CRASHING BY DESIGN

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. RESTAURANT (1965) – NIGHT

PHYL(30), 9 months pregnant; her husband STAN(34); her neice BENAY(23), and Benay’s husband, CHARLIE(25), are seated at the table as they look at menus.

PHYL
What do I want? Hmmm. Everything looks so good. What are you going to get, Stanley?

STAN
Don't know yet. Think I'll get a steak. They have great steaks here, Charlie!

CHARLIE
Sounds good to me! Feel like I haven't eaten in a week!

BENAY
You just had 2 double cheeseburgers and a mountain of fries for lunch!

CHARLIE
I'm a growing boy! Let me eat!

BENAY
So eat! Who's stopping ya! But if you get any bigger we'll have to get you your own zipcode!

CHARLIE
Ah! Zip it!

BENAY
Behave!

CHARLIE
It doesn't behoove me to behave, darlin'!

BENAY
Yeah, yeah.

PHYL
Think I'll get the jumbo shrimp. Isn't that an oxymoron?
CHARLIE
Oxymoron? I thought that was a retarded cow!

BENAY
Ugh! You're a retarded cow!

CHARLIE
So, are we ready to order? Where's that damn waiter?

STAN
I'm ready. Everybody know what they want?

CHARLIE
Hey, can we get some service? We got a pregnant lady starving over here! She wants jumbo shrimp, or a retarded cow! I can't remember which.

BENAY
Charlie! Please?! You're embarrassing everybody!

CHARLIE
(to waiter)
Oh, Garcon! Oui, oui! We be ready to order!

BENAY
Ugh! Too much!

WAITER(30) comes over to table.

WAITER
Are we ready to order?

STAN
Go ahead honey.

PHYL
Yes, I'll have the...
   (groaning in pain)
Owwwwwwwwww!

CHARLIE
Owl? I thought you were getting the shrimp?

BENAY
Aunt Phyl, are you ok?
PHYL
Noooo! It's coming!

STAN
Ok, try and relax, honey. Charlie, go get the car!

CHARLIE
I'm on it!

Gets up and runs out. Benay puts her arm around Phyl.

BENAY
Breathe, Aunt Phyl!

STAN
It's ok, honey. Charlie's getting the car. The hospital's right down the road.

BENAY
Hang in there, Aunt Phyl.

STAN
Breathe, honey, breathe.

PHYL
Ahhhhhhhh'm breathing!

STAN
Let's get her up, Benay. Charlie should be coming.

They help Phyl to her feet.

BENAY
It's gonna be ok, Aunt Phyl.

PHYL
I forgot how much it hurts!

STAN
Charlie should be out front by now. Come on, honey. We got ya.

Waiter comes running over.

WAITER
Is there anything I can do?

STAN
Thanks. Can you get the door?

Waiter runs over to front door.
STAN (CONT’D)
C’mon, honey. We gotcha.

BENAY
We gotcha, Aunt Phyl.

They help her through the doorway. Waiter is holding door.

STAN
(to waiter)
Thanks, guy. I’ll tip you twice next time.

EXT. RESTAURANT

They help Phyl in car, get in, pull away.

INT. CAR – TRAVELING

Stan and Phyl are in backseat. Benay in passenger and Charlie is driving.

CHARLIE
I’ll put some music on Aunt Phyl.
We’ll be there in no time.

Turns on radio.

DJ ON RADIO (V.O.)
Straight off the press, here’s a brand new one from those kids from Liverpool! The Beatles!

A Beatles song plays.

CHARLIE
The Beatles? What kind of name is that? They’ll never last. They’re trying to copy the Crickets. Now that was good music. There is only one band that can succeed with the name of an insect! Buddy Holly will be missed. He must be turning in his grave listening to this garbage!

BENAY
Will you shut up, Charlie!...How are you feeling, Aunt Phyl? We’ll be there soon, honey.
PHYL
I'm hangin' in there! Just drive, Charlie! Please!

CHARLIE
Ok, Aunt Phyl. Sorry. Just saying, Buddy Holly and the Crick --

STAN/ PHYL/ BENAY
Shut up!

CHARLIE
(aloud to himself)
Now that was good music. The Beatles? Hmmph! Never last.

INT. HOSPITAL/DELIVERY ROOM - NIGHT
Phyl is in bed. DOCTOR(45) is delivering baby. NURSE(31) is assisting Phyl.

NURSE
Push, honey! Push!

DOCTOR
Here comes the head! Push! Push! Just a little farther! Push!

NURSE
You're almost there, honey. One more big push!

PHYL
(pushuing)
Aaaaaaaaaah!

Baby cries. Nurse wraps him in blanket. Hands baby to Phyl.

PHYL (CONT’D)
Oh Scotty. Scotty Hugh. My McQ.

INT. AUNT'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM (1969) - DAY
BENAY(29) looks at fish in fish tank which is enclosed in wooden case. The tank is about 5 feet high. SCOTTY(4) is standing at her side, too small to see fish tank.

SCOTTY
I wanna see! I wanna see!

BENAY
Okay. Come here.
She picks him up.

SCOTTY
Cool! Look at that blue one!

He points at tank with left hand while right hand is on wooden case at base of tank. It collapses. Water, wood, and flopping fish are strewn all over the floor.

BENAY
Oh my God, Scotty! What did you do?!

SCOTTY
Huh? I didn't do anything!

AUNT ANNIE(50) runs over.

AUNT ANNIE
Aaaaaahhh! Oh my God! What have you done?! 

SCOTTY
I didn't do anything! I didn't do anything!

BENAY
Look what you did!

AUNT ANNIE
(crying)
You miserable little boy! You've destroyed my house!

LEE(9) comes over. Points at Scotty.

LEE
You're an idiot!

AUNT ANNIE
You've ruined everything! What a mess! Aaaaaahhh! You horrible clumsy fool!

LEE
Dummy!

AUNT ANNIE
What are we gonna do now?! We have to move! This is terrible! They shoulda left you home! You horrible, horrible little boy! Well, that's it! We gotta move! (MORE)
AUNT ANNIE (CONT'D)
This can't be fixed! This can't be cleaned! That's it! We gotta move!

UNCLE DAVE(52) walks over.

UNCLE DAVE
Relax, Annie. It'll be okay. We'll be okay.(to Scotty) No thanks to you!

Scotty cries.

ZAIDA (O.S.)
Leave him alone!

His grandfather, ZAIDA(75) comes in and picks him up.

ZAIDA (CONT'D)
It's okay, Sheppy. It wasn't your fault. You want some ice cream, tatala?

SCOTTY
OK.

AUNT ANNIE
Good! Get him outta my sight!

ZAIDA
It's okay, Sheppy. You're a good boy. A very special boy.

Scotty wraps his arms tightly around Zaida.

SCOTTY
I love you, Zaida.

EXT. SCHOOL/PLAYGROUND (1971) - DAY

SCOTTY(6) is tied to chain link fence. Three BULLYS, 8, poke him with a stick.

SCOTTY
Leave me alone! Let me go! Let me go! Leave me alone!

BULLY#1
Awww! Look at the baby! Take that, baby! Why don't you cry?! Take that, little baby!
BULLY#2
He's a Jew Boy, too. A baby, Jew Boy! What's wrong, baby Jew Boy?!
Don't like being poked with a stick, baby Jew Boy?

BULLY#1/BULLY#2/BULLY#3
(poking and chanting)
Ba-by, Jew Boy! Ba-by, Jew Boy! Ba-by, Jew Boy!

WALTER(6) and JIMMY(6) run over and hit two of the bullies with hockey sticks. They fall to the ground.

BULLY#1
(crying)
Waaaaaaaahh! Waaaaaaaaah! I'm telling! Waaaaaaaaahh!

BULLY#2
(crying)
Waaaaaaaaahhh! Mommy! Mommy!

BULLY#3 runs away. Walter and Jimmy untie Scotty.

WALTER
You ok, Scotty?

SCOTTY
Yeah, I'm ok. Thanks guys!

JIMMY
No problem. That's what friends are for!

WALTER
You'd do the same for us!

SCOTTY
I sure would!

WALTER
We're the Three Musketeers! All for one, and one for all!

They hold up sticks and touch them together.

SCOTTY/WALTER/JIMMY
All for one, and one for all!
INT. HOUSE/SCOTTY’S BEDROOM – NIGHT

Scotty is sitting on side of bed with head in hands. Zaida walks in.

ZAIDA
What's wrong, Sheppy?

SCOTTY
Nothing.

ZAIDA
I know when something's wrong. Tell you're Zaida. You can tell me anything.

SCOTTY
Some older boys called me a name today.

ZAIDA
What did they call you?

SCOTTY

ZAIDA
Who called you this, Sheppy?

SCOTTY
Just some older boys.

ZAIDA
And how did this make you feel?

SCOTTY
Sad...and mad. Very mad.

Zaida sits next to Scotty on the side of the bed and puts his arm around him.

ZAIDA
Listen to me, tata. There are some people in this world who like to hurt others for no reason. They aren't happy with themselves, so they try and make other's feel bad, too. You have to be a better person than that, Sheppy. You have to rise above the ignorance in this world, and trust in yourself and God. Those boys, they're weak. Not like you. You be strong, tata.
SCOTTY
Strong like you, Zaida!

ZAIDA
Yes, tata. Strong like Zaida. But you must control your anger, Sheppy. Don't be mad with these people. Feel sorry for them.

SCOTTY
Sorry for them?

ZAIDA
Yes. Sorry for them, because they are hurting. Hurting because they hate who they are. Hurting because they don't have love in their heart. Be proud of who you are, Sheppy. You are a very special young man. You know how to love. You have a good heart. That's why you should feel sorry for them, and anyone like them you may come across in your life. Sorry for them because they can't be like you. Understand, tata?

SCOTTY
I understand, Zaida.

ZAIDA
That's a good boy. My good, strong boy.

SCOTTY
Zaida?

ZAIDA
What, tatala?

SCOTTY
Will I be as good as you someday?

ZAIDA
Oh, Sheppy. You already are.

Scotty puts his arms around his grandfather's neck and hugs him very tightly.

SCOTTY
Thank you, Zaida.

ZAIDA
I love you, Sheppy.
SCOTTY
You're the best grandfather in the whole world! You're gonna live forever!

EXT. ZAIDA'S HOUSE - DAY

Pick-up truck pulls up. RACIST#1(53) and RACIST#2(25), get out and throw rocks at house.

RACIST#1
Hey, Jew! Come on outta there! We don't like your kind here! Go back to the desert!

RACIST#2
Go home, Jew! Get outta our neighborhood!

INT. ZAIDA’S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM

Zaida and Scotty sit on couch watching tv. CRASH!(O.S.) Zaida jumps up.

ZAIDA
Sheppy! Go to the bedroom! Lock yourself in!

SCOTTY
Who is that, Zaida?!

ZAIDA
Do what I tell you! Now!

SCOTTY
No Zaida! I wanna stay with you!

CRASH!(O.S.)

RACIST#1 (O.S.)
Get outta our country, Jew! Go back to Israel!

RACIST#2 (O.S.)
Go back to Israel! We don't like your kind here!

ZAIDA
Go to the bedroom! Do what I tell you, boy!
SCOTTY
No, Zaida! They wanna hurt you! Who are they?!

Zaida runs over, picks Scotty up and takes him into the bedroom and locks the door.

INT. KITCHEN

Zaida runs to the front door and picks up a baseball bat.

RACIST#1 (O.S.)
I know you hear me, Jew! We don't want you here! Go back to Israel! Go back to your desert!

RACIST#2 (O.S.)
Yeah! Go back to your desert, Jew Boy!

ZAIDA
This is my home! Get off my land! Leave us alone!

RACIST#1 (O.S.)
Come on out, or we're coming in!

ZAIDA
Okay! I'm coming out!

He grips the bat tightly and opens the door.

ZAIDA (CONT’D)
Sheppy! You stay where you are, boy! No matter what! Stay where you are!

SCOTTY (O.S.)
Are you okay, Zaida?! I wanna help!

ZAIDA
Stay where you are, Sheppy! Obey me! Do what I tell you!

He goes through the door and locks it behind him.

EXT. ZAIDA’S HOUSE

The Racists stand with tire irons in hand. Zaida stands by the front door with a bat.
RACIST#1
Hey, Jew! We gonna teach you a lesson, boy! Come take your medicine like a good Jew Boy!

RACIST#2
Yeah, come take your medicine!

RACIST#1
And after we're done with you, we gonna take care of that little Jew Boy!

Zaida runs towards them with bat raised.

ZAIDA
You don't touch him!

Zaida hits Racist#1 with bat. He falls to the ground. Racist#2 hits Zaida from behind with the tire iron. He falls. Zaida swings the bat from the ground, taking the legs out from under Racist#2. Zaida struggles to get to his feet, as Racist#1 hits him in the back with the tire iron. BANG!(O.S.) They all stop and look. DORSEY(68), an African-American man, stands across the street with a shotgun.

DORSEY
The next one won't be in the air! I can guarantee you that!

RACIST#1
Mind your own business, Nigger, or you'll be next!

DORSEY
This is my business! Now get up, get your ignorant ass back in your truck, and drive away! And don't ever come back!

Racist#1 helps Racist#2 to his feet.

RACIST#1
Come on, boy. Let's go. We ain't done with you, Jew!
(to Dorsey)
And you're next, Nigger! You dug your own grave, boy!

They get in truck and SQUEEEL away. Dorsey helps Zaida up.

DORSEY
You ok, Abe?
ZAIDA  
I'm alright. Thanks, Dorsey.

DORSEY  
Welcome. You'd done the same for me. We do what we gotta do.

Scotty runs over.

SCOTTY  
Zaida! Zaida! Are you hurt?!

ZAIDA  
How'd you get out, Sheppy?

SCOTTY  
I climbed out the window! Are you hurt, Zaida?! Are you ok?!

ZAIDA  
I'm fine, boy. Take more than a couple of bad men to keep your Zaida down. I'm fine, thank God... and my friend, Dorsey.

SCOTTY  
Thank you, Dorsey! Thank you!

DORSEY  
No problem, Scotty. We gotta take care of each other in this world. Your Grandpa'd done the same for me. Count on that.

ZAIDA  
Thanks again, Dorsey. God only knows what they woulda done to my Sheppy.

DORSEY  
We do what we gotta do. Keep the faith, brother.

ZAIDA  
God Bless.

Scotty and Zaida walk to the house and Dorsey heads back towards his, across the street.

SCOTTY  
You sure you're alright, Zaida?

ZAIDA  
Good as gold, Sheppy! Good as gold!
EXT. MOVIE THEATER (1975) - DAY

SCOTTY(10), JODI(14) and DAVID(14) stand in line for the movie "Tommy".

    JODI
    I've never seen this place so crowded. Must be a good movie. Tommy? What's it about?

    DAVID
    It's based on the Who Rock Opera album by the same name.

    JODI
    By who?

    DAVID
    Yep.

    JODI
    Yep, what?

    DAVID
    Who.

    JODI
    It's based on who's album?

    DAVID
    Yep.

    JODI
    Yep? Who's album?

    DAVID
    That's correct!

    JODI
    What's correct?

    DAVID
    Who's album, Tommy!

    JODI
    That's what I'm asking! Who's album, Tommy?

    DAVID
    Yes, Jodi! You are right. Who's Tommy!

    JODI
    Are you messing with me?
DAVID
Yes, I'm messing with you. The Who is the name of a rock band, and they made an album called Tommy in 1969. This movie is based on that album. It's a Rock Opera.

JODI
The Who? Never heard of them.

DAVID
Ever heard of the Beatles?

JODI
Of course, everyone knows the Beatles.

DAVID
Do you like the Beatles?

JODI
Sure! Who doesn't like the Beatles?

DAVID
Well I'm not really sure if the Who likes the Beatles or not. I think they're all pretty good friends, actually --

JODI
Don't start this again!

DAVID
Okay, sorry. Well if you like the Beatles, you're gonna love the Who! They are much better than the Beatles. Tommy is a masterpiece! I heard my older brother playing it back in '69, and I was like, wow! I've never heard anything like this in my life! It blew my mind!

JODI
Oh, really?

SCOTTY
What are you guys talking about?

DAVE
Who.

JODI
Now don't start that again!
She laughs.

SCOTTY
What's so funny?

Jodi pushes Scotty.

JODI
Come on! The line is moving!

SCOTTY
Okay, okay! Don't push! What's this movie about, anyway?

JODI
(to David)
Don't start!
(to Scotty)
It's a good movie. Now be good or Mom won't let you go with us anymore.

DAVID
It's about a boy named Tommy. He's deaf, dumb and blind. And he's a Pinball Wizard.

SCOTTY
Pinball Wizard? What are you talking about?

JODI
(pushing Scotty)
Move up! The lines moving!

SCOTTY
Okay, Okay! Pinball Wizard? Huh?

INT. MOVIE THEATE

Scotty, Jodi, and David are in their seats. The movie starts. Time lapses and it ends.

JODI (O.S.)
...Scotty! Scotty!

Scotty slowly looks towards Jodi standing in the aisle.

SCOTTY
(entranced)
Huh?...What?
JODI
I said, let's go! Mom's waiting for us outside!

Scotty gets up slowly from his seat.

SCOTTY
(mesmerized)
Wow.

INT. HOUSE/SCOTTY'S BEDROOM (1980) - DAY

SCOTTY(15) is asleep in his bed. KNOCK KNOCK. The door opens and Zaida peeks his head in.

ZAIDA
Are you getting up, Sheppy? I'm leaving for morning services soon.

Scotty awakes.

SCOTTY
Huh? Wha?...What time is it?

ZAIDA
It's six-thirty, tata. Services start at seven.

SCOTTY
Do you mind if I go with you next week, Zaida? I'm so tired out from the football game, yesterday.

ZAIDA
(disappointed)
Okay, Sheppy. You rest.

Zaida closes the door. Scotty goes back to sleep.

INT. HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY

Scotty is standing at stove cooking scrambled eggs. Phyl walks in.

PHYL
Wow, you're up early!
SCOTTY
Making breakfast for me and Zaida. I didn't go to services with him last week, so I promised him this week. Where is he? Have you seen him? He's usually up by now.

PHYL
No, McQ. I just woke myself. Smelled the eggs frying and coffee brewing.
(nudging Scotty away)
I'll finish cooking.
You go go wake your grandfather.

SCOTTY
Okay, Mom, thanks.

He exits.

INT. HALLWAY
Scotty walks over to Zaida’s bedroom door and KNOCKS.

SCOTTY
Zaida? You up?

He opens the door and walks in.

INT. ZAIDA’S BEDROOM
Zaida is motionless on the bed. Scotty walks over to him and gives him a slight push.

SCOTTY
Zaida, wake up. It's almost time for services.

No response. Scotty pushes him a little harder.

SCOTTY (CONT’D)
Zaida? Zaida? Wake up, Zaida! You gotta get ready for services. Wake up, Zaida! Wake up! We have to go to services! I promised I'd go! Come on, Wake up!

Phyl enters the room.

PHYL
What's wrong?
SCOTTY
He won't wake up, Mom!

Phyl walks over to the bedside and shakes Zaida.

PHYL
Pa? Wake up, Pa! Oh my God, no!
Wake up, Pa! Go call 9-1-1, Scotty!
Go, now!

Scotty runs out of the room. Phyl rests her head on Zaida’s chest.

PHYL (CONT’D)
(crying)
Oh, Pa! Not now, Pa! Not now!
Please! Please! Please, no! Oh, Pa!

INT. FUNERAL HOME/LOBBY - DAY

Scotty walks in. It is empty. The FUNERAL DIRECTOR (58), walks in, and over to Scotty

FUNERAL DIRECTOR
Hi, Scotty. I’m so sorry about you’re grandfather. I know you were very close with him.

SCOTTY
(pointing at door)
Is he in there? Can I see him?

FUNERAL DIRECTOR
Of course.

The F.D. opens the door. Scotty walks in.

INT. VIEWING ROOM

There are rows of empty seats. Zaida’s casket is at the front. Scotty walks down the aisle, and stands in front of it. He looks down at Zaida’s lifeless body.

SCOTTY
Zaida... I guess you were right, and I was wrong. You're not gonna live forever. Guess I always knew that. Just didn't wanna believe it. I'm gonna miss you, Zaida. You're not only my grandfather, my teacher, my protector...You're my best friend.

(MORE)
I don't know what I'm gonna do without you, Zaida. You've just always been there. I know what you're saying. What you've always said to me, "Be strong, Sheppy. Be a strong man, like you're Zaida." Well, I don't feel very strong right now. I feel like a boy who needs his grandfather. I'm so sorry for the times I might have disappointed you. I'm sorry I cussed at you that time when I was in kindergarten. And I am so sorry I didn't go to services with you last week. I know how much that meant to you, and I disappointed you. I was gonna go with you on the day...I was even making us eggs, with a little sugar, the way you showed me. (beat) I will promise you this, Zaida. I promise I will make you proud some day. I will make you proud. (beat) I'll see you again, Zaida. I don't know when or how exactly, but that is for God to know. Until that day, you will always be with me in thought and spirit. I love you so much, Zaida.

He cries.

INT. ROB'S HOUSE/LIVINGROOM (1982) - NIGHT

There are partying teens all over. Classic Rock is on the stereo. SCOTTY(17) walks over to ROB(17).

SCOTTY
Dude! Great party!

ROB
When'd you get here, dude?

SCOTTY
Like a half hour ago, dude! Or an hour and a half ago! I can't remember!

Laughs then stops abruptly.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)
Hey, you seen Al, yet? He's wearing this Reagan mask. It is hilarious, dude!
ROB
Yeah, Yeah. That is hilarious...
Hey, you wanna smoke a joint, dude?

SCOTTY
A joint? You don't say, my good man. Leadeth the way!

ROB
Cometh whither...or hither...or, just come this way, my brother!

Waves his arm to indicate to go out to patio. They walk towards porch door.

SCOTTY
Great party, dude! Music is kickin'! Kickin' the jams out!

ROB
Come on, dude, out here.

They walk out onto the patio.

EXT. HOUSE/PATIO
Scotty and Rob walk over and rest against the railing.

SCOTTY
Spark it up! I ain't been high in a week!

ROB
This is the shit, too, dude! My brother got it off some Jamaican dude. This is the premium ganja!

SCOTTY
Well, less talkin' and more tokin', dude!

Rob puts the joint in his mouth and begins to light it.

ROB
Yeah...ok. Ha.

Lights the joint and takes a long toke off of it.

SCOTTY
Dude! That's gonna be a cougher for sure!

Rob finishes the toke and hands it to Scotty.
'ere!

Scotty takes the joint and takes a big toke. They both cough.

SCOTTY
That is some wicked shit, dude!

ROB
Tol' ya'!

AL(17) walks in, still wearing the Ronald Reagan mask.

AL
Hey! How dare you enjoy the splendors of this fine earth, without inviting your Commander in Chief to partake?

SCOTTY
(laughing) )

Come here, Mr. President. Please accept our sincere apologies. Come partake, my good sir.

Holds the joint out to Al.

AL
(impersonating Reagan)

Well...that's better.

Al takes the joint from Scotty and tokes with the mask still on. Scotty and Rob laugh at this. Al exhales and coughs.

AL (CONT’D)
(impersonating Reagan)

Well...I must tell you gentlemen, after thoughtful consideration, I've come to the conclusion, (beat) Dis' here da shit!

They all laugh.

INT. LIVINGROOM

GIRL#1(17) and GIRL#2(17) stand with drinks in their hand and gossip.

GIRL#1
I know! Did you see what she's wearing?! Oh my God! I was like, "can you be anymore sluttier!"
GIRL#2
Slutty? Looks like she just came from the set of "Debbie Does Dallas"!

GIRL#1
I know...wait, what? You've seen "Debbie Does Dallas"?

GIRL#2
Well, no. But you know what I'm saying.

GIRL#1
I know! Such a slut!

FRANK(18) and WILLY(20) lean against the wall with beers in their hands.

FRANK
What? No way, dude!

WILLY
Yep!

FRANK
Damn, you're lucky, dude! You saw Yes in their prime?!

WILLY
Yep! Premium Upper Level, too! Not one of those "obstructed view" seats.

FRANK
Awesome!

WILLY
Yes it was. Yes it was.

"Baba O'Riley" by the "Who", comes on stereo. Scotty runs in.

SCOTTY
Hey! Turn that jam, up!

He runs to the stereo and cranks it all the way up. The sound fills the whole room.

SCOTTY (CONT’D)
(singing loudly)
"Out here in the fields, I fight
for my meals. I get my back into my
living! I don't need to fight, to
prove I'm right!
(MORE)
SCOTTY (CONT’D)
And I don't need to be forgiven!
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!”

Power chords come in. He does his best “Pete Townshend” imitation. Vocals come in. The CROWD joins Scotty.

SCOTTY/CROWD
(singing)
“Don't cry! Don't raise your eye!
It's only teenage wasteland!”

Scotty continues his “Who” antics. Vocals come in:

SCOTTY
(singing)
“Sally take my hand. We'll travel
some crossland. Put out the fire,
and don’t look past my shoulder…”

The song plays on. At chorus he waves his arms conducting the crowd.

CROWD
(singing)
“Teenage Wasteland! It's only
Teenage Wasteland! Teenage
Wasteland! They're all wasted!”

INT. HOUSE/SCOTTY’S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Scotty lies in his bed watching a “Twilight Zone” episode on tv. CREAK(O.S.) He looks around. Nothing there.

SCOTTY
Hmm. Probably just the house settling.

Continues to watch TV. After a moment, CREAK (O.S.) He looks to corner. Zaida is there.

SCOTTY (CONT’D)
Zaida?

ZAIDA
Remember, Sheppy. Remember.

SCOTTY
Remember, Zaida? Remember what?
Remember you? Of course. I'll always remember you.

ZAIDA
Remember, Sheppy. Remember it.
SCOTTY
Remember it? Zaida, remember what? Zaida?

Zaida is gone. Scotty sits a moment, then gets up and turns off the tv and goes to bed.

INT. HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY

Scotty is sitting at the table, eating a bowl of cold cereal. Phyl enters room.

PHYL
Hey, McQ. You're up early for a Saturday.

SCOTTY
Yeah, couldn't sleep.

PHYL
Why? Something bothering you, honey?

SCOTTY
Nah. I don't know why?

PHYL
If anything's bothering you, Mom is always here for you.

SCOTTY
I know, Mom.

PHYL
Well, I gotta get running. I have errands and shopping to do.

She walks over and picks up her bag and heads for the door.

PHYL (CONT’D)
See ya later, McQ.

SCOTTY
I saw Zaida last night

Phyl stops in her tracks. She turns around towards Scotty.

PHYL
You mean you had a dream about him?

SCOTTY
It wasn't a dream, Mom. I was wide awake.
PHYL
It could have been the dark playing tricks.

SCOTTY
He spoke to me.

PHYL
He spoke to you? What did he say?

SCOTTY
He said, "Remember, Sheppy. Remember." And at first I thought he was telling me to remember him. But then he said "Remember it." I asked him, "Remember what?" But he was gone.

PHYL
Oh, McQ. I know how much you miss him.

SCOTTY
What do you think he wants me to remember, Mom?

PHYL
Oh, honey. Don't worry yourself. If your Zaida is still around you, it's because he loves you.

SCOTTY
Yeah, I know.

PHYL
I gotta go now, honey. I love you, McQ.

SCOTTY
Love ya, mom.

Phyl walks out.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)
Remember it. Remember what?

He sits there a few more moments, then gets up, puts his bowl in the sink, picks up his keys and walks out the front door.

EXT. HOUSE/FRONT YARD - DAY

Rob and Al are walking up the driveway. Scotty stands with his arms raised.
SCOTTY
(yelling very loudly)
Yeeeeeeeeaaaaaahhhhhhh! Meet the new Boss! Same as the old Boss!

ROB/AL
(yelling very loudly)
Whoooooo000000!

SCOTTY
(yelling)
The Whooooo! The F-ing Whoooo!
Dudes, I am so pumped!
Puuuuuuuuuummped!

Phyl stands in the doorway.

PHYL
McQ! Keep it down, son! The neighbors are gonna think I'm murdering you.

SCOTTY

PHYL
I know. I know. The Who...hoo hoo hoo. Just not so loud, ok?

SCOTTY
Okay, mom. We're leaving just as soon as Frank and Willy get here, anyway.

HONK! HONK! (O.S.) Scotty turns.

SCOTTY (CONT’D)
Speaking of the devils!

Frank and Willy get out of car and walk up driveway.

FRANK/WILLY
(yelling)
Whoooo0000000000000000000000!

PHYL
Keep it down, guys! The neighbors!

WILLY
Oh, sorry about that, Mrs. D. How are you doing this fine morning?
PHYL
Well, I was doing a lot better
about a half hour ago. Ok, you guys
go and have a good time. Be
careful.

Scotty, Rob, Al, Frank and Willy walk towards Willy's car.

SCOTTY
K, Mom!...Shotgun!

FRANK
Shotgun!

AL
Shotgun!

FRANK
No way, dude! He's my best friend.
I rode here with him.

AL
Just because you rode here with
him, doesn't mean you have
automatic "shotgun". You have to
call "shotgun" as everyone is
approaching the car, before every
major trip. The trip from your
house, down the street, is not a
major trip. Scotty was the first to
call "shotgun", so he gets
"shotgun". And besides, he's the
biggest "Who" Freak! This is like
his birthday!

FRANK
Yeah, you're right about one thing.
He's a freaaaaak!

He slap boxes Scotty in the face. Scotty counters with his
own. The two continue their horseplay and they all pile in
Willy's car.

PHYL
Be careful! Wear your seatbelts! No
drinking and driving! No drinking
at all!

Phyl stands in the doorway until the car is down the road.
She turns to go back in.

PHYL (CONT'D)
Oy! The Who...hoo hoo hoo!
EXT. EVENTS ARENA/PARKING LOT - DAY

Thousands of concert goers are tailgating. 4 HIPPIES in their 40's are sitting in folding lounge chairs, drinking beer.

HIPPIE#1
Seen Pete and the Boys every tour since 1965.

HIPPIE#2
They were never the same after Moonie died.

HIPPIE#3 raises his beer in a toast:

HIPPIE#3

HIPPIE#4 raises his beer.

HIPPIE#4
Rock in Peace, Moonie.

They all raise their beers.

ALL 4 HIPPIES
Rock in Peace, Moonie.

HIPPIE#1
Oh...but they still Rock, though.

HIPPIE#2
Oh yeah...they still rock.

Scotty and his 4 friends lean against Willy’s car, and listen to the stereo.

SCOTTY
I still can't believe that I will be seeing the Who, in that building, in a few hours.

ROB
Hell’s yeah! I hope they play Dr. Jimmy.

WILLY
The last time I saw them was in 1975. Best show I have ever seen.

FRANK
Better than Yes?
WILLY
Not even in the same category, dude.
The Who are the greatest live band
of all-time.

SCOTTY
(yelling)
Yeaaaah!!

WILLY
(yelling)
Yeeeeeaaaaaaah!!

A “Who” song comes on.

WILLY (CONT’D)
(to Frank)
Yo! Crank it up, dude!

The volume on song gains to max. volume. They all “dance”.

INT. SCOTTY’S CAR – NIGHT

Scotty and his girlfriend, MICHELLE(15) make out. After a
moment, she pushes him away.

MICHELLE
So tell me... what’s this secret you
had to tell me?

SCOTTY
Huh? What are you doing?

He goes to grab her. She pushes him back.

MICHELLE
Not until you tell me!

SCOTTY
What? What are you talking about?

MICHELLE
You told me on the phone that you
had a secret to tell me. What is
it?

SCOTTY
Oh, that... well, you have to
promise you won’t tell anyone,
Michelle! No one!

MICHELLE
I promise. Not a soul, Scotty.
SCOTTY
Well, ok then. I...I...

MICHELLE
Yes? Yes? You?

SCOTTY
I...I...was born a woman!

Michelle gasps.

SCOTTY (CONT’D)
I knew when I was a little girl, I wasn't like the other little girls. I didn't wanna play with dolls! I wanted to play with army men! I didn't want to be a ballerina! I wanted to be a baseball player! (beat) I just wanted a penis!

He cries. Michelle reaches out and puts her arms around him.

MICHELLE
It's ok.

SCOTTY
You still wanna be with me?

MICHELLE
I love you for you. What's on the inside counts.

SCOTTY
(laughing)
You're a lesbian! You are so gullible!

MICHELLE
Are you kidding?! I got you! Do you really think I'd fall for that?!
Double Whammy! You are a good actor, though.

SCOTTY
You're pretty good yourself. Maybe we should make a movie together.

They laugh and make out.

INT. HOUSE/SCOTTY’S BEDROOM - NIGHT (MIDNIGHT)
Scotty is asleep in bed. After a moment:
ZAIDA (OS)
Sheppy. (beat) Sheppy.

Scotty's eyes open. He looks to the corner. Zaida is there.

SCOTTY
Zaida!

ZAIDA
Happy Birthday, Sheppy.

SCOTTY
Thank you, Zaida. It's good to see you.

ZAIDA
It's good to see you too, Sheppy. I can't stay long, Sheppy. Remember. Remember it all.

SCOTTY

Zaida is gone.

SCOTTY (CONT’D)
Remember it all?

Scotty sits up and gets out of bed. He walks towards his desk. He picks up a notebook and opens it to the first page and writes,"remember it all". He closes the notebook, and walks back to bed and lies down.

INT. SCHOOL/HALLWAY - DAY

Students fill the hallway. Scotty walks up to Rob.

SCOTTY
I gotta tell you something.

ROB
What? What is it?

SCOTTY
You've been my best friend longer than anybody, and I have to tell someone. I told my mom, but she doesn't get it.

ROB
Get what? What is it?
SCOTTY
I saw Zaida. Twice.

ROB
Whatta ya mean, you saw Zaida? Like a ghost?

SCOTTY
No...he's not like transparent or anything. He's looks like a person, just like you do right now.

ROB
Did you touch him?

SCOTTY
No. He's never even stayed long enough to give me the chance. But he did say something to me. He said this both times, "Remember it. Remember it all". Whatta ya think that means?

ROB
I don't know. Maybe it means he wants you to remember all of the answers to your Lit. test today.

SCOTTY
(sarcastically)
Ok, thanks. Thanks for all your help. Appreciate it.

ROB
Nah, I'm just messin' with ya. So you really saw him? You weren't just high or something?

SCOTTY
No, I wasn't high or something. I wasn't imagining it.

ROB
I don't know man. Pretty creepy if ya ask me.

SCOTTY
He's trying to tell me something, and it's like he's only allowed to give me so much information. It's so frustrating!
Rob walks off. Al walks over.

AL
My long lost brother from another mother!

SCOTTY
My pal, Al! What's happenin'?

They bro-hug.

AL
Well you know, driving the ladies crazy, and driving the men insane with jealousy!

SCOTTY
The only thing I'm jealous of is your humility. It sure ain't your humor!

AL
So, what are you up to after jail lets out?

SCOTTY
I don't know. It's my birthday, so...

AL
Dude, it's your bithday?! Happy Birthday, man! We definitely gotta do something, then!

SCOTTY
Yeah, we'll find something.

AL
Definitely, dude. Well, I gotta get to my cell now. Catch ya later on, Birthday Boy!

The two depart. He sees Michelle, walks over to her, and they kiss.
MICHELLE
Happy Birthday, Birthday Boy! You want your present now or later? I'd suggest later, or we might get expelled or even arrested.

SCOTTY
Okay. Later, then.

MICHELLE
That's a promise. Now let me give you one more birthday kiss.

They kiss. The bell rings.

MICHELLE (CONT’D)
I gotta get to class...Mrs. Meiswinkle. She'll put a witchy spell on me if I'm late. I'll see you, later, Birthday Boy!

She laughs a sinister laugh, and departs as Scotty stays. BLABOOP (O.S.) He looks around. Halls are empty. He looks around again, then walks to class.

INT, HOUSE/LIVINGROOM - NIGHT
Scotty, Lee and Stan watch the 1983 NBA FINALS game on tv. Scotty and Lee are on the couch. Stan is in the recliner.

SCOTT
(excited)
What?! Did you see that?!

LEE
I love this team! Dr. Jay!

SCOTTY
Moses! Deliver us to the Promised Land, Moses!

LEE
To the land of milk and honey, Moses!

SCOTTY
Ten seconds...8,7,6,5,4,3,2,1. World Champions! Wooooo!

They celebrate. After a moment:
SCOTTY (CONT’D)
(shushing, watching tv)
Wait! Shush! Listen. (beat)
(laughing)
Fo' fo' fo'! Moses, my brother!
Fo' fo' fo'! I don't care how you
speak! You delivered us to Promised
Land, my brother!

STAN
Fofofo? What is that? Fofofo?

SCOTTY
Moses predicted, before the
playoffs started, that the Sixers
would sweep through the playoffs,
without losing a game. That would
mean 4-0 in the first, second and
final series. He was close. They
only lost one game in the whole
playoffs. Four-five-four. But
that's close enough. He can say fo'
fo' fo', if he wants.

STAN
So what does fofofo mean?

SCOTTY
That's the way he pronounces
"four"! Fo! Like a southerner
would!

STAN
Well I don't know why he can't just
say "four".

SCOTTY
Oh, It doesn't matter, dad! He has
delivered us to the Promised Land,
Father! The Promised Land!

He sings the 76'ers jingle using made up lyrics:

SCOTTY (CONT’D)
Here dey come, down the streeet.
World Champions! 76'ers! They're
the best...team in the woorld! No
one's better! 76'ers!

Stan gets up and sings the same meleody. Dances to kitchen.

STAN
Here I go, to the kitchen. Gonna
get my...self a sandwich...
He dances into the kitchen singing. Lee gets up from couch.

    LEE
    Well, I gotta go pick up Carl. See ya later.

    SCOTTY
    Ok, smell ya later.

Lee exits. Scotty stays and watches tv. After a moment: CREAK (O.S.) He looks towards the kitchen.

    SCOTTY (CONT’D)
    Dad? Are you still eating?

He gets up and walks to the kitchen. It's empty. He walks back and sits down on couch. After a moment: BLABOOP (O.S.) He looks around.

    SCOTTY (CONT’D)
    What the hell is that?

He gets up, turns the tv off, and listens. Silent. He walks around and looks. He walks down hall to his room and enters. After a moment: BLABOOP.

INT. SCHOOL/ASSEMBLY ROOM - NIGHT

End of graduation ceremony for "Class of 1983". Scotty, Rob, and the rest of the graduates throw their caps in the air.

    SCOTTY
    Woooooooooo!!

Scotty gives Rob a bro-hug.

    SCOTTY (CONT’D)
    We made it, dude! We made it!

    ROB
    Yessir!

    SCOTTY
    It's been a long, strange trip, but we made it!

Al comes over. Bro-hugs the guys.

    AL
    Halleluyah! Free at last! Free at last! Thank G-d Almighty, we're free at last!
SCOTTY
(singing)
Freedom tastes of reality!

Scotty approaches his parents, with Michelle at his side.

SCOTTY (CONT’D)
Hey, Mom and Dad. Didn't think I could do it, did ya?

He hugs Phyl.

PHYL
Oh of course we did, McQ. You're my little genius.

SCOTTY
Don't get carried away, Mom.
(hugging Stan)
Hey, dad.

STAN
So proud of you, Scotty.

SCOTTY
Thanks, Dad. Means a lot. Michelle and I are gonna go to a little get-together with some people, now. Just close friends.

PHYL
(in disdain)
Oh, hi Michelle.

MICHELLE
Hi Mrs. D, Mr. D.

STAN
Hey there, cutie-pie!

Phyl elbows Stan.

STAN (CONT’D)
Whaa?

SCOTTY
Well, we gotta get running now. See ya in a bit.

Scotty and Michelle walk away to the exit.

PHYL
Hmmph. Maybe he'll find a nice girl in college.
STAN
Now be nice. The boy just graduated high school.

PHYL
Hmmph! The girls mishugina!

STAN
Ahhhh, you're mishugina!

He puts his arms around and kisses her. She pushes him away.

PHYL
Oh , Stanley! Not in Public!

EXT. WOODS/HANG-OUT SPOT - NIGHT

Scotty, Michelle, Rob, Al, Frank and Willy stand in a circle as they talk and pass a joint around.

SCOTTY
I can't believe that we're done school. I mean, school's not out for Summer. School's out forever.

WILLY
(singing badly) )
School's out for summer! School's out forever!

FRANK
Ah, school's been out forever for you for three years!

WILLY
Don't mean I can't sing, brother. (singing badly) )
School's out forevah! School's out for --

Frank gives Willy a karate chop to midriff.

FRANK
You can't sing! Not a lick!

Willy gives a karate chop back and the two engage in a "martial arts" showcase.

WILLY
Hah!

He speaks as though his lips are out of sync with voice, like in a 70's Martial Arts movie:
WILLY (CONT’D)
You cannot defeat me! I am the
great ninja warrior, "Wicked
Dragon" and I am a Ninja Master!

FRANK
(imitating Capt. Kirk)
Oh yeah, Well, I'm Capt. James T.
Kirk! I...cannot...be beaten. And
my voice...and lips...move
together.

WILLY
Ahh, you're just being stupid now.

SCOTTY
(laughing)
You guys crack me up. So what's
everybody doing for the summer? Any
major plans?

AL
I plan to devise a scheme to take
over the Earth and declare World
Domination! Either that or go visit
my cousins in Marshfield, Mass.

SCOTTY
That's cool...either one.
(to Rob)
How 'bout you Slobbert?

ROB
Probably just work and hang out.
Take it easy, ya know. How about
you?

SCOTTY
Probably the same. Would like to do
something, before I go off to
college.

ROB
Yeah, we gotta do something. Might
not see you very much after the
Summer.

MICHELLE
(hugging Scotty)
I'll be seeing you every weekend at
school.

SCOTTY
Well...I don't know about that.
MICHELLE
(pushing away)
Whatta you mean, you don't know about that? What's that mean?

SCOTTY
We'll talk about it later.

MICHELLE
No! You said it! We'll talk about it now!

SCOTTY
I said, we'll talk about it later!

MICHELLE
I'm outta here!

She walks away.

ROB
Aren't you gonna go after her?

SCOTTY
(watching her leave)
Nah. I think I need to move into a new phase of my life. She's too immature for me. Gonna miss that ass, though!

The guys laugh as they stare at her butt.

SCOTTY (CONT’D)
So. Where were we?

ROB
Dude, I don't think she's coming back.

SCOTTY
That's ok. I was gonna break up with her tonight, anyway.

ROB
I thought you liked her.

SCOTTY
I do. It's just I'm going away to college. I wanna be free.

ROB
I hear ya. I'd just like to find one that'll stick around.
FRANK
I'd just like to find one that's lighter than 200 pounds.

AL
I'd like to find one that doesn't think I'm a dork. One that would have the intelligence to understand my sophisticated humor.

WILLY
I'd like to find one that can handle my 12-inch Python!
(thrusting hips forward)
PaPow!

They all laugh.

EXT. COLLEGE/DORMS (1984) - DAY
SCOTTY(19), PHYL(50), and STAN(53) walk towards entrance. Scotty carries a suitcase and Stan carries a box.

SCOTTY
Well, this is it.

INT. SCOTTY’S DORM ROOM

They walk in. Scotty puts his suitcase down and walks over to Stan.

SCOTTY
Here dad, I'll take that.

He takes the box and places it on his desk.

SCOTTY (CONT’D)
Well, thanks for bringing me. Hopefully my car will be fixed by next week.

PHYL
I think he wants us to go, Stanley.

STAN
Sure he does. He wants to go talk to some of those "hotties" I saw roaming around down there.

Phyl punches him in the gut.
STAN (CONT’D)
(wrenching)
Uhhhhhh! What? Isn't that what they're calling them now?

PHYL
Come on, Stanley. Time to go.

SCOTTY
Okay, Mom, Dad...I'll see you next week. I'll let you know if my car is fixed before then.

STAN
Yeah, then you can take those hotties out in style.

Phyl punches him in the gut, again.

STAN (CONT’D)
(wrenching)
Uhhhhhhhh! Okay son, see ya soon.

PHYL
Ah! My baby, all grown up! Go! Be! Be whatever you want to be!

SCOTTY
Okay, Mom. Thanks, Dad. I'll call you if it's fixed before Saturday. If not, see you then. Ok, love you guys.

He kisses them on the cheek and helps them out the door.

PHYL
Ok, McQ. You call if you need anything. I Love you, honey.

STAN
I'll see ya, son. I love you.

SCOTTY
Love ya, guys. See ya soon.

He closes the door and walks over to his suitcase. Picks it up and places it on the bed, takes out a bong and bag of pot. He fills the bong, lights it, and takes a hit. KNOCK KNOCK (O.S.) He fans the air with his hands.

SCOTTY (CONT’D)
Just a minute! Who is it?
RAY (O.S.)
Ray! I'm the R.A. of the floor!

Scotty opens the door. RAY(20) stands there, with hand out.

RAY (CONT’D)
Just wanted to welcome you to the floor.

SCOTTY
(shaking hands)
Oh, hi. Scotty.

Ray hands him a sheet of paper.

RAY
This is a list of Rules and Regulations. I'm strict but fair. If you follow the rules, your stay here will be a smooth and enjoyable one. If not, there will be consequences. I don't go for any shenanigans around here. Just like the rest of you, I'm here to get an education, so I can become a Certified Accountant, and hopefully be a partner in my own agency some day. And nothing is going to stop me in this quest. Not you or any other member of this floor. Just wanted to get that straight now. A few strict ground rules; absolutely no drugs or alcohol are to be present in or around this dorm facility. The only drugs allowed are Pharmaceutical... In fact, I took a few "No-Doze" earlier! Cramming for an algebra test. Never took them before! Man, I feel like I'm tripping! They should put a warning on that stuff! Last time for me! I learned my lesson. Anyway, welcome to K-Dorm, Floor 2.

The two shake. Ray turns and walks away down the hall, bumps into the wall, and looks back at Scotty.

RAY (CONT’D)
"No-Doze". The stuff is lethal!

Scotty closes door. He then walks over to where he hid his bong, takes a hit, and stretches out to relax on his bed. He lies there for a moment, and then hears a key being placed into the keyhole and the knob turns. It swings open and in
walks a young, Japanese American guy, GREG(18). He spots Scotty on the bed.

GREG
Hey there! Didn't know anybody was in here!...Greg.

He walks towards Scotty with his hand out. They shake.

SCOTTY
Hi. Scotty.

GREG
Been here long?

SCOTTY
About a half hour ago.

GREG
That's cool.
(sniffing the air)
Mmmmmm...smells good In here.

SCOTTY
Whatta ya mean?

GREG
It's cool, dude! As soon as I unpack, got some green from Argentina. It's the killer! Red and purple hairs! Premium smoke!

SCOTTY
That's cool. I think we're gonna be just fine as roommates.

They laugh. Greg walks over to open his suitcase and Scotty walks over to his.

INT. SCOTTY’S DORM ROOM - DAY (LATER)

Scotty and Greg stand near Greg’s desk. Greg is holding a bag of marijuana. He holds it up to Scotty.

GREG
Primo! Smell that! You smell anything like that in your life, dude?!

SCOTTY
(sniffing)
No. Smells sweet!
(MORE)
Sorta like an ultra-strong spearmint leaf. Sweet! I gotta bong over there.

GREG
Well, snag that mother and bring it over here, dude! We gotta annoint this meeting righteous!

Scotty gets the bong and brings it over.

SCOTTY
One bong, as ordered!

Greg takes it and looks at it.

GREG
Nice! Well let me fill this puppy up!

He fills bowl and hands to Scotty.

GREG (CONT’D)
Here ya go! First one here has honors!

Scotty takes the bong and lights it.

GREG (CONT’D)
That's it. Take a nice healthy one. (beat) Now hold it in. A little longer...

Scotty holds in the hit as long as he can, then exhales and coughs.

GREG (CONT’D)
(laughing)
I told ya! Nas-tee!

SCOTTY
Nice.

GREG
Here! Hand it over here!

Scotty hands him the bong. He lights it up and takes a hit.

SCOTTY
So, Greg, where ya from?
GREG
(exhaling)
How 'bout you?

SCOTTY
Oh, about 40 miles from here. A small town outside of Vineland. Doesn't even really have a name. We just call it Pittsgrove Township. Not many people. A lot of woods and fields. It's peaceful.

GREG
That sounds real cool! My parents moved here from Japan, a few years before I was born. My dad owns a large electronics company there. He's got crazy money.

SCOTTY
Wow! You're rich?!

GREG
I said, he has crazy money. Me? I don't have squat! I have the clothes in my closet, my car, and my minimal personal belongings. He's paying for school, but even that I'm expected to repay.

SCOTTY
You have to pay him back?

GREG
It's some kinda Japanese Honor, thing. Honor Thy Father. Don't I deserve some honor? I wish he would honor me with some cash! But hey, supposed to make me a better man. I just hope it doesn't make me a broke man living on the street.

SCOTTY
Hey, you hungry, dude?

GREG
Hells, yeah! Let's do one more hit, and head to White Castle. We'll take my car. You have one?
SCOTTY
Yeah, but it's being fixed right now. I should have it by next weekend, or hopefully sooner.

GREG
That's cool.

They do another bong hit and head for the door.

SCOTTY
Man, I got the munchies something fierce!

GREG
I hear ya! White Castle, here we come!

The two exit. The room is empty and quiet. A shadow appears near Scotty's bed.

INT. COLLEGE/ACTING CLASS - DAY

Scotty stands face to face with a student. MISS HECHT(54) observes.

SCOTTY
(yelling)
Get outta here! And don't come back!

MISS HECHT
Ok. (beat) Ok...that was ok. That was some good anger, Scotty. Are you an angry person?

SCOTTY
(thinking)
I can be.

MISS HECHT
Ok. Ok. Well, that's it for today, class! I will see you on Wednesday, and you better have your scenes together by then! I'm not putting up with any slacking anymore! If you want to be an actor, you have to work hard and be disciplined. You have to yearn for it. You have to want it from the deepest regions of your soul. If you don't have that passion, I can't have you in my class.

(MORE)
MISS HECHT (CONT'D)
I only instruct those who want to be instructed. Okay, see you all Wednesday.

Students walk towards the door.

MISS HECHT (CONT'D)
Oh, Scotty. Can I see you a minute?

He stops and walks over to her.

SCOTTY
Yeah?

MISS HECHT
Scotty, is everything alright?

SCOTTY
Yes, Miss Hecht. Why do you ask?

MISS HECHT
I just get the feeling something's bothering you. That scene today...such anger.

SCOTTY
Well, wasn't that the idea? The character was angry.

MISS HECHT
It's more than that. Like I said, I have a feeling. An actress not only acts, but is sensitive to the behavior of others. We are observers as well as actors.

SCOTTY
Well, no. I'm fine. Everything's fine.

MISS HECHT
You, sure?

SCOTTY
Yeah, I'm sure.

MISS HECHT
OK, then. I'll see you Wednesday.

SCOTTY
Ok. See you Wednesday.

He walks out the door.
INT. HALLWAY

Scotty spots Greg, and they walk over to each other.

GREG
Yo! Boho! What's happenin'? Yo! There's gonna be this bangin' party at the apartments tonight. C-Court. Babes will be bouncin', dude!

SCOTTY
Yeah, they'll be bouncin' when they see me.

GREG
No, dude...why you talk like that? You just gotta get your confidence up.

SCOTTY
It's just that, I broke up with my girlfriend after I graduated. In fact it was Graduation Day. Anyway, I broke up with her because I wanted to be free. A fresh start. No ties. Then I came here, and I can't find a woman for my life. Michelle fell madly in love with me instantly. I thought it would always be that easy.

GREG
Aw, forget all that, man. Tonight is the first night of the rest of your life!

They walk towards the exit.

GREG (CONT’D)
We are goin' to that party, man. It's gonna be da bomb!

SCOTTY
Yeah...ok.

EXT. APARTMENTS/COURTYARD - NIGHT

Scotty is on his knees, as he does a beer funnel. Greg stands next to him and chants with the CROWD.

GREG/CROWD
Go! Go! Go! Go! Go!...
He finishes the funnel and stands with arms raised.

SCOTTY
(as Pacino in “Scarface”)
Still standin’, huh! Who you think
you’re fuckin’ with?!

The crowd cheers. Scotty does a royal bow. Greg throws his
arm around him.

GREG
Dude, that was awesome! Who knew
you could drink like that?!

SCOTTY
I guess it's a gift...or a curse.

GREG
No dude, that was frickin' awesome!
That was a whole six pack you
drank, in like, less than a minute!
How do you, feel?

SCOTTY
I feel, awesome! Ready to party!
Let's go find someplace playing
good music!

He grabs Greg by the arm and pulls him along.

SCOTTY (CONT’D)
I think I hear some Who playing! Or
maybe that's just in my head.

GREG
Dude, where are we going?

SCOTTY
I know what I'm doing, dude. I'm on
a mission. I hear the Who playing.
I will find it. Just stick with me,
dude! We'll be jammin' in no time!

GREG
The only thing I wanna be jammin',
is my penis into some poontang!

SCOTTY
Is that all you think about?

GREG
Well, at least I don't just think
about it!
SCOTTY
Oh yeah, when's the last time you got some?

GREG
(stammering)
Uh, uh, last week!

SCOTTY
Oh yeah, from who?

GREG
Uh, you don't know her. She lives up by my house.

SCOTTY
You didn't go home last week.

GREG
Uh. Uh...

SCOTTY
(laughing)
You are so full of shit!

GREG
Well, when's the last time you got some?

SCOTTY
Last week.

GREG
Oh yeah. With who?

SCOTTY
Your mom.

GREG
(shoving Scotty)
Hey? Mom's are off limits!

SCOTTY
Ok. Deal. Off limits! That's the last time I do your mom.

Greg punches Scotty in the arm and he returns. They exchange in an arm punching battle. After a few moments of this Scotty gets Greg in a headlock.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)
Let's go find some chicks.
GREG
That's what I'm talkin' about! Now you're talkin' my language!

INT. SCOTTY’S DORM ROOM – NIGHT

Scotty lies in bed watching a “Twilight Zone” episode on TV.

SCOTTY
Zaida!

ZAIDA
Sheppy.

SCOTTY
Hi Zaida. I was wondering if you'd be able to find me here.

ZAIDA
Of course. I always know where you are, Sheppy. Do you know why I visit you?

SCOTTY
You want me to remember something, but you won't tell me what it is.

ZAIDA
I'm sorry, tata. I can only tell you so much.

SCOTTY
But why? And why is it important that I remember this something?

ZAIDA
I hope you will understand one day. I can only tell you so much. It's the rules, Sheppy.

SCOTTY
The rules, Zaida? What rules?

ZAIDA
The important thing is that you remember, Sheppy. Just try and remember everything. And use your gift.
SCOTTY
My gift? What gift?...Zaida?

Zaida’s gone.

SCOTTY (CONT’D)
Use my gift?

He gets up from the bed and walks over to his desk. He opens a drawer and takes out the same notebook he had since the first time Zaida visited him. He opens it up. Under where it reads, "Remember it all", he writes, "use your gift". He closes it up and places it back in the drawer. He walks back to his bed, gets in and lies down.

SCOTTY (CONT’D)
Use my gift?...

INT. APARTMENT/LIVINGROOM (1987) - DAY

Scotty(22) looks at a sheet of paper.

SCOTTY
Oh shit! I didn't get this Acting 4 Class signed by Miss Hecht! They're not gonna let me take it without her signature!

Greg walks over.

GREG
What's that?

SCOTTY
Acting 4 Class! I never got a signature signing off on it! Registration for classes is due today! I'm so screwed!

GREG
Chill out, dude. Relax. No problem, just sign it.

SCOTTY
I can't sign it! That's forgery!

GREG
No problem, I'll sign it. Got a pen?

SCOTTY
You think it will work?
GREG
Sure, no problem. The registration people just look at it to see if it's signed. They're not signature experts.

SCOTTY
Hmm...I don't know?

GREG
Dude, just get me a pen! It's cool beans! Easy peasy!

Scotty goes into his bedroom.

GREG (CONT’D)
And I need something with her signature on it, too.

SCOTTY (O.S.)
I think I have something.

He returns and hands Greg a pen and paper with her signature.

GREG
What's her name?

SCOTTY
Mary Hecht. H-E-C-H-T.

Greg puts both papers side by side and signs paper.

GREG
(signing)
Mary. Hecht. Done!

He holds the paper up and compares it to the original.

GREG (CONT’D)
Perfect!

SCOTTY
Lemme see.

He compares the signatures.

SCOTTY (CONT’D)
Dude, You saved my life!

GREG
Well, that's what I do. I'm the problem solver.
SCOTTY
That you are my friend. That you are! I'll catch ya later. I gotta hand this in.

GREG
Alright, dude. Later. I'll send you my bill.

Scotty exits.

INT. COLLEGE - DAY

Scotty stands at Registration table. Woman looks at his paper. She motions for SUPERVISOR. He walks over, looks at paper. Looks at Scotty.

SUPERVISOR
Miss Hecht is deceased. She died when her house caught fire six months ago.

SCOTTY
Deceased?!

INT. APARTMENT/LIVINGROOM - DAY

Scotty and Greg sit on the couch.

GREG
Deceased?! How did you not know she was dead?

SCOTTY
I haven't talked to her lately.

GREG
I guess not! She's dead!

SCOTTY
This could only happen to me!

GREG
So what did he do? The Registration dude?

SCOTTY
Nothing, really. He told me the name of the new Program Administrator, Gene Terrino. That's about it. I was relieved.

(MORE)
I thought I was getting expelled...or arrested!

Dude, you coulda got me in a lot of trouble!

It was your idea!

Well, yeah, but...so anyway, that's cool that you didn't get in trouble.

Yeah, that's cool But man, I was nervous!

Yeah, I bet you were. I wish I coulda seen the look on your face!

Yeah I was nervous, dude. I thought I was gonna pass out. It would have made a great scene in a movie. "Miss Hecht is...deceased". I just wanted to crawl into a hole and die! I have the signature of a woman dated 6 months after she was dead! Maybe I dug her up and and stuck the pen in her hand! Or maybe I had a séance and contacted her spirit to sign it! Oh, I am such an idiot!

Greg laughs. Scotty looks towards him.

And you're the idiot who gave me the idea! I'm an idiot for listening to an idiot!

They laugh.

INT. GENE TERRINO'S OFFICE (1988) - DAY

GENE(48) sits at his desk and looks over papers. After a moment: KNOCK KNOCK.

Come in!
Scotty walks in.

**SCOTTY**
Hey, Gene. You wanted to see me?

**GENE**
Yes. Come in. Shut the door. Come sit down.

Scotty walks over and sits down.

**GENE (CONT’D)**
I'm sorry to call you at home, but it's urgent and can't wait.

**SCOTTY**
What is it, Gene?

**GENE**
Well, there's no easy way to say this. So, I'm just going to say it. I cannot in good conscience, allow you to graduate with a Performing Arts Degree.

**SCOTTY**
(shocked)
What? What are you talking about? I graduate in 2 weeks. You can't do that.

**GENE**
I've thought about this long and hard, Scotty. I've been watching you since I got here. I've waited for some kind of spark. Some kind of growth. But there never was any. I know that you're serious. I know that you want to be an actor. You just don't have the...the gift. I am an actor, and I take my craft very seriously. I take the acting profession very seriously. And I will not allow someone who I feel is not deemed worthy, have a degree in this craft! In my craft! There is nothing more I can do about it. I'm sorry.

**SCOTTY**
So what am I supposed to do now?

**GENE**
Well, I don't really know.
SCOTTY
I just wanted to make movies.

GENE
How about writing? Are you any good at that? Maybe something behind the scenes. How are you technically? Can you run lights?

SCOTTY
(angry)
Can I run lights?! I go to school here for four and a half years, which my parents paid for. Work my butt off towards a Performing Arts Degree, and you ask me if I can run fucking lights?! You have some fucking nerve! I just wasted four and a half years of my life, not to mention my parents money! Well, what the fuck am I supposed to do now?!

GENE
Well, I'm sure you could find other interests...

SCOTTY
Other interests?! Asshole!

Scotty gets up and storms out of the office.

BEGIN MONTAGE.

INT. BAR - DAY
Scotty sits at bar and gets drunk.

INT. CAR - NIGHT - TRAVELING
Scotty drives and a police cruiser pulls him over.

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY
Scotty and Greg walk out front door and get in car.

INT. APARTMENT/BEDROOM - DAY
Scotty is packing his suitcase. Greg walks in.
GREG
What are you doing, dude?

SCOTTY
I'm leaving.

GREG
Where are you going?

SCOTTY
I don't know, but I gotta get the hell outta here!

GREG
I can't believe he said you can't graduate. What are you gonna do?

SCOTTY
Don't have a freakin' clue.

GREG
Man, what an asshole!

SCOTTY
Yep.

He closes suitcase and walks to the door.

SCOTTY (CONT’D)
Well, see ya.

GREG
Ok, dude. See ya.

Scotty exits.

INT. HOUSE/SCOTTY’S BEDROOM (1991) - DAY

Scotty(26) is asleep in bed. He wakes up quickly and looks to the corner. Zaida stands there.

SCOTTY
Zaida!

ZAIDA
Hi, Sheppy.

SCOTTY
Hi Zaida. Where have you been?

ZAIDA
I can only visit you so much. That's the rules, Sheppy.
SCOTTY
Who makes the rules?

ZAIDA
That's not important. What's important is that you remember. Remember everything. And use your gift.

SCOTTY
My gift? What is my gift, Zaida?

ZAIDA
I can't tell you that, Sheppy. The rules. You have to find that out on your own. I believe you already know what it is. You have to learn to embrace it. Don't resist it. Use it. Use it, Sheppy.

SCOTTY
But, Zaida...

Zaida is gone. Scotty sits alone.

SCOTTY (CONT’D)
Use my gift? What's my gift?

He gets up out of bed and walks over to his desk. He opens a drawer and takes out the notebook and opens it. Below where it reads, "Remember it all" and "Use your gift" he writes, "Don't resist it" and "Embrace it". He closes the notebook, and puts it back in the drawer. He walks back and gets in bed. He shuts the light and goes back to sleep.

INT. HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY

Scotty sits at the table and eats a bowl of cold cereal. Phyl(57) enters.

PHYL
You're up early, McQ.

SCOTTY
Yeah, didn't sleep much.

PHYL
You feeling alright?

SCOTTY
Yeah, I'm fine.
PHYL
Okay...Oh! Hey, I saw a commercial about that Art Institute in Philadelphia. I thought that might be something you'd like. I know you're interested in making music and you're interested in film. They have a Music and Film Major. Whatta ya think? I wrote the number down.

She hands him a slip of paper.

PHYL (CONT'D)
Just thought it might be something you'd be interested in, since that college didn't work out.

SCOTTY
Okay, Mom. Thanks. I'll think about it.

PHYL
I just want you to be happy, McQ. I just want you to have a happy life.

SCOTTY
I know, Mom.

She leans over and kisses the top of his head and walks out. He looks at the paper again. He gets up and walks over to the phone. He picks up the receiver and dials.

SCOTTY (CONT’D)
(in phone)
Hello? Yes, I was interested in learning a little about your Music and Film Program. (beat) Well, no I don't want to sign up yet, I just wanted to know if you could send me out some brochures or something (beat) Ok it's, 495 Garden Road...or did they change the number of this house? It doesn't matter, it'll get here anyway. That's 495 Garden Road. Pittsgrove. P-I-T-T-S-G-R-O-V-E. New Jersey. 08318. (beat) Yes, that's right. Correct. 08318.(beat) Okay, thank you very much.

He hangs up the receiver, and walks out.
INT. ART INSTITUTE/FILM CLASS - DAY

The instructor, CHARLES(42), lectures to the class.

CHARLES
...and that, class, is the beauty
of film. A moment in time,
preserved, for a lifetime! Great
films are to be cherished! They
move us in ways that nothing else
can! And on that note, I will see
you next week...and don't forget,
your first film projects are due. I
will see you then.

Scotty gets up and walks towards door.

SCOTTY
(to Charles) 
See ya next week.

CHARLES
Okay. Scotty, right?

SCOTTY
Yeah. Okay, see you next week. I've
been working hard on my project.

CHARLES
That's great! Anxious to see it.

SCOTTY
Okay, then. See ya next week.

CHARLES
Okay, Scotty. See you next week.

Scotty exits.

INT. HALLWAY

Scotty sees his classmate KENNY(25) and walks over.

SCOTTY
What's goin' on, Kenny?

KENNY
Heading to Music Appreciation.
Renaldo's class. Man, what a bore!

SCOTTY
Yeah, dude is out there!
KENNY
Yeah, a real douche! Well, I gotta get going. If I'm late he might make me stay after class and listen to Classical Music. Jackass!

SCOTTY
Alright, brother. I'll see you in Film Editing Class, later on.

KENNY
Alright, dude. See ya then.

Kenny walks away. Scotty walks to the elevator. The light comes on and the doors open. He gets on.

INT. ELEVATOR

SCOTTY
What the hell is that?

He shakes his head and cleans out his ears with his index fingers. Elevator doors open. He exits.

INT. ART INSTITUTE/FILM CLASS - DAY
Charles stands at the front of class.

CHARLES
Okay, who wants to go next?

Students sit at their desks. Scotty raises his hand.

SCOTTY
I'll go.

He gets up with film in hand and loads it in the projector. He turns the projector on and walks back to his seat and sits. LINDA(38), a classmate, watches intently. Scotty’s film ends.

LINDA
(clapping and cheering)
Woooooo!!
Incredible!!Woooooo!!
Woooooo!!
CHARLES
Excellent! That's the way it is done, class. The story, the mood, the camera angles...
(to Scotty)
You have a great eye!

SCOTTY
Thanks, Charles. Appreciate it.

CHARLES
I really enjoyed that. Great job!

LINDA
That was great! You are good! Really good!

SCOTTY
Thanks a lot, Linda. I really appreciate it.

LINDA
You are welcome! Wow!

SCOTTY
You're gonna make me blush!

LINDA
You should blush! You should be proud!

SCOTTY
Well, thanks. Yours was good too, Linda!

LINDA
Well, thanks. But you're just trying to be nice.

SCOTTY
No, really! I liked it a lot!

LINDA
Well, thanks. But...wow!

INT. ART INSTITUTE/FILM CLASS - DAY - (LATER)

Charles stands at the front of class.
CHARLES
Well that's the last one. As I told you before, I give an award, or a reward if you like, for every film project we do in this class, to the student's film I feel is the best. Since I am not a wealthy man, the award is a cup of coffee from Starbucks. I thought mostly all of you did a good job, but I can only afford to buy one of you a coffee. The most deserving of this is, without a question...Scotty. Great job!

SCOTTY
Thanks. Appreciate it.

CHARLES
You deserve it. Okay, class. I'm going to Starbucks now. All that would like to come with are welcome. I can only afford to buy mine and Scotty's coffee, but everyone is welcome.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY
Scotty, Charles and Linda walk.

CHARLES
(to Scotty )
So, how does it feel to be an award winning filmmaker?

SCOTTY
It feels great!

LINDA
It was sooo good! I almost cried, it was so good!

SCOTT
Thanks, Linda! You don't know how much that means to me!

LINDA
You're welcome. Keep at it! Maybe we'll see you accepting an Oscar one day!
SCOTTY
Now don't get carried away, Linda!
It was only a class project!

LINDA
Still, it was great!

SCOTTY
Thanks.
(to Charles)
So, what kind of coffee should I get?

CHARLES
I'm old-school. I like the plain old coffee. Black. No sugar. But, you get whatever you want.

SCOTTY
Think I'll get a plain old coffee, too. Black. No sugar.

CHARLES
Great minds think alike.

INT. GRADUATION HALL (1993) - NIGHT

The graduates are seated as the PRESENTER(46) is at the mic:

PRESENTER
...and graduating with honors,
Scotty Derechinsky.

Scotty(28) walks to the podium and takes his diploma. Turns to his family as they CHEER in the audience.

SCOTTY
I did it!

PRESENTER
Well, aren't you popular!

SCOTTY
That's my family. What can I say?
They love me.

Scotty walks back to his seat. Kenny leans over in his.

KENNY
Way to go, dude! We did it!

Scotty walks over to Phyl(59) and Stan(62) and hugs them.
PHYL
I'm so proud of you, McQ! You
accomplished what you set out! And
with honors! So proud!

SCOTTY
Thanks, Mom.

PHYL
So what are your plans now?

SCOTTY
I was going to go party with Kenny
and Linda.

PHYL
I mean plans for the future.

SCOTTY
I don't know yet, Mom. I just
graduated. Let me enjoy this for
now.

PHYL
Ok, honey. I'm so proud of you!

STAN
So proud of you, son! Way to go!

SCOTTY
Thanks, Dad.

PHYL
(kissing Scotty)
With honors! My little genius! Ok,
go play with your friends!

SCOTTY
Party, mom! Party with my friends!
I'm not 10 anymore! I'm 28!

PHYL
I know honey. Play, party. I don't
know what term they're using these
days.

SCOTTY
(giggling)
Ok, mom, see ya at home later.
Okay, Dad. See ya later.

STAN
(hugging Scotty )
So proud of you, son.
Scotty hugs his parents goodbye then walks over to Kenny and Linda.

SCOTTY
Hey guys. Where'd you wanna meet?

KENNY
I thought we'd go to Jack's. Out on Walnut. They have a band playing there tonight. I think they play Classic Rock.

SCOTTY
Sounds good. What time do you wanna meet?

KENNY
How's eight?

SCOTTY
Great! I'll see you out there.

(hugging Linda)

Congratulations, Linda.

LINDA
You too, Scotty. I know you're gonna do great things. Keep at it!

SCOTTY
You too.

LINDA
Nah. I just did this because I was bored. But you...you have a gift. All of your films were so good. Consistently. Amazing!

SCOTTY
Thanks, Linda. You are great for my building my confidence level. Always have been.

KENNY
Ok, ok, you're a genius! The next Steven Spielberg! Enough with the mushy stuff! Let's Par-tay!!

SCOTTY
Alright! Let's party!! We're graduates!!

KENNY
Yeah! That's what I'm talkin' about!
SCOTTY
Ok, then. See you out at Jack's at eight.

LINDA
See ya there.

KENNY
Alrighty! And be ready for shots you mo'fo's! We're gonna do this right!

They walk to the front door. Linda goes out first, then Kenny. As Scotty is about to step outside:

ZAIDA (V.O.)
Remember Sheppy.

He turns and looks. No one is there. He looks around. No one, but the remains of the graduation people. Kenny walks over.

KENNY
What'd you forget something, dude?

SCOTTY
Nah, just thought I heard something. Let's go!

They exit.

INT "JACK'S BAR" NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Scotty, Kenny and Linda are seated at table. A band plays Classic Rock.

KENNY
(yelling over music)
This is a pretty good band! I've seen these guys before!

SCOTTY
(yelling)
Yeah! Sounds good! Like it Linda?!

LINDA
(yelling)
Oh yeah! I love Classic Rock! Great!

SCOTTY
Cool! Good tune!
LINDA
Yeah! Love this one!

SCOTTY
Yeah! Me too!

KENNY
Listen to that low-end dude!
Awesome!

SCOTTY
Yeah, it does sound awesomesauce, dude!

KENNY
And the highs are so clear and defined! Awesome!

SCOTTY
Yeah! Sounds awesome, dude!

KENNY
I'm gonna go talk to the soundman!

He gets up and walks over to the soundman.

SCOTTY
(to Linda)
Having fun?!

LINDA
Yeah! Diggin' the vibe, man!

SCOTTY
Yeah, me too! Nice vibe!...What are your plans for the future.

LINDA
Oh, I don't really have any plans, I'm a sorta "flow with the wind" kinda gal. What about you? You need to keep making movies! I loved your movies! I'd pay to see them.

SCOTTY
Yeah, thanks. But that is a really hard industry to break into. Do you know how many people are trying?

LINDA
Yeah, but you have something special. I see it in your films. I been around awhile. I've seen a lot in my day. You got that something special, Scotty.

(MORE)
LINDA (CONT'D)
Something you don't find everyday.
Keep at it. It will pay off one day. Trust me.

SCOTTY
Thanks, Linda. It's like being around a glow of good hope when I'm around you, girl! You make me feel like I'm special or something.

LINDA
You have a gift, Scotty. Use it.

SCOTTY
Use it?

LINDA
Yes, Scotty. Use it.

SCOTTY
Oh, I'm sorry. It's just that I've heard that before.

LINDA
I'm sure you have. I can't be the first one to recognize it. I'm surprised your're not already in the business. How old are you? Like 27?

SCOTTY
28.

LINDA
Ok, 28. You're in your prime still.
Get out there and win me that Oscar!

SCOTTY
Ok, Linda. I'll do that.

LINDA
(looking at her watch)
Oh! I gotta get running! My husband's expecting me.

She gets up.

LINDA (CONT'D)
Do what I tell you now.

SCOTTY
What's that?
LINDA  
(whispering in his ear)  
Use it. Use your gift.

She walks way. After a moment, Kenny walks over.

KENNY  
Dude, I might have a job.  
Soundman's looking for a couple of audio engineers. This is what we went to school for.

SCOTTY  
Well, partly...

KENNY  
I know, I know! You wanna be this big-time filmmaker. But this is a job, man. That pays money. You got plenty of time for that dream. This is a paying job.

SCOTTY  
Okay, man! Let's do it!

KENNY  
Let's do it!

They walk towards the soundman. Kenny leans over towards Scotty and immitates the scene from Scarface.

KENNY (CONT’D)  
Hey, man! You gotta job!

They laugh.

KENNY (CONT’D)  
Hey? Where's Linda?

SCOTTY  
Oh, she had to go. Her husband was waiting for her.

KENNY  
Aw, Bummer.

INT “JACK’S BAR” NIGHTCLUB - DAY

ED(30) stands amongst sound equipment all over the floor.

ED  
(yelling)  
Hurry up, with that!  
(MORE)
ED (CONT'D)
We don't have all day! Bring that sound board over here! (beat) No, no, that one, you idiot! The Front-of-House Board! (beat) Yes! That one!

A few moments later Scotty rushes over with a large soundboard.

ED (CONT'D)
Well it's about time! Don't you know what a Front-of-House Soundboard looks like?! Whatta they teach over that Art Institute, anyways?

SCOTTY
No, I knew what it looked like. You were just rushing me and made me nervous, that's all.

ED
Made you nervous? Boy, you could never work with the big sound companies. The one's like the Smith Boys. They do all the major acts. Pearl Jam, Nirvana...

SCOTTY
How 'bout the Who?

ED
Yeah, they done the Who before. Back in '89. The 20 year anniversary "Tommy" tour.

SCOTTY
Awesome! How do you get a job like that?

ED
(laughing)
You? You wouldn't last an hour with the big boys! They'd swallow you up, and eat you whole, brother! You don't even know the difference between a Monitor Board and a Front-of-House Board.

SCOTTY
Just asking?
ED
You just learn what you're doing first. Then, maybe in, at the rate you're going, I'd say at least 5 years. Then maybe, you could be a roadie with a group like that.

SCOTTY
Five years? I'm already 28, brother. I don't wanna have to wait until I'm an old man.

ED
Then you better pick up the pace brother! Get that big butt in gear!
(handing audio cables)
Here. Bring these over and hook'em up.

Scotty takes the cables and looks at them, then at the stage.

ED (CONT’D)
Yes! Over there! They're for the main speakers!

SCOTTY
I know. Just thinking about something.

ED
Well, think on your own time, buddy! This is my time! Come on, move it! Customers'll be comin' in soon!

SCOTTY
Okay!

He runs over and begins to connect the cables.

ED
And I don't wanna see any empty speaker connectors again!

SCOTTY
Nah, never again! I was a rookie, then!

ED
Ah! You're still a rookie!

SCOTTY
Alright then! Stop interrupting and let me hook these speakers up!
ED
Alright, Einstein!

Scotty continues. After he's done that, he begins to set up the monitor equipment on the stage. He rushes from one task to the next, and the next, and next. Sweat pours down.

ED (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Come on! Hurry up! The band will be here soon! It looks bad to still be settin' up when they get here! You're so damn slow!

SCOTTY
I'm almost done! Just have to run this one last mic cord!

ED
Well, hurry up! And make sure all those monitors are working properly!

SCOTTY
Alright, Ed! I got ya covered!

He hooks up the last mic cord, turns on the amps, and tests the mics and monitors.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)
(into mic)
Test! One Two! Test! Sibilance! Sibilance! Chh! Chh! Test! Testing for sibilance! Sssibilance! Sssibilance!

ED
Okay! Okay! Hey..Mr. Sibilance?!
Turn the mics down and come over here! I got ya a beer!

SCOTTY
Okay, Ed. One minute. Just wanna make sure I'm not gonna get any feedback tonight.

ED
Okay, you do that, Einsten! The beer's here waitin' for ya'!
INT. “JACK’S BAR” NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Scotty is behind the monitor board on side of stage. Sweat pours down. The band plays a Top 40 song. The GUITARIST turns to Scotty.

GUITARIST
(to Scotty)
Yo! Take some of his vocals out of my monitor! (beat) It's the same! Turn it down!(beat) Now I can't hear him at all! Turn it up!(beat) Ah, forget it!

The VOCALIST turns to Scotty.

VOCALIST
Hey! You! Turn my monitor up! I can't hear shit! Thank you! Damn! Been trying to get your attention!

SCOTTY
(pointing at guitarist)
Sorry, I was talking to him.

VOCALIST
Just pay attention! Where'd Ed find this guy?

GUITARIST
I don't know, man, but he's pissing me off.

Vocals come in. At the guitar break, the vocalist turns to Scotty.

VOCALIST
Yo! Turn it up! You didn't do any thing!

Vocals come in again. Vocalist sings. He glances over towards Scotty and points his index finger up. Scotty turns the volume knob up on the board. (beat) He points up again. Scotty turns the knob all the way up. FEEDBACK! Scotty goes to the equalizer and adjusts. No change.

VOCALIST (CONT’D)
What the fuck!! Fix that, now!!

SCOTTY
I'm trying! I can't find the right frequency!
GUITARIST
Man, what is your fucking problem?!
Don't you know what the fuck you're doing?!

VOCALIST
Stop that feedback! You're killing me!

He searches for right frequency. Pulls down a slide, feedback stops.

SCOTTY
Found it!

The band plays on. Ed walks up behind Scotty.

ED
What is going on?! What's with all the fucking feedback?!

SCOTTY
Sorry, man! I couldn't find the frequency!

ED
Damn, boy! You're about useless!

SCOTTY
Sorry, Ed. I fixed it.

ED
Yeah, after you killed everybody's eardrums!

SCOTTY
Well, I'm still learning.

ED
Well, you better start learning a lot quicker, or I'm gonna have to let you go. It looks bad on me! It's my sound company!

SCOTTY
I know, Ed. Sorry, brother.

ED
Alright. Let's get through this show, tear down and get the hell outta here. Tomorrow's another night.
He turns to walk back, then turns back and hands folded bills over Scotty’s shoulder.

ED (CONT’D)
Oh, before I forget. Here's your pay for the night...although you don't really deserve it.

Ed walks away. Scotty opens the folded bills, and looks down at them. A 20 and a 10.

INT. “JACK’S BAR” NIGHTCLUB (1995) - NIGHT
Scotty(30) is behind monitor board on side of stage. The band plays. Vocalist looks over at him, smiles and nods. Scotty nods back and holds his beer bottle up. Guitarist looks over, makes goofy face and smiles. He smiles back and holds glass of tequila up and drinks it. He spots a GUY(25) dancing and spilling beer on the monitor speakers. He walks over.

SCOTTY
Yo, dude! You're spilling beer all over the speakers! Knock it off!

GUY
What!?

SCOTTY
(yelling)
You're spilling beer on the speakers!! Get the fuck away from the speakers!! Those things are expensive to replace!!

GUY
Dude, what's your problem? I'm just having a good time!

SCOTTY
Have a good time! Just don't ruin my fucking speakers!

GUY
Alright, dude! Sorry!

Scotty goes back to his station. Looks over towards guy. He is dancing around again spilling beer on the speakers. Scotty gets up on stage, grabs guy's beer and walks back, and puts it down under his console. Guy walks over.

GUY (CONT’D)
Yo, dude! Where's my beer?
SCOTTY
What?

GUY
Where's my beer, dude?

SCOTTY
You're beer? You mean the one you're spilling all over my brand new monitor speakers? That beer?

GUY
C'mon, dude. Give me my beer.

SCOTTY
I'll give it back to you on one condition. You keep it at least 10 feet away from my speakers. From all of my equipment.

GUY
Okay, dude. Give me back my beer.

Scotty reaches below his console and picks the beer up. He hands it back to the guy, but holds onto it.

SCOTTY
At least 10 feet away. If I see you closer than 10 feet away, I'm going to have them kick you out of here. If I see you spill beer on any of my equipment again, I'm gonna kick your ass. Deal?

GUY
Deal, dude.

He lets go of bottle. Guy goes back to front of stage. After a moment, dances around again, spilling beer on monitor speakers. Scotty jumps on stage and hurls himself at guy. Bouncers come over, pull him off. Guy gets up and runs.

SCOTTY
Now get out!! Get the fuck out!! I've had enough of you!!

He shrugs the bouncers off of him.

SCOTTY (CONT’D)
Thanks for all the help, guys!

BOUNCER
What happened?
SCOTTY
What happened?! Didn't you see?!

BOUNCER
No, see what?

SCOTTY
Dude was a mess! Kept spilling beer all over my brand new monitor speakers!

BOUNCER
Nah, we didn't see nothing.

SCOTTY
Okay, great. Thanks.

He walks back towards his station.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)
I thought I was an audio engineer! Didn't know I had to be a bouncer, too! Damn!

Scotty walks back over to his station. Picks up beer and takes long drink. DOLORES(27) walks over.

DOLORES
Hey. What's up?

SCOTTY
Hey.

DOLORES
Having fun, yet?

SCOTTY
I was until this asshole pissed me off.

DOLORES
Aw, what happened?

SCOTTY
Just some douche who was being an idiot and spilling beer on the equipment.

DOLORES (mockingly)
I hate when that happens!

SCOTTY
Yeah, me too.
DOLORES
Aw, cheer up! It's cool now.

SCOTTY
Yeah, you're right. That guy just pissed me off, though. And the bouncers...Do your fucking job!

DOLORES
Wow, chill out! Have a drink!

SCOTTY
Yeah, ok. Cheers.

He holds beer up and clinks her glass.

DOLORES
That's more like it! This is a party, man!

She bumps him with her hip. He bumps her back. She bumps him back harder.

DOLORES (CONT'D)
So...you come here often?

SCOTTY
(laughing)
Is that the best come-on line you got?

DOLORES
Who says I'm coming on to you?

SCOTTY
Please! Bumping the hips! Using corny pick-up lines! You're coming on to me!

DOLORES
Okay, if you say so.

He looks at her, then towards band. After a moment she bumps hips again.

DOLORES (CONT'D)
Ok, I was coming on to you. Let's have some fun, big boy!

She puts her hand out.

DOLORES (CONT'D)
I'm Dolores. Call me Dee.
INT. DOLORES' HOUSE/DINING ROOM - DAY

Scotty, Dolores, her DAD(61), MOM(58) and brother GARY(38) are seated at Thanksgiving Dinner.

DAD
So, Scotty, Dolores tells me you're in the music business.

SCOTTY
Well...yeah.

DAD
So you're a musician.

SCOTTY
Well, I do play a little guitar, but I work with bands. Mostly one band right now. We do the sound.

DAD
What do you mean, you do the sound?

SCOTTY
Well, we set up all the sound equipment; the sound boards, speakers, amps, mics. And we run the equipment.

DAD
What do you mean, run the equipment?

SCOTTY
Well, we control the sound to fit the room.

DAD
Sounds complicated. Is there money in that?

SCOTTY
Well, right now I work for a guy. I plan on owning my own sound company some day.

DAD
Hmm...interesting. How old are you, Scotty?

SCOTTY
I'm 30, sir. Be 31 in 2 months.
DAD
Hmm...interesting. So how long have you been doing this?

SCOTTY
About 2 and a half years, sir.

DAD
What did you do before that?

SCOTTY
Well, I went to school. The Art Institute.

DAD
Art Institute? Well, don't know much about art.

SCOTTY
I was in the Music and Film Program.

DAD
Don't know much about that either. Although, I like watching those old John Wayne films.

SCOTTY
Yeah, John Wayne's cool.

DAD
Yessiree! The Duke! A true American, that man was! Need more like him today! Not like some of these sissies we got running around today! You know, I just saw on the TV today, some fag parade going on in California! Men, if that's what you wanna call 'em, running around in pink tutu's and holding up signs! What a disgrace! I'm glad the Duke's not around to see that! Disgusting!

SCOTTY
Yeah, well. To each his own, right?

DAD
Ah! It's a sin is what it is! If the Bible teaches us anything, it's thar --
MOM
Does anyone want more turkey?! There's plenty!

DOLORES
I'll have some, Mom. White meat, please.

GARY
I've had enough. I'm tired. I'm gonna to go to my room now and lie down. Tryptophan, does it every time.

He gets up and walks upstairs.

MOM
(to Dad)
Now look what you've done!

DAD
What? What did I do?

MOM
(angry mocking)
Fag parade! Glad the Duke's not around to see that! What's wrong with you?

DAD
What? He was tired! Too much tryptophan!

MOM
Ah! That's just a myth! You made him feel horrible!

DAD
Ah! Get outta here!

“Close to You” by “The Carpenters” PLAYS (O.S.). Dolores looks up towards it, then looks at Scotty.

DOLORES
(embarrassed)
So, Scotty, had enough to eat? There's plenty.

SCOTTY
No, thank you. I'm good.
DAD
Yeah, I'm good too. Time for football! You like football, Scotty?

SCOTTY
Sure! Love football!

DAD
Okay, then! Let's watch some football!

Scotty and Dad get up and walk into the livingroom.

INT. LIVINGROOM

Scotty and Dad walk in. Scotty sits on the couch and Dad sits in the recliner. He picks up the remote and turns on the tv.

DAD
(looking at tv)
Eh! Dallas! I hate Dallas! You an Eagles fan, Scotty?

SCOTTY
No, sir. Rams fan.

DAD
Rams fan? What are you from Los Angeles?

SCOTTY
Well, they moved to St. Louis this year, but no, I'm not from Los Angeles. I just fell in love with them when I was a little kid. Stuck with 'em ever since.

DAD
Yeah, well, they stink as bad as the Eagles.

SCOTTY
Worse. But, hey, we're fans, right? That's what we do. Stick with our teams, win or lose.

DAD
Yeah. Maybe we'll win a Superbowl one day. I don't see that day coming any time soon, though.
SCOTTY
Yeah, me neither. The Rams, I mean. Hopefully before I die.

DAD
I hope so, too. Before I die. The Eagles, that is. You have a better chance of seeing it than me.

SCOTTY
Ah! We're both young enough! They'll get us one before we die! Your Eagles and my Rams!

DAD
Ya know, I like you. You're starting to grow on me.

SCOTTY
Yeah, you're starting to grow on me, too.

DAD
(watching tv)
Ah! Come on! Tackle him! Wrap him up!

Dolores walks in.

DOLORES
Hey, guys! You two getting acquainted?

She sits down on the couch next to Scotty.

SCOTTY
Yeah, just talking football.

DOLORES
Oh! Don't get him started on those Eagles! So, Dad? Did you tell Scotty about that time you met Jaworski?

DAD
(watching tv)
Aw, come'on! I coulda caught that, and I'm 61!

DOLORES
He's not listening.

SCOTTY
Likes his football.
DOLORES
Sorry about tonight, honey.

SCOTTY
Nah, it was fun.

DAD
Jeez!! These guys getting paid millions of dollars to catch a ball, and they couldn't catch a cold! Bunch of sissies! Afraid to get hit! Ah! Bunch of sissies!

The “Carpenter” song PLAYS (O.S.), again. Dolores looks over at Scotty. He looks over at her. She shrugs and smiles. He smiles back.

INT. MALL/FOOD COURT (1997) - DAY

Dolores sits at table alone. After a moment, Scotty walks over, goes to kiss Dolores, and she turns her head. He kisses her cheek.

SCOTTY
(sitting)
Sorry I'm late. Traffic was a bitch.

DOLORES
Hey, Scotty. How are you?

SCOTTY
(confused)
I'm fine. How are you doing?

DOLORES
The reason I wanted you to meet me was... I'm just going to come right out and say it. We need to break up.

SCOTTY
What? Whatta ya mean?

DOLORES
What I said. We need to break up.

SCOTTY
But why? What did I do?

DOLORES
It's not what you do, Scotty. It's what you don't do.
SCOTTY
What's that mean?

DOLORES
I gave it over 2 years, Scotty!
That's enough! I can't do it anymore!

SCOTTY
Do what, Dee? I thought we were
doing good.

DOLORES
No, Scotty! We're not doing good!
You're drinking too much! You have
no ambition! You've been working
for Ed for 4 years now and he still
pays you almost the same as when
you started! Whatever happened to
owning your own sound company?

SCOTTY
I will! I just need to save some
more money. That equipment is very
expensive.

DOLORES
Well, you're not going to save it
on $385 a week! I need more in my
life! I want a home, kids...and
you're just not in the position to
give that to me, Scotty. It's
nothing against you. You're a great
You're a sweet guy, really. It's
just that we have different
aspirations in life. Different
goals. You used to talk about
making movies. Being a big-time
filmmaker! What happened with that?
The same as everything else! A pipe
dream! That's all you do, Scotty,
is have pipe dreams!

SCOTTY
I do still wanna make movies! I
will. Just been working a lot.

DOLORES
When, Scotty?! When?! You're 32
years old! If you ain't done it by
now, you're not going to! You're
not! So that's it. I didn't wanna
do this over the phone.
(MORE)
I wanted to give you that courtesy. It's been fun, but it's time for both of us to go our separate ways. Okay then, so, you have a good life, in whatever you do. Take care of yourself, Scotty.

She gets up and walks away. Scotty sits alone.

INT. "FROSTED MUG" BAR (2001) - NIGHT

Scotty(36) is seated at bar with mug of beer and empty shotglass. Bartender, BRANDI(23) walks over.

BRANDI
Hey, Scotty! How you doin'?  

SCOTTY
Hey, Brandi. How you doin'?  

BRANDI
Well, you know. Takin' it as it comes.  

SCOTTY
That's all we can do, honey.  

BRANDI
Need a shot?  

SCOTTY
Why, you musta been reading my mind, sweety.  

BRANDI
You got it, baby!  

She walks over, picks up tequila bottle, returns and pours a shot.

BRANDI (CONT'D)
This one's on me, Scotty.  

SCOTTY
Thanks, darlin'.  

He puts his hand on the shotglass.

BRANDI
Wait a minute. I'll do one with ya.  

She puts another shotglass on bar, pours a shot.
 BRANDI (CONT’D)
What should we toast to?

SCOTTY
How 'bout we toast to Jose' Cuervo?

BRANDI
No. We have to toast to something good.

SCOTTY
Cuervo's good. It's good to me.
Helps me forget.

BRANDI
Now why would you want to forget, sugar?

SCOTTY
If you had to live my life, you'd wanna forget to.

BRANDI
It can't be that bad. What happened?

SCOTTY
How far back you want me to go?

BRANDI
Ah! It could be worse. You're still above ground.

SCOTTY
Not so sure that's a good thing.

BRANDI
(picking up glass)
Now stop all this depressing talk!
We'll toast to good friends.
Friends that stick by you, no matter what. True friends.

SCOTTY/ BRANDI
(clinking glasses)
True friends!

They drink the shots.

SCOTTY
(getting up)
Well, I gotta go drain Mr. Johnson.
BRANDI
Shake it more than twice, you're playing with it!

SCOTTY
He's my Mr. Johnson! If I wanna play with him, that's my perogative!

Brandi laughs. He walks into the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM

There are two urinals. UG(30) is at one. He walks up to the other. After a moment: BABLOOP (O.S.) He looks at UG.

SCOTTY
Did you hear that?

UG
Hear what?

SCOTTY
Never mind. Too many tequilas, I guess.

UG
Yeah, dude. That stuff'll mess your mind up.

SCOTTY
Yeah.

UG finishes, zips up, and walks out the door.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)
(to himself, aloud)
Remind me not to shake that guy's hand.

He finishes up, zips up, and walks over to the sink. He washes, then dries his hands. He looks around, then exits.

INT. BAR

Scotty walks back over to his stool and sits. After a moment, MIKE(33) walks over.

MIKE
Hey, dude! What's up? Long time, man!
They bro-shake.

SCOTT.
What's up, Mike? Same old same here.

MIKE
You still working with the bands?

SCOTTY
Yeah. Still doing that. I'm with a different sound company and band, though. Been doin' it for about, what? Since '93...What's that? About 8 years.

MIKE
Well, yeah, that's cool man. But, listen, Brenda's got her friend with her. She's single. You ain't with nobody, are ya?

SCOTTY
Me? No. I spend too much time at the go-go bars. Most women don't care for that too much.

MIKE
Well, come on over. Let me introduce you.

SCOTTY
Nah. That's ok, man. I just came here to think.

MIKE
Think? What's there to think about?

SCOTTY
Life.

MIKE
Life? What? We're born, we get some pussy, we party, we die! What's to think about?

SCOTTY
Man, I wish I had your philosophy. Make life a whole lot simpler.

MIKE
It is simple, man! Just have fun! We're only here for a short while! (MORE)
MIKE (CONT'D)
Now, come on over and meet this girl! She already thinks you're cute! You're halfway there, brother!

SCOTTY
(reluctant)
Okay, let's go.

MIKE
There you go! That's what you need! Some good ole' American pussy!

Scotty gets out of his stool. They walk towards tables.

SCOTTY
So, she really said I was cute?

MIKE
Yeah, man! You're in like juice and gin!

SCOTTY
What does that mean?

MIKE
Ah, fuck it, man! You might get laid tonight!

SCOTTY
Okay. Whatever you say.

They approach BRENDA(30) and NAOMI(37), seated at table.

MIKE
So, were you ladies lonely without me?

BRENDA
Oh, yes! We don't know what to do when you're gone! Hi, Scotty.

SCOTTY
Hi, Brenda.

MIKE
And this is Naomi.

SCOTTY
(shaking hands)
Hi, Naomi. I'm Scotty.

NAOMI
Hi. Nice to meet you, Scotty.
MIKE
Well, sit down.

Scotty sits next to Naomi.

MIKE (CONT’D)
I'll order us up some cocktails.
What are you drinking, Scotty?

SCOTTY
Just get me a draft. Coors light.

MIKE
You got it! Hey, Brenda. Why don't you come give me a hand with the drinks? Give these two some time alone.

BRENDA
Okay.

Brenda gets up, and the two walk over to the bar.

NAOMI
So, Scotty...Where are you from?

SCOTTY
Pittsgrove. It's not far from here.

NAOMI
I know where it is. I live in Hopewell.

SCOTTY
Okay. Not too far.

NAOMI
No, that's not far from Pittsgrove at all.

SCOTTY
No. Not far at all.

NAOMI
So what do you do?

SCOTTY
I work with a band.

NAOMI
Oh! You're in a band?
SCOTTY
Well, I'm not in the band. I do sound for the band. I'm a sound engineer.

NAOMI
Ew! An engineer! Nice!

SCOTTY
Yeah, it's ok. I don't want to do it for the rest of my life, though. What I really want to do is be a filmmaker.

NAOMI
Really? A filmmaker? You mean like a Director?

SCOTTY
Well, I'd like to write screenplays and Direct.

NAOMI
Very ambitious! I like it!

SCOTTY
Yeah, had a passion for movies since I was a kid. I actually wanted to be a movie actor. I idolized Al Pacino. “Dog Day Afternoon” is one of my all-time favorite movies! But, somebody told me a long time ago, that I couldn't act, I didn't have the "gift, and I believed him. So I gave it up.

NAOMI
Aw! That's a shame! We should all follow our dreams! How old are you, if I may ask?

SCOTTY
36. How old are you? If I may ask.

NAOMI
Yes, you may. I'm 37 years young!

SCOTTY
Wow! You look younger than that!

NAOMI
How old did you think I was?
SCOTTY
(looking at her face)
I don't know...maybe...28.

NAOMI
Wow! Thanks! You're not just saying
to get in my pants, are you?

SCOTTY
(looking her over)
Hmm...Let me think about that one.
Could be...could be.

NAOMI
(laughing)
Oh, you are bad!

Mike and Brenda return with the drinks.

MIKE
Well, I see you guys are getting
along fine. Hmm. So what were you
guys talking about?

BRENDA
That's none of your business, nibby
nose!

NAOMI
We were just talking about dreams
and ambitions.

MIKE
Dreams, huh?
(imitating MLK speech)
I have a dream!

BRENDA
(hitting Mike)
Stop making fun! I think it's great
to have dreams and ambitions! Maybe
you should try it! Your only dream
is to have a threesome!

MIKE
That's all I can do, is dream about
it!

BRENDA
That's right, baby! Ain't no woman
touching my man, but me!

MIKE
There's plenty to go around, baby!
He puts his arms up and gyrates like a male dancer.

BRENDA
(hitting Mike)
Oh, shut up! Stop that!

MIKE
You know you love it!

BRENDA
Yeah, ok... So, Scotty? What's your dream?

SCOTTY
Ah! I'm too old for dreams. That train left years ago.

He looks over at Naomi and smiles. She smiles back.

INT. NAOMI’S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM – DAY

Naomi sits on couch watching TV. Scotty comes down stairs.

SCOTTY
Hey, whatcha doin'? Aren't you late for work?

He walks and stands behind couch and watches tv.

NAOMI
A plane crashed into the World Trade Center!

SCOTTY
Wow! Look at that! That's an airliner! That's a big plane! Oh my God! When did this happen?

NAOMI
About fifteen minutes ago.

SCOTTY
Wow! Look at that! Terrible! What happened?

NAOMI
I don't know yet. I just started watching.

Second plane crashes.

NAOMI (CONT’D)
Oh my God!!
SCOTTY
What the fuck?! Another plane crashed?! Is this live?! What the fuck?!

NAOMI
Yes!!! This is live!!! Oh my God!!!

SCOTTY
I think we're under attack!! This does not happen!! Two jumbo jets into the same building?! This is crazy!! We're under attack!! It's gotta be terrorists!!

NAOMI
Terrorists?! How are terrorists going to get our planes?

SCOTTY
Hijacked, maybe?

NAOMI
Oh my God!! This is terrible!!

SCOTTY
Wow!

NAOMI
Whatta ya think we should do? Should we go get my kids from shool?

SCOTTY
No, we need to find out what happened first. This is crazy!

NAOMI
But what if they attack the school?

SCOTTY
Relax, honey! They're not attacking the school!

NAOMI
How do you know? If this could happen, anything could happen!

SCOTTY
Honey, that's New York City. The World Trade Center! There aren't any terrorists coming to the small farming community of Hopewell, New Jersey! What are they gonna do?

(MORE)
SCOTTY (CONT'D)
Blow up our tomato plants?
(immitating Jihad terrorist)
Ha! Take that you Imperialist Swine! No more BLT's for you! Ha!

NAOMI
But you never know, still.

SCOTTY
Trust me. They don't even know we exist out here in this wasteland.

NAOMI
Well, I hope you're right.

SCOTTY
Of course I'm right. Think about it.

NAOMI
Yeah. I guess you're right. That's silly. They're not coming here.
    (laughing)
No more BLT's for you! That's funny! You are funny! You make me laugh.

SCOTTY
That's good, honey! 'Tis better to laugh than cry!

NAOMI
Ain't that the truth! Did a lot of that with my ex-husband, crying!

SCOTTY
Well, there's a new sheriff in town! This sheriff don't allow no crying! Crying is hereby outlawed in the town of Scottyville!

Naomi walks over and hugs him.

NAOMI
You are so corny! But you're my cornball!

SCOTTY
I'm not corny! I'm funny!
NAOMI
Yeah, you're funny! But looks ain't everything!

SCOTTY
Ah! Now who's being corny?

NAOMI
I am not corny!

SCOTTY
Well, I'll just have to ask your kids about that!

NAOMI
My kids don't think I'm corny! They think I'm funny!

SCOTTY
You are a lot of things, honey, but funny is not one of them!

NAOMI
I am too funny!

SCOTTY
Not funny.

NAOMI
I am too!

SCOTTY
Oh yeah! Say something funny!

NAOMI
Ok. (beat) What did the pony say when he had a sore throat?

SCOTTY
I apologize, I am a little hoarse. Corn-ee!

NAOMI
Oh, You! I am not corny!

SCOTTY
Are!

They look towards the tv.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)
Yeah. This is terrible.
INT. NAOMI’S HOUSE/NICK’S BEDROOM (2005) - DAY

NICK(16) is seated on side of bed, as he plays a “Zeppelin” song on his electric guitar. Scotty(40) walks in. Nick stops playing.

SCOTTY
No, keep playing. I just came in to listen.

NICK
Nah. I'm a little shy playing in front of people.

SCOTTY
You're really good, Nick.

NICK
Thanks.

SCOTTY
I'm glad we bought you that guitar. When your mom first suggested it, I was a little apprehensive. I know how you give up on things. But she talked me into it. I'm glad she did. You've really gotten good.

NICK
Ya really think so?

SCOTTY
Trust me, Nick. I worked with bands for over 10 years. I've seen some really good guitarists in my day. I know music, dude. You have potential. Great potential. I remember when your mom and I moved in together, 4 years ago, you asked to see my guitar. Man, you were terrible! That's why I thought you would get discouraged and give it up. But you proved me wrong, Nick. You stuck with it, and it's been what, about a year? And look how good you are now! I'm proud of you, boy! In fact, I gotta admit, I'm a little jealous.

NICK
Really?
SCOTTY
Oh yeah! I never even held a guitar at your age. I never owned an electric guitar until I was in my early 20's. Have you tried writing your own stuff?

NICK
Nah. I like playing Zeppelin.

SCOTTY
Yeah, I heard that. Excellent! But do you ever try and make up your own tunes? That's what I always loved doing. It's a way to express how you're feeling. A release of energy! There's nothing like creating something out of your own mind, and heart, and soul. It's a beautiful thing, Nick! Give it a try sometime. When you're feeling inspired.

NICK
Hmm...I'll try.

SCOTTY
Yeah. Give it a try. Might make you feel good.

NICK
Ok.

SCOTTY
Alright. I'll leave you to practice.

Turns to leave. Turns back.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)
Think about what I told you, Nick. Any guitarist can play other people's music. It takes an artist to create his own music. Maybe you'll find an artist inside of you.

Walks out. Nick plays again.
INT. MALL/FOOD COURT - DAY

Naomi (41) sits alone at table. After a moment Scotty comes over, goes to kiss her and she turns her head. He kisses her cheek.

SCOTTY
Hey, honey.

NAOMI
Hi.

He walks over and sits in the chair across the table, and sits down.

SCOTTY
So, what's up?

NAOMI
What's up? Well, that's why I wanted to meet you here. I didn't want to do this in front of the kids.

SCOTTY
Do what?

NAOMI
Well, I don't know how to say this...so I'm just going to come right out and say it. We need to break up.

SCOTTY
Break up? Why?

NAOMI
I'm not happy. I haven't been happy in a while. It was great in the beginning. Like nothing I've ever experienced. It was very romantic. But things changed. I mean you had these big plans of being a great filmmaker, when I first met you! What happened to that ambitious man! Now all you want to do is sit on the couch, watch TV, and smoke weed! I need more than that!

SCOTTY
What can I do, Naomi? What do you want me to do? I'll do it!
NAOMI
I want you to pack your things up and go! Just go!

SCOTTY
Where am I gonna go? I have no place to go?

NAOMI
I don't know! Get your own place! Or move back into your old house with your sister and her husband! They'd be happy to have you!

SCOTTY
I can't afford my own place! I just started at this job! I have to work my way up!

NAOMI
Work your way up? Scotty, you're 40 years old! You don't start climbing the ladder at 40! You should be at the top already, or close. You had big dreams! You were going to be the greatest filmmaker the world has ever seen! I used to love the way you used to talk like that! It was so romantic! I loved you! I really loved you! But then you become a boring nine to fiver. You'd come home, plop on the couch and watch tv all night.

SCOTTY
I'm tired when I come home from work.

NAOMI
I just can't do it anymore, Scotty. I've had enough. I want you to pack your things up, and be gone by the weekend. Ok?

SCOTTY
I don't know where I'm gonna go.

NAOMI
Go to your old house. Robin would love to have you. She said you're always welcome.
SCOTTY
But, it's embarrassing, moving in with my sister and her husband at my age.

NAOMI
Well, do what you gotta do. It's not really my problem, Scotty. I need to move on with my life. I gotta get going now. I have to pick Nick up from guitar lessons.

SCOTTY
Well, can I still visit? I'd like to keep up with Nick and see how he's making out with his music.

NAOMI
No. I don't think that's a good idea.

SCOTTY
But, I love your kids! We were really bonding! I love them like my own!

NAOMI
It's just not a good idea, Scotty.
(standing up)
Well, I gotta get going now. Please have your things packed by the weekend. I don't want to have to call the cops.

SCOTTY
The cops?! Are you serious?!

NAOMI
Just have your things packed before Friday. Don't make this harder than it has to be, Scotty.

She walks away. Scotty sits alone.

INT. SCOTTY’S CAR (2008) - NIGHT

Scotty(43) sits alone in his car smoking a marijuana joint. Roy(23) comes over to his window.

ROY
Dude, can I get a hit of that? I'd appreciate it, dude!
SCOTTY
(handing joint)
Sure, no problem.

ROY
Thanks a lot, dude!

SCOTTY
No problem. Was smoking by myself. None of my friends wanted to go. Buncha old farts.

ROY
That's funny...Hey, Pete and Roger are in their 60's! They're still rocking it!

SCOTTY
Here, come sit in the car.

Roy walks around to the passenger door and gets in.

ROY
(sticking hand out)
Hey. I'm Roy.

SCOTTY
(shaking hands)
Scotty.

Roy hands Scotty the joint.

ROY
Ever see these guys?

SCOTTY
Yeah, About 25 times.

ROY
25 times! Wow! I saw them once before, 2006. Awesome! But 25 times! Wow! You musta seen 'em in their hey-day! I would have loved to have seen John Entwistle! You're lucky dude!

SCOTTY
Yeah, it was sad when the Ox died. It took the heart out of the band. The thunder!...But as long as there's Pete and Roger, there's still a Who!
ROY
I hear that!

SCOTTY
And Ringo's son, Zack, he is absolutely the best replacement they've found since Keith Moon died. Ya know he idolized Moonie growing up! His dad is Ringo Starr and his idol is Keith Moon! Moonie is the greatest drummer of all-time, in my opinion. Hard to copy. Such timing and energy! But Zach does one hell of a job!

ROY
(handing joint)
Here ya go...I hear ya, man! Moon was the best, but Zach is great! Did you ever see Moonie?

SCOTTY
Nah, unfortunately. I was only thirteen when he died. My mom wouldn't let me go see them.

ROY
But you saw Entwistle before he died, right?

SCOTTY
Yeah! Oh yeah! Many times. I saw them with Johnny most of those 25 times, probably close to 20.

(handing joint)
Keep it. Enjoy... That's one guy you can't replace. He is definitely uncopiable. The greatest bassist of all time, in my opinion. That's why I say the Who is the greatest band of all-time. You got Keith Moon, greatest drummer. You got Entwistle, greatest bassist. You got Pete, greatest songwriter and showman. The man's a genius! Then there's Roger, great singer! Very powerful and emotive! You put that all together and you can only come to one conclusion. Greatest band in the World!

ROY
You're absolutely right! Man, you love the Who, don't you?
SCOTTY
Dude, are you kidding me! Ever since I was 10 years old. It was 1975, Tommy had just come out in the theaters. Man! I had just witnessed something that changed my life forever! I'd never heard anything like that in my life! It inspired me! Yes, I love the Who! No matter how depressed I am about my life, all the shattered dreams, the broken hearts...a Who concert reenergizes me! It gives me hope, even if for 2 hours. That's 2 hours of bliss!

ROY
Wow...that's deep man.

SCOTTY
Yeah, well... I think I'm gonna head inside now. I hate missing the moment they hit the stage.

ROY
Yeah. Me to. Mind if I go in with you?

SCOTTY
No. Not at all. Come on. Let's go.

They exit the car.

EXT. EVENTS CENTER/PARKING LOT
Scotty and Roy walk towards the entrance.

SCOTTY
Where are your seats?

ROY
(looking at ticket)
Uhhh...Section 100 row J...seat 8.

SCOTTY
Oh they're good seats! 10th row from the stage! I'm 6th row.

ROY
Cool!
SCOTTY
(Getting pumped)
So, you ready to see the Who, brother?!!

ROY
Hells, yeah!!!

SCOTTY
Whoooo!!!

ROY
Yeah, baby!! The Whoooo!!!

Scotty laughs and pats Roy on the back.

SCOTTY
Come on...let’s get 2 hours of bliss, buddy.

They walk in the entrance.

EXT. TRUCKING YARD - DAY

A tractor trailer pulls in and stops in front of dispatch office. Scotty gets out and walks in office.

INT. DISPATCH OFFICE

DOM(30) is seated at desk behind glass, as he does paperwork. Scotty KNOCKS. Dom looks up.

DOM
Hey, Scotty. Be right with you.

He looks down, finishes paperwork. Looks up.

DOM (CONT’D)
Okay, whatcha got?

SCOTTY
(handing papers)
Five stops. Got’em all signed this time.

DOM
Okay, thanks.

SCOTTY
Got anything else?
DOM
Hold on, let me check. Hey, Bob!
Got anything for Scotty?

BOB (O.S.)
What?

DOM
Scotty! Got anything for him?

BOB (O.S.)
No! Is he there? Send him into my office!

DOM
Okay!

SCOTTY
Hmmm... wonder what he wants.

DOM
Don't know.

SCOTTY
I know I didn't hit anything today.

He walks through the door.

INT. BOB’S OFFICE

BOB(49) sits at his desk as he looks over invoices. Scotty walks in.

SCOTTY
Hey, Bob. You wanted to see me?

BOB
Yes, Scotty. Listen, have a seat.
Yes, well, I have some bad news.
With this recession and all I'm gonna have to make cut-backs, and since you're one of the newer guys, I'm gonna have to let you go.

SCOTTY
Let me go? Are you kidding me?

BOB
Well, unfortunately you know me well enough to know I'm not a kidder. I'm sorry, Scotty. There's nothing I can do. I wish there was.

(MORE)
I'll be more than happy to be used as a reference.

SCOTTY (distraught)
Do you have anything for me tomorrow at least?

BOB
I'm sorry, Scotty. Today was your last day...Good luck.

Scotty exits the office.

INT. DISPATCH
Dom sits at his desk doing paperwork. Scotty walks in. Dom looks up.

DOM
So, what'd he want?

SCOTTY
Nothing.

He walks out front door.

INT. "FROSTED MUG" BAR - NIGHT
Scotty is seated at the bar. He has a scraggly beard, which is mostly grey. His hair is also grey, and long and disheveled. His face is worn, tired and wrinkled. He is very intoxicated. Brandi(43) comes over.

BRANDI
Scotty? Hey, Scotty?

He looks up at her very slowly.

BRANDI (CONT'D)
You ok?

He nods.

BRANDI (CONT'D)
You sure? You want me to call you a cab?

He shrugs his shoulders.

BRANDI (CONT'D)
Ok, I'll call you a cab.
He shrugs again. She walks away. Scotty looks around, gets up and walks over to the jukebox. Looks over selections and presses buttons. “Won’t Get Fooled Again” by “The Who” plays. Scotty dances around and air-guitars. He jumps on bar and dances around. After a moment, he falls to the floor. The bouncer, BUD(35), walks over and helps him up.

BUD
Alright, Scotty! That's it for tonight, buddy. We're gonna call you a cab.

BRANDI
Already done! About 15 minutes ago!

BUD
Alright, buddy. Cabs on the way. I'm just gonna sit you down here. (sitting him in chair)
There ya go, buddy. Just hang tight. Cab'll be here soon.

Bud walks up to the bar.

BUD (CONT’D)
Hey, Brandi?

BRANDI
Yeah?

BUD
How much he have to drink tonight?

BRANDI
Same as always. Too much.

BUD
We're gonna have to blackball him.

BRANDI
He's a really nice guy. Been coming in here for years. But then, a while back, he just went down hill. Started drinking heavy. Became a real mess. I wish I could help him, but I don't know what to do. He won't go to AA. It's a shame. He's a really nice guy. Used to talk about being a filmmaker. Said he was gonna be “the greatest filmmaker the World had ever seen!” I feel sorry for him. Poor guy.
BUD
Yeah, well. Some people just can't be helped.

BRANDI
Yeah, I guess. It's a shame, though. Really nice guy.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT
It is a stormy night. The rain POURS! Lightning and thunder CRASH! A cab pulls in the driveway, and Scotty gets out.

INT. HOUSE/KITCHEN
Scotty walks in the front door, drenched and very drunk. He stumbles to the hallway.

INT. HALLWAY
Scotty stumbles, falls against the wall, and reaches for his bedroom door handle.

ROBIN (O.S.)
Scotty? Is that you?

SCOTTY
(Mumbling)
Mmmmph...

ROBIN (O.S.)
Ok. Glad you're home safe. Go to bed. Nite.

He walks into his bedroom.

INT. SCOTTY’S BEDROOM
Scotty walks in and over to the wall mirror. He looks at himself, wipes some peanuts out of his grey beard, and GROANS. He then walks over and sits on the bed. After a moment he gets up and walks to the closet. BEEP. He looks at his cellphone. It reads “10 NEW VOICEMAILS”. He pushes voicemail:

DARLENE (V.O.)
Hey, Scotty. It’s Darlene. Just called to see what you're doing. Haven't heard from you all day.

(MORE)
DARLENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Well, guess your busy. Call me when you get a chance. Love ya.

BEEP.

DARLENE (V.O.)
Hey Scotty. Me again. Are you ok? Please call me back. I'm worried about you, honey. Please. Give me a call.

He closes his phone and throws it on the floor. He goes back into his closet and takes out a rolled-up t-shirt. He places it on his dresser. He goes back into closet and takes out a folded piece of heavy-duty plastic, and spreads it out across his bed. He walks over to the dresser and unravels the rolled up t-shirt. There is a gun in it. Thunder CRASHES! He picks it up and walks back to his bed. He sits down on the edge, slowly lifts up the gun, and puts the barrel in his mouth. He closes his eyes, and begins to pull the trigger.

ZAIDA (O.S.)
Sheppy!

Scotty opens his eyes and takes the gun out of his mouth. Zaida stands in the corner.

ZAIDA (CONT’D)
Sheppy. Use your gift.

SCOTTY
(angry)
Gift! Gift! Use your gift! Remember! Remember it all! Yeah, Zaida! Look where my gift got me, now! I have no gift, Zaida. It was nothing but a bunch of pipe dreams. My life is a stinking, horrible mess. Life?! I can't even call this a life! It's hardly an existence! Look at me. I'm almost sixty years old without a hope or desire to live. I want to come be with you, Zaida. This life wasn't meant for me. I'm just so tired. Tired of it all. I don't have a wife. No kids. No grandkids. I have nothing, Zaida. I'm $150,000 in debt from a student loan from that damn art institute. Yeah. That degree got me far. I can't even get a job driving a truck anymore because of all my DWI's. Gift?!

(MORE)
SCOTTY (CONT'D)
You wanna give me a gift?! Let me be done with this and come be with you. That's a gift.

ZAIDA
Listen to me, Sheppy...

SCOTTY
What do you want from me, Zaida? What?... What?

ZAIDA
Listen to me, Sheppy. Listen very carefully. All you have to do is, remember. Remember. Remember it all. Write it. Tell it. Use your gift, Sheppy. Use your gift for the World to see, It's a beautiful gift. You must use it, Sheppy. It’s not too late.

SCOTTY
It is too late, Zaida. It is.

Scotty puts the gun back in his mouth and pulls the trigger. BANG!

INT. SCOTTY’S BEDROOM (2011) - DAY

The sun shines through the window and the birds CHIRP. SCOTTY(46) is asleep in his bed. He is clean-shaven, and no wrinkles. He sweats profusely. His eyes pop wide open. He sits up, gets out of bed and walks to his computer on the desk. BLABOOP. He looks down at the screen. It flashes, “6 NEW E-MAILS”. He sits down at his computer and goes to a Word Program. He types,"Working title". The cursor moves down. He types, “CRASHING BY DESIGN”. Under that he types, "An original screenplay by Scotty Derechinsky". Cursor goes down and to the left. He types “FADE IN:”. Cursor goes down. He types, “ EXT. RESTAURANT (1965) - NIGHT”.

INT. T.V. STUDIO/ EBERT AND ROEPER SHOW

EBERT and ROEPER are seated at their chairs.

EBERT
I absolutely loved this movie! It's genius! Both of my thumbs are up for this one! Brilliant! And the guy who made this film was an unemployed truck driver. Never made a film in his life. Pure genius!
ROEPER
I couldn't agree more, Roger.
Brilliant! That ending caught me
off guard. I love a movie that
makes you think.

INT. HOUSE/LIVINGROOM - DAY

News crew is there. REPORTER interviews ROBIN(55).

REPORTER
I'm standing here with the sister
of this man they're calling,"The
Middle-Aged Miracle". Out of
nowhere, this unemployed truck
driver from Pittsgrove, New Jersey
makes the film, some critics are
calling a Masterpiece. The name of
that movie is of course, "Crashing
by Design". If you haven't heard of
it, you must be living under a
bridge somewhere. So, Robin, tell
me, did you know your brother was
capable of something like this? I
mean, he's never written a
screenplay before. He's never
written anything else, as far as I
know.

ROBIN
Oh, yes. I've always known he was
brilliant.

Reporter interviews JOHN(57).

REPORTER
How does it feel to know this
movie that your brother-in-law
made, "Crashing by Design" was
written in your very home?

JOHN
Well, all during the time he was
writin' it, I was renovatin' the
bathroom. A lot of bangin' and
power tools. Very noisy. If I'd a
know'd he was writin' a million
dollar movie, I'd a put it off
until he was done. I didn't know. I
thought he was in there watching
porn.

Reporter interviews LEE(50).
REPORTER
Did you even know your brother was writing a screenplay?

LEE
Yeah. He texted me and told me he was writing a screenplay, and it was going good. I texted him back and told him, "Don't stop. Forge ahead". So I guess I get some of the credit.

Reporter interviews JODI(49).

REPORTER
So you're Scotty's other sister. You live here too?

JODI
No, I live down the street.

REPORTER
What do you think of your brother's success? Did you ever, in your wildest dreams think he'd become an overnight sensation like he has?

JODI
I think it's wonderful! He deserves it! He's had a tough life up to now. I'm so proud of him!

Reporter interviews STAN(80) and PHYL(77), holding a Pomeranian dog.

REPORTER
I'm here with Scotty's parents, Phyl and Stan. I bet you guys are really proud of your son.

PHYL
Incredibly proud! But I've always been proud of him. I'm proud of all my kids.

REPORTER
(petting dog)
And I bet this little guy is proud, too?

PHYL
Oh, this is Sammy!

She holds his paw up and waves.
PHYL (CONT’D)
Say hi to the camera, Sammy! Scotty bought him for me. And he was unemployed at the time, too. This was before he made the movie. He named him after the Rams quarterback, Sam Bradford. Oh, he loves this little dog! He calls him his grandboy! He says he's his Zaida!

REPORTER
Adorable! I know Scotty was very close with his grandfather. How do you think he would be feeling now, if he was still alive?

PHYL
Oh, he knows! And he is very, very proud of his Sheppy. That's what he called him, Sheppy. His Hebrew name is Shep Chaim. He called him Sheppy. He loved his Sheppy!

REPORTER
And Stan? You're not saying very much. What did you think when your son told you he was writing a screenplay?

STAN
Well, he let us, me and his mother, read the first 40 pages, then he cut us off. Then, when he was finished, he let us read the whole thing. I knew it would be a success. It was brilliant!

Reporter interviews Scotty’s NIECES and NEPHEWS.

REPORTER
I don't have time to interview all the nieces and nephews, so I want you all to look into the camera and tell me what your favorite movie is.

NIECES/NEPHEWS
Crashing By Design!!!!

EXT. ACADEMY AWARDS/RED CARPET – NIGHT
RYAN Seacrest interviews SCOTTY(46).
RYAN
And here he is! The man everyone's talking about, Scotty Derechinsky! So you were really an unemployed truck driver, Scotty?

SCOTTY
Unemployed for almost two and a half years before I wrote the screenplay.

RYAN
So, Scotty, "Crashing by Design" is nominated for 10 Oscars, including Best Picture. And you've never made a film before. Incredible! Some people are calling you a genius. Do you think you're a genius?

SCOTTY
A genius? Well, I don't know about that, Ryan. All I can say, is dreams can come true. Mine did.

FADE OUT.