

OLD TIME HOCKEY

by
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OVER BLACK

The sound of heavy breathing. Short, concentrated breaths increasing in speed as we...

CUT TO:

INT. FOX RIVER ICE RINK - NEW JERSEY - 1997 - NIGHT

A high school hockey game. It's LOUD and FAST.

Through the noise we locate the source of the breathing: A GOALIE, TOMMY MALONEY, 18-- bright eyed and focused-- a boy with a man's mastery of the position. We move in and out of his POV.

Tommy watches the puck dart through the neutral zone as the opposing team, SUMMIT HIGH SCHOOL barrels down on him for a two-on-one. Tommy taps the post with the shaft of his stick and expertly pushes out to cut down the angle.

CABLE ACCESS ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
...Summit with a chance...

The puck carrier saucers a pass over a sliding defenseman. Tommy pivots and pushes into a half butterfly, sliding across the net for a spectacular, point blank save.

CABLE ACCESS ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
BIG SAVE TOMMY MALONEY! The all conference senior trying to keep Fox River alive!

The puck rattles into the corner. Tommy yells to a teammate.

TOMMY
Boards! Boards!

The teammate clears the puck off the boards out of the zone.

CABLE ACCESS ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Fox River down two nothing early here. The winner of this game goes on to play Hillstone Prep for the 1997 New Jersey State Championship.

The packed CROWD of several hundred is on their feet. This game is a BIG DEAL in tiny Fox River.

CABLE ACCESS ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Fox River, population nine thousand six, has never played in a state championship before. In any sport.

Tommy makes another save as Summit High pressures.

CABLE ACCESS ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Maloney steers it aside. His dad of
course, Stan Maloney, the longtime
coach of Fox River...

On the bench STAN MALONEY (50, no-nonsense) calls out.

STAN
Cover the point! Point!

A Summit defenseman lets a rocket fly from the blue line.
Tommy makes another big save.

CABLE ACCESS ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Maloney again!

The rebound goes right to Fox River and they break it out.

CABLE ACCESS ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
If Tommy Maloney can lead this team
to state there's no telling what
doors might open for him. Junior A,
college-- OH! Loose puck! Zweirs in
alone! They can't catch him!

ZWEIRS picks off a pass and comes back in on a breakaway.

CABLE ACCESS ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
He shoots-- he scores! Summit's up
three zip! This could be the end of
the line for Fox River...

Tommy stares at his WATER BOTTLE resting on the net. It's
cracked from the shot, water gushes onto the ice below it.

Tommy's teammates VINNIE DELVANO (shifty winger) and MIKE
"DEZ" FERNANDEZ (big defenseman) skate up to him.

DEZ
You alright Tommy?

Tommy just stares at the bottle. A beat.

VINNIE
Tommy?

Tommy turns and faces Vinnie and Dez, focused.

TOMMY
That's the last goal I'm giving up.
We're winning this game, then we're
winning state. Got it?

Vinnie and Dez nod back. Exactly what they needed to hear.

VINNIE
(to Dez)
And you were worried.

DEZ
I wasn't worried.

TOMMY
You looked a little worried.

DEZ
I got an expressive face.

VINNIE
You got a fat face.

DEZ
Shut the hell up.

The three friends trade a smile. More confident than ever.

TOMMY
Hop on my back boys, we got this.

STAN (O.S.)
Tommy!

Tommy looks to the bench where the BACK UP GOALIE is hopping the boards. We push in on Tommy's face as he realizes what's happening. HE'S GETTING PULLED. BY HIS DAD.

STAN
You're out!

CUT TO:

INT. TOMMY'S TRUCK - PARKING LOT - PRESENT DAY - NIGHT

Tommy Maloney, now 43, jolts awake, having fallen asleep in his idling truck. He's a far cry from the kid in the dream. He's out of shape, worn down-- a man whose life has passed him by. A proud man, saddled by a feeling of insignificance.

The side of Tommy's beat up pickup reads MALONEY LANDSCAPING (EST. 1977). It's been snowing all night, so Tommy's been plowing all night.

Tommy wipes his face, lowers his plow, gets back to work.

EXT. PICTURESQUE NEIGHBORHOOD - HILLSTONE, NJ - PRE-DAWN

Tommy's truck rumbles down a wooded road in a WEALTHY COMMUNITY. He passes an impressive stone sign that reads: HILLSTONE. HUGE OLD HOUSES sit nestled in the snow. All with winding driveways. One by one, Tommy clears them out.

At one particularly large house Tommy notices a MAN in his bathrobe in the window. The man sips coffee as he talks on his phone. Tommy lowers his window, waves from his truck.

TOMMY
Mr. Tuetken!

The Man pops his head out his front door reluctantly.

TOMMY
Sorry to bother, but it's three plows now, that's two hundred and ten dollars.

MAN
(dismissive)
It's two hundred bucks, man. I'll get it to you.

The man closes the door, goes back to his important call. Tommy just nods quietly to himself.

TOMMY
Two ten.

INT/EXT. TOMMY'S TRUCK - FOX RIVER - EARLY MORNING

Tommy drives through FOX RIVER, NEW JERSEY, population now just 8,027. It's rural, blue collar--a Northern New Jersey town that has seen better days. A far cry from Hillstone.

Tommy plows the FOX RIVER HIGH SCHOOL parking lot. The building is run down, dated. Even the FOX MASCOT painted on the side looks like he'd rather be somewhere else.

Wind and snow in his face, Tommy salts the stairs of Fox River's VFW HALL / COMMUNITY CENTER. AN ILLUMINATED SIGN outside reads: FOX RIVER PRID. Tommy notices the "E" on the ground. He sighs, picks it up, places it back to spell PRIDE.

INT. MALONEY HOUSE - FOX RIVER - LATER - MORNING - DAY

A modest, but well kept home. A tired Tommy sits at the table eating breakfast with his family. They are:

- ANNIE (40, fun, but don't cross her). She wears a FOX RIVER ELEMENTARY SWEAT SHIRT and carefully cleans paint brushes at the sink. She's an ART TEACHER.

- CHLOE (14, ambitious, smart). She's preppy, put together. A textbook sits next to her as she studies her phone.

- JACKIE (9, happy). She works on a school drawing.

JACKIE

Does Abraham Lincoln have a mustache?

ANNIE

He does not.

JACKIE

Darn it!

(erasing the mustache)

Why not?

ANNIE

Well, maybe he's like your Dad and can't grow one.

TOMMY

I can grow a mustache.

Everyone just snickers.

TOMMY

What?

JACKIE

Dad, you cannot grow a mustache.

TOMMY

Why not?

CHLOE

Because you physically lack the ability to grow one.

Tommy looks to Annie, she nods "she's right". Tommy scoffs.

TOMMY

No phones at the table.

ANNIE

She's got her Hillstone interview tomorrow, she's prepping.

TOMMY

"Prepping", wonderful.

Tommy rolls his eyes. Chloe reads off the website for HILLSTONE PREP-- New Jersey's most prestigious high school.

CHLOE

"Hillstone Prep alumni include: a Pulitzer Prize winner, an astronaut, a Golden Globe nominee--

TOMMY

Oh, a Golden Globe nominee.

JACKIE

What's a Golden Globe nominee?

TOMMY

Exactly.

CHLOE

"Number one in test scores. Number one in college scholarships...Oh, and look at this Dad, *sports*: Hillstone Prep has won more state championships than any other high school in New Jersey. Including three straight in hockey from 1995 to 1997."

TOMMY

It doesn't say that.

CHLOE

Says it right on the homepage. There's a link to an article about it in the Star Ledger.

STAN (O.S.)

Ledger's a rag.

STAN MALONEY (Tommy's dad, now 75, silent type, great mustache) ascends the basement stairs into the kitchen. Physically Stan's still strong, but mentally we can sense he might be a bit fuzzy.

JACKIE

What's a rag?

TOMMY

Don't worry about it. And back to the mustache thing. I can grow a mustache, okay? I just choose not to. Understand? I choose.

Chloe locates the Ledger article, starts reading.

CHLOE

"In the twenty five years since Hillstone hockey's fifty two game winning streak, no other high school team has come close to their dominance. In any sport."

Stan takes a seat at the table, annoyed.

STAN

No waffles?

ANNIE

Morning Stan.

STAN

I'm getting waffles. Where's my keys?

TOMMY

We took your keys, Dad. Remember?

STAN

What the hell for?

Annie sits. Tommy looks to her, "a little help here?"

ANNIE

You kept getting lost. That's why you're here with us now, remember?

Stan just scoffs. He might not remember.

CHLOE

(continues reading)

"...Back to back to back state championships."

Tommy stops chewing mid bite, shoots Chloe a look.

CHLOE

"Which is why the entire Hillstone hockey class of '97 will be inducted this week into the New Jersey Athletic Hall of Fame."

TOMMY

Are you kidding me?

(to Stan)

Are you listening to this?

STAN

If it's in the Ledger, no.

TOMMY

It's saying that Hillstone Prep won
three state championships in a row.

STAN

So?

TOMMY

So we know they didn't.

STAN

So?

TOMMY

So they're lying.

STAN

So call the cops.

Suddenly, there's a loud BANGING on the front door. Everyone stops chewing. Jackie cranes her neck to look out the window.

JACKIE

It's the cops.

INT/EXT. MALONEY HOUSE - SECONDS LATER - DAY

Tommy opens the door to reveal an OVERWEIGHT POLICE OFFICER standing there. This is MIKE "DEZ" FERNANDEZ (43)-- Tommy's old high school teammate. He's holding up his iPhone.

DEZ

You see this crap?!

CUT TO:

INT. DELVANO USED MOTORS - LATER - DAY

A cramped office on a rundown car lot. Tommy and Dez huddle around a computer with their old teammate VINNIE DELVANO (43, this is his dealership). Vinnie chain smokes and chews gum. All three of them stare at this Ledger article.

DEZ

How can they say Hillstone won in
'97 when they didn't?

VINNIE

Because the media's entirely made
up of child molesters, Michael.

TOMMY

Oh my God.

VINNIE

A vast network of lies designed to
destroy us.

TOMMY

Let me get this straight, the New
Jersey Star Ledger is lying to you
so they can keep molesting
children.

VINNIE

Think about it.

TOMMY

I am. You're an idiot.

DEZ

The game was canceled. We never
played it. Hillstone's acting like
they beat us.

VINNIE

A giant conspiracy!

TRACEY (O.S.)

Hey!

The guys turn to see Vinnie's sales associate TRACEY (29,
smart, sexy, very Jersey) standing in the office doorway.

TRACEY

Your ex-wife's on the phone.

VINNIE

Number one or number two?

TRACEY

Two.

VINNIE

Call back.

Tracey walks over to the desk, picks up the phone.

TRACEY

He'll call you back.

(hangs up, then)

I feel like she knows we're
together.

VINNIE

She better, you're the best thing
that ever happened to me.

TRACEY

I thought that was Viagra.

VINNIE

Man, you're great.

TRACEY

(re: the computer)
What's this?

DEZ

An article about Hillstone hockey.
We were supposed to play them our
senior year for the state
championship, but there was a big
snow storm and the game was
canceled. We never played it.

TRACEY

You couldn't reschedule?

TOMMY

It was the 90's. Hillstone was
going to some tournament in Canada.
It just never happened.

TRACEY

That blows.

TOMMY

Yeah.

A long beat. The guys stare at the screen. It's obvious this
has bothered them for years. Dez continues.

DEZ

"Hillstone's class of '97's
accomplishments continued well past
high school. All Stater Joe Schmidt
had a successful career playing pro
hockey in Europe."

VINNIE

Chach.

MIKE

"Bob DeGemis went on to play for
Amherst, then became a state
senator."

TOMMY

I think I voted for that guy.

VINNIE

This is why I don't vote.

MIKE

"JT Radzack played four seasons in the NHL and went on to found New Jersey's biggest luxury car dealership, Radzack BMW."

TRACEY

(impressed)

Oh, the guy from the commercials. That guy's hot. And rich as tits.

Tracy scrolls through some present day pictures of the team. They're all in great shape, smiling, successful.

TRACEY

All these guys look hot and rich as tits. No wonder you guys are pissed.

VINNIE

You're saying I'm not hot or rich as tits?

TRACEY

No Vin, you're the Jason Momoa of used car salesmen.

Tracey pats Vinnie on the butt, walks out.

VINNIE

Who's Jason Momoa?

(then)

Giant conspiracy.

INT. TOMMY'S BASEMENT - LATER - NIGHT

A semi-finished basement. Rugs on the concrete, Christmas lights hanging, Annie's easel in the corner. A nice, fully finished GUEST ROOM is off to the side where Stan sleeps.

At a workbench Tommy goes through a box of his old stuff: CD'S, YEARBOOKS, etc. He pulls out an old NEWSPAPER ARTICLE.

The headline reads THE COMEBACK KIDS. There's a pic of Fox River celebrating. The caption reads: "Fox River comes back from three down to head to state championship game against undefeated Hillstone."

Tommy scans the article and stops at a picture of himself in the net. The caption reads: "All conference senior Tommy Maloney was pulled in the first period."

Tommy picks up another article. The headline reads SNOWSTORM CANCELS HOCKEY STATE CHAMPIONSHIP. A caption reads: "Rescheduling efforts by Hillstone and Fox River prove unsuccessful." It's stapled to a TEAM PICTURE.

Tommy stares at the team picture. We push in on Tommy's 18 year old face. So much promise. So full of life.

ANNIE (O.S.)
What are you doing down here?

Startled, Tommy turns to see Annie at the stairs holding a canvas and some paint brushes.

TOMMY
Nothing-- just, making space for my dad.

ANNIE
The doctor's office called again.
You're gonna have to go with him this time.

TOMMY
I know.

A nervous beat. Then.

ANNIE
Chloe's got her interview tomorrow.
Honda's still in the shop, I need the truck to take her.

Tommy's eyes float down to the team picture again. They rest on his DAD. Stan's clear eyed, a small smile on his face.

ANNIE
Tommy?

TOMMY
Yeah.

ANNIE
The Hillstone interview. It's tomorrow.

Tommy looks back at the article.

TOMMY
I'll take her.

EXT. BEAUTIFUL WOODED ROAD - DAY

Tommy drives an excited and sharply dressed Chloe down a wooded road toward Hillstone's campus. It's only a few miles from Fox River but it might as well be a different world.

CHLOE

There's even a trip to London. And they have so many AP classes. Way more than Fox River.

(then)

Thanks for taking me, by the way.

TOMMY

I had to be over here anyway. A lot of my clients are in Hillstone.

CHLOE

But everything's plowed.

TOMMY

Couple trees are down, I gotta clean some gutters. Don't you ever wonder how I make money in the winter?

CHLOE

I guess it never crossed my mind.

(then)

Is it enough to pay for Hillstone?

TOMMY

Mom's an art teacher, I'm a landscaper, Chloe, I don't know.

CHLOE

Well that's why I'm gonna get the scholarship. You said if I got the scholarship I could definitely go. You said that.

TOMMY

I just want to make sure this is what you want. You really want to go to Hillstone?

CHLOE

Yes.

TOMMY

Why?

CHLOE

I don't know, I just... Didn't you ever want to do something big with your life?

Tommy forces a little smile.

TOMMY

I guess it never crossed my mind.

Tommy drives up the driveway to the school. It's TWENTY ACRES of snow covered landscape leading up to A BEAUTIFUL BUILDING.

INT. HILLSTONE PREP - HALLWAY - LATER

A truly beautiful school. Mahogany trophy cases, marble floors-- like something out of Dead Poets Society. Tommy sits on a bench, watching Chloe through an office window as she gets interviewed by THE DEAN and a few TEACHERS. Chloe is charming and confident. Tommy smiles, proud.

Some LAUGHING down the hall catches Tommy's attention. It's a group of six WELL DRESSED MEN in their 40s, HILLSTONE'S FUNDRAISING DIRECTOR (early 30s), and a PHOTOGRAPHER.

The group makes their way toward him. Tommy notices a hole in his jeans. Suddenly self conscious, he places a hand over it.

The group stands right in front of Tommy.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Maybe we can get one of the group in front of the trophy case.

HILLSTONE DIRECTOR

Hey, you mind stepping aside for a second? Trying to get a photo of our hall of famers here.

Tommy stands up and moves aside.

HILLSTONE DIRECTOR

You mind moving your bucket too?

There's a janitor's mop and bucket resting by the bench.

TOMMY

That's not mine.

HILLSTONE DIRECTOR

Well, I don't care if it's your's or a coworker's, just move it.

TOMMY

I'm not the janitor, pal. I'm here
for my daughter's interview.

HILLSTONE DIRECTOR

Oh. Saw the jacket. Looked like you
worked here.

Tommy's wearing his beat up work jacket. It reads MALONEY
LANDSCAPING. And then TOMMY underneath.

JT RADZACK

It's cool,
(reading jacket)
"Tommy." I'll move it.

Tommy recognizes JT RADZACK (43, handsome, confident),
Hillstone's captain. These men are the CLASS OF '97 players
from the article. They gather for a photo around a BANNER
that lists HOCKEY STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS.

HILLSTONE DIRECTOR

Say, "back to back to back".

The guys all echo the phrase. Tommy can't help himself.

TOMMY

Sorry, but come on. You know it's
not back to back to back, right?

HILLSTONE DIRECTOR

What are you talking about?

TOMMY

You won two state championships in
a row, not three. The '97 game was
canceled.

HILLSTONE DIRECTOR

How do you know?

TOMMY

I was supposed to play in it.

The guys study Tommy's face. Radzack places him.

JT RADZACK

Tommy Maloney. Fox River.

TOMMY

Yeah.

JT RADZACK

I never forget a face I score on.
Look at this boys, we got a Fox in
the house.

The team all waves a tepid "hi". Radzack shakes Tommy's hand.

JT RADZACK

JT Radzack. How are ya?

TOMMY

Good. You?

JT RADZACK

Never better.

(to the Director)

He's right about that game. Snow
storm, got canceled. We tried to
reschedule. Something about you
guys not wanting to play.

TOMMY

I think it was the other way
around, you had some tournament in
Canada.

JT RADZACK

That's right. We won that too.
Newspaper's just running with the
undefeated thing I guess. You still
play?

TOMMY

Hung 'em up.

JT RADZACK

Too bad. We're all on the ice a few
times a week. Well, good seeing
you, let me know if your daughter
needs any help getting in here.

TOMMY

I think she's got it.

JT RADZACK

Good. It'll get her out of Fox
River at least, right?

Radzack winks, walks away. Tommy just stands there, pissed.

INT. FENSKI'S BAR & GRILL - FOX RIVER - LATER - NIGHT

A BLUE COLLAR BAR. The kind of place that probably still lets you smoke inside. Tommy sits with a worked up Vinnie and Dez.

DEZ
He winked?!

TOMMY
Winked.

DEZ
What is he, Vince Vaughn?

VINNIE
We gotta do something. Those guys are just waltzing around like this?

TOMMY
What are we gonna do? Go fight them in the parking lot?

DEZ
Just tell me which parking lot.

TOMMY
We're not gonna do anything. We're gonna sit here, we're gonna bitch about it, we're gonna get up and go to work tomorrow and we're gonna take it up the ass, because this is Fox River and that's what we do.

Silence. He's right. The guys drink their beers. A sad beat.

TOMMY
I woulda rather lost that game by ten than not played at all.

Another sad beat. The boys just stare ahead.

DEZ
We wouldn't have lost by ten.

VINNIE
No way.

DEZ
(dead serious)
We coulda beat those guys.

The NHL game on TV above the bar fades out and A RADZACK BMW AD comes on (they're on all the time). Radzack stands in front of a dozen PRISTINE BMW's. He sniffs the air.

JT RADZACK
 Smell that? That's the smell of
 success. You want it. I've got it.

- Radzack settles into the driver's seat of a BMW.

JT RADZACK
 Leather.

- Radzack strokes an ENGINE.

JT RADZACK
 Turbo.

- Radzack wears sunglasses in front of a car's headlights.

JT RADZACK
 Fully Adaptive LED. It's all here
 at Radzack BMW. New Jersey's home
 for winners. Because winning is
 what I do.

Vinnie scowls, digs out his phone.

VINNIE
 Nope. Unacceptable.

TOMMY
 What are you doing?

VINNIE
 Something I should've done a long
 time ago.

DEZ
 Quit smoking? Quit drinking? Quit
 getting divorced?

VINNIE
 (reading what he types)
 "Hey @RadzackBMW..."

TOMMY
 Are you Tweeting? Don't do that...

As Vinnie types a Tweet we SEE THE TWEET as a CHYRON on screen. Tweets will play out like this throughout the movie.

VINNIE
 "Does the smell of success smell
 like BS?"

DEZ
 Oh that's good.

VINNIE

"Because that's what we smell.
Don't claim a win you never won.
#FoxRiver97"

DEZ

Hashtag up your dick hole.

TOMMY

Don't make him write that. This is
his company's account.

VINNIE

(typing)

"#UpYourDickHole"

DEZ

Boom.

VINNIE

Bang. Sent!

DEZ

Vinnie D!

VINNIE

Man that feels good! Don't tell me
that don't feel good, Tommy.

Tommy smiles, he can't help himself.

TOMMY

That feels pretty good.

Dez calls to the BARTENDER, BETH (50s, no-nonsense).

DEZ

Three shots, Beth! Line 'em up!

TOMMY

Don't you have work tomorrow?

DEZ

(waving it off)

Gun safety training.

VINNIE

How long you think til he responds?

TOMMY

Guy like that? He probably won't
even bother--

VINNIE

Oh! Immediate! Immediate response!

(reading)

"Hey @DelvanoMotors. Are you whining about a high school hockey game? Who is this?" Oh hell yeah...

Vinnie dives back in, typing on his phone.

VINNIE

"This is the guy who led the league in penalty minutes, chach."

DEZ

You didn't lead the league in penalty minutes.

VINNIE

And shorthanded goals.

DEZ

You didn't have a single short handed goal all season.

VINNIE

Three short handers. Came right out of the box. Breakaway. Boom.

DEZ

It's not a shorthanded goal if you're coming out of the box, numb nuts. That's even strength.

VINNIE

That's a-- Don't get caught up in the--

(phone dings)

Oh! Right back. "Still don't know who this is, but good luck with your used car dealership."

(deciphering the #)

Hashtag Fox River...hockey...sucks.

The guys all yell: "Oh!" "What?!" "No he did not!"

VINNIE

Oh, now it's on. Now we got a reason. Now we got--okay now, yes. Yes!

Vinnie rolls up his sleeves, starts pacing.

VINNIE

Gonna need some Danzig here, Beth!

BETH
Nobody wants to hear Danzig, Vin.

Vinnie slaps a five on the bar.

VINNIE
Gonna need some Danzig!

CUT TO:

INT. FENSKI'S BAR & GRILL - LATER - NIGHT

Danzig's "MOTHER" (90's heavy metal) plays throughout a...

A DRINKING/TWEETING MONTAGE. It's joyful and cathartic. Three old friends having a moment. Vinnie types away as Dez and Tommy huddle over him.

VINNIE
"We were ready to play. You fled to Canada. Just like your dads."
(to the guys)
I'm implying their dads didn't fight in Vietnam.

TOMMY
I'm not sure that comes across.

DEZ
I would clarify.

VINNIE
"I'm saying your dads are all draft dodgers!"

DEZ
This is escalating.

- LATER Vinnie reads Radzack's latest Tweet.

VINNIE
"You think you could've beat us? We would've dropped you like third period French."

TOMMY DEZ
That's from Oceans Eleven. He's stealing movie lines!

- LATER Beth sets a pitcher before some FOX RIVER BIKERS who are all on their phones following this Twitter thread.

BETH
You guys are following this?

MALE BIKER
They got two hundred likes already.

FEMALE BIKER
(calling to Dez)
Tell Radzack his Beemers suck!

Across the bar Dez holds up his hand "on it!"

DEZ
(typing)
You think your so smart? BMWs suck!

TOMMY
You spelled "you're" wrong.

- LATER Tommy storms out of the bathroom holding his phone.

TOMMY
He's looping in their team. He
tagged Hillstone's account!

Vinnie scowls and posts a GIF of a FOX in SUNGLASSES, SMOKING A CIGARETTE blowing SMOKE.

VINNIE
"Don't mess with the Fox."

- LATER. SUPER DRUNK now, the guys read Radzack's latest Tweet. Vinnie wears a STUFFED FOX HAT from above the bar. Dez eats a bag of CHIPS.

VINNIE
"Do I need to show you the roster?
Four All Staters. Five All
Conference. And a goalie who could
actually stop the puck."

DEZ
No he did not.

VINNIE
"We would've killed you."

TOMMY
Gimme that thing.

Tommy grabs the phone, typing.

TOMMY
"We could beat you then. And we
could beat you now. Dick."

Tommy hits send. The guys ROAR.

A beat as they settle down and drink their beers. Then.

TOMMY
What if we did?

VINNIE
What?

TOMMY
Played them now.

DEZ
(super drunk)
I'm a little buzzed right now.

TOMMY
Not *right* now, like later.

VINNIE
Like a rematch? Like for real?

TOMMY
No more bitching. No more taking it
up the ass. We settle this thing.
Once and for all.

The guys exchange a look-- suddenly sober in this moment.
Vinnie takes the phone back from Tommy, starts typing.

VINNIE
"Two words. RE MATCH."

TOMMY
That's one word.

VINNIE
"One word. Fucking rematch."

DEZ
That's two words now.

VINNIE
God damn it.

TOMMY
Just write we want a rematch.

VINNIE
"We want a rematch!"

Vinnie hits send. The guys roar. The whole bar roars. Even
Beth breaks a smile.

VINNIE

Gonna need some more Danzig here
Beth!

BETH

No more Danzig!

The guys start dancing around. We push in on Vin's phone on the table. The Tweet grows with likes and retweets as we...

CUT TO:

INT. MALONEY HOUSE - TOMMY'S BEDROOM - THE NEXT DAY

Tommy's eyes open slowly. He's in his bed, still in most of his clothes from last night. Sunshine streams through the windows. He slowly sits up. Very hungover. A beat, then.

TOMMY

Oh shit.

INT. MALONEY HOUSE - KITCHEN - THE NEXT MORNING

The Maloneys sit at the table, eating Saturday morning breakfast. (Still no waffles.) Chloe's glued to her phone. Tommy stumbles in. Annie watches him, enjoying his struggle.

ANNIE

How ya feelin'?

JACKIE

Are you sick, Dad?

ANNIE

(loudly)

Yeah, are you sick Tom?

Tommy sits at the table.

TOMMY

I may have come down with
something, yes.

CHLOE

He's hungover, Jackie.

JACKIE

Like, drunk?

ANNIE

Maybe still. How's Dez and Vinnie?

TOMMY

They're good. Did we make coffee--?

ANNIE

--Well I'm glad, because imagine my surprise this morning when your fourteen year old daughter shows me a drunken Twitter feed with your name all over it.

Annie slides her phone across the table.

ANNIE

Ring any bells?

TOMMY

Possibly.

CHLOE

It's super embarrassing, Dad.

Tommy scrolls to a Tweeted picture of a drunk Vinnie wearing the FOX HAT. He looks ridiculous. Tommy cringes, embarrassed.

TOMMY

Don't worry honey, it's just a bunch of old guys being dumb, nobody cares about this.

CHLOE

There's seven hundred retweets on the thread, Dad.

TOMMY

Is that a lot?

CHLOE

Uh, yeah.

Tommy scrolls through the thread, cringing. At the very bottom is a VIDEO LINK.

TOMMY

What's this?

CHLOE

Dunno. Just posted.

Jackie and Chloe huddle over Tommy as he clicks the link.

It's a VIDEO from Radzack Motors. Radzack talks to camera like it's one of his commercials. It's shot exactly the same. Same bad music, same bad cuts, same everything.

JT RADZACK
(sniffs)
Smell that? That's the smell of competition.

TOMMY
Oh Jesus.

JT RADZACK
Hillstone Prep. Fox River. Rematch.
March 4th. Hillstone Arena.

A GRAPHIC flashes on the screen-- a mock up poster of a big hockey game-- very professional looking. It reads: THE 1997 NEW JERSEY STATE HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP.

TOMMY
(to himself)
That was fast.

JT RADZACK
Hillstone Bulldogs versus Fox River
Foxes. A battle for the ages. All
ticket proceeds go the Animal
Shelter Fund of New Jersey.

CUT TO: Radzack cradling a PUPPY. Tommy just shakes his head. "I hate this fucking guy." BACK TO: Radzack on the car lot.

JT RADZACK
The 1997 New Jersey State High
School Hockey Championship.
Sponsored by Radzack BMW.
(turns to other camera)
Are you looking for success? Look
no further than Radzack. Winter
Sale starts Saturday.
(back to original camera)
Radzack out!

Radzack peels out in his BMW. Tommy sets the phone down. His whole family stares at him, very concerned. A beat. Then.

TOMMY
I'm playing in a State
Championship!

Tommy raises his hands, then holds one up for Jackie to slap it. Jackie does, halfheartedly.

TOMMY
I gotta call Dez, where's my phone?

JACKIE

What is happening?

ANNIE

Your Dad is having a midlife crisis, Jackie.

CHLOE

Are you really going to play in a hockey game?

TOMMY

State Championship-- yeah. Seriously, where's my phone?

Tommy gets up, looks around the kitchen.

JACKIE

You don't play hockey, Dad.

TOMMY

Yes I do.

CHLOE

Not since, like, high school.

TOMMY

So?

CHLOE

So you used to say being a goalie was the hardest position in sports. That you had to be a "world class athlete".

TOMMY

So?

CHLOE

So look at you.

ANNIE

Easy, Chloe.

TOMMY

All I did growing up was play goalie. It's like riding a bike.

CHLOE

That you ride on the ice while people shoot pucks at you. You're gonna embarrass me.

TOMMY

You think I'm gonna embarrass you?

CHLOE

Well, yeah. You and Mr. Fernandez
and *Vinnie Delvano*?

TOMMY

They still play once a week.

CHLOE

Did you not read the article?
Hillstone has guys who played in
the NHL.

TOMMY

One guy. For like a year.

CHLOE

You can't beat them, Dad.

TOMMY

Why not?

CHLOE

Because they're Hillstone and
you're... Fox River.

TOMMY

What's wrong with Fox River?

CHLOE

It's Fox River. Why do you think I
want to go to Hillstone so bad?
They're smart, they're ambitious--

TOMMY

Fox River's ambitious. I'm
ambitious.

CHLOE

No offense Dad, but we call the
couch "Dad's office". Because
you're always sitting on it.

ANNIE

He's been working all day.

TOMMY

Thank you.

JACKIE

You didn't used to sit on it so
much, Dad.

TOMMY
What are you guys, timing me? Dad?
You got any thoughts on this?

The whole table looks to Stan who just eats his cereal.

TOMMY
Dad?

A beat. Then.

STAN
This cereal sucks.

LOUD KNOCKING on the front door.

EXT. DOORWAY - MOMENTS LATER - DAY

Tommy opens the door to find Dez and Vinnie standing there drinking GATORADES, wearing the same clothes from last night. Vinnie has a cigarette in his mouth and is wearing his old VARSITY LETTERMAN'S JACKET. He raises a high five.

VINNIE
State Championship, son!

TOMMY
Yes!

The three trade high fives, pumped. Tommy notices the jacket.

TOMMY
Letterman's jacket! Yes!

VINNIE
Ice cold!

ANNIE (O.S.)
Who's at the door?!

TOMMY
Girl Scouts.

VINNIE
(under his breath)
State Championship Girl Scouts.

ANNIE (O.S.)
(not buying it)
Okay, well, tell them not to smoke
on the porch.

VINNIE
I'm not smoking!

Dez just shakes his head. Vinnie tosses Tommy a Gatorade.

ANNIE (O.S.)
And don't forget you gotta go to
Lowes today, Tommy.

TOMMY
Yeah.

ANNIE (O.S.)
If you don't get the salt blocks by
noon they're gonna be gone.

TOMMY
Okay.

ANNIE (O.S.)
The bottom of our water softener
looks like a pile a tacos--

TOMMY
Going right now!

Tommy pops on his boots, heads out the door.

DEZ
We gotta go to Lowes?

TOMMY
We're not going to Lowes. Are you
kidding me? We got a team to find.

Vinnie just starts clapping, very excited.

VINNIE
That's what I'm talking about! I
call shotgun!

TOMMY
You lost shotgun rights in '93.

VINNIE
That expired!

DEZ
Both of you are in the back.

The guys head to Mike's SQUAD CAR, parked in the driveway.

INT. DELVANO MOTORS - OFFICE - LATER - DAY

The guys sit in front of the office computer eating FIVE GUYS fast food. Tommy types on the computer.

VINNIE

You gonna finish your fries? Gimme some. Gimme some fries--

DEZ

NO!

Tracey enters, taking off her coat. Today's a work day.

TRACEY

You guys building a clubhouse in here now?

Tracey gives Vinnie a nice kiss, notices the jacket.

TRACEY

Sweet jacket.

Tracey grabs a folder, exits. Vinnie calls after her.

VINNIE

If you're lucky I'll let you wear it later!

TRACEY (O.S.)

If you're lucky I'll try not to light it on fire!

Tommy's managed to pull up the 1997 Fox River hockey roster.

TOMMY

Okay, here's the roster. The '96-'97 Fox River Foxes. Number 3 Eddie Alfora.

DEZ

He's dead.

TOMMY

Oh, right. Crap. I forgot about that.

VINNIE

That sucks for us.

DEZ

Not too good for him either.

TOMMY
Number 6, Ricky Zaremba.

DEZ
He's in jail.

VINNIE
Still?

DEZ
He put three guys in the hospital.

VINNIE
Jesus. Zaremba. That guy's crazy.
And not like Nic-Cage-don't-worry-
about-it-crazy, like actually
crazy. I'm scared of that guy.

TOMMY
We're gonna be short on D.

DEZ
We're gonna be short on everything.
Half these guys are out of town.
The other half are out of shape.
Solala's our best player and no
one's seen him since high school.

TOMMY
We need to make some calls.

VINNIE
I'll tell you what we need...

Vinnie presses play on his phone. The OCEAN'S ELEVEN THEME MUSIC suddenly starts blasting on his office speakers. It's LOUD and annoying. Vinnie yells over the music, excited.

VINNIE
It's from Ocean's Eleven! The
recruiting montage!

The guys just stare at him.

VINNIE
You guys suck!

Dez goes to grab Vinnie's phone, Vinnie wrestles it away,
grabs Dez's fries as we...

CUT TO:

INT. ICE RINK - MONTAGE - NIGHT

Oceans Eleven music plays throughout.

TWO WINGERS (40's, Asian) bring the puck through the neutral zone, passing back and forth. They are fast and very skilled. A chyron reads: THE CHAN BROTHERS.

TOMMY (V.O.)
The Chan brothers. Greg and Buster.

VINNIE (V.O.)
They still play three nights a week
in Morristown.

DEZ (V.O.)
Why Morristown?

VINNIE (V.O.)
They got kicked out of the Fox
River league. For fighting.

Greg makes a no look drop pass to Buster, but Buster's above the blue line-- the REF calls offsides.

VINNIE (V.O.)
With each other.

Buster immediately gets in Greg's face.

BUSTER CHAN
Don't drop it at the line dumb ass!

GREG CHAN
Don't be above the line you son of
a bitch!

BUSTER CHAN
Don't call Mom a bitch!

The brothers just roll around on the ice punching each other. The REF and BOTH TEAMS just roll their eyes. Idiots.

EXT. RUNNING TRAIL - MONTAGE - DAWN

A CHYRON reads: CRAIG FENELON. Craig (42, great shape) goes for an early morning run. A bright smile on his face.

TOMMY (V.O.)
Craig Fenelon. Athletic, smart,
still in great shape.

DEZ (V.O.)
Awesome, love it.

TOMMY (V.O.)
Only one problem.

INT. CATHOLIC CHURCH - CONFESSORIAL - MONTAGE - DAY

Craig sits into frame. REVEAL: he's wearing a priest collar.

TOMMY (V.O.)
He's an Augustinian Priest now.

VINNIE (V.O.)
I'll take care of it.

FATHER FENELON
How long has it been since your
last confession?

VINNIE (O.S.)
Since I stole a Hustler with you in
seventh grade.

FATHER FENELON
Delvano?

Father Fenelon slides the divider over to reveal Vinnie
sitting in the confessional booth, lighting a cigarette.

VINNIE
We need you, Fenner.

INT. CORNER OFFICE - HIGH RISE - TORONTO - MONTAGE - DAY

We pass a series of BASEBALL TROPHIES and PICTURES-- the
memories of an impressive college and pro baseball career.

A CHYRON reads: COREY TAYLOR. Corey (42, black) is a man in
charge and fit as a fiddle. He runs on a treadmill.

TOMMY (V.O.)
Corey Taylor.

VINNIE (V.O.)
CT!

TOMMY (V.O.)
Best athlete in Fox River history.

DEZ (V.O.)

Yeah, but he only played hockey to stay in shape for baseball. He couldn't even skate. He's not going to want to do this.

TOMMY (V.O.)

Do you know anyone more competitive than Corey Taylor?

An assistant enters, whispers in Corey's ear, hands him a phone. Corey answers, intrigued, still running.

COREY TAYLOR

Tommy Maloney to what do I owe the pleasure?

A beat as he listens. A curious smile creeps over his face.

TOMMY (V.O.)

We'll get him.

EXT. DESOLATE FARM - OUTSKIRTS OF FOX RIVER - MONTAGE - DAY

We push past a series of discarded tractors, car parts and other piles of JUNK to reveal THREE FAT WHITE GUYS sitting on folding chairs wearing HUNTING SNOW SUITS, drinking giant MONSTER ENERGY DRINKS, staring at nothing in particular.

DEZ (V.O.)

What about The Cousins?

A CHYRON reads THE COUSINS. They are: DAN, BRETT & OTHER DAN.

VINNIE (V.O.)

They texted me like five times already.

DEZ (V.O.)

I can't believe they have cell phones.

VINNIE (V.O.)

They have one phone, yes.

Dan passes the phone to Brett as Other Dan finishes his can.

TOMMY (V.O.)

Do they want to play?

VINNIE (V.O.)

Oh, they are very much in.

Other Dan tosses the now empty energy drink in the air and Dan shoots it, mid-air, with a REVOLVER. BANG!

THE COUSINS
WOOOOO!

INT. WATTENDORF MARKETING - CONFERENCE ROOM - MONTAGE - DAY

A GLASS CONFERENCE ROOM in a high end MARKETING AGENCY. FRANK WATTENDORF (39, the boss) confidently explains his position.

TOMMY (V.O.)
Frank Wattendorf.

CHYRON READS: FRANK WATTENDORF.

VINNIE (V.O.)
Who's Frank Wattendorf?

TOMMY (V.O.)
Freshman Frank.

WATTENDORF is crossed out and replaced with FRESHMAN FRANK.

VINNIE (V.O.)
Oh, Freshman Frank, right.

FRESHMAN FRANK
... bottom line, the whole thing
just sounds stupid.

REVEAL: Dez, Tommy and Vinnie are sitting on the other side of the conference table. Vinnie smokes. Dez is in uniform.

DEZ
You're doing it, Freshman.

FRESHMAN FRANK
Okay.

INT. FOX RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL - GYM - MONTAGE - DAY

A very intense GYM TEACHER (red faced, well fed) stands in the middle of the gym, nodding enthusiastically.

TOMMY (V.O.)
Roger Bertosi.

DEZ (V.O.)
Has he calmed down at all?

TOMMY (V.O.)
A little bit, yeah.

ROGER BERTOSI
(not calm at all)
I am in! One hundred percent! Yes!

A CHYRON reads: ROGER BERTOSI. Bertosi chucks a DODGEBALL at a passing KID, pelts him in the gut. He goes down, hard.

ROGER BERTOSI
Take a seat, Sirolli!

Tommy, Vinnie and Dez stand before him.

ROGER BERTOSI
We got ice?

DEZ
Five AM. Thursdays. All that's available right now.

ROGER BERTOSI
We got Solala?

TOMMY
Not yet.

VINNIE
We can't seem to find O'Sullivan either--

ROGER BERTOSI
Yeah, he's right there-- SULLY!

Reveal JERRY O'SULLIVAN (43, burnout) mopping the STAGE, ear buds in. He's the school JANITOR. He sees the guys, smiles.

O'SULLIVAN
Awe, what's up boys!

The guys all yell back. "Sully!" "Yeah buddy!" "'97 forever!"

ANGLE ON: The rest of the 8th grade GYM CLASS in their gym uniforms watching this go down, totally weirded out. A very embarrassed Chloe buries her head in her hands.

INT. LOPETECKI LUMBER YARD - MONTAGE - DAY

A large lumberyard. Every few feet is the name LOPETECKI LUMBER. MATT LOPETECKI (41, cocksure) strides through his mini-empire as employees and forklifts bustle about.

DEZ (V.O.)
What about Lopetecki?

CHYRON reads: MATT LOPETECKI.

VINNIE (V.O.)
Guy's a jerk, we don't need him.

TOMMY (V.O.)
Yes we do. He's our best two way player.

LOPETECKI
I'm your best two way player.

Dez, Vinnie and Tommy trail behind him. Trying to keep up.

DEZ
That's why we're here, Matt.

LOPETECKI
What about Solala?

TOMMY
We haven't tracked him down yet.

LOPETECKI
Are you kidding? Without me, without Solala, you don't have a chance.

Lopetecki stops, pointing at each of them.

LOPETECKI
You're a fat ass. You're a mess.
And you're just desperate, Malone. We're gonna lose by twenty. In front of the whole town. I'm not going to subject my image-- my company's image to that, no way.

VINNIE
(like a chicken)
Bock-bock-bock-bock-bock--

LOPETECKI
Shut the hell up Delvano.

TOMMY
It's a state championship game.

LOPETECKI

It's a bunch of old guys trying to pretend they're not. I haven't played in five years.

TOMMY

I haven't played in twenty five.

LOPETECKI

Twenty five?! What the hell are you doing Maloney? And what about your dad? He can't be into this.

TOMMY

We don't need him.

LOPETECKI

Hell you don't. The guy made the playoffs twenty years straight with kids who could barely buy skates. No Coach? No Solala? No chance.

INT. ACME SUPERMARKET - FOX RIVER - DAY

A local grocery store. Tommy pushes the cart as Annie checks her list and drops items in.

ANNIE

Just ask him if he wants to coach.

TOMMY

I don't know...

ANNIE

You two are ridiculous.

TOMMY

He doesn't talk to me.

ANNIE

Because you don't talk to him. See how that works? Hand me a sketch pad.

Tommy grabs a BLICK SKETCH PAD off a shelf, hands it to her.

TOMMY

The game's my idea, he'll think it's stupid.

ANNIE

If the game was his idea, you'd think it was stupid.

TOMMY
Is it stupid?

ANNIE
Do you really want me to answer
that?

A TINY OLD WOMAN pushing her cart spots Tommy and Annie.

OLD WOMAN
Maloney! What's this about a hockey
game?

TOMMY
It's a rematch against Hillstone
Prep, Miss Burnham.

OLD WOMAN
Is there gonna be fights?

TOMMY
Uh, I hope not.

OLD WOMAN
Are ya gonna get creamed?

TOMMY
We're gonna do our best.

OLD WOMAN
(scoffs)
Ah, you're gonna get creamed.

The Old Woman passes by. Tommy sighs. Then.

TOMMY
I mean, my dad's not up for this,
he's too old.

ANNIE
He's too old?

TOMMY
I'm forty two, Annie, not eighty
two.

ANNIE
You're forty three.

TOMMY
No, I'm--

ANNIE
You're forty three. Applebees?
Three months ago?

Tommy thinks, she's totally right.

TOMMY
Damn it.

Annie stops, sighs.

ANNIE
Why are you doing this?

TOMMY
What do you mean?

ANNIE
Why are you playing in this game?

TOMMY
Because I want to win?

ANNIE
That's not enough, Tommy.

A beat. This is hard to admit. Hard to explain.

TOMMY
I just... I need this, okay? I need
it.

Annie nods. She might not totally get it, but she loves him.

ANNIE
Maybe your dad does too.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - WAITING ROOM - DAY

A waiting room. Stan sits in a chair, staring straight ahead. Tommy sits two chairs away from him, watching him intently.

NURSE (O.S.)
Mr. Maloney?

TOMMY
Yeah.

STAN

Yeah.

NURSE
Stan Maloney. But both of you can
come with me.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER - DAY

Tommy and Stan sit before a DOCTOR (mid 30's, male).

DOCTOR

I'm just going to ask few follow up questions, see how you compare to last month, Stan. Okay?

STAN

Okay.

DOCTOR

Again, they're going to sound a little silly, but try to answer them as best you can.

STAN

(re: Tommy)

This isn't something I can do by myself?

DOCTOR

We asked Tommy to be here. Sometimes it's just nice to have a family member present.

STAN

I'll invite your wife next time.

The doctor laughs, a little unnerved.

DOCTOR

Stan, how did you get here today?

STAN

I came with my son. He drove me. In his 2012 Ford F-150 that needs a new gas line.

DOCTOR

Gotta get that fixed or it'll bite you later.

STAN

That's what I told him.

DOCTOR

What's a hundred minus seven?

STAN

93.

DOCTOR
What month is it?

STAN
(thinking, then)
April.

Tommy looks down. It's not April. It's January.

DOCTOR
What do you do for work?

STAN
Landscaping company.

DOCTOR
Did you retire or do you still
work?

STAN
Retire.

DOCTOR
How long ago did you retire?

Stan thinks, he's getting flustered now.

STAN
A couple months... Don't know.
(nods to Tommy)
Ask him, he took over.

TOMMY
Dad, you retired five years ago.

DOCTOR
Please, just let him answer. Stan
can you tell me how long you've
been living with your son now?

STAN
I don't live with my son, I live on
Hawthorne Street. He used to live
there when he was a boy, before
Nancy died. Is that what you're
asking me?

Tommy just looks out the window. This is too hard to watch.

STAN
Next question.

INT. TOMMY'S TRUCK - LATER - DAY

Tommy drives Stan back from the appointment. They sit in silence, Stan staring pointedly out the window. A beat. Then.

TOMMY

So, I don't know if you heard Dad, but it looks like we're gonna try to replay that game.

STAN

What game?

TOMMY

The state championship game. The one that was canceled because of the snow storm.

STAN

We were there.

TOMMY

I know we were. You plowed a route for the whole team.

STAN

Musta had twenty guys in the back of that truck. I thought Delvano was gonna fall out. Smash some sense into him.

Tommy chuckles, Stan smiles. A nice moment.

TOMMY

I was thinking, well, we all wanted to ask you if maybe you wanted to--

STAN

Replay a game. Dumbest thing I ever heard. You want to keep playing? You shouldn't have quit.

TOMMY

What do you mean?

STAN

You stopped playing. You quit.

TOMMY

After high school? Where was I supposed to play? College? What colleges were calling me?

STAN

You don't wait around for phone calls, Tommy. You make those calls.

TOMMY

Maybe you shoulda made those calls. You ever think of that?

STAN

You don't quit something you love. You quit hockey.

TOMMY

I didn't quit.

STAN

You quit.

TOMMY

I got pulled!

An angry beat. Stan tries to formulate his response.

STAN

You don't remember right.

TOMMY

I don't remember? You have Alzheim--

STAN

I know!

(then, softer)

I know.

INT. TOMMY'S BEDROOM - LATER - NIGHT

Tommy stares out the window. It's snowing. Big, fat flakes that won't stop anytime soon. Annie sits on the bed behind him, reading Stan's doctor's results.

ANNIE

This is worse than we thought.

TOMMY

Doctor said he might not even know who we are in a year. We'll have to put him in a home. We can barely afford this one.

ANNIE

Oh, Tommy.

TOMMY

We're supposed to be on the lookout
for strange behavior. Make sure he
doesn't wander out in the cold.

Annie crosses over to Tommy, holds him.

TOMMY

I told him two years ago to go to
the doctor. I told him.

ANNIE

It might not have made any
difference.

TOMMY

He just doesn't listen to me.

ANNIE

Whatever it is between you two, you
gotta work it out. Before it's too
late.

Tommy tenses up, shakes his head. Annie holds his shoulders.

ANNIE

You gotta work it out, Tommy.

A beat. Tommy just stares out the window at the snow.

TOMMY

I gotta go to work.

EXT. HILLSTONE NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

Tommy plows MR. TUETKEN'S driveway (the guy who wouldn't pay
him earlier). Tommy can see him inside, eating dinner,
laughing with his family. Not a care in the world.

EXT. FOX RIVER - VFW - LATER - NIGHT

Tommy salts the VFW steps. He stops. That damn 'E' has fallen
off the sign again. Tommy picks it up, shoves it back on.

EXT. FOX RIVER - HAWTHORNE STREET - LATER - NIGHT

Tommy pulls up to a small TWO STORY HOUSE. There's a FOR SALE
sign. The mailbox reads MALONEY. This is Tommy's childhood
home-- Stan's house until recently. Tommy just stares at it.

INT. STAN'S HOUSE - ATTIC - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

Darkness. A lightbulb chain clicks. Tommy enters the attic. Lots of junk. Boxes, old tools, a WEDDING PICTURE of STAN and NANCY. Tommy scans the area, looking for something.

There it is. Tucked in the corner between a few open boxes: HIS HOCKEY BAG-- a simple DARK GREEN canvas bag. It reads FOX RIVER HOCKEY. A pair of GOALIE STICKS rest next to it.

Tommy kneels before the bag. Like an explorer unearthing some bygone treasure, he slowly unzips it.

Tommy pulls out his old GOALIE MASK. It's WHITE, beat up, dinged with BLACK PUCK MARKS. He pulls it to his face, breathes in. Yep, still smells. Tommy smiles, puts it on. Still fits perfectly.

Tommy pops the mask up on his head, notices a FRAMED PHOTO resting against a box. He picks it up. It's from the late 80s. A YOUNG TOMMY stands with a YOUNG STAN and a YOUNG NANCY (Tommy's mom) on a BACKYARD ICE RINK. Tommy and Stan hold sticks, the three of them are smiling ear to ear.

Tommy stares at the picture for a beat, then sets it against the box. He peeks in the box. It's filled with Stan's VHS FOX RIVER GAME TAPES. Tommy picks one up, smiles slightly.

INT. STAN'S HOUSE - ATTIC - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

Tommy sits crossed legged before an old tiny TV/VCR watching Fox River hockey footage. We move in and out of highlights.

- DEZ makes a big hit.
- SOLALA scores a big goal.
- Fox River FANS and STUDENTS in the stands go crazy.
- Stan talks to the team after a game. Vinnie does his "Stan" imitation to camera. Stan catches him, puts him in a playful headlock. Tommy and Dez laugh like crazy.
- The team messes around on an OUTDOOR ICE RINK. Stan watches, sipping coffee. He gives the camera a little wink.
- Tommy makes a HUGE GLOVE SAVE. The crowd goes BANANAS. A sign in the crowd reads MALONEY SAVES! The camera zooms in on Tommy's face as he yells to his team, fired up. "LET'S GO!"

We push in on Tommy's face as he watches the footage. Maybe that fire's still there...

INT. FOX RIVER ICE RINK - MORNING - DAY

A cold, half lit ice rink. It's bare bones, tiny. Concrete walls. Wood bleachers-- a place that has seen better days.

Tommy stands alone at the boards, fully dressed in his goalie gear, staring out at a clean sheet of ice. He looks a little ridiculous in his very dated equipment. A beat.

VINNIE (O.S.)

Nervous?

Pull back to reveal Vinnie waddling up, fully dressed.

TOMMY

Should I be?

VINNIE

Well, considering you're the only hockey player I know who *stopped playing hockey*, yeah. I can't believe your gear hasn't disintegrated. You look like a sad Patrick Roy.

TOMMY

This is a great pep talk Vinnie.

VINNIE

That's why your dad made me captain senior year.

TOMMY

Alternate captain.

Behind Vinnie, THE FOX RIVER TEAM starts to file over from the locker room, all suited up.

ROGER BERTOSI

Are we gonna practice here? Or are we gonna play with each other's wieners?

VINNIE

Ask Fenelon.

FATHER FENELON

Uncalled for.

Vinnie smiles, nods to Tommy.

VINNIE

It's always been your team, Tommy. Lead us out there.

Tommy pulls down his mask and hops the boards.

Tommy's skates hit the ice, there's a moment of uncertainty-- a slow glide. Then one stride, then another, then another. Tommy skates fluidly. He smiles slightly. Thank God.

The team takes the ice, excited to be back. Dez skates by, gives Tommy's pad a tap with his stick.

DEZ
Like riding a bike.

Vinnie bangs his stick on the ice as he whizzes by.

VINNIE
Alright Foxes! Let's do it!

INT. FOX RIVER ICE RINK - A LITTLE LATER - DAY

A gloved hand presses PLAY on an OLD BOOM BOX that rests on the boards. It blasts out Third Eye Blind's 1997 hit SEMI-CHARMED KIND OF LIFE.

Welcome to practice. Lots of groans and heavy breathing, but these guys can still skate. Hockey players never forget.

That said, it ain't pretty-- each guy trying to play at the level he played at in high school-- an impossible task.

- Dez skates backwards to defend a three on two. Buster makes a cut and Dez eats it and falls on his ass.
- Father Fenelon coughs up the puck in the neutral zone and collides into Brett. They both go down. Hard.
- Vinnie calls for a breakout pass from O'Sullivan.

VINNIE
Boards! Boards!

O'Sullivan airmails the puck out of the rink. It hits a ratty "KEEP FOX RIVER BEAUTIFUL" SIGN.

O'SULLIVAN
My bad!

- Buster stick-handles around some cones. He gets caught up on one. Before he can recover, his brother Greg is right on him. They bump into each other.

BUSTER CHAN
Slow down!

GREG CHAN
Go faster!

- But the worst of the lot by far is Tommy. He painfully and awkwardly pushes around in net making pathetic noises.

TOMMY
Mmmheh. Mmmheh. Oh Jesus. Mmmheh.

- Shots fly past Tommy in quick cuts: Over his shoulder. Over his glove. Five hole. Five hole. Low blocker side. High blocker side. BAM right off his face-- rebound, in.

On the bench Vinnie, Dez and The Cousins watch.

BRETT
Your boy don't look too good.

DEZ
He'll get there.

Tommy goes for a poke check and loses his stick. He scrambles awkwardly to pick it up.

BRETT
He better. If he sucks, we suck.
And I'm not saying we don't suck
right now.

DAN
We definitely suck.

OTHER DAN
Big time.

BRETT
But if Tommy sucks? We're screwed.

- The team lines up on the goal line for the dreaded "Sixty Second Drill". Bertosi clicks his gym teacher stopwatch.

ROGER BERTOSI
Sixty second drill, go!

The team skates as hard as they can. Goal line to blue line, hard stop, back to the goal line, hard stop, then center line, etc. It's brutal. They're gasping for air.

DEZ
This is stupid!

ROGER BERTOSI
Come on!

VINNIE
I'm canceling the drill... I'm
canceling it...

Vinnie falls to his knees at center ice, gasping for air.

VINNIE
I need a cigarette...

Bertosi checks his watch as the team crosses the goal line.

BUSTER CHAN
How bad?

Bertosi shows Buster. The watch reads 1:47. Ugh.

The guys all lie on the ice in various states of exhaustion.
A pathetic beat. Then.

DEZ
Has this thing just been playing
Third Eye Blind the whole time?

It has.

O'SULLIVAN
Jee-sus Christ.

FRESHMAN FRANK
I like Third Eye Blind.

Father Fenelon just reaches over and smashes the boom box with his stick. The guys all cheer in appreciation.

FRESHMAN FRANK
That's my boom box.

FATHER FENELON
Shut up, Freshman.

FRESHMAN FRANK
Okay.

Still trying to finish the dill, Tommy finally crosses the goal line and slumps face first onto the ice, as the Zamboni doors open, signaling the end of practice.

The team files off. Tommy just lays there, groaning.

PUDDY (O.S.)
Always were a flopper.

Tommy rolls over to see PUDDY (80-- looks 100) the rink's Zamboni driver / caretaker standing on the ice above him.

TOMMY
Puddy.

PUDDY
Probably thought I was dead, huh?

TOMMY
You look great.

PUDDY
A lot better than you.

TOMMY
Any advice?

PUDDY
Yeah, try stopping the puck.

TOMMY
That's good.

PUDDY
Maybe get your skates sharpened for
Christ sake.

TOMMY
I'll bring 'em over on my way out.

PUDDY
Sharpener's broke.

TOMMY
The hardware store?

PUDDY
Also broke.

TOMMY
This town's falling apart.

PUDDY
This is news?

TOMMY
Where the hell am I supposed to get
'em sharpened then?

Puddy just looks at him. "Do I need to say it?"

TOMMY
God damn it.

EXT. HILLSTONE ICE ARENA - LATER - DAY

A beautiful, sleek ARENA. Tommy's truck pulls into the lot.

INT. TOMMY'S FORD PICK UP - CONTINUOUS - DAY

Tommy holds a bag of FROZEN PEAS to his crotch. Fresh from school, Chloe sits shotgun, eying up the rink.

TOMMY

This'll just take a few minutes.
You can wait in the car.

CHLOE

No way, I want to see this place.

Tommy rolls his eyes. Okay. Chloe smirks at him.

CHLOE

You gonna bring your peas?

TOMMY

(he was about to)
No, I'm not gonna bring my peas.

The two share a smile. Tommy tosses the peas on the seat.

INT. HILLSTONE ICE ARENA - MOMENTS LATER - DAY

Skates in hand, Tommy walks in with Chloe. The rink's huge. It seats about four thousand. There's an EXERCISE GYM, a beautiful LOBBY and a state of the art PRO SHOP.

CHLOE

Wowza.

TOMMY

Okay. Go get a spiced latte or
whatever. I'll be right back.

Tommy hands Chloe a few bucks, heads to the Pro Shop.

INT. PRO SHOP - MOMENTS LATER - DAY

Tommy peruses the aisles. He picks up a GOALIE STICK. Man is that light. Wow. He notices the price tag.

TOMMY

Two hundred dollars!

YOUNG CLERK
(thinks it's a good deal)
Thirty percent off, I know.

TOMMY
They used to cost fifty.

YOUNG CLERK
(laughing)
When? The 90's?

Tommy scowls, sets his skates on the counter.

TOMMY
I need a sharpen.

CLERK
Jesus. You find these in a museum?

TOMMY
Half inch hollow. Just sharpen 'em.

INT. HILLSTONE ICE ARENA - CONTINUOUS - DAY

Chloe sips a hot chocolate as she watches TWO GIRLS talking near the Pro Shop window. They wear HILLSTONE SWEATSHIRTS over their SCHOOL UNIFORMS.

Chloe approaches them, excited.

CHLOE
Hey! You guys go to Hillstone?

HILLSTONE ONE GIRL looks at her, unimpressed.

HILLSTONE GIRL
Uh, yeah.

CHLOE
Cool! I'm applying there.

INT. PRO SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Through the pro shop window Tommy watches Chloe talk to the girls. The girls eventually end the conversation and exit. Chloe waves bye. The girls walk into the pro shop past Tommy.

HILLSTONE GIRL TWO
Who was that girl?

HILLSTONE GIRL
Just some Fox River kid.

HILLSTONE GIRL TWO
What's a Fox River kid?

HILLSTONE GIRL
White trash.

The second girl is unsure what to make of this comment, but Tommy's face goes slack. Pure rage. And there's nothing he can do about it.

INT. TOMMY'S FORD PICK UP - LATER - DAY

Tommy drives Chloe home. She's beaming. He's fuming.

CHLOE
Everything is just so *nice*. Did you see the gym in there? There's a gym *in the ice rink*.

TOMMY
Maybe tone down the Prep love a little bit, huh?

CHLOE
Why?

TOMMY
I'm just saying, there are downsides to Hillstone too.

CHLOE
Like what?

TOMMY
Well, it's a different type of people, a different life.

CHLOE
Yeah, an awesome life.

TOMMY
We're different than them, Chloe. You need to understand that. You can't just think this is magically going to work out.

CHLOE
You don't think I can get in now?

TOMMY
I didn't say that.

CHLOE

I'm gonna get in, Dad. And I'm gonna get that scholarship and that's it. You said. You said if I get the scholarship I can go.

TOMMY

Mom said that.

CHLOE

What?

TOMMY

For the record, Mom said that, not me.

CHLOE

Just because you're playing them in some dumb hockey game now you don't want me to go there?!

Chloe starts crying a little, getting worked up.

CHLOE

I'm smart enough! I'm the smartest in my class. I'm doing the work!

TOMMY

I'm not saying you can't go. I'm not saying that. I know you want to do great things with your life and you will honey, you will. I know you're scared--

CHLOE

(resolved)

I'm not scared. You're scared, Dad. You.

EXT. CLIENT'S BACKYARD - HILLSTONE - DUSK

A GIANT TREE BRANCH lies in the snowy back yard of a huge estate. Tommy stands over it with an ax-- trying to chop it up so he can haul it away.

Whack. Whack. Whack. He labors at it, barely making a dent.

As we push in on Tommy's face, we can see... He is scared. And angry. And not in control. Not a great feeling for a 43 year old, grown ass man...

INT. MALONEY HOUSE - KITCHEN - A FEW DAYS LATER - NIGHT

Tommy washes dishes in the sink, still in a fog. Annie bustles around behind him in the kitchen.

ANNIE
You weren't going to tell me?

TOMMY
It's not important.

ANNIE
It's a story on ABC News.

TOMMY
Local news.

Stan and Jackie play Go Fish at the breakfast table. Chloe sits with them doing homework.

JACKIE
Do you have any... threes?

STAN
Go to the dump.

JACKIE
It's go fish, Grandpa.

STAN
This is Jersey, we go to the dump.

Stan gives Chloe a little wink, she smiles. Annie and Tommy continue their conversation.

ANNIE
They had cameras at practice?

TOMMY
It's not a big deal.

ANNIE
Yes it is. When's the last time
somebody did a story on Fox River?

TOMMY
Suicide story last year. The
theater closing. Zaremba's arrest.

ANNIE
A good story. I'm making popcorn.

TOMMY
Don't make popcorn.

ANNIE
Who wants popcorn?!

Jackie and Stan raise their hands. Chloe doesn't.

ANNIE
You don't want popcorn, Chloe?
We're gonna watch dad's thing.

CHLOE
I have homework.

Chloe grabs her backpack, heads upstairs. Tommy just sighs. Jackie and Stan continue their game.

STAN
Do you have any...fives?

JACKIE
Go to the dump.

Stan reaches for a card as we go into a **NEWS SEGMENT...**

EXT. FOX RIVER - STREET - **NEWS SEGMENT** - DAY

ON TV a music cue brings us to an on the street reporter, PENNY VASQUEZ (30s), who stands outside Fenski's Bar & Grill.

PENNY
It was here, three weeks ago, at a bar in Fox River where a Twitter war broke out. About a hockey game.

- Vinnie sits on the bench in his hockey pads being interviewed. A CHYRON reads VINNIE DELVANO USED CAR SALESMAN.

VINNIE
Two words: game of the century.

INT. MALONEY HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

Tommy, Annie and Jackie watch on TV.

JACKIE
That's four words, Dad.

TOMMY
Yes I know.

EXT. FOX RIVER - CONTINUOUS - NEWS SEGMENT - DAY

Back to Penny on the street.

PENNY

The game was the 1997 New Jersey high school hockey championship.

- B ROLL of newspaper clippings, pictures and old video of the Fox River and Hillstone Prep teams.

PENNY (V.O.)

Two teams were set to face off. The underdog Fox River and the undefeated Hillstone Prep. But a freak snow storm hit and the game was never played. Until now.

- Penny now stands in the Fox River rink during practice.

PENNY

That's right. These forty-year-olds are playing for a high school state championship.

(then)

Or trying to, anyway.

- Shots of the Fox River team. They're all in mismatching jerseys and shoddy equipment. They breathe heavily. They suck in their beer guts. They fumble around in the corners. They do not look good. Vinnie smokes a cigarette on the bench.

INT. FENSKI'S BAR & GRILL - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

Vinnie smokes a cigarette watching himself on TV smoking a cigarette.

VINNIE

Giant conspiracy.

Tracey shakes her head, a bit embarrassed of her boyfriend.

INT. FOX RIVER ICE RINK - NEWS SEGMENT - CONTINUOUS - DAY

The Fox River team continues their sloppy practice.

PENNY (V.O.)

Fox River, population eight thousand twenty seven, has never won a state championship before. In any sport.

- BETH gets interviewed at FENSKI'S, a few DRUNKS behind her.

BETH
Untrue. Bowling 1976.

DRUNK GUY
We lost in '76!

BETH
Lemme do the interview!

INT. ICE RINK - FOX RIVER - **NEWS SEGMENT** - CONTINUOUS

- B Roll of: RICKY ZAREMBA'S MUG SHOT, WALTER SOLALA (age 18) game footage, and footage of the rundown present day rink.

PENNY (V.O.)
Their starting defenseman's in jail, their captain's missing, and their rink has seen better days.

- THE COUSINS get interviewed in the rink. They sit unnaturally close to each other wearing their hunting snow suits. A CHYRON READS: THE CHUZIN COUSINS, OPEN TO WORK.

BRETT
You gotta practice early or the ice starts to melt.

DAN
I blame the government.

The cousins all chug their MONSTER ENERGY DRINKS.

INT. FENSKI'S BAR & GRILL - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

Beth watches next to Vinnie, upset.

BETH
They're makin' us look like losers.

INT. LOPETECKI'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

Lopetecki leans forward, staring daggers at the TV.

INT. FOX RIVER ICE RINK - CONTINUOUS - **NEWS SEGMENT** - DAY

The guys skate around, spent.

PENNY (V.O.)
 With only an hour a week of ice
 time, Fox River's doing their best
 to field a competitive team.
 Hillstone on the other hand...

- Penny now stands in the beautiful Hillstone Arena.

PENNY
 Is a very different story.

- The Hillstone team practices, all TWENTY OF THEM. They sport matching BLACK jerseys and equipment. There are COACHES on the ice-- it looks like a professional hockey team.
- JOE SCHMIDT (43) gets interviewed, fresh from the ice.

JOE SCHMIDT
 We're on the ice four days a week.

- And they are FAST. They run through drills and breakout plays. There are no weak links. They're ALL IN SHAPE. Their goalies make big saves, their wingers press, their centers stickhandle. Radzack rips a one-timer, top shelf.

INT. FENSKI'S BAR & GRILL - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

Vinnie's mouth hangs open as he watches.

VINNIE
 Ho...

INT. MALONEY HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

Tommy's mouth hangs open.

TOMMY
 ...leee

INT. POLICE SQUAD CAR - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

Dez's mouth hangs open as he watches on his phone.

DEZ
 ...shit.

COP PARTNER
 Oh man, they're gonna kill you.

Dez's COP PARTNER (20s) reaches over, grabs Dez's doughnut.

INT. HILLSTONE ICE ARENA - NEWS SEGMENT - CONTINUOUS

Radzack gets interviewed during practice. A CHYRON READS: JT RADACK, OWNER RADZACK BMW, FORMER NHL PLAYER.

JT RADZACK

We've got a lot of alumni behind this. We know how important it is to prove that championship's ours. And let me be clear. It's ours.

On the ice Radzack skates hard, barks out orders.

PENNY (V.O.)

With three former college and two former pro players, Hillstone Prep is looking to dominate.

- Hillstone's fundraising director (the guy who thought Tommy was a janitor) gets interviewed in his office. A CHYRON READS: CARTER POOLE, DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT, HILLSTONE PREP.

CARTER POOLE

...I'm sure Fox River's a very nice town, they just don't have the resources we do. Or frankly, the talent. It won't be close.

INT. MALONEY HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Annie sits up in her seat.

ANNIE

Oh you just made the list buddy!

JACKIE

Dad, you can still beat these guys, right?

Tommy just watches, nervous. Sitting at the kitchen table, Stan takes note.

INT. HILLSTONE / FOX RIVER - NEWS SEGMENT - CONTINUOUS

Penny continues, motioning to the vast ARENA.

PENNY

Who will end up on top? Four thousand ticket holders can't wait to find out.

INT. MALONEY HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

Tommy watches, very uneasy now. He whispers to himself.

TOMMY
Four thousand...

PENNY (V.O.)
The puck drops in three weeks.

INT. ABC STUDIO - **NEWS SEGMENT** - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

The news segment ends and transitions back to the studio. Penny and the TWO ANCHORS yuk it up, laughing.

ANCHOR ONE
Oh, I am buying a ticket to this.

PENNY
Seriously, right?

ANCHOR TWO
I liked the guys in snow suits.

INT. MALONEY HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

We push in on Tommy's worried face.

ANCHOR ONE (O.S.)
I already feel bad for Fox River...

INT. MALONEY HOUSE - BED ROOM - LATER - NIGHT

Tommy lies wide awake in bed, the same worried expression. The clock reads 3:19.

There's a soft scratching outside. A beat. There it is again. Tommy sits up, looks out the window. Stan's outside in the backyard, wandering around on the lawn, holding a SHOVEL.

Tommy jolts up, hustles out of bed.

EXT. MALONEY BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

Tommy rushes out the backdoor, approaches his dad, worried.

TOMMY
Dad? What are you doing out here?
It's freezing, let's go inside.

STAN
Gonna hit ten degrees tonight.

TOMMY
I know, it's the middle of winter.
And you're shoveling the back yar--

Tommy looks over the yard and it suddenly hits him. Stan's not out here shoveling the lawn because he's lost his mind...

STAN
You boys need more ice time.

...he's shoveling the lawn for a backyard ice rink. Just like he used to make when Tommy was a kid. Four corner posts are laid out, marking it off in the snow.

Tommy looks to Stan. A heartfelt beat. A kid and his dad.

TOMMY
A rink?

STAN
I still know how to do that.

Tommy stares out at the yard. A heavy beat. Then.

TOMMY
We're gonna get killed, Dad.

STAN
Not if you got a hot goalie you're not.

A beat. The two exchange a look. "Okay."

CUT TO:

EXT. MALONEY BACKYARD - THE NEXT DAY - DAY

A flurry of ice rink activity. A stack of LOPETECKI LUMBER is carried past. Some WORKERS put hockey boards into place. Stan directs Annie, Vinnie and Dez as they lay out a TARP. Stan's ice rink vision is being enhanced with help from the TOWN.

Tommy and Matt Lopetecki survey the activity.

LOPETECKI
My guys should have the boards up in an hour, I got the fire department coming to flood it so we don't have to wait all day with the garden hose.

TOMMY
The fire department?

LOPETECKI
People are riled up, man. That
thing made the whole town look like
a bunch of losers.

TOMMY
Maybe we are.

LOPETECKI
Screw that. "It won't be close?"
It'll be close.

TOMMY
You're in now?

Lopetecki just looks at him. A fire burning.

LOPETECKI
Go stretch out.

TOMMY
It's like forty eight hours before
we got ice.

LOPETECKI
Go stretch. You're gonna need it.

EXT. BACKYARD ICE RINK - TWO DAYS LATER - DAY

The rink is done. It's about three quarters the size of an NHL rink. Boards, backstop netting, the works. It fills up the ENTIRE Maloney backyard. It's almost comical.

Tommy stands in his crouch in net, fully dressed in his gear, breathing hard-- breath we can now see in the cold.

BANG! Lopetecki rips a slap shot. Tommy steers it aside with his blocker.

BANG! Vinnie rips a shot. Tommy snags it with his glove.

BANG! Dez rips a low hard one, Tommy drops to a butterfly, deflects it with a textbook half circle turn of his stick.

BANG! Save. BANG! Goal. BANG! Save. He's getting better...

INT. FOX RIVER ICE RINK - MORNING - DAY - MONTAGE

And so is the team. They run through a three on three drill. They look a little sharper, a little more focused.

Freshman Frank's Boom Box, now taped together with hockey tape sits on the boards. A MIX TAPE in the tape deck reads "NO MORE F-ING AROUND VOL 1." PEARL JAM'S "EVENFLOW" plays.

- Lopetecki is finding his groove too. He sucks air, but we can tell he's got some serious skills. He scores on a pretty wrap around, immediately starts smack talking.

LOPETECKI
All State '98!

Greg and Buster watch from the boards.

GREG CHAN
Asshole's still got it.

- Stan shakes hands with the guys on the bench, just saying hello. The guys love that he's here. And we can tell, he loves it too. He's more clear eyed, more energized.

EXT. BACKYARD ICE RINK - DAY - MONTAGE

A NEIGHBORHOOD CROWD has gathered around the back yard rink. It's a festive atmosphere. The WOMENS' ROTARTY CLUB sells hot apple cider. A sign reads SUPPORT OUR TEAM.

Tommy's back in net. Taking more shots. Puck after puck after puck. Fox River players, neighborhood kids, everybody and their brother blasting away on Tommy. Stan stands with Jackie, sipping cider.

STAN
You see enough pucks, you can stop anything.

Tommy's still rusty, but we can see it in his eyes, he's starting to find his groove.

INT. MALONEY HOUSE - BASEMENT - NIGHT - MONTAGE

Annie works on a painting on her easel-- a distinct pop art style all her own. She cranes her neck to see Tommy digging through a box of his old stuff. He pulls out his old DISCMAN, smiles. Annie just shakes her head.

EXT. THE ROAD - MORNING - DAWN - MONTAGE

Tommy runs down the road. Discman in his hand. He runs hard to "EVENFLOW". A man on a mission.

Suddenly the FOX RIVER CROSS COUNTRY TEAM blows by him-- out for their morning run. One BOY turns as he passes by.

BOY
You can do it, Mr. Maloney!

Tommy sucks it up, runs harder.

INT. FOX RIVER RINK - MORNING - MONTAGE

The team skates through the dreaded "sixty second drill". Goal line, blue line, goal line, red line, goal line, etc...

INT. FOX RIVER POLICE STATION - EARLY MORNING - MONTAGE

Sun streams through the windows. Dez does sit ups on the floor, drenched in sweat, struggling. His PARTNER takes note.

COP PARTNER
Come on old man, I got you.

Dez's partner holds down his feet. Dez nods, keeps going.

EXT. DELVANO USED MOTORS - NIGHT - MONTAGE

Vinnie rides an old STATIONARY BIKE outside the office. He watches Tracey talk to a YOUNG GUY (20's) on the lot. He's cute, Patagonia preppy. She gives him a pat on the arm.

Vinnie pedals harder.

EXT. MALONEY HOUSE - MORNING - MONTAGE

Tommy runs down the street, "EVENFLOW" cranking on his Discman. He's less winded, more determined. He throws a few punches in the air for good measure.

The CD on the Discman immediately starts skipping.

TOMMY
Crap.

Tommy smiles. Forgot that was a thing. He holds it steady.

INT. FOX RIVER ICE RINK - LOCKER ROOM - MONTAGE

Post practice. Drenched in sweat, Vinnie smokes a cigarette. WHACK. A box of NICORETTE GUM hits him in the chest, compliments of Dez. Vinnie gives Dez a look. "Alright."

INT. MALONEY HOUSE - BATHROOM - MORNING - MONTAGE

Fresh from the shower, Tommy brushes his teeth at the sink with Annie. She gives him a look, studies his face.

ANNIE

Are you... growing a mustache?

Tommy just smiles. God damn right he is.

INT. FOX RIVER ICE RINK - MORNING - MONTAGE

Half the team sits on the bench, panting, awaiting a line change. "Evenflow" continues to belt out from the boom box. Vinnie smiles, chewing nicorette.

VINNIE

(singing Vedder gibberish)
OOOOH KNEELIN'! Never-understood-
any-of-the-words-that-he-say-ah!

The team starts to laugh. Then.

FATHER FENELON

OOOOH PRAAAAYIN'! Hillstone-don't-
cry-'cause-you-know-we're-gonna-
beat-their-ass-es!

Everybody ROARS. Hell yeah Fenner! They all hop the boards.

EXT. STREET - DAY - MONTAGE

An energized Tommy comes SPRINTING past the house where Jackie stands with a stop watch. He gasps for air, excited.

TOMMY

How was that?!

JACKIE

Worst time yet, Dad.

TOMMY

Okay!

Tommy just swoops Jackie up over his shoulder, keeps running. Jackie can't help but smile. Her dad's off the couch.

EXT. PICTURESQUE NEIGHBORHOOD - HILLSTONE - NIGHT - MONTAGE

Mr. Tuetken, on his phone, opens his door to see Tommy standing there. Decent mustache on him.

MR. TUETKEN

Yeah?

TOMMY

It's two hundred eighty bucks now.

MR. TUETKEN

I told you, man, I'd get it. What's your deal?

Tuetken shuts the door. Tommy puts his foot out to stop it.

TOMMY

Two eighty.

Tuetken looks over Tommy's shoulder to see The Cousins, Bertosi, and The Chan brothers standing on the porch. "We're not fucking around here." Tuetken swallows hard. "Okay."

EXT. BACKYARD ICE RINK - NIGHT - MONTAGE

Flood lights have been put up. The team skates off the ice, another encouraging practice. Feeling good, Tommy skates to where Stan stands at the boards, watching.

TOMMY

So, what do you think, Dad?

STAN

Your angles are off, you're floppin' too much, and your puck handling sucks.

Tommy looks down, disappointed. Then looks up. Stan's right.

TOMMY

Okay.

EXT. BACKYARD ICE RINK - A LITTLE LATER - NIGHT - MONTAGE

Stan blows his whistle. Tommy pushes to the top of the crease, drops to a butterfly, pops up and passes a puck toward an outlined spot at the boards. It misses.

STAN

Again.

- Tommy repeats the drill. Over and over. More stick handling, more passing.

STAN

Your D's gonna be gassed, you gotta feed 'em back there. Again.

- Tommy repeats the drill. Over and over. He finally lifts a wobbly pass that hits the outlined target on the boards. Tommy smiles. Stan just looks on. Not convinced.

INT. FOX RIVER ICE RINK - MORNING - MONTAGE

The team skates the sixty second drill, determined. They all cross the goal line, gassed. Dez dives across as Bertosi looks at his watch. It reads 59:59. He nods. They did it.

INT. FENSKI'S BAR & GRILL - NIGHT - MONTAGE

Beth takes a TIP off the bar, puts it in a jar marked BEAT HILLSTONE! She points at a DRUNK to put cash in too. He does.

EXT. VFW - FOX RIVER - NIGHT

Tommy salts the steps. Wind still in his face. He notices that goddamn 'E' on the ground again. He picks it up.

Tommy goes to put it back, stops short. The sign now reads GO FOX RIVER HOCK Y! Tommy gently puts the 'E' back. Proud.

INT. FOX RIVER POLICE STATION - MORNING - DAY - MONTAGE

Dez is surrounded by a DOZEN FOX RIVER COPS-- his brothers and sisters in blue, as he grinds out sit ups on the floor.

COP PARTNER

...forty eight... forty nine...

Dez digs deep and sits up for fifty. The cops ROAR!

EXT. STREET - MORNING - MONTAGE

Tommy runs hard. No more Discman, just him pushing himself.

Slowly he edges up to another runner, then another, he's finally caught up to the CROSS COUNTRY TEAM. Surprised to find him in their group, they CHEER, welcome him in.

Tommy just keeps running with them. Big smile on his face.

EXT. BACKYARD ICE RINK - NIGHT

A clear, crisp night. A CHYRON READS: ONE WEEK TO THE GAME.

On the ice under the lights, the team huddles around Stan, who is going over a play on a small hockey dry erase board.

STAN

...winger cycles over. D shifts.
Center passes the... Center passes
the... He passes the...

Stan stops. He can't remember the word for "puck". Everyone exchanges a look, concerned. Tommy never told them. A beat.

TOMMY

The puck, Dad.

STAN

Yeah, puck.

The team suddenly knows. Stan's not all there. He looks at them blankly. Scared, embarrassed. A beat. Then.

VINNIE

Winger dumps it in then, Coach?

STAN

Yeah.

ROGER BERTOSI

Center chases?

LOPETECKI

D pinches, right?

Stan nods, looking over his team. They're all here for him.

DEZ

That's a good play, Coach.

BUSTER CHAN

Real good.

TOMMY

Should we run it, Dad?

STAN

Yeah. Let's run it.

Thankful, Stan blows his whistle. The team takes the ice.

EXT. BACKYARD ICE RINK - LATER - NIGHT

Practice has ended. Tommy, Dez and Vinnie sit on the boards in their gear, watching Annie help Stan get back inside.

VINNIE

How long's it been going on?

TOMMY

Couple years, really. Most times it's like there's nothing wrong and then... I woulda told you guys, I just--

DEZ

It's alright, man. We all kinda knew.

VINNIE

I'm sorry, Tommy.

TOMMY

Never been great at talking about the hard stuff have we?

A contemplative beat. Then.

TOMMY

Chloe won't talk to me 'cause I don't want her to go to Hillstone. She thinks I'm going to embarrass her out here.

DEZ

My kids call me Officer Fatnandez.

VINNIE

I think Tracey's gonna break up with me.

TOMMY

No way.

DEZ

She busts your balls, but you guys seem great.

VINNIE

I'm too old for her, man. Guys are always hitting on her-- young guys. It's only a matter of time before she trades up. It sucks. I really like her.

TOMMY

Sorry, Vin.

VINNIE

I thought maybe this game might show her, I'm not just some old grease ball.

DEZ

You're kind of an old grease ball, Vin.

VINNIE

You know what I mean. I've never been better at anything than I was at hockey in high school. How sad is that?

DEZ

Scale of one to ten? Five.

VINNIE

Five? What's ten?

DEZ

Tommy's mustache.

The guys laugh.

VINNIE

I know it's dumb to want to win so bad, but--

TOMMY

It's not. Believe me.

Beat, then.

DEZ

First day of the playoffs, senior year. I come downstairs, my brother, my Dad, sitting at the table, staring at my name in the paper. All Conference. My Dad gets up, grabs my shoulders. Pats me on the back.

(MORE)

DEZ (CONT'D)
That was twenty five years ago, I
don't think I've had a pat on the
back since. From anyone.

TOMMY
Pat on the back...

A thoughtful beat. Then.

DEZ
We gotta win this game.

INT. FOX RIVER ICE RINK - DAY

BANG! A puck careens around the boards. Skates and sticks
chase after it. A game is taking place and it's FAST.

ANGLE ON: The Fox River bench. The Fox River team makes a
line change. The guys on the bench suck air, concerned.

ROGER BERTOSI
They're too fast, man!

VINNIE
I can't keep up!

FRESHMAN FRANK
I told you they were good.

VINNIE
Not this good!

ANGLE ON THE ICE: We see who the Fox River team is playing: A
U-16 AAA GIRLS' TEAM. NJ COLONIALS. And they are AWESOME.

DEZ
"Play a practice game," you said.
"Get our spirits up," you said.

VINNIE
How was I supposed to know?

ROGER BERTOSI
Which one's your daughter again?

FRESHMAN FRANK
The one about to score.

We see Frank's DAUGHTER #13 pick up a loose puck, skate in
and rifle it between Tommy's legs.

In the stands, PARENTS of the girls cheer. The families of the Fox River team (including Annie and Jackie) do their best not to laugh. Stan scowls. The scoreboard reads 3-1.

VINNIE

We're gonna lose to a bunch of girls!

O'SULLIVAN

Not cool, man.

VINNIE

What, losing to girls? Or being upset 'cause it's girls we're losing to?

O'SULLIVAN

I think both.

The period ends. The team makes its way to the bench, gassed.

TOMMY

Guys, this is embarrassing.

GREG CHAN

You think this is embarrassing? Try three days from now in front of four thousand people.

ROGER BERTOSI

Those girls are animals!

DAN

Number twelve called me a fat ass.

BUSTER CHAN

I got slashed in the leg!

FATHER FENELON

Okay, okay. It's just a practice game, gentlemen. These girls are excellent players. They're developing. The classy move here is just to encourage them, build up their self esteem.

The team looks to the girls' bench where they all pose for an Instagram picture, laughing and high five-ing each other.

A beat. Frank reaches for his phone, reads the girls' post.

FRESHMAN FRANK

"Just out here kickin' some old white dude butt."

DEZ
White dude?

FRESHMAN FRANK
 "Hashtag DadBod. Hashtag
 LaterSkater. Hashtag GenXtralarge."

The guys just stare at the girls' bench. A beat.

VINNIE
 Hashtag screw this.

O'SULLIVAN
 Hashtag gloves off.

FRESHMAN FRANK
 Hashtag on board.

INT. FOX RIVER RINK - MOMENTS LATER - DAY

SMASH! Dez angles an approaching winger into the boards as she tries to squeeze past him. She goes down. He picks up the puck, satisfied.

DEZ
 Let's go!

- The guys get more physical, throwing their weight around. In rapid succession we see: Lopetecki throw a not-so-subtle stiff arm. Bertosi clear out the crease in front of Tommy. Frank bulldoze the puck out of the corner, girls bounce off of him, including his daughter.

FRANK'S DAUGHTER
 Jeez, Dad!

FRESHMAN FRANK
 Suck it up, Morgan!

- Tommy makes a couple good saves.

GREG CHAN
 Atta boy Tommy!

O'SULLIVAN
 He's keeping us in this, boys!

- Buster grabs a loose puck for a breakaway. The girls' D gives chase. Greg subtly grabs one by the pants to slow her down. Buster dekes and scores, goes crashing into the boards.

BUSTER CHAN
 Grown ass man!

INT. FOX RIVER ICE RINK - LATER - DAY

Still down 3-2, Vinnie sucks air on the bench, thinking.

VINNIE

They can't handle us physically. We should pull a Nintendo Ice Hockey.

LOPETECKI

Go all fat guys.

VINNIE

Dez!

- The FAT LINE is on the ice (The Cousins, Dez and Bertosi) The Cousins comically plant themselves in front of the girls' net. Their goalie can't see, their D can't move them.

GOALIE

Screen! Screen!

Bertosi passes it to Dez at the point. Dez shoulders around a girl, she bounces off. Vinnie calls out from the bench.

VINNIE

Come on Fatties!

OTHER DAN

Shoot it!

Dez rips a shot past the very screened goalie. Goal!

DEZ

FATNANDEZ!

Dez's WIFE and THREE KIDS (15,12,10) cheer in the stands.

Back in the crease, Tommy TAPS HIS STICK ON THE ICE- the universal sign of respect in hockey. The bench follows suit, banging the boards and the ice with their sticks.

INT. FOX RIVER ICE RINK - MOMENTS LATER - DAY

There's under thirty seconds left. The guys on the ice can barely stand up. The girls are relentless, pressing to score.

VINNIE

Hang on for the tie! Just hang on!

Tommy makes a big save. Ten, nine, eight...

TOMMY

Clear it! Clear it!

The guys can't clear the zone. In an act of desperation, Dez manages to pin the puck between his skates and the boards, the girls just wack away at his legs. They can't move him.

Two...one... The buzzer sounds. The Fox River bench clears. The team piles on Tommy, going nuts. Annie, Jackie and Stan look on.

JACKIE
Did they win, Grandpa?

STAN
Tied.

On the ice Frank's Daughter yells at the guys.

FRANK'S DAUGHTER
Overtime!

DEZ
(gasping for air)
No overtime, no overtime... that's game...

EXT. 7-11 - STRIP MALL - NIGHT

Post game. Showered and energized, Vinnie exits a 7-11 holding a bouquet of flowers, wearing his letterman's jacket. He leaves Tracey a message as he walks to his car.

VINNIE
Hey, it's me. I thought you were coming to the game. We tied by the way. Totally on purpose. Don't want to beat girls, don't want to lose to them either, right? Uh, I'm gonna swing by, I miss...

Vinnie suddenly notices a GROUP OF TWENTYSOMETHINGS walking toward him on their way to a BAR. TRACEY is in the middle of the group, laughing with the YOUNG GUY from the lot.

Vinnie's face falls.

EXT. STRIP MALL - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

Vinnie and Tracey argue as her friends watch from a distance.

VINNIE
You didn't tell me you were going out.

TRACEY

Anytime I invite you, you say no.

VINNIE

I say no 'cause your friends think
I'm a tool.

TRACEY

They don't think you're a tool.
They just think you're...

VINNIE

Old. Right.

Vinnie notices the Young Guy laughing with his buddies.

YOUNG GUY

...his high school jacket...

Vinnie scowls, looks to Tracey.

VINNIE

The guy you sold the Subaru to?
Really?

TRACEY

He's just a friend, Vin.

VINNIE

You know what? Let me save you the
trouble. It's been fun.

Vinnie turns, walks away, slams the flowers in the trash.

TRACEY

Vin, wait. Vinnie!

VINNIE

(over his shoulder)
That Subaru's a piece of shit by
the way! Worst car on the lot!

Tracey watches him go. The Young Guy calls to her.

YOUNG GUY

We're all heading in, you coming?

Tracey sighs, heads back to her friends.

INT. FOX RIVER ICE RINK - LOCKER ROOM - MORNING

The last practice before the big game. A nervous but excited energy in the room. Vinnie sits there, smoking, no more letterman's jacket. He looks awful. Dez sets his bag down.

DEZ

Jesus, you look like hell. The game's tomorrow.

VINNIE

You just worry about yourself.

Suddenly the locker room door creaks open. Two MEN with HOCKEY BAGS enter. The first is A GOOD LOOKING GUY-- tan, fit, surfer haircut. He looks familiar.

MAN

Boys?

The guys start to place him.

LOPETECKI

Solala?

It sure is.

SOLALA

What's up Lopes?

The room ROARS! Vinnie snubs his cigarette, starts clapping, anger becoming conviction.

VINNIE

Alright. Alright!

Everyone gets up to greet him, giddy.

O'SULLIVAN

Where you been, man?!

SOLALA

Sweden, then San Diego.

DEZ

I even did a police search. Who found you?

SOLALA

Coach called my mom.

DEZ

Son of a bitch.

Stan sits in the corner, he just shrugs.

PICO
He called me too.

The room turns their attention to the other new guy. It's STEVE PICO (athletic, a boyish 39). He has GOALIE PADS slung over his shoulder. This is the backup GOALIE that took Tommy's spot in that game in '97.

FRESHMAN FRANK
Pico?!

PICO
What's up, Frank.

FRESHMAN FRANK
Another Freshman, finally!

The guys all greet Pico too.

ROGER BERTOSI
You guys look great. You still play?

SOLALA
Every week.

PICO
I'm in a league up in Boston.

Everyone smiles, excited. Pico sets his goalie gear down. Looks to Tommy, the only guy who hasn't said hello yet.

PICO
What's up, Maloney?

TOMMY
What's up, Pico.

Tommy tries to hide it, but this is a serious gut punch. He looks to Stan, but Stan's already on his way out the door.

BRETT
You got our starting lineup yet or what, Coach?

STAN
(over his shoulder)
Ask me after practice.

INT. FOX RIVER ICE RINK - LATER - DAY

A really great practice. The guys are firing on all cylinders. With fourteen skaters and two goalies they can scrimmage four on four with subs now.

STAN

Keep the pace up. There ya go!

There's no denying it, Solala is GREAT. Easily the best player on the ice. He's faster than everyone, better on and off the puck. He makes a nifty move in the neutral zone.

On the bench The Chan Brothers take note.

GREG CHAN

Man, Solala looks great.

BUSTER CHAN

Finally, somebody to pass to.

GREG CHAN

Oh, you're gonna start passing now?

BUSTER CHAN

Hilarious. You're hilarious.

GREG CHAN

Your mom's hilarious.

(then)

Damn it.

- On the ice Solala comes in, dekes Tommy badly and puts it in with ease. Tommy curses, angry.

- Pico, on the other end, looks AWESOME. He makes save after save. He's fluid, polished-- a modern style goalie. Right down to his brand new equipment. He plays the puck with ease.

- A shooting drill. Tommy and Pico take multiple shots in succession. Tommy labors through it, getting beat often, while Pico drops and pops effortlessly-- an athlete who never stopped playing. It's obvious, Pico is the better goalie.

Near the boards O'Sullivan and Bertosi take note.

O'SULLIVAN

Dude, Pico.

ROGER BERTOSI

I hate to say it, but...

O'SULLIVAN

Way better.

- Pico skates over to the bench where Stan gives him a big pat on the back, smiles. Tommy just looks on, pissed.

INT. MALONEY HOUSE - LATER - NIGHT

Stan sits in the living room watching TV. Tommy stands in the kitchen, watching Stan, trying to decide if he should confront him, or maybe just trying to build up the nerve to.

Resolved, Tommy enters, grabs the remote, turns the TV off.

STAN

The hell?

TOMMY

We need to talk.

CHLOE (O.S.)

Dad?

Tommy turns to see Chloe and Annie in the kitchen. Annie holds an ART STORE SHOPPING BAG. Chloe holds up a LETTER.

CHLOE

It came.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

Annie, Chloe and Tommy sit around the kitchen table. The letter rests on it, unopened. It's from HILLSTONE PREP.

CHLOE

Just to be clear. If I get the scholarship, I can go. Right?

Annie looks to Tommy, then.

ANNIE

Your dad and I still need to talk.

CHLOE

Still? It's been months--

TOMMY

Let's just open it, okay?

Chloe picks it up, then sets it back down.

CHLOE

I'm too nervous.

Annie picks it up. Opens it, reads.

ANNIE

"Dear Mr. And Mrs. Maloney... We are pleased to inform you that your daughter Chloe has been accepted into the Hillstone Prep class of 2027..."

Annie starts tearing up, proud. She holds Chloe's hand.

ANNIE

"We are also pleased to inform you that Chloe has been selected to receive a partial academic scholarship."

Chloe just watches her dad's reaction.

ANNIE

"...which at twelve thousand dollars a year will cover half of your daughter's tuition..."

Annie sets the letter down, looks to Tommy.

TOMMY

I am very proud of you Chloe. Very proud.

Chloe just hangs her head, near tears.

CHLOE

It's not enough, is it.

Annie just stares daggers at Tommy.

INT. TOMMY'S TRUCK - MINUTES LATER - NIGHT

Annie drives, pissed. Tommy sits shotgun, also pissed. The two are in the middle of an argument-- the truck being the only place they could find to have it.

ANNIE

She got the scholarship!

TOMMY

Partial scholarship.

ANNIE

We'll make it work.

TOMMY

How?

ANNIE
We'll figure it out.

TOMMY
We can barely afford the mortgage!
Stan's gonna have to go in a home.
What about college? I want what's
best for her, of course I do. We
just haven't had a chance to talk
it over yet--

ANNIE
We haven't had a chance because
you've been obsessed with a hockey
game! It's just a game!

TOMMY
It's not!

ANNIE
Why?! Why is it so important?

TOMMY
I told you, I just... I need it--

ANNIE
You gotta do better than that!

TOMMY
Because I matter again, okay?! For
the first time in twenty five years
something I do actually matters.
This isn't just a game, it's my
whole life!

ANNIE
That's not true, Tommy. You've
always mattered to me, to the kids,
to your dad--

TOMMY
Have I? Have I mattered to him? I
set this whole thing up and I don't
even know if my own dad's gonna let
me play in it! You know what's more
embarrassing than getting shelled
in front of four thousand people?
Sitting on the bench!

Annie tries to make sense of this as she pulls into the
Maloney driveway, parks. A beat.

ANNIE

Do you just not want her to go to
Hillstone because it's Hillstone?
Just say it.

TOMMY

Twelve thousand dollars a year,
Annie. We can't afford it. That's a
dozen more clients, a big corporate
landscaping job at least. I can't
get those.

ANNIE

Yes you can.

TOMMY

I can't. Big companies get those
jobs. College guys get those jobs.

ANNIE

Build the business, make it bigger.
I'll help you--

TOMMY

I plow driveways. I clean gutters.
I'm nothing.

ANNIE

That's not true--

TOMMY

I'm nothing!

ANNIE

You're my husband! You're the
father of two brilliant girls, you
get up and go to work everyday with
the respect of this family and this
town and if you can't see that
Tommy, I can't help you. Those guys
aren't any better than you--

TOMMY

Yes they are!

JACKIE (O.S.)

DAAAAAAAAD!

Tom and Annie look to the back door where Jackie is running
toward the car in her bare feet, scared to death.

INT. MALONEY HOUSE - KITCHEN / BASEMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Tommy and Annie race into the house to find Chloe at the top of the basement stairs. There at the bottom is STAN in a heap. Some blood on the concrete.

Tommy leaps down the stairs, cradles Stan's head in his hands. He's not moving. His eyes are closed.

TOMMY

How long's he been like this?!

CHLOE

We were upstairs, I don't--

TOMMY

Call 9-1-1!

Annie's already doing it. Tommy checks Stan's pulse.

TOMMY

Dad. Dad! Please... Dad!

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - THE NEXT MORNING - DAY

Blood shot eyes, Tommy looks out the window.

DOCTOR (O.S.)

Mr. Maloney?

Tommy turns to face the DOCTOR (40s, female).

DOCTOR

You're Stan Maloney's son?

TOMMY

I am.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - A LITTLE LATER - DAY

Stan lies in a hospital bed, eyes closed. Tubes and monitors hooked up to him. Tommy and Annie talk to the doctor.

DOCTOR

We'll need to run some more tests, but there's no indication right now that there was any bleeding on his brain. He has a concussion and broke a few bones, but he should be okay.

ANNIE

Oh thank you, Doctor. Thank God.

DOCTOR

He's pretty medicated right now.
We've got to keep him here for at
least another twenty four hours.
Monitor his vitals.

TOMMY

Understood.

DOCTOR

That was a big fall. Most people
would've landed right on their
head. He cushioned with his
shoulder. Not too many people would
know to do that.

TOMMY

He's a hockey player.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER - DAY

Stan's eyes are open. Tommy stands above his bed. Annie, Chloe and Jackie sit in chairs on the other side of the room.

TOMMY

Chloe says they got waffles here.
So I guess you finally get some.
(beat)

I'm sorry Dad. I should've been
there, I should've listened more,
should've... Me and you, we just
never...

Tommy searches for the words. This is hard.

TOMMY

Mom was the talker. She died and
you and I just stopped.

(beat, then)
We're gonna win tonight, Dad. For
you. I promise.

Stan just looks at him, pretty out of it. We're not sure if
this is registering.

EXT. HILLSTONE ICE ARENA - LATER THAT DAY - DUSK

HUNDREDS of FANS begin to file into the rink, a festive mood is in the air. This is more than just a state championship, it's the feel good story of the year. And it's caught fire.

We see NEWS CLIPS from various media outlets, some in the studio, some reporting live on the scene here at the rink.

- In the ESPN studio JOHN BUCCIGROSS sits at his desk.

JOHN BUCCIGROSS

It started with a Tweet and now it's gone viral. Two schools in New Jersey are getting national attention tonight for a-- get this-- a rematch for a state championship hockey game that was supposed to take place twenty five years ago.

- ESPN'S IN THE CREASE host LINDA COHEN talks to NHL analyst and Hall of Fame player CHRIS CHELIOS.

LINDA COHEN

... But this is not some fun little romp, these guys are taking this seriously.

CHRIS CHELIOS

Oh I would too. You kidding me? I'd kill to play a high school game over. This is awesome.

- PENNY VASQUEZ reports from outside the arena.

PENNY

It's the hottest ticket in town. Some of Jersey's finest are on hand to take in the action.

An excited DANNY DEVITO gets interviewed outside the arena.

DANNY DEVITO

New Jersey hockey, baby. It's gonna be tough as balls!

- AN NBC reporter stands outside the rink, reporting live.

NBC REPORTER

In a last minute decision, the game will actually be streamed live on ESPN 3. The network thinks they could have as many as half a million people tune in.

INT. VISITOR'S LOCKER ROOM - HILLSTONE ARENA - CONTINUOUS

The unmistakeable sounds of PUKING. Vinnie pulls his head up out of a garbage can.

DEZ

Nervous?

VINNIE

I'm good.

ROGER BERTOSI

There's a ton of media out there.

Vinnie pukes again. Wipes his mouth.

VINNIE

Child molesters.

ROGER BERTOSI

Huh?

DEZ

Don't worry about it.

We move around the locker room catching hushed conversations as the guys get dressed, a nervous energy in the room.

COREY TAYLOR (the ex MLB player) sits next to Fenelon.

FATHER FENELON

Great to have you back, Corey.

COREY TAYLOR

Great to be back, Fen.

On the other side of the room Buster and Greg take note.

BUSTER CHAN

I can't believe Taylor showed.

GREG CHAN

He's the best athlete here, moron.

BUSTER CHAN

Yeah, but he can barely skate.

Puddy walks in, wheeling a BIG BOX on a hand cart.

PUDDY

Compliments of the Women's Rotary Club.

DEZ

Thanks Puddy. Any words of wisdom?

PUDDY

Yeah. The boards here suck.

Puddy walks toward the door. Then stops. Turns to the guys.

PUDDY

1958. Me and Marcy Nelson, prettiest girl in Fox River, hitting it off. I go to take a leak, come back, she's on the dance floor with Hillstone Preppy McGee. In the history of the world nobody gets a second shot at Marcy Nelson. Except you.

(then)

Don't screw it up.

Puddy exits. Dead silence.

Tommy sits in his seat, staring at his bag on the floor. He notices something, picks it up. It's his GOALIE MASK.

Pull back to reveal: the mask has been PAINTED. A beautiful pop art style SKYLINE of FOX RIVER. A FOX TAIL down each side and MALONEY on the back. In small, distinct cursive letters on the back plate are the initials A.M.

It's clear, ANNIE DID THIS. Tommy stares at it, his eyes watering. A long beat. Finally, he stands. All eyes on him.

TOMMY

Here's the lines. Solala centers Lopetecki and Delvano. Fenelon centers the Chans. Brett centers the Dans. Dez and Bertosi together. O'Sullivan and Frank together on D. Taylor you float as needed.

(then)

And Pico starts in goal.

PICO

Dude, you don't gotta--

DEZ

Tommy--

TOMMY

Pico starts. He gives us the best chance to win. That's what my dad wants. That's what I want. It's the only thing that matters right now.

(MORE)

TOMMY (CONT'D)
 And let me tell you something,
 boys, we're gonna--

Suddenly the locker room door bursts open. In walks a GIANT OF A MAN carrying a stick and a bag. Prison tattoos. Wild eyes. Frightening demeanor. This... is RICKY ZAREMBA (41).

ZAREMBA
 Guess who got probation?

TOMMY
 --We're gonna win this game.

The locker room ROARS! Jumps up to greet Zaremba.

BUSTER CHAN
 Zaremba?! How you doing, man?!

ZAREMBA
 My thoughts are my own.

GREG CHAN
 How was jail?

ZAREMBA
 Violent. Beautiful.

Father Fenelon leans over to Dez.

FATHER FENELON
 You sure they really let him out?

DEZ
 I am not.

Zaremba suddenly screams at the top of his lungs.

ZAREMBA
 I'M COMIN' FOR YA HILLSTONE!

The guys all cheer, excited if not genuinely concerned. This man is crazy.

In the middle of the this, Vinnie opens up the box. It's filled with brand new JERSEYS. The mascot on the front is a FOX smoking a CIGARETTE. It reads: FOX RIVER SILVER FOXES.

Vinnie nods, smiles.

VINNIE
 That's a good lookin' Fox right
 there.
 (MORE)

VINNIE (CONT'D)
 (clapping)
 LET'S GO!

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. HILLSTONE ICE ARENA - LATER - NIGHT

The arena is PACKED. There are TV CAMERAS, PRESS, etc.

We see familiar faces in the crowd: Dez's FAMILY, BETH and some BIKERS from the bar, the Fox River CROSS COUNTRY TEAM, Fox River COPS, some MIDDLE SCHOOL KIDS from Bertosi's gym class, even the OLD WOMAN from the grocery store is here.

In a small booth up in the stands, ESPN legends STEVE LEVY and BARRY MELROSE call the game.

STEVE LEVY
 They're calling it The Hockey
 Rocky, Old Guys on Ice, Hoosiers
 meets Slap Shot. But for the two
 teams here tonight, this game means
 one thing: a shot at a State
 Championship. One that was stolen
 from them twenty five years ago.
 Twenty five years of waiting for
 this moment. Today these men are
 cops and car salesmen, surgeons and
 snowplow drivers, but tonight,
 tonight *they're hockey players*. One
 last shot to be great.

BARRY MELROSE
 You're giving me goose bumps,
 Steve.

STEVE LEVY
 "Trying to capture the spirit of
 the thing here," Bar.

BARRY MELROSE
 Love it.

The Fox River players huddle up by the bench. With matching jerseys and socks now they actually look like a TEAM.

It's hard to hear over roar of the crowd. Each guy pushes in close, puts a glove in the middle-- all recognizing the importance of this moment. Solala, the team captain, looks over his team. This is it.

SOLALA
 Boys... I'm gay.

The guys give each other a quick look. Then.

VINNIE

Nobody gives a shit Solala, score
some frickin' goals.

FATHER FENELON

ONE-TWO-THREE!

TEAM

FOX RIVER!

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. HILLSTONE ICE ARENA - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

THE PUCK drops at center ice. SOLALA and RADZACK duke it out, sticks tangling before Radzack wins the draw, and WE'RE OFF!

It's FAST and LOUD. Just like that opening scene in '97. Adrenalin and the crowd have these guys playing like they're... at least thirty five!

Vinnie and Lopetecki make a rush up the ice, but Hillstone immediately intercepts and counters. From the get-go Hillstone looks faster, more in control.

Radzack makes a move on Dez at the blue line and Dez FALLS, right on his ass. Radzack fires on Pico.

STEVE LEVY (V.O.)

Rocket by Radzack steered aside by Pico.

BARRY MELROSE (V.O.)

Fernandez went down. Looks a little like me out there. A few too many corn dogs maybe.

Dez struggles to his feet, super embarrassed.

- Hillstone continues to dominate. They control the puck, circling in the neutral and offensive zone. They get off a shot on Pico, then another.

STEVE LEVY (V.O.)

Solid goaltending by Steve Pico. Hillstone is dominating right now.

BARRY MELROSE (V.O.)

Are any of their guys out of shape? They look like a Cross Fit gym out there.

- On the bench the Fox River players suck air, worried.

LOPETECKI
I can't keep up with them!

SOLALA
Schmidt and Radzack, man.

VINNIE
Performance enhancing drugs. I'm telling you. Performance enhancing!

- Tommy stands on the bench, in his goalie gear trying to be back up goalie and coach at the same time.

TOMMY
Faster shifts out there!

Corey turns to Tommy.

COREY TAYLOR
Put me in Maloney, I'm ready.

TOMMY
A few more cycles, Cor.

ZAREMBA
What are your thoughts on spearing someone?

TOMMY
Keep it clean. Keep skating out there, we can skate with them.

- Pico makes another save. The bench cheers for him.

TOMMY
Big save Steve! Break it out now!
(to the Cousins)
Deliverance line, let's go!

The Cousins hop the boards for a line change.

- Dez chases Schmidt as he cycles with the puck. Dez ends up tied up in the corner with him, gasping for air.

SCHMIDT
You're gonna have a heart attack, buddy.

Dez makes a wild poke and Schmidt puts a nifty move through his legs, Dez falls AGAIN, Schmidt dances in and SCORES.

STEVE LEVY (V.O.)
 Joe Schmidt! That was nifty!

BARRY MELROSE (V.O.)
 Fernandez, that's twice now, guy's
 still looking for his jock down
 there.

Dez struggles to his feet as Schmidt skates by, smiles.

SCHMIDT
 Seriously, we got a heart surgeon
 on the bench.

Dez scowls, he looks up to his FAMILY. His kids look ashamed.

STEVE LEVY (V.O.)
 Hillstone's up one nothing.

- The game continues. All Hillstone.

- Greg and Buster manage to make a rush up the ice. Buster calls for a long pass. Greg tries to lift one to him, but it's caught by PENDROCK, who passes it to Radzack. Radzack comes in on a breakaway and BURRIES it past Pico.

STEVE LEVY (V.O.)
 Blast from Radzack! It's two
 nothing Hillstone!

BARRY MELROSE (V.O.)
 No messing around, he just ripped
 it. That's an NHL shot right there.
 You can't stop that, I don't care
 who you are.

Greg and Buster argue on the ice, pushing each other.

BUSTER CHAN
 Don't pass it like that!

GREG CHAN
 Don't call for it then!

Fenelon tries to break them up. Fox River is coming apart. The crowd is frustrated. The bench is quiet. This is bad.

STEVE LEVY (V.O.)
 It's two zip Hillstone, it could
 easily be five. Lots of hustle from
 Fox River though, Barry what do you
 think?

BARRY MELROSE (V.O.)
 I haven't seen anything that makes
 me think they have a chance here.

- Play continues. Dez sits at the end of the bench in a fog. O'Sullivan comes over for a change.

TOMMY
 Dez! You're up!

Dez shakes his head. He's not goin back out there. Zaremba hops the boards in his place. Dez just sits there, ashamed.

- Tommy looks in the stands. Hillstone fans cheer. The Hillstone Director laughs with some alumni. Fox River fans are glum. Beth shakes her head. The Old Lady too.

Tommy notices Puddy at the near end of the rink, opening the outside Zamboni doors. Suddenly, in walks Annie, Jackie and Chloe. Chloe's pushing STAN in a wheelchair.

TOMMY
 What the hell?

Tommy strides down the rubber mats to meet them, angry that Stan's out of the hospital. Annie's already apologizing.

ANNIE
 He wouldn't shut up. The doctors
 gave him a two hour pass.

Tommy leans down to Stan, angry.

TOMMY
 Dad, you're supposed to be in the
 hospital, what are you doing here?!

Stan leans forward. He's banged up, but lucid. He looks Tommy right in the eyes, maybe for the first time in years.

STAN
 Came to see my son play hockey.
 Used to be my favorite thing in the
 world to do.

A beat. Tommy just looks at him. Annie's already got a tear rolling down her cheek.

STAN
 I pulled you in that game 'cause
 the team needed to fight for
 something. They fought for you.
 That's why they won. I didn't pull
 you 'cause I didn't believe in you.
 (MORE)

STAN (CONT'D)
I pulled you precisely 'cause I
did. You're the best goalie I ever
coached. Go be one.

Tommy looks at Stan. Then Annie and the kids, suddenly
realizing they need him to play in this thing as much as he
does. He looks to Chloe-- a million things he wants to say.

TOMMY
Chloe, I'm...

Chloe just reaches over, pulls down his helmet.

CHLOE
Win.

INT. HILLSTONE ICE ARENA - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

Tommy strides down the mats toward the boards door, walking
right past the Fox River crowd. Sensing the moment, they
start to CHEER. They need him to play in this thing too.

Tommy takes the ice to the ROAR of the crowd.

STEVE LEVY (V.O.)
It looks like we may have a goalie
change here.

BARRY MELROSE (V.O.)
Tommy Maloney, starting goalie in
'97 is coming in. I think his pads
are older than me. Look at those
pillows!

STEVE LEVY (V.O.)
This crowd is going nuts!

OLD WOMAN
COME ON MALONEY!

Tommy gets to the net where Pico stands.

TOMMY
I'm pulling you, Freshman.

PICO
'Bout damn time, Tommy.

The goaltenders tap gloves. Pico skates off. Tommy settles
in, all alone in the crease. All eyes on him. Deep breath.

TOMMY
Please God.

CUT TO:

INT. HILLSTONE ICE ARENA - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

BANG! A shot rings out and CLANGS off the post! Tommy scrambles, Hillstone is pressing, the crowd is DEAFENING.

Vinnie watches from the bench, pins and needles.

VINNIE
Come on Tommy, settle, settle...

BANG! Another shot goes wide. Tommy scrambles again. Fox River is chasing, getting desperate, hanging on by a thread.

STEVE LEVY (V.O.)
Fox River needs something here or
they're toast.

Schmidt circles the net and makes a perfect pass to HUSSA in front. Hussa hammers it into the open net. But somehow...

Tommy's foot darts out for a point blank SKATE SAVE!

STEVE LEVY (V.O.)
OH MALONEY! My goodness!

BARRY MELROSE (V.O.)
Skate save! I haven't seen one of
those since dial up Internet!

The crowd goes bananas. Even Hillstone is shocked. The puck rattles into the corner. Tommy bangs his post, screams.

TOMMY
Let's go! LET'S GO!

Fox River is suddenly energized. They break it out of their zone and rush it up the ice. Fenelon comes off for a line change. Brett goes to hop in, but Taylor holds him back.

COREY TAYLOR
I got it.

Taylor hops the boards and FLIES into the rush. He finds himself with the puck, the whole bench suddenly takes note.

ROGER BERTOSI
What the shit?

Taylor CAN SKATE! A textbook stride, perfect balance-- maybe one of the best skaters out there. He feeds Buster who breaks into the zone. Buster feeds Greg, Greg feeds a flying Taylor.

Taylor shoots a low hard one, he scores! The crowd ERUPTS!

COREY TAYLOR
Oh! Somebody learned how to skate!

The team mobs him.

BUSTER CHAN
What the hell, man?!

COREY TAYLOR
Twenty years in Toronto, the hell
else am I gonna do up there?

Up in the booth Steve and Barry are loving it.

STEVE LEVY
Corey Taylor! The ex Toronto Blue
Jay!

BARRY MELROSE
Nobody on Hillstone picked him up!

STEVE LEVY
Word was he couldn't even skate in
high school.

BARRY MELROSE
You spend enough time in Canada,
you learn, Steve, you learn.

STEVE LEVY
This Fox River crowd is back! It's
2-1, we've got a game here!

INT. LOFT APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

A HIPSTER PARTY. Alone in a corner, Tracey watches the game on her iPhone as her FRIENDS-- including the YOUNG GUY from the lot, drink and have fun behind her.

On screen, Vinnie yells directly into a camera by the bench.

VINNIE
Don't sleep on Fox River!

Tracey just shakes her head. She can't help but smile.

INT. HILLSTONE ICE ARENA - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

The game continues. Full throttle now. Fox River has a new lease on life. They're moving the puck better, getting some offensive chances. But Hillstone is still having their way.

- Tommy is coming up big. Playing his heart out. Making saves. Covering rebounds. Staying square and on his feet.

Annie, Stan and the kids watch, cheering him on.

JACKIE

Yeah Dad!

ANNIE

Come on Tommy!

The team yells from the bench.

O'SULLIVAN

'Atta boy Malone!

BRETT

He's carrying us, boys.

LOPETECKI

Somebody help him out there!

That does it for Dez. He hops the boards, joins the fight. His first time back on the ice since he got juked.

Dez lays into Schmidt, takes the puck. The COPS all cheer.

COP PARTNER

Yeah Dez!

- But Hillstone keeps coming. There's traffic in front, Tommy crouches as low as he can to see, but it's tough.

Stan watches the play develop from the stands, yells out.

STAN

High slot!

From the high slot DEGEMIS rips a one timer past Tommy into the net, smashing the WATER BOTTLE. Hillstone leads 3-1.

STEVE LEVY (V.O.)

Bobby DeGemis! Nice feed from Gubbins for the one-timer. Two former college players connecting.

BARRY MELROSE (V.O.)

That's just good passing.

STEVE LEVY (V.O.)
 Speed and talent, Barry. Hillstone
 just has so much of it. That's
 their third line out there.

Tommy stares at his broken water bottle resting on the net.

VINNIE (O.S.)
 Man you got bad luck with water
 bottles.

Tommy turns to see Dez and Vinnie standing before him. Dez
 hands him a new water bottle, takes the other one.

DEZ
 We got you buddy. Alright? From now
 on, we got you.

Tommy smiles. Then.

TOMMY
 We can't skate with them. We can't
 play Hillstone hockey like this.

VINNIE
 So let's play some Fox River
 hockey.

Zaremba quietly glides up to the group.

ZAREMBA
 Gentlemen, just curious if now
 might be a good time for me to--

VINNIE/DEZ/TOMMY
 Yes.

Zaremba smiles, takes out his teeth.

INT. HILLSTONE ICE ARENA - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

BAM! Zaremba slams a Hillstone player, RISMILLER with a heavy
 hit, gets in his face.

ZAREMBA
 I know where you live Rismiller!

- BAM! Zaremba runs PENDROCK. They get tied up, Pendrock's
 head is down, Zaremba palms his face with his glove.

ZAREMBA
 Smell it! Smell it!

On the bench, Hillstone takes note, suddenly concerned.

HUSSA
Jesus. Who is that guy?

SCHMIDT
I heard he escaped from jail.

- BAM! Zaremba nails Radzack, screams in his face-- a primal scream. A little scared, Radzack calls to the passing ref.

RADZACK
That was a little high, ref!

REF
(definitely scared)
You want to tell him that?

STEVE LEVY (V.O.)
Gettin' chippy out there.

BARRY MELROSE (V.O.)
Refs are letting 'em play, I love it!

- Fox River starts playing more physical. Grinding in the corners, hitting harder. BAM! Lopetecki makes a hit. BAM! Dez makes a hit. BAM! The Chans crash into the same player.

In a rage, Father Fenelon barrels down on a Hillstone winger.

FATHER FENELON
AHHHHHHHHH!

STEVE LEVY (V.O.)
I think that one's the priest!

BAM! Fenelon nails him to the boards, takes the puck.

FATHER FENELON
And also with you!

- Fox River presses. Zaremba grabs a loose puck, passes it to Brett. Dan and Other Dan plant themselves in front of the net, pushing and shoving with all they've got.

SLOW MOTION: Brett gets past a defender and rips a shot. Their goalie makes a great save-- the rebound is a rocket right at Other Dan's BEER BELLY. He thrusts it forward and the puck BOUNCES into the net.

STEVE LEVY (V.O.)
It's in the net! It's in the net!
Fox River!

BARRY MELROSE (V.O.)
Right off Dan Chuzin's beer belly!

STEVE LEVY (V.O.)
Do I say that's a gutsy
performance, Barry, do I say it?!

BARRY MELROSE (V.O.)
I'd be sad if you didn't.

STEVE LEVY (V.O.)
That's a gutsy performance!

- But Hillstone comes roaring back, landing hits of their own. Frank gets knocked down at center ice. Taylor gets nailed at the far boards. The boards rattle off the impact.

On the bench Solala and Lopetecki take note.

SOLALA
Puddy's right, these boards suck.

LOPETECKI
Behind their net, that Zam door.

SOLALA
Yeah...

The two exchange a look. An idea brewing.

LOPETECKI
I can get to the slot if you can--

SOLALA
I'll hit it.

- A rush up the ice. Lopetecki and Solala going full speed. Solala crosses center ice and fires it around the boards. Lopetecki TAKES OFF, a beeline to the net.

The puck wraps around, the Hillstone GOALIE comes out to stop the puck for his defensemen but.. BANG! The puck catches the slightly askew Zamboni door and RICOCHETS right to the slot.

Lopetecki flies past the D and hammers it home! The crowd goes nuts. Puddy nods, knowingly.

STEVE LEVY (V.O.)
Fox River ties it up! Lopetecki
from Solala! A crazy ricochet off
the boards!

BARRY MELROSE (V.O.)
That was on purpose!

STEVE LEVY (V.O.)
 It's three-three with three and a
 half minutes to play! Buckle up New
 Jersey!

- Hillstone is *pissed*. Fed up, Radzack starts to take over. He picks up the puck in his defensive zone, puts a move on Vinnie and rushes it all the way up the ice. He splits the D.

STEVE LEVY (V.O.)
 Radzack taking over... He's all
 alone on Maloney!

Radzack fires a wrister, Tommy makes a body save, covers.

STEVE LEVY (V.O.)
 Big save Maloney!

Radzack takes a stride then slams on the breaks, spraying Tommy's face with snow.

BARRY MELROSE (V.O.)
 He sprayed him! Oh, this is heating
 up!

Hillstone and Fox River players tussle around the net, pushing and shoving. Vinnie grabs Radzack, wrestles him in close. Eye to eye.

VINNIE
 You snow my goalie again I'll kill
 you!

RADZACK
 You're a joke, Delvano.

The ref breaks them up. Tommy pulls Vinnie back.

TOMMY
 Let it go, Vin. Let it go.

Vinnie hasn't.

- Play resumes. The clock is ticking. Less than three minutes left. Hillstone is RELENTLESS. Fox River struggles to skate with them.

STEVE LEVY (V.O.)
 Fox River is dying out there.

BARRY MELROSE (V.O.)
 They just don't have the legs.

Hillstone gets a good shot off. Tommy steers it aside.

Vinnie picks it up, breaks it out. Pushing it as hard as he can. He makes a move on Radzack but gets his pocket picked.

Radzack takes it back the length of the ice and fires another shot. Tommy makes another save. Radzack sprays him again.

BAM! Vinnie FLATTENS Radzack with a high elbow. Radzack goes down. The whistle blows.

REF
Sixteen! Two minutes. Roughing.

Laying on the ice, Radzack just smiles up at Vinnie. Exactly what he wanted.

STEVE LEVY (V.O.)
That's a two minute penalty on Fox River with 2:09 left. They're going to be shorthanded the rest of the game!

Vinnie looks down, frustrated, ashamed. Tommy looks at the clock, calls TIME OUT.

INT. HILLSTONE ICE ARENA - MOMENTS LATER - BENCH

The team huddles up around Tommy. They all suck air-- the most tired they've been in their lives. Dez pukes between his skates on the bench. It's that bad.

TOMMY
Who has legs?

Everyone breathes heavy. Tommy looks them over, desperate.

TOMMY
Who wants out there?!

DEZ
We all do. You kidding me? We all want out there, Tommy.

Tommy looks them over. A bunch of exhausted old men. But they'd take a bullet for one another right now.

TOMMY
Alright. This is it.

O'SULLIVAN
We'll get 'em in overtime.

TOMMY
No, we're not gonna last that long.

The guys look at each other. He's right.

TOMMY

It's right now. Every bad boss, every crappy job, every time you got a sideways look 'cause you're from Fox River-- we beat that right now. We skate through that right now. They got twenty five years. We get two minutes nine seconds. This is our time, not theirs, ours.

BUSTER CHAN

I think that's from Miracle.

GREG CHAN

Just roll with it.

TOMMY

They said we couldn't win then, we came back. They said we can't win now, look what we're doing. Off the ice maybe they are better, but God damnit we're on it right now! Vinnie you get out, don't even look, just go. Two minutes nine seconds. We can do it.

Tommy looks over his team. They believe him. A beat. Then.

TOMMY

I love you guys.

BUSTER CHAN

That's Hoosiers.

VINNIE

ONE-TWO-THREE!

TEAM

FOX RIVER!

INT. HILLSTONE ICE ARENA - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

Radzack lines up against Solala. Tommy taps his post, gets in his crouch. The Ref drops the puck.

Two minutes, nine seconds...

Hillstone circles with the puck. With the extra man it's almost impossible to keep up with them. Solala presses. Dez and Bertosi fight in front. Lopetecki skates his heart out.

And Tommy plays out of his mind.

Schmidt feeds Radzack for a one-timer, BANG! Tommy makes a butterfly save. The rebound pops out-- BANG! Tommy makes a blocker save. Then a THIRD SAVE with the paddle of his stick.

STEVE LEVY (V.O.)
Somebody call the circus! Tommy
Maloney is standing on his head!

Up in the stands the Cross Country team goes ape shit.

BOY
Yeah Mr. Maloney!

Annie just shakes her head in wonder at her husband.

- More shots. More saves. Fox River gets a few fresh legs out there. They push and scrap.

- Rissmiller winds up at the point. Father Fenelon lays out and BLOCKS THE SHOT with his leg, right above the skate under the shin pad. Instant pain. Maybe broken.

The puck clears the zone. Fenelon army crawls on the ice toward the bench, the team cheering him on. They can't put another man out until he gets there.

ZAREMBA
Come on Father! Come on!

Fenelon extends a hand, Zaremba pulls him up, Frank hops in.

- Forty seconds left... The building's on pins and needles.

Up in the stands Annie holds her girls tight.

CHLOE
Come on Dad!

Tommy makes another save. Frank manages to clear it out. Hillstone chases it down. Time for one last line change.

Dez, Solala, Lopetecki and Bertosi take the ice. Radzack, Schmidt, Rissmiller, DeGemis and Gubbins-- Hillstone's top scorers barrel down on them.

STEVE LEVY (V.O.)
Thirty seconds left! Can Fox River
hold on for overtime?

Schmidt gets a shot off on Tommy, he stops it, but it trickles behind him... Inches from the goal line...

Bertosi fights off his man. Radzack lunges for it. Dez lays himself out and clears it in the nick of time. No goal!

Up in the stands Dez's wife and kids CHEER.

LOPETECKI
Twenty seconds! Twenty seconds!

The puck gets jammed up in the corner. Both teams forego positioning and join the scrum. Fighting, pushing.

The puck pops out. Schmidt finds Radzack. Radzack barrels toward the net with the puck, all alone on Tommy.

Suddenly the WORLD GOES QUIET and we enter SLOW MO. Just like the opening of the movie, all we can hear is Tommy BREATHING.

Radzack makes a move. Tommy stays with him. Radzack goes top shelf. Tommy extends and SNAGS IT OUT OF MID AIR.

We slam back into regular speed.

STEVE LEVY (V.O.)
Glove save Maloney!

Without hesitation, Tommy bounces up, takes a stride and DROPS THE PUCK. His blocker hand loosens, his stick slides down, his catch glove grabs hold of the stick and he...

FIRE THE PUCK up into the air-- just like he practiced in the backyard with Stan. The puck rises over the Hillstone Defenseman's hand, floats through the neutral zone and lands directly on VINNIE'S STICK who is SPRINTING out of the box.

In full stride Vinnie pushes forward, legs pumping as fast as they can go, faster than we've ever seen them. FIVE... He passes the blue line. FOUR... he dips his shoulder... THREE... he pulls it backhand... TWO... he pulls it forehand. ONE... it's in the net. BUZZER... BEDLAM.

The stands erupt. The bench clears. New Jersey shakes.

STEVE LEVY (V.O.)
Vinnie Delvano!

BARRY MELROSE (V.O.)
It's in! It counts!

STEVE LEVY (V.O.)
Fox River has just won the 1997 New Jersey State Championship!

BARRY MELROSE (V.O.)
Somebody get me a Kleenex...

The team MOBS Vinnie in the offensive zone. Dez is the first one to get there.

VINNIE

Short handed! Short handed!

DEZ

It's not short handed if you come out of the box you dip-shit!

The two men roll onto the ice, hugging, crying. Vinnie looks up to the rafters... There, out of breath, at the top row, is TRACEY. The two lock eyes, smile.

She's wearing his LETTERMAN'S JACKET.

Up in the stands Annie and the girls hug. The Cross Country team jumps around like idiots. Bikers kiss Bikers. Cops kiss Cops. Beth embraces the Old Lady. Puddy dances in his seat.

At center ice, an exhausted Radzack watches the Fox River team celebrate. He sighs, then smiles ever so slightly. He looks down to his stick, and starts TAPPING it on the ice.

One by one his teammates join him, tapping their sticks and banging the boards-- a contagious rhythm that soon has every pair of hands and every pair of feet in the building CLAPPING and STOMPING TOGETHER. One big harmonious hockey hug.

What a game.

Back in the net, Tommy just stands there, too tired to move, soaking in the noise. He turns to grab a pull from his water bottle.

There, behind the glass, is Stan.

Stan nods to his son. Tommy nods back.

That's all they need.

EXT. HILLSTONE PREP - MONTHS LATER - MORNING - DAY

A beautiful September morning. Sunshine. Green grass. The sounds of STUDENTS laughing in the distance.

Chloe sits shotgun in Tommy's truck. She wears a HILLSTONE PREP UNIFORM. It's the first day of school.

TOMMY

Nervous?

CHLOE
Should I be?

Tommy just looks at her. Marveling at this daughter of his.

TOMMY
No.

Tommy reaches over, gives her a big hug.

TOMMY
You did good, kid. Real good.

CHLOE
You too, Dad.

ANGLE ON: Tommy's back. In the embrace, Chloe's right hand rises up and gives him three unmistakeable PATS on the back.

Chloe grabs her backpack, hops out of the truck, makes her way toward the building with a gaggle of other Freshmen.

Tommy hops out of the cab to watch her go, smiling as she starts talking with a group of KIDS. She's gonna do great.

Tommy walks back to the truck. We notice it's got a fresh coat of paint and a NEW Maloney Landscaping SIGN. But instead of getting in the cab, Tommy walks to the TRAILER and opens it. He hops up and climbs on a 935 JOHN DEERE RIDING MOWER.

As he backs the mower up, another TRUCK pulls up with the same MALONEY LANDSCAPING sign on it. The CHUZIN COUSINS sit in the cab, dressed in matching JUMP SUITS. They nod to Tommy as they hop out, unload mowers and edgers.

DAN
Mornin' boss.

Tommy nods, smiles.

TOMMY
Let's go to work.

Tommy switches on the blades and puts it in drive. Twenty acres of Hillstone Prep grass to mow. A big job.

We catch a smile as he passes, and a glimpse of the back of his GREEN T-Shirt. In big block letters it reads:

FOX RIVER HOCKEY. '97 STATE CHAMPS.

THE END.

*