

Sweet Dreams

by  
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FADE IN

EXT. HIGH ABOVE SUBURBIA- NIGHT

The night time lights of Suburbia, USA twinkle in houses and buildings along tree-filled winding streets below us. We FLOAT closer...

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET-LEVEL SUBURBIA- NIGHT

Streetlights FLICKER on the rain-soaked street. A stoplight BLINKING red sways in the breeze. Empty swings wait for children in the neighborhood park.

CUT TO:

EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE- NIGHT

It's any house in any suburban sprawl. Toys LITTER the front yard. A minivan sits on tires needing air in the cracked cement driveway.

The yard is ILLUMINATED by the sweep of headlights.

AN SUV

brakes to a stop in front of the house. The passenger door opens and a

WOMAN

jumps out and walks to the telephone pole in the yard.

MISSING PET FLYERS

cover the pole. The woman SLAPS yet another colorful flyer onto the pole and staples it top and bottom and returns to the SUV.

The headlights illuminate the new flyer: MISSING CAT! The photocopied photo of Muffy the Cat competes for attention with flyers for missing puppies, ferrets, an alligator and other cats before the headlights fade away.

CUT TO:

INT. CHILD'S PLAYROOM- NIGHT

JOHNNY, a tow-headed boy of 10, is playing with a large collection of toy cars. He's created an entire city out of brightly-painted cardboard boxes and encyclopedias and ZOOMS his cars to and fro.

He looks up as his MOM enters the playroom. She looks around at the engineering mess he has created and smiles at him with love but nonetheless... it's bed-time.

MOM

Let's go champ. Time for bed.

JOHNNY

Mom! Five more minutes. Please.

Puppy-dog eyes blink ineffectively.

MOM

Is that the same five minutes you used up half an hour ago? Let's go Jonathan Lewis Sullivan- and brush your teeth.

She turns to go but continues with the final word because she's mom.

MOM (CONT'D)

And use toothpaste this time.

Johnny huffs because he's the kid and with a final VAROOM he speeds a shiny red Corvette into a near-miss with a yellow school bus. He jumps to his feet and with Corvette in hand runs from the room.

CUT TO:

INT. JOHNNY'S BEDROOM- NIGHT

Johnny's mom is tucking him into a bed covered with an Ironman comforter. The boyhood belongings we are all so familiar with are STREWN about the room.

MOM

Goodnight sweetheart. Don't let the bedbugs bite. Sweet dreams.

She kisses him on the forehead as he grimaces because he's a boy.

JOHNNY

Night, mom.

He snuggles deeper into his blankets and zooms his toy car around his bed before closing his eyes with it clutched tightly to his chest.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CITY STREET- NIGHT

Pimped-out rice burners and good old-fashioned Detroit muscle cars CRUISE down the street. Tires SPIN in smoky burnouts. Music BLARES from oversized woofers. Hot chicks and hot rods line the boulevard as far as the eye can see. All eyes turn as a

SHINY RED CORVETTE

slowly rumbles past.

CUT TO:

INT. CORVETTE- NIGHT

The DRIVER is a tow-headed teenager who bears a striking resemblance to young Johnny. A cigarette dangles from his mouth.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT- NIGHT

Johnny parks next to a blacked-out Dodge Viper as a crowd gathers. The driver of the Viper GUZZLES a beer and sneers.

VIPER DRIVER

So you got what it takes tonight  
Johnny? Not gonna' chicken out  
again are ya'?

CUT TO:

JOHNNY

takes a long drag on his cigarette and flicks it towards the Viper.

JOHNNY

In your dreams, loser. Let's do  
this.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREET- NIGHT

The Viper and Corvette cruise to the corner traffic light. The engines REV loudly and the two racers watch the traffic light waiting for it to go

GREEN!

Engines roar, tires spin and the race is on. The Viper takes the lead but Johnny

POWERSHIFTS

and slowly inches closer.

CUT TO:

The cars RACE past bumper to bumper and roar by a cop car.

CUT TO:

INT. CORVETTE- NIGHT

Johnny sees the cop car in his mirrors. But he's not slowing down. Not tonight!

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREET- NIGHT

The Corvette races through a red light nearly SIDE-SWIPING a church bus filled with wide-eyed kids.

The Corvette bounces HIGH over a curb and lands in a grocery store parking lot SCATTERING carts.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT- NIGHT

Another police car has joined the chase and Johnny is TRAPPED and SKIDS to a smoky stop. He waits passively as the screaming cops run to the Corvette waving their pistols.

They haul Johnny from the car and SLAM him to the ground and cuff him roughly. He's flipped over to his back and looks up surprised to see that one cop sorta' looks like his

MOM

with her hair in a towel wearing an ugly pink fuzzy robe.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JOHNNY'S BEDROOM- MORNING

JOHNNY'S MOM

stands over his bed in an ugly pink fuzzy robe and towel-wrapped hair. Sunlight STREAMS in from the open window behind her.

JOHNNY

flinches when he sees her.

MOM

Morning sunshine. Pancakes in ten minutes for my little man.

She leaves the room and Johnny slowly gets out of bed. He turns back to the bed and GRABS the Corvette. He studies it and throws it into the corner of his room.

THE CORVETTE

bounces off the wall and LANDS on a pile of disheveled stuffed animals- dogs, cats, pigs and one or two unidentifiable creatures... maybe they're ferrets.

JOHNNY

looks around his room and deciding, GRABS a toy machine gun and an Army helmet from the floor. He holds the gun knowledgably and PLOPS the helmet on his head as he admires himself in the mirror.

A new course set, he runs from the room.

FADE OUT