MAN/CHILD

Written By:

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FADE IN:

INT. CHERYL’S WOMB WITH BABY FETUS

In the womb of CHERYL, we see a baby fetus. We can hear a heartbeat, the scene lights in and out from each beat. It is just pure silence on the baby fetus. We maintain the scene for over 2 minutes and take in the silence, nothing but the heartbeat rhythmically beating.

INT. CHERYL’S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

The scene opens with sudden noise, we can hear a loud party outside the bathroom. We hear people yelling and singing, this should be a stark contrast to the opening scene inside the womb. We see 5 year old JACOB, small, brown hair and blue eyes. He is playing in the bath with toys. He is happy and content.

INT. CHERYL’S HOUSE - LOUNGE - NIGHT

We see CHERYL singing "4 Non blonds - What’s going on?", she has the audience of a few male members of the party. She is hanging off random men and smoking. She is having fun.

INT. CHERYL’S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

We return to JACOB, we hear a knock at the bathroom door and RICHARD walks in. RICHARD is an older Maori man, he has a mustache and is the epitome of 80s throwback.

RICHARD
Hey little man, you must be
CHERYL’S boy. I’m a friend of your
mums, I’m not scary.

The scene shows the two of them in the bathroom. RICHARD stares at JACOB, this scene should keep focus on the two of them and attention should be paid to the time RICHARD spends looking at JACOB. A knock at the door startles RICHARD and he comes back to reality. RICHARD opens the door

RICHARD
CHERYL’S boy is in here.

He walks out quickly and we see CHERYL finishing the last part of the song. RICHARD walks up and starts flirting with CHERYL. CHERYL is receptive to RICHARD’S flirting and the two spend the night talking to each other.
INT. CHERYL’S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

The night continues on and JACOB hops out of the bath, dries himself and puts on his own clothes. He leaves the towel on the ground and walks out of the bathroom.

CHERYL

There’s my boy, there he is. Everyone, everyone shut the fuck up, this is my son JACOB, isn’t he handsome? Of course he is handsome, you all need to watch out, my son is smart too, he’s going to be a fucking doctor. Aren’t you?

JACOB

Mum, can you take me to bed?

CHERYL

Not now boy, can’t you see your mum has a party, she’s got friends she has to take care of. You don’t want me to be rude, do you? Well, do you?!

JACOB

No... okay.

CHERYL

Take yourself to bed and I’ll be in later, okay?

JACOB

okay.

JACOB walks to bed by himself. He checks under his bed and in his closet. He grabs his teddy bear and hops into bed, he puts the teddy bear behind him and spoons with the teddy bear.

JACOB

Good night mum.

He falls to sleep.

EXT. JACOB’S SCHOOL - DAYLIGHT

EXTERNAL SHOT OF SCHOOL
INT. JACOB’S SCHOOL - DAYLIGHT

The scene opens with JACOB waiting outside the principals office. CHERYL comes rushing in

CHERYL
what have you done? You little shit

PRINCIPALS ASSISTANT
Ms. Wright, the principals waiting. Please go in.

CHERYL
You wait here

The principals assistant notices JACOB’S flinch and she wait’s until CHERYL is inside the office. She sits down next to JACOB and smiles.

PRINCIPALS ASSISTANT
Hey JACOB, you’ll be okay. You don’t normally hurt people, are you okay?

JACOB remains silent

PRINCIPALS ASSISTANT
It’s just that I’ve never seen you here before, but you’ve been here 4 times this month. That doesn’t seem like you, are you okay? You can tell me, you won’t get in trouble

JACOB pauses to look at the principals assistants face, he see’s she is kind and warm. He trusts her smile and is about to speak before CHERYL burst out of the principals office.

CHERYL
Thanks for letting me know, I will take care of it. You, get up, I’m taking you home.

PRINCIPALS ASSISTANT
Talk to you later JACOB.

CHERYL
Hurry up, your wasting everybody’s times.

JACOB and CHERYL walk out of the building, she is dragging him along and he is hesitant to go with her.
EXT. JACOB’S SCHOOL – DAYLIGHT

CHERYL
(mockingly mimicking the principals assistant)
"Talk to you later JACOB" - talk about what boy? What lies have you been telling her?

JACOB
Nothing.

CHERYL
What? Speak up!

JACOB
Nothing, mum.

CHERYL
Nothing is right, I don’t know why you do this to me, it’s so selfish, you are so selfish. Four times I have been here picking you up, four times you have made me drive down here. Why?

CHERYL opens the door and JACOB hops into the car, we see RICHARD in the front seat of the car. He smiles at JACOB. JACOB doesn’t look at him, instead looks outside of the window.

CHERYL
I don’t know what’s going on with you boy but you better get your shit together or you’ll soon get a hiding. Did you say hello to RICHARD? Say hello!

RICHARD
He might need some medicine CHERYL

CHERYL
You’re not fucking wrong about that. Say hello JACOB

JACOB
Hello.

CHERYL
I have to go back to work, RICHARD is going to watch you and if you start acting up I swear to god you will get some medicine, do you hear me?

(CONTINUED)
JACOB
Why can’t you watch me?

CHERYL
Are you ears not working? I said I have to go to work, fucking WINZ.

JACOB
Can’t I come with you?

CHERYL
Don’t ask stupid questions plus you should be lucky that RICHARD even wants to look after you. He is making my life easier, trying to help out and you should be grateful.

JACOB
If the other mums at school liked you I could hang out with their kids.

CHERYL reaches back behind the car and slaps JACOB across the face

CHERYL
Look what you made me do. Other mums, the other mums all like to pretend they’re better than me, looking down on me, judging me. You don’t know shit

JACOB remains silent after the slap, he doesn’t show emotion. He looks out the window and disappears into his imagination. He watches other kids with their parents and they are all smiling, happy. The car pulls up to the house, it is a run down state housing place. RICHARD and JACOB hop out of the car.

EXT. CHERYL’S HOME - DAYLIGHT

CHERYL
I’ll see you after work honey

RICHARD
See you later hun.

CHERYL
thank you for looking after him, I’ll make it up to you after.

(CONTINUED)
CHERYL smiles and drives off. RICHARD and JACOB walk into the house and RICHARD hops on the couch. JACOB goes up into his room and starts reading, an hour later RICHARD calls him.

RICHARD
Boy, come down here.

JACOB hears him and ignores him

RICHARD
I’m not going to say it again, come down here.

JACOB gets up and walks downstairs

RICHARD
Here’s five dollars, go down the road to the dairy and go get some lollies for us.

JACOB stares at him curiously and walks down the stairs and grabs the five dollars from him

RICHARD
what do you say?

JACOB
Thank you.

RICHARD
Not hard was it? Go on

EXT. CHERYL’S HOME – DAYLIGHT

JACOB is walking to the Dairy and he see’s a local boy, he is a Maori boy and is riding around on his bike. He has no shoes on and JACOB smiles at him

LEON
Hey, what you up to?

JACOB
me?

LEON
yeah, where you going?
JACOB
To the dairy

LEON
Can I come with you?

JACOB
I don’t care.

LEON
You don’t really talk much do you?

JACOB just looks at him and keep’s walking

LEON
My mum say’s that I talk too much, she said I talk lots but I have selective hearing. Whatever that means. How much money you got there?

JACOB shows him the five dollar note

LEON
what a rich fella, put that away before someone see’s it

JACOB smiles at LEON and continues walking whilst LEON rides along. They walk into the dairy and JACOB grabs 5 $1 bag’s of lollies. He gives the money to the cashier and walks out. He sits down outside and LEON is about to bike away

JACOB
Which one is your favorite?

LEON
I like the planes

JACOB grabs out the planes from the lolly bag and hands it to LEON

LEON
I like the milk bottles too

JACOB grabs out the milk bottles as well. They sit and eat lollies outside the dairy

LEON
I’m LEON, what’s your name?

JACOB
JACOB.

(CONTINUED)
LEON
That’s a flash as name, are you a flash guy?

JACOB
No.

LEON
I bet you’re lying, bet you got millions of dollars and your hiding it all.

JACOB
No...

LEON
yeah yeah.

JACOB laughs at LEON. They start walking back to JACOB’S house.

LEON
That’s my house up there, with the cars.

JACOB
The one with the broken cars?

LEON
Yeah, but dad says they are work in progress, he is just getting around to fix them. He say’s that but mum told me that they are more likely to win lotto then him fixing up those cars. Let’s hang out again, tomorrow after school?

JACOB
Okay, maybe, I’ll try. I think I’m going to get in trouble for eating a bag already.

LEON
Aw, that’s easy to fix, pass the lollies here.

He grabs little bits of lollies from each bag and puts them into the empty white bag

LEON
when your parents ask about the lollies just tell them that those Indians are getting cheaper, they

(MORE)
CONTINUED:

LEON (cont’d)
don’t make the bags like they use
to

JACOB
what does that mean?

LEON
I don’t know, but I’ve heard my
brother say that to my mum and he
didn’t get a hiding when he ate
half the lollies

JACOB smiles at LEON’S resourcefulness and he waves him
goodbye. JACOB walks slowly and he notices the open drainage
with all the greenery built around it. He see’s a butterfly
and stops to look at it, he smiles and carries on walking
home. Before he enters the house, he pauses and closes his
eyes. He opens the door and walks in.

INT. CHERYL’S HOUSE - LOUNGE - EVENING

RICHARD is sitting down watching TV, he is about to put a
VHS in and notices JACOB

    RICHARD
    About time, where you been boy?

    JACOB
    Sorry.

    RICHARD
    Don’t need to be sorry boy, I’m not scary.

He lifts JACOB up and puts him on his knees

    RICHARD
    See, I’m nice?

He starts making funny faces and JACOB smiles

    RICHARD
    Told you, me and you can be
friends, you know? We could just be
friends you and me. Hmm? What do
you think about that? Would you
like to be friends?

JACOB pauses, he doesn’t really know what to say

(CONTINUED)
RICHARD
Friends get lollies boy, do you
like lollies?

JACOB shakes his head in agreement

RICHARD
So, we can be friends?

JACOB
OK.

RICHARD
So where are the lollies?

JACOB grabs the lollies out and RICHARD notices how small
the bags are

RICHARD
Did you eat some, boy?

JACOB
No, the Indians have made the bags
smaller

RICHARD
That would be right, that’s typical
fucking Indians for you.

RICHARD and JACOB watch the Maori channel news, JACOB
eventually goes up to his room when RICHARD has fallen to
sleep. About half an hour later RICHARD calls him downstairs

RICHARD
Boy, come down here please.

JACOB starts walking downstairs, he see’s on TV there are
two naked people having sex, although he doesn’t understand
fully what it is that he is looking at. RICHARD pauses the
VHS

RICHARD
Come down here boy, I want to show
you something but it’s only a
secret, between me and you. Can you
keep a secret?

JACOB pauses and studies his face

RICHARD
This is what friends do for each
other boy.

(CONTINUED)
JACOB nods his head, he walks next to RICHARD. He presses play on the porn video.

RICHARD
Do you know what that is, boy?

JACOB shakes his head

RICHARD
That’s a lady’s pussy. They are playing a game with each other.

RICHARD starts rubbing himself, he is looking at JACOB. The scene goes to black with only the audio

RICHARD
We’re going to play a game, okay? Touch this here, go on, touch it. That’s it.

The scene closes with the dramatising voice of the porn actress. The scene opens up with the shot of JACOB inside his mother’s womb, his heartbeat slowly rising and falling, the light in the shot dropping at each beat.

INT. JACOB’S IMAGINATION

The scene opens up on JACOB reading, he is in a completely dark room, a spotlight highlights him. He looks around and starts running, he hits the darkness and falls over, he gets up again to start running and keeps hitting the darkness.

EXT. THE STREET OUTSIDE CHERYL’S HOUSE - DAYLIGHT

JACOB plays by himself, he is running up and down the road when LEON spots him.

LEON
JACOB! JACOB! bro, it’s me. Want to come over to my house?

JACOB looks around and notices that CHERYL isn’t watching him, he nods his head and starts following LEON up the road.

LEON
Are you okay bro? You look funny or do you always look like that? Hmmm?
CONTINUED:

JACOB keeps walking, and doesn’t say anything to LEON. They arrive outside the house. We see a Bob Marley flag hanging on the deck and some broken down cars. The house is a two story one. JACOB walks in the house, he can smell food cooking

LEON
mum’s making fry bread, but good luck because she never gives us any to after.

JACOB walks into the lounge and he see’s LEON’S parents, he hears the Maori channel playing. AROHA is in the kitchen kneading the dough, she has the pot of oil boiling and some fry bread is out on a plate.

LEON
Mum and dad, this is JACOB, he’s the flash as guy I was telling you about.

AROHA
Hi JACOB.

AROHA comes up to hug JACOB and wraps both her arms around him and kisses him on the cheek.

WINSTON
Kia ora, boy

LEON
He doesn’t talk much.

LEON tries grabbing one of the fry breads off the plate but AROHA notices

AROHA
If you don’t put that back you’ll get a hiding. Do you hear me?

LEON
JACOB said he wanted to try one, he said it smelt good.

AROHA
aww, are you hungry JACOB?

LEON looks at JACOB with a gesture that indicates he wants him to nod and agree

JACOB
yes, please. If that’s okay.
AROHA
Do you see WINSTON, why don’t our kids talk like that?

LEON
I always ask nicely.

AROHA
LEON, I told you about lying. Well if you’re hungry boy, hop up I’ll make you a plate. Have you ever had kinas?

JACOB shakes his head

AROHA
Well lucky for you my older boys just came back from getting some. You can try some with the fry bread. You a Maori boy?

JACOB nods

AROHA
And you’ve never had kinas? You’ve been living a deprived life boy. I’ll fix that though.

JACOB
Thank you.

AROHA
Oh my goodness, you can stay, maybe I’ll swap you out for this one here

LEON
stink mum.

AROHA
Aww I’m kidding you little rat, you know I love you.

She grabs LEON and starts kissing him all over. He smiles and starts pushing away with laughter. JACOB doesn’t know how to react but he finds himself smiling and he stops himself. AROHA goes back to serving up some fry bread and Kina to JACOB and LEON. JACOB looks at the plate and grabs it. He takes the first bite and JACOB finishes the whole thing in less than a minute. AROHA, WINSTON and LEON look at him in shock. He looks at AROHA and smiles. She smiles back at him.

(CONTINUED)
AROHA
Why don’t you stay for dinner? LEON and you can go ask your mum

JACOB
My mum is at work, she doesn’t come back to later. She won’t mind.

AROHA
Who’s looking after you?

JACOB
My mums friend RICHARD, but he won’t let me.

AROHA
You know what, I’ll go ask with you. C’mon, WINSTON, WINSTON! Can you watch this pot of oil, I’m just going to pop down the road okay

AROHA, LEON and JACOB walk down the road and AROHA arrives at the door, She knocks at the door. JACOB grabs her hand as the door opens. She holds onto it but is confused

RICHARD
Who are you?

AROHA
I’m AROHA, I’m LEON’S mum, we live up the road. JACOB is friends with LEON

RICHARD
There you are, boy? I was looking for you.

AROHA
My husband and me were just wondering if it would be okay if JACOB could spend dinner at our house.

RICHARD
aww that sounds nice but he can’t, his mum doesn’t like him to be out too late, you know

AROHA
He will be well looked after and we are just up the road.
CONTINUED:

RICHARD
Sorry, no, he has to be here but thanks anyway. Come on boy.

JACOB squeezes AROHA’S hand, she senses something is off and as RICHARD moves to grab JACOB, she moves in front of him

AROHA
I’ll bring him back before sunset.

RICHARD sensing that AROHA has authority over him, moves away and back behind the door line. The power of the scene shifts to AROHA and suddenly she is in charge of the dynamic.

RICHARD
Make sure he gets back before 7.

AROHA
Of course, tell JACOB’S mum to stop by if she wants to meet us.

RICHARD
I’ll do that.

AROHA
Good.

JACOB, LEON and AROHA walk away, JACOB looks back and sees RICHARD looking at him. He is furious at JACOB. They three of them are quiet on the way back, JACOB is still holding AROHA’S hand. She seems worried and stressed. They arrive back at their family home.

AROHA
Dinner will be ready soon, you boys go play in the room okay, don’t annoy your brother LEON okay.

The whole family is eating at the table and AROHA is there looking at JACOB, she tries to hide her concern and smiles when JACOB looks at her.

WINSTON
Do you like the Kai, boy?

JACOB
Yes sir.

RUANUKU
"Sir" what? (laughs) Where did he come from?

(CONTINUED)
WINSTON
He knows to respect his elders, unlike you, you little shit. We pray every day you don’t come back from school expelled, you could learn from JACOB, hmmm?

LEWIS
Shame nuk’s

AROHA
Do you want to get started on you? Just eat your dinner. We’re glad you like the food JACOB. You know, you’re welcome here anytime you want, boy.

LEON
Yeah that would be cool

We hear a car pulling up outside the house. JACOB puts his back up, he knows it’s his mum.

AROHA
Who’s that?

JACOB
I think it’s my mum.

AROHA
Oh good, she came.

AROHA walks down stairs to open the door on CHERYL who is banging on the door

AROHA
Hel...

CHERYL
Where the hells my son?

AROHA
He’s upstairs eating dinner.

CHERYL
He has food at home.

AROHA
Oh yeah, I didn’t say you didn’t have food it’s just him and LEON are friends and we wanted him over for dinner. He is a very good boy.

(CONTINUED)
CHERYL
Is he now? Try having him as a child.

AROHA
You know, we would be happy..

CHERYL
Where the hell is my son? Hmmmm
JACOB?? JACOB COME DOWNSTAIRS NOW!
HURRY UP YOU LITTLE SHIT

AROHA
I’m AROHA, what’s your name?

CHERYL
CHERYL, if you don’t get my son now
I will call the police.

AROHA
JACOB wait a second.

CHERYL
What the fuck are you doing? Are you serious right now? I get home and my partner tells me that you took my son without his consent for dinner? Who the fuck do you think you are? Hmm

AROHA
First of all, you are raising your voice and this is my house. If you want to do this, if you want to make a scene then I will take care of it.

CHERYL
You’ll take care of it huh? I have just finished a 11 hour shift, you don’t want to start shit with me bitch.

AROHA shuts the door calmly

AROHA
My dad was in mongrel mob, I grew up around that shit. You want to talk anger, I know anger, I know anger you can only have nightmares about. So if you raise your voice in my house again, I’ll show you what real anger looks like. See, (MORE)

(CONTINUED)
AROHA (cont’d)
you’re a hard bitch, I respect that, but your son was practically shitting himself going back to that boyfriend of yours.

CHERYL
Who the fuck are you? You don’t know shit!

JACOB
Mum, please stop yelling. I’ll go home

AROHA
I’ll see you around JACOB, remember what I said

CHERYL
Thanks a fucking lot.

AROHA
Is that how you talk around your kids? Nice.

CHERYL
Oh fuck off, you don’t know shit. get in the fucking car JACOB. JACOB!!!! In this fucking car, now

JACOB
Sorry Ms. AROHA.

AROHA
don’t apologise, go before your mum starts yelling again.

JACOB hops in the car and his mum says nothing. He is scared.

EXT. CHERYL’S HOME - NIGHTTIME

The scene opens on a stark quiet night, we can hear CHERYL yelling and suddenly we can hear JACOB yelling

(CONTINUED)
If you want to be a smart ass, you can be treated like one. Want to be a smart ass?

JACOB is receiving a beating and he is screaming, we can hear smacks but the scene has gone to black and it’s only audio.

INT. CHERYL’S WOMB WITH BABY FETUS

The scene goes quiet and we hear JACOB’S heartbeat, the scene goes darker with each heartbeat.

EXT. CHERYL’S HOME - DAYLIGHT

Three weeks pass. JACOB is playing, he see’s LEON and they smile at each other. LEON starts walking over and JACOB walks back into the house. LEON looks at him and it goes quiet between the two of them.

INT. PUB - DAYLIGHT

The scene opens up to the sound of slot machines going off, we see JACOB drinking raspberry soda. He is mindlessly playing with $2 coins. CHERYL is on the slot machine and has eyes fixated on the machine. Her face should be almost zombie-like and unresponsive.

JACOB
Mum, can we please go? We’ve been here for ages.

CHERYL is unresponsive again and continues playing.

JACOB
Mum, please, can we go?

CHERYL
baby, we can go soon. Here, take some money and go across the road to woolworths, go get yourself something to eat.

JACOB
Mum!

CHERYL
Go on.
CHERYL grabs ten dollars worth of two dollar coins and shoves it into JACOB’S hand. JACOB scowls and walks off across the street. He journeys through the bread section and grabs some buns, he makes his way to the deli

DELI WORKER
What can I get you little man?

JACOB
Can I please get two dollars worth of luncheon and one dollars worth of that ham there.

DELI WORKER
sure thing.

JACOB grabs the items from the deli worker and heads around to the condiment section, grabs a small pouch of tomato sauce and makes his way through the checkout. He makes his way to the park behind the supermarket and sits down to make his luncheon, tomato sauce sandwich. The camera should follow him from behind, indicating his isolation and having his back to the audience. JACOB is alone, he is distant from the other kids playing and absorbed into his own world. JACOB returns to the pub and can see that CHERYL has come into a lot of money.

JACOB
Are you winning, mum?

CHERYL
yes, finally some fucking good luck.

JACOB
We should go now, while you’ve got money mum.

CHERYL
No, I can’t go now, because the machine is about to turn out another win and if I leave those other vultures will jump on and get a win. A win that could be ours, hmmm? If mum wins some more we can go to Valentines? Hmmm? You like valentines don’t you, boy?

JACOB
Mum lets just go now.
CHERYL
I said no, go get a drink before you get a smack

JACOB
Mum please let’s go or else you’ll lose it all like last time.

CHERYL
keep your voice down.

JACOB
NO!

CHERYL
Excuse me?

JACOB
I want to go home, I’ve been here for ages.

CHERYL
Good, I’ve got some free spins. Come with me.

By now a few of the women are looking at CHERYL with disapproval. They can see she is neglecting JACOB. CHERYL drags JACOB outside.

CHERYL
Why are you trying to make my life so hard? Hmm what’s wrong with you boy?

JACOB
I just want to go home, it’s boring here and I don’t want you to lose that money.

CHERYL
We’ll go home in half an hour, I promise.

JACOB
You said that an hour ago.

CHERYL
Well now I mean it, just let me breathe for fuck sakes. Here’s the key, go wait in the car.
JACOB walks to the car, he is waiting for CHERYL and goes into himself. It’s late out and CHERYL is still inside. A worker from the bar can see JACOB in the car and walks up to him.

EXT. PUB - NIGHT TIME

DIONNE
Hey man, are you alright?

JACOB doesn’t say anything.

DIONNE
I’m Dionne, you can call me Dee. Is your mum still inside?

JACOB still doesn’t say anything.

DIONNE
Wait here, I’ll be back in a sec.

She rushes inside and is gone for a couple of minutes, she comes back with a container. She knocks on the door

DIONNE
This is some food, don’t tell anyone but I took it from the kitchen.

JACOB smiles

DIONNE
It’s for you, so I’ll just leave it here and if you want it you can grab it.

She walks away and JACOB unlocks the door and grabs the food. She smiles at him and he smiles back.

DIONNE
It’s pretty good, I mean for pub food. Well it’s not shit. You don’t really talk much, do you? That’s okay, I don’t normally talk much either. We’re the good ones, you know? We watch people, we’re smarter. Soon when you’re older you can get out of this shit town and not worry about waiting for anyone, you can just go anywhere and be anyone you want to be, you know? I have to go back to work, I wasted (MORE)

(CONTINUED)
DIONNE (cont’d)
my ciggy break talking to thin air. Take care kid, make sure to get rid of that box before your mum gets back.

Dionne is walking away

JACOB
Thank you.

DIONNE
Don’t mention it kid. Seriously, don’t say anything.

She smiles and walks away. JACOB finishes the food and throws the container out the window, he opens all the windows to air out the smell. He is waiting in the car, he wakes up and he is being carried to bed by CHERYL.

EXT. CHERYL’S HOME - DAYLIGHT

RICHARD rides up to the house in a Harley and CHERYL runs outside

CHERYL
Oh my god babe, what is that?

RICHARD
It’s only a fucking Harley (laughs).

CHERYL.
It’s beautiful

RICHARD
I know, right? It’s pretty choice.

CHERYL
How did you afford it?

RICHARD
Don’t worry about that, one of my mates invited us out for a weekend poker run, you want to come with?

CHERYL
Oh my god yes.

RICHARD
What about the boy?

(CONTINUED)
CHERYL
I’ll deal with him, just wait here.

RICHARD
Don’t take all day!

CHERYL walks into the house where JACOB is playing solitaire on the table. CHERYL grabs some money out of her wallet. It’s fifty dollars.

CHERYL
Hey honey, are you okay?

JACOB
Are you going out?

CHERYL
Mummy is going out for a little bit, maybe for the night.

JACOB
Are you going to come back this week?

CHERYL
Of course I will, don’t be a drama queen.

JACOB
Why do you always have to go out? Can’t you stay here with me, you promised me.

CHERYL
I know, but we can go out tomorrow, don’t make me feel bad about this? Hey, look at me.

CHERYL grabs his face with her hands

CHERYL
Don’t you want mum to be happy? Hmmm? Don’t you want me to have fun? Go see your friend up the road and buy some dinner, just leave the change okay? I love you, I’ll see you later my honey. Lock the door and don’t let strangers in, okay?

She kisses JACOB on the cheek and runs out with her bag. JACOB watches as she drives off with RICHARD. We see JACOB isolated again, he returns back to playing solitaire. The scene cuts to him watching television, he is noticeably

(Continued)
bored. It is dark outside and CHERYL still hasn’t come home. He decides to pack his pajamas and walk up the road. He knocks on the door and AROHA answers.

AROHA
JACOB - are you okay? Where’s your mum, boy?

JACOB
She went on a poker run.

AROHA
Did she?

JACOB
Can I please stay here the night?

AROHA
Of course you can, come in, it’s freezing out here.

JACOB walks inside

AROHA
Put your bag in LEON’S room, okay?

JACOB nods and walks upstairs and walks into LEON’S room. LEON looks surprised to see him. He is playing Sega Sonic on an old square box television unit.

JACOB
Hey.

LEON
Far out what are you doing here? I thought your mum said we can’t hang out.

JACOB
My mum is out for the night.

LEON
With that creepy fella?

JACOB
Yeah.

LEON
Sweet, are you staying the night?

JACOB
Yeah.

(CONTINUED)
LEON
aww mean, you can sleep on the
bottom bunk. Hey, you want to play
two player, it’s sonic.

JACOB
okay.

AROHA walks into the room

AROHA
Have you had some Kai?

JACOB looks confused, LEON noticing is quick to respond.

LEON
She means food, you white Maori.

AROHA
Enough of that LEON, are you
hungry, boy?

JACOB
That’s okay, I already had some
food.

AROHA
Okay, but if you get hungry, just
tell me okay. Not too late, boys,
okay?

She hugs both JACOB and LEON. LEON goes back to playing SEGA
and JACOB looks around LEON’S room. LEON has lots of sports
awards and rugby balls everywhere. He has a signed poster of
Tana Umanga on his wall. JACOB is amazed at the achievements
of LEON.

JACOB
Are those all your awards?

LEON
Yeah, most of them are mine, some
are my brothers from when he use to
live here.

JACOB
Where is he now?

LEON
Prison, but mum keeps saying he is
on holiday away but I overheard my
older brothers saying he was in
prison because he hit his
girlfriend or something.

(CONTINUED)
JACOB
oh.

LEON
Are you playing? Do you want to be sonic or tails?

JACOB
I’ll be tails.

LEON
Sweet, Sonic is faster you know?

JACOB
No, I think they are the same.

LEON
yeah nah.

JACOB smiles at LEON and starts playing the SEGA again.

EXT. CREEK NEAR LEON’S HOUSE – DAYLIGHT

An aerial shot opens over the area that JACOB lives in, it’s rural New Zealand, far away from the rest of civilsation. It feels isolated, quaint, beautiful. We transition the shot to the creek near LEON’S house, they are grabbing Wild Watercress from the creek.

JACOB
So, why are we here?

LEON
Mum want’s us to get the watercress and this is the best spot.

JACOB
So you eat this stuff?

LEON
Yeah. Man you really are the whitest Maori I know. This is for a boil up, man you are going to love mums boil up. The dough boys are the best, and that fat as pork bones hmmmmmm.

He starts making a gesture of sucking his fingers in premature satisfaction of his upcoming meal and smiles at JACOB.

(CONTINUED)
LEON
There’s something really cool about getting food from here, it’s like we are in the wild you know? Like warriors, getting our food, like they use to back in the day, before all the Pakeha took over. Put your feet in, it’s not deep, look.

LEON shows JACOB for reference how deep the water is, JACOB braves it and walks in. The water runs through his feet and JACOB feels alive, he feels connected to the water. It is a spiritual moment of silence and he stares at his feet and watches as the water passes through, as the current pushes him as if it is challenging him to stay still. The audio for this scene should just be his breathing and the faint sound of water passing and breaking. We hear LEON’S voice fade in -

LEON
Are you listening to me? Helloo??!

JACOB
Yeah, I’m here, what?

LEON
Start grabbing some watercress you egg. You’re a strange one JACOB. Are you alright?

JACOB nods his head and they return to grabbing watercress - the scene shows them plucking it all out. Once they have enough watercress, they lead through a paddock of overgrown grass and lie down in it. They are looking up at the grass.

INT. LEON’S HOUSE - NIGHTTIME - LOUNGE

The scene opens up with the camera looking over a plate, AROHA scoops some boil-up into the plate. We see JACOB anxiously await his dinner. He takes the boil up to the table to join the rest of the kids. Fry bread is in the middle of the table and Watties tomato sauce is placed in the center. JACOB takes his seat and starts eating the boil up with the same conviction of a homeless man eating his first hot meal. Everyone is impressed by his ability to eat an adult sized meal in under five minutes. JACOB and LEON are doing the dishes and playing around. JACOB and LEON make there way to the bedroom and talk the rest of the night until they fall to sleep. The next morning comes and JACOB wakes up with a smile on his face. He makes his way to the kitchen to grab a glass of water and he can hear his mum’s car pulling up, he knows that she is going to make a scene (CONTINUED)
again so he writes a "thank you" note and places it on the
bench and grabs his stuff. He doesn’t want to wake anyone up
so he quietly sneaks out. His mum, who looks disheveled and
worse for wear, is waiting out by the car.

CHERYL
Don’t worry, I’m not going to make
you embarrassed.

JACOB doesn’t say anything and hops in the car.

CHERYL
Don’t be that way boy, look, mummy
loves you, I love you, you know?
You are so fucking beautiful my
little boy, so beautiful, yeah. I
don’t want you to be mad but I
needed some me time, I needed a
break, you know?

JACOB
You always say you need a break,
you always say that you need "me"
time. I don’t care.

CHERYL
You make me need a break, you
aren’t the easiest child, you know?
Try and understand it from my point
of view honey, hmmm? Can you do
that, can you just understand that?

JACOB doesn’t respond

CHERYL
Did you have fun at your friends?
Leo?

JACOB
LEON

CHERYL
all right, fuck, sorry. Do you
think I’m a bad mum? Do you?

CHERYL starts crying and pulls the car over, JACOB is caught
off guard.

CHERYL
I’m sorry, mummy doesn’t mean to be
a bad mum, I’m sorry boy.

(Continued)
JACOB
Don’t cry mummy, please stop crying.

He unbuckles his belt and grabs her and hugs her

JACOB
I’m sorry mummy, I’m sorry I didn’t mean to make you cry. Please stop crying, I’m sorry.

CHERYL
Because I’m trying my hardest, I’m trying my best and all I do is let you down.

JACOB
No you don’t, you are a good mum, I’m sorry mum, I’m sorry

INT. CHERYL’S WOMB WITH BABY FETUS

The scene goes quiet and we hear JACOB’S heartbeat, the scene goes darker with each heartbeat. We can hear JACOB saying "sorry" over and over as the scene goes darker.

EXT. RURAL COUNTRY SIDE - DAYLIGHT

The scene opens with JACOB inside a car, he is watching two flies trying to escape out the window, they are buzzing and JACOB is fascinated by the two of them. He end’s up opening the window and lets the flies out. CHERYL and RICHARD are in the front talking. The song "How Bizarre" is playing by OMC.

INT. CHERYL’S HOUSE - JACOB’S BEDROOM - NIGHT TIME

JACOB can overhear RICHARD and CHERYL arguing. He walks out and can see through the gap that RICHARD has brought a friend and he has a cord around his arm along with some needles out on the table

CHERYL
I don’t want any of that shit in my house. I’ve got my son here

RICHARD
baby, who gives a shit about him, what’s he done for us?

(CONTINUED)
CHERYL
I don’t want that shit here Richy

RICHARD
I don’t give a fuck

CHERYL
Get that shit out of my house, go on, fuck off with that stuff

RICHARD
What the fuck did you say to me?

RICHARD grabs CHERYL’S hair and punches her in the stomach. JACOB’S heart starts beating and he is frozen, he doesn’t know what to do.

RICHARD
Stop crying, get the fuck up, get lippy with me. Try and tell me what to do again bitch, go on!

JACOB runs into the room, his heart is beating

JACOB
Leave my mum alone

RICHARD
(laughing) Look who’s a big man, hmmm? Come to protect your mum, have you? Go back to your room, you little shit! Go on, before I give you some of the same medicine your mum got.

JACOB
I’m going to call the police

RICHARD
I dare you to fucking do it, go on, I’ll kill your mum if you say anything.

He grabs CHERYL’S hair and pulls her up

CHERYL
I’m okay, look, I’m up, go back to bed, mummy’s okay.

RICHARD
Yeah, go on you little shit, go run to your room. Only real men here.
JACOB returns to his room and shuts the door. He moves his draws up against the door and throws as much heavy items against it. He goes to the other end of the room and sits in the corner. He heart is beating heavier and heavier. The scene ends there until the next morning, when he hears a knock at his door.

INT. CHERYL’S HOUSE - JACOB’S BEDROOM - MORNING

CHERYL is knocking at the door and JACOB wakes up instantly when he hears the knock.

CHERYL
Honey, its me, open up the door, c’mon, open it up for me boy. Don’t make me say it again.

JACOB
Are you by yourself?

CHERYL
Just open it, you weren’t meant to be up so late, why were you up so late? Hmmm? You were a bad boy yesterday.

JACOB opens his door after moving everything from the door. CHERYL has a black eye and some bruises on her arm. JACOB doesn’t know what to say

CHERYL
These? Oh these are nothing boy, I wouldn’t worry about these.

JACOB
Are you okay mum?

CHERYL
Me, I’m okay, made of tougher stuff then a few small bruises.

CHERYL sits down on the floor

CHERYL
I’m sorry you had to see that, but, mummy needs you to do something for me.

JACOB
what?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

CHERYL
Mummy needs you to keep what happened yesterday a secret, okay? Can you do that for me, can you keep that a secret?

JACOB
Why?

CHERYL
Do you love mummy?

JACOB nods

CHERYL
If you really love me you will keep that a secret, okay? Because what goes on in this house isn’t anyone Else’s business, okay? Do you love me? Say it.

JACOB
I love you mum

CHERYL grabs JACOB

CHERYL
You are such a good boy, such a smart boy. You are such a smart boy, my smart boy.

CHERYL tries to hold back her tears and the scene closes on the both of them.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAYLIGHT

JACOB is waiting outside the doctors office and CHERYL leaves the office crying. The doctor has informed her that the blow to the stomach, coupled with the new usage of methamphetamine has caused her to have miscarriage, she was unaware that she was pregnant to RICHARD. She wipes the tears off and barks at JACOB

CHERYL
Hurry the fuck up, come on.

JACOB doesn’t say anything but observes his mum, she puts sunglasses on and heads to the car.
EXT. HOSPITAL CAR PARK - DAYLIGHT

A few moments after we see CHERYL in the car, she and JACOB say nothing, after a few moments of silence, she grabs JACOB’S hands.

CHERYL

It’s just me and you now, okay?

JACOB doesn’t understand what’s happening but he nods

CHERYL

Just me and you

EXT. CHERYL’S HOME - DAYLIGHT

CHERYL has packed all of RICHARD’S things and put them in the driveway. She takes JACOB to AROHA’S house. She knocks on the door and WINSTON answers.

CHERYL

Is your missus here

WINSTON, taken aback from her bruises and panicked look goes to get AROHA. LEON comes downstairs with AROHA

LEON

Hey bro..

AROHA

upstairs now

LEON

but..

AROHA

I’m not going to ask twice

He waves goodbye to JACOB and JACOB waves back.

AROHA

Kia ora

CHERYL

I was wondering, if, umm, if JACOB could stay here for the night

AROHA

You coming back?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

CHERYL
Never mind, I don’t know why..

AROHA
Sorry, yes, of course that’s okay. Why don’t you go upstairs to LEON? Sure he’ll be happy to see you.

JACOB hugs his Mum and looks at her anxiously

CHERYL
Go on, hurry up.

He makes his way upstairs, the scene stays on AROHA and CHERYL

AROHA
You all right?

CHERYL
I have some shit I need to sort out

okay

CHERYL
okay

The two stare at each other and say nothing. CHERYL walks to the car and AROHA shuts the door.

EXT. CHERYL’S HOME - NIGHTTIME

Later on that evening, RICHARD pulls up on his Harley, he sees his things outside. He goes to open the door but it’s locked. He starts banging the door, he should look like the side effects of ’P’ have started to take its toll. He is erratic and angry and starts pounding the door.

RICHARD
Let me in baby. What’s happening?

CHERYL is behind the door

CHERYL
No. Fuck off

Her voice should be broken and timid, she is frightened.

RICHARD
Come on baby, let me in, come on, Is this about the other night. I

(MORE)
RICHARD (cont’d)
fucked up okay, I fucking fucked up. You know I love you, you know I care for you.

CHERYL
Just fuck off and don’t come back

RICHARD
You don’t mean that, you’re just mad

CHERYL
You killed my baby, you killed my baby you fucking piece of shit

RICHARD
I never laid a hand on your son

CHERYL
Not him you fucking asshole, you killed my baby! I had a baby and you killed it.

RICHARD
You were pregnant?

CHERYL
With your child you fucking pig

RICHARD
You killed my child?

He starts banging on the door harder and starts kicking the door

CHERYL
Not me, not me, you, you did this! You killed my baby, not me you fucking asshole!

RICHARD
I’ll kill you for killing our baby

CHERYL
Not me!

She has broken down and is crying.

AROHA comes around the corner with a bat

(CONTINUED)
AROHA
Oi! Why don’t you get on your fucking Harley and piss off down the road

RICHARD
What the fuck are you going to do?

She grabs the bat and swings it at him, she knocks him over, she pushes him down off the porch. He is down on the ground. He tries to get up

AROHA
fucking men like you are all bark till someone actually tries it. You hard as fuck, hmmm? You hard as fuck?

She swings the bat at him again, he gets up to try and punch her

AROHA
I don’t fucking think so, try it, try it, go on!

She takes another swing at his crotch.

AROHA
Take your shit and fuck off, if you turn up here again, I’ll get some of my friends and we’ll fuck you up you’ll wish you were dead. Go on, get the fuck up. I dare you to try me, GET UP!

He grabs a bag and runs away on the Harley. CHERYL opens the door and AROHA is standing there. They stare at each other, she is shocked but keeps her face neutral.

CHERYL
I..

AROHA
I had an ex once

AROHA smiles briefly. They stare at each other, they say everything through their expressions. Both are contained within their expressions, silences codes the language between them both and the audience should see this. CHERYL shuts the door and locks it, and AROHA heads home.
INT. LEON’S HOUSE - NIGHTTIME - LEON’S BEDROOM

JACOB is crying and LEON can hear him, he goes and sits next to him on the bed

    LEON
    Why you crying?

    JACOB
    I.. my mum.. she..

    LEON
    She’ll be okay man, don’t worry about her

He puts his arms around JACOB

    LEON
    Bro, we’ll go down first thing in the morning, okay?

    JACOB
    Okay

JACOB looks over at LEON, he kisses him quickly and tries to grab his crotch

    LEON
    What was that?

    JACOB
    Sorry..

LEON pauses

    LEON
    I’m not a poofta, you know that, aye?

    JACOB
    I’m sorry, please don’t stop being my friend, please, I’m sorry, I was just playing around. That’s what friends do

    LEON
    Friend’s don’t do that bro, aye.

    JACOB
    I’m sorry

JACOB starts crying and LEON pauses to examine him and then goes to hug him

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

LEON
Don’t kiss me though, that’s what poofs do. Okay?

JACOB
Sorry, okay.

JACOB smiles and starts crying

LEON
I’m still your friend, bro. We’re good as but if you try that again I’ll give you a hiding.

JACOB doesn’t say anything and LEON returns to the top bunk. LEON pauses for a moment

LEON
Far out, I reckon this is the most you’ve ever talked

They start laughing together.

INT. MASSEY UNIVERSITY BUSINESS LECTURE ROOM - DAYLIGHT

The scene opens up on JACOB, the camera should be placed behind him, reinforcing the theme of loneliness. He is sitting in the lecture room, his mind is elsewhere, he is in deep thought. The lecturer is explaining the pros and cons of quantitative easing. His voice is faint in the background. We see JACOB’S face now, he has piercing blue eyes and long curly hair. He has matured into a handsome young adult.

EXT. MASSEY UNIVERSITY - CAR PARK - DAYLIGHT - EVENING

JACOB is walking to his car, it is a run down car that he bought second hand. He hops in it.

INT. AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY HALL APARTMENTS - EVENING

JACOB is visiting his friend who is throwing a party in the main dining area, he is helping set up. We see Alicia (22) brown hair and freckles on her face.

ALICIA
Thanks so much for helping me

(CONTINUED)
JACOB
That’s okay, I’m worried for you though. Do you think you’re going to get in trouble?

ALICIA
Yeah, for having the party here?

JACOB
Yeah

ALICIA
Probably but I really don’t give a fuck. We all need this, you know?

JACOB
Yeah

ALICIA
How’s Massey?

JACOB
The same

ALICIA
Boring?

JACOB
Yeah, pretty much

ALICIA
Cool. Hey, I know crowds aren’t really your thing but thanks for staying tonight

JACOB
It’s fine, honestly. A drink would be nice

ALICIA
I am way too opinionated when I drink, it’s like I suddenly have enough confidence to say what I want to say and sometimes it’s not always nice.

JACOB
In my experience, a drunk tongue is an honest one (he smiles)

ALICIA
Yeah, hard. Ugh, I feel like shit, my face just decided to shit itself

(MORE)
ALICIA (cont’d)
and I broke out all here, can you see it?

JACOB
No, it’s fine honestly. Okay, I think that’s everything. You’ve got food?

ALICIA
yes

JACOB
mixers?

ALICIA
Yes, we might have to get some later though

JACOB
Well everyone else can bring there own so, it’s good

INT. AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY HALL APARTMENTS - LATER ON

Later that evening we see people drinking and talking, some people are playing on the old school arcade machines and "Feel the love" by Rudimental is playing in the background. JACOB is in the kitchen, pouring himself another drink. He is not impressed by what he see’s around him. A group of mixed young adults, some from different social classes hanging out by themselves. He is approached by a guy wearing federation jeans and a Lowa hat that he has on backwards.

RANDOM GUY #1
Hey, you’re friends with Alicia aye?

JACOB
Yeah

RANDOM GUY #1
Are you like her boyfriend or...?

JACOB
No, I’m a flaming homosexual

RANDOM GUY #1
What? Oh cool, that’s cool, I’m cool with that

(CONTINUED)
JACOB
cool

RANDOM GUY #1
So you like dudes?

JACOB
That’s what being gay is, I think.

RANDOM GUY #1
There’s this guy from my econ tutorials who’s gay

JACOB
congratulations

RANDOM GUY #1
So umm, is Alica like keen on me do you know?

JACOB
Keen? On you? I don’t think she’s mentioned you

RANDOM GUY #1
Oh cut throat, just me and her we kind of hang out, you know? We’re both in the same business computer class so..

JACOB
Sounds like a love story waiting to happen

RANDOM GUY #1
What?

JACOB
Nothing, why don’t you go talk to her

RANDOM GUY #1
Yeah, she’s pretty hot though, she could like fuck any guy she wants, aye?

JACOB
Maybe don’t open with that

RANDOM GUY #1
I can’t hear you, what’d you say?
JACOB
Never mind, go talk to her, she’ll be fine

RANDOM GUY #1
Do you think so? Sweet, thanks man.

JACOB
Tell her that you can barely notice her skin with her face, she’ll appreciate that

RANDOM GUY #1
I don’t know what that means but thanks man

JACOB turns around and rolls his eyes and goes to sit down on the rundown chair that is tearing and has blankets thrown over it. He drinks the rest of his wine and grabs his phone out. He is scrolling through his facebook mindlessly. Someone has broken a glass in the background, JACOB looks up to observe who it was and then looks back down at his phone. "212" by Azelia Banks is playing now. There is someone who keeps trying to change the music to "Korn" but gets shut down pretty quickly. A guy approaches him with a 6 pack of Ranfurly drinks. He is wearing a singlet and shorts and flip flops. He is the spitting image of every cliche of a gym buff, not so smart looking. Blond hair which is cut in a military style, he is classically handsome, think 60s golden age actor. JACOB braces himself for another uneventful conversation.

MASON
Hey, do you mind if I sit here?

JACOB
Sure

He sits down

MASON
This party is umm different

JACOB
Not really your scene?

MASON
No, not really

JACOB
Do you prefer to be around people drinking protein shakes?
MASON
Wow

JACOB
I’m sorry, I’m in a shitty mood and it’s not your fault

MASON
It’s cool, I get it. I don’t dig big social things too

JACOB
I didn’t say that

MASON
You’re on your phone at a party, I mean that’s pretty anti-social

JACOB
Okay, thanks for this

MASON
I’m just taking the piss, have a beer with me

JACOB
Ranfurly?

MASON
I like them

JACOB
Really?

MASON
Nah, they’re cheap though

JACOB smiles and grabs a Ranfurly

MASON
So, who do you know here?

JACOB
That girl there

He points to Alicia who is in a large group of people who are smoking outside. She is yelling at the guy JACOB spoke to before. JACOB smiles.

MASON
What the..
CONTINUED: 45.

JACOB
Who do you know here?

MASON
The guy your friend is yelling at

JACOB
He’s your friend?

MASON
Yeah

JACOB
Oh, okay. I umm.. why are you..
friends with him?

MASON
We’ve been friends since we were
kids, we’re tight, he’s legit

JACOB
I feel bad, I kind of set him up to
fail with my friend

MASON
That’s a dick move

JACOB
I told you, I’m in a bad mood

MASON
Fuck, remind me to not get on your
bad side. He can handle it though,
wears his heart on his sleeve that
one

JACOB
Oh, you don’t?

MASON
Wear my heart on my sleeve? Nah, I
got too much shit to do

JACOB
So what do you do, are you in
business with your special friend
there?

MASON
Fuck no, too boring. I’m in IT,
that’s where the real party is

(CONTINUED)
JACOB
Really? Party? That’s where it’s all happening?

MASON
Yeah man, I’m getting bitches left right and center

JACOB
Bitches?

MASON
Sorry, I meant female woman. I forget, we’re in a post modern feminist world now

JACOB
Jezebel will soon publish an article about you

MASON
If they haven’t already

JACOB
Or buzzfeed will do a list about you, "Men to avoid at parties"

MASON
Would you be on there?
"Misanthropic misery spends his time on his phone updating about party he isn’t socialising at".

JACOB
You had me at misanthropic

MASON and JACOB laugh

MASON
I’m MASON

JACOB
JACOB

MASON
I’m outta beer, I’ll be back soon. I saw a bottle shop not so far from here. You could maybe join me, I mean, unless you want to stay on your phone awkwardly?
JACOB
Fine, I don’t see why not

MASON
Coolio

JACOB looks at him strangely

EXT. AUCKLAND STREET – NIGHT TIME

JACOB and MASON are walking to the shop, they are both silent

JACOB
So coolio, that’s a thing you say?

MASON
What’s wrong with "Coolio", Coolio is..

JACOB
Don’t say it

MASON
It’s all coolio

JACOB
Ugh, I feel like I’ve been assaulted

MASON
Assaulted by my awesomeness

JACOB
Now I’m speechless

MASON
Speechless by my..

JACOB
No, just no. Not by anything, like at all

MASON
Hey you’re smiling, that’s a big fucking win. You look better smiling

JACOB
I kind of have this resting bitch face, it’s unfortunate because I feel I am so misunderstood

(CONTINUED)
MASON
 Really?

JACOB
 No, but I like to think I’m more complicated then I am. Adds layers, you know?

MASON
 So I don’t know much about you

JACOB
 We met 30 minutes ago

MASON
 But it feels like a life time

JACOB
 What?

MASON
 I’m fucking with you, man "why so serious?" (Joker voice)

JACOB laughs

MASON
 Sooo... If you could erase one food from this world, what would it be?

JACOB
 That’s easy, Mi-Goreng noodles

MASON
 Why?

JACOB
 I’ve basically lived off those for the two years I’ve been at uni and I have this deep love/hate relationship with those noodles. Like on one hand, I know they are shit, but on the other hand, they’re like $5 for a 12 pack. Throw in a can of tuna and some frozen veggies and you have yourself a meal. If you kinda of blink really hard you can see it’s a kind of substantial meal

MASON
 Ugh, I hate those because noodles should be easy, you know? I

(MORE)
MASON (cont’d)  
shouldn’t have to mix in three sachets just for fucking noodles.

JACOB  
Right? And don’t even get me started on noodles, I am still harboring a deep hatred since they switched ’Maggie noodles’ to "baked instead of fried".

MASON  
It’s not the same

JACOB  
No, it really isn’t. Like they should make two options, like here is the fried original noodles right

MASON  
And here is your shitty baked ones for all you losers that don’t deserve to live or breathe

JACOB  
That’s a bit intense but I respect the passion

JACOB  
Thank you, I feel like I am the only one suffering through this tragic ordeal. Could you think of anything worse?

MASON  
Maybe, off the top of my head; ethnic cleansing? Religious Wars? Starving children?

JACOB  
Yeah, all those things but also baked ’Maggie noodles’ too

MASON laughs. They arrive at the liquor store
INT. LIQUOR STORE - AUCKLAND - NIGHT TIME

JACOB
Don’t buy those shitty drinks again

MASON
The price is right

JACOB
Get this one

He picks up a bottle of wine

MASON
Wine ugh no thanks

JACOB
Ranfurly’s are wife beater drinks, one step off from Lion Red

MASON
Those are fighting words

JACOB
I’m just being honest

MASON
Fine, wine it is

JACOB
trust me you’ll like it, it’s feijoa wine. It’s not even wine really

MASON
Okay, let’s do it, I’m ready to take this leap with you

JACOB
You like to joke a lot, don’t you?

MASON
It’s contagious, isn’t it? It is, I can see under that tough exterior is a smiling person just waiting to come out. Set yourself free!

JACOB
Shush, you’re making a scene

MASON
I am not (feigns offense). I am not making a scene!

(CONTINUED)
MASON raises his voice so that everyone can hear

MASON
How dare you say that!!

JACOB
Oh my god, please stop

MASON
I will not! (feigns more fake offense with a fake proper English accent) who’s the other guy you’re texting? Hmmm?

The cashier looks up to see what the scene is about

JACOB
What are you even saying? You’re an idiot, I’m walking away now

MASON
That’s right, walk away, you always do!

JACOB
I don’t know you!

JACOB begins to walk away, and is followed by MASON. MASON pays for everything at the checkout. JACOB walks up and puts beef jerky on the checkout

JACOB
Thanks

MASON
So I guess I’m paying?

JACOB
Yeah, thanks.

JACOB smiles at him and walks away

EXT. AUCKLAND STREET - NIGHT TIME

JACOB and MASON are returning to the party, they are walking back along the same street.

JACOB
Thanks for the jerky and the wine

(CONTINUED)
MASON
I didn’t really get much of a say, did I?

JACOB
Of course you did

He takes a bite into the jerky

JACOB
You want some?

MASON
Can’t, I’m on a kind of strict diet

JACOB
I’m sorry for you

MASON
I’m doing cross fit now

JACOB
Of course you are, you look like a hulk

MASON
I know you’re insulting me but to fellow corssfitters, that’s a compliment

JACOB
I don’t doubt it is. I am impressed though, I think I lack the discipline. I like beef jerky too much

MASON
It’s all a mental thing, you know?

JACOB
I just keep imagining those posters that are pictures of mountains, you know the ones? The inspirational ones? They have like a mountain and then some white bold text that says something like "Fulfillment". That’s what I just imagined when you said that

MASON
Hey (grabs the jerky bar and takes a bite of it) not all of us can be too cool to not try things.
JACOB smiles and they arrive outside the apartment block

EXT. AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY HALL APARTMENTS - NIGHT TIME -
MOMENTS LATER

JACOB and MASON are sitting outside on the bus stop

    JACOB
    Are we going to go in at any point?

    MASON
    Do you really want to?

    JACOB
    ummmm no, I like it out here

People start exiting the apartment block, the party has been shutdown.

    JACOB
    Looks like the party got shutdown, sucks for them

    MASON
    I can hear the hurt and pain in your voice

    JACOB
    I reserve that hurt and pain for important things

    MASON
    Like baked noodles?

    JACOB
    exactly, it’s all about priorities

MASON laughs. His friend approaches him

    RANDOM GUY #1
    Party got shut down Mase, where should we go?

    MASON
    No luck with the girl?

    RANDOM GUY #1
    Nah, no thanks to this guy

points to JACOB

(CONTINUED)
JACOB
I’m sorry, honestly. Look, I’ll give her your number

RANDOM GUY #1
You’ll probably tell her I’m into weird shit or something

JACOB
I won’t, I promise. I was in a shitty mood

RANDOM GUY #1
Fine

JACOB grabs out his phone and types in the guys number.

RANDOM GUY #1
You promise?

JACOB
I swear on deep friend noodles

RANDOM GUY #1
Huh?

MASON
I would take that promise, man.

RANDOM GUY #1
Thanks, I have to get the car, I parked all the fucking way up the top.

MASON
I’ll wait here

RANDOM GUY #1
okay

He walks up the road. The scene returns to JACOB and MASON.

MASON
Pass your phone

JACOB
Why?

MASON
Just pass it

JACOB passes the phone to him and MASON puts his number into his phone.
MASON
If you want to hang, message me.
I’m at course for most of the week
but I have weekends off

JACOB
Okay

Moments later the car arrives

MASON
Message me, unless you’re too cool
to

JACOB
Well yeah, super cool, too cool for
you

MASON
That’s what I feared

JACOB smiles and MASON hops in the car.

INT. MASON’S APARTMENT - AUCKLAND CITY - NIGHT TIME

Six months has passed and JACOB and MASON have grown closer.
They are both in bed together

MASON
Hey

JACOB
Hey

MASON
So, it kind of occurred to me that
this is, I mean, what is this?

JACOB
What?

MASON
This, us. What is this?

JACOB
Us? We hang out, we’re friends

MASON
But are we, I mean I don’t know why
this is so fucking hard. Is this a
relationship?

(CONTINUED)
JACOB
You and I?

MASON
Yeah

JACOB
I don’t know, is it?

MASON
That’s what I’m asking you

JACOB
I really don’t know

MASON pauses for a few moments

JACOB
We haven’t had sex or kissed, isn’t that the stuff that relationships are made up of?

MASON
It’s just.. that, I feel like this is a relationship. I spend all my time with you, we go to movies, I make dinner, you make noodles.

JACOB
Some might say the best noodles

MASON
The best, yes. Also, we sleep together. That’s pretty fucking gay. So, do you.. I mean.. is this a relationship?

JACOB
Now that I think about it, it does seem like one.

MASON
Kiss me

JACOB
What?

MASON
If you want to

JACOB
Now?

(CONTINUED)
MASON

yeah

JACOB

This is weird to me, right?

MASON

I know but just do it

JACOB kisses MASON. JACOB feels instinctively closer to MASON. MASON kisses him back, this time longer. JACOB puts his hand on MASON’S face and starts to kiss his neck. MASON is about to grab a condom

JACOB

I don’t want to do that

MASON

Okay, I.. is it me?

JACOB

No, I just, I haven’t had.. I mean.. I haven’t done it before

MASON

Me neither, it was all females before you

MASON smiles nervously

MASON

We can do it together, new?

JACOB pauses and looks at him, he grabs his face

JACOB

I don’t want things to change between us, you, you’re all I have, you know? And I know how sad that sounds but it’s true. I don’t have many people. I don’t want to lose you

MASON pauses and then hugs JACOB

MASON

We’ll take it slow, okay?

JACOB

Okay, I’m sorry
MASON

Don’t apologise. You’re always so serious (smiles at JACOB). I’m not going anywhere.

JACOB smiles at him.

INT. MASON AND JACOB’S APARTMENT – DAYLIGHT

Another 6 months pass and JACOB and MASON have moved in together. They live in shabby apartment in Auckland City. The scene opens on JACOB dancing around the house to "Alabama Shakes – Always Alright". Both of their fa diplomas are on the wall. He is still singing the opening part of a song with a hairbrush, moving past MASON who is on his laptop and who only briefly looks up and smiles before looking down again. JACOB kisses MASON before returning to his singing.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE – OUTSIDE OF AUCKLAND – DAYLIGHT

Five more months have passed and JACOB is hauling all of his things in his car. He pulls up outside of CHERYL’S house. The camera should track him from behind. He walks into the house, before he does, he takes a deep breath.

INT. CHERYL’S HOUSE – LOUNGE – EVENING

We see JACOB walk through the house, it is dirty and looks like people have been squatting in it. JACOB notices the smell of burnt curtains, he recognises the smell instantly. He Can’t find his mum, he is searching through the whole house. He looks out the back of the house and notices his mum on the lawn, passed out. He walks out, grabs the hose and turns it on. He sprays her. She wakes up instantly.

JACOB

Get up

CHERYL

What the fuck are you doing?

JACOB

To be honest I wasn’t sure you would of woken up

CHERYL

You’d like that, wouldn’t you?
JACOB
The house is disgusting, I thought
crack addicts are meant to be tidy

CHERYL
I’m not doing that shit anymore

JACOB
I can smell it mum, I know you are,
so instead of lying maybe you could
clean the house when you’re on one
of your highs

CHERYL
Why are you here? Just come down to
make me feel shit?

JACOB
I need to stay here for a while

CHERYL
Haven’t seen you for 5 years and
now you come see me? I tried
calling you know? You never
answered, never answered your phone

JACOB
I know

CHERYL
Because I tried calling and you
never answered

JACOB
I know, you just said that

CHERYL
Hmmm, that’s what I said!

JACOB
Okay, I don’t have time to deal
with your, whatever this is. I need
to get my stuff, can you get
yourself cleaned before Ms. Walker
see’s you and call’s the police,
again.

CHERYL
Yeah fucking bitch, hey my honey,
I’m happy to see you, you know? I
missed you my baby. I really want
us to get along, I don’t want to
fight anymore

(CONTINUED)
She hugs JACOB who is unresponsive

JACOB

I need to get my stuff out of the car

JACOB walks away and starts unpacking his things. He goes to his room which is untouched. He runs his hands along his cabinets, there is one photo of him and CHERYL from when he was 5. He lies down on his bed and falls to sleep. A few hours have passed and he is awake now, we can hear him and MASON arguing in the background

EXT. AUCKLAND STREET - NIGHT TIME

Flashback to 4 weeks before. MASON and JACOB are outside their apartment. They are now in a heated argument.

MASON

This is so fucking one way, this whole relationship is one way

JACOB

Okay

MASON

Are you going to say anything else? You never talk about your fucking feelings. It’s like cold fish with you

JACOB

I can’t be what you keep wanting me to be Mase, I can’t give you what you need.

MASON

It’s not fucking hard, it’s not honestly. You make everything harder.

JACOB

What do you want? Do you want to meet my mum? Do you want to know more about my family? Have dinner with them?

MASON

I want to know more about you but every time I try to get you to open up you push me away

(CONTINUED)
JACOB
You’re being hyperbolic and you know it

MASON
But I don’t think I am though, I think I’ve got you pegged

JACOB
This is why I didn’t want to be in a relationship, this right here

MASON
Oh fuck off, that’s such a shitty argument

JACOB
It’s true, I told you. I’m not good at this thing. I’m not good at being this way

MASON
Being an adult?

JACOB
Yes, I don’t know how to deal with you. I didn’t expect you to be still in my life.

MASON
Can you stop with your self loathing for a second? I’m here now, with you. I’m here and I want to be in your life, I want to be apart of your life but you keep fucking pushing me away and I can’t do it anymore. Every time I want to move closer it becomes harder and you give me nothing.

JACOB
Sorry

MASON
Don’t be sorry, just let me in.

INT. CHERYL’S HOUSE - JACOB’S BEDROOM - NIGHT TIME

Return to present time. CHERYL knocks at the door

(CONTINUED)
CHERYL
Can I come in?

JACOB
What do you want?

CHERYL
I was just checking on you

JACOB
Are you going out?

CHERYL
No! Why don’t you believe me, I’m here with you aren’t I?

JACOB
Mum, what do you actually want?

CHERYL
Don’t be mad but I’ve got a friend coming over

JACOB
Are you doing ‘P’ with him?

CHERYL
He’s just a friend, a close friend actually. I like him a lot.

JACOB
Okay, I don’t care. I need to sleep

CHERYL leaves his room and JACOB keeps tossing throughout the night, he is restless. JACOB can hear CHERYL laughing in the next room, the smell of Port Royal tobacco starts wafting through the house. He mumbles under his breath and returns to sleep.

INT. CHERYL’S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

JACOB is having a shower, he is sat on the floor letting the water wash over him. HE stays there for half an hour

INT. CHERYL’S HOUSE - LOUNGE - DAY

JACOB is reading, the house is cleaner. He is isolated again, lost in thought. The emotion of loneliness, of desperateness, of hurt - they should fill the scene. He decided to go for a walk to the dairy
EXT. THE STREET OUTSIDE CHERYL’S HOUSE - DAYLIGHT

JACOB has arrived at the dairy and is about to walk in when AROHA spots him.

AROHA
Hey boy, where the hell ave you been, aye?

JACOB
Oh my god! Hello!

JACOB rushes to hug AROHA. She slaps him on the hand.

AROHA
That’s for not telling anyone where you’ve been

JACOB
I’m sorry

AROHA
I understand though boy, with that mum of yours I would have left ages ago

JACOB laughs

JACOB
Have you been okay?

AROHA
Yeah, all right! Just pretty much the same, you know how it is out here.. Not hing really ever changes

JACOB’S studies her as she is talking, he feels closely connected to AROHA and that shows in his body language. He is closer in proximity to her, his arms are open.

JACOB
I’ve, umm, I’ve missed you

AROHA
The same here you bloody idiot. Where you been? Actually, why don’t you come up to the house? I was making fry bread

JACOB
I don’t want to bother you

(CONTINUED)
AROHA
"Bother me" - bloody hell you are a white Maori. You’re no bother love, never have been.

JACOB
Okay

They both walk up to the house and are talking passionately between the both of them. When JACOB approaches the house, it’s as if time has stayed still. The two cars, which have not been repaired have grass growing over them. The Bob Marley flag remains on the porch. The only difference now is little kids toys are scattered throughout the front lawn.

JACOB smiles

AROHA
He hasn’t fixed those bloody cars, you know how WINSTON is. Been telling me for years he was going to. I have a better..

JACOB
.. chance of winning lotto?

AROHA
Yeah

She laughs

INT. AROHA’S HOUSE - DAYLIGHT

The house is just as JACOB remembers, full of warmth, full of clutter with pictures of her kids streamed all over the wall. He looks at LEON and notices he is in one of the photos as well

JACOB
Is that me?

AROHA
Yeah, that was when you guys won the potato sack race at the school gala

JACOB
That’s right, I remember that. I can’t believe you have that photo still

(CONTINUED)
AROHA
Yeah, LEON was so happy, you were
his first friend, you know?

JACOB
Really?

AROHA
Yeah, he was the happiest I had
seen him on that day. You were
happy for a moment but then sad
after, I remember that’s when your
mum got back with that idiot
RICHARD

JACOB
Yeah, one of the hundred times

AROHA
Hmmm. Want some kai?

JACOB
Yes please

AROHA
Glad those manners haven’t left
you, hare mai.

She walks upstairs and JACOB follows, he notices new
pictures, pictures of babies. He walks upstairs. They sit
down. She serves him up some food and he eats with with
feverish passion.

AROHA
So, how you been boy? Honestly

JACOB
Okay, I’ve been..

LEON walks through the door, he walks upstairs and see’s
JACOB.

AROHA
Look who’s here

LEON
Holy shit

AROHA
Language or else it’ll be a hiding

(CONTINUED)
LEON
Mum, I’m a grown man

AROHA
Not too old for a hiding

JACOB see’s LEON, he has grown into a handsome man, tan
skin, (24), he is quite tall and has long hair. He has a few
tattoos. LEON notices the name ‘Awhina’ on his wrist.

LEON
Far out, it’s been ages since I
last saw you

JACOB
Yeah, a couple of years

LEON
more like 5 years

JACOB laughs

LEON
So what you been up to?

JACOB is about to answer before he is interrupted by a
little girl. She is about 5 years old, brown hair. Her
features are similar to LEON.

AWHINA
Daddy, can you push me on the
swing?

AROHA
Aww there she is, my little
mokupuna. Come here sweetheart.
Give nanny some kisses.

She lifts Awhina up and starts kissing her. Awhina studies
JACOB with genuine curiosity, as does JACOB

LEON
This is my girl, Awhina. Awhina say
hello, this is JACOB

Awhina goes shy and puts her head into AROHA’S chest.

AROHA
She get’s shy very easily, a bit
like you JACOB, when you were a boy

(CONTINUED)
JACOB
You are very beautiful

JACOB smiles at her warmly, she looks up for a brief moment before pushing her head into AROHA’S chest again

AROHA
I’ll push her, you two can catch up aye?

LEON
Sweet

AROHA
There’s some fry bread there, but leave some for dinner. I’m talking to you LEON

LEON
Yeah, okay

She takes Awhina outside and JACOB and LEON stare at each other

JACOB
Sorry, I didn’t call. I ..

LEON
It’s cool, I get it

JACOB
It’s just everything..

LEON
Yeah, I know.

JACOB
So... you have a daughter

LEON
Yeah

JACOB
She really is beautiful, congratulations

LEON
Yeah, got my ex missus knocked up not long after you left

JACOB
That’s a nice way of putting it

(CONTINUED)
LEON
Only way I can put it

JACOB
Fair enough

LEON
Want to go to the dairy?

JACOB
Yeah actually

They both walk downstairs and walk pass AROHA and Whina

LEON
We’re just going to the dairy

AWHINA
Can I come with you daddy?

LEON
Not now baby, I’ll be back soon, okay?

Awhina looks sad but returns to being pushed on the swing. JACOB and LEON walk down to the dairy, they don’t speak to each other. It’s slightly awkward but also seems natural. They arrive at the Dairy. JACOB purchases some lollies bags and LEON gets a few blue lollipops and two L&P drinks. They sit down outside.

JACOB
You want the milk bottles?

LEON smiles

LEON
Yeah and the airplanes

JACOB smiles

LEON
So, what you been up to?

JACOB
Not much, I’ve umm graduated uni

LEON
Fuck, really?

JACOB
Yeah

(CONTINUED)
LEON
Yeah, you were always smart as.
Fuck, this fella always the flash fella

JACOB
It’s honestly not even like that

LEON
Don’t be ashamed, that’s fucking cool

JACOB
Thanks man. What about you? What you been up?

LEON
Nothing like you, just kind of been making shelves and stuff for people. Building shit

JACOB
Cool. Is that like, carpentry?

LEON
Yeah but I’m not really legit so I can’t take proper jobs, you know?

JACOB
You should do an apprenticeship?

LEON
My ex missus pissed off so it’s just me raising Awhina, mum helps out but dad’s been sick as lately

JACOB
I didn’t know that

LEON
Yeah, mum doesn’t like talking about it

JACOB
What’s wrong with him? If I can ask?

LEON
Yeah he had a heart attack last year and he was in hospital for ages.
JACOB
Fuck, I’m sorry

LEON
He’s all good he just has to watch what he eats and you know dad, he eats heaps as so he doesn’t help himself. Mum tries her best but dads stubborn as, he doesn’t admit when things are wrong.

JACOB looks at LEON and smiles

INT. AROHA’S HOUSE - EVENING
The scene opens on LEON and JACOB sitting on the couch talking

JACOB
So your daughter, that’s crazy. What’s she like?

LEON
She’s awesome, she has this quiet strength to her. You were always like that as a kid, all the shit you went through and you just kept it all inside. You never wanted people to know you were sad. She does this thing where she’s about to say something and then she say’s “never mind daddy, it wasn’t important” and I can’t kind of take that in, that she kind of stops herself because she doesn’t think what’s she saying is important enough. I’m trying to give her strength, that’s what I want to teach her

JACOB
I’m proud of you man

LEON
You too bro

JACOB smiles at him

LEON
You’d be a good dad as well

JACOB shakes his head

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JACOB
Are you kidding me? I would be the worst

LEON
You don’t know yourself well enough

JACOB
No, it’s because I know myself that I know I would be a shit parent

LEON
Why?

JACOB
Off the top of my head, I have no idea how to parent. I didn’t exactly get stuck with Mary Poppins as a mother did I? (JACOB snorts laughs)

LEON
That’s exactly why you would be a good parent, you know how not to parent.

JACOB
I suppose, I didn’t really look at it like that

LEON
Hard, you need to be nicer to yourself, be kind to yourself

JACOB drinks more wine

INT. AROHA’S HOUSE - EVENING

JACOB is in bed and he receives a call, it is from North Shore Hospital

NURSE
Is this JACOB WIREMU?

JACOB
Yes, who is this?

NURSE
I’m calling from North Shore Hospital, your mum has been admitted to hospital.
INT. NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL - NIGHT TIME - WAITING AREA

JACOB is in the waiting area sitting down, he looks around and notices how clinical it is, how isolated it is.

INT. NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL - NIGHT TIME - DOCTORS OFFICE

JACOB is sitting down waiting for the doctor. The doctor enters after a few minutes and sits down opposite JACOB.

DR. RICHARDS
Your mum is stable, for now. We have her under close observation. She overdosed on Methamphetamine and appears to have caused some brain damage. We ran a few tests and the results are alarming. We measured levels of brain chemicals that indicate whether brain cells are healthy or are diseased or damaged. There are three brain regions, okay?

JACOB
Right.

DR. RICHARDS
So all three of your mothers brain regions are showing abnormal activity.

JACOB
What does this mean?

DR. RICHARDS
N-acetyl-aspartate, were reduced by at least five percent in the your mum. Many diseases associated with brain cell loss or damage, such as Alzheimer’s disease, stroke, and epilepsy, are also associated with reduced N-acetyl-aspartate. We believe that your mum’s long term use of methamphetamine has caused her irreversible damage to her brain. This means that her mental health is deteriorating in a rapid pace. You may have noticed that she is asking you to repeat things more often or she may repeat herself, without realising. In laymen terms, your mum has what is very similar to Alzheimer’s.

(CONTINUED)
The doctor continues to talk but he is drowned out by JACOB’S thoughts, suddenly he is listening to the doctor but he can not hear what he is saying.

JACOB
Okay

DR. RICHARDS
Okay, what?

JACOB
Thanks for telling me

DR. RICHARDS
Don’t you have questions?

JACOB
My mum is losing her mind, I think I got the general gist of it

Dr. RICHARD’S looks shocked

JACOB
Oh I’m sorry, I can see I’ve shocked you. You’re thinking that I am acting cavalier about this.

DR. RICHARDS
No..

JACOB
You’re thinking that I am cold, uncaring, maybe even callous? How should I act? Tell me? What should I do here, who do you want me to be? Should I cry, will that make you feel less uncomfortable? Should I be deep in thought and upset?

DR. RICHARDS
I didn’t mean that..

JACOB
How I act now will determine what you think of me as a person. So maybe I should cry, act surprised? The truth is that my mum has brought this all on herself, and it is not shocking to me that she has fucked herself up. I’m just surprised it’s happening now and not five years ago.

JACOB starts laughing

(CONTINUED)
JACOB
This is perfect, I think I can escape her and stop looking after her and here I am, forced into a situation where I am going to have to fucking look after her and it’s just incredible. So you can think I’m an awful person all you want and you can judge me but I honestly don’t care

DR. RICHARDS
You’re the only person who can tell you what type of person you are, not me, not anyone.

JACOB pauses for a few moments before Dr. RICHARD speaks again

DR. RICHARDS
We have some treatment plans, I’ll give you the information and you can go over it, okay?

JACOB looks out the window

INT. NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL - NIGHT TIME - PATIENT ROOM

JACOB is sitting down next to CHERYL who is sleeping. He waits patiently. He watches her and drifts off into his own mind. He gets up and walks out of the room.

EXT. MASON’S APARTMENT

JACOB knocks on the door, he starts banging. MASON opens the door half asleep.

MASON
JACOB? What the hell?! What are you doing?

JACOB
My mum is a P addict, has been most of my life. She was awful, she would leave me at home by myself for long periods of time because she had found a new guy who "got her" and she wouldn’t bat an eye lid. She was constantly frustrated with me because I reminded her of my father who she hated and would (MORE)
JACOB (cont’d) remind me constantly of the fact. She didn’t care. I raised myself because I had to, not because I wanted to. I don’t let people in because I don’t want to be fucked over. So you came into my life and you just loved me, there weren’t any strings attached, you didn’t want anything in return, you just loved me and I don’t know how to handle that. My version of love isn’t healthy or good, it’s toxic and it’s all I know. I know I hurt you, I know I pushed you away and I know I have fucked up and I can’t keep blaming my childhood for my mistakes because at some point I have to take ownership, but I just wanted you to know that I didn’t mean to hurt you. I love you, I just didn’t know how much I loved you. I’m so sorry. I have to go, I’m sorry.

JACOB runs away to his car

INT. MENTAL HOME - DAYLIGHT

JACOB is visiting CHERYL, she is vacant

JACOB
I’m so mad at you, mad at everything. I’m so angry that you fucked up so much as a mum, you fucked up

CHERYL
I did my best

JACOB
You did nothing! You did fucking nothing. You always say that, you always play the victim "I tried, I did my best", it’s such a shitty thing to say because you know you fucked up and if you could be honest with yourself for one fucking second you would know that.
CHERYL
I don’t remember

JACOB
Now you get to lose your memory, you get to forget this and how fucked is that? You won’t even remember how much you ruined me. My whole life has been about you, about taking care of you, about worrying about you.

CHERYL
Stop! Stop it!

JACOB
Worrying about you not paying rent because you gambled your money away! Worried that you drank the nail varnish because it smelt like alcohol, worried that you didn’t use clean needles to do your fucking meth. Worried about your fragile mental state, always compensating always trying to please you. Always at the cost of my own mental state, my own development. I thought for sure that at least at the end of it when I never visited you could remember how much you failed, I thought I could at least have that as some form of payback. Now you’ve ruined me and you get to walk away from it and I’m so mad.

CHERYL
Please stop! STOP!

JACOB
YOU ARE A MONSTER! Everything, everything you have done in your pathetic life, everything you have done is worthless.

CHERYL
You don’t mean that, why are you hurting me?

JACOB
There it is again, ME ME ME! "mummy’s trying her best, why are you making this harder for me?", (MORE)
"He left me because of you, you did this to me JACOB". It is always about you, you fucking waste of space. Do you even realise what you have done to me? Do you know what you let that man do to me?

CHERYL
I didn’t know RICHARD was interfering with you, I would have never let him do that, you know that

JACOB
Every night he would come in, touch me, tell me it was a game, he would rape me when you were in the next room passed out. He raped me and you were only one room away, so you tried your hardest? Did you? Was that you, trying your hardest?

CHERYL
No! NO! NO!

JACOB
SHUT UP, I’M TALKING NOW! I AM TALKING, NOT YOU!

JACOB takes a breath and tries to calm down

JACOB
I can’t do normal things, I can’t be normal. I try but I can’t. I can’t even have a relationship with a man because I’m scared that being gay meant that I enjoyed what that man did to me, do you understand? Do you know how messed up that is? Your emotional manipulation, the way you use to use me as a kid, to make you feel better to prop you up. It was sick. I hate you so much, I hate that I was born to you, I hate that I’m forced to care for you. You have done nothing! Do you hear me? Nothing!

CHERYL starts crying, he walks up to her and she cowards in the corner, he goes up to her ear

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JACOB
I hope you feel the hate, I hope
you feel everything I am saying
because I mean every word. I want
you to understand the hatred I feel
for you, I want it to resonate with
you. Do you understand

She looks at JACOB scared and nods her head. JACOB storms out of the room. He is outside by the car park, he is so mad he kicks his car. His phone starts beeping, he has a voice mail. It’s from MASON

MASON (OVER VOICE MAIL)
I miss you, call me when you can,
okay?

JACOB sits down on the bonnet of his car. Deep breathing, we hear the faint sound of a heartbeat, his fetus heartbeat from inside his mother’s womb. Rheumatically matching his breath.

INT. MENTAL HOME - DAYLIGHT - CHERYL’S ROOM

JACOB returns to find CHERYL in the corner, she has been crying but seems lost in her thoughts

JACOB
Mum, get up.

CHERYL
Mum? Who are you? My little boy,
where is he?

JACOB
I’m here

CHERYL
No, he is only 6 years old, not an adult, I don’t know who you are

JACOB
Just hop up

CHERYL hops up

CHERYL
I went toilet, I couldn’t move, I’m sorry, I pissed myself

CHERYL starts crying

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

CHERYL
I’m sorry

JACOB
It’s fine

INT. MENTAL HOME - DAYLIGHT - CHERYL’S ROOM - BATHROOM

JACOB runs the bath, CHERYL hops in. He grabs the wash cloth and starts washing her back

CHERYL
What’s your name?

JACOB

CHERYL
That’s a nice name, I like that name. My son’s name is JACOB you know? It’s lovely. JACOB like from the bible

JACOB
Are you a religious person?

CHERYL
No, my family is. We’re all Mormons. Not me, I’ve always been the black sheep of the family. Always breaking the rules, not really cut out for all that stuff. What do you do?

JACOB
Me, I’m umm, I just graduated from uni

CHERYL
So you’re smart? My JACOB’S smart too, he’s going to be a doctor. I want to be a good mum to him, do it right, he’s the only thing I haven’t fucked up

JACOB continues to wash CHERYL whilst sitting on the floor next to her. The scene goes to black and we can hear Baby JACOB’S heartbeat

END OF SCENE