# THE SPEED OF LIFE

screenplay

by Doug L. Starks

story

by Brian Lakes & Doug L. Starks

Doug L. Starks douglstarks@yahoo.com FADE IN:

ROLL CREDITS

#### 1 EXT. BANK - DAY

1

It's a gorgeous day and all is calm. The gentle wind blows dry leaves across the sidewalk.

### SERIES OF SHOTS

- A) A man's hand with a classy watch locks the glass door of the bank.
- B) Only seeing the nice dress shoes, the man walks on the sidewalk.
- C) The man's hand opens the car door and he gets in.

### 2 INT. CAR - CONTINUING

2

- D) The man's hand opens a jewel case and pops in a CD. The beautiful music of MOZART fills the car. His hand sways with the smooth sounds.
- E) He opens an aspirin bottle and shakes out a few onto his hand.

CUT TO:

The man tosses back the aspirin in his mouth followed by a swig of bottle water. This man is NATHAN HAILS. A clean cut 32 year old.

He loosens his blue silk tie and runs both hands through his hair. He takes a deep breath and starts the car. He backs up and drives away.

## 3 EXT. NATHAN'S DRIVEWAY - LATER

3

Nathan's 2001 Toyota Camery pulls up to a nice but small house in the middle of a cozy neighborhood. He trows the car into park and turns it off.

## 4 INT. CAR - CONTINUING

4

He gazes at his house with a half-smile. From inside his suit pocket, he whips out a shiny flask. He opens it and takes a quick gulp. He closes it and shoves it pack in his pocket.

5 EXT. NATHAN'S HOUSE - CONTINUING

5

A pair of little boy's eyes peek through the blinds. He sees Nathan sitting in the car.

6 INT, CAR - CONTINUING

6

Nathan spots the eyes and he waves with a smile.

NATHAN

Well, here we go.

He climbs out of the car and makes his way to the front door. He reaches for the knob as the door swings open.

FADE OUT:

THE SOUND OF PARTY FAVORS

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Happy birthday!

LITTLE BOY'S VOICE (O.S.)

Happy birthday, Dad!

NATHAN (O.S.)

Oh, you guys didn't have to do this.

LITTLE BOY'S VOICE (O.S.)

But we wanted to.

LATER...

THE SOUND OF BALLOONS POPPING

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Well, I got the audio working, but not the video. How do I turn it on?

NATHAN (O.S.)

(laughing)

Just rub and caress it.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Nathan!

6 CONTINUED:

NATHAN (O.S.)

Don't you just push this button or something?

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Didn't you read the instructions?

NATHAN (O.S.)

Honey, we just got it today! No, I didn't read the instructions yet. How hard can it be?

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Oh, the cap is on! Duh...

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

(continuing)

Bingo!

7 INT. DINING ROOM - CONTINUING

7

THE CAMERA COMES TO LIFE

The date and time are flashing zeros.

Balloons and confetti are everywhere. A sheet cake sits on the dining table.

The camera is unsteady, zooming in and out on Nathan.

Nathan, wearing a cheesy birthday hat waves at the camera. Eli Hails, age 7, runs in the background playing with the balloons.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

This is a pretty neat camera!

Nathan sits with a smirk.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

(continuing)

Say something.

NATHAN

Something.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Ha-ha, that's cute. Grab Eli so I can get you both.

Nathan reaches behind him and snags Eli, placing him on his lap.

NATHAN

Come on, help me blow out this forest fire.

Eli giggles.

ELI

That's a lot of candles. You are old dad.

**NATHAN** 

Oh, is that right?

ELI

Yep!

NATHAN

Ok smarty pants. You ready? On three. One... two...

Eli blows out the candles before Nathan says "three".

NATHAN

(continuing)

Hey, that's not fair.

Eli giggles.

NATHAN

(continuing)

You think that's funny?

Everyone claps. The camera shakes. Eli gives Nathan a hug.

Eli grabs a present and hands it to Nathan.

ELI

Look what I got for you.

7 CONTINUED: (2)

NATHAN

Do you think I can guess what it is?

Nathan shakes the present close to his ear.

ELI

Nope! You won't be able to guess it.

Nathan puts the present down on the table.

NATHAN

You're right. I can't.

He starts to unwrap the present.

ELI

I wanted it to be special so I did chores around the house to get the money.

NATHAN

Yeah, I noticed that it's a lot cleaner around her.

ELI

I also helped Mrs. Switler for a few extra bucks.

Nathan pauses for a moment.

NATHAN

You are the greatest.

Nathan opens the present while Eli has an eager face. Nathan pulls out a white t-shirt. He quickly puts it down as his eyes water up.

Eli face shows concern.

ELI

You don't like it? I can get a different one if you want to. I can work to get more money.

Nathan shakes his head.

7 CONTINUED: (3)

NATHAN

No, it's perfect.

He snags Eli and gives him a huge hug.

**NATHAN** 

(continuing)

I love it. Thank you.

ELI

Happy birthday.

**NATHAN** 

I love you so much.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Turn the shirt around so I can get it on camera.

Nathan turns the shirt around. It has a big picture of Nathan and Eli together and underneath the picture it says, "Best Buds".

Eli hops off Nathan's lap and continues to play with the balloons. Nathan clears his throat and drys his eyes.

**NATHAN** 

My turn to play with my new toy.

He gets up and reaches towards the camera. The camera pulls away.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

(laughing)

No way, I'm having too much fun. Get your own camera.

NATHAN

Come on, give it here.

The camera changes hands as JENNIFER HAILS, Nathan's wife, steps in front of the camera. She's quite attractive.

NATHAN (O.S.)

Come on, do a little dance.

Jennifer feels a little uncomfortable and shy.

7 CONTINUED: (4)

JENNIFER

No, I'm not going to dance.

NATHAN (O.S.)

Come on, a little somethingsomething for the camera.

She performs a cheesy dance.

JENNIFER

Happy?

NATHAN (O.S.)

That was pretty lame. Now, if you stripped that would be cool.

She turns to look at Eli.

JENNIFER

Honey, Eli is here.

NATHAN (O.S.)

I know, just kidding.

(a beat)

Maybe later tonight?

She smiles big.

JENNIFER

Yeah, maybe.

NATHAN (O.S.)

You know what we can do with this camera?

JENNIFER

What?

NATHAN (O.S.)

I'm thinking homemade pornos. Huh... huh! Whatcha think?

**JENNIFER** 

Nathan!

NATHAN (O.S.)

I'll take that as a "no".

7 CONTINUED: (5)

7

**JENNIFER** 

Happy birthday, Nathan. I love you.

Nathan sets the camera on the table. He walks into frame and gives Jennifer a hug and a kiss.

NATHAN

Thank you.

**JENNIFER** 

You're welcome. Now turn off that damn thing and lets have some cake.

He reaches over to the camera and messes with it.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

### 8 INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

g

Nathan sits on the bed with a sheet of instructions in his hand. He is clean shaven, dressed in a suit. The room is spotless.

The camera is on a tri pod. He reaches over and turns it on.

He looks over the sheet and mumbles a little. He picks up a remote control and points it at the camera.

ON CAMERA

The time and date are still flashing zeros.

The camera zooms in and out.

NATHAN

Huh!

He goes back to the sheet. He sports a confused look. He again points the remote at the camera. The camera freeze frames for a quick minute.

The camera goes back to normal and Nathan is moved in a different position on the bed.

NATHAN

(continuing)

What the hell?

OFF CAMERA

Jennifer walks in and sits beside him.

JENNIFER

What are you doing?

Nathan focuses his attention on the instructions.

NATHAN

Just messing with all the different features.

Jennifer kisses his neck as he tries to concentrate on the camera. She kisses him on the mouth as Nathan tosses the instructions. They lay back on the bed, making out.

ELI (O.S.)

(shouting)

Mom! Is my lunch ready?

They both spring up.

**JENNIFER** 

I got to get Eli off to school.

She leaves as Nathan points at his crotch.

NATHAN

(shouting)

What am I suppose to do with this?

He looks around.

ON CAMERA

He leans towards the camera.

**NATHAN** 

(continuing)

Oh, that was cruel.

He points the remote at the camera.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

9 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

ON CAMERA

Date: 03/27/2004 Time: 5:35 P.M.

Nathan sits in front of the camera with remote in hand. His tie is loosened around his neck and shirt unbuttoned a little.

#### **NATHAN**

Okay, now that I have this thing figured out, I guess introductions are in order. My name is Nathan Hails and I guess...what do I call this? "Nathan's video diary." A co-worker says that he does this every so often and so I thought I would give it a shot.

He looks around the room, uneasy.

NATHAN

(continuing)

This is a little weird. I mean talking to myself. I don't know what exactly to say. It feels like I'm mental.

He chuckles.

NATHAN

(continuing)

Well, I guess I can start by telling a little about myself. I'm thirty- two years old, have a beautiful wife, Jennifer, who I've been married to for almost ten years now. She's my high school sweetheart. My son, Eli, is seven.

OFF CAMERA

He gets up off the bed. He slides off his tie. He repositions the camera towards the closet.

ON CAMERA

**NATHAN** 

(continuing)

He's a good kid. I'm happy with one, but Jennifer wants another. She says that Eli needs someone to play with.

He unbuttons his shirt and tosses it into a nearby hamper.

NATHAN

(continuing)

I just got home from work. I'm a manager at a bank. That's right, banker hours. I work nine to five and get every holiday off. I'm out of work more than my son is out of school. It's great! I'm glad I'm on salary.

He grabs a shirt. He throws it on along with a pair of blue jeans. He readjusts the camera back to the bed where he flops back down.

JENNIFER (O.S.)

(yelling)

Honey! Dinner.

**NATHAN** 

Well, got to go.

With the remote, he turns off the camera.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

10 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nathan lounges on the bed already dressed in his comfy clothes. He turns the camera on with the remote.

ON CAMERA

Date: 04/04/2004 Time: 7:36 P.M.

NATHAN

CONTINUED

10

NATHAN (cont'd)

At least a lot smarter than me when I was his age.

He sits up.

NATHAN

(continuing)

He said his favorite subject was math. Maybe he will follow in my footsteps and become a banker.

He shrugs his shoulders.

NATHAN

(continuing)

I don't know. Whatever he decides to do is fine by me. Umm, let's see... what happened today? Oh, at the bank today, some bitchy woman came in and claimed that we over charged her on a transaction. That's the part of the job I hate. Having to deal with bitchy people that think they know how to do my job. That's about it. Nothing too exciting.

He turns off the camera.

THE SCREEN TURNS BLACK

11 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

11

ON CAMERA

Date: 04/16/2004 Time: 8:48 P.M.

The camera zooms in to the max on Nathan's black and purple eye.

**NATHAN** 

Take a look at this shit.

The camera zooms out and full frame on Nathan. His shirt is torn and hair is a mess. Dried blood accents his shirt.

NATHAN

(continuing)

Yep! I got mugged. The punk only got away with twenty-two bucks.

He leans towards the camera.

NATHAN

(continuing)

I hope it was worth it. I gave a police report, but I seriously doubt anything will come of it. He was a teenage slacker, you know the punks that you see and say "psss, what a waste". These kids are the future of America. God help us all! I would have given him the beating of his life, but of course he was packing a gun. Where are the parents? Don't they give a shit?

Nathan pops open a aspirin bottle and tosses them in is mouth. He chases it with a glass of water.

NATHAN

(continuing)

I tell you what. I got a splitting headache. Poor Jennifer. She freaked out. I thought she was going to have a stroke or something.

He lays back on the bed.

He shakes his head in disgust.

NATHAN

(continuing)

That little bastard.

Jennifer comes in and places a wet washcloth on his forehead.

He leans to turn off the camera.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

12 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

12

ON CAMERA

Date: 04/26/2004 Time: 7:17 P.M.

Nathan sits on the bed. His eye has healed a little. He holds up a six-shooter revolver.

NATHAN

Call me paranoid, but I went out and got a gun. Since you can't walk around anymore without getting robbed, I figured it's better to be safe than sorry. I think it's just a matter of time before our house is next. Especially when I'm at work and Jennifer is home alone.

He opens the gun and places rounds in it.

**NATHAN** 

(continuing)

I took Jennifer to the firing range to teach her how to shoot. I was shocked. She's not bad. But she's not to comfortable having a gun in the house.

He slaps the gun shut.

NATHAN

(continuing)

She'll get use to it.

He reaches over and places the gun in the drawer on the night stand.

NATHAN

(continuing)

Later.

He reaches and turns the camera off.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

13 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

13

ON CAMERA

Date: 05/09/2004 Time: 8:36 P.M.

Nathan stands in boxers, dancing a little bit. He holds a condom.

NATHAN

Just wanted to check in. I'm going to keep this short. Nothing happened today, son is at the inlaws, wife's horny and I got a condom. Gotta go.

Nathan reaches for the camera to turn it off.

JENNIFER (O.S.)

Don't use a condom. I thought you agreed to we were going to try again.

CAMERA GOES BLACK

14 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

14

ON CAMERA

Date: 05/12/2004 Time: 6:57 P.M.

Nathan wears a nice shirt and jeans. He is standing and ecstatic.

NATHAN

We went to Eli's soccer game today. He played his heart out, running up and down the field. I don't think they knew what they were doing, but his team won.

He throws his arms in the air.

NATHAN

(continuing)

GOAL!

He turns off the camera with the remote.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

15 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

15

Nathan looks into the mirror as he ties his necktie. He snags the remote and turns on the camera.

ON CAMERA

Date: 05/16/2004 Time: 6:27 P.M.

NATHAN

Today is the sixteenth of May.

He continues to fiddle with his tie.

NATHAN

(continuing)

Very important day. It's our anniversary. Our ten year anniversary. Wow! Ten years. How time flies.

He stretches behind and snags his suit jacket off the bed.

NATHAN

(continuing)

I'm taking her to this new steak house. Phil said that they are really good.

He tosses on the jacket and reaches inside the suit pocket pulling out two tickets. He holds them up to the camera.

NATHAN

(continuing)

And after dinner I will take her to see a stand-up comedy show.

JENNIFER (O.S.)

You ready to go?

NATHAN

Yep. Let's go.

He turns off the camera.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

16 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

16

ON CAMERA

Date: 05/24/2004 Time: 5:32 P.M.

Nathan flops on the bed dressed in a suit.

NATHAN

Good news. You are now looking at the new district manager. I knew I was up for the position, but I didn't think I would actually get the job. Whoa, what a surprise!

OFF CAMERA

He jumps up onto the bed. He hops up and down like it was a trampoline.

NATHAN

(continuing)

Whoo-hoo! I'm getting a huge pay raise!

He jumps off the bed and dances a jig.

NATHAN

(continuing; sings a
tune)

I'm in the money! I'm in the money! Da-da-ta-da-da.

JENNIFER (O.S.)

(yelling)

Nathan! What are you doing?

He settles down, sitting on the bed.

NATHAN

Sorry.

(a beat)
(shouting)

Jennifer, come up here! I have some good news to tell you.

THE SOUND OF RUSHING FOOTSTEPS

Jennifer enters the room. Nathan stands up and holds her hands trying to keep a straight face.

**JENNIFER** 

What is it?

16 CONTINUED: (2)

16

He takes in a deep breath.

NATHAN

You probably don't want to know. Never mind.

She slaps him on the arm with a smile.

JENNIFER

What is it?

NATHAN

(nonchalant)

It's no big deal.

(a beat)

It's just that I made district manager.

He smiles big as Jennifer backs up in excitement.

**JENNIFER** 

Are you serious?

NATHAN

Yeah.

JENNIFER

When did you find out?

NATHAN

Today. Phil told me today.

Jennifer jumps up and down. She gives Nathan a big hug.

JENNIFER

I so proud of you!

She settles down.

JENNIFER

(continuing)

I can't believe it.

NATHAN

Well, start believing.

JENNIFER

I thought for sure Jill was going to get the position.

16 CONTINUED: (3)

16

NATHAN

Yeah, well, I guess Phil likes me more.

JENNIFER

(smirking)

But you are more qualified then her.

NATHAN

Oh, yeah. Have her beat by a long shot.

(a beat)

So, when are we going house hunting?

**JENNIFER** 

You mean it? We are going to get a house?

NATHAN

That's right!

With both hands, Jennifer takes Nathan's face and pulls him in for a kiss.

JENNIFER

It's like our dream is coming true.

NATHAN

Just call me the great and wonderful "Oz.".

She stops to think for a moment.

JENNIFER

I'm going to bake Phil some cookies. Is chocolate chip good?

NATHAN

He's allergic to chocolate.

Her excitement hasn't slowed down as she paces back and forth.

JENNIFER

Well, what should I do?

Nathan is calm as can be and enjoying watching Jennifer act this way.

NATHAN

Make a different kind.

JENNIFER

Yeah, yeah, that's a good idea.

What kind?

NATHAN

He likes oatmeal raisin.

JENNIFER

Okay, I will make them right now.

She walks out then rushes back in and gives Nathan another long kiss.

JENNIFER

(continuing)

I'm so proud of you. Let's go out and celebrate.

NATHAN

Sure.

She runs out of the room.

NATHAN

(continuing; shouting)

Do I get sex tonight?

JENNIFER (O.S.)

Damn straight you do!

ON CAMERA

Nathan turns to the camera with a cheesy grin.

NATHAN

That's what I'm talking about.

He winks at the camera and points to it, his hand in the shape of a pistol with the remote in it.

He turns off the camera with the remote.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

17 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

ON CAMERA

Date: 06/11/2004 Time: 5:45 P.M.

Nathan undresses out of his suit and into jeans and a t-shirt.

#### NATHAN

I'm thinking of buying a new car. You know, surprise Jennifer. I think she would like that.

He turns off the camera.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

18 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

18

ON CAMERA

Date: 06/15/2004 Time: 6:46 P.M.

Nathan sits on the bed dressed in a suit holding a key chain, spinning it on his finger.

### **NATHAN**

Well, I did it. We got our dream car. Family oriented, yet sporty. What did we get you ask? We got a two thousand four black beamer. Yeah, yeah, I know what you're thinking. We are going to be one of those snobs. But we're not. We traded in the Toyota.

Nathan paces in front of the camera.

#### NATHAN

(continuing)

The salesman was trying to "Jew" me by tacking on all these fees that weren't needed. Once he found out that I'm a banker, he realized that he couldn't screw me like his other customers. So, needless to say I got a pretty good deal.

He drops to his knees and raises his arms up to the ceiling, like he is talking to God.

NATHAN

(continuing)

Can life get any better?

He stands up.

NATHAN

(continuing)

Okay, I'm done gloating.

He composes himself and turns off the camera.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

19 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

19

ON CAMERA

Date: 06/17/2004 Time: 8:26 P.M.

From the side, Nathan pops his head into frame.

NATHAN

Yes it does!

He sits in front of the camera.

**NATHAN** 

(continuing)

We found a house and signed a few papers. We didn't close yet. But it looks promising. It's in a nice neighborhood. Lots of kids Eli knows from school.

He holds up a floor plan of the house.

NATHAN

(continuing)

This might be hard to see, but it has five bedrooms, three baths, finished basement and a huge backyard.

(more)

NATHAN (cont'd)

Later on we can put a pool back there and still have room for a basketball hoop. Jennifer will have her guest room she always wanted and I will have my office, finally. Damn, I love life.

Jennifer and Eli pop in.

**JENNIFER** 

Come on, let's go shopping.

**NATHAN** 

(to camera)

Adios!

With the remote, he pushes the button.

SCREEN GOES BLACK

20 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

20

ON CAMERA

Date: 06/28/2004 Time: 9:46 P.M.

Nathan is sitting on the edge of the bed hunched over. He clenches the remote in his fist.

THE SOUND OF THE DOOR BEING KNOCKED ON REPEATEDLY

JENNIFER (O.S.)

Nathan! Open up!

NATHAN

(to camera)

I wish she would just leave me alone.

He leans forward, turning off the camera.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

21 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

21

ON CAMERA

Date: 06/29/2004 Time: 7:12 P.M.

Nathan is pacing back and forth in front of the camera, in and out of frame. Then suddenly he stops right in front of the camera.

**NATHAN** 

Here's the thing.

He takes in a big deep breath.

**NATHAN** 

(continuing)

She wants another baby. I don't. I mean things are going so well right now, why mess it up?

OFF CAMERA

Nathan sits on the edge of the bed and chews his fingernails nervously.

THE SOUND OF THE KNOCKING ON THE DOOR.

Nathan rolls his eyes.

JENNIFER (O.S.)

I need to talk to you Nathan. Unlock the door.

THE SOUND OF ONE HARSH KNOCK ON THE DOOR

JENNIFER (O.S.)

(continuing)

Damn it! You talk to that camera more than you talk to me!

NATHAN

(calmly)

Just give me a minute.

THE SOUND OF CONSTANT BANGING ON THE DOOR

JENNIFER (O.S.)

Why won't you talk to me?

21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

NATHAN

(yelling)

There's nothing to talk about!

Just leave me alone!

JENNIFER (O.S.)

Fine!

THE SOUND OF FADING FOOTSTEPS

ON CAMERA

NATHAN

You see!

Nathan shakes his head and points the remote at the camera.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

# 22 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

22

The room light is dim. Jennifer and Nathan are under the covers on the bed. They are having sex, missionary style. Heavy breathing carries on.

Nathan pops his arm from under the covers and feels blindly around the floor for awhile. He finds the remote for the camera. He pushes the play button and drops the remote.

ON CAMERA

Date: 07/03/2004 Time: 10:28 P.M.

Jennifer sways her head back and forth in pleasure. She looks to the side and notices the camera. She stops moaning and stares at Nathan. He is still going at it looking up at the ceiling.

**JENNIFER** 

Nathan?

He is too involved to notice Jennifer talking.

JENNIFER

(continuing)

Nathan!

NATHAN

What?

She points to the camera.

**JENNIFER** 

Is the camera on?

Nathan stops. His full attention is on Jennifer. He glances over at the camera and tries to play dumb.

NATHAN

What? How did that turn on? Is it on?

JENNIFER

Well, the red light is on, so yeah!

NATHAN

Oh well, let's just leave it on. It's kind of kinky isn't it?

**JENNIFER** 

Turn it off.

NATHAN

Come on, it's fun.

**JENNIFER** 

(stern)

Turn it off, right now!

Nathan picks up the remote that's on the night stand and points it to the camera.

NATHAN

Excitement killer...

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

23 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

23

ON CAMERA

Date: 07/10/2004 Time: 6:45 P.M.

Nathan undresses out of a suit and throws on a pair of jeans.

NATHAN

Jennifer and I went to parent/teacher conference today. Eli needs a little help in reading. He can read fairly well, but the problem is he can't comprehend what the story is about.

Nathan throws on a nice Polo shirt.

NATHAN

(continuing)

Well, I got to go to a meeting tonight. They are planning to make some changes at the bank.

OFF CAMERA

Eli rushes into the room and hops on Nathan.

**NATHAN** 

(continuing)

Whoa there tiger.

ELI

Want to play, daddy.

NATHAN

Yeah!

ELI

Yeah.

Nathan tickles and wrestles Eli.

NATHAN

(giggling)

You like that, huh?

Eli laughs with joy.

ELI

Please daddy. No more. I'm going to pee my pants.

NATHAN

Whoa, you better hurry and go to the bathroom then.

23 CONTINUED: (2)

23

Eli jumps off the bed and rushes out of the room.

ON CAMERA

NATHAN

(continuing)

Good kid.

Nathan turns off the camera.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

24 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

24

ON CAMERA

Date: 07/12/2004 Time: 5:48 P.M.

Nathan sits on the bed with Eli on his lap. Eli has the remote in his hand.

NATHAN

Okay, if you want the camera to zoom in you push this button.

Nathan points on the remote. Eli points the remote at the camera. The camera zooms in.

NATHAN

(continuing)

If you want it to zoom out, you push this button.

He points to the remote. The camera zooms out.

eLI

This is cool!

NATHAN

Isn't it?

ELI

(mesmerized)

Yeah.

NATHAN

What did you do in school today?

ELI

I had a spelling test today.

NATHAN

How did you do?

Bradley acts like he did bad.

ELI

Well...

(a beat)

I got a hundred percent!

Nathan grabs his head and hugs him.

NATHAN

You're so smart! You see, I told you all that studying would pay off.

ELI

Yeahhh, how do you turn this off?

NATHAN

Oh, you just push this button.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

25 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

25

ON CAMERA

Date: 07/15/2004 Time: 6:16 P.M.

Nathan and Eli are on the bed facing each other. They each have a action figure.

They are making fighting and shooting sounds.

ELI

Got you dad! You're dead!

Nathan makes his action figure fall over.

NATHAN

Ugh! I'm hit! I'm dying!

Jennifer walks in and sits by Nathan.

**JENNIFER** 

What are you guys doing?

ELI

I'm killing the forces of evil.

NATHAN

Yeah, I'm the evil one.

**JENNIFER** 

Oh, I see.

They continue to fight with the action figures. Jennifer grabs the remote.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

26 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

26

ON CAMERA

Date: 07/16/2004 Time: 3:36 P.M.

We see nothing but the inside of nostrils.

Eli pulls back and giggles. He is by himself. He sticks his finger up his nose, making goofy faces.

He turns around and points the camera at his bottom. He shakes his bottom back and forth, laughing.

JENNIFER (O.S.)

(yelling)

Eli, what are you doing?

ELI

(yelling)

Nothing! Just playing with my toys.

He looks around and leans towards the camera. He picks his nose some more.

ELI

(continuing;

whispering)

Boogers. I'm looking for boogers.

He passes gas. He quietly giggles with his hand over his mouth. He looks around again.

ELI

(continuing; whispering)

That's a fart.

He giggles a little harder.

ELI

(continuing)

That's a funny word.

He waves his hand over his lap with a disgusting look.

ELI

(continuing)

A stinky one.

He stands in front of the camera and puts his hand under his shirt, on his armpit and makes a farting sound. He giggles uncontrollably.

THE SOUND OF THE DOOR OPENING

JENNIFER (O.S.)

What's going on?

Eli quickly shoots a stare of fear towards Jennifer.

ELI

Nothing!

JENNIFER (O.S.)

Yeah, that's what I thought.
Don't play with daddy's camera.

It's not a toy.

ELI

Aw, mom. I won't break it.

Jennifer's hand grabs Eli by the arm and yanks him out of frame.

THE CAMERA SHUTS OFF

27 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

27

ON CAMERA

Date: 07/20/2004 Time: 6:17 P.M.

Nathan sits on the bed holding up three tickets for an amusement park.

**NATHAN** 

What I have here are three tickets to an amusement park for this weekend. Eli loves the rides and well, so do I. We are not going to tell him until we go. It's kind of a surprise.

He turns off the camera.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

28 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

28

OFF CAMERA

Jennifer scurries picking up clothes. Eli enters and hops on the bed.

ELI

Can I watch TV?

Jennifer grabs the remote and turns on the set.

**JENNIFER** 

Sure.

She gives the remote to Eli. He flips through the channels until he finds cartoons.

Nathan enters the room and kisses Jennifer.

**NATHAN** 

Hi. Need some help?

JENNIFER

No, I got it.

Nathan jumps onto the bed right next to Eli.

NATHAN

So, what are we watching?

Jennifer leaves the room with the laundry.

Eli's eyes are fixated on the TV.

ELI

Cartoons.

NATHAN

Alright. Can I watch them with you?

Eli shakes his head up and down.

Nathan reclines back on the pillows. He guides Eli back onto his arm. Nathan stares at Eli with a smile. Eli doesn't take his eyes off the TV.

Jennifer enters the room and sits on the other side of Eli. She combs Eli's hair with her finger. Jennifer and Nathan look at each with smiles. They all watch the TV.

FADE OUT:

29 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

29

ON CAMERA

Date: 07/23/2004 Time: 1:15 P.M.

Eli dances in front of the camera. He is by himself. He hops onto the bed and jumps up and down. He takes a some time to catch his breath.

He walks out of frame for a moment.

Eli walks back in with some action figures in his hand. He plays with the action figures up close to the camera, making "shooting and hitting" sounds.

He climbs on the bed and plays with his toys. He reaches for the remote on the night stand and points it to the camera. The camera zooms in on the toys. He continues to reenact a fighting sequence with the toys. Bored, he tosses the figures on the floor.

He looks around the room like he is searching for something.

Eli opens the drawer to the night stand. He leans over a little to see if anyone is coming. He quietly closes the bedroom door.

Eli slowly and carefully pulls out the six-shooter revolver from the night stand.

ELI (softly)

Wow.

He inspects the gun like it's a new toy.

ELI

(continuing)

This is cool.

JENNIFER (O.S.)

(shouting)

Eli, are you ready? Dad's going to be home soon then we are going out for your surprise.

ELI

(shouting)

I'm all ready mom!

He sets up his action figures on the night stand and points the camera on the figures. At close range he pretends to shoot the toys. After awhile, he paces in front of the camera looking at the gun.

Just before he walks out of frame, Eli looks down the barrel of the six-shooter.

A long tense moment.

THE SOUND OF A SINGLE GUN SHOT

A mass of blood sprays across the room.

Silence.

THE SOUND OF RUNNING FOOTSTEPS

29 CONTINUED: (2)

29

JENNIFER (O.S.)

(screaming)

Eli! Eli!

THE SOUND OF THE DOOR OPENING

OFF CAMERA

Jennifer enters the room and belts out a horrible scream.

JENNIFER

(screaming)

Eli!

ON CAMERA

Jennifer accidently knocks over the camera and it lands on the floor showing only Eli's head in a pool of blood.

OFF CAMERA

Jennifer kneels beside him with her hands shaking. carefully picks him up and cradles him in her arms.

**JENNIFER** 

(continuing)

Oh God, oh God! Don't die!

She cries and sobs.

Nervously, she reaches for the phone on the night stand and it fumbles out of her hand. She picks up the phone again and dials. She rocks the lifeless body of Eli back and forth.

**JENNIFER** 

(continuing)

Hold on baby. Help is on the way.

(on the phone)

Come on, damn it! Pick up. I need an ambulance. My son shot

himself.

(yelling)

Hurry! He's dying!

She gets a better hold of Eli and sits flat on her butt.

ON CAMERA

She accidently kicks the camera, turning it off.

29 CONTINUED: (3)

29

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

30 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

30

ON CAMERA

Date: 07/24/2004 Time: 2:48 P.M.

Nathan sits on the bed, hunched over staring at the floor, with his suit shirt unbuttoned. He shakes his head, sobbing.

NATHAN

It's all my fault. Damn it, I know better than that.

(a beat)

I left a loaded hand gun in the reach of Eli. What the hell was I thinking?

(a long beat)

I'm never going to forgive myself.

Nathan, with both hands, grabs his hair.

NATHAN

(continuing; yelling)

Oh God...!

He breaks down and lets it all out. He thrashes the room, throwing everything in reach.

He rushes over to the camera and picks it up over his head. He screams as loud as he can.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

31 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

31

ON CAMERA

Date: 07/25/2004 Time: 3;16 P.M.

Nathan sits on the floor leaning against the bed. He looks like he hasn't slept in days.

NATHAN

The funeral is in two days. Umm, it will be nice. Umm...

He lowers his head and cries.

THE SOUND OF THE DOOR OPENING

Jennifer sits beside him and wraps her arms around him, patting him on the back. He cries even more.

**NATHAN** 

(continuing)

I'm sorry.

JENNIFER

(softly)

Shhh, it's not your fault. Shhh, it was an accident.

She sheds a tear.

JENNIFER

(continuing)

Eli is in heaven now.

She looks at the camera and picks up the remote.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

# 32 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jennifer and Nathan enters the room. Nathan is wearing a black suit and Jennifer is wearing a black dress.

Jennifer heads to the closet. She pauses for a moment and starts to cry. Nathan turns towards her with his head down.

## SERIES OF SHOTS

- A) Nathan walks up behind her and wraps his arms around her.
- B) Jennifer turns and embraces Nathan.
- C) Jennifer, crying, bangs on Nathan's chest.
- D) Nathan tries to calm her down.
- E) Jennifer sits on the bed with a blank look.

CONTINUED

32

F) Nathan sits on the floor staring into nothing.

FADE OUT:

33 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

33

ON CAMERA

Date: 07/28/2004 Time: 8:43 P.M.

Nathan lounges on the unmade bed. He tries to sport a happy face.

**NATHAN** 

Yesterday was Eli's funeral. It went well. Very beautiful. Like Jennifer said, he's in heaven...

(a beat)

now.

He drops to his knees and cries. He slowly raises his head towards the ceiling.

NATHAN

(continuing; softly)
God, he's in your hands now.

He slumps down and turns off the camera.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

34 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

34

Date: 08/01/2004 Time: 1:34 P.M.

Nathan lays on the bed dressed in jeans and a t-shirt.

NATHAN

I took the next few days off work.

I don't feel like seeing anyone.

He holds up a 8x10 framed picture of Eli and stares at it for a few moments. He sets the picture aside.

OFF CAMERA

Jennifer walks in and sits next to him. She too looks like she hasn't slept in days.

**JENNIFER** 

Are you okay?

NATHAN

Yeah, I'm fine.

ON CAMERA

She lays by him, comforting each other. Nathan reaches for the remote on the night stand and turns off the camera.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

35 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

35

Nathan stares at the picture of Eli. He takes swigs from a JACK DANIELS bottle.

THE SOUND OF THE DOOR TRYING TO OPEN

JENNIFER (O.S.)

Nathan, the door is locked.

ON CAMERA

He grabs his hair in frustration.

Date: 08/08/2004 Time: 2:43 P.M.

**NATHAN** 

I know.

JENNIFER (O.S.)

Well, open it!

NATHAN

I don't want to be bothered.

JENNIFER (O.S.)

I want to talk to you.

Nathan sets down the picture and gets up.

THE SOUND OF THE DOOR UNLOCKING

OFF CAMERA

Nathan sits back on the bed with the picture. Jennifer enters.

JENNIFER

What have you been doing up here all this time?

NATHAN

Thinking.

She snags the bottle from Nathan.

**JENNIFER** 

Thinking?

She holds up the bottle.

JENNIFER

(continuing)

Is this how you think? By hibernating up here drinking?

NATHAN

Jennifer, I swear, I don't need this now.

She chucks the bottle on the wall, shattering it.

**JENNIFER** 

(yelling)

I'm going through this too, Nathan! You're not the only one! What about me? You spend all your time up here, away from me! I have feelings too!

(crying)

We lost a son. I don't want an alcoholic husband on top of it. Don't do this to yourself.

NATHAN

Please...

(a beat)

just let me be.

**JENNIFER** 

You are killing yourself.

35 CONTINUED: (2)

35

NATHAN

You don't understand. It's my fault he's dead.

JENNIFER

No, it's not.

Jennifer storms off. Nathan gets up.

NATHAN (O.S.)

(yelling)

It's my fault!

She renters the room.

JENNIFER

(softly)

Did you ever stop to think that I blamed myself too? Thinking that I'm a horrible mother for not being a responsible parent. But I came to terms that this is a horrible accident. You need to realize that too.

THE SOUND OF THE DOOR SLAMMING

Nathan opens up the night stand drawer and pulls out another bottle of JACK. He sits back on the bed and cracks it open, taking a swig.

ON CAMERA

**NATHAN** 

(softly)

Shit...

He grabs the remote and turns the camera off.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

36 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

36

Nathan paces eating an egg roll. He's on the phone.

37

36 CONTINUED: 36

NATHAN

Yeah, hi. I'm just calling to say I need a few more days.

(a pause)

I don't know, Phil. But I will keep in touch.

(a pause)

Okay, bye.

He hangs up the phone.

FADE OUT:

#### 37 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

The bedroom is getting worse and worse. Little bits of trash has accumulated here and there. Nathan is kicking back on the bed staring at the ceiling.

Jennifer enters. She looks around the trashy room and shakes her head in disgust.

JENNIFER

Would it be asking too much to pick up a little.

NATHAN

Yes, it would.

She picks up wrappers off the floor.

JENNIFER

Nathan, why don't we have another child? You know, it will bring happiness into our lives.

NATHAN

That won't replace Eli.

**JENNIFER** 

I know it won't. Nobody will replace Eli. Eli will always be special. He will always have a place in our heart. But another child will complete us.

Nathan turns and stares at Jennifer.

NATHAN

(sarcastically)

Really? You think so?

**JENNIFER** 

Yeah, I think so.

**NATHAN** 

Well, I think you're wrong. Having another child is not going to bring me happiness or make me forget about Eli.

JENNIFER

No, of course not. But what I am trying to do is to get on with our life.

Nathan stands up as so does Jennifer.

**NATHAN** 

Well, I think you're fucked in the head!

She lands a hard slap across Nathan's face.

**JENNIFER** 

I can't take you anymore! You haven't been to work in over a month and you're drinking yourself to death! You need to pull yourself together!

(a pause)

Let me know when you got your act together. I'm staying at my mothers.

She takes off out of the room.

NATHAN

(yelling)

Fine! Leave! I don't need you!

He swipes a JACK DANIELS bottle off the top of the night stand and takes a swig. He pauses for a second.

NATHAN

(continuing)

Wait, Jennifer. Don't leave.

37 CONTINUED: (2)

37

JENNIFER (O.S.)

You don't need me. You have

yourself.

38 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

38

ON CAMERA

Date: 08/27/2004 Time: 3:23 P.M.

Nathan sits on the bed, leaning forward.

NATHAN

Jennifer deserves better. I mean, she's a great and wonderful wife.

(a beat)

Umm...I'm worth more dead then alive. She can collect on the insurance. I...I...just want what's best for her.

(a beat)

I hope she comes back.

He reaches towards the camera.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

39 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

39

Nathan, a little loopy, is reclining on the bed with nothing but his boxers. The room is a little dirtier than before. Beer cans and whiskey bottles accent the room nicely.

Mozart plays in the background.

The phone rings. Eager, Nathan picks it up.

**NATHAN** 

(on the phone)

Hello? This is Nathan Hails. Nathan Hails speaking. How can I

help you?

(more)

NATHAN (cont'd)

(a pause)

Yes, Phil.

(a pause)

Yes, I will be into work tomorrow.

(a pause)

Yes, thank you.

(a pause)

Yes, thank you for the second chance. Okay.

He hangs up the phone.

He laughs hysterically. His laughter dies down as his eyes rest upon the picture of Eli. He takes a moment to look at the picture. His eyes water up.

FADE OUT:

40 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

40

ON CAMERA

Date: 09/18/2004 Time: 1:32 P.M.

Nathan sits on the floor, Indian style. The picture of Eli stands across from him.

Nathan is building a house with LEGOS.

NATHAN

(to picture)

Isn't this neat, Eli?

(to camera)

We're almost done!

(to picture)

What? You don't want to do this anymore? Okay, what do you want

to do?

He leans forward towards the picture.

NATHAN

(continuing)

Okay. I'll put it on right now.

Nathan stands up and heads to the closet. He shoves garbage and dirty clothes out of the way. He opens the closet and flips through his wardrobe.

He pulls out the t-shirt with "Best Buds" on it. He yanks of his stain ridden shirt and pulls on the "Best Buds" shirt. He models it in front of the picture.

NATHAN

(continuing)

Well, what do you think?

(a pause)

Oh, no. I won't ever take it off.

Nathan glances at the camera and turns it off.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

41 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

41

ON CAMERA

Date: 09/23/2004 Time: 2:19 P.M.

Nathan is on the bed with the picture facing him. He holds two action figures. He reenacts a fighting sequence with the toys.

NATHAN

Oh, you got me Eli! I'm dead! Ugh!

He makes one of the figures fall over.

NATHAN

(continuing)

When I see you again we will have plenty of time to play.

He glances over to the camera. He bolts up.

NATHAN

(continuing)

Why can't you leave us alone?

He turns off the camera.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

42

INI. DEDROOM DA

ON CAMERA

Date: 10/16/2004 Time: 3:52 P.M.

Nathan sits on the bed looking tired and weak. He is chugging down a bottle of "Jack" like there's no tomorrow.

**NATHAN** 

Well, I found out today that our house fell through. Jennifer is not going to be happy about that.

He laughs a little.

NATHAN

(continuing)

Speaking of Jennifer...

He picks up the phone and dials. He waits.

NATHAN

(continuing)

Hello?

(a pause)

Hi mom, how are things going?

(a pause)

Is Jennifer around?

(a pause)

What do you mean she doesn't want to talk to me? Just put her on the phone.

(a pause)

Please...

(a pause, yelling)

Put her on the Goddamn phone!

He chucks the phone.

NATHAN

(continuing)

She doesn't want anything to do with me? I'd bet she wants a divorce.

(a pause)

Yeah, she does.

He turns off the camera.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

43

43 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

ON CAMERA

Date: 10/27/2004 Time: 9:47 P.M.

Nathan sits on the bed holding a stack of mail. He looks horrible.

**NATHAN** 

Mail came today. I'm just getting around to looking at it. Let's see what we have.

He throws each piece of mail on the floor.

**NATHAN** 

(continuing)

Bill, bill, bill, junk mail, bill...

He pauses to read one coupon.

NATHAN

(continuing)

Oh, hold up. What do we have here?

He holds up a coupon to the camera.

NATHAN

(continuing)

Check this out. If I buy one pizza at regular price which I would guess is around twenty-six to let's say twenty-eight bucks, I get the second one half price.

(sarcastically)

w! Now that's a deal!

He tosses the coupon one the floor. He continues to flip through the bills.

He stops and inspects one bill.

NATHAN

(continuing)

Past due! What? When was this?

He quickly tears open the bill and checks the date on it.

NATHAN

(continuing)

A month ago?

He takes the bill and rips it up, throwing it into the air.

NATHAN

(continuing)

To hell with them!

He turns off the camera.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

44 INT, BEDROOM - NIGHT

44

ON CAMERA

Date: 10/31/2004 Time: 5:45 P.M.

Nathan sits Indian style on the bed. Empty fast food wrappers and beer cans and Jack Daniels bottles line the bed. Melancholy sets in.

THE SOUND OF A KNOCK AT THE FRONT DOOR

Nathan snaps out it.

CHILD'S VOICE (O.S.)

(faint)

Trick or treat.

Nathan sits up and chucks an empty beer can at the door.

NATHAN

(shouting)

Go away.

He lays back down trying to relax.

A few moments pass.

ANOTHER KNOCK AT THE DOOR

Nathan gets up in anger and rushes to the bedroom door.

NATHAN

(continuing)

For the last time...

The voice of EDWARD sounds raspy like a heavy smoker, he is an old man.

Nathan stops in his tracks.

EDWARD (O.S.)

(shouting)

Mr. Hails! Are you in there? This is Edward!

THE SOUND OF A KNOCK

Nathan slowly walks backwards towards the bed.

EDWARD (O.S.)

(continuing; shouting)

Mr. Hails! I haven't receive your rent in two months.

Nathan freaks out and trips onto the floor. Trash flings everywhere. He hides behind the bed.

EDWARD (O.S.)

(continuing)

Look Mr. Hails, I know what happened and I'm sorry. So, I'm willing to wait, but I got bills to pay.

THE SOUND OF THE DOOR KNOCKING

Nathan pokes his head up just above the bed. He puts his index finger over his mouth.

EDWARD (O.S.)

(continuing; shouting)

If you're in there please bring by the rent. Thank you. Have a good day.

Nathan stealthily slides back on to the bed. He listens to Edward walking away. He continues to drink and bangs his fist against his head.

44 CONTINUED: (2)

44

**NATHAN** 

Help, help, help...

FADE OUT:

45 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

45

ON CAMERA

Date: 11/15/2004 Time: 2:16 P.M.

Nathan slouches on the bed with a TV dinner.

**NATHAN** 

I'm having some soggy chicken, rock hard green beans, and dry mashed potatoes.

He chows down. Food falls onto his shirt.

The phone rings. He picks it up.

NATHAN

(continuing)

Hello, the Pope speaking!

(a pause)

Oh, hi Phil. How are you?

(a pause)

I'm wonderful. Thanks for asking.

(a pause)

Yes, really. I'm fine.

(a pause)

Well, I know I haven't been to work in over three months, but cut me a break.

(a pause)

I will come in.

(a pause)

Yes, tomorrow.

He hangs up the phone.

NATHAN

(continuing)

I guess I'm needed at work.

He laughs hysterically, then silence.

He turns off the camera.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

46 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

46

ON CAMERA

Date: 11/16/2004 Time: 1:18 P.M.

Nathan leans against the bed combing his greasy hair. His eyes stare into nothing.

He is wearing a wrinkled dress shirt and a red tie that's crooked. His beard is out of control and scraggly.

He snaps out of it.

**NATHAN** 

I'm going into work. Can't wait to see everyone.

He leans forward towards the camera.

**NATHAN** 

(continuing)

How do I look?

He licks his finger and tries to slick part of his hair back.

**NATHAN** 

(continuing)

Later.

He turns off the camera.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

47 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

47

OFF CAMERA

Nathan enters the room and rips off his tie tossing it on the floor. He tears off his dress shirt revealing the "Best Buds" shirt underneath.

He sits on the bed and turns on the camera.

Date: 11/16/2004 Time: 5:17 P.M.

#### NATHAN

So, get a load of this shit. went into work and instead of actually working, Phil offers counseling. I said "counseling". I don't need counseling. And then he said, "I'm not well". well? What does he consider well? Because I know I'm well. Then... out of the blue he gives me an ultimatum. Either I go to counseling or I no longer have a I said that I don't believe in counseling and that I would miss him. He shook my hand and that was it. Ten years with him and the bank. It's all over just like that.

(a pause)

Whatever...

He turns off the camera.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

## 48 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

The bed can barely be seen with all the trash and clothes everywhere. Nathan tries to get comfy on the bed. He holds up the picture of Eli.

## **NATHAN**

(to picture)

Today is Thanksgiving. I wish you and your mother were here with me.

(a beat)

I can't wait to see you again. We are going to have so much fun.

(a beat)

What's that?

(a beat)

Soon.

FADE OUT:

48

49

# 49 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

The sounds of Mozart fills the room.

Nathan sits motionless on the floor in a pile of trash. A few moments pass and without warning he goes ballistic like he's having a seizure then he stops.

He frantically searches the filthy room. He finds a black magic marker. He clears a space in front of the wall. He starts writing "I'm sorry" over and over on the wall.

A single tear rolls down his cheek.

## 50 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

50

ON CAMERA

Date: 12/12/2004 Time: 2:56 P.M.

Nathan's white t-shirt is now full of holes and stained. He looks very ill. He sits on the trashy bed with the same revolver that Eli shot himself with.

He opens the gun and holds it up to the camera showing that all the chambers are empty. He takes a single bullet and licks it. He places the bullet in one of the chambers.

He spins the chamber and slaps it shut, immediately placing the barrel tight against his head. He struggles, trying to pull the trigger, breathing heavily. He pulls the trigger. Nothing.

He lowers the gun and starts to cry.

He knocks over the camera which turns it off.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

#### 51 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

51

ON CAMERA

Date: 12/20/2004 Time: 12:18 P.M.

Nathan lays on the bed making origami out of the wrappers from the fast food.

NATHAN

(to camera)

I'm trying to make a swan.

THE SOUND OF A KNOCK AT THE FRONT DOOR

OFF CAMERA

Nathan panics and leaps off the bed hiding behind it. He pokes his head up.

EDWARD (O.S.)

(shouting)

Mr. Hails! This is Edward! I need the rent! I'm way behind on the bills!

Nathan points to the bedroom door like he is holding a gun. He pretends to fires a few shots.

THE SOUND OF KNOCKING AT THE DOOR

EDWARD (O.S.)

(continuing; shouting)

Mr. Hails! Are you in there? I got to have the rent!

Nathan listens closely to hear Edward walking away. Nathan slowly raises his middle finger.

ON CAMERA

He gets up and paces in front of the camera.

NATHAN

I'm a little hungry. What should I have?

He stops and shoves his face in the camera.

NATHAN

(continuing; Chinese

accent)

I think I'm going to have chicken fried rice. Sound good, yes? Chicken fried rice. Chicken fried rice.

He does a little dance and turns off the camera.

51 CONTINUED: (2)

51

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

52 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

52

The room is dark except for the sunlight that shines on Nathan. He continues to write on the wall.

FADE OUT:

53 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

53

ON CAMERA

Date: 12/24/2004 Time: 3:32 P.M.

Nathan stands with his hands on his hips. He holds a feather duster.

He shakes his head in disgust.

**NATHAN** 

It's cleaning day. This place is a mess! Damn Nathan, you don't have to live like a pig.

He careful lifts wrappers, dusting under them and placing them back. He dusts the dresser that is covered with empty beer cans. The cans fall all over the floor.

He picks up the cans and very neatly places them back on the dresser.

He walks up to the camera and starts to dust it.

The camera shuts off.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

54 INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

54

ON CAMERA

Date: 12/25/2004 Time: 8:43 A.M.

Nathan, with a huge smile, holds up a poorly wrapped present.

NATHAN

Okay.

Nathan quickly opens the gift like he was a kid again. He holds up a new action figure.

NATHAN

(continuing)

Look! I went to the toy store and asked what their newest and most popular action figure was and they said this. You like?

The sound of the phone ringing. Nathan pauses to hear the phone. It rings a few more times as Nathan lowers his head.

NATHAN (V.O.)

(answering machine)

Hello, you have reached the Hails. Sorry we are not here, but if you would leave a message we will get back with you. Thank you.

JENNIFER (V.O.)

(answering machine)

It's Jennifer. Just called to say Merry Christmas. I hope...

Nathan turns off the camera.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

55 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

55

Nathan enters the room with a plastic bag. He clears a spot on the trash ridden bed. He dumps the bag out which is all black magic markers.

He goes to his CD player and pushes play. As Mozart plays Nathan takes a deep breath and moves his hand with the music.

He grabs a magic marker and opens it. He starts to write on the wall.

FADE OUT:

56 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

56

ON CAMERA

Date: 01/18/2005 Time: 4:12 P.M.

Nathan sits on the bed with some papers. He holds them up to the camera.

**NATHAN** 

You know what this is? Yep, you guessed it. These are divorce papers.

He flips through the papers.

**NATHAN** 

(continuing)

I'm not going to sign these.

He rips the papers up and tosses them into the air like it's confetti. He grabs his bottle of "Jack" and takes a few gulps.

He turns off the camera with the remote.

SCREEN GOES BLACK

57 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

57

ON CAMERA

Date: 01/24/2005 Time: 2:52 P.M.

Nathan kicks back on the bed. He stares at the picture of Eli. He places the picture on the night stand and glances at digital clock.

He bolts up and runs around the room like a chicken with it's head cut off.

NATHAN

Oh my God! I'm late for work! Shit!

He rushes over to the closet and frantically throws all different kinds of shirts and suit jackets onto the bed. He looks at the suits and thinks for a moment, slowing down.

He tries to match a shirt with a suit jacket. He picks up a shirt and jacket then swings around towards the camera. He holds them up as if he is modeling them.

**NATHAN** 

(continuing)

What do you think? Does this look good?

He scopes out the outfit.

**NATHAN** 

(continuing)

Yeah, it's good!

He casually gets dressed. He throws on a different pair of blue jeans.

Nathan turns his butt to the camera.

NATHAN

(continuing)

Wait a second. This doesn't match.

He lets out a sick laugh, then suddenly frowns. He stops and thinks for a moment.

NATHAN

(continuing)

I don't work anymore. I'm losing it... losing it... no I'm not.

He takes his time to undress. He tosses the shirt and jacket on the floor. He slips on his stained t-shirt.

He yawns as he turns off the camera.

SCREEN GOES BLACK

58

58 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Nathan continues to write on the wall. He takes a few gulps from his good friend, Jack Daniels.

The phone rings.

Nathan stops writing.

The phone continues to ring. The answering machine picks up.

NATHAN (V.O.)

(answering machine)

Hello, you have reached the Hails. Sorry we are not here, but if you would leave a message we will get back with you. Thank you.

JENNIFER (V.O.)

(answering machine)

Nathan. Are you there? Pick up. We still haven't received the papers. Just make this easy for the both of us. Sign them.

Nathan shakes his head and turns off the camera.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

59 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

59

ON CAMERA

Date: 02/12/2005 Time: 5:24 P.M.

Nathan leans against the bed. He holds a picture of him, Jennifer, and Eli. Tears start to flow.

NATHAN

I just want my family back. Like it use to be.

He takes a drink of Jack Daniels.

NATHAN

(continuing)

That's all I want.

(a beat)

I guess that's not going to happen.

He lays the picture down. He starts to rub his stomach. He looks around the trash and pulls out the pizza coupon with the "great deal".

He picks up the phone and dials. He waits.

NATHAN

(continuing; on the

phone)

Yeah, give me a pepperoni and on the second one ham.

(a pause)

Yeah, I got a coupon here that if I buy one at regular price I get the second half off.

(a pause)

How long?

(a pause)

Thanks.

He hangs up the phone. He snags a magic marker and stands up to admire his work.

One whole wall is completely full. He proceeds to start on the second wall.

60 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

60

ON CAMERA

Date: 02/21/2005 Time: 4:11 P.M.

Nathan is making a pyramid out of beer cans.

The phone rings which startles Nathan and the pyramid falls over.

Nathan stops and pauses.

The phone rings and rings.

NATHAN (V.O.)

(answering machine)

Hello, you have reached the Hails. Sorry we are not here, but if you would leave a message we will get back with you. Thank you.

JENNIFER (V.O.)

(answering machine)

Nathan, pick up the phone. It's Jennifer.

Nathan slowly walks towards the phone.

JENNIFER (V.O.)

(continuing;

answering machine)

I know you're there. Come on, pick up.

Nathan's shaky hand hovers over the phone.

JENNIFER (V.O.)

(continuing;

answering machine)

Where are the divorce papers?

Nathan's hand clinches into a fist. He walks to the camera.

JENNIFER (V.O.)

(continuing;

answering machine)

My attorney hasn't received them yet.

He turns off the camera.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

61 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

61

ON CAMERA

Date: 03/04/2005 Time: 1:57 P.M.

Nathan is hanging a thin rope from a hook that is sticking out from the ceiling. He ties one end to the bed post. He checks the length to make sure it's not too long.

He places a small step stool right underneath the rope. He climbs on the stool and ties the other end around his neck. He gives the rope a couple of tugs and takes in a deep breath.

Nathan rocks the stool and it tips over. He struggles and coughs as the rope tightens around his neck. The hook comes out of the ceiling and he falls to the floor.

Nathan gasps for air, coughing. He loosens the rope and takes it off his head. He rubs his neck.

He trashes the room, throwing everything he can. He rushes over to the camera and grabs it, pulling it close to his face.

NATHAN

(wicked voice)

I will come!

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

62 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

62

ON CAMERA

Date: 03/21/2005 Time:

Nathan sits hunched over on the bed scarfing down some cold stale pizza.

He quickly swings his head to his side.

NATHAN

(yelling, at camera)

What do you want? Leave me alone!

He continues to eat his pizza. He stares right into the camera.

NATHAN

(continuing)

What do you want? Huh? What do you want?

Nathan reaches forward and lightly slaps the side of the camera. The camera shakes a little.

NATHAN

(continuing)

Stop looking at me.

He slaps it once again, turning it off.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

63 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

63

ON CAMERA

Date: 04/13/2005 Time: 7:43 P.M.

Nathan squats on the floor like a caveman scarfing down some donuts from "BUNGLE DONUTS". Chocolate is smeared on his face.

THE SOUND OF A KNOCK AT THE DOOR

EDWARD (O.S.)

(shouting)

Nathan! I know you're in there. I know because you get your mail. I don't want to be mean, but I need the rent and past rent. I can't afford to pay all of your bills.

Nathan looks around and scurrys behind the bed. He pops up holding the gun.

EDWARD (O.S.)

(continuing; shouting)

I like you and don't want to, but I have no choice. I'm taking legal actions.

THE SOUND OF ANOTHER KNOCK

EDWARD (O.S.)

(continuing; shouting)

Nathan! Can you hear me?

Nathan scatters underneath the window sill.

The blinds are closed. The silhouette of Edward peeking through the window.

EDWARD (O.S.)

(continuing; shouting)

Nathan!

Edward leaves.

Nathan jumps up and aims the remote at the camera turning it off.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

64 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

64

ON CAMERA

Date: 04/14/2005 Time: 2:13 P.M.

Nathan sits on the bed holding up an eviction notice.

He casually whips out a cigarette lighter and burns the notice.

NATHAN

That's what I think about your notice.

He leans forward and turns off the camera.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

65 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

65

Nathan, looking sick, saunters in the room carrying a plastic bag full of stuff. He stops by the phone and pushes a button.

DAVID (V.O.)

(answering machine)

Hello Mr. Hails. This is David at "Five Star Credit". I'm calling to say that you are late on your credit card payments. We need...

Nathan pushes another button and erases the message. He pushes play on the CD player. His favorite Mozart makes him smile.

With his arm, he wipes all of the garbage off the night stand. He places the plastic bag on top and reaches in. He sets two bottles of generic sleeping pills on the stand. He also pulls out a new bottle of water.

He takes a deep breath and opens one of the bottles of sleeping pills. He tips the whole bottle in his mouth.

He chases it down with the water. He quickly opens the other bottle and shoves the pills down. He finishes the bottle of water.

He slowly lays back on the bed and closes his eyes. A few moments past and he begins to grab his stomach. Suddenly, he sits up and vomits the pills all over himself.

He begins to cry.

FADE OUT:

## 66 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

66

The room is quiet and dark.

The phone rings.

The phone continues to ring. The answering machine picks up.

NATHAN (V.O.)

(answering machine)

Hello, you have reached the Hails. Sorry we are not here, but if you would leave a message we will get back with you. Thank you.

JENNIFER (V.O.)

(answering machine)

Nathan, Nathan, please pick up.

(a pause)

I... I just wanted to say I still love you.

(a pause)

There's something I needed to tell you for awhile. I feel guilty for hiding this from you.

(a pause)

I'm pregnant.

(a pause)

I didn't want to tell you because I knew how you felt about having another child. I love you very much. I don't want a divorce. And I know that you don't. I want to see if we can work things out. I miss you.

(more)

JENNIFER (cont'd; V.O.)

(a pause)

I hope you get this and maybe you can forgive me. I will stop by Friday.

(a pause)
I love you, Nathan.

THE SOUND OF THE MESSAGE ENDING

Nathan walks in the room carrying fast food. He stops by the phone and notices that the message button is flashing. He pushes the play button.

MALE VOICE (V.O.) (answering machine)

Mr. Hails. This is David again. We still haven't received the...

In anger, Nathan rips out the cord and throws the phone against the wall. It shatters into pieces.

He kicks back on the bed and eats his food.

FADE OUT:

67 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

67

ON CAMERA

Date: 05/15/2005 Time: 11:59 P.M.

Nathan's face is up close to the camera. He looks empty.

He takes the cap off of a stick of red lipstick. He carefully puts on the lipstick, puckering his lips. He smiles.

He continues to apply more and more, until the lipstick is smeared all over his mouth.

He laughs uncontrollably. He turns off the camera.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

68

# 68 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nathan is sitting down with his arms on top of the bed. In his right hand he holds the gun. His "Best Buds" shirt barley looks like a shirt. He has a glare of evil in his eyes.

A spider crawls up his arm. He doesn't take notice.

THE SOUND OF A HARD KNOCK AT THE FRONT DOOR

EDWARD (O.S.)

(shouting)

Mr. Hails, would you open the door. This is Edward. I'm sorry but I brought the police with me. I didn't know what else to do. I tried...

Nathan slowly turns towards the noise, but doesn't get up.

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS (O.S.)

(faint, interrupting)

Thank you Edward, we can take it from here.

THE SOUND OF ANOTHER KNOCK

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS (O.S.)

(continuing; shouting)

Mr. Hails? This is Detective Chambers! I have Detective Warner with me! Please open the door! We just want to talk!

Nathan, in no rush, loads his gun.

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS (O.S.)

(continuing; faint)

Okay, I don't think he is going to open the door. Edward, would you please?

THE SOUND OF THE FRONT DOOR UNLOCKING

SCATTERING FOOTSTEPS

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS (O.S.)

(continuing; faint)

Warner! Check that room.

MORE SOUNDS OF FOOTSTEPS

Nathan slaps the chamber shut.

DETECTIVE WARNER (O.S.) (faint)

Clear!

THE SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS GETTING CLOSER

Nathan turns on the camera and stares right into it.

**NATHAN** 

(softly)

Here we go.

He turns on the camera.

ON CAMERA

Date: 05/16/2005 Time: 6:40 P.M.

THE SOUND OF THE BEDROOM DOOR SHAKING

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS (O.S.)

It's locked! Kick it open!

THE SOUND OF THE BEDROOM DOOR GETTING KICKED AND SWINGING OPEN

The noise and commotion startles Nathan and he drops the gun onto the trash ridden floor. He franticly searches the floor.

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS (O.S.)

(continuing)

Mr. Hails! Stop! We aren't going to hurt you.

OFF CAMERA

Nathan grabs a shinny object and quickly runs to the bedroom corner. He hides the object behind his back, out of sight.

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS and DETECTIVE WARNER walk in. They are both in shirts and ties and huge as linebackers. Each clearly have a badge and gun mounted on their hips.

Detective Warner is taken back by the stench. He places his hand on his gun.

68 CONTINUED: (2)

68

ON CAMERA

Nathan has a look of fear in his eyes.

OFF CAMERA

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS

Mr. Hails, are you alright?

He proceeds to Nathan.

**NATHAN** 

Stay where you are!

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS

Mr. Hails...

(to WARNER)

What's his first name again?

DETECTIVE WARNER

Nathan. I think Edward said

Nathan.

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS

Nathan, are you alright?

ON CAMERA

Nathan starts to shake.

OFF CAMERA

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS

(continuing)

We are not going to hurt you. I'm Detective Chambers and next to me is Detective Warner. All we want to do is talk. Can we talk?

Nathan shakes a little more.

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS

(continuing)

You don't look well. Can we get someone over here to check you out?

(to Detective Warner)

Call an ambulance.

Detective Warner goes for his radio.

68 CONTINUED: (3)

68

Nathan freaks out.

NATHAN

(yelling)

Don't make that call! Don't do it! It doesn't matter anymore!

Detective Chambers grabs Warner's hand, stopping him.

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS

Okay, okay, it's all cool. We won't make the call. Whatever you want.

Nathan is still and silent.

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS

(continuing)

You can tell us. We are all friends here.

NATHAN

What do you do when everything is taken away from you?

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS

Edward told me about your loss. I'm sorry.

Detective Warner scopes out the walls. He bumps Chambers arm. Chambers takes his eyes off Nathan to glance at the walls.

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS

(continuing)

I'm so sorry for your loss, Nathan. I understand your pain.

Nathan, with a dark stare, looks into Detective Chambers' eyes.

ON CAMERA

NATHAN

Do you have any children?

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS

No, no I don't.

68 CONTINUED: (4)

68

**NATHAN** 

(yelling)

Then how can you understand my pain?

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS
You're right. You're absolutely
right. Nathan, let us get you
some help. We can help.

NATHAN

No you can't. No one can bring my son back.

OFF CAMERA

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS

No, we can't bring him back but we can get you some help to cope with your loss. Please, let us help you. People just like you go through the same thing that you're going through.

**NATHAN** 

It's all my fault.

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS
Don't say that. You can't blame
yourself for your son's death.

NATHAN

It's all my fault. I'm so sorry, so sorry.

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS

It's not your fault.

NATHAN

(yelling)

You don't understand! Nobody does! How come nobody can understand that! It's all my fault!

Detective Chambers holds out his hand.

68

68 CONTINUED: (5)

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS

(sincere)

Okay, okay, I believe you. Please... Nathan... my friend, take my hand and we can leave here together. That's all you need to do. Take my hand.

NATHAN

Nothing could help. It's all over.

(a beat)

I've got a gun.

Detective Chambers and Warner take their guns out.

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS

Okay, Nathan, put the gun down, please. Don't do this.

NATHAN

It's all over.

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS

No it's not. Just put the gun down, Nathan.

NATHAN

It's my fault.

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS

We can work through it.

NATHAN

I'm coming.

Detective Warner gives Detective Chambers a complex look.

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS

What?

NATHAN

I'm coming.

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS

Nathan, put the gun down. Please, I'm begging you. Don't do this.

68 CONTINUED: (6)

68

**NATHAN** 

(yelling)

Daddy's coming! Eli... I'm coming!

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS

(yelling)

Put the gun down!

# 69 INT. DINING ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

69

At Nathan's birthday party.

Nathan has Eli on his lap. Eli blowing out the candles on the cake. Nathan kisses him on the cheek. They laugh.

#### 70 INT. BEDROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

70

Nathan and Eli playing with the action figures. They laugh.

#### 71 INT. BEDROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

71

Nathan tickles Eli as they both laugh.

# 72 INT. BEDROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

72

Nathan, Jennifer, and Eli sitting on the bed watching TV.

ZOOM IN ON THEIR FACES AND FREEZE FRAME.

BACK TO SCENE

Nathan belts out a horrible scream. He raises the object at Detective Chambers.

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS

(yelling)

No!

Detective Chambers and Warner each fire a round into Nathan.

Nathan's "Best Buds" t-shirt quickly turns red covering up the picture of Nathan and Eli. Sliding down the wall, he looks at his wounds.

Detective Chambers rushes over to Nathan. He holds him in his arms.

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS

(continuing; to

Detective Warner)

Call an ambulance! Goddamn it!

Nathan has a peaceful smile on his face as he coughs up blood.

In the background we can hear Warner calling in an ambulance.

NATHAN

Thank you.

(a beat)

Now I can see my boy. That's all I wanted. To see my boy again.

Nathan starts to sob.

NATHAN

(continuing; softly)

Daddy's coming. Daddy's coming.

Nathan's last bit of life leaves. He goes limp.

Detective Chambers squeezes Nathan's arm in anger.

DETECTIVE WARNER

Chambers, the weapon.

Detective Chambers reaches down the side of Nathan and holds up the remote. He turns around to show Detective Warner the remote.

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS

He didn't have a gun.

(a beat)

Shit.

Detective Warner looks around the room in awe.

DETECTIVE WARNER

Chambers. Take a good look around you.

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS

I'm sorry...

72

72 CONTINUED: (2)

DETECTIVE WARNER

Yeah, over and over again. He wrote it a least a thousand times. This has been eating him up for some time.

THE SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS

JENNIFER (O.S.)

Nathan! Why is the front door opened?

(a beat)

Are you home? Did you get my message?

Jennifer, with a protruding belly, walks in and sees Detective Chambers holding Nathan's body. She's in shock.

JENNIFER

(softly)

No... God no...

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS

(to Detective Warner)

Grab her!

Warner rushes over to Jennifer and holds her tight.

JENNIFER

(screaming)

Nathan! No!

She freaks out and cries, trying to break free.

**JENNIFER** 

(continuing;

screaming)

Let me see him! Let me go!

DETECTIVE CHAMBERS

(shouting)

Get her out of here!

Detective Warner manages to get her out of the room.

JENNIFER (O.S.)

(screaming)

No, Nathan! God no!

# 72 CONTINUED: (3)

72

Detective Chambers wipes his hand over Nathan's eyes, closing them.

ON CAMERA

He points the remote at the camera.

SILENCE

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

THE SOUND OF JENNIFER'S SCREAM

SILENCE

ROLL CREDITS

72 CONTINUED: (4)

72