

WOODLAWN

FADE IN:

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

North Portland neighborhood. Late SEVENTIES. Little house. EVELYN PORTER (EVY), 30s without an ounce of age, sits in a POWDER BLUE CHRYSLER. She scratches out a cigarette and She leans out the passenger window. HONKS.

EVY  
Weldon! C'mon!

WELDON PORTER, 12, slumps into the backseat.

EVY (CONT'D)  
Did you close the screen door?

WELDON  
Yeah.

EVY  
Didn't see you close it. Did you close it tight where it clicks?

WELDON  
It's closed.

EVY  
I don't want Mr. Buster to find his way out, remember last time--

WELDON  
Can we hurry? Get this over with?

EvY starts the car. Turns and hands Weldon a folded piece of paper.

EVY  
Give this to your father...

WELDON  
You're not comin' with me?

EVY  
I'll wait in the car--

WELDON  
This is b.s.

EVY  
What did I say about language?  
Wanna get popped in the lip?

Weldon glares. Slouches out of reach. Weldon unfolds the note.

WELDON

You want me to ask him for this much!

EVY

You want those skates, right?  
(beat)  
Right?

WELDON

Right.

WELDON (CONT'D)

Tyrone's mama buys him stuff from the store!

EVY

I'm not Tyrone's mama...Tyrone's mama buys that boy every thing he wants. He's the most spoiled kid... I think she does it to flaunt!

(beat)

The quicker you understand that the better you'll be. Buckle.

Evy puts the car in gear.

EXT. SKYRISE - DOWNTOWN - DAY

We see the blue Chrysler pull up to the curb. Weldon gets out.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

WILLIAM PEBBLE (BILL), 50s, sits behind a desk clotted with manila folders and stacks of papers. It has the air of a social worker, things filed wherever they can be found. Weldon pushes some papers off a chair. Sits.

BILL

How's it goin', tiger? Sorry I missed your graduation. Evy says you're goin' to middle school.

WELDON

It's Weldon, not tiger.

Beat.

WELDON (CONT'D)

You used to have a bigger office...  
upstairs.

BILL

Well. My boss thought it'd be  
better if--do you know what down-  
sizing is?

WELDON

Mama says you stole from the Urban  
League so they stuck you down here.  
Did you go to jail?

Bill's stung. Wasn't expecting combat so early.

BILL

Yeah? Heard you got picked up for  
shoplifting. Fred Meyers. What was  
it, again? Oh yeah, some comic  
books?

(beat)

Know what I was told? If you gonna  
rob someplace...go someplace where  
they got some money...cuz you get  
the same time. Know what that  
means?

WELDON

No.

BILL

Weldon. Why are you here--to harass  
me?

WELDON

I need skates.

BILL

Skates?

WELDON

Mom says you owe us back money...

Weldon places his folded paper on the desk. BILL picks it up.

BILL

Two hundred and fifty dollars!  
(looks up at Weldon)  
What're you skating in the  
Olympics?

WELDON

Ockley Green has a roller skating party--

BILL

But, two hundred and fifty dollars for skates?

WELDON

For all the new middle schoolers--

BILL

My money is tied up. Your mother knows this. Where is she?

WELDON

In the car--

BILL

C'mon!

EXT. BUILDING - CURBSIDE - DAY

Bill yanks open Evy's car door.

BILL

We gotta talk...two hundred and fifty dollar skates!

EVY

Its not two hundred and fifty dollars for skates. You always get fixated on numbers. Read the list...there's more than skates on the list--

BILL

This is some bullshit!

EVY

Don't cuss me, Bill! You owe us! Look at his pants, Bill. High waters! All his clothes are too small--

BILL

You're a seamstress...sew him some--

EVY

He wants store bought clothes! He's goin' to a new school!

BILL

This is fuckin' extortion! Every month there's somethin' new! What about that deadbeat boyfriend Earl!

EVY

Bill, this is not about Earl! Your his father!

BILL

I'm not so sure about that!

EVY

Bill, you know what? Fuck you! I'm not gonna argue--

Bill gets in the car and SLAMS THE DOOR. Weldon watches the ferocious pantomime.

INT. PORTER'S HOUSE - WELDON'S ROOM - DAY

Weldon straps on metal skates over his tennis shoes. Evy watches. MR. BUSTER, a terrier, sniffs the skates.

EVY

They fit?

WELDON

They're not Impalas.

EVY

Impalas are expensive.

(pause)

Your father and I agreed to a different amount. He had other expenses I wasn't aware of.

WELDON

I bet. He's got his other family to worry about. His Seattle family.

Weldon WOBBLER to his feet. CLOMPS passed her on the grass then eases to the sidewalk.

EVY

Look what I found...a love letter!

INSERT - PAPER

Folded notebook paper with ink sketched hearts and "LOVE YO-YO" jotted at the crease.

BACK TO SCENE

Weldon wobbles back and takes the paper. He stuffs it into his pocket.

WELDON

Why are you always goin' through my stuff?

EVY

I told you to clean out your pockets before you put your clothes in the bin. Yo-Yo?

WELDON

Yeah. So.  
(beat)  
What are you smilin' at?

EVY

Nuthin'. Didn't think you thought about girls. Just thought you wanted to hang with Thane and your comic book gang.

WELDON

I can't concentrate with you starin'!

EVY

Okay. Okay.

Evy leaves the stoop.

EXT. PORTER'S HOUSE - LATER

THANE WHITFIELD, Weldon's best friend and same age, Weldon's best friend comes up the walkway. Weldon is resting between tries. Evy steps out from behind the screen door.

WELDON

Where you goin'?

EVY

To the bank. Make sure your father's check is good. What're you doin'? Practice. Practice. Practice.

THANE

Hi, Miss Porter.

EVY

Thane.

Evy pulls out of the driveway.

THANE

How long you been skatin'?

WELDON

Hours.

THANE

Ready for Saturday?

WELDON

Eff, no.

THANE

Can't be that bad. Let me see. Go down the walkway and skate to me.

Weldon rises. Pushes off. His legs go wide. He lands in the grass.

THANE (CONT'D)

Dude those skates suck!

WELDON

Wanted Impalas or Riedell's.

THANE

Rink'll have Riedell's I bet.

WELDON

You think?

THANE

Yo-Yo gonna be there.

WELDON

I know.

THANE

And effen Tyrone.  
(singing Speed Racer  
theme)  
*He's a demon on wheels...*

WELDON

*He's a demon and he's gonna be  
chasin' after someone...*

THANE

*He's gainin' on you so better look  
alive...*

He lifts Weldon to his feet.

WELDON

I'm tired of skatin'. Let's make  
some money.

THANE

*And when the odds and there's  
dangerous work...Go Speed Racer Go  
Speed Racer Go Speed Racer Go!*

He holds Weldon's waist and RUSHES him down the sidewalk.

EXT. FENCE - DAY

Nabisco plant. Weldon and Thane wait outside the fence.

A series of TAPS come from the other side of the wall. Weldon  
puts his ear to the wall and TAPS BACK.

WELDON

Throw 'em over!

A TRASH BAG flies over the fence. Then another. And another.  
Finally single BAGS OF POTATO CHIPS confetti down.

THANE

Effen!

The boys SCOOP them up.

A swings a foot over the wall. NANSI, 9, CLIMBS to a Spider-  
Man haunch before back vaulting off the wall.

WELDON

Was it tough?

NANSI

Just gymnastics, baby!

WELDON

Nobody, see ya?

NANSI

That security guy? I'd a-taken him  
out...like Spidey! Ungh! Ungh!

Nansi CHOPS the air.

WELDON

Three bags?

NANSI

Yeah. Was four. One broke. Easy come, baby. Split three ways?

WELDON

Sure. Singles?

NANSI

A few. Throw me my jacket...

Weldon does. Nansi stuffs some bags in the pockets.

EXT. SKATING RINK - NIGHT

Old Portland skating rink. Glitter ball freshens it for roller disco. School kids file off a half dozen yellow buses.

INT. SKATING RINK - NIGHT

Lights strobe and dart like measles. Weldon laces black Impala roller skate rentals. He's joins the non-skaters clumped outside the rink: Thane, DONALD RADINSKY, 12, whose basically yelling in MARVIN BOTTLE (MARV)'s ear over the music.

RADINSKY

That fucker thinks he's the shit!

MARV

Shuddup, he can hear you! He's gonna come over here and kick your ass!

They're talking about TYRONE BURNS, 13, whose bee-geeing in the center of the rink. Tyrone is tugging YOLANDA BLISS (YO-YO), 12, from side to side. He's schooling her.

TYRONE

Just watch me. Do what I do.

He skates on his heels, SIDE-SURFING, GRAPEVINING AND MOONWALKING.

YO-YO

I can't do that!

TYRONE

It's easy! Put your arms around my neck! I'll show you!

She holds on for dear life.

YO-YO  
I'm gonna fall! Don't let me go!

TYRONE'S MOTHER, 28, pulls herself from her nachos and hot dog.

TYRONE'S MOTHER  
Tyrone! Tyrone! Let that girl go!

The two weave through the other skaters. Tyrone skids to a halt. Yo-Yo clings to his neck.

YO-YO  
You so crazy!

TYRONE  
Wanna go again?

YO-YO  
No! Maybe. Yeah! Give me a minute.

Yo-Yo brushes back her hair.

TYRONE  
A few minutes.

Tyrone grabs her hand. Swings her back into the rink, then pulls her in front of the wallflowers.

TYRONE (CONT'D)  
Any of you dudes skatin'?

Weldon and the gang say nothing.

TYRONE (CONT'D)  
I hear you over hear runnin' yo mouths. Don't be scared. Step on the floor if its so easy.

Yo-Yo looks up at Weldon.

TYRONE (CONT'D)  
C'mon, Weldon. Weren't you Captain America at Woodlawn? Lets see a few dance steps...

Weldon inches away from the wall.

THANE  
Weldon. I don't think this a good idea!

Tyrone shares a look with Yo-Yo.

TYRONE  
(scoffs)  
I double-dog dare you.

Weldon tip-toes to the rink.

TYRONE (CONT'D)  
Here. Let me show you a few  
moves...

WELDON  
No thanks, Ty. I think I can  
manage...

Tyrone grips Weldon's hand and the two surge to the center of  
the rink.

TYRONE  
See? Easy as pie...

WELDON  
Not so fast--

TYRONE  
Go under! Hold my hands!

Tyrone purposely releases. Weldon SPINS uncontrollably then  
RICOCHETS off the side bar.

He falls backward into the center of the rink.

Tyrone raises his arms.

The arena erupts in JEERS and LAUGHTER.

INT. MARVIN'S HOUSE - DAY

Weldon, Marvin, Radinsky and Thane traipse into the living  
room.

MARVIN'S MOTHER, 42, lies on the couch eating and watching  
television.

WELDON  
Hey, Missus Bottle.

Her eyes don't move from the T.V.

MARV'S MOM  
Thought I told you to clean your  
room before the skating party?

MARV

I did.

They walk pass.

INT. MARVIN'S HOUSE - MARVIN'S ROOM - DAY

Room's a mess. Marvin drags a box of comics out of the closet and begins routine of doling them out.

The boys quietly flip pages.

WELDON

New issues out tomorrow?

MARV

Yeah.

WELDON

Whose up for Fred Meyers?

No takers.

WELDON (CONT'D)

Thane? You with me?

THANE

Sure.

They go back to reading.

EXT. FRED MEYER SUPERSTORE - DAY

Thane comes out of the store and crosses the parking lot.

WELDON

Bubble-butt there?

THANE

Yeah.

WELDON

New Avengers?

THANE

New Avengers. Double pack of X-Men. Incredible Hulk. They got new mirrors in the section and a camera?

WELDON

Don't worry about the mirrors. Just  
distract Bubble-butt.

INT. FRED MEYER - COMIC BOOK AISLE - DAY

Weldon nips off a corner of the comic book clear plastic wrapping. He rolls the comic, lifts his pants leg, and stuffs the comic in sock. He's rolling the another comic when Thane appears.

WELDON

What? Where's Bubblebutt?

THANE

Weldon hurry up and put it back...

SECURITY GUARD THIELEN, 28, heavy, stands at the mouth of the aisle. SECURITY GUARD PATRICK, 22, stout, pops in from the other side.

Thielen walks up to Weldon. He snatches the comic from Weldon hand then picks up the torn plastic wrapping.

WELDON

It was already like that.

Thielen passes the evidence to Patrick.

THIELEN

We thought you little dudes'd be here when they delivered the new stuff. See Ol' Thielen is smart. He don't get burned again...

(taps head)

See I brought Ol' Patrick from the other store just in case y'all boys showed up!

Thielen taps Weldon's leg. Pushes up his pant leg.

THIELEN (CONT'D)

You know what this is? Evidence.  
Y'all boys goin' to be trespassed.  
And if we catch y'all again. Juvey.  
Frisk this one.

Patrick frisks Thane.

PATRICK

He's clean.

THIELEN

Give him a warning. But this one?  
He's comin' with me.

Thielen escorts Weldon away.

INT. WELDON'S HOUSE - DAY

Cramped kitchen surrounding a homemade table and bench. In a cabinet above the fridge FLICKERS a nineteen-inch black and white television.

EARL, 32, enters followed by Weldon. Earl heaves his car keys on the table. Weldon PLUNKS on the bench.

Earl reaches into the fridge and grabs a beer then clicks on the T.V.

WELDON

You gonna whip me?

EARL

No, sir. Gonna let yo mamma do the honors. I don't want her pissed at me.

(beat)

Are you sorry you did it? That's all that counts. Are you sorry or sorry you got caught?

WELDON

I'm sorry about it.

(pause)

Where's my mama?

EARL

At your cousin Ricky's.

WELDON

What for?

EARL

Picking up you some clothes... I think that's what she said.

WELDON

I don't want Ricky's hand-me-downs.

Earl rears a stool near the fridge and stands on it. He adjusts the rabbit ears.

WELDON (CONT'D)  
Earl can we watch somethin' other  
than the news?

Earl turns the nob.

EARL  
Oh. This. This is a classic...

Weldon watches the screen for a bit.

WELDON  
Is this movie supposed to be in  
black and white or color?

EARL  
Black and white. Rififi. Its  
French.

WELDON  
Looks dumb.

EARL  
How can you tell? Just started.  
Give it chance.

WELDON  
I don't understand French.

EARL  
It's dubbed in English.

WELDON  
Dubbed?

EARL  
Watch for ten minutes then if you  
don't like it, we can turn it.  
Deal?

WELDON  
Guess so.

Earl turns up the volume.

EXT. OCKLEY GREEN MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

Morning drop-off. Cars filter pass the front door. Tyrone  
gets out of the car. Tyrone's Mother is dressed like its her  
first day not Tyrone's.

She parks and runs around the car.

TYRONE'S MOTHER  
Give, momma a kiss!

TYRONE  
C'mon, ma!

TYRONE'S MOTHER  
I love you!

She smooches his cheek.

TYRONE  
Ma, c'mon! Don't embarrass me.

TYRONE'S MOTHER  
Can't a mother show some affection  
for her own son? Baby, you look  
sharp as a tack.

TYRONE  
Don't I?

Tyrone spins for her then struts into the school.

INT. OCKLEY GREEN MIDDLE SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - DAY

Students fill the auditorium. Seated on the stage is MISS BLOOM, 30, an unrepentant optimist, PRINCIPAL BAZERMAN, 60, OTHER TEACHERS. Miss Bloom steps to the mike.

BLOOM  
Students! Students! Please find a  
seat. We're about to begin. Thank  
you!

Teachers usher stragglers to open seats. Thane, Marv, Weldon and Radinsky find seats next to each other.

BLOOM (CONT'D)  
Now I'd like to introduce our  
principal, Dr. Bazerman!

There's clapping, jeers and laughter.

BAZERMAN  
Okay. Calm down. Calm down.

Bazerman waits for noise to die down.

BAZERMAN (CONT'D)  
It was a very successful skate  
party.

(MORE)

BAZERMAN (CONT'D)  
 We raised about seven hundred  
 dollars between that the car  
 wash...go give yourselves a hand!

APPLAUSE.

BAZERMAN (CONT'D)  
 I'd like to thank Miss Bloom, the  
 PTO and all the other teachers that  
 assisted on putting together.

MORE APPLAUSE.

BAZERMAN (CONT'D)  
 But we're not outta the woods yet.  
 We have more infrastructural  
 groundwork to complete. We have  
 athletic equipment to supplement  
 and band uniforms to buy so I hope  
 to see at next month's dance.  
 (beat)  
 Finally, I'd like to welcome, new  
 sixth graders to Ockley Green!

CHEERS.

BAZERMAN (CONT'D)  
 Teachers...if you can come to the  
 front. We'll have students follow  
 their home room teachers to their  
 class.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Miss Bloom stands at the door. Weldon enters

WELDON  
 Hi, Miss Bloom. You're not at  
 Woodlawn, anymore?

BLOOM  
 Not anymore...looks like I followed  
 you from Woodlawn.

WELDON  
 Yes, ma'am!

BLOOM  
 Well I'm glad to have a few of my  
 Woodlawn students to help me  
 through my...our...first day.

WELDON

Yes, ma'am.

BLOOM

I hope you'll help us have a great year. I have a surprise for you...

WELDON

Ma'am?

BLOOM

Thought you'd like to sit next to a friend.

INT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Miss Bloom stands at the head of the class. The desks are arranged in a circle.

BLOOM

Everyone find your name on your desks and have a seat.

Weldon finds his desk which is next to Tyrone's. Miss Bloom walks behind Weldon.

BLOOM (CONT'D)

Tyrone Burns. I remember you guys were so close. Avengers, right?

WELDON

Yes, ma'am.

TYRONE

Yes, ma'am.

BLOOM

Sheralyn are you lost?

CLARA

No, ma'am. You're standing in front of her chair.

BLOOM

I'm sorry, dearie! You have to tell Miss Bloom when she's blocking you!

Miss Bloom helps SHERALYN WHITFIELD (SHERM), 11, to her seat and goes to the head of the class. As she passes, CLARA, 12, drops a note on Weldon's desk.

Tyrone snatches it.

WELDON

Give it!

TYRONE

Make me!

BLOOM

Boys! Class! Once you've found your seat...remain quiet...until others find theirs. Mr. Porter?

Weldon sits. He notes Yo-Yo is watching him from her seat opposite his.

TYRONE

It's a note from...Yo...Yo!

WELDON

If you don't give it...

TYRONE

What you gonna do?

Tyrone unfolds the note. Reads. Chuckles. Tosses the note onto Weldon's desk.

Weldon snatches it. Opens it.

TYRONE (CONT'D)

You don't have to read it. I'll tell you what she said: You got dumped.

Weldon's eyes race across the page. He looks across at Yo-Yo. She avoids his eyes. Clara leans over and whispers into Yo-Yo's ear. They GIGGLE.

TYRONE (CONT'D)

(whispers to Weldon)

You see Yo-Yo's a nasty girl. You know what you gotta show nasty girls?

(pause)

A big dick.

Weldon glares at him.

TYRONE (CONT'D)

That's all nasty girls want. Watch.

WELDON

You better not!

Miss Bloom looks up from helping another student.

BLOOM  
Let's settle down, class.

Tyrone puts his hands on his zipper.

TYRONE  
You ready? Show her yours and I'll  
show her mine?

He tugs slowly.

BLOOM  
Boys?

Tyrone UNZIPS.

TYRONE  
Nasty girl Yo-Yo look at my big...

Weldon jumps up. He grabs Tyrone's desk and HEAVES Tyrone and his desk sideways. Tyrone's desk dominoes into Sherm's. The desks TOPPLE.

TYRONE (CONT'D)  
I'm gonna kick yo fuckin' ass,  
asshole!

WELDON  
Yo mama's a asshole!

Tyrone struggles to get unpinned.

BLOOM  
Mr. Porter! Mr. Burns! Ms.  
Whitfield! Sit down!

TYRONE  
I'm kickin' yo ass!

WELDON  
Fuck you!

Miss Bloom grabs them.

BLOOM  
What's gotten into you? To the  
Principal's office! Now!

INT. PRINCIPAL'S WAITING ROOM - DAY

The PRINCIPAL'S SECRETARY, 50, eagles through her papers. She looks over her glasses at Weldon and Tyrone.

Sherm exits the Principal's office. There's tears in her eyes.

Weldon and Tyrone watch Sherm exit.

Bazerman comes to the door.

BAZERMAN

Mr. Burns.

Tyrone gets up and enters Bazerman's office.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S WAITING ROOM - LATER

Bazerman's door opens. Tyrone exits. Smiles at Weldon.

BAZERMAN

Mr. Porter.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Bazerman sinks back in his chair. On display are trophies, plaques, and a wooden paddle with holes dangling from a nail.

BAZERMAN

Do you have something to tell me,  
Mr. Porter?

WELDON

I'm sorry for disrupting Miss  
Bloom's classroom?

BAZERMAN

I want you to tell me why you  
started the fight?

WELDON

Tyrone snatched--

BAZERMAN

Mr. Porter I asked you took it upon  
yourself to attack several  
students?

WELDON

I didn't.

BAZERMAN

No need to lie, Mr. Porter. From  
what I understand is that you and  
Mr. Burns were friends at Woodlawn.  
Right?

(MORE)

BAZERMAN (CONT'D)

(pause)

And you became jealous of his girlfriend...uh...Yolanda Bliss

(pause)

Is that right?

Weldon shakes his head.

BAZERMAN (CONT'D)

Now, fighting is a three day suspension. So, I've called your mother.

WELDON

Mr. Bazerman...

BAZERMAN

Yes, Mr. Porter? Are you ready to explain your behavior?

Bazerman waits.

BAZERMAN (CONT'D)

Well, Mr. Porter, since you don't want to give me an explanation, I have no further alternative but to bend you over my desk.

Bazerman plucks the paddle from the nail. WHACKS as he TALKS.

BAZERMAN (CONT'D)

I...hope...you...under...stand...classroom...discipline...must...be...maintained.

INT. CAR - DAY

Evy watches Weldon MOPE toward the car.

He rips open the door and sags into the backseat.

EVY

Hurry up! You know I had to leave work for this! Weldon!

He looks at her.

EVY (CONT'D)

First day of school! Really?

WELDON

Mama, why do I have to wear Ricky's hand-me-downs?

EVY  
 Don't you dare change the subject!  
 I offered to make you clothes!

WELDON  
 Homemade clothes to Ockley Green?

EVY  
 Why not? You wore them at Woodlawn.

WELDON  
 That was different. I was a fifth  
 grader. Now I'm a sixth grader.

Evy searches his face.

EVY  
 When I get the other half of what  
 your father owes us...we'll see  
 what we can do.

WELDON  
 It's too late. First day is already  
 over.

INT. WELDON'S ROOM - DAY

Weldon lies on his bed reading a comic. A KNOCK. Weldon  
 stuffs the comic under the pillow. It's Earl.

EARL  
 Hey, what's up?

WELDON  
 Nothin'.

EARL  
 What you doin'?

WELDON  
 Nothin'.

EARL  
 Wanna make a little money since you  
 have a little time off? Sir?

WELDON  
 I guess.

EARL  
 I got you your paper route back.

Earl waits for a congratulation or thank you. Nothing.

EARL (CONT'D)

You can do it now and after you get readmitted. Even afterschool if you want. How's that sound? Sir?

WELDON

It sounds okay.

EARL

The church'll need somebody to mow lawns tomorrow. You game? I can call Passa and tell him you'll do it?

Evy pokes her head in. Weldon sits up.

WELDON

Where am I goin' get a lawnmower?

EARL

I think they already have one, but I'll make sure.

Earl turns to leave.

EVY

You gonna thank Earl for all his hard work to find you a job?

WELDON

Thanks, Earl.

EVY

Now your little friends are outside asking if you can come out. I said only if you get your homework done. So get your homework done.

WELDON

Where you goin'?

EVY

I gotta go back to work. I'm glad they let me make up the hours. If you need help with your homework, ask Earl.

WELDON

Okay.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Weldon's backyard. The Thane, Radinsky and Marv are alternating bouncing a baseball off the shed wall.

RADINSKY

Bazerman, man. I don't see why you got suspended and Tyrone didn't and started the shit. That's fuckin' effed up.

WELDON

Yeah.

RADINSKY

Tyrone's tellin' everybody he kicked yo ass!

WELDON

Did the stuff come? From Boy's Life?

RADINSKY

Yeah. But, all it was is instructions.

WELDON

Instructions? What the eff, Radinsky! You said it'd be an effen hovercraft.

RADINSKY

That's what I thought.

WELDON

That's effed up! That's just like those effen X-ray glasses! Effen sea monkeys!

RADINSKY

Well we can build the craft ourselves--

WELDON

With what effen money, dickweed? Jesus!

RADINSKY

Well, my dad says if we combine our allowances and paper routes and the potato chip sales from Nansi--

THANE

Oh, eff no! You told your effen dad about Nabisco?

WELDON

Eff, Radinsky! You have a effen big ass mouth! You're out of the Avengers! I mean it!

RADINSKY

C'mon! That's not fair! I didn't say nuthin' bout how we got the chips!

WELDON

It was supposed to be a effen secret, dude!

RADINSKY

Nobody ever said it was a secret!

THANE

He's right, Weldon. No one ever said it was a secret.

WELDON

Eff! Okay. But there are some things you gotta know. Use your brain. We can't tell you effen every little thing.

(caves)

I mean it. One more time!

(pause)

Let me see 'um.

Radinsky unfolds several sheets.

RADINSKY

My dad says if we have McFallin's help. And we're smart. We can build up to three crafts.

THANE

Three?

RADINSKY

One for Weldon. One for Thane and one for me! Wait till they see us fly into the dance on hovercrafts!

Radinsky STUTTERS back as if from an INVISIBLE EXPLOSION (all in SLOW MOTION, of course).

INT. GYM - DAY (FANTASY SEQUENCE)

Gym doors fly open. Three bulb-tipped FLYING TRIANGLES, inverted saucers at the apexes skim the gym floor like smooth stones over a lake.

RADINSKY (V.O.)  
We'll come flyin' in...crafts just  
kissin' the floor, buzzin' and  
hissin' like crazy...!

On the craft are THREE MASKED AVENGERS: Weldon, Thane and Radinsky. Capes FLUTTERING behind.

RADINSKY (V.O.)  
The gym'll be crowded. People'll be  
goin' ape-shit...then we'll  
circle...swoop down...

Yo-Yo stands up and walks to Weldon's craft. Two girls follow and mount Thane and Radinsky's crafts.

RADINSKY (V.O.)  
Pick 'em up! And swoosh take off  
into the wild blue yonder!

The hovercrafts sail outside, pass the ball field into the sunset.

END OF FANTASY SEQUENCE

RADINSKY  
Effen everybody will be blown away!

Weldon folds the instructions. Hands them to Radinsky.

WELDON  
When do you have McFallin's class?

RADINSKY  
Fifth period. I'll show him  
tomorrow...

WELDON  
Test him out first...you know how  
teachers blab. I don't want nobody  
gettin' wind of what we're doin'.

Radinsky nods.

WELDON (CONT'D)  
Feras's? I hear he got his  
shipment...

RADINSKY

Not me. I gotta get home.

WELDON

How come you always go home when we talk about stealin'?

RADINSKY

You know why. My dad's an investigator.

WELDON

He's a P.I.

THANE

Radinsky don't have to come. He gets too nervous. He makes us nervous cuz he's nervous.

(beat)

I'll come.

WELDON

You got some money just in case?

THANE

A few bucks.

EXT. FERAS GROCERY STORE - DAY

Weldon and Thane wait outside Feras's corner store.

WELDON

Don't zip the jacket all the way. Leave your shirt loose and slip it under like this.

Weldon demonstrates tucking his hand under his shirt.

WELDON (CONT'D)

Then scoot the comic around to the back so you don't have a budge down in the front.

THANE

Okay.

WELDON

Act normal. Don't look around. Don't be acting like a scaredy-cat. Where's the money?

THANE

Right here.

WELDON  
Always buy somethin'...even its  
just gum or somethin'.

THANE  
Alright.

WELDON  
Feras only watches black kids, so  
just wait till I get him to the  
back row.

Thane nods. Hesitates.

WELDON (CONT'D)  
What?

THANE  
Nuthin'.

WELDON  
Well. C'mon.

INT. FERAS GROCERY STORE - DAY

Weldon walks in. The HANGING DOOR BELL JINGLES.

WELDON  
Hey, Mr. Feras.

Weldon picks up a magazine off the rack and heads to the back of the store. MR. FERAS, 50, Syrian, comes from behind the counter. DAI, 16, a Vietnamese new hire, CRANES from the register.

Thane walks in and heads down the comic book valley.

Thane stuffs a comic under his shirt and rotates it to his back as instructed, then zips up his jacket.

THANE  
Bye. Uh. I didn't see anything I  
wanted.  
(pause)  
Uh. Can I have a pack of Pop Rocks?

DAI  
Sure.

She reaches under the counter. He pays.

DAI (CONT'D)  
 Be careful. I hear they explode in  
 your stomach!

The door jingles. Dai watches Thane disappear around the corner.

Weldon comes from the back row, puts the magazine down.

WELDON  
 I don't think I want this.

Mr. Feras walks behind Weldon and shuts the door after him.

FERAS  
 That boys a thief, I feel it.

Feras walks behind the counter.

DAI  
 Mr. Feras? Can I take a break?

FERAS  
 Yes. Take a break. But don't smoke  
 in front the store.

EXT. BUS STOP - DAY

Weldon and Thane sit on the bus stop bench a block away from Feras's. Marv walks up.

MARV  
 You get it?

WELDON  
 Where the H did you come from? You  
 stalkin' us?

MARV  
 Sheet yeah. Can't be caught  
 stealin' like you two fools.

Laughs.

WELDON  
 We never effen get caught cuz we  
 smarter than they think. Cuz I'm  
smartin' dan dee aver-age bear!

Thane SWIVELS the comic to the front then pulls it from under his jacket. Hands it to Weldon.

WELDON (CONT'D)  
Superman? Effen SUPERMAN? You got  
effen Superman, dude?

THANE  
I was nervous. You said only Feras  
would be there--

Marv takes it from Thane.

MARV  
Oh this is the Atomic Destroyer.  
Night of the Walking Bomb #340  
Volume 41. I already have this one.

WELDON  
No effen, DC? DC sucks!

Dai walks up behind them. They look at her like her space  
ship just landed.

DAI  
This is my first week and I don't  
want to get fired.

She snatches the comic from Marv.

DAI (CONT'D)  
If you wanna steal go to the new  
store off thirteenth. Singhs. He  
didn't hire me so steal from him.

She walks away and the boys stare after her.

MARV  
Man! She gotta nice booty!

Weldon gets up.

MARV (CONT'D)  
Where you goin'?

WELDON  
The new store. Check it out. Any  
takers?

MARV  
Not me.

THANE  
Nah. I'm done for today.

WELDON  
Awright. Just meet me at the tent.

EXT./INT. SINGH'S GROCERS - DAY

Clotted store front with a BANNER "UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT" ribboned above a wide window. Weldon scopes through the window before entering. SINGH, 50, untucked shirt over a lungi, SINGH'S WIFE in a sari, both ALERT behind the counter.

Weldon makes his way pass FOUR MEN IN LONG COATS to the comic book aisle.

Weldon pulls an AVENGERS comic off the rack and thumbs through it. Weldon pays no attention to Singh and the Four men in an apparent standoff.

The Long Coats share glances. LONG COAT LEADER, 40, struts over to Weldon.

LONG COAT LEADER  
Whatcha readin', boy?

WELDON  
Avengers, earth's mightiest  
heroes...elements of doom.

LONG COAT LEADER  
Any good?

WELDON  
Yeah.

LONG COAT LEADER  
Ain't you sposed to be in school?

WELDON  
Suspended.

LONG COAT LEADER  
Let me see that.

Weldon hands him the comic. He flips through it looking at the pictures. He puts it back on the rack.

LONG COAT LEADER (CONT'D)  
Follow me.

WELDON  
Why?

LONG COAT LEADER  
You outta read somethin' better  
than that shit.

Long Coat Leader walks to the front the store to the ADULT MAGAZINE rack. Long Coat Leader picks up a HUSTLER.

LONG COAT LEADER (CONT'D)  
 This shit is better than that shit.  
 (to Singh)  
 He'll be takin' this.

WELDON  
 I don't want it.

LONG COAT LEADER  
 Take it home to your daddy then.

Long Coat Leader rolls the Hustler and RAPS Weldon on the head like a bad dog. Offers again. Weldon takes it.

LONG COAT LEADER (CONT'D)  
 Now, leave.

Weldon hesitates.

LONG COAT LEADER (CONT'D)  
 We don't wanna hurt you.

Weldon pushes the door. Weldon turns and looks in the window. Long Coat Leader has a knife to Mr. Singh's throat. One Long Coat is watching Weldon through the window waving for him to move along, as another is rifling through the register. The fourth guy and Singh's Wife have disappeared to the back of the store.

Weldon starts running.

EXT. WILDERNESS - DAY

Weldon runs to a tangle of trees called the Wilderness beyond the Woodlawn school and playground. A no-man's land where the boys hide-out.

Weldon runs into the tent.

INT. TENT - DAY - LATER

Avenger's lair. Soft sunlight brushes through a four person polyester tent. Weldon, Marv and Thane lean over the CENTERFOLD mesmerized. Weldon closes the book. They stare at the PIG-TAILED GIRL, arms folded over her breast, on the cover.

The boys sit back. Spent.

THANE  
 Did they effen kill the guy.

WELDON

Don't know. But I know they got away.

The boys nod. Radinsky pokes his head in the tent. Weldon face-downs the magazine.

RADINSKY

Is that the new Avengers?

THANE

Eff, Radinsky!

RADINSKY

What?

MARV

Effen knock or somethin'!

RADINSKY

What? That's it isn't it! I knew you'd get it!

WELDON

Come in and shuddup!

RADINSKY

You guys are the best effen thieves ever...my dad says--

WELDON

Shuddup about your dad! You got to promise not to say anything to anyone about anything.

RADINSKY

Lighten up, eff!

WELDON

Promise!

RADINSKY

I promise, sheet!

Weldon flips open the Hustler.

The boys gather over the magazine. Radinsky drops to his knees.

RADINSKY (CONT'D)

Sheet.

Radinsky pulls out a pocket flashlight.

MARV

There's enough light...you don't  
need a flashlight...

Radinsky SPLASHES light across the centerfold. He stops over  
the vagina. He looks at the other boys.

RADINSKY

Why is it so...hairly?

Thane jerks the magazine.

THANE

Effen, grow up, Radinsky!

RADINSKY

I mean are all girls like this? I  
mean is Yo-Yo--

WELDON

Yo-Yo? Don't effen bring Yo-Yo up  
in the same breath as...as...this!

RADINSKY

I mean. I'm just sayin' that this  
lady kinda looks like Yo-Yo...

Weldon turns and SOCKS him.

EXT. STREET - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The boys emerge from the Wilderness.

WELDON

Catch the bus?

THANE

Yeah. Here or in front of  
Brewster's?

The boys race each other.

EXT. BENCH - DAY

Weldon HUFFS to the bus stop bench. Thane follows.

WELDON

What times the bus come?

THANE

(winded)  
Hell if I know.

WELDON  
Goin' to Marv's later? Bet he's  
found a way to get the Avengers.

THANE  
Nah. I can wait.

Marv STROLLS up.

WELDON  
Get it yet?

MARV  
Not yet. Villain supposed to be  
more powerful than Graviton. Nuff  
said.

THANE  
No way!

BREWSTER, 40, steps out of his store, locking the door behind  
him.

WELDON  
No effen way. The best was when  
Wonder Man got killed.

BREWSTER, walks up to the boys.

MARV  
Galactus...

THANE  
Don't start, dude! Graviton can  
control effen gravity! Grav-ity!

BREWSTER  
Graviton? Issue 158? He's just a  
scientist who gains powers he can't  
control...

MARV  
See! And Galactus is a cosmic  
entity...eater of planets. Greatest  
villain ever! Marvel or DC!

BREWSTER  
What's your name again?

MARV  
Marv.

BREWSTER

Marv. Marvin. I find these arguments between Marvel and DC rather arbitrary. In DC comics, DC wins, in Marvel...Marvel--

MARV

So what you're saying is that if you come into DC your stuck likin' DC? I'm saying on the whole Marvel character have growth and progression while DC on the other hand--

BREWSTER

Well, I can show you issues where icons should remain true to how they were created--

MARV

What about DC Legacy characters?

Brewster and Marv stare down.

BREWSTER

All that being said you bring your three best comics and I'll bring mine. We'll prove whose who and what's what.

MARV

Three best. Deal.

Weldon and Thane look at each other. Nerds!

WELDON

Mr. Brewster!

BREWSTER

Call me Brew.

WELDON

Those posters on your back wall-- Mandrake or Dr. Strange?

BREWSTER

Dr. Strange, of course.

MARV

Told you. Marvel. Mandrake has a hat.

Brewster turns and heads back to the store.

BREWSTER  
C'mon. I wanna show you somethin'.

They follow.

INT. BREWSTER'S STORE - BACK ROOM - DAY

Brewster opens a lower cabinet and pulls out several heavy boxes. Inside are comic books in plastic sleeves. He passes one comic to each boy.

BREWSTER  
Wanna see you boys at my grand opening. These prizes will under glass. Read 'em and weep!

MARV  
Sheet! Fantastic Four November 1st, 1961? First one!

BREWSTER  
Yeah. You're a smart kid!

Brewster another to Marv.

BREWSTER (CONT'D)  
You'll appreciate this...

MARV  
Effen Hulk!

BREWSTER  
Yep. Cancelled in sixty-three. Got Tales to Astonish #102...Incredible Hulk.

Weldon and Thane lean over Marv's shoulder.

WELDON  
Ever gonna sell 'em? Must be worth a fortune?

BREWSTER  
No. Gonna hold on to 'em...maybe ten...twenty years they'll be worth a fortune.

WELDON  
Aren't you scared somebody might take 'em?

BREWSTER

Nah. Not really. Who'd want to?

(pause)

Besides I got my ferocious guard  
cat Tybalt!

TYBALT'S the big fur mess in the corner.

THANE

Damn. I thought that was a dog!

Brewster laughs.

BREWSTER

Big enough to be!

THANE

Can I pet him?

BREWSTER

Only if you want your face in your  
hands.

Thane looks into the cat's eyes and backs away.

EXT. STREET - DAY

It's early morning. Wet. Weldon, on a girl's bike, is zipping  
newspapers onto porches and across lawns.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

An intense sun has pokes through the mist. Weldon fights with  
a push-mower through clumpy grass up then down an embankment.

PASSA, 60, stands on the church steps surveying Weldon.

PASSA

(yells)

Push in a straight line! Piss poor  
job if you ask me.

Weldon leans on the push-mower exhausted.

PASSA (CONT'D)

(yells)

Ain't paying for half ass.

Weldon DRAGS the mower to Passa.

WELDON

Thought you had a regular mower?

PASSA  
This one builds character.

Passa reaches into his pocket, takes out a few bills.

PASSA (CONT'D)  
More than its worth.

Weldon takes the bills.

PASSA (CONT'D)  
Make sure you lock the shed. What do you say?

WELDON  
Thank you, sir. Yes, sir.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Series of shots with Weldon going from door to door in the neighborhood trying to collect on paper route.

A customer runs into the house leaving a water hose gurgling.

A dog lunges at Weldon from behind a fence. Weldon quickly walks by without collecting.

Customer puts a few coins in Weldon's hand, takes Weldon's ledger and writes "cancel my subscription". Slams the door.

EXT. BREWSTER'S STORE - DAY

Weldon walks in front of Brewster's.

BREWSTER  
Hey, little dude, what's up.

WELDON  
Collecting.

BREWSTER  
Way out here?

WELDON  
Trying to increase my subscriptions. You wanna buy a newspaper?

BREWSTER  
Not now. Maybe when I get back. I'm going to a comic-con. Ever hear of comic-con?

WELDON

Nope.

BREWSTER

New York. Just for a few weeks. Buy more comics heh-heh.

Brewster rubs his hands together.

WELDON

Thought you had every comic in the world. Like Marv. He's got thousands. How many comics you got?

BREWSTER

A lot. Between you and me--if I can make a few sales...I can open my comic shop before schedule.

Brewster walks around the corner. Weldon follows.

EXT. ALLEY - DAY

WELDON

Can I work for you?

BREWSTER

How old are you?

WELDON

Twelve. I mow. I have a paper route. I was a boy scout--

BREWSTER

Whoa. Need a fourteen year old at least. Maybe a thirteen year old.

(beat)

There it is!

Brewster stoops and picks up a two-by-four.

WELDON

Be thirteen in March...

BREWSTER

Well, I'll think about it. Maybe your buddy, he knows comics...

(beat)

Damn cat! He's always knocking it over.

Brewster points up to the second story window.

BREWSTER (CONT'D)  
 I prop the window so Tybalt can go  
 out at night...and his fat ass  
 knocks it right out the window.

Weldon looks up at the window.

BREWSTER (CONT'D)  
 Someday I'll get it fixed.

EXT. OCKLEY GREEN SIDE ENTRANCE - DAY

Weldon scurries through the outdoor basketball courts, pass  
 the SAFETY PATROL, 14, whose monitoring the perimeter. Weldon  
 runs to the cafeteria.

EXT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Weldon climbs on a ledge to get a better view through the  
 window.

WELDON POV

Tables are pushed back. Center stage is Tyrone SPINNING ON  
 THE FLOOR, BREAK DANCING. Tyrone jumps up. Students CLAP. Yo-  
 Yo puts her arms around Tyrone.

BACK TO SCENE

The Safety Patrol BLOWS his whistle. Weldon JUMPS down from  
 his perch.

SAFETY PATROL  
 What are you doin'?

WELDON  
 Getting...getting my  
 homework...assignment...

SAFETY PATROL  
 You gotta pass?

WELDON  
 Yeah.

Safety Patrol waits.

WELDON (CONT'D)  
 I forgot where I put it.

SAFETY PATROL

Well, I'll have to take you to Bazerman's office.

WELDON

Okay. Okay. I don't have a pass. I'm suspended. Can you help me out?

SAFETY PATROL

You can't get your homework without your parents. Or a note.

WELDON

I have a note.

SAFETY PATROL

Let me see.

Weldon takes a wad out of his pocket.

SAFETY PATROL (CONT'D)

You think I'm dumb? You wrote this!

He escorts Weldon off school property.

EXT. SCHOOL FRONT - DAY

Parent/Bus drop off. Sherm sits drawing in sketch pad as she waits for the bus.

Weldon is escorted off the property by Safety Patrol. Weldon stands across the street.

WELDON

(to Sherm)

Sorry I knocked you down the other day!

Sherm doesn't look up.

WELDON (CONT'D)

It wasn't your fault!

Sherm looks up. She PACKS up her things and walks across the street.

WELDON (CONT'D)

You should've told Bazerman that it was all my fault.

(beat)

You let him paddle you?

SHERM  
I'm not a snitch!

Weldon sits next to her on the curb.

SHERM (CONT'D)  
Came to see Yo-Yo?

WELDON  
Came to get my homework.  
(beat)  
What's that? Can I see?

Sherm places her sketchpad in his lap.

WELDON (CONT'D)  
Sunmann? A comic? I think you  
misspelled it. It has one "n".

SHERM  
Yeah. He's German. Sunmann and  
Sungirl versus the Aliens. The  
aliens can read minds.

Weldon flips a few pages.

WELDON  
Looks like the aliens are holding  
up a store or somethin'.

SHERM  
It's based on a true story.

BELL RINGS. Yellow buses park next to the school. A parent car queue forms. Weldon cranes to see if Yo-Yo comes out. TWO BOYS spy Weldon and SNAKE behind him. BOY #1 SLAPS Weldon across the back of the head.

BOY #1  
Hey Weldon! Saw you get your butt  
kicked!

Weldon jumps up. He's trembling.

WELDON  
Come back here! I'll kick your ass!

The two boys back walk. Defiant.

BOY #2  
Your girlfriend gonna watch you get  
your ass whooped?

WELDON  
She's not my girlfriend!

BOY #2  
Sherm's got googly eyes for you!

Weldon runs after them, but they got a head start. Weldon stops. The boys walk again. Weldon runs again. They take off.

WELDON  
Suck my big one!

Weldon throws the sketchpad at them.

BOY #2  
Grow one!

Weldon picks up the pad. Its ruined.

WELDON  
Sorry.

Sherm takes the pad and brushes it off.

WELDON (CONT'D)  
You'll miss your bus.

She nods.

WELDON (CONT'D)  
Sorry about your book. Tell Thane  
I'll be over later.

SHERM  
Awright.

She runs across the street.

INT. WELDON'S ROOM - DAY

Weldon TRACES arounds ODOR-EATERS with a SHARPIE in the circles of a VINYL FLOOR MAT from a TWISTER GAME. He NUMBERS the steps and turns on the RADIO.

WELDON  
One and two. Red and blue...

Weldon swings from side to side, placing his feet on the numbers.

WELDON (CONT'D)  
Red and a blue, yellow and a green.  
One and a-two, and-a one two and a  
three...spin!

Weldon SPINS on the mat and HITS his head on the bed rail.

Earl SWINGS the door open.

EARL  
What's all that bangin' goin' on in  
here, sir?

WELDON  
Nuthin'.

EARL  
Anyway, your little friends are  
here.

Radinsky and Thane come in.

WELDON  
Did you sell the chips?

THANE  
Bazerman confiscated the chips.  
Said we couldn't sell chips at  
Ockley Green.

WELDON  
Effen, Bazerman! What did McFallin  
say?

RADINSKY  
If we start now it could be done by  
the party. Maybe even by  
Thanksgiving break.

Weldon takes some money from the dresser.

WELDON  
How much did he say?

RADINSKY  
A lot more than that. We won't even  
be able to make one with that.

WELDON  
What do you think Thane?

THANE  
Don't know. Let's see the  
instructions again.

Radinsky takes the hovercraft instructions out of his back pack. Thane pokes at the design.

THANE (CONT'D)

Need motors most. If we get 'um  
cheap...thirty bucks each...Ninety  
total.

WELDON

It'll take me forever to make  
ninety bucks!

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Weldon sits at the table watching television. Evy's purse is on the counter.

Weldon goes to the counter. He opens the purse and lifts out a bank envelope. He opens it and counts the money.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY - LATER

Evy is running from room to room followed by Earl.

EARL

Did you check your purse?

EVY

Yes! That's the first place I  
checked! I know I had it!

EARL

You sure? They coulda short changed  
you at First Interstate.

EVY

Didn't just disappear!

She looks at Weldon eating his cereal.

EVY (CONT'D)

I think she cheated me at the bank.

EARL

Well nothin' we can do till the  
morning...

EVY

Earl, we can't be late on the car  
again. If lose my car--I lose my  
job and we're out on the street!

EARL  
I know. I know...

EVY  
Don't patronize me, Earl!

EARL  
I'm not!

EVY  
What do you care, huh? You can  
always tom cat your way out--

EARL  
That's not fuckin' fair, Evy and  
you know it! All I'm sayin' is that  
we talk to the bank...That's all  
I'm sayin'!

Evy storms out. Earl opens the purse and takes out one item  
at a time. Weldon gets up from the table.

EXT. WELDON'S HOUSE - DAY

Weldon un-wads a HUNDRED DOLLAR BILL from his pocket and puts  
it under the porch mat.

He steps back. Can't see it.

He pulls on the bill until its obvious.

Weldon doesn't see Earl watching from the kitchen window.

INT. MARVIN'S ROOM - DAY

Weldon paces. After a moment, he snatches the comics from  
Marv and Radinsky.

RADINSKY  
What the eff, man?

WELDON  
I need your undivided attention.  
Where's Thane?

MARV  
Can't come.

WELDON  
Close the door. Where's your  
mother?

MARV

In the living room where she's  
always at.

RADINSKY

Beached on the couch!

MARV

Shut the eff up, Radinsky!

WELDON

Both of you shut up!

(pause)

How much do you think Brewster's  
comics are worth? Three, four  
hundred?

MARV

Depends on what he got. If he's got  
a bunch a firsts--could be  
thousands.

WELDON

I've been thinkin'...

INT. WELDON'S ROOM - NIGHT

Evy pokes her head in. Weldon's lying on the floor with a  
comic book inside a math textbook.

EVY

Hey.

WELDON

Where's Earl? He's helping me with  
math so I don't get behind.

Evy steps into the room.

EVY

Earl had to go away.

WELDON

Why?

EVY

You know the money I was missing?  
The hundred dollar bill?

Weldon sits up.

WELDON

Yeah.

EVY

Earl said he found it outside under the mat. How dumb? A thief and a liar! What do I always tell you?

WELDON

Use your powers for good not evil.

Evy wipes a trickle from her cheek.

EVY

He didn't do that. He used his power for evil...

(beat)

Here. Bring me your math book...

WELDON

No, mama...I don't need any help.

EVY

If Earl can help. So can I. What we got.

WELDON

Fractions and decimals.

Evy flips the book around. Reads down the page.

EVY

No prob. We'll keep it simple.

Evy SHAKES the comic out of the book.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Weldon and Thane come around the corner walking deliberately. They halt just before Feras's store.

WELDON

Bring your Timex? Saw this in a movie.

Thane untucks a stopwatch. PLOPS it in Weldon's hand.

WELDON (CONT'D)

With your eyes closed.

Weldon CLICKS the SECOND HAND. With other hand he guides Thane down the block.

WELDON (CONT'D)

Go!

THANE

Feras's. Closes at noon for lunch. Brewster's is out of town so he won't be open. Denise's salon open by appointment. Cross the street is Vinn's lawn shop. Closed. Tri-Met comes twelve thirty-two. Mark!

Weldon CLICKS. They're at the end of the block. Thane opens his eyes. Weldon turns the clock face. Thane grins.

WELDON

That's how fast Nansi is over the wall. Nansi'll open the door to Brewster's. Unload the boxes and take the west-bound Tri-Met to Clackamas.

(pause)

Got it?

THANE

A lotta stuff.

WELDON

Dai feeds the cat. She's been through his upstairs apartment several times. We offer her fifty dollars...

THANE

Fifty dollars!

WELDON

Yeah. Have to make it worth her while.

THANE

Why won't she just turn us in?

WELDON

She don't know. Besides, She only has access to the side porch. The cat comes through the doggy door. Eats and goes back in.

INT. MARVIN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Boys huddle on the bed.

WELDON

Nansi's gonna meet us there at midnight.

RADINSKY

I still like the idea of the black van. Black construction paper on the windows so nobody can see in. Park a block away so no one recognizes us. Ski masks. My father says stake-outs--

MARV

Radinsky! We don't have a effen van. Now. What we gonna do about the cat?

RADINSKY

Ugliest Siamese I've ever seen...I say we poison the fucker.

THANE

Why kill the guys cat?

RADINSKY

Cuz it's effen ugly that's why.

WELDON

Maybe we can put him to sleep? Drug him or somethin'? Can your dad get us some knockout drugs?

RADINSKY

Yes. Of course. But, killin' him'd be faster. It'd be easy. My father says--

MARV

Here we go! Your effen father!

RADINSKY

The smartest man you'll ever know!

WELDON

Alright! Let's focus. The cat?

RADINSKY

I'll get the drug don't worry. My dad knows a vet in Northeast.

EXT. BENCH - DAY

Weldon, Thane and Dai meet in Woodlawn park bench.

DAI

I only have a ten minute break, bozos. What is it?

WELDON  
A proposition.

DAI  
Proposition? Big word for a dumb  
ass!

WELDON  
You taking care of Brewster's cat?  
I mean when he comes through the  
porch flap?

DAI  
Yeah. So?

WELDON  
We want you to put somethin' in his  
dish. No it won't kill him. Just  
put him nighty night.  
(beat)  
For fifty bucks.

Dai eyes the boys faces.

DAI  
How long?

WELDON  
So he sleeps all night.

DAI  
A hundred.

WELDON  
Seventy-five. Twenty-five now and  
fifty after.

DAI  
Let me see the twenty-five.

WELDON  
Give her the twenty-five.

Thane outs the bills. Dai snatches them up.

DAI  
What're you guys gonna do?

WELDON  
You don't wanna know. Just make  
sure starve him all day so he's  
nice and hungry when you feed 'im.

INT. WELDON'S ROOM - DAY

Evy picks up a string a Weldon's clothes. A sock sticks out of the mattress. She tugs. Out pops a stack of comics and his Hustler!

She leaves for a moment and returns with a large trash bag and dumps the Hustler and the comics into it.

EXT. RADINSKY'S HOUSE - DAY

Thane and Weldon wait at the foot of the stairs. Radinsky skips out.

WELDON  
You got it?

Radinsky opens a small, brown bag and pulls out a package. Hands it to Weldon.

WELDON (CONT'D)  
Ace-pro-may-zine?

RADINSKY  
Dad says it'll knock him out!

WELDON  
Perfect.

INT. TENT - DAY

Weldon gathers a utility belt and holsters a hammer, chisel and flashlight.

RADINSKY  
Why can't I come.

WELDON  
You know why. If we come back in an hour its a no go. If we don't come back we'll have made it to my sister's in Clackamas. Meet us at Marv's later.

THANE  
Dai?

WELDON  
Yeah. Let's get cat food. Nansi'll meet us at Feras's later.

EXT. FERAS GROCERY STORE - DAY

Dai looks in the brown bag.

DAI  
Fancy Feast?

WELDON  
Cat's love it. Just take the  
capsule and spread it all around in  
the gravy.

She rolls up the bag.

EXT. BREWSTER'S STORE - NIGHT

Weldon, Thane and Nansi creep up.

Thane cups his hands and stares through the dusty window.

THANE  
Can't see the cat.

WELDON  
Nevermind that now. Nansi?

NANSI  
Like cake, baby.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Nansi scales a fence in a leap. Sidles up a pole and makes it  
onto the window ledge. He tugs on the window. JAMMED. Nansi  
GRUNTS.

NANSI  
Stuck!

WELDON  
Use the two-by-four.

Nansi jimmies the window up a slit then jams the wood as a  
window prop and sticks his head in.

NANSI'S POV

Tybalt lounges on the bed next to the window. Tybalt and  
Nansi stare down each other. Tybalt's in a TRANCE.

BACK TO SCENE

WELDON (CONT'D)  
What's goin' on?

Nansi pulls his head out.

NANSI  
A big fuckin' cat!

WELDON  
What's he doin'?

NANSI  
Starin'!

WELDON  
Is he movin'?

NANSI  
I don't know.

WELDON  
Maybe he sleeps with his eyes  
open...  
(to Thane)  
Get me a stick. Branch. Anything.

Thane runs across Dekum Street. He yanks on a tree limb till it gives. He rushes back to Weldon.

Weldon climbs the fence. Thane hands Weldon the branch. Weldon pushes the branch up to Nansi.

WELDON (CONT'D)  
Wave this in front of his face. See  
if he moves.

NANSI'S POV

Nansi eases the stick across the bed. We can see that Tybalt is having a tough time following it. Tybalt's eyes lose FOCUS and he TOPPLES from the bed and doesn't move.

BACK TO SCENE

WELDON (CONT'D)  
What was that?

NANSI  
He fell off the bed.

WELDON  
Drug must've worked.

NANSI  
I'm goin' in.

INT. BREWSTER'S ROOM - NIGHT

Nansi climbs through the window and across the bed. He edges his face close to Tybalt's whiskers to see if he's breathing.

WHACK! Tybalt reflexively scratches Nansi's cheek.

NANSI  
Fuck!

Tybalt stretches and yawns. Then turns over. Asleep.

WELDON (O.S.)  
What happened!

NANSI  
Fucker scratched the shit out of my face!

WELDON (O.S.)  
Bleeding?

Nansi feels his cheek.

NANSI  
Little.

WELDON (O.S.)  
Lucky to have a face! Now open the effen door!

DOWNSTAIRS

Nansi tips to the door facing the alley. There's a KITTY FLAP to the INNER PORCH. Nansi struggles to reach the upper DEADBOLT. Weldon and Thane wait in the OUTER PORCH.

NANSI  
(through the kitty flap)  
Can't reach the top lock.

WELDON (O.S.)  
Get a chair.

Nansi looks around.

NANSI  
No chairs!

WELDON (O.S.)  
There's got to be a chair! Check  
upstairs.

NANSI  
I'm not goin' back upstairs!

WELDON (O.S.)  
You gotta!

THANE (O.S.)  
We better hurry. Last bus'll be  
here in a few minutes!

Weldon sticks his head through the KITTY DOOR FLAP.

WELDON  
Go to the lower cupboard in the  
back room...

NANSI  
Okay.

WELDON  
Break the lock. There'll be some  
boxes. Drag 'em to us.

Nansi goes over to the locked cupboard, he pulls the HAMMER  
AND CHISEL from his utility belt. He puts the chisel to the  
lock and SMASHES it with the hammer.

The lock SNAPS.

Nansi opens the cupboard and tugs at a BROWN MOVING BOX.

NANSI  
Won't budge!

WELDON  
Scoot it!

Nansi PUSHES. The box moves only a few inches beyond the  
shelf.

NANSI  
Won't scoot!

THANE (O.S.)  
Hurry...

WELDON  
 Okay. Let me think.  
 (pause)  
 Push it over!

Nansi uses all his strength and topples it. COMICS gush out.  
 Weldon pulls his head out of the kitty flap.

EXT. OUTER PORCH - NIGHT

WELDON  
 C'mon!

THANE  
 Where're we going?

WELDON  
 Alley.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Weldon OPENS the trash cans, unties a few trash bags and  
 sniffs. He EMPTIES several trash bags.

EXT. OUTER PORCH - NIGHT

WELDON  
 Nansi. Pass the books through the  
 flap.

Weldon SMACKS OPEN the BLACK PLASTIC BAG. Hands a trash bag  
 to Thane.

THANE  
 These are gross!

WELDON  
 Turn 'em inside out and double bag  
 'em.

Comics pour through the flap. Weldon and Thane CRAM the trash  
 bags.

Nansi thrusts his head through the flap. Thane sees the  
 scratch of broken skin forming tiny pebbles on Nansi's face.

More comics spill onto the porch.

THANE  
 Enough or the bags'll break!

WELDON  
 (sticks his head through  
 the flap)  
 Nansi...enough!

NANSI (O.S.)  
 What da fuck do I do with these?

WELDON  
 Put 'em back in the box! Push the  
 boxes back! Get outta there!

Thane and Weldon heave the sacks on their backs and Santa Claus down the alley.

INT. BREWSTER'S STORE - BACK ROOM

Nansi SCOOPS the comics and DUMPS them into the box. He SHOULDERS the boxes back into place.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Weldon and Thane skirt to the alley.

WELDON  
 Time!

THANE  
 Ten thirty! Two minutes--

A cat SCREECHES from above. Nansi flies out the window and hangs on the ledge. His grip slips and he CRASHES below.

Thane and Weldon throw down their bags.

WELDON  
 Nansi!

They help him to his feet.

NANSI  
 That fuckin' cat's the devil!

WELDON  
 Pay 'im! An extra ten!

THANE  
 But--

WELDON  
 Just pay 'im!

Thane pulls out the money. Stuffs it in Nansi's hand.

WELDON (CONT'D)

Let's go!

They heave the bags on their backs and rush out of the alley.

EXT. BUS STOP - NIGHT

Raining. Fuzzy bus lights bloom from around the corner. Weldon drops his bag. Hails. The bus passes. Then skitters to a stop.

EXT./INT. BUS - NIGHT

BUTCH GRUBER (BROTHER BUTCH), 50s, heavy, pulls the door handle.

BROTHER BUTCH

Sorry. Didn't see ya. Is that you Weldon?

WELDON

Hey, Brother Butch. Gotta get my bags.

BROTHER BUTCH

Need some help?

WELDON

Nah. We got it. Thane's with me.

He watches the boys struggle with the trash bags.

BROTHER BUTCH

Out late?

THANE

Spending the night at my...uh...Nansi's. Marv's.

Weldon shoots him a look.

WELDON

You mean our new friend Carl's.

BROTHER BUTCH

Well y'all lucky I spotted you, right?

Weldon steadies his bag on a seat and sits beside it.

INT. BUS - NIGHT - LATER

Wipers flicks away rain-spray, revealing a small bus stop terminal and the Gresham Shopping Square. Brother Butch talks over his shoulder happy to have an audience.

BROTHER BUTCH

Y'all boys gotta make it to my shindig Saturday? Lotta the church boys gonna be there. Lotta of fun. Bunch of games. Atari.

The boys grip their bags.

BROTHER BUTCH (CONT'D)

Used to come over ma house all the time last summer. Y'all still scouts?

WELDON

No, sir.

BROTHER BUTCH

No sir?

(pause)

Y'all boys show are quiet.

Thane and Weldon share a look.

BROTHER BUTCH (CONT'D)

Well. My last stop. Your friend live out here in Gresham?

Weldon nudges Thane.

THANE

Yeah. Yeah. Right down the street.

Weldon STRADDLES his bag. Heaves. Gets off the bus. Thane follows.

BROTHER BUTCH

Gonna be okay out here?

WELDON

Yeah. His mother's picking us up.

Brother Butch closes the door. The boys shelter under the stop awning.

THANE

Gresham! We're in fuckin' Gresham!

WELDON

I know we're in Gresham!

THANE

It was the wrong bus! We caught the wrong fuckin' bus!

WELDON

Shuddup so I can think!

THANE

It's fuckin' rainin'! We can't call our fuckin' parents!

WELDON

What's your sister's number?

THANE

Sherm? You wanna call Sherm?

WELDON

No your older sister, stupid!

THANE

She's in Vancouver fifty miles away!

WELDON

Its twenty miles--

THANE

We're gonna get caught! You saw the way Brother Butch looked at us? Like he knew!

Weldon digs in his pockets.

WELDON

How much change you got?

THANE

Change?

WELDON

Gonna call someone.

Thane fishes in his pockets.

INT. EARL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Earl's apartment. Earl's on the couch watching the old nineteen-inch TV we saw earlier at Evy's blaring from the coffee table. At his feet near empty beer cans SEEP from their sides. The phone RINGS urgently.

Answering machine CLICKS.

ANSWERING MACHINE  
You know the number you've called.  
Leave a message.

WELDON (V.O.)  
Earl?

Earl looks at the phone.

WELDON (V.O.)  
Earl, I'm in Gresham. I, uh,  
caught the wrong bus. Earl?

Earl STRIPS a beer from a six-pack.

THANE (V.O.)  
Is he picking up?

WELDON (V.O.)  
Answering machine...

AUTOMATED VOICE (V.O.)  
Please deposit thirty cents to  
continue your call...

WELDON (V.O.)  
You got thirty cents?

THANE (V.O.)  
Paid my last ten to Nansi,  
remember? I'm broke!

Weldon's drops the phone.

WELDON (V.O.)  
He's probably drunk, sittin' on the  
couch. Bet he can hear me!  
(into the receiver)  
All he really cared about was  
fuckin' my mother!

ANSWERING MACHINE  
BEEP!

The answering machine CLICKS silent. A RED LIGHT flashes.

EARL  
You fuckin' thief!

Earl knocks over his beer. It pools on the coffee table and drips to the floor. Earl lies on the floor beneath the table and lets the beer drip into his mouth.

EXT. GRESHAM - NIGHT

A station wagon (Earl's) swerves through a parking lot and onto the street.

EARL'S POV

Headlights spill on two clumps huddled at the bus stop.

BACK TO SCENE

Earl pulls the car up to the curb.

EARL  
Get in!

Weldon and Thane unkink from their bags.

INT. EARL'S STATION WAGON - LATER

Car tires SCREECH along a slick road.

EARL  
Marvin's house right?

WELDON  
Yeah.

EARL  
You know the address?

WELDON  
I know its on Liberty off 8th street. I can point it out. A blue roof. Think its this one.

INT./EXT. EARL'S STATION WAGON - NIGHT

Weldon jumps out of the car.

Thane shoves the trash bags across the seat and through the back door.

THANE  
Thanks, Mr. Earl.

WELDON  
Thanks, Earl.

EARL  
No problem. Hey, Weldon!

WELDON  
Yeah?

EARL  
I think you lost somethin'...

Hands Weldon a hundred dollar bill.

EARL (CONT'D)  
Found it under the mat.

Weldon stuffs it in his pocket, picks up the bag and heads to the porch. Earl SLAMS on the gas.

INT. MARVIN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Marv backs into his room. He and Thane a LUGGING a trash bag.

MARV  
What took you dudes so long?  
Thought they got you!

WELDON  
A few snags. What'd your mom say?

MARV  
She said we'll see what you got.

Weldon dumps the first trash bag into the pool of light.

WELDON  
No!

THANE  
Holy shit!

MARV  
What?!

WELDON  
It's effen DC!

MARV  
DC? All we got is DC. No Marvel?

Weldon grabs the other bag and shakes it out.

They stare at a mixture.

THANE  
Wanna toss the DC?

WELDON  
I don't want DC.

THANE  
Then we toss it--

Marv's Mom comes in. She takes a few books.

MARV'S MOM  
You don't toss it!

The group stands gaping. Never seen Marv's Mom off the couch.

INT. MARVIN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Early morning. Marv's Mom is propped on the couch. The phone is to her ear. She's got a stack of comics beside her. Marv paces. Thane sits on a stool gobbling cereal. Marv's Mom hangs up the phone. Starts dialing.

Weldon stares out the window.

WELDON'S POV

A landscaper FLOCKS LEAVES with his BLOWER.

BACK TO SCENE

MARV'S MOM  
There!

Marv's Mom SMACKS a comic on the couch.

MARV'S MOM (CONT'D)  
May have a buyer by this afternoon.

The boys HIGH-FIVE. CIRCLE-HUG.

MARV'S MOM (CONT'D)  
There is a finders fee...

Phone rings. Marv's Mom answers it and nods to the boys.

INT. TENT - DAY

Weldon, Thane, Marv, and Radinsky in a circle. Marv UNFURLS a small stack TWENTY DOLLAR BILLS.

WELDON

How much?

MARV

Not enough for three.

RADINSKY

If we can only do one--we need to make sure its the best!

Marv gives the money to Weldon. Recounts.

WELDON

You need how much, Radinsky? Two hundred?

RADINSKY

Three hundred. We're gonna use a lawn mower--

THANE

A effen lawn mower, Radinsky?

RADINSKY

Why not? It'll have lift and you won't need an effen extension cord. My dad says--

THANE

I don't care what your dad says! Its fuckin' unsafe!

RADINSKY

(to Weldon)

Thought you wanted to impress Yo-Yo? Thought you wanted to fly up to the rafters?

THANE

I don't wanna kill anybody! Weldon, can I speak to you outside?

EXT. TENT - CONTINUOUS

They step out of ear shot.

THANE

Duty to God and country, Duty to  
other people, and Duty to self!

WELDON

And be prepared. What's your point?  
We're not scouts anymore--

THANE

But we pledged to ourselves--

WELDON

Yeah? So?

THANE

So we didn't leave the scouts and  
form the Avengers to kill people.

WELDON

Nobody's gonna get hurt. Don't be a  
wussy...

THANE

A wussy?

WELDON

C'mon. You know Radinsky's a  
dumbass. Radinsky's plans never  
work. If the mower doesn't  
work...we'll try something else.

Thane snatches up his coat. Walks.

WELDON (CONT'D)

Remember Camp Makualla? The canoe?

Thane stops.

WELDON (CONT'D)

You always give up just before the  
finish line. We're almost there!

THANE

No! You're almost there.

Thane goes to leave. Weldon grabs his arm.

Weldon stuffs some bills into Thane's pocket.

THANE (CONT'D)

I don't want your fuckin' money!

Thane pushes away. Wads the bills and throws them at Weldon's  
feet. Weldon looks at him.

WELDON  
Is it Yo-Yo? You jealous? I knew  
it!

Thane begins to run.

WELDON (CONT'D)  
Make sure your mom sews our  
costumes!

EXT./INT. BREWSTER'S STORE - DAY

Brewster pushes open the door and kicks in a large suitcase,  
he sets smaller bag atop the larger. He MAKES KISSING NOISES  
and Tybalt appears.

Brewster climbs the stairs.

His FOOTSTEPS stop.

Then he's back down the stairs.

Stands in the middle of the floor. Turns around.

Cranes.

There's a comic book on the floor.

He LIFTS it slowly and smiles shaking his head with  
recognition. Then the smile disappears.

EXT. WOODLAWN PARK - DAY

P'NUT, 7, sits on bench drawing. SIERRA (MARSHMELLOW), 5, sits  
beside him DANGLING her legs. Weldon enters and P'nut  
scooches over.

WELDON  
Seen Sherm?

P'NUT  
She not here yet.

WELDON  
Whatcha drawin'?

P'NUT  
Snoopy.

WELDON  
Pretty good.  
(pause)

(MORE)

WELDON (CONT'D)

You know we started the Avengers right in this park. Fight on that hill right there. Mostly play-fightin'.

(beat)

I was Captain America. There was X-Men. Fantastic Four. Inhumans!

(beat)

But we were the best! You in a group?

P'NUT

Woodlawn kids don't do that now.

WELDON

You can start one?

P'NUT

Nah.

WELDON

How about this...you can join our Avengers?

P'NUT

Gotta take care of Marshmellow. Right, Marshmellow?

SIERRA

Right!

WELDON

If you ever change your mind, we got an opening.

Sherm rushes up. She's winded.

SHERM

I miss the bus?

P'NUT

No. It ain't come yet.

A car pulls up. BRENDA, 30, (SIERRA'S MOM) rolls down the window.

BRENDA

C'mon P'nut. Marshmellow! Hey, Sherm. Need a ride?

SHERM

No ma'am.

Weldon and Sherm watch the car pull away.

WELDON  
Why is he called P'nut?

SHERM  
He only draws Peanut characters.

WELDON  
His Snoopy's good.

SHERM  
Should see his Linus.

Sherm sits and opens her backpack.

WELDON  
Thane still mad? We need those costumes...

SHERM  
He'll get over it.  
(beat)  
I'm into drawing comics...tell me what you think. It's called Sunmann. Miss Bloom may show it in class...

WELDON  
Marv's the expert...Maybe, later...

SHERM  
Its better than DC.

WELDON  
What isn't?

SHERM  
You hate DC?

WELDON  
Its their stories...I mean Superman's an alien. Batman's super rich. I mean. You know. What if I were bitten by a spider or got shocked by gamma rays? I would be a superhero, right? That's what I like an everyday schmo by no fault of his own turned into a superhero...

He's excited. She's bored.

SHERM  
Do you know Marvin's number?

Weldon searches her face.

WELDON  
Why? I mean no.

SHERM  
He may wanna buy a first edition...  
Or maybe his mom might wanna sell  
it?

WELDON  
Can't think of the number. Thane  
might?

SHERM  
He says he can't be bothered.

WELDON  
Well if I remember the number I'll  
tell you! Oh, I forgot Marv's been  
pretty sick.

Sherm looks at him.

WELDON (CONT'D)  
Mono relapse. Can't see anyone for  
a while.

SHERM  
Okay. Promise you'll read it and  
give me your honest opinion?

WELDON  
Sure will. Just not right now.

The bus comes.

INT. BREWSTER'S STORE - DAY

TWO POLICEMEN stand in front of Brewster, POLICEMAN #1 takes  
notes. POLICEMAN #2 thumbs through a comic.

POLICEMAN #1  
How many did you say?

BREWSTER  
Over a hundred. I'll have to  
inventory to be sure.

POLICEMAN #1  
How much would you say they were  
worth?

BREWSTER

I don't know exactly until I do the inventory. Some are very rare. First editions.

POLICEMAN #1

Ballpark? Like a hundred bucks worth?

Policeman #2 fingers through a comic.

POLICEMAN #2

Man, this is great.

BREWSTER

Try five to ten thousand.

POLICEMAN #1

Ten thousand?

POLICEMAN #2

Do you have the one with Vision versus Wonder Man. Two of the world's mightiest beings locked in mortal combat...

BREWSTER

Avengers #158, Volume 1, April, '77? Yeah I got it.

POLICEMAN #2

Then Graviton shows up and kills one of 'em?

BREWSTER

No. That doesn't happen.

POLICEMAN #2

Are you sure?

POLICEMAN #1

Can we get back to the report? Insured?

BREWSTER

No.

POLICEMAN #1

No?

BREWSTER

Who'd wanna steal comic books?

INT. WOODSHOP - DAY

MCFALLIN, 40, oversees CORY, 13, fuddle with drills, lathes, etc. Dust settles everywhere 5th period woodshop. Radinsky walks up.

MCFALLIN

Mr. Radinsky, you finally showed up for my class. You've got a lot of assignments to catch up.

RADINSKY

I know. I wanted to do one big assignment for make-up.

MCFALLIN

Not how it works, Mr. Radinsky. Let's see whatcha got.

Radinsky passes the hovercraft instructions.

MCFALLIN (CONT'D)

Ambitious. Very ambitious, Mr. Radinsky. You only need to do a beveled shaped chopping to pass week one. A welding exercise and two plastic ornaments.

RADINSKY

This is better than a chopping board.

Cory turns off the jigsaw and lowers his goggles.

MCFALLIN

It'd be rather expensive. It'd only equal the four weeks worth of assignments.

RADINSKY

Plus an extra credit?

MCFALLIN

Maybe.

Lays diagram pages side by side on the table.

MCFALLIN (CONT'D)

A lot of time, Mr. Radinsky. And a lot of commitment!

RADINSKY

Yes, sir--

MCFALLIN

This is supposed to be your project...I don't want to be sitting here doing it for you. Understood?

RADINSKY

Won't be a problem. Me and my dad built a bunch for the boy scouts.

MCFALLIN

Yeah? I never heard of the boy scouts having hovercrafts.

RADINSKY

They had to keep a secret. We perfected a new design with a powerful torque. Scouts couldn't handle it. And it was expensive.

MCFALLIN

Torque you say?

RADINSKY

Powerful torque. With a lawn mower engine. Tremendous lift.

MCFALLIN

Doesn't sound safe.

RADINSKY

It's perfectly safe. It's in Boy's Life! They make a million of 'em a year and nobody's ever got hurt. Plus there's a money back guarantee.

McFallin glances at the pages again.

MCFALLIN

Always wanted to see if one of these worked.

RADINSKY

When can we start?

MCFALLIN

Oh. I don't know. Whenever you get the materials I guess.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Weldon, Tyrone, Cory, Marvin, Radinsky, Sherm and other students pour into first period.

MARV  
(leans to Weldon)  
We got another buyer.

RADINSKY  
A buyer!

WELDON  
How much?

MARV  
Not as big as the first. Little over a hundred.

RADINSKY  
Sheet. That's barely enough for a second one.

WELDON  
Shh, blabbermouth! You got the money?

MARV  
Yeah.

Marv untucks a partial wad from his pocket. Nods like BMOC.

WELDON  
Effen hell yeah. Radinsky you can go to Fred Meyer after school?

Ms. Bloom stands beside Weldon. The boys clam it.

MS. BLOOM  
Weldon welcome back. Class take your seats.  
(beat)  
Hopefully, we don't have a repeat of what happened last week. I wouldn't want you boys to miss anything important...

WELDON  
No ma'am.

The boys file to their seats.

MS. BLOOM

Miss Whitfield can you step up here?

Sherm walks to the front of the class.

MS. BLOOM (CONT'D)

Miss Whitfield has done some excellent work. Can I see that?

Sherm hands Ms. Bloom her hand-drawn comic.

Ms. Bloom flips through a few pages. Does a show and tell to the class.

MS. BLOOM (CONT'D)

Look at this. Wonderful!

She hands the book back to Sherm.

MS. BLOOM (CONT'D)

A remarkable talent destined for great things!

Sherm eases toward her seat and out of the spotlight.

MS. BLOOM (CONT'D)

No stay here. I have a surprise.

(beat)

You know how we're gonna celebrate this milestone? We're gonna have a performance...and I need two volunteers...

(pause)

Mr. Porter and, um, Mr. Burns!

Weldon and Tyrone push back from their desks. Stand.

MS. BLOOM (CONT'D)

Not today, boys. So you can sit. I have a lot of preparation to do beforehand. Borrow the overhead from Ms. Haines. Make the transparencies...

The boys sit down.

EXT. HALLWAY - DAY

Radinsky wheelies a lawnmower in front of the wood shop.

McFallin steps out of the shop and begins to lock the door.

MCFALLIN  
Mr. Radinsky?

RADINSKY  
Got the lawn mower. Got the wood and stuff outside. Couldn't drag it all by myself. You said we can start at any time, right?

MCFALLIN  
Tonight, Mr. Radinsky?

RADINSKY  
Yeah. You said anytime.

MCFALLIN  
Is there a rush?

RADINSKY  
No. But you said anytime.

MCFALLIN  
Well. Ok.  
(pause)  
Let me call my wife and tell her I'll be a little late.

INT. WOODSHOP - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

McFallin and Radinsky pride over a tilted wooden HOVERCRAFT.

Radinsky seals the last segment of canvas with tape.

RADINSKY  
Can we test it?

MCFALLIN  
What time is it?  
(checks watch)  
Jesus! We've gotta go!

RADINSKY  
One spin!

MCFALLIN  
We'll do it in the morning.

RADINSKY  
Just one spin! All this work!  
C'mon! You know you want to.  
(beat)  
We could take one spin in the gym!

MCFALLIN

Well...I guess one spin wouldn't hurt. A test run.

(beat)

Push back these desks. We'll do it here. All it needs is a flat surface.

They force the desks to the wall. McFallin opens the door. Radinsky straddles the hovercraft.

MCFALLIN (CONT'D)

Goggles. Mask.

Radinsky dawns mask and goggles.

MCFALLIN (CONT'D)

Ok. Easy does it. Crank it up.

Radinsky pulls the cord and the hovercraft REVS to life! Radinsky gives a thumbs up. After a moment the hovercraft lifts from the floor.

MCFALLIN (CONT'D)

Woohoo! It works! Let me give you a push!

Radinsky nods.

McFallin pushes.

The hovercraft SHUDDERS and RIPS across the floor smashing into the wall.

Then the SHUDDERING brings the hovercraft apart--it SLIDES side ways--the mower blade BREAKS free and TOMAHAWKS across the room CLEAVING into the opposite wall.

MCFALLIN (CONT'D)

Holy shit!

McFallin rushes over to Radinsky whose lying on his back.

RADINSKY

Guess we can't use a lawn mower.

INT. FERAS GROCERY STORE - DAY

Policeman #1 and #2 come out of Feras's office. Dai stands behind the counter visibly frightened. Feras comes out from the back.

FERAS  
Sorry we can't help.

Shows Feras a picture of Nansi.

POLICEMAN #1  
Take another look. Douglas Cleeves.  
This guy.

FERAS  
I don't know the names of any of  
the boys.

POLICEMAN #1  
How about you miss?

DAI  
I don't know a Douglas Cleeves.

He lays the picture on the counter in front of her.

POLICEMAN #2  
Nansi? Nabisco? Spider-Man?

Policeman #2 trades glances with Policeman #1.

POLICEMAN #1  
Can you step outside, miss?

FERAS  
Has she done something wrong.

EXT. ALLEY - DAY

Dai and Feras and the Two Policemen stand below Brewster's second story window.

POLICEMAN #1  
The owner...uh, victim...says you  
fed his cat while he was outta  
town.

DAI  
I didn't see anything.

POLICEMAN #1  
We're not accusing anyone of  
anything but someone climbed  
through the second story window and  
stole some pretty valuable  
property.

FERAS  
What was taken?

POLICEMAN #2  
Comic books.

FERAS  
Comic books?

He looks at Dai. She doesn't say a word.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Ms. Bloom stands behind the projector. Students are still finding their seats. Chatting.

MS. BLOOM  
Mr. Burns can you turn off the lights when I say? Everyone else find your seats.

Tyrone stands at the switch. Weldon, Marv and Radinsky huddle while walking.

RADINSKY  
It almost worked. You shoulda seen it!

MARV  
Yeah, but it didn't. Now, what are we gonna do?

WELDON  
We make another--how much we got left?

MARV  
Sixty. And We still gotta pay Thane's mom for the costume materials.

MS. BLOOM  
You'll have time to socialize after class. Mr. Burns. The lights.

Tyrone hits the lights and the hum of the projector starts.

MS. BLOOM (CONT'D)  
Leave one light on so the narrator can see.

Tyrone switches on a light. He takes his chair next to Cory.

CORY

Did you hear Feras got robbed?

TYRONE

Wasn't Feras. Brewster's.

MS. BLOOM

Quiet, please! Mr. Porter? Use your stage voice so everyone can hear.

Weldon nods. Ms. Bloom shuffles the first transparency onto the glass.

WELDON

(reading from the screen)

*The Sunmann and the Sungirl versus the Aliens. Story and drawings by Sheralyn Whitfield.*

TYRONE

They look like booty heads--

MS. BLOOM

The next person who speaks other than the narrator, will be visiting Mr. Bazerman's office. Is that understood, class? Mr. Burns?

TYRONE

Yes, ma'am.

MS. BLOOM

I have an idea. Mr. Burns to increase your much needed participation points you can read the sound effects.

Ms. Bloom flips to the next transparency and will continue flipping until the end of Weldon's narrative.

MS. BLOOM (CONT'D)

Mr. Porter continue...

Weldon narrates.

WELDON

*On September 7th, 1979, Midnight, the Overminds landed on earth in Woodlawn park. The space ship lands with a slight whisper.*

TYRONE

SHHHHHHHwuppa.

WELDON

*It is the dead of night and only  
the lights of Brewster's comic  
shine in the dark.*

(beat)

*A landing party of three dart out  
of the ship.*

(beat)

*The Overminds can change shape dot  
dot dot but only temporarily.*

(beat)

*One transforms into a giant spider  
and climbs the brick wall...*

TYRONE

*Scratch. Scratch. Scratch.*

MS. BLOOM

Weldon, is something wrong?

WELDON

No ma'am.

MS. BLOOM

Well, continue...

WELDON

Yes, ma'am.

(beat)

*He climbs into the upper window--*

TYRONE

*Creak! PHTTT--HISS!*

WELDON

*A large, black Siamese cat...its  
hair rising on its back...strikes  
at the creature then rapidly  
retreats...the creature oozes black  
pus-like blood.*

TYRONE

*OOZE!*

WELDON

*The creature in pain...*

TYRONE

*AARGh!*

WELDON

*Bounds down the stairs. Ties up poor Mr. Brewster and finds the secret treasure: Brewster's comic books!*

(sinister voice)

Overmind: Now I have the power to defeat Sunmann and rule the world!

Marv and Radinsky sink in their seats.

MS. BLOOM

Very good, Weldon. That's enough for today. Can someone get the lights...

CLASS

Ah!

STUDENT

We wanna know what happens next!

MS. BLOOM

Miss Whitfield? Do you wanna give them a hint?

Sherm stands.

SHERM

The Aliens capture Sunmann and Sungirl has to rescue him.

Sits.

STUDENT

That's it?

MS. BLOOM

Everyone settle down. We'll see the rest soon. This outta inspire more of you to get your stories done.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Marv and Radinsky run up to Weldon.

MARV

She's telling our story! What are we gonna do?

WELDON

Shuddup!

Tyrone and Cory strolls pass them.

TYRONE  
You read like a pussy.

WELDON  
I know you are but what am I?

Cory laughs. Weldon, Marv and Radinsky walk off.

TYRONE  
What the fuck you laughin' at?  
Those dudes are up to somethin'.  
See what it is.

Cory scurries off to catch up with Weldon.

INT. ANOTHER HALLWAY - DAY

Weldon runs through a crowded hallway to Sherm's locker.

WELDON  
Can I see you for a second.

SHERM  
Sure.

Sherm tucks her books in her bag and follows him.

INT. STAIRWELL - DAY

Weldon yanks Sherm through the stairwell door.

WELDON  
What the hell are you tryin' to do?  
Get us thrown in jail? Thane tell  
you that story? Tell your big mouth  
brother...if we go down...he will  
too!

SHERM  
I got something for you...

Sherm reaches into her backpack.

She holds out a comic book.

SHERM (CONT'D)  
I bought this for you. It's wrapped  
and everything...Spider-Man--

He SLAPS it from her hand.

WELDON

I don't care!

Weldon storms out. Sherm tears up. She runs down the steps.  
Cory comes into the stairwell. He picks up the comic.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Cory runs up to Tyrone and thrusts the comic into his hand.  
Tyrone turns it over.

TYRONE

Spider-Man Amazing Fantasy #15,  
August 1962! Nobody has this!

CORY

Except Brewster?

TYRONE

Except Brewster! He'd pay a fortune  
to get it back.

EXT. WILDERNESS - DAY

Weldon, Marv and Radinsky stand at a hole where their tent  
used to be.

WELDON

What the fuck, man!

A WORKER passes with a LEAF-BLOWER. The boys run up to him.

WELDON (CONT'D)

Sir! Sir! Can you help us? We lost  
a tent. It was right there!

The Worker removes his earmuffs.

WELDON (CONT'D)

Our tent?

WORKER

There was bunch a-stuff in those  
woods...

(beat)

Uh, its in a pile near the truck.  
There.

The boys sprint to the truck.

WELDON

Thanks!

WORKER

You boys are lucky. We we're gonna haul that stuff away.

The blower WHIRS again.

Weldon stops in his tracks.

Weldon turns to watch the Worker STRAFE leaves from side to side.

WELDON

I have an idea!

MARV

What?

WELDON

Radinsky you think McFallin'll help you build another hovercraft in time for the dance?

RADINSKY

Guess so.

WELDON

Marv you still got sixty right?

MARV

Sure.

WELDON

Grab the stuff and lets go!

INT. PHONE BOOTH - DAY

Tyrone speaks into the pay phone with a towel over the receiver. Cory leans against the booth listening.

BREWSTER (V.O.)

What? Where?

TYRONE

Da Wilderness. Tonight.

BREWSTER (V.O.)

Where the hell is the wilderness?

TYRONE  
 You know where Woodlawn is? You  
 know the wilderness trail between  
 Dekum and Claremont?

BREWSTER (V.O.)  
 Yeah.

TYRONE  
 There! Midnight. Alone. Five  
 hundred cash.

Tyrone HANGS UP. Shakes Cory.

TYRONE (CONT'D)  
 We 'bout to be rich, dude!

EXT. WILDERNESS - NIGHT

Midnight. Brewster stands alone in a clearing. He's palming  
 an envelope. Tyrone and Cory appear in SKI MASKS.

TYRONE  
 (best gangster voice)  
 Got da money?

Brewster lifts the envelope. Tyrone lifts the comic. Signals  
 Cory to fetch the envelope.

TYRONE (CONT'D)  
 No funny bizness. Remember I got a  
 whole stack of your comics that  
 could go up in smoke.

Brewster and Cory make an exchange.

TYRONE (CONT'D)  
 Count it.

Cory does.

CORY  
 It's all here, boss.

TYRONE  
 Don't try followin' us if you know  
 what's good for ya.

The boys back through the underbrush. Brewster watches them  
 disappear.

INT. TYRONE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Tyrone climbs through the window followed by Cory.

TYRONE

We did it! We fuckin' did it!

Tyrone rolls around in his bed. Celebrating.

TYRONE'S MOTHER (O.S.)

Tyrone!

TYRONE

Yeah, mama!

TYRONE'S MOTHER (O.S.)

Tyrone!

TYRONE

Yeah, mama!

TYRONE'S MOTHER (O.S.)

Don't yeah mama me...get in here!

Tyrone walks to the door. Cory GRABS him. SNATCHES off his ski mask.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Tyrone enters the living room.

TYRONE

Yeah, mama?

Policeman #1 is on the sofa and Policeman #2 is perched on the love seat. Brewster takes a few steps toward Tyrone. Brewster's holds up the Spider-Man comic book.

BREWSTER

The rest? Or should I say  
(gangster voice)  
Da stash...bub?

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Marv and Radinsky find Weldon in the hall.

RADINSKY

It effen works!

WELDON  
Hovercraft?

RADINSKY  
Yeah with the leaf blower!

MARV  
We'll pick it up after school.  
We'll a hundred feet of extension  
cord.

RADINSKY  
More!

Weldon SLAMS his locker shut.

WELDON  
Let's go!

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Principal Bazerman, Ms. Bloom and Policeman #1 stand at the  
teachers desk.

MS. BLOOM  
Come in and take your seats.

Weldon, Marv and Radinsky SLINK to their seats.

MS. BLOOM (CONT'D)  
Miss Whitfield can I see you for a  
moment?

Sherm gets up from her seat walks to the front of the  
classroom.

Ms. Bloom nods and Sherm follows Principal Bazerman and  
Policeman #1 out.

STUDENT  
(whispers to Weldon)  
Where are they taking her--?

MS. BLOOM  
If I hear any talking, that person  
will follow Mr. Bazerman! Is that  
understood!

CLASS  
Yes, ma'am!

MS. BLOOM  
Now open your books and read  
quietly to yourselves...

STUDENT  
What chapter, Miss Bloom?

MS. BLOOM  
Any chapter!

INT. HALLWAY - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Weldon opens his locker. A TWINED PARCEL falls into his arms.  
He opens it. Inside are SUPERHERO COSTUMES.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Bazerman's seated at his desk flanked by Policeman #1 and  
Brewster. Tyrone and Tyrone's Mother sit tensely. Sherm  
stands.

BAZERMAN  
Have a seat, young lady.

BREWSTER  
Is this her?

Tyrone nods.

TYRONE'S MOTHER  
Speak, boy!

TYRONE  
That's her.

Brewster steps to Sherm. He shows her the Spider-Man comic.

BREWSTER  
I won't press charges if you tell  
me where the rest are.

Sherm remains silent.

INT. GYM - DAY - LATER

Empty bleachers. Several LONG EXTENTION CORDS form a tail  
behind a PLYWOOD HOVERCRAFT. Marv and Radinsky stand proudly  
over the craft. Weldon enters with the bundle.

WELDON

Someone put these in locker. Seen Thane? He's the only one that knows my combination.

MARV

Guess he had a change a heart.

Weldon drops the package. Weldon walks around the hovercraft.

WELDON

Tried it yet?

MARV

Waitin' for you.

Weldon plants himself on the hovercraft.

WELDON

No gas blower?

RADINSKY

McFallin didn't want fumes in the gym.

Weldon nods.

WELDON

Fire it up.

RADINSKY

Here.

Radinsky FLIPS the SWITCH and the craft VROOMS and SWELLS.

WELDON

How do we get it to move?

RADINSKY

What?

WELDON

How do we get it to move?

RADINSKY

Gotta push it!

Radinsky pushes and the craft SKITTERS across the floor. Then the craft BREAKS-OFF and COLLAPSES.

WELDON

What happened? Plug it back in!

Thane has walked into the gym. He has the blower cord in his hand.

WELDON (CONT'D)

Thane?

Thane drops the cord and walks up to Weldon. Weldon gets off the hovercraft.

Thane SLUGS him. Marv and Radinsky leap on Thane. Weldon gets up.

THANE

Coward! Hit me while these guys hold me! Be like that snitch Tyrone!

WELDON

Let him go!

Thane WALLOPS Weldon one more time.

THANE

I hope you're fuckin' happy Sherm's expelled! Avengers? Some fuckin' hero you are!

Thane runs out of the gym.

WELDON

What are you guys starin' at? Let's get ready for tomorrow night.

INT. GYM - NIGHT

Dance night. STUDENTS jam pack the bleachers. Yo-Yo's in the front row. The music is THUMPING. A THREE STUDENT ACT is doing their best version of the Sugar Hill Gang's RAPPER'S DELIGHT.

The rap ends and Bazerman reclaims the mike.

He watches the Student Act vacate.

BAZERMAN

Yet another rap song...um...how refreshing.

(beat)

Our next contestant is someone everybody knows and loves...put your hands together for Tyrone Burns and His Breakers!

Tyrone, Cory, and BREAK DANCER, walk to the center of the gym. They're wearing matching RED BOMBER JACKETS. They UNTUCK SQUARES of CARDBOARD from under their arms.

Tyrone CUES the BOOM BOX.

They BOP from one side to side then they dance in unison around a square of cardboard. They SPIN on the cardboard.

STUDENT  
(yells)  
Snitch!

Cory and Break Dancer stand up. Tyrone stops spinning.

STUDENTS  
Snitch! Snitch! Snitch!

Students STOMP.

BAZERMAN  
Okay. Okay!

Kids BOUNCE. Bleachers ROCK.

STUDENTS  
Snitch! Snitch! Snitch!

BAZERMAN  
Calm down! Calm down!

Tyrone eyes the crowd. He, Cory and Break Dancer stroll out of the gym

STUDENTS  
Yeah!

Bazerman puts the mike at his side and waits for silence.

BAZERMAN  
Okay. Now for our final act: The Sunmann!

A WHIRRING flushes the auditorium as a MASKED WELDON, in a SUN-BREASTED SUPER HERO COSTUME, WOOSHES across the floor on a matching hovercraft.

A MASKED AND COSTUMED Radinsky tugs in one direction and a MASKED AND COSTUMED Marv tugs in the other direction giving the appearance that Weldon glides on air.

He stops in front of Bazerman.

BAZERMAN (CONT'D)  
Who are you, sir?

WELDON  
I am the Sunmann!

BAZERMAN  
And what do you want to do for us  
mere mortals?

WELDON  
I wanna dance!

Weldon takes his feet out of the stirrups.

He dances toward Yo-Yo.

He takes her by the hand.

BAZERMAN  
Everybody dance!

The students file from the bleachers to the floor.

Its a SLOW DANCE.

Weldon takes her in his arms. She puts her head on his  
shoulder, then she rolls up his mask and PECKS him on the  
cheek.

He looks at her.

WELDON  
Lets get outta here.

YO-YO  
You sure?

WELDON  
Yeah.

INT. BOWLING ALLEY - NIGHT

Weldon drapes his cape like a toga. Yo-Yo follows him to a  
booth.

YO-YO  
You wanna bowl?

WELDON  
I'm bad.

YO-YO  
 You know you can take off your mask  
 now?

Weldon pulls off his mask.

YO-YO (CONT'D)  
 Jesus! Your eye!

WELDON  
 Yeah.  
 (beat)  
 Got it fightin' Martians.

YO-YO  
 You so crazy!

WELDON  
 Yeah. I know.

He sees Thane and Sherm at a PINBALL MACHINE.

WELDON (CONT'D)  
 I'll be back...

YO-YO  
 I'm hungry!

WELDON  
 Order whatever you want. Here.

He TOSSES a hundred dollar bill on the table. Yo-Yo eyes  
 widen. Weldon walks over to Sherm and Thane.

WELDON (CONT'D)  
 Hey.

SHERM  
 Hey.

THANE  
 Can't you see we're playin'?

Thane PLAYS more aggressively. Gives the paddles a WHACK. The  
 ball PINGS around the maze.

WELDON  
 (to Sherm)  
 You shoulda seen the  
 hovercraft...it was like riding on  
 air--

PING!

THANE

She doesn't care! Now can you leave!

WELDON

I wanted to say how much I--

THANE

You got what you wanted! Yo-Yo! Go and sit with her! Maybe you'll get lucky!

The ball SHOOTs passed the paddles and into the gutter.

THANE (CONT'D)

Dammit!

Weldon backs away as Thane grabs Sherm. They leave.

Weldon walks back to his booth.

YO-YO

Thought I heard my name? What was that about?

WELDON

Nothin'.

YO-YO

Isn't that Thane's little sister? The one Tyrone snitched on?

WELDON

That's her.

YO-YO

She's got googly eyes for you I can tell. But expelled over comic books? Not me! I'd of turned all them bitches in.

(beat)

Got you a cheeseburger. Here's your change. Hurry up and eat. Can't wait for what crazy stuff you'll do next!.

She woofs down a cheeseburger.

EXT. WILDERNESS - NIGHT

Weldon sits alone in the clearing where the team's tent used to be.

He counts the remainder of his money.

INT. WELDON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Evy's WASHING DISHES. Weldon comes in.

EVY  
What's the matter, Captain?

WELDON  
Why?

EVY  
Your capes saggin'.  
(beat)  
Girl troubles?

Weldon PLOPS down on the sofa.

EVY (CONT'D)  
I just cleaned. Don't get my sofa  
dirty with that cape.  
(pause)  
I know you're gonna be mad with me,  
but I threw away those nasty books  
you had.

Pause.

WELDON  
Mama?

EVY  
Yeah?

WELDON  
Why are we poor?

Evy stops drying a dish.

EVY  
Ask your father when you see him  
tomorrow.

Weldon takes off his cape and folds it. He reaches into his pocket and pulls out bills and change and puts in on the table.

WELDON  
There's ninety-two dollars and  
twenty five cents. I bought  
cheeseburgers...

EVY  
What's this for?

WELDON  
Mama. Earl didn't take your  
money...I'm sorry.

His eyes tear-up.

She takes his head in her hands.

EVY  
Oh, honey.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Evy and Weldon sit opposite Bazerman.

BAZERMAN  
Mr. Brewster won't press charges if  
he gets every last book back.  
(pause)  
But, that won't change the fact.  
He'll be expelled.

Bazerman rises.

BAZERMAN (CONT'D)  
Do you want to give me the names of  
the other boys?

Weldon shakes his head "no".

BAZERMAN (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry, Miss Porter.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Weldon sits across from Bill whose fiddling with some files.

BILL  
So you went and got yourself  
expelled, huh?

Its more of a statement than a question.

WELDON  
Why did you do it?

BILL

So you gonna bring up my prison  
stunt again? Lay it at my feet?  
Like father like son bullshit?

WELDON

No.

BILL

Then what?

WELDON

Why did you?

Bill puts down his papers.

WELDON (CONT'D)

Did you love mama?

BILL

Of, course I did.

Weldon looks at his shoes. Fights.

WELDON

Did you love me?

BILL

Of course.

WELDON

Why did you leave?

Silence.

BILL

I got my Seattle family and I got  
my Portland family My Seattle  
family was first.

WELDON

But why?

BILL

Why what?

WELDON

Did you have me?

Bill reaches into a drawer and pulls out a check. He presses  
it in Weldon's hand.

EXT. BREWSTER'S STORE - DAY

Earl and Evy wait in the station wagon as Weldon CARRIES trash bags into store.

Brewster stands at the entrance.

BREWSTER  
So here's the little mastermind.

WELDON  
Yeah.

BREWSTER  
Just put it inside the door.

INT. BREWSTER'S STORE - DAY

Weldon brings in the second bag.

BREWSTER  
Must've been a super hero.

WELDON  
Sir?

BREWSTER  
You climbed through a window,  
drugged my cat, and carted-off all  
these mags by yourself.

WELDON  
Yeah. Well. That's everything.

BREWSTER  
Except for first book you sold.

WELDON  
Except for that one. But you said I  
could work it off.

BREWSTER  
Yeah. Bring your mower and cut the  
weeds out back.

WELDON  
K.

BREWSTER  
Here.

WELDON  
What's this?

BREWSTER

Your advance. Captain Marvel. Mar-  
Vell #62. Discontinued. May be  
worth somethin' someday.

EXT. THANES HOUSE - DAY

Weldon knocks.

THANE

What do you want!

WELDON

Is Sherm here?

THANE

She doesn't want to talk to you--

Sherm steps pass Thane.

SHERM

Hi.

WELDON

Hi.

(beat)

I just wanted to tell you you're no  
longer expelled.

SHERM

I know.

Pause.

SHERM (CONT'D)

Do you know what school you're  
goin' to?

WELDON

Nah. Probably be up in Seattle with  
my dad. Maybe for a year so. Be  
with my brothers and sisters.

SHERM

Thought you were an only child.

WELDON

They're half.

SHERM

Oh.

WELDON

Well. Anyway. I wanted to thank you for the costumes. It was you? And for not narkin' on me or anything.

SHERM

I'm not a snitch.

WELDON

I know. But you did almost dime us out with the Sunmann story.

SHERM

Yeah.

WELDON

I was wondering...

SHERM

Yeah?

WELDON

Did you buy that Spider-Man from Marv for me?

SHERM

It was nothin'.

WELDON

A hundred bucks!

SHERM

You needed a hovercraft. And costumes. Right?

WELDON

Yeah.

SHERM

She must've been pretty impressed when you flew into the gym. All that for her.

WELDON

I guess so.

SHERM

You must love her very much.

WELDON

I thought I did. But she has one flaw...

(beat)

She can't draw comics like you.

SHERM

No, she can't.

WELDON

You never finished what happened to  
the Sunmann after the aliens  
landed.

SHERM

(narrator voice)

*The aliens came by night so the  
Sunmann couldn't use his solar  
powers. The aliens took him hostage  
and that's when the Sungirl  
appeared and rescued him?  
The end.*

They kiss.

FADE OUT.

THE END.