

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

THE
WAY
WAY
BACK

BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

*Written and Directed by
Nat Faxon and Jim Rash*

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IN BLACK:

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

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

CUT TO:

1

INT. STATION WAGON - DAY

1

CLOSE ON DUNCAN, staring off, lost in thought. Some SUITCASES and COOLERS flank him. It's a little cramped.

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

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

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

TRENT
Duncan, are you sleeping?

Clearly, Duncan wishes he was.

DUNCAN
No.

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

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

Beat. No response.

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

DUNCAN
I don't know.

TRENT
What? You need to speak up, buddy.

DUNCAN
 (louder)
 I don't know.

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

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

Duncan doesn't respond.

TRENT (CONT'D)
 I'm just curious. Pick any number on a scale...

DUNCAN
 A six.

TRENT
 What?

DUNCAN
 A six!

Trent takes this in.

TRENT
 I think you're a three.

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

TRENT (CONT'D)
 Do you know why I think you're a three? Do you know what would make me say that?
 (beat)
 Duncan...?

DUNCAN
 No.

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

DUNCAN
 No.

TRENT
 You've got to speak up.

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

DUNCAN
(louder)
No.

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

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

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

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

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

Duncan glances back at Trent in the mirror.

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

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

Duncan sits back down, facing out the back. Grabs his iPod.

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

BETTY

Thank God! One more night of drinking alone and I was going to kill myself!

(then, re: cocktail)

Yes, I'm off the wagon again.

Accept it and move on.

(then, re: station wagon)

Nice ride, Trent. Does the eight track still work?

TRENT

(smiling)

What? This is exactly the car my dad used to drive us in.

BETTY

Huh. Old and shitty.

TRENT

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

BETTY

A car salesman with bad taste. Shocker.

Betty turns to Pam, invading her space.

BETTY (CONT'D)

Hi. I'm Betty.

PAM

Hi,... Pam...

BETTY (CONT'D)

Trent's probably already talked shit about me. It's okay if he has. Has he? What did he say?

PAM

No, um... We were just...

BETTY

(off scarf)

I'm loving this. I couldn't pull it off. My hair seems to hate me.

PAM

Oh, thank you...

BETTY

(to Trent)

I like her.

PAM

(giving up)

... Okay.

Pam goes to pull a suitcase out of the car.

TRENT

What's not to like?

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

BETTY

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

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

BETTY (CONT'D)

Susanna, Trent's here. And this is
his girlfriend, Pam. Say, "Hi."

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

SUSANNA

Hi.

Beat. Susanna stays put. Betty waits for more.

BETTY

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

Duncan embarrassed, peers over the top of the station wagon, seeing if Susanna heard that.

DUNCAN'S POV of Susanna going back inside.

Pam puts her arm around Duncan, pulls him in.

PAM

This is my son, Duncan.

She brushes the hair out of his eyes.

BETTY

Oh my God. I was going to name my
youngest "Duncan," but my ex-
husband thought it was nerdy. So,
we went with "Peter." Which,
personally, I think is worse. But,
it fits my son, so...
(then, to Duncan)
Don't worry, you wear the name
well. Trent, where's Steph?

TRENT

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

BETTY

(to Pam)

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

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

BETTY (CONT'D)

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

(then, to Pam)

Insider trading.

(then)

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

Pam passes the mailbox, glances at it.

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

BETTY (CONT'D)

So, do you think you will? Pam?

PAM

Do I think I will, what?

BETTY

Talk to the Keegans.

PAM

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

BETTY

Well, do if you want to, but know that I'm mad at them. I don't even want to get into why. They called me a C-U-N-T.

(then, excited)

You're going to love it here!

6

INT. BEACH HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

6

Duncan sits on a bench. Betty plants herself on a stool and helps herself to a bag of POTATO CHIPS. Trent makes a Mount Gay and tonic. Pam, unfamiliar with the kitchen, attempts to put away groceries. It's a "trial by fire" project.

BETTY

So, how was your winter?

Pam starts to respond, but...

BETTY (CONT'D)

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

PAM

Oh my goodness...

BETTY

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

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

BETTY (CONT'D)

(to Duncan)

Don't do drugs, Declan...

DUNCAN

... Duncan...

BETTY

(not hearing)

... They're just terrible. Oh, and Susanna. Well, you saw. She's a walking mood. Going through an "I hate my mother phase." Taking her father's side, as usual.

Steph enters, wearing the tiniest of tiny bikinis.

BETTY (CONT'D)

Oh, Steph, sweetie, don't you look great.

(MORE)

BETTY (CONT'D)

That's exactly the kind of suit
that got me pregnant the first
time.

STEPH

That's what I'm hoping for.

TRENT

Hey,...

STEPH

(rolling her eyes)
I'm kidding!

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

BETTY

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

Steph shoves a couple more beers into her beach bag.

STEPH

I'm outta here.

TRENT

Oh, hey, take Duncan with you.

Trent makes a point to look at Duncan, encouraging.

STEPH

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

TRENT

You're taking Duncan with you,
young lady.

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

PAM

(off Duncan)
Go to the beach, sweetie.
(MORE)

PAM (CONT'D)
 You'll have fun. We're just going
 to be unpacking here.

TRENT
 (suggestive, playful)
 Well,...

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

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

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

STEPH
 ... You coming or what?

Steph leaves. Duncan shuffles out the door.

7 **EXT. BEACH - WOODEN PATH - DAY - MOMENTS LATER** 7

Steph strides along. Duncan, still in jeans and a T-shirt, lags behind.

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

8 **EXT. BEACH - DAY - A LITTLE LATER** 8

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

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

STEPH/KATY

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

LAURA

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

KATY

What a selfish bitch.

LAURA

I know. This is, like, my summer.

STEPH

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

LAURA

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

STEPH/KATY

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

LAURA

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

STEPH/KATY

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

STEPH

Susanna, you have to get on that this summer.

Steph hops up.

STEPH (CONT'D)

(calling off)

Chad!

ANGLE ON Chad, preoccupied with his friends.

STEPH (CONT'D)

Chad!

CHAD

What?!

STEPH

I want to go in the water!

CHAD

Then, go!

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

STEPH

What are you staring at, perv?

Steph walks off with Katy and Laura...

LAURA

Where is that kid from, anyway?

STEPH

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

LAURA/KATY

Eww!/Tragic.

STEPH

(noticing)

Uh, Susanna. We're all swimming!

Duncan watches Susanna reluctantly jump up, join them.

9

EXT. BEACH - WOODEN PATH - DAY - A LITTLE LATER

9

Duncan heads back toward the houses. From the opposite direction, Betty and her son, PETER. Clearly, Betty has transferred her cocktail to a Solo cup.

BETTY

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

PETER

Hey, Duncan.

DUNCAN

Hey.

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

BETTY

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

PETER

Mom. Are you shitting me?

BETTY

Well, if you wore the patch, I wouldn't have to keep telling people that, would I?! Duncan, I was thinking that you and Peter should hang out this summer. Lord knows he brought enough of his Star Wars dolls. You could have fun with those.

PETER

They're action figures! And they're classics!

(then, to Duncan)

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

BETTY

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

PETER

No, I'm not!

BETTY

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

PETER

(not worth the effort)

Boba Fett...

BETTY

(ignoring, to Duncan)

So, should we set up a time for you two to get together tomorrow?

DUNCAN

Uh, I should check with my mom.

Duncan starts off.

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

PETER
 You're the worst parent.

10 **INT./EXT. BEACH HOUSE (FRONT) - DAY - MOMENTS LATER** 10

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

11 **EXT. STATION WAGON - DAY - MOMENTS LATER** 11

Duncan is lying on top of the roof, eyes closed, listening to his iPod. Unfortunately, he's listening to REO Speedwagon's "Can't Fight This Feeling." AND, he's singing out loud.

He opens his eyes to see...

Susanna standing beside the car, watching. Clearly, she's back from the beach. Duncan fumbles with the iPod, drops it. The earphones stay in, the console falls to the ground. Embarrassed, he looks over, only to see that...

... She's heading into her house.

12 **INT. BEACH HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/DINING ROOM - DAY - LATE AFTERNOON** 12

Duncan comes down the stairs. Pam is setting the dining room table for dinner. Trent, making drinks at the BAR. With them, KIP and JOAN, Trent's friends. "KYRIE," by MR. MISTER blares on the stereo. (We hope.) They're all trying to sing along, but clearly don't know the words. Joan is dancing, occasionally tugging on Kip and Trent to join her. But, to no avail. The song gets to the CHORUS. This part, Trent, Kip, and even Pam know well. However,...

JOAN
 (singing the chorus)
 "Carry a laser down the road that I
 must travel. Carry a laser through
 the darkness of the night..."

KIP
 (laughing, shouting over
 the music)
 Whoa, whoa. Are you singing,
 "Carry a laser?"

JOAN
 That's what it is.

Trent, Pam, and Kip laugh.

KIP
 Why would anyone in their right
 mind write a song called, "Carry A
 Laser?"

JOAN
 (laughing, shrugging)
 Because they love outer space.

She goes back to singing and dancing. Finally...

JOAN (CONT'D)
 (noticing Duncan)
 Uh-oh. You just walked in at the
 wrong time, stranger.

Before Duncan can even protest, Joan is coaxing him onto her
 "dance floor."

PAM
 This is Duncan. My son. These are
 Trent's friends, Kip and Joan.

KIP
 I'm the one not grinding up on you.

JOAN
 (laughing)
 I'm not grinding up on him.
 (to Duncan)
 Come on, I can't get anyone to
 dance with me.

Duncan looks to Pam for rescuing.

PAM
 (smirking)
 Oh. I'll make it worse.

Pam joins in. Duncan halfheartedly gives in. A lot of
 awkward movement. At this point, everyone embraces the lyric
 "Carry a laser." Full on singing.

Save for Trent, who puts on a good face, but is clearly over the moment. Steph descends the stairs.

STEPH
I'm out of here.

PAM
Oh, wait. I made dinner.

STEPH
Oh, shoot. I have plans.

JOAN
Steph, check out his moves.

Steph watches for a short beat...

STEPH
Enjoy therapy.

She grabs beers off the bar and goes.

TRENT
Alright, we did that...

Trent turns down the music. Duncan, self-conscious, stops dancing. Pam grabs a PLATTER of HOR D'OURVES and BOX OF CRACKERS, places them on the COFFEE TABLE.

TRENT (CONT'D)
Hey, buddy, any chance you were on top of my car?

DUNCAN
... No.

Without even being prompted, Duncan helps Pam, opening the CRACKERS.

TRENT
Cause there was a dent in the roof. It popped back up. So, it's okay. I'm just wondering if you knew anything about that?

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

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

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

Trent smiles for Pam's benefit.

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

He winks at Duncan.

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

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

Trent puts his arm around, Pam.

TRENT
 We've got a good team, here.

He kisses her cheek. He seems proud. Duncan steps away, stops helping.

13

INT. BEACH HOUSE - DINING ROOM - THAT NIGHT

13

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

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

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

TRENT
 That's right!

JOAN
Because, you left me there!

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

JOAN
 You never came back!

KIP
 (scoffing)
 The next day I did.
 (MORE)

KIP (CONT'D)

I poked you with a stick to wake you. It was real romantic.

The guys laugh.

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

PAM	JOAN
Oh, I'm sorry...	(faux sincere) No. Go. Please.

PAM
No, please. You were talking...

TRENT
Tell your story, babe.

KIP
Yeah. Enough of us, reminiscing...

PAM
It's dumb...

JOAN
Well, now we have to hear it.

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

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

JOAN
(passively)
... Oh, how funny.

PAM
It was just... A similar thing to...

Trent pulls in Pam close. He's very attracted to this side of her. Kip starts piling more food onto his plate.

KIP
Okay, I just have to point out that I'm loading up for the third time. Pam, absolutely incredible.

PAM

Thank you.

KIP

No, thank you.

(re: Trent)

Sorry this asshole sprung us on you, last minute.

PAM

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

JOAN

You cater? That makes sense.

Joan takes a sip of her wine, smiles.

TRENT

One of her many talents.

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

TRENT (CONT'D)

She's also got some ideas for fixing up the place...

KIP

You mean,...

(playing it up)

... the "Riptide?"

Trent laughs, deflects. He takes a lot of shit for this.

PAM

(clarifying)

I mentioned rearranging a few things.

TRENT

Hey. Put your stamp on it. I'm not set in my ways.

JOAN

(scoffing)

Tell that to Christine.

Kip lightly nudges Joan. A little awkward silence, then...

PAM

(moving on)

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

(MORE)

PAM (CONT'D)
 (to Duncan)
 You're free to go.

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

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

Duncan complies, as Trent pours Pam some more wine. She
 watches her son head off to the KITCHEN, as...

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

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

They all laugh, and continue to reminisce.

14 **INT. BEACH HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT** 14

Duncan looks around aimlessly for anything to pass the time.

- Surveys the BOOKCASES. Slim pickings. Mostly Louis
 L'Amour-type novels.

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

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

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

A14 **INT. BEACH HOUSE - DUNCAN'S BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT** A14

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

15

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - BACK DECK - LATER THAT NIGHT

15

Duncan walks out, looks out over the dunes.

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

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

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

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

SUSANNA
 Hey.

DUNCAN
 ... Hey.

Beat.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)
 Sorry about... I didn't mean to...

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

DUNCAN
 That's cool. That's cool.

Beat. An eternity.

SUSANNA
 So,... You're a big fan of REO
 Speedwagon?

DUNCAN
 ... What?

SUSANNA
 "Can't Fight This Feeling?"

DUNCAN

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

SUSANNA

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

DUNCAN

(trying to play it off)
Something like that.

We hear LOUD LAUGHTER from inside Trent's house.

SUSANNA

Sucks here, huh?

DUNCAN

(shrugging)
It's okay.

SUSANNA

It sucks.

DUNCAN

Yeah, no. Totally. Big time.

Beat. Susanna waits for more, then...

SUSANNA

Alright, well...

She starts back inside.

DUNCAN

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

SUSANNA

Oh. I thought we were done.

DUNCAN

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

SUSANNA

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

DUNCAN
 (smirks)
 You like Pac Man?

GUY
 What? It's a classic!
 (re: other games)
 Not into all the bells and
 whistles, my man. Too much going
 on.

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

GUY (CONT'D)
 See, my mistake is that I get
 greedy. Going for all the ghosts
 and fruit instead of just clearing
 pellets.

DUNCAN
 You know, there's a pattern.

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

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

BLUE-SHIRTED GUY
 Owen, we gotta go!

We hear the familiar sound of PAC MAN DYING.

OWEN (GUY)
 Well, so much for the game of my
 life.

DUNCAN
 You still have another man left.

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

DUNCAN
 Oh, the board's always the same.

OWEN

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

DUNCAN

No, I...

OWEN

Go, go. It's all you.

Duncan plays.

OWEN (CONT'D)

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

DUNCAN

... Duncan.

OWEN

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

DUNCAN

Oh, they only let you use three
letters.

OWEN

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

Owen starts to walk away.

OWEN (CONT'D)

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

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

23

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - DAY - LATER

23

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

PAM

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

DUNCAN
(shrugging)
Nowhere.

PAM
Well, let's leave notes, okay?

TRENT
Your mom was worried.

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

Duncan heads toward the house.

TRENT (O.S.)
Head's up, buddy.

24

EXT. DOCKS - DAY - LATER

24

CLOSE ON DUNCAN, catching a life vest.

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

TRENT
You need to wear that.

KIP
Oh, I think he's cool without it.

TRENT
No, Duncan can't swim.

PAM
(trying to make it better,
clarifying)
Trent, he's just not a comfortable
swimmer.

KIP
I really think he'll be fine.

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

BETTY (O.S.)

Yoo hoo!

Betty walks down the dock, followed by Peter, who's carrying a BUCKET, and Susanna.

BETTY (CONT'D)

Yes, we invited ourselves. Accept it and move on. Peter has to stay down below. His eye throws off his equilibrium and he'll get sick everywhere.

PETER

No, I won't, mom!

BETTY

Tell that to the bucket we have to bring!

Duncan, reluctantly, puts on the vest.

DUNCAN

(sotto, to Pam)

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

PAM

He just wants you to be safe.

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

PAM (CONT'D)

Is that snug enough?

Off Duncan's look...

25

EXT. BOAT - DAY - LATER

25

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

The adults sit around the STERN of the boat. Steph and Susanna sunbathe on the BOW.

CLOSE ON a beat up COOLER. Pam opens, revealing her "work." Impeccable food. It outclasses the container for sure.

PAM

Basically, he was relentless. And, don't get me wrong. I was looking.

(MORE)

PAM (CONT'D)

I had been divorced well over a year. It just...

TRENT

It just took a little persistence on my end.

Pam smiles, caresses Trent's cheek. Pam sets out her dishes, creating a spread on a table. Kip starts helping himself instantly to the annoyance of Joan.

PAM

Well, I wasn't sure about you.

TRENT

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

PAM

(teasing)

He went as a sexy cop.

TRENT

(laughing, defending)

No, I was a 70s, bad ass cop.

PAM

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

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

PAM (CONT'D)

That about ended it right there for me.

BETTY

(sotto, to adults)

Sadly, I would have been working his bag by that point.

TRENT

(to Pam)

Now, you did let me help you load up your van at the end of the night.

PAM

Yes, I did.

TRENT

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

He pulls Pam in.

BETTY

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

TRENT

She definitely made me work for it. But, it was worth it.

BETTY

There may be hope for you, yet.

JOAN

(to Pam)

What finally changed your mind?

PAM

He told me that we were already in this together, so I might as well. It's been almost a year now.

They kiss. Joan finishes her wine. Trent, Kip, and Betty start to make plates for themselves. Pam notices Duncan, sulking.

ANGLE ON DUNCAN. He glances over at Steph and Susanna. Steph catches him. She nudges Susanna, whispers. They both laugh. Duncan fumes.

Pam approaches.

PAM (CONT'D)

(light, jokingly)

Could you look a little more miserable?

DUNCAN

Could he be even more of a dick?

Pam's smile instantly fades.

PAM

Hey. He's making an effort.

Duncan looks away.

PAM (CONT'D)

He wants this to work. He wants us to be a family.

DUNCAN

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

PAM

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

DUNCAN

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

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

PAM

... Because you're with me.

Duncan just looks off, checks out. He doesn't "feel" like he's with her. Eventually, Pam returns to the group.

26

EXT. DOCKS - DAY - LATE AFTERNOON

26

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

TRENT

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

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

27

INT. BEACH HOUSE - DINING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

27

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

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

A27

EXT. BEACH HOUSE (BACK) - THE NEXT MORNING

A27

An establishing shot of the house from the DUNES.

28 **INT. BEACH HOUSE - DUNCAN'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME** 28

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

29 **INT. BEACH HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY - MOMENTS LATER** 29

Duncan descends the STAIRS. Pam, Trent, Kip, and Joan are eating breakfast. They're still in their clothes from the night before. The table, a mess again.

PAM
(noticing)
Good morning, sweetie.

Duncan gives her nothing.

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

DUNCAN
(short)
No. I'm good.

Duncan walks off. Pam watches him leave.

30 **EXT. BEACH HOUSE - STORAGE SHED - DAY - MOMENTS LATER** 30

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

31 **EXT. STREET - DAY - MOMENTS LATER** 31

Duncan rides the bike, peddling furiously. He's doesn't know where he's going. He just knows he wants to be somewhere else. Eventually, he stumbles upon...

WATER WIZZ WATERPARK.

TRACKING SHOT of Duncan riding up to the park.

32 **EXT. WATERPARK - EMPLOYEE LOUNGE - DAY - MOMENTS LATER** 32

Duncan enters through an open GATE. An EMPLOYEE enters behind him, carrying a BOX, shuts the gate door. Duncan already seems overwhelmed and out of place. CHILDREN run amok. TEENS congregate around the lounge chairs. EMPLOYEES congregate around the MAIN OFFICE.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Caitlin rolls her eyes, heads back into the office.

OWEN (CONT'D)
See what I did?

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

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

DISSOLVE TO:

33

EXT. WATERPARK - PARKING LOT - DAY - LATE AFTERNOON

33

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

34

EXT. BETTY THOMPSON'S HOUSE/STREET (FRONT) - DAY - A LITTLE
LATER

Duncan rides up.

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

Duncan finds Susanna, on her front steps. In her hands, a CELLPHONE. Duncan seems to be holding onto a little resentment from the boat incident. He doesn't even get off his bike. Just circles around and around in the street.

DUNCAN
Oh, it's not mine.

SUSANNA
Yeah, I figured.

Susanna walks down to the street, smiles. But, she can't help but register Duncan's aloofness. She tries another tactic.

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

Duncan stops, reluctantly smiles.

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

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

Duncan finally stops riding, connecting with Susanna.

DUNCAN
My mom's the same way.

Duncan rides toward the bike shed.

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

DUNCAN
 (glancing back)
 Will do.

35 **EXT. BEACH HOUSE - STORAGE SHED - DAY - MOMENTS LATER** 35

Duncan closes the door, starts around the corner...

PAM (O.S.)
 I'll see if he's out front.

Just as Pam opens the screen door, Duncan pops back against the shed wall. Pam checks her watch. Duncan waits until it's safe, then sneaks off toward the ocean.

36 **EXT. BEACH - DUNES - THAT NIGHT** 36

Duncan sits at the edge, looking out onto the beach/ocean. He turns, looks back at the house. One last UPSTAIRS LIGHT goes OFF.

37 **EXT./INT. BEACH HOUSE - BACK DECK/LIVING ROOM - THAT NIGHT** 37

Duncan starts up the stairs.

TRENT (O.S.)
 I thought we had a deal about
 leaving notes. Checking in.

Duncan jumps, slightly startled.

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

DUNCAN
 My mom and I do.

TRENT
 You worried her. Again. I told
 her I'd wait up for you.

DUNCAN
 Well. I'm here.

He starts up the stairs.

TRENT
 Hey, Duncan?

Duncan stops. Beat.

TRENT (CONT'D)

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

Duncan turns around, full of 14 year old attitude.

TRENT (CONT'D)

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

DUNCAN

... Fine.

TRENT

There you go, buddy.

Duncan turns, and heads upstairs.

38

EXT. WATERPARK - EMPLOYEE LOUNGE - THE NEXT DAY

38

Duncan is back on the edge of the same PICNIC TABLE, still
sporting the jeans and T-shirt look.

OWEN (O.S.)

I'm afraid I'm going to have to ask
you to leave.

Duncan looks back over his shoulder.

DUNCAN

... What?

OWEN

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

DUNCAN

Oh. ... Okay.

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

OWEN

Whoa. Wait...

(laughs)

I'm sorry. I shouldn't be... I
didn't think you would actually...

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

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

Duncan seems reticent. More confused, really.

OWEN (CONT'D)
Look, I can tell you're in complete awe of that picnic table. It is one-of-a-kind except for the 200 exactly like it around here. But, there is more park to be seen.

Finally, Duncan complies, follows.

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

DUNCAN
Oh, my mom buys my jeans...

OWEN
Good. Always take things literally. How's that working out for you? You getting laid?

39

EXT. WATERPARK - RENTAL BOOTH - DAY

39

Owen and Duncan approach LEWIS, working behind the counter. He's quite a curmudgeon, pale as can be, and his Water Wizz employee shirt is WAY too big for him.

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

LEWIS
Some kid threw up near Crazy Tubes.

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

LEWIS
That will not be a challenge.

OWEN

Lewis is kind of over this place.

LEWIS

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

OWEN

No, I remember that conversation.
In 2003, 5, 11, April, two days
ago...

LEWIS

I've just got things I want to do.

OWEN

Prove it. Without thinking, rattle
off three. Go.

Owen smiles at Duncan. He loves goading Lewis.

LEWIS

(complying)

I don't know. See New Mexico. Take
Invent something. Become a storm
chaser...

OWEN

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

LEWIS

(scoffing)

"Hey, look. There's a storm."
"Where?" "Over there." "Cool."
Let's go get it." "Got it."

OWEN

Wait. Are you chasing them or
capturing...?

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

LEWIS

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

OWEN

And like that, you're impressed.
And, grossed out.

Off Duncan,...

40 **EXT. WATERPARK - BUZZARD'S BAY GIFT SHOP - MOMENTS LATER - 40 DAY**

We STEADY CAM as Owen leads Duncan, now wearing the ill-fitting swim suit, on a "tour of the park." This is our first real glimpse of Water Wizz in all its glory. Clearly, built in the 80's and from the looks of it, hasn't changed a bit.

OWEN

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

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

OWEN (CONT'D)

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

Duncan still doesn't get the joke.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Bought it off the Russians.

Still nothing.

OWEN (CONT'D)

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

Duncan's still blank.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Okay. Well, that was a waste of a bit.

Caitlin joins them, clipboard in hand.

CAITLIN

Some kid threw up near Crazy Tubes.

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

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

OWEN
Did it.

CAITLIN
Finish the work schedule for next
week...

OWEN
Did it.

CAITLIN
Change all of the filters...

OWEN
Done.

CAITLIN
You know, I'm going to check.

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

CAITLIN
(slightly bemused)
So, I'm doing it.

Caitlin peels back the way she came.

OWEN
(calling off)
It's called delegation. I read
about it in a book about it.

Our STEADY CAM SWINGS around as Owen and Duncan turn...

OWEN/DUNCAN POV of Caitlin walking away.

OWEN (CONT'D)
 (to Duncan)
 That's the one you wait for, my
 man.

He takes a moment, then we...

A40 OMITTED

A40

B40 **EXT. WATERPARK - DAY - CONTINUOUS**

B40

PAN DOWN from SIGN. "DEVIL'S PEAK." Owen and Duncan approach the entrance. Clearly, the main attraction. There's a long line.

OWEN
This is Devil's Peak. The longest
 waterslide in a 50 mile radius.
 Stretch out the tube, end to end.
 13 football fields.

We STEADY CAM as they continue up the RAMP.

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

Three boys, KYLE, NEIL, and JASON, run up. The nerds of the waterpark, but they don't see themselves as that. They all make their way up the RAMP, past the long line of SLIDERS.

KYLE
 Owen, settle a debate for us.

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

KYLE
 Those aren't our names!

OWEN
 Those are the names I'm giving you,
 Vlady.
 (to Duncan)
 These are my illegitimate sons.
 All different mothers, but I want
 to make sure I'm a positive
 influence in their lives.

JASON
 Shut up, jackass!

We CUT to a CAMERA on a SCISSOR LIFT as Owen and the rest continue up the STAIRS.

JASON (CONT'D)

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

NEIL

He did!

KYLE

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

OWEN

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

JASON

Then how'd he do it.

OWEN

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

NEIL

Be serious!

KYLE

Don't interrupt him, Neil! He was talking!

We CUT to STEADY CAM as they climb some stairs onto a SMALL LANDING.

OWEN

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

KYLE

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

OWEN

Be my guest. If you can find him. Last I heard, he went into a deep depression. The fame was too much.

(MORE)

OWEN (CONT'D)
 He turned to cocaine to escape the
 limelight. And eventually, to a
 life of male prostitution.

Owen stops on the landing.

OWEN (CONT'D)
 Oh, no. Wait. There he is.

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

KYLE
 Screw you, Owen!

NEIL
 Yeah, screw you, Owen.

KYLE
 I just said that, Neil!

NEIL
 I'm being supportive!

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

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

DUNCAN
 ... Really?

OWEN
 Wow. Do you get comedy?

41 **EXT. WATERPARK - DEVIL'S PEAK - DAY**

41

Owen and Duncan ascend the last of the stairs to the TOP
 LANDING.

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

OWEN
 (teasing)
 I'm not telling you.

DUNCAN
 But, I want to know!

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

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

OWEN (CONT'D)
How's it going, Hot Rod?

RODDY
Some kid threw up near Crazy Tubes.

OWEN
Damn, pointless news travels fast.

RODDY
(to next Slider)
Hold on. Alright, go.

The Slider heads down. Another SLIDER steps up.

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

RODDY
Yeah, hold on.
(then, to Slider)
Alright go.

A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN steps up.

RODDY (CONT'D)
Hold on.

RODDY just stares at her butt for way too long.

RODDY (CONT'D)
Hold on. Hold. Hold. Hold.
Hold. Alright... Hold. Hold.
And, we're... Holding. Hold.
Hold.

Roddy milks this for everything it's worth.

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

She goes.

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

Owen pushes Duncan down the tube. He immediately follows.

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

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

OWEN

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

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

BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

(laughing)

Owen, come on!

OWEN

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

Just then, a pair of ratty, old swim trunks pop up to the surface of the water.

OWEN (CONT'D)

And, uh... Looks like you lost something.

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

OWEN (CONT'D)

(smiling)

Oh. Too far, Duncan. You just had to take it too far.

Duncan is beet red.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Can he get your number?

43 **EXT. WATERPARK - PARKING LOT - DAY**

43

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

OWEN

You want a ride?

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

OWEN
Where are you staying?

DUNCAN
Over by the beach, on Hampton.

OWEN
That's far. And, people drive like
idiots on the Fourth. Throw your
bike in the back.

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

OWEN
Come on.

DUNCAN
Yeah?

OWEN
Yes.

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

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

44

INT. CAR - POWDER POINT BRIDGE - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

44

They drive across. There are a few LOCALS carrying COOLERS
and BEACH CHAIRS along the bridge.

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

DUNCAN
I don't know... I guess... There's
not much for me at home.
(then, changing subject)
How long have you been working
there?

OWEN

The park? I've always been there.

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

45

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - DAY - A LITTLE LATER

45

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

DUNCAN

Thanks for the ride.

Duncan walks the bike up the driveway.

OWEN

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

Duncan's face lights up.

DUNCAN

(too much)
Definitely. Awesome. Yeah.
(then, collecting himself)
No, totally. If you need me, sure.
I mean, I could help out...

OWEN

Duncan.

DUNCAN

Yes.

OWEN

There you go. Tomorrow. 9AM.

With that, Owen drives off.

46

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

46

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

PAM

Who was that with you?

DUNCAN
Just a friend.

PAM
A friend who drives?

DUNCAN
Mom.

PAM
What's his name?

DUNCAN
Owen.

PAM
And, how do you know him?

DUNCAN
Mom, he's just a friend.

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

DUNCAN
Fine.

He tries to run past.

PAM
Whoa. I'm not done.

Duncan stops, turns.

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

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

PAM
... What?

Duncan leaves.

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

DUNCAN (O.S.)
 Okay.

PAM
 I'm serious.

DUNCAN (O.S.)
Okay.

47

EXT. BETTY THOMPSON'S HOUSE - DAY - LATE AFTERNOON

47

CLOSE ON a DUG OUT SAND PIT, filled with COAL EMBERS and SEAWEED. Beside it, a large POT of CLAMS. We STEADY CAM as a PARTYGOER picks it up. With him, Betty, cocktail in hand.

BETTY
 Pretty impressive, huh, Frank?
 Those are all my doing this year.

The Partygoer carries it onto BETTY'S BACK DECK, as the Camera follows her into TRENT'S BACKYARD. Betty looks up at the DECK of the adjacent house. A COUPLE is sitting there, excluded.

BETTY (CONT'D)
 Happy 4th, Keegans! So sorry. The
 party's filled to capacity!

Betty joins Pam, Trent, Kip and Joan at a table as Duncan descends the BACK STAIRS, taking in the party. More PARTYGOERS mingle. Music blares. People are dancing, including CHARLIE (18), a very strung out looking hippie. He's dangerously close to the fire, lost in his own world. Steph and her "gang" of friends, including Chad, Katy and Laura, are huddled around a picnic table.

STEPH
 Susanna!

Duncan notices Susanna on her deck.

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

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

STEPH (CONT'D)
Come sit next to Willem. He's
being hilarious.

Duncan looks over at Betty, Pam, Trent, Kip, and Joan.

ANGLE ON ADULTS.

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

Everyone gasps with laughter.

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

Betty imitates "porn music." They all laugh.

BETTY (CONT'D)
(getting up, re: glass)
This is empty. And, that's just
not right.
(then, noticing)
Oh, hey, Duncan.

Pam looks back, reaches out for Duncan's hand. He complies.
She pulls him closer.

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

PETER (O.S.)
What?!

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

BETTY
There you go.

As Betty walks off....

BETTY (CONT'D)
 (noticing)
 Charlie, don't do your dead dance
 so close to the fire!

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

DUNCAN
 No, I can do it.

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

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

DUNCAN
 (smiles)
 Okay.

48

EXT. BETTY THOMPSON'S HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

48

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

DUNCAN
 What's up, Peter?

PETER (O.S.)
 Hey, man.

DUNCAN
 How's the battle going?

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

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

PETER (O.S.)
 Yeah.

DUNCAN
 Cool.

Susanna approaches.

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

DUNCAN
... Oh.

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

DUNCAN (CONT'D)
(shrugging, to Susanna)
Just because your mom's going to
see my plate.

SUSANNA
It's your funeral.

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

SUSANNA (CONT'D)
Looks like my brother just made
another sale.

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

PAM
... We'll be right back.

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

SUSANNA
Peter, do you want to go chase
ghost crabs?

PETER (O.S.)
Hell, yes!

Peter comes out from under the table.

SUSANNA
Duncan? Any interest?

DUNCAN
(coming to)
Huh?

SUSANNA
Want to do something really lame?

PETER
It's not lame.

DUNCAN
(beat)
Yeah. Sure.

49 **EXT. BEACH - DAY - DUSK**

49

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

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

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

Duncan can't help but smile. Beat.

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

DUNCAN
My mom doesn't smoke pot.

Beat.

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

They smile, connect.

50 **EXT. BEACH - ROCKS - THAT NIGHT**

50

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

SUSANNA

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

Duncan nods.

SUSANNA (CONT'D)

Is your dad seeing anybody?

DUNCAN

Yeah, she's a lot younger.

SUSANNA

Classic.

DUNCAN

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

SUSANNA

California. That's cool.

DUNCAN

Yeah.

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

PETER

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

SUSANNA

(to Duncan)

How are you only a year older than him?

51

EXT. BETTY THOMPSON'S HOUSE - DUNES - THAT NIGHT - A LITTLE LATER

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

SUSANNA

So, where is it you go?

DUNCAN
Go where?

SUSANNA
On your sexy, pink cruiser?

DUNCAN
Oh. Nowhere.

Susanna smiles.

SUSANNA
Oh. I see...

DUNCAN
No, I just...

SUSANNA
It's okay. Let it be yours.

She smiles. They approach...

BETTY'S BACK DECK.

Duncan glances over at the DUNES behind TRENT'S HOUSE.

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

Susanna watches Duncan watch his mom.

SUSANNA (CONT'D)
... Good night.

DUNCAN
(coming to)
Yeah, good night.

Susanna head up the stairs. Duncan continues into Trent's YARD. Suddenly, MUFFLED ARGUING from the side of the house draws his attention to...

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

JOAN
Oh, I see. Just not this summer.

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

PAM

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

TRENT

Joan has the rest.

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

PAM

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

Duncan just shakes his head, and walks off.

52

EXT. WATERPARK - RENTAL BOOTH - THE NEXT MORNING

52

Duncan rounds the corner of the booth, a little out of sorts from the night before. But, at least he's in his OWN swimsuit. Owen is there with Lewis.

OWEN

You're late!

Duncan looks like a deer in headlights.

OWEN (CONT'D)

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

DUNCAN

But,... I just...

OWEN

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

LEWIS

You waste an exorbitant amount of time.

OWEN

Suit up.

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

OWEN (CONT'D)

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

Duncan puts the blue shirt on over his T-shirt. Caitlin approaches.

CAITLIN

Um, we have a situation over at Harpoon Lagoon.

OWEN

(dead serious)
Is it a homicide?

CAITLIN

(dry)
Yes. It's a homicide. That's why I'm so calm.

Owen starts off...

OWEN

(dramatic whisper)
I knew this day would come.

Caitlin and Duncan follow.

53

EXT. WATERPARK - HARPOON LAGOON - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

53

A small crowd of waterpark PATRONS have circled up, watching some BREAKDANCERS going to town on a large piece of CARDBOARD. HIP-HOP BLARING from a BOOM BOX. (NOTE: Our "Breakdancers" are just TEENS who were at the waterpark. Not a "crew." They would be dressed for the waterpark.)

ANGLE ON SNACK SHACK. Roddy and a few other EMPLOYEES are watching. Owen, Caitlin, and Duncan approach, joining.

OWEN

(disappointed)
Oh. There's no blood.

RODDY

(very matter-of-fact)

They grabbed some cardboard from the snack shack and just started going to town. Mostly b-boying. Power, Abstract, Blowup, Flavor... Mad moves though. Applejacks, Coindrops, Turtles, Jackhammers, 1990s...

OWEN

Any Jookin? Buckin?

RODDY

(scoffing)

Not this far from Memphis...

CAITLIN

(over it)

Someone needs to take away their cardboard. It's getting too congested.

OWEN

(to Duncan)

You heard the lady.

DUNCAN

(taken aback)

... Oh, I don't.

CAITLIN

No. Owen. You need to do this.

OWEN

Naw, he's got it.

Duncan looks over, nervous.

DUNCAN'S POV of the BREAKDANCING CIRCLE. A BREAKDANCING GUY moves center stage, holding court. He's quite an imposing fellow.

DUNCAN

(meek)

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

OWEN

(off shirt)

Hey. You're official now. You got this.

Duncan takes a deep breath, walks off...

OWEN (CONT'D)
 (off Caitlin's glare)
 I'm right here. I'll step in.

ANGLE ON Duncan, slowly approaching. He stops just outside the circle, looks back at Owen, who gives him a thumbs up.

DUNCAN
 (soft)
 ... Excuse me.

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

DUNCAN (CONT'D)
 Hey, uh, guys...?

Nothing. Duncan shuffles over to the boom box, turns it off. A smattering of disappointment from the Patrons. "Boo."

BREAKDANCERS
 Hey!/What the hell?!

They all turn and look right at Duncan.

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

BREAKDANCING GUY
 Whoa, whoa.

Our imposing fellow steps forward. Duncan's eyes only come up to his chest.

BREAKDANCING GUY (CONT'D)
 What, now?

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

The Breakdancing Guy takes a moment, but eventually steps to the side. Duncan makes his way through the very intimidating crowd. He reaches down, grabs the edge of the cardboard. A foot SLAMS down onto it. It's Breakdancing Guy, again.

BREAKDANCING GUY
 Show us your moves.

Duncan looks at him, confused.

BREAKDANCING GUY (CONT'D)

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

DUNCAN

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

BREAKDANCING GUY

Then, you can't take the cardboard.

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

BREAKDANCING GUY (CONT'D)

(nodding head)

Okay. Okay.

He seems to be signing off. Duncan, relieved, goes to retrieve the cardboard.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Whoa. We're not done.

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

BEAUTIFUL BREAKDANCER

Just mirror me.

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

BREAKDANCING GUY

Spin on your head!

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

CLOSE ON Duncan's face, beaming.

DUNCAN'S POV as he spins around and around.

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

BREAKDANCERS

Stick it! Stick it!

56 **EXT. WATERPARK - TOP OF DEVIL'S PEAK - DAY**

56

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

ANGLE ON the teen's MOTHER, glaring.

RODDY
(mock scolding)
Inappropriate, Duncan.
Inappropriate.

57 **INT. BEACH HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/BACK DECK - LATE AFTERNOON** 57

Duncan enters. Trent, Kip, Joan and Pam are sitting on the BACK DECK. Joan, holding court. Pam, collecting everyone's drinks to "refill." Without even breaking from her "story," Joan hands Pam her glass. Pam watches through the window as Duncan passes by, never connecting with her.

58 **INT. WATERPARK - EMPLOYEE LOUNGE - DAY**

58

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

OWEN
Roddy.

He hands Roddy his check.

OWEN (CONT'D)
Lewis.

Owen reaches over the back of him to Lewis.

OWEN (CONT'D)
Pop 'N Lock!

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

59 **INT. BEACH HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY**

59

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

A62

INT. TUBE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

A62

Kyle, Neil, and Jason are, in fact, stuck. They're arms, legs, everything - tangled. Kyle, facing one way. Neil and Jason, the other. Water, rushing all around them.

KYLE

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

NEIL

I thought it would work!

KYLE

Shut up, Neil! Shut. Up. Neil!

63

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

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

OWEN

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

(then, off the kids' blank stares)

No? Footloose? Bonnie Tyler song? Kevin Bacon drives a tractor in a game of "Chicken?"

Still blank stares.

OWEN (CONT'D)

(giving up)

I need someone to throw himself down the tube and knock some kids loose.

A HAND rises from the CROWD.

KID'S VOICE

I'll do it.

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

64 **EXT. WATERPARK - TOP OF DEVIL'S PEAK - DAY - MOMENTS LATER** 64

Duncan, Owen, and Roddy are now joined by MALCOLM (KID).

OWEN

What's your name?

MALCOLM

Malcolm.

OWEN

You're probably going to want to get some momentum, Mack.

MALCOLM

(confident)

I got this.

DUNCAN

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

OWEN

Let's call that "Plan B."

(then, yelling into tube)

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

KYLE (O.S.)

(yelling)

What's going to hurt who?

Malcolm steps into the entrance of the tube. He grabs the sides and starts rocking back and forth. Finally, throwing himself down the tube.

65 **INT. TUBE - DAY - CONTINUOUS**

65

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

NEIL/JASON

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

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

Kyle screams.

NEIL/JASON (CONT'D)

Why are you screaming?!

66

EXT. WATERPARK - BOTTOM OF DEVIL'S PEAK - DAY - CONTINUOUS 66

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

OWEN

(faux concern)

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

MALCOLM

That was awesome!

NEIL

Let's do it again!

JASON

(to Kid)

Will you knock us loose?

MALCOLM

(excited)

Sure!

Caitlin approaches, intercepts. Pissed.

CAITLIN

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

The boys looks disappointed.

CAITLIN (CONT'D)

(to Owen)

What do think you're doing!

OWEN

It's all good. No one got hurt.

CAITLIN

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

OWEN

(to boys)

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

MALCOLM

(checking her out)

She's certainly got my attention.

Caitlin takes a breath, shakes her head.

CAITLIN

(exasperated)

Why do you always put me in this position? I hate being this person. This is why,...

(then, indicates herself and him)

... This doesn't happen. It's not fun anymore.

(beat)

I wish this wasn't just a job.

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

DUNCAN

Sorry, I didn't mean to...

OWEN

No. It's my fault.

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

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

68 **EXT. BEACH HOUSE - DAY - SAME TIME** 68

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

69 **INT. BEACH HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS** 69

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

PAM

The soup needs a little longer.

TRENT

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

PAM

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

TRENT

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

PAM

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

Pam holds her stare on Trent. She means it.

70

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

70

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

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

PAM

(pointing)

It's appropriate for people four to eight. So, we're good.

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

STEPH

"Home Sweet Home."

PAM

Okay, let's not hate it right away.
(then, holding up game pieces)
What color gingerbread character do you want to be, Trent?

Trent doesn't answer.

STEPH

I have to be yellow!

She grabs a pawn.

LATER...

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

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

PAM

Oh, look, you can take the shortcut there.

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

TRENT

Whoa. No, he can't do that.

PAM

Yes, he can. He crosses the bridge.

DUNCAN

(under his breath)

This is so stupid.

Duncan moves back and past the "bridge."

PAM

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

Trent picks up the DIRECTIONS.

TRENT

(reading, pointedly)

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

(then)

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

PAM

Well, I don't think it matters.

TRENT

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

PAM

We can fudge the rule.

STEPH

(laughs)

"Fudge." That's good.

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

Trent moves his pawn.

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

Pam moves his pawn back.

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

DUNCAN
 I already did.

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

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

PAM
 Duncan can move for me.

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

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

PAM
 Purple.

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

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

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

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

She does.

TRENT
 See? You're way ahead now.

PAM
 It's Candyland, Trent.

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

TRENT
 It's your turn, Steph.

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

PAM
 (in tears)
 It's fucking Candyland!

She storms off.

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

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

72 **EXT. BEACH HOUSE - STORAGE SHED - DAY** 72

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

73 **EXT. WATERPARK - PARKING LOT - DAY - A LITTLE LATER** 73

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

74

EXT. WATERPARK - EMPLOYEE LOUNGE - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

74

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

OWEN

(noticing)

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

DUNCAN

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

(then, knowingly)

Why are you?

OWEN

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

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

CAITLIN

Your shirt's inside out.

Owen looks. It, in fact, is.

75

EXT. WATERPARK - RENTAL BOOTH - DAY - A LITTLE LATER

75

Duncan is stacking MATS.

SUSANNA (O.S.)

So, this is where you run off to?

DUNCAN

(confused)

What are you doing here?

SUSANNA

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

She holds up her BEACH BAG. Duncan smiles.

DUNCAN

What happened to "let it be yours?"

SUSANNA

Does your mom know that you work here?

DUNCAN

No.

SUSANNA

(impressed)

... Nice.

Suddenly, over the LOUD SPEAKER...

OWEN (O.S.)

Duncan, to the Administrative Offices International.

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

OWEN (CONT'D)

(into PA)

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

LEWIS

I don't have a mom. I have two dads. In your face.

Duncan looks back at Susanna.

DUNCAN

... Hold on a sec...

Duncan walks over to the guys...

OWEN

(goads)

Who's that, big guy?

DUNCAN

(shrugging)

Just a girl.

OWEN

Just a girl? A girl who makes you blush?

DUNCAN

Susanna.

RODDY

You pussy hound.

Duncan looks down at the ground, shuffling his feet.

DUNCAN

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

RODDY

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

DUNCAN

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

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

OWEN

(into the PA system)

Duncan, back to his lady friend.
Duncan, to his lady friend. Please let her know that our conversation was entirely about her. In other news, this is extremely awkward for you.

76

EXT. WATERPARK - DAY - A LITTLE LATER

76

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

DUNCAN

(excitedly)

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

Susanna laughs. Beat.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)
 (off laugh)
 Huh. I didn't get that joke as
 fast.

They pass the SUNBATHING GIRLS on their lounge chairs.

SUNBATHING GIRL
 (flirty)
 Hey, Pop 'N Lock.

They giggle.

DUNCAN
 (off Susanna)
 Don't worry about it.

77 **EXT. WATERPARK - DAY**

77

A SERIES OF VIGNETTES:

- MUSSEL BEACH. Duncan and Susanna lounge by the giant wave pool.

- LOCKERS. Susanna watches Duncan clean out wet clothes from a abandoned locker.

- EMPLOYEE LOUNGE. Duncan and Susanna have lunch at one of the picnic tables.

- It's end of day. Park empty. Duncan and Susanna walk around the edge of the RIVER.

78 **EXT. BEACH HOUSE (FRONT) - DAY - LATE AFTERNOON**

78

Duncan and Susanna are walking their bikes up the driveway.
 (NOTE: The station wagon is NOT in the driveway.)

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

They both look up. Steph is sitting on the front steps.

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

STEPH
 I wasn't aware you two had plans.

SUSANNA

Sorry, we just...

STEPH

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

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

Duncan glances over in the direction Pam had.

DUNCAN'S POV of the missing station wagon.

PAM

Dinner's almost ready.

79

INT. BEACH HOUSE - DINING ROOM - THAT NIGHT

79

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

PAM

No use in waiting. Let's just eat.

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

PAM (CONT'D)

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

STEPH

We broke up.

PAM

Oh. I'm sorry.

Beat.

STEPH

(off food)
This is really good.

They continue eating in silence.

80 **INT. BEACH HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER THAT NIGHT** 80

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

81 **INT. BEACH HOUSE - DUNCAN'S BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT** 81

Duncan wakes up in bed. Something has stirred him. From DOWNSTAIRS, he hears the front door OPEN. Duncan looks over at the alarm clock. 2:40 AM.

82 **INT. BEACH HOUSE - STAIRWELL/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - MOMENTS 82 LATER**

Duncan descends, softly. Peers around the wall.

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

TRENT

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

PAM

Just tell me...

(beat)

... If there's something I should know.

TRENT

What are you talking about...?

PAM

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

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

TRENT

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

(beat)

We're in this together. Remember?

With that, he puts his head in her lap. Duncan heads back up the stairs.

DISSOLVE TO:

83 **INT. BEACH HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/DINING ROOM - THE NEXT MORNING**

Duncan descends the STAIRS, finding Pam placing a large platter of PANCAKES on the table. She seems happy.

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

DUNCAN
Where was he?

Pam pauses. Then, smiles a desperate smile and attends to the table.

PAM
He was with Kip. But, he's here now.

She exits into the KITCHEN. Duncan turns as Trent, comes down the STAIRS.

TRENT
(chipper)
Morning, buddy.

Duncan breezes past him.

TRENT (CONT'D)
Whoa. We don't say, "Good morning?"

Duncan locks eyes with him...

DUNCAN
Welcome home.

... And heads outside. Trent hesitates, heads into the dining room.

DISSOLVE TO:

Another party. Full swing. People are dancing. A giant bonfire. Tables, set up in the sand. At one, Trent, Pam, and Steph are eating. Duncan sits at the end of the table, brooding. Betty joins, carrying a PLATE.

BETTY

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

Betty winks, Pam smiles.

BETTY (CONT'D)

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

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

PAM

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

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

JOAN

Is everyone having a good time? Oh good, you got some food. Pam, I don't know what I was thinking. I should of had you cater my party.

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

BETTY

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

Joan gives a forced smile. Betty returns the favor.

BETTY (CONT'D)

New look?

JOAN

No. Just bad hair day.

Then, turning her attention to Trent...

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

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

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

Trent resists, but not enough. They head over toward the
 bonfire.

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

STEPH
 You don't have to keep spelling it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

She turns and starts to walk away. Duncan stands.

DUNCAN
 How much more do you need?

Pam stops, but doesn't turn around.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

Do something, mom. You know what's happening. He's sleeping with her. Do something about it!

The table, silent. Duncan has the attention of the whole party. Trent and Joan, stop dancing.

PAM

Duncan,...

She starts to walk away again.

DUNCAN

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

Trent comes over, grabs Duncan's arm.

TRENT

Hey, buddy...

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

DUNCAN

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

TRENT

Well, I'm talking to you.

DUNCAN

(pointing at Joan)

Just go screw her, asshole! I mean, you have already.

(points to Pam)

And, she's certainly not going to stop you! Are you, Mom?!

TRENT

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

DUNCAN

Everybody knows what I'm talking about!

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

KIP
Whoa, whoa. Trent. Take it easy.

PAM
Enough! Both of you! Stop!

DUNCAN
Fine. You don't want to do
anything about it? It's your life,
but it's not mine.
(then)
I want to be with dad!

PAM
Duncan,...

Trent scoffs. Duncan looks at him.

DUNCAN
I'm going to live with my father!

TRENT
Your father? Good luck with
that...

Duncan looks a little thrown, confused.

PAM
Trent, don't...

TRENT
He doesn't want you, kid.

Duncan stricken, looks at Pam.

DUNCAN
Is that true?

PAM
(pained)
Duncan...

Duncan takes off toward the beach, passing Susanna. Kip turns to Joan. She sips her wine, and looks right at him.

85

EXT. JOAN AND KIP'S HOUSE/BEACH - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

85

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

SUSANNA
I told you this place sucks.

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

SUSANNA (CONT'D)

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

Still nothing from Duncan. She pushes on.

SUSANNA (CONT'D)

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

(then, shrugging)

I don't know. My dad finds it cool. He's a dork.

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

SUSANNA (CONT'D)

Oh,...

Beat. He tries again.

SUSANNA (CONT'D)

Duncan, wait.

Duncan jumps up.

DUNCAN

I just wanted... Sorry.

He walks off.

86

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - BACK DECK - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

86

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

DUNCAN'S POV through the SLATS...

TRENT

I'm an asshole. You deserve better. But, I can be that. I have to be that. Come on, I need you.

(beat)

We need each other.

He reaches for her hand. She makes a fist. Unwelcome. That said, she doesn't walk away. Duncan's seen enough. He scurries under the house, bumping into...

PETER

Where are you going?

Duncan, startled, jumps. Peter is there, holding some action figures.

DUNCAN

(hushed)

... Shut up, Peter...

ANGLE ON Pam/Trent, looking in their direction.

PAM

(calling out)

... Duncan?

She starts to move toward the SIDE OF THE DECK.

ANGLE ON Duncan and Peter, moving along underneath.

PETER

(whispering)

Take me with you.

DUNCAN

No. I...

PETER

(hushed)

Please!

DUNCAN

No.

PAM (O.S.)

Duncan...

Duncan hears Pam's footsteps above them, approaching.

PETER

I'll scream.

Duncan grapples, then...

87 **EXT. WATERPARK - PARKING LOT - NIGHT - A LITTLE LATER** 87

Duncan rides his bike. Peter, sits on the handlebars, smiling ear to ear.

88 **EXT. WATERPARK - EMPLOYEE LOUNGE - NIGHT - LATER** 88

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

RODDY

Or, you could just try opening the gate.

Off Duncan's look,...

89 **EXT./INT. WATERPARK - EMPLOYEE LOUNGE - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER**

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

RODDY

(to Room)

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

ANGLE ON Owen with Partygoers. He heads over.

Peter noticing a COOLER. Grabs a couple BEERS.

PETER

Hell, yeah. I could use a cleansing ale.

Just then, Owen intercepts, taking the beers.

OWEN

Or, check them out from afar.

PETER

I've thrown a few back before.

OWEN

Yeah, and I've spent a night in jail before. There's a limit for everything.

(to Duncan)

What's your friend's name?

DUNCAN

Peter.

OWEN

Nice eye patch.

PETER

Thanks.

OWEN

You don't sound too cool with it.

PETER

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

OWEN

Oh, well now you have to show me.

Peter takes it off.

OWEN (CONT'D)

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

PETER

(smiles)

You're full of shit.

OWEN

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

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

PETER

(way too excited)

No way! Pizza and chicken wings!

(ALT: Mind if I mingle?)

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

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

DUNCAN
You're having a party?

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

OWEN
It's a farewell for Lewis. Guess he was serious this time.

Duncan nods. Beat.

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

Duncan considers, but...

DUNCAN
Nah. Just wanted to hang out.

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

Duncan nods. Owen can tell he's not himself. He puts his hand on Duncan's shoulder, walks him over to the rest of the GANG.

90

INT. WATERPARK - EMPLOYEE LOUNGE - NIGHT - A LITTLE LATER 90

PARTYGOERS/EMPLOYEES are dancing. Duncan grabs three pieces of pizza off a TABLE. We STEADY CAM as he shuffles through the "dance floor," passing Peter, who's thrashing around. Peter has quite a bit of CHICKEN WING sauce on his face. Peter tries to "grind" up on Caitlin. She politely pushes him away.

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

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

OWEN

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

Peter dances by, BEER in hand. Without missing a beat, Owen takes that one from him, too. Duncan plants himself down between Roddy and Owen. He's one of the guys.

DISSOLVE TO:

A90 INT. WATERPARK - EMPLOYEE LOUNGE - NIGHT - A LITTLE LATER A90

Duncan, Owen, Caitlin, and Roddy lounge on the COUCHES. Caitlin, a little tipsy, starts making up a song about "Water Wizz." Roddy goads, encouraging her.

ANGLE ON OWEN/DUNCAN. Duncan glances at Owen, who's enjoying the fact that Caitlin is center stage and having fun again.

DISSOLVE TO:

B90 INT. WATERPARK - EMPLOYEE LOUNGE - NIGHT - A LITTLE LATER B90

Owen stands up on his desk.

OWEN

(to Room)

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

LEWIS

(protesting)

No, no...

The crowd goads. Owen glances at Roddy, conspiratorially. Roddy, taking the cue, nudges Duncan.

RODDY

(to Duncan, conspicuously)

You want to be part of a tradition?

Duncan nods. They cross off.

LEWIS

(to Owen)

I'm not opening myself up to some bit.

OWEN

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

Lewis takes a moment.

LEWIS

Well,... I won't say that I won't
totally miss some aspects of this
place. It wasn't completely void
of decent times. I remember a
couple of days that stick out as
almost memorable.

(beat, then genuine)

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

Just then, a very powerful STREAM OF WATER nails Lewis right
in the face.

ANGLE ON DUNCAN, armed with a major POWER SOAKER water gun.

OWEN

(disbelief)
Duncan,...?!

DUNCAN

(deer in headlights)
It's... part of a tradition...

OWEN

What kind of warped tradition is
that?!

Duncan glances over at Roddy, catching him grinning.
Duncan's been duped.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Lewis was pouring his heart out...

LEWIS

I was going to say "people." I'll
miss the people...

Suddenly, Lewis is nailed again in the face.

ANGLE ON RODDY, now armed with a SOAKER as well.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

Seriously! My doctor said not to
get water on my face...!

He's nailed AGAIN.

ANGLE ON CAITLIN, now armed herself. Lewis, fed up, goes for Caitlin's soaker. She relents. And, with that... A free for all.

DISSOLVE TO:

C90 INT. WATERPARK - EMPLOYEE LOUNGE - NIGHT - A LITTLE LATER C90

The place is soaked. As is everybody. Duncan surveys a WALL OF PHOTOS. Summers past at Water Wizz.

DUNCAN'S POV of PHOTOS. Everyone's accounted for. Owen, Caitlin, Roddy, Lewis... And, now, Duncan's up there. He's in his Water Wizz shirt, beaming for the camera.

Duncan notices Owen approaching Caitlin. He hands her a TOWEL.

ANGLE ON CAITLIN/OWEN.

OWEN

Fun night.

CAITLIN

... Yeah.

OWEN

Look, I'm sorry. I'm developmentally challenged. It's bad. Like, "very special episode" bad...

CAITLIN

I was just frustrated...

OWEN

I know.

CAITLIN

It just started out as one summer here and then turned into 3 years. And, that had a lot to do with you. I just don't want to look back and regret that it should have only been one summer.

OWEN

You won't.

ANGLE ON DUNCAN, as Owen kisses Caitlin.

ANGLE ON OWEN/CAITLIN.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Unless, this place gets swallowed up by a giant sinkhole. Then, you're going to wish you had gotten out sooner.

91 **INT. WATERPARK - EMPLOYEE LOUNGE - NIGHT - A LITTLE LATER** 91

It has become a full on dance circle has formed. No one is holding back. Everyone takes a turn. Duncan, naturally shows off his new pop 'n lock moves. Finally, Peter is up, dancing his ass off. They cheer as...

PETER

Oh shit, I'm feeling the beat.

Suddenly,... He VOMITS.

A91 **EXT. WATERPARK - EMPLOYEE LOUNGE - THE NEXT MORNING** A91

Owen emerges. Outside, passed out Partygoers on lounge chairs. Remnants of the party strewn about. Owen looks up at HURRICANE HILL.

OWEN POV of Duncan up at the top.

92 **EXT. WATERPARK - HURRICANE HILL - THE NEXT MORNING** 92

Duncan sits on the railing. The sun just about to come up. Owen approaches.

OWEN

I said you could hang out for a little bit. And, I meant it. Sunrise of the next day is where I have to draw the line.

(then)

You need to go home.

Duncan doesn't budge.

DUNCAN

I wish I could stay here forever.

Owen sits.

OWEN

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

(MORE)

OWEN (CONT'D)

Painting houses until it gets too cold, bar backing at some dive to scrape rent together, talking to inanimate objects...

DUNCAN

I'm serious.

OWEN

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

DUNCAN

I don't have anywhere else to go.

OWEN

I bet that's not true.

DUNCAN

This is the only place I'm happy.

Duncan starts crying.

OWEN

Oh, hey. Hey.

DUNCAN

I hate him.

OWEN

Who?

DUNCAN

Trent. My mom's boyfriend. He said I was a three. He asked me what I thought I was on a scale from one to ten. He said I was a three.

(beat)

Who says that to somebody?

OWEN

Someone who doesn't know you.

DUNCAN

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

OWEN

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

Duncan looks at him.

DUNCAN
How do you know?

OWEN
Because my father was the same way.
(then)
And that's why I hate patterns. And
that's why you can't buy into that
shit. And that's why you gotta go
your own way.

Owen smiles.

OWEN (CONT'D)
And you, my friend, are going your
own way.

93 **EXT. WATERPARK - EMPLOYEE LOUNGE - DAY**

93

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

OWEN
Rise and shine, Patches.

Peter wakes up, letting out a loud STRETCH.

PETER
Last night was awesome.
Did I get laid?

Duncan and Owen shocked, laugh.

PETER (CONT'D)
I feel like I did. Did I?

They laugh even harder.

94 **EXT. POWDER POINT BRIDGE - DAY - A LITTLE LATER**

94

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

PETER
Stop. Stop!

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

PETER (CONT'D)
I'm okay.

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

PETER (CONT'D)
Stop. Stop!

He jumps off again. Tries to puke. Nothing.

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

A few feet.

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

95

EXT. BEACH HOUSE (FRONT) - DAY - A LITTLE LATER

95

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

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

Suddenly, Betty bursts out, runs down stairs.

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

PETER
Not now, woman.

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

BETTY
What did you just say to me?!

PETER
We'll talk when I get up.

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

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

ANGLE ON Trent exiting his house, carrying bags.

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

Trent puts down the bags.

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

Duncan's confused. Why the good mood?

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

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

STEPH
I hope you're happy now.

96

INT. BEACH HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY - MOMENTS LATER 96

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

DUNCAN
What's going on?

Pam doesn't turn around.

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

DUNCAN
Mom, I'm sorry.

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

PAM
I know. Me too.

Beat.

DUNCAN

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

PAM

Duncan,...

DUNCAN

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

PAM

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

DUNCAN

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

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

PAM

I don't expect you to understand...

His face says it all. "Unbelievable."

PAM (CONT'D)

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

Pam struggles. This doesn't come easy.

PAM (CONT'D)

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

DUNCAN

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

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

97

EXT. BEACH HOUSE (FRONT) - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

97

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

TRENT

Is that it?

No one answers. He goes to lock up.

ANGLE ON PAM/BETTY.

PAM

Thanks for everything.

Betty hugs her tightly.

BETTY

I think you're great.

ANGLE ON SUSANNA/DUNCAN at the station wagon door.

DUNCAN

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

(beat)

Goodbye.

SUSANNA

Goodbye.

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

SUSANNA (CONT'D)

You just surprised me, that's all.

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

DUNCAN

What are you looking at, perv?

He proudly takes his back bench seat.

98

INT. STATION WAGON - DAY

98

The car pulls out the driveway.

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

A100 **EXT. STATION WAGON - DAY - CONTINUOUS** A100

Pam jumps out, chasing after Duncan. She passes Trent, who's still pumping gas. Trapped.

TRENT

... Pam...

101 **EXT. WATERPARK - EMPLOYEE LOUNGE - DAY - MOMENTS LATER** 101

Duncan, like a man on a mission, runs right up to Owen. Neil, Jason, and Kyle are there.

OWEN

Hey...

DUNCAN

We're leaving.

OWEN

What?

DUNCAN

I came to say goodbye. Come on.

Duncan walks off. Owen looks to the guys, puzzled. They follow Duncan. Pam, a little frazzled, enters the EMPLOYEE GATE, surveying this strange land.

102 **EXT. WATERPARK - TOP OF DEVIL'S PEAK - DAY - MOMENTS LATER** 102

CLOSE ON DUNCAN.

DUNCAN

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

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

KYLE

(calling down)

Pop 'n Lock's going for it! He's gonna try to pass Owen on the slide!

A102 **EXT. WATERPARK - EMPLOYEE LOUNGE - DAY - SAME TIME** A102

Pam notices a plaque hanging on one of the MAIN OFFICE walls.

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

Pam notices PATRONS filing past her, as Trent/Steph step up behind her, even more lost than she is. Curious, Pam follows the natural flow of people. Trent and Steph, less enthused.

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

A large crowd gathers at the base. Pam, Trent, and Steph join them, not sure what they're there to see.

CROWD

Pop 'n Lock! Pop 'n Lock!

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

NEIL

So, how do you plan to do it?

DUNCAN

I don't know.

KYLE

What makes you think you can?

DUNCAN

Don't die wondering, man.

Owen smiles. He likes seeing this side of Duncan.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

(to Owen)

You go first. I'll follow right behind you.

Owen, like Malcolm had before, tries to get some momentum by grabbing the sides. Duncan stands close behind him.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

One, two, three... Go!

Owen launches himself into the tube. Duncan jumps in, right on his tail, face first.

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

The crowd stares in silence, including Pam and Trent and Steph. They don't know what they're looking for, but they can't take their eyes off the tube.

Caitlin approaches, standing right next to Pam. She's wondering what the hell is going on as well.

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

Until, all of the sudden....

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

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

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

OWEN

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

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

KYLE

How did you do it?!

OWEN

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

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

DUNCAN

Mom, this is Owen. My friend who
drives.

(then)

Owen, my mom.

OWEN

It's a pleasure to meet you.

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

PAM

... Yeah, you too.

OWEN

You've got a helluva a kid here.

Trent steps up behind Pam.

TRENT
Are we done?

OWEN
(exaggerated pleasance)
Oh, and this must be Trent.

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

OWEN (CONT'D)
Hi. I'm Owen, a good friend of
"the three."

TRENT
Hey. Let's go.

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

TRENT (CONT'D)
(giving up)
I'll be in the car.

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

DUNCAN
Mom, can you give us a second?

PAM
(coming to)
Oh. Of course.

As if in a trance, Pam walks off.

DUNCAN
Goodbye, Roddy.

RODDY
Pop 'n Lock.

DUNCAN
Caitlin.

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

DUNCAN
Bye, Lewis.

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

LEWIS

Yeah, yeah.

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

OWEN

Come on, my man. Shorter conversations...

Duncan hugs Owen.

DUNCAN

Thank you.

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

DISSOLVE TO:

106

INT. STATION WAGON - DAY

106

Like how we began, Duncan is in the way, way back. Tan and SOPPING WET. Smiling, ear to ear. Pam stares out her window, lost in thought. Beat. Trent glances into the rearview mirror.

TRENT

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

PAM

Trent...

TRENT

I'm just curious...

(to Duncan)

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

PAM

Stop it.

She looks at Trent, daggers.

PAM (CONT'D)

All you are to us is a ride home.

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

TRENT

What the hell, Pam...?!

107 **EXT. STATION WAGON - DAY - CONTINUOUS** 107

Pam continues over the front seat.

108 **INT. STATION WAGON - DAY - CONTINUOUS** 108

Pam climbs over Steph and joins her son. They just sit, staring straight ahead. No need to check in with each other. They're on the same page. For now, they need only enjoy the view from the way, way back. And, just as the slightest hint of a smile comes to Duncan's face, we....

FADE OUT.