

INT. JESSEs room

JESSE (18), ADAM (18), SAMSON (18) sitting around table sitting at bar table passing around a Vape. Words read December 10th.

ADAM

[[Looking stoned and staring deeply at the vape he's holding]]
You know, there's really no way these aren't the modern cigarettes.

JESSE

[[sitting across from him, JESSE shrugs]]
Well, they sure don't win any awards for subtlety with the lung burn.

SAMSON

[[Rolls his eyes and reaches for the vape]]
Not like I smoke to live anyway you pussies, I live to smoke. So real question, do you wanna keep talking about how it kills us, or do wanna get high right now?

[[Everybody laughs, JESSE's laugh turns into a gross cough. Everyone straightens up, looks at JESSE then breaks back into laughter.]]

= Shifts to game room

[[ADAM and JESSE are sitting on the couch playing foosball. SAMSON is sitting on arm rest staring at the record player.]]

SAMSON

[[Looking surprised]]
Geez JESSE even you?

JESSE

[[Raising an eyebrow and looking confused]]
Even me what SAMSON?

[[JESSE looks up from game for a second, ADAM takes advantage.]]

SAMSON

[[Gesturing openly with his hands]]
I just mean like, do you not have Spotify?

[[JESSE this time does not look up, and is now visibly annoyed at doing worse against ADAM]]

JESSE

[[Annoyed]]

Wa- Yes I have Spotify what are you talking about Sam?

SAMSON

You got one of these dinky record players, it's like everyone and their great grandma has one now. I mean you have a phone, why is this necessary dude?

ADAM

It makes him feel cool.

JESSE

[[Gives ADAM a bored look]]

I find it fun to collect music I like. I don't know.

SAMSON

Can I have it?

JESSE

No, but you're totally free to shove it!

ADAM

See now this right here, this [[Gestures around himself with a hand and with a totally straight 'you know I'm right' look]] is the attitude that gets us never invited to parties.

JESSE

They even still have those?

SAMSON

What since Covid?

ADAM

Who knows, probably.

JESSE

Not that we went to them before that.

SAMSON

Well yeah but Covid probably made it worse.

JESSE

Welp nothing to nothing isn't much worse. it did make my grades go down a cliff though.

ADAM

Hey, you'll still graduate!

JESSE

[[While Adam is still talking mumbling to himself]]

Yeah great, stresses of the real world please invade my life.

ADAM

[[still talking]]

Also please keep roasting us as a group to a minimum. We only allow self deprecation and singling out individuals.

JESSE

Great now school and not going to parties is all that's on my mind. Fuck I need more weed. Y'all even feel high?

SAMSON

Super but-

[[Brings out vape takes a long hit then tosses it to JESSE]]

[[JESSE starts to take a hit, sister character walks in]]

SISTER

Smelling up our parents home with deadly chemicals again JESSE? Quint could smell it from yalls bathroom.

JESSE

You make it so hard to say no huh sis? And Quint should find a new place to shit if he has a problem with it, hes the one that decided to live here.

SAMSON

Fuck Quint, he smokes too. And to Lydia's phrasing you sure could laid down some no's, I mean seriously deadly chemicals sounds like...Well I don't know...smoking cigarettes! Which is totally disrespectful to our good friend the zaza. Weed should only be talked about in positive ways, no more of this leftover drug war shit!

JESSE

Yeah, imagine living back in the 70s. [[fake shivers]] Fucking Nixon.

ADAM

I don't i'm personally a little for the comparison. We were just doing it ourselves.

LYDIA

I like this one, good job on making one decent friend Jesse. And I'd even say cigarettes are better, at least they stimulate brain development, weed just makes you stupid.

JESSE

Well until weeds starts causing cancer I think I'll stick with it. Unless of course you prefer me addicted to nicotine?

LYDIA

[[Defeated]]

Alright fine, you stoned loser wanna hit Denny's?

SAMSON

OF COURSE! Wait no thought you were gonna say IHOP.

ADAM

Honestly! You think we're fucking basic bitches?

JESSE

[[gesturing slightly]]

We need more than Denny's greasy basic bitch food. We need IHOP. Now that's some real boy's food!

LYDIA

Fine if you want me to waste more gas and kill the environment I guess will go to IHOP.

= Scene cuts to IHOP

[[Outside the IHOP the gang walks towards it and JESSE gets the sniffles]]

JESSE

Shit, do I wear a mask? I never know with these things, since COVID it's almost like you have to right?

ADAM

I don't know, etiquette there is all messy. You got a conservative dad around he gives you the stink eye, too left though and suddenly you killed their dog as soon as they hear a sniff.

LYDIA

I mean are you sick or not sick? If you're sick yeah Japan it and put a mask on. Simple

JESSE

What..Dude I don't know how is anyone ever sure of that? I get allergies, I get sick? I don't feel bad at the moment but I don't wanna go in and Kill someones grandpa.

SAMSON

Better to of masked and lost, then never masked at all.

[[JESSE snaps and takes a mask out of his pocket]]

JESSE

[[Muffled now]] Sound logic.

[[The gang enters the IHOP, JESSE keeps mask on till they sit down then removes it]]

JESSE

See if I'm just gonna take it off anyway I still feel like someones grandpas gonna die..

[[SAMSON half stands up and looks around the restaurant]]

SAMSON

Eh their all young, typical midnight crowd. You're good as long as you don't long haul covid them.

JESSE

Better not be covid.

ADAM

[[laughing]]

Oh no! Not three weeks of Zoom school! Just kidding, missing school for COVID doesn't even get you out of final exams.

JESSE

[[agrees]]

No kidding, man. I still have to take those damn exams.

SAMSON

[[teasing]]

Well, if ADAM is right, you're definitely going to fail.

LYDIA

You have such supportive and loving friends huh JESSE?

JESSE

Truly blessed [[does a cheers with his Diet Coke]]. Now does anyone feel the creeping loss of our lovely mutual girlfriend Mary Jane?

[[SAMSON and ADAM nod]]

LYDIA

And where exactly is this "mutual" girlfriend of yours?

SAMSON

The mens room.

= Scene changes to IHOP bathroom. Words ready December 11th.

[[The guys all confidently stride into one stall and sit or stand as awkwardly and as cramped as possible]]

ADAM

I'm gonna be honest in moments like these [[motions with hand]] you know blasting weed in the bathroom; I kinda think I just would prefer sticking with alcohol.

SAMSON

That's a pussy move, and if you feel that word defines you then I heavily encourage permanently switching.

JESSE

I mean full respect if you switch but they make two pretty different things happen. I smoke weed I chill out and that annoying voice in the back of my head shuts up and I finally stop thinking. I drink alcohol the next thing I know I'm screaming about the Alamo on top of construction equipment.

ADAM

See and I like the Alamo. Real fan of Davy Crocketts work.

[[guys all laugh (if it feels natural otherwise will just play it straight)]]

SAMSON

Dying in the Alamo, the Davy Crockett special-

RANDOM STRANGER

[[from outside the stall]] Excuse me, how much longer are y'all gonna take?

[[They all make panicked eye contact]]

ADAM

Fuck!

SAMSON

Double FUCK!

[[JESSE holds up calming hand and nods at them, they nod back nervously]]

JESSE

[[takes quick hit]] Will be right out sir, thank you for the time!

[[Vape is put away they all as awkwardly as possible exit the stall and nod at the man waiting outside]]

ADAM

You think we're gonna get kicked out of the IHOP?

JESSE

Just play it cool baby and wash your hands, for all he knows we're a couple of gay lovers enjoying some private time.

SAMSON

I think we could still get kicked out for that.

JESSE

Fair enough, but remember what the Dad in back at the barnyard said: "I won't back down,". So I say we couch it and eat our food we already paid for.

ADAM

AH see I didn't consider the paid for food part.

SAMSON

[[Hand on chin and nodding and in a joking voice]]

That's always the kicker in these situations.

JESSE

Indeed indeed, real shame that. But hey if we do get escorted out of the IHOP what a story.

[[Guys sit back down and music cues in unless improved conversation holds water]]

[[The guys start eating their food, with occasional glances at the door, waiting for the inevitable moment when they get kicked out.]]

ADAM

[[laughs]] Can you imagine the Yelp review we would leave for this IHOP?

SAMSON

[[laughs]] "Great pancakes, terrible bathroom for smoking weed with your gay lovers."

JESSE

[[chuckles]] "Would not recommend, for any illicit activities, stick to the pancakes and syrup."

[[They finish up their food and give their cards to the waitress, who then comes back]]

WAITRESS

I'm sorry sir I'm afraid your card was declined, do you have another we could try?

ADAM

Oh shit...ummm I may have some-

SAMSON

Here I'll just pay for you man no biggie.

[[SAMSON start to hand his card back to the waitress, ADAM stops him and removes some cash, here it's clear to see that's the only cash he has left]]

WAITRESS

Thank you sir I'll be right back with your change.

SAMSON

[[Looking slightly offended]]

It really wasn't a big deal man.

ADAM

[[Clearly trying to push past the subject but passing it as a joke]]

Hey I had it didn't I? Besides, I still owe you from last time you paid. I'm not going any deeper.

SAMSON

Well as your friend I can assure you I'd not cash in on that..unless they released a new switch. In that case all bets are off and debts are in.

JESSE

Alright loving this but if we don't get out of here soon imma straight pass out, shits hitting me hard.

SISTER

I'm with him. [[Eyes widen and she holds up a hand]] to be clear not on the shit hitting hard part but the leaving part. Also I still can't believe you guys haven't gotten asked to leave. Whoever caught y'all must be a saint.

SAMSON

Maybe, but we're still expecting it any minute now. All bets are off till ADAM gets his change.

SISTER

Well hurry up and get kicked out then, I've got things to do, like sleeping when it's about to be 1:00 in the morning.

[[The waitress hands them their change]]

JESSE

[[stands up]] Alright, let's bounce. Thanks for the meal, IHOP.

[[The guys start to leave, with JESSE stumbling a bit]]

ADAM

[[laughing]] That was awesome. I thought we were done for. We should vape in stalls more often.

SISTER

[[rolling her eyes]] You guys are ridiculous. Let's go do something productive now.

JESSE

[[smiling]] Yeah, like smoke some more weed.

SISTER

[[shaking her head]] I'll pass on that one.

SAMSON

[[laughing]] Suit yourself. More for us.

[[The group walks off, with JESSE still stumbling a bit. The scene ends with them laughing and joking as they head off]]

= JESSEs Bedroom, Text reads December 11th

[[JESSE is lying in bed, ADAM is asleep on the floor and SAMSON opens up the closet door, this makes JESSE jump up out of bed]]

JESSE

Did you sleep in there?

SAMSON

It wasn't the idea but oh my gosh does it work for hot boxing, I musta just fallen asleep.

ADAM

Even with weed that sounds horrible.

SAMSON

Look I don't know man it just happened.

ADAM

Well whatever, I'm gonna go make some cinnamon rolls, come down when y'all figure out what we're doing after.

= JESSE House Downstairs

[[cool lowering banister camera shot of them going down the stairs]]

[[Guys are sitting around a table eating cinnamon rolls]]

SAMSON

Anybody heard from NASH since...I don't know forever?

JESSE

Things got weird between us during COVID...He just kept talking about cars whenever I tried to have a serious talk, and then we go into an argument over masks- Anyway no I don't know what's up with him.

ADAM

I think he was at my Halloween party thing, but since I haven't heard from him. Also yeah I tried to talk to him about that stuff that happened with my parents and he just went all into why Ford was so tough

SAMSON

I think he's got a job now. Also me and him are great, went skating last week. He told me all about the new Kia Soul, still very anti-mask though.

ADAM

Whoa, he even knows about the Kia Soul...that's both impressive and sad at the same time. Anyway y'all come up with a plan?

JESSE

OH YEAH! Here's the business, we grab ETHAN, grab some boards and then hit up that new park I found! What's everyone thinking? We in?

SAMSON

That's sounds rad I'm in, y'all wanna shake on it?

ADAM

You know it, hands in everyone. [[They do the friendship transcends]]

= Outside

[[Guys get in car and head out]]

= Outside ETHAN's house [[decent sized house in suburbia]]

ADAM

[[Annoyed]]

I mean he knows we're coming were the heck is he?

SAMSON

Look we don't know what stage of ready he's in, these are important details, all we said was were gonna come get him soon. That could mean anything.

JESSE

Yeah, honestly blame us for the lack of specifics. Nothing wrong has been done but ETHAN being subjected to unfair criticism from outside un-understanding individuals [[looks over at ADAM pointedly]]

ADAM

Y'all are idiots. It was clear as day when we texted that soon meant soon. This ain't soon.

JESSE

Well could be showering. You of all people should know how bad it is to smell ADAM.

ADAM

Wait what-

SAMSON

Yeah you should really have more understanding of these things. You've been in his shoes many a times.

JESSE

Yeah just smelling the place up. Your lucky were friendly enough not to say anything.

ADAM

I hate both of you so much right now.

[[ETHAN is suddenly at car window pointing to roll it down]]

[[ADAM rolls down the window]]

ETHAN

Hey y'all, I'm gonna go take a shit but if you wanna come in and play some video games please do.

[[Guys all shuffle out of car and follow ETHAN inside, ADAM looks back and glares at the other two]]

= Inside ETHAN's house

[[With music playing, the guys play Smash Bros.]]

[[After a bit ETHAN walks in and sits for a bit watching]]

ETHAN

Geez you guys just gonna play all day or we gonna go skate?

SAMSON

Oh shit, it's noon yeah. Let's go skate boys. Geez ADAM you gotta stop being so distracting.

JESSE

[[Looks away to stare at ADAM]] Yeah geez dude talk about ruining the whole day, we could of almost missed ska-

ADAM

HAH Eat shit!

JESSE

-and I'm dead, alright yeah screw it let's just go skate. Teasing ADAM isn't fun anymore.

= At the park

[[The skating is super loud and clearly very rough]]

[[Everyone stops and looks at JESSE]]

JESSE

Alright so maybe skating here was a bad idea [[They head over to the bleachers and put their boards up behind them]]

SAMSON

I'm just gonna be honest, I don't know how you looked at this road and thought it was a good idea to skate here.

ETHAN

I wasn't gonna say anything, but yeah my goodness as soon as we rode up here, just looking out the window I was thinking this was pretty fucked.

ADAM

I don't know I think its fine-

RANDOM SKATER

Woah! What's up dudes! You all long board?

JESSE

[[Smiling]]

Yeah we board a bit here, board a bit there.

SAMSON

[[Joining in with a similar wide smile]]

You could go as far as to call us boarders

ETHAN

Or if you prefer skaters, we definitely stick with boarders though, apparently.

RANDOM SKATER

Oh man that's dopamine! I love skating!

ADAM

[[cringes slightly but acts natural]]

Oh cool man, you got a board?

RANDOM SKATER

Ah naw I'm more like an ironic skater you know?

ADAM

No that makes no sense to me, how do you ironically skate?

RANDOM SKATER

Like here's the thing, I skate and I wear skate clothes, but its kinda just ironic. I don't actually like enjoy it, that'd be lame. No offense to you guys.

[[JESSE leans over to SAMSON to whisper]]

JESSE

How can that be taken as none offensive?

[[SAMSON leans to whisper back]]

SAMSON

This guy is a straight clown show.

[[Camera refocuses on ADAM talking to skater]]

ADAM

[[Perplexed]]

No, I skate seriously. How is that weird?

RANDOM SKATER

I just didn't think anyone did anymore was all.

SAMSON

Well every now and again I guess you get the rare four.

JESSE

We're like spotting a long horn in a herd of cattle.

RANDOM SKATER

That's a weird analogy...y'all are cool. Anyhow, chow boarders!

ADAM

Welp that was something, guy seems nice though.

JESSE

Nice but very serious board prejudice.

ETHAN

Very, but hey he was just being ironic.

[[The guys start to laugh]]

[[JESSE points behind ADAM where they've put the boards]]

SAMSON

We're being ROBBED by irony guy!!

JESSE

SHIT!

[[They all stand up and funny looking chase scene takes place]]

[[The Random Skater manages to toss the boards in the back of a truck, JESSE sees the license plate and commits it to memory taking out his phone and putting it in notes app]]

[[Everyone catches up from different direction, everyone out of breath]]

ADAM

And he's gone.

ETHAN

This parked totally fucked us.

JESSE

Well my bad guys...

SAMSON

Your bad indeed, I'm un-ironically pissed at you right now for suggesting this place.

ETHAN

Im pissed but in an ironic board kind of way.

[[ADAM playfully shoves him]]

ADAM

Well we all lost something today, at least right?

JESSE

Dude I don't know [[slams fist down]] I almost caught up to him for a second!

SAMSON

Don't lose your pants over it man it'll be fine. We skate too much anyway look at it as a vacation.

[[JESSE looks intently back at SAMSON]]

ETHAN

A forced unwarranted vacation.

ADAM

Guess I'm scrounging for cash.

ETHAN

Guess so, well to make the best out of bad; how about some basketball anyone?

JESSE

Yeah sure why not.

[[SAMSON breaths out a sigh and nods]]

[[Camera Follows ETHAN, ADAM and SAMSON all heading to the court]]

[[JESSE pulls out his phone after getting a text from his parents]]

ETHAN

[[Looks back after they started and notices JESSE not at the court]] You alright man?

JESSE

[[In a more stilted voice]]

Yeah...no just a weird text, let's play on.

[[With music playing the scene focuses on the basket ball game and whatever conversation may arise, before a car arrives for JESSE]]

JESSE

Sorry y'all I gotta head out, something important with the family!

ADAM

See ya man.

SAMSON

Don't forget not to tell them how badly we kicked your ass at ball, don't want them to disown you!

ETHAN

Stay cool man, and have a good one!

[[Camera leaves the group, music begins fading out and is replaced by something more dramatic as the camera follows JESSE in slow motion walk toward the door. (Possible song: fall into a dream by Foxwarren)]]

[[We hear his parents saw his name then the music overpowers their voices making them fade as it shows JESSE face, slowly contort to shock and then sadness]]

=Scene changed to the woods December 20th

Samson and Adam are sitting together in the woods.

[[Samson can't help but stare incredulously at Adam.]]

SAMSON

I'm serious! Take a fucking drag and stop fucking with me!

Adam sighs and shakes his head.

ADAM

Dude look I'm honestly trying to quit. I think it's just not for me and especially not college life. I'm looking to learn not light up.

SAMSON

Here we go again about the college and the quitting. That college stuff is bullshit. My cousin Anthony, a total chronic still managed to be valedictorian-

ADAM

Cum laude, and that was before he started getting high and his grades started tanking in college to the point his parents stopped paying for it and he had to move back in.

SAMSON

What man? What's that supposed to mean?

ADAM

What-

SAMSON

JUST CAUSE HE'S MY COUSIN? That's why he's a failure huh? That the twisted way you think Adam?

ADAM

I'm sorry man and that was in no way what I was saying, you weren't supposed to take offense-

SAMSON

Offense taken!

ADAM

I love you man but I want to be successful in college. Weed just doesn't fit the picture. I've been thinking of stopping for awhile, and honestly it costs too much money. I feel like an idiot every time I buy pot instead of saving the money for something worth it.

SAMSON

[[Looking emotionally injured]]

Wa...worth! Worth it? It's WEED!

ADAM

Woah! Were in the woods not the middle of nowhere man, quite down.

SAMSON

I'm sorry this is just a lot.

ADAM

I get it man but it's just how it is. It doesn't change anything.

SAMSON

But what about lhop at 1 am? What about the munchies and the-

ADAM

We hungout before drugs man. Seriously.

SAMSON

I know, and I love you but this is a lot.

[[Samson takes long puff off joint]]

SAMSON

And where the fuck has Jesse been?

ADAM

I don't know. It's like he set us up bringing us to that park to get our boards stolen and then disappeared.

SAMSON

After I finish this we're calling Ethan and doing something awesome! We can't keep being boring and lonely without Jesse and his awesome house and weed.

ADAM

Yeah! Kinda...maybe we should go check on Jesse.

SAMSON

Finish joint, Grab Ethan, head to Jesse's. WAIT, save joint for Jesse's!

ADAM

Bingo!

[[They head out to a car and the scene cuts to Jesse house, everything is quite and the color is less saturated]]

[[Adam, Ethan and Samson approach slowly to the door and knock ignoring the doorbell, they also notice no cars in the driveway except Jesse's and His sisters]]

SAMSON

Wonder where his parents are on a Saturday.

ADAM

[[shrugging]]

lunch date?

[[Nobody opens the door, groaning Adam hits the doorbell]]

[[Lydia and Quint come down the stairs and answers]]

LYDIA

Hi guys what's up?

QUINT

Hey yo younger dudes!

SAMSON

Hey yo older dude Quint, hi Lydia. We were actually looking for Jesse is he around?

[[Lydia's face contorted slightly to a frown turning behind her she seemed to look back at where Jesse's door was and seems to be deep in thought, Quint looks uncomfortable next to her awkwardly avoiding eye contact with the boys]]

Lydia

[[Releasing a large sigh she finally turned back to look at them]]

Let me go talk to him.

[[cuts to after]]

LYDIA

Alright y'all can come up.

[[Slowly Jesse opened his door as everyone arrived at the top of the stairs. He looked tired with deep circles under his eyes and unhappy]]

SAMSON

Hey Jess, been awhile man.

ADAM

Yeah man, what ah you been doing?

JESSE

Not much man, mostly just taking care of the house and smoking weed.

[[reaching into his pocket Samson smiles removing the joint]]

SAMSON

Like this weed?

JESSE

[[eyes widen]]

Woah, you wanting to smoke that Sam?

ADAM

Damn right he does man, he's been trying to get me to for the last hour and a half.

SAMSON

[[Like a kid telling on a friend to a teacher]]

JESSE! Jesse! He quit weed!

JESSE

[[Jesse looks over at Adam curiously but with little judgment]]

You quit?

ADAM

Yeah. Honestly think we all should.

[[Jesse's expression darkened]]

JESSE

Each their own man. I respect you quitting but don't go shitting on us. Uh and wait, Sam mind if my sisters friend joins us? I owe him weed from a few days ago.

SAMSON

For sure man.

JESSE

You got a problem with that Adam?

[[Adam holds up his hands defensively]]

ADAM

Naw no, look I was just expressing my thoughts that's all, doesn't mean y'all all have to go and quit pot I just have.

[[The three causally smoked together only Quint and Samson really talking]]

[[The joint is ashes out finished]]

[[Jesse looks around for a moment before awkwardly standing up]]

JESSE

Feel free to stay but I gotta go sweep down stairs.

ADAM

We could lend a hand man, make things faster?

[[Jesse instantly looks uncomfortable]]

JESSE

I uh..I don't know man.

QUINT

It's a good idea Jesse, come on. I've been lending a hand haven't I?

JESSE

No, you just follow Lydia around.

QUINT

And she enjoys the company and works harder for it!

JESSE

[[joking]]

You gotta move out soon man you living here's getting weird.

QUINT

Your an ass. Your sister on the other hand is a saint for convincing your parents to let me stay her for 50\$ a month.

JESSE

[[Joking]]

Your lucky we need the money.

[[Samson and Adam are awkwardly watching what would normally be their banter done between those two]]

ADAM

Can we help out?

JESSE

[[reluctantly]]

I guess so.

[[Montage of everyone cleaning and taking trash out]]

JESSE

Thanks a ton guys I owe you. But I think I gotta take a nap if y'all don't mind heading out.

ETHAN

Geez guess we need to try and move in like Quint. Speaking of when the heck did that happen?

JESSE

[[groaning]]

I don't remember at this point. I love him, he's been Lydia's friend since middle school...but geez he's getting annoying. Anyway I don't wanna bore y'all with that and honestly I'm too tired to keep talking anyway. Here I'll walk y'all to the door.

=Scene changes to JESSE's room reading a few weeks later December 31st

[[JESSE is casually smoking weed and watching a movie, ADAM starts calling him, we see JESSE notice them turn his power button on stopping the noise but keeping the call going]]

[[his sister knocks at the door, JESSE quickly hides his vape and opens]]

JESSE

Hey sis, what's up?

LYDIA

Was heading to the bookstore, figured your lazy ass should tag along and maybe read something for once.

JESSE

Geez you make it sound like I do nothing.

LYDIA

Recently I feel that's pretty accurate, yeah aside from cleaning. You even got your friends to do it instead of something fun.

JESSE

What and a bookstore is fun?

[[Lydia raises an eyebrow]]

LYDIA

If you mean for those literate? Yes.

JESSE

Ah whatever screw you. Let's go. [[Sarcastically]] I LOVE READING.

= Scene changes to in Lydia's car

LYDIA

What ever happened to reading anyway? I thought you loved to read.

JESSE

I do I do...Just recently haven't felt as much like reading. Still trying to finish some Sam Houston book but it's been a slog. I've preferred sleeping.

LYDIA

And you want me to call you not lazy because?

JESSE

[[Groans]]

I don't know fair. I still clean though, so there are lazier. I'm mid tier I guess. A happy mid tier.

LYDIA

If you're happy I'm a born dude.

JESSE

You make conversations so much fun.

=Scene changes to library

[[JESSE is aimlessly walking around seemingly bored]]

[[Finally reaching the history section he pick out a book called Mountain Man]]

[[Sitting down he starts to flip through the book]]

[[A girl walks up and reading the title walks closer]]

GIRL

You ever seen the movie for it?

[[JESSE not looking up shocked to see someone talking to him, smiling he answers]]

JESSE

Yeah, Jeremiah Johnson was an instant classic. Nothing cooler than a guy living up in the mountains.

GIRL

In the book he buys his wife from the Chief.

[[He cringes slightly]]

JESSE

Well that's a little different. But you know historical time periods and what not right?

JESSE

Yikes yeah that does not come out sounding good at all.

GIRL

Yeah pretty fucked. But you aren't wrong, time period was pretty different.

JESSE

Yeah no things were pretty different. An American Indian historian would have a field day writing how racist this thing is against Indians. Of course again that was what these guys really thought though.

GIRL

Yep, pretty bent but hey good book and a nice country to live in.

JESSE

Yeah, and maybe I'll just stick with the movie.

[[The girl frowns]]

GIRL

Well if i'm making you put it back let me give ya a hand.

JESSE

So, are you a fan of history at all?

GIRL

Absolutely! I'm majoring in history at the university nearby. It's fascinating to dive into the past and understand how it shapes our present. What about you?

JESSE

I've always had an interest in history, especially the US, I mean geez no other country was founded in a cooler more organized way. But uh...lately, I've been more focused on... other things.

GIRL

Other things, huh?

JESSE

Yeah live has been...Well I don't wanna bore you but let's just say it's been my focus.

GIRL

Well, we all go through different phases in life. But don't forget how cool history is, exploring different time periods and the lives of amazing people. There's a lot to learn from it all, it'd be a shame if you got off the bus now, at- how old are you?

JESSE

I'm Eighteen, senior this year.

GIRL

Exactly, I thought I knew history when I was your age. Just wait till you get to college. It's amazing. It's only my first year and I've learned so much more, in so much more detail. So really consider giving it another shot. much wisdom and perspective to gain.

JESSE

Yeah, you're right. I guess I've been caught up in the present. And woah thanks for the talk, unless it's some old person I don't normally end up taking much away from talking to strangers but now I got a lot to think about.

GIRL

[[Smiling]]

Sometimes, all it takes is a small spark to reignite that fire.

JESSE

Geez you talk like a poet. Or anyway more fancy than me.

GIRL

[[Gives him a weird look]]

Thank you I think?

JESSE

[[Blushing]]

Sorry I was supposed to sound positive...I suck at talking apparently.

GIRL

Well your quite alright- [[Squints as if asking for name]]

JESSE

Jesse! And you?

GIRL

[[Extending her hand]] I'm Adeline. [[Jesse eagerly shakes it]] And It's been a lot of fun talking to you, rare to find a fellow history nerd, would you wanna go out sometime?

JESSE

Absolutely I would yes!

[[She walks away and we see JESSE grinning ear to ear dance slightly over to the self help section and grab a philosophy book]]

= ADAM's house inside his living room, same day December 31st

[[The guys minus JESSE are gathered around ADAM's living room table]]

ADAM
FUCK!

SAMSON
You gotta calm down man.

ADAM
JESSE hasn't responded to any of my texts or calls in 2 weeks and we need some fucking beer for this party man! Without him to raid his parents' liquor cabinet were screwed! FUCKED!
BLOCKED AND TACKLED!

SAMSON
Well there's another option, more legal even.

ADAM
No way! No! I am not asking that washed up 23 year old band geek. No!

ETHAN
Dude you gotta ask him.

ADAM
[[SQUINTs eyes]]
Last I checked this was a free country, you about to change that?

SAMSON
Fine I'll head over and ask him, someone needs to drive me though.

ETHAN
[[Raises his hand]] I gotcha.

=In ETHAN's car

SAMSON
Geez I don't understand why that boy hates Blaine so much!

ETHAN
It's a story man, I'll tell you some day but it's really not worth it. Anyhow it involves him breaking Blaine's last guitar. A lot of not forgiveness there.

SAMSON
Alright well that sounds nothing like-

ETHAN
We're here!

SAMSON

Alright feel free to head back to the party after 5, I'll snag a ride off these guys if it works out.

= Shows outside of Blaine's House

[[SAMSON steps out and walks up to the door knocking]]

SAMSON

Hey Blaine.

[[Blaine nods toward SAMSON]]

SAMSON

How are you man?

BLAINE

Good good, bands doing great so I'm doing great, you?

SAMSON

Well...Adam.. Me and the guys are having a New Years party. We were wondering if y'all could help us scrounge up some beers?

BLAINE

Really? Yeah man I'll go grab some from the fridge.

[[Sounds of video game person dying]]

LYDIA

[[From inside the house]]

HA!

BLAINE

I swear LYDIA if you unpaused the fight!

[[Runs back inside SAMSON reluctantly following a few seconds after]]

= Decent sized room with four people in it with accompanying drums, guitar, bass, and microphone

QUINT

[[Noticing but not caring about SAMSON]]

You guys think we should get back to practicing? We've been playing this for like, a full hour.

LYDIA

I'm a master of the bass, and my vocals are pure gold. You want to practice? Feel free. Me? I'm gonna keep crushing Blaine's ass until he finally breaks down and cries.

BLAINE

I'm letting you win, don't be a cocky bitch. [[Leans over to SAMSON]] She cheats.

SAMSON

Hey I-

QUINT

I just feel like we never practice, I'm not a hundred percent sure I can even still play the drums. Like, I tried to play a set yesterday and ended up whacking my cat in the head with a drumstick. My little sister's still pissed.

BLAINE

Quint if you can't play the drums anymore I'm gonna hurt you. Not in a physical way necessarily but most certainly mentally.

QUINT

The fuc-

BLAINE

[[Darkly now]] You'll be questioning your self worth worse than a five foot 170 pound high school bully once I'm done with you. Lydia beer me!

QUINT

I swear you have no chill and anyhow-

[[QUINT hits drum]]

QUINT

Alright I'm still pretty solid. See, not a single cat screech to be heard!

[[Lydia throws Blaine a screw top beer.]]

[[Blaine opens and takes a sip]]

BLAINE

Is this piss?

LYDIA

I don't know, found it on the ground. I don't check the beer, I just toss it.

QUINT

It is. Gotta warn you though it's been simmering there for awhile. Since you took that shit earlier actually.

SAMSON

You know what, think I'm good on the beers will just find another way I think. [[Laughs awkwardly]]

LYDIA

[[Ignoring SAMSON's comment]]

I thought that sound was the air conditioner? Well you learn something new every day I guess.

BLAINE

[[Stunned]]

I just drank piss.

QUINT

Yeah, good job man. Not many people can say that. Also worth saying, next time might wanna ask if anyone in the room needs to piss first before you ya know take a whole 30 minutes to shit. Just saying it's polite.

LYDIA

Fair point, new band etiquette; allow a piss before a shit.

SAMSON

[[At this point back at the door turns back]] I think pee may actually have some health benefits. So maybe not a wholly bad experience?

LYDIA

I thought it was just the unhealthy stuff the body didn't need.

SAMSON

[[Slowly, not to be read to fast]]

That is equally possible. But I think, and don't quote me on this, that it may also contain trace amounts of vitamins. That, or you can get STDs from drinking it. Not a bad gamble though, vitamins are pretty cool.

QUINT

Vitamin's are definitely rad, though I heard you can get dysentery from it. SAMSON may be onto something with the STDs though, I dunno. My mom did say she has aids, and her breath smells like piss like ninety percent of the time.

BLAINE

What's dysentery?

SAMSON

It's nothing, [[eyes widen]] don't worry about it. Anyhow, I was wondering if you guys had any beer for a party of ours?

LYDIA

I think that was our last one...We're gonna need to hit up the guy!

SAMSON

The guy? Don't you mean a liquor store?

QUINT

Oh no, that'd be too easy. Also not as cheap.

BLAINE

Come on now hop in our car and you'll meet him, trust me it'll be worth it, he's awesome.

= Scene cuts to guys in car

QUINT

The guy is really interesting, very religious too. Always meditating.

BLAINE

Yeah I think he's islamic.

QUINT

He's not islamic he's most definitely Hindu.

LYDIA

Not your both wrong, he's a Sikh. He wears the hat and everything.

SAMSON

Alright well that sound right, but probably better to just ask him when we meet him instead of trying to guess. Anyway I still don't understand why we're going to this guy instead of a liquor store.

QUINT

[[Smiles wickedly]]

Of trust me little brother you'll see good and soon.

=Outside the guys house

SAMSON

So what do I just knock on the door?

[[SAMSON moves to knock on the door, but the Guy opens before he can]]

THE GUY

Cha yall!

BLAINE

What's up Guy?

THE GUY

The universe man, it's all around us. Come on in!

QUINT

SAMSON meet The Guy.

LYDIA

He sells liquor for cheap

THE GUY

I sell a lot more than that [[winks]], nice to meet you young one.

=As they enter the house

BLAINE

We're here for some booze. You wanna hang on the couch?

THE GUY

Oh no brother, it's a basement day!

=Inside The Guys dinky basement

[[The Guy lights up a bong and takes a hit, he then begins casually passing it around]]

[[The room remains weirdly silent for a good minute]]

[[SAMSON uncomfortable finally breaks the silence]]

SAMSON

The uhh...The Guy what's um your religion? If that's cool to ask.

[[The Guy looks at him shocked for a good minute and then breaks into laughter]]

THE GUY

OH MY! No I'm not religious, [[laughs long and hard]] No I'm just spiritual.

SAMSON

[[looking put off and confused for a second]] Wait what's the difference?

THE GUY

[[Saying it like its obvious]] The sun.

SAMSON

The sun?

THE GUY

Yes.

SAMSON

Oh, ok.

[[The guy slams his hands down and then stands up rubbing his hands together]]

THE GUY

Just got some wilder shit for those about to rock!

[[Quint and Blaine look at eachother excitedly and then salute each other]]

QUINT

We're about to rock, we salute brother.

THE GUY

RAD! Let me grab that booze first, for those two not about to rock.

[[Lydia leans over and whispers to SAMSON]]

LYDIA

It's a miracle to make it out of here fully sober, but I'm gonna stay off anything else. You're free to do whatever I'll be good too drive.

[[SAMSON releases a big sigh of relief]]

SAMSON

Ok good I'm gonna need some serious beer to get through the rest of this.

LYDIA

[[Smiling slightly]] Oh it's not exactly beer.

SAMSON

Wait then what is it?

LYDIA

So sooo much better.

[[The Guy walks back in holding a liquor jug]]

THE GUY

MoonShine time!

SAMSON

OH!

LYDIA

Oh indeed.

= Scene cuts to a restaurant

Jesse and Adeline sit at the restaurant table, sipping their drinks. Jesse is visibly nervous, fidgeting with his utensils.

JESSE

(managing a weak smile)

Man, this Diet Coke is fantastic. I needed something sweet to calm my nerves.

ADELINE

(smiling)

I can tell. You seem a little on edge. Is everything alright, Jesse?

JESSE

(looking around)

Oh, yeah, everything's fine. It's just... where is that waiter? I've been trying to get his attention for ages.

ADELINE

(laughing)

Maybe he's avoiding you because you're so intimidating.

JESSE

(confused)

Intimidating? Me? Nah, I think he's just slacking off. I mean, seriously, how hard is it to take an order?

ADELINE

(teasing)

Well, if being a waiter was easy, we'd all be doing it, right?

JESSE

(smirking)

True, true. But I guess my expectations are just too high tonight.

ADELINE

(curious)

So, tell me, Jesse. Are you involved in any after-school activities? You know, clubs or sports?

JESSE

(trying to sound confident)

Oh, you know, the usual stuff. Hanging out with the guys, my friends. We don't do anything too structured. Just goofing around, really.

(He becomes visibly frustrated again.)

JESSE

(grumbling)

Ugh, seriously, this waiter is terrible! I'm sorry, Adeline. I'm really not usually this grumpy.

ADELINE

(raising an eyebrow)

Well, you certainly have a way of blaming everything on the waiter.

JESSE

(nervously joking)

Well, it's easier than blaming myself, right? Plus, it adds a little extra flavor to the conversation.

ADELINE

(smiling)

You're definitely full of surprises, Jesse. I didn't expect you to be this... unique.

JESSE

(mockingly surprised)

Oh, is that a compliment? I'll take it, even if it's backhanded.

= Restroom of the restaurant

Jesse enters the restroom, looking flustered. He stands in front of the mirror, staring at his reflection.

JESSE

(groaning)

Fuck me. Why am I making such a mess of this?

(He brings his hand down onto the counter, frustrated.)

JESSE

(talking to himself)

Okay, Jesse, think. Maybe you just need a minute to clear your head.

(He takes out his phone and vape, scrolling through Instagram. He comes across photos from the party.)

JESSE

(mumbling)

Well, that didn't fucking work. Maybe I should just go back out there and face the music.

= Restaurant table

Jesse returns to the table just as Lydia is leaving.

JESSE

(awkwardly)

Well, this isn't going well, is it?

ADELINE

(disappointed)

I've definitely had better dates, Jesse.

JESSE

(leaning back, frustrated)

Fuck. I'm sorry, Adeline. It's just... I feel like I'm under so much conversational pressure right now, and it's messing with my head.

ADELINE

(growing tired)

That's a lame excuse, Jesse. We're just trying to have a normal conversation here. No pressure involved.

JESSE

(defensive)

Well, I don't know, I guess it's not normal for me. I'm not really a very smooth talker.

[[Adeline raises an eyebrow]]

= Outside the restaurant

[[Jesse and Adeline stand outside the restaurant, the atmosphere tense between them]]

JESSE

(looking genuinely remorseful)

Adeline, I'm...I'm sorry if I've ruined the evening. It's not how I wanted things to go, I promise.

ADELINE

(taking a deep breath)

Look, Jesse, I appreciate your honesty, but being nervous is one thing. Making excuses and blaming others is another. Maybe we should just call it a night.

JESSE

I...yeah maybe so. Sorry again have a nice night Adeline.

[[Adeline walks off and Jesse walks off the other direction]]

[[JESSE pulls out phone and calls ETHAN]]

JESSE

Hey ETHAN, don't know if you're busy but I'm over at {restaurant name here} could you come pick me up?

=At ADAM's party

[[The party is going well and multiple people are there, ADAM is in shot and seems annoyed]]

ETHAN

Yeah I'll head your way now.

[[after ETHAN has left the band and SAMSON come to the party hammered through the front door]]

SAMSON

[[Clearly drunk]]

WE HAVE THE ALCOHOL!

[[The band sets the alcohol down on the kitchen counter and walk off]]

[[ADAM grabs a beer not seeing Blaine, Blaine seeing ADAM steps up pissed]]

BLAINE

YOU!

ADAM
No YOU!

BLAINE
It's YOU [[He burps]] I'm talking too!

ADAM
Yeah same obviously, oh my gosh how drunk are you? Did you drive here like this?

BLAINE
[[Head starts to fall forward before he jolts back up and points at ADAM]]
Your as bigger one!

ADAM
What are you talking about? Sit down Blaine.

BLAINE
Not till you buys me a new guitar!

ADAM
Oh my gosh! Look you broke your own guitar hitting that guy! And honestly let's not have this conversation you're gone.

BLAINE
I'm here brother! And my guitar only broke cause you's uh got that guy angry at the skating rink.

ADAM
[[Perplexed face and way of speaking]] You chose to hit him! I didn't ask you to hit a person with a guitar, and even if I did I don't have a job so I can't buy you a new one. Please understand this and I guess enjoy the party, goodness gracious man.

[[Blaine appears very confused before nodding and barely making it to a couch]]

[[Quint makes it's over to him and plops down next to him]]

QUINT
Fuck that looked real man.

BLAINE
I know man! Barely got through it, we should not have picked up those mushrooms.

QUINT
I think you won man!

BLAINE

[[Looking really proud]]

Definitely.

[[Blaine and Quint both look over at ADAM's turned off TV and look fascinated and then break in crazy laughter]]

=Outside the restaurant

[[JESSE hops into car]]

= ETHAN's car

ETHAN

ADAM's is having a party if you haven't heard. Fun time, no alcohol so far though.

JESSE

No I think I need some of that, let's head by my place first then hit his party up.

=At JESSE's house in front of a mini fridge

JESSE

Mind if I rant for a minute?

ETHAN

Sure go for it man.

JESSE

When it comes to dating..I just...I don't know man. I always feels like they expect something that's not me and it's just a game of me faking it till they figure out I'm boring as heck.

ETHAN

Well you haven't been on many dates.

JESSE

Yeah you're not wrong..

[[ETHAN looks over taking a long look and seems to have a realization]]

ETHAN

It can be rough, man.

[[ETHAN removes a beer and hands it to him]]

[[JESSE stares for a second before popping the top open and chugging it down]]

[[Then turning back to ETHAN he shrugs]]

JESSE

Yeah but not much we can do huh?

[[ETHAN nods and takes out his own beer not opening it]]

ETHAN

Yeah sadly so.

[[They clink beers and ETHAN fakes drinking too]]

[[Scene continues on a bit longer and then JESSE ends up laughing long and hard]]

JESSE

Oh my gosh, I shit on the poor waiter at the restaurant so hard.

ETHAN

Well there are some bad waiters out there.

JESSE

He was probably fine. I just had no other idea of what to say. He was a victim of my own awkwardness.

ETHAN

[[Shrugs]]

Wanna head to the party?

JESSE

Alright. I'm gonna go change shirts.

=At the Party

[[JESSE enters the party, the camera slowly follows behind him completely steady taking turns and going whatever direction JESSE goes. He arrives at the kitchen counter where SAMSON is mixing moonshine into a punch bowl]]

SAMSON

Hey JESSE! It's been forever [[stops taking a sniff]] Man you smell like shitty beer.

JESSE

I know.

[[JESSE ignoring the obvious moonshine bottle next to the punch chugs three glasses of it]]

SAMSON

Whoa man that's a little much this is powerful shit!

JESSE

You literally can't taste the punch.

SAMSON

Well to be fair I hadn't stirred yet, also you just chugged three so-

[[JESSE walks away accidentally bumping into ADAM]]

ADAM

Oh man good to see you. [[Pausing and looking down at JESSE's shirt and pointing at the spot of where it is]] there's something on your shirt.

JESSE

Dude what, no, no way, I dont believe you man.. you're trying to do the fucking finger flicky thing man, no way im going to fall for that ma-

ADAM

I'm not trying to do that man im just tryingg to help your buzzed ass, dude it's right here [[really harshly poking the area and almost forcing JESSE's head to look down]]

JESSE

[[Embarrassed with slight realization sigh]] Oh yeah no wait yeah, that's ETHAN's fault. Totally sorry, anyway you have any hard drugs?

ADAM

No I don't, and honestly you reek so much of alcohol I think it's best you sit them out if they were here.

JESSE

Fuck you.

[[JESSE walks away and finds Blaine and Quint]]

JESSE

Ya'll go any weed?

[[Quint dazed and seemingly barely aware brings out a vape]]

[[JESSE about to take a hit has another heavy sigh and then hands it back to Quint storming off back to the punch bowl]]

SAMSON

Whoa there pal I think you've had enough.

JESSE

I don't think you know what enou-

[[JESSE, still angry, turns around and stumbles into a tall, muscular stranger, causing him to spill his drink]]

JESSE

Watch where you're going, man!

STRANGER

Me? You're the one who stumbled into me.

JESSE

Don't get smart with me, asshole.

STRANGER

What's your problem?

JESSE

My problem is you, getting in my way and making me spill my drink.

STRANGER

You spilled my drink, idiot.

JESSE

Oh, sorry. I didn't realize you were holding a sippy cup.

STRANGER

What's your deal, man?

JESSE

I don't have a deal. You're the one with a problem.

STRANGER

You know what, forget it. Just watch where you're going next time.

[[The stranger walks away, but JESSE can't resist the urge to continue insulting him]]

JESSE

Yeah, you better walk away, you steroid freak.

[[The stranger turns around and begins walking back towards JESSE, anger clearly visible on his face]]

STRANGER

What did you just say to me?

JESSE

I said, you're a muscle-bound freak. What are you compensating for?

[[The stranger takes a swing at JESSE, but he manages to dodge it, The camera starts to move in an elaborate sequence to the tune and beat of "Street Fighting Man" by Rolling Stones as JESSE starts running away from the stranger, knocking things over and making a mess.]]

QUINT

Hey, is that Lydia's little brother?

BLAINE

You live with him I'd think you'd know- Oh shit! We better do something!

[[The two heroically step up to stand in the way of the stranger but Blaine is easily pushed over to the coach and Quint goes for a swing but instead gets punched in the stomach keeling over]]

=ADAM's Backyard, decent sized trampoline

[[The two standup again and act like their about to attack the stranger before seemingly realizing their chances and run away toward the backyard]]

The stranger catches up to JESSE who has also fled to the backyard and grabs him by the shoulder turning him in his direction, JESSE now facing him ends up throwing up in the stranger's face, and they stare at each other in shock for a minute. JESSE then leans over and continues to vomit, while the stranger sighs and grabs a towel to clean himself off with, which he hands to JESSE once he stops vomiting]]

JESSE

I'm really sorry man, I've had a terrible night and I was totally dumping it onto you man

STRANGER

Well, that's one way to apologize, I guess. Just try to keep your drinks to yourself next time, okay?

JESSE

Yeah, you're right. I'll work on that. Thanks for not beating me up, by the way.

STRANGER

No problem. I'm not really the fighting type. Plus, getting vomit on me is punishment enough.

JESSE

Fair enough. By the way, I'm JESSE.

STRANGER

Nice to...well it's been something meeting you, JESSE. I'm Mike.

JESSE

Well, Mike, I owe you a drink. Let me make it up to you.

[[JESSE walks back inside and over to the punch bowl and pours a fresh glass, before coming back inside and handing it to Mike.]]

JESSE

Here you go. A peace offering.

MIKE

Welp don't think it was worth being vomited on but I'll take it. Thanks, JESSE. Now how about we just enjoy the party now okay, instead of causing chaos in someone else's home?

JESSE

Definitely. No more drama from me, I promise.

[[JESSE and Mike clink their glasses together, both ready to put the earlier incident behind them and enjoy the rest of the party.]]

[[They both comment on how alcoholic the punch is]]

QUINT

[[Running into the backyard, out of breath]] JESSE, what the hell happened? I saw you running like a maniac!

BLAINE

[[Following behind Quint]] Yeah, we thought you were being chased by a bear or something.

JESSE

[[Laughs]] No bears, guys. Was just pissing off and being fairly chased by Mike here. [[Points with thumb to Mike]]. Everything's cool now.

QUINT

Well, that's good to hear. Don't think I could take another bear punch like that to the stomach. Though just to let you know we were ready to kick some ass for you.

BLAINE

Yeah, we were totally prepared to fight. But I guess it's better this way. Also don't have a guitar on hand this time around.

JESSE

Thanks, guys. I appreciate the backup, even if I just ended up puking on the guy.

MIKE

[[Raises his glass]] Cheers to new friendships and avoiding stupid fights.

=Inside the House

[[ADAM looking out the window]]

ADAM

Geez what was his deal? Did you just see that?!

SAMSON

I don't know but he came in smelling like beer and then whopped up some punch moonshine. Seems like a killer mix in tonight's case. I've never seen him that aggressive before.

ADAM

No kidding. He was being a massive dick. A full on Johnson.

LYDIA

A Dick Johnson.

ADAM

[[Nods appreciatively]] Yep Dick Johnson.

SAMSON

[[Smiles]] Dick Johnson indeed.

LYDIA

But yeah as to why he's being one I don't know. It's not an excuse but may have something to do with what's been going on with us at home.

[[ETHAN walks up and joins the conversation holding a beer]]

ADAM

Wait what's been going on?

LYDIA

We found out recently our mom has cancer. Things have been pretty stressful.

ADAM

Wait what! Are you kidding me?! Mrs. Smith has cancer?

ETHAN

That's insane. I'm sorry y'all are going through that Lydia, I hope you've been doing ok.

LYDIA

Day by day. That little dip Dick Johnson is making it harder though.

[[Quint, Blaine and JESSE run outside]]

ETHAN

Well he just bombed a date earlier, I think that's a big part of this whole Dick breakdown too. Let's cut him some slack.

ADAM

I can't believe that I mean... To go through something like your mom having cancer.. I can't even imagine

SAMSON

Yeah woah.

LYDIA

Alright I'd love to keep talking but I should probably go check on my two idiot friends and brother who are way past gone outside.

SAMSON

I'll come with, you may need the extra help.

= Outside in ADAM's backyard

QUINT

Look at the stars man!

JESSE

Oh my gosh man that song really wasn't lying they are big and bright here!

BLAINE

Dude, let's lay down and look up at them!

MIKE

[[Laughing]] You guys are crazy gone!

[[The three rush over to the trampoline and lay down looking up]]

[[Lydia storms out with SAMSON in tow]]

LYDIA

Oh thank goodness the three idiots and whoever JESSE pissed off are just laying on the trampoline.

SAMSON

Actually looks kinda fun.

LYDIA

Well if you can't beat 'em?

SAMSON

Right on.

[[The two pile onto the trampoline and lay down with the other four]]

= Next day morning in ADAM's Backyard January 1st

[[Lydia is awake and standing on ADAM's porch]]

LYDIA

Get your hungover butts up!

[[The two jolt up on the trampoline groggily moving toward the exit, before they reach it Quint leans over to Blaine]]

QUINT

[[whispering]]

Don't you dare tell her about the mushrooms!

BLAINE

I would never, but your also assuming she didn't talk to us last night. I remember next to nothing. Except I think I finally got ADAM to agree to buy me a new guitar!

[[JESSE stirs as well on the trampoline]]

JESSE

[[grumbling slightly]]

The fuck happened last...no rather keep it forgotten.

[[He stand up and removes vape]]

JESSE

[[sardonically]]

Oh, guess I had a second one. Welp fuck last night I guess.

[[Staring at it he takes a subtle hit and then gets Quints attention]]

JESSE

Hey takes this off my hands.

QUINT

For free? For sure I will, weed not nic right?

[[JESSE nods and then leaves the trampoline]]

JESSE

Hey Lydia, good to see ya.

LYDIA

I saw you last night too Dick Johnson.

JESSE

[[disgusted]]

No need to remind me. Also the fuck you doing at my friends party?

LYDIA

[[smiling wickedly]]

Your friend wanted beer, I provided. [[stops smiling]] Anyhow figured we go grab coffee with my dumbass friends and yours.

JESSE

Which one?

LYDIA

SAMSON, he came with and got stoned and drunk to insanity. Thank goodness he didn't get any mushrooms.

JESSE

[[jokingly]] Ooh I might need to get into that.

LYDIA

No you don't little brother. That shit'll fuck with you, you're already barely getting to college let's not decrease your odds anymore.

= Coffee shop outside

JESSE

Oh my gosh coffee is a god send.

SAMSON

Sure is Dick Johnson.

JESSE

Ok did I miss a joke why does everyone keep calling me Dick Johnson!?

SAMSON

Ummm... We all realized you've been suppressing your true name and because we've discovered it we decided to switch to speak to you more properly.

JESSE

Oh sweet bull to go with my coffee, just what it needed.

LYDIA

You were being a dick yesterday when you got to the party. Also literally almost fought a dude.

QUINT

And thus came about the name Dick Johnson, I'll admit though I totally missed that. All I remember is watching a really fucked up episode of SpongeBob with bear attacks.

JESSE

[[To SAMSON]] Oh yeah sorry about last night man, I vaguely remember shitting on your punch.

SAMSON

What you said would have made the kool aid man cry, but then again so would putting moonshine in him so I call it even, your forgiven hombre.

JESSE

I appreciate it man. Also metaphysically apologies to the Kool Aid man wherever he may be. Your punch is the best great glass man.

[[JESSE does a cheers with his coffee then takes a long sip]]

JESSE

Fuck me my head feels like it was beaten with a mallet.

LYDIA

Well maybe next time don't mix alcohol and moonshine.

JESSE

[[groaning]] I think I need to reevaluate my life choices.

QUINT

Or just learn to pace yourself.

BLAINE

[[chuckling]] Yeah, like that's possible.

[[Lydia turns and glares at Blaine who quickly puts his arms up in surrender]]

BLAINE

Alright alright sorry sorry it's very possible, "don't do drugs kids"

SAMSON

[[nodding in agreement]] yep, this group gets that. Only drug we do is love.

JESSE

[[sarcastically]] Ah yes, the good old drug of love. Really helps with paying rent and finding a stable job.

LYDIA

[[concerned]] Speaking of which, have you been thinking about your future plans JESSE? You're almost done with high school.

JESSE

[[Half smiles and makes a noise of discontent]] Geez you just had to ask that. No I don't know, the future is bullshit and honestly just wants to stomp on my day.

SAMSON

Ah come on man you gotta have some idea right? Like what job you wanna have, or where you wanna go.

JESSE

I really don't, I'll probably go to Lone Star community college. But as for a job naw man I've got no idea, not since I realized at 12 authors make no money and at 14 stand up stressed me out too much.

LYDIA

Well, maybe you could try exploring a bit with your degree. It's never too late to figure out what you want to do.

JESSE

Yeah, I guess you're right. It's just hard to think about the future when the present feels like a mess.

[[SAMSON looks over concerned]]

SAMSON

I'm sorry about that man. I honestly don't know what I'm going to do exactly either. Probably something in journalism but who knows.

JESSE

[[Seeming stressed and done with the conversation he waves it off]] I appreciate it man, but it's not a big deal I'll figure it out. Anyway, is everyone ready to go?

= ADAM's house in ADAM's bedroom

[[ADAM groaned as he opened his eyes, his head pounding from the party the night before. He sat up in bed, rubbing his temples and trying to piece together the events of the night. He remembered drinking too much and Blaine being an idiot.]]

[[But as he stumbled out of his room and into the living room, he was met with a scene of chaos. Empty bottles and cups littered the floor, the furniture was overturned, and there was a strange smell in the air.]]

[[As he makes his way to the kitchen, he sees ETHAN still there, picking up and cleaning]]

ADAM

Hey, ETHAN. Thanks for cleaning up man.

ETHAN

No problem, dude. I figured I'd stay and help out a bit.

[[ADAM nods appreciatively and joins in with the cleaning, grabbing a trash bag and starting to throw away empty bottles and cups]]

ETHAN

[[noticing ADAM's mood]] You okay, man?

ADAM

[[sighs]] I shouldn't dump it on you man. It's just dumb personal stuff.

[[ETHAN turns and looks at ADAM with a totally straight face]]

ETHAN

[[Totally monotone]] I live life for the thrill of the few chances I Get to hear dumb personal stuff.

[[ADAM widens his eyes laughs slightly to himself then pauses cleaning and throws himself onto the couch looking worn out]]

ADAM

My dad lost his job the other day. My mom's in full freak out, she keeps cleaning the house over and over again and will barely hold a conversation..and I've never seen my dad so depressed. It's like the life was sucked out of him. I know were barely paying bills, the last of the food in the pantry got eaten last night and I...I'm rambling.

[[ETHAN looks incredibly concerned]]

ETHAN

I'm so sorry man. That sounds..wow. I can't even imagine.

ADAM

[[looking down]] I just feel horrible. I want to do something to help out, but where do you even start. [[realizing something and he lets out a slight laugh and gestures at the trash bag]] I guess here, so she can't clean it for the thousandth time. [[He picks it back up and gets back to cleaning]]

ETHAN

Well, you could always try to find a job. I know it's not easy, but it's worth a shot.

ADAM

[[nodding]] Yeah, I've been thinking about that. I just don't know where to start. [[He releases a sigh]]

[[Scene fades]]

= Next day morning in ADAM's Backyard January 1st

[[Lydia is awake and standing on ADAM's porch]]

LYDIA

Get your hungover butts up!

[[The two jolt up on the trampoline groggily moving toward the exit, before they reach it Quint leans over to Blaine]]

QUINT

[[whispering]]

Don't you dare tell her about the mushrooms!

BLAINE

I would never, but your also assuming she didn't talk to us last night. I remember next to nothing. Except I think I finally got ADAM to agree to buy me a new guitar!

[[JESSE stirs as well on the trampoline]]

JESSE

[[grumbling slightly]]

The fuck happened last...no rather keep it forgotten.

[[He stand up and removes vape]]

JESSE

[[sardonically]]

Oh, guess I had a second one. Welp fuck last night I guess.

[[Staring at it he takes a subtle hit and then gets Quints attention]]

JESSE

Hey takes this off my hands.

QUINT

For free? For sure I will, weed not nic right?

[[JESSE nods and then leaves the trampoline]]

JESSE

Hey Lydia, good to see ya.

LYDIA

I saw you last night too Dick Johnson.

JESSE

[[disgusted]]

No need to remind me. Also the fuck you doing at my friends party?

LYDIA

[[smiling wickedly]]

Your friend wanted beer, I provided. [[stops smiling]] Anyhow figured we go grab coffee with my dumbass friends and yours.

JESSE

Which one?

LYDIA

SAMSON, he came with and got stoned and drunk to insanity. Thank goodness he didn't get any mushrooms.

JESSE

[[jokingly]] Ooh I might need to get into that.

LYDIA

No you don't little brother. That shit'll fuck with you, you're already barely getting to college let's not decrease your odds anymore.

= Coffee shop outside

JESSE

Oh my gosh coffee is a god send.

SAMSON

Sure is Dick Johnson.

JESSE

Ok did I miss a joke why does everyone keep calling me Dick Johnson!?

SAMSON

Ummm... We all realized you've been suppressing your true name and because we've discovered it we decided to switch to speak to you more properly.

JESSE

Oh sweet bull to go with my coffee, just what it needed.

LYDIA

You were being a dick yesterday when you got to the party. Also literally almost fought a dude.

QUINT

And thus came about the name Dick Johnson, I'll admit though I totally missed that. All I remember is watching a really fucked up episode of SpongeBob with bear attacks.

JESSE

[[To SAMSON]] Oh yeah sorry about last night man, I vaguely remember shitting on your punch.

SAMSON

What you said would have made the kool aid man cry, but then again so would putting moonshine in him so I call it even, your forgiven hombre.

JESSE

I appreciate it man. Also metaphysically apologies to the Kool Aid man wherever he may be. Your punch is the best great glass man.

[[JESSE does a cheers with his coffee then takes a long sip]]

JESSE

Fuck me my head feels like it was beaten with a mallet.

LYDIA

Well maybe next time don't mix alcohol and moonshine.

JESSE

[[groaning]] I think I need to reevaluate my life choices.

QUINT

Or just learn to pace yourself.

BLAINE

[[chuckling]] Yeah, like that's possible.

[[Lydia turns and glares at Blaine who quickly puts his arms up in surrender]]

BLAINE

Alright alright sorry sorry it's very possible, "don't do drugs kids"

SAMSON

[[nodding in agreement]] yep, this group gets that. Only drug we do is love.

JESSE

[[sarcastically]] Ah yes, the good old drug of love. Really helps with paying rent and finding a stable job.

LYDIA

[[concerned]] Speaking of which, have you been thinking about your future plans JESSE? You're almost done with high school.

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[[looking down]] I just feel horrible. I want to do something to help out, but where do you even start. [[realizing something and he lets out a slight laugh and gestures at the trash bag]] I guess here, so she can't clean it for the thousandth time. [[He picks it back up and gets back to cleaning]]

ETHAN

Well, you could always try to find a job. I know it's not easy, but it's worth a shot.

ADAM

[[nodding]] Yeah, I've been thinking about that. I just don't know where to start. [[He releases a sigh]]

[[Scene fades]]

=JESSE's house

[[JESSE arrives home and collapses in bed, 10 hours later words appear, he wakes up and and thrifts through a bag with his new book in it, he pulls out meditations and starts reading]]

=ADAM's house

[[ADAM is sitting on the couch looking for a job]]

ADAM

[[Frustrated]] Geez! How hard is it to find a fucking job! Nowhere will interview me!

[[ADAM looking incredibly anxious pick up his phone and dials a number, he slowly and reluctantly brings his ear to the phone]]

[[Screen switches to show Blaine sitting in his kitchen with only a shirt and underwear with his phone set down on speaker while he eats cereal]]

BLAINE

This is the McArthur residence.

[[Camera goes back to ADAM]]

ADAM

Hey Blaine, it's ADAM.

[[Camera splits into two with both equally on screen]]

BLAINE

Oh, how we doing douche bag Mcbreak guitar?

ADAM

Look man I'm sorr-

BLAINE

Save your sorrys Benedict Arnold! I thought you agreed never to call here again after the phone call incident of 2022!

ADAM

That was a butt dial and I apologized, but that's beside the point, look man you're the only guy I know with a job. I was wondering if there was a [[he covers the microphone of the phone and groans loudly]] any chance you could put in a word for me at your place.

BLAINE

Woah hombre not only have you broken one of the employees guitars but we also pay way above your caliber.

ADAM

Lies and here say! My caliber is whatever it damn well needs to be.

BLAINE

I don't know man 16 per hour is a damn steal. Your classy, but you ain't that classy.

ADAM

Damn well take a bet on me then! Come on, you yellow belly!

BLAINE

I suppose I could...one condition however. You buy me a fresh new styling guitar. Think you can handle it Cub Scout?

ADAM

To make it to the big leagues? Of course.

[[They hang up]]

ADAM

Great, the broke loser train that can't afford a guitar just left the station and I'm in the front row!

= BASKETBALL COURT

[[SAMSON shows up at the basketball court, but no one is there except for ETHAN. He looks around, confused.]]

SAMSON

Where is everyone?

ETHAN

I don't know, man. JESSE and ADAM both said they were gonna come, but I haven't heard from them in a while.

SAMSON

That's weird. I hope everything's okay.

ETHAN

Yeah, me too. Speaking of which, what have you been up to?

SAMSON

Honestly, not much. Been worried about ADAM a little though. He's been acting really down and annoyed lately.

ETHAN

Actually, I talked to him the other day after the party. Their family is going through some tough times right now, especially financially.

SAMSON

Oh, man. That's really horrible. I had no idea.

ETHAN

Yeah, it is. But I think he's trying to keep a brave face on, you know?

SAMSON

Yeah, wow...that's horrible..I just wish...I don't know. I just haven't felt like much of a friend lately.

ETHAN

What do you mean?

SAMSON

Just...I'm barely in anyone's life anymore. I barely even see you. And JESSE didn't even tell us about his mom having cancer and now ADAM is dealing with this. I didn't even know he was struggling.

ETHAN

Yeah, it seems like everyone is struggling right now.

SAMSON

Tell me about it. Everyone's disappearing.

ETHAN

Yeah...I feel like a ghost. But I think it's just a phase we're going through. Everyone has stuff going on in their lives, and sometimes it's hard to balance everything.

SAMSON

Yeah, I know. It just feels kind of lonely, you know?

ETHAN

I get that, too. But we're still here, and we still have each other.

SAMSON

I know, but still. It's hard to see your friends struggling and feeling like there's nothing you can do.

ETHAN

I get that. But sometimes just being there and letting them know you care is enough.

SAMSON

I guess you're right. But still, it sucks that ADAM is going through this and I had no idea.

ETHAN

Yeah, it does. But now we know, and we can be there for him.

SAMSON

Definitely. And I can relate to what he's going through, too. My family is struggling with money right now.

ETHAN

Really? I had no idea.

SAMSON

Yeah, my parents got hit hard by COVID and they're struggling to keep the business afloat. We're barely making ends meet.

ETHAN

Man, I'm sorry to hear that.

SAMSON

Yeah, it's been tough. But we're making it work. And I just want to make sure ADAM knows that I'm here for him.

ETHAN

I think he does. And we all are, too. We might not always be able to solve each other's problems, but we can always be there for each other.

SAMSON

You're right. Thanks for being here for me, man.

ETHAN

Anytime, dude.

= RECORD STORE, Reads February 4th

[[ADAM walks into the record store and looks around. He sees Blaine, who is organizing records]]

ADAM

Alright B, I'm here!

BLAINE

Hey, little dude. You better appreciate the fact I'm letting you start work before you get me my new guitar.

ADAM

I seriously do man, you don't even understand.

BLAINE

Haha, well it's honestly whatever man just get that guitar. Here let me go grab your application.

[[Blaine goes behind the desk and comes back and hands ADAM the application, Adeline walks up to them]]

ADELINE

Excuse me, do you guys have any records by The Doors?

BLAINE

Yeah, they're over in the "D" section. Let me show you.

[[ADAM follows them to the section and starts to browse the records. Adeline grabs "Strange Days" and looks at ADAM. Blaine finished showing her heads back to the desk]]

ADELINE

Do you like The Doors?

ADAM

Yeah, they're pretty good. What about you?

ADELINE

I love them. I think Jim Morrison was a genius.

ADAM

Yeah, he definitely was. Also absolutely off his and any other rocker.

ADELINE

Maybe. But I think that's what made him so interesting. That extra crazy edge.

[[They continue to talk about music, and ADAM realizes he enjoys talking to her.]]

ADAM

You know, I don't usually have conversations like this with people. I'm honestly enjoying the heck out of this, you're pretty cool.

ADELINE

[[Smiles]] Thank you and I know what you mean. But I think most people are more complicated than we give them credit for. It's just hard to break on through to the other side and get both sides comfortable.

ADAM

[[Almost nervously laughs, Not sure what to make of what she said]]

Yeah, I guess you're probably right. I've honestly hungout with the same people since elementary school, It's great but in some ways I think it limited me socially. Haven't met as many interesting people as I'm sure you have.

ADELINE

I don't know, keeping friends that long seems like a pretty big accomplishment to me.

ADAM

[[laughs in agreement]] Yeah your right. There like brothers to me. [[He releases a deep breath releasing tension]]

ADELINE

You alright?

ADAM

Oh yeah sorry ignore my dumb loud breathing.

ADELINE

Come on I know a sigh when I hear it. At this point where no longer strangers you might as well tell me what's bothering you.

[[ADAM hesitates for a moment but then decides to open up to her]]

ADAM

My parents are having some financial problems, [[defensively]] AND really it's no big deal [[he waves his hands for emphasis]]. Things have just been...tense and a little harder around the house. And I love my parents, I do but this...It felt pretty avoidable.

ADELINE

I'm sorry. That sounds rough. But sometimes things just happen, and we have to deal with them.

ADAM

Yeah, I know. But it's really hard to see them dealing with it . It's uh, actually why I'm trying to get a job right now.

ADELINE

That's really good your trying to help you out like that. Did they ask you too?

ADAM

[[resists a long sigh]] No of course not, they never put that kind of pressure on me. But they're struggling, even keeping the house isn't looking solid these days. But it's no big deal. I needed a job anyway. But here let me stop ranting, I've annoyed you enough you just wanted a Doors album.

ADELINE

You know, I don't usually have conversations like this with people. I'm honestly enjoying the heck out of this, you're pretty cool. Here's my number, in case you ever want to chat more about music or anything else. Have a great day!

[[ADAM smiles, feeling surprised and pleased. He watches Adeline leave with a newfound sense of excitement.]]

= OUTSIDE THE RECORD STORE, SAME DAY

[[After work, BLAINE and ADAM are sitting on the sidewalk in front of the closed record store. BLAINE takes out a cigar, cuts the end, lights it with a zippo, and starts smoking. He offers the cigar to ADAM, who looks surprised.]]

ADAM

Wait, you're smoking a cigar? Isn't that basically the same as cigarettes, with nicotine and all that?

BLAINE

Nah, man. Cigars are a bit different. You're not supposed to inhale them like you do with cigarettes. Just puff on them. It's actually not as bad for you as long as you don't do it too often.

[[ADAM takes the cigar, hesitates, then takes a puff. He seems surprised by how much he likes it.]]

ADAM

Huh, this isn't bad at all. Thanks for letting me try it.

BLAINE

[[smiles]] No problem, man. It's a nice way to unwind after a long day. So, what's been on your mind lately?

ADAM

[[pauses]] You know, I've been thinking about college. Why aren't you going to college, Blaine? You're only 21.

BLAINE

[[takes a drag from the cigar]] College just wasn't my thing, man. I tried it for a bit, but I realized I learn better hands-on. Plus, I've always been passionate about music, and this record store is like a dream come true for me. So, I decided to follow my passion instead of going the traditional route.

ADAM

[[reflects]] Life can be so suffocating sometimes, you know? Ever since middle school, it's like I've been stuck in this loop of expectations and disappointments. I haven't been really happy for a long time.

BLAINE

[[nods]] I get it. Life can throw a lot of crap our way, and it's easy to get disillusioned. But you know, even in the midst of all that, there are moments that can make everything feel worth it.

ADAM

[[sighs]] I've seen friends get lost in drug use, people doing things they shouldn't, and it just makes me wonder... is this all there is to life?

BLAINE

[[takes another puff]] I've been there, man. I've lost friends too, and I've seen people make some messed up choices. But you know what? I wouldn't change my past or meeting them. It's all part of the journey that led me here.

ADAM

[[looking down]] If I could go back, I'd probably redo the last two years of my life. So many screw-ups, so many missed opportunities.

BLAINE

[[seriously]] Hey, that defeatist way of thinking won't get you anywhere. You're so much better than you give yourself credit for. Life has a funny way of turning around when you least expect it.

[[BLAINE changes the subject, trying to lift ADAM's spirits.]]

BLAINE

By the way, remember that girl Adeline you were talking to earlier? You seemed to hit it off pretty well.

ADAM

[[blushing]] Yeah, she was really cool. And, uh, I actually got her number.

BLAINE

[[grinning]] Nice! In that case, I've got something for you. [[hands ADAM a cigar]] Consider this a congratulatory gift for getting it good with a girl.

ADAM

[[laughs]] Thanks, man. You're the best.

[[They sit in silence for a moment, both lost in their thoughts, the glow of the city around them. The cigar smoke swirls in the air, a symbol of their camaraderie and the potential for brighter days ahead.]]

= ADAM'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM

[[The room is dimly lit, and the four friends are scattered around, sitting on couches and chairs. The atmosphere is relaxed as they chat.]]

ETHAN

So, guys, college decisions are coming up. Where is everyone thinking of going?

ADAM

I'm actually thinking of going out of state. Got accepted to a couple of places, and I figure it's time for a change.

SAMSON

Oh sure abandon all your closets friends and replace us will lame college people. "Look at me I didn't attend a community college I'm so cool," yuck I say. I'm sticking around here, gonna go to Lonestar for a while keep living with my parents.

JESSE

[[staring into space, quietly]] Yeah, same. Lonestar seems like the practical choice.

[[A moment of awkward silence follows, and everyone exchanges glances.]]

ETHAN

[[tries to lighten the mood]] Not to insult Adam's ideas about going to a non community school, but I'm actually doing the same thing. Headed to Maine.

SAMSON

The fucks in Maine?

[[Ethan opens his mouth to respond before pausing]]

ETHAN

To be real I got no idea. I mean my college obviously but uh aside from that no idea. The ocean I guess?

ADAM

I just can't imagine poor Jesse without me and Ethan going to Lonestar. He'll be stuck with Sam over here getting high off his ass all day.

JESSE

[[forces a smile]] Yeah, yeah, you know me always the pot head.

[[The room falls silent again, the tension palpable.]]

SAMSON

[[sighs]] You've been really quiet today, Jesse. Everything okay?

JESSE

[[dismissively]] Yeah, just tired.

ETHAN

[[concerned]] You sure? You've seemed kinda off lately.

JESSE

[[defensive]] I said I'm fine, Ethan. Stop making a big deal out of it.

[[Adam changes the topic to ease the tension.]]

ADAM

[[pulls out the cigars]] Hey, check it out, guys! I got us some cigars to celebrate... whatever this is. Finally getting everyone together day I guess.

ETHAN

[[laughs]] Cigars? Really? That can't be good for you.

ADAM

[[grinning]] Hey, don't knock it till you try it. Plus, we're all grown up now, right?

SAMSON

Is your point that it's okay to get lung cancer as an adult?

JESSE

Actually you just puff cigars so it'd be mouth cancer.

ETHAN

That sounds awesome let's have that, thanks for the cigars Adam.

ADAM

Alright dick squadron thanks for the performance as the peanut gallery. Now please would you just try it? I don't want it to be a every day thing, but I really want to celebrate this, especially since I'll be working from now on before college we won't always get chances like this to hang.

JESSE

Man's got a point.

SAMSON

Fine, just know this is pure pressure.

ETHAN

[[Laughs]] What a friendship we all have.

[[Everyone takes a cigar and lights it up, puffs of smoke filling the room. There's a moment of camaraderie as they share this experience.]]

SAMSON

[[exhales smoke]] You know, it's funny. We've all been friends since first grade, and here we are, smoking cigars and talking about college. This is normally the conversation people have before never seeing each other again.

ETHAN

Now that's some serious pessimism.

SAMSON

I was just saying, I don't think it's true in our case. If we've lasted this long as friends I think we have awhile longer.

JESSE

[[finally joining the conversation, with a small smile]] Yeah, who would've thought? Remember when we were just dorky kids, building with Lego?

ETHAN

[[chuckles]] And we thought that was the height of coolness. Look how far we've come.

SAMSON

I don't know what you mean I still build legos and it's still the height of cool.

[[The conversation flows more naturally now, and the friends start reminiscing about their childhood and sharing stories of their misadventures.]]

= LATER, OUTSIDE ADAM'S HOUSE

[[The night is coming to an end, and the friends are saying their goodbyes.]]

ADAM

[[hugs Samson]] See you around, buddy. Don't work too hard at Lonestar.

SAMSON

[[laughs and winks]] You know I'll always be a lazy bum. Take care though mister main character, man.

ADAM

[[Frowns]] I'm not the main character.

SAMSON

As long as your life remains as exciting as it is you sure are.

ETHAN

[[shakes Jesse's hand]] Jesse, if you ever want to talk, you know we're here for you.

JESSE

[[nods]] Yeah, thanks. I appreciate it. Nothing much to talk about though.

[[Jesse walks away, and the other three watch him go, a mixture of concern and understanding in their eyes.]]

ADAM

[[exhales]] I hope he'll open up to us soon.

ETHAN

[[puts a hand on Adam's shoulder]] Yeah, it's tough seeing him like this.

SAMSON

[[optimistic]] Eh I got the feeling he'll be alright. In fact...

[[Samson runs after Jesse]]

[[The friends part ways, Samson catches up to Jesse]]

JESSE

What's up Sam?

SAMSON

You wanna head by my new drug dealers house and get a little chilled?

[[Jesse looks shocked]]

JESSE

Actually yeah that sounds fantastic.

[[As they head their separate directions and Jesse and Sam the same, the glow of the streetlights illuminates the path ahead, symbolizing the uncertainties and opportunities that lie ahead for each of them.]]

=JESSE's house

[[JESSE arrives home and collapses in bed, 10 hours later words appear, he wakes up and and thrifts through a bag with his new book in it, he pulls out meditations and starts reading]]

[[He's shown reading getting frustrated]]

[[Reaching into a pocket he groans realizing he doesn't have a vape and then continues to read]]

[[shows this repeat for multiple days, and JESSE ignoring texts from friends, before groaning JESSE decides to go to a therapist]]

= Therapist office, circle of chairs with therapist in a suit sitting in one. Reads January 16th

[[The room is filled with Adults aside from JESSE]]

THERAPIST

Brandon why don't you tell us a little yourself, and if you feel comfortable, what led you here?

BRANDON

[[he gulps]] Well what led me here and me are probably about the same these days...I guess what led me here was well my second business collapsing. I used to renovate houses before the crash. Everything was so bleak. My relationship with my wife went into tatters, my business was gone, I had major debt. Everything looked horrible, and I should say I was never good with alcohol before that, just better at avoiding it. So yeah anyway I guess I just did the big reveal. I got hooked on alcohol. I'd show up home every night drunk. And we'll anyway yeah there's my story I guess.

THERAPIST

What made you seek help if you don't mind me asking?

[[Brandon looks incredibly stressed]]

BRANDON

Honestly? 2 months ago, my wife's birthday. It was...bad. I umm, well I had forgotten that morning. I was already drinking as soon as I woke up, my wife is the only one who works right now so she's already left. By the time she got home that night I was blackout. I had remembered in the drunken haze though somewhere it was her birthday. I heated up a little freezer brownie for her and was up in my room changing waiting for her to get back. I heard the door open headed downstairs and well.. I totally fell the entire way down the stairs. I didn't know it at the time but I sprained my arm and broke a rib. After that we had a pretty heated talk and she left. I didn't see her again for a week, she started talking about divorce and I got pretty mean. But anyway what I was saying though was that night I fell down the stairs, was uhm when I kinda started thinking about help. I tried to sleep off the pain from The fall but the next day realized I better head somewhere professional and went to an emergency room. I think around then, after I had to spend the night at the hospital as I sat there all night completely sober, all of it...all the dirty mean things came flying at me. I almost felt poisoned. I blamed the alcohol first. Tried the twelve step and it helped me realize it was my own fault. But anyway I've totally lost what I'm saying.

THERAPIST

That's quite alright, talking is what helps Brandon and this is your time.

BRANDON

Thank you, but yeah that's about it. I woke up one day and realized I was a piece of shit. Now though me and my wife are talking things out, and I've got a job lined up to start as a construction worker. So things are getting Better. I think.

THERAPIST

Don't say any maybes Brandon. I've been with you for 2 weeks now and you've made serious strides with your mental health. Remember always use-

BRANDON

Positive self voice.

THERAPIST

Thank you. You called yourself crap so I knew I needed to remind you.

[[Brandon laughs and scratches the back of his neck]]

THERAPIST

Brandon, I want to thank you for sharing your story with us. It takes a lot of courage to admit you have a problem and seek help. Alright now, are new member JESSE, everyone please say hi.

[[Everyone says hi]]

THERAPIST

Welcome JESSE. Now Why don't you tell us a little bit about yourself and what brings you here today?

JESSE

I don't know. I feel bad being here and hearing all these stories. Everyone seems so strong and in much more complicated situations than me. I've just felt..well I don't know, depressed. Or sad I mean. I'm not normally an addict or abuser but I've found recently it's just..easier. It's like well...it's like all this energy has built up, it pushes on my shoulders and my back and makes it ache, and I keep getting nervous. At school I used to be decently social and pretty happy, but recently just seeing a large crowd gets me antsy. And all I want to do is sleep. I just feel so lost while the future is standing there right at my doorstep screaming at me to be ready. I've been reading a lot of philosophy recently though. Trying to find some answers, but it just seems to be more frustrating.

THERAPIST

I see. Can you tell us more about that? What specifically is causing you to feel lost and frustrated?

JESSE

I guess I just feel like I'm not making a difference in the world. Like I'm not contributing anything meaningful. I want to do something important, but I don't know what that is or how to get there. And well, I don't wanna play the pity card or anything but just recently well..my mom she was diagnosed with cancer. I guess that probably plays a large part, but everything is just so confused I don't know.

THERAPIST

It can be overwhelming to think about making major changes in your life. Especially someone as close to you as your mother. And you have to know, you won't have to have all the answers right now. It's okay to take things one step at a time. And that's what we're here for, to help you work through these issues and find a way forward.

JESSE

Thank you, I appreciate that.

[[The camera fades out as the group continues their therapy session]]

= Outside of Therapist's office

[[JESSE is walking out of therapy where he then sees at the next parking lot over the same truck that originally stole their boards about to leave the parking lot]]

[[Shocked he instantly starts running for it]]

[[The car starts to move slowly, and JESSE manages to jump onto the back and get in, the boards are surprisingly still there]]

[[The ironic guy who's driving rolls down his window and yells back]]

IRONIC GUY

Hey man! Get off of here like right now!

JESSE

Did you ever even use these geez man?!

IRONIC GUY

Hey that doesn't matter man!

JESSE

Look could you just pull over so I can leave with these?!

IRONIC GUY

Dang it man, I don't wanna give them back!

JESSE

You haven't even used them! Just pull over!

IRONIC GUY

I was like probably at some point gonna like use um. But I thought it was kinda ironic that I took them and then didn't use them. Like what a contradiction right?

JESSE

Oh fuck there's a subway!

IRONIC GUY

Oh shit your right. Dude I've been jonesing for a 50% off foot long!

JESSE

Look why don't we coach it for a solid minute, grab some subs then peep this shit out?

IRONIC GUY

Alright fine, I'll pull over. But you only get the boards back if you can beat me in a race to that Subway over there.

JESSE

Seriously? I just want my boards back.

IRONIC GUY

Come on, man, where's your sense of adventure?

[[JESSE begrudgingly agrees and they both start racing towards the Subway. The ironic guy gets a head start, but JESSE is determined and starts to catch up. They both burst into the Subway, panting and out of breath]]

{{The above ^ happens or the ironic guy if it's funnier just walks to be ironic and JESSE wins}}

JESSE

[[panting]] Alright, we tied. Can I have my boards now?

IRONIC GUY

[[laughing]] You know what, man, I'm feeling generous. Even though it's against my bylaws you can keep the boards, consider it a gift from one adventure seeker to another. You can go back to being a long horn in a herd of cattle or whiatever weird shit you said.

[[JESSE is surprised but grateful for the unexpected turn of events. They shake hands and sit down together to enjoy a well-deserved meal. As they eat, the conversation gets incredibly awkward]]

IRONIC GUY

You invest in NFTs?

JESSE

No way man that shits a scam. Why you?

IRONIC GUY

Oh umm...Yeah but just ironically.

JESSE

[[straight faced akwardly nods]] Cool cool. Is your shirt also an ironic statemeant thing?

IRONIC GUY

[[With a deap sigh and some clear introspection shows as he speaks]] I'm just gonna shoot you straight. I invested in dogecoin un-ironically.

JESSE

Oh...Sorry man I heard it's tanking.

IRONIC GUY

Yeah so are my savings.

JESSE

Oh shit I think I'm getting a phone call, better take this outside.

[[JESSE walks out the door speed walking looking around frantically]]

JESSE

Fuck! My sub!

[[He dashes back in holding his phone to his ear grabs the sub fakes talking on the phone then speed walks back outside the store then dashes away from the subway]]

=ADAM's house

[[ADAM is sitting on the couch looking for a job]]

ADAM

[[Frustrated]] Geez! How hard is it to find a fucking job! Nowhere will interview me!

[[ADAM looking incredibly anxious pick up his phone and dials a number, he slowly and reluctantly brings his ear to the phone]]

[[Screen switches to show Blaine sitting in his kitchen with only a shirt and underwear with his phone set down on speaker while he eats cereal]]

BLAINE

This is the McArthur residence.

[[Camera goes back to ADAM]]

ADAM

Hey Blaine, it's ADAM.

[[Camera splits into two with both equally on screen]]

BLAINE

Oh, how we doing douche bag Mcbreak guitar?

ADAM

Look man I'm sorr-

BLAINE

Save your sorrys traitor! I thought you agreed never to call here again after the phone call incident of 2022!

ADAM

That was a butt dial and I apologized, but that's beside the point, look man you're the only guy I know with a job. I was wondering if there was a [[he covers the microphone of the phone and groans loudly]] any chance you could put in a word for me at your place.

BLAINE

Woah hombre not only have you broken one of the employees guitars but we also pay way above your caliber.

ADAM

Lies and here say! My caliber is whatever it damn well needs to be.

BLAINE

I don't know man 16 per hour is a damn steal. Your classy, but you ain't that classy.

ADAM

Damn well take a bet on me then! Come on, you yellow belly!

BLAINE

I suppose I could...one condition however. You buy me a fresh new styling guitar. Think you can handle it Cub Scout?

ADAM

To make it to the big leagues? Of course.

[[They hang up]]

ADAM

Great, the broke loser train that can't afford a guitar just left the station and I'm in the front row!

= BASKETBALL COURT

[[SAMSON shows up at the basketball court, but no one is there except for ETHAN. He looks around, confused.]]

SAMSON

Where is everyone?

ETHAN

I don't know, man. JESSE and ADAM both said they were gonna come, but I haven't heard from them in a while.

SAMSON

That's weird. I hope everything's okay.

ETHAN

Yeah, me too. Speaking of which, what have you been up to?

SAMSON

Honestly, not much. Been worried about ADAM a little though. He's been acting really down and annoyed lately.

ETHAN

Actually, I talked to him the other day after the party. Their family is going through some tough times right now, especially financially.

SAMSON

Oh, man. That's really horrible. I had no idea.

ETHAN

Yeah, it is. But I think he's trying to keep a brave face on, you know?

SAMSON

Yeah, wow...that's horrible..I just wish...I don't know. I just haven't felt like much of a friend lately.

ETHAN

What do you mean?

SAMSON

Just...I'm barely in anyone's life anymore. I barely even see you. And JESSE didn't even tell us about his mom having cancer and now ADAM is dealing with this. I didn't even know he was struggling.

ETHAN

Yeah, it seems like everyone is struggling right now.

SAMSON

Tell me about it. Everyone's disappearing.

ETHAN

Yeah...I feel like a ghost. But I think it's just a phase we're going through. Everyone has stuff going on in their lives, and sometimes it's hard to balance everything.

SAMSON

Yeah, I know. It just feels kind of lonely, you know?

ETHAN

I get that, too. But we're still here, and we still have each other.

SAMSON

I know, but still. It's hard to see your friends struggling and feeling like there's nothing you can do.

ETHAN

I get that. But sometimes just being there and letting them know you care is enough.

SAMSON

I guess you're right. But still, it sucks that ADAM is going through this and I had no idea.

ETHAN

Yeah, it does. But now we know, and we can be there for him.

SAMSON

Definitely. And I can relate to what he's going through, too. My family is struggling with money right now.

ETHAN

Really? I had no idea.

SAMSON

Yeah, my parents got hit hard by COVID and they're struggling to keep the business afloat. We're barely making ends meet.

ETHAN

Man, I'm sorry to hear that.

SAMSON

Yeah, it's been tough. But we're making it work. And I just want to make sure ADAM knows that I'm here for him.

ETHAN

I think he does. And we all are, too. We might not always be able to solve each other's problems, but we can always be there for each other.

SAMSON

You're right. Thanks for being here for me, man.

ETHAN

Anytime, dude.

= RECORD STORE, Reads February 4th

[[ADAM walks into the record store and looks around. He sees Blaine, who is organizing records]]

ADAM
Alright B, I'm here!

BLAINE
Hey, little dude. You better appreciate the fact I'm letting you start work before you get me my new guitar.

ADAM
I seriously do man, you don't even understand.

BLAINE
Haha, well it's honestly whatever man just get that guitar. Here let me go grab your application.

[[Blaine goes behind the desk and comes back and hands ADAM the application, Adeline walks up to them]]

ADELINE
Excuse me, do you guys have any records by The Doors?

BLAINE
Yeah, they're over in the "D" section. Let me show you.

[[ADAM follows them to the section and starts to browse the records. Adeline grabs "Strange Days" and looks at ADAM. Blaine finished showing her heads back to the desk]]

ADELINE
Do you like The Doors?

ADAM
Yeah, they're pretty good. What about you?

ADELINE
I love them. I think Jim Morrison was a genius.

ADAM
Yeah, he definitely was. Also absolutely off his and any other rocker.

ADELINE
Maybe. But I think that's what made him so interesting. That extra crazy edge.

[[They continue to talk about music, and ADAM realizes he enjoys talking to her.]]

ADAM

You know, I don't usually have conversations like this with people. I'm honestly enjoying the heck out of this, you're pretty cool.

ADELINE

[[Smiles]] Thank you and I know what you mean. But I think most people are more complicated than we give them credit for. It's just hard to break on through to the other side and get both sides comfortable.

ADAM

[[Almost nervously laughs, Not sure what to make of what she said]]

Yeah, I guess you're probably right. I've honestly hungout with the same people since elementary school, It's great but in some ways I think it limited me socially. Haven't met as many interesting people as I'm sure you have.

ADELINE

I don't know, keeping friends that long seems like a pretty big accomplishment to me.

ADAM

[[laughs in agreement]] Yeah your right. There like brothers to me. [[He releases a deep breath releasing tension]]

ADELINE

You alright?

ADAM

Oh yeah sorry ignore my dumb loud breathing.

ADELINE

Come on I know a sigh when I hear it. At this point where no longer strangers you might as well tell me what's bothering you.

[[ADAM hesitates for a moment but then decides to open up to her]]

ADAM

My parents are having some financial problems, [[defensively]] AND really it's no big deal [[he waves his hands for emphasis]]. Things have just been...tense and a little harder around the house. And I love my parents, I do but this...It felt pretty avoidable.

ADELINE

I'm sorry. That sounds rough. But sometimes things just happen, and we have to deal with them.

ADAM

Yeah, I know. But it's really hard to see them dealing with it . It's uh, actually why I'm trying to get a job right now.

ADELINE

That's really good your trying to help out like that. Did they ask you too?

ADAM

[[resists a long sigh]] No of course not, they never put that kind of pressure on me. But they're struggling, even keeping the house isn't looking solid these days. But it's no big deal. I needed a job anyway. But here let me stop ranting, I've annoyed you enough you just wanted a Doors album.

ADELINE

You know, I don't usually have conversations like this with people. I'm honestly enjoying the heck out of this, you're pretty cool. Here's my number, in case you ever want to chat more about music or anything else. Have a great day!

[[ADAM smiles, feeling surprised and pleased. He watches Adeline leave with a newfound sense of excitement.]]

= OUTSIDE THE RECORD STORE, SAME DAY

[[After work, BLAINE and ADAM are sitting on the sidewalk in front of the closed record store. BLAINE takes out a cigar, cuts the end, lights it with a zippo, and starts smoking. He offers the cigar to ADAM, who looks surprised.]]

ADAM

Wait, you're smoking a cigar? Isn't that basically the same as cigarettes, with nicotine and all that?

BLAINE

Nah, man. Cigars are a bit different. You're not supposed to inhale them like you do with cigarettes. Just puff on them. It's actually not as bad for you as long as you don't do it too often.

[[ADAM takes the cigar, hesitates, then takes a puff. He seems surprised by how much he likes it.]]

ADAM

Huh, this isn't bad at all. Thanks for letting me try it.

BLAINE

[[smiles]] No problem, man. It's a nice way to unwind after a long day. So, what's been on your mind lately?

ADAM

[[pauses]] You know, I've been thinking about college. Why aren't you going to college, Blaine? You're only 23.

BLAINE

[[takes a drag from the cigar]] College just wasn't my thing, man. I tried it for a bit, but I realized I learn better hands-on. Plus, I've always been passionate about music, and this record store is like a dream come true for me. So, I decided to follow my passion instead of going the traditional route.

ADAM

[[reflects]] Life can be so suffocating sometimes, you know? Ever since middle school, it's like I've been stuck in this loop of expectations and disappointments. I haven't been really happy for a long time.

BLAINE

[[nods]] I get it. Life can throw a lot of crap our way, and it's easy to get disillusioned. But you know, even in the midst of all that, there are moments that can make everything feel worth it.

ADAM

[[sighs]] I've seen friends get lost in drug use, people doing things they shouldn't, and it just makes me wonder... is this all there is to life?

BLAINE

[[takes another puff]] I've been there, man. I've lost friends too, and I've seen people make some messed up choices. But you know what? I wouldn't change my past or meeting them. It's all part of the journey that led me here.

ADAM

[[looking down]] If I could go back, I'd probably redo the last two years of my life. So many screw-ups, so many missed opportunities.

BLAINE

[[seriously]] Hey, that defeatist way of thinking won't get you anywhere. You're so much better than you give yourself credit for. Life has a funny way of turning around when you least expect it.

[[BLAINE changes the subject, trying to lift ADAM's spirits.]]

BLAINE

By the way, remember that girl Adeline you were talking to earlier? You seemed to hit it off pretty well.

ADAM

[[blushing]] Yeah, she was really cool. And, uh, I actually got her number.

BLAINE

[[grinning]] Nice! In that case, I've got something for you. [[hands ADAM a cigar]] Consider this a congratulatory gift for getting it good with a girl.

ADAM

[[laughs]] Thanks, man. You're the best.

[[They sit in silence for a moment, both lost in their thoughts, the glow of the city around them. The cigar smoke swirls in the air, a symbol of their camaraderie and the potential for brighter days ahead.]]

= ADAM'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM

[[The room is dimly lit, and the four friends are scattered around, sitting on couches and chairs. The atmosphere is relaxed as they chat.]]

ETHAN

So, guys, college decisions are coming up. Where is everyone thinking of going?

ADAM

I'm actually thinking of going out of state. Got accepted to a couple of places, and I figure it's time for a change.

SAMSON

Oh sure abandon all your closets friends and replace us will lame college people. "Look at me I didn't attend a community college I'm so cool," yuck I say. I'm sticking around here, gonna go to Lonestar for a while keep living with my parents.

JESSE

[[staring into space, quietly]] Yeah, same. Lonestar seems like the practical choice.

[[A moment of awkward silence follows, and everyone exchanges glances.]]

ETHAN

[[tries to lighten the mood]] Not to insult Adam's ideas about going to a non community school, but I'm actually doing the same thing. Headed to Maine.

SAMSON

The fucks in Maine?

[[Ethan opens his mouth to respond before pausing]]

ETHAN

To be real I got no idea. I mean my college obviously but uh aside from that no idea. The ocean I guess?

ADAM

I just can't imagine poor Jesse without me and Ethan going to Lonestar. He'll be stuck with Sam over here getting high off his ass all day.

JESSE

[[forces a smile]] Yeah, yeah, you know me always the pot head.

[[The room falls silent again, the tension palpable.]]

SAMSON

[[sighs]] You've been really quiet today, Jesse. Everything okay?

JESSE

[[dismissively]] Yeah, just tired.

ETHAN

[[concerned]] You sure? You've seemed kinda off lately.

JESSE

[[defensive]] I said I'm fine, Ethan. Stop making a big deal out of it.

[[Adam changes the topic to ease the tension.]]

ADAM

[[pulls out the cigars]] Hey, check it out, guys! I got us some cigars to celebrate... whatever this is. Finally getting everyone together day I guess.

ETHAN

[[laughs]] Cigars? Really? That can't be good for you.

ADAM

[[grinning]] Hey, don't knock it till you try it. Plus, we're all grown up now, right?

SAMSON

Is your point that it's okay to get lung cancer as an adult?

JESSE

Actually you just puff cigars so it'd be mouth cancer.

ETHAN

That sounds awesome let's have that, thanks for the cigars Adam.

ADAM

Alright dick squadron thanks for the performance as the peanut gallery. Now please would you just try it? I don't want it to be a every day thing, but I really want to celebrate this, especially since I'll be working from now on before college we won't always get chances like this to hang.

JESSE

Man's got a point.

SAMSON

Fine, just know this is pure pressure.

ETHAN

[[Laughs]] What a friendship we all have.

[[Everyone takes a cigar and lights it up, puffs of smoke filling the room. There's a moment of camaraderie as they share this experience.]]

SAMSON

[[exhales smoke]] You know, it's funny. We've all been friends since first grade, and here we are, smoking cigars and talking about college. This is normally the conversation people have before never seeing each other again.

ETHAN

Now that's some serious pessimism.

SAMSON

I was just saying, I don't think it's true in our case. If we've lasted this long as friends I think we have awhile longer.

JESSE

[[finally joining the conversation, with a small smile]] Yeah, who would've thought? Remember when we were just dorky kids, building with Lego?

ETHAN

[[chuckles]] And we thought that was the height of coolness. Look how far we've come.

SAMSON

I don't know what you mean I still build legos and it's still the height of cool.

[[The conversation flows more naturally now, and the friends start reminiscing about their childhood and sharing stories of their misadventures.]]

= LATER, OUTSIDE ADAM'S HOUSE

[[The night is coming to an end, and the friends are saying their goodbyes.]]

ADAM

[[hugs Samson]] See you around, buddy. Don't work too hard at Lonestar.

SAMSON

[[laughs and winks]] You know I'll always be a lazy bum. Take care though mister main character, man.

ADAM

[[Frowns]] I'm not the main character.

SAMSON

As long as your life remains as exciting as it is you sure are.

ETHAN

[[shakes Jesse's hand]] Jesse, if you ever want to talk, you know we're here for you.

JESSE

[[nods]] Yeah, thanks. I appreciate it. Nothing much to talk about though.

[[Jesse walks away, and the other three watch him go, a mixture of concern and understanding in their eyes.]]

ADAM

[[exhales]] I hope he'll open up to us soon.

ETHAN

[[puts a hand on Adam's shoulder]] Yeah, it's tough seeing him like this.

SAMSON

[[optimistic]] Eh I got the feeling he'll be alright. In fact...

[[Samson runs after Jesse]]

[[The friends part ways, Samson catches up to Jesse]]

JESSE

What's up Sam?

SAMSON

You wanna head by my new drug dealers house and get a little chilled?

[[Jesse looks shocked]]

JESSE

Actually yeah that sounds fantastic.

[[As they head their separate directions and Jesse and Sam the same, the glow of the streetlights illuminates the path ahead, symbolizing the uncertainties and opportunities that lie ahead for each of them.]]

=THERAPY ROOM - Session ten reads

JESSE sits in a circle with a group of therapy patients, including a new member, a woman named EMMA, who looks visibly upset. The therapist, sits at the head of the circle.

THERAPIST

Emma, would you like to share what's been on your mind today?

EMMA

[[sighing]] I don't know. I just feel so overwhelmed with everything. Being a single mom of two young kids is tough, especially with everything that's been going on lately. It's hard to find any time for myself.

THERAPIST

I can understand how you're feeling. Would you like to talk more about what's been going on in your life lately?

EMMA

I've just been feeling really down lately. It's hard to find any joy in anything. But my kids, they're the one thing that makes me happy. When I'm with them, I can forget about everything else.

THERAPIST

That's a wonderful thing to focus on, Emma. It's important to find joy in the little things. You're doing a great job as a mother.

[[Emma looks down and smiles slightly, seeming to appreciate the kind words]]

THERAPIST

Now, I want to talk to all of you about positive self-voice. It's important to be kind to yourself, to give yourself the same compassion and care that you would give to others. Try to recognize negative thoughts and replace them with positive ones. For example, instead of saying, "I'm a terrible mother," try saying, "I'm doing the best I can, and that's enough."

[[JESSE inwardly groans, feeling like he's heard this lesson a hundred times before. He understands the importance of positive self-talk, but he can't help feeling like it's a bit repetitive]]

THERAPIST

Now, I'd like everyone to take a few moments to write down some positive affirmations for themselves. Something you can say to yourself when you're feeling down. It can be something as simple as, "I am enough."

[[The group members begin to write on their notepads, and JESSE reluctantly writes something down, feeling like it's a waste of time]]

THERAPIST

Great work, everyone. Remember, it takes time and practice to develop a positive self-voice, but it's worth it. You deserve to treat yourself with kindness and compassion.

[[The group nods in agreement, and JESSE tries to remind himself to be patient with the process. As they wrap up the session, he makes a mental note to try to apply the lesson to his own life, even if it feels repetitive at times]]

= Outside therapist office

[[JESSE walks out of therapy, feeling a little relieved after his session. As he walks down the street, he notices someone familiar]]

NASH

Woah JESSE! Hey man, long time no see.

JESSE

No kidding, hey NASH. What's up, how the heck have you been man?

NASH

[[Letting out a laugh]] I'm been fine man and as for what's up? Not much, just killing time until I head to work. How about you?

JESSE

Just finished my therapy session.

NASH

Oh, woah what?! Your in therapy? Of all people you man? You always seemed so...I don't know put together.

JESSE

[[JESSE laughs and shrugs]] Yeah man It just kinda happened. What can I say? Guess life finally got up to me. It's going well though so far. Things can get a little repetitive but hey I'm feeling it out. Thinking about quitting soon actually but will see.

[[There's a brief moment of silence between them]].

NASH

So, um, have you seen any cool cars around here lately?

JESSE

Uh, not really.

NASH

Oh, okay. I'm going to an auto mechanic school.

JESSE

Oh that's awesome man, congrats!.

NASH

Yeah yeah, pretty cool.

[[Another awkward pause]]

NASH

Hey, do you remember that time we all got drunk and climbed that construction equipment?

JESSE

Yeah, I remember. Oh my gosh man that was a crazy night. [[JESSE let's out a small reminiscent smile]] Things felt so different back then. Life kinda felt like just finding different ways to have fun.

NASH

Yeah...everything felt so much simpler. Well, anyway I was just thinking about it the other day. [[He looks intently at JESSE]] It really made me happy, it was a good time back then.

JESSE

[[Returning NASH's intent look]] It was man. It really was. I'm sorry things got...so-

NASH

Tense? Look it was my fault, I brought politics into it. I never should of opened my big mouth.

JESSE

Nah we were both dicks.

NASH

[[sighing]] Amen to that. And besides, it's not such a big deal. We've both moved on to other things.

JESSE

Yeah, I uh...I guess we have.

[[There's another pause between them]]

NASH

So, um, have you been in touch with any of the old crew lately?

JESSE

Not really so much recently. Last I saw them was this big new years pa-. Shit man I shouldn't be talking about a party I'm sorry-

NASH

You're fine. He invited me.

JESSE

Oh.

NASH

It's all good man. For better or worse things just aren't what they were.

[[They continue walking together, but the conversation has become strained]]

NASH

You know, it's funny. We've been friends since we were kids, and now we hardly have anything to talk about anymore.

JESSE

Hahaha. I guess it's just easier to make friends when you're an idiot kid.

NASH

No kidding, it's the way of things though. I think it's why I don't feel so bad. People grow apart.

JESSE

I guess so.

[[They reach a corner, and NASH turns to JESSE]]

NASH

Well, I guess this is it. It was good...really good seeing you again, JESSE.

JESSE

Yeah, it was good to see you too, NASH.

[[They shake hands, but there's a definite sadness to the gesture]]

NASH

Take care of yourself, man.

JESSE

You too man, seriously.

[[NASH walks off in one direction, while JESSE goes in another. As JESSE walks away, he can't help but feel a sense of melancholy. He and NASH had been friends for so long, but now it seems like they're just strangers passing each other by]]

=JESSE's room

[[JESSE is laying in the bed groaning in his room]]

[[Doorbell is heard and the camera stabilized follows JESSE from behind as he gets out of bed and heads downstairs to open the door]]

[[SAMSON enters the house with three containers of ramen]]

SAMSON

Hey man, I brought you're fam some Ramen to bring in some cheer.

[[ETHAN steps in behind him]]

[[JESSE looks up and smiles weakly]]

ETHAN

[[whispering to JESSE]] I'm here to make sure he doesn't kill you.

JESSE

Thanks y'all, I appreciate it.

[[SAMSON gets to the kitchen and starts making the ramen adding an insane amount of spice]]

ETHAN

Mind if I help out a bit SAMSON?

SAMSON

Actually, I got it covered.

ETHAN

[[insisting]] Are you sure? I make really good Ramen.

SAMSON

[[getting annoyed]]

Yes, I'm sure.

[[As SAMSON is making the Ramen, ETHAN keeps trying to interfere and make it better. This leads to the Ramen being thrown out and restarted]]

LYDIA

What's up with them?

JESSE

[[shrugging]] I don't really know, I think I must of accidentally told them about mom when I was drunk at the New Year's party a little while back.

LYDIA

[[nodding]] Ah pity food.

JESSE

[[defending]] Well I guess so. Nothing wrong with that though is there? Pity food is like having a personal chef in this instance.

LYDIA

[[teasing]] For home Ramen?

JESSE

[[smiling]] Yeah, I'll still take it, besides I love Ramen.

LYDIA

[[doubting]] Maybe so but it's SAMSON making it.

JESSE

[[confident]] Eh, well I still bet it'll be good. You gotta cool the judgement. Besides, they're doing family style, you're getting some too unless you have money from your non-existent job to go buy fast food.

LYDIA

[[laughing]] Fair enough Phonos.

JESSE

[[smiling]] Indeed it is Phonos. [[playfully does a finger gun]]

SAMSON

[[frustrated]] I can't do this, I'm not making any progress. Fuck me I can't seem to do anything right!

ETHAN

You'd get plenty right if you stopped adding so much spice.

SAMSON

No it needs the flavor [[getting emotional]] dammit! Everyone been struggling and I can't even make them a nice meal to help them feel a little better.

ETHAN

[[seeming to realize something]] I well...I guess let's just try spicing it one more time.

[[Camera moves to the front door where ADAM walks in]]

ADAM

I'm here SAMSON! Does JESSE even know we're coming over?

SAMSON

[[Shouting from the kitchen]] NO! So get over here Ramens almost done!

[[Everyone but ETHAN and SAMSON sit down at the table and the two come over, both filling pre set bowls with ramen around the table]]

SAMSON

Look guys...I feel like recently nobody has been talking to me about anything important. I know I'm hilarious and it's hard sometimes to separate the funny SAMSON from the normal SAMSON, but guys please know you can talk to me. I don't know if it'll solve anything but I love you guys and I want to know when I can help or even just discuss with you. Whatever, but JESSE your mom having cancer is nuts. I love you brother and I will be there with you for anything. And ADAM, my family has never had the best Financial situation, we've struggled for a long time and I really sympathize with everything that's been going on with you man. And I'm really sorry none of the interviews you've gone to have worked out so far. But anyway that's why I made this ramen, this is friend love ramen!

[[JESSE and ADAM both look at each other shocked then at Samson]]

JESSE

Woah man that-

ADAM

Was powerful.

JESSE

I'm sorry man...before Covid it used to feel so much easier to talk about things but..things were just so tense between us and well I honestly I thought I could deal with everything on my own. It hasn't really worked out the best...I had been umm going to therapy actually.

EVERYONE

What!!

JESSE

Yeah I'm actually done with it now. It was pretty helpful but things got redundant pretty fast. I guess I just..well felt lost and unhappy and had no idea what I was doing and I had no control. But therapy, getting to see all these people struggling and fighting through life way older than me..well it taught me that we're all in this crazy directionless mess together, that's really what being an adult is. After I figured that out I figured I didn't much feel I needed therapy.

ADAM

Dang man, maybe I need to try therapy out [[laughs]]. And yeah I agree with what you said a minute ago too. Covid has really made things harder. [[turns from JESSE to SAMSON]] But to be honest, yeah SAMSON you're right. It's been a struggle, and I've been kinda mad at my parents. I'm happy to help out but the things they end up spending money on...I don't know it frustrates me. But that's not what matters, honestly I'm just trying to get money right now to buy Blaine a new guitar, he says he's got a job for me working with him if I can.

JESSE

Hey man I actually might have an idea...you'd all have to be cool with it to do it though. See I had forgotten to mention, [[steps away and comes back holding all their longboards]] I found these the other day leaving therapy in that jackass skaters truck. All together I think these may fetch a price enough to buy a guitar...but since we literally just got them back I don't know, what do y'all think? q no

SAMSON

I'm in, who needs a board when a friend needs a job.

ETHAN

What he said.

ADAM

I don't know guys. We've had those so long, so many memories...and even then I can't ask y'all to do that for me.

JESSE

Eh, maybe it's just time. We've had these for a long time and they've treated us well, now it's time for us all to let go of them for a good cause.

SAMSON

And that cause is you, so buckle up and deal with getting free money from all your friends. I know it's hard but please try to bear with us through it.

[[ETHAN puts a hand in ADAM's shoulder]]

ETHAN

It's time. Besides we're going off to college it isn't like they'd be getting much use.

[[These words seem to resonate with everyone who all shift slightly and look more thoughtful]]

[[They begin to all look at each other with the camera acting as their eyes as everyone looks at each other, the realization that this entire way of life is coming to an end]]

[[The camera shifts where everyone is in the same position but outside JESSE's house sitting around on the couches everyone in the same positions they were before the switch]]

[[They clink beers together and music begins to play]]

[[To music shows them smiling and playing around in the backyard before cutting to JESSE and Maddox standing off from the group by the pool]]

JESSE

So this is it huh? [[Takes a sip of beer and looks out at the pool stare distant]]

MADDOX

What do you mean?

JESSE

Life as a grade schooler. We're adults now.

MADDOX

Yeah. Seems...wrong, scary even. I mean look at me man, I've got a job now for the first time.

JESSE

That was a big one for me. Getting a job. Taught me a lot of responsibility. Useful stuff for the real world I guess.

MADDOX

Welp now it's my turn to learn a thing or too.

JESSE

I think you were good before getting a job. Some people are different.

MADDOX

You think will last out there?

JESSE

If I had to guess? Not even a week.

MADDOX

[[Maddox smiles]] Thank god for LoneStar and living with parents then huh?

JESSE

Yeah feels kinda cheap though doesn't it?

MADDOX

Stop doing that to yourself, it's not a bad thing to live at home a little longer. It's a smart financial decision. Trust me my family knows everything about bad ones. I can recognize good ones on instinct now. [[Laughs to himself]] But seriously? Yeah I'm terrified. I won't even be in state anymore.

JESSE

[[Holds up beer]] Well than, [[Stands up and heightens voice volume]] cheers to the greatest and maybe longest friendships we've ever had!

[[Everyone joins in but SAMSON who was already drinking and then does it after late and looks annoyed]]

SAMSON

[[Rolls his eyes]] You guys are way too sentimental. Cheers, I guess.

[[As the camera pans out and the music continues, the scene fades out on the group sharing laughter and camaraderie, knowing that life is changing, but they still have each other to lean on.]]

=3 months later September

(Adam and Ethan have gone off to college)

JESSE

It feels weird without everyone here

SAM

Yeah but fuck them right? More weed for us.

JESSE

Haha, yeah I guess so. I don't know though just me and you, how long can we hold a conversation.

(They both go completely silent and stare at each other. This last longer than it should)

JESSE

Alright I think will be fine

SAM

(Sticking a joint in his mouth) That's what I'm saying

JESSE

How long till they visit?

SAM

They want us to visit

JESE

Neither of us can drive

SAM

Oh the pains of being lazy as a teenager.

JESSE

Well I guess we should get licenses.

SAM

I think that's apparent.

JESSE

Readily so?

SAM

Readily.

JESSE

Rad.

JESSE

I hear Ethan's playing the cello now.

SAM

That's not new.

JESSE

Well it's new to me asshole!

SAM

You really should have known that.

JESSE

We should call somebody.

SAM

Well who the hell do we call everyone we call is in college.

JESSE

Not entirely true?

SAM

Who do you know that I don't?

JESSE

Well most of Lydia's friend group apparently-

SAM

I don't wanna hangout with geezers.

JESSE

But no I'm thinking of Nash.

SAM

Nash!

JESSE

Nash!

SAM

Fuck yeah let's call Nash

(JESSE pulls out his phone and quickly calls Nash)

