# THE LUNCHROOM

"It Happened One Night"

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Series Created by Bruce Snyder

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. VANDELE HOUSE - NIGHT

Establishing shot. It's a slightly chilly December evening.

CUT TO:

INT. VANDELE HOME - SAME

The Gang's all here. WILL COOPER and CHRIS HUGHES are sitting on the couch, looking bored. Sitting on the floor, in front of the TV is BRIAN VANDELE, CASEY JENNINGS, JOEL MAYBERRY, and REICTHER who are very intensely playing a video game. Insults and curse words are being constantly yelled. BROCK WARNER suddenly enters from the kitchen, carrying a slice of pizza.

This is Chris' farewell party.

CHRIS C'mon, guys. I should be at home packing.

WILL Are you listening to yourself? Are you really wanting to spend the evening packing rather then spending one last night with your buddies?

We hear a losing fanfare coming from the TV. Reicther, Brian, and Casey are pissed.

> BRIAN Damn it all!

> > CASEY

Fuck!

REICTHER Crap in a hat!

Joel stands up, proud.

JOEL I...AM A MARIO PARTY GOD!!!

Chris gives Will a look and gets back on subject.

#### CHRIS

Forgive me, but what with being expelled from school, forced to register as a Sex Offender, and being deported back to England, a night of Mario Party and childish shenanigans just doesn't sound like the most productive thing to do with my time.

# WILL

The shenanigans are essential, Chris. This might be the last night we'll ever get to hang out and we're going to go out on a bang.

# CHRIS

I just don't know if I'm up for it.

# WILL

Tsk tsk. Chris, I'm trying to remember when you had a personality but my memory seems to be foggy.

Chris slugs Will in the shoulder. This hurts tremendously.

WILL I'm sorry man. Didn't know you were on the rag.

Chris punches him again in the same shoulder.

#### WILL

(in great pain) I'm sorry, Chris. It'll never happened again.

Reicther throws his controller at the screen.

#### REICTHER

This is bull! Why is Mario even having a party? Shouldn't he be saving some princess, or plumbing something?

# CHRIS

You call this going out with a bang? Will, we've pretty much done this weekend after weekend since we've met.

Some of the Gang turn and are about to argue it but stop. They look at each other and shrug. Chris is right.

REICTHER He's got our number.

CHRIS Sorry for being an ass guys but I just wanted my last night to be big. Where we do some crazy as hell shit that we'll never forget.

Brock finishes off his slice of pizza.

BROCK (mouth full) Yeah but what should we do?

JOEL What CAN we do? Every time we try and do something else, we sit around for hours trying to PICK something else to do. We never can settle and we go right back to playing video games.

Everyone nods or mutters "yeah."

CHRIS I just wish the fun stuff could find us.

Suddenly the front door bursts open and Brian's mother, DEBBIE VANDELE enters. She's a bit under the influence and is carrying several bags.

> DEBBIE I live here don't I?

BRIAN (annoyed) Yes, mom.

DEBBIE Oh thank Christ. The last house threatened to call the cops.

REICTHER What's in the bags, Mrs. V?

DEBBIE Thank you for asking, tall lanky boy. We were having a party at the hospital. 3.

CASEY Was it for Christmas?

# DEBBIE

No, it's because only fifteen patients have died this month. An all time low. Anyway we got all this booze but it turns out it's illegal to have alcohol in the hospital so me and Nurse Bloom just hung out in the parking lot and got smashed.

#### BRIAN

(embarrassed) Classy mom. Real classy.

#### DEBBIE

So because it was just the two of us we have all this booze left over. We tried to drink it all, but Bloom reminded me that at some point we would die of alcohol poisoning.

# BRIAN

(sarcastic) She sounds like a fucking downer.

WILL Then what's in the other bags?

### DEBBIE

Illegal fireworks. Some gang member was admitted to the E.R. and he had these on him. Someone put them in the box with my booze and I was too drunk to notice.

These items seem to be sparking the imagination of The Gang. Debbie looks through her box.

#### DEBBIE

Oh and he also had this thing called a "Potato Gun" whatever that is.

Reicther is especially excited and lets out a shriek of delight. Debbie puts the box on an empty spot on the couch.

DEBBIE Brian, I'm going to bed. Mommy needs her 16 hours of drinking recovery.

#### CONTINUED:

She leaves the room. Everyone is excited.

JOEL (excited) Fireworks!?

BRIAN (excited) Booze?!

REICTHER (excited) A POTATO GUN!!!

CHRIS Gentlemen...our evening just got a whole lot better.

Everyone nods in agreement.

## SMASH CUT TO:

OPENING CREDIT SEQUENCE:

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

AFTER CREDITS:

INT. MALL - FOOD COURT - SAME

ELLEN CONNER sits at a table. CATHY MATTHEWS comes over with two drinks.

ELLEN You know I've got to admit something, Cathy. I never really pictured us hanging out together.

#### CATHY

Me either. But then all of my friends turned their backs on me because of the miscarriage, cheating thing and pretty much won't talk to me. But I remembered that you were always pretty cool to me so I decided that it was time to that we start a friendship.

ELLEN ...Wait are you saying we're hanging out because everyone else has shunned you? Beat. Cathy's nervous.

CATHY

No, of course not. I thought that we had a lot in common and that we should become better friends.

ELLEN Oh! Lot in common. Right.

Long awkward silence.

ELLEN What do you think of Barack Obama's chances for the election?

CATHY You mean the man responsible for 9/11? Why would anyone vote for him?

Ellen rolls her eyes.

ELLEN Okay, new subject. Um, how have you been holding up since you and Joel broke up?

CATHY

I've been doing pretty good. It was a really rough patch there right when it happened. I've never seen Joel that mad before. But it's been two months and I've moved on.

ELLEN (intrigued) Moved on?

Cathy smiles and tries to hide it.

ELLEN

Are you...dating again?

Cathy finally gives.

CATHY

Kinda.

ELLEN You sly boots. What's his name? CATHY Ben Tramer.

ELLEN Ben Tramer? You're sorta seeing Ben Tramer?

CATHY

Yeah.

ELLEN That's wonderful. Mosaltof.

CATHY Oh you speak Spanish?

Beat.

ELLEN Just...Just drink.

They drink.

CUT TO:

EXT. VANDELE HOUSE - SAME

Establishing shot. Credence Clearwater Rival's "Fortunate Son" is blasting from inside.

CUT TO:

INT. VANDELE HOUSE - SAME

Brian, Joel, Will, and Chris are sitting around in a circle. Brock and Casey are off in the kitchen, playing with the fireworks. Reicther is no where to be found. Chris reaches into a bag and hands each person in the circle a can of beer.

> CHRIS Okay. Who here has ever had alcohol before?

No response.

BRIAN (raises hand) My mom once filled a coke with Rum and I accidentally drank it. She tried to pass it off as New Coke. 7.

different.

Joel opens his can and starts to chug. He struggles to keep it down.

JOEL

Oh Jesus!

BRIAN You okay there, buddy?

JOEL God this is horrible. It's like they added carbonation to Seabiscuit's piss!

Will, Brian, and Chris open their cans and start drinking. Will can barely keep his down but finally giving up and spitting it out.

> WILL God, it's like The Tin Man shot his load into my mouth.

On the other hand, Brian and Chris drink with ease.

CHRIS Goes down smooth.

BRIAN That is one tasty beverage.

WILL (to Brian) How come you can drink it with such ease?

BRIAN I don't know. It's just a gift what with the alcoholism that runs in the family.

Despite hating the beer, Joel finishes it off.

CHRIS Joel I thought you hated it?

JOEL I do...I just can't stop drinking it. Joel reaches into the bag next to Chris, and pulls out another beer.

JOEL This is going to be horrible.

Opens the can and starts chugging.

CUT TO:

INT. VANDELE HOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME

While the drinking goes on in the living room, Casey and Brock are inspecting the fireworks in the kitchen. Brock seems very concerned.

> BROCK This many fireworks and those guys are drinking beer.

Casey sneaks off frame, with a handful of the goodies.

BROCK (CONT'D) This is one of the worst ideas in the history of bad ideas.

CASEY (O.S.) Hey, Brock. Think fast!

Brock looks over and is bombarded with COLORFUL FLARES. The Camera PANS over and sees Casey is shooting a Roman Candle at him. Casey laughs whole-heartedly while Brock dodges flare after flare.

> BRIAN (O.S.) Casey make sure you don't get my mom's drapes!

After what seems like fifty shots the Roman Candle finally runs out. Brock should be angry but instead puts on a fake smile.

> BROCK (out of breath) Ha, ha. Okay, okay. That was very funny Casey.

CASEY (smiling) Yeah...Good times. My favorite part was when it hit you in the shin.

(CONTINUED)

BROCK Yeah, yeah that was truly classic. I guess you shooting me with fireworks makes us even now for that whole Kay thing. Right buddy?

Brock gives Casey a hopeful nudge with his shoulder. Casey chuckles.

CASEY (smiling) Not by a long shot.

BROCK Damn it man! I've apologized a million times.

CASEY

Maybe try two million. I think that's the right number. I don't know, it's been a while since I've looked in the book "How to Screw Your Friends Over and Seek Forgiveness."

#### BROCK

Okay, one...that's a ridiculously long title for a book. Two, what DO you want from me that will get you to forgive me? I've gotten you all kinds of gifts of forgiveness. I even watched that *Hannah Montana* marathon with your little sister! (Beat) Why can't you forgive me?

CASEY Because you're my best friend and you betrayed my trust. It's going to take a pretty big gesture to redeem yourself for what happened.

Brock sighs and leaves the kitchen. Once he's gone, Casey looks at the table of fireworks.

CASEY (getting an idea) I could get twice the shot if I taped two roman candles together!!!

Happy as a child, desperately begins looking for tape.

10.

INT. VANDELE HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Brock slowly walks in. Chris and Brian are still drinking with no problem while Will and Joel look sick to their stomachs.

BROCK Hey, Brian do you mind if I get some aspirin from the bathroom?

BRIAN Pop pills to your heart's content my friend.

Brock leaves down the hall.

BRIAN Oh wait a minute Brock, I -

Notices Brock is gone.

BRIAN

Uh-oh.

CHRIS Uh-oh what?

BRIAN Well my mom hides certain "pep pills" in an aspirin bottle.

WILL And by "pep pills" you are referring to...?

BRIAN I'll give you a hint. It was a Keanu Reeves movie and it rhymes with 'feed'

Chris smiles, but is shocked.

CHRIS Your mom hides Speed in your bathroom?

BRIAN Where else would she hide it? Her room? That's the first place the cops would look.

Brian takes a sip of beer.

BRIAN Silly Jew.

INT. BATHROOM - SAME

Brock is looking through the cabinet for the aspirin. He finds a bottle and empties it's contents.

BROCK Hmm. That's odd. I've never seen Advil this color before.

Without a second thought Brock pops them into his mouth.

# BROCK (after swallowing) I think I took one too many. Oh well.

Brock sits the bottle down and leaves the room. We stay and zoom in on the bottle to see that there is a piece of tape on it with "Mother's Little Helpers" written on it. Cue dramatic music.

CUT TO:

INT. MALL - HOT TOPIC - SAME

Cathy is standing by the dressing room.

CATHY Does it fit okay, Ellen?

Ellen emerges from the dressing room in a black outfit with white stripes. It makes her look very Emo.

ELLEN I guess this looks good on me...if I were thirteen and suicidal.

# CATHY

Well those are the qualifications to shop at Hot Topic. There's even a sign out front.

The CAMERA PANS to the left and we see a giant sign that reads "Hot Topic: The Hotspot for Suicidal Pre-Teens"

Back on Ellen and Cathy. While Ellen tries to adjust something in the back, a GOTH FEMALE EMPLOYEE walks by.

(CONTINUED)

GOTH That's totally enchanting on you. That's from our "Little Miss Wrist Cutter" series.

The employee walk away.

ELLEN I'm taking this off.

CATHY All right fine. Will you at least try on this "Now That's What I Call Emo" blouse?

ELLEN No! Can't we go to another store?

VOICE (O.S.) Cathy? Ellen?

Both turn and reveal that the voice belongs to NADINE SANTOS, Will's Latino girlfriend.

CATHY Nadine?! What are you doing here?

NADINE I'm just doing some shopping. My cousin Mel loves this place.

ELLEN Does she dress in black and listen to bad, depressing music?

NADINE Surprisingly yes. How did you know that?

Ellen takes a quick glance around the store.

ELLEN Call it a hunch.

CATHY Where's Will at?

# NADINE

I'm actually flying solo tonight. Will and the guys are throwing a goodbye bash for Chris tonight and it's guys only. And knowing them that means they're sitting around a TV playing video games. INT. VANDELE HOUSE - SAME

Joel and Brian sit next to each other, both a bit tipsy but not drunk. Joel burps very loudly.

> JOEL Oh my God! Brian!

> > BRIAN

What?

JOEL I was full a second ago but then I burped and now I don't feel as full.

BRIAN I've heard worse reasons to drink.

Brian reaches off camera and retrieves two beers, handing one to Joel. Both open their cans.

JOEL Here's to burping...nature's way of saying "you're good for another round"

BRIAN

Cheers!

They drink.

CUT TO:

INT. HOT TOPIC - SAME

The three girls are where they were before.

ELLEN

Yeah you're probably right.

CATHY

So you're all by your lonesome tonight?

NADINE

Afraid so. Just doing some shopping and I'm probably just going to home after this to crash. CATHY Well if you're not with anyone tonight why don't you just hang out with us?

# NADINE

Really?

The news brings joy to Nadine, but Ellen looks mortified.

CATHY Yeah. Why not? The more the merrier.

NADINE Okay. That sounds wonderful.

Everyone smiles (Ellen's is fake).

ELLEN

That does sound wonderful. Cathy could I see you in the fitting room real quick. Zipper trouble.

#### CATHY

(confused) Um, okay.

Ellen yanks Cathy into the fitting rooms, leaving a very confused Nadine.

CUT TO:

INT. FITTING ROOMS - CONTINUOUS

Ellen drags Cathy down the furthest stall and enters.

CATHY Now when you said zipper trouble...nothing "important" got caught did it?

ELLEN I don't really have zipper trouble you dunce.

CATHY Well now I just feel useless.

ELLEN Why are you inviting Nadine to hang out with us? CATHY It seemed like the polite thing to do. Do you not want her to hang out with us?

ELLEN It's just awkward what with her dating Will and all.

# CATHY

Awkward?

Ellen rolls her eyes

ELLEN

Well...Will and I kind of, I don't know. We're just sort of -

CATHY

(overlapping) Did you guys date?

ELLEN

No, but I kind of thought that we would, and then Nadine showed up. I'm not jealous or anything, I'm just not terribly fond of the idea of hanging out with the girl who's fucking my best friend.

CATHY

Oh.

Cathy's eyes go wide with understanding.

CATHY Oh! Oh, shit, I'm sorry.

ELLEN And I've still got a little bit of a crush on him.

CATHY What!? Shit, now we have to ditch her.

ELLEN No, no it's too late for that, I'll be okay.

CATHY Are you sure? ELLEN Yeah, who knows, maybe I'll even grow to like her.

Cathy opens the fitting room door and steps out.

CATHY Yeah, maybe..

A PUNK GIRL walks by and notices Ellen.

PUNK GIRL Wow, that outfit looks really cute on you. We should hang out sometime, do you like to mutilate yourself and smoke clove cigarettes?

Ellen stares at Punk Girl.

ELLEN No, no I don't.

She slams the dressing room door shut.

ELLEN I have to get out of this store!

CUT TO:

INT. VANDELE HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Chris and Will are sitting on the couch.

WILL Is this what you envisioned when you wanted to do something new?

CHRIS Not really, they're still playing video games, 'cept now they're balls to the wall drunk.

The camera pans to see Joel and Brian playing a game furiously. They are both drunk off their asses.

BRIAN I hate you!

JOEL No you don't, you just think that you hate me. BRIAN

What?

JOEL You think you hate me.

BRIAN Aw man! I don't hate you!

JOEL I don't hate you either!

BRIAN Awesome... I need to piss.

Brian leaves for the restroom.

CHRIS Its kind of like watching Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure.

WILL Yeah, but they're not doing anything excellent, or adventurous.

CHRIS Oh...well then it's like watching two retarded monkeys.

Brian walks back into the room there is a big wet spot on the fly of his pants. Will and Chris crack up laughing. Brian looks down to realize what he's done.

> BRIAN Oops. I opened the door, but I forgot to take the car out of the garage!

> > JOEL

Awesome!

CHRIS Where is everyone anyway?

WILL I think Casey and Brock are playing with fireworks.

CHRIS Then where's Reicther?

Will shrugs.

WILL Who knows?

CUT TO:

INT. OUTSIDE ON THE STREET - ABOUT THE SAME

We focus on a mail box for a few seconds before it is unceremoniously blown apart.

REICTHER (O.S.) That was freaking awesome!

Reicther runs up to the shattered mail box with the potato gun in his hand.

REICTHER This thing has amazing power, it's like a punch from an elephant!

Reicther looks at the gun.

REICTHER I'm naming you Elephant Punch! Oh, hey Brock.

Brock walks up to Reicther, he is very fidgety.

BROCK (paranoid) How did you know I was there?

REICTHER You were hiding behind a very skinny tree, it wasn't all that hard.

Brock's left eye is twitching uncontrollably. For the first time ever, Reicther seems a bit put off.

REICTHER Your eye sure is twitching a lot.

BROCK Yeah, I think it's from those pills I took, but he told me its okay so I'm not too worried.

REICTHER Who told you it was okay? BROCK What's okay?

REICTHER Your eye it-

BROCK Shhhhh! There it is again!

REICTHER There what is again?

BROCK Shhhhh listen!

They are both very quiet.

BROCK Don't you hear ticking?!!

REICTHER No, no Brock I hear your eye twitching, that's probably not good.

BROCK I swear to God I hear ticking! It's like a clock, tick, tock, tick tock, in my freakin' head!

REICTHER Maybe it's a bomb?

Brock's jaw drops.

BROCK

What!?

#### REICTHER

Yeah, like in *Mission Impossible 3* they put tiny bombs in people's noses that would go into their brains, it wouldn't be strong enough to explode your head, just your brain, and your face would look really fucked up when you died.

BROCK

No! I don't want to look fucked up when I die! That isn't cool!

REICTHER Sorry man, but do you know what is cool?

BROCK

What?

REICTHER The Elephant Punch!

Reicther fires the gun into the air.

REICTHER Just look at it go...

BROCK I think we should run now.

Brock runs away.

#### REICTHER

What? Why?

We hear the faint sound of breaking glass and tires screeching.

REICTHER Oh, *that's* why! Elephant Punch away!

Reicther runs away too.

CUT TO:

INT. MALL - SAME

Ellen, Cathy and Nadine are sitting at a table eating ice cream cones.

#### NADINE

Do you suppose there is an actual difference between ice cream and frozen yogurt?

# ELLEN

If there is a difference I bet it is very slight. Frozen yogurt came along just to satisfy all those people who like to think they're living a healthier life style. It's like those people who order a Diet Coke with their Big Mac. 21.

CATHY

I actually like Diet Coke better than regular Coke.

# NADINE

When I was a little kid I thought Diet Coke was for adults and that regular Coke was for kids because my mom would always order Diet Coke. One time when we went out to eat I told my mother "Mom, I think I'm ready, can I order a Diet Coke?"

# ELLEN

What? You didn't associate the word "Diet" with someone on a diet?

### NADINE

Nope.

CATHY How old were you before you realized what it meant?

NADINE Oh, I don't remember, I was just a little girl.

ELLEN Stop bull shitting.

NADINE Okay, I was thirteen.

ELLEN

You were thirteen years old before you made the connection between the word "Diet" and people trying to lose weight?

# NADINE

Yeah, but I'm sure you have embarrassing stories like that.

ELLEN

I do not!

NADINE

Uh-huh

#### ELLEN

The worst thing I did was believe my cousin when she said that if you messed with your belly button too much it would come untied and your organs would spill out....I still don't touch my belly button.

#### CATHY

One time, my parents had sex in a hotel room while I was in the next bed. They thought I was asleep... I wasn't.

Ellen and Nadine look stunned.

# NADINE

See, our stories were cheeky and fun. Yours was just....

# ELLEN

Disturbing...

They all laugh.

CUT TO:

INT. VANDELE HOUSE - BRIAN'S ROOM - LATER

Brock paces about, eyes twitching. The full effect is being felt. Moments pass before he goes over to a telephone on the nightstand and starts to dial.

> VOICE (O.S.) Hello, White House.

BROCK I need to speak with the President immediately!

VOICE (O.S.) And what is this concerning, sir?

Brock looks around, paranoid.

BROCK (whispers) I have bomb planted somewhere in my face!

After a second he is greeted with a dial tone.

CONTINUED:

BROCK WHY WON'T ANY ONE LISTEN TO ME?!

He slams the phone.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME

Will and Chris are sitting at a table playing chess.

WILL Every time I play chess it makes me feel smarter.

CHRIS I would agree with you but it's kind of hard since Brian has the Transformer's chess set.

Chris moves a piece.

CHRIS My Ironhide takes your Starscream.

Will, angry grabs his Starscream piece.

WILL You've failed me again Starscream!

Will flings the piece across the room.

WILL This is boring.

CHRIS Yeah. What do you want to do?

Will thinks.

WILL We could jump Reicther and duct tape him to the wall.

CHRIS No, I don't think so.

WILL What's wrong with that? 24.

CHRIS I did that to my cousin once at a family reunion and he got off on it.

WILL Well, I'm fairly sure that Reicther's genitals don't work anyway.

CHRIS I'd rather not risk it.

WILL Good point, I think my head might explode if I see Reicther with an erection.

CHRIS

Yeah...

Beat.

WILL (getting idea) How good is your back swing?

Chris is confused.

CUT TO:

EXT. VANDELE HOUSE - GARAGE - SAME

Will and Chris are climbing up a ladder on the side of the garage.

CHRIS Where the hell are we going?

WILL Just wait and see.

They reach the top. There is a large golf bag in the corner and a fake patch of grass near the middle, with a golf tee in it.

Chris chuckles.

CHRIS Oh, I should have known. WILL Many a night have me and Brian have spent up here hitting balls.

CHRIS Hey, whatever you and Brian do in your free time is none of my business.

Chris walks over and grabs a club.

CHRIS Do you mind if I tee off?

WILL It's your party.

Chris sits up a ball, then lines up his shot.

CHRIS

Four!

Chris nails the ball and sends it flying.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIAN'S ROOM- ABOUT THE SAME

Brian and Joel walk into Brian's room, both of them are carrying beers.

JOEL Are you sure about this?

BRIAN Dude, if *Guitar Hero* is awesome when you're sober then it stands to reason that it'll be way more awesome while drunk.

JOEL Unless we suck at it, then it won't be very fun.

Brian picks up two guitar controllers.

BRIAN Shut up and play the damn game!

Just then his closet door opens and the top of Brock's head pops out (you only see his eyes and forehead.)

(CONTINUED)

BROCK (scared) Are they gone yet?

BRIAN

Who?

BROCK Xerxes and his Persian army!

Brian and Joel exchange looks.

BROCK You hear that? The Spartans approach!

Brock jumps out of the closet and dashes out of the room.

Long pause.

JOEL (very drunk) Who the hell was that chick?

BRIAN Who fucking cares. Let's get to *Guitar Hero*!

JOEL

Yeah!!!

TITLE CARD: FIVE MINUTES LATER...

Brian and Joel are both playing, and look really absorbed in the game. We can hear the song ending.

BRIAN

Yeah!

Brian gets ready to high five Joel, but Joel doesn't notice and starts to take the guitar off his shoulder.

> JOEL We fucking rock!!

Joel starts slamming the guitar against the floor and walls, breaking it to pieces. Brian watches stunned, but doesn't do anything. Joel finally gets control of himself and stops smashing the guitar.

Beat.

BRIAN Dude, you broke it.

JOEL

My bad.

Joel drops the broken guitar to the floor.

JOEL Don't worry. Those things are really cheap.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIAN'S BACK YARD - ABOUT THE SAME

We see two small rockets sitting on a table, one has a Superman action figure tied to it, the other has a Batman action figure attached to it. Casey's head is in the middle of them.

> CASEY/SUPERMAN Finally we will see who can fly faster.

> CASEY/BATMAN Yes- Wait a minute I can't even fly!

CASEY/SUPERMAN It's a good thing you have that rocket strapped to your back then.

CASEY/BATMAN Yes, quite.

CASEY That's enough of that.

Casey takes out a lighter and lights both of the fuses then runs a short distance away. The fuses burn for a few seconds before both rockets shoot up off screen. Casey looks up, giggling like a school girl. After a second he stops laughing.

> CASEY This isn't nearly as cool as I assumed it would be...

Reicther approaches Casey from off screen.

REICTHER Hey Casey, what'cha doin?

CASEY Eh, nothing, what are you up to?

REICTHER Well I was looking for Brock, I seem to have lost him.

CASEY

Yeah, last I saw him he was talking about a bomb inside his head that was going to make his face look all fucked up when he died.

REICTHER Yeah, I told him that.

CASEY Is that the potato gun?

REICTHER Heck yes it is, but I prefer to call it THE ELEPHANT PUNCH!

Reicther fires the gun into the air. We hear a strange shriek and something falls to the ground from off screen. Casey and Reicther look at the object.

> CASEY Is...Is that an owl?

REICTHER No, it can't be its -

Reicther takes a closer look.

REICTHER Yeah, that's an owl alright.

CASEY Isn't that illegal?

REICTHER What? Being an owl?

CASEY No, killing owls, I think that's illegal. REICTHER Nah, but I do think it's like 20 years bad luck or something.

INT. BRIAN'S FRONT YARD - ABOUT THE SAME.

Brian is looking up at a tree.

BRIAN You can't get it I'm telling you man.

JOEL (O.S.) Shut up, I'll get it, just you watch.

### BRIAN

That thing's been up there for five years! You know how many crazy thunderstorms have come through here during that time?

JOEL (O.S.) Bite me I'm going to get it!

### BRIAN

If the fury of Mother Nature couldn't get it down, then how can you hope to succeed!?

# JOEL (O.S.)

Mother Nature can lick my salty balls. I'm going to fucking get it.

#### BRIAN

When you fall out of that tree and go into a coma the first thing you're going to see when you wake up is me in your hospital room screaming "I told you, you stupid mother fucker!"

JOEL (O.S.)

Shut up!

#### BRIAN

Or maybe you'll land on your head and kill yourself! I can see the tombstone now "Here lies Joel Mayberry, the stupid mother fucker (MORE) BRIAN (cont'd) thought he was better than Mother Nature's fury!"

JOEL (0.S.) Bullshit, my tombstone is going to say "Here lies Joel Mayberry, he was so awesome that Mother Nature sucked his salty balls"

#### BRIAN

Shows how much you know! Mother Nature is a lesbian dumb shit!

JOEL (O.S.) Whatever, everyone knows that Mother Nature is bisexual!

BRIAN

Lesbian!

JOEL (O.S.)

Bisexual!

BRIAN

Lesbian!!

Beat.

JOEL (0.S.) Why am I climbing this tree anyway?

BRIAN

There's a boomerang stuck up there, you're trying to get it.

JOEL (O.S.) Oh yeah. I still say Mother Nature's Bisexual.

# BRIAN

Well of course she is, as old as she is she must have experimented a bit.

JOEL (O.S.) Do you think Mother Nature and Father Time ever fucked?

BRIAN Maybe, what do you think their kids would look like?

JOEL (O.S.) It would be a tree that could control time! BRIAN That's stupid! JOEL (O.S.) Why is it stupid? BRIAN It just as easily could be a watch that controls nature. JOEL (O.S.) Don't be retarded, Mother Nature isn't going to birth a watch! BRIAN Shut up! It would be easier then a tree coming out of her. A boomerang falls down to the ground from off screen. BRTAN Sweet! You got it. JOEL (O.S.) That's because I kick ass! Joel jumps down next to Brian. Brian picks up the boomerang. JOEL Does it actually work? BRIAN There's only one way to find out my friend.

Brian throws the boomerang towards the street.

JOEL Look its coming back around!

BRIAN Its not gonna make it!

The boomerang lands on the street and breaks in two, Brian and Joel are stunned.

BRIAN Well...that sucked, what now?

JOEL I saw a Frisbee while I was up there.

BRIAN Dude, that things been up there for years, you can't get it down!

JOEL Oh yeah!? Watch me ass face!

Joel runs to the tree and starts climbing.

CUT TO:

INT. MALL - WALDEN BOOKS - SAME

Ellen, Nadine, and Cathy enter with shopping bags in hand. They're laughing it up, having the time of their life.

NADINE

Oh shoot.

CATHY What's wrong?

NADINE I left my "Little Miss Wrist Cutter" outfit in the food court. Could you hold my bag so I can run and get it?

ELLEN

Of course.

NADINE Thank you so much.

Nadine hands her bags to Cathy and leaves for the food court.

CATHY Holding nice, civilized conversations. Giving compliments. Ellen, I must say I'm surprised at how well you're treating Nadine.

ELLEN It's not easy but I'm playing nice. 33.

CATHY She's not that bad.

ELLEN That's what they said about Charles Manson. It was all happiness and clovers until he killed Sharon Tate.

Cathy stares at her blankly.

ELLEN Remember? Helter Skelter? Vicious murders? Sharon Tate from Valley of the Dolls?

Cathy continues stare blankly.

ELLEN

Nevermind.

Cathy shrugs.

CATHY Nadine is nice, Ellen. She's friendly, cute -

ELLEN And she's fucking Will!

CATHY We really don't know if said "fucking" ever took place.

ELLEN ...It could have.

CUT TO:

INT. MALL - SAME

Just outside of Walden Books, Nadine slowly approaches. She is going through her purse.

NADINE I can't believe I left my cellphone behind too. I must be losing my mind.

She is about to enter when she suddenly hears Ellen.

ELLEN (O.S.) Nadine is nice but, I don't know.

Hearing this, Nadine moves to the side of the entrance. She hides behind a book stand. She listens intently.

CUT TO:

INT. WALDEN - SAME

Ellen and Cathy.

CATHY Ellen I don't see what's the big deal unless...

A realization hits her.

CATHY Oh my God. You're still in love with Will, aren't you!

ELLEN Shhh. Keep it down. The whole store can hear you.

CATHY Now it's making sense. You don't like Nadine because she's dating the man you love.

ELLEN ...Yeah. You caught me.

CUT TO:

EXT. WALDEN BOOK - SAME

Nadine, listening, is angry, confused, and not sure what to do.

ELLEN (O.S.) As long as Nadine is dating Will, I don't know if I'll ever be able to get over that fact.

Nadine gets up and sneaks away.

CUT TO:

EXT. VANDELE HOUSE - GARAGE - MINUTES LATER

Will sits and Chris is ready to swing. He swings away.

CHRIS Is it good? Did I hit anything?

WILL You either hit a small child or a tall midget.

CHRIS Hmm...I think that's a bogey.

Both laugh.

CHRIS God, I'm going to miss this.

WILL Who wouldn't? Garage Golf is a national past time.

CHRIS

No, this. Hanging out. Shooting the shit with friends. It's that one thing that separates assholes from cool people. Like how earlier we had a 47 minute conversation about Pepsi Blue.

WILL

Which *IS* the greatest thing man has invented in the last ten years.

CHRIS Man it's going to suck balls to have no one like that when I move to England.

WILL

You'll do fine. You'll have a small period of adjustment but you'll make a few friends. Then a lot of friends. Then we'll become nothing more then a distant memory of your short time in America.

CHRIS What makes you so sure? WILL

That's what happened when you came here. No offense, Chris but I thought you were going to leave us within a week of meeting us.

CHRIS

Really?

WILL

Fuck yeah. You could have easily been a prep or a jock but you stayed with us. God only knows why but you chose us over them. Anyone who willingly chooses us over a bunch of closeted gay jocks and condescending preps has my eternal respect and admiration.

CHRIS Wow. I didn't even know I had that.

WILL Well, now you know and knowing is half of the fucking battle.

Chris smiles. Will swings and barely hits it.

WILL (angry) Aw fuck me in the ass!

CHRIS That's a slice.

WILL

It doesn't count. I was opening up to you. I was emotionally distraught.

CHRIS Emotionally distraught my black ass.

WILL Whoa. Look at you, finally using the phrase "my black ass."

CHRIS The moment seemed right.

Will goes to the edge.

WILL Little help. Can someone get me that ball?

BRIAN I've got two balls for you.

Brian and Joel laugh. Will and Chris turn around, Will disgusted.

CHRIS So that's what Brian's testicles look like.

Will picks up a loose tile and hucks it. THUD.

BRIAN Owwww! I think they popped!

Will walks to the other edge.

WILL Casey can you get some of our balls down there?

CASEY (O.S.)

Okay.

EXT. VANDELE HOUSE - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Casey begins to search the yard. On the other side of the yard, Reicther is reloading the potato gun. He looks up and notices that Casey is bent over.

REICTHER By the power of Grey skull! Dare I shoot at such an easy target? Casey is my friend.

Reicther looks up to the sky.

REICTHER God, if you want me to shoot, give me a sign.

The gun accidentally goes off, followed by a THUD. A dead pigeon falls to the ground in front of him.

REICTHER God be praised.

Reicther begins to load up the gun again.

EXT. VANDELE HOUSE - FRONT YARD - SECONDS LATER

Brian sits on porch, pants down, large bag of ice of his testicles.

## BRIAN

Is it bad?

JOEL They're swollen and purple. You know if you pushed them together they would totally look like the Grimace.

BRIAN You think they'll go back to their original size and color?

JOEL No...but I think alcohol really turns me into a pessimist.

BRIAN Man, Joel. You're one hell of a guy.

JOEL

I am?

## BRIAN

Yeah. How many friends would do this? Examining another friend's balls to make sure they're still there. Not a lot of people will do that...except for you man.

JOEL Aww, shucks. You flatter me. I'm not that great.

BRIAN Yes, you are Joel. I...I love you man.

JOEL ...I love you too man.

They hug, Brian still without any pants on.

JOEL What about the ice...and your pants? BRIAN I don't care! My pants be damned! The world should know that I LOVE JOEL MAYBERRY! JOEL You're making me blush. BRIAN I mean it. Every word of it. JOEL Thank you man. Joel shakes his head. JOEL Man I feel like a bastard now. BRIAN Why's that? JOEL Because you show me all this love and I do nothing except screw you over. BRIAN (confused) Screw me over? JOEL Yeah. You see I kinda dated Cathy Matthews and kept it a secret from you. BRIAN ... Cathy Matthews? JOEL Yeah. BRIAN

The girl I've had a crush on since 8th grade?

JOEL Yeah. Silly right? BRIAN Yeah...right. Silly. But it was for only a short while or something like that, right?

JOEL Actually...all of Junior year.

## BRIAN

All of junior year you say.

JOEL

And most of sophomore year.

BRIAN

...Huh. But it was a secret so no one knew about it right?

## JOEL

Kinda. I mean some of her friends knew. And then Will found out. Then Casey. Then Chris. Brock, Stacy -

BRIAN Everyone but me, basically?

JOEL

Yeah.

BRIAN Well...don't I look foolish.

### JOEL

And here's the kicker. The reason she started taking an interest in me was because she thought I was the one who wrote that anonymous love letter Freshman year and was her secret Email boyfriend.

BRIAN ...You mean all those things I did.

JOEL

Yeah. It's so fucked up, isn't it?

BRIAN Yeah. It's certainly fucked up. Joel hold my ice?

JOEL

Sure.

Brian hands Joel the ice and immediately follows it up by uppercutting Joel in the chin. Joel falls and passes out on his stomach.

> BRIAN Holy shit! I actually uppercutted someone! I'm the greetesed...

Spins, gets dizzy, and falls on Joel's back making for one compromising position.

FADE TO:

EXT. VANDELE HOUSE - GARAGE - SAME

Chris and Will are now sitting, talking.

CHRIS

I just can't get over it, you know? Even when I say it out loud it doesn't sound real. 'My girlfriend killed herself.'

WILL Doesn't exactly roll off the tongue does it?

#### CHRIS

Someone who was my first serious girlfriend. Someone who I was absolutely crazy about...no pun intended. I mean before the whole "going off the meds" thing she was a fantastic girl. I mean hell I lost my virginity to her.

WILL Get the fuck out of here. Really?

CHRIS

Yeah.

WILL Bullshit. When?

CHRIS May of our Sophomore year. It was a Friday. Her parents were out of town. WILL May? Didn't you start dating like at the end of March?

CHRIS (embarrassed)

Yeah.

WILL Barely a month. I had a sneaky suspicion you were a slut at heart.

They both have a laugh. Beat.

### CHRIS

You know I blame myself every day for what happened. She killed herself because she didn't see any way out. She didn't see a single way of getting help for what she was going through. I should have been that person to reach out.

WILL

You did. You got her help when red flags started popping up.

## CHRIS

I only made things worse! What happened when I forced her back onto her meds? She overdosed and drove us into a fucking phone pole. Which in turn made her mother commit her to a mental institution. And well, we all know what happened next.

WILL

You can't blame yourself for this. Kate made her own decision. This was HER choice, not yours.

#### CHRIS

Oh yeah? She even said in the damn note that "She couldn't go on, spoiling my life." That sounds like laying the blame on me.

WILL

Is that why you've been the way you've been last couple months? How you've basically been schizo? Angry, throwing shit in the (MORE) 43.

WILL (cont'd) principle's office? mopey, sitting in a car, consuming fast food while staring at Kate's picture -

Chris is confused.

WILL

Brock saw you. Only told me because he was concerned. Then let us not forget the past month where you suddenly became happy and fucking around with some blonde pre-teen. So you're telling me this whole emotional zig zag is because you blame yourself for Kate's death?

Chris nods.

WILL

Chris, you're not to blame. Hell you're one of the few people who actually gave a damn about her. Her mother wanted to dump her off in some nut house, but you fought against that. You knew that it wouldn't be good for her. You tried to get her back on her medication so that she wouldn't have to suffer from that. Hell, you stayed with her even though you found that she had this problem. You didn't dump her or anything like that. Everything you did, you did because you were concerned and you loved her.

Despite the sad face, Chris is beginning to pep up due to Will's speech.

CHRIS You know is going to sound weird but, I've got to say it.

WILL Okay shoot.

CHRIS I do take solace in one thing about this. And that's the fact that she was free.

Will is confused.

#### CHRIS

The day before she killed herself, we talked on the phone. She was so happy. More so then she's been in a good long while. And I thought it was great, I thought she was getting the help she needed. And then the next afternoon, she swallowed a bottle of pills. That was the one aspect that always bugged me the most. Why was she so happy the day before? And then it hit me: she was finally free. She knew the pain was coming to an end and in a way she was free of those problems that haunted her.

Beat.

#### CHRIS

... She was finally free.

Silence.

WILL

Hate to break up the moment, but I think it's getting a bit to cold for me. I'm going to go down inside and make a frozen pizza. You want in?

CHRIS Yeah, I'll be down in a few minutes.

## WILL

Okay.

Will heads for the ladder, patting Chris on the back.

#### WILL

Don't take too long.

### CHRIS

I won't.

Will goes down the ladder. Chris remains, staring at the stars. Instead of being sad, a small smile comes across his face. For the first time, he's at peace with himself.

CUT TO:

EXT. VANDELE HOUSE - BACKYARD - SECONDS LATER

Casey is no longer bent over. Reicther has grown very weary of waiting.

REICTHER I can't take this anymore! The waiting is killing me.

Reicther stands up.

REICTHER (calling out) Hey, Casey!

CASEY

Yeah?

REICTHER Could you do me a favor?

CASEY

Sure.

## REICTHER

A blue screw came out of Elephant Punch here and I think it is near that large ant mound behind you. Could you turn around, bend over, and search for it for me.

CASEY ...Um, okay. Bit of a weird request but sure. More than happy to help.

REICTHER

Thank you so much.

Casey turns around, bends over, and starts to do what Reicther asked. Reicther gives an evil laugh.

## REICTHER

Perfect.

Reicther starts lining up the shot.

Just then, Brock comes out of the back door, twitchy eyed and paranoid.

# BROCK

If I'm going to get this bomb out of my face I'm going to need to perform a little home surgery. Brock reaches into his pocket and pulls out a small knife.

BROCK I'll need an assistant though.

He looks around the backyard and quickly notices Reicther aiming for Casey's ass.

BROCK Oh no! Reicther's going to tear Casey a new asshole...literally!

REICTHER

Ready...

BROCK

Casey!

Casey doesn't move.

CASEY We're not talking, remember Brock?

REICTHER

...aim...

BROCK

Shit!

Brock runs toward Casey.

REICTHER

FIRE!

Brock jumps in front of Casey and takes the potato into his chest. Reicther is disappointed.

REICTHER Ah, dang it Brock!

Casey turns around to see Brock on the ground, grabbing his chest and desperately trying to catch his breathe.

CASEY Jesus Christ on rubber crutches! Brock are you okay??

BROCK (short of breath) I think...one of my...lungs collapsed.

Casey is confused.

CASEY What happened?

Reicther walks up.

REICTHER He ruined my shot is what happened.

CASEY (very concerned) Why did you step in and take that potato to the stomach?

BROCK (short of breath) Your ass...your ass...he was aiming for your ass.

Casey is touched.

CASEY You mean you jumped in front of a gun...for me?

Brock nods.

CASEY God, that's the nicest thing anyone has ever done for me.

BROCK (short of breath) You're...welcome.

CASEY Oh buddy. I'm sorry I've been ignoring you all this time. Consider yourself forgiven.

BROCK (short of breath) Huz...zah!

Casey bends down and picks Brock up.

CASEY Let's go inside and see what we can do before we're forced to go to the hospital.

Casey carries Brock inside. Reicther reminds.

REICTHER You know, I think it's time I give up this whole "prankster" act. I mean I nearly killed one of my closet frie -

Reicther stops and looks up.

REICTHER Holy crap! That's the largest bat I've ever seen.

He grabs Elephant Punch and starts to follow it.

CUT TO:

INT. MALL - SAME

Cathy and Ellen are sitting on a bench with shopping bags at their feet.

ELLEN Where the hell is Nadine?

CATHY I don't know. It's about closing time though.

Nadine shows up, trying to mask her true feelings.

CATHY There you are. Where have you been?

NADINE Sorry, I just had -(looks toward Ellen) - a personal thing come up.

ELLEN Is every thing okay?

Shoots her a look.

NADINE

I hope so.

CATHY Well, the mall's about to close. How about we swing by Burger King and get some milkshakes?

The three begin to walk away.

ELLEN I'm cool with that. Do they still have the double strawberry shake?

CATHY You know I think they actually discontinued you that.

ELLEN Really? Man, I really liked that one.

Ellen and Cathy continue their conversation while Nadine remains silent. The whole time, Nadine is staring at Ellen with a look of contempt. Ellen never notices this.

After a few seconds of walking, the girls leave the mall.

FADE TO BLACK

FADE IN:

EXT. VANDELE HOUSE - FRONT YARD - NEXT MORNING

Brian and Joel are still in the compromising position from the last night. Brian's pants are still down. A sign that reads "GAY" is posted in the ground near them.

Brian starts to wake, followed shortly by Joel. Confused, Brian hops up and pulls up his pants. Joel, equally as confused, slowly stands up.

There's a long, awkward pause. Brian notices Joel's black eye.

BRIAN (off black eye) Dude, how did you get that?

Joel feels.

JOEL I...I don't know.

Beat.

JOEL Why were your pants off?

BRIAN

I don't know.

Beat.

JOEL Did, did we have angry gay sex?

Brian thinks about it.

## BRIAN

...Maybe.

Will emerges from the front door.

WILL Hey, if you two are done pounding ass we're all going over to Chris' house to say goodbye.

Will goes back in. Brian and Joel look at each other.

JOEL Want to keep a deep, dark secret?

BRIAN Is there any other kind?

They pinky swear before going inside.

FADE TO:

BEGIN SONG: Wilco - "What Light?"

INT. BRIAN'S CAR - MINUTES LATER

Brian is driving with Will and Joel crammed in the front with him. In the back sit Casey, Reicther, and Brock (who is using a tank of oxygen to breath).

> REICTHER Again, I'm sorry for possibly collapsing your lung. I was aiming for Casey's ass.

BROCK (short of breath) Go...to hell.

WILL Wait, where did you get the oxygen tank?

BROCK (short of breath) Brian's mom...had it...in her room. BRIAN Yeah, funny story. Turns out my mom uses to get a buzz. She does it when she can't afford the beer.

Everyone nods.

FADE TO:

EXT. HUGHES HOUSE - MINUTES LATER

ELIZABETH HUGHES is putting some of the final bags in the big station wagon in the drive way. The Gang is standing around Chris at the front porch.

REICTHER Here Chris. I drew this for you.

Reicther hands Chris a picture of a black stick figure with the words "To Chris, From Reicther."

REICTHER It's a portrait of you.

CHRIS Aw...you shouldn't have.

ELIZABETH (O.S.) Chris, the car's packed up. I think it's time to leave.

Casey breaks out crying and hugs Chris violently.

CASEY Don't go Chris! You can't leave us!

Chris starts patting him on the back.

CHRIS

Aw, Casey. I don't want to go but Johnny Law says I have to.

Casey nods.

BRIAN (RE: Casey's crying) How do you cry on command?

Chris looks over the guys, not sure to say.

CHRIS Well, guys. I'm not sure what to say here except...goodbye.

The Gang nod, look sad, and generally look like they don't know what to say.

CHRIS

I know I've been an asshole over the last couple months and I'm sorry for that. I didn't mean for that to be directed at you guys. You guys have been really good friends to me over the years. I'm going to miss you all.

Beat.

WILL Fuck it, I'm not afraid of looking gay.

Will reaches in and hugs Chris.

REICTHER

Me either!

Reicther joins the hug, as do Joel, Brian, and Brock. With all these people hugging, Chris struggles to breath.

CHRIS (hard to talk) Guys...kinda tight...I think we can let go know.

No one lets go. Chris tries his hardest and makes his way toward the car, taking the hug circle with him.

CHRIS Seriously guys.

FADE TO:

EXT. HUGHES HOUSE - MINUTES LATER

The Gang stand on the lawn and watch as the station wagon pulls out of the drive way and slowly drives away. They wave goodbye to Chris as he goes by.

They continue to watch, long after he's gone.

Silence.

WILL You guys wanna go grab breakfast at Sunshine Cafe?

Nods all around.

BRIAN Yeah, why not.

REICTHER

I could eat.

The Gang starts to walk away.

CASEY Hey! You guys I just thought of the perfect replacement for Chris.

JOEL

Who?

CASEY

Kirk!

Everyone dismisses this.

JOEL Are you kidding me?

CASEY What? He's a cool guy.

As they walk away, another argument begins.

CUT TO:

INT. STATION WAGON - MUCH LATER

Chris stares out the passenger window as his mother drives. The Car slowly comes to a stop.

ELIZABETH

We're here.

Long pause.

CHRIS Okay. I'm ready.

We stay on Chris' face as we...

FADE TO BLACK.

(CONTINUED)

SONG CONTINUES OVER CREDITS

END OF EPISODE