharing that story, Chuck. I really see that you understand what I'm going through. But I'll be fine. You guys go have a good time.

INT. JAPANESE RESTAURANT - BACK ROOM - NIGHT

The Helen Keller crew - with Chuck, Ben, and Michael - sit at the large table celebrating the night. Drew sits at the middle of the table drinking, having a good time. Claire, sitting next to him, looks distracted, sad.

DREW

...Mary was getting a little smart. Ha, my buddy, Gary, smacked her in the face, really busted her up.

Drew laughs hard. No one else does.

DREW (CONT'D)

I'm sitting back, trying to watch the ball game. She runs to the bedroom, grabs a gun, and Gary takes off running like a slave--

BEN

Did I ever tell you guys the time when Zeke shit his pants at summer camp?

Several people laugh.

DREW

Hey, I wasn't finished with my story. Besides, no one wants to hear about Zeke. Especially after what he pulled tonight.

Drew pulls Claire close. She looks down.

MICHAEL

Zeke's had a rough couple of weeks.

Claire looks at her father.

DREW

Zeke's an asshole.

BEN

Hey, that's my best friend.

DREW

Well, your best friend's an asshole.

CHUCK

Zeke's the best guy I know.

DREW

Chuck, shut the hell up.

Michael stands up.

MICHAEL

Don't talk to my son like that!

Drew looks at Michael, sighs, shakes head. Michael looks at Chuck. Chuck smiles.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Zeke walks in haggard from the awards show, throws his keys down on the table, sits down on the couch.

Zeke pulls out his cell phone and calls Claire.

The line rings once and goes to voicemail.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

You have reached Claire Smith. I'm temporarily unavailable. Leave me a message and I'll get back to you as soon as I can.

ZEKE

Claire, I'm sorry. I was way out of line. I, uh, I'm a mess.

(MORE)

ZEKE (CONT'D)

I really haven't had my act together since my birthday. I hope I didn't mess anything up for you. I'm really sorry.

Zeke hangs up and sinks back in the couch.

He thinks for a moment and then opens his laptop. He grabs a stack of papers and begins to write.

MONTAGE - ZEKE GETS SERIOUS ABOUT WRITING

-Zeke types frantically on his laptop. He stops, checks his watch, yawns, and continues to write.

-Zeke sleeps on the couch. He wakes up suddenly, opens up his laptop, gets back to work.

-Zeke paces around the living room rehearsing lines he wrote, sits back down, continues writing.

-Ben and Chuck come home. They grab the papers Zeke was working on and read them.

-They rehearse lines, laugh a lot.

END MONTAGE

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ben and Chuck sleep on the couch next to Zeke. Zeke marks up pages of the script with a pen.

Zeke flips to the cover page and put's the pen to the paper about to cross out Claire's name. He stops, stares into space, and shakes his head.

INT. HISTORY CHANNEL STUDIOS - WHALING SET - DAY

SUPER: "ONE MONTH LATER."

Zeke, dressed for sea, stands lookout on the mast-head. Wind blows in his face.

He suddenly shields his eyes from the sun, sees something in the distance. He points.

ZEKE

There she blows! There! There! She blows! She blows!

Looks down to crew below.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Man the boats! She blows. On the lee-beam, about two miles off! A school of 'em!

Zeke stares off at the whales.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

There's hogsheads of sperm ahead, boys, and that's what ye came for! Ha ha ha, make thy blow holes bloody!

Zeke breaks out of character.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Dale, we have to reword that last line.

Zeke's hair stops blowing after the EFFECTS GUY turns off the fan blowing on his face.

Zeke climbs down the mast which is in front of a big screen of the ocean.

DALE, the director, gets out of his chair off set.

DALE

I thought everything looked good.

ZEKE

Yeah, but if we don't change that last part, frat guys are going to be laughing at us.

Zeke walks to a table set with some food. Zeke grabs a finger sandwich.

Chuck, in a sailor costume, walks up.

CHUCK

Zeke, are you doing stand-up tonight?

ZEKE

Yeah, I got a spot.

CHUCK

I...I was thinking about giving it a
try, too.

ZEKE

Let me hear what ya got.

Zeke and Chuck walk out the studio and into a large

ANTEROOM

Across the anteroom, Claire walks with GEORGE. Zeke and Claire don't see each other.

GEORGE

I have to tell you Claire, I hate that you're quitting. It was really great working with you.

Claire and GEORGE step onto an

ELEVATOR

GEORGE

If you ever want to do another documentary, let me know.

CLAIRE

Well, I certainly--

Zeke and Chuck walk in the distance, Claire spots Zeke.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Zeke! Zeke!

ANTEROOM

Zeke and Chuck don't hear her.

ZEKE

I think you have that joke backwards--

CHUCK

No, I have it right. It's not gay because I sucked his dick.

ZEKE

Yeah, that's definitely backwards.

Across the way, the

ELEVATOR

Closes. Claire composes herself.

CLAIRE

That was an old friend.

INT. CLAIRE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Claire is snuggled on the couch watching TV. She changes the channel and sees Zeke on C.S.I.

ON THE TELEVISION

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Zeke is a Miami cop helping out the main DETECTIVE. They observe a bed sheet with a black light.

Zeke jumps back with sudden realization.

ZEKE

There is semen there, but the black light only works if it's traces of semen. There's no contrast. The whole sheet's covered!

The detective takes off his sunglasses in a overly dramatic way.

DETECTIVE

That's what you call splurging in Vegas.

BACK TO CLAIRE'S APARTMENT

Claire, glassy eyed, looks down at their screenplay on the coffee table.

She picks it up.

Drew enters feeling bubbly. Claire puts the script behind her.

DREW

Hey, Monkey.

Claire wipes her eyes.

CLAIRE

Hey.

DREW

What did you do today?

Drew drops on the couch, grabs the clicker, and changes the channel.

CLAIRE

I quit the History Channel.

DREW

What? Why in the world did you do that?

CLAIRE

Ron called.

DREW

Your agent?

Claire nods.

CLAIRE

He said that Flatwater Pictures wants me to direct a drama set in Flynt, Michigan. It's called 'Smoke Stack.'

DREW

An Independent Film?

Claire nods.

CLAIRE

I read the script. I think it's very good.

DREW

Still, that's a pretty risky venture. How 'bout you make a couple more documentaries until something safe comes along?

EXT. HISTORY CHANNEL STUDIOS - PICNIC TABLE - DAY - FLASHBACK

Zeke and Claire's heart to heart at the picnic table.

Zeke looks down at the table, away from Claire's eyes.

ZEKE

I know this dream is a long shot, but I don't want to look back at my life twenty years from now and know that I didn't even try. That's why I take the risks...because I know I won't regret taking risks. I will regret not trying.

INT. CLAIRE'S APARTMENT - PRESENT DAY

Claire shakes her head.

CLAIRE

Drew, I'm doing the movie.

Drew nods his head.

DREW

That's fine. I'm just saying--

Tears run down Claire's cheeks.

CLAIRE

Drew...

Drew looks at her. Claire shakes her head.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Zeke types on his computer at the kitchen table, which is covered with paper.

There's a KNOCK at the door.

Zeke gets up, opens the door.

Claire stands alone.

CLATRE

I broke up with Drew.

ZEKE

Wow. I, uh, how'd he take it?

MONTAGE - DREW REACTING TO BREAKUP

- -- Drew leaves Claire's apartment calm, keeping it together.
- -- Drew cries his eyes out in his car.
- -- Drew steps out a pawn shop with a brown bag. He pulls out a gun and eyes it, crying.

END MONTAGE

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

CLAIRE

I think he took it fairly well.

Zeke nods his head.

ZEKE

I'm sorry, come in. Ben went with Chuck to buy a ham radio.

Claire steps into the kitchen and sees all the paper strewn across the table. Her fingers slide over the script. Her name's on the title page.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

I was...I was working on the script.

Zeke steps behind Claire, and she quickly turns and kisses him passionately.

INT. HOLLYWOOD BUZZ SET - NIGHT

Zeke and Claire stand off set of the entertainment show Hollywood Buzz. The show's taped in front of a live studio audience.

The host of the show, JOHNNY, sits behind his desk and looks toward a camera.

JOHNNY

Let's welcome tonight's first guest. He's the star of the hit movie 'Hard Candy 2: Harder Candy.' His new movie, 'Whiplash,' will be in theaters this summer. Please welcome Ben Morgan.

Ben enters from backstage, waves to the crowd, gets a large welcome.

After the audience quiets down a bit, Ben walks over, shakes Johnny's hand, and sits in the chair next to the desk.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Hi, welcome.

BEN

Thanks for having me.

JOHNNY

I suppose we should jump right into it. Everyone's curious about this new movie 'Whiplash.'

BEN

It's a really intense, action thriller.

JOHNNY

Yeah, the trailers look great by the way. The director is Ian Turner. He's directed many movies: 'Love Hurts,' 'My Heart,' 'Boys Rule'...basically his previous movies are all...Frankly, they're all chick flicks.

Ben nods his head.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

When Ian attached his name to 'Whiplash,' many big-name actors backed off. Why did you decide to take the movie on when others didn't?

BEN

Well, Johnny. Ian wanted to challenge himself as a director. As you said, Ian has previously focused on audiences predominately composed of women.

Ben starts to talk very intellectually, like he's explaining the meaning of life.

BEN (CONT'D)

I had many discussions with Ian before signing on. He wants to give pleasure to a different audience, an audience consisting of men. He wants to give pleasure to men. That's why I signed on. I want to pleasure men.

Johnny turns to the camera.

JOHNNY

Well, that answers that.

Johnny turns back to Ben.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

I also recently heard that your friends, Zeke Spelling and Claire Smith, are gaining interest in a script they wrote.

Zeke and Claire give a confused looks.

BEN

Actually, I was going to wait till after the show, but I heard from reliable sources that their script is getting optioned.

Zeke's overjoyed. Claire gives Zeke a big, happy hug.

Ben smiles big.

JOHNNY

They're here in the studio with us.

Johnny points to Zeke and Claire. The camera turns to get Zeke and Claire hugging happily.

EXT. COMEDY CLUB - NIGHT

On a board outside the club is written: "LIVE: ZEKE SPELLING."

INT. COMEDY CLUB

Claire sits at a table in the back.

Zeke performs his stand-up, brimming with confidence.

ZEKE

It seems like everyone is trying to make it in this fucking city. I'm sure most of you guys are struggling actors. I am. It's depressing.

The crowd chuckles, nod their heads.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

You see all these terrible movies. Possibly you see people that you know, possibly your friends. They get a little success and you fucking hate 'em. You're cool to their face.

Zeke pretends to talk on a phone.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Ben, I'm glad that you got that part. Yeah, I'm glad I told you about the audition, too. I didn't feel that I was right for the part either.

Ends pretend conversation, crowd laughs.

Zeke looks at Claire, smiles, winks.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

And It's not like the part they got is the lead in 'Titantic' either. It's shit like a Rice Krispies commercial. You hate your friend because he out auditioned you for a cereal commercial.

The crowd laughs.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

When you first moved here, you thought your talent would stand out and you'd be famous in months. After two years, your goals become so fucking low.

Zeke laughs, crowd laughs.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

You see all these younger, more successful people on T.V., and you're (MORE)

ZEKE (CONT'D)

like, shit, if I could just fuck Betty White, I could get a guest spot on Two and A Half Men.

The crowd laughs hard.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

After two years, you want to be the dreaded star fucker. You find yourself at a bar hitting on a fat chick because her dad's and exprofessional wrestler and you think he could lead to your big break.

Claire laughs out loud.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Your friends are at the bar...

Acts like friend...

ZEKE (CONT'D)

... Hey, Zeke. Nice Pull, ha...

Acts like himself.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Hi, Ben. Nice to see you.

Laughs.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

After a long night, you're still with Bam Bam Bigalow's daughter. You're walking to the car. She's breathing heavily. You parked a mile away, you hope she loses weight by the time you get to the car.

Laughs.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

It's depressing, but they're always something that comes along and keeps you going, so you keep at it. I keep at it. Depression is a part of my life. I go to auditions, my cheeks are red with dried tears.

Laughs.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

That's all for me guys. (MORE)

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Thanks for listening. I'm Zeke Spelling...and I live in a van down by the river.

The crowd laughs and applauds.

Zeke walks off stage and heads directly to Claire.

Zeke puts his arm around Claire, and they make their way to the door.

Claire shakes her head.

CLAIRE

Did you really text our names to a horoscope service?

Zeke laughs.

ZEKE

Yeah, we're ninety-six percent compatible.

Claire laughs.

CLAIRE

You're such a liar!

ZEKE

O.K., it was ninety-three percent.

CLAIRE

How could a horoscope service be wrong?

ZEKE

I don't know why everyone doesn't use them. Surely the divorce rate would decrease.

CLAIRE

Wait, you're not just trying to starfuck me are you?

ZEKE

Oh yeah, I am.

Claire and Zeke both laugh as they walk out the door.

ROLL CREDITS

INTERCUT - PHONE BOOTH/FATHER'S LIVING ROOM - MOVIE TRAILER - DAY

Chuck, playing a character, calls his FATHER from a phone booth.

CHUCK

(excited)

Dad, Chicago Fire is having open tryouts.

FATHER

Don't you think it's about time to give up on soccer, son?

CHUCK

I'm never giving up!

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY

A soccer field is crowded with fit, athletic players running drills.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

No one thought he could make it.

Chuck steps on the field without a shirt in shorts and cleats.

PLAYERS point and laugh at his physique.

PLAYERS

Go home/ You won't make it/ Give up.

The HEAD COACH turns to an ASSISTANT.

HEAD COACH

Is that the kid who served us lunch?

EXT. COACH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

In the pouring rain, Chuck stands in the yard of the coach's house. The coach looks at him sympathetically from a window.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

His courage will surprise you.

CHUCK

I can make it!

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - NIGHT

Chuck dribbles a soccer ball in the pouring rain.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

His spirit will inspire you.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY

Chuck scores a goal in a scrimmage game.

The players watch, shocked.

INT. COACH'S OFFICE - DAY

The assistant hits the coach's desk. The coach sits, writing.

ASSISTANT

He's good. Let him be on the team.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY

The Fire plays a game in front of a massive crowd.

CHUCK (V.O.)

All I need is a chance!

Chuck dribbles past several defenders and kicks the ball towards the goal. The ball zooms to the corner.

The coach watches in rapt attention.

BLACK SCREEN

SUPER: "Full Pitch."

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Full Pitch. Now playing.

The credits for the trailer show. Then...

SUPER:

"A Michael Scott Production."

END CREDITS

THE END