

THE LUNCHROOM

Episode 5x15

"The Beginning of the End"

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TEASER

BLACKNESS. Tires squeal moments before a loud CRASH.

REICTHER (O.S.)  
What the fuck was that?

LAURA (O.S.)  
Reichter!

REICTHER (O.S.)  
Sorry. What the hell was that?

FADE IN:

EXT. REICTHER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

REICTHER and LAURA PENTECOST run out onto the rain-slicked streets to see a Van, an Oldsmobile, and a SUV mashed together like a metal conga line that drunkenly hit a wall.

The van opens. BRIAN VANDELE and JOSEPH SAÏD stagger out. Brian looks at the destroyed grocery bag in this hands.

BRIAN  
Aw shit! The creamsicles! They're  
all crushed.

KIRK slides out of the driver's side and walks around to the front, pissed more than anything.

KIRK  
The one time! The one goddamn time  
I'm not high I get into an  
accident! That's it! I'm just gonna  
travel with a bong at all times.

REICTHER  
(shakes head)  
You're an idiot.

JOSEPH  
I think my acid is finally  
kicking in. My arm is feeling all  
numb and shit.

Joseph lifts his arm to reveal it's broken with almost every finger bending in a direction it shouldn't. It also appears to be dislocated from the elbow.

Everyone is horrified except for Joseph who giggles.

(CONTINUED)

JOSEPH  
(giggling)  
Man, acid really messes with your  
mind.

BROCK WARNER rolls out of the passenger's side of the SUV and crashes to the ground. Brian, Joseph, and Laura move towards him as he coughs up enough blood to freak everyone out.

LAURA  
Oh my God!

REICTHER  
Dude! I think he just coughed up  
some glass! That's tits!

Laura rushes to check his chest.

BROCK  
(in pain)  
Pleh. SUV's should only be driven  
by white old bitches.

Brock notices Laura checking his chest.

BROCK  
Hey Reichter...who's the girl who's  
feeling me up?

REICTHER  
Oh, Laura this is Brock Warner.  
Brock this is Laura Pentecost.

Reichter, Kirk, and Joseph work on the SUV's driver side door, as it's gotten the worst of the accident.

BROCK  
(re: Laura)  
She keeps *touching* me in places.

REICTHER  
She's studying to be a nurse,  
jackass.

BROCK  
Oh. That makes sense.

Joseph stops and takes a look inside in the SUV.

JOSEPH  
Shit! Look at all the blood on  
Will's hand! I think he's dead!

KIRK  
Quit panicking!

JOSEPH  
I'm not! I'm just tweaking!

The door finally opens as Laura pops out her cellphone.

LAURA  
(to Brock)  
You'll be fine, but you might have  
broken a couple of ribs.

BROCK  
Since when do broken ribs count as  
*fine*?

She dials some numbers.

LAURA  
Hello, 911?

Brian helps Kirk and Reichter pull an unconscious WILL COOPER out of the car. Joseph grabs Will's left hand and raises it to reveal that three fingers are missing only leaving bloody little stumps.

JOSEPH  
Um, shouldn't he have five fingers?

Disgusting faces all around.

KIRK  
Hang on, I think I've got them!

Kirk reaches and pulls out THREE SEVERED FINGERS from the SUV floor.

KIRK  
Ew! So gross. They're like flesh  
colored french fries.

BRIAN  
We need like a bag of ice or  
something.

Brian runs to the van as Reichter walks off. Brock moans as the pain sets in.

LAURA  
Lucky no one was really hurt too  
bad.

(CONTINUED)

KIRK

Um, I guess you weren't listening.  
WILL LOST FINGERS LADY!

LAURA

What? I thought you were joking! Oh  
shit! Get him over here.

Laura unbraids her hair and wraps the two elastic bands tightly around Will's bleeding finger-stubs. She takes off her over-shirt and wraps it around Will's hand tightly. She's left wearing just a thin white tank-top with her hair down on her shoulders.

Reichter and Kirk take notice of her.

REICTHER

Nurses are sexy.

KIRK

Porn taught me that years ago.

Joseph bats his hurt arm around.

JOSEPH

Heh. This feels so real.

VOICE (O.S.)

I know you gentlemen and lady have  
been through a lot...

Everyone turns to see MR. JOHN PARKER sticking his head out of the Oldsmobile. There's a small cut on his head.

PARKER

But when you find the time, I'd  
rather not spend the rest of the  
night STUCK IN THIS FUCKING CAR!

LAURA

(puzzled)

Mr. Parker?

Reichter, Kirk, Laura, and Joseph run over to the Oldsmobile door and try to get it open. It's a bit of a struggle but after a second the door flings open.

Parker rolls out, hitting the ground. The Gang take notice of his tied up hands.

LAURA

Whoa. Why are you tied up?

(CONTINUED)

REICTHER

I've got a second question. Why are Joel and Cathy in the back with their hands tied up?

Reichter, Laura, and Kirk slowly pull an unconscious Joel and Cathy out of the back.

PARKER

We were hostages.

KIRK

*Were?*

Parker signals toward the car. Joseph looks in and gasps. BOB STEVENS is passed out on the steering wheel. Apparently the air bag didn't go off and Stevens has some blood on his face.

JOSEPH

Holy monkey nuts! Is that Principal Stevens?

PARKER

*Former* Principal Stevens.

REICTHER

Is he dead?

PARKER

We can only hope.

Kirk tries to untie Mr. Parker, while Laura examines Joel and Cathy. Brock looks around, moaning and slit-eyed.

BROCK

Wait a minute. There's only three cars.

LAURA

Yeah? So?

BROCK

Where's Casey? He was in front of us.

REICTHER

Uh guys. I think I know what happened to Casey...

Reichter looks down at the ground at skid marks leading to a mangled bridge railing.

SMASH CUT TO:

## OPENING CREDIT SEQUENCE

Marvin Gaye's "Ain't That Peculiar" plays over the credits.

## AFTER CREDITS

FADE IN:

EXT. REICTHER'S HOUSE - LATER

(BEGIN SONG: "Things I Did When I Was Dead" by No Age)

Ambulances, fire trucks, and police cars surround the crash site, engulfing the area in flashing red lights. Brock sits on a stretcher while an EMT examines his chest.

Will lies on a stretcher, still unconscious. Another EMT wraps Will's hand. Two police officers question Parker. Cathy and Joel, finally awake, sit at the end of an ambulance, blankets wrapped around them.

Kirk and Reichter text and call like crazy as they watch the scene in front unfold. Joseph continues to bat his hurt arm like a cat playing with string.

An EMT approaches Brian.

EMT #3

Sir, where are Mr. Cooper's missing fingers? We need them.

BRIAN

Don't worry, we kept them nice and cool.

Brian leads him to the side of the road where there sits a grocery bag. Brian reaches in and pulls out a box of CREAMSICLES.

BRIAN

We kept them in here. Couldn't think of a better place amidst the panic.

EMT #3

Ah man! Creamsicles! Can I have one?

BRIAN

Um...sure, I guess.

(CONTINUED)

EMT #3  
Sweet! Hey guys, I've got  
creamsicles over here!

Several emergency workers stop what they are doing to come over and get a creamsicle.

CUT TO:

EXT. MCDONALDS - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

ELLEN CONNER and KAY JOHNSON sit on the sidewalk, cheeseburgers in hand, anger upon their faces.

ELLEN  
I wonder if these people have ever made a burger that looked like the ones on the ads.

KAY  
Can't talk. Eating in anger.

ELLEN  
Understandable.

Ellen's purse begins to vibrate. She reaches in to fish out a cellphone just as Kay's purse vibrates. Ellen flips open her cell and reads.

ELLEN  
(shocked)  
Oh fuck!

Kay is curious but checks her own cellphone first. Her jaw drops.

KAY  
(sad/shocked)  
Ditto.

Kay shows her message to Ellen as she does likewise. Both women jump up and with lightning speed run toward a car.

CUT TO:

BLACKNESS.

We can hear faint noises: ambulances, police sirens, people approaching..

(CONTINUED)

VOICE (O.S.)  
Sir! Can you hear me?

FADE IN:

EXT. BRIDGE - UNDERNEATH - MINUTES LATER

CASEY JENNINGS is laid out the ground, on a stretcher. Neck in a brace, a few cuts on his face, bruises are all over his arms and legs.

Two EMTs, are standing above him, shining a small light in his face trying to wake him. A few feet away, we can see Casey's car completely DESTROYED. The front of the car has been crushed into the middle of the car.

Casey slowly opens his eyes. He tries to move but panics when he can't.

CASEY  
Oh shit...I'm dead aren't I?! Quick  
hide me before Jesus shows up!

EMT #1  
You're not dead.

Casey sighs and relaxes a bit.

CASEY  
Whew. That's a relief.

EMT #2 flashes a light in Casey's eyes.

EMT #2  
Son, are you okay? What's your  
name? What state were you born in?

CASEY  
(confused)  
...Infancy?

Casey just notices all the police sirens and lights.

CASEY  
What happened? Someone get hurt?

The EMTs exchange questionable looks.

EMT #2  
Do you know what's happened to you?

(CONTINUED)

CASEY

Not really. I was driving and then I remember swerving...and then the car was flying and I thought "man this is fucking awesome, I'm in a flying car." And then I remember realizing that I had driven off a bridge and I was disappointed that I wasn't in an actual flying car. And then I remember hitting a big fucking rock.

EMT #1

Try not to move your neck at all.

EMT #2

Sir, we're going to airlift you to Reid Hospital.

CASEY

Airlift? Like in a helicopter?  
Sweet! Free helicopter ride!

EMT #1

(laughs)

Heh. He thinks it's free.

Both EMTs begin to laugh uncontrollably. A helicopter can be heard, slowly growing louder.

CUT TO:

EXT. CASEY'S HOUSE - SAME

Casey's entire family (JOHN, JANICE, and sister KATIE) quickly emerge from the house. John and Janice are experiencing fear like they never have before, moving at a fast pace. Katie on the other hand, just woke up and doesn't seem fully aware of what's going on.

KATIE

(sleepy/annoyed)

He's not dead though. Can't we wait till morning to see him?

JANICE

Just get in the car, Katie!

They all get in and the car quickly backs out of the driveway.

CUT TO:

EXT. REICTHER'S HOUSE - SAME

A helicopter slowly comes in and hovers over the bridge. EMTs prepare Casey (still on stretcher) for the trip. The helicopter is causing everything to blow in every which direction and causing people to talk very loudly.

Most of the emergency workers are eating creamsicles. The Gang stand near by the bridge railing, watching in amazement.

REICTHER

Holy crap! It's a helicopter! I've never seen a non-police one this close before!

BRIAN

I know this is inappropriate but...

The Gang all turn to Brian.

BRIAN

(doing Schwarzenegger  
impression)

GET TO THE CHOPPA!!!

Everyone looks at Brian, disgusted.

KIRK

Dude!

BRIAN

Oh fuck you guys! When will I ever get this chance again?

The anger quickly disappears. They realize he's right. The helicopter continues to hover as the CAMERA PANS UP to the night sky. We stay for a few before we...

FADE TO BLACK.

(SONG FADES AWAY)

FADE IN:

EXT. HOSPITAL - ER ENTRANCE - LATER

Kirk's busted Van pulls up in the emergency turn around. The front of the car smokes badly, the black smoke seems never ending. The side door opens to reveal Brian and Reichter holding up a barely conscious Joseph. His injury is getting to him.

(CONTINUED)

JOSEPH  
(out of it)  
Guys, I'm sorry I threw up in the van.

BRIAN  
I don't give a shit. It's not my van.

They drag Joseph out. They are followed close behind by Laura. Kirk gets out of the driver's side, looking more sad than ever before.

KIRK  
Man, first my van gets wrecked and then Mr. I-Can't-Handle-My-Drugs throws up all over my last bag of hash.

REICTHER  
Trust me, Kirk. You'll find more drugs. You always do.

KIRK  
(pathetically)  
But...my hash!

Just then before they can even get into the E.R. a very beat up PINTO speeds into the turnaround and quickly parks behind Kirk's van.

Kay jumps out of the driver's seat, while Ellen emerges from the passenger's seat. They rush over to the others.

BRIAN  
Good. You guys got our texts.

ELLEN  
What the fuck man?! I just got a text from Joseph saying "Will might be dead. Come to the hospital."

BRIAN  
(outrage)  
What?!

REICTHER  
(to Joseph)  
You buffoon!

Joseph doesn't respond. His head hangs low.

(CONTINUED)

REICTHER

Joseph?

Reichter shakes Joseph to get a respond but nothing happens.

REICTHER

(casually)

Huh. I think Joseph's dead.

BRIAN

Eww!

Brian lets go of Joseph also causing Reichter to let go. Joseph's unconscious body lands (hard) on his bad arm.

BRIAN

Why didn't you tell me I was holding a dead body! Now I have corpse germs on me!

REICTHER

You know that's how the plague started man!

BRIAN

Oh shit! The plague!?

Laura rolls her eyes.

LAURA

He's not dead! Nor is Will or Casey.

Laura bends down and with all her strength puts Joseph's arm around her shoulder to lift him. Reichter quickly helps her out by lifting Joseph's other side.

LAURA

(to Ellen/Kay)

Hi, I'm Laura. I'm the songwriter for the band...sort of.

KAY

(confused)

Songwriter? What band?! What the hell are you talking about? Where's Casey!?

ELLEN

And Will for that matter?!

(CONTINUED)

KIRK

You know, Brock was in the wreck too you know. You could, I don't know, show some concern for him.

LAURA

Don't worry. They're all alive.

Kay and Ellen show some relief.

ELLEN

Are they okay?

LAURA

Well, Will had some of his fingers cut off.

ELLEN

(freaking out)  
Cut off?! How many?

BRIAN

Four.

REICTHER

No, I think it was just two.

KIRK

Wasn't it both his thumbs?

LAURA

(rolls eyes)  
It was three.

BRIAN, REICTHER, KIRK

(realization)  
Ohhhhh!

KAY

What about Casey?

LAURA

He swerved his car and drove off a bridge.

Kay takes a step back. This hits her hard, emotionally.

LAURA

The EMTS wouldn't tell us how he's doing but they they did airlift him the scene so I imagine they're working on him right -

(CONTINUED)

And she's off! Kay sprints into the ER halfway through Laura's talking.

REICTHER

C'mon. We better go in. Joseph's starting to drool on my shirt.

The group makes their way into the ER.

KIRK

Crap. I better park the shitmobile before it gets towed.

Kirk darts to this van. The others enter the hospital.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - ER WING - NIGHT

Laura and Reichter drag Joseph in, while Brian comforts Ellen. Nearby NURSES and DOCTORS slowly stop what they are doing at the sight of all this.

REICTHER

Uh, a little help here.

NURSE

Stretcher!

Some nurses start to run around, fetching things. DOCTOR ERWIN CARTER comes out from a hallway.

CARTER

So what do we have he -  
(deflates)  
- oh crap. It's you people.

BRIAN

(cheerful)  
What up Dr. C?

Carter lets out a very long sigh.

CARTER

You people keep coming in here like your next visit is free or something.

BRIAN

What can I say: we're young, stupid, and full of ideas.

Carter shakes his head.

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

What it is this time? Burn?  
Stitches? Does Mr. Reichter have  
another head injury?

REICTHER

(confused)

Head injury? I don't remember  
having a head injury.

BRIAN

Oh, it's a funny story. I'll tell  
it to you later. No, doc it's  
something else.

A nurse shows up with a stretcher and helps Laura and  
Reichter put Joseph on a stretcher.

CARTER

What's that?

BRIAN

That is an unconscious Irani.

JOSEPH

(regaining consciousness)

I'm Iraqi you racist fatass.

Laura steps forward, taking charge.

LAURA

Dr. Carter, I checked him out and  
it looked like he dislocated his  
shoulder, has multiple simple  
fractures of the humerus, ulna, and  
metacarpals, and a protruding  
compound fracture of the radius. I  
also think he sustained a small  
concussion on the back of his head.

BRIAN

(impressed)

She's good.

Carter nods. He stops a young NURSE walking by.

CARTER

Nurse, can you find a room for the  
patient.

NURSE

Right away, doctor.

(CONTINUED)

The Nurse pushes Joseph down a hospital hallway. Growing more frustrated, Ellen walks up to Carter to get his attention.

ELLEN

Doctor, let me start off by saying that I'm not normally associated with these people.

CARTER

Wise decision.

ELLEN

Thanks. And could you tell me where Will Cooper is?

BRIAN

(overlapping)  
And Brock Warner.

REICTHER

(overlapping)  
And Casey Jennings.

Carter goes to a nearby chart hanging on a wall. He flips through the sheets until stops upon something.

CARTER

Cooper and Warner are on the second floor, room 207. And Jennings is on floor eight, room 809.

BRIAN

Much appreciated doc.

The Gang hurries off in search of an elevator. Carter shakes his head.

CARTER

Why haven't I reported them to the authorities yet?

Carter walks off.

CUT TO:

EXT. POLICE STATION - SAME

Establishing shot.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE STATION - LOBBY - SAME

Parker paces around, the wound on his head patched up. Joel and Cathy sit at a nearby bench both tired and shaken. A frantic PRINCIPAL DIANE BALLARD bursts through the front doors, eyes wide at the sight of Parker.

BALLARD  
(ecstatic)  
John!

In a split second she's at his side hugging him. After a long hug she steps back to take a good look at him.

BALLARD  
Jesus! Are you guys okay?

PARKER  
(deadpan)  
No. We died Diane. We're just ghosts here to haunt you because you took so long to respond to my frantic texts.

BALLARD  
I'm sorry but you didn't tell me where you were. It proved a bit difficult to locate you.

PARKER  
My apologizes for not knowing where he was going to bury us, Diane.

BALLARD  
(smiling)  
Oh, John. It's good to know that even after a traumatic event you're still an asshole.

Ballard and Parker hug again just as a POLICE OFFICER slinks in.

OFFICER  
Excuse me, I'm looking for John Parker.

PARKER  
You're looking at him Skippy.

OFFICER  
Hello John. I'm Ben Alpert. I'm the chief of police here. And I'd appreciate it if you didn't call me Skippy.

(CONTINUED)

They shake hands.

PARKER

Chief of police, huh? Ben, you're just the man I wanted to see.

ALPERT

I feel likewise. I was wondering if you could follow me to my office and help fill out a police report.

PARKER

I'll do that but I gotta tell you buddy, after that, I've got to file a shit load of grievances.

ALPERT

Um...okay.

Joel stands up.

JOEL

Um, excuse me sir.

ALPERT

Yes?

ALPERT

Did someone take your statements?

CATHY

(perturbed)

Yeah, like an hour ago.

ALPERT

Then you're free to go. I'll have one of my officers take you home, or to the hospital if you like...didn't you have friends hurt in the crash?

JOEL

Yeah. Yeah, we did.

Cathy and Joel stand and make their way to the front door. Alpert addresses an OFFICER standing near by.

ALPERT

Nelson, get a car and take them to Reid.

(CONTINUED)

NELSON

You got it.

Nelson starts to follow Cathy and Joel.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE CAR - MINUTES LATER

Officer Nelson drives as Joel and Cathy sit the back. There is a very long and awkward silence. Joel searches for something to say.

JOEL

So...we almost died tonight.

Beat.

JOEL

That's kind of messed up ain't it?

Cathy gives him a look.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - LATER

Brian, Reichter, Laura, and Ellen wander around a fairly empty hospital hallway.

ELLEN

I feel like we've been doing circles guys.

BRIAN

What is this place, the *Labyrinth* or something? I feel like David Bowie is gonna pop out and serenade me with his crotch-bulge.

REICTHER

(frustrated)

How hard is to find room 207? Laura you work here, don't you know where it is?

LAURA

I'm a student intern. All I do is make coffee and do Quizno runs.

(CONTINUED)

ELLEN

Shouldn't we ask someone where to find their rooms?

REICTHER

We can't because they won't help us. They'll probably give us some bull excuse like "You're not family" and send us to a waiting room.

LAURA

It is one of their biggest policies.

BRIAN

Lady, we wouldn't have gotten anywhere in life if we followed policies.

REICTHER

We certainly wouldn't have so many demerits on our permanent records.

BRIAN

Whatever. Those things aren't that permanent. They throw them away the second we graduate.

REICTHER

(sarcastic)

Hard to believe you're that close to failing.

Ellen is biting her nails, obviously thinking of other things.

ELLEN

Guys, I'm freaking out here.

BRIAN

Why? It's not like you lost a finger or anything.

REICTHER

Zing!

ELLEN

What do I say to Will? I mean, the last time we saw each other I yelled at him in front of everyone.

(CONTINUED)

REICTHER

Yelling at someone before a car wreck? That's never good. It screwed up Blair for years.

BRIAN

Blair from Sociology?

REICTHER

Blair from *The Facts of Life*. You see, on this very special episode -

ELLEN

(overlapping)

Guys, I'm serious. I'm really panicking here. I don't even know if I could go into his room.

LAURA

I wouldn't worry a whole lot about it Ellen. I'm sure Will has other things on his mind.

REICTHER

(under breath)

Like how he'll never be able to Vulcan Salute anyone ever again.

LAURA

Reichter!

REICTHER

Just thinking worst case.

After some more walking we can hear some faint loud voices.

BRIAN

Wait a minute. You guys hear something?

They all stop and listen. It's someone yelling from far away.

LAURA

What's that?

REICTHER

I know those sounds anywhere: disappointment, anger, shame. Follow me!

Reichter is off into one direction. The others quickly follow.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER

In a medium sized room with two beds, lay Brock and Will. Both are wearing hospital gowns and have their head wounds fixed up. Will's injured arm is now in a sling and his hand is basically a giant ball of bandages.

LOIS WARNER is standing by the beds, talking with Will and Brock. BRYCE WARNER sits in the corner, playing with a PSP.

LOIS

What were you boys thinking?!

BROCK

C'mon, mom, it's not like we crashed the car on purpose.

WILL

It's not like I did it for the insurance money. Mainly because I don't have insurance.

LOIS

(sighs)

You boys should have been more careful. You should have braked earlier or swerved to get out of the way. You could have ended up dead. What am I suppose to do with a dead son?

WILL

Bury him before questions are asked?

BROCK

Collect the insurance money?

WILL

Stuff him and keep him around as a conversation piece?

Will and Brock giggle but stop when they catch a look from Lois. She faces Will.

LOIS

(to Will)

And you...You shouldn't have been tailgating Casey.

(CONTINUED)

WILL

If I may, Ms. Warner. I want to correct you by saying that I did *not* tailgate anyone. Only assholes tailgate. I'm not an asshole thus I did not tailgate.

LOIS

And Will, why are you driving an SUV? You're not some middle aged soccer mom with something to prove.

BROCK

It is kind of a hipster douche thing to do, Will.

Will turns, angry and offended.

WILL

You take that back Brock!!! I am not a hipster douche!

BROCK

You listen to bands no else has heard of, you listen to NPR and won't shut up about it, and the only alcohol you've ever had is Pabst Blue Ribbon. You are the very definition of a hipster douche.

Will is taken back.

WILL

You know, Brock. I think that hurt more then getting the fingers cut off.

Just then Reichther, Brian, Ellen, and Laura come in and start to hug Brock. The people hugging are happy as can be to see their friend, but Brock starts screaming in pain.

BROCK

(in serve pain)  
Ooouucchhh!!! Oh my God the pain!

BRIAN

Man we thought you were seriously hurt.

BROCK

I am! Stop hugging me you motherfuckers!

Everyone backs off of Brock who starts to cough.

(CONTINUED)

LOIS

Brock Michael Warner! Don't talk  
that way to your friends.

BROCK

But...my rib cage...

Everyone turns to Will and begins to hug him.

BRIAN

I'm so glad you didn't die Will. I  
thought for sure I would end up in  
one of those PSA's talking about  
the dangers of tailgating.

WILL

(upset/angry)

Tailgating?

Everyone takes a step back. Will is almost surprised to see  
Reichter there.

WILL

Look at Reichter. All caring and  
shit. Actually hugging people. I  
never thought I'd see the day.  
You're not the hugging type.

REICTHER

I hug. I hug when it's appropriate.  
Not over stupid things like losing  
a pet or menopause.

Will notices Laura.

WILL

(to Laura)

Hi. I'm not sure who you are.

LAURA

I'm Laura Pentecost.

Ellen takes notice of Will's injured hand.

ELLEN

Holy Shittin' Jesus! Your hand!  
It's worse then I pictured it.

WILL

I know. I just have to get use to  
flipping people off with one hand.

Will laughs but no one else does.

(CONTINUED)

ELLEN

Um...Is it really the right time  
for jokes? You lost fingers, Will.

WILL

Sounds like the perfect occasion  
for some dark humor if you ask me.  
Say Brian, gimme five!

Will holds out his hurt hand but Brian leaves him hanging.

BRIAN

Too soon, man.

WILL

What? C'mon, guys. It's not that  
bad. They're gonna sew 'em back on,  
thanks to you and your insatiable  
love of frozen treats.

BRIAN

Well, I guess you're right.

Brian high fives Will's hurt hand causing him to yelp.

WILL

(in pain)

Man that was stupid.

ELLEN

When are you gonna get them sewed  
back on?

WILL

Just waiting on some surgery  
specialist. They had to get some  
special guy from Muncie because  
they don't have anyone here who can  
reattach them. They said he would  
be here in less than an hour --  
until then my digits are on ice.

Brock quickly sets up.

BROCK

Holy crap I forgot about Casey!  
How's he doing?

BRIAN

We don't know. They had to airlift  
him out.

(CONTINUED)

BROCK

Is that what that was? Thank God, I thought I was just having a Vietnam flashback.

WILL

(angered)

What?! He gets a helicopter ride while I lose a couple of fingers?

BRIAN

He did drive off a bridge. I think he earned it, Will.

BROCK

Is he here? They airlifted him here right?

REICTHER

Yeah, Room 809.

WILL

Then what the fuck are we doing around here for? Let's go see 'em. Somebody get me a wheelchair!

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - MINUTES LATER

Ellen wheels Will, Brian wheels Brock, Reichter and Laura walk side by side. The group head toward the ICU. Will and Ellen are at the back of the line and talk amongst themselves.

WILL

Man, I really dig this wheelchair thing. I don't know what the handicapped are always complaining about.

ELLEN

I'm not an expert but I can take an educated guess.

Beat.

ELLEN

You don't seem that freaked out by the whole, you know...getting fingers cut off thing.

(CONTINUED)

WILL

Morphine is great way to calm down.  
I know what I'm doing next time I  
have to speak in public.

ELLEN

Morphine doesn't last forever.

WILL

That's why I need you here for when  
I do have my little freak out.

Beat.

ELLEN

So what does this mean for us? I  
mean after -

WILL

(overlapping)

Can we just pretend we've already  
had the conversation we're about to  
have?

ELLEN

Some shit went down between us  
tonight. The kind of shit that  
can't be avoided.

WILL

Can't we try?

ELLEN

No, no. We've been dancing around  
the subject for almost two years.  
Enough avoiding.

WILL

Fair enough.

ELLEN

Okay.

WILL

I guess I should start off by  
explaining why I went mute. You see  
when I -

REICTHER (O.S.)

(overlapping)

Hey!

Will and Ellen look up and see that everyone is in a nearby  
elevator, holding it open. Reichter is impatient.

(CONTINUED)

REICTHER

Can you have your little teen drama conversation later? *After* we've made sure Casey is okay?

Ellen pushes Will in a hurry to the elevator.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - ICU - MINUTES LATER

The main doors fling open and Will leads The Gang into the ICU. Everyone is looking around.

WILL

Where's room 809?

NURSE ESPINOZA appears out of nowhere and stops them.

ESPINOZA

Hold on folks. You all friends of Casey Jennings?

REICTHER

Damn right. We wanna see him.

ESPINOZA

Take it easy tall and lanky, watch the mouth. This is the ICU, not the lunchroom.

Brian and Reichter exchange weird looks.

REICTHER

Um...

BRIAN

(stops him)

Dude. No.

ESPINOZA

He's doing better, but he can have only so many visitors.

LAURA

I'll keep them under control.

ESPINOZA

Sorry but it's hospital policy.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN

Screw this. She's not going to do anything. She doesn't have the balls.

Brian tries to walk past her but she stops him.

ESPINOZA

You better listen to me!

BRIAN

Sorry lady. Only someone with balls can stop us. You got balls?

Espinoza steps closer to Brian. The sexual tension rises.

ESPINOZA

Wouldn't you like to know?

BRIAN

...Sort of.

Brian and Espinoza stare at each other. Something weird is in the air. After a few second, Espinoza steps aside.

ESPINOZA

All right. You can go in.

The Gang start to head into the ICU. Everyone is staring at Brian.

REICTHER

What was *THAT* all about?!

Brian shrugs.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - ICU HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The Gang turn a corner and stop.

REICTHER

What's going on here?

At the end of this hall, there are about twenty different PEOPLE all gathered outside one room. Some are doctors, some are nurses, and some are patients. Everyone is whispering to each other, gawking at what's in the room.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN

What are they looking at?

Laura looks around the walls and counts the room numbers.

LAURA

Guys...I think that's Casey's room.

Everyone exchanges looks. The Gang slowly walk through the crowd, Reichter pushing people aside.

REICTHER

Hey out of our way! Important people coming through!

The crowd breaks up and let The Gang through.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - ICU - CASEY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The Gang gather at the doorway and are shocked at what they see: Casey lying on his bed, looking healthier than expected. He has neck brace on but other than that and a few small bruises and cuts there are no other injuries.

Kay is at his bedside, holding his hand, joyful tears in her eyes. His parents, John and Janice are on the other side, also joyful tears in their eyes.

Casey notices The Gang.

CASEY

Hey! What up honkies?

The Gang don't respond. They're too shocked at what they see.

CUT TO:

EXT. POLICE CAR - LATER

Cathy and Joel are in the back, still silent. Nelson drives but is growing frustrated.

NELSON

Sorry about this, kids. There is a bit of traffic up here. It might take an extra few minutes.

(CONTINUED)

JOEL

That's okay officer.

Beat. Looking to break the silence, Cathy turns to Joel.

CATHY

Hey Joel. You never did tell me what you were rescuing me from earlier.

JOEL

Really? I thought I would have told you...Oh wait! Now I remember. I was going to tell you but I got distracted when someone stabbed me with a fucking key!

CATHY

Well because of you we were hostages with a very slim chance of living so I think we're about even.

JOEL

I guess I'm going to lose that argument for the rest of my life.

NELSON

I wouldn't forgive you.

Cathy and Joel shot him a look.

NELSON

(embarrassed)

Sorry.

JOEL

(to Cathy)

You really want to know what it was?

CATHY

I'm all ears Joel.

JOEL

Melissa Little and some other girls were going to lead you to the dance floor, step on your dress, and push you down. And while you're exposed Ben Tramer was going to get a bunch of his buddies to take pictures.

CATHY

Again, a crazy man with a gun seems far worse a fate for me than showing my dirty pillows to the entire school.

JOEL

I don't get it. Why do they keep picking on you? Why won't they leave you alone?

CATHY

I don't know. I guess I'm an easy target what with my cheating ways. Not to mention I totally knocked Ben down a few pegs when I dumped his ass which probably didn't put me in his good graces. Or maybe the popular kids are tired of picking on nerds and wanted to shake things up senior year. I just don't know Joel. Maybe we should focus on how lucky we are to be alive instead of dwelling on bullshit.

Beat.

JOEL

Still, I'm sorry about all the crap that's happened to you.

CATHY

Thank you.

Nelson keeps his eyes more on the rear view mirror than the road.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - CASEY'S ROOM - LATER

The room is crowded with John, Janice, Katie, and Kay all gathered around Casey's bed. Reichter, Brian, Laura, Brock, Ellen, and Will stand around the doorway. All of the friends and family are overjoyed.

KAY

Oh my God Casey I thought I lost you! Jesus, don't you ever do this to me again!

(CONTINUED)

CASEY

No problem.

KAY

I know you were an ass tonight at the prom. I know you know. Don't say anything. Let me get this out.

CASEY

Okay.

KAY

Since I got the text message about the accident, I've done some thinking and soul-searching.

CASEY

Really? So have I, see when -

KAY

(overlapping)

Don't be such an insensitive ass! I'm trying to tell you I love you, you stupid putz! God, just seeing you lie there, with the neck brace, it just...you know, it just makes you think about what's important. Who's important. And, and even with all the stupid shit you've pulled, I love you, and don't want to think about losing you. And with college coming up, I just, I love you. I sound like such a spaz.

The whole time, Will and Ellen keep glancing at each other, quietly reflecting.

CASEY

(smiles)

I love you too, spaz.

They kiss.

BRIAN

You guys are obnoxious. Please stop kissing.

Dr. Carter enters and stands near the bathroom door (the only free spot left in the room.) He stares at Casey, with a puzzled expression on his face. Is both amazed and confused.

Brian finally takes notice of Carter.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN  
(to Carter)  
Hey, doc. Why do you keep looking  
at Casey like that?

BROCK  
And what's with all the people  
gathering outside Casey's room?

Brock points toward the door. Though the door is only opened slightly we can still see that about a dozen people or so are crowded around it, trying to look in.

CARTER  
Casey, what happened to you is what  
we like to call in the business...a  
god damn miracle.

CASEY  
(skeptical)  
Miracle?

CARTER  
Science and logic says you should  
be dead, Mr. Jennings. But here you  
are, with a neck brace and some  
bruises.

Everyone is taken aback, except for Katie who is still half asleep. Casey starts to stare off into space, mouth wide open. His mind is elsewhere.

REICTHER  
Holy crap dude! You're unbreakable,  
like in that Bruce Willis  
movie...you know, *Die Hard*.

CARTER  
You hurt your first and second  
vertebrae that's on the back of  
your neck. Normally 80% of the  
people who injure this part of  
their body die. The lucky 20% who  
live are paralyzed from the neck  
down much like Christopher Reeves.

LAURA  
Who?

WILL  
The guy who played Superman.

BRIAN

So this thing paralyzed Brandon  
Routh but Casey walks away  
unharmd?

CASEY

(excited)

I'm better than Superman?

KAY

How did it happen?

Carter shrugs.

CARTER

We literally don't know how this  
happened. That's kinda why it's a  
miracle.

BRIAN

So, what you're saying doc  
is...Casey's unkillable?

CARTER

What?! No! I never said -

CASEY

(overlapping)

Unkillable you say?

CARTER

No you imbeciles! You *can* die, you  
can die very easily.

JOHN

(defensive)

You threatening my boy?

JANICE

How dare you!

Carter, frustrated, throws his chart to the ground.

CARTER

Fuck it. Enjoy the medical miracle  
ya' jerks.

Carter storms out. Kay starts to stroke Casey's hair.

KAY

I'm so glad you're alright!

(CONTINUED)

CASEY  
(mind is elsewhere)  
Me too.

JOHN  
Ya'll hear that? My boy looked  
right into the face of logic and  
said "Not today. Piss off."

BROCK  
To be fair, Casey has been  
overlooking logic for years.

Everyone laughs. Casey doesn't respond. He continues to  
stare off.

CASEY  
But *how* did it happen?

JANICE  
Who cares! You're alive and that's  
what's important.

Suddenly everything in the room goes dark. Everyone panics.

CASEY  
What the hell?

REICTHER  
Hmm, Casey's still alive.

Just like that, everything goes back on. Reichter stands up  
from nearby electric socket.

CASEY  
Did you pull the plug?!

REICTHER  
Yeah, and you didn't die. See  
you've got some freaky Wolverine  
invincible thing going on.

ELLEN  
Pulling the plug only works if  
someone is living off a machine.

REICTHER  
Oh. Hmm. Well I guess you learn  
something new everyday.

CASEY  
Did you just do something, with the  
understanding that I might die?

(CONTINUED)

REICTHER

Don't be so disgusted! It was done  
in the name of science!

NURSES and Carter show up with a crash cart. He quickly  
notices that nothing is wrong.

CARTER

Son of a bitch.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE CAR - SAME

Joel and Cathy sit in silence in the back. Nelson drives,  
humming to himself.

JOEL

So how do you feel?

CATHY

Whadda ya' mean?

JOEL

I don't know. I mean a guy just  
kidnapped us. I figured that we  
might feel weird in some way.

CATHY

I mean it was scary and very  
frightening. But I don't feel any  
different. I didn't think he would  
actually do anything to us anyway.

JOEL

Really?

CATHY

No. If any teacher was going to  
snap and kill people it's going to  
be Mr. Parker. I'm more shaken up  
actually by the whole car wreck  
thing. Especially seeing Will lose  
all those fingers.

JOEL

The EMTs say he'll be all right.

CATHY

I know but how many times in your  
life have you seen someone get  
their fingers cut off?

(CONTINUED)

JOEL  
(nonchalant)  
Twice.

CATHY  
Twice?

JOEL  
Although to be fair they were at  
the same time.

Cathy is puzzled.

JOEL  
We were teaching Reichter to drive  
stick...at night.

CATHY  
Ohhhhhhhhhhhhh!

JOEL  
Don't worry they're all fine. The  
lawsuit helped them pay their  
medical bills and they were able to  
get their fingers reattached.

Cathy laughs.

CATHY  
I swear to Christ the things you  
and your friends go through.

JOEL  
Perfect fodder for television if  
you ask me.

Beat. Cathy looks out the window.

CATHY  
(annoyed)  
Jeez, it feels like we've been  
driving for an hour.

NELSON  
Well that's because we *have* been  
driving for an hour.

CATHY  
That makes sense.

Joel starts to stare at Cathy, noticing something that  
wasn't there before.

CATHY

I hope we get there soon because my feet -

Joel leans in and kisses Cathy. Nelson notices this from the front.

NELSON

(under breath)

Ohhh. Juicy. This is just like *The Secret Life of the American Teenager*.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - CASEY'S ROOM - LATER

Casey lays on his bed, while Kay is at the bedside. Janice is at Casey's opposite bedside, happy as can be. John is standing by the window, also ecstatic.

A NURSE enters and hands a plate of food to Kay. She takes notice of Casey's melancholy demeanor.

NURSE

(to Kay)

Is he depressed?

KAY

Worse. Philosophical.

The Nurse nods and leaves. Kay takes grape from the plate and hands it out to Casey.

KAY

Here, Casey. You should eat something. Have a grape.

CASEY

Pffft. Nuts to that. Grape is a poor man's plum.

KAY

(rolls eyes)

Um, okay.

Kay puts the grape on the plate.

CASEY

I just don't get it. I should be dead. Why am I not dead?

(CONTINUED)

JANICE

Casey, don't sulk around. You should be overjoyed that you're not dead.

JOHN

Or paralyzed for that matter.

CASEY

That's what's bugging me. Logic and doctors say I should be in one of those two categories. But I'm not...why?

JANICE

I don't know. Maybe you're a special case.

CASEY

I'm not that special. I'm an atheist, I swear way too fucking much, I have premarital sex.

JANICE

(surprised)

You're having sex?!

Kay, embarrassed, sinks in her seat.

CASEY

Mom, that's not what's important at the moment. I'm talking about me.

Quick beat.

CASEY

See, right there. I was being super self centered.

JOHN

C'mon, Casey. You shouldn't be thinking about that stuff. You're a living, talking, almost walking miracle. Just enjoy it. You'll drive yourself crazy trying to figure the why of it all.

CASEY

I guess you have a point. But still...

Casey starts to stare off again.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Brian, Kirk, Joseph, and Brock (in a wheelchair) all sit near the TV. While Brian and Brock are very focused on the TV, Kirk and Joseph have a very heated argument. We also notice that Joseph is in a hospital gown and has his hurt arm wrapped in bandages.

Reichter and Laura sit off by themselves, talking quietly.

JOSEPH

Spider-Man couldn't even hurt Wolverine! He's got fucking titanium for a skeleton! Plus he's got that fast healing mutation. I think it was in *X-Men: Last Stand* when that robot head bounced off his forehead like it was a spit-wad and his head healed in like two seconds.

KIRK

Bullshit! The movies went way fucking overboard with the healing factor. I mean he was a faster healer but a gash to the head isn't just going to go away. I don't care who you are, not even fucking Superman heals that fast!

JOSEPH

Yeah but he's still got the steel bones. Spidey would break his hand if he tries to punch him.

KIRK

Yeah but Spider-Man is smart whereas Wolverine just kills everything he sees, Spider-Man could lure Wolverine to one of those magnet cranes and Wolverine would be finished.

JOSEPH

Yeah because those magnet cranes are just fucking everywhere nowadays right?

KIRK

I bet they have them at some New York harbor. Spider-Man could lead Wolverine to one and then he could use the crane to drown him. Healing

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KIRK (cont'd)  
factor or not you need air to live  
dumb ass.

BROCK  
(annoyed)  
Shut the hell up!

BRIAN  
Yeah, we're trying to watch *Fresh  
Prince of Bel-Air* over here.

They quickly fall silent.

JOSEPH  
Sorry guys. We'll stop.

KIRK  
Yeah we'll stop. Besides, I'm sick  
of proving this asshole wrong in  
everything.

JOSEPH  
Steel bones motherfucker!

KIRK  
Whatever. You like Jar-Jar.

JOSEPH  
Were you any other man, I'd kill  
you where you stand.

Brock sighs and tries to drone them out and watch TV.

BRIAN  
(under breath)  
Batman would beat both of their  
asses anyway.

Reichter and Laura sit in a brief silence.

LAURA  
Can we talk?

REICTHER  
(panicked)  
Already?

LAURA  
What?

REICTHER

Nothing. Just, you know, "can we talk?" That's...

LAURA

Oh. Oh!

(She stifles a laugh)

No no. It's okay. I just...I wanted to tell you that I...really had a good time tonight.

REICTHER

(surprised)

Really?

LAURA

Except for the accident part. That kinda of sucked.

REICTHER

I promise that won't happen next time.

LAURA

Do you...do you wanna try again?

Reichter grins like an idiot. He tries to respond verbally but his awkwardness get the better of him.

REICTHER

Yes. Yes I would.

LAURA

Do you have enough friends if something else happens?

REICTHER

I got friends to burn. Half of them are retarded douches anyway.

LAURA

I kind of like them.

REICTHER

Princes among men. Always said so.

LAURA

Then, okay. Just us?

REICTHER

Hell yeah.

Reichter takes his hand out of his pocket and holds Laura's hand. He suddenly starts to sniff the air.

(CONTINUED)

REICTHER  
You smell that?

KIRK  
No. But I have a deviated septum.

Reichter looks over at Brock. The front of his hospital gown has a dark stain spread on it.

REICTHER  
Jesus, Brock!

The others turn to look.

BRIAN  
Dude!

BROCK  
What? What? Holy crap!

JOSEPH  
I hope not.

BRIAN  
Did you just piss yourself?

BROCK  
I thought I had a catheter!

Everybody laughs.

REICTHER  
How could you not notice you didn't have a catheter?

BROCK  
I thought that they inserted it when I was knocked out.

REICTHER  
You had busted ribs! What would you need a catheter for?

BRIAN  
You're an idiot.

BROCK  
It's so itchy. And warm.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE CAR - MINUTES LATER

Cathy and Joel continue to make out. Nelson, rather perversely, can't stop looking to the back of the car. Cathy eventually pulls away completely surprised. Joel himself seems to be confused as to what just happened.

CATHY

What the fuck was that Joel?!

JOEL

Uh...I don't know. Something just came over me.

CATHY

You kissed me!

JOEL

I'm fully aware.

CATHY

I just started to ask a question and then you kissed me!

JOEL

Cathy, I was *there*. I know the story.

CATHY

BUT YOU KISSED ME!

JOEL

So...what's the big deal. It wasn't that unpleasant. You kissed back.

CATHY

Yeah, Joel but we have such a complicated history...

JOEL

Yeah but that stuff is in the past.

Nelson lets out a small noise of glee. Cathy gives him a questionable look.

CATHY

What are you getting at?

JOEL

Well, can't we just look past that stuff and you know, focus on what's happening now?

Cathy is shocked.

(CONTINUED)

CATHY

My God. I know what you're suggesting but I can't believe you're actually suggesting it.

JOEL

So what if I am? Why couldn't we?

CATHY

Can I answer simply "the last year."

JOEL

We can look past that.

CATHY

Really?

JOEL

Yeah. Cathy, being here with you tonight...it's made me realize how much I've missed you. How much of a comfort you are to me. How much I still care for you.

Cathy wants to say something but struggles.

CATHY

Joel, I don't think we could work again.

JOEL

We could work. We *can* work. Things will be different this time. Things will be better.

CATHY

Better?

JOEL

No more lies between us. We'll be honest with each other. I won't keep things secret any longer.

CATHY

...Including me?

JOEL

Especially you. I can make things better this time around Cathy. If you let me.

(CONTINUED)

CATHY

What about me? The things I did.

JOEL

What's done is done. It's better to forget and not have to deal with the pain anyway.

Cathy is starting to tear up a bit. Joel leans over and wipes a tear away from her cheek. They start to stare into each other's eyes. They slowly lean in and begin to hug.

Joel's face shows nothing but ignorant bliss while Cathy's is a bit of a puzzle. She initially seems joyful but there seems to be concern on her face. Something about this is bothering her.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - LATER

Ellen is at a vending machine, taking her time in making a selection. After a moment, Will slowly wheels in behind her.

WILL

Ellen, just the person I wanted to see. I wanted to give you this.

She jumps at first. In Will's okay hand there is a small, smashed plastic wrapper. Ellen takes it and begins to inspect it.

ELLEN

What is this?

WILL

It's a ring pop. Well, it was a ring pop.

ELLEN

A ring pop?

WILL

You're always complaining about how no one sells ring pops anymore so I got you one.

ELLEN

(faint smile)  
It's grape.

(CONTINUED)

WILL

I got it because I had this big romantic gesture thing set up but things changed.

Beat.

ELLEN

Why didn't you say anything Will?

WILL

I guess we're going to dive right into this.

ELLEN

I'm just anxious to know.

WILL

Because I was scared shitless. I don't necessarily have a good track record with girls. Rene, Meadow, Nadine....

ELLEN

Meadow Le Cerva? You dated Meadow?

WILL

Until I caught her blowing Tim Dickerson. Look, I tried my hardest with those girls. I really try to be a good guy and a good boyfriend when I'm with someone...but despite that, I screwed up or got screwed over. If I can't hold shit together with girls like that, girls that are just okay for me...where there's not that much pressure, how am I going to be able to hold it together with you? I mean, dammit, you're fucking perfect for me. Your favorite movies are pretty much my favorite movies. Your favorite songs are my favorite songs. You curse and laugh at fart jokes and read comic books for fuck's sake. You're there for me, you don't judge me, and you just fucking GET me. There's a lot of pressure not to screw that up.

ELLEN

Wow...I never realized until just now how much we talk about farts. I

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ELLEN (cont'd)

mean, we REALLY DO talk about them a lot. I guess I'm glad. I didn't know that fart jokes were such a big selling point for you.

WILL

Well they are. My new slogan is "never date a girl who can't laugh at a good fart."

(beat)

I'm in love with you, and I have been ever since that night during *My Fair Lady*. We barely knew each other, but I knew that night, while we were waiting for Kirstin. We were sitting on the edge of the stage and --

ELLEN

I sang "Rainbow Connection." I remember. I felt it, too. I don't think I thought it was love...but I knew that there was something really cool between us. You made me feel so...so fucking *happy*.

WILL

People just kept detouring me away from telling you how I felt. Your friend Rory told me if I didn't do anything on the opening night of *My Fair Lady* that I would be stuck in the friend zone for good. It was so stressful that I just couldn't make myself do it. And then some guys on the cast told me you were a lesbian, and --

ELLEN

Jesus, you date one girl and suddenly you're a lesbian. We didn't even get past third base...

WILL

Wow. Save that story for another time...and make sure that when you tell it to me you do so with a great deal of detail.

(beat)

I think subconsciously, I never asked you out or told you how I felt because then I wouldn't have

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WILL (cont'd)

to deal with the possible rejection. I knew I might fuck it up with you if we were dating, but if you were just a friend...well I could be with the girl of my dreams without all the stress or risk.

ELLEN

Yeah...but you're also going without all the ferocious making out...and other things.

WILL

You've got a hell of a point.

ELLEN

Oh shit, it's been half an hour. That surgeon is supposed to be here any minute. Let's go get those fingers re-attached...there are all sorts of things you're going to need them for now that we're together.

WILL

Oh really? I can't wait.

They kiss for a long moment, and then Ellen begins to wheel Will out into the hallway. In the doorway, she pauses for a moment.

ELLEN

Nope. That wasn't enough.

Ellen moves to the front of the wheelchair, straddles Will, pulls his head back and kisses him passionately. She pulls back for a moment and looks right in his eyes.

ELLEN

I really fucking love you.

WILL

I really fucking love you, too.

Ellen crawls out of his lap and starts to push the wheelchair again.

ELLEN

Oh hey, speaking of comics, I started reading *The Walking Dead*...those zombie comics you loaned me.

(CONTINUED)

WILL

Oh yeah?

ELLEN

Yeah...and I'm pissed you loaned them to me. I haven't done homework in days...I'm already on the last trade!

Will and Ellen continue talking as their audio fades and they get further down the hall.

CUT TO:

(BEGIN MUSIC MONTAGE: "Celebrate" by Three Dog Night)

INT. POLICE STATION - OFFICE - SAME

At the main desk, Alpert is sorting paperwork. Parker and Ballard are standing across from him talking amongst themselves. Just then, FIVE OFFICERS enter wheeling a very injured BOB STEVENS into the building.

Stevens' arm is broken, several stitches in his forehead, neck brace, the whole works. The officers wheel him by the front desk where he angrily stares at Parker.

PARKER

Enjoy prison Bob.

Stevens tries to speak but can't: his jaw is wired shut. Once Stevens is wheeled out of sight, Parker starts jumping for joy.

PARKER

I won! I won!

Ballard watches, amused and happy.

CUT TO

INT. HOSPITAL - CASEY'S ROOM - LATER

Casey sits on his bed, staring out the window.

CASEY

How am I suppose to take my mind off this. Something happened and I don't know why. This is going to bug me unti - OHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!

(CONTINUED)

The CAMERA PANS to the left to see Kay at the doorway holding the prom king crown.

KAY

Look at what a nice police officer brought.

CASEY

My crown!

She hands it to Casey who quickly puts it on. He closes his eyes and sinks in the moment.

CASEY

This...feels...right.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - LATER

Brian, Kirk, Joseph, Laura, and Brock (now in a new gown) sit around Reichther, who's in the middle of a story.

LAURA

You're serious? You've met the KKK?

REICTHER

Met 'em? Hell, they tried to kill us. You see, a long time ago, in a galaxy similar to our own -

CASEY (O.S.)

(overlapping)

Greetings subjects!

Everyone turns to the doorway. Kay wheels Casey in, wearing the crown and holding a metal object standing in as a scepter.

BROCK

Look who's out of bed.

CASEY

Silence commoner!

Whacks him with the metal object.

BROCK

Ow! What's that?

(CONTINUED)

CASEY

Scepter.

BROCK

Where did you get a scepter?

CASEY

Found it. Now move for your King. I must be the center of attention!

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - LATER

Will and Ellen are in the middle of hallway. Ellen is sitting on Will's lap as they furiously make out. Ellen pulls away to catch her breath.

ELLEN

(giggle)

Boy, you sure do like kissing.

WILL

Just a natural nerd reaction to getting a girl. Plus kissing prevents me from saying geeky things that might scare you off.

ELLEN

Too geeky? You must not of heard that I once did a book report over *Buff the Vampire Slayer* fan fiction.

WILL

God that's hot.

They start to make out again.

VOICE (O.S.)

Will?

They stop and look over to see a group of TWELVE PEOPLE standing near the end of the hallway.

ELLEN

(to Will)

Who are they?

WILL

That would be my mom and dad...and my aunt and uncle...and my grandparents...and my cousins.

(CONTINUED)

ELLEN  
(embarrassed)  
Oh balls.

Ellen buries her head in Will's shoulder.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOSPITAL - LATER

A POLICE CAR pulls up to the front entrance and parks. Joel and Cathy get of the back and wave the driver on. As the cruiser drives away, Joel and Cathy stand in place.

Beat. Joel reaches over and grabs Cathy's hand. Their eyes meet.

CATHY  
So...what now?

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF EPISODE