

CARD CHASE

(C) 2019.

FADE IN:

INT. CHURCH CHOIR BALCONY - DAY

Two dozen PARISHIONERS (16 to 60) practice a hymn under the direction of a nun serving as their CHOIR DIRECTOR (39).

Something catches the Choir Director's ear. Annoyed, she looks down and to the side where the nominally sound-proof "crying room" is located behind all of the pews.

INT. CHURCH SEATING AREA - CONTINUOUS

Sounds of the choir continue, but on the other side of the "crying room" window sits SISTER ROSEMARY (52) and fifteen of the Parishioners' CHILDREN (5 to 15).

Two of the boys argue with each other inaudibly.

INT. CRYING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sister Rosemary slaps a ruler on a chair which silences the argument between a red-faced NATHAN (9) and an outraged AARON (11) - the oldest child not staring at a smartphone.

SISTER ROSEMARY

I'm sure you each feel passionately about this... game, but I will not allow you to disrupt this church over it.

NATHAN

He said my Detective Pikachu is a fake...

AARON

There's no way he "just got" a Legendary card like that...

Sister Rosemary makes a curt "zip it" gesture.

SISTER ROSEMARY

Put that away.

Nathan and Aaron gather their Pokémon cards, much to the disappointment of eight spectator Children. Nathan has four friends on his side of the table, Aaron four henchmen on his.

Nathan slides the limited-edition Detective Pikachu card into a mylar sleeve, stows it in his back pocket separate from the rest of his collection.

AARON

I'll prove it's fake. You'll all see tomorrow.

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

A typical suburban scene with hundreds of STUDENTS making their way onto a row of yellow busses. A few prepare to ride home on bikes or skateboards.

Nathan straps on his helmet, adjusts his backpack, steps onto his skateboard.

SLOW MOTION: A student on a green bike whooshes by, plucks the mylar sleeve from Nathan's back pocket. The rider is ASHLEY (10), one of Aaron's henchmen, er, henchpersons.

NATHAN
Hey! That's mine!

Resume normal speed as Nathan falls on his side.

He immediately rushes after Ashley along the sidewalk. The skateboard zooms downhill, but the bike pulls away.

Nathan watches Ashley turn right out of sight. His attention snaps back to his own situation as two WORKMEN carry a ladder across his path.

He leans back, arms wide, and limbos under the ladder. Slight contact scrapes off one of the buttons from Nathan's jacket.

Upright again, he slaloms around PEDESTRIANS and turns right onto a side street. No sign of Ashley.

Nathan spots skidmarks on the sidewalk the same green as the rubber on Ashley's tires. He stops.

EXT. WATERFRONT PLAYGROUND - CONTINUOUS

Nathan stands on the sidewalk, a transparent version of the Detective Pikachu hat on his head and a transparent magnifying glass in his hand.

Tracks consistent with a girl walking a bike lead toward the sliding board.

A transparent apparition of Ashley stands under the sliding board, looking around. An apparition of RICKY (8), another of Aaron's henchmen, takes the card.

The Ricky apparition dashes toward the stream, unzips his jacket to reveal a wetsuit. He leaps onto an equally transparent jet-ski waiting in the stream, zooms off.

Nathan finds a canoe tied up on the dock, throws in his backpack and skateboard, sets off downstream.

EXT. STREAM - DAY

Nathan paddles hard, but the pauses between strokes get longer as he tires. He stops for a breather.

He jolts awake at the HORN BLAST of a powerboat heading upstream. Nathan veers right, narrowly avoiding a collision.

Suddenly a SPLASH next to him, then another. Nathan looks up to see FISHERMEN casting lines on this side of the stream where no boats are supposed to be.

Nathan veers left, pushes off the pier of a small bridge, slides up next to a dock with several small boats.

Nathan - with his transparent Detective Pikachu hat and magnifying glass - sees a transparent jet-ski next to a few canoes on the shore.

He pulls the canoe ashore, inspects the area with his imaginary magnifying glass. Footprints lead away from the apparition of the jet-ski.

The tracks cross another set of tracks. An apparition of Ricky hands the card to the apparition of another of Aaron's henchmen, KEVIN (10), who has something round under his arm.

The second set of tracks vanishes when it comes to solid pavement. The transparent Kevin put on the pilot's helmet he way carrying, climbs a rope ladder to a hovering chopper.

NATHAN

Wait... I don't have to follow him.
I know where he's going!

Nathan flicks under the front edge of his helmet, causes the transparent hat to hop to a higher position. Behind him, the transparent chopper streaks off into the sky.

He looks up at the church a few blocks away. He looks at his skateboard then the uphill street, decides to cut across yards instead, runs across the grass toward the church.

EXT. BACK YARD - DAY

Nathan hops a fence. O.S. loud BARKING. Nathan turns to see a Rottweiler charging toward him. He just clears the next fence as the Rottweiler takes a bite out of his pants leg.

In the next yard, he catches a glimpse of the transparent chopper descending toward the church parking lot.

Nathan quickly needs to dodge LITTLE KIDS on swings, which steers him toward a gate slowly swinging shut. Nathan slides through the gate, but loses his imaginary detective hat.

He reaches back, snatches the transparent hat just as the gate snaps shut.

EXT. CHURCH GROUNDS - DAY

Parishioner choir members arrive in their cars, chat in small groups as they head inside. One, NATHAN'S MOM (36) looks back and forth along the roadway nervously.

Aaron strides triumphantly toward the church entrance, the Detective Pikachu card in his hand.

Nathan breaks into a run to intercept Aaron.

NATHAN'S MOM

Where have you been?

Aaron's eyes go wide as he spots Nathan. Aaron hastily backs in through the open doors, then turns to face inward.

AARON

Ha, I'm safe now. No one would --

Nathan would. He clips Aaron, digging his helmet into Aaron's back. Both boys tangle into a rolling fist-fight that barrels through the vestibule.

INT. CHURCH SEATING AREA - CONTINUOUS

As the two boys tumble down the aisle, Nathan SMACKS Aaron's hand against the side of a pew, dislodges the Detective Pikachu card.

Aaron gets a little separation between them, connects with a right cross to the side of Nathan's helmet. Nathan wobbles, and his transparent hat goes flying.

Both boys growl, set to charge one another, and LAUNCH!

But neither one moves.

Sister Rosemary has an iron grip on each boy's ear.

Nathan and Aaron stop struggling, and Sister Rosemary lets go. She pulls a ruler out from up her sleeve.

EXT. CHURCH GROUNDS - DAY

Nathan's Mom walks toward her car, head down, flushed with embarrassment. Nathan tags along with a slight limp.

He's missing a button on his jacket and a bit of the hem of his jeans. He has a black eye, a swollen lip, and ruler-shaped red marks across both sets of knuckles.

He *also* has his Detective Pikachu card and a big smile.

FADE OUT.