

Green-Stained Shoes

by

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[www.green-stainedshoes.com](http://www.green-stainedshoes.com)

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FADE IN:

INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - MIDNIGHT

DANNY, (12), much older than he looks, is asleep.

His walls are adorned with drawings, movie posters, and space-related articles because it's what he loves, but mostly because he's covering chipped-paint and far too many holes to count.

The drawings are exceptionally detailed for his age. Alien body-snatchers, metaphysical-beings communicating with children, black holes and galaxies.

The movie posters are diverse, but there is an apparent preference to more of the Horror-genre.

A mirror engulfs Danny's closet door - reflecting a sleeping Danny.

The wall across from Danny shakes, and sounds as if something heavy dropped onto the floor in MADELINE'S BEDROOM.

Danny wakes. He sits up and stares towards the wall.

After a moment, Danny moves to the edge of his bed and hesitates - slowly looking down to see if anything is under his bed.

Nothing.

Danny climbs out of his bed, and softly walks to the door.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S HALLWAY - MIDNIGHT

It is dark.

The only real light comes from the Moon's rays - slipping through Danny's door as he opens it.

Danny stares down the hallway towards his father's bedroom. He can't make out much from the Darkness.

As Danny looks down the hallway, to his left, a bright Light begins to emerge - drawing his attention.

The Light softly strobes in brilliance from under his sister's bedroom door.

To the right of Madeline's door, between the bathroom door, on the wall opposite of Danny - a metal-framed flock of crows, in mid-flight, diving towards the hallway floor.

Danny watches the Light.

He opens the door.

CUT TO:

INT. MADELINE'S BEDROOM - DAY

The bay window bathes the room in sunlight. A beautiful, clear day.

The room is clean. Madeline's bed is made, nothing littered about, vanity mirror is spot-free. Tucked into the frame of the mirror are pictures of MADELINE, (16), pretty and lively, with her family and friends.

Danny stands in the dark hallway as he looks around the room.

The playroom door, tucked away in the corner, slowly opens - revealing absolute, overwhelming Darkness.

Danny turns his head slowly to the door as it opens, watching as the pulsating Darkness grows larger.

He latches quickly onto his sister's door frame as the darkness collapses in on itself like a failed-wormhole - pulling only him toward its eager mouth.

Danny screams silently as they're instantly consumed by the void-like Nothingness.

Madeline's door frame bends as the Nothingness tugs harder, pulsating with an overzealous yearning.

Danny can't fight it. He is plucked from his foothold, and cast into It.

The door slams shut as it reseals the Void.

CUT TO:

INT. NOTHINGNESS

Absolute Darkness - Void.

Danny is breathing heavily, crawling as he feels around for anything.

He hears the scurries of THREE unknown creatures as they move around him as if taunting him. He screams as they draw too close.

A flash.

A brilliant BONFIRE ignites and beckons Danny - bearing the only Light in all of It's absolute. A beacon drawing LOST SOULS to It.

But a bleeding, cut-riddled Danny doesn't want to go. He seeks the cover of Darkness, so he crawls.

But Danny doesn't get a choice.

The Bonfire grows in heated brilliance.

Danny is dragged and tossed onto the bonfire - its embers explode in complete grandeur.

CUT TO:

EXT. DEEP, DEEP SPACE

Danny pierces through the veil of Nothingness with unimaginable force, through a firework-like display as the embers dissipate.

Danny is now in deep vastness - Ever and Forever.

Everything is drawn to It. Even Light itself succumbs.

A super-massive, pulsating Black Hole.

And It wants Danny.

ROLL MAIN TITLE.

GREEN-STAINED SHOES

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

Danny snaps awake in his bed.

He and his bed are drenched in so much sweat, it appears as if he's pissed it. He's shivering.

Danny calms himself down before patting the bed. Embarrassed and unsure, he looks at the clock.

05:47 A.M.

Sir, his father, can be heard in his room, getting ready for work as he slides shut his closet door.

Danny waits in bed, listening to his father as Sir steps out into the hallway, and locks his bedroom door.

Sir then opens Danny's door as he slips back into bed, pretending to be asleep.

SIR, (43), a blurry albeit intimidating force, stands faintly in the doorway before closing the door, and leaves for work.

Danny listens to Sir's truck start, and drive-off before he climbs out of bed.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S HALLWAY - EARLY MORNING

Danny, freshly-changed, walks out into the hallway with his bundled bed sheets and pajamas.

Behind him, the metal-framed flock is now flying towards MADELINE'S BEDROOM.

Danny exits around the corner.

CUT TO:

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - EARLY MORNING

Danny throws his soiled laundry into the washer, and starts a cycle.

As he leaves, he steps over cartons of empty beer bottles - overflowing out of the bin.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - EARLY MORNING

Danny cooks scrambled eggs.

SADIE, his calico cat, meows at Danny as he cooks.

He drops a bit of cooked egg on the floor for her to eat.

Sadie takes it graciously.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - EARLY MORNING

Danny enters, setting his plate of eggs on the stained coffee table, and sits on the couch.

Danny turns on the T.V. He clicks the recall button to see the channel.

Channel 8.

He presses back - Channel 6.

Danny takes the drink coasters on the table and creates two separate stacks.

Six and Eight.

He changes the channel to cartoons, and watches as he eats breakfast.

Sadie comes up to Danny, and meows.

Danny eyes Sadie as he eats.

Sadie meows again.

Danny sets his food down, and follows Sadie.

CUT TO:

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - EARLY MORNING

Danny pours Sadie some food as the washer whirls next to him.

He looks into the nearly-empty bag.

Danny puts the bag back, and crouches down next to Sadie.

As she eats, Danny pets her.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Danny, freshly-showered and dressed for school, reaches to the top-shelf of his VHS collection.

Danny's personal library of VHS tapes put most video stores to shame. Most bought, but a good portion pirated as they lack sleeves and have the titles taped to the side.

He pulls down a tape, and pops it open.

Inside, stashed money.

Danny silently counts the money, pausing to think, then takes more.

He seals the tape back together, and places it back in its nook.

Danny hops onto the ground wearing his green-stained shoes.

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDEWALK - MORNING

Danny stands alone from the other preteens at the BUS STOP. He is drawing as they're chattering.

On his notepad, he is shading the shadowy, cloaked-head of a Dark, faceless-Man.

He is entranced.

BUS DRIVER (O.S)  
(faint)  
--Hey!

Danny's spell breaks as he looks up.

School BUS DRIVER, (33), stares at Danny from her seat, door open.

Danny looks around to see he is the only one not on the bus as the other kids' faces are plastered to the window - watching him on display for their own amusement.

BUS DRIVER  
(waves)  
Come on, come on...

Danny slowly gets up, and walks dejectedly to the bus.

The Bus Driver shuts the door behind Danny, and drives off.

CUT TO:

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

Danny walks through the crowd of students clogging the hallway.

He opens his locker, setting his heavy backpack on the floor.

Inside the locker are custom-built shelves separating it into three compartments.

One for junk food, one for drinks, and one for his books.

Danny restocks the shelves - replacing the gel-cooling bags around the energy drinks and his lunch.

Students come up to Danny, buying junk with their lunch money before the bell rings.

CUT TO:

INT. HISTORY CLASS - DAY

Danny is drawing as the other students watch 'TROY'.

The Dark man is much more visible.

He is fully-cloaked, sitting cross-legged, hands on His knees as He watches from under His hood. His mouth and the tip of His nose are the only discernible features. A satchel rests by His side - the strap slung across His chest.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL BUS - DAY

Danny stares out the window, cataloging every passing face he sees - committing it to memory.

As he studies faces, TRAVIS, (12), a sour-looking, RED-HAIRED boy, cups his lighter as he silently lights it from the seat behind Danny.

Travis holds the flame up to the back of Danny's head - singeing Danny's hair with the belly of the flame.

Danny and the other students smell the burning hair, and look to find a laughing Travis.

Danny, unsure as to what Travis finds so funny, goes back to the window.

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

Across the street, Travis leers at Danny as he walk home.

A GIRL, (11), comes jogging up behind Danny, explaining something as she points to the back of his head.

Danny feels around, offers her a weak-smile, and continues walking.

He notices Travis and his friends watching him from across the street.

Travis flips him off, mouthing what looks to be "Fucking faggot".

Danny keeps walking.

CUT TO:

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - DAY

Danny grabs his sheets from the dryer.

In a rush, he knocks over some of the beer bottles.

As he juggles his laundry, Danny puts the bottles back.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Danny quietly, but quickly makes his bed. He's behind schedule.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S HALLWAY - DAY

Danny stands outside of MADELINE'S BEDROOM.

He tests the doorknob - it's locked.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S HALLWAY - DAY

FLASHBACK

MADELINE'S BEDROOM door rips open.

MADELINE

BOO!

Danny jumps as MADELINE, (16), stands before him - she laughs.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
Holy shit, I actually scared you.

DANNY  
(annoyed)  
--Shut up, I wasn't scared.

MADELINE  
(nods/mumbles)  
Mhmm... Pretty sure your underwear  
only comes in white, not yellow.

Danny rolls his eyes, and starts to leave when Madeline grabs him.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
I'm just messing with you, dude!

DANNY  
--Not funny.

MADELINE  
I'm sorry.

Danny is not amused.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
I said I'm sorry!

Madeline pulls a reluctant Danny into her room.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
Help me, please.

Madeline shuts the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. DANNY'S HOME - DAY

DANNY'S HOME is, in the most literal sense, a breezeway.  
Clearly not part of any Home Owner's Association.

The garage door screams as Danny closes it, threatening to collapse as it shutters.

Danny climbs on his bike, and rides off.

CUT TO:

EXT. DAVE'S ELECTRONICS - DAY

Danny rides his bike down the strip, looking at the faces that walk by when he stops in front of DAVE'S ELECTRONICS.

In the window, he sees the gorgeous, monstrous 17" Philips LCD - HDTV.

Danny pores over every detail as he falls back in love - every spec sticker pops out to him.

1280 x 768p. HDTV. Silver, and sleek.

This is what he wants.

Danny holds out his arms, measuring the TV as he smiles. He imagines himself soon carrying it home.

However, the price tag is a bit disheartening. \$800.

But this doesn't bother Danny - just motivates him, and it shows on his face.

CUT TO:

INT. PET STORE - DAY

Danny walks to the counter, carrying a bag of cat food.

He puts down the exact change, including tax, without so much as a look from the cashier.

Danny leaves.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Danny rides his bike through the parked cars, swerving in and out as he tests his agility.

The bag of cat food is strapped to the back of his bike.

He rides his bike towards the VIDEO-VIEW.

CUT TO:

INT. VIDEO-VIEW - DAY

A shabby, video rental store.

KELLY, (34), a tomboy and tattoo-riddled woman, is standing behind the counter, watching '28 DAYS LATER' on her TV.

Danny walks in, and stops to watch the movie with Kelly.

They watch the scene together with Frank, a character in the movie, as the droplet of blood falls into his eye.

Kelly winces.

KELLY

--Fuck!

(beat)

That's why you don't look up at  
shit, man...

Kelly notices Danny. She pauses the movie.

KELLY (CONT'D)

Dude, I don't know why you watch  
this shit. Makes me anxious.

Danny shrugs, opens his bag, and places his notepad and a VHS on the counter.

Backpack completely empty, he goes to the drink cooler.

KELLY (CONT'D)

(continues)

It's good, I'll give you that. But  
I can't hang with zombies, they  
freak me out.

Danny opens the drink cooler near the counter, and empties most of the stocked energy drinks into his backpack.

KELLY (CONT'D)

--My ass would be dead - Day One,  
dude. Fucking buffet spread for  
the undead, man.

Kelly grabs Danny's notepad, and holds it up.

KELLY (CONT'D)

--New shit?

Danny nods.

KELLY (CONT'D)

Nice.

Kelly opens the pad and looks at Danny's drawings - post-apocalyptic dolls, pyramids, and lastly the dark, cloaked-figure.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
 This one's badass.  
 (beat)  
 What is it?

DANNY  
 (eventually)  
 --A DarkLord.

KELLY  
 Like--The Devil?

Danny shakes his head as he peruses the junk food.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
 What's the difference?

DANNY  
 --Different.  
 (beat)  
 --They're teachers.

KELLY  
 Teachers?

Kelly stares down at the drawing.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
 Freaky.  
 (beat)  
 What's his name?

Danny sets the candy on the counter.

DANNY  
 (beat)  
 Kyal.

Kelly gives Danny back his notepad, and takes the VHS he's returning.

KELLY  
 Kyal...  
 (beat)  
 Cool.

Kelly grabs a VHS, 'SNATCH', she has set aside for Danny.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
 Think you'll like this one.  
 (rolls his eyes)  
 No zombies, but it's fucking  
 hilarious. You'll dig it!

Danny grabs the tape, reading over the sleeve as Kelly rings him up.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
So--how close are you?

Danny looks up, looking at the total. He hands Kelly money.

DANNY  
\$86.

KELLY  
And then you're full Twenty-First  
Century. That's tight!  
(beat)  
Everyone's going DVD, man. It's  
the future.

Kelly puts the money in her till as Danny loads the candy into his bag.

It bounces around the cans, filling in all of the empty-space.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
(continues)  
Still haven't touched it?

Danny shakes his head.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
Waiting to break in the new one,  
huh?

Danny nods.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
I feel ya.  
(beat)  
You're a dying breed... Once you  
switch, I'll probably have to get  
rid of all these tapes.

Kelly looks around at her shelves.

Danny looks around as well - VHS are outnumbered 2:1 by their DVD competitor.

Danny puts on his backpack, and waves to Kelly as he leaves.

Kelly turns to Danny.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
Hey, Danny--

Danny stops, looking back at Kelly.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
(continues)  
--You want a job?

Danny looks at Kelly curiously.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
(continues)  
I know you got stuff going on  
after school, but I was thinking  
you could work for me--like an  
hour in the afternoon. Just clean,  
make this turd shine. I'm trying  
an unlimited rental deal to  
compete with the Big Guys, and I  
want to get people in here. Can't  
do that if the place looks like  
shit--

DANNY  
Yes!

Kelly smiles.

KELLY  
Oh--cool!  
(beat)  
Uhh--I can't pay you, but you can  
rent anything you want, any time.  
You know--save some more money.

Danny is ecstatic, reaching to shake Kelly's hand - which  
he does vigorously.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
Cool, man!  
(beat)  
See you tomorrow?

Danny nods excitedly, and runs out the front door.

Kelly watches, smiling, before turning back to her TV.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Danny rides his bike - carefree and excited.

As he's riding, Travis tackles Danny - sending him skidding  
along the top of the asphalt.

Danny lays there, badly hurt, as the three boys surround him.

Leader Travis, and his intimidating goons LUKAS, (11), and JAKE, (12), tower over him.

TRAVIS  
Hey, little bitch.

Danny can only watch Travis.

Travis looks down at Danny as a puddle begins to form around him.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)  
(laughs)  
Are you pissing yourself?!

Danny, confused, looks at the puddle.

He takes off his backpack, and holds it up as his stash of energy drinks leak out of his bag. He quickly opens it up, finding most of them spraying inside his bag, and now his face.

Travis laughs.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)  
(to: LUKAS and JAKE)  
Retard broke his shit!

The boys laugh at Danny as he tries to salvage his stash.

LUKAS (O.S)  
Hey, Trav--

Lukas points to the bag of cat food.

LUKAS  
Looks like he went grocery shopping for the week.

Travis smiles as he frees the bag from Danny's bike.

Danny kneels, preoccupied with his backpack, as Travis tears open the bag.

TRAVIS  
You are what you eat--you fucking, pussy!

Travis pours the entire bag over Danny's head.

Danny eventually stops, and stares sadly up at Travis as Travis laughs.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

Eat it.

Danny sits there.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

(repeats)

Eat it!

Danny stares.

Lukas and Jake grab Danny, and both push his face into one of the mound's of cat food.

Danny purses his lips, his eyes water as the two boys push his face into it.

Travis scoops a handful, and shoves it in Danny's face.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

Here, kitty-kitty!

Travis clicks his tongue.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

(continues)

Eat your fucking food!

MAN (O.S)

HEY!

The boys look up to see a MAN, (27), get out of his car.

MAN

Get the fuck away from him! What's wrong with you?!

The boys cackle, dropping Danny as they run away from the Man.

MAN (CONT'D)

(continues)

Shitheads...

The Man approaches Danny, and helps him up.

MAN (CONT'D)

You okay?

Danny nods, wiping his eyes as he scoops as much of the cat food as he can into the destroyed bag.

The Man looks Danny over - torn pants around his knees, and his palms are bleeding.

MAN (CONT'D)  
Fucking pricks--  
(beat)  
Need a ride home?

Danny shakes his head as he bundles the bag, scrunching it to keep it closed.

He climbs back on his bike, and rides off - leaving a trail of energy drink and cat food behind him.

The Man watches Danny leave.

CUT TO:

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - DAY

Danny pours the salvaged cat food into the old bag - only filling about a quarter of it.

Sadie meows at his feet - squirming around as Danny strips out of his bloody clothes. He tosses them into the washer along with his backpack, and runs a cycle.

Danny sits on the floor, and pets Sadie delicately as to not get blood on her.

Danny is angry and sad, but Sadie's comfort helps.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S BATHROOM - DAY

Danny cleans his wounds - wincing as he treats them.

Through the open door, Danny's bedroom door can be seen as Danny washes his knees.

His bedroom door is open, but slowly shuts unbeknownst to Danny.

Danny, once his wounds are wrapped, leaves towards his bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Three energy drinks are all that survived.

Danny stares at the survivors, surrounded by their fallen comrades.

He goes over to his closet, and retrieves a box in the far back - hidden behind his clothes.

Danny sits on his bed, and holds the box in his lap.

A brand-new, lower-end DVD player - unopened.

Danny looks to his wall above his bed. He stares at the clipped-advert of the TV tacked to his wall.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Danny prepares dinner. The oven beeps, signaling it's ready.

Danny puts the food in, and sets the timer for an hour.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Danny stands by the window, blinds drawn shut with just a crack for him to peek through.

He's watching TV - occasionally peering out the window.

Eventually, Sir's truck turns down the street.

Danny quickly changes the TV to Channel 8, and then 6. Then turns it off.

He puts the remote back where it was, and runs to the DINING ROOM.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING

Books laid-out, Danny dives into his homework as the front door unlocks.

Sir faintly steps through the front door - and looks towards Danny.

Danny looks up, then returns to his homework.

Sir steps into the LIVING ROOM, and turns on the TV. He checks the channels, turns off the TV, and leaves to unlock his bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Danny eats at the table by himself.

Sir is in the LIVING ROOM, eating and drinking beer as he watches TV.

Sir clears his throat, shaking the empty beer bottle.

Danny gets up, goes to the KITCHEN, grabs a new beer, and brings it to Sir - taking the empty bottle to the LAUNDRY ROOM.

Danny sits back at the table, and returns to his dinner.

SIR  
(eventually)  
My money?

DANNY  
(beat)  
Counter, Sir.

SIR  
You ran two loads today.

DANNY  
Yes, Sir.

SIR  
Better be there.

Sir turns back to the TV as Danny continues eating.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Danny strategically hangs his new drawings on his wall.

Kyal's portrait now dominates the wall.

Danny sits on his bed as he reads, and rereads the sleeve of 'SNATCH' - occasionally looking at the clock until it turns 08:00 P.M.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Danny softly enters the room, and looks towards his father.  
He waits before he speaks.

DANNY

Sir--

(beat)

--may I start my half-hour?

A faint Sir stares at Danny while he finishes his beer. He sets the bottle down for Danny.

Danny picks up the bottle, gets his father another, and brings it to him.

Once Sir is satisfied, Danny sits in the middle of the LIVING ROOM, and watches TV.

SIR

What happened to your hands?

DANNY

I fell off my bike, Sir.

SIR

You need to be more careful.

Danny nods softly.

SIR (CONT'D)

(continues)

That bike is a luxury, not a right.

(beat)

You need to be more responsible.

DANNY

Yes, Sir.

SIR

If not, I'll take it away.

DANNY

I'll be responsible, Sir.

SIR

Accountability.

Danny nods.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lights out.

Danny lays in his bed, watching Kyal watch him as he listens to Sir get ready for bed.

Once quiet, Danny gets up and creeps over to his closet.

He quietly retrieves his black-and-white, mobile CRT TV-VCR combo and headphones.

Danny sets everything up, and lays in his bed as he silently watches the movie.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - MIDNIGHT

As Danny sleeps, the TV plays static.

The white space in-between the black slowly dissipates until the entire screen turns to Nothingness - then pulsates.

Danny, headphones askew, wakes up - and looks around the room.

He notices the TV, now playing static, is still on.

Danny checks under the bed.

Nothing.

He silently puts his TV away, and goes back to bed.

CUT TO:

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

Danny is by his locker, selling what little stock he saved from yesterday.

He sees Travis, laughing with his goons, when Travis notices Danny.

Travis imitates Danny falling off his bike, acting foolish. The boys laugh.

Lukas points at Danny's green-stained shoes. They laugh harder.

Danny closes shop, and leaves.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Danny is riding his bike down the street as his lawnmower tails close behind - a rope secures it to the back of his bike.

As the lawnmower bumps and rolls, little bits of grass-shavings spill out and litter the street.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEIGHBOR'S LAWN - DAY

Danny mows the lawn - his green-stained shoes grow brighter.

Once done, he collects his money and hops back onto his bike.

Danny rides off with his lawnmower closely following.

CUT TO:

INT. VIDEO-VIEW - DAY

Danny is busy with moving and studying the rentals as he wipes down the back-walls, and shelves.

Kelly is watching her shows, but occasionally looks to Danny and his wrapped-hands.

KELLY  
(eventually)  
You box?

Danny looks at Kelly confused.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
(points)  
The wraps.

Danny looks at his hands, then continues cleaning.

DANNY  
(beat)  
I fell.

KELLY  
Off your bike?

Danny nods.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
Damn. You must've been going  
pretty fast.

Danny nods softly.

Kelly watches Danny.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
(eventually)  
--You okay?

Danny hesitates. He nods softly.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
(beat)  
Okay.

Kelly watches Danny a bit longer before turning back to her TV.

Travis, Lukas, and Jake peer into the store window - they spot Danny.

The boys laugh as they run off.

CUT TO:

EXT. VIDEO-VIEW - DAY

Danny waves to Kelly as he leaves, his backpack full.

KELLY (O.S)  
Ride safe, kid!

Danny is in a good mood as he walks to the bike rack near the corner.

He finds both of his bike tires sliced-open. And carved along the frame are meows, penises, and a giant 'PUSSY'.

Danny just stares at his bike.

CUT TO:

EXT. DANNY'S HOME - EVENING

Danny, drenched in sweat, is running down the street, pushing his bike.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Danny counts his money stash.

One less-impressive pile for his TV. A decent-sized one for new tires.

Danny stares at both piles.

He looks up to Kyal. Kyal stares back.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - MIDNIGHT

Danny is asleep.

A loud thump is heard from MADELINE'S BEDROOM.

Danny wakes up.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S HALLWAY - MIDNIGHT

The moon spills into the hallway as Danny peers out.

The Light overpowers the Moonlight, drawing Danny to it.

Behind Danny, the flock of crows are flying towards the ceiling.

CUT TO:

INT. MADELINE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Danny lets go of the door, and stands at the invisible barrier.

He looks around the room.

The Sun is too bright - it hurts Danny's eyes.

The playroom door opens. Nothingness greets him.

He remembers.

Danny runs away as fast as he possibly can--

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S HALLWAY - MIDNIGHT

--But It follows. It's too fast, but Danny runs harder--

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - MIDNIGHT

--yet he can only run so fast--

CUT TO:

EXT. DANNY'S HOME - MIDNIGHT

--Danny bursts out of the front door, just as his feet decide they can't run any faster.

He crashes, skidding across the lawn.

He turns to face It, and sees his house is in a much worse state of decay. Warped and dying, his own home felt no longer his.

Danny looks to his porch to find post-apocalyptic dolls lining the perimeter. Frayed and worn, beaten and tarnished.

Their heads mechanically crank towards the door in unison as Danny watches.

KYAL, (?), cloaked and with His satchel, emerges from the doorway, but remains just outside of the Moonlight's reach.

He is neither old nor young, chiseled nor murky. He just Is.

Kyal looks around at His loyal, then looks to Danny.

Danny and Kyal watch one another.

Kyal shuts the door - His company long gone.

Danny lays on the grass to catch his breath - it's peaceful.

But the ground starts rumbling, the entire neighborhood rocks. Danny bounces around on the lawn.

Danny scrambles for the porch when the Earth opens up - and swallows him whole--

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - MIDNIGHT

--Danny falls onto his bed.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

Danny snaps awake.

He checks his room - nothing.

Danny checks the bed.

It's mostly clean save for a single-blade of grass. He looks it over.

Danny lies back down, and waits for morning.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL BUS - DAY

Danny is tired. He quietly stares out the window.

A hand slips in-between the pane and Danny's face, flicking up at him.

Danny flinches, tossing his head back.

Travis leans over the seat, and punches Danny hard on his bicep - twice.

TRAVIS  
Two for flinching!

Travis and Lukas laugh.

The boys make meowing sounds as Danny rubs his bicep and just stares back out the window.

CUT TO:

EXT. DAVE'S ELECTRONICS - DAY

Danny stands outside of the shop with his bike.

The frame has been duct-taped to hide its blemishes, and the tires are still flat.

But today, the TV is on!

It's playing a DVD showcasing the specs, and High-Definition Video and Surround Sound.

Danny is entranced.

He eventually tears himself away from the window, and walks away with his bike.

CUT TO:

EXT. VIDEO-VIEW - DAY

Kelly is outside of the store, struggling to hang a sign she scraped together to announce the new unlimited rental program soon to come.

Danny rides towards Kelly on his bike.

Kelly notices Danny.

KELLY  
Hey, bud! Grab me a zip-tie.

Danny rushes over, and hands Kelly a tie.

Kelly secures the banner, and steps down from the ladder to admire it.

It's dingy, but it serves its purpose.

Kelly looks to Danny who is admiring the banner.

Kelly notices Danny's bike.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
Nice treads, man!

Danny looks to Kelly then down to his green-stained shoes.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
(chuckles)  
I mean the tires.  
(beat)  
Look new!

Danny nods.

Kelly admires the tires, and tests them as she whistles.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
Fancy kicks!--  
(beat)  
--Savings probably took a hit,  
huh?

Danny doesn't know how to respond.

Kelly notices Danny's hesitation.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
 --Shit, man.  
 (beat)  
 The fall?

Danny hesitates before he nods.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
 That sucks! I'm sorry, bud...

Kelly watches Danny before she pats him on the back.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
 Let's bring it inside. I don't  
 need those flashy tires drawing  
 attention away from my sign.

Danny softly smiles, and walks with Kelly into the store  
 with his bike.

CUT TO:

INT. VIDEO-VIEW - DAY

Danny cleans, occasionally peeking at the TV that Kelly is  
 glued to - watching 'DAWN OF THE DEAD'; the Zack Snyder  
 remake.

Kelly recognizes one of the actors.

KELLY  
 (snaps)  
 Oh--what's his name...

Kelly looks over the DVD case, looking for the cast with no  
 luck.

DANNY  
 (eventually)  
 Ty Burrell.

Kelly looks up.

KELLY  
 Yes! Thank you!  
 (beat)  
 You're good with names and faces,  
 huh?

Danny shrugs.

DANNY  
I try to be.

KELLY  
Yeah? Like--actively?

Danny nods softly.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
Why?

Danny thinks.

DANNY  
(eventually)  
You dream of only faces you've  
seen. And I like to see different  
ones.

Kelly raises an eyebrow.

She eventually reaches for a tape, and covers it so Danny  
can only see the faces of the actors.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
(beat)  
Val Kilmer, Sam Elliott, Kurt  
Russell, Bill Paxton.

Kelly looks at the cover while still covering.

KELLY  
In order. I'm impressed!  
(beat)  
Title?

DANNY  
Tombstone.

KELLY  
Nice!

Kelly sets it aside, and excitably grabs another. She holds  
it out for Danny.

Danny thinks.

DANNY  
(eventually)  
Tatum O'Neil, Ryan O'Neil.  
(beat)  
Paper Moon.

Kelly peeks at the back of the cover.

KELLY

Year?

Danny hesitates.

DANNY

--1973.

Kelly is impressed.

KELLY

I knew it. You're one of them!

Danny looks confused.

KELLY (CONT'D)

(continues)

--A goddamn Droid!

Kelly grabs a broom, and dramatically charges Danny.

Danny laughs, and grabs his broom for an impromptu sword-fight - one for their lives.

Kelly and Danny fight as they weave their way through the shelves.

Kelly attempts some poorly-executed Kung Fu moves, and really only hurts herself in the process.

Danny is overjoyed.

CUT TO:

EXT. DANNY'S HOME - EVENING

Danny races home on his bike.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Danny quickly enters the kitchen. He's behind schedule, and his father will be home anytime soon.

He quickly preps dinner when he's startled by a loud crash from the LIVING ROOM.

Danny runs to the LIVING ROOM.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

The coaster tray is lying on the floor as Sadie runs off.

Wide-eyed, Danny goes to clean it up.

He's flustered. Danny can't remember the order from earlier that morning.

Danny turns on the TV, and recalls. To his dismay, both channels are his.

Sir's truck can be heard coming down the street - filling Danny with complete dread.

He quickly tries to remember, but fails.

Truck door closes.

Danny types in 6 and 8.

He shuts off the TV, puts the remote back, and runs into the KITCHEN as Sir unlocks the door.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Danny is prepping hastily, dangerously cutting the chicken, as he hears his father enter the LIVING ROOM.

The TV turns on. He can hear the channels change.

The TV turns off.

Danny starts up the stove's range, and starts cooking the chicken he's cut up.

Sir enters, faintly hovering outside of the KITCHEN.

SIR  
(eventually)  
Were you watching TV?

Danny is nervous, but tries to remain calm.

Sadie meows, drawing Danny's attention. Almost asking to take the blame.

Sir is growing irritable. He pounds the wall next to him.

SIR (CONT'D)  
Huh?!

DANNY  
(eventually)  
Yes, Sir.

SIR  
Why did you disobey me?

DANNY  
(eventually)  
For my new job, Sir.

SIR  
A job?

DANNY  
Yes, Sir.

SIR  
Where?

DANNY  
Video-View, Sir.

SIR  
That shit-hole has a training  
video?

Danny nods softly as Sir looks around.

SIR (CONT'D)  
(eventually)  
It's work, you ask. You  
understand?

DANNY  
(beat)  
Yes, Sir.

Sir leaves to unlock his bedroom.

Danny resumes cooking - offering a chunk of cooked chicken  
to Sadie.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - MIDNIGHT

Danny is dead to the World - fast asleep.

His clock rolls over to 12:00 A.M.

It's quiet.

In the closet mirror, something stirs under Danny's bed as he tries to sleep.

Danny opens his eyes, and finds himself unable to move - sleep paralysis. He can only move his eyes.

Danny looks towards his closet door.

In the mirror, he notices the outline of the creature staring back at him from under his bed.

MADELINE

Oh, Danny boy--

Danny, wide-eyed, tries to move, but his body won't respond. He tries to scream, but finds his lungs are empty.

A pasty, decrepit hand reaches out from under the bed, digging its long, dirty nails into the carpet as it drags itself out from under the bed.

Danny watches in horror as a withered Madeline crawls out from under his bed.

Madeline, in the mirror-realm, crawls towards the barrier.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

--I'm so cold.

As Madeline crawls closer, Danny looks towards his big toe - focusing on moving a specific part of his body to break the paralysis.

Madeline crawls through the mirror, and into DANNY'S BEDROOM. She crawls towards Danny's bed.

Danny's toe twitches slightly as he looks to Madeline.

She's gone.

His toes wiggle, then his foot rocks.

Madeline rises from the floor next to Danny's head.

A gaping hole in her throat pulsates - blood dribbles out of it. It flows down the front of her top.

She smiles at Danny.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

(gurgling)

Dance with me, Danny!

As she speaks, blood dribbles out of her mouth.

Danny, now able to move, holds his hands up to shield his face. Blood pours out of her mouth, and all over his hands and face.

Danny silently screams.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
(gurgles)  
DANCE!

Danny heaves himself off of his bed.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Danny crashes onto the floor, and rolls himself under his bed.

Madeline is gone.

Sir is heard as he comes to Danny's room.

Sir throws open the door as he turns on the light.

Danny crawls out from under his bed - clean of any blood.

SIR  
--What the Hell?

DANNY  
(beat)  
Fell, Sir.

Sir watches as Danny climbs back into bed.

He eventually shuts off the light, and closes the door - and walks heavily back to his room.

Danny lays there.

CUT TO:

INT. HISTORY CLASS - DAY

Danny is sleeping on his desk as the rest of his class watches a documentary.

His TEACHER, (31), also the gym coach, is asleep when the phone rings. He wakes up, and answers.

Danny's Teacher wakes him, and whispers something in his ear.

A groggy Danny grabs his things, and leaves.

CUT TO:

INT. COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - DAY

School COUNSELOR, (29), a young-looking, inexperienced man, sits behind his desk - messing around on his computer.

A light knock at the door.

COUNSELOR

--Yes.

Danny slowly opens the door.

Counselor faces Danny.

COUNSELOR (CONT'D)

Hey, Danny--

Danny stands at the door.

COUNSELOR (CONT'D)

(continues)

--Come in, sit for a bit.

(beat)

You're not in trouble.

Danny enters, and softly closes the door.

Counselor points to the seat in front of his desk.

Danny sits.

COUNSELOR (CONT'D)

Just wanted to catch up.

(beat)

--It's been a while, and I wanted to check-in with you.

Danny sits quietly.

COUNSELOR (CONT'D)

Everything going okay?

Danny nods.

COUNSELOR (CONT'D)

Classes good?

Danny nods.

Counselor looks at his computer as he pulls out Danny's file from his desk.

COUNSELOR (CONT'D)  
You've got good grades. Good job  
keeping that up.

Danny lightly smiles.

Counselor sets Danny's file in front of him as he pages through it.

COUNSELOR (CONT'D)  
(continues)  
--I see you're still drawing.

Counselor looks over Danny's doodle-covered homework.

He looks up to Danny.

COUNSELOR (CONT'D)  
These from your dreams?

Danny shakes his head.

COUNSELOR (CONT'D)  
(beat)  
You still having them?

DANNY  
(beat)  
No.

Counselor nods as he puts away Danny's file. He clasps his hands as he turns back to Danny.

Counselor notices Danny's hands - which Danny hides.

COUNSELOR  
Yikes! What happened there?

DANNY  
I fell.

COUNSELOR  
--You fell?

Danny nods affirmatively.

Counselor eyes Danny.

COUNSELOR (CONT'D)  
(eventually)  
Have those boys been bothering  
you?

DANNY

No.

COUNSELOR

So, changing seats has helped?

Danny hesitates then nods.

Counselor clicks his pen.

COUNSELOR (CONT'D)

Do I need to talk to them again?

Danny looks down at the pen in Counselor's hand - poised and ready to convict him.

Danny shakes his head.

COUNSELOR (CONT'D)

If they are, you need to tell me.  
I'll fix it.

Danny nods.

Counselor clicks his pen, and sets it aside.

COUNSELOR (CONT'D)

Okay.  
(beat)  
Everything okay at home?

Danny nods.

COUNSELOR (CONT'D)

Ready for High School?

Danny shakes his head.

COUNSELOR (CONT'D)

It's not bad.  
(beat)  
Don't tell on me, but they have  
way better art classes you can  
take for your electives. Some of  
the programs are through the  
Community College, so you can get  
a head start on your credits.

Counselor reaches behind him, and grabs some pamphlets. He hands them to Danny.

Danny looks over them - one is for Filmmaking. He reads over it.

COUNSELOR (CONT'D)  
--And they got great Film  
programs, too.  
(beat)  
You a movie buff?

Danny shrugs, lightly smiling.

COUNSELOR (CONT'D)  
Well, you have a pretty active  
imagination. Might interest you to  
check it out.

Danny nods as he reads the pamphlet.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEIGHBOR'S LAWN - DAY

Danny is cutting the lawn when a friendly dog, BAILEY, runs  
up to him - barking.

The dog bounces on the freshly-mowed area of the lawn.  
Danny stops the lawnmower and approaches the dog.

He pets her while he reads her collar. It's nearby-enough  
for him to leave his stuff.

Danny walks off with Bailey.

CUT TO:

EXT. WOMAN'S HOME - DAY

Danny approaches the door with Bailey, and knocks.

A WOMAN, (36), answers the door.

Bailey barrels into the house.

WOMAN  
Bailey!  
(to: DANNY)  
You find her?

Danny nods.

Bailey comes running back to her owner.

The Woman pets Bailey, and notices her green-stained paws.

WOMAN (CONT'D)  
(coos/to: BAILEY)  
What is all over your feet?

The Woman notices Danny's old, green-stained shoes.

Danny notices, and tries to hide them.

WOMAN (CONT'D)  
(beats)  
Thanks for bringing her back.  
She's a little Houdini!

Danny gives Bailey a pet, and waves to the Woman as he leaves.

The Woman watches as Danny walks away.

WOMAN (CONT'D)  
Hey--

Danny turns to the Woman as she holds up a finger. She goes into the house.

Danny waits with Bailey.

The Woman returns with a shoe box.

WOMAN (CONT'D)  
Bailey wanted to give you a gift  
for bringing her home.

Danny looks confused as he takes the shoe box.

He opens it to find a brand new pair of shoes.

WOMAN (CONT'D)  
Brand new, I promise.  
(beat)  
It's her way of saying thank you.

Danny smiles brightly.

He hugs Bailey, and then the Woman.

DANNY  
(beat)  
Thank you.

WOMAN  
Thank you, Honey.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Danny rides his bike.

Fresh shoes, new tires - he's ecstatic.

He feels great.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Danny is riding when he stops.

In his excitement, he took the other route to VIDEO-VIEW - the one he avoids.

He hesitates as something draws his attention.

CUT TO:

EXT. WESLEY'S SHOP AND BAG - DAY

A family-owned grocery store with long bay windows.

Danny slowly approaches the store.

Inside, MANAGER, (59), is running a cash register. Danny watches, as he looks around the front-end.

The Manager is helping a customer. When the customer walks away, Manager sees Danny.

Manager waves softly.

Danny waves softly back. He rides off.

The Manager watches Danny leave before he greets the next customer.

CUT TO:

INT. VIDEO-VIEW - DAY

Danny walks in with his bike.

He's made a bit of a difference to VIDEO-VIEW. It looks a lot better.

Kelly is actually helping a customer with their rentals - signing them up for her unlimited rental program.

KELLY  
 Just \$40 a month--no late fees.  
 You can rent up to three at a  
 time, even new releases.

Danny walks to the BACKROOM as Kelly shoots him a grin.

CUT TO:

INT. VIDEO-VIEW BACKROOM - DAY

Lining the walls are stacked boxes of junk food and beverages. A broken slushy machine takes up one of the corners. A school TV cart occupies another.

Danny parks his bike next to a milk crate overflowing with tapes and DVDs.

He kneels as he peruses the crate as Kelly can be heard.

KELLY (O.S)  
 --I promise. No fees.  
 (beat)  
 Bring them back anytime.

CUT TO:

INT. MADELINE'S BEDROOM - DAY

FLASHBACK

Boxes are littered about - Madeline is in the middle of packing her things.

Danny kneels - rifling through Madeline's box as he helps her pack. The playroom door occasionally draws Danny's attention away from the task-at-hand. He's positioned himself as far away as possible from the ominous door.

Madeline notices Danny watching the door, and continues to pack.

MADELINE  
 (eventually)  
 --You okay?

Danny hesitates. He nods softly.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
 (beat)  
 Okay.

Madeline watches Danny a bit longer before turning back to her box.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry.

Danny shrugs nonchalantly.

Madeline stops packing, and stares at Danny.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
I really am.

DANNY  
(beat)  
--I know.

MADELINE  
You mad at me?

DANNY  
No.

MADELINE  
He's a fucking controlling lunatic. I'm sorry...  
(beat)  
I can't fight him anymore.

She continues packing her things.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
(continues)  
--You can always come visit me at work.

Danny nods lightly.

Madeline stands, and walks over to Danny. She kneels in front of him.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
Hey--  
(beat)  
I love you, and I'll always be here for you, dude. You know that?

DANNY  
--I know.

MADELINE  
I mean it.

Madeline leans over, and hugs Danny - lightly rubbing his back. He peers over her shoulder at the playroom door behind her.

KELLY (V.O)  
Am I a fucking genius, or what?!

CUT TO:

INT. VIDEO-VIEW BACKROOM - DAY

Kelly enters. She looks at Danny with her hands out.

KELLY  
(continues)  
It's working, dude! I got four today.

Danny smiles.

Kelly waves her hands.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
I get it. You're at a loss for words. I got you, brother.

Kelly high-fives herself as Danny laughs.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
AND-- you helped, too. This place looks tight, man!

Kelly holds out her fist for a bump. They fist-bump.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
YES! Woo!

Both hands, she flips-off the front-end of the store.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
Four-zero, bitches! I'm still here!

Danny laughs.

Kelly turns to Danny, proud of herself. She notices Danny hovering over the crate.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
Forget the cleaning, you fiend. I got a project I think you'll like.  
(points to crate)  
(MORE)

KELLY (CONT'D)  
Bought those off a twitchy-guy  
today. Check 'em out, and see  
what's good.

Danny nods.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
(continues)  
--and, AND-- you can pick out one,  
and take it home with you. Your  
pick!

Danny smiles and nods.

Kelly turns and cheers as she leaves Danny.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
Suh-weet victory!

CUT TO:

INT. VIDEO-VIEW BACKROOM - DAY

Danny is sitting on an overturned milk crate as he watches  
a movie on the TV cart.

Next to him are three stacks of VHS and DVDs - garbage,  
keeps, and the ones that are missing cases.

He fast-forwards through - occasionally stopping to check  
the sound and video. Satisfied, he ejects it, and puts it  
in the keep pile.

Danny grabs a VHS tape. He pulls the tape out of the sleeve  
- a wad of money falls onto the floor.

He sets the tape down, and picks up the money.

Easily over \$300.

Danny stares at the money.

He eventually slips the money and the tape back into the  
sleeve - and creates a fourth pile.

Danny grabs the next tape, puts it into the TV, and presses  
play as he sits back down.

CUT TO:

INT. VIDEO-VIEW - DAY

Danny enters from the backroom as a customer leaves.

Kelly is busy organizing forms, and working out the math when she notices Danny.

Danny smiles as he carries in the stacks from the backroom, and sets them on the counter.

KELLY

The numbers, man--

(beat)

I'm pretty sure this is fail-proof. They come in, not worried about spending, but they end up buying snacks and shit because of the kids. And at that point, they don't care! They weren't going to be spending any money anyways, and they're here because they feel bad if they don't use their membership.

Kelly raises her brow at Danny.

KELLY (CONT'D)

(continues)

I'm onto something here...

Danny sets down the last stack.

Kelly leans in.

KELLY (CONT'D)

Tell me Doctor, is it bad?

Danny smiles as he points to the three stacks.

DANNY

--Good, bad, need sleeves.

Kelly nods.

KELLY

Okay. Okay, not bad.

(beat)

You pick one out?

Danny holds the VHS in his hand.

KELLY (CONT'D)

Really? I meant when I said your pick.

He eventually hands it to Kelly.

Kelly raises an eyebrow as she pulls out the tape - all of the money spills onto the counter.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
Holy shit!  
(beat)  
If that junkie fucking  
knew--DAMN...

Kelly looks up to Danny.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
Hey, I'm not a bad person, but I  
paid him for what's in the crate.  
Done deal.

Kelly counts the money.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
--Which movie you pick?

Danny holds up another tape.

Kelly looks up.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
Suits you.

Kelly cuts the stash - giving half to Danny.

A wide-eyed, reluctant Danny stares at the money as Kelly lightly waves it.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
Fifty-fifty.  
(beat)  
Store looks bitchin', and things  
are doing good, man. It's your  
cut.

Danny takes the money. He looks at the money.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
(continues)  
Puts you pretty close, huh?

Danny nods.

Kelly eyes Danny's VHS, and looks over the stack of DVDs.

She finds 'TERMINATOR 2: JUDGEMENT DAY', and waves it at Danny as he takes the VHS.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
You're a gentleman. You break her  
in the right way.

Kelly hands Danny the DVD.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - LATE AFTERNOON

Danny pedals as fast as he can in his green-stained shoes -  
lawnmower in tow.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEIGHBOR'S LAWN - LATE AFTERNOON

Danny is mowing the lawn as fast as he can.

CUT TO:

EXT. ANOTHER NEIGHBOR'S LAWN - LATE AFTERNOON

Danny is again mowing fast - having to go back over spots  
he missed as he's rushing.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Danny sits on his bed, admiring his DVD player and DVD on  
his lap.

Reading, and rereading the DVD cover. He is excited.

Footsteps fall out in the hallway.

Danny quickly hides his stash under his bed, and busies  
himself with his homework.

He listens to Sir head to his bedroom, but he stops. Sir  
continues down the hallway towards Danny's room - but he  
walks by.

Danny hears his father unlock MADELINE'S BEDROOM.

He quietly creeps to the door, and peers out from under the  
door.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S HALLWAY - NIGHT

Danny can't make out much.

He sees Sir's legs - the rest of him is sitting out-of-view on the bed.

Danny watches.

Sir stands up, and so does Danny.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Danny rushes back to his homework.

He listens as Sir fumbles with the lock - he drops his keys.

Sir, drunk, stumbles as he picks them up. He attempts the lock, again.

Sir eventually gives up, and leaves to his room.

Danny is feeling curious.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S HALLWAY - NIGHT

Danny peeks out into the hallway, and looks towards his father's room - everything is silent.

Danny creeps out, and softly walks to Madeline's door. He tests the knob - it's unlocked.

A light appears under the door, but it's from a passing car with high-beams on as Danny hears it drive by.

CUT TO:

INT. MADELINE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Danny softly opens the door and peeks around, refusing to cross the barrier more than he has to.

The room is arranged differently and more drab than what he dreams.

Madeline's bed isn't made, and her pictures on her dusty mirror have been put away. Boxes take up most of the space - things from her apartment.

They even block the playroom door.

CUT TO:

EXT. WESLEY'S SHOP AND BAG - DAY

FLASHBACK

Danny rides his bike up to the store - locking it up.

He walks inside.

CUT TO:

INT. WESLEY'S SHOP AND BAG - DAY

FLASHBACK

Danny enters.

Madeline, (17), a year older and visibly exhausted, is in one of the check-stands - bored out of her mind.

She spots Danny and waves him down over-dramatically.

MADELINE

Oh--Danny boy!

Danny, embarrassed, walks towards his sister - looking around for anyone he knows.

DANNY

Stop--you're embarrassing.

MADELINE

I'm not embarrassing!

She is.

DANNY

You're a--dork!

MADELINE

Yup!

(whispers loudly)

And you're my brother, so that makes you one, too!

Danny rolls his eyes.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
 (pleads)  
 Danny--please save me. It's so  
 booring!

Danny looks around the empty store.

DANNY  
 Looks pretty busy to me.

MADELINE  
 Pleeese--  
 (beat)  
 I won't embarrass you for like--a  
 whole fifteen minutes. Deal?

Danny thinks as Madeline begs.

DANNY  
 Twenty minutes.

MADELINE  
 Well--I can probably only get  
 fifteen now.  
 (thinks)  
 Roll-over the remainder?

Danny holds out his hand. They shake.

Madeline grabs the speaker phone, and puts on her most  
 seductive voice.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
 Service Five, please. Service  
 Five.

Her and Danny giggle as the Manager walks to the front-end  
 from the BACK OFFICE.

Madeline spots him, and points to Danny.

Danny rubs his eyes hard, then rapidly blinks.

MANAGER  
 --What?

MADELINE  
 Sorry, but my brother needs to  
 talk to me.

Manager looks at Danny who looks upset.

MANAGER  
 This can't wait? I'm counting the  
 deposits--

MADELINE

--It's about our mother.

Manager thinks for a moment. He looks at his watch. Then looks to a sad Danny.

MANAGER

(eventually)

Ten minutes. I need to finish this before they come to pick it up--

MADELINE

Fifteen?

(beat)

It's serious.

Manager thinks.

MANAGER

(eventually)

Fifteen--

MADELINE

--Thank you!

Madeline and Danny quickly leave.

MANAGER

Madeline, I mean it!

(beat)

Fifteen, I'm going to be watching.

Madeline looks back to Manager and taps her watch as her and Danny exit out the front door.

Danny and Madeline both share a smile with one another.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACK ALLEY - DAY

FLASHBACK

Behind WESLEY'S SHOP AND BAG is a loading-dock and two large dumpsters.

On the cinder-block, back-wall are splattered fruit and vegetable guts. Dried, and rotting.

Madeline is smoking a cigarette as Danny selects a projectile.

MADELINE  
 You gotta find something that's  
 mushy, and sticky.

DANNY  
 --I know.

Madeline looks up at the wall.

MADELINE  
 (continues)  
 Avocado's been up there the  
 longest.  
 (beat)  
 Guy in produce. He's leading.

She points at the ground.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
 --And there's mine.

Danny looks at hers, and laughs.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
 Hey! I was doing pretty damn good.  
 (beat)  
 Like--two whole days, good.

Danny rolls his eyes.

Madeline ashes her cigarette.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
 (eventually)  
 So--speaking of our mother...  
 (beat)  
 You talk to her?

DANNY  
 No. You?

MADELINE  
 No.

DANNY  
 (beat)  
 You want to?

Madeline looks off then looks to Danny.

MADELINE  
 (eventually)  
 No.  
 (beat)  
 Do you?

Danny shrugs.

DANNY  
--I don't know.

Madeline nods as she watches Danny search.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
How's school?

MADELINE  
Hard, but I'm close. So fucking  
close, and then I'm done.  
(beat)  
You?

DANNY  
--Somewhat the same.  
(beat)  
Not close, though.

MADELINE  
Need me to beat up some assholes?

Madeline does some overly-dramatic Kung Fu moves.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
I'll Karate chop them in the  
throat!

She goes after Danny - cigarette safely in her other hand  
as she karate chops him playfully.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
Hyuh! --HYUH!

Danny laughs.

DANNY  
Stop!  
(beat)  
You said you wouldn't embarrass  
me.

Madeline backs off, hands raised.

MADELINE  
You're right, you're right...

She bows to Danny like to a Sensei.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
Forgive me.  
(beat)  
(MORE)

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
I'll award an additional  
twenty-five seconds to next time.

She charges one last time - delivering one last karate chop.

Danny laughs.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
Even thirty.

They both laugh.

Madeline kills her cigarette as she looks at her watch.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
You gotta to make up your mind  
soon, dude.

Danny quickly looks when he finds a perfect, nasty banana.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
Interesting. The peel is going to  
be the hardest.

Danny gets in position - taking aim.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
Gotta throw it hard.

DANNY  
I know.

MADELINE  
Okay... Don't fuck it up.

Danny looks at his sister.

She holds up her hands - letting him continue.

He turns back to the wall, and throws it as hard as he can.

The banana splats. The peel dangling from its sticky guts.

Madeline claps.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
NICE!

She fist-bumps Danny.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
Maybe you'll beat the record, and  
make some money!

Madeline takes a picture on her flip-phone, and texts it as Danny admires his contribution.

CUT TO:

EXT. WESLEY'S SHOP AND BAG - DAY

FLASHBACK

Madeline and Danny race each other back inside.

CUT TO:

INT. WESLEY'S SHOP AND BAG - DAY

FLASHBACK

Madeline wins the footrace.

She gloats to a sore Danny - dancing strangely.

Danny is embarrassed.

DANNY

Stop--

MADELINE

I'm back on the clock, baby! Get used to it.

Madeline walks backwards to her check-stand, wiggling her fingers and making funny faces to rile up Danny.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

Dance with me!

Danny rolls his eyes, and walks away to shop.

Madeline laughs, and turns back to the front-end.

She looks around for the Manager, who is nowhere to be found.

CUT TO:

INT. WALL-TO-WALL DRINK COOLER - DAY

FLASHBACK

Danny walks up to the cooler, looking for drinks.

CUT TO:

INT. AISLE 11 - DAY

FLASHBACK

Madeline walks through the aisle towards the BACK OFFICE.

CUT TO:

INT. WALL-TO-WALL DRINK COOLER - DAY

FLASHBACK

Danny decides on a drink, and leaves.

As he enters another aisle, ROBBER #3, dressed in all-black, a face-mask, and holding a shotgun walks towards the REAR EXIT next to the egg-display.

He carefully treads over the wet floor, slipping a little, as he locks the door.

CUT TO:

INT. AISLE 11 - DAY

FLASHBACK

Madeline continues walking towards the back.

When she reaches the end of the aisle, she stands there as she looks around.

She sees no one.

Madeline, confused, walks through the double-doors into the BACKROOM.

As she steps through, ROBBER #3 steps out of the opposite one, and heads towards the REAR EXIT to lock it.

CUT TO:

INT. BACKROOM - DAY

FLASHBACK

Madeline hears the cardboard baler running.

She walks around the corner, and spots ROBBER #1, also dressed, lowering the baler with Manager, NEAL, (21), and three others inside.

Madeline quickly hides behind the corner.

Robber #1 watches closely, and stops it with a three-inch gap. Just enough to keep them inside, and uncomfortable.

He tosses a pad and pen to the Manager.

ROBBER #1

Write.

Madeline, through the cellophane windows on the double-doors, sees ROBBER #2, with a handgun and dressed, approach.

She hides behind a couple large pallets.

Robber #2 bursts through the door, and goes to Robber #1.

ROBBER #2

Front doors are locked.

Madeline leans to watch them through a gap between pallets - exposing herself slightly.

ROBBER #1

Clear?

Robber #2 nods.

ROBBER #1 (CONT'D)

Back door?

Robber #3 enters.

ROBBER #3

Good.

ROBBER #1

(to: ROBBER #3)

You watch the front. Wait for the signal.

(to: ROBBER #2)

You're with me.

ROBBER #3 nods, and leaves.

Robber #1 approaches the Manager. The Manager hands the pad and his key to Robber #1 with the safe's combination.

Robber #1 points his gun at the Manager's head.

ROBBER #1 (CONT'D)

Don't make me come back here if it's wrong.

Manager notices Madeline.

Robber #1 follows his stare - Madeline's gone.

He turns back to Manager, pushing the barrel harder on Manager's forehead.

ROBBER #1 (CONT'D)  
What?

MANAGER  
--I--I was thinking. It's right.

Robber #1 removes his gun from the Manager's head, and gestures for Robber #2 to follow him.

They leave.

Madeline pokes her head up over the pallet, and watches them enter the BACK OFFICE.

She scrambles out, and runs to the baler to raise it up.

Manager waves at her, speaking softly.

MANAGER (CONT'D)  
No, no, no! They'll hear it.  
(beat)  
Go call 9-1-1.

Manager points to the BACKDOOR.

Madeline nods, and heads for the door.

She stops in her tracks, and heads back to Manager - and hands him her phone.

MANAGER (CONT'D)  
What--what are you--

MADELINE  
You call.  
(beat)  
Danny's inside. He needs me.

Madeline rushes out through the double-doors.

MANAGER  
(softly)  
Madeline!

CUT TO:

INT. AISLE 2 - DAY

## FLASHBACK

Half-aisle as it splits into AISLE 3 - making both aisles an 'H'.

Danny is looking at the poor excuse for a kid's toy section.

The kind of toys that look like they'll break as soon as he steps out the front door. A clear indication of choice-quality as it shares an aisle with the toilet paper.

Something catches Danny's eye, standing out from all the others.

A fake, toy gun.

He picks it up, and pretends to shoot it.

It looks pretty damn real to him.

CUT TO:

INT. AISLE 11 - DAY

## FLASHBACK

Madeline peers out from the aisle.

She spots Robber #3 on patrol in the FRONT AISLE as he watches out the bay windows - out of view from any potential window-shoppers.

Madeline dips back into the aisle - she thinks.

She heads to the back of the store, and turns left to sneak down the back.

CUT TO:

INT. AISLE 2 - DAY

## FLASHBACK

Danny is playing with other toys.

Robber #3 steps in front of AISLE 2 on his patrol - still looking out the front window.

He eventually looks behind him - Danny is gone.

Robber #3 looks back out the window, and keeps patrolling.

CUT TO:

INT. BACK AISLE - DAY

FLASHBACK

Madeline creeps along - keeping an eye out on both sides of her.

She reaches AISLE 3 when she spots Danny looking at junk food.

Madeline spots Robber #3 walk past AISLE 3, heading towards the other door. He doesn't notice them.

CUT TO:

INT. AISLE 3 - DAY

FLASHBACK

Madeline quickly, but quietly sneaks to Danny - trying not to let him notice her.

She reaches Danny, and taps him.

Danny turns to her.

She quickly and adamantly signals to be quiet by tapping her own mouth.

Danny is confused.

DANNY

Wha--

Madeline grabs his mouth, and signals to hush even harder.

CUT TO:

INT. FRONT AISLE - DAY

FLASHBACK

Robber #3 hears Danny.

He turns towards the direction, and hesitates as he listens then briskly walks down - shotgun at the ready.

He passes the large, open FROZEN FOOD AISLE, and leans against the cooler. He slowly creeps closer to AISLE 3.

61.

CUT TO:

INT. AISLE 3 - DAY

FLASHBACK

Madeline holds Danny's mouth tight - frantically looking around.

CUT TO:

INT. FRONT AISLE - DAY

FLASHBACK

Robber #3 raises his shotgun - and dips around the corner into AISLE 3.

Nothing.

He strafes - walking sideways down AISLE 2, 1, and lastly the WALL-TO-WALL DRINK COOLER.

All empty.

Confused, Robber #3 goes back to AISLE 2.

CUT TO:

INT. AISLE 2 - DAY

FLASHBACK

Robber #3 slowly moves down AISLE 2 - his barrel pointed at the junction in the middle.

As he gets closer, he slows his pace to remain silent.

Robber #3 dips around the corner - a display of over-stocked toilet paper.

CUT TO:

INT. AISLE 2 SHELF - DAY

FLASHBACK

Madeline and Danny are hiding behind the toilet paper on the bottom shelf - facing each other.

They watch Robber #3 dip around the corner - and pause.

Danny looks to Madeline frightened.

Madeline points two fingers at his eyes, then to her eyes.  
She smiles.

Danny sighs silently.

Robber #3 walks back towards the FRONT AISLE.

CUT TO:

INT. AISLE 2 - DAY

FLASHBACK

Robber #3 is heading towards the FRONT AISLE when he notices a bag of toilet paper on the bottom shelf is sticking out a bit.

He stops.

CUT TO:

INT. AISLE 2 SHELF - DAY

FLASHBACK

Madeline watches Robber #3 stand right next to her.

He steps closer to the shelf.

Madeline holds her breath as Danny helplessly watches while Robber #3 lowers his barrel to the shelf.

CUT TO:

INT. AISLE 2 - DAY

FLASHBACK

Robber #3, using the barrel of his shotgun, pushes the bag back in to align with the others.

Satisfied, he walks to the FRONT AISLE.

CUT TO:

INT. AISLE 2 SHELF - DAY

FLASHBACK

Madeline slowly lets out her breath - her chest pushes the bag back out slightly.

She looks to Danny, and gestures with her eyes to the REAR EXIT.

CUT TO:

INT. AISLE 2 SHELF - DAY

FLASHBACK

Danny and Madeline climb out from under the shelf - being as quiet as they can possibly be.

Once out, she signals for him to follow her.

Danny follows closely.

Behind him, the toy gun he intended to purchase.

CUT TO:

INT. BACK AISLE - DAY

FLASHBACK

Madeline and Danny creep along as fast as they can without alerting Robber #3 too soon.

The REAR EXIT is right in front of them.

Madeline slips onto the wet floor, bringing Danny down with her.

She hits her head hard on the tile. It's loud.

Danny sits her up as Madeline holds her head. He lets the toy gun fall onto the floor so he can help her.

Madeline leans into Danny - using him as a leverage to stand when Robber #3 enters.

ROBBER #3

Don't you FUCKING move!

Madeline freezes, holding Danny as they both kneel on the floor next to the eggs.

She can't see him, but Danny can.

She can see the toy gun, though.

MADELINE  
 (eventually/to: ROBBER  
 #3)  
 Please--listen to me--

Robber #3 steps closer - slowly.

ROBBER #3  
 Shut the fuck up!

MADELINE  
 (continues)  
 My brother has a gun--A fake gun.

Robber #3 points his shotgun at the back of Madeline's head from a safe distance back.

Danny can only see his eyes - daggering the back of his sister's head.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
 --I'm going to slide it far away from us.

Danny watches Robber #3 think.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
 Far away--  
 (beat)  
 I slide the toy away, you don't shoot.

Robber #3 looks at Danny. Danny looks frightened.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
 (eventually)  
 Okay?

Robber #3 focuses down his beaded-sight.

ROBBER #3  
 (beat)  
 Slide it. Only.

MADELINE  
 Yes, sir.

Madeline softly rubs Danny's back comfotingly with one hand as she reaches behind Danny for the toy gun with the other.

She lightly touches it, and pulls it in a little to slide it away.

Robber #1 enters through the double-doors.

He sees Madeline reaching for the gun, and shoots her right through the throat.

Madeline grabs her throat as she slumps against the egg-display. Danny doesn't know what to do, but hold his sister.

Robber #3 turns to Robber #1.

ROBBER #3  
What the FUCK, man?

ROBBER #1  
She had a gun!

Robber #3 kicks the toy gun - it smashes as plastic bits go flying in all directions.

ROBBER #3  
A fake one, you fucking retard!

Robber #1 looks from Robber #3 to Danny. He points his gun at Danny.

But Danny doesn't look. His entire focus is on his World - slipping through his fingers.

ROBBER #3 (CONT'D)  
Wh--what are you doing?

Madeline passes.

ROBBER #3 (CONT'D)  
We're wearing fucking masks, you  
dip-shit! Get it  
to-fucking-gether!

Robber #2 whistles from the BACKROOM. The signal.

Robber #1 lowers his pistol, and exits. Robber #3 follows, watching Danny as he leaves.

Danny is left alone with his sister's body.

CUT TO:

INT. BACK AISLE - DAY

Danny is standing far away from the egg-display. Just watching.

His bravery alone brought him in here, but he doesn't dare get any closer.

It's too quiet - it's almost unsettling.

Neal, from produce, taps Danny on the shoulder.

Freaked, Danny whirls around to find Neal.

NEAL

--Sorry.

Danny looks embarrassed.

NEAL (CONT'D)

--Haven't see you in a while.

Danny stares at the floor.

NEAL (CONT'D)

How--uhm--

(beat)

You doing okay?

Danny shifts uncomfortably.

Neal eventually hands Danny \$40. Danny looks at the money.

NEAL (CONT'D)

(eventually)

Your banana was a beast, man.

Danny sadly stares at the money - overwhelmed.

NEAL (CONT'D)

Put my avocado to shame...

Danny can't speak even if he wanted to.

NEAL (CONT'D)

Stayed up there for a while until  
they sprayed off the back wall.  
Manager wasn't too happy about  
it...

Danny droops his head, and watches his feet.

Neal nods as he understands.

Neal pats Danny on the back - holding out his fist for a bump.

Danny, after much hesitation, weakly bumps it.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACK ALLEY - DAY

Danny stares at the clean, back-wall.

All of the fruits and vegetables have been sprayed off.

Danny somberly walks off.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Danny has his money laid out in front of him on his bed. There's just enough to get his TV with tax.

Danny just stares at the money.

He eventually lies down on his bed, curls into a ball, and cries softly to himself.

CUT TO:

INT. HISTORY CLASS - DAY

The class is watching a movie while Danny draws.

Travis sits far-away from Danny, but is watching him.

He looks to the Teacher who is asleep - again.

Travis rolls up a paper ball, sneaks behind the back of the room to the STUDENT, (11), who sits behind Danny. He points for them to get lost, holding up his fist - the Student moves quietly.

Travis assumes their seat.

He watches Danny as he slowly cocks his arm back - and tosses the ball at Danny's head.

Danny stops, and looks up. He looks to the corner, and notices the Student in Travis' seat.

As Danny turns towards Travis, Travis flicks his ear - hard.

Danny swings his arm to knock away Travis' arm, but misses.

Instead, Travis flinches as Danny nearly whacks him in the face.

Danny, surprised at making Travis flinch, raises his fist to deliver his two punches.

As he holds his fist up, Travis stares silently at him with daggers - daring Danny to hit him.

Danny slowly retrieves his hand, and turns back to his drawing.

Travis watches the back of Danny's head with contempt.

CUT TO:

EXT. DAVE'S ELECTRONICS - DAY

Danny stares at the window - the TV is gone.

CUT TO:

INT. DAVE'S ELECTRONICS - DAY

Danny walks inside - and he is amazed.

Wall-to-wall TVs are playing - showcasing their specs with fast-transitions, High-Definition picture, thin-display, and Surround Sound that makes the store shake with every explosion.

Danny walks along the wall, completely mesmerized.

He finds himself at the counter. And behind that, his TV packaged and ready for him to bring it home.

DAVE, (49), much younger than he looks, sees Danny.

DAVE  
Look, kid--I don't need any  
popcorn...

Danny is entranced by his TV.

Dave looks to the TV, and back to Danny.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
You're buying?

Danny nods.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
Oh--okay. Thought you were a Boy  
Scout--

Dave grabs the TV, and sets it on the counter - it towers ominously over Danny.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
Pretty, ain't she?

Danny nods.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
You been looking at it for a  
while?

Danny nods.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
Well, that's good. I don't have to  
explain it to you then, you got an  
eye for quality.

Danny stares silently at the TV while Dave rings him up.

The register rings as Dave turns to Danny.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
Okay--One thousand forty-two, and  
change.

Danny looks at Dave confused.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
--Tax, and insurance.

Danny looks even more confused.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
One year liability--  
(beat)  
You don't have to get it, but I  
strongly suggest you do. These  
guys tend to have defects - like  
dead pixels, and stuff.

Danny thinks as he looks over his money.

He only has just enough for sale and tax.

DANNY  
No, thanks.

DAVE  
You sure?

Danny nods.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
Okay--

Dave rings up the new total.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
Eight seventy-eight.

Danny hands him the exact amount.

As Dave cashes out, Danny puts his hand to the box of his new TV.

He looks sad.

CUT TO:

INT. VIDEO-VIEW - DAY

Danny is busy cleaning - ignoring his TV stashed next to the counter.

Kelly is helping a customer. She occasionally peeks at Danny, who seems lost in his own World.

Kelly looks at the TV as she waves the customer off.

KELLY  
(eventually)  
So--you excited, man?  
(beat)  
The big day.

Danny quietly cleans.

Kelly watches him.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
(eventually)  
Hey--what about you and I cut out early? Close up the store, and I can give you a ride home with that.

Danny shakes his head.

Kelly leaves the counter, and goes to Danny.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
--What's wrong, bud?

Danny hesitates, and looks up at Kelly with sad eyes.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
--You want to get out of here?

Danny nods softly.

Kelly thumbs to the door.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
Don't worry about tomorrow. I'll  
see you later, okay?

Danny nods, and somberly leaves with his TV.

CUT TO:

EXT. STRANGE MAN'S HOME - DAY

Danny pushes his bike with his TV strapped to it through the neighborhood.

Sad, he walks home - but occasionally looks around.

Travis, Lukas, and Jake enter from around the corner - poking and joking.

Danny spots them first, and dips into the STRANGE MAN'S LAWN with his bike. The wooden fence around the lawn is covered by large bushes spilling over.

Danny watches the boys.

The boys talk among themselves across the street as they walk towards Danny.

STRANGE MAN (O.S)  
--Hey.

Danny turns to see a STRANGE MAN, (62), a mean-looking old man, standing on his porch - watching Danny.

The Man's dog runs out of the house, and excitedly licks Danny.

Travis notices the Strange Man as he looks to the bushes. Through the bushes, Travis sees one of Danny's tires. But not Danny.

The Man looks from Danny to Travis who is crossing the street towards the STRANGE MAN'S HOME.

STRANGE MAN  
(to: TRAVIS)  
Can I help you?

Travis stops by the Man's fence - Danny directly on the opposite side.

Travis looks briefly through the bushes, but doesn't see Danny.

STRANGE MAN (CONT'D)  
(repeats/authoritative)  
Can I HELP you?

Travis eyes the Man with daggers.

TRAVIS  
Fuck you.

The Man snaps his fingers - his dog comes to him, and runs inside. The Man closes his door, and steps towards the fence - challenging Travis.

Travis stares at the Man.

Travis eventually falls back, and joins his friends.

The Man watches him leave.

Travis eyes the Man once more before he leaves with his friends.

The Man looks to Danny.

Danny stands up, and nods appreciatively at the Man as he rolls his bike away.

STRANGE MAN  
Hey--

Danny turns to the Man.

STRANGE MAN (CONT'D)  
(continues)  
--if he touches you, you hit him.  
(beat)  
You hit him hard.

Danny nods, and leaves.

The Strange Man watches Danny leave.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - DAY

TV all set-up on the floor, box and contents sprawled all around.

Danny sits in front of the TV as he stares at the blank screen.

He eventually points the remote at the TV, and turns it on.

The TV loads, as the DVD player whirls to life.

Danny watches as the FBI Copyright Infringement title plays.

It cuts to the Surround Sound display title - nearly blowing Danny away as the bass rises.

It's overwhelming. But it's amazing.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Danny is engrossed in the film, completely engaged.

So much so, he doesn't hear the front door open.

Sir throws open Danny's bedroom door - catching him in the act.

Danny leaps into his bed, and crawls away from his father as he prepares for a beating.

SIR (O.S)  
WHAT THE FUCK DO YOU THINK YOU'RE  
DOING?!

DANNY  
(stammering)  
Sir--I'm so sorry, Sir--I was  
going to talk to you--

A faint Sir storms across the room towards Danny.

He grabs Danny's ankle, and yanks him towards him.

But Danny won't come. Danny hangs onto his corner post with all of his strength.

Sir, furious, pounds on Danny's bed with his free-hand.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
Please--Sir. Please! --I'm so  
sorry, Sir!

Sir drops Danny, and marches towards his wall. He points at Danny.

SIR  
You directly disobeyed me!

DANNY  
--I'm sorry, Sir!

Sir is fuming. He punches Danny's wall - destroying one of his drawings as he leaves a hole.

As Sir backs up, he accidentally bumps over Danny's TV. It falls onto the floor, panel-side down.

Danny watches as Sir stomps across the room, and smashes some of Danny's movie collection.

He slowly crawls out of bed towards his TV.

Reluctant at first, he delicately lifts the screen off of the floor.

Glass-shards sprinkle onto the floor as Danny lifts the screen.

SIR  
Actions! Have! Consequences!

Danny is so upset and frightened, he can't speak. He trembles as the anger rises inside of him.

A hostile Sir approaches Danny. He points his finger in Danny's face.

SIR (CONT'D)  
NEVER again, or so help you GOD--

DANNY  
WHY?!

Sir is taken aback.

SIR  
--Excuse me...

DANNY  
Why did you push her away from me?!

Sir is silent.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
(continues)  
Madeline... and Mom. And you're trying to push me away, too!

SIR  
I--didn't, those were their choices--

DANNY  
They made because of you!  
(beat)  
And you hate yourself. That's why  
you fucking drink--

Sir back-hands Danny, knocking him to the ground.

Sir stands over Danny.

SIR  
(eventually/chokes)  
--Don't you dare...

Sir stares at Danny's wrapped hands, and looks around at his destruction to Danny's room.

He storms out of the room - and slams Danny's bedroom door shut.

Danny slowly gets up, and rubs his face as he stares at his broken TV.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - MIDNIGHT

Danny has cried himself to sleep.

Tap. Tap. Tap. The tapping comes from MADELINE'S BEDROOM.

Danny ignores it.

TAP. TAP. TAP.

Danny opens his puffy eyes - and waits.

BOOM. BOOM. BOOM. The loud raps now on Danny's door cause it to shiver violently.

Danny sits up.

Danny climbs out of bed, ignoring the monster under the bed as It is now at his door.

Danny approaches the door.

CUT TO:

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL HALLWAY - MIDNIGHT

Danny opens his bedroom door - now standing at the edge of his room, and his MIDDLE SCHOOL HALLWAY.

Danny eventually steps into the hallway.

Behind him, his door is gone. The hallway stretches on Forever behind him.

Danny's eyes begin to sting - he rubs them violently as the pain is overwhelming.

Danny touches his eyes as they seal shut - he's unable to open them.

Now blind, Danny falls towards the lockers to his right - feeling around for anything that can guide him.

Click. Click. Click.

Danny whirls around towards the noise.

The hallway behind him darkens as the Lights flicker before blowing completely out - consumed by Nothingness.

Click. Click. Click.

Although he can't see, Danny hears the heavy footsteps approach him from the Nothingness.

Danny turns, and runs.

His fingertips graze the lockers as he runs, guiding him away from the Nothingness.

It follows closely behind. The Lights explode in brilliance behind Danny as he keeps ahead of It.

The lockers end.

Danny blindly steps forward, reaching for anything. He feels a door.

It is closer.

Danny checks the door - it's locked. He moves on as he feels the next set of lockers.

It is even closer.

Danny can hear the footsteps just behind him as he picks up his pace.

Click. Click. Click.

The second set of lockers end. Danny reaches for a door.

He finds one.

The Nothingness, now on top of Danny, is overwhelming. Even the hallway itself succumbs to It's power - everything closes in on Danny.

The door is unlocked - Danny throws it open.

Hands grab Danny's eyes, and rip them open.

KYAL (O.S)

See.

Danny screams--

CUT TO:

INT. WESLEY'S SHOP AND GO/BACK AISLE - MIDNIGHT

Danny is standing, in the dark, horrified.

He sees Madeline propped up, her body illuminated by the only Light coming from the egg-display, as she stares lifelessly back at him.

Danny screams silently.

As he screams, the eggs begin to crack - blood dribbling at first, and then pouring from the containers as the blood washes over Madeline's lifeless body.

Madeline then lets out a gurgled, choked scream as she drowns in blood.

CUT TO:

INT. VIDEO-VIEW - DAY

Kelly watches her movie as Danny somberly walks in, and up to the counter.

Kelly notices Danny. She grins.

KELLY  
SO--how was it?!  
(beat)  
Came to gloat--

Kelly inspects Danny's sad face.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
Buddy? --What's wrong?

Danny begins to cry.

Kelly steps out from behind the counter, and to Danny.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
Hey, hey, hey--what happened?

Danny tightly hugs a confused Kelly as he sobs.

All Kelly can do is hold him tight as he cries.

CUT TO:

EXT. STRANGE MAN'S HOME - DAY

Danny, solemn and lost, wanders down the street as he heads home.

He's wearing his green-stained shoes.

Danny looks to the STRANGE MAN'S HOME.

He stops and stares.

The shrilled shrieks of a dog barking draws Danny's attention - coming from the block over.

Curious, Danny follows the sounds.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Danny rounds the corner, where he sees Travis and Lukas forcefully holding down a squirming Bailey alongside one of the HOUSES, out-of-view from the street.

Bailey is bleeding, cut-riddled as Travis prods her with a sharp stick as Lukas covers her snout to prevent her from making noise.

Travis' hand is dripping a significant amount of blood from a fresh-wound on his hand - a bite mark.

TRAVIS  
Fucking teach you respect, you  
mean bitch!

Danny watches - horrified. He shivers as the anger builds.

DANNY  
(eventually)  
Hey!

Travis and Lukas turn to Danny.

Travis drops his stick, and approaches Danny as Lukas kicks Bailey - sending her running off.

TRAVIS  
 (smiles)  
 Well, well, well--look at what the  
 cat dragged in...

Danny sees Travis and Lukas in his path.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)  
 (continues)  
 Itself!

The boys snicker and meow as Danny backs up.

He backs into Jake, who was standing just behind him.

Jake meows in Danny's face.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)  
 Where you going, pussy?

Danny looks to the STRANGE MAN'S HOME in the distance for help - but doesn't find any.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)  
 That old fuck is off-duty, bitch.  
 (beat)  
 It's just us.

LUKAS  
 --I want to play with the kitty.

Travis smiles.

TRAVIS  
 We will.  
 (beat/to: DANNY)  
 But the kitty's been bad... Bad  
 little fucking pussy, hasn't she?

Jake clamps down both of his hands tightly around Danny's shoulders.

JAKE  
 What did kitty do?

TRAVIS  
 Bitch tried biting back. But kitty  
 knows better than that, doesn't  
 she?

Danny stares.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)  
(repeats)  
Doesn't she?!

Danny still stares.

Jake grabs Danny's head, and forces him to nod.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)  
--I think the bitch needs another  
crash-course.

LUKAS  
Well--what do you do to bad  
kitties?

Travis looks around - noticing the open sewage drain along  
the curb.

He turns back to the boys, and smiles.

TRAVIS  
Bad kitties get sprayed--  
(beat)  
--but I don't have my bottle...

Lukas, Jake, and Danny look to the open drain.

Danny looks to Travis terrified.

Lukas and Jake look to Travis thrilled.

Lukas and Jake drag Danny towards the drain as he screams -  
Travis is closely following.

The boys thrust Danny's head into the drain-hole. He sees  
the disgusting culmination of rain water, garbage, and  
God-knows-what greeting him from the murky depths below.

Danny fights to break free, but Lukas and Jake are much  
stronger.

Travis grabs Danny's ankles as he readies to drop him in.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)  
You can come out when you learn to  
fucking obey me!

Lukas and Jake let go of Danny as Travis begins to  
wheelbarrow Danny in.

Danny, taking his only opportunity, pulls one of his legs  
forward - reeling Travis off-balance.

Danny kicks back with the same leg.

His foot connects with Travis' face - shattering Travis' nose.

Travis lets go of Danny, stepping back - surprised.

Lukas and Jake watch as blood gushes out of Travis' nose.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)  
What the fuck?

LUKAS  
--Holy, shit...

Danny scrambles up, and tackles Travis onto the ground. He savagely attacks Travis with everything he's got.

Lukas and Jake watch, shocked, before Lukas steps in.

LUKAS (CONT'D)  
--Hey!

Lukas grabs Danny, but Danny isn't finished.

Danny punches Lukas in the eye - knocking him down to the ground. And turns back to Travis.

Travis, overcome by Danny's ferocity, takes his beating as Jake runs off to find help.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT - EVENING

Danny sits on the bench - his head in his lap.

Sir is faintly talking to a POLICEMAN, (33), in the background.

Once finished, Sir approaches Danny.

SIR  
Let's go.

Sir walks off.

Danny sits for a moment before he stands, and follows his father.

CUT TO:

INT. SIR'S TRUCK - EVENING

Danny and Sir drive silently down the road.

Danny is looking out the window - ashamed.

His father, still blurry, looks over to Danny then back to the road.

SIR  
(eventually)  
Those the boys?

Danny is silent.

Sir watches Danny for a moment, then looks back to the road.

SIR (CONT'D)  
(eventually)  
They deserved it.  
(beat)  
Proud of you.

Danny, confused, looks to his father.

Danny sees his father for the first time in a while.

SIR, is a sad, beaten-down man that time has not been kind to. And probably never will be.

His father looks to him, and they share a moment of silence.

They drive in silence the rest of the way home.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Danny lays in his bed - watching a movie on his old TV that he's rigged up to his DVD player to.

Sir approaches, and Danny quickly hides in his closet.

Danny stares at the door as he hears his father continue to MADELINE'S BEDROOM.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S HALLWAY - NIGHT

Danny watches his father from under the door.

Sir unlocks Madeline's door, and stands in the doorway with the door open as he looks into her room.

Sir eventually closes the door, and leaves.

He leaves Madeline's door unlocked.

CUT TO:

INT. MADELINE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Danny opens the door, and softly steps into the room.

He opens Madeline's boxes, and eventually finds the one with her pictures.

Danny looks through the photos of Madeline, as he slides them back into the frame of her mirror - just like he remembers.

He eventually kneels in front of the box, and stares at the playroom door. Daringly close.

CUT TO:

INT. MADELINE'S BEDROOM - DAY

FLASHBACK

Madeline and Danny kneel - he watches the door as Madeline follows his stare.

She stands, and approaches the playroom door. She opens it - inside is complete Darkness.

Madeline stands at the edge of the Abyss, and watches Danny curiously.

MADELINE

Are you afraid?

Danny lightly shrugs.

Madeline looks into the Void.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

There's Nothing.

(beat/gestures)

--Come.

Danny shakes his head.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

Why not?

DANNY  
(beat)  
It's too Dark.

Madeline softly nods her head as she stares into the playroom.

MADELINE  
(eventually)  
Sometimes you have to brave the  
Darkness to reach the Light.

Madeline smiles.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
(beat)  
--And I know I'm tired of running  
away from It.

Danny watches as Madeline shrugs - she bravely steps into the Void.

CUT TO:

INT. MADELINE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Danny watches the playroom door.

He eventually stands, walks to the door, and moves Madeline's boxes out of the way - freeing the door.

But Danny doesn't open it.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - MIDNIGHT

Danny is asleep - his TV still on.

The DVD logo bounces around the black background. As it heads straight to a corner, just about to make direct contact, it flickers away. The background becomes Nothingness.

An indiscernible figure moves through the Nothingness, from right-to-left on the screen, towards Danny's door.

The TV shuts off.

Danny rolls over, and notices his TV still out.

He gets out of bed, without checking for the monster, and puts his TV and DVD player aside. This time, he doesn't hide it in his closet.

In the background, a blank sheet of paper hangs on Danny's wall. Once home to Kyal, He is nowhere to be found.

Danny crawls back into bed.

He lays there for a moment before he looks towards his door.

Danny eventually gets out of bed, and goes to his door.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S HALLWAY - MIDNIGHT

Danny looks out into the hallway.

Danny watches Madeline's door.

Behind him, the Murder of crows are gone.

There is no Light under Madeline's door.

Danny opens the door.

CUT TO:

INT. MADELINE'S ROOM - MIDNIGHT/DAY

Danny steps into his sister's dark room. There are no boxes, the bed is made, and the pictures are tucked back into the mirror.

He is not alone.

Kyal is sitting cross-legged in the middle of the room, in the dark, staring out the window. His hands are on His knees.

Danny, hesitant to enter, watches Kyal.

Kyal looks to Danny, then back to the window.

KYAL

--Come.

Danny, reluctantly, comes to Kyal.

He stands in front of Kyal, blocking Kyal's view, but Kyal doesn't move.

Danny sits on the floor across from Him.

Danny studies Kyal, still unable to see His face.

KYAL (CONT'D)  
(eventually)  
Are you afraid?

Danny watches Kyal watch him.

DANNY  
(beat)  
No.

A brilliant Light penetrates the room as the Sun quickly rises - filling the room with It's brilliance.

Danny squints his eyes. Even though he isn't facing the window, It is bright.

Kyal nods softly.

Danny, still squinting, catches a peek of Kyal's face.

He looks like he could a mix of the STRANGE MAN and MADELINE.

The playroom door slowly opens behind Kyal - revealing It's absolute.

Kyal watches Danny watch the door.

Danny turns back to Kyal - unsure of what to do next.

Kyal nods.

Danny watches Kyal for a moment. He stands, and slowly approaches the playroom door.

Danny stands at the edge of Void, and looks in.

He looks back to Kyal.

Kyal is gone.

Danny finds his courage, and steps into the Abyss.

The door, unsure of itself, remains open.

SNAP TO BLACK.

ROLL CREDITS.

87.

END: