

THE LUNCHROOM

Episode 5x14

"Time Stands Still (2)"

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MAIN CAST LIST

Will Cooper.....  
Joel Mayberry.....  
Brian Vandele.....  
Brock Warner.....  
Casey Jennings.....  
Reichert.....  
Ellen Conner.....  
Cathy Matthews.....  
Mr. John Parker.....  
Principal Diane Ballard.....

GUEST CAST LIST

Arthur Winchester.....  
Laura Pentecost.....  
Bob Stevens.....  
Rob "Mr. E" Edison.....  
Ashley Lockhart.....  
Kirk McNeil.....  
Joseph Saïd.....  
Kay Johnson.....  
Candy Appleton.....  
Charlie Emerson.....  
Maggie Platt.....  
Priscilla Diamond.....  
Heath Carlyle.....

TEASER

BLACKNESS.

VOICE (V/O)  
Previously, on *The Lunchroom*...

FADE IN:

INT. PROM - TABLE - NIGHT

WILL COOPER and ELLEN CONNER are sitting at one of the many tables.

WILL  
Okay, sad song.

ELLEN  
Yeah. I mean he separates himself from everyone who could be happy.

(CONTINUED)

WILL

No he doesn't.

ELLEN

"The lovers. The Dreamers. And me."

WILL

But they are all looking for the Rainbow Connection. Together. He's part of it.

ELLEN

No, he separates himself. Like, it's Will and it's Ellen. We're not together.

WILL

We could be.

Ellen stops short as a CATHY MATTHEWS comes by.

CATHY

Hey guys! You will not believe the night I've ha -

ELLEN

(overlapping)

Will, I'm in love with you!

Both Cathy and Will look at Ellen, stunned.

CUT TO BLACK.

VOICE (V/O)

And now the conclusion...

FADE IN:

INT. PROM - NIGHT

WILL COOPER stares open mouthed at ELLEN CONNER. CATHY MATTHEWS hasn't moved either. Ellen looks as though she wants to die.

ELLEN

Somebody say something!

Will and Cathy look at each other, each motioning to the other to speak. Flustered, Cathy stalks off, leaving Will uncomfortably silent.

(CONTINUED)

WILL  
...Uh...I, uh...

Will collects himself and tries to put on his most serious face.

WILL (CONT'D)  
...I know.

Ellen's jaw drops.

ELLEN  
(stunned)  
Did you just make a *Star Wars* reference?

WILL  
I don't know. I couldn't hear anything over the sound of me shitting out my lungs.

ELLEN  
I bare my soul to you and you reply via *Empire Strikes Back*?

WILL  
It did had everything including tauntauns that sound like the hamburglar.

Ellen pushes her seat back and stands.

ELLEN  
I'm sorry. I guess I shouldn't have said anything.

Will jumps to his feet and grabs her and prevents her from leaving.

WILL  
I...I...I...

Nothing comes out. Ellen deflates.

ELLEN  
(sad)  
You know what. That's fine. Forget I said anything. We're good friends and that's obviously how you want things to stay.

WILL  
Ellen, I -

ELLEN  
(overlapping)  
No, no, it's fine. I get it. I have  
a date to get back to anyway.  
Arthur's a...  
(struggles)  
...great guy.

WILL  
Wait, Ellen!

ELLEN  
(ignoring him)  
I'll talk to you later. Arthur's  
waiting for me.

She walks away, leaving Will distraught. He stares off into the distant, not sure of what to do.

WILL  
(quick/panicked)  
Holy shit! Holy shit! Holy shit!  
Holy shit! Holy shit! Holy shit!  
Holy shit! Ellen loves me! She says  
that loves me!

Realization sets in.

WILL (CONT'D)  
Holy shit! I didn't say anything  
back! Fuck! I'm stupid!

Will starts hitting his head.

WILL (CONT'D)  
Stupid motherfucker!

Will starts to shout obscenities and angrily pace around the area. Everyone in a five feet radius of Will take notice of him and show signs of concern, confusion, and uneasiness.

SMASH CUT TO:

OPENING CREDIT SEQUENCE

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

AFTER CREDITS

FADE IN:

INT. REICHTHER'S HOUSE - GARAGE - SAME

The "band" (BRIAN VANDELE, REICHTHER, and JOSEPH SAID) is playing. Each person is playing off key, like each is playing a different song. KIRK (the pothead) is at the microphone, singing and playing guitar.

LAURA PENTECOST is off to the side, quietly amused at this performance.

KIRK  
(singing)  
"In West Philadelphia born and raised,  
on the playground where I be spending most of my days,  
chillin' out maxin' relaxin' all cool -"

BRIAN  
(overlapping)  
Whoa, whoa, whoa! Stop!

Brian stops playing. Kirk stops singing, while Reichter and Joseph abruptly end their guitar and cow bell playing.

REICHTHER  
Hey! Why did we stop?

BRIAN  
Kirk's singing the song all wrong.

KIRK  
Bullshit. I'm saying every word that lyrical wordsmith Will Smith wrote.

BRIAN  
There is no line "maxin' relaxin'."  
That's retarded. It's "and relaxing."

KIRK  
No it's not!

JOSEPH  
Hold on I'll settle this. Let me Google that shit.

Joseph walks over to a nearby laptop, sitting on an inactive John Deer mower. After typing, he searches for a second or two.

(CONTINUED)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

According to a Google search, Kirk  
is right. The lyric is in fact  
"maxin' relaxin'." There is no  
"and."

BRIAN

What! That has to be wrong.

Brian, Kirk and Joseph huddle around the computer, arguing. Reicther remains in his spot. He glances over at Laura. At first she's focused on the three knuckle-heads. After a second she notices Reicther and a big smile comes across her face.

Despite the smile, Reicther doesn't look all that happy.

CUT TO:

INT. REICHTHER'S GARAGE - NIGHT (FANTASY)

Reicther and Laura are standing next to each other. Reicther whispers something in her ear. She gasps in horror.

SMACK! She slaps Reicther across the face.

LAURA

You're a terrible person! How dare  
you say something like that you  
jerk!

Laura gets up and storms out. Reicther is left saddened.

CUT TO:

INT. REICHTHER'S GARAGE - SAME (PRESENT)

Reicther gulps and nervously smiles back at Laura.

REICHTHER (V/O)

Easy boy, easy. Don't freak the  
girl out. Remember you're in a  
group setting. There's *nothing* to  
worry about. It's not like you're  
alone with her thus you can't  
accidentally be a jerk.

Reicther and Laura look back at Kirk, Brian, and Joseph who are still fighting intensely.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN

Why the fuck are we even covering  
this song?!

KIRK

Because I'm leading this band  
session!

BRIAN

I've got news for you pal, you  
ain't leading but two things, right  
now: Jack and shit...and Jack left  
town.

KIRK

You're just pissed because I have  
actual talent on a -

Kirk notices something on his guitar.

KIRK (CONT'D)

(furious)

What the fuck!?

JOSEPH

What's wrong?

KIRK

Someone carved "Shoot for the  
Sharks" into the wood paneling of  
my guitar!

Kirk and Joseph both look at Brian.

BRIAN

I figured if it was on our  
instruments we would have to use it  
as our band name. See I even carved  
in the drums.

Brian steps aside to reveal that he has crudely carved, with a pocket knife, "Shoot for the Sharks" in the bass drum. Furiously, Kirk drops his guitar and lunges at Brian.

He strangles Brian's neck.

KIRK

You bastard! You know how much that  
guitar means to me!

BRIAN

(struggling to breath)

Then why did you drop it?

(CONTINUED)

Joseph just rolls his eyes.

JOSEPH  
Not again.

Joseph tries to pull Kirk off of Brian. Laura laughs.

LAURA  
(to Reicther)  
Can't we go ten minutes without  
those two fighting?

Reicther nods, then lets out a weird giggle. Joseph has successfully pulled Kirk off and is calming him down.

REICHTHER  
(awkward)  
Right you are...you said a minute  
ago...you were.

LAURA  
(confused)  
What?

REICHTHER  
(awkward)  
Thing...you...right...

Laura is puzzled. Reicther hangs his head in shame.

REICHTHER (CONT'D)  
(to himself)  
I shouldn't speak.

Brian taps Reicther on the shoulder, snapping Reicther out of it. Brian is out of breath from the choking. Kirk is still a bit angry in the background.

BRIAN  
Hey, Reicther. Me, Kirk, and Joseph  
are going to Wal-Mart.

REICHTHER  
(nervous)  
Leaving? Why?

BRIAN  
Snack attack man. I feel like I  
could eat my own weight in  
cheezits.

(CONTINUED)

REICHTHER  
(nervous)  
Leave? You can't leave!

BRIAN  
We're only going to be gone for a while. Three hours tops.

REICHTHER  
Three hours?! Uh, Brian...

Reichter takes Brian aside.

REICHTHER (CONT'D)  
Remember that whole "not leaving me alone with Laura" thing we talked about earlier?

Brian ponders.

BRIAN  
No. I don't recall that at all. But to be honest I've been having trouble remembering stuff since I ate all those crayons yesterday.

REICHTHER  
(baffled)  
Why did you eat crayons?

BRIAN  
Because Kirk told me they tasted like rainbows.

Reichter grumbles but is then struck with an idea.

REICHTHER  
Why don't all of us go to Wal-Mart?

BRIAN  
Hey! I got an even better idea.

Brian turns to Laura.

BRIAN (CONT'D)  
Hey, Laura. Me, Kirk, and Joseph are heading to Wal-Mart to pick up snacks. You okay with hanging out here with Reichter?

LAURA  
(smiles)  
Sure. I don't mind at all.

(CONTINUED)

Brian turns back to a furious Reicther.

REICHTHER  
(whispering)  
You dick!

BRIAN  
Trust me, you'll thank me later for  
what I'm doing for you now. I'm  
just giving you a little push in  
the right direction.

REICHTHER  
What if I gave you a little push  
down a well, Brian?!

BRIAN  
Just be charming and keep the  
conversation light. This will work,  
Reicther. I swear on it.

Brian begins to walk away.

BRIAN (CONT'D)  
(to Kirk/Joseph)  
You guys ready to head out?

JOSEPH  
To Wal-Mart we go!

Brian, Kirk, and Joseph all head for the back garage door.  
Each walk out and with Brian being the last one he mouths to  
Reicther:

BRIAN  
You'll do fine.

In turn Reicther mouths (a little too loud):

REICHTHER  
Go fuck yourself with a hot curling  
iron!

Brian leaves. Reicther and Laura share an awkward moment.  
She's thrilled to have time with him. He's terrified out of  
his mind.

He laughs nervously.

CUT TO:

INT. PROM - LOBBY - SAME

Cathy is texting someone on her phone, minding her own business. No one else is around except for a few freshmen heading out the front door. Suddenly, out of nowhere, JOEL MAYBERRY pops up from one of the corners and grabs her.

CATHY  
What the hell?

Joel starts to drag her away to a different hallway. Cathy struggles but to no avail. The freshmen don't notice any of this.

CUT TO:

INT. PROM - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Joel continues to drag Cathy down the hallway until they reach the elevators in the middle of the hall. After a few seconds of struggling she frees herself. She reaches into her purse and pulls out a set of keys.

CATHY  
Key!

She then precedes, with the biggest key, to stab Joel in the shoulder. He screams in pain.

CATHY (CONT'D)  
Knee!

She grabs him and knees him in the balls. He falls to the ground.

CATHY (CONT'D)  
(scoffs)  
Try and rape me. I'll take your ass down!

She finally collects herself and gets a good look at her attacker. She is very surprised to see that it is Joel.

CATHY (CONT'D)  
(perplexed)  
Joel?

Joel reaches over and pulls out the key. A little blood squirts.

(CONTINUED)

JOEL

Why did you stab me with a key?!

He throws the keys at her.

JOEL (CONT'D)

And then kick me in the balls!?

CATHY

Sorry. It's what we were taught to do if we were ever attacked.

JOEL

I wasn't attacking you!

Joel struggles to stand up.

CATHY

Why didn't you just come up to me and talk face to face? Why did you just forcibly drag me away?

Joel is about to respond but stops.

JOEL

Point noted.

He leans against the wall.

CATHY

And what are you doing around me anyway? Last time we were together you told me that you never wanted to talk to me again.

JOEL

I didn't say that.

CATHY

You're right. You actually told me to die in a fiery explosion. And that if that didn't happen I should "get cancer."

JOEL

(ashamed)

Yeah, that sounds more like me.

Joel presses the button for the elevator.

CATHY

So naturally I just assumed that translated into "Don't talk to me again."

(CONTINUED)

JOEL

I can see why one would draw that conclusion but I'm here to save you from -

CATHY

(overlapping)

Six months, Joel. That's how long you've been shunning me. That's how long almost all my friends have been shunning me.

JOEL

Cathy, I know you've had a bad year. But if you'll just listen -

CATHY

(overlapping)

And I understand why. I'm not stupid. I did terrible things. Unforgivable things. There is no getting around that.

The elevator doors open. Joel leads Cathy in and presses one of the buttons.

JOEL

True but I -

CATHY

(overlapping)

But you weren't that perfect either, Joel. You were a pretty shitty boyfriend sometimes.

JOEL

Cathy, I'm protecting you from...  
(realizes) Wait, what? What did I do?

The elevator door closes.

CUT TO:

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

As the elevator begins its descent down, Joel is staring at Cathy, puzzled.

JOEL

Shitty boyfriend? I think I was a pretty outstanding boyfriend if I may say so myself.

(CONTINUED)

CATHY  
You really think so?

JOEL  
Yes, yes I do.

CATHY  
Hundred percent sure?

Joel nods.

CATHY (CONT'D)  
Okay Mr. Amazing, then answer me this: How many times did you bail on me to do something with your friends?

Joel's smile shrinks a bit.

JOEL  
(flustered)  
Um...well,...a lot I guess.

CATHY  
Or how about the fact that we could never be affectionate in public?

JOEL  
Hey! We were in a secret relationship! If my mom found out -

CATHY  
(overlapping)  
Enough with the mom bullshit, Joel. I know for a fact it wasn't your "mom" you were worried about. It was your friend Brian.

Joel stops dead in his tracks.

JOEL  
(anxious)  
Gulp.

CATHY  
I always wondered why out of all your friends I never saw Brian. I just thought he hated me or something. It never even crossed my mind that you were hiding our relationship from him because he had a crush on me and you didn't want to betray your friend.

(CONTINUED)

Joel is taken aback, deeply hurting from this revelation.

CATHY (CONT'D)

I felt lonely and ignored Joel. In no way did I do the right thing by sleeping by someone else. The lying and the pregnancy were even worse. I'll always come out as the worse person in these events every time. I just want you to realize and acknowledge that you weren't Mr. Perfect.

DING. The elevator reaches its stop.

CUT TO:

INT. BASEMENT PARKING GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

The elevator doors opens in this very poorly lit parking garage. Joel and Cathy leave the elevator, still fighting.

JOEL

Good points but still...you cheated on me! And got pregnant!

CATHY

(sarcastic)

Oh wow, really? I had no idea because I've been living under a fucking rock for the last year.

VOICE (O.S.)

Just get in the trunk!

Joel and Cathy abruptly stop at this bizarre demand.

JOEL

What the hell?

They look around and spot that a couple cars down stand former principal BOB STEVENS, with a gun in his hand. Next to him is MR. JOHN PARKER, hands tied behind his back. They argue in front of a beat up OLDSMOBILE.

PARKER

Look, Bob. If I'm going to die then I'm riding shotgun.

STEVENS

I can't have my hostage ride up front. It's against protocol and it's unethical.

(CONTINUED)

PARKER

Unethical? You're driving me to my death! Doesn't that rate a little higher on the unethical bar than who calls dibs on the front seat?

STEVENS

John, don't bring up the issue of good sense with someone who's drunk and has a gun. You'll always lose.

Freaked out, Joel and Cathy attempt to tip-toe away. However Cathy accidentally drops her purse causing a fairly loud thump. Stevens and Parker turn in that direction.

STEVENS (CONT'D)

Stop! Don't move a muscle!

Joel and Cathy freeze.

STEVENS (CONT'D)

Turn around.

They do as they are told.

PARKER

(sarcastic)

Oh great. It's Captain Dumbass and Nelly Knocked-Up to the rescue.

JOEL

(nervous)

Hey sirs. How's your evening going?

STEVENS

Mr. Mayberry, Ms. Matthews. So good to see you.

CATHY

(scared)

Likewise sir.

STEVENS

Say, while you kids are down here would you mind giving me a hand?

Joel and Cathy exchange puzzled looks.

TIME CUT:

INT. STEVENS' CAR - MINUTES LATER

Cathy is in the passenger's seat while Parker and Joel are in the back. All have their hands tied up. Stevens is trying to start his car with no luck.

PARKER

This is such bull. I was the first hostage and I called dibs on front!

Stevens finally gets it started.

STEVENS

Trust me, John. It won't matter here in a little bit.

He shifts it into gear.

CUT TO:

INT. PARKING GARAGE - SAME

The Oldsmobile backs out and burns rubber toward the exit.

CUT TO:

INT. PROM - MAIN ENTRANCE - MINUTES LATER

Some dateless students linger against the walls. One or two couples are leaving. A rap song is playing so loud that most objects are vibrating.

Newly appointed principal MS. DIANE BALLARD is slowly walks by, searching for something.

BALLARD

(angry/to herself)

John, I swear to God if you left...

ROB EDISON, aka Mr. E, runs up from out of nowhere to talk to Ballard.

MR. E

Uh, Ms. Ballard.

BALLARD

What is it Rob?

MR. E

Um...I'd prefer if you called me  
Mr. E.

(CONTINUED)

BALLARD

And if you prefer getting paid then  
you'll learn to live with it.

MR. E

Rob is fine. Anyway your purse, it  
keeps vibrating.

BALLARD

So? It's just my phone.

MR. E

Ohhh! That makes way more sense  
then what I was thinking it was.

Ballard sighs.

MR. E (CONT'D)

Anyway, it's been vibrating for  
like the last five minutes.

BALLARD

Just ignore it. Let it ring.

MR. E

You got it lady boss.

Mr. E is about to walk away.

BALLARD

Wait, Rob.

The word "Rob" almost seems to hurt Mr. E.

MR. E

Yes?

BALLARD

Have you seen Mr. Parker around?

MR. E

Not lately. I saw him earlier  
hanging out in the parking lot  
where he was drinking "no no"  
juice.

BALLARD

(sighs/annoyed)

I'm going to kill that man.

Ballard storms off in another direction. She passes a  
table where BROCK WARNER and ASHLEY LOCKHART are sitting.

(CONTINUED)

Ashley is cracking up at a story that Brock is in the middle of telling.

BROCK

But! We forgot that the woods were connected to Norm Whittaker's Farm. So we come flying out of the woods, and Will, who's driving, freaks out. He slams on the breaks because he doesn't want crush any of the crops. The stop is so sudden and we're going at a such a fast speed that it sends Reicther flying a good couple feet and lands face first onto a stalk of corn.

Ashley cracks up.

ASHLEY

(laughing)

Why was Reicther on the hood of the car?

BROCK

Reicther lost a bet and had to spend the day doing whatever we asked of him. He actually ended up breaking his collar bone because we made him be the test dummy for our homemade catapult.

She laughs but there's a hint of her being weirded out.

ASHLEY

Um...Okay. Was he alright?

BROCK

Well it actually sent him flying right into a rock pile -

ASHLEY

(overlapping)

No I mean the corn story. He didn't break anything then, did he?

BROCK

No he was fine. But he did have corn imprints on his face for a week.

Both laugh.

BROCK (CONT'D)

Every once in a while we still call him Corn Face. It's not that clever but it gets to him, mentally, which is the important thing.

ASHLEY

Honestly Brock, it sounds like your friends can be quite idiotic at times.

BROCK

It's a bit tiring being the only one with common sense but you learn to live with it.

An excited, sweaty Will runs over.

BROCK (CONT'D)

Oh hey Will.

WILL

Can't talk! Emergency Gang meeting!

BROCK

Emergency what- ?

Will grabs Brock by the collar and forces him up.

BROCK (CONT'D)

What the -

WILL

(overlapping)

C'mon, we got to find the others!

Will forcefully leads Brock away by the neck.

BROCK

(to Ashley)

I'll be right back.

ASHLEY

I'll be right here.

CUT TO:

INT. PROM - REFRESHMENT TABLE - SAME

A bored, annoyed KAY JOHNSON sips on some punch. Suddenly CASEY JENNINGS approaches, talking to someone off screen.

CASEY

I appreciate the vote Adam. And remember, if you don't vote for me I'll harm the ones you love.

Casey laughs.

CASEY (CONT'D)

I'm dead serious slim. Go vote.

Casey finally notices Kay and comes up to her.

CASEY (CONT'D)

Hey! How's my baby doing?

Casey tries to wrap his arms around her but she steps back and slugs him in the shoulder.

CASEY (CONT'D)

Ow! What was that for?

KAY

Maybe it's because I've been standing at the punch table by myself for the last half an hour!

CASEY

Has it only been half an hour? It felt a bit longer than that.

Kay hits him again.

CASEY (CONT'D)

Why do you keep hitting me?

KAY

Because I don't know anyone here, Casey. I feel so out of place here. And it doesn't help when the only person I know is off beating people up because they won't vote for him as prom king.

CASEY

Hey I just gave that one guy a friendly elbow to the neck.

(CONTINUED)

KAY

Didn't look so friendly when he was  
on the ground, struggling to  
breath.

CASEY

Me and Charlie have a special bond  
that's difficult to explain.

Kay sighs in frustration which Casey finally takes notice of.

CASEY (CONT'D)

You know I think you're right. I  
may be taking things a tad bit too  
far with this whole Prom King  
thing.

KAY

You locked a Freshmen in the  
janitor's closet when he said he  
was going to vote for someone else.

CASEY

(evil eye)

That's because he got in my way!

Casey snaps out of it.

CASEY (CONT'D)

Oh my God. I'm a monster! Kay  
you're right. I'm so sorry for  
ignoring you.

KAY

It's okay. It's just that, my own  
prom was so terrible that I was  
hoping this could be sort of a  
"second chance" to have a better  
prom.

CASEY

Well then, for the rest of the  
night consider me all yours. I've  
got the King vote locked up so no  
more threatening people.

KAY

You mean it? No more running off  
and leaving me behind?

(CONTINUED)

CASEY  
I promise. Whatever you want to do,  
I'll do it.

Kay smiles.

KAY  
(ecstatic)  
Well then how about we -

WILL (O.S.)  
(overlapping)  
CASEY!!!

Will runs up, his hand still wrapped tightly around Brock's neck.

WILL  
Casey! Emergency! Follow us!

Will and Brock continue running in a different direction.

CASEY  
Baby, I got to go. Will's doing his Sam Jackson voice...that means he's serious.

KAY  
Casey! You promised that you weren't going to run off anymore!

CASEY  
He said it was an emergency. I can't imagine him lying.

Kay grunts in frustration.

CASEY (CONT'D)  
I promise I'll be right back baby.

Casey leans in and kisses her on the forehead. She avoids eye contact instead staring at the floor. Casey runs off.

KAY  
(mocking)  
"Oh I promise I won't run off, Kay.  
I'm all yours, Kay" Asshole.

CUT TO:

INT. PROM - HALLWAY - MINUTES LATER

Will, Casey, and Brock turn the corner and get about halfway down the hallway before stopping. They all take a second to catch their breathes. Will lets go of Brock's neck.

BROCK

(annoyed)

Will, why did you have to drag me by the neck?

WILL

To highlight the urgency!

BROCK

Why didn't you drag Casey by the neck?

WILL

There was no time!

Brock rolls his eyes.

WILL (CONT'D)

Gentlemen, it has finally happened.

Casey gasps.

CASEY

Oh my god! Brian killed himself?!

WILL

(confused)

What? No!

Casey gasps again.

CASEY

Oh shit! Did Reicther accidentally kill himself?

WILL

(baffled)

No!

CASEY

Then who killed themselves?

WILL

No one you dingle berry! Why the assumption that it was suicide?

(CONTINUED)

BROCK

Yeah our friends are too lazy to  
kill themselves.

CASEY

You said it was an emergency. My  
mind just assumed bad things  
transpired.

BROCK

What *did* happen Will?

Will looks around and takes a deep breath.

WILL

...Ellen told me she loved me.

Brock and Casey's jaws drop simultaneously. Casey quickly bear hugs Will. Brock is all smiles.

CASEY

Mosaltov!!!

SNAP.

WILL

(to himself.)

Oh that was not a good noise.

BROCK

Congrats Will! I didn't think it  
would ever happened.

Casey finally lets go of Will.

WILL

Thank you guys. Especially Casey  
for snapping yet another bone in my  
body...for the fourth time this  
year.

CASEY

I just have a lot of love to give.

WILL

Good news aside boys, there still  
is a bit of a problem.

CASEY

With what? Sounds like you're  
pretty much in, Will.

WILL  
I don't know what to do.

BROCK  
What are you retarded? Tell her how you feel. Tell her how you've been pinning over her for years now.

CASEY  
Yeah, it's easy.

BROCK  
Didn't you tell her that already though? I imagine you would say "I love you too" in that situation.

WILL  
(embarrassed)  
You'd think so...

CASEY  
What did you say?

WILL  
(embarrassed)  
Well, I just kinda stared at her face for a few minutes...and then I made a *Star Wars* reference.

Casey and Brock groan loudly.

CASEY  
(ashamed)  
Jesus Christ dude...

BROCK  
Even as a nerd I wouldn't go there.

WILL  
But it was an *Empire Strike Back* reference.

Their groans turn to "ohs" and "ahs" of acceptance.

BROCK  
At least you referenced the good trilogy.

CASEY  
Am I the only one who thought the tauntauns sounded like the hamburglar?

WILL

Casey not now! I need to know what to do about Ellen.

CASEY

Dude, it's simple. Just go and tell that you love her too. Don't be shy, just let your feelings roll on by. You can't wear fear or nobody will know you're there. Will, just lift your head and let your feelings out instead. Let your feelings roll on by.

WILL

(taken back)

Casey...that was surprisingly poignant.

BROCK

Shenanigans on that! Those were Cat Stevens lyrics.

Casey slugs Brock in the arm.

CASEY

You ruined the moment dick!

WILL

Got the message though: just tell her. It's not rocket science.

Will puts his hand on Brock's shoulder and then his other one on Casey's shoulder.

WILL (CONT'D)

Gentlemen...wish me luck.

Casey gives a reassuring pat on the back. Like that Will runs off.

CASEY

Say Brock, have you voted for prom king yet?

BROCK

Yes I did. Remember...you beat me.

CASEY

Why don't we go and vote again. You know, just to ensure I win.

(CONTINUED)

BROCK  
But it's wrong to vote twice.

CASEY  
Only if we get caught.

Casey puts his arm around Brock and leads him away.

CUT TO:

EXT. WAL-MART - PARKING LOT - LATER

Kirk's VAN pulls out of the parking lot into traffic.

CUT TO:

INT. KIRK'S VAN - SAME

Kirk drives while Brian and Joseph devour through various different snacks such as Doritos and little Debbie's snack cakes.

BRIAN  
Hey guys. Do you think it was mean leaving Reicther with Laura like that?

JOSEPH  
I don't know. It wasn't as mean as what Kirk did.

BRIAN  
What did Kirk do?

Kirk smiles.

BRIAN (CONT'D)  
(sniffs)  
Did we hit a skunk or something?

KIRK  
(giggling)  
Not exactly.

Brian sniffs some more.

BRIAN  
(realizes/angry)  
Aw, dude!

Kirk and Joseph burst out laughing.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN (CONT'D)  
Did you just fucking fart?

KIRK  
(laughing)  
Me? No! Must have been those  
Arkansas Barking Spiders.

BRIAN  
It smells so terrible. Like it's  
been inside you for like twenty  
years. Like Tim Robbins in *The*  
*Shawshank Redemption*. It waited  
twenty years and tunneled out.  
Except it didn't fill me with hope.

Joseph has fallen over laughing. Kirk tries his hardest to focus on the road.

BRIAN (CONT'D)  
Why won't your windows roll down!?  
Turn the window lock off dickweed!

KIRK  
No I don't think so. Consider this  
payback for earlier.

As Brian struggles to breath a cellphone ringtone goes off.

BRIAN  
That's probably someone else  
calling to ask why you decided to  
poison the fucking air.

Brian pulls out his phone and flips it open.

BRIAN (CONT'D)  
Hello. You've got Vandele.

VOICE (O.S.)  
Brian?! Where are you guys!?

BRIAN  
Reicther?

CUT TO:

INT. REICHTHER'S GARAGE - SAME

Reichter paces around the garage, talking quietly into a phone. Laura is no where to be seen.

(We cut back between the two)

REICHTHER

You said you were only going to be gone a little while!

BRIAN

Chill out man. It takes time to select a suitable snack.

REICHTHER

I don't know how much longer I can hold out man. Laura keeps...looking at me, expecting conversation.

BRIAN

(sarcastic)

That monster.

REICHTHER

I just need support around here.

BRIAN

Okay look. Maybe this can help. It's a little something that always helps me out when I'm in a tough situation. You see -

Brian sniffs.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Goddamn it! Did you fart again Kirk?

JOSEPH

I'm afraid it was me this time.

They continue to laugh like idiots.

BRIAN

Jesus! It smells like that stuff they use in crop dusting!

Brian tries to escape the smell all the while, ignoring Reichter.

(CONTINUED)

REICHTHER

Brian? What was that really helpful advice? You know the one you didn't give me yet!

BRIAN

Dude, I'm going to call you back. I'm going to go all John Locke on these fools.

REICHTHER

No! Wait I need that advice!

Brian hangs up on him.

Reichter hangs his head low.

REICHTHER (CONT'D)

Damn.

The garage door opens and Laura walks back in.

LAURA

Hey is your toilet suppose to make those noises?

Just like that Reichter becomes shy and nervous. Eventually he nods.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Good to know.

Long beat. Awkward silence sets in.

LAURA (CONT'D)

So...

Beat.

REICHTHER

I'm going to sit over there.

LAURA

Um, okay.

Reichter slinks over to a stool in the corner. He sits with his back toward Laura. She sighs. This not how she imagined this night.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY - SAME

Steven's Oldsmobile is barreling down the road.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVEN'S CAR - LATER

Stevens drives. Joel, Cathy, and Mr. Parker all sit quietly, each pondering what fate awaits them.

JOEL

Um, excuse me, Principal Stevens?

STEVENS

I'm not principal anymore, son. You can call me Bob.

JOEL

(uneasy)

Okay...Bob. I had a quick question:  
I was wondering if you were going  
to kill us.

STEVENS

(disgusted)

What?! No! I could never think  
about killing someone so young like  
yourself. Absolutely not.

CATHY

Then why did you bind our hands and  
bring us with you?

STEVENS

That's because I didn't want you to  
rat me out to the police  
sweetheart.

Parker shakes his head.

PARKER

What a bunch of crap! I have to die  
yet they get to live! How fair is  
that?

STEVENS

Settle down, John.

PARKER

If I have to die so should they.

Joel and Cathy are taken aback.

(CONTINUED)

JOEL  
(outraged)  
Dude!

CATHY  
We're like, kids Mr. Parker!

JOEL  
You just wished death upon  
children!

STEVENS  
Jesus, John. Killing kids? What's  
wrong with you?

CATHY  
Shame on you Mr. Parker! Shame on  
you!

PARKER  
I'm sorry everyone. I guess I'm  
just a little stressed out that I  
won't be alive in an hour or so.

STEVENS  
(scoffs)  
You'll be lucky if it's even half  
an hour, John.

CATHY  
We won't have to watch him die will  
we?

STEVENS  
No, sweetie. When the time comes  
I'll warn you so you can close your  
eyes.

The CAMERA PANS and focuses on Parker. His hands are at his right side. Without letting Stevens see it, he's managed to pull out his cellphone. One handily, Parker starts to text, constantly making sure Stevens doesn't see any of this.

CUT TO:

INT. PROM - LOBBY - SAME

Ballard is pacing around the lobby, angrily mumbling to herself.

(CONTINUED)

BALLARD  
(to herself)  
All the crap I've put up with John!  
You are going to pay for this one.

On the nearby ticket table a big blue purse is vibrating.  
Ballard grunts.

BALLARD (CONT'D)  
Stupid phone!

She reaches in and without even looking at who it is  
silences the phone.

BALLARD (CONT'D)  
(to herself)  
I'm going to kill you for this  
John.

CUT TO:

INT. PROM - NIGHT

Ellen sits in the crossfire of a conversation between PRISCILLA DIAMOND and MAGGIE PLATT, a plain girl with earnest eyes and an unexciting dress.

At the same time, Arthur, CHARLIE EMERSON, and HEATH CARLYLE discuss the work of Joss Whedon.

Ellen's eyes glaze over with a faraway look. She's not at this table.

PRISCILLA  
I love going to church. It's the  
only place where I can escape the  
voices in my head.

Maggie doesn't answer. She simply looks shocked.

ELLEN  
I don't suppose you guys want to  
talk about the economy or *Fraggle Rock* or something not boring or  
disturbing, huh?

MAGGIE  
Oh! Do you watch *Gossip Girl*?

ELLEN  
(scoffs)  
No.

(CONTINUED)

PRISCILLA

I use to watch it but it interfered  
with my daily three hours of  
prayer.

ELLEN

Oh for crap's sake. Arthur!

Ellen turns to the guys where Arthur is explaining something, moving his hands around a lot.

ARTHUR

I mean Captain Mal is just such a bad ass. Remember how he tricked The Operative at the end of the movie and knocked him to the ground. Brilliant. Joss Whedon is my master now.

ELLEN

Oh are you guys talking about Joss Whedon?

HEATH

Duh.

ELLEN

It just so happens that I'm a pretty big *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* fan.

HEATH

Please, that show is so overrated.

ELLEN

What?

ARTHUR

Yeah, any Whedon fan knows that *Angel* is the more complex and better written show, thus the superior of the two.

CHARLIE

Yeah everybody knows that.

They all giggle at Ellen.

ELLEN

(to herself)

I can't win with these people.

Ellen begins to stare off into space.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT (ONE YEAR AGO)

Will and Ellen stand outside a slightly run down movie theater. Will stands firmly in place while Ellen tries dragging him by the arm.

ELLEN

C'mon, you'll love it Will.

WILL

I am not seeing *The Secret Life of Bees*!

ELLEN

But it's got Queen Latifah...and bees!

WILL

I don't care if it had Paul Giamatti and bees, I don't want to see some sappy drama about growing up in the south.

ELLEN

That's not what's it's about.

WILL

Bullshit.

ELLEN

No, I'm serious. They just advertise it as a drama because it'll scare away people.

WILL

...Then what is it really about?

ELLEN

A swarm of killer bees attack Queen Latifah and her family. So they're trapped in this old house and have to fight off the bees. It's like *The Birds* but you know, with bees.

WILL

Seriously?

ELLEN

Yeah. You didn't hear about the infamous scene where Queen Latifah  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ELLEN (CONT'D)  
gets stung by a hundred bees, all  
the while screaming "Ah! Bees!"

Will thinks about it.

WILL  
Hmm. I guess it could be okay.

ELLEN  
Truth me. You'll love it.

Will and Ellen walk toward the entrance, Ellen trying to hold back the laughter

CUT TO:

INT. PROM - NIGHT (PRESENT)

Ellen sighs.

ELLEN  
(to herself)  
Those were better days.

Ellen stands up.

ELLEN (CONT'D)  
Hey, Arthur. I'm going to use the bathroom.

ARTHUR  
(not paying attention)  
Yeah, sure, whatever.

Ellen leaves. As soon as she's out of sight Will storms up to the table. Maggie, Heath, Charlie, Priscilla, and Arthur all turn to see Will.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)  
What do you want Cooper?

WILL  
I need to talk to Ellen. Now! Where is she?

ARTHUR  
She's kinda busy. Why don't you come back...never.

Arthur's terrible joke gets huge laughs from his friends. Will is confused.

(CONTINUED)

WILL

Oh go eat a bag of dicks Arthur! I  
don't need your permission.

Will look around for Ellen. Heath, Arthur, and Charlie all stand up in order to intimidate.

ARTHUR

Will, can we talk in private?

WILL

Make it quick. I've got something important for Ellen.

Arthur takes Will out of earshot of the table. Charlie and Heath sit down but are ready to attack if need be.

ARTHUR

Look Will, she's my date. Why don't you get your own? Oh wait, you don't have one.

WILL

Fuck you! I came here with Brock!

ARTHUR

She's not going anywhere with you. She going to stay at the table and hang out with us.

WILL

Yeah I'm sure she's having a great time hearing you go on and on about Jesse Whedon -

ARTHUR

(overlapping)

It's Joss Whedon you bumbling stooge!!!

Arthur collects himself from his outburst.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

Look Will. Why don't you just leave us be? She's my date. If you wanted her, you should done something sooner. You had all the opportunities in the world yet you never made a move. Jesus, any simpleton would have known to make a move Will. But you never did. Hell I was there earlier. She said I love you and you did absolutely

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ARTHUR (CONT'D)  
nothing! Instead you made a *Star Wars* joke.

Will is embarrassed and devastated.

WILL  
But I was -

ARTHUR  
(overlapping)  
Besides, it's not like we're guarding Ellen. She could have made a break for it...but she didn't. Maybe your little inaction made her realize who you really are and how much you really do care.

This is getting to Will.

WILL  
I was going to tell her how I feel.

ARTHUR  
It's a little too late for that Will. You should have done something sooner.

Will almost seems like he's given up.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)  
Why don't you just go away and hang out with your real "date."

Will thinks about it for a second but it's obvious that Arthur's tactics have worked their magic. He struggles for a minute but finally starts to walk away, head hanging low in defeat.

Arthur smiles and heads back to the table.

CHARLIE  
Everything okay, Arthur?

ARTHUR  
Yeah don't worry about it. He won't be back.

Ellen walks back in for the other direction. She takes notice of Will who's halfway across the room.

(CONTINUED)

ELLEN  
Was that Will? What did he want?

ARTHUR  
Oh, nothing.

ELLEN  
Nothing?

Arthur nods. Ellen sighs.

VOICE (O.S.)  
(over loudspeaker)  
Everyone! Gather around! It's time  
to name the King and Queen of this  
year's prom!

A thunderous amount of applause. Everyone starts to move toward the front of the room. Ellen looks in Will's direction, depressed.

CUT TO:

INT. REICHTHER'S GARAGE - SAME

Laura sits on a stool in the middle of the room, surrounded by the various instruments of the band. She seems so uncomfortable, out of place.

Reichter is all the way in the corner of the room avoiding any contact with Laura. He too is uncomfortable by a larger and more obvious degree.

Very long beat.

LAURA  
So...Brian the guys have been gone  
for a while. I wonder what they're  
up to.

Reichter seems like he wants to say something but struggles to say it. He opens his mouth but no words come out. Frustrated he turns away.

Laura frowns.

LAURA (CONT'D)  
Reichter, can I ask you something?

Reichter finally breaks through his fears:

(CONTINUED)

REICHTHER  
Yeah, sure.

Beat.

LAURA  
Do you hate me?

REICHTHER  
(surprised)  
What? Hate you?

LAURA  
You know: extreme dislike of  
something.

REICHTHER  
I don't hate you. Why would you ask  
me that?

LAURA  
(sighs)  
Well for starters, you've been in  
the corner of the room since the  
guys left which was like forty  
minutes ago.

REICHTHER  
(bullshitting)  
I just work best, musically, in the  
corner. That how Geddy Lee did it.

Laura rises eyebrow, not believing this for second.

LAURA  
It's not just that. You seem to be  
avoiding making eye contact.

REICHTHER  
I've made eye contact -

LAURA  
For like a few seconds and then you  
go back to staring at the floor.

Reichter wants to defend himself but gives up and begins  
staring at the floor. Laura stands and collects her things.

LAURA (CONT'D)  
I'm heading out. When the guys get  
back tell them it was fun and that  
they can use any of the songs they  
want.

(CONTINUED)

She heads for the door. He's turning bright red from the anxiety. Just before she leaves the door:

REICHTHER  
I'm an asshole!

She stops and slowly turns back to him.

REICHTHER (CONT'D)  
I'm a big, fat, annoying asshole.  
That's not even the worst part of it. I'm the worst kind of asshole because I'm an *honest* asshole!  
That's the worst kind of asshole you can possibly imagine. If anyone has the slightest flaw I have to point it out and ridicule them for it. I've made millions of jokes about Will's terrible, terrible acne problems. I've lost count of the number of times I've thumbed my nose at Brian's weight. Hell I taunted Joseph so bad about his country that he refuses to go back! And don't get me started on the stuff I got into with Kelly States.

Beat. Almost too much information for Laura to process.

LAURA  
You don't seem that bad Reichter.

REICHTHER  
That's because I'm avoiding you at all costs.

Reichter takes a moment to collect himself. He stand and paces a bit.

REICHTHER  
I couldn't look at you or talk to you because I was scared shitless of what I might say. Knowing me, I would have picked up on the smallest detail and just gone to town. I don't hate you. Quite the opposite, Laura. I like you a lot. You're pretty, you're really into music, and you indulge me and my friends. Perfect qualities if you ask me. But I'm such an asshole that at some point I'm going to tell you that your ass looks fat in

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

REICHTHER (CONT'D)  
a certain pair of jeans or that you  
have a chunk of spinach the size of  
Rhode Island in your teeth or  
SOMETHING that will hurt your  
feelings and make you hate me.

Flattered, Laura can't help but smile.

REICHTHER  
I just don't want to say anything  
that will screw up any chance I  
have with you. So if I have to stay  
silent to do that...then silent I  
shall remain.

Reichter sighs in relief.

REICHTHER (CONT'D)  
Jesus Christ on rollerblades! Does  
that feel good to get off my chest.

He sits down in chair in the middle of the room. Laura approaches him and sits next to him.

LAURA  
Reichter, you shouldn't have been  
afraid to be around me.

REICHTHER  
Didn't you just hear my whole  
asshole speech? I'll say something  
stupid.

LAURA  
That's just a chance you'll have to  
take.

REICHTHER  
Say what?

LAURA  
I'd rather be around someone who's  
occasionally asshole-ish than  
someone who avoids me like the  
plague.

REICHTHER  
So you're saying I should just be  
myself. Are you sure?

LAURA

Yes. That's what I like about you  
Reicther. You speak your mind.

REICHTHER

You knew about me being an asshole?

LAURA

We've going to school together for  
the last eight years. It's hard *not*  
to hear about the outlandish things  
you've said.

REICHTHER

Sweet! I have a reputation.

Both laugh.

LAURA

See isn't this better than sitting  
in the corner?

REICHTHER

Much better. It blows trying to  
hide my true self. I don't know how  
the preps do it.

More laughs. Finally the two are starting to click.

LAURA

Hey since you're finally being  
honest how about you tell me how  
you truly feel about that song I  
wrote earlier.

REICHTHER

The diamond song?

She nods.

REICHTHER (CONT'D)

It was pretty fucking terrible.

Laura should be hurt but she's just too happy to be taken down. Reicther smiles too, finally able to be himself.

CUT TO:

INT. PROM - PODIUM - CONTINUOUS

Ballard stands on the podium with an envelope in her hand. MR. E stands by her side. Large crowds have formed around the podium. There are hoots and hollers coming from every direction.

BALLARD

(to herself)

Thank God, we're almost done.

Talking into the microphone:

BALLARD (CONT'D)

Ladies and Gentleman it's now time  
to announce this year's king and  
queen of the Centerville Senior  
Prom.

Everybody applauds. Will stands by the refreshment table, defeated, barely able to hold his head up. Arthur and Ellen stand near the doorway with Ellen deeply depressed and Arthur happy as can be.

Brock and Ashley stand in the middle of a crowd. Brock hasn't enjoyed himself like this in a long time. Casey and Kay right next to the podium. Casey is bouncy and giddy while Kay is annoyed to hell with his antics.

BALLARD (CONT'D)

First, for Prom King you have  
chosen...

She struggles with the envelope.

BALLARD (CONT'D)

Stupid envelope.

She gets it open.

BALLARD (CONT'D)

And your Prom King is...Casey  
Jennings!

Applause breaks out. Casey busts past Kay, leaving her looking daggers at him. He hops on stage, grabs the crown, mugs on the stage, and waves to the crowd.

CASEY

Thank you all!

Casey enjoys the moment.

(CONTINUED)

BALLARD

Okay, and now for your prom queen -

CASEY

(overlapping)

Don't I get a speech?

BALLARD

No. "Thank You." Says it all. No  
one likes a chatty ruler, Casey.  
And you have voted your Queen as...

Ballard rips open the second envelope and reads it without thinking.

BALLARD (CONT'D)

Tillit Hertz!

Everyone stops dead before bursting out in laughter.

BALLARD (CONT'D)

Wait a minute! That's not real!

CASEY

Hey, if there's no Queen, then can  
I make a speech?

BALLARD

Oh be quiet Jennings.

(addresses crowd)

You people are morons. You honestly  
voted a joke name as Prom Queen?

She turns to Mr. E.

BALLARD (CONT'D)

Who came in second?

Mr. E begins to look a list he has in his hands.

MR. E

Shirley Ujest.

BALLARD

Who? No. That name's fake too.  
Think about it.

He examines the list again.

MR. E

Candy Appleton.

(CONTINUED)

BALLARD

No! If it sounds like a James Bond name then her name's not -

VOICE (O.S.)

I won!

Ballard stops, stunned. Casey's jaw drops as a busty blond in a skimpy dress, CANDY APPLETON, skips to the stage.

BALLARD

Great googly moogly. You're...there really is a Candy Appleton?

CASEY

Awesome.

Candy hops up to the stage and puts on her tiara. She bends to the microphone, exposing massive amounts of cleavage to the crowd.

CANDY

Thank you! Thank you all!

She struts over to Casey and takes his arm. Kay seethes off to the side as Casey drinks Candy in, grinning and leering.

KAY

Asshole.

BALLARD

Okay. Won't you all join the King and Queen on the floor for a slow dance.

Casey leads Candy to the dance floor and other couples join them. Ballard exhales.

BALLARD (CONT'D)

(to Mr. E)

How did I not know that there was a Candy Appleton at this school? Who could forget that name?

The large crowd starts to spread out and couples begin to slow dance, including Brock and Ashley. Will continues to sulk at the punch table.

Arthur drags a very annoyed Ellen toward the dance floor. He whispers something to her but she only rolls her eyes.

Will sees all this and seems perturbed. He continues to stare, contemplating something.

(CONTINUED)

Candy and Casey dance in the middle of the floor, both possessing giant smiles and crowns. Kay appears and taps Candy on the shoulder.

KAY

Excuse me, Ms. Cheerleader  
Extraordinaire, but I'm going to  
have to interrupt.

CASEY

What? What are you -

Candy takes a few steps back.

KAY

(overlapping)

Oh nothing, nothing, I just wanted  
to let you know that I'm fucking  
leaving.

CASEY

You're leaving? Why?

KAY

I am your girlfriend...your prom  
date...and I don't even go to this  
school. You would think that a  
decent guy would want to spend Prom  
with the woman he's supposedly in  
love with. You would think that  
maybe he would introduce her to his  
friends, maybe dance with her a  
little, go get awkward prom  
pictures taken with her....You  
would think that, but you would be  
fucking wrong. Casey, you've been a  
complete asshole all night - you've  
been completely consumed with the  
idea of becoming Prom king because  
you think being prom king means  
that people here love you - well  
congratu-fucking-lations, you're  
prom king - but I don't think that  
I love you anymore. I don't think I  
would love a guy that would take me  
for granted, leave me alone at a  
dance, spend his whole night  
obsessing about a meaningless  
plastic crown - and then slobber  
all over the hot blonde prom queen  
when his girlfriend is standing  
five feet away. Enjoy your crown,  
Casey. I'm out.

(CONTINUED)

Kay storms away leaving Casey sad and heartbroken. Candy is baffled on what to.

CANDY

So...do you want to keep dancing?

Without acknowledging her, Casey walks off lost in his own thoughts. On his way, he passes an unhappy Ellen slow dancing with an ecstatic Arthur.

ARTHUR

(happy)

Oh Ellen. What a night it's been.

ELLEN

If by that you mean cataclysm then  
you're right on the money.

ARTHUR

Oh Ellen. There you go, using big  
words you don't know again.

Ellen pushes Arthur, takes a step back and quietly screams.

ELLEN

Dear sweet God, I can't take it  
anymore! Stop talking, Arthur. Just  
stop. Every word out of your mouth  
is absolutely dripping with smug  
satisfaction and thinly veiled  
misogyny. You are constantly  
spewing bullshit, and it's getting  
all over my dress. I don't think  
even a good dry-cleaning will get  
all this bullshit out of the satin.  
That shit stains. You need to  
realize that just because I agreed  
to be your date does *not* mean I owe  
it to you to listen to your  
boring-ass church friends talk  
about Jesus with a smile on my  
face. Nor does it mean that I have  
to pretend you're charming for one  
more second. Most importantly, it  
does NOT mean that I am coming back  
to the hotel with you. Oh yeah - I  
know you rented a hotel room.  
You're about as subtle as Tammy  
Faye Baker's makeup, pulling the  
key out of your pocket every five  
minutes and smiling knowingly. You  
can just stop fucking smiling,  
because there is no way in hell

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ELLEN (CONT'D)  
that I would sleep with a  
chauvinistic, self-centered,  
self-righteous fucking loser like  
yourself.

Arthur stares at her, bewildered. Out of nowhere, Will approaches, ready to sweep Ellen off her feet.

WILL  
Ellen, I have to tell you  
something. Something I should have  
said a long time ago. I -

ELLEN  
(overlapping)  
Oh, hey, Will - looks like you got  
your voice back. Here's a tip, when  
a girl tells you that she loves  
you, the correct response is not  
silence. I actually heard crickets  
after I told you, even over the  
crazy loud beat of whatever Kanye  
West shitfest song they were  
playing. I've been in love with you  
for almost two years, and while I  
may be a bit more subtle than say,  
Nadine Santos, I'm pretty sure that  
in two years of being one of your  
best female friends you've gotten  
some sort of inkling that maybe my  
feelings for you weren't platonic.  
It shouldn't have been enough of a  
fucking surprise to render you  
speechless. Whatever, though, I'll  
find someone else. You know why?  
Because I have huge tits, and I  
like horror movies, *Back to the  
Future*, and I know who Dick Grayson  
is. You and Arthur have a fun prom,  
because I'm fucking done.

Ellen angrily storms out. Several couples have stopped  
dancing and have begun to stare at Will and Arthur. Neither  
one is sure what to do next.

After a second or two of whispering and laughing, everyone  
starts to dance again. Eventually shrugs it off and walks  
away.

Will continues to stand in place, overwhelmed by what's  
happened.

CUT TO:

INT. PROM - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Ellen comes out of the dance hall and walks by a disgruntled Ballard and Mr. E who are behind the ticket counter. Kay stands by the main doorway, texting in anger.

ELLEN  
Are you leaving?

KAY  
Trying to.

ELLEN  
Want to share a cab?

KAY  
Fuck yes. Let's go.

The two girls leave.

Ballard sits back and finally takes a moment to relax.

BALLARD  
God, what a night. Thank goodness it's almost over.

MR. E  
(shit eating grin)  
I don't know it seemed like a fun night. I mean at my prom -

BALLARD  
(overlapping)  
Please, I'm not in the mood for one of your little word plays.

MR. E  
C'mon, just one. It's kinda my thing.

BALLARD  
Rob I -

MR. E  
(overlapping)  
I knew someone once who was a monorail enthusiast. He had a one track mind.

She sighs.

(CONTINUED)

BALLARD

Look man, you're really losing your appeal.

Mr. E is unaffected by this remark. Ballard starts to look through her purse.

BALLARD (CONT'D)

Let's see who wanted to talk to me so bad.

He pulls out her phone. Once she flips it open she's greeted with this message: "37 New Text."

BALLARD (CONT'D)

Oh lord!

She begins to look through them. Every one seems to have some variation of "help" or something about "being held hostage."

MR. E

Something wrong, Diane?

BALLARD

Rob, can you do something for me.

MR. E

Sure. What?

BALLARD

Could you be a dear and call the police. I think I just found out what happened to John.

FADE TO:

INT. PROM - MINUTES LATER

BEGIN SONG (Rush - "Time Stand Still")

It's the final dance and everyone is on the dance floor. Half of the crowd is slow dancing but others are dancing normally. Brock and Ashley slow dance.

Ashley lays her head on Brock's shoulder, eliciting happiness unknown to him.

Will runs up to Brock and Ashley, trying to hide his sadness.

(CONTINUED)

WILL

Brock! We've got to bail! Casey kinda caused a scene in the lobby so we need make like a tree and get the fuck out of here!

BROCK

But what about Ashley?

WILL

Dude! I'm pretty sure he committed aggravated assault. We need to leave.

Will runs off. Brock turns to Ashley not wanting to leave her.

ASHLEY

You should go. Your friends need you.

Brock nods and takes a few steps before stopping. He goes back to Ashley and gives her a kiss on the lips - both are on cloud nine.

BROCK

I've never done anything like that.  
I'm usually not that aggressive.

Brock walks away.

ASHLEY

Call me! Or find me on Twitter!

BROCK

(to himself/confused)  
Twitter?

Brock is gone.

(SONG FADES AWAY)

CUT TO:

INT. PROM - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Brock enters and is abruptly stopped by Will who's trying to pull Casey up from the floor. Several students are standing around, waiting to see what Casey will do next.

On the other side of the room a young freshmen, BILLY, holds an ice pack to his very bloody nose. He also sports a pair of black eyes.

(CONTINUED)

WILL  
C'mon Casey! You know the drill,  
cops mean we run!

CASEY  
(pouting)  
Who cares. Let them take me.

BROCK  
What's wrong?

CASEY  
(pouting)  
Kay left me.

BROCK  
You guys broke up?

CASEY  
No she literally left me. She was  
here a second ago and then POOF!  
Gone.

WILL  
Casey, I'd love to talk about it  
but as you may know there are some  
police in the building.

CASEY  
Just leave me! I deserve to be  
caught. I deserve nothing but  
death!

WILL  
(grunts)  
Why can't you ever be cooperative  
Casey!?

Brock and Will both take an arm and pull him up (which is easier said than done.) They drag him out into the parking lot.

CUT TO:

INT. PROM - DANCE FLOOR - SAME

The cops are still searching the place. Finally the LEAD COP spots something.

LEAD COP  
Over here. I found her.

The cops approach a worried Mr. E and anxious Ms. Ballard.

(CONTINUED)

LEAD COP  
Ma'am, are you Principal Ballard?

BALLARD  
Yes, yes I am. Damn you guys move quick.

LEAD COP  
We're cops ma'am. Red lights and speed limits don't apply to us.

BALLARD  
Good to know.

LEAD COP  
Over the phone you mentioned something about an emergency.

BALLARD  
Yes I did. See we have a bit of a deranged ex-principal situation.

LEAD COP  
Deranged ex-principal situation?

BALLARD  
Yeah, funny story. Turns out that the guy who had the job before me kinda went a bit funny in the head. So he kidnapped a teacher and some students.

LEAD COP  
That's not very funny ma'am.

BALLARD  
Laughter covers the fear.

FADE TO:

(MUSIC MONTAGE: Cat Stevens - "Don't Be Shy")

EXT. ROAD - MINUTES LATER

Casey's beat up PINTO is closely followed by Will's beat up RED SUV.

CUT TO:

INT. CASEY'S CAR - SAME

Casey drives but his mind is elsewhere.

CUT TO:

INT. WILL'S CAR - SAME

Will and Brock sit in silence. Will pouts while Brock is on cloud nine.

BROCK

You okay man? You look like you had that *Golden Girls* sex dream again.

WILL

No, no. Nothing like that. Just kinda...fucked something up big tonight.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD - MINUTES LATER

Steven's Oldsmobile barrels down an empty road.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVENS' CAR - SAME

Stevens drives without any remorse visible. Parker is sweating, getting more nervous with every second. Cathy is nearly dry heaving. Joel is rocking back and forth in spot.

CUT TO:

INT. REICHTHER'S GARAGE - MINUTES LATER

Reichert is strumming on his guitar as Laura explains to him some lyrics in her notebook. He listens carefully.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD - SAME

Kirk's VAN is barreling down the road swerving all over the place. Not far behind it is Stevens' Oldsmobile which is slowly catching up.

CUT TO:

INT. KIRK'S VAN - SAME

Brian and Joseph are laughing it up as an angry Kirk tries to drive and hit them at the same time.

KIRK  
Is there some sign that says  
"Please fart in Kirk's van?"

More laughs. Eventually he stops paying attention to the road.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD - SKY VIEW

The Van is swerving all over the place. Coming up behind the van is Stevens' Oldsmobile.

Not too far off coming towards them are Casey and Will's cars. They get closer and closer, the Van still driving recklessly.

CUT TO:

INT. CASEY'S CAR - SAME

Casey snaps out of it.

CASEY  
What the fuck?!

CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD - SAME

The Van and the Pinto are just about to crash into each other. Just right before collision, the pinto swerves to the left missing it BUT can't dodge going off a BRIDGE.

(CONTINUED)

The SUV isn't as quick. It smashes head first into the van. A loud BOOM follows. The Oldsmobile tries to stop but the brakes give out and it SLAMS right into the back of the VAN.

The SUV has been compacted in a good couple of feet, almost destroying entire front half of the car. The Van is also badly damaged, the front grilling is smoking pretty heavily. There is barely a front half left for the Oldsmobile.

Beat. Nothing happens. The cars continue to sit there. Both cars continue to smoke. No one is getting out of the cars.

FADE TO BLACK.

(THE SONG FADE AWAY)

TO BE CONTINUED...

END OF EPISODE