CRASHING BY DESIGN

Written by

Scott Derechinsky

Scott Derechinsky 605 Garden Rd. Pittsgrove, NJ 08318 (856) 332-0385 INT. RESTAURANT (1965) - NIGHT

PHYL(30), 9 months pregnant; her husband STAN(34); her neice BENAY(23), and Benay's husband, CHARLIE(25), are seated at the table as they look at menus.

PHYL

What do I want? Hmmm. Everything looks so good. What are you going to get, Stanley?

STAN

Don't know yet. Think I'll get a steak. They have great steaks here, Charlie!

CHARLIE

Sounds good to me! Feel like I haven't eaten in a week!

BENAY

You just had 2 double cheeseburgers and a mountain of fries for lunch!

CHARLIE

I'm a growing boy! Let me eat!

BENAY

So eat! Who's stopping ya! But if you get any bigger we'll have to get you your own zipcode!

CHARLIE

Ah! Zip it!

BENAY

Behave!

CHARLIE

It doesn't behoove me to behave,
darlin'!

BENAY

Yeah, yeah.

PHYL

Think I'll get the jumbo shrimp. Isn't that an oxymoron?

CHARLIE

Oxymoron? I thought that was a retarded cow!

BENAY

Ugh! You're a retarded cow!

CHARLIE

So, are we ready to order? Where's that damn waiter?

STAN

I'm ready. Everybody know what they want?

CHARLIE

Hey, can we get some service? We got a pregnant lady starving over here! She wants jumbo shrimp, or a retarded cow! I can't remember which.

BENAY

Charlie! Please?! You're embarrassing everybody!

CHARLIE

(to waiter)

Oh, Garcon! Oui, oui! We be ready to order!

BENAY

Ugh! Too much!

WAITER(30) comes over to table.

WAITER

Are we ready to order?

STAN

Go ahead honey.

PHYL

Yes, I'll have the... (groaning in pain)

Owwwwwwww.!

CHARLIE

Owl? I thought you were getting the shrimp?

BENAY

Aunt Phyl, are you ok?

PHYL

Noooo! It's coming!

STAN

Ok, try and relax, honey. Charlie, go get the car!

CHARLIE

I'm on it!

Gets up and runs out. Benay puts her arm around Phyl.

BENAY

Breathe, Aunt Phyl!

STAN

It's ok, honey. Charlie's getting the car. The hospital's right down the road.

BENAY

Hang in there, Aunt Phyl.

STAN

Breathe, honey, breathe.

PHYL

Ahhhhhhhh'm breathing!

STAN

Let's get her up, Benay. Charlie should be coming.

They help Phyl to her feet.

BENAY

It's gonna be ok, Aunt Phyl.

PHYL

I forgot how much it hurts!

STAN

Charlie should be out front by now. Come on, honey. We got ya.

Waiter comes running over.

WAITER

Is there anything I can do?

STAN

Thanks. Can you get the door?

Waiter runs over to front door.

STAN (CONT'D)

C'mon, honey. We gotcha.

BENAY

We gotcha, Aunt Phyl.

They help her through the doorway. Waiter is holding door.

STAN

(to waiter)

Thanks, guy. I'll tip you twice next time.

EXT. RESTAURANT

They help Phyl in car, get in, pull away.

INT. CAR - TRAVELING

Stan and Phyl are in backseat. Benay in passenger and Charlie is driving.

CHARLIE

I'll put some music on Aunt Phyl. We'll be there in no time.

Turns on radio.

DJ ON RADIO (V.O.)

Straight off the press, here's a brand new one from those kids from Liverpool! The Beatles!

A Beatles song plays.

CHARLIE

The Beatles? What kind of name is that? They'll never last. They're trying to copy the Crickets. Now that was good music. There is only one band that can succeed with the name of an insect! Buddy Holly will be missed. He must be turning in his grave listening to this garbage!

BENAY

Will you shut up, Charlie!...How are you feeling, Aunt Phyl? We'll be there soon, honey.

PHYL

I'm hangin' in there! Just drive, Charlie! Please!

CHARLIE

Ok, Aunt Phyl. Sorry. Just saying, Buddy Holly and the Crick --

STAN/ PHYL/ BENAY

Shut up!

CHARLIE

(aloud to himself)

Now that was good music. The Beatles? Hmmph! Never last.

INT. HOSPITAL/DELIVERY ROOM - NIGHT

Phyl is in bed. DOCTOR(45) is delivering baby. NURSE(31) is assisting Phyl.

NURSE

Push, honey! Push!

DOCTOR

Here comes the head! Push! Push! Just a little farther! Push!

NURSE

You're almost there, honey. One more big push!

PHYL

(pushing)

Aaaaaaaaah!

Baby cries. Nurse wraps him in blanket. Hands baby to Phyl.

PHYL (CONT'D)

Oh Scotty. Scotty Hugh. My McQ.

INT. AUNT'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM (1969) - DAY

BENAY(29) looks at fish in fish tank which is enclosed in wooden case. The tank is about 5 feet high. SCOTTY(4) is standing at her side, too small to see fish tank.

SCOTTY

I wanna see! I wanna see!

BENAY

Okay. Come here.

She picks him up.

SCOTTY

Cool! Look at that blue one!

He points at tank with left hand while right hand is on wooden case at base of tank. It collapses. Water, wood, and flopping fish are strewn all over the floor.

BENAY

Oh my God, Scotty! What did you do?!

SCOTTY

Huh? I didn't do anything!

AUNT ANNIE(50) runs over.

AUNT ANNIE

Aaaaaahhh! Oh my God! What have you done?!

SCOTTY

I didn't do anything! I didn't do anything!

BENAY

Look what you did!

AUNT ANNIE

(crying)

You miserable little boy! You've destroyed my house!

LEE(9) comes over. Points at Scotty.

LEE

You're an idiot!

AUNT ANNIE

You've ruined everything! What a mess! Aaaaaahhh! You horrible clumsy fool!

LEE

Dummy!

AUNT ANNIE

What are we gonna do now?! We have to move! This is terrible! They shoulda left you home! You horrible, horrible little boy! Well, that's it! We gotta move! (MORE) AUNT ANNIE (CONT'D)

This can't be fixed! This can't be cleaned! That's it! We gotta move!

UNCLE DAVE(52) walks over.

UNCLE DAVE

Relax, Annie. It'll be okay. We'll be okay. (to Scotty) No thanks to you!

Scotty cries.

ZAIDA (O.S.)

Leave him alone!

His grandfather, ZAIDA(75) comes in and picks him up.

ZAIDA (CONT'D)

It's okay, Sheppy. It wasn't your fault. You want some ice cream, tatala?

SCOTTY

OK.

AUNT ANNIE

Good! Get him outta my sight!

ZAIDA

It's okay, Sheppy. You're a good boy. A very special boy.

Scotty wraps his arms tightly around Zaida.

SCOTTY

I love you, Zaida.

EXT. SCHOOL/PLAYGROUND (1971) - DAY

SCOTTY(6) is tied to chain link fence. Three BULLYS, 8, poke him with a stick.

SCOTTY

Leave me alone! Let me go! Let me go! Leave me alone!

BULLY#1

Awww! Look at the baby! Take that, baby! Why don't you cry?! Take that, little baby!

BULLY#2

He's a Jew Boy, too. A baby, Jew Boy! What's wrong, baby Jew Boy?! Don't like being poked with a stick, baby Jew Boy?

BULLY#1/BULLY#2/BULLY#3

(poking and chanting)

Ba-by, Jew Boy! Ba-by, Jew Boy! Ba-by, Jew Boy!

WALTER(6) and JIMMY(6) run over and hit two of the bullies with hockey sticks. They fall to the ground.

BULLY#1

(crying)

Waaaaaaahh! Waaaaaaaah! I'm telling! Waaaaaaaahh!

BULLY#2

(crying)

Waaaaaaaahhh! Mommy! Mommy!

BULLY#3 runs away. Walter and Jimmy untie Scotty.

WALTER

You ok, Scotty?

SCOTTY

Yeah, I'm ok. Thanks guys!

JIMMY

No problem. That's what friends are for!

WALTER

You'd do the same for us!

SCOTTY

I sure would!

WALTER

We're the Three Musketeers! All for one, and one for all!

They hold up sticks and touch them together.

SCOTTY/WALTER/JIMMY

All for one, and one for all!

INT. HOUSE/SCOTTY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Scotty is sitting on side of bed with head in hands. Zaida walks in.

ZAIDA

What's wrong, Sheppy?

SCOTTY

Nothing.

ZAIDA

I know when something's wrong. Tell you're Zaida. You can tell me anything.

SCOTTY

Some older boys called me a name today.

ZAIDA

What did they call you?

SCOTTY

Baby. Baby Jew Boy.

ZAIDA

Who called you this, Sheppy?

SCOTTY

Just some older boys.

ZAIDA

And how did this make you feel?

SCOTTY

Sad...and mad. Very mad.

Zaida sits next to Scotty on the side of the bed and puts his arm around him.

ZAIDA

Listen to me, tata. There are some people in this world who like to hurt others for no reason. They aren't happy with themselves, so they try and make other's feel bad, too. You have to be a better person than that, Sheppy. You have to rise above the ignorance in this world, and trust in yourself and God. Those boys, they're weak. Not like you. You be strong, tata.

Strong like you, Zaida!

ZAIDA

Yes, tata. Strong like Zaida. But you must control your anger, Sheppy. Don't be mad with these people. Feel sorry for them.

SCOTTY

Sorry for them?

ZAIDA

Yes. Sorry for them, because they are hurting. Hurting because they hate who they are. Hurting because they don't have love in their heart. Be proud of who you are, Sheppy. You are a very special young man. You know how to love. You have a good heart. That's why you should feel sorry for them, and anyone like them you may come across in your life. Sorry for them because they can't be like you. Understand, tata?

SCOTTY

I understand, Zaida.

ZAIDA

That's a good boy. My good, strong boy.

SCOTTY

Zaida?

ZAIDA

What, tatala?

SCOTTY

Will I be as good as you someday?

ZAIDA

Oh, Sheppy. You already are.

Scotty puts his arms around his grandfather's neck and hugs him very tightly.

SCOTTY

Thank you, Zaida.

ZATDA

I love you, Sheppy.

You're the best grandfather in the whole world! You're gonna live forever!

EXT. ZAIDA'S HOUSE - DAY

Pick-up truck pulls up. RACIST#1(53) and RACIST#2(25), get out and throw rocks at house.

RACIST#1

Hey, Jew! Come on outta there! We don't like your kind here! Go back to the desert!

RACIST#2

Go home, Jew! Get outta our neighborhood!

INT. ZAIDA'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM

Zaida and Scotty sit on couch watching tv. CRASH! (O.S.) Zaida jumps up.

ZAIDA

Sheppy! Go to the bedroom! Lock yourself in!

SCOTTY

Who is that, Zaida?!

ZAIDA

Do what I tell you! Now!

SCOTTY

No Zaida! I wanna stay with you!

CRASH! (O.S.)

RACIST#1 (O.S.)

Get outta our country, Jew! Go back to Israel!

RACIST#2 (O.S.)

Go back to Israel! We don't like your kind here!

ZAIDA

Go to the bedroom! Do what I tell you, boy!

No, Zaida! They wanna hurt you! Who are they?!

Zaida runs over, picks Scotty up and takes him into the bedroom and locks the door.

INT. KITCHEN

Zaida runs to the front door and picks up a baseball bat.

RACIST#1 (O.S.)

I know you hear me, Jew! We don't want you here! Go back to Israel! Go back to your desert!

RACIST#2 (O.S.)

Yeah! Go back to your desert, Jew Boy!

ZAIDA

This is my home! Get off my land! Leave us alone!

RACIST#1 (O.S.)

Come on out, or we're coming in!

ZAIDA

Okay! I'm coming out!

He grips the bat tightly and opens the door.

ZAIDA (CONT'D)

Sheppy! You stay where you are, boy! No matter what! Stay where you are!

SCOTTY (O.S.)

Are you okay, Zaida?! I wanna help!

ZAIDA

Stay where you are, Sheppy! Obey me! Do what I tell you!

He goes through the door and locks it behind him.

EXT. ZAIDA'S HOUSE

The Racists stand with tire irons in hand. Zaida stands by the front door with a bat.

RACIST#1

Hey, Jew! We gonna teach you a lesson, boy! Come take your medicine like a good Jew Boy!

RACIST#2

Yeah, come take your medicine!

RACTST#1

And after we're done with you, we gonna take care of that little Jew Boy!

Zaida runs towards them with bat raised.

ZAIDA

You don't touch him!

Zaida hits Racist#1 with bat. He falls to the ground. Racist#2 hits Zaida from behind with the tire iron. He falls. Zaida swings the bat from the ground, taking the legs out from under Racist#2. Zaida struggles to get to his feet, as Racist#1 hits him in the back with the tire iron. BANG!(0.S.) They all stop and look. DORSEY(68), an African-American man, stands across the street with a shotgun.

DORSEY

The next one won't be in the air! I can guarantee you that!

RACIST#1

Mind your own business, Nigger, or you'll be next!

DORSEY

This <u>is</u> my business! Now get up, get your ignorant ass back in your truck, and drive away! And don't ever come back!

Racist#1 helps Racist#2 to his feet.

RACIST#1

Come on, boy. Let's go. We ain't
done with you, Jew!
 (to Dorsey)

And you're next, Nigger! You dug your own grave, boy!

They get in truck and SQUEEL away. Dorsey helps Zaida up.

DORSEY

You ok, Abe?

ZAIDA

I'm alright. Thanks, Dorsey.

DORSEY

Welcome. You'd done the same for me. We do what we gotta do.

Scotty runs over.

SCOTTY

Zaida! Zaida! Are you hurt?!

ZAIDA

How'd you get out, Sheppy?

SCOTTY

I climbed out the window! Are you hurt, Zaida?! Are you ok?!

7ATDA

I'm fine, boy. Take more than a couple of bad men to keep your Zaida down. I'm fine, thank God... and my friend, Dorsey.

SCOTTY

Thank you, Dorsey! Thank you!

DORSEY

No problem, Scotty. We gotta take care of each other in this world. Your Grandpa'd done the same for me. Count on that.

ZAIDA

Thanks again, Dorsey. God only knows what they would done to my Sheppy.

DORSEY

We do what we gotta do. Keep the faith, brother.

ZAIDA

God Bless.

Scotty and Zaida walk to the house and Dorsey heads back towards his, across the street.

SCOTTY

You sure you're alright, Zaida?

ZATDA

Good as gold, Sheppy! Good as gold!

EXT. MOVIE THEATER (1975) - DAY

 ${\tt SCOTTY(10)}$, ${\tt JODI(14)}$ and ${\tt DAVID(14)}$ stand in line for the movie "Tommy".

JODI

I've never seen this place so crowded. Must be a good movie. Tommy? What's it about?

DAVID

It's based on the Who Rock Opera album by the same name.

JODI

By who?

DAVID

Yep.

JODI

Yep, what?

DAVID

Who.

JODI

It's based on who's album?

DAVID

Yep.

JODI

Yep? Who's album?

DAVID

That's correct!

JODI

What's correct?

DAVID

Who's album, Tommy!

JODI

That's what I'm asking! Who's album, Tommy?

DAVID

Yes, Jodi! You are right. Who's Tommy!

JODI

Are you messing with me?

DAVID

Yes, I'm messing with you. The Who is the name of a rock band, and they made an album called Tommy in 1969. This movie is based on that album. It's a Rock Opera.

JODI

The Who? Never heard of them.

DAVID

Ever heard of the Beatles?

JODI

Of course, everyone knows the Beatles.

DAVID

Do you like the Beatles?

JODT

Sure! Who doesn't like the Beatles?

DAVID

Well I'm not really sure if the Who likes the Beatles or not. I think they're all pretty good friends, actually --

JODI

Don't start this again!

DAVID

Okay, sorry. Well if you like the Beatles, you're gonna <u>love</u> the Who! They are much better than the Beatles. Tommy is a masterpiece! I heard my older brother playing it back in '69, and I was like, wow! I've never heard anything like this in my life! It blew my mind!

JODI

Oh, really?

SCOTTY

What are you guys talking about?

DAVE

Who.

JODI

Now don't start that again!

She laughs.

SCOTTY

What's so funny?

Jodi pushes Scotty.

JODI

Come on! The line is moving!

SCOTTY

Okay, okay! Don't push! What's this movie about, anyway?

JODI

(to David)

Don't start!

(to Scotty)

It's a good movie. Now be good or Mom won't let you go with us anymore.

DAVID

It's about a boy named Tommy. He's deaf, dumb and blind. And he's a Pinball Wizard.

SCOTTY

Pinball Wizard? What are you talking about?

JODI

(pushing Scotty)

Move up! The lines moving!

SCOTTY

Okay, Okay! Pinball Wizard? Huh?

INT. MOVIE THEATE

Scotty, Jodi, and David are in their seats. The movie starts. Time lapses and it ends.

JODI (0.S.)

... Scotty! Scotty!

Scotty slowly looks towards Jodi standing in the aisle.

SCOTTY

(entranced)

Huh?...What?

JODI

I said, let's go! Mom's waiting for us outside!

Scotty gets up slowly from his seat.

SCOTTY

(mesmerized)

Wow.

INT. HOUSE/SCOTTY'S BEDROOM (1980) - DAY

SCOTTY(15) is asleep in his bed. KNOCK KNOCK. The door opens and Zaida peeks his head in.

ZAIDA

Are you getting up, Sheppy? I'm leaving for morning services soon.

Scotty awakes.

SCOTTY

Huh? Wha?...What time is it?

ZAIDA

It's six-thirty, tata. Services start at seven.

SCOTTY

Do you mind if I go with you next week, Zaida? I'm so tired out from the football game, yesterday.

ZAIDA

(disappointed)

Okay, Sheppy. You rest.

Zaida closes the door. Scotty goes back to sleep.

INT. HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY

Scotty is standing at stove cooking scrambled eggs. Phyl walks in.

PHYL

Wow, you're up early!

Making breakfast for me and Zaida. I didn't go to services with him last week, so I promised him this week. Where is he? Have you seen him? He's usually up by now.

PHYL

No, McQ. I just woke myself. Smelled the eggs frying and coffee brewing.

(nudging Scotty away)
I'll finish cooking.
You go wake your grandfather.

SCOTTY Okay, Mom, thanks.

He exits.

INT. HALLWAY

Scotty walks over to Zaida's bedroom door and KNOCKS.

SCOTTY

Zaida? You up?

He opens the door and walks in.

INT. ZAIDA'S BEDROOM

Zaida is motionless on the bed. Scotty walks over to him and gives him a slight push.

SCOTTY

Zaida, wake up. It's almost time for services.

No response. Scotty pushes him a little harder.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

Zaida? Zaida? Wake up, Zaida! You gotta get ready for services. Wake up, Zaida! Wake up! We have to go to services! I promised I'd go! Come on, Wake up!

Phyl enters the room.

PHYT.

What's wrong?

He won't wake up, Mom!

Phyl walks over to the bedside and shakes Zaida.

PHYL

Pa? Wake up, Pa! Oh my God, no! Wake up, Pa! Go call 9-1-1, Scotty! Go, now!

Scotty runs out of the room. Phyl rests her head on Zaida's chest.

PHYL (CONT'D)

(crying)

Oh, Pa! Not now! Please! Please! Please, no! Oh, Pa!

INT. FUNERAL HOME/LOBBY - DAY

Scotty walks in. It is empty. The FUNERAL DIRECTOR (58), walks in, and over to Scotty

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Hi, Scotty. I'm so sorry about you're grandfather. I know you were very close with him.

SCOTTY

(pointing at door)
Is he in there? Can I see him?

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Of course.

The F.D. opens the door. Scotty walks in.

INT. VIEWING ROOM

There are rows of empty seats. Zaida's casket is at the front. Scotty walks down the aisle, and stands in front of it. He looks down at Zaida's lifeless body.

SCOTTY

Zaida... I guess you were right, and I was wrong. You're <u>not</u> gonna live forever. Guess I always knew that. Just didn't wanna believe it. I'm gonna miss you, Zaida. You're not only my grandfather, my teacher, my protector...You're my best friend.

(MORE)

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

I don't know what I'm gonna do without you, Zaida. You've just always been there. I know what you're saying. What you've always said to me, "Be strong, Sheppy. Be a strong man, like you're Zaida." Well, I don't feel very strong right now. I feel like a boy who needs his grandfather. I'm so sorry for the times I might have disappointed you. I'm sorry I cussed at you that time when I was in kindergarten. And I am so sorry I didn't go to services with you last week. I know how much that meant to you, and I disappointed you. I was gonna go with you on the day...I was even making us eggs, with a little sugar, the way you showed me. (beat) I will promise you this, Zaida. I promise I will make you proud some day. I will make you proud. (beat) I'll see you again, Zaida. I don't know when or how exactly, but that is for God to know. Until that day, you will always be with me in thought and spirit. I love you so much, Zaida.

He cries.

INT. ROB'S HOUSE/LIVINGROOM (1982) - NIGHT

There are partying teens all over. Classic Rock is on the stereo. SCOTTY(17) walks over to ROB(17).

SCOTTY

Dude! Great party!

ROB

When'd you get here, dude?

SCOTTY

Like a half hour ago, dude! Or an hour and a half ago! I can't remember!

Laughs then stops abrubtly.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

Hey, you seen Al, yet? He's wearing this Reagan mask. It is hilarious, dude!

ROB

Yeah, Yeah. That is hilarious...
Hey, you wanna smoke a joint, dude?

SCOTTY

A joint? You don't say, my good man. Leadeth the way!

ROB

Cometh whither...or hither...or, just come this way, my brother!

Waves his arm to indicate to go out to patio. They walk towards porch door.

SCOTTY

Great party, dude! Music is kickin'! Kickin' the jams out!

ROB

Come on, dude, out here.

They walk out onto the patio.

EXT. HOUSE/PATIO

Scotty and Rob walk over and rest against the railing.

SCOTTY

Spark it up! I ain't been high in a week!

ROB

This is the shit, too, dude! My brother got it off some Jamaican dude. This is the premium ganja!

SCOTTY

Well, less talkin' and more tokin', dude!

Rob puts the joint in his mouth and begins to light it.

ROB

Yeah...ok. Ha.

Lights the joint and takes a long toke off of it.

SCOTTY

Dude! That's gonna be a cougher for sure!

Rob finishes the toke and hands it to Scotty.

ROB

'ere!

Scotty takes the joint and takes a big toke. They both cough.

SCOTTY

That is some wicked shit, dude!

ROB

Tol' ya'!

AL(17) walks in, still wearing the Ronald Reagan mask.

AL

Hey! How dare you enjoy the splendors of this fine earth, without inviting your Commander in Chief to partake?

SCOTTY

(laughing))

Come here, Mr. President. Please accept our sincere apologies. Come partake, my good sir.

Holds the joint out to Al.

AL

(impersonating Reagan)
Well...that's better.

Al takes the joint from Scotty and tokes with the mask still on. Scotty and Rob laugh at this. Al exhales and coughs.

AL (CONT'D)

(impersonating Reagan)
Well...I must tell you gentlemen,
after thoughtful consideration,
I've come to the conclusion,
 (beat) Dis' here da shit!

They all laugh.

INT. LIVINGROOM

GIRL#1(17) and GIRL#2(17) stand with drinks in their hand and and gossip.

GIRL#1

I know! Did you see what she's wearing?! Oh my God! I was like, "can you be anymore sluttier!"

GIRL#2

Slutty? Looks like she just came from the set of "Debbie Does Dallas"!

GIRL#1

I know...wait, what? You've seen "Debbie Does Dallas"?

GIRL#2

Well, no. But you know what I'm saying.

GIRL#1

I know! Such a slut!

FRANK(18) and WILLY(20) lean against the wall with beers in their hands.

FRANK

What? No way, dude!

WILLY

Yep!

FRANK

Damn, you're lucky, dude! You saw Yes in their prime?!

WILLY

Yep! Premium Upper Level, too! Not one of those "obstructed view" seats.

FRANK

Awesome!

WILLY

Yes it was. Yes it was.

"Baba O'Riley" by the "Who", comes on stereo. Scotty runs in.

SCOTTY

Hey! Turn that jam, up!

He runs to the stereo and cranks it all the way up. The sound fills the whole room.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

(singing loudly)

"Out here in the fields, I fight for my meals. I get my back into my living! I don't need to fight, to prove I'm right!

(MORE)

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

And I don't need to be forgiven! Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!"

Power chords come in. He does his best "Pete Townshend" imitation. Vocals come in. The CROWD joins Scotty.

SCOTTY/CROWD

(singing)

"Don't cry! Don't raise your eye! It's only teenage wasteland!"

Scotty continues his "Who" antics. Vocals come in:

SCOTTY

(singing)

"Sally take my hand. We'll travel some crossland. Put out the fire, and don't look past my shoulder..."

The song plays on. At chorus he waves his arms conducting the crowd.

CROWD

(singing)

"Teenage Wasteland! It's only Teenage Wasteland! Teenage Wasteland! They're all wasted!"

INT. HOUSE/SCOTTY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Scotty lies in his bed watching a "Twilight Zone" episode on tv. CREAK(O.S.) He looks around. Nothing there.

SCOTTY

Hmm. Probably just the house settling.

Continues to watch TV. After a moment, CREAK (O.S.) He looks to corner. Zaida is there.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

Zaida?

ZAIDA

Remember, Sheppy. Remember.

SCOTTY

Remember, Zaida? Remember what? Remember you? Of course. I'll always remember you.

7ATDA

Remember, Sheppy. Remember it.

Remember it? Zaida, remember what? Zaida?

Zaida is gone. Scotty sits a moment, then gets up and turns off the tv and goes to bed.

INT. HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY

Scotty is sitting at the table, eating a bowl of cold cereal. Phyl enters room.

PHYL

Hey, McQ. You're up early for a Saturday.

SCOTTY

Yeah, couldn't sleep.

PHYL

Why? Something bothering you, honey?

SCOTTY

Nah. I don't know why?

PHYL

If anything's bothering you, Mom is always here for you.

SCOTTY

I know, Mom.

PHYL

Well, I gotta get running. I have errands and shopping to do.

She walks over and picks up her bag and heads for the door.

PHYL (CONT'D)

See ya later, McQ.

SCOTTY

I saw Zaida last night

Phyl stops in her tracks. She turns around towards Scotty.

PHYL

You mean you had a dream about him?

SCOTTY

It wasn't a dream, Mom. I was wide awake.

PHYL

It could have been the dark playing tricks.

SCOTTY

He spoke to me.

PHYL

He spoke to you? What did he say?

SCOTTY

He said, "Remember, Sheppy.
Remember." And at first I thought
he was telling me to remember him.
But then he said "Remember <a href="it." I asked him, "Remember what?" But he was gone.

PHYL

Oh, McQ. I know how much you miss him.

SCOTTY

What do you think he wants me to remember, Mom?

PHYL

Oh, honey. Don't worry yourself. If your Zaida is still around you, it's because he loves you.

SCOTTY

Yeah, I know.

PHYL

I gotta go now, honey. I love you, McQ.

SCOTTY

Love ya, mom.

Phyl walks out.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

Remember it. Remember what?

He sits there a few more moments, then gets up, puts his bowl in the sink, picks up his keys and walks out the front door.

EXT. HOUSE/FRONT YARD - DAY

Rob and Al are walking up the driveway. Scotty stands with his arms raised.

(yelling very loudly)

Yeeeeeeeaaaaaaaahhhhhhh! Meet the new Boss! Same as the old Boss!

ROB/AL

(yelling very loudly)

Whooooooooo!

SCOTTY

(yelling)

The Whoooo! The F-ing Whoooo! Dudes, I am so pumped! Puuuuuuuuummmmmped!

Phyl stands in the doorway.

PHYL

McQ! Keep it down, son! The neighbors are gonna think I'm murdering you.

SCOTTY

But it's The Who, Mom. The Who.

PHYL

I know. Iknow. The Who...hoo hoo hoo. Just not so loud, ok?

SCOTTY

Okay, mom. We're leaving just as soon as Frank and Willy get here, anyway.

HONK! HONK! (O.S.) Scotty turns.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

Speaking of the devils!

Frank and Willy get out of car and walk up driveway.

FRANK/WILLY

(yelling)

Whooooooooooo!

PHYL

Keep it down, guys! The neighbors!

WILLY

Oh, sorry about that, Mrs. D. How are you doing this fine morning?

PHYL

Well, I was doing a lot better about a half hour ago. Ok, you guys go and have a good time. Be careful.

Scotty, Rob, Al, Frank and Willy walk towards Willy's car.

SCOTTY

K, Mom!...Shotgun!

FRANK

Shotgun!

ΑL

Shotgun!

FRANK

No way, dude! He's \underline{my} best friend. I rode here with him.

AL

Just because you rode here with him, doesn't mean you have automatic "shotgun". You have to call "shotgun" as everyone is approaching the car, before every major trip. The trip from your house, down the street, is not a major trip. Scotty was the first to call "shotgun", so he gets "shotgun". And besides, he's the biggest "Who" Freak! This is like his birthday!

FRANK

Yeah, you're right about one thing. He's a freaaaaak!

He slap boxes Scotty in the face. Scotty counters with his own. The two continue their horseplay and they all pile in Willy's car.

PHYL

Be careful! Wear your seatbelts! No drinking and driving! No drinking at all!

Phyl stands in the doorway until the car is down the road. She turns to go back in.

PHYL (CONT'D)

Oy! The Who...hoo hoo!

EXT. EVENTS ARENA/PARKING LOT - DAY

Thousands of concert goers are tailgating. 4 HIPPIES in their 40's are sitting in folding lounge chairs, drinking beer.

HIPPIE#1

Seen Pete and the Boys every tour since 1965.

HIPPIE#2

They were never the same after Moonie died.

HIPPIE#3 raises his beer in a toast:

HIPPIE#3

Ah, yeah. Moonie. Rest in Peace, Moonie.

HIPPIE#4 raises his beer.

HIPPIE#4

Rock in Peace, Moonie.

They all raise their beers.

ALL 4 HIPPIES

Rock in Peace, Moonie.

HIPPIE#1

Oh...but they still Rock, though.

HIPPIE#2

Oh yeah...they still rock.

Scotty and his 4 friends lean against Willy's car, and listen to the stereo.

SCOTTY

I still can't believe that I will be seeing the Who, in that building, in a few hours.

ROB

Hell's yeah! I hope they play Dr. Jimmy.

WILLY

The last time I saw them was in 1975. Best show I have ever seen.

FRANK

Better than Yes?

WILLY

Not even in the same category, dude. The Who are the greatest live band of all-time.

SCOTTY

(yelling)

Yeaaaah!!

WILLY

(yelling)

Yeeeeaaaaaaah!!

A "Who" song comes on.

WILLY (CONT'D)

(to Frank)

Yo! Crank it up, dude!

The volume on song gains to max. volume. They all "dance".

INT. SCOTTY'S CAR - NIGHT

Scotty and his girlfriend, MICHELLE(15) make out. After a moment, she pushes him away.

MICHELLE

So tell me...what's this secret you had to tell me?

SCOTTY

Huh? What are you doing?

He goes to grab her. She pushes him back.

MICHELLE

Not until you tell me!

SCOTTY

What? What are you talking about?

MICHELLE

You told me on the phone that you had a secret to tell me. What is it?

SCOTTY

Oh, that...well, you have to promise you won't tell anyone, Michelle! No one!

MICHELLE

I promise. Not a soul, Scotty.

Well, ok then. I...I...

MICHELLE

Yes? Yes? You?

SCOTTY

I...I...was born a woman!

Michelle gasps.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

I knew when I was a little girl, I wasn't like the other little girls. I didn't wanna play with dolls! I wanted to play with army men! I didn't want to be a ballerina! I wanted to be a baseball player! (beat) I just wanted a penis!

He cries. Michelle reaches out and puts her arms around him.

MICHELLE

It's ok.

SCOTTY

You still wanna be with me?

MICHELLE

I love you for you. What's on the inside counts.

SCOTTY

(laughing)

You're a lesbian! You are so gullible!

MICHELLE

Are you kidding?! I got <u>you</u>! Do you really think I'd fall for that?! Double Whammy! You <u>are</u> a good actor, though.

SCOTTY

You're pretty good yourself. Maybe we should make a movie together.

They laugh and make out.

INT. HOUSE/SCOTTY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT (MIDNIGHT)

Scotty is asleep in bed. After a moment:

ZAIDA (OS)

Sheppy. (beat) Sheppy.

Scotty's eyes open. He looks to the corner. Zaida is there.

SCOTTY

Zaida!

7ATDA

Happy Birthday, Sheppy.

SCOTTY

Thank you, Zaida. It's good to see you.

ZAIDA

It's good to see you too, Sheppy. I can't stay long, Sheppy. Remember. Remember it all.

SCOTTY

What, Zaida? Remember what? Zaida?

Zaida is gone.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

Remember it all?

Scotty sits up and gets out of bed. He walks towards his desk. He picks up a notebook and opens it to the first page and writes, "remember it all". He closes the notebook, and walks back to bed and lies down.

INT. SCHOOL/HALLWAY - DAY

Students fill the hallway. Scotty walks up to Rob.

SCOTTY

I gotta tell you something.

ROB

What? What is it?

SCOTTY

You've been my best friend longer than anybody, and I have to tell someone. I told my mom, but she doesn't get it.

ROB

Get what? What is it?

I saw Zaida. Twice.

ROB

Whatta ya mean, you saw Zaida? Like a ghost?

SCOTTY

No...he's not like transparent or anything. He's looks like a person, just like you do right now.

ROB

Did you touch him?

SCOTTY

No. He's never even stayed long enough to give me the chance. But he did say something to me. He said this both times, "Remember it. Remember it all". Whatta ya think that means?

ROB

I don't know. Maybe it means he wants you to remember all of the answers to your Lit. test today.

SCOTTY

(sarcasticly)

Ok, thanks. Thanks for all your help. Appreciate it.

ROB

Nah, I'm just messin' with ya. So you really saw him? You weren't just high or something?

SCOTTY

No, I wasn't high or something. I wasn't imagining it.

ROB

I don't know man. Pretty creepy if ya ask me.

SCOTTY

He's trying to tell me something, and it's like he's only allowed to give me so much information. It's so frustrating! ROB

You'll figure it out. Well, I gotta go to class now.

SCOTTY

Alright, dude. Catch up with ya later.

Rob walks off. Al walks over.

AΤι

My long lost brother from another mother!

SCOTTY

My pal, Al! What's happenin?!

They bro-hug.

AL

Well you know, driving the ladies crazy, and driving the men insane with jealousy!

SCOTTY

The only thing I'm jealous of is your humility. It sure ain't your humor!

ΑL

So, what are you up to after jail lets out?

SCOTTY

I don't know. It's my birthday,
so...

AL

Dude, it's your bithday?! Happy Birthday, man! We definitely gotta do something, then!

SCOTTY

Yeah, we'll find something.

AL

Definitely, dude. Well, I gotta get to my cell now. Catch ya later on, Birthday Boy!

The two depart. He sees Michelle, walks over to her, and they kiss.

MICHELLE

Happy Birthday, Birthday Boy! You want your present now or later? I'd suggest later, or we might get expelled or even arrested.

SCOTTY

Okay. Later, then.

MICHELLE

That's a promise. Now let me give you one more birthday kiss.

They kiss. The bell rings.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

I gotta get to class...Mrs.
Meiswinkle. She'll put a witchy
spell on me if I'm late. I'll see
you, later, Birthday Boy!

She laughs a sinister laugh, and departs as Scotty stays. BLABOOP (O.S.) He looks around. Halls are empty. He looks around again, then walks to class.

INT, HOUSE/LIVINGROOM - NIGHT

Scotty, Lee and Stan watch the 1983 NBA FINALS game on tv. Scotty and Lee are on the couch. Stan is in the recliner.

SCOTT

(excited)

What?! Did you see that?!

LEE

I love this team! Dr. Jay!

SCOTTY

Moses! Deliver us to the Promised Land, Moses!

LEE

To the land of milk and honey, Moses!

SCOTTY

Ten seconds...8,7,6,5,4,3,2,1. World Champions! Wooooo!

They celebrate. After a moment:

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

(shushing, watching tv)

Wait! Shush! Listen. (beat)

(laughing)

Fo' fo'! Moses, my brother!
Fo' fo'! I don't care how you
speak! You delivered us to Promised
Land, my brother!

STAN

Fofofo? What is that? Fofofo?

SCOTTY

Moses predicted, before the playoffs started, that the Sixers would sweep through the playoffs, without losing a game. That would mean 4-0 in the first, second and final series. He was close. They only lost one game in the whole playoffs. Four-five-four. But that's close enough. He can say fo' fo' fo', if he wants.

STAN

So what does fofofo mean?

SCOTTY

That's the way he pronounces "four"! Fo! Like a southerner would!

STAN

Well I don't know why he can't just say "four".

SCOTTY

Oh, It doesn't matter, dad! He has delivered us to the Promised Land, Father! The Promised Land!

He sings the 76'ers jingle using made up lyrics:

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

Here dey come, down the streeeet. World Champions! 76'ers! They're the best...team in the wooorld! No one's better! 76'ers!

Stan gets up and sings the same meleody. Dances to kitchen.

STAN

Here I go, to the kitchen. Gonna get my...self a sandwich...

He dances into the kitchen singing. Lee gets up from couch.

LEE

Well, I gotta go pick up Carl. See ya later.

SCOTTY

Ok, smell ya later.

Lee exits. Scotty stays and watches tv. After a moment: CREAK (O.S.) He looks towards the kitchen.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

Dad? Are you still eating?

He gets up and walks to the kitchen. It's empty. He walks back and sits down on couch. After a moment: BLABOOP (0.S.) He looks around.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

What the hell is that?

He gets up, turns the tv off, and listens. Silent. He walks around and looks. He walks down hall to his room and enters. After a moment: BLABOOP.

INT. SCHOOL/ASSEMBLY ROOM - NIGHT

End of graduation ceremony for "Class of 1983". Scotty, Rob, and the rest of the graduates throw their caps in the air.

SCOTTY

Woooooooo!!

Scotty gives Rob a bro-hug.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

We made it, dude! We made it!

ROB

Yessir!

SCOTTY

It's been a long, strange trip, but we made it!

Al comes over. Bro-hugs the guys.

ΑI

Halleluyah! Free at last! Free at last! Thank G-d Almighty, we're free at last!

(singing)

Freedom tastes of reality!

Scotty approaches his parents, with Michelle at his side.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

Hey, Mom and Dad. Didn't think I could do it, did ya?

He hugs Phyl.

PHYL

Oh of course we did, McQ. You're my little genius.

SCOTTY

Don't get carried away, Mom. (hugging Stan)

Hey, dad.

STAN

So proud of you, Scotty.

SCOTTY

Thanks, Dad. Means a lot. Michelle and I are gonna go to a little get-together with some people, now. Just close friends.

PHYL

(in disdain) Oh, hi Michelle.

MICHELLE

Hi Mrs. D, Mr. D.

STAN

Hey there, cutie-pie!

Phyl elbows Stan.

STAN (CONT'D)

Whaa?

SCOTTY

Well, we gotta get running now. See ya in a bit.

Scotty and Michelle walk away to the exit.

PHYL

Hmmph. Maybe he'll find a nice girl in college.

STAN

Now be nice. The boy just graduated high school.

PHYL

Hmmph! The girls mishugina!

STAN

Ahhhh, you're mishugina!

He puts his arms around and kisses her. She pushes him away.

PHYL

Oh ,Stanley! Not in Public!

EXT. WOODS/HANG-OUT SPOT - NIGHT

Scotty, Michelle, Rob, Al, Frank and Willy stand in a circle as they talk and pass a joint around.

SCOTTY

I can't believe that we're done school. I mean, school's not out for Summer. School's out forever.

WILLY

(singing badly))

School's out for summer! School's out forever!

FRANK

Ah, school's been out forever for you for three years!

WILLY

Don't mean I can't sing, brother.
 (singing badly))
School's out forevah! School's out
for --

Frank gives Willy a karate chop to midriff.

FRANK

You can't sing! Not a lick!

Willy gives a karate chop back and the two engage in a "martial arts" showcase.

WILLY

Hah!

He speaks as though his lips are out of sync with voice, like in a 70's Martial Arts movie:

WILLY (CONT'D)

You cannot defeat me! I am the great ninja warrior, "Wicked Dragon" and I am a Ninja Master!

FRANK

(immitating Capt. Kirk)
Oh yeah, Well, I'm Capt. James T.
Kirk! I...cannot...be beaten. And
my voice...and lips...move
together.

WILLY

Ahh, you're just being stupid now.

SCOTTY

(laughing)

You guys crack me up. So what's everybody doing for the summer? Any major plans?

AL

I plan to devise a scheme to take over the Earth and declare World Domination! Either that or go visit my cousins in Marshfield, Mass.

SCOTTY

That's cool...either one.

(to Rob)

How 'bout you Slobbert?

ROB

Probably just work and hang out. Take it easy, ya know. How about you?

SCOTTY

Probably the same. Would like to do something, before I go off to college.

ROB

Yeah, we gotta do something. Might not see you very much after the Summer.

MICHELLE

(hugging Scotty)

I'll be seeing you every weekend at school.

SCOTTY

Well...I don't know about that.

MICHELLE

(pushing away)

Whatta you mean, you don't know about that? What's that mean?

SCOTTY

We'll talk about it later.

MICHELLE

No! You said it! We'll talk about it now!

SCOTTY

I said, we'll talk about it later!

MICHELLE

I'm outta here!

She walks away.

ROB

Aren't you gonna go after her?

SCOTTY

(watching her leave)

Nah. I think I need to move into a new phase of my life. She's too immature for me. Gonna miss that ass, though!

The guys laugh as they stare at her butt.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

So. Where were we?

ROB

Dude, I don't think she's coming back.

SCOTTY

That's ok. I was gonna break up with her tonight, anyway.

ROB

I thought you liked her.

SCOTTY

I do. It's just I'm going away to college. I wanna be free.

ROB

I hear ya. I'd just like to find one that'll stick around.

FRANK

I'd just like to find one that's lighter than 200 pounds.

AT.

I'd like to find one that doesn't think I'm a dork. One that would have the intelligence to understand my sophisticated humor.

WILLY

I'd like to find one that can handle my 12-inch Python! (thrusting hips forward) PaPow!

They all laugh.

EXT. COLLEGE/DORMS (1984) - DAY

SCOTTY(19), PHYL(50), and STAN(53) walk towards entrance. Scotty carries a suitcase and Stan carries a box.

SCOTTY

Well, this is it.

INT. SCOTTY'S DORM ROOM

They walk in. Scotty puts his suitcase down and walks over to Stan.

SCOTTY

Here dad, I'll take that.

He takes the box and places it on his desk.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

Well, thanks for bringing me. Hopefully my car will be fixed by next week.

PHYL

I think he wants us to go, Stanley.

STAN

Sure he does. He wants to go talk to some of those "hotties" I saw roaming around down there.

Phyl punches him in the gut.

STAN (CONT'D)

(wrenching)

Uhhhhhh! What? Isn't that what they're calling them now?

PHYL

Come on, Stanley. Time to go.

SCOTTY

Okay, Mom, Dad...I'll see you next week. I'll let you know if my car is fixed before then.

STAN

Yeah, then you can take those hotties out in style.

Phyl punches him in the gut, again.

STAN (CONT'D)

(wrenching)

Uhhhhhhh! Okay son, see ya soon.

PHYL

Ah! My baby, all grown up! Go! Be! Be whatever you want to be!

SCOTTY

Okay, Mom. Thanks, Dad. I'll call you if it's fixed before Saturday. If not, see you then. Ok, love you guys.

He kisses them on the cheek and helps them out the door.

PHYL

Ok, McQ. You call if you need anything. I Love you, honey.

STAN

I'll see ya, son. I love you.

SCOTTY

Love ya, guys. See ya soon.

He closes the door and walks over to his suitcase. Picks it up and places it on the bed, takes out a bong and bag of pot. He fills the bong, lights it, and takes a hit. KNOCK KNOCK (O.S.) He fans the air with his hands.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

Just a minute! Who is it?

RAY (O.S.)

Ray! I'm the R.A. of the floor!

Scotty opens the door. RAY(20) stands there, with hand out.

RAY (CONT'D)

Just wanted to welcome you to the floor.

SCOTTY

(shaking hands)
Oh, hi. Scotty.

Ray hands him a sheet of paper.

RAY

This is a list of Rules and Regulations. I'm strict but fair. If you follow the rules, your stay here will be a smooth and enjoyable one. If not, there will be consequences. I don't go for any shenanigans around here. Just like the rest of you, I'm here to get an education, so I can become a Certified Accountant, and hopefully be a partner in my own agency some day. And nothing is going to stop me in this quest. Not you or any other member of this floor. Just wanted to get that straight now. A few strict ground rules; absolutely no drugs or alcohol are to be present in or around this dorm facility. The only drugs allowed are Pharmacuetical... In fact, I took a few "No-Doze" earlier! Cramming for an algebra test. Never took them before! Man, I feel like I'm tripping! They should put a warning on that stuff! Last time for me! I learned my lesson. Anyway, welcome to K-Dorm, Floor 2.

The two shake. Ray turns and walks away down the hall, bumps into the wall, and looks back at Scotty.

RAY (CONT'D)

"No-Doze". The stuff is lethal!

Scotty closes door. He then walks over to where he hid his bong, takes a hit, and stretches out to relax on his bed. He lies there for a moment, and then hears a key being placed into the keyhole and the knob turns. It swings open and in

walks a young, Japanese American guy, GREG(18). He spots Scotty on the bed.

GREG

Hey there! Didn't know anybody was in here!...Greg.

He walks towards Scotty with his hand out. They shake.

SCOTTY

Hi. Scotty.

GREG

Been here long?

SCOTTY

About a half hour ago.

GREG

That's cool.

(sniffing the air)

Mmmmmm...smells good In here.

SCOTTY

Whatta ya mean?

GREG

It's cool, dude! As soon as I
unpack, got some green from
Argentina. It's the killer! Red and
purple hairs! Premium smoke!

SCOTTY

That's cool. I think we're gonna be just fine as roommates.

They laugh. Greg walks over to open his suitcase and Scotty walks over to his.

INT. SCOTTY'S DORM ROOM - DAY (LATER)

Scotty and Greg stand near Greg's desk. Greg is holding a bag of marijuana. He holds it up to Scotty.

GREG

Primo! Smell that! You smell anything like that in your life, dude?!

SCOTTY

(sniffing)

No. Smells sweet!
(MORE)

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

Sorta like an ultra-strong spearmint leaf. Sweet! I gotta bong over there.

GREG

Well, snag that mother and bring it over here, dude! We gotta annoint this meeting righteous!

Scotty gets the bong and brings it over.

SCOTTY

One bong, as ordered!

Greg takes it and looks at it.

GREG

Nice! Well let me fill this puppy up!

He fills bowl and hands to Scotty.

GREG (CONT'D)

Here ya go! First one here has honors!

Scotty takes the bong and lights it.

GREG (CONT'D)

That's it. Take a nice healthy one. (beat) Now hold it in. A little longer...

Scotty holds in the hit as long as he can, then exhales and coughs.

GREG (CONT'D)

(laughing)

I told ya! Nas-tee!

SCOTTY

Nice.

GREG

Here! Hand it over here!

Scotty hands him the bong. He lights it up and takes a hit.

SCOTTY

So, Greg, where ya from?

GREG

(exhaling)

Englewood Cliffs. Up North Jersey. How 'bout you?

SCOTTY

Oh, about 40 miles from here. A small town outside of Vineland. Doesn't even really have a name. We just call it Pittsgrove Township. Not many people. A lot of woods and fields. It's peaceful.

GREG

That sounds real cool! My parents moved here from Japan, a few years before I was born. My dad owns a large electronics company there. He's got crazy money.

SCOTTY

Wow! You're rich?!

GREG

I said, <u>he</u> has crazy money. Me? I don't have squat! I have the clothes in my closet, my car, and my minimal personal belongings. He's paying for school, but even that I'm expected to repay.

SCOTTY

You have to pay him back?

GREG

It's some kinda Japanese Honor, thing. Honor Thy Father. Don't I deserve some honor? I wish he would honor me with some cash! But hey, supposed to make me a better man. I just hope it doesn't make me a broke man living on the street.

SCOTTY

Hey, you hungry, dude?

GREG

Hells, yeah! Let's do one more hit, and head to White Castle. We'll take my car. You have one?

Yeah, but it's being fixed right now. I should have it by next weekend, or hopefully sooner.

GREG

That's cool.

They do another bong hit and head for the door.

SCOTTY

Man, I got the munchies something fierce!

GREG

I hear ya! White Castle, here we come!

The two exit. The room is empty and quiet. A shadow appears near Scotty's bed.

INT. COLLEGE/ACTING CLASS - DAY

Scotty stands face to face with a student. MISS HECHT(54) observes.

SCOTTY

(yelling)

Get outta here! And don't come back!

MISS HECHT

Ok. (beat) Ok...that was ok. That was some good anger, Scotty. Are you an angry person?

SCOTTY

(thinking)

I can be.

MISS HECHT

Ok. Ok. Well, that's it for today, class! I will see you on Wednesday, and you better have your scenes together by then! I'm not putting up with any slacking anymore! If you want to be an actor, you have to work hard and be disciplined. You have to yearn for it. You have to want it from the deepest regions of your soul. If you don't have that passion, I can't have you in my class.

(MORE)

MISS HECHT (CONT'D)

I only instruct those who want to be instructed. Okay, see you all Wednesday.

Students walk towards the door.

MISS HECHT (CONT'D)

Oh, Scotty. Can I see you a minute?

He stops and walks over to her.

SCOTTY

Yeah?

MISS HECHT

Scotty, is everything alright?

SCOTTY

Yes, Miss Hecht. Why do you ask?

MISS HECHT

I just get the feeling something's bothering you. That scene today...such anger.

SCOTTY

Well, wasn't that the idea? The character was angry.

MISS HECHT

It's more than that. Like I said, I have a feeling. An actress not only acts, but is sensitive to the behavior of others. We are observers as well as actors.

SCOTTY

Well, no. I'm fine. Everything's fine.

MISS HECHT

You, sure?

SCOTTY

Yeah, I'm sure.

MISS HECHT

OK, then. I'll see you Wednesday.

SCOTTY

Ok. See you Wednesday.

He walks out the door.

INT. HALLWAY

Scotty spots Greg, and they walk over to each other.

GREG

Yo! Boho! What's happenin'? Yo! There's gonna be this bangin' party at the apartments tonight. C-Court. Babes will be bouncin', dude!

SCOTTY

Yeah, they'll be bouncin' when they see me.

GREG

No, dude...why you talk like that? You just gotta get your confidence up.

SCOTTY

It's just that, I broke up with my girlfriend after I graduated. In fact it was Graduation Day. Anyway, I broke up with her because I wanted to be free. A fresh start. No ties. Then I came here, and I can't find a woman for my life. Michelle fell madly in love with me instantly. I thought it would always be that easy.

GREG

Aw, forget all that, man. Tonight is the first night of the rest of your life!

They walk towards the exit.

GREG (CONT'D)

We are goin' to that party, man. It's gonna be da bomb!

SCOTTY

Yeah...ok.

EXT. APARTMENTS/COURTYARD - NIGHT

Scotty is on his knees, as he does a beer funnel. Greg stands next to him and chants with the CROWD.

GREG/CROWD

Go! Go! Go! Go!...

He finishes the funnel and stands with arms raised.

SCOTTY

(as Pacino in "Scarface")
Still standin', huh! Who you think
you're fuckin' with?!

The crowd cheers. Scotty does a royal bow. Greg throws his arm around him.

GREG

Dude, that was awesome! Who knew you could drink like that?!

SCOTTY

I guess it's a gift...or a curse.

GREG

No dude, that was frickin' awesome! That was a whole six pack you drank, in like, less than a minute! How do you, feel?

SCOTTY

I feel, awesome! Ready to party! Let's go find someplace playing good music!

He grabs Greg by the arm and pulls him along.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

I think I hear some Who playing! Or maybe that's just in my head.

GREG

Dude, where are we going?

SCOTTY

I know what I'm doing, dude. I'm on a mission. I hear the Who playing. I will find it. Just stick with me, dude! We'll be jammin' in no time!

GREG

The only thing I wanna be jammin', is my penis into some poontang!

SCOTTY

Is that all you think about?

GREG

Well, at least I don't just think about it!

Oh yeah, when's the last time you got some?

GREG

(stammering)

Uh, uh, last week!

SCOTTY

Oh yeah, from who?

GREG

Uh, you don't know her. She lives up by my house.

SCOTTY

You didn't go home last week.

GREG

Uh. Uh...

SCOTTY

(laughing)

You are so full of shit!

GREG

Well, when's the last time you got some?

SCOTTY

Last week.

GREG

Oh yeah. With who?

SCOTTY

Your mom.

GREG

(shoving Scotty)

Hey? Mom's are off limits!

SCOTTY

Ok. Deal. Off limits! That's the last time I do your mom.

Greg punches Scotty in the arm and he returns. They exchange in an arm punching battle. After a few moments of this Scotty gets Greg in a headlock.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

Let's go find some chicks.

GREG

That's what I'm talkin' about! Now you're talkin' my language!

INT. SCOTTY'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Scotty lies in bed watching a "Twilight Zone" episode on TV. CREAK (O.S.) He turns and looks. Nothing. Turns back. After a momemt: CREAK. He turns and looks. Zaida stands in the corner.

SCOTTY

Zaida!

ZAIDA

Sheppy.

SCOTTY

Hi Zaida. I was wondering if you'd be able to find me here.

ZAIDA

Of course. I always know where you are, Sheppy. Do you know why I visit you?

SCOTTY

You want me to remember something, but you won't tell me what it is.

ZAIDA

I'm sorry, tata. I can only tell you so much.

SCOTTY

But why? And why is it important that I remember this something?

ZAIDA

I hope you will understand one day. I can only tell you so much. It's the rules, Sheppy.

SCOTTY

The rules, Zaida? What rules?

ZAIDA

The important thing is that you remember, Sheppy. Just try and remember everything. And use your gift.

My gift? What gift?...Zaida?

Zaida's gone.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

Use my gift?

He gets up from the bed and walks over to his desk. He opens a drawer and takes out the same notebook he had since the first time Zaida visited him. He opens it up. Under where it reads, "Remember it all", he writes, "use your gift". He closes it up and places it back in the drawer. He walks back to his bed, gets in and lies down.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

Use my gift?...

INT. APARTMENT/LIVINGROOM (1987) - DAY

Scotty(22) looks at a sheet of paper.

SCOTTY

Oh shit! I didn't get this Acting 4 Class signed by Miss Hecht! They're not gonna let me take it without her signature!

Greq walks over.

GREG

What's that?

SCOTTY

Acting 4 Class! I never got a signature signing off on it! Registration for classes is due today! I'm so screwed!

GREG

Chill out, dude. Relax. No problem, just sign it.

SCOTTY

I can't sign it! That's forgery!

GREG

No problem, I'll sign it. Got a pen?

SCOTTY

You think it will work?

GREG

Sure, no problem. The registration people just look at it to see if it's signed. They're not signature experts.

SCOTTY

Hmm...I don't know?

GREG

Dude, just get me a pen! It's cool beans! Easy peasy!

Scotty goes into his bedroom.

GREG (CONT'D)

And I need something with her signature on it, too.

SCOTTY (O.S.)

I think I have something.

He returns and hands Greg a pen and paper with her signature.

GREG

What's her name?

SCOTTY

Mary Hecht. H-E-C-H-T.

Greg puts both papers side by side and signs paper.

GREG

(signing)

Mary. Hecht. Done!

He holds the paper up and compares it to the original.

GREG (CONT'D)

Perfect!

SCOTTY

Lemmee see.

He compares the signatures.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

Dude, You saved my life!

GREG

Well, that's what I do. I'm the problem solver.

That you are my friend. That you are! I'll catch ya later. I gotta hand this in.

GREG

Alright, dude. Later. I'll send you my bill.

Scotty exits.

INT. COLLEGE - DAY

Scotty stands at Registration table. Woman looks at his paper. She motions for SUPERVISOR. He walks over, looks at paper. Looks at Scotty.

SUPERVISOR

Miss Hecht is deceased. She died when her house caught fire six months ago.

SCOTTY

Deceased?!

INT. APARTMENT/LIVINGROOM - DAY

Scotty and Greg sit on the couch.

GREG

Deceased?! How did you not know she was dead?

SCOTTY

I haven't talked to her lately.

GREG

I quess not! She's dead!

SCOTTY

This could only happen to me!

GREC

So what did he do? The Registration dude?

SCOTTY

Nothing, really. He told me the name of the new Program Administrator, Gene Terrino. That's about it. I was relieved.

(MORE)

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

I thought I was getting expelled...or arrested!

GREG

Dude, you could got me in a lot of trouble!

SCOTTY

It was your idea!

GREG

Well, yeah, but...so anyway, that's cool that you didn't get in trouble.

SCOTTY

Yeah, that's cool But man, I was nervous!

GREG

Yeah, I bet you were. I wish I coulda seen the look on your face!

SCOTTY

Yeah I was nervous, dude. I thought I was gonna pass out. It would have made a great scene in a movie.
"Miss Hecht is...deceased". I just wanted to crawl into a hole and die! I have the signature of a woman dated 6 months after she was dead! Maybe I dug her up and and stuck the pen in her hand! Or maybe I had a séance and contacted her spirit to sign it! Oh, I am such an idiot!

Greg laughs. Scotty looks towards him.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

And you're the idiot who gave me the idea! I'm an idiot for listening to an idiot!

They laugh.

INT. GENE TERRINO'S OFFICE (1988) - DAY

GENE(48) sits at his desk and looks over papers. After a moment: KNOCK KNOCK.

GENE

Come in!

Scotty walks in.

SCOTTY

Hey, Gene. You wanted to see me?

GENE

Yes. Come in. Shut the door. Come sit down.

Scotty walks over and sits down.

GENE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry to call you at home, but it's urgent and can't wait.

SCOTTY

What is it, Gene?

GENE

Well, there's no easy way to say this. So, I'm just going to say it. I cannot in good conscience, allow you to graduate with a Performing Arts Degree.

SCOTTY

(shocked)

What? What are you talking about? I graduate in 2 weeks. You can't do that.

GENE

I've thought about this long and hard , Scotty. I've been watching you since I got here. I've waited for some kind of spark. Some kind of growth. But there never was any. I know that you're serious. I know that you want to be an actor. You just don't have the...the gift. I am an actor, and I take my craft very seriously. I take the acting profession very seriously. And I will not allow someone who I feel is not deemed worthy, have a degree in this craft! In my craft! There is nothing more I can do about it. I'm sorry.

SCOTTY

So what am I supposed to do now?

GENE

Well, I don't really know.

I just wanted to make movies.

GENE

How about writing? Are you any good at that? Maybe something behind the scenes. How are you technically? Can you run lights?

SCOTTY

(angry)

Can I run lights?! I go to school here for four and a half years, which my parents paid for. Work my butt off towards a Performing Arts Degree, and you ask me if I can run fucking lights?! You have some fucking nerve! I just wasted four and a half years of my life, not to mention my parents money! Well, what the fuck am I supposed to do now?!

GENE

Well, I'm sure you could find other interests...

SCOTTY

Other interests?! Asshole!

Scotty gets up and storms out of the office.

BEGIN MONTAGE.

INT. BAR - DAY

Scotty sits at bar and gets drunk.

INT. CAR - NIGHT - TRAVELING

Scotty drives and a police cruiser pulls him over.

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Scotty and Greg walk out front door and get in car.

INT. APARTMENT/BEDROOM - DAY

Scotty is packing his suitcase. Greg walks in.

GREG

What are you doing, dude?

SCOTTY

I'm leaving.

GREG

Where are you going?

SCOTTY

I don't know, but I gotta get the hell outta here!

GREG

I can't believe he said you can't graduate. What are you gonna do?

SCOTTY

Don't have a freakin' clue.

GREG

Man, what an asshole!

SCOTTY

Yep.

He closes suitcase and walks to the door.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

Well, see ya.

GREG

Ok, dude. See ya.

Scotty exits.

INT. HOUSE/SCOTTY'S BEDROOM (1991) - DAY

Scotty(26) is asleep in bed. He wakes up quickly and looks to the corner. Zaida stands there.

SCOTTY

Zaida!

ZAIDA

Hi, Sheppy.

SCOTTY

Hi Zaida. Where have you been?

ZAIDA

I can only visit you so much. That's the rules, Sheppy.

Who makes the rules?

ZAIDA

That's not important. What's important is that you remember. Remember everything. And use your gift.

SCOTTY

My gift? What is my gift, Zaida?

ZAIDA

I can't tell you that, Sheppy. The rules. You have to find that out on your own. I believe you already know what it is. You have to learn to embrace it. Don't resist it. Use it. Use it, Sheppy.

SCOTTY

But, Zaida...

Zaida is gone. Scotty sits alone.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

Use my gift? What's my gift?

He gets up out of bed and walks over to his desk. He opens a drawer and takes out the notebook and opens it. Below where it reads, "Remember it all" and "Use your gift" he writes, "Don't resist it" and "Embrace it". He closes the notebook, and puts it back in the drawer. He walks back and gets in bed. He shuts the light and goes back to sleep.

INT. HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY

Scotty sits at the table and eats a bowl of cold cereal. Phyl(57) enters.

PHYL

You're up early, McQ.

SCOTTY

Yeah, didn't sleep much.

PHYL

You feeling alright?

SCOTTY

Yeah, I'm fine.

PHYL

Okay...Oh! Hey, I saw a commercial about that Art Institute in Philadelphia. I thought that might be something you'd like. I know you're interested in making music and you're interested in film. They have a Music and Film Major. Whatta ya think? I wrote the number down.

She hands him a slip of paper.

PHYL (CONT'D)

Just thought it might be something you'd be interested in, since that college didn't work out.

SCOTTY

Okay, Mom. Thanks. I'll think about it.

PHYL

I just want you to be happy, McQ. I just want you to have a happy life.

SCOTTY

I know, Mom.

She leans over and kisses the top of his head and walks out. He looks at the paper again. He gets up and walks over to the phone. He picks up the receiver and dials.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

(in phone)

Hello? Yes, I was interested in learning a little about your Music and Film Program. (beat) Well, no I don't want to sign up yet, I just wanted to know if you could send me out some brochures or something (beat) Ok it's, 495 Garden Road...or did they change the number of this house? It doesn't matter, it'll get here anyway. That's 495 Garden Road. Pittsgrove. P-I-T-T-S-G-R-O-V-E. New Jersey. 08318. (beat) Yes, that's right. Correct. 08318.(beat) Okay, thank you very much.

He hangs up the receiver, and walks out.

INT. ART INSTITUTE/FILM CLASS - DAY

The instructor, CHARLES(42), lectures to the class.

CHARLES

...and that, class, is the beauty of film. A moment in time, preserved, for a lifetime! Great films are to be cherished! They move us in ways that nothing else can! And on that note, I will see you next week...and don't forget, your first film projects are due. I will see you then.

Scotty gets up and walks towards door.

SCOTTY

(to Charles))
See ya next week.

CHARLES

Okay. Scotty, right?

SCOTTY

Yeah. Okay, see you next week. I've been working hard on my project.

CHARLES

That's great! Anxious to see it.

SCOTTY

Okay, then. See ya next week.

CHARLES

Okay, Scotty. See you next week.

Scotty exits.

INT. HALLWAY

Scotty sees his classmate KENNY(25) and walks over.

SCOTTY

What's goin' on, Kenny?

KENNY

Heading to Music Appreciation. Renaldo's class. Man, what a bore!

SCOTTY

Yeah, dude is out there!

KENNY

Yeah, a real douche! Well, I gotta get going. If I'm late he might make me stay after class and listen to Classical Music. Jackass!

SCOTTY

Alright, brother. I'll see you in Film Editing Class, later on.

KENNY

Alright, dude. See ya then.

Kenny walks away. Scotty walks to the elevator. The light comes on and the doors open. He gets on.

INT. ELEVATOR

Scotty stands alone. After a moment: BABLOOP. He looks up. Listens. Nothing.

SCOTTY

What the hell is that?

He shakes his head and cleans out his ears with his index fingers. Elevator doors open. He exits.

INT. ART INSTITUTE/FILM CLASS - DAY

Charles stands at the front of class.

CHARLES

Okay, who wants to go next?

Students sit at their desks. Scotty raises his hand.

SCOTTY

I'll go.

He gets up with film in hand and loads it in the projector. He turns the projector on and walks back to his seat and sits. LINDA(38), a classmate, watches intently. Scotty's film ends.

LINDA

(clapping and cheering)
Woooooooo!!
Incredible!!Wooooooo!!
Woooooooo!!

CHARLES

Excellent! That's the way it is done, class. The story, the mood, the camera angles...

(to Scotty)

You have a great eye!

SCOTTY

Thanks, Charles. Appreciate it.

CHARLES

I really enjoyed that. Great job!

LINDA

That was great! You are good! Really good!

SCOTTY

Thanks a lot, Linda. I really appreciate it.

LINDA

You are welcome! Wow!

SCOTTY

You're gonna make me blush!

LINDA

You should blush! You should be proud!

SCOTTY

Well, thanks. Yours was good too, Linda!

LINDA

Well, thanks. But you're just trying to be nice.

SCOTTY

No, really! I liked it a lot!

LINDA

Well, thanks. But...wow!

INT. ART INSTITUTE/FILM CLASS - DAY - (LATER)

Charles stands at the front of class.

CHARLES

Well that's the last one. As I told you before, I give an award, or a reward if you like, for every film project we do in this class, to the student's film I feel is the best. Since I am not a wealthy man, the award is a cup of coffee from Starbucks. I thought mostly all of you did a good job, but I can only afford to buy one of you a coffee. The most deserving of this is, without a question...Scotty. Great job!

SCOTTY

Thanks. Appreciate it.

CHARLES

You deserve it. Okay, class. I'm going to Starbucks now. All that would like to come with are welcome. I can only afford to buy mine and Scotty's coffee, but everyone is welcome.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

Scotty, Charles and Linda walk.

CHARLES

(to Scotty)

So, how does it feel to be an award winning filmmaker?

SCOTTY

It feels great!

LINDA

It was sooo good! I almost cried, it was so good!

SCOTT

Thanks, Linda! You don't know how much that means to me!

LINDA

You're welcome. Keep at it! Maybe we'll see you accepting an Oscar one day!

Now don't get carried away, Linda! It was only a class project!

LINDA

Still, it was great!

SCOTTY

Thanks.

(to Charles)

So, what kind of coffee should I get?

CHARLES

I'm old-school. I like the plain old coffee. Black. No sugar. But, you get whatever you want.

SCOTTY

Think I'll get a plain old coffee, too. Black. No sugar.

CHARLES

Great minds think alike.

INT. GRADUATION HALL (1993) - NIGHT

The graduates are seated as the PRESENTER(46) is at the mic:

PRESENTER

...and graduating with honors, Scotty Derechinsky.

Scotty(28) walks to the podium and takes his diploma. Turns to his family as they CHEER in the audience.

SCOTTY

I did it!

PRESENTER

Well, aren't you popular!

SCOTTY

That's my family. What can I say? They love me.

Scotty walks back to his seat. Kenny leans over in his.

KENNY

Way to go, dude! We did it!

Scotty walks over to Phyl(59) and Stan(62) and hugs them.

PHYL

I'm so proud of you, McQ! You acclomplished what you set out! And with honors! So proud!

SCOTTY

Thanks, Mom.

PHYT

So what are your plans now?

SCOTTY

I was going to go party with Kenny and Linda.

PHYL

I mean plans for the future.

SCOTTY

I don't know yet, Mom. I just graduated. Let me enjoy this for now.

PHYL

Ok, honey. I'm so proud of you!

STAN

So proud of you, son! Way to go!

SCOTTY

Thanks, Dad.

PHYL

(kissing Scotty)

With honors! My little genius! Ok, go play with your friends!

SCOTTY

Party, mom! Party with my friends!
I'm not 10 anymore! I'm 28!

PHYL

I know honey. Play, party. I don't know what term they're using these days.

SCOTTY

(giggling)

Ok, mom, see ya at home later. Okay, Dad. See ya later.

STAN

(hugging Scotty) So proud of you, son.

Scotty hugs his parents goodbye then walks over to Kenny and Linda.

SCOTTY

Hey guys. Where'd you wanna meet?

KENNY

I thought we'd go to Jack's. Out on Walnut. They have a band playing there tonight. I think they play Classic Rock.

SCOTTY

Sounds good. What time do you wanna meet?

KENNY

How's eight?

SCOTTY

Great! I'll see you out there. (hugging Linda)
Congratulations, Linda.

LINDA

You too, Scotty. I know you're gonna do great things. Keep at it!

SCOTTY

You too.

LINDA

Nah. I just did this because I was bored. But you...you have a gift. All of your films were so good. Consistently. Amazing!

SCOTTY

Thanks, Linda. You are great for my building my confidence level. Always have been.

KENNY

Ok, ok, you're a genius! The next Steven Spielberg! Enough with the mushy stuff! Let's Par-tay!!

SCOTTY

Alright! Let's party!! We're graduates!!

KENNY

Yeah! That's what I'm talkin' about!

Ok, then. See you out at Jack's at eight.

LINDA

See ya there.

KENNY

Alrighty! And be ready for shots you mo'fo's! We're gonna do this right!

They walk to the front door. Linda goes out first, then Kenny. As Scotty is about to step outside:

ZAIDA (V.O.)

Remember Sheppy.

He turns and looks. No one is there. He looks around. No one, but the remains of the graduation people. Kenny walks over.

KENNY

What'd you forget something, dude?

SCOTTY

Nah, just thought I heard something. Let's go!

They exit.

INT "JACK'S BAR" NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Scotty, Kenny and Linda are seated at table. A band plays Classic Rock.

KENNY

(yelling over music)
This is a pretty good band! I've
seen these guys before!

SCOTTY

(yelling)

Yeah! Sounds good! Like it Linda?!

LINDA

(yelling)

Oh yeah! I love Classic Rock! Great!

SCOTTY

Cool! Good tune!

LINDA

Yeah! Love this one!

SCOTTY

Yeah! Me too!

KENNY

Listen to that low-end dude! Awesome!

SCOTTY

Yeah, it does sound awsesome, dude!

KENNY

And the highs are so clear and defined! Awesome!

SCOTTY

Yeah! Sounds awesome, dude!

KENNY

I'm gonna go talk to the soundman!

He gets up and walks over to the soundman.

SCOTTY

(to linda)

Having fun?!

LINDA

Yeah! Diggin' the vibe, man!

SCOTTY

Yeah, me too! Nice vibe!...What are your plans for the future.

LINDA

Oh, I don't really have any plans, I'm a sorta "flow with the wind" kinda gal. What about you? You need to keep making movies! I loved your movies! I'd pay to see them.

SCOTTY

Yeah, thanks. But that is a really hard industry to break into. Do you know how many people are trying?

LINDA

Yeah, but you have something special. I see it in your films. I been around awhile. I've seen a lot in my day. You got that something special, Scotty.

(MORE)

LINDA (CONT'D)

Something you don't find everyday. Keep at it. It will pay off one day. Trust me.

SCOTTY

Thanks, Linda. It's like being around a glow of good hope when I'm around you, girl! You make me feel like I'm special or something.

LINDA

You have a gift, Scotty. Use it.

SCOTTY

Use it?

LINDA

Yes, Scotty. Use it.

SCOTTY

Oh, I'm sorry. It's just that I've heard that before.

LINDA

I'm sure you have. I can't be the first one to recognize it. I'm surprised your're not already in the business. How old are you? Like 27?

SCOTTY

28.

LINDA

Ok, 28. You're in your prime still. Get out there and win me that Oscar!

SCOTTY

Ok, Linda. I'll do that.

LINDA

(looking at her watch)
Oh! I gotta get running! My
husband's expecting me.

She gets up.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Do what I tell you now.

SCOTTY

What's that?

LINDA

(whispering in his ear)

Use it. Use your gift.

She walks way. After a moment, Kenny walks over.

KENNY

Dude, I might have a job. Soundman's looking for a couple of audio engineers. This is what we went to school for.

SCOTTY

Well, partly...

KENNY

I know, I know! You wanna be this big-time filmmaker. But this is a job, man. That pays money. You got plenty of time for that dream. This is a paying job.

SCOTTY

Okay, man! Let's do it!

KENNY

Let's do it!

They walk towards the soundman. Kenny leans over towards Scotty and immitates the scene from Scarface.

KENNY (CONT'D)

Hey, man! You gotta job!

They laugh.

KENNY (CONT'D)

Hey? Where's Linda?

SCOTTY

Oh, she had to go. Her husband was waiting for her.

KENNY

Aw, Bummer.

INT "JACK'S BAR" NIGHTCLUB - DAY

ED(30) stands amongst sound equipment all over the floor.

ED

(yelling)

ED (CONT'D)

We don't have all day! Bring that sound board over here! (beat) No, no, that one, you idiot! The Front-of -House Board! (beat) Yes! That one!

A few moments later Scotty rushes over with a large soundboard.

ED (CONT'D)

Well it's about time! Don't you know what a Front-of-House Soundboard looks like?! Whatta they teach over that Art Institute, anyways?

SCOTTY

No, I knew what it looked like. You were just rushing me and made me nervous, that's all.

ED

Made you nervous? Boy, you could never work with the big sound companies. The one's like the Smith Boys. They do all the major acts. Pearl Jam, Nirvana...

SCOTTY

How 'bout the Who?

ED

Yeah, they done the Who before. Back in '89. The 20 year anniversary "Tommy" tour.

SCOTTY

Awesome! How do you get a job like that?

ED

(laughing)

You? You wouldn't last an hour with the big boys! They'd swallow you up, and eat you whole, brother! You don't even know the difference between a Monitor Board and a Frontof-House Board.

SCOTTY

Just asking?

ED

You just learn what you're doing first. Then, maybe in, at the rate you're going, I'd say at least 5 years. Then maybe, you could be a roadie with a group like that.

SCOTTY

Five years? I'm already 28, brother. I don't wanna have to wait until I'm an old man.

ED

Then you better pick up the pace brother! Get that big butt in gear! (handing audio cables) Here. Bring these over and hook'em up.

Scotty takes the cables and looks at them, then at the stage.

ED (CONT'D)

Yes! Over there! They're for the main speakers!

SCOTTY

I know. Just thinking about something.

ED

Well, think on your own time, buddy! This is my time! Come on, move it! Customers'll be comin' in soon!

SCOTTY

Okay!

He runs over and begins to connect the cables.

ED

And I don't wanna see any empty speaker connectors again!

SCOTTY

Nah, never again! I was a rookie, then!

EL

Ah! You're still a rookie!

SCOTTY

Alright then! Stop interrupting and let me hook these speakers up!

ED

Alright, Einstein!

Scotty continues. After he's done that, he begins to set up the monitor equipment on the stage. He rushes from one task to the next, and the next, and next. Sweat pours down.

ED (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Come on! Hurry up! The band will be here soon! It looks bad to still be settin' up when they get here! You're so damn slow!

SCOTTY

I'm almost done! Just have to run this one last mic cord!

ED

Well, hurry up! And make sure all those monitors are working properly!

SCOTTY

Alright, Ed! I got ya covered!

He hooks up the last mic cord, turns on the amps, and tests the mics and monitors.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

(into mic)

Test! One Two! Test! Sibilance! Sibilance! Chh! Chh! Test! Testing for sibilance! Sssibilance! Sssibilance!

ED

Okay! Okay!Hey..Mr. Sibilance?! Turn the mics down and come over here! I got ya a beer!

SCOTTY

Okay, Ed. One minute. Just wanna make sure I'm not gonna get any feedback tonight.

ED

Okay, you do that, Einsten! The beer's here waitin' for ya'!

INT. "JACK'S BAR" NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Scotty is behind the monitor board on side of stage. Sweat pours down. The band plays a Top 40 song. The GUITARIST turns to Scotty.

GUITARIST

(to Scotty))

Yo! Take some of his vocals out of my monitor! (beat) It's the same! Turn it down! (beat) Now I can't hear him at all! Turn it up! (beat) Ah, forget it!

The VOCALIST turns to Scotty.

VOCALIST

Hey! You! Turn my monitor up! I can't hear shit! Thank you! Damn! Been trying to get your attention!

SCOTTY

(pointing at guitarist)
Sorry, I was talking to him.

VOCALIST

Just pay attention! Where'd Ed find this guy?

GUITARIST

I don't know, man, but he's pissing me off.

Vocals come in. At the guitar break, the vocalist turns to Scotty.

VOCALIST

Yo! Turn it up! You didn't do any thing!

Vocals come in again. Vocalist sings. He glances over towards Scotty and points his index finger up. Scotty turns the volume knob up on the board. (beat) He points up again. Scotty turns the knob all the way up. FEEDBACK! Scotty goes to the equalizer and adjusts. No change.

VOCALIST (CONT'D)

What the fuck!! Fix that, now!!

SCOTTY

I'm trying! I can't find the right
frequency!

GUITARIST

Man, what is your fucking problem?! Don't you know what the fuck you're doing?!

VOCALIST

Stop that feedback! You're killing me!

He searches for right frequency. Pulls down a slide, feedback stops.

SCOTTY

Found it!

The band plays on. Ed walks up behind Scotty.

ED

What is going on?! What's with all the fucking feedback?!

SCOTTY

Sorry, man! I couldn't find the frequency!

ED

Damn, boy! You're about useless!

SCOTTY

Sorry, Ed. I fixed it.

ED

Yeah, after you killed everybody's eardrums!

SCOTTY

Well, I'm still learning.

ED

Well, you better start learning a lot quicker, or I'm gonna have to let you go. It looks bad on me! It's my sound company!

SCOTTY

I know, Ed. Sorry, brother.

ED

Alright. Let's get through this show, tear down and get the hell outta here. Tomorrow's another night.

He turns to walk back, then turns back and hands folded bills over Scotty's shoulder.

ED (CONT'D)

Oh, before I forget. Here's your pay for the night...although you don't really deserve it.

Ed walks away. Scotty opens the folded bills, and looks down at them. A 20 and a 10.

INT. "JACK'S BAR" NIGHTCLUB (1995) - NIGHT

Scotty(30) is behind monitor board on side of stage. The band plays. Vocalist looks over at him, smiles and nods. Scotty nods back and holds his beer bottle up. Guitarist looks over, makes goofy face and smiles. He smiles back and holds glass of tequila up and drinks it. He spots a GUY(25) dancing and spilling beer on the monitor speakers. He walks over.

SCOTTY

Yo, dude! You're spilling beer all over the speakers! Knock it off!

GUY

What!?

SCOTTY

(yelling)

You're spilling beer on the speakers!! Get the fuck away from the speakers!! Those things are expensive to replace!!

GUY

Dude, what's your problem? I'm just having a good time!

SCOTTY

Have a good time! Just don't ruin my fucking speakers!

GUY

Alright, dude! Sorry!

Scotty goes back to his station. Looks over towards guy. He is dancing around again spilling beer on the speakers. Scotty gets up on stage, grabs guy's beer and walks back, and puts it down under his console. Guy walks over.

GUY (CONT'D)

Yo, dude! Where's my beer?

What?

GUY

Where's my beer, dude?

SCOTTY

You're beer? You mean the one you're spilling all over my brand new monitor speakers? That beer?

GUY

C'mon, dude. Give me my beer.

SCOTTY

I'll give it back to you on one condition. You keep it at least 10 feet away from my speakers. From all of my equipment.

GUY

Okay, dude. Give me back my beer.

Scotty reaches below his console and picks the beer up. He hands it back to the guy, but holds onto it.

SCOTTY

At least 10 feet away. If I see you closer than 10 feet away, I'm going to have them kick you out of here. If I see you spill beer on any of my equipment again, I'm gonna kick your ass. Deal?

GUY

Deal, dude.

He lets go of bottle. Guy goes back to front of stage. After a moment, dances around again, spilling beer on monitor speakers. Scotty jumps on stage and hurls himself at guy. Bouncers come over, pull him off. Guy gets up and runs.

SCOTTY

Now get out!! Get the fuck out!! I've had enough of you!!

He shrugs the bouncers off of him.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

Thanks for all the help, guys!

BOUNCER

What happened?

What happened?! Didn't you see?!

BOUNCER

No, see what?

SCOTTY

Dude was a mess! Kept spilling beer all over my brand new monitor speakers!

BOUNCER

Nah, we didn't see nothing.

SCOTTY

Okay, great. Thanks.

He walks back towards his station.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

I thought I was an audio engineer! Didn't know I had to be a bouncer, too! Damn!

Scotty walks back over to his station. Picks up beer and takes long drink. DOLORES(27) walks over.

DOLORES

Hey. What's up?

SCOTTY

Hey.

DOLORES

Having fun, yet?

SCOTTY

I was until this asshole pissed me off.

DOLORES

Aw, what happened?

SCOTTY

Just some douche who was being an idiot and spilling beer on the equipment.

DOLORES

(mockingly)

I hate when that happens!

SCOTTY

Yeah, me too.

DOLORES

Aw, cheer up! It's cool now.

SCOTTY

Yeah, you're right. That guy just pissed me off, though. And the bouncers...Do your fucking job!

DOLORES

Wow, chill out! Have a drink!

SCOTTY

Yeah, ok. Cheers.

He holds beer up and clinks her glass.

DOLORES

That's more like it! This is a party, man!

She bumps him with her hip. He bumps her back. She bumps him back harder.

DOLORES (CONT'D)

So...you come here often?

SCOTTY

(laughing))

Is that the best come-on line you got?

DOLORES

Who says I'm coming on to you?

SCOTTY

Please! Bumping the hips! Using corny pick-up lines! You're coming on to me!

DOLORES

Okay, if you say so.

He looks at her, then towards band. After a moment she bumps hips again.

DOLORES (CONT'D)

Ok, I was coming on to you. Let's have some fun, big boy!

She puts her hand out.

DOLORES (CONT'D)

I'm Dolores. Call me Dee.

INT. DOLORES' HOUSE/DINING ROOM - DAY

Scotty, Dolores, her DAD(61), MOM(58) and brother GARY(38) are seated at Thanksgiving Dinner.

DAD

So, Scotty, Dolores tells me you're in the music business.

SCOTTY

Well...yeah.

DAD

So you're a musician.

SCOTTY

Well, I do play a little guitar, but I work with bands. Mostly one band right now. We do the sound.

DAD

What do you mean, you do the sound?

SCOTTY

Well, we set up all the sound equipment; the sound boards, speakers, amps, mics. And we run the equipment.

DAD

What do you mean, run the equipment?

SCOTTY

Well, we control the sound to fit the room.

DAD

Sounds complicated. Is there money in that?

SCOTTY

Well, right now I work for a guy. I plan on owning my own sound company some day.

DAD

Hmm...interesting. How old are you, Scotty?

SCOTTY

I'm 30, sir. Be 31 in 2 months.

DAD

Hmm...interesting. So how long have you been doing this?

SCOTTY

About 2 and a half years, sir.

DAD

What did you do before that?

SCOTTY

Well, I went to school. The Art Institute.

DAD

Art Institute? Well, don't know much about art.

SCOTTY

I was in the Music and Film Program.

DAD

Don't know much about that either. Although, I like watching those old John Wayne films.

SCOTTY

Yeah, John Wayne's cool.

DAD

Yessiree! The Duke! A true
American, that man was! Need more
like him today! Not like some of
these sissies we got running around
today! You know, I just saw on the
tv today, some fag parade going on
in California! Men, if that's what
you wanna call'em, running around
in pink tutu's and holding up
signs! What a disgrace! I'm glad
the Duke's not around to see that!
Disgusting!

SCOTTY

Yeah, well. To each his own, right?

DAD

Ah! It's a sin is what it is! If the Bible teaches us anything, it's tha --

MOM

Does anyone want more turkey?! There's plenty!

DOLORES

I'll have some, Mom. White meat, please.

GARY

I've had enough. I'm tired. I'm gonna to go to my room now and lie down. Tryptophan, does it every time.

He gets up and walks upstairs.

MOM

(to Dad)

Now look what you've done!

DAD

What? What did I do?

MOM

(angry mocking)

Fag parade! Glad the Duke's not around to see that! What's wrong with you?

DAD

What? He was tired! Too much trypytophan!

MOM

Ah! That's just a myth! You made him feel horrible!

DAD

Ah! Get outta here!

"Close to You" by "The Carpenters" PLAYS (O.S.). Dolores looks up towards it, then looks at Scotty.

DOLORES

(embarrased)

So, Scotty, had enough to eat? There's plenty.

SCOTTY

No, thank you. I'm good.

DAD

Yeah, I'm good too. Time for football! You like football, Scotty?

SCOTTY

Sure! Love football!

DAD

Okay, then! Let's watch some football!

Scotty and Dad get up and walk into the livingroom.

INT. LIVINGROOM

Scotty and Dad walk in. Scotty sits on the couch and Dad sits in the recliner. He picks up the remote and turns on the tv.

DAD

(looking at tv)

Eh! Dallas! I hate Dallas! You an Eagles fan, Scotty?

SCOTTY

No, sir. Rams fan.

DAD

Rams fan? What are you from Los Angeles?

SCOTTY

Well, they moved to St. Louis this year, but no, I'm not from Los Angeles. I just fell in love with them when I was a little kid. Stuck with em ever since.

DAD

Yeah, well, they stink as bad as the Eagles.

SCOTTY

Worse. But, hey, we're fans, right? That's what we do. Stick with our teams, win or lose.

DAD

Yeah. Maybe we'll win a Superbowl one day. I don't see that day coming any time soon, though.

Yeah, me neither. The Rams, I mean. Hopefully before I die.

DAD

I hope so, too. Before I die. The Eagles, that is. You have a better chance of seeing it than me.

SCOTTY

Ah! We're both young enough! They'll get us one before we die! Your Eagles and my Rams!

DAD

Ya know, I like you. You're starting to grow on me.

SCOTTY

Yeah, you're starting to grow on me, too.

DAD

(watching tv)

Ah! Come on! Tackle him! Wrap him up!

Dolores walks in.

DOLORES

Hey, guys! You two getting acquainted?

She sits down on the couch next to Scotty.

SCOTTY

Yeah, just talking football.

DOLORES

Oh! Don't get him started on those Eagles! So, Dad? Did you tell Scotty about that time you met Jaworski?

DAD

(watching tv)

Aw, come'on! I could caught that, and I'm 61!

DOLORES

He's not listening.

SCOTTY

Likes his football.

DOLORES

Sorry about tonight, honey.

SCOTTY

Nah, it was fun.

DAD

Jeez!! These guys getting paid millions of dollars to catch a ball, and they couldn't catch a cold! Bunch of sissies! Afraid to get hit! Ah! Bunch of sissies!

The "Carpenter" song PLAYS (O.S.), again. Dolores looks over at Scotty. He looks over at her. She shrugs and smiles. He smiles back.

INT. MALL/FOOD COURT (1997) - DAY

Dolores sits at table alone. After a moment, Scotty walks over, goes to kiss Dolores, and she turns her head. He kisses her cheek.

SCOTTY

(sitting)

Sorry I'm late. Traffic was a bitch.

DOLORES

Hey, Scotty. How are you?

SCOTTY

(confused)

I'm fine. How are you doing?

DOLORES

The reason I wanted you to meet me was... I'm just going to come right out and say it. We need to break up.

SCOTTY

What? Whatta ya mean?

DOLORES

What I said. We need to break up.

SCOTTY

But why? What did I do?

DOLORES

It's not what you do, Scotty. It's what you don't do.

What's that mean?

DOLORES

I gave it over 2 years, Scotty! That's enough! I can't do it anymore!

SCOTTY

Do what, Dee? I thought we were doing good.

DOLORES

No, Scotty! We're not doing good! You're drinking too much! You have no ambition! You've been working for Ed for 4 years now and he still pays you almost the same as when you started! Whatever happened to owning your own sound company?

SCOTTY

I will! I just need to save some more money. That equipment is very expensive.

DOLORES

Well, you're not going to save it on \$385 a week! I need more in my life! I want a home, kids...and you're just not in the position to give that to me, Scotty. It's nothing against you. You're a great guy. You're fun. You're funny. You're a sweet guy, really. It's just that we have different aspirations in life. Different goals. You used to talk about making movies. Being a big-time filmmaker! What happened with that? The same as everything else! A pipe dream! That's all you do, Scotty, is have pipe dreams!

SCOTTY

I do still wanna make movies! I will. Just been working a lot.

DOLORES

When, Scotty?! When?! You're 32 years old! If you ain't done it by now, you're not going to! You're not! So that's it. I didn't wanna do this over the phone.

(MORE)

DOLORES (CONT'D)

I wanted to give you that courtesy. It's been fun, but it's time for both of us to go our separate ways. Okay then, so, you have a good life, in whatever you do. Take care of yourself, Scotty.

She gets up and walks away. Scotty sits alone.

INT. "FROSTED MUG" BAR (2001) - NIGHT

Scotty(36) is seated at bar with mug of beer and empty shotglass. Bartender, BRANDI(23) walks over.

BRANDI

Hey, Scotty! How you doin'?

SCOTTY

Hey, Brandi. How you doin'?

BRANDI

Well, you know. Takin' it as it comes.

SCOTTY

That's all we can do, honey.

BRANDI

Need a shot?

SCOTTY

Why, you musta been reading my mind, sweety.

BRANDI

You got it, baby!

She walks over, picks up tequila bottle, returns and pours a shot.

BRANDI (CONT'D)

This one's on me, Scotty.

SCOTTY

Thanks, darlin'.

He puts his hand on the shotglass.

BRANDI

Wait a minute. I'll do one with ya.

She puts another shotglass on bar, pours a shot.

BRANDI (CONT'D)

What should we toast to?

SCOTTY

How 'bout we toast to Jose' Cuervo?

BRANDI

No. We have to toast to something good.

SCOTTY

Cuervo's good. It's good to me. Helps me forget.

BRANDI

Now why would you want to forget, sugar?

SCOTTY

If you had to live my life, you'd wanna forget to.

BRANDI

It can't be that bad. What happened?

SCOTTY

How far back you want me to go?

BRANDI

Ah! It could be worse. You're still above ground.

SCOTTY

Not so sure that's a good thing.

BRANDI

(picking up glass)

Now stop all this depressing talk! We'll toast to good friends. Friends that stick by you, no matter what. True friends.

SCOTTY/ BRANDI

(clinking glasses)

True friends!

They drink the shots.

SCOTTY

(getting up)

Well, I gotta go drain Mr. Johnson.

BRANDI

Shake it more than twice, you're playing with it!

SCOTTY

He's my Mr. Johnson! If I wanna play with him, that's my perogative!

Brandi laughs. He walks into the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM

There are two urinals. UG(30) is at one. He walks up to the other. After a moment: BABLOOP (0.S.) He looks at UG.

SCOTTY

Did you hear that?

TIC

Hear what?

SCOTTY

Never mind. Too many tequilas, I guess.

IJG

Yeah, dude. That stuff'll mess your mind up.

SCOTTY

Yeah.

UG finishes, zips up, and walks out the door.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

(to himself, aloud)

Remind me not to shake that guy's hand.

He finishes up, zips up, and walks over to the sink. He washes, then dries his hands. He looks around, then exits.

INT. BAR

Scotty walks back over to his stool and sits. After a moment, MIKE(33) walks over.

MIKE

Hey, dude! What's up? Long time,
man!

They bro-shake.

SCOTT.

What's up, Mike? Same old same here.

MIKE

You still working with the bands?

SCOTTY

Yeah. Still doing that. I'm with a different sound company and band, though. Been doin' it for about, what? Since '93...What's that? About 8 years.

MIKE

Well, yeah, that's cool man. But, listen, Brenda's got her friend with her. She's single. You ain't with nobody, are ya?

SCOTTY

Me? No. I spend too much time at the go-go bars. Most women don't care for that too much.

MIKE

Well, come on over. Let me introduce you.

SCOTTY

Nah. That's ok, man. I just came here to think.

MIKE

Think? What's there to think about?

SCOTTY

Life.

MIKE

Life? What? We're born, we get some pussy, we party, we die! What's to think about?

SCOTTY

Man, I wish I had your philosophy. Make life a whole lot simpler.

MIKE

MIKE (CONT'D)

Now, come on over and meet this girl! She already thinks you're cute! You're halfway there, brother!

SCOTTY

(reluctant)

Okay, let's go.

MIKE

There you go! That's what you need! Some good ole' American pussy!

Scotty gets out of his stool. They walk towards tables.

SCOTTY

So, she really said I was cute?

MIKE

Yeah, man! You're in like juice and gin!

SCOTTY

What does that mean?

MIKE

Ah, fuck it, man! You might get laid tonight!

SCOTTY

Okay. Whatever you say.

They approach BRENDA(30) and NAOMI(37), seated at table.

MIKE

So, were you ladies lonely without me?

BRENDA

Oh, yes! We don't know what to do when you're gone! Hi, Scotty.

SCOTTY

Hi, Brenda.

MIKE

And this is Naomi.

SCOTTY

(shaking hands)

Hi, Naomi. I'm Scotty.

NAOMI

Hi. Nice to meet you, Scotty.

MIKE

Well, sit down.

Scotty sits next to Naomi.

MIKE (CONT'D)

I'll order us up some cocktails. What are you drinking, Scotty?

SCOTTY

Just get me a draft. Coors light.

MIKE

You got it! Hey, Brenda. Why don't you come give me a hand with the drinks? Give these two some time alone.

BRENDA

Okay.

Brenda gets up, and the two walk over to the bar.

NAOMI

So, Scotty...Where are you from?

SCOTTY

Pittsgrove. It's not far from here.

NAOMI

I know where it is. I live in Hopewell.

SCOTTY

Okay. Not too far.

NAOMI

No, that's not far from Pittsgrove at all.

SCOTTY

No. Not far at all.

NAOMI

So what do you do?

SCOTTY

I work with a band.

NAOMI

Oh! You're in a band?

Well, I'm not <u>in</u> the band. I do sound for the band. I'm a sound engineer.

NAOMI

Ew! An engineer! Nice!

SCOTTY

Yeah, it's ok. I don't want to do it for the rest of my life, though. What I really want to do is be a filmmaker.

NAOMI

Really? A filmaker? You mean like a Director?

SCOTTY

Well, I'd like to write screenplays and Direct.

NAOMI

Very ambitious! I like it!

SCOTTY

Yeah, had a passion for movies since I was a kid. I actually wanted to be a movie actor. I idolized Al Pacino. "Dog Day Afternoon" is one of my all-time favorite movies! But, somebody told me a long time ago, that I couldn't act, I didn't have the "gift, and I believed him. So I gave it up.

NAOMI

Aw! That's a shame! We should all follow our dreams! How old are you, if I may ask?

SCOTTY

36. How old are you? If I may ask.

NAOMI

Yes, you may. I'm 37 years young!

SCOTTY

Wow! You look younger than that!

NAOMI

How old did you think I was?

(looking at her face)

I don't know...maybe...28.

NAOMI

Wow! Thanks! You're not just saying that to get in my pants, are you?

SCOTTY

(looking her over)

Hmm...Let me think about that one. Could be...could be.

NAOMI

(laughing)

Oh, you are bad!

Mike and Brenda return with the drinks.

MIKE

Well, I see you guys are getting along fine. Hmm. So what were you guys talking about?

BRENDA

That's none of your business, nibby nose!

NAOMI

We were just talking about dreams and ambitions.

MIKE

Dreams, huh?

(immitating MLK speech)

I have a dream!

BRENDA

(hitting Mike)

Stop making fun! I think it's great to have dreams and ambitions! Maybe you should try it! Your only dream is to have a threesome!

MTKF

That's all I can do, is dream about it!

BRENDA

That's right, baby! Ain't no woman touching my man, but me!

MIKE

There's plenty to go around, baby!

He puts his arms up and gyrates like a male dancer.

BRENDA

(hitting Mike)

Oh, shut up! Stop that!

MIKE

You know you love it!

BRENDA

Yeah, ok... So, Scotty? What's your dream?

SCOTTY

Ah! I'm too old for dreams. That train left years ago.

He looks over at Naomi and smiles. She smiles back.

INT. NAOMI'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Naomi sits on couch watching TV. Scotty comes down stairs.

SCOTTY

Hey, whatcha doin'? Aren't you late for work?

He walks and stands behind couch and watches tv.

NAOMI

A plane crashed into the World Trade Center!

SCOTTY

Wow! Look at that! That's an airliner! That's a big plane! Oh my God! When did this happen?

NAOMI

About fifteen minutes ago.

SCOTTY

Wow! Look at that! Terrible! What happened?

NAOMI

I don't know yet. I just started watching.

Second plane crashes.

NAOMI (CONT'D)

Oh my God!!

What the fuck?! Another plane crashed?! Is this live?! What the fuck?!

NAOMI

Yes!!! This is live!!! Oh my God!!!

SCOTTY

I think we're under attack!! This does <u>not</u> happen!! Two jumbo jets into the same building?! This is crazy!! We're under attack!! It's gotta be terrorists!!

NAOMT

Terrorists?! How are terrorists going to get our planes?

SCOTTY

Hijacked, maybe?

NAOMI

Oh my God!! This is terrible!!

SCOTTY

Wow!

NAOMI

Whatta ya think we should do? Should we go get my kids from shool?

SCOTTY

No, we need to find out what happened first. This is crazy!

NAOMI

But what if they attack the school?

SCOTTY

Relax, honey! They're not attacking the school!

NAOMI

How do you know? If this could happen, anything could happen!

SCOTTY

Honey, that's New York City. The World Trade Center! There aren't any terrorists coming to the small farming community of Hopewell, New Jersey! What are they gonna do?

(MORE)

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

Blow up our tomato plants? (immitating Jihad

terrorist)

Ha! Take that you Imperialist Swine! No more BLT's for you! Ha!

NAOMI

But you never know, still.

SCOTTY

Trust me. They don't even know we exist out here in this wasteland.

NAOMI

Well, I hope you're right.

SCOTTY

Of course I'm right. Think about it.

NAOMI

Yeah. I guess you're right. That's silly. They're not coming here.

(laughing)

No more BLT's for you! That's funny! You are funny! You make me laugh.

SCOTTY

That's good, honey! 'Tis better to laugh than cry!

NAOMI

Ain't that the truth! Did a lot of that with my ex-husband, crying!

SCOTTY

Well, there's a new sheriff in town! This sheriff don't allow no crying! Crying is hereby outlawed in the town of Scottyville!

Naomi walks over and hugs him.

NAOMI

You are so corny! But you're my cornball!

SCOTTY

I'm not corny! I'm funny!

NAOMI

Yeah, you're funny! But looks ain't everything!

SCOTTY

Ah! Now who's being corny?

NAOMI

I am not corny!

SCOTTY

Well, I'll just have to ask your kids about that!

NAOMI

My kids don't think I'm corny! They think I'm funny!

SCOTTY

You are a lot of things, honey, but funny is not one of them!

NAOMI

I am too funny!

SCOTTY

Not funny.

NAOMI

I am too!

SCOTTY

Oh yeah! Say something funny!

NAOMI

Ok. (beat) What did the pony say when he had a sore throat?

SCOTTY

I apologize, I am a little hoarse. Corn-ee!

NAOMI

Oh, You! I am not corny!

SCOTTY

Are!

They look towards the tv.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

Yeah. This is terrible.

INT. NAOMI'S HOUSE/NICK'S BEDROOM (2005) - DAY

NICK(16) is seated on side of bed, as he plays a "Zeppelin" song on his electric guitar. Scotty(40) walks in. Nick stops playing.

SCOTTY

No, keep playing. I just came in to listen.

NICK

Nah. I'm a little shy playing in front of people.

SCOTTY

You're really good, Nick.

NICK

Thanks.

SCOTTY

I'm glad we bought you that guitar. When your mom first suggested it, I was a little apprehensive. I know how you give up on things. But she talked me into it. I'm glad she did. You've really gotten good.

NICK

Ya really think so?

SCOTTY

Trust me, Nick. I worked with bands for over 10 years. I've seen some really good guitarists in my day. I know music, dude. You have potential. Great potential. I remember when your mom and I moved in together, 4 years ago, you asked to see my guitar. Man, you were terrible! That's why I thought you would get discouraged and give it up. But you proved me wrong, Nick. You stuck with it, and it's been what, about a year? And look how good you are now! I'm proud of you, boy! In fact, I gotta admit, I'm a little jealous.

NICK

Really?

Oh yeah! I never even held a guitar at your age. I never owned an electric guitar until I was in my early 20's. Have you tried writing your own stuff?

NICK

Nah. I like playing Zeppelin.

SCOTTY

Yeah, I heard that. Excellent! But do you ever try and make up your own tunes? That's what I always loved doing. It's a way to express how you're feeling. A release of energy! There's nothing like creating something out of your own mind, and heart, and soul. It's a beautiful thing, Nick! Give it a try sometime. When you're feeling inspired.

NICK

Hmm...I'll try.

SCOTTY

Yeah. Give it a try. Might make you feel good.

NICK

Ok.

SCOTTY

Alright. I'll leave you to practice.

Turns to leave. Turns back.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

Think about what I told you, Nick. Any guitarist can play other people's music. It takes an artist to create his own music. Maybe you'll find an artist inside of you.

Walks out. Nick plays again.

INT. MALL/FOOD COURT - DAY

Naomi(41) sits alone at table. After a moment Scotty somes over, goes to kiss her and she turns her head. He kisses her cheek.

SCOTTY

Hey, honey.

NAOMI

Hi.

He walks over and sits in the chair across the table, and sits down.

SCOTTY

So, what's up?

NAOMI

What's up? Well, that's why I wanted to meet you here. I didn't want to do this in front of the kids.

SCOTTY

Do what?

NAOMI

Well, I don't know how to say this...so I'm just going to come right out and say it. We need to break up.

SCOTTY

Break up? Why?

NAOMI

I'm not happy. I haven't been happy in a while. It was great in the beginning. Like nothing I've ever experienced. It was very romantic. But things changed. I mean you had these big plans of being a great filmmaker, when I first met you! What happened to that ambitious man! Now all you want to do is sit on the couch, watch tv, and smoke weed! I need more than that!

SCOTTY

What can I do, Naomi? What do you want me to do? I'll do it!

NAOMI

I want you to pack your things up and go! Just go!

SCOTTY

Where am I gonna go? I have no place to go?

NAOMT

I don't know! Get your own place! Or move back into your old house with your sister and her husband! They'd be happy to have you!

SCOTTY

I can't afford my own place! I just started at this job! I have to work my way up!

NAOMI

Work your way up? Scotty, you're 40 years old! You don't start climbing the ladder at 40! You should be at the top already, or close. You had big dreams! You were going to be the greatest filmmaker the world has ever seen! I used to love the way you used to talk like that! It was so romantic! I loved you! I really loved you! But then you become a boring nine to fiver. You'd come home, plop on the couch and watch tv all night.

SCOTTY

I'm tired when I come home from work.

NAOMI

I just can't do it anymore, Scotty. I've had enough. I want you to pack your things up, and be gone by the weekend. Ok?

SCOTTY

I don't know where I'm gonna go.

NAOMI

Go to your old house. Robin would love to have you. She said you're always welcome.

But, it's embarrassing, moving in with my sister and her husband at my age.

NAOMI

Well, do what you gotta do. It's not really my problem, Scotty. I need to move on with my life. I gotta get going now. I have to pick Nick up from guitar lessons.

SCOTTY

Well, can I still visit? I'd like to keep up with Nick and see how he's making out with his music.

NAOMI

No. I don't think that's a good idea.

SCOTTY

But, I love your kids! We were really bonding! I love them like my own!

NAOMI

It's just not a good idea, Scotty.
 (standing up)

Well, I gotta get going now. Please have your things packed by the weekend. I don't want to have to call the cops.

SCOTTY

The cops?! Are you serious?!

NAOMI

Just have your things packed before Friday. Don't make this harder than it has to be, Scotty.

She walks away. Scotty sits alone.

INT. SCOTTY'S CAR (2008) - NIGHT

Scotty(43) sits alone in his car smoking a marijuana joint. ROY(23) comes over to his window.

ROY

Dude, can I get a hit of that? I'd appreciate it, dude!

SCOTTY

(handing joint)

Sure, no problem.

ROY

Thanks a lot, dude!

SCOTTY

No problem. Was smoking by myself. None of my friends wanted to go. Buncha old farts.

ROY

That's funny...Hey, Pete and Roger are in their 60's! They're still rocking it!

SCOTTY

Here, come sit in the car.

Roy walks around to the passenger door and gets in.

ROY

(sticking hand out)

Hey. I'm Roy.

SCOTTY

(shaking hands)

Scotty.

Roy hands Scotty the joint.

ROY

Ever see these guys?

SCOTTY

Yeah, About 25 times.

ROY

25 times! Wow! I saw them once before, 2006. Awesome! But 25 times! Wow! You musta seen'em in their hey-day! I would have loved to have seen John Entwistle! You're lucky dude!

SCOTTY

Yeah, it was sad when the Ox died. It took the heart out of the band. The thunder!...But as long as there's Pete and Roger, there's still a Who!

ROY

I hear that!

SCOTTY

And Ringo's son, Zack, he is absolutely the best replacement they've found since Keith Moon died. Ya know he idolized Moonie growing up! His dad is Ringo Starr and his idol is Keith Moon! Moonie is the greatest drummer of all-time, in my opinion. Hard to copy. Such timing and energy! But Zach does one hell of a job!

ROY

(handing joint)
Here ya go...I hear ya, man! Moon
was the best, but Zach is great!
Did you ever see Moonie?

SCOTTY

Nah, unfortunately. I was only thirteen when he died. My mom wouldn't let me go see them.

ROY

But you saw Entwistle before he died, right?

SCOTTY

Yeah! Oh yeah! Many times. I saw them with Johnny most of those 25 times, probably close to 20.

(handing joint)

Keep it. Enjoy... That's one guy you can't replace. He is definitely uncopyable. The greatest bassist of all time, in my opinion. That's why I say the Who is the greatest band of all-time. You got Keith Moon, greatest drummer. You got Entwistle, greatest bassist. You got Pete, greatest songwriter and showman. The man's a genius! Then there's Roger, great singer! Very powerful and emotive! You put that all together and you can only come to one conclusion. Greatest band in the World!

ROY

You're absolutely right! Man, you love the Who, don't you?

SCOTTY

Dude, are you kidding me! Ever since I was 10 years old. It was 1975, Tommy had just come out in the theaters. Man! I had just witnessed something that changed my life forever! I'd never heard anything like that in my life! It inspired me! Yes, I love the Who! No matter how depressed I am about my life, all the shattered dreams, the broken hearts...a Who concert reenergizes me! It gives me hope, even if for 2 hours. That's 2 hours of bliss!

ROY

Wow...that's deep man.

SCOTTY

Yeah, well... I think I'm gonna head inside now. I hate missing the moment they hit the stage.

ROY

Yeah. Me to. Mind if I go in with you?

SCOTTY

No. Not at all. Come on. Let's go.

They exit the car.

EXT. EVENTS CENTER/PARKING LOT

Scotty and Roy walk towards the entrance.

SCOTTY

Where are your seats?

ROY

(looking at ticket)
Uhhh...Section 100 row J...seat 8.

SCOTTY

Oh they're good seats! 10th row from the stage! I'm 6th row.

ROY

Cool!

SCOTTY

(Getting pumped)

So, you ready to see the Who, brother?!!

ROY

Hells, yeah!!!

SCOTTY

Whoooo!!!

ROY

Yeah, baby!! The Whoooo!!!

Scotty laughs and pats Roy on the back.

SCOTTY

Come on...let's get 2 hours of bliss, buddy.

They walk in the entrance.

EXT. TRUCKING YARD - DAY

A tractor trailer pulls in and stops in front of dispatch office. Scotty gets out and walks in office.

INT. DISPATCH OFFICE

DOM(30) is seated at desk behind glass, as he does paperwork. Scotty KNOCKS. Dom looks up.

DOM

Hey, Scotty. Be right with you.

He looks down, finishes paperwork. Looks up.

DOM (CONT'D)

Okay, whatcha got?

SCOTTY

(handing papers)

Five stops. Got'em all signed this time.

DOM

Okay, thanks.

SCOTTY

Got anything else?

DOM

Hold on, let me check. Hey, Bob! Got anything for Scotty?

BOB (O.S.)

What?

DOM

Scotty! Got anything for him?

BOB (O.S.)

No! Is he there? Send him into my office!

DOM

Okay!

SCOTTY

Hmmm...wonder what he wants.

DOM

Don't know.

SCOTTY

I know I didn't hit anything today.

He walks through the door.

INT. BOB'S OFFICE

BOB(49) sits at his desk as he looks over invoices. Scotty walks in.

SCOTTY

Hey, Bob. You wanted to see me?

BOB

Yes, Scotty. Listen, have a seat. Yes, well, I have some bad news. With this recession and all I'm gonna have to make cut-backs, and since you're one of the newer guys, I'm gonna have to let you go.

SCOTTY

Let me go? Are you kidding me?

BOB

Well, unfortunately you know me well enough to know I'm not a kidder. I'm sorry, Scotty. There's nothing I can do. I wish there was.

(MORE)

BOB (CONT'D)

I'll be more than happy to be used as a reference.

SCOTTY

(distraught)

Do you have anything for me tomorrow at least?

BOB

I'm sorry, Scotty. Today was your last day...Good luck.

Scotty exits the office.

INT. DISPATCH

Dom sits at his desk doing paperwork. Scotty walks in. Dom looks up.

DOM

So, what'd he want?

SCOTTY

Nothing.

He walks out front door.

INT. "FROSTED MUG" BAR - NIGHT

Scotty is seated at the bar. He has a scraggly beard, which is mostly grey. His hair is also grey, and long and disheveled. His face is worn, tired and wrinkled. He is very intoxicated. Brandi(43) comes over.

BRANDI

Scotty? Hey, Scotty?

He looks up at her very slowly.

BRANDI (CONT'D)

You ok?

He nods.

BRANDI (CONT'D)

You sure? You want me to call you a cab?

He shrugs his shoulders.

BRANDI (CONT'D)

Ok, I'll call you a cab.

He shrugs again. She walks away. Scotty looks around, gets up and walks over to the jukebox. Looks over selections and presses buttons. "Won't Get Fooled Again" by "The Who" plays. Scotty dances around and air-guitars. He jumps on bar and dances around. After a moment, he falls to the floor. The bouncer, BUD(35), walks over and helps him up.

BUD

Alright, Scotty! That's it for tonight, buddy. We're gonna call you a cab.

BRANDI

Already done! About 15 minutes ago!

BUD

Alright, buddy. Cabs on the way. I'm just gonna sit you down here. (sitting him in chair)
There ya go, buddy. Just hang tight. Cab'll be here soon.

Bud walks up to the bar.

BUD (CONT'D)

Hey, Brandi?

BRANDI

Yeah?

BUD

How much he have to drink tonight?

BRANDI

Same as always. Too much.

BUD

We're gonna have to blackball him.

BRANDI

He's a really nice guy. Been coming in here for years. But then, a while back, he just went down hill. Started drinking heavy. Became a real mess. I wish I could help him, but I don't know what to do. He won't go to AA. It's a shame. He's a really nice guy. Used to talk about being a filmmaker. Said he was gonna be "the greatest filmmaker the World had ever seen!" I feel sorry for him. Poor guy.

BUD

Yeah, well. Some people just can't be helped.

BRANDI

Yeah, I guess. It's a shame, though. Really nice guy.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

It is a stormy night. The rain POURS! Lightning and thunder CRASH! A cab pulls in the driveway, and Scotty gets out.

INT. HOUSE/KITCHEN

Scotty walks in the front door, drenched and very drunk. He stumbles to the hallway.

INT. HALLWAY

Scotty stumbles, falls against the wall, and reaches for his bedroom door handle.

ROBIN (O.S.)

Scotty? Is that you?

SCOTTY

(Mumbling)

Mmmmph...

ROBIN (O.S.)

Ok. Glad you're home safe. Go to bed. Nite.

He walks into his bedroom.

INT. SCOTTY'S BEDROOM

Scotty walks in and over to the wall mirror. He looks at himself, wipes some peanuts out of his grey beard, and GROANS. He then walks over and sits on the bed. After a moment he gets up and walks to the closet. BEEP. He looks at his cellphone. It reads "10 NEW VOICEMAILS". He pushes voicemail:

DARLENE (V.O.)

Hey, Scotty. It's Darlene. Just called to see what you're doing. Haven't heard from you all day.

(MORE)

DARLENE (V.O.) (CONT'D) Well, guess your busy. Call me when you get a chance. Love ya.

BEEP.

DARLENE (V.O.)

Hey Scotty. Me again. Are you ok? Please call me back. I'm worried about you, honey. Please. Give me a call.

He closes his phone and throws it on the floor. He goes back into his closet and takes out a rolled-up t-shirt. He places it on his dresser. He goes back into closet and takes out a folded piece of heavy-duty plastic, and spreads it out across his bed. He walks over to the dresser and unravels the rolled up t-shirt. There is a gun in it. Thunder CRASHES! He picks it up and walks back to his bed. He sits down on the edge, slowly lifts up the gun, and puts the barrel in his mouth. He closes his eyes, and begins to pull the trigger.

ZAIDA (O.S.)

Sheppy!

Scotty opens his eyes and takes the gun out of his mouth. Zaida stands in the corner.

ZAIDA (CONT'D)

Sheppy. Use your gift.

SCOTTY

(angry]

Gift! Gift! Use your gift! Remember! Remember it all! Yeah, Zaida! Look where my gift got me, now! I have no gift, Zaida. It was nothing but a bunch of pipe dreams. My life is a stinking, horrible mess. Life?! I can't even call this a life! It's hardly an existence! Look at me. I'm almost sixty years old without a hope or desire to live. I want to come be with you, Zaida. This life wasn't meant for me. I'm just so tired. Tired of it all. I don't have a wife. No kids. No grandkids. I have nothing, Zaida. I'm \$150,000 in debt from a student loan from that damn art institute. Yeah. That degree got me far. I can't even get a job driving a truck anymore because of all my DWI's. Gift?!

(MORE)

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

You wanna give me a gift?! Let me be done with this and come be with you. That's a gift.

ZAIDA

Listen to me, Sheppy...

SCOTTY

What do you want from me, Zaida? What?... What?

ZATDA

Listen to me, Sheppy. Listen very carefully. All you have to do is, remember. Remember. Remember it all. Write it. Tell it. Use your gift, Sheppy. Use your gift for the World to see, It's a beautiful gift. You must use it, Sheppy. It's not too late.

SCOTTY

It <u>is</u> too late, Zaida. It <u>is</u>.

Scotty puts the gun back in his mouth and pulls the trigger. BANG!

INT. SCOTTY'S BEDROOM (2011) - DAY

The sun shines through the window and the birds CHIRP. SCOTTY(46) is asleep in his bed. He is clean-shaven, and no wrinkles. He sweats profusely. His eyes pop wide open. He sits up, gets out of bed and walks to his computer on the desk. BLABOOP. He looks down at the screen. It flashes, "6 NEW E-MAILS". He sits down at his computer and goes to a Word Program. He types, "Working title". The cursor moves down. He types, "CRASHING BY DESIGN". Under that he types, "An original screenplay by Scotty Derechinsky". Cursor goes down and to the left. He types "FADE IN:". Cursor goes down. He types, "EXT. RESTAURANT (1965) - NIGHT".

INT. T.V. STUDIO/ EBERT AND ROEPER SHOW

EBERT and ROEPER are seated at their chairs.

EBERT

I absolutely loved this movie! It's genius! Both of my thumbs are up for this one! Brilliant! And the guy who made this film was an unemployed truck driver. Never made a film in his life. Pure genius!

ROEPER

I couldn't agree more, Roger. Brilliant! That ending caught me off guard. I love a movie that makes you think.

INT. HOUSE/LIVINGROOM - DAY

News crew is there. REPORTER interviews ROBIN(55).

REPORTER

I'm standing here with the sister of this man they're calling, "The Middle-Aged Miracle". Out of nowhere, this unemployed truck driver from Pittsgrove, New Jersey makes the film, some critics are calling a Masterpiece. The name of that movie is of course, "Crashing by Design". If you haven't heard of it, you must be living under a bridge somewhere. So, Robin, tell me, did you know your brother was capable of something like this? I mean, he's never written a screenplay before. He's never written anything else, as far as I know.

ROBIN

Oh, yes. I've always known he was brilliant.

Reporter interviews JOHN(57).

REPORTER

How does it feel to know this movie that your brother-in-law made, "Crashing by Design" was written in your very home?

JOHN

Well, all during the time he was writin' it, I was renovatin' the bathroom. A lot of bangin' and power tools. Very noisy. If I'd a know'd he was writin' a million dollar movie, I'd a put it off until he was done. I didn't know. I thought he was in there watching porn.

Reporter interviews LEE(50).

REPORTER

Did you even know your brother was writing a screenplay?

LEE

Yeah. He texted me and told me he was writing a screenplay, and it was going good. I texted him back and told him, "Don't stop. Forge ahead". So I guess I get some of the credit.

Reporter interviews JODI(49).

REPORTER

So you're Scotty's other sister. You live here too?

JODI

No, I live down the street.

REPORTER

What do you think of your brother's success? Did you ever, in your wildest dreams think he'd become an overnight sensation like he has?

JODI

I think it's wonderful! He deserves it! He's had a tough life up to now. I'm so proud of him!

Reporter interviews STAN(80) and PHYL(77), holding a Pomeranian dog.

REPORTER

I'm here with Scotty's parents, Phyl and Stan. I bet you guys are really proud of your son.

PHYL

Incredibly proud! But I've always been proud of him. I'm proud of all my kids.

REPORTER

(petting dog)

And I bet this little guy is proud, too?

PHYL

Oh, this is Sammy!

She holds his paw up and waves.

PHYL (CONT'D)

Say hi to the camera, Sammy! Scotty bought him for me. And he was unemployed at the time, too. This was before he made the movie. He named him after the Rams quarterback, Sam Bradford. Oh, he loves this little dog! He calls him his grandboy! He says he's his Zaida!

REPORTER

Adorable! I know Scotty was very close with his grandfather. How do you think he would be feeling now, if he was still alive?

PHYT

Oh, he knows! And he is very, very proud of his Sheppy. That's what he called him, Sheppy. His Hebrew name is Shep Chaim. He called him Sheppy!

REPORTER

And Stan? You're not saying very much. What did you think when your son told you he was writing a screenplay?

STAN

Well, he let us, me and his mother, read the first 40 pages, then he cut us off. Then, when he was finished, he let us read the whole thing. I knew it would be a success. It was brilliant!

Reporter interviews Scotty's NIECES and NEPHEWS.

REPORTER

I don't have time to interview all the nieces and nephews, so I want you all to look into the camera and tell me what your favorite movie is.

NIECES/NEPHEWS Crashing By Design!!!!

EXT. ACADEMY AWARDS/RED CARPET - NIGHT

RYAN Seacrest interviews SCOTTY(46).

RYAN

And here he is! The man everyone's talking about, Scotty Derechinsky! So you were really an unemployed truck driver, Scotty?

SCOTTY

Unemployed for almost two and a half years before I wrote the screenplay.

RYAN

So, Scotty, "Crashing by Design" is nominated for 10 Oscars, including Best Picture. And you've never made a film before. Incredible! Some people are calling you a genius. Do you think you're a genius?

SCOTTY

A genius? Well, I don't know about that, Ryan. All I can say, is dreams can come true. Mine did.

FADE OUT.