FADE IN:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - LUNCHROOM - MORNING (FLASHBACK)

SUPER: "A Long Time Ago..."

A young JOEL MAYBERRY sits at a table, listening to a CD player. He air drums and mouths the lyrics. A young WILL COOPER shows up and sits at the table.

WILL
I can’t believe it, Joel. Our first day of high school.
(Joel doesn’t notice)
Joel. Joel. Joel!

Will slugs Joel in the shoulder to get his attention.

WILL
What the fuck are you doing?

JOEL
(removalg headphones)
Rocking out to some Prince. During his good years.

WILL
I wasn’t aware Prince had good years. Just decade after decade of mediocrity.

Joel sticks up three fingers.

JOEL
Can you read? Then read between the lines, douche.

WILL
How can you even listen to music now? Aren’t you nervous?

JOEL
Not really dude. We’ve been through many first days before.

WILL
Yeah but this is high school man! If Wonder Years reruns have taught me anything, it’s that this is when shit gets good.

(CONTINUED)
VOICE (O.S.)
Damn it, Casey! Why must you talk so loud?

Young LACIE NOLAN and CASEY JENNINGS argue two tables over.

CASEY
Why are you getting so mad with me?
All I said was "good morning."

LACIE
Yeah but you didn’t have to scream it.

CASEY
(confused)
I just said it in my normal voi -
(realizes)
Are you hung over again?

LACIE
Depends on how you define hung over.

CASEY
Jesus, Lacie! I though you promised me you wouldn’t get drunk on school nights.

LACIE
Hey! It’s not my fault! I thought it was Friday!

CASEY
(ashamed)
You can’t keep doing this, Lace.

LACIE
Casey, I can’t imagine going to school without being a little drunk. You need to lay off the nagging Casey, or this relationship is doomed.

CASEY
Nagging?

LACIE
Yeah. Every other day it’s "Lacie, don’t drink this" or "Lacie, don’t smoke at my grandfather’s funeral."
You know, you should be thankful I’m with you.

(CONTINUED)
Casey starts to say something but gives up.

    CASEY
    (defeated)
    I’m sorry. I didn’t mean to snap at you.

    LACIE
    It’s all right. You didn’t know any better.

A stunned Will and Joel look on.

    WILL
    Ugh! Lacie Nolan still goes here?

    JOEL
    (annoyed)
    Great. I have fourth period English with her.

    WILL
    I hope you enjoy the smell of vodka and sadness.
    (re: Casey)
    Who’s the sad sack with her?

    JOEL
    Dunno. Must be new.

BROCK WARNER enters among the sounds of whispers and giggles. He sits at the table when DONNIE GLEN, your stereotypical douche bag, walks by with TWO CRONIES at his side.

    DONNIE
    Hey, Brock. I’ve got a question for you. Since you’ve got two moms, do you call both of them "mommy" or just who’s ever the bitch in the relationship?

The cronies laugh it up. Brock, furious, avoids eye contact. In the middle of their laughter, a hand comes up from behind and grabs Donnie by the hair.

    DONNIE
    What the -

The hand slams Donnie’s head into the table next to The Gang’s. We now see the hand belong to BRIAN VANDELE. The cronies run away.

(Continued)
BRIAN
Look here, you cock-juggling thundercunt. I got three problems with what you just said: one, that’s my best friend, so watch what you fucking say. Two, that wasn’t even the least bit funny. If you’re going to mock someone, say something with a little more wit. Three, not that keen on mocking gay people. Especially considering, deep down we’re all a little gay.

DONNIE
(scoffs)
I’m not gay!

Brian slams his head.

BRIAN
Sorry about that. I have these violent reactions to bullshit.

DONNIE
But I’m not gay!

BRIAN
Who’s your favorite actor?

DONNIE
Uh, I don’t know. Johnny Depp I guess.

BRIAN
See. You’re gay.

Slams his head again.

BRIAN
Now never repeat those three things again and we’ll never have to be in these unfortunate circumstances again. That clear?

DONNIE
Crystal.

Brian lets go. Donnie flees.

BROCK
Thanks, Brian.
BRIAN
No problem. Always willing to kick some ass for a friend.

BROCK
I wish these people didn’t have to gawk at me every time I get on the busy. Can’t they just let it go.

BRIAN
(joking)
They act like they’ve never seen two chicks kiss before.

PRINCIPAL BOB STEVENS walks by with a young REICTHER by his side.

STEVENS
(to Reicther)
Congratulations. The bell hasn’t even rung yet and you’ve become the first person of the year to get detention. Come to my office during your lunch period. I don’t even see where a boy your age would get that many M-80’s.

REICTHER
I think the better question is "where’d I get this lighter?"

Reicther pulls out a lighter and starts flicking it. Stevens quickly snatches it.

STEVENS
Make that two weeks, Mr. Reicther!

Stevens storms off. Reicther approaches the table, doing a celebratory dance.

REICTHER
Huzzah! I told you fools I would be the first person of the year to get detention!

BROCK
We didn’t say you couldn’t, we said you shouldn’t.

REICTHER
Pay up suckers!

(CONTINUED)
WILL
Reicther, how many times do we have to tell you: it’s only a bet if we agree to the bet.

REICHER
(disappointed)
You guys never pay up.

A young CHRIS HUGHES and ELLEN CONNER walk by the table. Both are dressed formally, with Ellen in a casual dress suit and Chris in a tie.

ELLEN
As the Vice President of the Peer Helpers, it’s my pleasure to give you a tour of our school.

CHRIS
Um, I’m confused. I thought you said we had to wear formal clothes to school. Everyone seems to be wearing shirt and jeans.

ELLEN
That’s because they don’t take school as seriously as they should. Now, to the library!

They walk away.

REICHER
Holy crap! We have a black student now?

JOEL
Wow. High school is really different than Junior High.

WILL
Guys, I got a feeling this will be the best years of our lives!

VOICE (O.S.)
Grab him!

Just then a group of JOCKS run in and grab Will.

WILL
(panicked)
What the hell?
JOCK #1
Let’s give him a slurry for being different!

ALL JOCKS
Yeah!

They carry Will off, leaving a shocked Gang behind.

Long beat.

JOEL
You guys think Prince is cool, right?

FADE TO BLACK

END OF WEBISODE