

PROM NIGHT

Written By

R.J. Patteson

FADE IN:

INT. CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - MORNING

The lump resting under the race-car sheets looks too big for the bed. There's a video game poster on the wall telling us that Sega does what Ninten-don't. A Ninja Turtle novelty clock rests by the bedside. This is the bedroom of a 10 year old-- either that or a nerdy teen that's still waiting for puberty.

COWABUNGA! -- The Ninja Turtle clock springs to life.

CHARLIE (18) scrawny, curly hair that can't be tamed, jolts upright. It's as if he had a bad dream.

CHARLIE
(Whispers to himself)
Buddy, today's your big day...

Then, a voice from outside his door:

CHARLIE'S DAD (O.S.)
Buddy, today's your big day!

Charlie jumps out of bed, puts on an oversized Michelangelo t-shirt (not the famous artist), adjusts his coke-bottle glasses, and storms out of the room.

HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

His father is waiting for him outside the door.

CHARLIE'S DAD
Hey Champ, might meet a nice girl
tonight, you never know.

Charlie's sister JENNY (21) is just leaving her room.

JENNY
I wouldn't get your hopes up.
Charlie's gonna die a virgin.

Charlie runs past his sister and down the stairs.

CHARLIE'S DAD
(To Jenny)
What's gotten in to him?

EXT. PETERSON HOUSE - MORNING

The garage door opens from the inside. Then, a moment later, Charlie shoots out on his sister's old bike-- pink, banana seat, tassels flowing from the grips. At least, we think it's his sister's bike.

He's in too much of a hurry to close the garage door.

SUBURBAN STREETS - MOMENTS LATER

Charlie rides as fast as his legs will move, dodging early morning joggers and almost colliding with MR. GIBSON'S POODLE.

MR. GIBSON

Hey, watch it!

(Mutters)

Kids...in my day...

EXT. SARAH'S HOUSE - LATER

Charlie dives off the bike in the center of the yard. Tufts of grass erupt from the fall.

He runs to the door and KNOCKS feverishly.

A beat.

The door opens and SARAH'S MOM stands there, tall glass of wine in-hand. For her, it's always 5 o'clock somewhere...

She seems surprised to see him.

SARAH'S MOM

Charlie? Is that you?

CHARLIE

Is Sarah home? I need to talk to her.

SARAH'S MOM

Haven't seen you since you and her were in the same class in grade 4.

CHARLIE

It's urgent.

SARAH'S MOM

Sarah and her Dad are downtown getting her hair done.

Charlie looks to the wood-panel station wagon in the driveway. Then back to Sarah's mom. She hiccups.

CHARLIE
Sorry, gotta go Mrs. J.

Charlie hops back on the bike.

SARAH'S MOM
I'll tell her you came to call!

Charlie rides away.

EXT. SALON - AFTERNOON

Charlie is sweating profusely and chugging air.

Just as he arrives at the Salon, he can see SARAH (18), beautiful-- out of his league, get into the passenger side of her father's car and drive away.

CHARLIE
Sarah!

She doesn't hear him.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Shit!

EXT. OUR MOTHER OF MARRY HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

Charlie parks his pink bike and takes refuge behind a bush. He's wearing a tuxedo and his curly hair is shellacked with styling-gel.

He spies at the front door of the school. There's a banner overhead that reads: "O.M.O.M. Prom 1992".

He looks on as BUCK (19, victory lap) and two of his cronies take turns pushing around DARREN (18), who's just as nerdy as Charlie.

After shoving him to the ground and stomping on his corsage, Buck and his gang disappear to the side of the school.

Charlie sees his opening and runs for the door.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

Charlie walks in. A disco ball spins from the ceiling as the graduating class of 92' slow dance to Mariah Carrey.

He stands to the side, staring at Sarah dancing with her boyfriend JASON (18), wearing his football jacket-- Captain.

Someone taps Charlie on the shoulder and breaks his trance. It's Darren.

DARREN

I think tonight's the night. Jason and Sarah.

(Beat)

You know...

Charlie looks to Darren as he makes an "okay" sign with one hand and proceeds to thrust his index finger in and out.

Charlie isn't amused.

DARREN (CONT'D)

Don't be so sensitive. Hey, you wanna come over tonight and play some Sega?

Charlie ignores him as he keeps his eyes trained. The song ends and Jason says something in Sarah's ear. He leaves for the washroom.

Now's Charlie's chance, he runs to Sarah until they're --

FACE TO FACE.

SARAH smiles.

SARAH

Charlie? I didn't think you'd be here. Where's your date?

CHARLIE

I need to talk with you.

SARAH

Is everything alright? What's going on?

CHARLIE

In private.

SCHOOL HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Charlie and Sarah stand alone. The sound of Kris Kross' "jump, jump" muffled in the distance.

SARAH

Just tell me. You're beginning to scare me, Charlie.

CHARLIE

I don't know how to say this. I've tried half a dozen times--

SARAH

Jason is going to be looking for me...

CHARLIE

I have to tell you something and it's gonna sound crazy. It's gonna sound really crazy--

SARAH

Why are you telling me now? You ignored me all through high school--

CHARLIE

That's because you're cool and I'm-- look, if you walk out that door with Jason, something terrible is gonna happen--

SARAH

What are you talking about?

CHARLIE

Don't ask me how I know, but there's going to be a horrible accident--

SARAH

Jesus, Charlie.

Jason emerges from the end of the hall. At the front doors.

JASON

Sarah, come on! Stop talkin' to that dipshit and let's get outa' here!

SARAH

(To Charlie)

I have to go.

Sarah jogs to Jason.

After mustering 5 seconds of courage, Charlie chases after her.

UNTIL --

SMACK! Charlie's face recoils off a towering Buck.

BUCK

Where do you think you're goin'?

Buck SLAMS him against the locker.

INT. JASON'S CAR - LATER

They're on a dark country road. Jason drives aggressively.

SARAH

Would you slow down?

JASON

What are you doin' talkin' to that loser anyways?

SARAH

It's nothing. We were friends when I was little.

(Beat)

Are you taking me home?

JASON

I rented us a room.

SARAH

I'd rather you drive me home.

Jason looks at her in a rage.

JASON

It's been a year and a half, Sarah--

He doesn't notice the car has swerved. The bright headlights of another car shine directly on them.

SARAH

Jason!

CRASH!

CUT TO BLACK.

PRE-LAP:

COWABUNGA!

FROM BLACK:

INT. CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Charlie sits up in bed.

CHARLIE'S DAD (O.S.)
Buddy, today's your big day!

HALLWAY - SECONDS LATER

JENNY
I wouldn't get your hopes up.
Charlie's gonna die a virgin.

Charlie bolts past his sister.

SUBURBAN STREETS - MORNING

Charlie rides his bike as fast as he can. He almost smears Mr. Gibson's poodle.

MR. GIBSON
Hey watch it!
(Mutters)
Kids...in my day...

Charlie approaches Sarah's house but doesn't stop. He continues onward.

EXT. SALON PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

Sarah and her dad walk to the car.

SARAH'S DAD
I'm just saying, I remember what it was like when I was his age.
(Beat)
He's only got one thing on his mind.

SARAH
I'll be fine Dad.

Charlie skids his bike in front of them. Hops off.

CHARLIE
Sarah! We need to talk!

SARAH
Charlie? Can it wait? We're late picking up my dress.

CHARLIE
It's important.

Sarah and her father enter the car. Sarah rolls down the window as they drive off.

SARAH
Sorry, Charlie. You can tell me later, okay?

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

Darren thrusts his finger in and out of his palm.

DARREN
Don't be so sensitive. Hey, you wanna come over tonight and play some Sega?

SCHOOL HALLWAY - LATER

Charlie and Sarah stand alone. Talking.

JASON (O.S.)
Sarah, come on! Stop talkin' to that dipshit and let's get outa' here!

SARAH
(To Charlie)
I have to go.

CHARLIE
3 people are going to die if you walk out that door! Don't you get that?!

She runs to the doors. Charlie follows.

Buck dashes out from the shadows and blocks his path.

BUCK
Where do you think you're goin'?

Charlie looks Buck in the eyes. Summons everything he learned with the complimentary Karate classes he took at his local YMCA and --

KNEES BUCK SQUARE IN THE GENITALS!

Buck keels over on the spot, squealing in pain.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Sarah is about to get into Jason's car.

CHARLIE

Sarah!

Sarah turns. Jason gives a "what the fuck" sort of look.

SARAH

You had a bad dream, Charlie. I'll be fine.

CHARLIE

I love you Sarah!

There's a glint in her eyes.

JASON

(To Charlie)

I'm gonna kick your ass you little puke!

Jason runs up to Charlie and clocks him in the face, cracking one of his lenses. Charlie hits the ground hard.

SARAH

Jason!

She runs to the side of Charlie. Helps him up.

JASON

Are you comin'?

Sarah looks to Jason. Then back to Charlie.

JASON (CONT'D)

Are you comin' or not?!

EXT. SUBURBAN STREETS - NIGHT

Sarah and Charlie walk side by side in the moonlight. Charlie is pushing his bike and Sarah is laughing about something.

There's a playful banter between the two silhouettes. Sarah lightly jabs him on the arm.

FADE TO BLACK.

-- COWABUNGA!

FROM BLACK:

INT. CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Charlie sits up in a cold sweat.

CHARLIE'S DAD (O.S.)
Buddy, today's your big day!

CHARLIE
(To himself)
Oh no.

Charlie stands up. He doesn't even put on his pants. He runs out the door in his boxers and into the --

HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

His father stands there, waiting for him outside the door. He pats Charlie on the back.

CHARLIE'S DAD
It's about time. Your mother and I were beginning to worry.

CHARLIE
Dad, what day is it? Is it prom night?

CHARLIE'S DAD
Whoa, someone spiked the punch.
(Beat)
Your prom was last night, Lady Killer.

His father lets out a CHUCKLE and sneaks away.

Jenny's door swings open and she approaches the washroom, stops and stares daggers at Charlie.

JENNY
Ew.
(Yells to her Father)
Dad, this is so unfair! You never let Steven come and stay the night!

She retreats back to her lair and SLAMS the door.

Water FLUSHES and the bathroom door opens-- a messy-haired Sarah walks out in nothing but his Ninja Turtle t-shirt.

She just stands there. Smiling at Charlie, she brushes her bangs around her ear.

Simon smiles back.

We hang in this perfect moment to the soothing sounds of the 90's. Amy Grant's "That's what love is for" begins to play, or maybe "I love you always forever" by Donna Lewis-- yeah, definitely Donna Lewis. Right at 2:40 when the piano kicks in-- yeah, that's the shit.

FADE OUT.

THE END