FADE IN:

EXT. HOUSE -- DAY

A peaceful MAINE suburban neighborhood. BIRTHDAY BALLOONS hang from a MAILBOX outside.

INT. HOUSE -- LIVING ROOM - DAY

A hand carries a lit BIRTHDAY CAKE towards a table where a sad looking ten year old, BARRY, sits. He looks as if someone took a fifty year old accountant and squeezed him into a child's body. His hair is parted with the utmost precision and his posture is impeccable.

Barry's conservative MOM places the birthday cake in front of him. Barry's DAD hovers over his shoulder.

> DAD Make a wish birthday boy.

Barry breaks down, tears stream from his eyes.

DAD (CONT'D) Someone will show up next year.

BARRY That's what you said last year.

DAD Hey, keep that chin up. You've got us. Plus Grandma's always up for just about anything.

GRANDMA sits nearly catatonic in her WHEELCHAIR. A tiny bit of drool hangs from her bottom lip.

MOM

Blow out your candles Barry.

Barry takes a deep breath and blows out all the candles.

Dad hands him a huge present.

DAD

This should cheer you up.

A hint of a smile crosses Barry's face. He stares longingly at the package, hoping it could be just what he asked for. He tears it apart.

BARRY

No, you didn't.

It's a brand new VACUUM. Dad puts his arm around Mom.

MOM

We did.

Barry puts his hands on his hips.

BARRY

You guys.

Barry frantically takes the vacuum out of the box and pieces it together. His face is full of childlike delight.

Barry vacuums the floor like a skilled pro. Dad gives him an enthusiastic thumbs up. Barry gives him one right back.

> MOM Look at him. He's lonely.

> > DAD

I'll have a one on one with him later.

BARRY

(beaming) It's got a detachable lint brush, an attachable flashlight, and...and a flexible crevice cleaner for all those tough to reach nooks and cranny's.

INT. BATHROOM -- NIGHT

Barry stands on a step stool as he brushes his teeth with his ELECTRIC TOOTHBRUSH. He wears his one piece pajama's with the feet sewed in.

INT. BARRY'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Barry lays in bed. A knock on the door, Dad enters.

DAD Hey there sport. Sorry your birthday didn't go as planned.

BARRY

It's ok.

DAD Your Mom and I thought we'd make it up to you?

BARRY

Really?

DAD Yeah, really. If you could only wish for one thing in the whole wide world what would it be?

BARRY

World peace.

Dad playfully runs his hands through Barry's hair.

DAD Besides world peace.

BARRY Hmmm...lets see. There is this one thing.

DAD What's that?

BARRY

A puppy.

DAD Barry...I don't know.

BARRY

But Dad.

DAD A dog is a lot of responsibility. Are you sure you can handle it?

BARRY

I sure can.

DAD You do remember what happened with your last pet?

Barry stares blankly, his face twitches.

FLASHBACK:

Hideous demonic sounds and bright white flashing lights.

EXT. TOWN STORE -- DAY

Barry exits the store with a bottle of milk in hand. He notices a small crowd on a bench nearby.

A WOMAN has a box full of KITTEN's. A FREE sign hangs from the box. Barry's intrigued.

BARRY

Their free?

White lights flash, demonic sounds.

RETURN TO:

INT. BARRY'S BEDROOM

Barry stares straight into his Dad's eyes.

BARRY It won't happen again. I promise. DAD I'll have to talk with your mother. In the meantime, you get yourself a good nights sleep birthday boy. BARRY Nighty night.

Barry curls up in bed and drifts off to sleep.

INT. PARENTS BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Mom and Dad read books, in separate beds.

MOM Did you boys talk?

DAD We did. He brought up the dog talk again.

MOM Oh, Roger. I don't know.

DAD That's exactly what I said. It's just too soon.

INT. SCHOOL - CLASSROOM -- DAY

Students sit in their seats, indifferent. Barry sits at full attention.

A menacing BULLY sits in the desk behind Barry. He flicks Barry's ears hard with his finger, switching from his left and right ears. Barry tries to ignore him, but winces in pain each time his ear gets flicked.

The TEACHER leans on her desk.

TEACHER As you all know the science fair is quickly approaching. I expect everyone to have your lab partners picked out by the end of the week.

The BELL rings.

TEACHER (CONT'D) That's it class. Have a good weekend.

Barry raises his hand.

BARRY What about the homework?

The students collectively groan.

TEACHER What would I do without you Barry. I expect chapter three to be read by class on Monday.

BARRY

(coughs) And chapter four.

TEACHER And chapter four.

BULLY

Twerp.

Everyone gets out of their seats, the Bully pulls down Barry's pants. Barry's prepared though, he wore two pairs.

BARRY You guys are a riot. I wore an extra pair just in case.

INT. HOUSE - FOYER -- DAY

Barry delicately takes his loafers off and places them aside.

INT. HOUSE

He grabs his parents CHECKBOOK and sits on the couch. Grandma's passed out in front of the TV as a bad 80's action movie plays. Barry forcefully grabs the remote out of her hands.

BARRY

Thanks Grandma.

Grandma lets out a slight groan, its all she can muster. Barry changes the channel to the STOCK MARKET's closing bell.

Barry takes a pen and a calculator out of his pocket and goes to work. He balances his parents CHECKBOOK.

MOM How was school today honey?

BARRY

Satisfactory.

MOM You do know what today is.

BARRY

Is it?

MOM Somebody's favorite day of the week. EXT. HOUSE - DRIVEWAY -- DAY

Barry slides open the MINI-VAN's door and climbs in. He straps himself into his car seat, which he's about five years too old for.

INT. GROCERY STORE -- DAY

A FREE SAMPLE table. A SAMPLE LADY hands out cheese and cracker samples. Barry munches on one.

BARRY Absolutely scrumptious.

SAMPLE LADY Go ahead. Have another young man.

BARRY Don't mind if I do.

INT. GROCERY STORE - SNACK AISLE - DAY

Barry reads the nutritional panel on a box of COOKIES.

BARRY These have the lowest sodium per serving.

He places the box in the shopping carriage.

TWO KIDS about the same age as Barry cruise down the aisle in a SHOPPING CART. One sits inside while the other pushes, speeding past a displeased Barry.

> BARRY (CONT'D) Real mature boys, real mature.

INT. GROCERY STORE - CHECKOUT LINE

Barry methodically watches the cashier, CHERYL scan each item through, making sure the price is correct.

BARRY Weren't those supposed to be two for one?

CHERYL Your quite the little bargain hunter.

Barry crosses arms and scowls.

BARRY Don't make me get your supervisor Cheryl. EXT. GROCERY STORE - PARKING LOT

Barry and his Mom walk the cart to the car.

BARRY Are you going to die someday?

MOM Barry, why would you say such a thing?

BARRY Dad said Grandma's pacemaker's on its last lap. What's gonna happen once it runs out of paces?

MOM Grandma...well...our bodies are just are shell, our souls live forever. That's what's important. Ok?

BARRY (smiles) Ok...What is a pacemaker?

MOM It's what keeps your Grandma's heart nice and healthy.

INT. KITCHEN -- DAY

Barry excitedly places a bag of groceries on the counter.

BARRY I get to put away the fruits and veggies.

Dad enters the room.

DAD There's someone we'd like you to meet.

A PUPPY enters the doorway, its a PUG with a giant red bow. It tilts its head. It walks towards Barry, falls along the way, picks itself up and stops at his feet.

> BARRY He's the most precious little thing I've ever seen.

Mom and Dad lean closer together, they share a satisfied look.

BARRY (CONT'D) Can we keep him Mom, can we keep him? MOM (laughs) Of course you can, we already paid for him.

Barry picks up the dog and cuddles him in his arms.

BARRY You and me are going to be the bestest friends in the whole wide world.

Barry holds Fluffy at arms length and looks him over.

DAD What are you gonna name him?

BARRY

Fluffy.

The dog tilts his head.

DAD

Really?

MONTAGE:

EXT. STREET -- DAY

Barry strolls along with Fluffy. He waves at his neighbors.

EXT. STREET CORNER -- DAY

Barry and Fluffy sit on a curb, eating an ICE CREAM CONE. Fluffy sneaks in a lick.

EXT. PARK -- DAY

Barry and Fluffy play fetch.

EXT. PARK -- LATER

Barry and Fluffy fall asleep together on a blanket.

INT. HOUSE - STAIRWAY -- NIGHT

Barry walks upstairs, he's about halfway up when he notices Fluffy's still at the bottom, putting a paw on the first step, but afraid to take that first step.

BARRY

Your so cute.

Fluffy successfully climbs up one stair at a time.

BARRY (CONT'D) There you go.

INT. BARRY'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Barry sits at his desk, deep in thought, doing his homework.

BARRY Darn fractions.

Fluffy comes in with a tennis ball in his mouth. He drops the ball and pushes it towards Barry.

BARRY (CONT'D) I've got math to do boy.

Barry looks over his fractions, he sticks his tongue out slightly, in deep thought.

Fluffy nudges the ball closer, looking at Barry with those cute puppy dog eyes. Barry puts down his pencil and smiles.

BARRY (CONT'D)

Well ok.

INT. BARRY'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Fluffy and Barry curl up in bed. Barry takes a blanket and puts it carefully on Fluffy.

Barry looks into Fluffy's eyes.

BARRY

Why won't the kids at school like me as much as you do? I try to be their friends, but they don't like me back.

Fluffy rolls in the opposite direction.

BARRY (CONT'D) Oh well. Sleep tight.

INT. KITCHEN -- MORNING

The whole family sits down for breakfast. Barry wears his best Christmas sweater. Dad puts down his morning paper.

Fluffy eats from his FOOD BOWL.

DAD Part of having a pet is learning about responsibility. Sometimes discipline is the best way to do that.

Barry looks concerned.

DAD (CONT'D) So when he does bad things that puppies sometimes do, we spray him with this here water bottle. BARRY But won't it hurt him?

DAD

Not at all.

BARRY

Phew.

DAD

This way he'll associate being sprayed with doing something wrong, then he'll learn not to do it again.

BARRY

Oh, I get it.

DAD Well, I'm off to work.

He pats Barry's head, messing up his hair.

BARRY Dad, its school picture day. I'll have to do my hair all over.

DAD

Show 'em those pearly whites kiddo.

Mom hands Barry his bag lunch.

MOM

Remember to keep your composure when the photographer tells those jokes. I paid good money for those pictures.

BARRY I'll try my best.

Barry says goodbye to Fluffy.

BARRY (CONT'D) I've got a full day of learning ahead. See you at two thirty five on the dot.

Fluffy continues eating.

BARRY (CONT'D)

Kisses.

Barry smooches Fluffy on the cheek.

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY -- DAY

The students are lined up for their yearbook photos.

Barry looks into a mirror and parts his hair.

BARRY

Just right.

PHOTO LADY

Your next.

BARRY I'll take four dozen wallet sizes in addition to my Mother's order.

Barry enters the booth, he sits on the stool. A tacky blue and white sky background is behind him.

The PHOTOGRAPHER adjust the camera.

PHOTOGRAPHER Hello little guy.

BARRY

Howdy.

Barry preps himself, this is a big moment for him. He's extremely focused. He takes a deep breath.

BARRY (CONT'D) (to himself) Don't do it...don't do it.

PHOTOGRAPHER Get yourself ready.

Barry places his hand on his chin and tilts his head to the side. His smile turns into a gigantic goody two shoes smile, bright white teeth and all.

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D) Macaroni and cheese!

Barry bursts into laughter, he couldn't hold it in.

The Bully throws CHOCOLATE PUDDING at Barry, hitting him right in the face. His picture is ruined.

BULLY More like pudding...all over your face.

Students point and laugh in the background.

Barry wipes it off and spits out some of the pudding that got into his mouth.

BARRY I am not impressed.

EXT. STREET -- DAY

Fluffy strolls down the sidewalk peacefully.

EXT. SCHOOL -- DAY

The school doors open, students exit. Barry says goodbye to his classmates.

BARRY Have a great weekend Charlie.

CHARLIE

Eat it.

GRETCHEN, the school's most popular girl, passes Barry.

BARRY The weathers supposed to be beautiful, enjoy every minute of it. Winters on her way.

GRETCHEN

Shut up.

BARRY

Thanks.

Barry sits on a bench and unwraps a turkey sandwich. He watches all the other kids buddy up with their friends and make plans for the weekend. He sighs.

Fluffy runs up the steps to Barry, he paces for food.

BARRY (CONT'D)

Hey boy!

Barry leans down, Fluffy jumps into his arms and takes a bite of his sandwich.

BARRY (CONT'D) Somebody likes turkey sandwiches even more than I do.

Barry pats Fluffy's head. Gretchen and her friends walk over.

GRETCHEN Is that your dog?

BARRY

Sure is.

GRETCHEN What's his name?

BARRY

Fluffy.

GRETCHEN Isn't that a girls name.

BARRY No, it's short for Mr. Fluffy-kins you silly goose.

GRETCHEN Can I pet him?

BARRY Of course. He doesn't bite.

She leans over and pets Fluffy.

The school's coolest kid, TYLER, skates over.

Fluffy stands on his hind legs and does a circle.

TYLER Nice dog dude.

BARRY Thank you very much.

Barry gathers his stuff and heads off. Barry and Fluffy walk down the sidewalk.

BARRY (CONT'D) See you guys later.

The other kids look on, jealous.

BARRY (CONT'D) Always leave 'em wanting more.

INT. KITCHEN -- DAY

Mom lights a JOINT for Grandma.

MOM Time for your medicine.

Grandma perks up. She licks her chapped lips and puffs away. Mom puts some baked potato's in the MICROWAVE.

> MOM (CONT'D) We better get you away from the microwave, don't want those currencies messing with your pacemaker.

Mom wheels Grandma into the living room.

MOM (CONT'D) I'm going to water the plants outside.

Barry and Fluffy play on the floor.

GRANDMA

(strained voice) Stephen...Stephen.

BARRY

My name's Barry.

GRANDMA

Larry...Will you let me know when my old friend Arthur gets here. He should be here any minute.

BARRY

(rehearsed) Arthur who?

GRANDMA

Arthritis...he's a son of a bitch this time of year.

BARRY

Good one Grandma.

Barry hops onto the couch, Fluffy moves out of sight.

GRANDMA

You kids got it easy nowadays. Back in my day we used to have to walk to school in a blizzard every single day. We walked uphill...both ways.

BARRY That doesn't make any sense.

GRANDMA We didn't have boots or sneakers that you kids got, we had galoshes.

BARRY

Yup.

GRANDMA I'm so baked right now.

Grandma puts down the joint and drifts off to sleep.

Barry notices Fluffy sulking in the corner, looking guilty.

BARRY What's a matter?

Barry notices Fluffy left a pile on the floor.

BARRY (CONT'D) Awww boy, you dropped a number two.

The sound of the front door opening in the distance.

DAD Hey there kiddo.

A look of panic on Barry's face. He gulps. He frantically searches for something to cover it up.

BARRY

Hey Dad.

Barry can't find anything.

Mom and Dad enter. Dad notices the pile on the floor. He's upset.

Barry grabs the spray bottle and sprays Grandma.

BARRY (CONT'D)

Bad Grandma.

Dad looks concerned.

INT. SCHOOL - CLASSROOM -- DAY

The Teacher finishes writing a sentence on the chalkboard.

TEACHER Ok class, I need you to buddy up with your lab partners.

Students quickly pair up around Barry. It looks like he'll be the only one flying solo. He puts his head down in shame.

A finger taps him on the shoulder.

TYLER Hey, Barry. You wanna be my lab partner.

Barry's shocked, he lets out a squeak of joy. He composes himself and tries to act normal.

BARRY I'd like that.

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY -- DAY

Barry strolls down the hallway, Fluffy by his side. He throws his jacket over his shoulder, girls look on as he passes.

GIRLS (together) Hey Barry.

Barry nods his head with confidence.

BARRY Kristen, Melanie. Gretchen stands near her locker.

GRETCHEN Barry are you coming to my birthday party?

BARRY Wouldn't miss it for the world Gretchen.

The Bully and his FRIENDS stand at the end of the hall. The Bully eats potato chips.

Fluffy stops to try and eat it. Barry keeps walking, thinking Fluffy is still by his side. He looks down, no Fluffy. He sees the Bully and his friends giving him food.

BARRY (CONT'D) Fluffy! Come here.

Fluffy doesn't budge.

BARRY (CONT'D) I said come here.

Fluffy ignores him.

BULLY Looks like your dog only cares about whose got the food, dude. Not about you.

BARRY

That's not true.

Barry picks up an unwilling Fluffy and tries to leave. Fluffy stares longingly at the food.

BARRY (CONT'D) (re: Fluffy) How could you embarrass me like that.

Barry exits the school dramatically.

EXT. LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Barry holds a sandwich out, moves it from left to right. Fluffy eyes follow it.

> BARRY Eyes up here mister, I'm talking to you.

Barry moves the sandwich again.

BARRY (CONT'D) Do you love me, or the food. Barry moves the sandwich in every possible direction. Fluffy definitely loves the food.

BARRY (CONT'D) You little son of a bitch.

Barry storms out of the room and into the kitchen. He reaches into the cupboard and takes out a bunch of DOGGIE TREATS.

He takes the spray bottle and empties the water into a BLENDER. He puts the doggie treats inside and mixes them together.

Barry empties the mixture back into the spray bottle.

BARRY (CONT'D) This should make you love me.

INT. HOUSE -- NIGHT

Barry climbs into bed and pulls the covers up.

BARRY

Time for bed.

Fluffy chews on a BONE on the floor. Barry pats the bed, trying to get Fluffy's attention.

BARRY (CONT'D) I said, time for bed.

Fluffy continues chomping away.

Barry gets out of bed and picks an unwilling Fluffy up. He crawls into bed with with him while Fluffy struggles to get back his bone. Barry lays down, rests his head.

BARRY (CONT'D) Quit hogging the covers.

Fluffy jumps out of bed and returns to his bone.

Barry grabs his new spray bottle concoction and douses himself. Fluffy's attention is drawn back to the smell, he hops into bed with Barry and licks his face.

INT. FRONT YARD -- DAY

It's a perfect Saturday afternoon. Dad mows the lawn outside.

Mom waters her garden.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Barry vacuums.

Fluffy is scared of the vacuum. He hides under the couch and puts his paws over his eyes.

The phone rings. Barry hurries over.

BARRY Bosley residents. Barry speaking.

TYLER Hey, it's Tyler. Do you wanna hang out and work on our science project?

BARRY

Sure thing.

TYLER Cool. I'll be there around eight.

BARRY Does your Mom want to talk to my Mom?

KID Your joking.

BARRY Yeah, ha ha...but seriously they should probably chat.

EXT. STREET -- NIGHT

Tyler skates down the street. He turns into Barry's driveway. He knocks on the front door.

INT. HOUSE -- NIGHT

Barry opens the door, he and the whole family stand at the door.

BARRY, MOM, DAD

Welcome.

TYLER Yeah...what's up.

INT. BARRY'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Barry and Tyler sit in front of the COMPUTER. On the screen is a diagram of a dissected FROG. The program lets them dissect the frog virtually.

> BARRY The dissecting part isn't all that tough, it's putting everything back in the right place. That's the tricky part.

TYLER Whoa, dude. We're getting an A for sure. BARRY I'd expect nothing less. Enough with all this business, lets have some fun.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Barry pops a DVD in.

BARRY I rented every Ernest movie they had.

TYLER Aren't we a little old for those?

BARRY

To be earnest...no.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- LATER

Barry leaves to get some POPCORN from the kitchen. Tyler grabs the remote and changes it to a MOVIE CHANNEL.

Barry returns and gives Tyler the popcorn.

BARRY What happened to the movie?

TYLER It broke. Do you want some popcorn too?

BARRY

No thanks.

Tyler eats, he drops some on himself by accident.

Fluffy cuddles up with Tyler, much to Barry's dismay. He catches the dropped pieces of popcorn and gobbles them up.

BARRY (CONT'D) On second thought.

Barry takes handfuls of popcorn and purposely spills some on himself.

BARRY (CONT'D)

Whoops.

Fluffy notices and moves over to Barry.

ON TV:

THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM CONTAINS: Violence, Language, Adult Situations and Nudity.

TYLER

Jackpot.

BARRY We can't watch that, its got nudity.

TYLER That's the best part.

Barry shuts the TV off.

Tyler isn't impressed.

TYLER (CONT'D) What else do you do for fun?

BARRY Tons of stuff.

TYLER Name one thing.

BARRY

You could double check my work on the math assignment. Proofread my essay, practice public speaking.

TYLER

Boring.

BARRY See if we got the correct allotment of fiber in our diets today.

TYLER

Seriously?

BARRY Sometimes when there's nothing on PBS, I watch my parents wrestle.

TYLER

You do?

BARRY

They can go all night. My Dad usually wins...they haven't wrestled in months though.

TYLER

Awww.

BARRY

Well, I'm all tuckered out. Time for me to lay these old bones down to rest for the evening. TYLER

Fine with me.

BARRY We've got an extra bed in the guest room. You'll sleep in there.

TYLER

Thank goodness.

INT. GRANDMA'S ROOM -- NIGHT

The door opens, Grandma sleeps on one bed, the other is empty. Her elderly figure is lit up by the moonlight, the whites of her eyes show in the dark. Tyler takes a couple of hesitant steps in.

> TYLER I'm not sleeping in there.

> > BARRY

Why not?

TYLER Isn't she dead?

BARRY Dead tired. Her eyes stay open when she sleeps. It's perfectly natural.

TYLER

Sick.

BARRY

She gets these things called night terrors so I have to lock the door for the night.

Barry quickly shuts the door, locking it shut for the night.

Tyler double checks the door, its locked. He inches towards the bed and pulls the covers up. He gets into bed, facing the opposite way of Grandma.

Her breathing patterns fluctuate between the sound of a snore and the sound of someone suffocating.

INT. HOUSE - BATHROOM

Barry and Fluffy take a bubblebath. Barry puts a big soap bubble on top of Fluffy's head. Fluffy's bottom teeth protrude from his mouth.

Fluffy jumps out of the tub and shakes off. Soap and water fly everywhere. Barry laughs.

Tyler lays peacefully asleep. There's movement on Grandma's bed. The moonlight shows her elderly silhouette lurching behind him.

Her elderly figure hovers over him. His eye's pop open. Tyler slowly turns towards her, not knowing what awaits him.

GRANDMA

You little commie bastard.

Tyler crawls out of bed and huddles in the corner.

TYLER

Stay away.

GRANDMA

I'll slit your throat.

INT. BARRY'S BEDROOM -- MORNING

Barry wakes. He stands up and stretches.

INT. GRANDMA'S ROOM -- MORNING

Barry knocks on the door, unlocks it.

BARRY

Good morning...oh your already up.

Tyler trembles in the corner, he's huddled into a ball. Grandma's lifeless body lay outstretched on the floor in front of him.

> BARRY (CONT'D) So how'd you sleep?

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD -- DAY

Mom and Dad drop off Barry and Fluffy off at his game.

DAD So the big championship game, huh?

BARRY

Yup.

MOM Sorry we can't make it, we've got to make arrangements for your Grandmother.

DAD You know we'll be rooting for you. Flag football game. The teams best player, RYAN, catches a pass. He eludes defenders left and right. He has the endzone in his sights, starts to hot dog it.

An opposing LINEBACKER appears out of nowhere, pummeling him into the endzone right as time runs out in the game.

REFEREE

Touchdown!

Ryan's not getting up. He clutches his leg.

RYAN

It's my leg...it's broken.

His teammates help carry him off the field. The crowd gives him a round of applause.

The teams COACH, paces the sideline.

The SCORER flips the cheap scoreboard. Barry's team is behind, twenty to nineteen.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - SIDELINE

Barry sits at the end of the bench, his legs dangle back and forth, inches from the ground. Fluffy sits close by.

The rest of the team huddles around Coach.

COACH Ok boys, we're going for the two point conversion. It's our only chance.

Coach looks towards the end of the bench.

COACH (CONT'D) Barry we need you to get in there.

BARRY

No thank you.

COACH Your going to be the decoy.

BARRY I don't know. I haven't played all season.

Coach gets down on one knee. A sappy PIANO BALLAD plays in the background.

COACH Life's about living Barry. (MORE) COACH (CONT'D) You can't be sitting on the sidelines the whole time. You've got to go in there and give it your best shot, that's what matters the most.

BARRY

Well, if you put it that way.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - LINE OF SCRIMMAGE

Both teams stare each other down, fierce looks.

The music changes to loud drums and catchy guitar riff's.

The QUARTERBACK calls for the ball. Barry paces aimlessly in the running back position.

QUARTERBACK Hut...hut...hike.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - SIDELINE

The crowd watches nervously. Fluffy breaks loose from his leash and darts toward the action.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD

The Quarterback hands the ball off to the FULLBACK, he plows his way through the middle of the defensive line. He's met by three players, spins, avoids them, and heads towards the left side of the endzone.

The Fullback regains his composure and spots an opening in the defense. He dives towards the endzone. He's hit head on by an opposing player, the ball pops loose. Hands reach for the ball as it's batted towards the right side of the endzone.

The ball bounces on the one yard line where it comes to a rest.

Barry hasn't budged since the play began, he finishes off a yawn, oblivious to the action. Fluffy sprints past him full steam ahead.

FULLBACK Pick up the ball panzy!

Barry looks around confused, he realizes the Fullback is referring to him.

FULLBACK (CONT'D)

Yeah you!

Barry speed-walks to the ball.

Fluffy stands right next to the ball and chews on it. No opposing players in sight.

Fluffy pushes the ball in Barry's direction. Barry leans in to pick the ball from the ground, and falls. The balls just out of his reach.

Fluffy nudges it into his outstretched hands. Barry fumbles the ball in his hands, eventually gaining possession.

An onslaught of opposing players loom behind him.

REFEREE

Touchdown!

The crowd celebrates, jumping up and down and giving each other high fives.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - BENCH

Coach jumps up and down in disbelief.

COACH We won! We won!

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - ENDZONE

Fluffy jumps into Barry's arms. He licks his face to show his affection. Barry smiles, looks like the happiest boy in the world.

The onslaught of opposing players pig pile on top of Barry, Fluffy, and the ball. Seconds to late.

The pig pile disperses, one player at a time. Leaving Barry on the bottom.

Barry's stands, looks down at his shirt, it's soaked in blood. He realizes its Fluffy's blood splattered all over him. He raises his arms to the sky and falls to his knees.

BARRY

Fluffy!

INT. HOUSE -- NIGHT

Mom cooks dinner.

MOM How was the game?

BARRY

Good.

He walks upstairs with his backpack on, it's a little heavier than usual.

INT. HOUSE - BACKYARD -- NIGHT

Barry lowers a makeshift COFFIN into a small dugout grave. He places a doggy biscuit on top of the coffin.

> BARRY I'm gonna miss you boy.

He covers the grave with dirt.

INT. HALLWAY -- DAY

Barry stops at Gretchen's locker.

BARRY Hey, pick you up at eight?

GRETCHEN Ummm, I have to pick my uncle up from the airport.

Barry spots the two girls from earlier.

BARRY

Hey ladies.

They completely ignore him. Barry walks away defeated.

EXT. BACKYARD -- DAY

Barry and his Dad rake leaves. Dad rakes near the patched up dirt that makes up Fluffy's grave.

> DAD Is your dog inside. I haven't seen him all day.

BARRY Uh, I don't know.

DAD What do you mean you don't know? Is he or isn't he?

BARRY

I don't know.

DAD

We talked about this. I had a feeling you wouldn't be responsible enough to have your own pet.

MOM Dear, he's just a kid.

BARRY I didn't lose him, I swear. He'll show up soon, I just know he will. If he doesn't, it's your butt that will be grounded.

BARRY

No.

DAD That means no vacuuming, no stock market and no science fair.

BARRY (freaking out) That's not fair.

DAD

It's not fair that I paid eleven hundred dollars for a pure breed dog that you managed to lose in four months. Just like last time.

FLASHBACK:

CHRISTMAS MORNING.

Barry scoots behind the tree. He hid a package behind it.

BARRY Merry Christmas Mom.

MOM Merry Christmas to you.

Mom opens it up, no clue what's inside. Underneath the wrapping paper is a box, tons of masking tape.

MOM (CONT'D) You really taped this one up.

Barry blushes.

Mom undoes the tape and looks excitedly inside.

BARRY I hope you like it.

MOM

It's a...

KITTY, a dead one. Barry had wrapped it up inside the box, but he didn't put any airholes in the box. Mom screams hysterically.

RETURN TO:

EXT. FUNERAL PARLOR -- NIGHT The Bosley's car pulls in. We've got to speak with someone about your Grandma's funeral. We'll look for your dog after.

INT. FUNERAL PARLOR -- NIGHT

The whole family enters, their greeted by ROBERT, the parlor's owner.

ROBERT

Evening.

Barry hides behind his Dad's leg.

ROBERT (CONT'D) Whose this shy little fella?

MOM Barry...Can you say hello to Robert.

BARRY

Hello.

ROBERT I'll watch after the boy if you'd like. It'll give you a chance to decide on what we talked about earlier.

Mom and Dad look at the various COFFINS. Robert takes Barry into another room.

INT. FUNERAL PARLOR - WAITING ROOM

Robert gets Barry a soda.

ROBERT Death is nothing to be afraid of Barry, its as much of a part of our lives as living is.

BARRY

Really?

ROBERT

Of course. It gives our lives meaning. Without it, there'd be hardly any purpose for us being on this earth at all.

Barry stares ahead, wide eyed.

BARRY

My Grandma had a pacemaker. That's what was keeping her alive until it went kaput.

Barry stares at the box.

BARRY

(twitches) You don't say.

Robert gets off the couch.

ROBERT Your parents should be about ready. Let's see how they're doing.

BARRY

Ok.

They both walk towards the door. Barry stops.

BARRY (CONT'D) Oh, I forgot my backpack. Just a sec.

Barry swipes the box and puts it in his backpack.

EXT. STREET -- NIGHT

Mom and Dad drive around the neighborhood calling out Fluffy's name. Barry looks guiltily out the window.

They put up LOST PUPPY signs.

EXT. HOUSE - DRIVEWAY -- NIGHT

The car pulls in, no luck.

INT. DINNER TABLE -- NIGHT

Barry and Dad sit while Mom puts the finishing touches on tonight's TUNA CASSEROLE.

DAD Tuna casserole, yummy.

Barry looks over at Fluffy's empty water bowl and pillow and sulks. His Mom brings the casserole to the table and sits.

DAD (CONT'D) Looks delicious.

Barry pokes at his food.

MOTHER Not hungry sweetie?

Barry violently sticks his fork into his dinner.

BARRY You call this dinner?

MOM

Barry.

DAD Go to your room. I'm the only one that gets to talk to your mother that way.

MOM

Roger!

BARRY It'd be my pleasure.

Barry gets out of his chair. He trudges up the first few steps of the stairway, then stops.

BARRY (CONT'D) Oh, by the way. The four food groups called, and they are not pleased with you.

INT. BARRY'S BEDROOM

Barry cranks up the STEREO. A LAME MOTIVATIONAL SONG plays.

Barry puts his back against the wall and leans. He turns and faces the wall and pounds his fist against the wall in unison with the song as it goes into its loud chorus.

A knock on the door. Barry dramatically looks over his shoulder.

BARRY

What?

Dad enters.

DAD I know your upset. Losing someone close to you never gets easy.

BARRY looks up, tears well in his eyes.

BARRY It just hurts so much.

DAD She'll always live on in our hearts. She?

Barry wipes away his tears.

BARRY (CONT'D) Fluffy was a boy silly.

DAD Your kidding me. Your crying about that mangy mutt and not your dead Grandmother?

BARRY

Kind of.

DAD If it wasn't for her you wouldn't have even been born.

Dad walks away in disgust, slamming the door behind him.

INT. BARRY'S BEDROOM -- LATER

Barry lies asleep in bed, eyes closed. The door opens.

MOM

Don't let the bed bugs bite.

Barry looks sound asleep. No reaction. The door closes. His eyes snap open. Lightning flashes in the background, illuminating the room.

INT. HALLWAY -- NIGHT

Barry's door creaks open. He tiptoes out and down the hallway. He makes his way down the staircase. Sneaks outside.

EXT. BACKYARD -- NIGHT

It's pouring rain. Barry digs with a shovel, piles of MUD at his side. Lightning flashes in the background.

He places the shovel aside and reaches into the grave. A psychotic look in his eye.

EXT. HOUSE - BASEMENT -- NIGHT

Barry sits at his workbench, tools surround him.

TAPE, GLUE, STAPLES, SCISSORS.

A diagram of a dissected frog lays on the workbench, and a small box.

Barry goes to work, he hovers over the table, his body keeps what's on the table below him out of sight.

BARRY No way am I getting in trouble with Dad. He reaches for the stapler, then the tape. BARRY (CONT'D) The kids aren't going to make fun of me anymore, I'll show them I'm still popular.

A shadow rises on the wall.

Barry lets out a slow, mad, cackling laugh.

TO BE CONTINUED: