

SCHOOL SPENT YOUTH

Written by

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FADE IN.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY

A MALE TEACHER, 35, dressed in a smart suit holds a history book in hand and is reading out key facts of the cold war in a slow mono-tone voice.

Only a few of the STUDENTS here, all dressed in their smart public school styled uniforms are actually listening and taking notes, the rest are either on their phones or talking amongst themselves.

At the back, two desks are left empty.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - STAIRCASE - DAY

JONATHAN CLARKE, 16, tall, skinny and with messy hair that he obviously cuts himself moves slowly up the steps with BEN SMITH, 16, slim, handsome and with large blue eyes.

Ben moves past him and leads them both up to the closed door that will lead them onto the rooftop.

He opens it up and walks out onto it.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - ROOF - DAY

Ben and Jonathan are on the very edge of the roof and looking down at the empty playground below.

Jonathan glances across at him.

JONATHAN
Congratulations on getting into
college.

Ben smiles.

BEN
Thanks, but it was my parents who
paid to get me in.

Jonathan looks back down at the playground.

JONATHAN
What are you going to be doing
there?

Ben shrugs.

BEN
Don't even know if I'm actually
going to yet.

Jonathan laughs at him.

JONATHAN
Why wouldn't you?

BEN
Because the point of going to
college is for it to be a stepping
stone to then get into university.

JONATHAN
And that's bad?

BEN
I don't know.

JONATHAN
So what aren't you sure about?

BEN
The point of going to university.
What would it mean for me? All that
money I'll have to pay back.

JONATHAN
Get a good life out of it?

BEN
But will I? If the only reason to
go to college is then to go to
university and be left with a
degree in whatever, I don't know
what the point is?

JONATHAN
But aren't you going to try?

Ben shrugs, repeats.

BEN
But for what, a degree?

JONATHAN
Yeah.

BEN
They're not so hard to get, can
download one from the internet if I
pay out enough money for it.

JONATHAN
Well I think you should at least
try, at least go to college and see
how you fit in.

BEN
Would you do the same?

JONATHAN
No.

BEN
Why not?

JONATHAN
Not smart enough.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - PLAYGROUND - DAY

At the main school gate, closed.

KEITH NORTON, 16, fat and bald, he's dealing a small bag of weed to DANNY WATSON, 15, small, pale and skinny.

KEITH
You want more?

Keith then exchanges the bag for money.

Danny quickly slips the bag away and moves back towards the high school.

Keith grabs onto him.

KEITH (CONT'D)
I asked if you wanted some more, I
can hook you up.

Danny shakes his head, tries to move away again.

Keith grabs a hold of him a second time, irritated.

KEITH (CONT'D)
Don't fucking walk away whilst I'm
talking to you.

Danny freaks out.

DANNY
Don't keep touching me then!

He wildly swing an arm out and catches Keith across the bridge of his nose with the back of his hand.

Keith stumbles backwards, cupping both hands over his face.

Blood then starts seeping out through his fingers.

Danny sees what he's done, eyes grow wide.

He now sprints away as fast as he can, scared.

Keith thinks about running after him but suddenly hears laughter coming from above.

He looks up and sees Jonathan and Ben on the roof watching and laughing at him.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - ROOF - SAME TIME

With Keith staring up at them Jonathan quickly jumps down from the roofs edge to hide.

Ben stays exactly as he is, no longer laughing but he's still smiling.

JONATHAN
Don't let him see you.

BEN
He already has done.

Jonathan smiles, thinking that Ben's just being stupid.

JONATHAN
He's got a pretty bad temper
remember?

Ben nods.

BEN
I know what he's like.

JONATHAN
Then step down.

BEN
No, I want to see what he does
next.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - PLAYGROUND - SAME TIME

Keith is still staring up at the roof, can only see Ben now.

He drops his hands down, uncovering his nose, it's still bleeding.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - STAIRCASE - DAY

RICKY COLE, 16, tall, skinny and with a pair of thick rim glasses on moves with DEAN VAUGHAN, 16, short and stocky, both hurrying up the steps and heading for the roof.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - TOILET - DAY

Danny hides in a closed cubicle, leaning up against the dirty wall and smoking his weed, relaxing.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - ROOF - DAY

Jonathan, Ben, Ricky and Dean all gathered together on the edge of the roof looking out over the city.

DEAN
I'm leaving soon, quitting it.

Ricky smiles.

RICKY
Quitting it?

Dean nods.

DEAN
Getting out of here. This shit hole of a school.

JONATHAN
What's the plan?

Dean laughs.

DEAN
I'm already set up, don't need one.

BEN
Then leave now.

DEAN
You want me to?

BEN
If you're set up?

DEAN
I am.

RICKY
Doing what?

DEAN
I've got people looking out for me, so I'm thinking I should just hang out here for a couple more weeks and then leave.

RICKY
Good for you.

DEAN
What about the rest of you?

JONATHAN
Ben's going to college.

BEN
Not yet.

DEAN
Nerd.

BEN
Good one.

JONATHAN
I don't know what I'm doing?

RICKY
I've got a ideas. No more school
after this year is done though.

DEAN
Quitting?

RICKY
I'll see it out till the end of the
year, but not going to college.

JONATHAN
Same for me.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - ROOF - DAY

The four friends are on the other side of the rooftop and at the base of some high built scaffolding, a building project that was never really started and has long since been forgotten about.

RICKY

What do you think they were going to build here?

DEAN

Nothing.

JONATHAN

I heard they were going to plant down a mobile phone tower but quit when some parents heard about it and complained.

RICKY

Are they ever going to take it down?

BEN

No need.

JONATHAN

No, I don't think they should either.

Ricky points up.

RICKY

It's too high, don't even try and go to the top.

Ben smiles.

BEN

But that's what's fun.

JONATHAN

Who's in?

Dean shakes his head.

DEAN

Not me.

Ricky smiles as he takes a small step back away from it.

RICKY

No, too crazy for me.

Ben grabs onto it and begins to climb up without any hesitation.

Jonathan then joins in, climbing up with him.

The first couple of levels are easy for the both of them but at the half way stage Jonathan is beginning to slow right down as Ben keeps going almost at the very top of it in no time at all, but stops at the level just below.

Ben looks down at his friends, he gives them both a quick wave.

Ricky and Dean both wave back at him.

Dean shouts up.

DEAN
Don't do anything stupid.

Ricky points at them both, accusingly.

RICKY
Climbing that thing in the first place was stupid, I don't even know how this game ever even got started.

Ben smiles, enjoying it but it's really unsafe. If he was to fall he'd do himself some serious damage.

Jonathan is starting to freak out.

BEN
Are you coming up here?

Jonathan thinks it over, glances down to the rooftop below, panicking.

Dean yells out to him.

DEAN
Ben wins if you don't start climbing soon, it's not much of a game to see who can get higher if you're just going to camp there?

Jonathan tries to force a smile.

JONATHAN
Fine, Ben wins, whatever.

Ben gives himself a gentle round of applause as if celebrating a great victory, perfectly happy at this height, no fear.

Whilst Jonathan now has to sheepishly climbs back down to the rooftop.

Ricky shakes his head at him, not understanding it.

RICKY

Joe, why did you climb up in the first place if you weren't even going to get past the halfway point?

JONATHAN

I was three quarter up.

RICKY

But you knew you weren't going to beat Ben.

JONATHAN

Just shut the fuck up alright.

Ben's remains as he is, a great view from up here.

He smiles to himself, enjoying it.

He's the king of his very own little world.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - PLAYGROUND - DAY

Keith still as he is, watching Ben at the top of the scaffold tower.

With both hands down by his sides he's just letting the blood ooze out of his nose and run down his face.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - ROOF - DAY

Ben leads the others back off of the roof and back inside.

He's clearly the leader of the pack, the bravest.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - STAIRCASE - DAY

Ben's still leading the others as they head back down the staircase but all keeping to a slow and very casual pace.

With nowhere to be there's no need to rush.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY

Hearing footsteps coming down the steps Keith is waiting, the blood has finally stopped coming out from his nose but still covers his face.

Ben is the first to appear.

Keith snarls at him.

KEITH
Do you think I'm funny?

Ben moves over to him, both squaring up to each other.

Jonathan, Dean and Ricky stay on the staircase and watch on.

BEN
No I don't. But seeing you get hit
in the face is.

A beat.

KEITH
You think you're brave?

BEN
No.

Keith jabs a finger into the middle of Ben's chest.

KEITH
You want to run this school?

Ben slaps Keith's hand away, doesn't want to be touched.

BEN
No.

Keith now jabs that same finger into his own chest.

KEITH
You want to take over from me?

Ben needs to check.

BEN
You run this school?

Keith forces out a fake laugh.

KEITH
Don't think about stepping up to
challenge me.

Ben shakes his head.

BEN

Challenge you for what, there's
nothing to take from you?

KEITH

I've fucking warned you OK. You've
got a lot of friends here but don't
think that will stop me putting you
away.

Ben quickly reaches up a hand and flicks a finger hard across
Keith's nose.

Keith doubles over in pain, again cupping his hands over his
face.

Ben continues on, and his friends follow on behind him each
laughing at Keith as he falls down to his knees and groans
from the pain that's now shooting all throughout his face.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY

A math's class, the MALE TEACHER, 40, at the whiteboard and writing up test equations for the class to tackle.

Again only a few are bothering. The rest on their phones.

Ben and Jonathan are at the very back of the class, their desks pushed together.

Jonathan's been thinking about it, can't keep it to himself anymore.

JONATHAN

We could run this school if we wanted to?

Ben turns away from him, staring out of the window and into the empty playground outside.

BEN

Run what?

JONATHAN

Everyone here.

BEN

And you think that would be fun?

Jonathan smiles.

JONATHAN

Why not, everyone already knows your name in this place.

Ben shakes his head, dismissing it.

BEN

It's not a big school.

Jonathan points at him, keeps it going.

JONATHAN

People are scared of you.

BEN

Well they shouldn't be.

JONATHAN

But don't you want people to know who we are, aren't you sick of being disrespected by the people in this place who aren't even anything?

Ben smiles.

BEN
You're beginning to sound like
Dean.

Jonatahn groans, annoyed.

JONATHAN
Don't compare me to that dickhead.

The door to the classroom then opens and in steps Keith, now with a plaster across his nose, fixed up.

The whole class turns to see who it is, but upon seeing it's only Keith they turn back around again.

The teacher keeps writing.

BEN
Looks like he got all fixed up.

Keith sees Ben and Jonathan at the back so moves to the very front, nudges JENI WHITE, 16, beautiful, black hair and a freckle covered face in the arm to get her attention.

He makes her then stand up and get out of the desk and move to the only other free one at the back.

He sits down in her place.

Ben and Jonathan now watch her as she takes up the seat and desk at the back next to them.

A beat.

JONATHAN
You need to be more worried about
him than you are.

Ben and Jonathan now come back to facing each other.

BEN
Who, Keith?

JONATHAN
Yeah, you don't know who his
connections might be?

Ben laughs.

BEN
He hasn't got any.

Jonathan jabs a finger down against his desk to reinforce his point.

JONATHAN

He's got enough to be able to deal drugs here.

BEN

A couple of small bags every couple of weeks doesn't make him much of a dealer. And if any one of these teachers here could bring themselves to care enough he would have gotten kicked out ages ago.

JONATHAN

I'm just saying, be careful.

BEN

I am.

JONATHAN

You don't want to push him too far.

Ben leans back in his chair, relaxed.

BEN

Then I wont.

Jonathan edges himself over, wanting to keep himself close to him.

JONATHAN

But we still need to get rid of him.

Ben laughs.

BEN

Make your mind up.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY

Classes are still going on.

Ben and Jonathan are walking slowly through the empty corridor together.

Jonathan keeps going, can't drop it.

JONATHAN

Imagine how much easier things
would be if people knew we were the
ones in control?

Ben rolls his eyes.

BEN

Our lives are pretty easy as it is.

JONATHAN

But as things are now Keith's still
seen as the one who's above
everyone else.

BEN

Well if that's what makes him happy
let him keep it.

JONATHAN

But he's scared of you, so it's not
how things should be.

BEN

But I don't care.

Jonathan nudges his shoulder into Ben's doesn't just want to be ignored.

JONATHAN

But you should.

BEN

Why, because you're telling me to?

JONATHAN

No, just think about it. This
school should be ours if only you
could be bothered to take it.

Ben smiles.

BEN

Well I can't so just leave it.

A beat.

Jonatahn tries to think of what else he can say, knows Ben wants him to drop it but can't help himself.

JONATHAN

I'm just saying think about it.
Fuck Ketih, why should we let him
continue going around thinking and
telling everyone he runs this
place?

Silence.

Ben's got nothing else for him.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

Right?

Still Ben just keeps his mouth shut.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - PLAYGROUND - DAY

Ben and Jonathan are kicking a football back and forth between each other.

The only ones here.

Ben's much better, can actually control the ball and pass it perfectly as Jonatahn struggles each time to keep the ball close to his feet before he then tries to kick it simply in a straight line.

Ben does a couple kick ups, controls it on his chest then passes it back.

Jonathan cheers.

JONATHAN

You're good.

Ben smiles, happy to hear it.

BEN

Thanks.

JONATHAN

Why not join the school team then?

Ben shakes his head.

BEN

Can't.

He does a few more kick ups, keeps the ball for himself, can't be bothered to try and pass it to Jonathan anymore.

JONATHAN

Why not, I'm sure they'd let you?

BEN

Yeah, they've asked me a bunch of times before.

JONATHAN

So why not say yes to them?

BEN

Left knee is real shit. It gets really fucked if I run on it so I can't.

JONATHAN

That's shit.

Ben nods.

BEN

You don't have to tell me.

Ben then puts his foot through the football, kicking it as hard as he can and sending it high and wide.

He then watches as Jonathan runs after it for him.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY

Keith's with Jeni, at a window ledge in the middle of the corridor, both leaning against it.

Keith's nervous, shy.

KEITH
Thanks for moving for me.

She's trying to get a good look at his broken nose without being too obvious about it.

JENI
What was wrong?

KEITH
I couldn't sit at the back.

She nods.

JENI
That's OK.

A beat.

It goes quiet between them.

Jeni doesn't want it to.

JENI (CONT'D)
I didn't mind doing it, it's fine.

He can feel it getting awkward too.

He forces a smile in her direction.

KEITH
How are you finding your first week here?

She shakes her head.

JENI
I hate it, it's a shit hole of a school.

KEITH
Sure is.

JENI
And there's like only fifteen other girls here and they're all horrible to me.

He puff out his chest and rolls his shoulder back.

KEITH

Well if any of them are causing you trouble come to me and I'll sort it out.

She frowns, annoyed.

JENI

Why the hell would you say that to me?

He's serious.

KEITH

Because I could fix things for you if you needed me to?

JENI

Everyone tells me that you're a freak, so far I've not wanted to believe them.

KEITH

Why not?

JENI

Because you're the only one who talks to me.

He smiles, can't help it.

KEITH

So which people have told you that they're scared of me?

She shakes her head, that's not what she said.

JENI

Just crazy and violent.

KEITH

Same thing.

JENI

Is it?

He nods.

JENI (CONT'D)

And you're happy with that?

KEITH

It gets me what I want from this place.

She points at his nose.

JENI

A broken nose included?

KEITH

That was an accident, I did it to myself.

She doesn't believe him.

JENI

Always looking for people to fight isn't good you know, violence isn't healthy, it's just too much work. I don't know how anyone could live a happy life like that, always being angry. You shouldn't be happy that anyone is scared of you because of how strong you are. It's stupid and ugly to think like that.

He's still just smiling at her, not getting her point at all.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - STAIRCASE - DAY

Ben leads the way up the steps with Jonathan and Dean keeping close behind him.

They move past Danny and a couple of his weed smoking FRIENDS, this particular level of the building they're moving into seems like it's been left abandoned from all the others.

The walls on either side of them now covered in graffiti and local band posters.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - NEXT

Ben, Jonathan and Dean move off the staircase and into the corridor.

Ben glances behind, back at Jonathan, growls at him.

BEN
I fucking hate stoners I do.

JONATHAN
Let's fucking kick shit out of them
then?

Dean smiles.

DEAN
I'll even help out if you need it?

Ben shakes his head.

He then takes them up to the door to a classroom and moves inside.

Dean, the last one in closes the door shut behind them.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - ABANDONED CLASSROOM - DAY

An abandoned classroom, dirty and filled with broken desks and chairs. A dumping ground for all the other 'in-use classrooms.'

Ricky is up at the old chalkboard and with lot's of different coloured pieces of chalk in his left hand he's drawing with his right.

Creatures of all different sizes and shapes all coming out from his imagination.

Ben, Jonathan and Dean are all sitting on chairs behind him and watching.

JONATHAN
What are they supposed to be?

Ricky continues.

RICKY
Hard to say.

Dean points at them.

DEAN
Don't you think you're a bit too
old for drawing shit like that?

Ricky shakes his head.

RICKY
Nope.

Ben's trying to work it out.

BEN
Like a comic book?

Ricky smiles.

RICKY
I wouldn't mind if that happened.

Jonathan joins in with trying to find an answer.

JONATHAN
So this is for a comic book then?

RICKY
Don't know, just vague ideas that I
have right now.

BEN
They're good.

RICKY
Thanks.

JONATHAN
Yeah, I like them too.

RICKY
Good.

DEAN
You can draw, so maybe draw
something that isn't just for kids?

Ricky pulls a face, doesn't see his point.

RICKY
Like what?

DEAN
I don't know, you're the artist,
you figure it out.

BEN

Well I like them as they are.

Ricky nods, finishing one creature he starts on another.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY

Jonathan exits out of the abandoned classroom, closes the door shut behind him.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - TOILETS - DAY

Jonathan's now at a urinal, urinating.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - ABANDONED CLASSROOM - DAY

Ricky's still drawing onto the chalkboard, it's almost full with his characters now.

Dean turns to Ben, curious.

DEAN

Why are you so close to Joe?

Ben stays focused on what Ricky's doing.

BEN

Well I've known him since we were little kids?

Dean smiles, still trying to work it out.

DEAN

Do you live next to each other or something?

BEN

No, are parents are friends so that made us friends.

DEAN

But I still don't get why you're still so close to him?

Ricky's listening, calls back to them.

RICKY

He's jealous.

DEAN

Fuck you, I'm being serious.

BEN

Why what's wrong?

DEAN

You're just both so different from each other.

Ben really doesn't understand the point he's trying to make.

BEN

So?

Dean can't hold it in any longer.

DEAN
I don't like him so I need to know
why you do?

Ben laughs.

BEN
Why?

DEAN
I want to know why he's your best
friend. It's something I've
honestly been thinking about for
awhile.

Ricky laughs.

RICKY
See, I told you. Jealously.

DEAN
Fuck off.

BEN
He just is. It's nothing that
terrible though.

Dean taps a finger against his temple.

DEAN
I don't trust him.

BEN
Well if you don't want to you don't
have to.

DEAN
And you do?

Ben smiles.

BEN
Sure, I like him. I think he's a
good guy.

Dean turns to Ricky, doesn't want to be alone for what he's
saying.

DEAN
Ricky, you know what I'm talking
about don't you, you don't trust
the guy either do you?

RICKY

I don't need to. What does he know about me, I haven't told him anything so big about myself that I would need to trust him.

Dean's stands up from his chair, aghast.

DEAN

You two just don't understand, in the world I'm in, trust is everything. If there's no trust between you and your boys that's when shit all goes wrong.

RICKY

That's nice.

A beat.

DEAN

I'm just being real with you both. I choose truth over lies every time.

RICKY

Well I like Joe too.

Dean laughs.

DEAN

You two wouldn't last on the streets for too long.

BEN

Then we might as well stay in school then.

Ricky laughs.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - ROOF - DAY

Jonatahn's alone on the rooftop, at the base of the scaffold tower he's staring up at it, lost in his own thoughts.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - ABANDONED CLASSROOM - DAY

Ricky's finished, his hands covered in chalk.

He moves over to sit down with Ben and Dean when the door to the abandoned classroom is pulled open.

All three spin around to and see MR FRY, 50, overweight, grey hair and bespectacled.

He waves all three over to him with a gentle smile.

All three boys smile back and stand up, doing as he's asking.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - MR FRY'S OFFICE - DAY

A tiny cluttered mess of an office.

Mr Fry sits behind his desk with Ben, Ricky and Dean all sitting opposite and facing him.

They're patiently listening.

MR FRY

I can only be honest and up front
with you, you know that right?

Ricky and Dean both nod but stay silent.

BEN

We know.

MR FRY

I have to warn all three of you, if
you continue down this road you're
going to fail.

They're just staring back at him, and now even Ben has nothing to say.

MR FRY (CONT'D)

If you want to get out of this
place with any kind of pride and
achievement you need to try and get
to class. No one's going to make
you because no one should have to.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - ROOF - DAY

Jonathan walks along the roof and heads back towards the door to get off.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - STAIRCASE - DAY

Jonathan's heading down the steps quickly, in a rush.

His footsteps echoing around him.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY

Jonathan's walking through, it's empty, but then sees Keith coming towards him.

Both make eye contact, Keith's already angry.

They keep walking towards each other but as Jonathan moves past Keith kicks out a leg, and catching Jonathan on the ankle trips him up.

Jonathan falls to the floor, landing down hard.

He doesn't want to stay there, but on pushing himself back up Keith then spins around and delivers a solid hard kick across his bum.

Keith laughs hard as Jonathan just takes the hit, gets back up to his feet and hurries away from him, humiliated.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - CANTEEN - DAY

Lunch time, the canteen's packed with students.

A line for food stretching out through the door with the rest of the canteen filled up with as many tables and chairs as they can fit in.

Jonathan sprints through, finding Ben, Ricky and Dean all together.

He reaches them, out of breath.

A beat.

They're watching him but he's not saying anything, just panting.

Ricky breaks through the delayed silence.

RICKY
Where have you been?

JONATHAN
I just got jumped.

BEN
What?

Dean laughs.

DEAN
By who?

JONATHAN
Who do you think, that fat twat.

BEN
Why?

JONATHAN
Why, because we're at war with him.

RICKY
It's not much of a war then.

JONATHAN
Not for you no, but I'm the one who just got into a fucking fight with him.

A beat.

No one believes him.

BEN
When, just now?

Jonathan nods.

JONATHAN
Yeah, so come on. I need back up,
let's get him.

Ricky shakes his head, studying Jonathan's face.

RICKY
You don't look like you've been in
a fight, just like you've been out
running.

JONATHAN
Well I was alright.

DEAN
Where did he hit you then?

Jonathan shakes his head, he's not going to answer that.

JONATHAN
Are you coming?

DEAN
Me, no.

RICKY
Yeah, count me out too.

Jonathan only has one option left.

JONATHAN
Ben?

Ben shrugs.

BEN
Can't you just leave this for now?

Jonathan can't believe what he's hearing, tears welling up in his eyes.

JONATHAN
Some fucking friends you lot are.

A few tears then escape.

Ben can't handle it.

BEN

Alright fine, let's go.

He stands up and moves towards the canteens exit.

Jonatahn suddenly smiling again follows out behind him, excited.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - TOILETS - DAY

Keith pulls his zipper up, finished using the urinal.

He then moves to the row of sinks, picking the middle.

Quickly washes his hands and then drying them off on his trousers Jonathan appears in the doorway.

JONATHAN

There you are!

Keith looks across at him, smiles.

KEITH

What the fuck do you want?

Jonathan rushes towards him, throws out a punch but Keith dodges it and punches Jonathan back in the stomach.

The wind knocked out of him Jonathan doubles over, breathless.

Keith follows it up with a hard headbutt down against the back of Jonathan's head.

Jonathan now collapses down to the dirt covered toilet floor, out of it.

Keith is then about to stamp down on his back to finish him off but can't as Ben enters and pushes both hands hard into Keith's chest forcing him backwards.

Keith stumbles away and hits up against the wall.

Ben follows him then CHOPS his right hand as hard as he can across Keith still broken nose. A perfectly placed shot.

Keith jolts his head back in pain, groaning, as blood once again oozes out and trickles down his face.

Ben continues and delivers another CHOP this time his left hard across Keith's throat.

Keith's groans now turning to gurgles as he flops down onto his knees, hard to breath for a few seconds.

Jonathan's now slowly gets back up to his feet, still groggy from the headbutt.

Ben stands over the top of Keith, shakes his head.

BEN
Enough with this bullshit!

Keith growls back at him, hard to talk.

KEITH
This isn't fair. I wouldn't have
done anything to you!

Jonathan moves over to him, kicks Keith in the face.

Keith falls down to the floor, now lying face down across it.

Jonathan then stamps that same foot down a couple of times across Keith's back, head and arms, caught up in a horrible burning rage. The red mist descending.

JONATHAN
Fucking prick, what you got to say
now bitch!

He's going overboard, Ben steps in, grabs him and drags Jonathan off of Keith and then out of the toilets with him.

Both just leaving Keith still out of the floor, hurting but he'll be OK.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - ROOF - DAY

Ben and Jonathan are once again on the edge of the rooftop together, both overlooking the empty playground below.

Ben moves his arms back and holds his hands together behind his back.

He glances across at Jonathan, annoyed.

BEN
Are you OK?

He nods, acting brave.

JONATHAN
Yeah, didn't hurt. He got in a
lucky shot.

Ben shakes his head, frustrated.

BEN

Sure.

Jonathan forces out a laugh.

JONATHAN

But I wish I was able to fight like you can, kung-fu style and all that.

Ben smiles thinking of him as just stupid.

BEN

Not really, I just had time to think.

JONATHAN

No it's more than that. I totally missed him when I tired. Couldn't even get a lucky shot in on that massive block head of his.

BEN

It's because you were too excited, too emotionally going in. Like I said, time to think is what I had going for me.

JONATHAN

But you never get scared.

BEN

Of course I do.

JONATHAN

I've never seen it.

Ben laughs.

BEN

Well you've only ever seen me in school.

JONATHAN

So?

BEN

What's there to be scared of in school?

JONATHAN

About that fat fuck we just had a
fight with?

Ben shakes his head.

BEN

Wouldn't have needed to if you
weren't so obsessed with him.

Jonathan scowls at him, annoyed.

JONATHAN

What are you saying?

Ben ignores him.

A beat.

Ben tries a new direction.

BEN

What are you going to do when all
this is over?

JONATHAN

School?

Ben nods.

Jonathan shrugs.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

Don't know. What about you?

Ben shakes his head.

BEN

I asked you.

Jonathan shrugs again, lost.

JONATHAN

Not sure?

Ben nudges into him with his elbow, wants an answer.

BEN

Let's say today is the last day.
What would you do tomorrow?

Jonathan thinks about it.

A beat.

JONATHAN

Maybe just go out and get a job.
With no more school to come to I
guess that means it's time to start
paying my own way?

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - MR FRY'S OFFICE - DAY

Mr Fry is back in his office but this time alone only with
Ricky.

Fry's behind his desk with Ricky opposite both facing each
other.

Ricky waits for him to speak first.

Fry shakes his head, annoyed.

FRY

You're so smart Ricky.

Ricky slips his hands down into his pockets and drops his
head down, shy.

RICKY

Thanks.

FRY

If you were to sit every single
exam that was possible for you to
take I strongly believe you would
pass every single one with flying
colours. You have that in you.

Ricky smiles, embarrassed.

RICKY

Thank you.

FRY

But you're going to fail at this
rate because the school isn't going
to want to put you down for
anything if you don't go to your
classes.

RICKY

I know.

Fry furrows his brow, trying to work it out.

FRY

And do you care?

Ricky shrugs.

RICKY
I guess so?

FRY
And what are you going to do about
it?

RICKY
I don't know?

Fry leans right back into his chair, a deep breath.

FRY
What is it that you want to do?

Ricky shrugs.

RICKY
I want to draw, paint, create
something nice like that.

Fry surprised to hear it, eyes grow wide.

FRY
Nice, like what?

Ricky laughs, feeling silly.

RICKY
Like an artist I suppose?

Fry doesn't want to let this go.

FRY
What kind of artist?

Ricky shrugs, uncomfortable.

RICKY
Like with a story line around it. I
draw and get someone else to write.

FRY
Like a comic book?

Ricky just keeps shrugging.

RICKY
Maybe, if I could do it, why not?

FRY
Do you draw now?

Ricky lifts his head up, looks right at Fry, smiles.

RICKY
All the time.

FRY
What kind of stuff?

Ricky shrugs.

RICKY
Fun stuff.

Fry checks.

FRY
A comic book filled with fun stuff?

RICKY
Yeah, that people want to read.

Fry let's out a gentle laugh, pleased to hear it.

FRY
Do you have any characters?

Ricky nods.

FRY (CONT'D)
Can you tell me about them?

RICKY
They're nice, good guys. They do
good things.

Fry nods back at him, doesn't know what else he can ask him.

Both just smiling at each other.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - ROOF - DAY

Ben and Ricky are on the edge of the roof and watching Dean at the school gate with several MALE 'GANGSTERS' all with their hoods up, hands in their pockets and gathered around Dean, talking to him.

Ben and Ricky are left to speculate.

RICKY
What's he doing?

BEN
Sucking up to them?

Ricky shakes his head, feeling bad on Dean's behalf.

RICKY
He's making a tit of himself.

BEN
Why's he picked them for friends?

RICKY
Because he's a needy idiot.

BEN
Do you know anyone of them?

Ricky shakes his head.

RICKY
No, wouldn't want to either.

BEN
Dean seems happy though?

RICKY
I guess.

BEN
Have you said something to him?

RICKY
No, but he knows how I feel about
it all.

BEN
Are they the real deal then?

RICKY
Yeah, I grantee every single one of
them has got a knife on them and
would be happy to use it on anyone
they wanted to.

BEN
What an idiot he really is then.

RICKY
Told you.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - ROOF - DAY

Ben and Ricky still on the roof are by the scaffold tower, sitting on the floor next to it.

RICKY
You really like it here don't you?

Ben nods.

RICKY (CONT'D)
I hate it.

Ben smiles.

BEN
I love it.

RICKY
I don't see how you can. It's a
fucking shit hole.

BEN
Everyday I'm here is freedom,
freedom that I can't get anyplace
else.

Ricky laughs.

RICKY
That's a weird way to look at it.

BEN
Not really, what do I have to do
here. Nothing. What do I get to do
here, anything I want to. This is
total freedom right now and once we
leave it we'll all know it.

Ricky shakes his head, doesn't agree.

RICKY
I can't wait to leave. This final
year can't end fast enough.

BEN
So says everyone else. I guess I'm
alone thinking like I do?

Ricky smiles.

RICKY
Annoyed?

Ben smiles.

BEN
Nope, it's OK.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - STAIRCASE - DAY

Ben walks down the steps alone, smiling to himself.

Jeni sees him and runs up to him, angry.

She places her hands against his chest, stopping him.

JENI
I want to speak to you.

He stops.

A beat.

He eyes her up.

BEN
You do?

JENI
Why did you beat Keith up?

BEN
That's what you want to talk to me
about?

JENI
Just answer me!

BEN
Why are you angry at me, we don't
know each other?

JENI
Just tell me why?

BEN
Who is he to you?

She scowls at him, disgusted.

JENI
You don't care about what you did
to him at all do you?

He laughs.

BEN
I didn't do too much. He'll be OK.

JENI
He's scared of you, did you know
that?

He laughs again.

JENI (CONT'D)
Do you think that's funny?

BEN
A little yes, that's why I laughed.

JENI
You're disgusting.

He frowns, doesn't very much like being spoken to like this.

BEN
And you're confused, if he would
only just stop acting like he does
none of this would have happen to
him.

JENI
Why do you hate him so much, where
has that all come from?

He pushes her out of the way, done with talking to her.

BEN
I've got to go, nice talking to you
though.

She doesn't follow, watches him leave, annoyed.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - ROOF - DAY

Dean and Ricky are on the rooftops edge together.

Dean's buzzing, full on energy.

DEAN

Did you see them?

Ricky nods.

RICKY

Me and Ben were watching.

DEAN

They said yes. They're letting me join, even said that I could take over a patch of my own. Nothing huge but something for me to build on. The boss really likes me so today's going to be my last day of school for real. I'm finally leaving it for good.

RICKY

I don't know if that's anything to be proud of?

DEAN

Of course it is, what are you doing with your life?

A beat.

Ricky seriously thinks about it.

RICKY

Nothing.

DEAN

That's my point.

RICKY

Alright, you've made your point so what am I supposed to do now?

DEAN

Come work for me?

Ricky laughs, he can't help it.

RICKY

Why would I do that?

Dean sulks.

DEAN

Don't laugh at me when I'm trying to help you. The boss really likes me, I could get you in no problem.

He's not interested.

RICKY

Just count me out.

DEAN

Don't be saying this now just to come and be begging me later when you see how much money I'll be earning.

RICKY

OK.

DEAN

You're being serious?

RICKY

Yes. It's just a dick thing to be asking me.

It's Dean's turn to laugh.

DEAN

A dick thing, what are you talking about?

RICKY

You know what I mean, you shouldn't be hooking up with these people.

DEAN

Don't tell me what to do.

RICKY

Fine, but don't ask me to join in.

Dean's hurt.

DEAN

Fine, I just thought we were friends that's all?

Ricky rolls his eyes.

RICKY

We are. But I don't want it. I've never being in a fight, what use would they have with me?

Dean smiles again, feels a little bit better.

DEAN

Yeah you're right, you'd only just end up getting in the way. But I'll still keep an eye on you, help you out when you need it.

RICKY

Thanks.

DEAN

But you're right, this is my world, not yours.

Ricky feels sorry for him, but can't argue against him anymore, they would be no point.

He just nods.

RICKY

Yeah, that's right. Your world.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - ABANDONED CLASSROOM - DAY

Ricky's back at the blackboard and having cleaned it from all his last creations and drawings he's starting again.

Using those bright and colourful pieces of chalk, new animals and monsters from his imagination start to appear.

Ben and Jonathan are here watching on, impressed.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - PLAYGROUND - DAY

Dean walks away from the school, rips of his tie and drops it to the floor.

Next he takes off his jacket and this too he lets fall.

As he reaches the gate a car pulls up outside it, and out jumps two TEENAGE THUGS, with scarfs covering their faces and knives in their hands.

They run onto the playground and towards him.

Dean's too shocked at the sight of them to do anything else but to just stop and wait.

Getting to him, they both at the time and without hesitation plunge their knives into his chest and stomach, leaving their knives inside him before sprinting back to the car, jumping inside and speeding off.

Dean collapse's down to the floor, bleeding heavily.

His eyes close as his breathing suddenly becomes more and more laboured.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY

The class has come to a stop.

Ben, Jonathan and Ricky are all up at the window with the rest of the class even including their FEMALE TEACHER, 40.

Staring outside at a police car that's parked up and two MALE POLICE OFFICERS standing over Dean's dead body, now covered up with a sheet.

Everyone's muttering to each other, gossiping.

BEN

He's dead.

Ricky's horrified, tears streaming down his face, unable to control his emotions.

RICKY

What the fuck?

Jonathan's searching for answers.

JONATHAN

What did he say to them?

BEN

I don't know.

JONATHAN

How did it kick off?

BEN

They just stabbed him.

A beat.

JONATHAN

What do we do?

BEN

I don't know?

JONATHAN

Well shouldn't one of us call his parents or something?

BEN

Why?

JONATHAN

Well who else even spoke to him in his school apart from us?

Ricky can't take it anymore.

He blots and sprints out towards the door.

Only Ben and Jonathan turn to watch him go, but neither says anything to him.

Everyone else is still focused on the police car outside.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - TOILETS - DAY

Ricky explodes into the toilets and moves hurriedly into an open cubical.

He bends over the toilet and throws up, sick all over it.

The tears still falling, distraught.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY

Ben and Jonathan come back to the window and back to staring along with everyone else at the crime scene.

Those two male police officers still standing guard waiting.

JONATHAN,
I didn't know him.

BEN
No?

JONATHAN
Did you?

BEN
Not really.

JONATHAN
But I guess Ricky did?

Ben nods.

BEN
Yeah, they were close.

JONATHAN
Should we go check on him, see if
he's alright?

Ben shakes his head.

BEN
And say what do him, no, just leave
him.

JONATHAN
What should we do, I mean outside
of school I didn't know him but
someone should tell his parents
shouldn't they?

BEN
Sure.

JONATHAN
Then how do we find out where he
lives?

BEN
We don't, just let the school deal
with it.

JONATHAN
This is so fucked up.

Ben nods, can't disagree.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - PLAYGROUND - DAY

Mr Fry sprints across to Dean's still covered up body, still left on the floor.

Fry tries to get to him but both police officers grab one of his arms each and hold him back.

FRY
No!

Fry weeps as he breaks down, distraught.

The police officers continue holding him back, can't let him near the body.

FRY (CONT'D)
Please, oh god, no!

Fry gives up, can't overpower them.

FRY (CONT'D)
Oh my god!

His knees go weak under him and he collapses down to the floor, his tears flooding out.

FRY (CONT'D)
Why, why, why!

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - ROOF - DAY

Ben and Jeni are on the edge of the roof, looking down at the empty playground, the police now longer there.

Dean's body has been cleared away.

Jeni glance across at him, wants to say something but can't think of anything.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - ROOF - DAY

Ben and Jeni are sitting down at the base of the scaffold tower.

Shoulder to shoulder, she gently nudges his foot with hers wanting to get his attention.

JENI
I'm sorry to hear about your friend.

He shakes his head.

BEN
Were weren't friends, but I did like him.

JENI
Do you know why it happened?

Again he shakes his head, lost.

BEN
Just going to let the police work it out.

She looks down at the floor, sad.

JENI
It's so stupid.

BEN
I know. But so was he.

JENI
I thought you liked him?

BEN
I did. But he was stupid.

JENI
Then you know why he was stabbed?

BEN
No.

JENI
Then why call him stupid?

BEN
Because he was so excited to be joining up with another gang just like those who did that to him.
(MORE)

BEN (CONT'D)

So maybe if he hadn't have been
stabbed today he might have ended
up stabbing someone else himself
tomorrow?

JENI

So you're glad it happened to him?

BEN

No.

She lifts her head up and looks across at him, checks.

JENI

You're sad?

BEN

Yes.

She doesn't believe him.

JENI

Did you cry?

BEN

No.

JENI

Are you going to?

BEN

I don't know think so, but I don't
know.

JENI

It's so evil what they did.

BEN

Did you know him?

She shakes her head.

BEN (CONT'D)

Then why all these questions?

She shrugs.

JENI

I just hate fighting so much. It's
such a waste of energy. But boys
just seem to love to do it.

A beat.

He doesn't disagree.

JENI (CONT'D)
You should just stop it.

BEN
Me?

She nods.

JENI
You as well.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY

Jonathan and Keith cross path walking through from opposite ends of the empty corridor.

Once they're side by side, Keith then loudly stamps his food down on the ground.

It causes Jonathan to jolt, fearing a fight coming next.

But Keith just laughs at him as they both continue walking.

KEITH
I was only playing with you, peace
alright?

Jonathan ignores him.

Keith glances over his shoulder, watching Jonatahn all the way to the other end of the corridor.

He calls out, trying one more time.

KEITH (CONT'D)
Peace, OK?

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - PLAYGROUND - DAY

Keith catches up to Jeni, she's sitting on a bench and enjoying her home packed sandwiches for lunch.

KEITH
I've been looking for you.

She's surprised to hear it.

JENI
Why?

He sits down next to her.

KEITH
You were talking to Ben?

JENI
Yeah so?

He sulks.

KEITH
Why?

JENI
His friend just got stabbed and killed, I wanted to know why?

KEITH
Talking to him on the roof?

JENI
Yeah.

KEITH
Is he still there?

She shrugs.

JENI
I don't know?

He's getting increasingly agitated.

KEITH
Let's go see then.

JENI
Why?

KEITH
Because I said so?

JENI
Don't fight with him anymore?

KEITH
Why, you like him?

JENI
You're such an idiot.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - MR FRY'S OFFICE - DAY

Mr Fry is back behind his desk with Ben sitting in front of him.

They're staring at each other, a little tense.

FRY
You know he died right?

Ben nods.

FRY (CONT'D)
Then that makes it a murder on school grounds.

BEN
I guess it does.

FRY
How does it make you feel?

BEN
I don't know?

Fry wants more from him than he's getting.

FRY
He died. What are you feeling about it?

BEN
My honest answer might not be the answer you want?

Fry doesn't understand.

FRY
Why, what makes you say that?

BEN
Because I can still see the tears in your eyes.

FRY
It's because I had faith in him,
like I still have in all of you.

BEN
OK.

FRY
Tell me.

A beat.

Ben thinks it over, doesn't want to enter into an argument with him but might as well be truthful.

BEN
He played gangster and died how
gangsters die.

Fry's shocked.

FRY
You believe that?

BEN
It doesn't matter, but he did. It's
not the kind of death Dean wanted
but it was certainly the kind of
life. He quit school, even though
he didn't quite manage to get
through the gates he was no longer
here.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - STAIRCASE - DAY

Keith is moving up the steps with Jeni, both heading right to the top.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - ROOF - DAY

Keith and Jeni move across the rooftop.

They're at the base of the scaffold tower.

She has her hands down on her hips as she's now staring up to the very top of it.

Keith then begins to climb it.

She's instantly worried.

JENI
Don't be stupid.

KEITH
I want to show you.

JENI
Show me what?

KEITH
That he's not so brave being able to get to the top of this, anyone can do it.

He stops just over halfway.

KEITH (CONT'D)
This school is still mine.

He won't climb anymore.

She's still watching him.

JENI
What's the point of this?

KEITH
People need to see.

JENI
Why do they?

KEITH
I'm reclaiming my spot. This rooftop is mine.
(MORE)

KEITH (CONT'D)

I can climb just as high as he can
so I don't care. This is mine, not
his.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - ABANDONED CLASSROOM - DAY

Ben walks in, empty.

He moves over to the chalkboard, it's been wiped clean.

He looks around, searching but no sign of Ricky.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - CANTEEN - DAY

Ben's sitting alone, the rest of the canteen empty, everyone else is in class.

He's eating his lunch in peace until Jonathan suddenly bursts in and sprints over to him.

He screams out at him.

JONATHAN

He's climbing, he's trying to take your spot.

Ben's not listening.

BEN

Do you know Ricky's left?

JONATHAN

What?

BEN

Ricky, I can't find him. I think he's left. He must have been a lot closer to Dean than I first realized.

JONATHAN

Aren't you listening?

Ben gives up on his food.

BEN

Not really, but I did hear you.

JONATHAN

And?

BEN

I don't care, if he wants to climb let him.

JONATHAN

But that rooftop is ours!

BEN

He won't stop us from going on it, he can't.

JONATHAN

But what if he climbs higher than you ever have?

BEN

Doesn't mean anything to me.

Jonathan can't believe what he's hearing.

JONATHAN

But it means something to the whole rest of the school. You know how the rule works, highest climber is leader.

Ben shakes his head.

BEN

But that's never been a rule that I've ever paid much attention too.

JONATHAN

Come on.

BEN

What is it Joe, what do you need me to do?

JONATHAN

Beat him, challenge him. Don't let him take it from you so easily. Fucking hell Ben. Stand up for yourself.

BEN

Are you sure this isn't more to do with me fighting for you again?

JONATHAN

Again!

BEN

Yeah, again like I always do?

Jonathan sulks.

JONATHAN

Fuck you.

BEN

It's true.

Jonathan shakes his head, at a total loss.

JONATHAN

Be a dick then.

A beat.

Ben thinks it over.

He pushes his plate over to the other side of the table then stands up.

BEN
Fine, let's go.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - ROOF - DAY

Ben and Jonathan join Jeni and Keith at the base of the scaffold tower.

Keith is out of breath, he's only just come down from it.

He gestures to the top of it, proudly.

KEITH
I've already climbed it.

JONATHAN
How far?

KEITH
What's it got to do with you?

Jonathan repeats.

JONATHAN
How far did you get?

KEITH
To the top.

Jonathan turns to Jeni.

JONATHAN
And you watched him?

She shakes her head.

JENI
Not to the top.

Keith shoot her an angry glance.

KEITH
She doesn't know what she's talking about, doesn't even understand it.

JENI
He got close though.

Ben gestures to the scaffold before he then grabs onto it with both hands, ready to climb.

BEN
Shall we then?

KEITH
Fuck you, I've already done it.

Ben shrugs.

BEN
Stay down here then.

Ben now starts to climb.

Jonatahn laughs at Keith.

JONATHAN
See, scared. Can't go as high as him and you know it. No one can.

KEITH
Shut up, just watch me.

Keith now grabs on and climbs too.

Ben's fast, he's already past the halfway mark.

Keith's trying to catch him.

He's cheering loudly, forcing out fake laughs as he tries to match him.

Ben's now one from the last and very top. He stops and waits.

Keith's still going and still cheering himself along, scared.

Jeni's frustrated, yells up to them.

JENI
What's this even going to prove?

Keith shouts back down at her.

KEITH
That I'm braver.

Keith's battling on, just below Ben's feet now, almost level.

Ben smiles at him.

BEN
She's got a point.

KEITH

Fuck off. I'm taking back what's mine no matter what.

BEN

It's pretty high up here, maybe you should go back down?

KEITH

Shut up!

Keith keeps going, but he's scared and getting increasingly nervous.

He continues.

Keith now moves past Ben and gets to the very top.

BEN

You can't do it.

Keith ignores him, standing up straight he's terrified but still tries to smile.

As he turns to look down at the playground below the reality of how high he really is hits him, he panics, slips and falls down, crashing back down to the rooftop, landing hard.

He breaks his right arm, the bone snapping for everyone to hear.

He's lucky to still be alive.

Jeni screams out, covers her hands over her face as she spins around and sprints off of the rooftop and back inside, going off to search for help.

Jonathan moves over to Keith, still laying flat out across the roof and in a huge amount of pain.

Jonathan starts nudging his foot against the back of Keith's head, hurting him, ignoring his cries.

There's nothing Keith can do now to defend himself.

JONATHAN

Who do you think you are you fucking loser, this is why you need to stay off of the fucking roof.

Jonathan continues and pushing down even harder with his foot as Ben climbs down from the scaffold tower.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

This is our place yeah?

Ben's back on the rooftop, angry at what Jonathan's doing he rushes over to him and shoves a hand hard into his face, a combined push and slap in one.

The force of it knocking Jonathan down off his feet.

Ben points at him, accusingly.

He's furious with him.

BEN

Just stop, what the fuck is wrong
with you?

Jonathan hits the roof hard, looks up at Ben in disbelief, hurt.

JONATHAN

What the fuck did you do that for?

Ben's tired, snaps back at him.

BEN

I'm sick of you getting me involved
with shit like this. No more. You
can just forget it.

Ben then turns around before Jonathan can say anything back to him and exits off from the roof.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY

A science class, the MALE TEACHER, 60, is up at the whiteboard writing a list of facts about how plants turn light into food for itself.

Jonathan is sitting at the front with Keith at the back.

Jonatahn glances over his shoulder, sees the cast on Keith broken right arm.

They stare at each other, then give an gentle acknowledging nod.

It's the first polite exchange they've probably ever had.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY

Jeni puts a hand onto Ben's chest stopping him.

She's wound up, agitated.

JENI

Why did you do it?

He relaxes, happy to stay and talk.

BEN

I didn't do anything.

She drops her hand down off of him.

JENI

You went too far, what if he died?

BEN

He didn't.

JENI

Well what if he did, isn't one death more than enough?

BEN

Why are you angry at me?

JENI

Because you could have just left him alone.

BEN

Are you in love with him?

She's taken aback, red in the face.

JENI

What?

BEN

With Keith, is that why you spend so much time with him and is that why you're so angry at me right now?

JENI

No.

BEN

No?

JENI
I don't love him. We're just
friends.

BEN
Does he know that?

JENI
What?

BEN
Have you told him?

JENI
Shut up, this isn't about me and
him, it's about you and him.

Ben laughs.

BEN
Well I don't love him either.

JENI
That isn't funny.

BEN
I didn't make him climb up, I even
told him not to. You were there and
you heard what went on. You already
know it wasn't me so I don't see
why you're trying this hard to be
angry at me?

JENI
Can't you just leave him alone?

BEN
Sure I can, but it wont stop him
from doing stupid things.

A beat.

They're still just staring at each other.

He smiles.

BEN (CONT'D)
Anything else?

JENI
What?

BEN

You stopped me from walking
remember. I was just going to walk
straight past you.

She shrugs, she wants to continue talking but doesn't know
what else she can say.

Ben leans forwards a little, still smiling.

Jeni stands her ground.

He keeps going, then quickly plants a gentle kiss onto her
lips.

She doesn't kiss him back but nor does she react angrily to
it either.

Ben pulls back, smiles at her again then puts his hands down
into his pockets and walks past her, continuing on towards
the far end of the corridor.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - ROOF - DAY

Jonathan and Keith are together on the edge of the rooftop,
looking down at the playground where they watch Ben and Jeni
walking together, Ben with a football tucked underneath an
arm.

Jonathan glances across to Keith, gestures to his cast.

JONATHAN

Does it hurt?

Keith shakes his head.

KEITH

It's fine.

They both come back to watching Ben and Jeni.

Keith gestures down to them.

KEITH (CONT'D)

Does he like her?

Jonathan shrugs.

JONATHAN

Don't think so.

KEITH

What makes you say that?

JONATHAN
He doesn't like anybody.

KEITH
Why do you hang out with him so much then?

JONATHAN
I don't know.

KEITH
You don't like him anymore?

Jonathan shakes his head.

JONATHAN
No.

KEITH
What is it about him that's turned you off?

JONATHAN
He's a fucking freak.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - PLAYGROUND - SAME TIME

On the empty playground, Keith and Jonathan are clearly visible standing on the rooftop, watching them.

Ben places down the football and kicks it softly, a pass to Jeni.

She controls it and passes it back.

A little passing game being played out between them now.

JENI
What are you doing after you leave here?

He shrugs.

BEN
I don't know.

JENI
But after this year there will be no more time to think about it?

He nods.

BEN
You're right.

JENI
Then what?

He laughs.

BEN
I don't know. What about you?
She smiles, proudly.

JENI
I know.

BEN
Tell me?

JENI
College first and then onto
university.
He smiles.

BEN
Why?

JENI
I want to become a nurse at the end
of it.
He laughs.

BEN
That's nice.

She thinks he's being mean.

JENI
What's funny about that, don't you
think I could be?

BEN
I didn't say that.

JENI
Then why are you grinning at me
like an idiot?

He laughs.

BEN
It's just how my face is I guess?

JENI

At least I'm going to be trying at something.

BEN

I'm honestly happy for you. I think you'd be a great nurse. You certainly seem to really care about a lot of people.

JENI

And what about you?

BEN

What about me what?

JENI

Who do you care about?

He shrugs.

BEN

I don't know, maybe nobody?

A beat.

They fall silent but continue passing the ball back and forth between each other.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - STAIRCASE - DAY

Jonathan and Keith are sitting on the bottom step together.

Danny is standing in front of them.

He exchanges money for another small bag of weed.

Danny quickly shoves it into his pocket and moves away.

A beat.

Jonathan looks across at Keith, annoyed.

JONATHAN

Did you ever get that kid back from the time he broke you nose?

Keith shakes his head, lifts up his cast.

KEITH

It seems like I break a lot of stuff by accident.

JONATHAN
You think what he did was an
accident?

KEITH
Of course, why else would he keep
coming to me for more?

Jonathan rolls his eyes.

JONATHAN
Because he's an addict. What the
fuck does he care as long as he
gets some of what he needs?

Keith's unconvinced.

KEITH
I don't think he meant to do it.

JONATHAN
Everyone in this school used to be
scared of you.

KEITH
They still are.

Jonathan shakes his head.

JONATHAN
I'm not anymore.

Keith laughs.

KEITH
Because I've got no more problem
with you.

JONATHAN
We should go do him.

KEITH
Who?

JONATHAN
The stoner.

KEITH
What would be the point?

JONATHAN
To send a message, he breaks your
nose and you do nothing back to
him.

(MORE)

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

Don't you realize that news has been all around this school already?

KEITH

OK.

JONATHAN

You kept trying against Ben to get the rooftop back but that's gone until you can climb higher than him and that's never going to happen, he's a freak when he comes to that shit. But we can take the rest of the school for ourselves.

KEITH

The year is almost over.

JONATHAN

So?

KEITH

So what would be the point?

JONATHAN

Don't you want to go out as something, as somebody? Aren't you sick of being disrespected? The other people who go to this school should fear and look up to us but they don't. You said you wanted to take this place back and I'm telling you that I'm here to help you.

Keith nods, foolishly listening to Jonathan's ramblings as if there was some kind of hidden truth to them.

KEITH

Alright then.

They both stand up together and move down off the steps.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - TOILETS - DAY

Danny's in the cubical, another joint in his hand and smoking.

He's enjoying it.

BANG.

The cubicles door is ripped open and in rush both Jonathan and Keith, kicking and punching Danny all over.

He has no defense, falls to the dirty toilet floor and tries to hide his face behind his arms.

Once on the floor Keith begins to step back away from him leaving only Jonathan, caught up in an uncontrollable rage.

As he continues he's just using his feet.

STAMP, STAMP, STAMP, down onto Danny's head and neck.

Danny's knocked out, his arms flopping down but Jonathan continues on still with the attack.

Keith watches on, scared, too scared to say anything.

Booting Danny across the face blood flows out of his mouth and now only at the sight of so much blood does Jonathan finally stop.

He's exhausted but satisfied with his hard work.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - ABANDONED CLASSROOM - DAY

Ben and Jeni are alone, Ben's sitting on one of those old chairs, with Jeni sitting down on his lap.

They both have their arms wrapped around each other in a loving embrace, kissing each other passionately.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY

A history lesson, the MALE TEACHER, 30, writing up key dates and events of the cold war.

Ben's sitting at the front and for the first time ever he has a notebook open and is copying down everything the teacher is writing.

A beat.

The door to the classroom is then opened, Jonathan appearing.

The whole class turns around to quickly see who it is, a part from the teacher and Ben who both just continue writing.

As the rest of the class then comes back to their work Jonathan moves through finding the only empty desk left, a couple rows behind Ben.

Jonathan sits down, staring at Ben, watching what he's doing.

He's hoping that Ben will turn around to face him but he doesn't.

He hisses at him.

JONATHAN

Ben?

The teacher doesn't care and nor does Ben.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

Still Ben gives him nothing.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

Me and Keith have made up, we're friends now. I'm not going to ask you to climb that thing for me anymore, yeah?

Still Ben only concentrates on his work.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

Are we friends again, yeah?

Nothing.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

Ben?

Nothing.

Jonathan gives up, falling back into his seat, obviously hurt.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - ROOF - DAY

Keith's with Jeni, both moving to the very edge of the roof. They then stop and turn to face each other.

KEITH
You're with Ben?

JENI
Not really.

He's disgusted.

KEITH
I thought you hated him?

She shakes her head.

JENI
I never said that.

KEITH
What about me?

JENI
What about you, can't you still be my friend no matter who I was seeing?

His eyes grow wide, shocked.

KEITH
So you are seeing him?

She shrugs.

JENI
Not really.

KEITH
Then what?

JENI
We've kissed.

His eyes fill up with tears as he now starts crying.

KEITH
But I thought we were dating?

She was just about to laugh but stops herself, seeing in his eyes that he's totally serious.

JENI

What?

KEITH

Me and you. What the hell have we spent all this time together for?

JENI

Because we're friends?

KEITH

No.

She's shocked.

JENI

No?

KEITH

I thought you loved me?

JENI

What the hell are you talking about?

KEITH

Why Ben.

JENI

I've only kissed him, what the shit Keith?

KEITH

I thought we were a couple, I thought you were enjoying being with me?

JENI

No, that's crazy.

His heart is breaking.

KEITH

Why, because I'm ugly?

He's all over the place.

JENI

What, no. Wait just listen to me.
What have we ever done that made
you think that me and you were ever
going out. What was it?

He thinks about it.

KEITH

I've been the only person you've
picked to speak to?

JENI

Because you're the only person I
know.

He shakes his head, fuming.

KEITH

Not anymore.

JENI

We're friends.

KEITH

You don't want to go out with me?

JENI

I didn't say that.

KEITH

Then go out with me, be my
girlfriend. I'm asking you now.

She doesn't know what to do, embarrassed for the both of
them.

JENI

I've got to go.

KEITH

Why can't you give me an answer?

JENI

Because there's no way to answer
it.

KEITH

Yes there is.

JENI

Then no, that's my answer. No I
don't want to be your girlfriend.

The tears still fall, he shakes his head, greatly hurt.

KEITH
Because of Ben?

JENI
No, because of me. I don't like you
like that, but I do like you as my
friend.

KEITH
Fuck off do you.

JENI
I've got to go.

She takes a step back away from him but Keith suddenly reaches out both hands and wraps them tightly around her neck, squeezes.

Her mouth drops open, horrified, struggling to breath.

KEITH
You stay away from him.

Panicking she slaps him across the face as hard as she can.

He lets go, she stumbles away from him as fast as she can, then sprinting towards the door and moving back inside.

He screams out after her, still crying.

KEITH (CONT'D)
Stay away from him or I swear I'll
fuck you up!

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY

Ben's on one end with Jonathan on the opposite.

With a fairly large distance between them, both are trying to stare the other one down.

A beat.

Jonathan is the one to take the first step but now they're both marching fast towards each other.

Clashing together, they both take it in turns to shove their hands into the others chest.

JONATHAN
Get the fuck away from me.

BEN

You're the one who needs to back down.

JONATHAN

Fuck you, can't push me around anymore.

BEN

You're gone in the head you are.

JONATHAN

Don't fuck with me then.

BEN

You're fucking with yourself.

JONATHAN

Get the fuck away from me.

Ben shoves him again as hard as he can.

Jonathan is the first to snap, throws out a punch catching Ben in the face.

Ben throws one back of his own, now their taking it in turns to punch the other.

Jonathan then kicks, catching Ben in the groin, Ben doubles over in pain leaving Jonathan to follow it up with another punch to his chin.

Ben falls to the floor, defeated, coughing. Holding both hands over his crouch, too painful to even lift his head up.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

I warned you. Now just stay the fuck away from me.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - TOILETS - DAY

Jeni's up at a sink, wetting her hands.

She then looks into the mirror and checking on the red marks around her neck and throat where Keith had his hands.

She shakes her head, disgusted and scared.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - STAIRCASE - DAY

Ben has Jeni by the hand and is pulling her along with him as he moves up the stairs.

She's scared.

JENI

I don't want to go on the roof.

BEN

You'll be OK.

JENI

Please, I've been there enough for one day.

BEN

No one will dare try and hurt you while I'm around.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - ROOF - DAY

Ben and Jeni are sitting together by the scaffold tower.

JENI

He was serious.

A beat.

He's thinking long and hard as he stares up into the sky.

He comes back to Jeni, shakes his head.

BEN

I don't know how everything turned out like this?

JENI

He was serious about hurting me, I know it.

BEN

He wont. I'll fix things.

JENI

I don't see how?

BEN

School will be finished soon anyway.

JENI
Don't do anything stupid.

BEN
It's Joe who's pushing him. Spent
years trying to get into my head.

JENI
And did he ever?

He laughs.

BEN
No, he's not smart enough. But
Keith's a fucking moron so I bet
he's managed to do it with him.

JENI
Are you going to talk to him?

BEN
No. Can't.

JENI
Give it a try before you decide it
won't work.

BEN
It wont.

JENI
Then what are you going to do?

He smiles.

BEN
I've already told you. I'm going to
fix it.

He leans forwards and kisses her on the lips.

She kisses him back and wrapping her arms around the back of
his neck he moves his own hands to either side of her waist.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY

An English lesson in full swing.

Ben enters late, every student turning to check on who it is.
But upon seeing it's Ben they come back to watching the
FEMALE TEACHER, 27, writing up notes from a study on Romeo
and Juliet.

Ben moves over to the far end by the window where Jonathan's at a desk and sits down at an empty one next to him.

BEN

Yo.

Jonathan smiles at him, forced.

JONATHAN

Isn't me kicking the shit out of
once today enough?

Ben pretends not to hear him.

BEN

Yo, fuck face.

Jonathan keeps smiling, but it proving harder to keep.

JONATHAN

What?

BEN

Yo, fuck face retard can you hear
me?

Jonathan's smile finally fades away.

JONATHAN

Yeah, what is it? Are you trying to
make nice or something?

BEN

No you dumb fuck, does it sound
like I'm trying to make nice?

Jonathan's nervous, never seen Ben like this.

JONATHAN

Then what do you want?

BEN

A challenge, you dumb cunt.

JONATHAN

For what?

BEN

You know what, first one to climb
to the top gets the roof. I win you
stay the fuck away from me and Jeni
and the rooftop will be off limits
for you. You win and I'll never go
on it again.

JONATHAN

There's no way you'd agree to that.

BEN

I just fucking said it, useless
you're too fucking scared?

JONATHAN

No.

BEN

Tomorrow, go fucking practise for
the rest of today if you want to.
But tomorrow we're fixing this shit
between us once and for all. You
want to be seen as the bravest twat
in school here's your chance. You
beat me at this and no one will
ever question that you're a bitch
ever again.

Jonathan's clearly unnerved but fights against it, keeps
acting tough.

JONATHAN

Done. Tomorrow. Thank you very
fucking much for giving me the
opportunity to show everyone who
you really are.

Ben nods at him.

He stands back up from the desk and exits out of the
classroom.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - MR FRY'S OFFICE - DAY

Mr Fry back behind his desk with Ben sitting in front of him.

Fry points at him, smiles.

FRY

Your attendance is total shit
across the board but I'm going to
be putting you in for every exam
there is. Will you at least do me
the favour and turn up for them?

BEN

Sure.

FRY

And are you going to try and write
down some answers?

Ben nods.

BEN

I promise. I'll answer every
question I can.

FRY

Alright, that's good enough for me.
I'll take it.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - STAIRCASE - DAY

Jonathan is moving up the steps and making his way to the very top, nervous.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - ROOF - DAY

Jonathan is at the base of the scaffold tower, breathing deeply but already afraid.

He then starts to climb, going as fast as he can, but shaking, he's already uncomfortable.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Ben and Jeni are holding hands and walking home together.

They make a real cute couple.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - PLAYGROUND - DAY

The playground is full of students as they flood out through the gate and home.

Keith's standing perfectly still in the middle of the playground and is watching in horror as Jonathan is still climbing up the scaffold tower getting higher and higher.

As he moves past the halfway mark Keith runs back towards the building.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - ROOF - DAY

Jonathan is still climbing and now reaches the very top, victories.

He's very scared but still manages to hold his hands up high above his head as he fights with his fears to celebrate.

He takes down a few deep breaths then opens his mouth to scream.

JONATHAN
I DID IT. AND THIS IS FOR ALL
THE...

He's cut short as he then slips and falls, plumping fast and hard back down to the rooftop and landing painfully on his head.

SNAP.

His neck is broken, dead.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - STAIRCASE - DAY

Keith is sprinting up the steps, trying his best to get to the roof as fast as he can.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - ROOF - DAY

Keith comes through the door and onto the roof, exhausted and out of breath the sight of Jonathan dead on the ground takes what little energy he had left.

Keith collapses down to his knee and burying his face down into his hands weeps uncontrollable as the tears flood out and down the front of his face.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END