

THE WAY, WAY BACK

Written by

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IN BLACK:

We hear the faint sound of CAR TIRES running over the CONCRETE SEAMS of a highway. Eventually,...

MAN'S VOICE (V.O.)  
Duncan, are you asleep?

CUT TO:

1           INT. STATION WAGON - DAY

1

CLOSE ON DUNCAN (14), staring off, lost in thought. He's surrounded by a mountain of SUITCASES, COOLERS, etc.. It's cramped.

PULL BACK to reveal he's sitting in that ill-conceived back bench seat that faces out the rear of a vintage 1971 Buick Estate station wagon.

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)  
... Duncan?

CLOSE ON REARVIEW MIRROR. TRENT RAMSEY (MAN'S VOICE) glances back at Duncan.

TRENT  
Duncan, are you sleeping?

Clearly, Duncan wishes he was.

DUNCAN  
No.

DUNCAN'S POV of a SUV of TEENAGERS passing by. They gawk, flip him off.

TRENT  
Let me ask you something. On a scale from one to ten, what do you think you are?

Beat. No response.

TRENT (CONT'D)  
Duncan? I'm asking you how you see yourself. On a scale from one to ten.

DUNCAN  
I don't know.

TRENT

What? You need to speak up, buddy.

DUNCAN

(louder)

I don't know.

DUNCAN'S POV of a BILLBOARD on the opposite side of the highway. It reads, "Turn around! You missed it! Wave Country Waterpark! Two miles back!"

TRENT

What don't you know? How you see yourself? You don't have an opinion?

Duncan doesn't respond.

TRENT (CONT'D)

I'm just curious. Pick any number on a scale...

DUNCAN

A six.

TRENT

What?

DUNCAN

A six!

Trent takes this in.

TRENT

I think you're a three.

Damn. Duncan definitely doesn't know how to respond.

TRENT (CONT'D)

Do you know why I think you're a three? Do you know what would make me say that?

(beat)

Duncan...?

DUNCAN

No.

TRENT

You don't know why? You have no idea?

DUNCAN

No.

TRENT  
You've got to speak up.

Duncan turns all the way around, making eye contact with Trent in the rearview mirror.

DUNCAN  
(louder)  
No.

TRENT  
Well, from what I've observed, I  
can't say I see you putting  
yourself out there, buddy.

From this vantage point, Duncan surveys the landscape. In the back seat, comfortably stretched out, asleep, and listening to her iPod, is STEPH...

TRENT (CONT'D)  
Meeting kids your own age. And, from what your mom tells me, you seem content just to hang around her apartment.

... And, riding shotgun, his mom, PAM. She's asleep as well.

TRENT (CONT'D)  
Is that a fair assessment? That you're happy to just... Not do anything? Because, see, that's a "three" to me.

Duncan glances back at Trent in the mirror.

TRENT (CONT'D)  
But, the good news is I can tell you that there's going to be plenty of kids, and plenty of opportunities at the beach for you to take advantage of this summer. And, it's a big summer for all of us, really. See if we can make this work... You and your Mom, me and Steph... All making it work together. As a family.

(beat)  
So, what do you say? Let's try to improve that score. Aim higher than a three?

Duncan sits back down, facing out the back. He grabs his iPod.

TRENT (CONT'D)  
 That sound good?  
 (beat)  
 You up for that, buddy?

He puts his earphones in, as we... BEGIN MAIN TITLES

2 **EXT. HIGHWAY**

2

We now see the station wagon in all its glory. It's in mint condition. Strapped to the top, more BAGS. As for the rest of the cars on the highway, they're very much 2012. The station wagon pulls off the EXIT RAMP. Another BILLBOARD reads, "This is it! This is the exit! Wave Country Waterpark!"

3 **EXT. STREET**

3

The station wagon drives along the main street. A quaint beach town. Dated. TOURISTS/LOCALS, flood the sidewalks. The station wagon arrives at a...

STOP SIGN. A CONVERTIBLE pulls up behind. The DRIVER is wearing classic Vaurnet sunglasses. Although retro, they seem to work for him. The Driver looks right at Duncan, enjoying the awkwardness. Duncan doesn't know where else to look. The Driver nods, smiles. The station wagon continues straight, as the convertible turns off to the left, screeching away.

4 **EXT. BEACH HOUSE**

4

The station wagon pulls into the DRIVEWAY. Beach front property. Prime real estate. The house has a very masculine vibe.

END MAIN TITLES

5 **EXT. BEACH HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER**

5

Trent unpacks. Duncan takes in his "home" for the summer. Pam steps up behind him, puts her hand on his shoulder. This is our first good view of Pam. She's wearing a stylish HEAD SCARF. In fact, her whole look is unique. Her own. Duncan and Pam notice the retro SURFBOARD hanging over the DOORWAY. On it, the "name" of the house. "Riptide."

Suddenly, BETTY THOMPSON, pops out, wine glass in hand. Her house's name: "Booze Cruizin'."

BETTY  
Yoohoo!

TRENT  
(under his breath)  
Are you kidding? We just got here.

Betty descends the stairs.

BETTY  
Thank God! One more night of  
drinking alone and I was going to  
kill myself!  
(then, re: wine glass)  
Yes, I'm off the wagon again.  
Accept it and move on.  
(then, re: station wagon)  
Nice ride, Trent. Does the eight  
track still work?

TRENT  
(smiling)  
What? This is exactly the car my  
dad used to drive us in.

BETTY  
Huh. Old and shitty.

TRENT  
You know how much I paid for this?  
It's in cherry condition.

BETTY  
A car salesman with bad taste.  
Shocker.

Betty turns to Pam, invading her space.

BETTY (CONT'D)	PAM
Hi. I'm Betty.	Hi,... Pam...
BETTY (CONT'D)	PAM
Trent's probably already talked shit about me. It's okay if he has. Has he? What did he say?	No, um... We were just...

BETTY	PAM
(off scarf)	Oh, thank you...
I'm loving this. I couldn't pull it off. My hair seems to hate me.	

BETTY  
(to Trent)  
I like her.

PAM  
(giving up)  
... Okay.

Pam goes to pull a suitcase out of the car.

TRENT  
What's not to like?

Pam catches Trent, ogling. Embarrassed, she looks at Betty.

BETTY  
Oh, honey. Get it where you can.  
I'd be on my back after a line like  
that.

Just then, we hear a SCREEN DOOR CLOSE. Betty looks up to find SUSANNA THOMPSON, her daughter, standing on their deck. She's quite cute. A very "mature beyond her years" look.

BETTY (CONT'D)  
Susanna, Trent's here. And this is  
his girlfriend, Pam. Say, "Hi."

Duncan, curious, peeks over the top of the car.

SUSANNA  
(waving)  
Hi.

Beat. Susanna stays put. Betty waits for more.

BETTY  
(sarcastic)  
Yeah, but don't come down.  
(to Pam/Trent, sotto)  
Just stand there, brooding.  
(then, noticing Duncan)  
Oh. You've brought me a man. How  
thoughtful. Who is this in all his  
"awkward stage" glory?

Duncan embarrassed, leans around Betty, seeing if Susanna heard that.

DUNCAN'S POV of Susanna going back inside.

Pam puts her arm around Duncan, pulls him in.

PAM  
This is my son.

BETTY

Wait, he's not yours. There is NO way you're old enough...

PAM

Mathematically... Actually, yes. This is Duncan.

She brushes the hair out of his eyes.

BETTY

Oh my God. I was going to name my youngest "Duncan," but my ex-husband thought it was nerdy. So, we went with "Peter." Which, personally, I think is worse. But, it fits my son, so...

(then, to Duncan)

Don't worry, you wear the name well. Trent, where's Steph?

TRENT

Well, we've been here all of two minutes, so probably changing for the beach.

BETTY

(to Pam)

She's just like me. Screw cancer. I want to be an even golden brown. Everywhere.

Trent, Pam, and Duncan start lugging stuff inside. There's plenty to grab, but Betty doesn't notice.

BETTY (CONT'D)

Well, everybody's back this year. The Gales. The Hutchinsons. The Campbells, sans Ben because of the trial.

(then, to Pam)

Insider trading.

(then)

The Smythes. Oh, and the Keegans, who I'm not talking to, but you can if you want, but just know that most of us aren't.

Pam passes the mailbox, glances at it.

CLOSE ON mailbox. The side reads, "The Ramseys."

BETTY (CONT'D)

So, do you think you will? Pam?

PAM

Do I think I will, what?

BETTY

Talk to the Keegans.

PAM

Oh, I don't know. I don't even know them.

BETTY

Well, do if you want to, but know that I'm mad at them. I don't even want to get into why.

(then, sotto to Pam)

They called me a C-U-N-T.

(then, excited)

You're going to love it here!

6

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

6

Pam puts away groceries. Trent makes a Bloody Mary. Duncan sits on a stool at the counter, as does Betty, who is helping herself to a bag of POTATO CHIPS.

BETTY

So, how was your winter?

Pam starts to respond, but...

BETTY (CONT'D)

Because our year was a challenge.  
My niece was raped in October...

PAM

Oh my goodness...

BETTY

I know. Not even food courts are safe. Oh, and well, Bob, that's my ex-husband, finally came out of the closet. Not a shock. Let's just say that, in bed, his favorite view was the back of my head. Now, my oldest, Charlie, is still into the drugs and psychedelic music. The drugs I get. But, come on, Gary Garcia's dead! Let it go, already!

Betty laughs. Pam glances at Trent, mouthing the word "Gary?" Trent waves it off.

BETTY (CONT'D)  
(to Duncan)  
Don't do drugs, Declan...

DUNCAN  
... Duncan...

BETTY  
(not hearing)  
... They're just terrible. Oh, and  
Susanna. Well, you saw. She's a  
walking mood. Going through an "I  
hate my mother phase." Taking her  
father's side, as usual.

Steph enters, wearing the tiniest of tiny bikinis.

BETTY (CONT'D)  
Oh, Steph, sweetie, don't you look  
great. That's exactly the kind of  
suit that got me pregnant the first  
time.

STEPH  
That's what I'm hoping for.

TRENT  
Hey,...

STEPH  
(rolling her eyes)  
I'm kidding!

Steph grabs a beer from the six-pack on the counter. Thrown,  
Pam glances at Trent, who seems oblivious. Pam takes her  
look to Betty, who commiserates.

BETTY  
I know. I can't drink beer  
anymore, either.  
(then, grabbing her sides)  
Look at these muffin tops. Oh, and  
my youngest, Peter... He had  
surgery to fix his lazy eye. Now,  
it's even worse. I try to get him  
to wear the eye patch, so people  
don't feel uncomfortable. But, what  
are you going to do?

Betty notices Pam putting some "snack foods" into a cabinet.

BETTY (CONT'D)  
No, lower shelf, sweetie. You're  
going to want snack items  
accessible. Save that space for  
these fancy crackers.  
(off package)  
5.99?!

Steph shoves a couple more beers into her beach bag.

STEPH  
I'm outta here.

TRENT  
Oh, hey, take Duncan with you.

Trent makes a point to look at Duncan, encouraging.

STEPH  
Fuck that noise. I told you I'm  
not baby-sitting him all summer.

TRENT  
You're taking Duncan with you,  
young lady.

Duncan looks at his Mom. "Do I not get a say?"

PAM  
(off Duncan)  
Go to the beach, sweetie. You'll  
have fun. We're just going to be  
unpacking here.

TRENT  
(suggestive, playful)  
Well,...

Trent caresses Pam's ass, pulls her in and kisses her. She placates, but is definitely blushing.

BETTY  
That's our cue, kids.  
(then)  
Oh. Now, I am still having our  
annual Fourth of July Clambake even  
though Bob's not here this year.  
He's probably sucking off our  
gardener right now. Okay well,  
let's have a fun summer!

Betty exits, taking the potato chips with her. Duncan glances at his mom, hoping to be saved. But, she's lost in Trent.

STEPH  
 ... You coming or what?

Steph leaves. Duncan shuffles out the door.

7 EXT. DUNES - MOMENTS LATER

7

Steph strides down the WOODEN PATH. Duncan, still in jeans and a T-shirt, lags behind.

STEPH  
 Keep your distance. And, just don't die. I don't need that shit over my head.

8 EXT. BEACH - A LITTLE LATER

8

Steph sits in the sand with her friends, KATY and LAURA. Susanna is there as well, reading. Although the same age as Steph, Susanna has a maturity level that is leaps and bounds beyond the rest of the girls. Steph's boyfriend (or "summer friend"), CHAD, is playing football with some GUYS nearby. Seated off to the side, Duncan.

LAURA  
 Oh hey, just so you guys know, my house is out this year for partying.

STEPH/KATY  
 What?! Are you kidding?/I'm hating you right now! I'm serious.

LAURA  
 My grandmother came up with us. So, my mom's like, "This could be her last summer alive." And I'm, like, "Yeah, well, I'm currently living, so..."

KATY  
 What a selfish bitch.

LAURA  
 I know. This is, like, my summer.

STEPH  
 Well, we can absolutely party at my place. My dad only gets to see me, twice a year, so he totally just wants me to be happy.

LAURA

That's exactly the type of parent  
I'm going to be.

STEPH/KATY

It just makes sense./I'm gonna do  
drugs with my kids.

LAURA

Oh my God. I forgot. Willem broke  
up with Jessica.

STEPH/KATY

Are you serious?/Good. I don't get  
her face.

STEPH

Susanna, you have to get on that  
this summer.

LAURA

If I'm not already on it.

The girls laugh.

STEPH

(jokingly)

Don't be a stupid bitch.

Susanna rolls her eyes at the lameness, goes back to her book. Steph hops up.

STEPH (CONT'D)

(calling off)

Chad!

ANGLE ON Chad, preoccupied with his friends.

STEPH (CONT'D)

Chad!

CHAD

What?!

STEPH

I want to go in the water!

CHAD

Then, go!

Steph just takes the moment in stride, brushes off. She notices Duncan staring at them.

STEPH  
What are you staring at, perv?

Steph walks off with Katy and Laura...

LAURA  
Where is that kid from, anyway?

STEPH  
Albany. He and his mom. They live in, like, a one bedroom apartment.

LAURA/KATY  
Eww! /Tragic.

STEPH  
(noticing)  
Uh, Susanna. We're all swimming!

Duncan watches Susanna reluctantly jump up, join them.

9                   EXT. DUNES - A LITTLE LATER

9

Duncan heads back toward the houses. From the opposite direction, Betty and her son, PETER.

BETTY  
Duncan, we were just coming to find you. This is Peter.

PETER  
Hey, Duncan.

DUNCAN  
Hey.

Betty wasn't kidding. Peter's eye goes in every direction. Duncan doesn't know where to look.

BETTY  
Oh, just stare at the bridge of his nose. That's what I do.

PETER  
Mom! Jesus.

BETTY  
Well, if you wore the patch, I wouldn't have to keep telling people that, would I?! Duncan, I was thinking that you and Peter should hang out this summer.  
(MORE)

BETTY (CONT'D)  
Lord knows he brought enough of his  
Star Wars dolls. You could have  
fun with those.

PETER  
They're action figures, mom! And  
they're classics!

(then, to Duncan)  
I've got a rare wookie and the C-  
3PO with detachable arms. They  
lose value if I take them out of  
the boxes, but we can still have  
awesome battles with them.

BETTY  
He needs human contact. He's  
having too many conversations with  
those dolls.

PETER  
No, I'm not!

BETTY  
I've heard you, Peter! You called  
that "Baby Foot," or whatever, your  
best friend.

PETER  
(not worth the effort)  
Boba Fett...

BETTY  
(ignoring, to Duncan)  
So, should we set up a time for you  
two to get together tomorrow?

DUNCAN  
Uh, I should check with my mom.

Duncan starts off.

BETTY  
(calling after)  
Okay, well, don't stand us up  
because we know where you live!  
(then, to Peter)  
See, I told you. Your eye makes  
people uncomfortable.

PETER  
You're the worst parent.

10

**INT./EXT. BEACH HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER**

10

Duncan enters. From upstairs, PLAYFUL LAUGHING. Pam and Trent are clearly fooling around. With that, Duncan turns right around, and heads back out.

11

**EXT. STATION WAGON - MOMENTS LATER**

11

Duncan is lying on top of the roof, eyes closed, listening to his iPod. Unfortunately, he's listening to Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'." AND, he's singing out loud.

He opens his eyes to see...

Susanna watching him from her deck. He fumbles with the iPod, drops it. The earphones stay in, the console falls to the ground. Embarrassed, he looks up, only to see that...

... She's gone.

12

**INT. BEACH HOUSE - DUSK**

12

Duncan comes down the stairs. Pam is cooking. Trent is making drinks. With them, Trent's friends, KIP and JOAN SMYTHE. Music blares on the stereo. They're all drinking and trying to sing along, but clearly don't know all of the words. Joan is dancing, occasionally tugging on Kip to join her. But, to no avail.

KIP

So, Pam, what do you think of the house? Are you rethinking Trent after getting caught in the...

(playing up)  
"Riptide."

Trent smiles, shakes his head. He takes a lot of shit for that.

PAM

(smirking)

There is a lot of testosterone.

JOAN

I'm into it.

TRENT

Hey, I'm up for whatever. I'm not set in my ways.

Kip and Joan, scoff at this notion.

JOAN  
Tell that to Christine.

Kip casually taps Joan, but she's too involved with dancing to realize her faux pas.

TRENT  
(moving on)  
Pam's already got some great ideas.  
I told her I want her to really put  
her stamp on the place.

Trent kisses Pam's neck. Joan and Kip take in this Trent. Kip, impressed. Joan, maybe not as much.

PAM  
(clarifying)  
I mentioned rearranging a few  
things.

Pam places two large, empty platters on the counter. She notices Duncan.

PAM (CONT'D)  
Oh hey, sweetie.

She kisses him on the forehead.

PAM (CONT'D)  
You guys, this is Duncan. These  
are Trent's friends, Kip and Joan.

Pam starts to arrange hor d'ourves on the platters. Without even being prompted, Duncan helps out.

DUNCAN  
Hey.

They ad-lib, "hellos." Broken by,...

TRENT  
Hey, buddy, any chance you were on  
top of my car?

Duncan takes a moment, then...

DUNCAN  
(shaking head)  
No.

TRENT  
Cause there was a dent in the roof.  
It popped back up. So, it's okay.  
(MORE)

TRENT (CONT'D)  
I'm just wondering if you knew  
anything about that?

PAM  
(innocent)  
Well, we did have bags up there,  
honey.

Not the one he wanted to hear from, but...

TRENT  
That's true. We did. Fair enough.

Trent smiles for Pam's benefit.

TRENT (CONT'D)  
(pointed, to Duncan)  
So, that's probably it.

He winks at Duncan, smirks.

JOAN  
Can I help you with this, too, Pam?

PAM  
Oh. No. Thank you.  
(then, smiling at Duncan)  
We've kind of got a system.

Trent puts his arm around, Pam.

TRENT  
We've got a good team, here.

He kisses her cheek. He seems proud. Joan puts on a good face, then...

JOAN  
(to Duncan)  
Okay. We just met, but I can't get  
either one of these guys to dance  
with me, so...

Duncan tries to protest, but...

PAM  
(teasing)  
What? It's our job to scar you for  
life.

Joan dances toward Duncan, encouraging.

KIP

Joan, don't creep him out right away.

JOAN

(laughing)

I'm not being creepy.

(then, to Duncan)

Do you think I'm being creepy?

DUNCAN

Um,.... No?

Joan takes Duncan's hand. He slowly starts to comply. It's awkward.

JOAN

Whoo! There you go!

Pam and Joan enjoy watching Duncan. Trent and Kip aren't sure what the hell they're watching. Just then, Steph crosses through wearing a very revealing outfit.

STEPH

Later.

She grabs a six pack of beer. Trent doesn't bat an eye.

PAM

Oh, but Steph I made us dinner...

STEPH

Oh, shoot. I promised some friends I'd meet them. But, thanks.

JOAN

(to Steph)

Check out Duncan's moves.

She watches for a beat, then...

STEPH

Enjoy therapy.

Trent/Kip can't help but laugh. Steph leaves. Duncan becomes self-conscious, stops dancing.

JOAN

No, keep going.

TRENT

Okay, that's enough of that.

Trent changes the music.

TRENT (CONT'D)  
Let's get that grill going.

13

INT. BEACH HOUSE - A LITTLE LATER

13

Post dinner. Joan, holding court. Duncan pushes remnants of food around on his plate.

JOAN  
No, I can tell you exactly where I was. Passed out in the dunes.

The guys laugh. Pam is out of the loop, but puts on a gracious face.

TRENT  
That's right!

JOAN  
Because, you left me there!

TRENT  
No, now wait! Kip wanted to go out on his boat. He said you'd be fine by the fire.

JOAN  
You never came back! I woke up to some kids poking me with a stick!

The guys laugh. Pam takes a moment to connect with Duncan. She smiles, winks. Kip starts piling more food onto his plate.

JOAN (CONT'D)  
Now, Trent, was it last year that you and I...?

KIP  
Okay, I just have to point out that I'm loading up for the third time and I'm already full.

Joan puts on a good face, but clearly not a fan of being interrupted.

KIP (CONT'D)  
Pam, this is absolutely incredible.

PAM  
Thank you.

KIP

No, thank you.

(then, re: Trent)

And sorry this asshole sprung us on  
you, last minute.

PAM

It's fine. I'm a caterer. I love  
cooking for people.

TRENT

One of her many talents.

Trent kisses her. Pam smiles, graciously. She's not used to  
being put on a pedestal. It shows.

JOAN

So, you cater, huh? Well, that  
makes sense.Joan takes a sip of her wine, smiles. Trent opens another  
bottle of wine.

PAM

Okay. I'm sorry, I have to put my  
son out of his misery.

(smiling, to Duncan)

You're free to go.

With that, Duncan jumps up from the table. Finally, relief.

TRENT

But, take your plate, buddy. We  
clean up after ourselves in this  
house.

Duncan complies, as Trent pours Pam some more wine.

PAM

JOAN

You know, I once went to this (to Trent)  
horrible luau-themed party... Now, was it last summer...?

PAM

JOAN

Oh, I'm sorry...

(faux sincere)

No. Go. Please.

JOAN

(passively)

I'll get this story in at some  
point...

PAM

No, please. You were talking...

TRENT  
Tell your story, babe.

KIP  
Yeah. Enough of us, reminiscing...

PAM  
No. It's dumb...

JOAN  
Well, now we have to hear it.

PAM  
Really, it's...

They prod her more until...

PAM (CONT'D)  
(quickly, getting it over  
with)  
One time I went to this luau and  
passed out in the dunes, too.  
That's basically it.

Dead air. A flop of a story. But, everyone fakes enjoyment  
to ease the awkwardness for Pam.

JOAN  
(passively)  
Oh, how funny.

PAM  
(embarrassed)  
It was just... A similar thing  
to...

Trent pulls in Pam close, smiling. He's very attracted to  
this side of Pam, endeared even more.

JOAN  
Okay. Trent, was it last summer  
that you and I got stuck out on our  
boat?

TRENT  
(pointing to Kip)  
Yes, cause this bastard buys gas,  
three dollars at a time!

They all laugh, and continue to reminisce. Duncan finishes  
cleaning off his plate, heads down the hallway. Pam watches  
him wander off.

14

**INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER**

14

Duncan looks around aimlessly for anything to pass the time.

- Surveys the BOOKCASES. Slim pickings. Mostly romance novels.

- Checks out a PLAQUE. It's engraved. "Trent Ramsey, Car Salesman of the Year."

- Looks at FRAMED PHOTOS. Most of them of summers past. One catches his eye in particular. It's a GROUP SHOT. Among them, Trent, Kip, Joan, and Betty. AND, there's one WOMAN of interest. While everyone else is looking at the CAMERA, she's looking at Trent. But, she's turned at such an angle that we can't see much of her face, if any at all. Hanging onto her, Steph, smiling at the CAMERA.

- Opens a HALL CLOSET. Practically empty, save for one old, ratty edition of CANDYLAND and a 500 PIECE PUZZLE (Something lame, like kittens in a basket.)

- Duncan sits on the FLOOR. In front of him, the almost completed PUZZLE. Just two pieces left to put in. He looks around. Shakes the box. No pieces to be found. Sighs and just starts taking it apart.

15

**EXT. BEACH HOUSE - BACK DECK - LATER THAT NIGHT**

15

Duncan walks out, looks out over the dunes.

BETTY (O.S.)  
 Susanna, close the screen door!  
 I'm getting eaten alive by  
 mosquitos!

Duncan looks over at the adjacent deck, noticing Susanna, sitting in a lounge chair. She gets up, slams the screen door shut.

BETTY (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 I don't like the way you're acting,  
 young lady! You wouldn't be this  
 way if your dad was here!

Feeling Duncan's stare, Susanna looks over at him. Caught, Duncan looks away quickly. Beat. He looks back to see if... Yep. Susanna's still looking at him.

SUSANNA  
 Hey.

DUNCAN

... Hey.

Beat.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

Sorry about... I didn't mean to...

SUSANNA

Oh, I don't care. It's not like we  
were using our inside voices.

DUNCAN

That's cool. That's cool.

Beat. An eternity.

SUSANNA

So,.... You're a big fan of Journey?

DUNCAN

... What?

SUSANNA

"Don't Stop Believin'?"

DUNCAN

Oh, no. My mom must have put that  
on there.

SUSANNA

Oh, and you just got to it and  
thought, "What the hell. I'm going  
to sing the shit out of it,  
anyway?"

DUNCAN

(trying to play it off)  
Something like that.

We hear LOUD LAUGHTER from inside Trent's house.

SUSANNA

Sucks here, huh?

DUNCAN

(shrugging)  
It's okay.

SUSANNA

It sucks.

DUNCAN

Yeah, no. Totally. Big time.

Beat. Susanna waits for more, then...

SUSANNA  
Alright, well...

She starts back inside.

DUNCAN  
Feels like it's going to be a hot summer.

SUSANNA  
Oh. I thought we were done.

DUNCAN  
Oh,... I was thinking about that earlier... That hot thing... And, it just came to me again.

SUSANNA  
(smiling)  
Okay. Well, if something else comes to you,... Again. I'll be inside.

Susanna heads in. Duncan collapses into a lounge chair, making himself as small as he can.

16      **EXT. DUNES - DAWN**

16

The sun is just coming over the horizon.

17      **INT. HALLWAY**

17

Duncan passes by his mom's room. Door, closed. Silence.

18      **INT. KITCHEN**

18

It's a mess. Pretty much everything left out from the night before. Clearly, not everyone cleans up after themselves. Steph is there, scavenging the fridge.

STEPH  
They drank all the beer.

She slams the fridge door, storms out. Duncan finds a \$20 BILL on the COUNTER. Next to it, a NOTE. It reads, "Up late. Sleeping in. Love you, Mom."

19

**EXT. BEACH HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER**

19

Duncan walks down the stairs.

BETTY (O.S.)

Peter, don't get mad at me. I  
don't know where you're looking!

Duncan stops in his tracks. Shit. Betty and Peter are at  
the base of their front STAIRS.

PETER

Forget it! It's gone!

BETTY

Well, next time you say, "Look at  
the seagull," you have to remember  
to point!

Duncan makes a quick break for it, ducking behind the station  
wagon. He crawls over to the STORAGE SHED, opens it. A BIKE  
leans against the back wall, but we can't quite make it out.

20

**EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER**

20

Duncan rides the bike through town. It's a girl's PINK  
CRUISER, complete with front basket and tassels. But, he  
doesn't care. For the first time, he seems content.

21

**EXT. MARC ANTHONY'S - LATER**

21

It's a PIZZA JOINT. A cool, old school vibe. Duncan leans  
the BIKE against the wall. Parked at the CURB, the  
Convertible we saw earlier.

22

**INT. MARC ANTHONY'S**

22

Duncan is at the COUNTER, buying a SOFT DRINK. Behind him, a  
table of rowdy GUYS, all in BLUE SHIRTS, eating pizza. We  
hear the familiar MUSIC of a PAC MAN GAME starting. Duncan's  
attention is drawn to the...

BACK GAME ROOM. Another BLUE-SHIRTED GUY is playing Pac Man.  
EXCEPT for the classic PAC MAN upright, the rest of the video  
games are very 2012. Duncan approaches, standing right  
behind the Guy, watching.

GUY

Do you mind standing to the side?  
I'm getting your reflection in the  
screen.

DUNCAN

... Sorry.

Duncan steps to the side. As he does, we get our first good look at the guy. It is, in fact, the DRIVER of the convertible.

CLOSE ON LOGO. It reads, "Wave Country Waterpark."

GUY

I wouldn't normally care, but I'm having the game of my life. I'm on the cherry level.

DUNCAN

But, that's the first level.

GUY

Yeah, and I still have one man left. So, like I said, it's the game of my life.

DUNCAN

(smirks)

You like Pac Man?

GUY

What? It's a classic!

(re: other games)

Not into all the bells and whistles, my man. Too much going on.

CLOSE ON Pac Man screen. Pac Man chases a "blinking ghost", barely devouring it before it changes back.

GUY (CONT'D)

See, my mistake is that I get greedy. Going for all the ghosts and fruit instead of just clearing pellets.

DUNCAN

You know, there's a pattern.

GUY

Oh, don't tell me you're one of those guys. That takes all the challenge out of it. Anybody can learn a pattern.

Just then, the blue-shirted GUYS start to get up, putting up their TRAYS.

BLUE-SHIRTED GUY

Owen, we gotta go!

We hear the familiar sound of PAC MAN DYING.

OWEN (GUY)

Well, so much for the game of my life.

DUNCAN

You still have another man left.

OWEN

Naw, I've yet to see the second board. Gives me something to look forward to.

DUNCAN

Oh, the board's always the same.

OWEN

Well, there's that. Thank you. Now, I can die. Here. You play it.

DUNCAN

No, I...

OWEN

Go, go. It's all you.

Duncan plays.

OWEN (CONT'D)

But, it's still my quarter. So, if you end up getting a high score, I don't want to see... What's your name?

DUNCAN

... Duncan.

OWEN

That took a while to remember. You're not lying to me, are you? This isn't a stranger danger situation.

DUNCAN

No, I know that my name is Duncan...

OWEN

Okay, well, I don't want to see  
that up on the screen.

DUNCAN

Oh, they only let you use three  
letters.

OWEN

Wow. Nothing's left to the  
imagination with you, huh?

Owen starts to walk away.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Oh and hey, no pattern on my  
quarter, man. Cut your own path.

Duncan watches him leave. Suddenly, we hear PAC MAN DYING  
again.

23

**EXT. BEACH HOUSE - LATER**

23

Duncan pulls up on his bike. Pam and Trent are loading a  
large PICNIC BASKET and COOLER into the station wagon.  
Steph, leaning against the car, putting on suntan lotion.

PAM

There you are. We were just about  
to leave without you. Where did  
you run off to?

DUNCAN

(shrugging)

Nowhere.

PAM

Well, let's leave notes, okay?

TRENT

Your mom was worried.

PAM

Now, go put on your swim trunks.  
Kip and Joan invited us for lunch  
on their boat. And, we're running  
late.

Duncan heads toward the house.

TRENT (O.S.)

Head's up, buddy.

24

**EXT. DOCKS - LATER**

24

CLOSE ON DUNCAN, catching a life vest.

PULL BACK to see Duncan standing on the dock. Everyone is loading stuff onto a large motor boat, all tricked out. On the back, the boat's name, "BARELY A WAKE." Trent stands on the edge of the boat.

TRENT

You need to wear that.

KIP

Oh, I think he's cool without it.

TRENT

No, Duncan can't swim.

PAM

(trying to make it better,  
clarifying)

Trent, he's just not a comfortable  
swimmer.

KIP

I really think he'll be fine.

TRENT

No, let's wear it, buddy. So,  
people don't have to worry about  
you, right?

BETTY (O.S.)

Yoo hoo!

Betty walks down the dock, followed by Peter and Susanna.

BETTY (CONT'D)

Yes, we invited ourselves. Accept  
it and move on. But, we brought  
margaritas!

Duncan, reluctantly, puts on the vest.

DUNCAN

(sotto, to Pam)

Why do I have to wear this? No one  
else does!

PAM

He just wants you to be safe.

Susanna walks by, lifting an eyebrow, as Pam tightens the straps on his vest.

PAM (CONT'D)  
Is that snug enough?

Off Duncan's look...

DISSOLVE TO:

25

**EXT. BOAT - LATER**

25

CLOSE ON Duncan. He's miserable. The life vest is three sizes too big for him. When seated, it comes halfway up his face.

Pam, pulls food out of the picnic basket, creating a beautiful spread on a table. The food, impeccable. Kip's already helping himself to the annoyance of Joan. Steph and Susanna are sunbathing on the front of the boat.

PAM  
Basically, he was relentless. And, don't get me wrong. I was looking. I had been divorced well over a year. It just...

TRENT  
It just took a little persistence on my end.

Pam smiles, caresses Trent's cheek.

PAM  
Well, I wasn't sure about you.

TRENT  
I met her when she was catering some Halloween party in Albany...

PAM  
(teasing)  
He went as a sexy cop.

TRENT  
(laughing, defending)  
No, I was a 70s, bad ass cop.

PAM  
He followed me around all night, saying that he was there to "protect and serve" me.

Trent, playfully, tries to put his hand over Pam's mouth, but she pulls away.

TRENT  
That was my character!

PAM  
I don't think so!  
(laughing, to adults)  
That about ended it right there for  
me!

BETTY  
(sotto, to adults)  
Sadly, I would have been working  
his bag by that point.

They all laugh.

TRENT  
(to Pam)  
Now, you did let me help you load  
up your van at the end of the  
night.

PAM  
Yes, I did.

TRENT  
But, it still took three months to  
even get her to go out with me.

He pulls Pam in.

BETTY  
Three months? I didn't know you  
had that kind of stamina.

TRENT  
She definitely made me work for it.  
(then)  
But, it was worth it.

Betty raises her glass.

BETTY  
There may be hope for you, yet.

JOAN  
(to Pam)  
What finally changed your mind?

PAM  
He told me that we were already in  
this together, so I might as well.

They kiss.

PAM (CONT'D)  
It's been almost a year now.

Joan finishes her wine, and walks off to the bar. Trent, Kip, and Betty start to make plates for themselves. Pam looks over at Duncan. His attention on Stephanie and Susanna. Just then, Stephanie notices Duncan, staring. She nudges Susanna, whispers something. They both laugh. Duncan fumes. Pam, witnessing all of this, goes over to Duncan.

PAM (CONT'D)  
(light, jokingly)  
Could you look a little more  
miserable?

DUNCAN  
Could he be even more of a dick?

Pam's smile instantly fades.

PAM  
Hey. He's making an effort.

Duncan looks away. Pam sits next to Duncan.

PAM (CONT'D)  
He wants this to work. He wants us  
to be a family.

DUNCAN  
He says that, but that's not what  
he does.

PAM  
Look, I know it's not easy, but...  
You promised, remember? That you'd  
give it a try.

DUNCAN  
I don't know why I can't just go to  
dad's for the summer.

Pam puts on a good face, moving through...

PAM  
... Because you're with me.

Duncan just looks off. He doesn't "feel" like he's with her.

BETTY (O.S.)  
Okay, Pam,...

Betty approaches, a drink in each hand. She's trying to  
steady herself.

BETTY (CONT'D)

... Whichever drink I spill the least out of, is mine.

(laughs, then)

Duncan, if you're looking for company, Peter's down below. His eye throws his equilibrium off. So, he gets sea sick easily.

PETER (O.S.)

Shut up, Mom! No, I don't!

BETTY

Tell that to the bucket beside you!

Betty rolls her eyes. Hands a drink to Pam. And as promised, it's the one that's most empty. Duncan gets up, goes to the other side of the boat. Pam watches him leave.

DISSOLVE TO:

26

**EXT. DOCKS - LATE AFTERNOON**

26

Everyone is unloading. Trent is helping the women off the boat offering them a hand as they step down. Duncan jumps off the side of the boat onto the dock, throws off his life preserver.

TRENT

Hey, buddy, the cooler's not going to get to the car by itself.

Just then, Joan steps up to the side of the boat. It's her turn to step down. Trent offers his hand. She makes a point to reject it, getting down on her own.

27

**INT. BEACH HOUSE - KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT 27**

Duncan stands among the remnants of a "destroyed" kitchen. The table, completely trashed. Half-eaten rolls, corn cobs, opened bottles of wine. Clearly, the party had moved to the house.

From OUTSIDE, we hear muffled LAUGHING/TALKING. Duncan looks out the WINDOW. The adults stumble along the dunes, singing loudly. Duncan sighs and starts to clean up.

28

**INT. DUNCAN'S BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING**

28

Duncan is awoken by the muffled sounds of ADULTS TALKING, LAUGHING.

29

**INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER**

29

Duncan comes down the stairs. Pam, Trent, Kip, and Joan are making breakfast. They're still in their clothes from the night before. And, the kitchen is once again, a mess. Duncan tries to make a bee-line for the front door.

PAM  
(noticing)  
Good morning, sweetie.

Duncan gives her nothing.

PAM (CONT'D)  
Do you want any breakfast...?

DUNCAN  
(short)  
No. I'm good.

Duncan exits. Pam watches him leave.

30

**EXT. STORAGE SHED - MOMENTS LATER**

30

Duncan pulls out the pink cruiser. Standing on her deck next door, Susanna watches him leave.

31

**EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER**

31

Duncan rides the bike, peddling furiously, sweating. Before he even knows it, he's made it all the way out to the highway. Jumping off the bike, he pushes it to the ground. He paces, barely able to catch his breath. Just then, in the distance, he notices it...

WAVE COUNTRY WATERPARK.

Our first glimpse. A gigantic, neon monster. Clearly, built in the 80's and from the looks of it, hasn't changed a bit.

32

**INT. WATERPARK - MOMENTS LATER**

32

Duncan enters, taking it all in. A giant structural mass of bright, neon tubes. Rows of checkered flags are strung up along the side of the waterpark wall. CHILDREN run amok. TEENS congregate around the lounge chairs and snack shop. The wading pool is packed, as are the lines for the slides.

OWEN (O.S.)  
How'd we do?

Duncan finds... Owen, standing on a SMALL DECK over the MAIN OFFICE. He's in a ratty BATHROBE, eating breakfast.

OWEN (CONT'D)  
Nothing less than highest score I  
hope. I've got a reputation to  
protect.

CAITLIN, a fellow coworker, emerges from the office below. Cute. No nonsense. Sardonic. She pretty much runs the place.

CAITLIN  
(to Owen)  
Hey, whenever's convenient for you,  
we are open for business.

OWEN  
(to Duncan)  
See? I'm held in high regard.  
(then)  
Caitlin, I'm going on break.

Caitlin rolls her eyes, heads back into the office.

OWEN (CONT'D)  
See what I did?

CAITLIN (O.S.)  
Yeah. It was clever as shit.

As Owen goes into the apartment, Duncan finds an empty LOUNGE CHAIR near the front entrance, sits. Dressed in jeans and a T-shirt, Duncan should stand-out among the scantily clad patrons, but somehow he disappears. As he watches life in the waterpark continue around him, we...

DISSOLVE TO:

33 EXT. WATERPARK - PARKING LOT - LATE AFTERNOON 33

Duncan, getting on his bike. Caitlin locks the front gate from the inside. The last remaining GUESTS are walking to their cars. Duncan watches as Owen heads into the apartment above the main office.

34 EXT. BEACH HOUSE - LATER 34

Duncan rides up.

GIRL'S VOICE (O.S.)  
Sweet ride.

Duncan finds Susanna, on her deck. In her hands, a CELLPHONE. Duncan seems to be holding onto a little resentment from the boat incident. He answers, but it's halfheartedly.

DUNCAN  
Oh, it's not mine.

SUSANNA  
Yeah, I figured.

Susanna smiles, but can't help but register Duncan's aloofness. She tries another tactic.

SUSANNA (CONT'D)  
You were right, by the way. It is a hot summer.

Duncan stops, reluctantly smiles.

DUNCAN  
Yeah, I just call it like I see it.

SUSANNA  
(holding up phone)  
I'm waiting for my Dad to call me back. I don't want to be inside because my mom will just stare at me while I'm on the phone. She's all freaked out that I'm gonna want to live with him, or whatever.

DUNCAN  
My mom's the same way.

Duncan heads toward the bike shed.

SUSANNA  
So, let me know if you have any other observations on weather patterns.

DUNCAN  
(smiling)  
Will do.

Duncan closes the door. Pam steps out onto the PORCH, checks her watch. Duncan stays out of view until she goes back in. Duncan considers, then sneaks off toward the ocean.

36

**EXT. BEACH - THAT NIGHT**

36

Duncan sits at the edge of the DUNES, looking out onto the beach/ocean. He turns, looks back at the house. The lights in the windows go OFF.

37

**INT. BEACH HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER**

37

Duncan starts up the stairs.

TRENT (O.S.)

I thought we had a deal about leaving notes. Checking in.

Duncan jumps, slightly startled.

ANGLE ON Trent, sitting in a chair, eating a sandwich.

DUNCAN

My mom and I do.

He starts up the stairs.

TRENT

Hey, Duncan?

Duncan stops. Beat.

TRENT (CONT'D)

I'm not interested in talking to the back of your head, so...

Duncan turns around, full of 14 year old attitude.

TRENT (CONT'D)

If we're going to make this work, and it is "we," then there needs to be trust. And, respect. Am I right?

(then)

I think that's something we both want.

DUNCAN

... Fine.

TRENT

There you go, buddy.

Duncan turns, and heads upstairs.

38

INT. WATERPARK - THE NEXT DAY

38

Duncan is back on the edge of the lounge chair, still sporting the jeans and T-shirt look.

OWEN (O.S.)  
I'm afraid I'm going to have to ask you to leave.

Duncan looks back over his shoulder.

DUNCAN  
... What?

OWEN  
Yeah, you're going to have to take off. I'm getting complaints. You're having too much fun. It's making everyone uncomfortable.

DUNCAN  
Oh. ... Okay.

Duncan actually gets up, starts out. Owen is genuinely thrown by Duncan's reaction... Stifles a laugh.

OWEN  
Whoa. Wait...  
(laughs)  
I'm sorry. I shouldn't be... I didn't think you would actually...

Duncan's not sure what's going on. Owen gathers himself. He found that very endearing and funny.

OWEN (CONT'D)  
(gesturing him to follow)  
Come with me...

Duncan seems reticent. More confused, really.

OWEN (CONT'D)  
Look, I can tell you're in complete awe of our front entrance area, but there is more park to be seen.

Finally, Duncan complies, follows.

OWEN (CONT'D)  
First things first, though. As much as I'm a fan of Tuff Skins, we've got to get you a swimsuit. Seriously, when's the last time you bought jeans?

DUNCAN

Oh, my mom buys my jeans...

Owen laughs again.

OWEN

Good. Always take things literally.

39

**INT. WATERPARK - RENTAL BOOTH**

39

Owen and Duncan approach. LEWIS is working behind the counter. He's quite a dour, curmudgeon fellow. And, pale as can be.

OWEN

Lewis, hook up my man, Duncan, here with one of our finest rentals.

LEWIS

Some kid threw up near Crazy Tubes.

OWEN

Whoa, let's try not to impress him all at once.

LEWIS

That will not be a challenge.

OWEN

Lewis is kind of over this place.

LEWIS

I warned you. I'm not long for here.

OWEN

No, I remember that conversation. In 2003.

LEWIS

You watch. Cause I've got plans.

OWEN

Prove it. Without thinking, rattle off three.

Owen smiles at Duncan. He loves goading Lewis.

LEWIS

(complying)

Take up Jiu Jitsu. Invent something. Become a storm chaser.

OWEN

You had me until number three. I think you have to go to school for that.

LEWIS

(scoffing)

No, you don't. "Hey, where's the storm?" "It's over there." "Let's go get it."

OWEN

Wow. I stand not corrected.

Lewis waves him off, pulls out a pair of ragged-looking swim trunks from below the counter, hands them to Duncan.

LEWIS

These don't have any mesh, so you're basically going "commando." Watch sitting. You're junk will fall out.

OWEN

And like that, you're impressed.

Off Duncan,...

40

INT. WATERPARK - MOMENTS LATER

40

Owen leads Duncan, now wearing the ill-fitting swim suit which is clearly too big, on a continuous "tour of the park" in the spirit of the GOODFELLAS shot.

OWEN

Wave Country Waterpark. Built in the summer of '83, it's the last bastion of everything that time period stood for. In fact, it was decreed by its creator that this place shall never age. On his death bed, he said "I don't want this place re-painted or updated. I don't even want it brought up to code. And the minute someone tries, it needs to be destroyed."

Duncan doesn't even bat an eye to this. Owen takes that in.

OWEN (CONT'D)

We actually have a nuclear bomb for just such an occasion.

Duncan still doesn't get the joke.

OWEN (CONT'D)  
Bought it off the Russians.

Still nothing.

OWEN (CONT'D)  
Really? Still good with all that?  
Even the Russian thing? That's  
Cold War. Kind of dated.

Duncan's still blank.

OWEN (CONT'D)  
Okay. Well, that was a waste of a  
bit.

Caitlin joins them, clipboard in hand.

CAITLIN  
Some kid threw up near Crazy Tubes.

OWEN  
(faux pissed)  
Why is this the first I'm hearing  
about this?! Dammit.  
(then, introducing)  
Caitlin, Duncan. Tony, Mary Beth.

CAITLIN  
Hi, Duncan.  
(then)  
Also, I need you to reorder more T-  
shirts...

OWEN  
Did it.

CAITLIN  
Finish the work schedule for next  
week...

OWEN  
Did it.

CAITLIN  
Change all of the filters...

OWEN  
Done.

CAITLIN  
You know, I'm going to check.

OWEN

Oh. Then, in that case, I didn't  
do any of that.

CAITLIN

(slightly bemused)

So, I'm doing it.

Caitlin peels back the way she came.

OWEN

(calling off)

It's called delegation. I read  
about it in a book about it.

Owen STOPS, watching Caitlin go.

OWEN (CONT'D)

(to Duncan)

That's the one you wait for, my  
man.

He takes a moment, then we CONTINUE ON.... They walk past  
four SUNBATHING GIRLS, on lounge chairs.

GIRLS

Hiiiiiiii, Owen.

OWEN

When you're of age, ladies, when  
you're of age.

GIRL #1

Well, why don't you add up a couple  
of our ages, and see what that does  
for you?

GIRL #2

Or to you!

They all giggle.

OWEN

(to Duncan, faux disdain)

Ugh, feminists, right?

Owen and Duncan approach the entrance to DEVIL'S PEAK.  
Clearly, the main attraction. There's a long line.

OWEN (CONT'D)

This, is Devil's Peak. The  
longest, fastest waterslide in a 50  
mile radius.

(MORE)

OWEN (CONT'D)  
Don't Google that for confirmation.  
That fact predates technology.

Just then, three boys, KYLE, NEIL, and JASON, run up. These are the nerds of the waterpark, but they don't see themselves as that. They all make they're way up, past the long line of SLIDERS.

KYLE  
Owen, settle a debate for us.

OWEN  
Hello, boys. Duncan, this is Monroe, Ismael, and Ming Lee.

KYLE  
Those aren't our names!

OWEN  
Those are the names I'm giving you, Monroe.

(to Duncan)  
These are my illegitimate sons.  
All different mothers, but I want to make sure I'm a positive influence in their lives.

JASON  
You're such a jackass!

OWEN  
Ismael, is that any way to speak to your father!

KYLE  
You're not our dad!

OWEN  
They grow up so fast.

JASON  
Listen, Owen, Neil says that years ago some kid figured out how to pass someone on the water slide.  
Is that true?

NEIL  
He did!

KYLE  
It's physically impossible, Neil!  
You can't catch up to someone and pass them!

OWEN

Actually, Ming Lee's right. I was here when it happened.

JASON

Then how'd he do it.

OWEN

It happened inside the tube. So, no one knows. Only the kid and the person he passed,... And, well, Jesus. But, he's hard to get a hold of.

NEIL

Be serious!

OWEN

Guys, what happens in the tube, stays in the tube. That's just the law of the park.

KYLE

Bullshit. We'll just ask the kid how he did it.

OWEN

Be my guest. If you can find him. Last I heard, he went into a deep depression. The fame was too much for him. He turned to cocaine to escape the limelight. Eventually, turning to a life of male prostitution.

(then, pointing)

Oh, no. Wait. There he is.

Owen points at a VERY YOUNG KID. Couldn't be more than 8.

KYLE

Screw you, Owen!

The boys head back down the stairs. Owen stops, looks at Duncan, dead serious.

OWEN

Actually, that crack-addled male whore... was me.

DUNCAN

... Really?

OWEN

Wow. Duncan. Do you get comedy?

END OF "GOODFELLAS" SHOT.

41      EXT. DEVIL'S PEAK

41

Owen and Duncan have made it to the top.

DUNCAN

So, did he pass by sliding up the side of the tube?

OWEN

(teasing)

I'm not telling you.

DUNCAN

But, I want to know!

OWEN

That's a good thing. Don't die wondering.

A lifeguard, RODDY (BLUE-SHIRTED GUY from the pizza parlor), is sitting at the mouth of the slide, pacing out the SLIDERS.

OWEN (CONT'D)

How's it going, Hot Rod?

RODDY

Awesome times.

(then, to next Kid)

Hold on. Alright, go.

A BOY goes down the slide. Another BOY steps up.

RODDY (CONT'D)

Some kid threw up near Crazy Tubes.

OWEN

Damn, pointless news travels fast.

(then)

Can I get a special ride "with benefits" for my man, Duncan, here?

RODDY

Yeah, hold on.

(then, to Boy)

Alright go.

He slides. A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN steps up.

RODDY (CONT'D)

Hold on.

RODDY just stares at her butt for way too long.

RODDY (CONT'D)  
Hold on. Hold. Hold. Hold.  
Hold. Alright... Hold. Hold.

Roddy milks this for everything it's worth.

RODDY (CONT'D)  
(finally, to Woman)  
Alright, go.

She goes.

RODDY (CONT'D)  
Okay, Owen, go!

Owen pushes Duncan down the tube. He immediately follows.

42                   **INT. WATERPARK - BOTTOM OF DEVIL'S PEAK - MOMENTS LATER      42**

The three come shooting out of the tube into the water. Owen, acting clumsy, pretends to be all tangled with the Beautiful Woman.

OWEN  
Oh, excuse me. I'm sorry. Let me  
just... I can't seem to get my  
footing.

By now, the Beautiful Woman can't help but smile. It's the power of Owen.

BEAUTIFUL WOMAN  
(laughing)  
Owen, come on!

OWEN  
It's not me! It's the punk kid.  
He's like an octopus!

Owen notices Duncan just flailing in the water.

OWEN (CONT'D)  
Uh, Duncan. It's three feet.

With that, Duncan stops. Stands, in the waist deep water. Just then, a pair of ratty, old swim trunks pop up to the surface of the water.

OWEN (CONT'D)  
And, uh... Looks like you lost  
something.

Duncan realizes his swimsuit came off. He grabs them and puts them on.

OWEN (CONT'D)  
(smiling)  
Oh. Too far, Duncan. You just had to take it too far.

Duncan is beet red.

OWEN (CONT'D)  
Can he get your number?

43

**EXT. WATERPARK - EARLY EVENING**

43

Duncan unlocks his bike. Owen pulls up in his convertible.

OWEN  
It's late. You want a ride.

DUNCAN  
No, thanks. I've got my bike.

OWEN  
Where are you staying?

DUNCAN  
Over by the beach, on Hampton.

OWEN  
That's far. Throw your bike in the back.

DUNCAN  
Oh, no. You don't have to...

OWEN  
Come on.

DUNCAN  
Yeah?

OWEN  
Yes.

DUNCAN  
No, it's too much trouble....

OWEN  
Duncan, we've got to start having faster conversations. Put it in the back.

44

INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

44

They drive along the main strip.

OWEN

So, what brought you to the waterpark? Not many kids head our way when the ocean's their backyard.

DUNCAN

I don't know... I guess... There's not much for me at home.

(then, changing subject)

How long have you been working there?

OWEN

The park? I've always been there.

Owen watches as Duncan closes his eyes, enjoying the late afternoon sun on his face.

45

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - A LITTLE LATER

45

Duncan gets his bike out of the back. We can see that Betty's Fourth of July Clam Bake is in full swing. PARTYGOERS are arriving, carrying lawn chairs and plates of food around to the back. Her house is covered with decorations, to the point of being garish.

DUNCAN

Thanks for the ride.

Duncan walks the bike up the driveway.

OWEN

Hey, I was thinking. I could use someone to be a floater at the park. Do odd jobs. If you're interested...

Duncan's face lights up.

DUNCAN

(too much)

Definitely. Awesome. Yeah.

(then, collecting himself)

No, totally. If you need me, sure. I mean, I could help out...

OWEN

Duncan.

DUNCAN

Yes.

OWEN

There you go. Tomorrow. 8am.

With that, Owen drives off.

46

**EXT. BEACH HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER**

46

Duncan runs up the stairs, just as Pam is exiting, carrying a platter of food. It's heavy.

PAM

Who was that with you?

DUNCAN

Just a friend.

PAM

A friend who drives?

DUNCAN

Mom.

PAM

What's his name?

DUNCAN

Owen.

PAM

And, how do you know him?

DUNCAN

Mom, he's just a friend.

PAM

(suspicious)

A friend with a license? Well, you should bring him by. I'd like to meet him.

DUNCAN

Fine.

He tries to run past.

PAM

Whoa. I'm not done.

Duncan stops, turns.

PAM (CONT'D)  
 And, we don't stay out all night  
 and disappear all day. Do you  
 understand me?

DUNCAN  
 (under his breath)  
 I could say the same to you.

PAM  
 ... What?

Duncan leaves.

PAM (CONT'D)  
 (calling off)  
 I want you to make an appearance at  
 Betty's.

DUNCAN (O.S.)  
 Okay.

PAM  
 I'm serious.

DUNCAN (O.S.)  
Okay.

47

**EXT. BETTY THOMPSON'S HOUSE - DUSK**

47

Duncan meanders through the crowd of PARTYGOERS. Clearly, Betty's party bleeds into both houses' backyards. Music blares. People are dancing, including CHARLIE (18), a very strung out looking hippie. He's dangerously close to the fire, lost in his own world. Steph and her "gang" of friends, including Chad, Katy and Laura, are huddled around a picnic table.

STEPH  
 Susanna!

Duncan notices Susanna on her deck.

STEPH (CONT'D)  
 We're hanging over here. Grab a  
 cup, we're playing quarters!

Susanna joins. Steph notices Duncan, makes a point to lay across the rest of the bench, excluding him.

STEPH (CONT'D)  
(to Susanna)  
Sit next to Willem. He's being  
hilarious.

Duncan approaches Betty, Pam, Trent, Kip, and Joan. They're gathered around the fire, laughing. He sits in a LAWN CHAIR behind them.

BETTY  
I think my first hint was catching  
Bob coiling our gardener's hose.  
Then, there was our pool boy.  
Third strike, was Peter's  
principal.

Everyone gasps with laughter.

BETTY (CONT'D)  
(nodding her head)  
P.T.A. meeting.  
(then)  
You can imagine how that  
conversation went. "I'm concerned  
about safety in our school.  
Violence is on the rise." "That's  
not all that's on the rise."

Betty imitates "porn music." They all laugh.

BETTY (CONT'D)  
(getting up, re: glass)  
This is empty. And, that's just  
not right.  
(then)  
Charlie, don't do your dead dance  
so close to the fire!  
(then, noticing)  
Oh, hey, Duncan.

Pam looks back, smiles. She reaches out for Duncan's hand. Duncan complies, takes her hand and allows her to pull him closer.

BETTY (CONT'D)  
You should hang out with Peter.  
He's playing under one of these  
tables.  
(calling off)  
Peter!

PETER (O.S.)  
What?!

Peter's voice, in fact, comes from under one of the table-clothed folding tables.

BETTY  
There you go.

PAM  
Do you want me to make you a plate of food?

DUNCAN  
No, I can do it.

BETTY  
(walking off)  
Be sure to get some clams. They were all my doing this year.

PAM  
Bring your food over here and eat with me, okay?

DUNCAN  
(smiles)  
Okay.

48

**EXT. BETTY THOMPSON'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS**

48

Duncan approaches the folding table, starts to make a plate.

DUNCAN  
What's up, Peter?

PETER (O.S.)  
Hey, man.

DUNCAN  
How's the battle going?

PETER (O.S.)  
Luke and Leia are hooking up.

DUNCAN  
You know, they're brother and sister, right?

PETER (O.S.)  
Yeah.

DUNCAN  
Cool.

Susanna approaches.

SUSANNA

I'd avoid the clams, if I were you.  
They're one of the many casualties  
of my father's absence.

DUNCAN

... Oh.

Duncan considers, but then puts a few clams on his plate.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

(shrugging, to Susanna)

Just because your mom's going to  
see my plate.

SUSANNA

It's your funeral.

CHEERING. Duncan and Susanna look over by the fire. Charlie is clearly enticing the adults with a large bag of pot.

SUSANNA (CONT'D)

Looks like my brother just made  
another sale.

The adults head off, except for Pam. Trent takes her hand, pull her up. She glances over in Duncan's direction. Clearly, torn.

PAM

... We'll be right back.

And with that, she's gone. Duncan dumps his whole plate of food into the garbage can. Susanna clocks. Beat.

SUSANNA

Peter, do you want to go chase  
ghost crabs?

PETER (O.S.)

Hell, yes!

Peter comes out from under the table.

SUSANNA

Duncan? Any interest?

DUNCAN

(coming to)

Huh?

SUSANNA

Want to do something really lame?

PETER  
It's not lame.

DUNCAN  
(beat)  
Yeah. Sure.

49 EXT. BEACH - EARLY EVENING

49

Susanna and Duncan are walking. He seems lost in thought. In the distance, Peter, carrying a flashlight, is looking for ghost crabs.

SUSANNA  
When I was younger, my dad used to bring me down here to do this all the time. He'd fill my head with all these useless facts about ghost crabs. Like, did you know they're omnivorous? Basically, they feed on both animals and vegetables.

(then)  
My mom jokes, "Leave it to your dad to be interested in a creature that goes both ways."

Duncan can't help but smile. Beat.

SUSANNA (CONT'D)  
So, do you want me to keep talking, or are you going to say something eventually?

DUNCAN  
My mom doesn't smoke pot.

Beat.

SUSANNA  
Well, that's the power of this place. It's like spring break for adults.

They smile, connect.

50 EXT. BEACH - DUNES

50

Duncan and Susanna sit at the top, watching the fireworks explode over the ocean.

SUSANNA

That's what I think really kills my mom. Not that he left, but that he's got someone and she doesn't.

Duncan nods.

SUSANNA (CONT'D)

Is your dad seeing anybody?

DUNCAN

Yeah, she's a lot younger.

SUSANNA

Classic.

DUNCAN

They're just getting situated in San Diego. You know? New place. So, he says it's not a great time right now. But,... I'm going to visit him when he gets settled and stuff. It's supposed to be awesome out there.

SUSANNA

California. That's cool.

DUNCAN

Yeah.

Beat. Duncan just looks out at the water. Susanna watches him. Just then, Peter runs by, chasing a crab.

PETER

Susanna, look! The crab grabbed the light saber! He's got Luke's light saber! This is the battle of all battles!

SUSANNA

(to Duncan)

How are you only a year older than him?

Susanna and Duncan walk up the DUNES. Peter runs by, his arms outstretched as if he's flying.

SUSANNA

So, where is it you go?

DUNCAN

Go where?

SUSANNA

On your sexy, pink cruiser?

DUNCAN

Oh. Nowhere.

Susanna smiles.

SUSANNA

Oh. I see...

DUNCAN

No, I just...

SUSANNA

It's okay. Let it be yours.

She smiles. They approach...

BETTY'S HOUSE.

Pam, Betty, and a group of women, are still sitting around the fire. They are all clearly high, drunk, all of it.

SUSANNA (CONT'D)

I'm going to sneak up the back way,  
so I don't have to deal with that.

DUNCAN

Lucky.

SUSANNA

Good night.

DUNCAN

Yeah, good night.

Susanna head up the stairs. Suddenly, MUFFLED ARGUING from the side of the house. Duncan peeks around the side. Joan, clearly drunk, is leaning into Trent. She runs her hand up his stomach and chest. Trent removes her hand, but she leans in, kisses him. Although Trent doesn't "kiss back," he doesn't pull away immediately. Thinking better of it, he finally turns his head away.

JOAN

Oh, I see. Just not this summer.

Pissed, she waves him off. Trent starts walking...

...toward Duncan, who throws himself against the side of the house. Trent walks by, not seeing him. In his hand, a bag of MARSHMALLOWS. Trent approaches Pam and the rest.

PAM

You were gone that long and you  
only brought the marshmallows?

TRENT

Joan has the rest.

Trent joins Kip, Charlie and some other GUYS, who are clearly smoking pot. Duncan watches as Pam looks over her shoulder in the direction of where Trent came from, just as Joan is rounding the corner, fixing her hair. Joan joins them at the fire, handing a box of GRAHAM CRACKERS and CHOCOLATE BARS to Pam without even looking at her. Pam glances over, noticing Duncan. She takes a moment, then...

PAM

(to Group, upbeat)  
Who wants a S'more?

Duncan just shakes his head, and walks off.

52

**INT. WATERPARK - THE NEXT MORNING**

52

Duncan enters. He seems a little out of sorts from the night before. But, at least he's in his OWN swimsuit. Owen is standing at the rental booth with Lewis.

OWEN

You're late!

Duncan looks like a deer in headlights.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Are you planning on making this a  
habit? If so, we're done here.  
You know what? I'm tired of your  
sass. You're fired.

DUNCAN

But,... I just...

OWEN

You make a valid point. Welcome  
back. With benefits.

LEWIS

You waste an exorbitant amount of  
time.

OWEN  
Suit up.

Owen throws him a blue shirt. Duncan doesn't emote much excitement.

OWEN (CONT'D)  
Come on, get pumped! This is a place where dreams are made. Or, destroyed. Depends on how you feel about working at a waterpark.

53           **INT. WATERPARK - A LITTLE LATER**

53

Duncan, now a "blue-shirted guy" himself, hoses down the TUBES over at Crazy Tubes. Owen approaches.

OWEN  
How's that puke coming?

DUNCAN  
You probably shouldn't have let it harden.

OWEN  
Easy, ball-buster.

Just then, Caitlin approaches.

CAITLIN  
That guy who calls himself "B-boy Ferocious" is back with his...  
(mockingly)  
..."break dancing" crew. I thought I told you to tell them they couldn't do that here.

OWEN  
I did.

CAITLIN  
Well, someone needs to take away their cardboard. People are starting to circle up and it's getting too congested.

OWEN  
Duncan's going to take care of it.

DUNCAN  
(taken aback)  
Oh, I don't...

CAITLIN

Owen, you need to do this.

OWEN

(to Duncan)

You read me the riot act over this whole vomit thing. You have it in you.

Duncan looks over at the Snack Shack, nervous.

DUNCAN'S POV of a large group of BREAKDANCERS circled around, watching B-BOY FEROCIOUS dance. A quite imposing fellow.

DUNCAN

(meek)

But, ... It's my first day...

OWEN

Hey. Worst case scenario, it goes horribly wrong.

Duncan takes a deep breath, walks off...

OWEN (CONT'D)

(off Caitlin's glare)

I'm right here. I'll step in.

Caitlin is clearly annoyed.

ANGLE ON Duncan, slowly approaching. The HIP-HOP BLARING from a BOOM BOX getting louder and louder. Duncan stops just outside the circle, looks back at Owen, who gives him a thumbs up. Roddy and Lewis join in the viewing party.

DUNCAN

(soft)

... Excuse me.

No one hears him over the music. They're lost in their dance circle.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

Hey, uh, guys...?

Nothing. Duncan shuffles over to the boom box, turns it off.

BREAKDANCERS

Hey!/What the hell?!

They all turn and look right at Duncan. Dead silence.

DUNCAN

I'm gonna... need to take your  
cardboard.

B-BOY FEROCIOUS

Whoa, whoa.

B-Boy Ferocious comes forward. Duncan's eyes only come up to his chest.

B-BOY FEROCIOUS (CONT'D)

What, now?

DUNCAN

Um,.. I was told to take your  
cardboard.

B-Boy takes a moment, but eventually steps to the side. Duncan makes his way through the very intimidating crowd.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

Excuse me. I just need to get  
the...

He reaches down, grabs the edge of the cardboard. A foot SLAMS down onto it. It's B-Boy, again.

B-BOY FEROCIOUS

Show us your moves.

Duncan looks at him, confused.

B-BOY FEROCIOUS (CONT'D)

Show us your moves. Then, you can  
take it.

DUNCAN

Oh,... I don't... I can't, um,  
crunk or any of that.

B-BOY FEROCIOUS

Then, you can't take the cardboard.

He takes a moment, then starts to "pop 'n lock" horribly. It's awkward, and jerky. This moment seems to go on for an eternity. Finally, he stops. No one reacts. They all just stare at him, blankly. Beat.

B-BOY FEROCIOUS (CONT'D)

(nodding head)

Okay. Okay.

B-Boy seems to be signing off. Duncan, relieved, goes to retrieve the cardboard.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)  
Whoa. We're not done.

ANGLE ON a BEAUTIFUL BREAKDANCER emerging from the crowd. She turns the BOOM BOX back on. Grabs Duncan's hand, leading him to the center of the cardboard.

BEAUTIFUL BREAKDANCER  
Just mirror me.

The Beautiful Breakdancer does a move, throws it to Duncan. He tries to replicate it. Terrible. More moves. More mirroring. More butchering. The CROWD starts to get into it.

B-BOY FEROCIOUS  
Spin on your head!

Just then, two big BREAKDANCERS pick Duncan up from behind, flip him over. Duncan is now in a headstand. The Breakdancers start manually spinning Duncan by his legs, faster and faster, handing him off like a Tetherball.

CLOSE ON Duncan's face, beaming.

DUNCAN'S POV as he spins around and around.

Suddenly, the guys let go. Duncan tumbles to the ground.

BREAKDANCERS  
Stick it! Stick it!

Duncan awkwardly makes a "pose." The crowd goes crazy. B-Boy helps Duncan up. Everyone claps and cheers, including Owen, Roddy, and Lewis. Even Caitlin is not immune to the moment.

B-BOY FEROCIOUS  
Nice moves, Pop 'n Lock.

The Beautiful Breakdancer hands Duncan the cardboard.

ANGLE ON Owen/Caitlin. He gives her a "See?" look.

CAITLIN  
You got lucky.

Owen puts his arm around her waist, but she removes it.

ANGLE ON Duncan, carrying the CARDBOARD back over, grinning. He's also DIZZY AS HELL. He can barely walk a straight line. In fact, as he tumbles off to the side...

BEGIN MONTAGE

54

**EXT. BEACH HOUSE - A LITTLE LATER**

54

Duncan rides up, barely stopping to hop off of it. He's too excited. He heads up the stairs, then realizes... He's still wearing the blue shirt. He pulls his other shirt out of his bag, changes.

55

**INT. BEACH HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER**

55

Duncan enters, excited. Trent, Kip, and Joan are out on the deck. Pam is assembling a platter at the kitchen counter.

PAM

Hey. Where have you been?

DUNCAN

Nowhere.

PAM

That's a long time to be nowhere.

DUNCAN

Well, that's where I was.

With that, he heads down the hallway.

56

**INT. WATERPARK - TOP OF DEVIL'S PEAK**

56

Duncan sits at the mouth of the TUBE. Beside him, Roddy. He's showing Duncan how to run the line. Like Roddy earlier, Duncan is spacing out the SLIDERS. Just then, a BEAUTIFUL TEEN steps up. Duncan instructs her to "hold." Roddy motions for Duncan to check her out. He complies, staring at her behind, but can't help but blush. Suddenly, a CLEARING OF A THROAT.

ANGLE ON the teen's MOTHER, glaring.

RODDY

(mock scolding)

Inappropriate, Duncan.

Inappropriate.

57

**INT. BEACH HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON**

57

Trent, Kip, Joan and Pam gathered in the LIVING ROOM. Joan, clearly holding court. Pam, collecting everyone's drinks to "refill." Without even breaking from her "story," Joan hands Pam her glass. Duncan enters. Pam watches as he goes to the refrigerator, grabs a soda, and leaves. Never connecting with her.

58

**INT. WATERPARK - RENTAL BOOTH**

58

The whole staff is gathered. Owen, passing out PAYCHECKS.

OWEN

Roddy.

He hands Roddy his check.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Lewis.

Owen reaches over the back of him to Lewis.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Pop 'N Lock!

Duncan works his way through the crowd as they laugh, cheering.

59

**INT. BEACH HOUSE - KITCHEN**

59

CLOSE ON DUNCAN, woofing down some cereal, chugging orange juice. He's hellbent to get on with his day. A different air to this "Duncan." Very tan, healthy-looking. His hair, shaggy.

PULL BACK to reveal STEPH just staring at him. Not sure who the hell this is. Duncan looks over, winks.

60

**INT. WATERPARK - TOP OF DEVIL'S PEAK**

60

Duncan is now on his own at "Peak Command." He's wearing classic Vaurnets a la Owen, spacing SLIDERS out with the greatest of ease, confident. Among the kids, Kyle, Jason and Neil.

61

**INT. WATERPARK - BOTTOM OF DEVIL'S PEAK - MOMENTS LATER** 61

A variety of SLIDERS come shooting out of the tube one after the other. Suddenly, the flow of people stops. Beat. No activity. All of the sudden, a LONE FLIP-FLOP comes out of the tube. We hear a LOUD WHISTLE.

END OF MONTAGE

62

**INT. WATERPARK - TOP OF DEVIL'S PEAK - MOMENTS LATER**

62

Owen and Roddy run up. Duncan has the whistle in his hand.

OWEN  
What happened?

DUNCAN  
(panicked)  
Sorry. They rushed me. They said  
it was for the good of science.

Owen, Duncan, and Roddy look down the tube.

THEIR POV of Kyle, Neil, and Jason stuck. They're arms, legs, everything - tangled. And, only Kyle's face is actually facing them. Water, rushing all around them.

KYLE  
I told you we shouldn't all go at  
the same time!

NEIL  
I thought it would work!

63                   INT. WATERPARK - TOP OF DEVIL'S PEAK - MOMENTS LATER           63

Owen hops up on the railing, addresses the sea of kids waiting on the ramp.

OWEN  
Okay, listen up. I need a hero.  
I'm holding out for a hero 'til the  
end of the night. He's gotta be  
strong. And he's gotta be fast.  
And he's gotta be fresh from the  
fight.

(then, off the kids' blank  
stares)  
No? Footloose? Bonnie Tyler song?  
Kevin Bacon drives a tractor in a  
game of "Chicken?"

Still blank stares.

OWEN (CONT'D)  
(giving up)  
I need someone to throw himself  
down the tube and knock some kids  
loose.

A HAND rises from the CROWD.

KID'S VOICE  
I'll do it.

The "volunteer" makes his way through the crowd. It's a KID alright. A quite obese one.

64

**INT. WATERPARK - TOP OF DEVIL'S PEAK - MOMENTS LATER**

64

Duncan, Owen, and Roddy are now joined by the Obese Kid.

OWEN

What's your name?

OBESE KID

Malcolm.

OWEN

You probably should get a running start, Mack.

MALCOLM

(confident)

I got this.

DUNCAN

Owen, I don't know if that's a good idea. What if we just turn off the water? They could get their footing.

OWEN

Let's call that "Plan B."

(then, into tube)

I'm not going to lie to you, guys. This is probably going to hurt.

Malcolm backs up, and starts running toward the tube.

65

**INT. TUBE - CONTINUOUS**

65

CLOSE ON Kyle, Jason and Neil, as they feel the tube ROCK and they hear RUMBLING.

NEIL/JASON

What's happening?!/I can't see!

KYLE'S POV of Malcolm coming at them, full speed.

Kyle screams.

NEIL/JASON (CONT'D)

Why are you screaming?!

66

INT. WATERPARK - BOTTOM OF DEVIL'S PEAK - CONTINUOUS

66

Kyle, Neil, Jason, and Malcolm come shooting out of the tube in one big ball. Owen, Duncan, and Roddy run up. Owen jumps in to help the guys to their feet.

OWEN

(faux concern)

Oh my God. Ming Lee, Ismael, Monroe. I thought I lost you.

MALCOLM

That was awesome!

NEIL

Let's do it again!

JASON

(to Kid)

Will you knock us loose?

MALCOLM

(excited)

Sure!

Caitlin approaches, intercepts. Pissed.

CAITLIN

Whoa. Whoa. We're done with that.  
Thank you.

The boys looks disappointed.

CAITLIN (CONT'D)

(to Owen)

What do think you're doing!

OWEN

It's all good. No one got hurt.

CAITLIN

Don't just wave it off! Places get  
shut down because of stunts like  
this!

OWEN

(to boys)

Is it just me, or is she very sexy  
right now?

MALCOLM

(checking her out)

She's certainly got my attention.

Caitlin takes a breath, shakes her head.

CAITLIN  
(exasperated)  
If you gave me even a glimpse that  
you took anything seriously...  
This is why,...  
(then, indicates herself  
and him)  
... This doesn't happen. This is  
why.

With that, she walks off. Duncan looks to Owen, whose  
clearly affected. Beat.

DUNCAN  
Sorry, I didn't mean to...

OWEN  
No. It's my fault.

67           **EXT. WATERPARK - THE NEXT DAY**

67

It's pouring rain. The place is locked up. The parking lot,  
empty.

68           **EXT. BEACH HOUSE**

68

No activity here, either. The only difference is that the  
station wagon is covered with a tarp. Clearly, Trent doesn't  
like it getting wet.

69           **INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

69

Duncan stares out the window. Miserable. Trent sits on the  
couch, looking through the newspaper. Steph is painting her  
toe nails. Pam enters.

PAM  
The soup needs a little longer.

TRENT  
There's a 1:15 and a 3:30. We  
could see one of those.

PAM  
No, let's stay in. Do something we  
can all do together. As a family.

TRENT

We can see a movie as a family. We could grab Kip and Joan and make an evening of it.

PAM

I don't feel like hanging out with Kip and Joan. I feel like hanging out with all of you.

Pam holds her stare on Trent. She means it.

70

**INT. BEACH HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER**

70

CLOSE ON CANDYLAND BOX. Faded, on it's last legs.

PULL BACK to reveal. The "family" sitting on the floor around the table. Pam, the only one smiling, trying to sell them on her idea. She displays the box top.

PAM

(pointing)

It's appropriate for people three and up. So, we're good.

Tough sell. Steph studies the top of the box, and reads it.

STEPH

"Home Sweet Home."

PAM

Okay, let's not hate it right away.

(then, holding up game pieces)

What color gingerbread character do you want to be, Trent?

Trent doesn't answer.

STEPH

I have to be yellow!

She grabs a pawn.

LATER...

CLOSE ON a "Gingerbread Character" moving from space to space. It gets to an area called "Gumdrop Pass."

PULL BACK to reveal Duncan. It's his turn.

PAM

Oh, look, you can take the shortcut  
there.

There is, in fact, a "bridge" that allows you to jump ahead.  
Duncan moves his "character" over the "bridge."

TRENT

Whoa. No, he can't do that.

PAM

Yes, he can. He crosses the  
bridge.

DUNCAN

(under his breath)

This is so stupid.

Duncan moves back and past the "bridge."

PAM

No, you're at the shortcut. So,  
take it.

Trent picks up the DIRECTIONS.

TRENT

(reading, pointedly)

"If your Gingerbread Character pawn  
lands, by exact count, on the  
yellow space below the Gumdrop  
Pass, you can take the shortcut."

(then)

"Exact count." He picked a card  
with a blue square on it, so he has  
to go to a blue square.

PAM

Well, I don't think it matters.

TRENT

If it didn't matter, they wouldn't  
put it in the directions.

PAM

We can fudge the rule.

STEPH

(laughs)

"Fudge." That's good.

TRENT  
(good-natured)  
Well then, I might as well go  
directly to the top of Candy  
Mountain with that argument.

Trent moves his pawn.

TRENT (CONT'D)  
No rules? There we go. I win.

Pam moves his pawn back.

PAM  
Fine. We'll play the way you're  
supposed to play.  
(then)  
Duncan, move to the correct place.

DUNCAN  
I already did.

PAM  
Great.  
(getting up)  
Now, take my turn for me. I'm  
going to set the table for lunch.

TRENT  
Wait, what? No, you need to do it.

PAM  
Duncan can move for me.

TRENT  
No, you're the one who wanted to  
play. So, play your turn.

Pam takes a moment, then comes back to turn a card and slam  
it down.

PAM  
Purple.

Pam moves her pawn toward a purple square with force. Then,  
turns to go to the kitchen.

STEPH  
(cautiously)  
It's two. You need to move two  
purple squares.  
(off Pam's look)  
Sorry.

Pam takes a moment to collect herself, and then comes to move her pawn.

PAM  
 There. And, I've landed...  
 (for Trent's benefit)  
 ... By exact count, at the  
 shortcut, so, I'll be taking the  
 "Rainbow Trail."

She does.

TRENT  
 See? You're way ahead now.

PAM  
 It's Candyland, Trent.

With that, she walks to the kitchen, starts stirring the soup. Trent gives Duncan and Steph a "What's with her look?" But, they don't commiserate.

TRENT  
 It's your turn, Steph.

Long beat of silence. The only sounds are those of "game play." A Gingerbread pawn being moved across the board. Suddenly, Pam slams down a PLATE.

PAM  
 (in tears)  
 It's fucking Candyland!

She storms off.

71                   **EXT. BEACH HOUSE - THE NEXT MORNING**

71

The sun is out. Remnants of the rain are still evident, puddles on the ground. The station wagon, now uncovered.

72                   **EXT. SHED**

72

Duncan boards his bike. As he rides off, Susanna comes out from behind her house, with her own bike.

73                   **EXT. WATERPARK - A LITTLE LATER**

73

Duncan locks up his bike. Susanna watches from afar. She turns around and heads back the way they came.

74

## INT. WATERPARK - MOMENTS LATER

74

Duncan enters, surprised to find... OWEN, opening up. He looks a little more put together than usual, professional. He's wiping down all the lounge chairs.

OWEN

(noticing)

It's your day off. Why are you here?

DUNCAN

I figured we lost yesterday, so I thought I'd make it up.

(then, knowingly)

Why are you?

OWEN

Thought I'd open the place. See what all the fuss is about.

Duncan smirks.

OWEN (CONT'D)

(saving face)

Yeah, yeah. I'm still your superior. Cup of coffee. My hand. Two minutes.

DUNCAN

Okay...

OWEN

Ha. We don't sell coffee.

DUNCAN

We do.

OWEN

No, we do not.

DUNCAN

Yes, we do.

Owen's not sure.

OWEN

Good. You stuck to your guns. You passed my test. It's hot chocolate we don't have.

DUNCAN

Nope. We have...

OWEN  
No one cares for you.

Duncan smiles. Just then, Caitlin walks up to the front gate, her KEYS out. She seems genuinely surprised to find the place already open AND to see Owen working. He beams. She strides past him, bemused but it's not going to be that easy.

CAITLIN  
Your shirt's inside out.

Owen looks. It, in fact, is.

75      **INT. WATERPARK - A LITTLE LATER**

75

Duncan is stacking MATS.

SUSANNA (O.S.)  
So, this is where you run off to?

DUNCAN  
(confused)  
What are you doing here?

SUSANNA  
I followed you earlier. Then, went  
to grab my stuff.

She holds up her BEACH BAG. Duncan smiles.

DUNCAN  
What happened to "let it be yours?"

SUSANNA  
Does your mom know that you work  
here?

DUNCAN  
No.

SUSANNA  
(impressed)  
... Nice.

Suddenly, over the LOUD SPEAKER...

OWEN (O.S.)  
Duncan, to the Snack Shack.

Duncan looks over his shoulder. Owen, Roddy, and Lewis are standing very nearby.

OWEN (CONT'D)

(into PA)

Duncan, please report to the Snack Shack. I have to announce this over the PA as my voice won't carry that far. My throat suffered major damage during an intense make-out session with Lewis' mom. She has a forked tongue...

LEWIS

(calling over)

Just come over here already, so the bit will end.

Duncan looks back at Susanna.

DUNCAN

... Don't go anywhere.

SUSANNA

I'm cool.

Duncan walks over to the guys...

OWEN

(goading)

Who's that, big guy?

DUNCAN

(shrugging)

Just a girl.

OWEN

Just a girl? A girl who makes you blush?

DUNCAN

Susanna.

RODDY

You pussy hound.

Duncan looks down at the ground, shuffling his feet.

DUNCAN

I don't know. She's... older than me.

RODDY

Then, why are you here talking to us and not over there, sealing the deal with that cougar?

DUNCAN

Well,... Maybe if you guys hadn't  
called me over.

Owen and Roddy react to Duncan's hint of bravado. Duncan smiles and walks off.

76

**INT. WATERPARK - A LITTLE LATER**

76

Duncan is giving Susanna the tour, a la the one he got from Owen.

DUNCAN

(excitedly)

Okay. Wave Country Waterpark. It was built in the summer of '83. The creator never wanted the place to change. So, on his death bed, he said "The minute someone tries to repaint or update the waterpark, it needs to be destroyed."

Susanna laughs. Beat.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

(off laugh)

Huh. I didn't get that joke as fast.

They pass the SUNBATHING GIRLS on their lounge chairs.

SUNBATHING GIRLS

(flirty)

Hey, Pop 'N Lock.

They giggle.

DUNCAN

(off Susanna)

It's a long story.

77

**INT. WATERPARK - SNACK SHACK - LATER**

77

Duncan, Susanna, Owen, and Caitlin are eating LUNCH at a PICNIC TABLE. Nearby, at another table, Roddy and Lewis. Clearly, Owen has been holding court for quite a while.

OWEN

Hear me out....

CAITLIN  
 (laughing)  
 We have been. For an eternity.

OWEN  
 (emphatic)  
 I'm sorry. I look at his face and  
 I'm absolutely convinced..

LEWIS  
 (over this)  
 I'm not engaging...

OWEN  
 Lewis, admit it. You. Should.  
 Be. A. Model.

Lewis just shakes his head, giving Owen nothing.

OWEN (CONT'D)  
 You've got cheekbones to die for,  
 porcelain skin, and all I want to  
 do is dive into those deep, blue  
 pools you have for eyes...

SUSANNA  
 Is he always like this?

CAITLIN  
 (exhaling)  
 Yes.

SUSANNA  
 Exhausting.

OWEN  
Or, endearing?

SUSANNA  
 Exhausting.

Owen shakes his head. Not convinced.

OWEN  
 (to Caitlin)  
 Exhausting or endearing?

Caitlin raise her eyebrow.

OWEN (CONT'D)  
 (waving her off,  
 indicating Susanna)  
 You're just going to say whatever  
 your best friend says.  
 (MORE)

OWEN (CONT'D)  
(then, to Lewis)  
Exhausting or endearing?

LEWIS  
What do you think I'm going to say?

OWEN  
(to Roddy)  
Exhausting or endearing?

RODDY  
Endearing.

OWEN  
Thank you.

LEWIS  
(to Roddy)  
Sleep with him already.

RODDY  
What we have is healthy...

OWEN  
Alright, Duncan, you're the tie-breaker.

Duncan takes a moment, glances at Susanna and Caitlin.

DUNCAN  
(coping to)  
Endearing.

Owen gloats.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)  
But,.... It's cool to just be real  
sometimes.

CAITLIN  
Amen.

OWEN  
Where's the fun in that?

Caitlin exhales. Same old, same old. She tosses her stuff into a TRASH CAN and goes back to work.

DUNCAN  
Maybe she's not into all the bells  
and whistles.

78

**EXT. BEACH HOUSE - EARLY EVENING**

78

Duncan and Susanna are walking their bikes up the driveway.

STEPH (O.S.)  
Thanks a lot for ditching me,  
bitch.

They both look up. Steph is sitting on the edge of the deck, her feet hanging over the side.

SUSANNA  
(lying)  
Oh. I wasn't aware we had plans.

STEPH  
I wasn't aware you two had plans.

SUSANNA  
Sorry, we just...

STEPH  
I've got a ton of stuff going on in  
my life right now. So, it would  
have been nice to have a friend.

Just then, Pam comes out of the screen door. She seems expectant, hoping to see someone who isn't there. Realizing it's just the kids...

PAM  
Dinner's almost ready.

79

**INT. KITCHEN - LATER THAT NIGHT**

79

Pam, Duncan and Steph are seated at the dining room table. A whole spread of food, untouched. Duncan looks over at the wall clock. 8:30 PM.

PAM  
No use in waiting. Let's just eat.

More silence. Just the sound of UTENSILS CLINKING against the plates. Beat.

PAM (CONT'D)  
(trying to push through)  
So, ... How's Chad, Steph?

STEPH  
We broke up.

PAM  
Oh. I'm sorry.

Beat.

STEPH  
(off food)  
This is really good.

They continue eating in silence.

DISSOLVE TO:

80           **INT. KITCHEN - LATER**

80

Pam is at the sink, cleaning dishes. Duncan is wrapping up the uneaten food. Steph approaches Pam, carrying plates. Pam motions for her to set them down. Steph nudges her away, takes over cleaning.

81           **INT. DUNCAN'S BEDROOM - LATER**

81

Duncan wakes up in bed. Something has stirred him.

From DOWNSTAIRS, he hears the front door OPEN. Duncan looks over at the alarm clock. 2:40 AM.

82           **INT. STAIRWELL - MOMENTS LATER**

82

Duncan descends, softly. Peers around the wall.

DUNCAN'S POV of Pam, sitting in a chair, arms crossed. Before her, standing, TRENT.

TRENT  
Look, I'm sorry. I was out with  
Kip on his boat all day. And, we  
lost track of time. I would have  
called, but then it was late and I  
didn't want to wake you.

PAM  
Just tell me...  
(beat)  
... If there's something I should  
know.

TRENT  
What are you talking about...?

PAM

Don't make me feel crazy. I've  
been through this. And, I...

Trent kneels in front of her. He puts his hand on her face,  
gently caressing it.

TRENT

I'm right here. You have me. You  
always have.

(beat)

We're in this together. Remember?

With that, he puts his head in her lap.

83

**INT. KITCHEN - THE NEXT MORNING**

83

Duncan comes around the corner to find Pam, happily cooking  
pancakes.

PAM

(bright)

Good morning. I've already made  
too many pancakes, so I hope you're  
hungry...

DUNCAN

Where was he?

Pam pauses. Smiles a desperate smile and goes back to making  
pancakes.

PAM

He was with Kip. But, he's here  
now. Can you grab the orange  
juice?

Duncan exits, bumping into Trent, coming down the STAIRS.

TRENT

(chipper)

Morning, buddy.

Duncan breezes past him.

TRENT (CONT'D)

Whoa. We don't say, "Good  
morning?"

Duncan locks eyes with him...

DUNCAN

Welcome home.

... And heads outside. Trent hesitates, then heads to kitchen.

DISSOLVE TO:

84

**EXT. JOAN AND KIP'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

84

It's another party in full swing. People are dancing. There's a giant bonfire. Tables, set up in the sand. At one, Trent, Pam, and Steph are eating. Duncan sits at the end of the table, brooding. Betty joins, carrying a PLATE.

BETTY

How about this spread, huh? Where did Joan find the time to order take-out?

Betty winks, Pam smiles.

BETTY (CONT'D)

And if there's one thing that travels really well, it's fried food.

Pam and Betty laugh. Trent knows better than to chime in.

PAM

I must get Joan's recipe for Big Daddy's menu!

They laugh even harder, toasting Pam. Just then, Joan approaches. She seems a little tipsy AND, oddly, is donning a HEAD SCARF a la Pam. Pam's smile fades.

JOAN

Is everyone having a good time? Oh good, you got some food.

(then)

Pam, I don't know what I was thinking. I should of had you cater my party.

Pam gives her best pleasant smile, takes a swig of wine.

BETTY

Well, at least this way, you're going to have lots of leftovers.

Joan gives a forced smile. Betty returns the favor.

BETTY (CONT'D)

New look?

JOAN  
No. Just bad hair day.

Then, turning her attention to Trent...

JOAN (CONT'D)  
Alright, Mr. Ramsey, you've been  
avoiding me all night. And, I  
won't have it. Not tonight.

Joan grabs Trent's arm, playfully trying to pull him up.

JOAN (CONT'D)  
I said I'd get you on that dance  
floor!

Trent resists, but not enough. They head over to the dance floor.

BETTY  
And, they called me a C-U-N-T.

STEPH  
You don't have to keep spelling it.

Just then, Kip joins the table, carrying a plate of food.

KIP  
(jokingly)  
Joan found herself a victim, huh?

Kip chuckles. That sits like a lead balloon with the group.

BETTY  
(changing the subject)  
Kip, I expect to be inviting myself  
out onto your boat again. When  
should I plan to do that?

KIP  
Ah, the motor's out of commission.  
It has been all week. And will  
probably be longer until they get  
the parts.

Duncan looks right at Pam, as she looks over at Trent and Joan on the dance floor. Pam's eyes well up. She stands, her face drained of life, white.

PAM  
I think I'm going to grab a  
sweater. Excuse me.

She turns and starts to walk away. Duncan stands.

DUNCAN  
How much more do you need?

Pam stops, but doesn't turn around.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)  
Do something, mom. You know what's  
happening. He's sleeping with her.  
Do something about it!

The table has gone silent. In fact, Duncan has the attention of the whole party, including Trent and Joan, who have stopped dancing.

PAM  
Duncan,...

She starts to walk away again.

DUNCAN  
Yeah, that's it! Walk away! It's  
easier! It's right in front of  
your face, mom!

Trent comes over, grabs Duncan's arm.

TRENT  
Hey, buddy...

Duncan whips around, pulls free of Trent's grasp.

DUNCAN  
Let go of me! I'm not talking to  
you.

TRENT  
Well, I'm talking to you.

DUNCAN  
(pointing at Joan)  
Just go screw her, asshole! I  
mean, you have already.  
(points to Pam)  
And, she's certainly not going to  
stop you! Are you, Mom?!

TRENT  
You don't know what you're talking  
about.

DUNCAN  
Everybody knows what I'm talking  
about!

Trent grabs Duncan by the arms. He breaks free, and pushes Trent back. There's some force there. Trent is definitely thrown off balance, but gets his footing, goes for Duncan again. Just then, Kip steps in between them.

KIP

Whoa, whoa. Trent. Take it easy.

PAM

Enough! Both of you! Stop!

DUNCAN

Fine. You don't want to do anything about it? It's your life, but it's not mine.

(then)

I want to be with dad!

PAM

Duncan,...

Trent scoffs. Duncan looks at him.

DUNCAN

I'm going to live with my father!

TRENT

Your father? Good luck with that...

Duncan looks a little thrown, confused.

PAM

Trent, don't...

TRENT

He doesn't want you, kid.

Duncan stricken, looks at Pam.

DUNCAN

Is that true?

PAM

(pained)

Duncan...

Duncan takes off toward the beach, passing Susanna at the fire. As Kip turns to Joan, she takes a sip of her wine, and looks right at him.

85

**EXT. BEACH - MOMENTS LATER**

85

Duncan sits in the sand. Susanna approaches, sits. She checks in with him, but his gaze is set on the water.

SUSANNA  
I told you this place sucks.

Susanna smiles, hoping to break the ice. No luck.

SUSANNA (CONT'D)  
I talked to my dad today. I told him that we had chased ghost crabs. It made him very happy. Felt like he was here. "Did you tell him about the eyes?! You've got to tell him about their eyes!" He gets so excited...

Still nothing from Duncan. She pushes on.

SUSANNA (CONT'D)  
See, their eyes can rotate 360 degrees. They can see everything around them. But, they can't look straight up. Which, makes it easy for birds to attack them. So, they have to gather food at night for safety.

(then, shrugging)  
I don't know. My dad finds it cool. He's a dork.

Finally, Duncan looks at Susanna, who smiles. Impulsively, he leans in, tries to kiss her. Caught off guard, she pulls back.

SUSANNA (CONT'D)  
Oh,...

Beat. He tries again.

SUSANNA (CONT'D)  
Duncan, wait.

Duncan jumps up.

DUNCAN  
I just wanted... Sorry.

He walks off.

86

**EXT. BEACH HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER**

86

Duncan rushes toward the STORAGE SHED. On the PORCH, Trent and Pam. Duncan slips under the porch, out of sight.

DUNCAN'S POV through the SLATS...

TRENT

I'm an asshole. You deserve better. But, I can be that. I have to be that. Because you're worth it. I need you.

(beat)

We need each other.

He reaches for her hand. She makes a fist. Unwelcome. That said, she doesn't walk away. Duncan's seen enough. He scurries over to the shed, grabbing bike. Just as he's about to hop on...

BOY'S VOICE (O.S.)

Where are you going?

Duncan, startled, jumps. Beneath the stairs, Peter. He's wearing his eye patch, holding some action figures.

DUNCAN

(hushed)

... Shut up, Peter...

ANGLE ON Pam/Trent, looking out into the darkness.

ANGLE ON Peter, emerging from under the stairs.

PETER

(whispering )

Take me with you.

DUNCAN

No. I...

PAM (O.S.)

(calling out)

... Duncan?

Peter jumps in front of the bike, blocking.

PETER

(hushed)

Please!

Duncan grapples. Peter pleads...

87

**EXT. STREET - A LITTLE LATER**

87

Duncan is riding his bike, with Peter sitting on the handlebars, who is smiling from ear to ear.

88

**EXT. WATERPARK - LATER**

88

Duncan and Peter approach the FRONT GATE. Duncan's surprised to see a few CARS in the parking lot. There are lights on in the MAIN OFFICE. Muted MUSIC from inside. Duncan and Peter start to scale the fence. Roddy and a group of GIRLS walk up, carrying cases of beer. He opens one side of the gate.

RODDY

Or, you could just try opening the gate.

Off Duncan's look...

89

**INT. WATERPARK - MAIN OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER**

89

Roddy enters, followed by Duncan/Peter, surveying the party. The boys definitely stick out as the rest of the room is certainly of age. As for the decorations, minimal. Some strung up LIGHTS. FURNITURE has been pushed to the sides to make room for a dance floor.

RODDY

(to Room)

Be cool. Our boss is here and his pirate friend.

ANGLE ON Owen/Caitlin. Caitlin, out of habit, makes a move to handle the situation. But, without even being prompted, Owen takes charge.

ANGLE ON Peter noticing a COOLER. Grabs a couple BEERS.

PETER

Hell, yeah. I could use a cleansing ale.

Just then, Owen intercepts, taking the beers.

OWEN

Or, check them out from afar.

PETER

I've thrown a few back before.

OWEN

Yeah, and I've been to jail before.  
There's a limit for everything.  
(to Duncan)  
What's your friend's name?

DUNCAN

This is Peter.

OWEN

Nice eye patch.

PETER

Thanks.

OWEN

You don't sound too cool with it.

PETER

My mom makes me wear it. She says  
my eye confuses people.

OWEN

Oh, well now you have to show me.

Peter takes it off.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Wait, she wants you to hide that?  
Is she insane? I'd kill to have  
that eye.

PETER

(smiles)

You're full of shit.

OWEN

Seriously. You know how many bits  
I could do with it? Daring people  
to look me straight in the eye?  
That thing's awesome.

Peter beams. Then, something catches his attention...

PETER

(way too excited)

No way! Pizza and chicken wings!

He takes off. Owen checks in with Duncan, who seems out of sorts.

OWEN

So... What's up, my man?

DUNCAN  
You're having a party?

There's an air of disappointment in Duncan's voice. Owen senses it.

OWEN  
It's a farewell for Lewis. We have one every month.

Duncan nods. Beat.

OWEN (CONT'D)  
... Did you need to talk to me?

Duncan considers, but...

DUNCAN  
Nah. Just wanted to hang out.

OWEN  
(considers, then)  
How about we say you hang out for a little bit? Okay? I'm sure you'll be wanted home at some point.

Duncan nods. Owen can tell he's not himself. He puts his hand on Duncan's shoulder, walks him over to the rest of the GANG. Caitlin can't help but be endeared by the sight, as we...

90

INT. MAIN OFFICE - A LITTLE LATER

90

PARTYGOERS/EMPLOYEES are dancing. Clearly, more people have arrived. Duncan surveys the PIZZA, grabs two pieces.

We TRACK Duncan as he moves through the party. He shuffles through the "dance floor," passing Peter, who is thrashing around. And, he's clearly been going to town on the CHICKEN WINGS judging by the sauce all over his face. Caitlin dances nearby. Peter even tries to "grind" up on her. She politely pushes him away.

We continue to TRACK Duncan over to Lewis, who is opening GIFTS. Duncan hands pieces of pizza to Owen and Roddy. Lewis holds up a POOL LEAF SKIMMER with a giant BOW tied around it.

LEWIS  
(sarcastic)  
Owen, you shouldn't have.

OWEN

Hey. I went to three different places in the waterpark to find that. You can use it to catch thunder clouds.

Peter dances by, BEER in hand. Without missing a beat, Owen takes that one from him, too.

OWEN (CONT'D)

(to room)

Alright, I think we need to hear a few parting words from our guest of honor.

Owen glances at Roddy, conspiratorially. Roddy, taking the cue, crosses over to Duncan, as...

LEWIS

(protesting)

No, no.... I'm not opening myself up to a parade of bits from you...

RODDY

(to Duncan, conspicuously)

You want to be part of a tradition?

Duncan nods, follows Roddy off.

OWEN

No, no. Seriously. All joking aside. We're going to miss you Lewis. You've been a good friend. Plain and simple. That's no bit.

Lewis takes a moment. Wondering if the other shoe is going to drop, then...

LEWIS

Well,... I won't say that I won't totally miss some aspects of this place. It wasn't completely void of decent times. I remember a couple of days that stick out as almost memorable. And, some others that had hours or so within them that weren't painful.

(beat, then genuine)

I guess if there is one thing I will miss dearly, it's...

Just then, a very powerful STREAM OF WATER nails Lewis right in the face, drenching him. He's shocked to say the least.

LEWIS (CONT'D)  
What the hell man?!

ANGLE ON Duncan, armed with a major POWER SOAKER water gun.  
As for the room, they appear shocked, too.

OWEN  
(disbelief)  
Duncan,...?

Duncan's a deer in headlights, again.

DUNCAN  
It's... part of a tradition...

OWEN  
What kind of warped tradition is  
that?!

Duncan glances over at Roddy. He catches him grinning.  
Duncan smiles. He's been duped.

OWEN (CONT'D)  
Lewis was pouring his heart out,  
and you subjected him to  
unparalleled, but well-deserved  
humiliation... ?!

Suddenly, Lewis gets nailed again with another MIGHTY BLOW OF  
WATER.

ANGLE ON Roddy, now armed with a POWER SOAKER as well.

OWEN (CONT'D)  
(really playing it up)  
No, Roddy, no! Not you, too!  
Lewis has suffered enough! He was  
just about to tell us the one thing  
he will miss....

Another BLAST OF WATER hits Lewis.

ANGLE ON Caitlin, armed.

OWEN (CONT'D)  
No, Caitlin! You're better than  
this! Oh man, the only thing that  
could make this worse for Lewis is  
if someone in this room... Someone  
known for taking things  
literally... Literally, takes me  
literally when I say Lewis deserves  
one more shot in the face...

With that, Duncan takes the cue. Nails Lewis.

LEWIS  
(getting up)  
Alright, that's it.

Lewis startles Caitlin, taking her Water Gun. With that, all hell breaks loose. Lewis nails Owen. Duncan nails Lewis. Roddy nails everybody. It's a free for all....

DISSOLVE TO:

91           **INT. MAIN OFFICE - A LITTLE LATER**           91

It has become a full on dance party. Everybody and everything is SOAKED. No one is holding back.

ANGLE ON Peter, sneaking another BEER out of the cooler. He dances his way over, takes center stage, and dances his ass off.

PETER  
Oh shit, I'm feeling the beat.

The crowd goes crazy, as Peter ends his dance with a flourish. The crowd CHEERS. And,... Peter VOMITS.

92           **INT. WATERPARK - TOP OF DEVIL'S PEAK - DAWN**           92

Duncan sits on the railing. The sun just about to come up. Owen approaches, carrying two cups of coffee.

OWEN  
I said you could hang out for a little bit. And, I meant it.  
Sunrise of the next day is where I have to draw the line.  
(then)  
You need to go home.

Duncan doesn't budge.

DUNCAN  
I wish I could stay here forever.

Owen sits.

OWEN  
Oh well then, you're going to love the winters. They're pretty spectacular.  
(MORE)

OWEN (CONT'D)  
Painting houses until it gets too cold, bar backing at some dive to scrape rent together, talking to inanimate objects...

DUNCAN  
I'm serious.

OWEN  
I am, too. There's a whole world out there for you, Duncan. Don't settle, just yet.

DUNCAN  
I don't have anywhere else to go.

OWEN  
I bet that's not true.

DUNCAN  
This is the only place I'm happy.

Duncan starts crying.

OWEN  
Oh, hey. Hey.

DUNCAN  
I hate him.

OWEN  
Who?

DUNCAN  
Trent. My mom's boyfriend. He said I was a three. He asked me what I thought I was on a scale from one to ten. He said I was a three.  
(beat)  
Who says that to somebody?

OWEN  
Someone who doesn't know you.

DUNCAN  
I didn't even want to answer! I...  
shouldn't have to answer!

OWEN  
Listen to me. That's about him, man. That's all about him. It's got nothing to do with you.

Duncan looks at him.

DUNCAN

How do you know?

OWEN

Because my father was the same way.

(then)

And that's why I hate patterns. And that's why you can't buy into that shit. And that's why you gotta go your own way.

Owen smiles.

OWEN (CONT'D)

And you, my friend, are going your own way.

93

**INT. WATERPARK - EARLY DAWN**

93

Peter is passed out on a lounge chair, as is everybody else. Caitlin is cleaning up. Owen gently shakes Peter.

OWEN

Rise and shine, Patches.

Peter wakes up, letting out a loud STRETCH.

PETER

Last night was awesome.  
Did I get laid?

Duncan and Owen shocked, laugh.

PETER (CONT'D)

I feel like I did. Did I?

They laugh even harder.

94

**EXT. STREET - A LITTLE LATER**

94

Duncan is riding his bike, Peter on the handlebars. Beat, then...

PETER

Stop. Stop!

Peter jumps off, tries to puke. But, nothing.

PETER (CONT'D)

I'm okay.

He hops back on the handlebars. They ride a few feet.

PETER (CONT'D)  
Stop. Stop!

He jumps off again. Tries to puke. Nothing.

PETER (CONT'D)  
(jumping on handlebars)  
Man, I'm never drinking again.

A few feet.

PETER (CONT'D)  
That night was epic.  
(then)  
Stop. Stop!

95

**EXT. BEACH HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - A LITTLE LATER**

95

Duncan and Peter ride up on the bike. The station wagon door's are open. There are already bags inside. Susanna is up on her deck.

SUSANNA  
(seeing them, calling into  
house)  
Mom, they're back!

Suddenly, Betty bursts out, runs down stairs.

BETTY  
(to Peter)  
Where the hell have you been all  
night, young man!

PETER  
Not now, woman.

Peter walks right past his mom, heads up the stairs. Betty follows.

BETTY  
What did you just say to me?!

PETER  
We'll talk when I get up.

BETTY  
Don't you walk away... And, where  
the hell is your eye patch?!

With that, they're gone. Susanna looks at Duncan, then follows them inside.

ANGLE ON Trent exiting his house, carrying bags.

TRENT  
(calling inside)  
Pam, he's here.

Trent puts down the bags.

TRENT (CONT'D)  
We were worried about you, buddy.

Duncan's confused. Why the good mood?

TRENT (CONT'D)  
Listen. Let's forget about last  
night. How does that sound? Start  
fresh. Clean slate. What do you  
say, buddy?

Trent pats his head, walks over to the car. Duncan heads  
into the house, passing Steph on the STAIRS, who's exiting  
with her BAG.

STEPH  
I hope you're happy now.

96

**INT. MASTER BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER**

96

Duncan walks into the doorway. Pam is packing a suitcase,  
her back to Duncan. From her eyes, we can tell it has been a  
hard night. She looks exhausted, drained.

DUNCAN  
What's going on?

Pam doesn't turn around.

PAM  
We're leaving. I need you to get  
your stuff.

DUNCAN  
Mom, I'm sorry.

The tears come back. She keeps her back to him.

PAM  
I know. Me too.

Beat.

DUNCAN

But, why do you and I have to go?  
The summer's not over...

PAM

Duncan,...

DUNCAN

We can stay somewhere else. I  
don't understand...

PAM

We want to leave early, so that's  
what we're doing!

DUNCAN

So,.... We're going with them?

Pam doesn't respond. She knows what he's really asking. She collects herself, turns to him.

PAM

I don't expect you to understand...

His face says it all. "Unbelievable."

PAM (CONT'D)

You're fourteen. And, I know that means you think you know everything but... We do things...

Pam struggles. This doesn't come easy.

PAM (CONT'D)

... We do things to... protect ourselves. Because we're scared. Scared of... Being at a place again that we don't know if we can handle. So,... We look the other way. We convince ourselves that we can make it work... Because, we need it to.

DUNCAN

(short, clarifying)  
We're leaving with them.

Pam looks down. Ashamed. Duncan's stare is too hard to face. Beat. He leaves. Pam sits on the edge of her bed.

DISSOLVE TO:

97

**EXT. BEACH HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER**

97

Everybody's now out front. Trent puts the last bag, closes the back to the station wagon.

TRENT

Is that it?

No one answers. He goes to lock up.

ANGLE ON PAM/BETTY.

PAM

Thanks for everything.

Betty hugs her tightly.

BETTY

I think you're great.

ANGLE ON SUSANNA/DUNCAN at the station wagon door.

DUNCAN

So, I guess... We're leaving.

(beat)

Goodbye.

SUSANNA

Goodbye.

Duncan starts to climb into the back. Susanna taps his shoulder. He turns. She leans in, kisses him. It's a great kiss.

SUSANNA (CONT'D)

You just surprised me, that's all.

She smiles, walks off. Duncan climbs into the back. As he does, he notices STEPH, staring.

DUNCAN

What are you looking at, perv?

He proudly takes his back bench seat.

98

**INT. STATION WAGON**

98

The car pulls out the driveway.

DUNCAN'S POV OF SUSANNA WAVING. Betty approaches her, puts her arm around her daughter. Susanna leans into her mother. Now at a good distance, we can no longer see them.

99

**INT. STATION WAGON - LATER**

99

They all ride in silence. The station wagon pulls up to a stoplight. Duncan looks out the side window.

DUNCAN'S POV of The Waterpark.

He considers, looks over his shoulder.

DUNCAN'S POV of everyone in the front of the car, off in their own worlds.

He looks back at the waterpark.

100

**EXT. STATION WAGON - CONTINUOUS**

100

WIDE ON CAR. Suddenly, the back door flies open. Duncan jumps out.

PAM  
Duncan,...?!

Duncan runs into the parking lot. Pam jumps out, follows.

TRENT  
... Pam...

The car behind Trent's car, HONKS. He pulls into the parking lot, following them both.

101

**INT. WATERPARK - MOMENTS LATER**

101

Duncan, like a man on a mission, heads right up to the Rental Shack. Owen is there. As well as Neil, Jason, and Kyle.

OWEN  
Hey...

DUNCAN  
We're leaving.

OWEN  
What?

DUNCAN  
I came to say goodbye. Come on.

Duncan walks off. Owen looks to the guys, puzzled.

102      **INT. WATERPARK - TOP OF DEVIL'S PEAK - MOMENTS LATER**      102  
 CLOSE ON DUNCAN.

                  DUNCAN  
 We're going down, Hot Rod. I'm  
 passing him.

PULL BACK to REVEAL Duncan, Owen, Kyle, Jason, Neil, and Roddy at the mouth of the slide. Kyle runs to the railing.

                  KYLE  
 (calling down)  
 Duncan's going for it! He's gonna  
 try to pass Owen on the slide!

103      **INT. WATERPARK - BOTTOM OF DEVIL'S PEAK - CONTINUOUS**      103

A large crowd gathers at the base. Pam enters, surveying this strange land she has walked into. She notices a plaque hanging on the rental shack wall.

CLOSE ON PLAQUE. It reads, "Employee of the Month. Pop 'N Lock." And, there a picture of Duncan.

Pam joins the crowd, not sure what everyone is looking at.

                  CROWD  
 Pop 'N Lock! Pop 'N Lock!

Trent/Steph step up behind Pam, even more lost than she is.

104      **INT. WATERPARK - TOP OF DEVIL'S PEAK - CONTINUOUS**      104

                  NEIL  
 So, how do you plan to do it?

                  DUNCAN  
 I have no idea.

                  KYLE  
 What makes you think you can?

                  DUNCAN  
 Hey. Don't die wondering, man.

Owen smiles. He likes seeing this side of Duncan.

                  DUNCAN (CONT'D)  
 (to Owen)  
 You go first. I'll follow right  
 behind you.

Owen sits down at the lip of the slide, water rushing around him. Duncan backs up a ways.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)  
One, two, three... Go!

Roddy gives Owen a push. Instantly, Duncan starts a full sprint, diving into the tube, face first.

105           **EXT. WATERPARK - BOTTOM OF DEVIL'S PEAK - CONTINUOUS**           105

The crowd stares in silence, including Pam and Trent and Steph. They don't know what they're looking for, but they can't take their eyes off the tube. Caitlin approaches, standing right next to Pam. She's wondering what the hell is going on as well.

Time seems to have stopped. Beat, after beat passes. People strain to see, taut with anticipation. Only the gentle sounds of LAPPING WAVES can be heard.

Until, all of the sudden....

...like the tube is giving birth,...

Duncan comes shooting out, followed by Owen, cradled by waves of water!

The crowd cheers. Pam takes this in. Owen holds up Duncan's arm in victory, as they start to climb out of the pool.

OWEN  
Ladies and gentlemen, I give you  
the first person to ever pass  
someone on the water slide!

The crowd CHEERS. Duncan looks up, confused. Owen winks. Then, Duncan smiles, proud. Just then, Kyle, Neil and Jason run down.

KYLE  
How did you do it?!

OWEN  
Can't tell you, my man. That's our secret.

Duncan smiles. The CROWD swarms. Just then, Pam breaks through the crowd, locks eyes with Duncan. She's beside herself.

DUNCAN

Mom, this is Owen. My friend who drives.

(then)

Owen, my mom.

OWEN

It's a pleasure to meet you.

She shakes his hand, but Pam can barely take her eyes off Duncan.

PAM

... Yeah, you too.

OWEN

You've got a helluva a kid here.

Trent steps up behind Pam.

TRENT

Are we done?

OWEN

(exaggerated pleasure)

Oh, and this must be Trent.

Owen shakes Trent's hand, pulling him in, invading his space.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Hi. I'm Owen, a good friend of  
"the three."

TRENT

Hey. Let's go.

With that, Trent reaches for Duncan. Owen steps in the way, blocks him. Trent tries to move to the other side, but Owen shifts and blocks again.

TRENT (CONT'D)

(giving up)

I'll be in the car.

He turns and walks off. Pam is still taking in the "new" Duncan.

DUNCAN

Mom, can you give us a second?

PAM

(coming to)

Oh. Of course.

As if in a trance, Pam walks off.

DUNCAN  
Goodbye, Roddy.

RODDY  
Pop 'n Lock.

DUNCAN  
Caitlin.

CAITLIN  
(smiling)  
Take care, Duncan. We'll miss you.

DUNCAN  
Bye, Lewis.

ANGLE ON Lewis, still in the RENTAL SHACK. Still at the waterpark.

LEWIS  
Yeah, yeah.

Duncan takes beat. Those were the easy "goodbyes." Owen, looks at him, expectant.

OWEN  
Come on, my man. Shorter conversations...

Duncan hugs Owen.

DUNCAN  
Thank you.

Eventually, Duncan breaks away. As he does, Owen slips his arm around Caitlin's waist. This time, she doesn't remove it. They watch as Duncan heads to the front entrance. He doesn't look back.

DISSOLVE TO:

Like how we began, Duncan is once again in the way, way back. But he's tan and SIPPING WET. A smile from ear to ear. Pam stares out her window, lost in thought. Beat. Trent glances into the rearview mirror.

TRENT

So, what? That's where you've been running off to all summer? Those were the friends you made?

PAM

Trent...

TRENT

I'm just curious...  
(to Duncan)

If that's aiming higher...? If that's the score you want to settle on, buddy...?

PAM

Stop it.

She looks at Trent, daggers.

PAM (CONT'D)

All you are to us is a ride home.

With that, as if possessed by something bigger than herself, Pam unbuckles her seat belt. With one fluid motion, she climbs over the front seat, accidentally(?) hitting the back of Trent's head with her foot.

TRENT

What the hell, Pam...?!

107

**EXT. STATION WAGON - CONTINUOUS**

107

Pam continues over the front seat.

108

**INT. STATION WAGON - CONTINUOUS**

108

Pam pulls down the wall of suitcases separating her from Duncan, falling onto Steph, who's wearing her iPod earphones, stretched out in the back seat. Pam climbs over Steph...

STEPH

Give me a second. I'm moving.

... And, joins her son.

They just sit, staring straight ahead. No need to check in with each other. They're on the same page. For now, they need only enjoy the view from the way, way back.

And, just as the slightest hint of a smile comes to Duncan's face, we....

FADE OUT.

\*