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A Thesis
Presented to
the Faculty of the Humanities and Teacher Education Division
Pepperdine University

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Fine Arts

by
Sherroy N. Chapman Jr
April 2019

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This thesis, written by

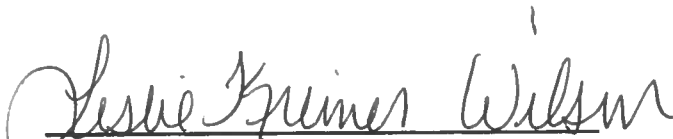
SHERROY N. CHAPMAN JR

under the guidance of a faculty committee and approved by its members, has been submitted to and accepted by the graduate faculty in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF FINE ARTS

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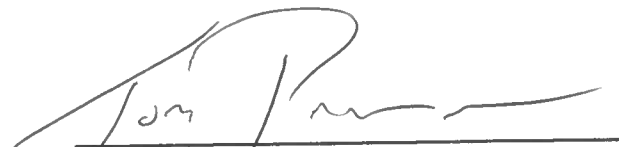
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ESSAY: Searching for the Truth.....	1-10
SCRIPT 1: Big Brother.....	1-90
SCRIPT 2: Central High.....	1-35
SCRIPT 3: Let Go.....	1- 10
SCRIPT 4: Superstore.....	1-30
SCRIPT 5: Nerd Love.....	1-13
SCRIPT 6: MasterChef: Prison Edition.....	1-8

Introduction: Searching for the Truth

Life is a difficult adventure that unfolds in real time. Some days may be fun and adventurous while other days may be dull and boring. Throughout my life, I have had the opportunity to experience both the adventurous aspect and the dull phrase of life. I am very blessed to say that reality almost always seemed boring to me, and I always wanted to find an escape from it. Television was a big part of my childhood as I was able to witness the surge of Nickelodeon and their influence on the youth by the way of cartoons. Watching my favorite shows such as *Hey Arnold* and *Rocko's Modern Life* was the highlight of my childhood. These cartoons were able to deal with real time narrative such as racism, social injustice, as well as satire and convert it to material that kids can relate to, which allowed me to be immersed in a world that seemed different from my own.

As I have gotten older, I now realize that I have the capacity to create my own worlds, characters, and plots. But with this creation comes many questions that require a deep understanding of my values as a writer and as a person that is a member of our society. The saying that is featured repeatedly in the Spider Man comic book series, "Power comes with great responsibility," comes to mind. While many focus on popular directors or actors, the truth is that writers have the greatest social responsibility and must ask themselves such questions as the following: Will this story offend anyone? Who is my intended audience for this story? These questions are especially important to me as a comedy writer. During my time in the MFA program at Pepperdine, my professors pushed me to think explicitly about these questions and my values as a writer. In search for the answer, I look to the shows and films that motivated me to become a writer. Comedy is all I know essentially. It is the one thing in life that I am very

good at. The MFA program has given me the opportunity to grow in my comedy writing. As I am continuing to grow as a comedy writer, the answer to the questions mentioned are becoming clearer each day especially when I examine the work of the writers I admire. Spike Lee, Mel Brooks, and Barry Jenkins are three writers who differ in writing styles and genre. I will have the privilege of analyzing their work and how it motivates me as a writer in the section below.

II. Spike Lee: By Any Means Necessary

Spike Lee's motto at the end of his films "By any means necessary" is a trademark expression that sticks with me. But as Lee inspired me, it was Malcolm X who inspired Spike Lee throughout his life. The motto "By any means necessary" was used by Malcolm X in the founding rally of the organization of Afro-American Unity on June 28, 1964. This motto also finds its way to the end scene of the film *Malcolm X*. Lee wanted to be on screen and say the words to the camera, but was warned against doing so by the late Nelson Mandela. Lee decided to take the advice of Mandela and showed a black and white shot of Malcolm X saying those very words at the end of the film.

Spike Lee is a fearless writer who is not afraid to focus on controversial topics such as racism, poverty, and urban life. Perhaps this is the reason why he is able to enjoy success away from mainstream Hollywood. One word of advice that is instilled upon us is "write what you know." This is true for the topics that Lee explores in his films. One film that resonated with me is *Do the Right Thing* (1989). This film has much of the topics that Lee usually explores in his films. *Do the Right Thing* steers away from conventional Hollywood storytelling. It does not include a nice suburban community with a picket fence and a sea of American flags waving in the wind. It displays the city life that includes a family community since most of the residents of that borough know of each other. The elders of the community are somewhat respected in terms

of Mother Sister (Ruby Dee), but disrespect is aimed toward Da Mayor (Ossie Davis) who is known as the neighborhood bum, but he too grows in character by the end of the film.

Do the Right Thing also shows the growing influence of non-black businesses in the black community. This influx ends in complete chaos as the Italian pizzeria is destroyed as opposed to the Korean-owned business. In the midst of all of this chaos, the protagonist remains cool. Mookie (Spike Lee) is best known for his iconic Dodger jersey and his flashy Nike Air Max, but he is also known for his relaxed personality. He has his own share of problems such as family and work issues as that melting pot is getting ready to erupt. Lee is able to use Mookie and other characters who have problems related to the black community. Even more effectively, Lee uses Mookie as the character of peace since he is the main person who is trying to calm down his fellow African Americans and the Italian family that owns the pizzeria. Some of the greatest scenes in the film are part of a sequence that tells us, as the viewer, consequences are near. Since Mookie works at the Italian pizzeria, it seems as if he is the community ambassador for his fellow African Americans. This is the case since Buggin' Out, a fellow member of the community, questions Sal's decision to only display pictures of famous Italian Americans in a pizzeria located in a prominently African-American community. This confrontation leads to a boombox incident that involved Buggin' Out (Giancarlo Esposito) and Radio Raheem (Bill Nunn) going into Sal's pizzeria and bothering him to the point at which Sal (Danny Aiello) takes a bat to Radio Raheem's boombox. Still, at this point Mookie remains calm at the sight of events escalating. In his book *Spike Lee's Do the Right Thing*, Mark A. Reid explains, "Mookie...lives in the neighborhood and most of its African -American and Puerto Rican residents can respect him. Mookie is the mediating character who tries to ease the racial animosity between Sal and two black teenagers, Buggin' Out and Radio Raheem" (9).

Interestingly, the film does show the human nature of Mookie as he lets his emotion get the best of him when he sees the police kill his close friend, Radio Raheem. Mookie then throws a trash can through the window of Sal's shop, prompting the angry mob to destroy the pizzeria. The actual trashing and looting of the store was not the interesting thing about this scene, but the fact that the very wall of fame that Buggin' Out complained about was also destroyed. In the absence of the pictures of the famous Italian Americans, pictures of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King are hung on the wall. *Do the Right Thing* ends in similar fashion as *Malcolm X* with quotes from Martin Luther King and Malcolm X. The Martin Luther King quote of "violence is never justified under any circumstances" aligns closely with Mookie's willingness to calm the two sides before a riot occurs. This quote is vastly different from the Malcolm X's: "violence is not violence, but intelligence when it is used in self-defense."

This film influences me as a writer, but also as a person of color. It is always refreshing to see characters who look like me deal with issues of race similar to mine. One notion that I think about is Spike Lee's fearless approach regarding racial issues. In my own scripts, I tend to tell stories about character of color instead of non-colored characters. I also give a positive light to character of color similar to Spike Lee's approach. But do I tell the story unfiltered without regards to who gets offended? Not yet. This is one of the many questions that I continue to ask myself as a writer. I question the notion of being authentic, but also getting my message across without being biased or offensive. As I continue to look at Spike Lee's work, then I perhaps I can get a clearer picture on how to master telling an authentic story that is authentic to me as the writer.

III. Mel Brooks: Unfiltered Comedy

Mel Brooks is the mastermind behind many comedies that Americans still enjoy to this day. Some of his famous work includes *Blazing Saddles* and *The Producers*. They provide iconic characters and punchlines worthy of acclaim years after their respective releases. Most notable in Mel Brooks's work is his willingness to deliver his message unfiltered. Brooks made it known throughout his career that being politically correct is like "suicide" to a comedian's career.

"I've never been a fan of political correctness. I've been a fan of decent behavior, which is different from political correctness," Brooks said. "Because political correctness demands too much respect for being good. And comics are not good. We are bad. We whisper into the king's ear. We tell him the truth. And that's our job. It's our job to say it like it is. And sometimes use the words that we use in the street. You can't always play ball with the system, you have to strike out and tell the truth" (qtd. in Gwinn). Looking back at the history of Hollywood till modern times, I understand Brooks's comments. Comedy is meant to explore new themes and subjects and see how they settle. If your idea does not work, then you will strike out, but the idea of trying to impact people and say something important is what matters in this genre.

Blazing Saddles (1974) remains ranked at number six on AFI's list of 100 funniest American movies of all time. This film explores racism and effectively uses that theme to break the conventional norms of the western genre. In *Blazing Saddles*, attorney General Hedley Lamarr (Harvey Korman) has convinced Governor Lepetomane (Mel Brooks) to choose Bart (Cleavon Little), a black railroad worker scheduled to be hanged, as the new sheriff of the town. Lamarr knows that some of the settlers in the town will not be willing to accept this nomination. He also knows he could effectively tear apart the town, so he can further his plans of taking over with little resistance. Thus, Bart has to overcome resistance to win the heart and minds of the

townspeople. The fact that Bart is made sheriff is one example of something you would not see in a traditional western. Brooks used the norms of the western genre and turned them upside down. According to Gwinn, “If Brooks hasn’t convinced us up until now that most of what we ‘know’ about the wild west is unalloyed Hollywood hokum, the resulting fist – and pie – fight among the Rock Ridgers, Lamarr’s hood, and Bizarre’s dancing ‘Sissy Marys’ makes it clear enough, bursting right through the WB commissary – whose diners include, as we’ve come to expect from the man behind *The Producers*, an actor dressed as Hitler” (60).

Brooks challenged many norms in *Blazing Saddles*, and, as such, many have characterized the film as parody or spoof, which would be a fair assessment of all of his work. In my own writing, I tend to write spoofs about many of the existing themes that Hollywood explores. I look at Brooks’s *Blazing Saddles* as the ultimate motivation for writing a spoof. One of my favorite moments in film is the fight scene that involves the townsfolk and Lamarr’s army of thugs that literally breaks the fourth wall and spills out onto the Warner Bros lot. Certain elements work well in certain comedic situation, and chaos is one of those elements that work timelessly again and again. But also, the dramatic events during this film have to be noticed as well. The transformation in Bart’s friendship with Jim (Gene Wilder) dramatizes the situation of Bart being tested every step of the way as the lone black sheriff. Jim is always at the side of Bart in every crucial moment of the film. Their friendship is a sign of true hope within the punchlines and running gags of the parody, and we can relate to their relationship. Gwinn explains, “In *Blazing Saddles*, even surrounded by all that craziness, the emotional moments are played partially for real. The little old lady does break Bart’s spirit: Jim truly does care about cheering him up; Bart’s railroad pal Charlie, reunited with the buddy he’s thought dead, really is elated at

seeing him; the townspeople, if not exactly converted, truly do have a change of heart; leaving town for ‘nowhere special,’ Bart and Jim, black man and white, truly are fast friends” (57).

As a comedy writer, I tend to think that punchlines and laughs are the most important factors to invest in while crafting the story. But as I continue to look at *Blazing Saddles* and other comedies that made the AFI’s 100 funniest American movies of all time, I see a trend of the emotional connection it has with audiences. In fact, the criteria that the films were judged on contain two subjects that are helpful for me as a writer. The laughter aspect of the criteria is based on an emotional experience that goes beyond the sum of laughter. Many years from the initial release of the film, audiences can see it again and have the same connection with the story. *Blazing Saddles* was released in 1974 and still to this day has a profound impact on me as a comedy writer.

IV. Barry Jenkins: Write against the Market

Moonlight (2016) is a film that tells a story that is easy for Hollywood to overlook as something other than mainstream. But it is interesting to look at film theory and understand that Hollywood has almost never understood race theory and queer theory. I was fortunate to take the film theory course right before writing this essay. Queer theory is a fascinating theory to me since it pushes for a positive portrayal of homosexuality in film. We have seen films in the past that support this notion such as *Brokeback Mountain* (2005) and *Boys Don’t Cry* (1999), but we rarely see a film that tackles the struggles of the LGBT community in an urban area or the struggles of gay men and women of color. Barry Jenkins had a tough time trying to convince financiers to back the film in 2013. According to Jenkins, “Moonlight is a story that hasn’t been told. Whether placed as queer black cinema or urban male cinema, the lack of coming of age

films featuring people like Chiron and set in places like inner city Miami is pronounced and unfortunate. While it would be glib to say this lack makes the film an inherently important story to tell, it would be factual to frame it thusly: people like our characters exist” (qtd. in Kohn).

As mentioned, Jenkins was not able to get the film financed in 2013. It was not until years later that he was able to get the film financed and released. As writers, we often hear “write what you know,” but in Jenkins’s case it was “write against the market.” The marketplace in Hollywood is based on box office returns. So, as writers, we must understand that point, but continue to work on films that may seem less popular. Once *Moonlight* was released, it got the attention of Hollywood and the Academy of Motion Pictures Art and Science, a well-respected institution that awarded the film with best picture in 2016.

Moonlight is a unique film since it guides the viewer through three sections of Chiron’s life titled “Little” (Alex R. Hibbert), “Chiron” (Ashton Sanders), and “Black” (Trevante Rhodes). These time periods cover the young adolescence, mid-teens, and young adult phases of his life. The film does a beautiful job in emphasizing from the beginning that Chiron is a lost kid in a rough neighborhood. The other boys in the neighborhood makes fun of him because he is different. Chiron befriends a drug dealer named Juan (Mahershala Ali) who acts as his mentor. This friendship ends once Chiron knows that his mother is one of the customers Juan deals drugs to. From that moment, Chiron has to deal with the harsh realities by himself. It is a unique case of him versus society as everyone in his path seem to discriminate against him based on his sexuality.

Chiron’s sexuality is in question during all three parts of the film, but it is not until his mid-teens phase in which he engages in sexual behavior during the beach scene in which Chiron and his best friend from high school, Kevin (Andre Holland), are sitting on a beach. Kevin is a

typical jock and popular kid at school, so no one dislikes him. He is considered cool in the eyes of the other kids especially the bullies of the school. But the problem of identity does not only affect Chiron, but it also affects Kevin as he had a romantic interlude with Chiron, which indicates his genuine affection for his friend.

This memory would haunt Chiron as he grows in life and tries to be someone society wants him to be. The ending of the film delivers a heartwarming moment since it shows Chiron coming to peace with his sexuality as he bonds with his friend Kevin. This film is able to give a different perspective on homosexuality. *Moonlight* informs communities that did not know the struggles of non-white LGBT people. This revelation may have contributed to the success of the film since it was seen as an educating moment to the world and Hollywood. The success of this movie also serves as a good reminder that characters of color should appear in more mainstream films. According to one reviewer, “Moonlight is a film about faces. Chiron’s eyes say so much that this young man has not been taught how to express. He is young, black, gay, poor, and largely friendless – the kind of person who feels like he could literally vanish from being so unseen by the world” (Tallerico).

I admire Barry Jenkins’s determination to write a film that was considered not worthy of telling at first. He effectively wrote against the market and followed his passion. As writers, we have to make a living, and I understand that by making a living we need to work on projects that our hearts are not fully invested in. But during my years of schooling, I was also told by my instructors to follow your passion and never lose sight of what motivates you. Looking back at this advice, I can only translate it to write stories that you have passion for and realize that you have to fight for them because if you do not fight for your stories, then who will? Barry Jenkins’s *Moonlight* is a strong reminder of the fight we must endure as screenwriters.

V. Conclusion: Roadmap to Success

It would be tempting to say I want to do anything in comedy, but life is much harder than that. Yes, I want to do mostly everything that has to do with comedy in Hollywood. This goal would take some planning to do. Being enrolled in this MFA program at Pepperdine, I was able to find a new profession that I am interested in and that is teaching at the university level. The idea of being able to give back to the future generation of writers is very rewarding, but I must also think about reality since I would likely teach part time.

My passion to be a comedy television writer is the main goal I want to pursue post Pepperdine life. In my pursuit of this goal, I will set myself up for the best opportunities by continuing with internships until I find a good assistant job and thereby form personal relationships. Through these relationships, I hope to become the writer's assistant in a writer's room. After years of hard work, my final goal would be to join the writing staff on a sitcom.

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BIG BROTHER

Written by

Sherroy Chapman

FADE IN:

INT. STAPLES CENTER - NIGHT

The crowd in the arena cheers while others throw popcorn.

Fans with Lakers jerseys shout at the fans with Hornets jerseys.

The scoreboard has a tied score and the clock is set at 20 seconds. Number 38 is the lead score with 28 points.

INT. BASKETBALL COURT - NIGHT

DERRICK SMITH, 27, handsome and fit, runs up the court with the ball. He wears a jersey with the number 38. He is guarded by tight defense from the opposing team point guard.

Derrick smirks as he crosses the point guard making him fall on the floor.

The crowd goes crazy as Derrick makes the 3 pointer.

DERRICK
All day, all day.

INT. BENCH - MOMENTS LATER

Derrick starts to high five some of the fans as he goes toward the bench for a time out.

The Lakers huddle around their coach.

COACH
We have the game in our favor,
guys. We have to play solid defense
and if we can get the ball... GIVE
IT TO SMITH!

The players nod in agreement.

Derrick sips from a Gatorade bottle as he feels a hand touch his shoulder.

SABRINA and JESSICA, mid 20s, attractive super models, smiles at Derrick.

SABRINA
Hi, Mr. MVP.

JESSICA

I like seeing you play. You make it look so easy.

DERRICK

I know. I'm pretty awesome.

The clock alarm sounds off and some of the players begin to go back onto the court.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Watch me win this game and take you two out for a night of celebrations?

Derrick gets up and proceeds to the court and stop to turn back at Jessica and Sabrina to give them a wink.

Jessica and Sabrina begin to freak out like high school girls.

His teammates shake their heads.

INT. BASKETBALL COURT - MOMENTS LATER

Derrick has his game face as he looks at the shot clock. It reads 10 seconds.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Folks, this is down to the grind. The Hornets needs to come back with a three pointer of their own to put this game into overtime.

The Lakers players get into their places.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Derrick Smith has been a problem for the hornets all game long. He's has been shooting three's from inside the arch all game. I wonder if he can pull this off and put his team in the playoffs.

ANNOUNCER 2 (V.O.)

We'll see. He'll silence his many haters if he manages to win this game.

The referee blows his whistle and hands the ball to the Hornet player. He passes the ball to the point guard.

Derrick plays with tight defense on the point guard. The point guard signals for a pick and roll. A big center comes and bumps into Derrick causing him to fall.

The point guard takes and make the three pointer. The crowd reacts in boos and throwing of popcorn.

Derrick walks towards the referee with his arms extended.

DERRICK
Ain't no foul ref?

The referee ignores Derrick as he collects the basketball and hands it to CHASE JOHNSON, mid 20s, southern type and a 7 footer.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
Do you hear me? I was fouled in
broad daylight and you didn't say
anything.

The referee finally had enough.

REFEREE
That was not a foul. Learn how to
play basketball.

Derrick is shocked.

DERRICK
And you need to learn how to do
your job.

REFEREE
You better watch yourself, Smith.

Derrick shakes his head as he takes his place on the court. He takes a look at the shot clock. It reads 5 seconds.

He takes a deep breath and closes his eyes. He reopen his eyes with a determined look.

The referee blows his whistle. Chase passes the ball to Derrick.

He sprints with the ball to half court. With each step he is taking the crowd is counting down the seconds.

Two Hornets players try to block his shot at half court.

Derrick watches the ball leaves his hand and continues to watch it.

The crowd is silent as the ball travels to the hoop.

The ball takes a high bounce from the rim and goes through the hoop.

The Lakers fans go wild as some fans hug each other.

Derrick pumps his fists in the air as his team tackles him to the ground.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

They did it! They're going to the playoffs! The Lakers win. The Lakers winnn!

Derrick gets high fives from his teammates.

CROWD

MVP! MVP! MVP!

Derrick smiles as he waves to the crowd. He pounds his chest as he walks slowly to the locker room.

A reporter stops Derrick.

REPORTER

Derrick Smith. That was a nice game. My only question; how did you manage to get off that shot with two defenders in your face?

Derrick smiles as he takes the microphone from the reporter and look directly into the camera.

DERRICK

I'm the best that had even played this game. Kobe, Magic, Shaq they ain't got nothing on me. I will make those guys look like preschoolers!

Derrick drops the microphone and walks back to the locker room.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Derrick receives a champagne bottle. His teammates begin to pour champagne on him.

Derrick tries to fight back by pouring his bottle back on them. He receives a cigar by the head coach.

COACH

Settle down. We haven't won the championship game yet. The game ball belongs to you.

Coach hands the ball to Derrick.

COACH (CONT'D)

Without your leadership skills we wouldn't stand a chance this season. I'll talk to you guys again in two days at practice. So rest up and don't do anything stupid.

Coach winks at Derrick as he exits the locker room with his staff.

Derrick is at his locker looking through his clothes. ROBERT SILVA, late 20s, sits next to Derrick.

ROBERT

Where are we going after this?

Derrick shrugs as he admires himself in the mirror.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

I hear that chicks dig basketball players who are MVPs.

Derrick looks at Robert.

DERRICK

Chicks dig Derrick Smith regardless of a award bro.

Derrick goes back to admiring himself in the mirror.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

But I already got a table booked at The Mayan with two super models.

ROBERT

Oh, tonight is going to be a fun night.

Chase sits at his locker. Chase shivers as water drips from his hair.

CHASE

Can you believe there's no hot water?

ROBERT

First world problems?

DERRICK

More like a you problem. There's always hot water when I go. Or maybe I'm just that awesome.

Derrick gets up.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

If you will excuse me. I have a date with two super models. See you guys there?

Chase and Robert nod as Derrick leaves the locker room.

EXT. PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Derrick smiles as he walks toward Jessica and Sabrina.

DERRICK

Ladies. Shall we indulge ourselves in a productive night of drinking and other adult activities?

Sabrina and Jessica giggle.

SABRINA

Anything you want to do, Mr. MVP.

JESSICA

Yes, anything.

They walk to Derrick and rub his chest.

DERRICK

Well, it just got a less colder.

Jessica and Sabrina give Derrick a kiss on the cheek.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

I guess we should leave on that note.

They walk toward Derrick's limited edition Lamborghini Veneno. Sabrina and Jessica are shocked.

SABRINA

Nice car.

DERRICK

Yeah, it pretty awesome.

Derrick pulls out his phone and shows the models a picture on Facebook.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
Posted it on social media the other
day.

Derrick smirks at the models.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
It got over 300 thousand likes.

SABRINA
Oh my God!

JESSICA
I only get 25 thousands likes on
Instagram and that's only if I get
half naked.

Derrick opens the door of his car.

DERRICK
You know ladies I was once in your
shoes. Getting only 25 thousand
likes.

Derrick throws his bag in his car.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
But that was the past and now I am
Derrick Smith. The Derrick Smith.

Derrick gets into his car.

Sabrina and Jessica look at each other as they figured how
they will fit in the Veneno.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
One of you may have to sit in the
lap of the other person.

Jessica and Sabrina help each other to get into the Veneno.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
And off we go.

Derrick drives his car erratic as he drifts on the turns
nearly missing a few car. He ignores the parking attendant
and speeds through the gate. Knocking the plastic barrier to
the floor.

PARKING ATTENDANT
That's the fourth one this week.

EXT. FRONT OF CLUB - NIGHT

Derrick gets out of his car with a smile on his face.

Chants of MVP are heard from the crowd outside of the club. Derrick helps the models get out of his car. Derrick walks with them to the club.

Derrick nods his head at people he know while walking. A desperate female fan runs up to Derrick.

FEMALE FAN

Please! I want to have your kids!

DERRICK

Take your plan in line. You're not the first to say that to me.

Derrick chuckles as he nods at the security guard. The security guard removes the red rope.

SECURITY GUARD

Right this way Mr. MVP.

INT. CLUB - MOMENTS LATER

People dance effortlessly to the loud dance music. There are lines of cocaine on some of the tables as people sniff the lines.

Derrick makes his way to the bar. He has to avoid drunk people as some people are falling to the floor.

INT. BAR - MOMENTS LATER

Derrick makes it to the bar and takes a seat. Jessica and Sabrina take their own seat.

DERRICK

Hey bartender. Give me three fireballs and a bottle of Hennessey.

Derrick looks around the club. He points to a few people who make eye contact with him. The bartender comes with the drinks.

Derrick is about to toast himself as Chase and Robert meet him at the bar.

ROBERT

I know that Derrick Smith isn't making a toast without his boys.

CHASE

You're always a shady type. But a good damn player at the game.

DERRICK

Tell me something I don't know.

Derrick signals for two more fireballs at the bartender.

Chase and Robert look at Sabrina and Jessica. Chase whispers in Derrick's ear.

CHASE

They're smoking hot. You're not the only MVP at basketball.

Chase winks at Derrick.

DERRICK

Well, why don't you talk to them? Me and Rob will back you up.

Chase approaches Jessica.

CHASE

Hey. Um, hi.

Chase looks confused as he ponders. Jessica is worried.

JESSICA

Um, hi. And who are you?

Chase smiles awkwardly.

CHASE

Your drink looks empty. Let me get you a refill.

Jessica is impressed.

JESSICA

Oh, how sweet of you.

Chase rushes to get Jessica's refill.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

The employees here are so friendly and has fast service.

Derrick and Robert laugh. Derrick grabs Sabrina and kisses her on the neck.

DERRICK
Let's go dance.

SABRINA
Oh, someone might get lucky at the end of the night.

DERRICK
I don't require luck. I have skills.

Sabrina laughs as Derrick escorts her onto the dance floor.

ROBERT
How does he do it?

Robert begins to stare at a overweight female.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
I'm cold.

The overweight lady is offended.

OVERWEIGHT LADY
Excuse me?

Robert pretends to be cold.

ROBERT
I'm cold and lonely.

OVERWEIGHT LADY
Oh, you poor thing, come to momma.

They embrace. Chase comes back with Jessica's fireball refill.

Chase sees Robert being embraced by the overweight lady. Chase drinks the fireball and grabs the bottle of Hennessy and begins to guzzle it down.

INT. CLUB DANCE FLOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Derrick dances with Sabrina. He kisses her neck and Sabrina giggles. He has his hands on her hips as they dance.

SABRINA
Hmm. You've got moves.

DERRICK

Well, I hope that the MVP would
have some kind of moves.

They kiss. Sabrina beckons for Derrick to wait for her.

SABRINA

I've got something to make you feel
better. I'll be back.

INT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

Sabrina beckons the bartender.

SABRINA

Two Bloody Marys please.

The bartender nods as he goes to make the drinks. Sabrina
goes in her purse.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

Where did I put it?

Sabrina begins to search Jessica's purse. Sabrina is happy as
she pulls out a small bottle.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

Like she was going to use this
tonight.

The bartender comes back with the drinks. Sabrina pays him
and begins to pour the liquid from the tiny bottle into one
of the drinks.

She swirls the drink with her index finger. She lick her
finger and has a delighted look.

INT. DANCE FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Sabrina gives the drink to Derrick.

SABRINA

Here you go. The MVP deserves to
have fun after a season of hard
work.

DERRICK

You only live once, right?

Derrick chugs the drink as Sabrina watches him closely.
Derrick coughs violently.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
 Hmm. They've must of put a lot of
 alcohol in that one.

SABRINA
 Come. Let's have fun.

Sabrina starts to rub on Derrick's chest as she goes to kiss
 his neck.

SABRINA (CONT'D)
 You're sweating.

Derrick looks at the distorted figures on the dance floor.
 The sound of the dance floor is in echoes. Sabrina looks like
 a distorted Disney Princess.

DERRICK
 Sleeping Beauty?

Derrick shakes his head.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
 Is that Spongebob?

Derrick looks around the dance floor.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
 Where's his Pineapple?

Derrick wonders towards the exit of the club. Chase and
 Robert tries to bring Derrick back into the club.

Derrick fights them as he tries to make a run to his car. He
 breaks free from Chase's grip.

EXT. SIDEWALK - MOMENTS LATER

Derrick runs towards his car. He runs past the crowd waiting
 in front of the club. They starts to cheer Derrick as he runs
 past.

DERRICK
 There's gremlins everywhere!

The crowd is confused.

BYSTANDER 1
 Did he just call us gremlins?

BYSTANDER 2
 I think so. He must've been on some
 good stuff.

They high five each other.

BYSTANDER 1

Totally worth it to spend \$250 on
these fake IDs.

Derrick hurries into his car.

INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Derrick turns on his car. His GPS automatically starts to
tell him directions.

GPS

Turn right onto Yucca street.

Derrick is startled.

DERRICK

I even got gremlins in my car? I
have to get out of here!

Derrick steps on the gas. He drives recklessly as he drifts
the left turn on Yucca Street almost hitting a few
bystanders.

Derrick shouts at the bystanders from the window.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

The end is near. The end is near
for the world as we know it.

Derrick runs a red light and causes accidents as cars try to
avoid him.

Derrick speeds down Sunset Blvd. He ignores the crosswalks as
pedestrians rush back to the sidewalk.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Woooooo!

Derrick speeds by a police patrol car. The patrol car
immediately turns on his lights.

The patrol car chases after Derrick.

POLICE (V.O.)

Pull over now!

Derrick see the flashing police lights in his background. He
presses the nitrogen button. His car shoots out flames
causing one of the patrol cars to crash into a garbage truck.

DERRICK

Yeah! Almost home and I'll be safe
from this weird world.

Derrick starts to sweat profusely. He swipes sweat from his
brow.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Why the hell it's so hot?

Derrick turns on the AC but is still sweating profusely.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Need something to drink.

Derrick sees a gas station. He stops at the gas station. The
patrol car stop immediately behind him.

EXT. GAS STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Derrick gets out of his car slowly.

POLICE OFFICER 1

Alright asshole. Put your hands in
the air.

Derrick turns around slowly towards the officer.

POLICE OFFICER 1 (CONT'D)

Oh, Mr. Smith. We didn't know that
it was you.

DERRICK

Did I do something wrong, officer?

The police officers look confused at Derrick. They lower
their weapons.

POLICE OFFICER 2

Well, you violated a lot of traffic
laws back there.

Derrick is shocked.

DERRICK

I'm a law abiding citizen,
officers. How could you make such
false accusations?

Nearby bystanders record the incident with their smartphones.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Is this a warm evening or what?

POLICE OFFICER 1

Sir?

Derrick begins to undress.

POLICE OFFICER 1 (CONT'D)

Mr. Smith!

Derrick is confused.

DERRICK

What? It's hot.

The police has their stun guns pointed at Derrick again.
Police officer 1 walks slowly to Derrick.

POLICE OFFICER 1

Well, you see if you finished undressing then that would be another crime you're responsible for.

Derrick ponders for a few moments. Derrick takes off his pants.

DERRICK

Ah, feels better!

Police officer 1 goes in for the arrest.

POLICE OFFICER 1

Forgive me. You're under arrest Mr. Smith.

DERRICK

What! What for?

Derrick tries to resist. Police officer 1 beckons him not to.

POLICE OFFICER 1

I wouldn't do that if I were you.
Just relax.

The officer cuffs Derrick and sits him on the curb. Flashes are seen from bystanders recording the incident.

Derrick shouts at the bystanders.

DERRICK

Yeah! If you post this to social media make sure you tag me to the post. Hashtag Derrick is so hot.

Praise is heard from the female bystanders.

FEMALE BYSTANDER (O.S.)
We love you Derrick!

DERRICK
I love you too baby.

The police officers look at Derrick.

POLICE OFFICER 2
Unbelievable.

Police officer 2 is look at Derrick with disgust.

POLICE OFFICER 2 (CONT'D)
Win a playoff game and thinks he's
on top of the world. What a
scumbag.

POLICE OFFICER 1
Well, that scumbag is the MVP and a
2 time All Star.

They agree as they continue to look at Derrick.

A TMZ tour bus stops at the sight of Derrick.

TMZ TOUR GUIDE
And here we have our very own
Derrick Smith, sitting on a curb in
his underwear.

The tourists on the bus begin to take pictures and record
Derrick.

TMZ TOUR GUIDE (CONT'D)
I must add that he may seem like a
scumbag now but earlier tonight he
helped us secure a playoff spot.

The tourists nod in respect.

LITTLE BOY
Mom, I want to be just like him
when I grow up.

The mother is shocked as she covers the little boy's eyes.

TOURIST 1
America is a very progressive
country. Sitting on the curb in
your underwear was looked down upon
before.

The TMZ tour bus leaves.

TMZ TOUR GUIDE

Next, we'll go star spotting near Starbucks. Oh, how they love their coffee.

Officer 1 and Officer 2 walk up to Derrick.

OFFICER 1

Okay, we're bringing you in. And you will be able to see the judge on Monday.

DERRICK

What? But I have practice on Monday. Is there anyway we can wo-

OFFICER 2

He said Monday!

Derrick is shocked.

OFFICER 2 (CONT'D)

Now, you have the right to remain silent!

Officer 2 grabs Derrick's arm.

OFFICER 2 (CONT'D)

But before you go to jail. I need you to sign something for my nephew. Don't know why he likes you anyways.

Derrick is confused.

DERRICK

So I can get out of jail if I sign?

Officer 2 ponders for a few moments.

OFFICER 2

Hmmm maybe.

Officer 2 lets go of Derrick's arm. He hands him a pen and a Lakers hat.

Derrick coughs as he looks towards his cuffs. Officer 2 nods as he takes the hand cuffs off of Derrick.

DERRICK

Okay. So who do I make it out to?

OFFICER 2

My nephew Johnny.

DERRICK
Little Johnny. Stay in school and
don't do drugs.

Derrick finishes signing the hat and handing it to Officer 2.
He waves at Officer 2 and starts to walk back to his car.

OFFICER 2
Oh you forgot something.

DERRICK
Huh?

As Derrick was walking towards Officer 2. Officer 2 tase
Derrick causing him to faint. Derrick's last image before
closing his eyes were of Officer 2 laughing.

INT. JAIL CELL - LATER

Derrick wakes up surprised to see the rest of the guys in the
holding cell staring at him.

DERRICK
Uh, hi?

Nobody said hi but just stare at him. Derrick realizes that
he is still in his underwear.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
Oh, its not even like that.

BUBBA (40) walks slowly to Derrick.

BUBBA
Of course you would say something
like that.

Derrick backs up as he finally hits his back on the bars.

DERRICK
What do you mean?

Bubba blows a kiss at Derrick.

BUBBA
How about you make yourself more
comfortable?

Bubba looks at Derrick's underwear. Derrick is horrified.

DERRICK
Guard! I will take my one phone
call now.

Bubba is disappointed.

BUBBA

I'll see you when you get back.

The guard escorts Derrick to the reception desk.

INT. RECEPTION DESK - MOMENTS LATER

The guard beckons Derrick to use the phone.

Derrick ponders for a few moments as he begins to push the number into the pay phone.

Derrick prays to himself and is relieved as he hears a voice.

DERRICK

Jack? Hello? You hear me?

INT. JACK'S PATIO - CONTINUOUS

JACK BERNSTEIN, early 60s, short Woody Allen type, smokes a cigar from his patio over looking Los Angeles.

JACK

Hello?

Jack drinks from his cup and spits his drink.

JACK (CONT'D)

Derrick? What the hell happened?

Jack gets up and leans over the railing to get a better look at Los Angeles.

JACK (CONT'D)

No! You listen to me. You're playing with my money. I don't like when my money decreases beyond my control. The internet is destroying your character. And to think that I have to try to convince Judge Clarke to-

Jack ponders for a few moments.

JACK (CONT'D)

Okay. Well you better get your head in the game come Monday.

Jack hangs up the phone. He shakes his head as walks past the plasma T.V. The image on the T.V.

is news about Derrick's high speed chase. The next image is Chase and Robert giving interviews to the news reporters.

INT. RECEPTION DESK - CONTINUOUS

Derrick is stunned that the phone call ended. The guard beckons him back to the jail cell. Derrick walks slowly with the guard.

INT. JAIL CELL - CONTINUOUS

Derrick hesitates when he sees Bubba waiting for him.

DERRICK

Can I get another cell?

The guard shakes his head as he pushes Derrick in the holding cell. Bubba embraces Derrick.

OVERWEIGHT MAN

Oh, I missed you. Now, I can sleep peacefully.

Derrick mouths help to the guard. The guard laughs before walking off.

INT. JAIL CELL - MORNING

Derrick wakes up surprised to find out Bubba is cuddling him. He tries to break free without waking Bubba up.

Derrick stops as Bubba moves.

BUBBA

What? Huh? I will take the number 1 with a large coke.

Bubba goes back to sleep. Derrick stares at the ceiling with a "What did I get myself into?" look.

The guard comes and rattles at the cell door. He beckons Derrick to come.

INT. RECEPTION DESK - MOMENTS LATER

Jack is relieved to see Derrick.

JACK

Oh, there you are.

Jack inspects Derrick.

JACK (CONT'D)
Did they take good care of you?

Jack looks at Derrick's face.

JACK (CONT'D)
You know we can sue for every penny
from this dump.

Jack gives a dirty look at the guard.

JACK (CONT'D)
I mean big money. Police brutality
pays.

Derrick shakes his head.

DERRICK
Jack that's a horrible thing to
say.

Jack shrugs his shoulders as he gives Derrick his suit.

JACK
It's not horrible. I mean I feel
with the affected communities. I
really do.

Jack sees Derrick's "really" look.

JACK (CONT'D)
You know my son has a black friend
and he's like my adopted son.

DERRICK
Oh, just give me my dress shoes!

Derrick goes into the bathroom to change. Jack is confused.

JACK
What? Was it something I said?

INT. COURT ROOM - MORNING

Paparazzi are in the audience taking video and pictures of
Derrick.

PAPARAZZI
Who would've thought that we would
be in a court room taking pictures
of the MVP?

PAPARAZZI 2

Yeah. Oh look he's taking a drink
from that glass of water!

They start to take pictures of Derrick. A Court Officer
beckons them to put away the camera.

COURT OFFICER

Can't you guys read? No picture
taking or video recording allowed.

There is a sigh from the paparazzi and reporters.

REPORTER

Damn paparazzi. They're always
messing it up for everyone.

JUDGE CLARKE, 60s, tall and thin, walks up to his chair.

COURT OFFICER

All rise.

JUDGE CLARKE

Please be seated.

Judge Clarke looks at Jack and Derrick.

JUDGE CLARKE (CONT'D)

Oh, its nice to see you again Jack.

Judge Clarke looks at Derrick.

JUDGE CLARKE (CONT'D)

Mr. Smith.

Judge Clarke takes a look at the paperwork on his desk.

JUDGE CLARKE (CONT'D)

This time you've managed to destroy
public property and disturb the
peace. And that's just a few of the
many charges I see here on this
paper.

Judge Clarke has a tired look as he massages his eyes.

JUDGE CLARKE (CONT'D)

Mr. Smith how do you plead?

DERRICK

Not guilty, your honor.

JUDGE CLARKE

Well, this shall be interesting.

Jack takes the stand.

JACK

You see your honor. My client is a productive member to society. He is invested in the community that he lives in. He is a member of a committee board that gives back to underprivileged families. To date, he has donated 1.5 Million dollars to charity across the world to better lives for the greater good.

Jack look at the Prosecutor.

JACK (CONT'D)

So these claims that my client is just another typical big shot NBA player is absurd. And I demand a apology from them for destroying my client's character. This is not right and my client is innocent by all means. Thank you.

Jack walks back to the table.

The Prosector casually gets up from her seat. She has a DVD case in her hands as she walks to the court T.V.

She inserts the DVD. She hits the DVD player as the image on the screen clears up. She stand next to the T.V. as she gives Jack a "I told you" look.

The video shows Derrick high speed chase with police.

Jack tries to assure Derrick everything is okay. Derrick shakes his head.

The video concludes as the Prosecutor goes back to her seat. Judge Clarke looks at Derrick.

JUDGE CLARKE

Given to what I've just seen. I'm going to be clear. I should just sentence you to at least 5 years in jail.

Derrick's knees buckle.

JUDGE CLARKE (CONT'D)

But I do believe in second chances for anyone that's willing to chance and contribute to the society for which they are involved in.

Judge Clarke ponders for a few moments.

JUDGE CLARKE (CONT'D)

You have a choice Mr. Smith. 5 years of prison time or supervised cooperation in a Big Brother program. What will be your choice?

Derrick looks at Jack for clarification before answering.

DERRICK

I love kids your honor!

JUDGE CLARKE

So I take it you are choosing the Big Brother program?

DERRICK

Yes I am, your honor. Sign me up!

JUDGE CLARKE

Okay. I am assigning you to the Big Brother. Please make sure you finish the program. If you don't finish it for whatever reason then I will have no other choice but sentence you to 5 years in prison. Do I make myself clear?

DERRICK

Crystal clear as a diamond.

Derrick stops smiling as he sees Judge Clarke's stern look.

INT. COURT LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

Jack and Derrick walk towards the exit.

JACK

I don't know if I seen anyone luckier than you right now.

DERRICK

I know. I thought I was going to jail for sure.

JACK

Well, you lived to see another day of freedom.

DERRICK

Yes I did. Am I still going to play in the playoffs?

Jack is doubtful.

JACK

I don't know about that. I got a few voicemails that weren't too kind.

Derrick is worried.

JACK (CONT'D)

Don't worry. Just let me do my job. I will sort all of this out.

DERRICK

I hope you can sort this out.

They reach the exit. Derrick looks out at a sport car parked in front of the court.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Is that you?

JACK

Yes. You like it? It's new, right off the lot.

DERRICK

Hmm. Well I better get some rest. I don't want to be late for my first day.

JACK

Do you want a ride?

Derrick shakes his head.

JACK (CONT'D)

Well, if you would excuse me then I have a money bath to take.

Jack ponders for a few moments.

JACK (CONT'D)

Especially when that copper touches the skin. A very interesting feeling.

Jacks waves at Derrick.

JACK (CONT'D)

I'll be in touch, MVP.

INT. BIG BROTHER BASKETBALL COURT - MORNING

BREANA LARSON, mid 40s, stern looking, takes roll call from a clipboard.

BREANA
King?

KING (O.S.)
Here!

BREANA
Malcolm?

MALCOLM, 8, athletic type, raises his hand.

MALCOLM
Here.

Breana marks the clipboard.

BREANA
And last is Frankie?

FRANKIE, 8, small and thin, plays his portable handheld video game.

BREANA (CONT'D)
Frankie?

Frankie raises his hand without making eye contact at Breana.

BREANA (CONT'D)
Okay that should be just about everyone. To all of the first timers I want to extend my welcome to you first. We have many fun events planned for the summer.

Everyone looks at the exit as loud hip hop music is coming from the parking lot. Breana is annoyed as she tries to speak over the music.

BREANA (CONT'D)
We have a trip to the zoo where you can see Strips the zebra.

The kids starts to murmur among themselves.

BREANA (CONT'D)
And we have a surprise trip coming up at the end of the summer.

The hip hop music stops. Breana is relieved.

BREANA (CONT'D)
Ok. Any questions?

DERRICK (O.S.)
Yo, why do we have to wear these
neon bright orange shirts?

MALCOLM
Look everyone. It's Derrick Smith!

Everyone turns around to see if it was true. Their faces
lights up with joy when they see Derrick.

DERRICK
Yours truly.

The kids start to run towards Derrick.

MALCOLM
Mr. MVP.

Malcolm gives Derrick a high five.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)
I'm Malcolm.

Malcolm gives Derrick a pen.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)
Can you sign my shirt for me?

DERRICK
Sure little man. You made a very
good choice in being my fan.

Derrick turns to the rest of the kids.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
You've all made a good decision in
becoming fans of Derrick Smith.

Derrick continues to sign shirts, foreheads, and water
bottles.

Breana notices that Frankie doesn't have interest in seeing
Derrick Smith.

BREANA
What? You don't want to see this
clown either?

Frankie plays his handheld video game.

BREANA (CONT'D)

What? Are you mute or something,
kid?

Frankie is annoyed as he looks at Breana.

FRANKIE

Do you mind?

Breana is offended as she shakes her head. Frankie goes back to playing his handheld video game.

Breana is jealous at the sight of Derrick getting more attention than her.

BREANA

Everyone if I could get your
attention?

Everyone ignores her.

She makes her way towards Derrick. She takes the pen from Derrick's hand.

DERRICK

Your turn is coming soon. I promise
to get to everyone.

Derrick takes the pen back and continues to sign.

INT. BREANA OFFICE - LATER

Breana is pissed sitting at her desk. She breathes hard as she squeezes a stress ball.

Derrick knocks on the door.

BREANA

Come in!

Derrick enters the office. Breana beckons him to take a seat.

DERRICK

Why am I here?

Breana is shocked.

BREANA

Oh why you're here?

DERRICK

I am pretty sure you understood on
what I've said.

Breana pulls a tan folder from her desk.

BREANA
You know what this is?

Derrick is confused. He shrugs his shoulder.

BREANA (CONT'D)
This folder dictates whether you
stay a free man or go to jail.

Derrick smirks.

DERRICK
Good thing. We don't have to ever
use it. I am the best at everything
I do.

Breana opens up the folder and marks a check under strike 1.
Derrick is dumbfounded.

BREANA
The first paragraph of the mentor
handbook states that loud playing
of any music during business hours
is prohibited.

DERRICK
There's no handbook!

Breana takes out a mentor handbook from her desk.

BREANA
It was your responsibility to make
sure you had one prior to
orientation.

Breana gives a evil smile at Derrick.

BREANA (CONT'D)
That will be all for today. You
should spend time with your kids
that I've chosen you.

Derrick gets up and heads to the door.

BREANA (CONT'D)
Oh and one last thing. MJ was a
better MVP then you'll ever be.

Derrick nods.

BREANA (CONT'D)
I like the door closed.

EXT. PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Kids and fellow mentors admire Derrick's car.

MENTOR 1
So beautiful.

Mentor 1 wipes away a tear. Mentor 2 comforts him.

MENTOR 2
It okay buddy. Just let it all out.
We'll never have that kind of money
in our lifetimes.

Mentor 1 begins to weep harder.

MENTOR 2 (CONT'D)
There. There.

DERRICK (O.S.)
I know its hard.

Mentor 1 looks offended.

MENTOR 1
Excuse me?

DERRICK
You know. Trying to be like me.
Trust me I know. But I have a word
of advice for all of you.

Derrick faces the crowd around his car.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
No matter how hard its gets or how
much you want to give up.

The crowd are eager for his next words.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
You can never be like me. There is
only one Derrick Smith and there
will always be one Derrick Smith.

Fellow mentors begin to direct their students away from
Derrick's car.

Malcolm and Frankie are the only ones standing there when the
crowd fully disperse.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
So you two got the pleasure of
learning life lessons from yours
truly.

Derrick beckons them to get into the car.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
You kids are in good hands. Many
people would kill for this
opportunity.

INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

The car ride is silent. Derrick turns on the radio. Hip hop music fills the car. Derrick and Malcolm nod their heads to the music.

Frankie is annoyed.

DERRICK
What's wrong brains?

FRANKIE
My name is Frankie. Frankie! Even
you have a brain so why don't you
use it.

Derrick is amused.

DERRICK
Brains is upset.

The car passes an McDonalds.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
What do you guys want to eat?

MALCOLM
Burger King!

Derrick's face sour.

DERRICK
Future, I had so much of that
during the season. Derrick is much
better than that. And so are you
guys.

Malcolm ponders for a few moments. He shrugs his shoulder.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
Brains? Do you have any
suggestions?

Frankie shakes his head.

FRANKIE
I have no preference. Any choice
would be good for me.

MALCOLM
You talk funny.

Derrick laughs.

DERRICK
That is why I call him brains. When
I'm still playing in my 40s, he
will be my lawyer someday.

FRANKIE
I'm sure if I had to be your lawyer
then my life would be full of
regrets at that point.

Malcolm laughs.

MALCOLM
Good one.

Malcolm high fives Frankie.

DERRICK
Yeah? Well you'll have a job!

Derrick ponders for a few moments.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
I got the perfect place to eat. You
guys are in for a surprise.

INT. CLUB - MOMENTS LATER

Derrick, Malcolm, and Frankie are seated at a booth. They are
looking at the menu.

DERRICK
I'm going to get the usual, Macy.

MACY, early 20s, nods as she writes the order in her notepad.

MACY
And what about you two?

MALCOLM
What's a bloody Mary?

Macy chuckles nervously looking at Derrick.

DERRICK
That's is an adult drink, Future.

Derrick looks at the menu for a few moments.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
He'll take the diet coke.

Derrick looks at Frankie.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
Make that two.

MALCOLM
What? No fair. I don't drink diet coke!

FRANKIE
Diet coke is just as bad as regular coke. Beside we are 8 so our bodies can handle the extra sugar.

Everyone stares at Frankie amazed.

DERRICK
Diet coke with a burger and fries and that is final!

FRANKIE
As if all kids our age eat burgers with diet coke.

MALCOLM
I know. He has no clue.

DERRICK
That will be all, Macy. Thank you.

Macy smiles as she collects the menus and leave.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
So. So have either of you been here before?

Malcolm and Frankie stare at Derrick.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
I take that as a no.

Derrick points to the empty stage.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

They have good shows. I mean decent shows. They even dress up in characters that you probably will know such as Sleeping Beauty and Spongebob.

MALCOLM

So it's like Halloween?

DERRICK

Yeah? Yeah! It's exactly like that.

Macy comes back with the orders.

Malcolm and Frankie look at the diet coke with disgust.

MALCOLM

My mom likes this?

Malcolm takes a sip and has a soured reaction.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

I rather drink water.

Macy laughs as she takes the drink from Malcolm. She leaves to change the drink.

They eat their meals until a familiar voice is heard.

SABRINA (O.S)

Derrick?

Derrick turns to see Sabrina and is shocked.

DERRICK

Uh.

Sabrina smiles and see Malcolm and Frankie.

SABRINA

Is this not a good time?

Sabrina begins to leave but Derrick stops her.

DERRICK

No, its fine. They were about to leave.

FRANKIE

And go where?

Derrick points to the bar with plasma T.V.s on the wall.

DERRICK
There. Just go watch T.V. I call
you when its time to go.

Malcolm and Frankie start to walk towards the bar.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
Hey! Don't forget your food.

Malcolm and Frankie come back to get their plates of food.

Sabrina watches them go and sit at the bar.

SABRINA
They're so cute! How old are they?

DERRICK
Eight.

Sabrina continues to look at Malcolm and Frankie at the bar.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
So why are you here?

SABRINA
I should ask you the same thing.
Why did you bring them here?

Derrick shrugs his shoulders.

DERRICK
The food is up to my standards.

Sabrina laughs.

SABRINA
You still have a sense of humor.

Sabrina grabs one of Derrick's fries.

SABRINA (CONT'D)
I do some freelance work around
here.

Derrick smiles uncomfortably at Sabrina.

INT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

Malcolm is looking at the basketball game on the T.V.

MALCOLM

Come on Miller! You had that open shot.

Malcolm beckons the bartender.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

Hey, my man. Can I get a bloody-

Malcolm ponders for a few moments.

FRANKIE

Mary.

Frankie looks up from his handheld video games.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

It's called a Bloody Mary.

MALCOLM

Yeah! One of those. Wait do you want one too?

Frankie shakes his head.

BARTENDER

You're too young kid. I can give you a diet coke.

Malcolm sours.

MALCOLM

What's with these diet coke? Can't a kid be able to try new things. It's hard being a kid nowadays.

FRANKIE

That's one thing I do agree with you.

The bartender still refuses Malcolm's request.

BARTENDER

Not happening kid. No ID means no Bloody Mary.

Malcolm ponders for a few moments. He looks at the rusty pipes. He nudges Frankie and points at the rusty ceiling pipes.

MALCOLM

Such a shame that you have rusty pipes in the ceiling. I mean isn't that a health thing?

BARTENDER
So? And your point is?

MALCOLM
The point is smallpox is real!

The Bartender and Frankie look confused at Malcolm.

INT. BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Derrick has a bored look on his face as Sabrina talks about non essential things.

SABRINA
Can you believe the photographer
made me wear that on the day of the
shoot?

She puts the phone in Derrick's face.

DERRICK
Yeah, you do a little bit chubby.

Sabrina looks like she wants to kill Derrick.

SABRINA
What did you say?

DERRICK
You look great. 500,000 likes not
bad. Still not up to my standards
but you'll get there.

Sabrina smiles as Derrick awkwardly drinks from his cup.

INT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

The Bartender looks annoyed.

BARTENDER
I am sure nothing will fall into
someone's drink.

MALCOLM
But how sure are you? I mean there
is probably something in my diet
coke.

Frankie starts to cough. Frankie makes a scene in which he falls from his chair. The Bartender is staring at Frankie.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

Don't just stand there. Go get some help!

The Bartender nods as he runs to get the other staff.

Malcolm sees that the bartender is out of sight and taps Frankie on the shoulder.

Frankie gets up and takes his seat at the bar.

FRANKIE

You owe me one.

MALCOLM

Yes I do. Now to taste this drink.

Malcolm reaches for the bloody mary.

He looks for the all clear before drinking it. His has a soured reaction. He pounds his chest.

FRANKIE

How does it taste?

MALCOLM

Like victory.

Frankie is impressed. He beckons for Malcolm to put the shot glass back.

The Bartender is shocked.

BARTENDER

What the? Are you okay?

The Bartender is nervous as he is with the owner of the club.

BARTENDER (CONT'D)

Boss, I can't explain. I mean he was dying here a second ago.

The boss shakes his head as he goes back to his office.

BARTENDER (CONT'D)

That's coming out of my paycheck.

The boys secretly smiles at each other.

INT. BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Derrick looks for a way out of the conversation with Sabrina.

DERRICK
I should be getting them home soon.
It's getting late.

Sabrina is surprised.

SABRINA
Oh okay. If you must.

Sabrina looks around the bar.

DERRICK
What are you looking for?

SABRINA
I'm looking for a server.

DERRICK
Oh you're getting something to eat?
I recommend the Derrick Smith's
special. Best thing on the menu.

SABRINA
I was going to buy us drinks to
celebrate this encounter.

Derrick has a "really" look.

DERRICK
Boys! We are going now!

EXT. FRANKIE'S HOUSE - LATER

Frankie's mother, JULIA, early 40s, timid looking woman,
beckons him to the front door. As Derrick waves at her, she
quickly closes the door.

Derrick is confused. He stares at the door for a few moments
before driving off.

EXT. MALCOLM'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Malcolm's mother, TINA, late 30s, professional lady with a
intimidating demeanor, rushes to Derrick's car as he parks
it.

TINA
Where have you been? I was worried-

Tina takes a closer look at her son.

TINA (CONT'D)
Why is your tongue red?

MALCOLM
It's suppose to be red.

TINA
Don't get smart with me, mister!

Tina beckons Malcolm to take a closer look at his tongue.

TINA (CONT'D)
Is that alcohol that I smell?

Tina looks at Derrick as he gets out of the car. Tina beckons Malcolm to the house.

TINA (CONT'D)
I'll deal with you later. There's snacks on the table. I'll be there in a minute.

MALCOLM
Yes Mom.

He walks slowly to the house.

TINA
Or maybe if you're grounded-

Malcolm hurries to the house closing the door behind him.

Tina walks slowly to Derrick.

TINA (CONT'D)
So, serving alcohol is your version of being a role model to them?

Derrick is confused.

DERRICK
Alcohol? I just gave them burgers and a diet coke.

TINA
No need to lie. I mean we are peasants to you, Mr.MVP.

DERRICK
What's your problem, lady?

TINA
First of all. My name is Tina and I actually live a honest life.

DERRICK
You don't even know me.

TINA
I know you are a asshole and likes
to serve mixers to kids.

Derrick is appalled.

DERRICK
The audacity!

Tina pulls out her phone and shows the TMZ video of Derrick sitting on the curb in his underwear.

TINA
The video fits the personality.

Tina shakes her head.

TINA (CONT'D)
If this happens again then I will
talk to the Director of that
program myself.

Tina walks back to the house and shuts the door behind her.

Derrick sees some of the neighbors looking at him.

DERRICK
Yeah? No one threatened Derrick
Smith. I am the best there will
every be!

Derrick still sees that the neighbors are looking at him.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
What!

Derrick hurries to his car and speeds off hitting a trash can of a nearby neighbor.

INT. DERRICK'S HOME THEATER - NIGHT

Derrick sits in the center row. He watches Sportcenter.

DERRICK
Ah, nothing like relaxing in the
comfort of my mansion.

He eats his popcorn as he watches highlights from the NBA.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Come on Laxson! I know you can play better than that!

Derrick is bothered as he takes a drink from his gold cup.

REPORTER (O.S.)

Chase Johnson, how does it feels to be the new go to guy since the dramatic departure of Derrick Smith.

CHASE (O.S.)

It's been amazing. The team is a lot better without Derrick.

Derrick spits out his drink and looks at the T.V. in disbelief.

CHASE (CONT'D)

I mean Derrick is a good friend of mines but it was like a cleansing moment for the team. And Derrick was that toxic.

REPORTER

Well said. Back to you Jim.

He picks up his cell phone and makes a call.

DERRICK

Jack? Any luck?

JACK (V.O.)

Gosh! Do you have any idea on what people do at this time of the day?

(beat)

Nevermind. Don't answer that.

DERRICK

Sorry. I was just checking on the status with the teams. Any deals?

JACK

MVP, you got many teams interested in you but for the love of money we do business in the day portion of the 24 hours cycle.

Derrick chuckles.

DERRICK
Alright. Sounds good. I'll be
there.

Derrick hangs up. He relaxes in his chair as he ponders at
the ceiling.

EXT. BIG BROTHER BASKETBALL COURT - MORNING

Derrick plays basketball with Malcolm. Frankie sits on the
sidelines while playing his video game.

DERRICK
You have to work on your jumper
just a bit.

Derrick takes a 3 pointer and makes it. Malcolm is impressed.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
With that shot in your arsenal then
you'll be unstoppable. Now, you
try.

Derrick hands the ball to Malcolm. Malcolm hesitates and then
takes the shot. He is upset as he misses.

MALCOLM
Aww!!! Fudge sticks!

Derrick starts to laugh.

DERRICK
Fudge sticks?

MALCOLM
My mom says I can't curse until I'm
18.

Derrick laughs as he shows Malcolm how to take the shot
again.

DERRICK
Now try again. Focus on your
motion. Never break your focus.

Malcolm takes the shot and misses again. Air ball that
bounces in Frankie's direction.

Frankie looks at the ball then at the upset Malcolm who is
trying to break a window. Malcolm is held back by Derrick.

Frankie casually stops playing his game and picks the ball.
He slowly bounces the ball toward the hoop.

Frankie takes a deep 3 pointer and makes the shot. Derrick and Malcolm are amazed at Frankie.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
How'd you do that?

MALCOLM
Even he can make that shot?

Malcolm goes back to trying to break the window. Derrick holds him back and points at Frankie.

DERRICK
Relax! Just look at his form when he does it.

Derrick pass the ball to Frankie. Frankie takes the shot and makes it again.

Derrick beckons Malcolm to take the shot. He passes the ball to him.

Malcolm takes a deep breath and takes the shot and makes it. They all celebrate.

MALCOLM
Where did you learn how to play basketball?

FRANKIE
Mostly from the NBA 2k games.
Imagine that your legs are like the A button on the controller. It just takes perfect timing and release.

Derrick and Malcolm are confused.

MALCOLM
Okay?

DERRICK
Who's up for ice cream?

Malcolm and Frankie raise their hands.

BREANA (O.S.)
Well, ice cream before lunch is kinda of irresponsible on your behalf, Mr MVP.

Breana is displeased as she looks through the mentor's handbook.

DERRICK
Do we have a problem?

Breana has a sarcastic pained look.

BREANA
Yeah. Well you see in the mentor's handbook it states that mentors aren't allowed to play basketball or give the kids sugary snack before noon on any given day.

Breana is amused as Derrick faces drop.

BREANA (CONT'D)
Now we can do this here or my office. I preferred the latter part if I was you.

Derrick nods as they go back to Breana's office.

INT. BREANA OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Breana writes remarks in the folder as Derrick watches her in silence. Breana looks up at Derrick.

BREANA
Just need you to verify that you acknowledge that you are now on your second strike.

Derrick signs the paper.

BREANA (CONT'D)
Thank you. That should be it. Would you like some sparkling apple juice?

Derrick is confused.

DERRICK
Why would I want some juice?

BREANA
Oh come on. I know you sports players know how to celebrate.

Breana takes two glasses out from her desk. She begins to pour the juice into the glasses.

Breana hands a glass to Derrick.

BREANA (CONT'D)
A toast?

DERRICK
For?

BREANA
For your long loved life behind
bars!

DERRICK
Cheer- What!

Derrick puts the glass down. He gives Breana a dirty look as he exits her office.

BREANA
What? Don't be like that! Its only
a matter of time until you'll get
your last strike.

INT. PARK - MOMENTS LATER

Derrick is mad as he angry licks his ice cream cone.

DERRICK
Who do she thinks she is?

He takes another lick.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
No one talks to Derrick Smith that
way. I am a 2 time All Star!

A nearby FEMALE BYSTANDER chimes in.

FEMALE BYSTANDER
And the poster boy for Hanes
underwear.

DERRICK
You damn right! I look damn sexy in
those Hanes.

The female bystander nods her head as she prepares to leave the park.

Derrick is now angry licking his ice cream in silence. They see a large crowd at the basketball court.

They go to see what the event was about.

EXT. PARK BASKETBALL COURT - MOMENTS LATER

The crowd insist of the younger fans of the NBA. Their ages ranges from 8 to 17 years old. They react as the players on the court makes a slam dunk or make a pretty shot.

Derrick finally gets a view of the court and sees Chase and Robert playing one on one.

He is jealous as the crowd reacts to Chase doing a nice cross on Robert and slam dunking the ball.

DERRICK

I taught him everything he knows.

Chase grabs a mircophone.

CHASE

And that is how you do work in the paint.

Chase helps up Robert.

CHASE (CONT'D)

But more importantly is showmanship. Showing your teammates and your opponents the same amount of respect.

Chase tries to catch his breath.

CHASE (CONT'D)

Alright, the court is yours. Me and some of the players will still be around for pictures and autographs.

The crowd swarms the court. Some of the kids are circled around Chase and Robert. Others are playing basketball.

Derrick confronts Robert and Chase.

DERRICK

Show your teammates and opponents the upmost respect?

Derrick laughs.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Maybe you should follow your own advice.

Chase finally looks at Derrick.

CHASE
I did and look where I am at.

Chase looks at Derrick up and down.

CHASE (CONT'D)
And look where you're at. Outside
looking in.

ROBERT
Such a shame.

Derrick is shocked.

DERRICK
Oh, so that's how it is? You're
going to double team me?

CHASE
I never liked you. I just pretend
it to like you so I could get
playing time.

ROBERT
Me too.

Derrick is shocked. He begin to take off his jacket and hands
it to Malcolm. He takes off his gold and puts it around
Frankie's neck.

Derrick walks to Robert and Derrick.

DERRICK
I'll play both of you at the same
time.

Chase laughs as he snaps his fingers. A Skinny Security Guard
comes.

THIN SECURITY GUARD
What seems to be the problem sir?

Derrick laughs.

DERRICK
Is that suppose to scare me?

Loud breathing is heard from behind Derrick. A giant shadow
blocks the sun making it dark.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
What happened to the sun?

Derrick slowly turns around to see the Giant Security Guard.

GIANT SECURITY GUARD
Is this guy bothering you sir?

CHASE
Yes he is.

Derrick has a "really" look.

GIANT SECURITY GUARD
You got 30 seconds to leave.

DERRICK
You know I'm tired from working out
so it not even worth it.

Derrick beckons Malcolm and Frankie to the car.

MALCOLM
But I want to get an autograph.

Derrick is offended.

DERRICK
Why would you want an autograph
from these clowns? Is being with
the Derrick Smith isn't enough?

Malcolm shrugs his shoulders as he gets his autograph from Chase.

Derrick shakes his head as he looks at Frankie.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
At least I still have you.

FRANKIE
Not really. I am only here because
my mom doesn't want me to have too
much free time.

DERRICK
What's that suppose to mean?

FRANKIE
I'm here against my will.

Derrick is disappointed as kids rushes past him to see Chase and Robert.

INT. TRAINING FACILITY - MORNING

Jack talks to a group of NBA scouts. They have unsure looks on their faces.

JACK

I promise he'll be here. He's just running a bit late. There's donuts and coffee if you guys would like any.

The scouts hurried to the table. Jack glances at his watch. He makes a call on his phone.

The door opens and Derrick appears in the gym.

DERRICK

Gentlemen! Sorry for the long wait. Greatness has finally arrived.

Jack is relieved as he greets Derrick.

JACK

Where the hell have you been?

DERRICK

Don't worry I am here now.

JACK

Well, that's great make sure you get out there and make us money.

DERRICK

What teams are here?

JACK

Miami, Brooklyn, Boston, and Phoenix.

Derrick nods as he picks up a basketball. He ponders for a few moments.

JACK (CONT'D)

Derrick? Did you hear me?

DERRICK

What?

JACK

I said they're all offering big money so don't blow this.

Derrick nods as he goes onto the court.

JACK (CONT'D)

Gentlemen! Shall we start?

The scouts begin to go onto the basketball court.

INT. BIG BROTHER BASKETBALL COURT - CONTINUOUS

Malcolm and his team huddle around their coach.

Frankie, Julia, and Tina are in the stands cheering for Malcolm.

Malcolm waves at them when he goes out onto to court. Malcolm is disappointed as he sees a empty spot next to Tina.

His teammates try to motivate him. He comes back to his senses.

The tip off gives Malcolm's team the first possession of the game. He crosses a defender causing him to fall to the floor before taking and making the three pointer.

MALCOLM

All day, All day!

The crowd reacts wildly.

BLEACHER

Tina screams like a crazy proud mom.

TINA

That's my boy!

Tina grabs a nearby stranger and hug her.

TINA (CONT'D)

Number 2 is my son!

STRANGER

Lady, you're hurting my arm.

Tina comes back to her senses.

TINA

Sorry. Just a proud mother.

The stranger nods her head as she goes back to looking at the game. Frankie and Julia are amused at the interaction.

INT. TRAINING FACILITY - CONTINUOUS

We focus on the back part of Derrick's training jersey as he warms up.

Derrick runs some drills against light defense. The scouts are impressed as Derrick makes shot after shot.

DERRICK
All day, All day!

The scouts begin to write eagerly in their folders. Jack is delighted as he rubs his hands together.

INT. BIG BROTHER BASKETBALL COURT - CONTINUOUS

The scoreboard is tied with only 10 seconds to go. Malcolm's team has possession of the ball.

BLEACHER

Tina is nervous as she holding the same stranger again. The stranger is annoyed but not fighting to break free.

Malcolm is handed the ball. He runs to half court and is met by 2 defenders. He immediately takes the shot.

The ball goes into the hoop. The crowd acts wild as they chants Malcolm's name. Malcolm is rushed to the floor by his excited teammates.

BLEACHER

Tina goes crazy as she kisses the stranger's head. Then she grabs Frankie and kisses his cheek.

Frankie is disgusted as he takes a disinfecting wipe and wipes his cheek.

COURT

Malcolm waves to his mom in the crowd. He smile fades a little bit as he looks at the empty spot near Tina.

He continues to celebrate. He is still bothered.

INT. TRAINING FACILITY - CONTINUOUS

Derrick is tired.

Jack finishes talking to the scouts as the scouts leave the gym. He goes to Derrick with a delighted look.

JACK
Looks like you still got a good
shot at making MVP next season.

Derrick is relieved.

DERRICK
That's good to hear.

JACK
What's wrong? I thought you would
be happy about joining the league
again?

Derrick shakes his head.

DERRICK
I thought I would've been able to
play in the playoff. I mean it was
me who brought that team there.

Derrick picks up a ball and throw it toward the hoop. The
ball goes into the net.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
And now I'm a nobody.

Derrick pulls out his phone and looks at it.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
Just the other day I checked on my
Instagram. And-

Derrick is sad as he looks down to the floor.

JACK
What?

DERRICK
I only got 2,000 likes. 2,000!

Jack is confused.

JACK
Well, they will come back around.
Now, I would be worried if that was
money instead of likes.

Jack looks at his watch.

JACK (CONT'D)
But everything will get better for
you soon, MVP. I'll be in touch.

Jack gets up and grabs his briefcase.

JACK (CONT'D)
Now, if you will excuse me I have a
evening packed with fine dining and
counting of money.

Jack waves and exits the gym.

Derrick ponders for a few moments as he grabs a nearby basketball.

He begins to practice his moves.

DERRICK
I'll be on top again. I swear.

He takes a shot and makes it.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
And I'll take my title of being the most searched person on the internet again.

Derrick exits the gym.

EXT. PARKING LOT - MORNING

Malcolm and Frankie stand with their parents. Derrick's car enters the parking lot. He is relieved to see the boys.

DERRICK
There you guys are!

Derrick turns his attention back to the car as it was still moving. He puts on the parking brake.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
I was so worried about you guys.

TINA
Really? Worried enough to not call or text us?

Derrick is offended.

DERRICK
You wouldn't understand.

TINA
I wouldn't understand? Really? Explain to me how a single mother wouldn't understand?

Derrick ponders for a few moments.

DERRICK
Well-

TINA

Like I thought. Once an asshole,
always an asshole.

The nearby mentors stare at the encounter with curiosity.

DERRICK

Derrick Smith isn't a asshole!

MALCOLM

I don't know. I kinda of agree with
Mom.

Derrick looks at Frankie for support.

FRANKIE

I can't disagree with the truth.

TINA

Boys, you stay out of this. Let the
grown ups talk.

JULIA

Come. Let's go over to the
playground and play with the slide.

FRANKIE

Mom, we're 8. The playground is for
7 year olds and below.

MALCOLM

We're grown men.

Malcolm picks up a basketball and runs to the inside of the
building.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

Whoever the first one inside gets
this rare Pokemon card I found in
the trash.

Frankie looks up from his game interested. He pushes Malcolm
aside and races to the building.

Tina waits for the boys to be out of sight.

TINA

Malcolm been through a lot in his
life and he doesn't need you to
give him more disappointment.

Derrick is speechless.

DERRICK

I been through a lot too but look
at where I ended up at.

Tina and Julia are shocked.

JULIA

Unbelievable.

DERRICK

I know. But that word would be an
understatement for my awesome
accomplishments.

TINA

Look-

BREANA (O.S.)

You're wasting your time. He's full
of himself.

The nearby mentors begin to disperse.

BREANA (CONT'D)

Is there a problem here, ladies?

Tina looks at Julia who shakes her head and then at Derrick.

TINA

No, there is no problem here.

Breana gives Derrick a dirty look.

BREANA

Okay. Well I'll be in my office if
a problem do arises.

(beat)

I'm sure one will arise soon.

She has her evil grin as she looks at the folder.

BREANA (CONT'D)

Only a matter of time. Tick Tock.
Tick Tock.

Breana laughs her evil villain laugh. Derrick, Julia and Tina
are all confused.

DERRICK

She needs someone special in her
life.

TINA

Well, you both are assholes so you two would make a perfect couple.

DERRICK

Derrick Smith has a dating resume that many guys wished of having.

TINA

And you can add Breana to that list.

Tina and Julia smirks as they walk to their cars.

TINA (CONT'D)

Oh, and if you mess up again, I won't be kind enough of covering for you again.

INT. BIG BROTHER BASKETBALL COURT - MOMENTS LATER

Malcolm and Frankie argue over the Pokemon card.

MALCOLM

I was here first!

FRANKIE

No way! I was here! You was totally behind me!

Frankie tries to tug the card from Malcolm.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Let go of it! You don't even know what Pokemon is!

MALCOLM

Do to! It's gotta catch them all.

DERRICK (O.S.)

Boys! Boys! Stop it!

Derrick breaks up the altercation between Malcolm and Frankie.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Okay, who was really here first?

The boys argues and play tug of war over the card.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Okay! Hey! Stop it!

Derrick breaks them up again. He picks up a basketball.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
Whoever can reach 3 points wins the
card.

Malcolm and Frankie look amused at Derrick.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
What's so funny?

MALCOLM
And you think we're suppose to a
liar like you?

Derrick is offended.

DERRICK
A liar? Listen-

FRANKIE
That's messed up. Even I showed up
and I hate sports!

Malcolm nods in agreement. Derrick is mad.

DERRICK
You guys better listen to me! I am-

MALCOLM
Or what? You're in more trouble
than us.

Derrick is silent.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)
Now, we're the ones who will make
the grown up decisions around here.

Malcolm pulls up his shorts.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)
Do you know what I mean?

Derrick nods his head.

FRANKIE
And if you think you will try to
reinforce your policies then we
will tell Ms. Breana about your
comeback.

MALCOLM

Now, I am in the mood for some ice cream.

Derrick tries hard not to display his anger.

DERRICK

You know we can't have ice cream before noon.

MALCOLM

But, you were about to have us play basketball before noon.

Derrick closes his eyes and regain his composure.

DERRICK

You know-

FRANKIE

Ms. Breana!

DERRICK

(gritted teeth)

Where do you want to go?

Malcolm and Frankie high five each other.

MALCOLM

We'll go to Baskin Robbins my good man.

Derrick is annoyed.

DERRICK

(whispering)

Only a few days.

FRANKIE (O.S.)

What was that?

DERRICK

Oh, we'll be there in 10 mins.

INT. BASKIN ROBBINS - LATER

Derrick is annoyed as Malcolm and Frankie excitedly eat their ice cream.

MALCOLM

Mmm, this cotton candy flavor is sooo good.

FRANKIE
Yeah until-

Frankie and Malcolm hold their heads.

MALCOLM AND FRANKIE
Brain freeze!

They starting laughing as they try to get another brain freeze.

DERRICK
Can you please stop doing that?

MALCOLM
Or what?

Derrick looks directly at the boys with a stern look.

DERRICK
I don't need this anymore!

FRANKIE
Oh really?

Frankie pulls out his video game.

DERRICK
What are you going to do with that?

FRANKIE
I'm going to call the office using Skype.

DERRICK
That thing doesn't have Skype.

Frankie makes a call on the Skype app. Derrick is shocked when he hears the Skype dialing.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
Okay, okay! What other places do we need to go?

Malcolm and Frankie ponder for a few moments.

EXT. SIX FLAGS MAGIC MOUNTAIN - AFTERNOON

Derrick has a tired look as Malcolm and Frankie throw darts at the balloons.

FRANKIE
A little bit more to the left.

Malcolm throws the dart and it hits the worker.

WORKER

Owwws! I should've listen to my
mother and stayed in school.

Malcolm throws another dart and pops the balloon.

MALCOLM

I want that one!

The hurt worker grabs the great white shark doll.

DERRICK

Ain't you too old for that?

Malcolm is amused.

MALCOLM

This isn't for me. This is for my
girl.

Derrick is shocked.

DERRICK

You're allowed to have a
girlfriend?

FRANKIE

It's not his girlfriend. It sort of
like the girl he been trying to get
with since the last year in Mrs.
Redding's class.

Malcolm is embarrassed as Derrick is amused.

MALCOLM

You better wipe that smile off of
your face!

Derrick looks at the ground. Malcolm turns to Frankie.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

Didn't we pinky swear that we would
never speak anything of this?

FRANKIE

What? I just thought it was funny
to-

MALCOLM

No! It's not funny. Not cool man!
Not cool at all!

Frankie gives Malcolm the "pity" look. Derrick tries not to laugh.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)
What's so funny?

DERRICK
Oh, I just seen someone trying to make a shot and they failed miserable.

Malcolm looks skeptical at Derrick.

MALCOLM
Let's go see if we can do win every booth game here!

Frankie agrees.

EXT. SIX FLAGS MAGIC MOUNTAIN - MONTAGE

Malcolm and Frankie plays the basketball booth. They make the shot and gets two new stuffed animals. Derrick is overwhelmed as he tries to carry it.

Malcolm and Frankie play at the jug booth. They celebrate as they win. They hand their stuffed prizes to Derrick to hold.

Derrick lies on the ground as stuffed animals keep piling on top of him.

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. NEW REVOLUTION GALACTIC ATTACK - MOMENTS LATER

Derrick tries to drag the stuffed animals. Malcolm and Frankie happily eats ice cream as they stop to look at the gigantic roller coaster.

MALCOLM
The roller coaster of all roller coaster.

FRANKIE
She's a beauty. The only of her kind.

MALCOLM
I heard that vomiting is guaranteed.

The boys continue to admire the roller coaster. A teenager is being wheeled to a nearby ambulance.

The boy's faces lit up with excitement. They look at the tired Derrick.

Derrick sees their excitement and then at the injured teenager.

DERRICK

No! Hell No! Ain't happening.

The boys plead with Derrick.

MALCOLM

Oh come on! Why would you come to Six Flags and not try to ride roller coaster?

FRANKIE

It's like going to toys store and not getting any toys. Completely useless.

Malcolm looks at Frankie for a few moments.

MALCOLM

Yeah. What he said.

DERRICK

It's not happening. Once, you guys finish your ice cream we are going home!

MALCOLM

Are we really going home?

Malcolm beckons Frankie for his video game.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

Let's see what Ms. Breana has to say about-

DERRICK

You wouldn't!

MALCOLM

Just watch me.

Derrick hurries and grabs the video game out of Malcolm's hands.

FRANKIE

Hey! Easy will ya?

Frankie is offended as he takes back his video game.

INT. NEW REVOLUTION GALACTIC ATTACK - CONTINUOUS

Derrick is annoyed as he gets his seat belt inspected by the workers.

Malcolm and Frankie laugh as they already have their hands in the air.

The worker comes near Derrick.

WORKER 1
MVP, when you're done with the
ride, do you mind signing this for
me?

Derrick sees his jersey.

DERRICK
If you can get me out of this ride-

MALCOLM
I heard that!

Derrick is silent as the worker shrugs his shoulders and presses the green button signaling for the ride to accelerate.

Malcolm and Frankie are delighted as the roller coaster is slowly creeping to the top. Malcolm taps Derrick.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)
Are you ready for this awesomeness?

Before Derrick could answer the roller coaster goes down the slope.

DERRICK
Ohhh sh*t!!!

EXT. CAMERA STORE - CONTINUOUS

Derrick walks with vomit on his shirt. He is miserable and desperate to get back to his car.

Malcolm and Frankie are amused at the reactions of nearby bystanders.

Malcolm and Frankie look for the camera snapshot of their faces during the roller coaster ride.

FRANKIE
There! I see it?

Frankie stops when he sees the snapshot of Derrick vomiting.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)
I will take two of that one right
there.

The worker nods as goes to cash register.

CAMERA WORKER
That's 5 dollars.

Derrick is relieved.

DERRICK
You guys don't have any money so
better just go home-

MALCOLM
Here you are, my good man!

Malcolm hands the worker the 5 dollar bill. Derrick is
horrified.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)
I should put this on Facebook.

Derrick tries to snatch the photos away from Malcolm.

DERRICK
Just give it here!

Frankie helps Malcolm fend off the desperate Derrick.

MALCOLM
It's done!

Derrick falls to the ground in despair. '

FRANKIE
Did you tag him?

MALCOLM
I sure did. Look it already got 50
likes.

Derrick pounds his fists in the ground as the bystander
circle around him.

DERRICK

It took me so much work to get my following on Facebook and you just diminish that in a matter of seconds.

Malcolm and Frankie have wicked smiles.

INT. CAR - LATER

Derrick's car arrives at Frankie's house. Julia waits on the front porch.

She waves at the car but Derrick ignores her.

FRANKIE

Thank you for a great day!
Hopefully we can do it all over again tomorrow.

Derrick grunts as Frankie leaves the car.

EXT. MALCOLM'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Malcolm helps Derrick with the stuffed animal prizes.

MALCOLM

Very fun day.

Derrick grunts.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

We're good now.

DERRICK

I'm glad to know that.

TINA (O.S)

Wow what are all of these stuffed animals?

MALCOLM

Derrick took us to Magic Mountain today!

Tina is impressed as she sees all of the stuffed animals. She laughs as she sees the vomit on Derrick's shirt.

TINA

Looks like you had the most fun.

Derrick rolls his eyes as he takes the last stuffed animal from his car.

DERRICK
It was a blast!

Tina beckons Malcolm to the house.

TINA
I brought some of your favorite
kale chips. There on the counter.

Malcolm runs into the house.

MALCOLM
Kale chips!

Tina laughs as she watches Malcolm enters the house. She looks at Derrick for a few moments.

DERRICK
What?

TINA
That's the happiest I've seen him
for years.

(beat)
In fact, that's the happiest I've
seen since I introduced him to kale
chips when he was only 4.

Derrick is disgusted.

DERRICK
Kale chips? Really? You need to
stop brain washing that kid.

TINA
You need start eating those chips.
I see how much fast food you ball
players eat on the road.

Derrick has a guilty look.

DERRICK
Guilty as charged. But my
metabolism is the best that mankind
has seen.

Tina and Derrick laugh.

TINA

Well, it good to Malcolm happy. And it good to have you as his role model.

Tina is shocked.

TINA (CONT'D)

Oh my! I can't believe I just said that.

DERRICK

Well, you just been exposed to the Derrick Smith effect. It's a normal reaction.

Tina laughs.

TINA

Said the guy with vomit on his shirt.

Tina looks at her front door.

TINA (CONT'D)

Well, I should be helping Malcolm with his homework. Should I see you at the closing ceremony tomorrow?

DERRICK

This program is already ending? I was just having fun.

Tina smirks at him as she walks back into her house. Derrick watches her and has a smile as he gets back into his car.

INT. DERRICK LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Derrick snores on his sofa. His phone ringtone wakes him up. He mumbles as he answers the phone.

DERRICK

Hello?

JACK (V.O.)

MVP! Where the hell are you?

Derrick fully opens his eyes.

DERRICK

I am at home. Then I have to attend this ceremony-

JACK (V.O.)
You had a scheduled contract
signing with the Clippers! They're
offering the big bucks!

DERRICK
Yeah but-

JACK (V.O.)
Yeah better mean that your ass is
in the car seat coming here now to
sign this contract!

Jack hangs up. Derrick is daze as he finally smiles.

DERRICK
On the road again to 5 million
followers!

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - LATER

Jack tries to buy time for the late Derrick.

JACK
Well, you guys are making a good
choice. Having a All Star point
guard like Derrick Smith on your
team is priceless.

PRESIDENT LACKEY, 60s, always stern looking, sits unamused at
Jack's attempt to buy time.

PRESIDENT LACKEY
Priceless on your part but
certainly not on ours.

Jack stops talking and awkwardly drink his glass of water.

JACK
It's hot today. I think it was
record high today.

President Lackey and his staff are unamused at Jack's
rambling.

JACK (CONT'D)
Let's go Clippers.

Jack laughs awkwardly as he takes another drink from his
glass and he almost chokes when he sees Derrick enters the
room.

JACK (CONT'D)
Oh MVP! Nice of you to come.

DERRICK
Sorry. You know how bad LA traffic gets.

President Lackey and his staff nods in agreement.

PRESIDENT LACKEY
Fair enough. Let's begin.

One of his assistants gives a black folder to Jack. Jack is excited as he opens the folder.

Jack beckons Derrick to sign the contract.

JACK
Here you go. All you have to do is sign.

Derrick looks at everyone around the table before picking up a pen. He takes a deep breath before looking at the contract.

The contract reads, 5 years 60 million dollars. Derrick is shocked.

DERRICK
60 million dollars for 5 year?

PRESIDENT LACKEY
That's what the contract says, I hope.

Derrick looks at Jack who nods towards the contract.

His pen is about to touch the paper when his phone rings. Derrick looks at his phone and sees that its Malcolm calling.

Derrick ends the call and focus on the contract.

DERRICK
Sorry.

Derrick's pen is about to touch the paper but stops when his phone rings again. Derrick sees it's a text from Malcolm.

The text says STRIKE THREE, STRIKE THREE!

Derrick automatically gets up from his seat.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
I have somewhere to be!

PRESIDENT LACKEY
What's the hell is this, Jack?

JACK
I actually don't know. What's the
problem MVP?

Derrick makes his way towards the door.

PRESIDENT LACKEY
If he leaves this room then the
deal is off!

Jack looks as if someone had a gun to his head.

JACK
He wasn't leaving. He's just taking
a bathroom break. Right MVP?

DERRICK
No, I am pretty sure I was going to
leave.

Jack laughs nervously.

JACK
He has always been a comedian.

PRESIDENT LACKEY
It seemed he was pretty serious,
Jack!

DERRICK
Yeah, I was pretty serious about
leaving, Jack.

Jack is hopeless as he sees Derrick waves.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
That money isn't enough to get a
talent such as I to play anyway.

JACK
MVP! Don't do this!

DERRICK
It's not all about the money. It's
about the what you really want in
life.

Derrick ponders on this thoughts for a few moments. He exits
the room.

Jack looks as if someone shot him with a shotgun.

JACK
Mr. President I can't explain.

PRESIDENT LACKEY
This meeting is over, Jack.

President Lackey and his staff begin to exit the room. One assistant begin to shred the contract.

Jack rushes over the shredder tries to regain the pieces.

He weeps deeply as the last drops of the contract drops into the pile.

JACK
60 million dollars down the drain.
Everything is done. There is no
hope now!

The assistant tries to leave the room before Jack can notice her.

Jack takes out his money themed handkerchief and wipes his tears away.

JACK (CONT'D)
It's in a better place reserving
itself for a deserving player that
is ready to claim it.

RECEPTIONIST (O.S.)
Jack, are you done yet? We need
this room for the next contract
signing.

Jack nods his head.

JACK
Yeah. I was just about to leave.

Jack takes one last look at the shredder before leaving.

INT. BIG BROTHER BASKETBALL COURT - LATER

Breana addresses the program with fellow mentors behind her.

BREANA
You have to always do the right
thing. Honesty is always valued in
life.

Breana stops when she notices Derrick.

BREANA (CONT'D)

Oh, speaking of the devil. There's a good example of a liar and good for nothing role model.

The whole program gives Derrick dirty looks.

BREANA (CONT'D)

No one wants to be like an Derrick Smith.

Breana takes out the folder and marks the box under strike three. She smiles as she beckons the mentors to get Derrick.

BREANA (CONT'D)

Get that scumbag out of my face. Hold him until the police come and get him.

Derrick is shocked as the mentors apprehend him.

DERRICK

I thought we were cool guys. I gave you guys autographs.

The mentors begin to escort Derrick out of the gym. Breana laughs her evil villain laugh.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Are you not satisfied with the gifts from me the Basketball God?

The mentors and Derrick were in front of the exit as Malcolm speak out.

MALCOLM

Wait!

Breana stops laughing as she is glaring at Malcolm.

Derrick is confused as the mentors are escorting him.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

It seems as you're the real liar.

Breana drops the folder to the ground.

BREANA

What did you just said to me?

Malcolm sends a text using Frankie's game console. Ringing of phone is heard throughout the room.

Breana's voice filled the room as people start to look at the leaked video of her confessing forging the strikes against Derrick.

BREANA (V.O.)

He's a asshole. A big time asshole.
I'm going to send him to jail when
it's all said and done regardless
if he follows the rules or not.

Breana is ashamed as she tries to grab the phones of nearby kids.

The kids resist her as they turn up the volume on their phones.

The mentors let go of Derrick. They try to avoid eye contact with Derrick.

Derrick is shocked as he looks directly at Breana.

BREANA

Turn off the damn videos. There are
no phones allowed during business
hours.

DERRICK

Why would they listen to you? After
you lied-

BREANA

Mentors get him so the police can
get him!

The mentors stayed in their spot. Breana is furious.

BREANA (CONT'D)

Oh okay. This is how y'all want to
treat me after all I've done for
this program!

Breana tries to make a call on her cell. Derrick takes the cell out of her hand.

BREANA (CONT'D)

What do you think you're doing?

Derrick throws the phone across the court and picks up a basketball.

DERRICK

Beat me in a pickup game and I will
go to jail but if I win then you
leave this program and never come
back.

The program start to whisper excitedly when they hear this.
Breana ponders for a few moments before agreeing.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

We've got a treat for you guys!

The program cheers and take their seats at the bleachers.

BLEACHER

Derrick is being pep talked by Malcolm and Frankie.

MALCOLM

You've got this!

DERRICK

Of course I do. I am the Derrick
Smith.

Frankie slaps Derrick.

FRANKIE

Rule number one is never to
undermine your opponent. You should
know that, MVP.

Derrick nods as he rubs his cheek.

DERRICK

Didn't know you had some weight
behind that punch.

MALCOLM

Now, Ms. Breana is a dirty player.
She kick and bite and sometimes
scream her way to victory.

FRANKIE

So best to stay to the outside
shot. And one last thing.

Frankie look at Malcolm. They nod their heads and look at
Derrick.

MALCOLM AND FRANKIE

Don't be a Derrick Smith!

Derrick nod his head.

DERRICK
Got it- What?

Malcolm gives Derrick some water before pushing him onto the court.

COURT

Derrick and Breana wait for the coin toss. A mentor comes with a nickel.

BREANA
My goodness. Don't I pay you enough
around here?

The mentor is offended.

MENTOR 3
I don't get paid anything!

Breana remembers.

BREANA
Just flip the coin. Heads.

The mentor flips the coin and it lands on tails. The program cheers as Derrick is handed the ball.

Derrick smiles at the determined Breana.

DERRICK
You ready to get your mind blown?

Breana swipes the ball away. She runs to the hoop and dunks the ball.

BREANA
Your ball.

Derrick is surprised as he looks at Malcolm and Frankie. They had "I've told you so" looks.

He gets the ball and focus on Breana.

DERRICK
That one was just luck.

Derrick crosses Breana causing her to fall. He looks at her before draining a three pointer. The crowd is cheering as phone shutters can be heard throughout the gym.

Breana is embarrassed but still is determined.

BREANA
Not bad for a former MVP.

Breana points at the door.

BREANA (CONT'D)
Cops!

Derrick is scared as he looks at the door.

BREANA (CONT'D)
Got ya!

Breana makes a layup. The crowd boos as Breana bows to the crowd.

BREANA (CONT'D)
There's plenty of where that came from.

Derrick is disappointed as he bounces the ball hard.

BREANA (CONT'D)
Oh, don't be mad MVP. You'll be able to practice your skills once you're in prison.

The scoreboard reads Derrick 3 and Breana 4.

Derrick gets mad and makes a half court three pointer. The scoreboard now says Derrick 6 and Breana 4.

Breana flings the ball at Derrick's groin making him fall to the ground in pain. She makes the layup. The scoreboard now says Derrick 6 and Breana 6.

BLEACHERS

Derrick is still grabbing his groin area. Malcolm gives him some water.

MALCOLM
She's playing very rough out there.

FRANKIE
I told you she played dirty.

Malcolm takes out his coach white board. He begins to put x on various spots on the court.

MALCOLM
She's playing dirty but she is also smart. She been taking high percentage shots all game.

Derrick is amazed as he looks at Malcolm.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

No time to look at me! Look at the whiteboard!

Derrick nods and focused on the whiteboard.

DERRICK

So what are you saying coach?

MALCOLM

Defeat her at her own game and stay a free man!

DERRICK

Right!

Derrick takes a final sip from his water bottle before going onto the court.

Malcolm and Frankie look worried at him.

FRANKIE

Do you think he listen to anything we told him?

MALCOLM

Not a chance.

Malcolm shakes his head.

COURT

Derrick is handed the ball. Breana plays tight defense on Derrick.

He tries to cross her but she stay with him. He then does a pump fake causing him to fool her completely.

He runs to the basket but Breana grabs the back of his shirt and bring him in for a kiss.

Derrick is stunned as he drops the basketball.

The crowd has eww sounds as the mentors are laughing.

BREANA

Hmm you're not a bad kisser.

Derrick is frozen.

BLEACHER

Malcolm is shocked.

MALCOLM

What the f-

Frankie covers Malcolm's mouth before he could finish the sentence.

COURT

Breana picks up the basketball.

BREANA

Well, so long MVP. I hope you have fun in jail. I'll be sure to send a postcard.

Breana does her evil villain laugh as she runs to the basket. The crowd is silent as they see this. She goes up for the layup.

Tina blocks the shot causing Breana to fall to the ground.

The crowd cheer as they urge Derrick to get the ball. The ball rolls to Derrick's feet.

He stares at it for a few moments. He looks at his surroundings. He sees everyone rooting for his success.

He comes back to his sense and picks up the ball. He has tunnel vision as he just sees the hoop.

He slowly run and then picks up speed as he jumps and dunks the ball shattering the back board.

The crowd goes crazy as they swarm Derrick.

DERRICK

AHHH! ALL DAY!

The crowd starts to chant MVP, MVP. The mentors pick up Derrick. He gets a better view of all of the cheering kids and mentors.

He is overwhelmed as he catches Tina's gaze. He mouths a thank you and she nods.

Breana is ashamed as she see her former program cheering for Derrick.

She hurries to the police officers that arrived.

She escorts them to the crowd.

BREANA

Get that man out here, officers. He doesn't belong here.

The crowd forms a circle around Derrick protecting him. The officers are confused.

BREANA (CONT'D)

Just don't stand there, officers!
Arrest him!

Malcolm and Frankie steps out of the crowd.

FRANKIE

Officers do you like people that lie?

OFFICER 3

No. Why kid?

Malcolm points at Breana.

MALCOLM

Because that lady there is a professional liar.

The officers look at Breana.

OFFICER 4

Ma'am, is this true?

Breana is unable to answer as she stutters.

FRANKIE

The truth is she's a former employee here and she's not supposed to be here.

The Officers look at the crowd.

OFFICER 3

Is this true?

CROWD

Yes!

The Officers turn to arrest Breana.

OFFICER 4

You have the right to remain silent.

Breana is shocked as cuffs are put onto her wrists. Malcolm waves at Breana.

MALCOLM

Bye, Ms. Breana. Now I'll eat all
of the ice cream I can before noon
time.

DERRICK

We'll definitely send you a
postcard.

Derrick and the crowd laughs.

Tina walks to Derrick.

TINA

So are you the new director now?

Derrick looks the crowd.

DERRICK

Do you guys want the great Derrick
Smith as your new director?

The crowd cheers. Derrick smiles.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Well, I guess I found a new career.

TINA

So, what's your first act as new
director?

Derrick ponders for a few moments.

DERRICK

I have something good in mind.

INT. STAPLES CENTER - EVENING

Derrick directs the kids in his program to their seat. He has
on a Big Brother shirt that reads Director on the back.

DERRICK

Make sure every has their snacks.
King, you've left your drink on the
stairs.

King grabs the drink from Derrick before going back to his
seat.

Tina and Julia walk towards Derrick.

TINA

How's it going?

DERRICK

It's going. I think everyone has their snacks for the most part.

They look at the kids happily eating their snacks as the pregame show starts.

JULIA

I never seen them this happy before. The program was so miserable under Breana.

TINA

That's because she didn't care about them. But now we do have a director that cares about them.

Tina side hug Derrick. This catches Malcolm's eye.

He throws his arms in the air. Tina lets go of Derrick.

JULIA

I guess he's not ready for you to date again?

TINA

Not really but we've kept things secret.

DERRICK

You can always come to million fan club on Instagram. Dating Derrick Smith does come with its perks.

They laugh. Derrick sees his old teammates take the court.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Excuse me, I'm going to catch up with the guys.

He is about to kiss Tina on the lips and looks at an angry Malcolm and kisses her cheek.

COURT

Derrick is on the sidelines as Chase and Robert takes their warm up shots.

CHASE

One more and then I'm going to eat something.

Chase takes and makes his last shot. He goes to the bench for a towel but stops when he sees Derrick.

CHASE (CONT'D)
 Non-players are supposed to be in
 the stands.

He looks at the security guard.

DERRICK
 What do you have against me?

Chase reaches for the towel.

CHASE
 Do I really have to answer that?

DERRICK
 Uh, yeah. I'm awesome but not that
 awesome. Are you jealous?

CHASE
 There's not much to be jealous of.

DERRICK
 Is it because I wasn't there for
 you guys during the playoffs last
 season?

Chase is silent.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
 Well, I am sorry for being an
 asshole before. But now this is
 your time to shine, bro.

CHASE
 So you're not coming back?

DERRICK
 I'm focus on new career
 opportunities.

Derrick looks back at his program in the stands and he smiles
 at them when they wave at him.

CHASE
 I can respect that.

Chase shakes Derrick's hand.

CHASE (CONT'D)
 We should hit up a club like old
 times?

DERRICK
 Nah... I'm good bro.

Chase cracks a smile. They both laugh.

INT. JAIL CELL - CONTINUOUS

Breana sits in her jail cell rocking back and forth on her bed.

BREANA

This isn't not over. This isn't not over.

Breana reaches for the postcard that she receives from Derrick.

She looks at it with great disgust.

BREANA (CONT'D)

Keep my head up huh. Oh, I'll keep my head up. And when I get out of here. I will take my program back.

Breana does a evil loud laugh. This wakes up her cell mate.

CELLMATE

What did I tell you about talking to yourself?

BREANA

I am sorry. I will keep it quiet. I promise.

Breana's cell mate mumbles as she goes back to sleep.

Breana checks if her cell mate is fully asleep. She begins to practice basketball moves in the tiny open space.

She looks at a picture of Derrick on the wall.

BREANA (CONT'D)

My revenge will come.

Breana begins to do push ups and sit ups.

INT. STAPLES CENTER - CONTINUOUS

The kids have fun reacting to each dunks and pretty shot the players attempt.

The game horn sounds. The scoreboard reads Lakers 102 and Bulls 98 final score.

COURT

Derrick is on the court congratulating his old teammates. While doing this a sport reporter interviewing Chase, sees Derrick and calls him over.

REPORTER

Looks like we have a special guest,
the great Derrick Smith.

Derrick waves at the camera.

DERRICK

How's everyone doing?

REPORTER

That was a great win by your former
team. What are thoughts about that?
Do you miss being out there?

DERRICK

Absolutely. I miss being out there
everyday but I don't miss the
pressures of that lifestyle.

REPORTER

Wow, interesting comment. So what's
the great Derrick Smith doing these
days?

DERRICK

I am-

Derrick looks at his program talking with the Lakers players.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

I am a director of a local Big
Brother Program.

The reporter is impressed.

REPORTER

Such a change in lifestyle.

DERRICK

It is. But I am very happy where I
am at now.

Derrick looks directly into the camera.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

So if anyone have kids needing
help. My program is always
accepting walk ins and referrals.

REPORTER
Back to you guys at the studio.

The reporter shakes Derrick's hand.

REPORTER (CONT'D)
Keep doing great things out there.

DERRICK
I will, sir.

The reporter leaves to interview another player. Chase smirks.

CHASE
I see you still got your charming skills.

DERRICK
Of course. I would never lose my Derrick Smith swag.

Chase laughs. The coach approach Derrick

COACH
Do you want a picture with the guys before they leave?

Derrick nods.

He is standing there with his Big Brother program as they are intermingle with his old teammates.

Derrick has a big smile as he looks around at the kids faces.

PHOTOGRAPHER (O.S.)
1, 2 ,3. Smile!

Derrick is in the center with his former head coach and Tina as he smiles and a small tear runs down his cheek.

INT. BIG BROTHER BASKETBALL COURT - MORNING

Derrick addresses his program.

DERRICK
Welcome all. This will be the best time of your life.

Derrick looks at the clipboard.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

We have many things planned for this new cycle. Basketball, Basketball and more Basketball!

Some kids in the crowd had horrified looks.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

I'm kidding but we'll have much fun. First order of business you'll be meeting with your mentors.

Derrick beckons the mentors.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Mentors if you would get your kids. Make sure they are well taken care of. We care for one another, right?

The kids nod their heads.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Ok, off you go.

The mentors escort their kids to introduce themselves.

Derrick is about to walk back to his office when Tina stops him.

TINA

Hey, Mr. Director.

Derrick looks around to see Malcolm argues with his new mentor. He kisses Tina.

DERRICK

This looks like an interesting group.

TINA

Yes. Even though we're full. We still got more people on the wait list.

DERRICK

Well, if I'm needed as a mentor again then I don't mind doing that.

Julia is tired as she drops a box she was carrying at Derrick's feet.

JULIA

That's the last of the few boxes with new T shirts.

DERRICK

Great!

Derrick opens up the box and pulls out a Lakers color theme tie dyed shirt.

Tina and Julia are shocked.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Great design huh?

TINA

I'm not wearing that.

JULIA

We'll look like walking paintings.

DERRICK

Whatever. You guys are haters. Lord knows that I have still have my fair share of them.

INT. DERRICK'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Derrick types on the computer. Most of Breana's stuff is gone. Many basketball awards won by Derrick have taken up shelf space. He also has his jersey framed and hanging throughout the room.

He stops typing as he hears a knock at the door.

DERRICK

It's open.

Jack enters the office carrying a large parcel.

JACK

How are you doing, MVP?

Jack sits the parcel down and shakes Derrick's hand.

JACK (CONT'D)

It finally came in.

DERRICK

Finally.

Derrick smiles as he goes back to typing on the computer.

JACK

So, how are you?

DERRICK

I am good, Jack. Thanks for asking.

Jack watches Derrick as he types on the computer. Jack clears his throat.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Something is bothering you?

JACK

Nope, just sitting here minding my own business.

DERRICK

Okay. Good.

Derrick writes something in his notebook.

JACK

60 million dollars down the drain.

Derrick sighs as he is a bit annoyed.

DERRICK

Jack, we've been through this many times.

JACK

I know, I know. But you committed financial murder.

Jack is upset as Derrick hands him a box of tissues.

JACK (CONT'D)

What has 60 million dollars every did to you?

DERRICK

Make-

JACK

Make your life a dream to live!

DERRICK

Jack, you are clearly upset. Look.

Derrick looks at his phone.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

I know a great sushi place we can go to and talk.

Jack nods but still upset.

JACK

Yeah, but you're paying.

Derrick nods as he escorts Jack out of the office.

DERRICK

I'll be out just a sec.

Jack exits the office. Derrick is relieved as he opens the parcel.

Derrick smiles as he hangs the frame on the wall. He looks at it for a few moments before leaving the office.

We get a better look at the frame and its the picture of his program and his old teammates all smiling under the a newspaper headline that reads: Derrick Smith: It's not all about the glamour and riches.

CENTRAL HIGH

Written by

Sherroy Chapman

FADE IN:

COLD OPEN

INT. ACADEMY AWARDS STAGE - NIGHT

TROY CHAPMAN (14) is waiting for BILLY CRYSTAL to read the winner for the best animated film. AIAN LEE (14) is sitting next to Troy holding his arm as she wait for the result.

BILLY CRYSTAL

And the award for the best animated film goes to Paradise in Lavender Town.

Troy is stunned as Aian and the audience members begin to give him a standing ovation. Troy is escorted by Aian to the stage. He receives the Oscar from Billy Crystal.

Troy is teary eyed as he faces the crowd and raises up the Oscar.

TROY

This marks a fine achievement for all geeks around the world. Now, we can be open about the things we like without harsh judgement.

Troy rips open his shirt to reveal a Pikachu T shirt.

TROY (CONT'D)

This one is for you, Pika Pika.

The crowd starts to go wild as they are chanting Troy's name.

The crowd chanting starts to mimic his mother's voice.

CROWD

Get your lazy ass up! Get your lazy ass up!

Troy starts to panic.

TROY

Wait. No. This is my dream. This is my own safe space. This is not fair!

INT. TROY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Troy wakes up to the hard breathing of his mother.

SANDRA

Boy! I know you hear me. You about to be late for your first day of school. I will make breakfast while you get ready.

Troy is still in his bed. Sandra does a double take.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

Don't make me-

TROY

I am up!

Troy jumps out of the bed. Sandra is satisfied as he exits his room.

Troy walks towards a Dragonball Z theme calendar. It reads August 2004. Troy takes a marker and crosses out date 24.

Troy grabs his towel and heads for the bathroom.

INT. SANDRA'S CAR - MORNING

Troy looks out of the window as Sandra is driving the car. Troy face is pressed against the window.

The high school has a big sign that reads; Weston High. The school is on a big lawn of green grass. There are some students sitting on blankets reading books. Others are talking among themselves. Jocks are talking with non Jocks. Cheerleaders are talking with non cheerleaders.

Troy's face is excited but the excitement turns into confusion as Sandra's car is getting farther from Weston High.

EXT. CENTRAL HIGH - MORNING

Sandra parks her car in front of the gates of Central High.

SANDRA

We are here!

Troy is confused as Sandra pushes him out of the car.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

Remember what I told you boy. Good luck.

LANCE (40), security guard, walks by Sandra's car.

SANDRA (CONT'D)
Lance, is that you?

Lance looks to see who's it is. He smiles when he sees Sandra's face.

LANCE
Hey Sandra! It's been years since I
seen you. What brings you here
today?

SANDRA
I had to drop of my all grown up
baby today.

LANCE
Is that right?

TROY
This is a good school right?

LANCE
That's a stretch. More like a
school at a good spot on the
state's most dangerous high school
list.

Troy is horrified.

LANCE (CONT'D)
I think it's like number 1. Or
maybe in the top 5.

TROY
Mom! No! Don't leave-

Sandra's car coughs a cloud of exhaust smoke. Troy and fellow students are coughing. Troy grabs his Pokemon lunch box and takes a deep breath as he looks at Central High.

ACT ONE

EXT. CENTRAL HIGH FRONT LAWN - MORNING

Troy walks among the crowd of student. He is amazed at the short skimpy outfits of the cheerleaders. A cheerleader waves in his direction. He waves back.

A tall jock bumps Troy as he was going towards the cheerleader.

Troy recollects himself and his lunch box and walks to the school lobby.

INT. SCHOOL LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

Students goes through the metal detectors. Troy walks through the metal detector with his lunch box. Lance laughs at Troy's lunch box.

LANCE

You might want to hide that kid.
They can smell fresh blood from a distance.

Troy is confused as he takes his belonging from the bin. Troy walks towards the auditorium. Troy is stopped by PATRICE (16) and his gang.

PATRICE

Well, what do we have here? Fresh blood.

Patrice and his gang share a laugh as Patrice grabs Troy's lunch box.

PATRICE (CONT'D)

Oh, look at this nice YU GI OH design.

TROY

Pokemon.

PATRICE

What's that?

Patrice begins to eat Troy's lunch. His face is delighted as he eats the roast beef sandwich.

PATRICE (CONT'D)
 Your mommy knows how to make a good
 lunch. This would help me stay
 energized for my practice.

Troy has a deadpan expression as he look at the empty lunch
 box hit the floor.

PATRICE (CONT'D)
 Thanks loser. You'll do just fine
 at Central High.

Patrice pats Troy on the shoulder as he and his gang leaves
 the lobby. Troy hurries to the lunch box and inspects the
 lunch box for damages.

TROY
 Still in mint condition. Don't
 worry you're in good hands now.

Nearby students look at Troy with a worried look.

TROY (CONT'D)
 What!

The students begin to enter the auditorium.

INT. AUDITORIUM - MOMENTS LATER

PRINCIPAL CLARKE (60) takes the stage.

PRINCIPAL CLARKE
 Welcome to Central High. I hope all
 of you are just excited as I am. I
 hope you all are enjoying your
 special first day. But there one
 tradition I want to share.

Principal Clarke turns on the overhead projector to display a
 poster of smiling students with the heading of Freshman
 Friday.

PRINCIPAL CLARKE (CONT'D)
 This is a long tradition in Central
 High in which underclassmen and
 upperclassmen come together in
 unity.

Principal Clarke admires the poster one more time.

PRINCIPAL CLARKE (CONT'D)
So go forth in unity incoming class
of 2008. We will be here if you
have any questions.

INT. CAFETERIA - AFTERNOON

Troy stares at Aian. He slowly drinks his bottle of water.
JARED (14) and JESSIE (14) takes a seat at Troy's table.

JARED
Sorry, I wasn't here in the
morning. Duty calls.

Jared pulls out his Gameboy and begins to play it.

JARED (CONT'D)
There is a rare Zapdos somewhere. I
seen it last night. I know I did!

Jared takes a sip of his coffee. Jessie has a worried look.

JESSIE
That can't be healthy.

JARED
This is only my 4th cup.

Jared and Jessie notices Troy being quiet.

JESSIE
You okay?

Jessie follows Troy's stare and sees that it is Aian.

JESSIE (CONT'D)
You know she's out of your league.
Why even bother?

JARED
I think he should go for it!

Jessie is confused. A nearby table of students look at Jared.

JESSIE
I think you should lay off the
coffee for a bit.

Jared starts to twitch.

JARED
Yeah I think so. This stuff is
crack in a cup.

Jared sips the cup of coffee again. He savors the moment before doing it again. Jessie rolls her eyes at him.

JESSIE

Can you please act normal for once?

Jared still twitches.

JARED

We only live once. Go for it. What do you have to lose?

JESSIE

Uh let me think.. His life!

Troy gets up from his seat.

TROY

You're right. I have nothing to lose but my life.

Troy grabs the cup of coffee and sips it.

TROY (CONT'D)

This stuff is like crack.

Troy takes a few more sips. Troy starts to slowly walk towards the jock table.

The students at the lunch tables are following Troy's slow pace walk. Some are whispering among each other.

GARRETT (15), dresses in only business suits, is looking at Troy with interest. He stands up to get a better view. This prompted the other members at the table to look at Troy.

Troy comes to the Jocks table. His gaze is still fixed on Aian. Aian notices Troy and she has a "get out of here quick" expression.

Patrice and his gang are putting protein powder lines on the napkins.

PATRICE

This is good for the mind, body and soul.

Patrice and his gang sniff the lines in unity. Patrice tosses milk cartons to his gang. They begin to chug the cartons, crushing them when they were done.

Patrice begins to make more protein lines but stops when he sees Troy is standing next to his table.

PATRICE (CONT'D)

Oh what do we have here?

Patrice gets up to face Troy. He has a smudge of powder running down his face. Patrice gets angry at the sight of Troy just standing there.

PATRICE (CONT'D)

What do you want!

Troy stands in silent. Patrice goes to the table and takes a sniff of the powder. He screams and rips off his shirt.

PATRICE (CONT'D)

You're just standing there, not saying anything! What do you want!

Patrice pushes Troy to the ground.

ON SCREEN: TROY'S DAYDREAM

Troy gets up from the ground and brushes himself off calmly. He laughs as he shakes his head. He gives Patrice the Bruce Lee's hand gesture.

Patrice tries to tackle Troy. Troy dodges the tackle. Patrice tackles a nearby trash can. Troy takes the 2 tubs of protein powder. The jocks are looking at the tubs like dogs wanting a treat. Troy throws the tubs out of the window. The jocks run and jump out of the window to get the tubs of protein powder.

The students cheer. Aian goes to Troy and gives him a hug and kiss on the cheek.

AIAN

My hero!

Patrice's voice is heard.

ON SCREEN: CAFETERIA

Patrice is shocked as he stares at Troy's fist inches away from his face.

PATRICE

Oh so that is how you really feel, huh?

Troy quickly takes his fist away from Patrice's face. Patrice cracks his knuckles. Troy closes his eyes and Patrice slowly walks towards him.

INT. MALL FOOD COURT - AFTERNOON

Troy nurses his black eye with his soft drink cup. Jessie and Jared are looking at each other. Jessie hesitates as she looks at Troy.

JESSIE

Well how about that first day of school, huh?

Troy shakes his head. Troy winces as he reapplies the cup to his eye.

TROY

Easy for you to say. You don't have a black eye.

Jessie looks at Jared for help.

JARED

Well, at least you still have your life.

Troy gives Jared a dirty look. Jared shrugs his shoulder as he goes back to eating.

TROY

I mean everyone saw it. It just so..

Jessie and Jared look concern at Troy. They follow Troy's gaze. Aian and her cheerleaders friends enter the food court.

Aian notices Troy. She waves at Troy. Troy points at himself. Aian nods as she beckons her friends to wait for her. Aian makes her way to Troy.

Troy starts to panic. Jared sprays some mint spray in his mouth and fixes his hair. Jessie hisses at the sight of Aian.

Aian reaches the table.

AIAN

Hi Troy.

TROY

Uh, hi.

A silent moment passes as Troy tries to signal to Jessie and Jared to leave. Jared stares at Aian. Jessie is refusing to leave.

AIAN

So I guess another time will be-

TROY

No! Their was just about to leave.

JARED

Yeah. There is a new Mario Party game in FYE and we're going to check it out.

JESSIE

We're?

Jared nods as he gets Jessie out of her seat.

JESSIE (CONT'D)

Where are you taking me? I don't want to go.

JARED

Yes you do. I let you pick Princess Peach in our first match.

Jessie nods in agreement as she leaves with Jared. Jared looks back at Troy and makes a humping the air motion as he gives a Troy a thumbs up.

Aian takes a seat and looks at Troy with concern.

AIAN

How's your eye?

TROY

I seen better days.

Aian laughs. She notices Troy's Gameboy. She reaches for it.

AIAN

Can I?

Troy nods as he hands her the Gameboy.

Aian plays the Pokemon game for a few moments. She gives the Gameboy back to Troy.

AIAN (CONT'D)

Your starter Pokemon's level is too low so I would recommend using a strong rock type or even a grass type will make your life a lot easier.

Troy is stunned as he is looking at his Gameboy.

TROY

Wow, I had no idea that-

AIAN
I play Pokemon?

Troy nods. Aian smiles and pulls out a Gameboy from her bookbag.

AIAN (CONT'D)
I love Pokemon. I'm on my last gym badge.

Troy is impressed. Aian looks at her friends.

AIAN (CONT'D)
Well, I should get going. You take care of eye, ok?

Aian puts her hand on Troy's hand. Aian leaves to return with her friends.

Troy watches them leave the food court. Troy is about to get up from his seat.

Garrett with 2 fellow geek club members sits at Troy's table.

GARRETT
Troy Chapman?

Troy is confused as he sits back in his seat.

TROY
Yeah?

Garrett is happy as he snaps his fingers. One of his assistant hands him documents.

Garrett looks through the documents for completion. Garrett hands the documents to Troy.

GARRETT
You can take a punch, champ. How's the eye?

Troy nods as he looks at the documents.

TROY
What is this?

GARRETT
Let's just say that's your key to surviving Central High.

Garrett looks at Troy going through the papers.

GARRETT (CONT'D)

Are those the new cheesy tots from
Burger Palace?

Troy nods as Garrett eats the cheesy tots.

TROY

These are membership forms?

Garrett nods while he cleans his face with a napkin. He snaps his finger and one of the assistant begins to clean his suit.

GARRETT

Nothing like a well maintained
suit. Best feeling in the world.

Troy look confused at the forms.

TROY

I don't know about this.

Garrett and his assistants get up from their seats.

GARRETT

Well, the decision is yours. Your
fiends have already joined because
they know the perks of the geek
club.

Garrett puts on his aviator sunglasses. He winks at Troy and leaves the food court.

Troy looks at the paperwork and sighs as he goes back to nursing his black eye.

END OF FIRST ACT

ACT TWO

INT. TROY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Troy has a tired look on his face when he enters the house. He tries to hurry up the stairs when he hears his mother's voice.

SANDRA
Troy! Is that you?

Troy is halfway up the stairs when Sandra spots him.

SANDRA (CONT'D)
What did I tell you about coming in
my house without saying hi?

Troy has his back turned to her.

SANDRA (CONT'D)
Boy, I am going to give you 3
seconds to face me and say hello.

Troy tries to protest.

TROY
Mom!

SANDRA
One!

Troy hesitates.

TROY
Mom I feel really tired-

SANDRA
Two!

Troy turns around to face his mom before she can think about saying three.

SANDRA (CONT'D)
Thre-. What the hell happened to
your eye?

Sandra inspects Troy's eye. She has a pissed look as she goes in the closet and gets a paintball gun.

SANDRA (CONT'D)
Who did it?

Sandra opens the front door.

PORCH

Sandra starts to shoot the paintball gun into the darkness of the night.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

The only person that gives my son a black eye is me, Sandra Chapman!

Sandra breathes heavily as she collects herself.

BYSTANDER 1 (O.S.)

Oh god! I been hit and I can't get up.

BYSTANDER 2 (O.S.)

I think he's dying. I think it came from that direction.

Sandra hurries back into her house.

LIVING ROOM

Sandra gives the paintball gun to Troy.

SANDRA

Wipe the fingerprints from that.

Troy is confused.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

Don't just stand there!

Troy nods as he uses the bottom of his shirt to wipe the gun.

Sandra closes all of the blinds on the windows. She begins to turn off the lights as well. She looks out of the window.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

This never happened. Understood?

Troy nods as he tries to go back to his room.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

Understood!

TROY

Yes.

SANDRA

Yes what?

TROY

Yes Mom.

SANDRA
I did this for protection. Good
night. Love you.

INT. SECOND FLOOR AUDITORIUM - MORNING

Troy knocks on the doors with the membership documents in
hand.

The slit in the door opens to reveal a pair of intimidating
red eyes.

BOOKER
Password?

TROY
Uh?

Troy ponders for a few moments.

TROY (CONT'D)
Uh? Koopa Troopa?

BOOKER
Which color?

TROY
Red?

The door opens to reveal BOOKER, 15, a friendly lovable
giant. He beckons Troy to enter.

BOOKER
New member? Kindly give those to
the club receptionist or you can
give it to Garrett.

TROY
We have a receptionist?

BOOKER
Kid. You've got many things to
learn.

GARRETT (O.S.)
Champ!

Troy turns to see Garrett grinning with his arms extended.

GARRETT (CONT'D)
I see that you made the decision to
join.

Garrett takes the forms from Troy and hands them to his assistant.

GARRETT (CONT'D)

Come. We were just about to get started.

Troy follows Garrett. Troy is amazed as he gets a clear view of the geek club.

Jessie and Jared waves at Troy.

JARED

Amazing isn't it?

TROY

It truly is.

Troy takes his seat next to Jared. But is still looking at the freedom of expression through anime and clothing from popular geek shows.

GARRETT

Now, welcome to both our existing and new members. We have a good year ahead. But just like every year we must protect our freshman members from the harsh treatment of freshman Friday.

Garrett points at Mr. MCFLY, mid 30s, handsome geek but stuck in the 80s, wheels a TV with a VCR on wheels in front of the class.

MR.MCFLY

Welcome to a new school year, student. I am Mr. Mcfly and I am the advisor of this club.

Mr. Mcfly looks excitedly at the crowd.

MR.MCFLY (CONT'D)

People refer to me as the old school geek since I played my video games in the arcades then in on the Atari where I was 22 time ping pong champ.

Grasps are heard from the crowd.

MR.MCFLY (CONT'D)

But enough with me. We have a battle ahead tomorrow. Where are all the freshman?

The freshman members raises their hands.

MR.MCFLY (CONT'D)

Well, what Principal Clarke told you about Freshman Friday being peace and love is all a.... LIE!

Grasps are heard from the freshman students.

Mr.Mcfly turns on the T.V. and presses the play button on the VCR.

ON SCREEN: LOST FOOTAGE FROM THE FRESHMAN FRIDAY VIDEO.

A recorded image with the date of August 24, 1994 in the bottom left corner, shows a young Mr. McFly getting chased by a young Principal Clarke.

YOUNG MCFLY

Stop it! Leave me alone. I am just trying to go to class.

YOUNG CLARKE

Aww, you hear that guys? The little geek is trying to go to class. Well I am sorry.

Young Clarke takes the bookbag from Young McFly. He opens it and takes out Young McFly's books. He tosses the books and continues to search and is delighted to find his lunch.

YOUNG CLARKE (CONT'D)

Oh what do we have here?

Young Clarke opens the ziplock bag and sniffs the sandwich.

YOUNG CLARKE (CONT'D)

Oh roast beef! My favorite!

Young Clarke eats the sandwich as Young Mcfly tries to escape a royal wedgie. The video image shakes as the cameraman is running to catch the encounter.

His hard breathing is heard in the background.

The jocks are wearing vintage varsity jackets as they prepare Young Mcfly for the royal wedgie. They walk slowly towards the flag pole.

YOUNG CLARKE (CONT'D)

Any last words loser?

YOUNG MCFLY

Tell my momma that I love her.

Young Clarke beckons the jocks to proceed. The jocks clip Young Mcfly's underwear to the rope and ascends him to the top of the pole.

The jocks are laughing and celebrating. The camera captures the reactions of nearby students. They look horrified.

Young Clarke looks into the camera.

YOUNG CLARKE
Happy Freshman Friday!

The image turns to black.

AUDITORIUM

The freshman members has horrified looks.

JESSIE
So inhumane.

JARED
Pure evil!

Mr.Mcfly faces the crowd again.

MR.MCFLY
So let my story reach on how important it is to not trust the school. And to trust people who have your best interest at heart.

Mr.McFly wipes a tear.

MR.MCFLY (CONT'D)
He ate my sandwich. That meathead bastard.

Mr.Mcfly exits the room. Garrett beckons his assistants to hand out copies of blueprints to the freshman members.

GARRETT
To help you from getting a royal wedgie. I've made copies of the blueprints of the school grounds.

Garrett claps his hand.

GARRETT (CONT'D)
If you have any questions. Don't hesitate to ask me or my assistants.

INT. STAIRS - MOMENTS LATER

Troy, Jared, and Jessie look at the blueprint.

JARED

Wow. Look at the female locker room. It's very big.

JESSIE

Uh. Focus!

JARED

Well, I was just saying.

TROY

How do we know which place is a safe space?

GARRETT (O.S.)

I am glad you've asked.

Garrett is behind the trio.

GARRETT (CONT'D)

Come. I want you to see a certain spot that provides much history for geeks in this school.

INT. GYM - CONTINUOUS

The trio follows Garrett underneath the bleachers. They see a nearby couple kissing. The couple is shocked as they run out the other way.

GARRETT

Favorite spot for couples to kiss and do other things.

Jared nudges Troy. He whispers in Troy's ear.

JARED

You could bring Aian down here.

Jessie is offended.

JESSIE

Or you could have better class and look for another girl that respects herself.

Jared was about to reply. Garrett cuts him off.

GARRETT

We're here!

The trio is confused as they look at a hanging piece of shredded underwear and abandoned shoes.

TROY

What's so special about this?

GARRETT

This the memorial place of the first geek that had to experience a royal wedgie ever since this high school was first opened.

Garrett ponders for a few moments.

GARRETT (CONT'D)

His name was Phillip J Bottomson. He was a genius at what he did. He was the one who started the tradition of giving our freshman members blueprints.

Troy is confused.

TROY

What happened to him?

Garrett has a sad look.

GARRETT

Only time will permit me to answer that question. Only if he could see how his vision transformed the history of this club.

GYM

They exit the passage under the bleachers. Garrett snaps his fingers and the assistant begins to dust off his suit.

TROY

And how will we know which are safe spots and not?

GARRETT

Champ, you and your friends were chosen in the geek club for a reason. Use your potential.

The trio look confused. One of the assistants taps Garrett on the shoulder.

ASSISTANT

Sir, the cafeteria is serving
cheesy tots today.

Garrett nods.

GARRETT

If you would excuse me. Cheesy tots
are calling my name.

The trio look dumbfounded at the blueprints.

TROY

What just happened?

JARED

We just had our minds blown.

JESSIE

We should get going. We have to
take a better look at that map.

END OF SECOND ACT

ACT THREE

INT. LOCKER ROOM - MORNING

Patrice addresses his fellow jocks.

PATRICE

Today is a proud day in the history of this school. And it is up to us to uphold the long tradition of jockery.

Patrice beckons a scared freshman to him.

PATRICE (CONT'D)

Come here little buddy. There's nothing to worry about.

Patrice grabs a nearby trashcan. The freshman is horrified as he sees the trashcan.

PATRICE (CONT'D)

Whoa! Now, now. Don't jump to conclusion little buddy.

Patrice turn to the white board that had a diagram on the proper way of putting Freshman in a trash can.

PATRICE (CONT'D)

Now, as you can see on the white board. You need a scared Freshman and a trash can.

Patrice makes sure he has the Freshman and the trash can.

PATRICE (CONT'D)

Okay. Now you get a firm grip on the loser. Then, you place butt first in the trash can.

Patrice takes the freshman out of the trash can. He puts the freshman heads first into the trash can.

PATRICE (CONT'D)

Now, this is the wrong way to put the loser in. Everyone got it! Now there are losers and trash cans for you guys to practice on.

The jocks practice how to properly place a freshman in a trash can.

The freshman tries to escape but Patrice grabs him by his shirt collar.

PATRICE (CONT'D)
Now, for the second portion of training we will show you how to give a perfect wedgie.

The freshman has a pained look.

INT. GEEK CLUB CLASSROOM - MORNING

Troy and the other freshman members look at the blueprints.

TROY
So I think it would be best if Jensen would be posted at the library. Reyes you take the passage under the bleachers.

REYES, 14, small but tough looking kid, protests.

REYES
That is like walking into a trap, literally.

The other members agree.

JARED
Or you can put Rodriguez at the bleachers and then Reyes can be posted at the second floor fire escape exit?

REYES
I can do that.

RODRIGUEZ, 14, charming nerd with an thick accent, throws his arms in the air.

RORIGUEZ
Screw you man! I am not going to be a sitting duck like Psyduck!

TROY
Or I will be posted at the bleachers. And Jared will be there with me for backup.

JARED
A great idea- What?

Jessie laughs.

JESSIE

Great idea indeed. Me and the other girls will be posted at the front gate to help our members get out safely.

Troy claps his hands.

TROY

Okay, sounds like a plan.

Troy hands out walkie talkies to the other members.

TROY (CONT'D)

Alright, we have a half day so its not impossible for us to remain wedgie free.

Some of the other members are worried.

JARED

I don't know. 4 hours is still a long time.

JESSIE

I agree with Troy on this one.

TROY

You do?

JESSIE

Yeah. We have a half day, so let's do the impossible. It almost like getting the man of your dreams to notice you.

The male members are confused while the female members nod in agreement.

TROY

Um, so let's make this count. Geeks United!

JARED

Geeks United?

Troy shrugs his shoulders as the members exit the room.

INT. CAFETERIA - AFTERNOON

The trio are in the cafeteria. The clock shows the time of 10:30am. Troy looks anxiously at his walkie talkie.

TROY

I think we have to go nuclear.

Jared spits out his milk.

JARED

Garrett told us only to use that if everything else fails.

JESSIE

I am pretty sure nothing will go wrong. They're jocks we're talking about.

Troy and Jared ponders about this. They come back to their senses when the intercom is turn on.

PRINCIPAL CLARKE (V.O.)

Today there will be a Faculty meeting ASAP in the teacher lounge. That includes security guards too.

Troy and Jared's faces drop.

JARED

It has begun.

TROY

We're going nuclear!

JESSIE

I'll get the girls. We'll see you on the other side. Be safe.

She holds Troy's hand for a few moments.

JARED

Come on! We have to go!

KITCHEN

Troy and Jared are in the staff section of the kitchen. They are hiding as they are wearing face masks and rubber gloves.

JARED (CONT'D)

Mystery meat and cheesy tots. Ugh. Ready when you are.

TROY

Here is it.

They admire the bottle for radioactive green color liquid.

TROY (CONT'D)

Thank goodness, my mom is a nurse.

Troy hands another bottle to Jared. They begin to pour the liquid onto the food.

JARED

Happy lunch meatheads.

They begin to pack up quickly and move out of sight when voices of the workers are near.

WORKER 1

Can you believe that we still had to work today?

WORKER 2

I wish today was a teacher development day.

There is a brief silence.

WORKER 1

Hey, did we get new sauce?

WORKER 2

Yeah, it must be that colored flavored ketchup everyone is trying. My kid loves it.

Their voices fade as they walk away. Troy and Jared gives each other a high five before exiting the kitchen.

CAFETERIA

Troy and Jared manage to exit the cafeteria before Patrice and his fellow jocks enter.

Troy and Jared look into the cafeteria through the door glass.

Patrice and his jocks sit at the table. They are happily talking as they are chugging milk cartons and eating the mystery meat.

Troy and Jared smiles as they leave.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Troy and Jared look down the long quiet abandoned hallway leading to the gym. Tumbleweed swirls around the hallway.

Troy and Jared grip their walkie talkies tightly.

TROY
You watch my back and I will watch
yours.

JARED
Got it.

They slowly walk down the hallway. They jump at a small
squeak.

JARED (CONT'D)
What was that!

TROY
Relax it was just the forbidden
fountain.

Jared is calm as he looks at the fountain and it does its
usual squeaking motion.

They continue to proceed slowly to the gym doors at the end
of the hallway.

JARED
Do you think the others are okay?

TROY
Troopa 1, do you copy?

Troy and Jared look eagerly at their walkie talkie but are
disappointed as no response is heard.

JARED
Nothing. This ain't good.

They are almost at the gym door as a zombie like figure jumps
at them. Jared jumps into Troy's arm.

They get a better look at the figure. It is RICHARD TESLA,
15, a young Harry Potter look alike nerd, crawls towards
Jared and Troy.

TESLA
Help me... Help, they're coming.

Jared grabs Tesla by his shirt collar and shakes him.

JARED
Where's the rest of my crew?

Troy grabs Jared from Tesla. Tesla coughs as he points at the
gym doors.

TESLA

Safety.

Jared hurried to the gym doors. Troy stops him.

JARED

What?

TROY

Do you believe him?

JARED

Troy, do you want to end up like him?

Troy is silent.

JARED (CONT'D)

I thought not. Come on!

Jared opens the gym door.

INT. GYM - MOMENTS LATER

Troy and Jared look shocked to see the other freshman members near the bleachers.

BLEACHERS

The other freshman members are relieved to see Troy and Jared.

TROY

How long you guys been here?

RODRIGUEZ

We were here since the announcement. After that everything went to-

Rodriguez tears up. Reyes comforts him.

REYES

He lost his favorite Capcom encyclopedia when he was raided.

Jared is horrified.

JARED

Those monsters. Don't worry we'll find a way to get it back.

TROY
 We've got to get out of here. Is
 this everyone?

Troy counts the members.

TROY (CONT'D)
 Let's go. We can meet Jessie out
 the front.

The members are happy as they are chanting we won, we won.
 Troy opens the gym exit doors.

EXT. BACK OF SCHOOL - MOMENTS LATER

Troy and the other members look stunned to see Patrice and
 his jocks waiting for them.

There other freshman victims in trash cans trying to get out.

PATRICE
 Well, well. You thought you almost
 got away, huh?

Troy and the members are silent.

The gym doors open behind them to reveal the nerd club. Tesla
 and his fellow members are smiling at Troy and Jared.

TESLA
 Did you like my acting?

JARED
 Those slimy nerds!

Tesla walks up to Patrice. Patrice hands him the Capcom
 Encyclopedia. Rodriguez is stunned.

RODRIGUEZ
 My book!

Tesla inspect the book and its pages. He nods at his members.
 He looks at Troy and Jared.

TESLA
 Have fun with your life changing
 experience.

The nerd club laughs as they walk away.

RODRIGUEZ
 I will get that book back if it
 means death!

Troy and Jared looks worried at Rodriguez.

JARED
Just let it go man.

TROY
Yeah, we have the whole school year
to get that book back.

Rodriguez nods.

RODRIGUEZ
So what's the plan?

TROY
Well, that is a good question. Hmm
the plan for now is to. RUN!

Troy and the other members runs in all directions.

Patrice and his fellow jocks pull out their pre workout
powder.

PATRICE
Time to power up!

Patrice and his fellow jocks takes a scoop of powder and eats
it. The powder works instantly as they react like the
Incredible Hulk.

PATRICE (CONT'D)
Get the trash cans!

The jocks with trash cans begin to put some of the members in
trash cans.

Patrice focuses on Troy and Jared.

TROY
Come on. Maybe Jessie and the
others are still at the front gate.

Troy and Jared runs to the front gate but Patrice gains
ground behind them.

TROY (CONT'D)
What's in that powder?

JARED
I don't know but we're almost
there.

Jessie waves at them as they get closer.

TROY

Freedom!

Troy and Jared waves their arms like high school girls seeing their favorite celebrity crush.

A motorcade of Ford Mustangs creates a blockage causing them to run into the car.

They are knock to the ground. Troy's last image is seeing Patrice laughing over him.

Troy then sees Jared being put into a trash can.

EXT. FLAG POLE - MOMENTS LATER

Troy wakes to the sound of jocks laughing.

TROY

What the?

Troy is tied the top of the flag pole. He is dressed as a pilgrim.

TROY (CONT'D)

Oh come on!

Patrice laughs as he has the video camera.

PATRICE

Say cheese loser!

Patrice gives the camera to a fellow jock. Patrice addresses his fellow jock.

PATRICE (CONT'D)

Now, we've done a good job in upholding the values of this high-

Patrice burps.

PATRICE (CONT'D)

Excuse me. Like I was saying we have done a fine job today taking the punishment to those-

Patrice farts. The fellow jocks and the cheerleaders start laughing but stop as they begin to fart.

There is a chorus of farts filling the air. Some people are now using the bathroom on themselves.

Troy is amused as he sees the jocks are in pain.

PATRICE (CONT'D)
Ah, it's everywhere.

Some jocks are rolling on the ground crying.

JOCK 1
Make it stop. Please!

Jessie runs to the flag pole unnoticed. She helps Troy down.

They run to the front gate.

Patrice sees that Troy is escaping.

PATRICE
This is not over. Mark my words.

He farts and collapse to the ground holding his stomach.

FRONT GATE

Jessie beckons Troy to sit down. She inspects him.

JESSIE
Are you okay?

TROY
Never been better.

Jessie looks at the cut on Troy's forehead. She takes a bandage from her backpack and applies it on his cut.

Jessie looks concerned at Troy.

JESSIE
Are you sure you're ok?

They make eye contact.

SANDRA (O.S.)
Boy, what the hell you've got on!

Troy breaks the eye contact and walks towards Sandra's car. He waves at her. She stares at the car until it's out of sight.

TAG

EXT. FOOTBALL STADIUM - DAY

Patrice and his fellow jocks tosses the football to each other.

PATRICE
Death to all Nerds!

TESLA (O.S.)
I believe the word you mean to use
is geeks.

Telsa and his nerd club crew confronts Patrice and the jocks.

TESLA (CONT'D)
That was real messy what happened
yesterday. I always knew you jocks
were idiots but never-

PATRICE
I advise you to not finish that
sentence.

TESLA
Or what? You'll beat me up? We both
know you need me more than I need
you.

PRINCIPAL CLARKE (O.S)
And you both need me more than I
need you.

Principal Clarke is dressed in a long trench coat with
sunglasses.

JOCK 1
Ain't you hot sir?

PRINCIPAL CLARKE
Yes you dimwit!

Principal Clarke takes off his sunglasses and gives a
newspaper to Patrice.

The heading of the newspaper reads: Central High is center of
bowel controversy.

PRINCIPAL CLARKE (CONT'D)
You had one job! One Job! I
practically gave you two the
opportunity on a silver platter.

PATRICE
We'll get them next time boss.

PRINCIPAL CLARKE
Next time huh?

PATRICE
Yeah?

Principal Clarke take a tub of protein powder out of his trench coat. He pours the powder to the ground and lights it with a match. The jocks cry at the sight of this.

PATRICE (CONT'D)
Sir! That was exclusively made in China! We needed that for the game against Weston High!

PRINCIPAL CLARKE
Well maybe next time huh?

Tesla laughs.

Principal Clarke pulls out a piece of paper from his trench coat.

PRINCIPAL CLARKE (CONT'D)
Well, will you look at this letter of recommendation to my alma mater Rutgers University. Such a shame I would have to do this.

Principal Clarke slowly raises his lighter to the bottom edge of the paper. The lighter barely touches the letter.

TESLA
Okay! Ok, we will get it right. We will restore order and norm. Just leave the recommendation alone.

PRINCIPAL CLARKE
Well then, I am glad we're on the same page. No pun intended. I want to see that order restore as soon as possible. You guys are upperclassmen so take charge.

Principal Clarke slaps the football out of Patrice's hand before leaving the football stadium.

Telsa and Patrice confront each other.

TESLA

I'll take over the planning from
now on. You just take over the
brawn part.

Telsa beckons his crew to leave the stadium.

Patrice faces his fellow jocks.

PATRICE

It's show time. Time to fight brain
with brawn!

Jocks are confused.

JOCK 2

I think you mean it time to fight
fire with fire?

PATRICE

Whatever it is. Time to take the
fight to those geek wierdos.

Patrice and the jocks do their jock calling.

END OF EPISODE

LET GO

Written by

Sherroy Chapman

FADE IN:

INT. SHELIA LIVING ROOM - DAY

SHELIA, 19, folds clothes on the couch as she notices her phone buzzing.

She sees its her a text from her Dad. She is worried.

DARIUS, 19, comes in the living room eating a slice of pizza. He sees the worried look on her face.

DARIUS
What's wrong?

SHELIA
I have to go!

She grabs her purse and sprints out of the living room.

DARIUS
Don't forget your keys!

Darius shrugs his shoulders as he goes back to watching TV.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Shelia runs towards room 365 and she stops when she hears laughter. She leaves the hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

SANDRA, 50, smiles in her bed as she looks at her family.

SANDRA
My beautiful family.

Her smile fades when she notices that Shelia is missing.

SANDRA (CONT'D)
Where's my demon daughter?

ROBERT
She should be on her way. I sent her a text.

Sandra sneers.

SANDRA
She must get that incompetent nature from you.

ROBERT, 53, sits next to the bed.

ROBERT

Pastor Johnson said he's praying
that for your full recovery and
that you have many more days of
life left.

He hands his wife a cup of water. She looks at the cup of
water for a few moments.

INT. SANDRA'S HOUSE - FLASHBACK

YOUNG SANDRA, 9, looks at her MOTHER cry with her siblings.

YOUNG SANDRA

Mama, where is daddy?

Her mother doesn't answer her. There is a knock on the door.

PASTOR SMITH, 45, is trying to calm Toni down.

PASTOR SMITH

Everything is going to be okay. I
promise.

Pastor Smith looks at the young Sandra.

PASTOR SMITH (CONT'D)

Everything is going to be okay.

END OF FLASHBACK.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Sandra snaps back into reality as she sees her husband
looking concern at her.

ROBERT

Everything is going to be okay.

He hugs his wife.

INT. SHELIA APARTMENT - LATER

Shelia is on the couch angrily eating ice cream.

SHELIA

I thought it was an actual
emergency! Then I hear laughter.
Some emergency.

Darius has a bored look.

DARIUS

Oh really? Then what happened?

He continues to flick through the channels.

SHELIA

Can you believe she calls herself a mother?

DARIUS

Well, she gave birth to you. So she has to be your mother.

Shelia looks at Darius.

SHELIA

Oh, really? You're so smart right?

Darius shrugs his shoulders as Shelia throws a pillow at him.

Shelia's phone buzz. She picks up the phone.

SHELIA (CONT'D)

Now, my dad want to have a reunion!

DARIUS

Sounds fun.

Shelia throws another pillow at him.

DARIUS (CONT'D)

What's that for?

SHELIA

You're not helping the situation.

DARIUS

Hey, you know I have your back no matter what happens.

They hug.

INT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

Shelia and Darius wait for their number to be called.

DARIUS

There are a lot of people here.

Shelia is nervous.

DARIUS (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

SHELIA
Yeah I am fine.

Darius holds Shelia's hand. They smile at each other.

PA SYSTEM
Jones! Proceed to window 4!

DARIUS
That is us.

SHELIA
Yeah.

DARIUS
Everything will be okay.

They proceed to the counter.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Sandra is tossing and turning in her bed.

SANDRA
Daddy don't leave.

EXT. SANDRA'S HOUSE - FLASHBACK

LARRY DANIELS, 40, stumbles towards the porch stairs. His family watch him from the front door.

LARRY
Hey. There is my kids.

Larry goes to open the screen door only to find out it is locked.

LARRY (CONT'D)
What's this Lorena?

LORENA
You're drunk. You will not see our kids. Go back to where you came from.

LARRY
I'm not drunk! I just have a buzz. Now, let me see my damn kids!

He reaches for the door again and hits the door.

LORENA
Go away before I call the police!

SANDRA
Mama, please let daddy in.

LORENA
No honey. Daddy will come back
later.

LARRY
Lorena! Open this damn door now!

Larry picks up a rock and slowly walks towards the door. He stops when he sees Lorena with his handgun.

LORENA
I won't tell you again.

Larry shakes his head. He looks at his kids with shame. He drops the rock and walks away.

SANDRA
Daddy!

Larry continues to walk until he's out of sight.

END OF FLASHBACK

HOSPITAL ROOM

Sandra wakes up and looks around her dark room. She begins to cry.

SANDRA (CONT'D)
Daddy don't leave.

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY - DAY

Shelia and Darius wait in the lobby. Darius holds the marriage certificate in hand.

DARIUS
Looking forward to this.

SHELIA
Well, today is your lucky day.

Robert greets them in the lobby.

ROBERT

Good to see you guys. She is awake
and taking her medicine.

Robert shakes Darius's hand. Robert notices that Darius's
hand is shaking.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

What's wrong son?

DARIUS

Nothing.

Darius sits down.

DARIUS (CONT'D)

Is this all going too fast?

Robert takes a seat next to Darius.

ROBERT

That's not your call. God has a
plan that has perfect timing.

Robert beckons Shelia to take a seat.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Now, I know marriage is a big deal.
In fact, when I first met her
mother I didn't know what I wanted
in life.

Robert looks directly at Darius.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

I was uncertain about who I was and
the man I was supposed to be.

DARIUS

And?

ROBERT

But I learned that life is
sometimes much bigger than me. It's
a bigger picture that included
other people.

Darius ponders for a few moments.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

If you really love my daughter and
I know you love her, then you'll
respect her family wishes.

Darius looks at Robert then at Sheila and back at Robert.

DARIUS

Ok.

ROBERT

Let's go see your mother.

Robert hugs Shelia as they walk towards the room.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Sandra talks with family but stops when she sees Shelia.

SHELIA

Hi Mom.

Sandra looks at Shelia and then at Darius.

SANDRA

You look like you gained weight.

SHELIA

Thank you. I haven't noticed.

SANDRA

Who's this?

SHELIA

That's my boyfriend, Darius.

SANDRA

You can do better. I thought God would give you some wisdom.

SHELIA

I'm sorry. I'll read my bible more.

Shelia looks at Darius for help. He shrugs.

She put the marriage license on Sandra's bed. Sandra looks at the license.

SANDRA

So?

Shelia is stunned.

SHELIA

I thought-

SANDRA
You thought you could sin and then
redeem yourself?

SHELIA
No, I thought I could forgive you!

SANDRA
God don't like ugly.

SHELIA
You're a hypocrite!

Sandra is stunned as her daughter begins to leave the room.

EXT. CHURCH FRONT STAIRS - FLASHBACK

Sandra waits in the car for her father. Larry pleads with
Pastor Smith.

Pastor Smith tears up a piece of paper. He points at Larry's
car. Sandra put the driver's window down.

LARRY
You're the biggest fucking
hypocrite I have ever seen.

PASTOR SMITH
Go drink yourself to death. The
church have our own agenda.

Larry is disgusted as he walks towards his truck.

LARRY
Hypocrite.

He grabs for his gin bottle and takes a drink from it.

SANDRA
Daddy, what's wrong?

LARRY
Nothing sugar. Are you hungry?
Let's go somewhere.

Larry's truck leaves the parking lot of the church. Sandra
looks through the back window at Pastor Smith with hatred.

END OF FLASHBACK

HOSPITAL ROOM

Sandra looks at her daughter leaving the room.

SANDRA

Wait.

Shelia stops and walks back to her mother.

SHELIA

What?

Sandra beckons Shelia to take a seat.

SANDRA

Those are nice gold rings.

SHELIA

You like them?

Sandra nods and smiles. Shelia gives her Mom a hug.

SHELIA (CONT'D)

I missed you.

SANDRA

I missed you too. We learn all
learn from mistakes.

EXT. SANDRA'S HOUSE - FLASHBACK

Sandra sits on the porch with her father.

SANDRA

Daddy, today is Sunday. We were
suppose to go to church today.

LARRY

Well, we'll take this Sunday off.

SANDRA

Well, we'll go next Sunday?

Larry looks at his daughter's confusion expression.

LARRY

Listen sugar, there will be
situations in life in which things
doesn't make sense for you, but
it's your job to find the truth.

SANDRA

People at church are liars?

LARRY

It's a long story, but one thing
about life is you will make
mistakes and that is your job to
learn from them.

Sandra nods as she hugs her father and they look into the
sunset.

END OF FLASHBACK.

HOSPITAL ROOM

The family gather around Sandra's bed. Nurses try to revive
her but with no success.

Shelia cries as Darius comforts her.

ROBERT

Well, she must be in a better
place.

Shelia has a faint smile as she looks into her mother's face.
She kisses her cheek.

SHELIA

Goodbye Mom. I love you.

FADE OUT.

SUPERSTORE

Written by
Sherroy Chapman

COLD OPEN

INT. CLOUD 9 SALES FLOOR - DAY

GLENN makes his rounds supervising the departments. He smiles at some of the customers as he takes notes. He continues to have a jolly expression as he passes some of his employees.

INT. TOY SECTION - MOMENTS LATER

Glenn looks up from his clipboard.

GLENN

What the...

He drops his clipboard to the floor as he rushes over to SANDRA.

GLENN (CONT'D)

No! That's supposed to be over there. But wait.

Glenn is disappointed as he sees that the whole aisle is stocked wrong.

Sandra tries to correct her problem to calm Glenn down.

GLENN (CONT'D)

Stop. Just stop.

SANDRA

I am so sorry. It's been a long week.

GLENN

A long week?

Glenn points at the shelf.

GLENN (CONT'D)

This is what you call a long week!
You had only one job, Sandra!

Glenn begins to throw the items off from the shelf.

GLENN (CONT'D)

Take that, long week!

Nearby customers make a circle around Glenn.

GLENN (CONT'D)
What? You have a problem?

A scared customer presses the help button.

DINA and AMY come to the toy section.

DINA
What seems to be the problem?

The customer points at Glenn.

DINA (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

GLENN
Oh, am I okay? Do I look okay?

Dina has a confused look as she takes a look at the employee handbook.

DINA
Well, according to section 1
paragraph 3-

Glenn grabs the book from Dina.

GLENN
Here's what I think of your stupid
handbook!

Glenn tries to rip it. He tosses the book. The handbook hits an elder customer in the back of the head.

AMY
Glenn! Why would you do such a
thing?

CUSTOMER 1
He is a monster!

Glenn has instant regret as he sees Amy and Dina helping the elder customer.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONEINT. MULTIPURPOSE ROOM - THE NEXT DAY

Employees talk among themselves. Some of them look at Glenn. GARRETT shakes his head as he is talking to MATEO.

GARRETT

Such great potential gone to waste.

MATEO

Not really. Just means there is a new opening for store manager now.

GARRETT

Wow! This man's career is about to be executed and all you can think about is an opening?

MATEO

Well, showing public displays of anger in the workplace is forbidden. It's in the handbook.

Mateo goes back to reading his employee handbook.

JEFF enters the room. The room goes quiet. Glenn starts to wipe sweat from his brow.

JEFF

Hello everyone. I think most of you know who I am.

Amy rolls her eyes.

JEFF (CONT'D)

I am here today because a leaked video surface on the internet about Cloud 9. Now, we at corporate love social media but only if it is good publicity.

Jeff shows the video to the employees. Glenn turns red as the video shows his meltdown and ending with the handbook hitting the elder lady in the head.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Now, we will watch a training video on how to maintain respect for each other in the workplace.

The employees let out sighs. Mateo looked thrilled as he takes out a notebook and pen.

The employees watch the training video with bored expressions. Garrett is asleep and his snoring interrupts Mateo's note taking.

ON SCREEN: TRAINING VIDEO

The training video has a young Glenn talking to the Superstore mascot, KYLE THE CLOUD 9 CLOUD.

GLENN

Kyle, I have a problem with one of my employees.

KYLE THE CLOUD 9 CLOUD

What's seems to be the problem?

Glenn acts nervous in front of the camera while trying hard to not smile.

GLENN

Well, this one guy is very lazy and he always sleeps on the job.

Kyle the Cloud 9 Cloud has a forced shocked look as he looks at the camera.

KYLE THE CLOUD 9 CLOUD

Oh no, it seems like we have a problem here. We should talk to the employee.

There is a brief awkward silence as the cameraman's hand is seen beckoning the employee to come into the shot.

A young employee comes into the room.

He looks at the camera and gives a shout out.

YOUNG EMPLOYEE

I want to thank my mom on leading me to this moment. I also want to thank my-

Glenn nudges the young employee.

YOUNG EMPLOYEE (CONT'D)

Oh! Um, why am I here? Is it something to do....

GLENN

Yes, with your work ethic.

YOUNG EMPLOYEE

Oh yes! My work ethic.

KYLE THE CLOUD 9 CLOUD

Yes, Glenn said that you are not taking your job seriously. You know how Kyle the Cloud 9 Cloud feels about that.

YOUNG EMPLOYEE

Yes, I know. Well, I have been busy with early court hearings and random drug testing that I barely have time to sleep.

Kyle the Cloud 9 Cloud looks at Glenn.

KYLE THE CLOUD 9 CLOUD

Did you even ask this employee about his personal problems?

Glenn looks down at the floor and begins to weep.

GLENN

No! I am such a bad boss for not knowing my employees.

Kyle the Cloud 9 Cloud embraces Glenn.

KYLE THE CLOUD 9 CLOUD

There, there buddy. You can cry on me. I am cloud! I can soak up the sadness and pave the way for the sun!

Glenn stops weeping. Then he puts his arms around the young employee and Kyle. They are looking directly into the camera.

GLENN

We at Cloud 9 should be aware of employee's problems and situations to better help each other.

YOUNG EMPLOYEE

Because when we all are working together-

KYLE THE CLOUD 9 CLOUD
It looks mighty great for all of us
on Cloud 9!

MULTIPURPOSE ROOM.

JEFF
Okay. I hope you all learn from
that video. Now, we have another
exercise that we improvised at the
corporate level.

Jeff calls to the door. New seasonal hires enter the room.
Glenn looks happy to see them.

GLENN
Oh new hires. I promise to lead
them with honest guidance.

JEFF
Um, that is not the plan, Glenn.
The exercise that I had in mind was
to switch everyone's position.

The employees start to talk among themselves.

Jeff hands Glenn a blue vest and takes his walkie talkie. He
hands the walkie talkie to JONAH. Jonah hands it back to Jeff
like a game of hot potato. Jeff hands it back to Jonah and
promptly return to the front of the room.

JEFF (CONT'D)
Now, they're a list of everyone's
new positions outside of this room.
Do a good job everyone, I will be
watching.

GLENN
Um, what is my new position?

JEFF
Oh, I almost forgot. You are
assigned to the stockroom. It will
be much better that way.

Jeff leaves the room. BO enters the room with a blue Cloud 9
vest on. He smiles as he makes his way to Glenn.

BO
You ready for the workday, homie?

GLENN
You got to be kidding me.

INT. CLOUD 9 SALES FLOOR - DAY

Jonah and Jeff are doing a walk through the store. Jeff takes notes. Jonah looks nervous.

Mateo ignores him as Jonah tries to find a way to get away from Jeff.

Jeff observes Sandra in the personal care section.

Jonah sees Amy in the sporting good section. He rushes towards her.

INT. SPORTING GOOD SECTION - MOMENTS LATER

Amy sees Jonah as she packs some basketballs on the shelf.

AMY
Hey boss.

JONAH
I don't know if you are being
sarcastic or not.

AMY
Then maybe you should get to know
your employees, boss.

Amy continues to pack the shelves. Jonah ponders.

JONAH
You think that I wanted this?
Besides, Jeff put you in this
section.

AMY
But your word is more powerful than
mine at the moment.

Jonah has a defeated look.

INT. CASHIER SECTION - DAY

Garrett is checking out customers. An attractive blonde begins to unload her items. Garrett looks dreamy at her.

The blonde comes to the credit machine to check out.

GARRETT
Are you from Tennessee?

BLONDE
No.

GARRETT
Because you're the only ten I see.

Blonde laughs as she takes out her credit card to pay.

GARRETT (CONT'D)
Do you have a membership with us?

BLONDE
I do, but I forgot the membership
number.

Garrett pulls out his cell phone.

GARRETT
No problem. We can search it by
your cell phone number.

The blonde has a confused look.

GARRETT (CONT'D)
What?

INT. BEAUTY SECTION - DAY

Dina applies make up to a client's face.

DINA
Just a sec-

Dina look at her client and smiles.

DINA (CONT'D)
There. You look ten times better.

Dina smiles as she hands a mirror to the client.

The client frowns as she has camouflage colors on her face.

CLIENT
I look like I am going to war!

DINA

No, you look like you are going to have many men running after you.

The client ponders at this.

CLIENT

So, this is the new trend these days?

DINA

Yes, it is ma'am.

CLIENT

Great! I will take two of each color.

INT. STOCKROOM - DAY

Glenn shows Bo around the stockroom.

GLENN

This is our lovely stockroom. Now, our first order of business is to move the old items to the other side.

BO

Okay sounds good to me, homie.

GLENN

Now, we have to use the forklift.

Glenn grabs the safety book for the forklift.

GLENN (CONT'D)

Now, we have to remind ourselves of all safety procedures when it comes to operating this dangerous piece of machinery. Now, for the first step, we-

BO

Yo boss man, what is next on our agenda?

GLENN

What? Where are the boxes I told you about?

BO
They're over there. That's what you
wanted right?

Glenn has a confused look as he grabs Bo and begins to shake
him.

GLENN
Who are you? Who do you work for?

BO
Boss man take it easy. It is me. I
am the same gangster as before.
Woop Woop.

Glenn comes to his senses as he hears the Woop sound from Bo.

GLENN
Well, we have more boxes needing to
be moved.

END OF FIRST ACT

ACT TWOINT. MULTIPURPOSE ROOM - AFTERNOON

The employees wait for Jeff and Jonah to enter the room.

Garrett grins at Sandra.

GARRETT
You know, the cash register is a
lot better than I thought.

SANDRA
Why do you say that?

Garrett reaches for his cell phone on the table.

GARRETT
You don't know how many numbers I
got before lunch break.

Garrett has a excited look as Sandra ponders for the answer.

GARRETT (CONT'D)
15!

SANDRA
Wow.

GARRETT
Yeah I know. I even got a number
from a chick that was from Paris.

Garrett grabs his piece of pizza.

GARRETT (CONT'D)
Wee Wee!

Mateo look annoyed at Garrett.

MATEO
I am pretty sure that you are not
supposed to do that while checking
out customers, just saying.

Mateo goes back to reading his book.

GARRETT
Why are you always hating on me,
man?

MATEO

Hating? Believe me, there is not much to hate there.

GARRETT

Or maybe it's because I am coming for your employee of the month streak?

Mateo has a deadpan expression as he drops his book to the table.

MATEO

You wouldn't dare!

Garrett is amused as he takes a bite out of his pizza.

GARRETT

Imagine the look on my French girl's face when I bring that employee of the month plaque home.

MATEO

Well...

GARRETT

Well what?

MATEO

I'll tell Jeff and Jonah that you steal ice cream every Friday after your shift is over.

GARRETT

You're a savage!

Mateo goes back to reading his book.

Jeff and Jonah enter the room.

JEFF

Good job with training everyone. I feel like the respect for each other is oozing out on the sales floor.

JONAH

Oh! Respect oozing out on the sales floor. Classic.

Jonah stops laughing when he sees that no one else is laughing.

JONAH (CONT'D)
Keep up the good work everyone.

AMY
Easier said than done, boss.

INT. STOCKROOM - AFTERNOON

Glenn and Bo take a break from stocking the boxes.

GLENN
You know this is not a bad job. I don't have to deal with nagging customers or even aggressive old ladies.

BO
Yeah you said it, boss man.

Bo grabs two soda cans from a box on the shelf. He gives one to Glenn.

BO (CONT'D)
Here you go. I think we deserve it.

GLENN
I can't take that. That is stealing. That is bad. Jesus would not do that.

BO
But Jesus wouldn't work at Cloud 9 either.

Glenn ponders for a moment.

GLENN
I guess you're right, huh.

Bo nods as he hands the soda can to Glenn.

BO
Drink up.

Glenn takes a sip from the can.

GLENN
Oh my, so this is what sin tastes like?

Glenn takes a few more sips.

GLENN (CONT'D)
It is so good!

BO
Shall we get back to work?

Glenn nods as he puts his helmet on.

Bo and Glenn are both on their forklifts.

GLENN
Ready, set, go!

They begin to race the forklifts throughout the stockroom.

INT. BEAUTY SECTION - AFTERNOON

Dina is bored as she look at customers shopping.

A client signals for Dina's help on applying makeup.

Dina works on the client's face for a few moments. Dina hands the mirror to the client.

The client has a horrified expression as she drops the mirror to the floor.

CLIENT 2
What's this? I look like a freak.

DINA
No, you look like a freak with a
dolphin on her forehead.

The client grabs her purse and leaves the makeup section.

Dina sighs as she sees Jeff and Jonah checking up on the employees.

DINA (CONT'D)
Only if I had that walkie talkie
again.

CLIENT 3
Excuse me, how much is this Chanel
lipstick?

Dina has a pained look as she goes to help the client.

INT. SPORTING GOOD SECTION - AFTERNOON

Amy and CHEYENNE stock items onto the shelves.

Amy notices Cheyenne's depression.

AMY
What's wrong?

CHEYENNE
All of this respect training is cool and everything. But I miss the makeup section.

Cheyenne glances over to the makeup section. She sees clients crying.

CHEYENNE (CONT'D)
But I think Dina is doing a very good job. Clients are literally crying tears of joy when they leave.

AMY
Hey, look this training isn't so bad.

Amy frowns at the section they are in. She glances toward the frozen food section.

AMY (CONT'D)
Who am I kidding? This training sucks. I miss the frozen food section. How else am I going to sneak out my butter pecan ice cream?

CHEYENNE
I like the rocky road flavor.

INT. FOOD COURT SECTION - MOMENTS LATER

Amy and Cheyenne sit on a bench in the food court section. They are depressed as they slowly eat their ice cream.

Amy tries Cheyenne's rocky road ice cream.

AMY
Oh that's good.

CHEYENNE

Right. I always eat this when I am feeling down. I can go for a very good movie right now.

They look at each other.

INT. ELECTRONIC SECTION - MOMENTS LATER

Amy and Cheyenne are sitting on a sofa and watching The Notebook.

Some customers join them as Amy and Cheyenne watch the movie.

INT. CASHIER SECTION - AFTERNOON

Garrett tries to check out the increasing line of customers.

Garrett looks at his cell phone.

GARRETT

More than halfway full. Ain't a problem for me.

A female customer begins to put her items on the counter.

GARRETT (CONT'D)

Hey beautiful, did you find everything, ok?

FEMALE CUSTOMER

Yes, I did. Thank you.

GARRETT

No. Thank you.

Garrett grins as he scans the last item.

GARRETT (CONT'D)

That will be \$45.76. Do you have a membership with us?

Garrett begins to reach for his cell phone but stops as the female customer hands him a membership card.

GARRETT (CONT'D)

Oh, I really wasn't expecting that.

Garrett scans the membership card. He is disappointed.

HELGA begins to put her items on the counter.

HELGA
Hey there handsome, I forgot my
card in my car. Should I give you
my number?

Helga leans into Garrett.

GARRETT
\$11.33 is your total, ma'am. Cash
or credit?

Helga looks confused as she hands the cash to Garrett.

Garrett gives her the receipt and change without making eye
contact. The customer tries to touch Garrett's hand.

GARRETT (CONT'D)
Um, did you just try to touch my
hand?

Helga nods with a toothless grin.

GARRETT (CONT'D)
You do know that is sexual
harassment, right?

HELGA
Well, guilty as charged.

GARRETT
You just made unwanted contact with
my hand!

Some customers in the line begin to take out their cell
phones. Jonah stops at Garrett's register.

JONAH
Is everything okay here?

GARRETT
Yes, I was just waiting for her to
get her bags so I can begin to
checkout the other customers.

Helga begins to put her bags in her cart.

OVERWEIGHT CUSTOMER
This isn't the last of me. You will
see me again. And I will give you
my number.
(MORE)

OVERWEIGHT CUSTOMER (CONT'D)

We will go on a very nice date in
the food court! Mark my words!

Helga leaves the store. Jonah looks at Garrett.

GARRETT

Don't ask.

JONAH

Didn't even cross my mind.

INT. STOCKROOM - AFTERNOON

Glenn is annoyed.

GLENN

You cheated!

BO

C'mon boss man. Learn how to take
an L. I won that race square and
fair.

GLENN

I'm pretty sure it's fair and
square.

BO

I know what I mean. I graduated
from word life. Woop Woop!

Glenn shakes his head.

GLENN

I don't care where you graduated
from. Doesn't mean you can cheat
your way through life.

Bo ponders for a few moments. Bo extends his hand to Glenn.

BO

Winner takes all this next race?

GLENN

Deal!

Glenn puts on his helmet.

GLENN (CONT'D)

I show what I learned from fast
Asian car movie.

Bo climbs in his forklift.

BO

On your mark. Ready. Set. GO!

They race around the obstacle course. Bo narrowly misses a tower of boxes as he makes a sharp turn.

Glenn remains behind Bo for most of the race. They both begin to go towards the finish line as Bo is knocking down boxes from the shelves.

Glenn dodges the boxes as he gain momentum on Bo.

GLENN

Ha! Take that. I still got it in me.

The finish line is near as both Bo and Glenn are bumper to bumper.

Glenn edges Bo to reach the finish line first.

GLENN (CONT'D)

Ha! I win. Thank you fast Asian cars movie.

BO

Dang homie. You got some skills boss man. Maybe I should watch that movie. I can learn a thing or two.

Glenn's forklift keeps moving.

BO (CONT'D)

Why's your forklift still moving?

GLENN

I actually don't know.

Glenn looks confused as he sees the different handles and buttons.

BO

You about to go into cardboard land homie. Do something.

GLENN

I'm trying.

Glenn has a worried look as his forklift is nearing the boxes. Glenn begin to press random buttons.

The forklift begins to raise its forks to the max height. The forklift accelerates.

BO
Boss man jump!

Glenn jumps out of the forklift as it tilts over into the shelf of boxes.

Glenn and Bo watch as the shelves are going down like dominos.

BO (CONT'D)
That was awesome!

GLENN
Oh no. I'm definitely going to lose my job now.

Bo ponders for a few moments.

BO
Or does Jeff ever have to find out it was you, boss man?

GLENN
You're right. We need to get out of here and hide somewhere until the end of the day.

BO
So we're like on the run from authority?

GLENN
Yes! Come on we have to get out of here now.

BO
This is some gangster stuff, boss man.

Bo and Glenn begin to walk towards the exit. They stop when they see Jeff and Jonah in a nearby section.

Glenn sneaks into the frozen food section. Bo follows Glenn.

BO (CONT'D)
We're on the run up in here. Woop Woop!

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. CASHIER SECTION - AFTERNOON

The line at Garrett's cash register gets longer as he is having trouble keeping up.

GARRETT

Ok. That will be \$32.75 sir.

The customer gives Garrett a 2 dollar bill.

CUSTOMER 2

Oh, I have the rest right here.

The customer grabs his plastic bag of coins and dumps them onto the counter.

GARRETT

You do know that we live in a world in which you can use debit cards, right?

CUSTOMER 2

I know.

The customer begins to count the pennies.

GARRETT

Well, why don't you use a debit card instead?

CUSTOMER 2

You know, the whole concept is confusing to me.

The customer continues to count the pennies. Garrett takes out his wallet.

GARRETT

What's so hard about doing this?

Garrett swipes his debit card. The receipt start to print from the machine.

Garrett shakes his head.

GARRETT (CONT'D)

No, No! It was only supposed to be a demonstration.

The customer is already gone with his groceries.

GARRETT (CONT'D)
Hey! You owe me \$32.75!

Garrett sighs as he looks at the pennies.

INT. PA SECTION - AFTERNOON

Mateo grins as he sees Garrett struggling with the cash register.

Mateo turns the PA system on.

MATEO
Attention Cloud 9 shoppers. Expect
a 14 minute delay when checking
out. We are sorry for the
inconvenience.

Mateo ponders for a few moments.

MATEO (CONT'D)
Well, I am not sorry. If I was on
the cash register then you would
all be checked out in a timely
manner.

Mateo gives Garrett a dirty look.

MATEO (CONT'D)
Oh yeah, before I forget, school
supplies are buy 1 get 1 half off
because we don't believe in decent
savings here in Cloud 9.

Nearby customers look confused as some start to put the school supplies back on the shelves.

INT. FROZEN FOOD SECTION - AFTERNOON

Glenn and Bo sneaks around the customers. Bo bumps into Glenn.

BO
Yo, what's going on?

GLENN
Unbelievable.

Glenn looks at the frozen food prices. Glenn picks up a price scanner gun.

GLENN (CONT'D)
This ends today. These prices are
not what came from corporate.

BO
Boss man, just leave it alone.
We're going to get caught.

Bo is nervous. He is constantly looking over his shoulder.

BO (CONT'D)
We have witnesses everywhere.

Glenn ignores him as he corrects the price tags.

GLENN
There. Now that can put a smile on
every shopper's face.

Glenn admires his work for a few moments as Bo pushes him onto the ground.

GLENN (CONT'D)
Hey! Why did you do that?

Bo signals for Glenn to be quiet as he looks toward Sandra.

Sandra makes her way to the frozen food section. She goes to the toy section to help a customer.

Bo helps Glenn up.

BO
You alright?

GLENN
Yeah I am but-

BO
From here on out, you have to do
what I say. If you want to stay
free.

Glenn looks terrified.

GLENN
Well, I guess we all can learn from
each other.

BO
 Let's cut through the sporting
 section. I notice no one ever
 checks that section.

GLENN
 Good thinking. Poop poop!

Bo has a deadpan expression as Glenn smiles awkwardly.

GLENN (CONT'D)
 What? Are we going to go on our
 adventure or just stand here?

BO
 It's whoop whoop and never take my
 trademark again, yo.

GLENN
 I'm sorry.

BO
 That's just wrong. People get
 killed over that kind of stuff,
 boss man.

GLENN
 Oh my!

Bo and Glenn make their way to the sporting section.

INT. TOY SECTION - AFTERNOON

Amy and Cheyenne pack items onto the shelf.

AMY
 That movie is so good but very sad.

CHEYENNE
 Yeah when he gets the letters it
 just so, so uhhhh.

They begin to screech. Jonah comes into the section.

JONAH
 Um, Amy can I have a quick word?

AMY
 Sure.

JONAH

I need your help in trying to keep this store from going up in flames.

AMY

Oh, now you need my help but before you just put me in the toy section. Beside my shift is almost over.

JONAH

Well, if we don't fix the problems now, then we have to stay later without overtime.

Amy drops the items in her hands. She begin to drag Jonah by the sleeve.

AMY

Oh no, that's not going to happen!

INT. CASHIER SECTION - AFTERNOON

The lines continue to increase as Garrett is overwhelmed.

The customers begin to complain as Garrett is still struggling.

Mateo comes to help Garrett. Mateo begins to bag the items.

GARRETT

Are you really helping me?

MATEO

Well, I heard that we need to get this training done in order to go home so... Here I am.

Mateo continue to bag the items.

INT. BEAUTY SECTION - AFTERNOON

Dina tries hard not lose her temper.

DINA

Ma'am I told you many times that the color you are trying to get is not in stock.

CLIENT

But I want it now! Your customer service skills suck!

Dina loses her temper as Cheyenne entered the section.

CHEYENNE

What are you looking for ma'am?

CLIENT

I'm looking for a blue color of Chanel.

CHEYENNE

Oh, sorry that is back-ordered but I think the red color will look much better on you.

Cheyenne applies the lipstick on the client. The client looks happy as she looks at the mirror.

CLIENT

Oh, it does look good. I take this instead.

CHEYENNE

Great choice ma'am.

Cheyenne checks out the customer.

DINA

How did you do that so easily?

CHEYENNE

Oh, I love makeup and I worked in this section many times before.

DINA

Is that right? Maybe I should get to know you guys better instead of bossing you all around.

Dina laughs.

DINA (CONT'D)

I could care less about you people.

INT. PA SECTION - AFTERNOON

Amy, Jonah, and Jeff are surprised as the employees work together.

JEFF
 Wow, why's everyone working
 together now? Things are improving.

JONAH
 Well.

AMY
 We told everyone if they didn't
 help then we would be here without
 overtime pay.

JEFF
 It works for me. Call all non-
 essential employees to the back,
 Jonah.

Amy and Jonah gives each other high fives.

INT. MULTIPURPOSE ROOM - AFTERNOON

Jeff addresses the employees.

JEFF
 Well, I want to say that training
 was a bit shaky and we might have a
 few lawsuits against the company
 but that's okay.

The employees are confused.

JEFF (CONT'D)
 It's not your fault, is what I am
 saying.

Jeff takes the walkie talkie from Jonah. Jonah is happy.

JEFF (CONT'D)
 Dina, I believe this is yours.

Dina is happy as she grabs the walkie talkie.

DINA
 Tomorrow you all are mine!

JEFF
 Okay, for the next matter of
 business-

Glenn and Bo burst into the room.

GLENN
I'm done hiding!

Everyone is confused.

JEFF
Hiding from what?

Glenn comes to his senses.

GLENN
Oh nothing. I think I saw that from
a movie that I was watching.

JEFF
I believe this is yours, Glenn.

Glenn is shocked as he receives his walkie talkie. Everyone begins to clap for Glenn.

JEFF (CONT'D)
I am not going to keep you much
longer. I know you guys are tired.
Good job everyone.

Glenn is greeted by some of the employees. Bo greets Glenn.

BO
Well, today was a hell of a day,
boss man.

Bo takes off his Cloud 9 vest and hands it to Glenn.

GLENN
What are you doing?

BO
I'm quitting.

GLENN
Why? There will always be a spot
for you at the Cloud 9.

BO
That's cool and everything but I'm
going to chase my dreams of being a
gangster rapper. Whoop Whoop!

Glenn and Bo shakes hands.

INT. PA SECTION - AFTERNOON

Garrett packs up his belonging.

HELGA (O.C.)
Where do you think you're going?

Garrett begins to wheel toward the exit.

HELGA (CONT'D)
Come back! I need a price check!

She chases after him.

END OF EPISODE

NERD LOVE

Written by

Sherroy Chapman

FADE IN:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL LOBBY - MORNING

MALCOLM, 17, talks with his best friend, DEREK, 17.

MALCOLM

I am telling you that chicks dig
PC.

DEREK

I don't know man. The in crowd all
has Macbooks.

MALCOLM

Hypocrites! We all grew up on
Windows and Myspace.

DEREK

Oh, Tom was the ultimate pepping
Tom of the early 2000s. What ever
happen to him?

MALCOLM

Who's care? But all I am saying-

TONY, 17, and JENNY, 17, argue about Instagram.

TONY

It was one like!

JENNY

I can't believe you!

She double checks Tony's phone.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Is that a fucking PC she's using?

TONY

Yeah. PC aren't all bad-

JENNY

You're going to cheat on me with a
bland ass PC user?

TONY

I think the whole Mac OS is
confusing-

Jenny smashes Tony's phone on the floor.

JENNY

Oh, I am sorry. It must've slipped
my hand.

Jenny stands on a chair with her hands cupped over her mouth.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Effective today I am single!

The boys in the lobby looks interested in Jenny.

JENNY (CONT'D)

I am looking for my king tonight!
Will it be you?

She points at an emo kid.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Or will it be you?

She points at Malcolm. Malcolm nods his head as he begins to
walk towards Jenny.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Why are you walking to me? It was
suppose to be a rhetorical
question.

Malcolm stands next to Jenny.

MALCOLM

You hear that! I will be her king!
Useless Mac users!

JENNY

What are you doing? You're
embarrassing me.

MALCOLM

Sorry. Is it the Lenovo PC? I can
get a Dell or a HP.

JENNY

Its not about the laptop! Ok?

A brief moment of silent goes by as Malcolm's heavy breathing
is heard.

MALCOLM

You smell good today? Is that
coconut butter? You usually wear
the fresh breeze-

Jenny shakes her head.

JENNY
Anyways, tonight! I will be looking
for my king.

She flips her hair as she goes to class. The boys in the
lobby sniffs the air.

Malcolm grabs Derek.

DEREK
Wow. You actually got more than 5
words in this time. Nice.

Malcolm nods.

MALCOLM
Was there any signs that she was
into me?

DEREK
She was totally playing with her
hair.

MALCOLM
And then?

DEREK
And then she kinda of beckoned Tony
to you-

Derek sees Malcolm getting sad.

DEREK (CONT'D)
But he didn't come. So she was
enjoying your presence.

Tony walks to Derek and Malcolm with his jock friends.

TONY
You better not even think about
being prom king.

MALCOLM
Tony, Tony. I don't even have to
think about it. You was absent. So
she moved on to the Malkovich.

DEREK
You heard him! And get a Android
next time. You look pathetic.

Malcolm and Derek walk to class.

TONY

Mark my words! You will endure fire
and fury like no other Malcolm J.
Malkovich!

EXT. NERD CLUB CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The door to the nerd club is closed, and there is a sign on it stating: Nerds only. If you can't answer how many times the word Ewok was used in the Star Wars movies then you're not welcome!

CLASSROOM

The room is littered with Star Wars movie poster and anime posters. Malcolm is addressing his fellow nerds.

MALCOLM

As many of you know, I just put my
name in the hat for prom king.

The nerds murmurs in shock.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

Now, we have to be true to
ourselves and the nerd code.

SANDY, 17, raises her hand.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

Yes?

SANDY

Do you mean honesty and compassion
for others?

MALCOLM

Hell no to the no! I was talking
about cheating. We going to be like
Team Rocket. Nah Team Malkvoich.

Sandy interrupts Malcolm.

SANDY

Or how about you can be a decent
person and try to find true love
the honest way?

Derek is disgusted.

DEREK

What is this? The damn drama club?

SANDY

No, I thought-

DEREK

You thought wrong! We aren't dudes that wear tights and say questionable things like to be or not to be. We are smart barbarians taking anything that we want.

SANDY

So you're uncivilized?

DEREK

Fuck society!

Derek takes out a blueprint of the school. The fellow nerds huddle around it.

DEREK (CONT'D)

Okay, Burkes and Nelly, you guys are going to target the voting box in the main office.

Sandy tries to look at the blueprints, but is blocked every time she attempts.

SANDY

Fine! If this is what you guys wanted then I will leave!

DEREK

We never wanted you here anyway.

MALCOLM

Don't say that! Look what you did man.

Sandy has tears in her eyes.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

Sandy. You know that the world has things called affirmative action, right?

Sandy gives Malcolm a disgusted look.

SANDY

You will lose Malcolm J. Malkovich!

She slams the door behind her. Derek stops Malcolm from going after her.

DEREK

You need to focus on getting your
new queen, Mr. King.

Malcolm goes back to the blueprints.

EXT. HALLWAY - LATER

Malcolm and Derek are looking around the corner at the main office. He texts the other nerds: Everybody at their positions?

After a few texts of yes from the other nerds, Derek text the group: Who's ready for the new king to be paired with his queen? Eggplant emoji at the end of the text.

Malcolm hits Derek.

DEREK

What? You know it's true.

Malcolm texts the group: First wave go!

Malcolm begins to walk to the main office.

MAIN OFFICE

Malcolm enters the main office and immediately gets a voting form.

He looks over at the office staff. They are watching a cat video on Facebook. He fills out a few more forms before stuffing them into the box.

HALLWAY

Malcolm walks towards Derek as Jenny and her friend sees Malcolm. Jenny tries to walk the other way.

MALCOLM

Oh, look at my queen.

JENNY

Seriously, are you retarded?

Malcolm looks around to see only them are in the hallway.

MALCOLM

Wow, you are feisty like a grumpy
Snorlax.

JENNY

What does that even mean?

Jenny sees Tony coming out of the main office.

She rolls her eyes, and she walks slowly towards Malcolm.
Tony takes notice.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Well, can't believe I am going to
do this.

Jenny kisses Malcolm on the cheek. Tony punches the window of
the main office.

Jenny is disgusted.

JENNY (CONT'D)

What the fuck! You taste like musty
perspiration and expired similac!

She runs past Tony as he was being detained by a security
guard.

There is a beep and Malcolm looks at his cell phone to see an
pollster with him leading over Tony.

Tony looks at his phone. He makes eye contact with Malcolm.
Malcolm gives Tony the middle finger and walks off.

INT. NERD CLUB CLASSROOM - LATER

The nerd club celebrates the polls results. They are popping
sparkling apple cider. Derek dances on the table. Malcolm is
drunk on the cider.

Malcolm is staggering with an Burger King crown on his head.

MALCOLM

Hey. Hey! This your king dammnit!

The nerd club is silent as they listen to Malcolm.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

This victory wasn't possible
without the help of you all.

Malcolm turns the music up louder.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

Nerds!

Malcolm hears a beep. He looks horrified as he look at his
phone. This prompt the nerd club to look at their phones.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)
How could this happen?

The nerd club is worried. Malcolm starts to direct people towards the voting boxes.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)
Someone get to the boxes now!

INT. TONY'S CAR - LATER

Tony waits in his car as he is listening to music. He checks his phone and has a grin.

His passenger door opens and Sandy sits in the passenger seat.

TONY
I promised that bastard that he
will see fire and fury.

SANDY
They should be crying now. You have
what you've promised me?

Tony takes the prom dress from the back seat. Sandy nods as she begins to leave his car.

TONY
Hey, good job though.

Tony puts his hand on Sandy's arm.

SANDY
I advise you to get your hand off
of me or you will regret it.

TONY
Feisty. That is no way to treat
your future king.

SANDY
We're good. So I don't want to see
your douchey face again.

Sandy rolls her eyes as she slams the door.

INT. MAIN OFFICE

Malcolm and Derek look at the voting box inside the locked main office.

MALCOLM

What are we going to do now?

Derek is pondering for a few moments.

DEREK

Maybe we can sneak into the lost and found.

MALCOLM

And then what? Bust down the door with an umbrella?

Malcolm shakes his head as he tries to think.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

I guess we can-

There is a beep. He checks his phone. The polls are neck in neck.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

Hope for the best.

Malcolm sits against the locked office door.

DEREK

Hey King. Don't worry about it.

MALCOLM

Don't call me King. I feel like a peasant.

Malcolm takes off his Burger King crown. Derek puts the crown back on his head.

DEREK

We will win no matter what. We're the nerd club after all.

Derek helps Malcolm up.

MALCOLM

Stop saying that! I don't care about the club! I am tired of spending nights with the lotion bottle!

DEREK

Damn! But at least you get a good deal on those buy 1 get 1 free.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYM - NIGHT

The students are dancing to music. Malcolm and the nerd club is near the electronics.

DEREK

Ready to make it official tonight?

MALCOLM

Yeah, official peasant here.

DEREK

Oh stop it. I got you something for your special night.

Derek hands him a box of condoms.

MALCOLM

Geez, thanks. Don't you think you should've brought a larger size than small?

DEREK

Well, they had a buy 1 and get 1 half off sale. Got mine too.

Derek smiles as he holds up his box.

Malcolm sees Jenny enter the gym. He is stunned.

MALCOLM

She's beautiful.

DEREK

Well, I should at least get a thank you. I believe you will put those to good use.

Derek goes to the stage with the microphone.

DEREK (CONT'D)

Without further ado, the results for the prom king and queen are in!

The gym is silent as Jenny is smiling with her friends.

DEREK (CONT'D)

Our prom queen is Jenny Baker!

Jenny waves to the crowd as the males in the crowd are cheering.

DEREK (CONT'D)
Congratulations to Queen Jenny. All
hail the queen. Literally!

Derek opens the envelope and his smile goes away quickly.

DEREK (CONT'D)
Our prom king is-

Malcolm begins to walk towards the stage as he is staring at
Jenny's warm smile. He is halfway up the stairs.

DEREK (CONT'D)
Tony Johnson!

Malcolm waves at the crowd. He stops when he realizes that
the crowd is laughing at him.

Malcolm looks at Derek. Derek silently says sorry.

Malcolm walks past Jenny and Tony.

JENNY
Just smile and wave.

TONY
I'll be smiling for something else
at the end of the night.

Malcolm stops when he hears this. He turns to Jenny and Tony.

JENNY
Can I help you?

Malcolm continues to look at them.

TONY
Yo, freak. Do you want to make a
appointment for an ass whooping
session?

MALCOLM
Shut the fuck up.

Tony is shocked.

JENNY
You can't talk to our king like
that, you peasant!

MALCOLM
You're a bitch. Once a bitch,
always a bitch. Bye Felicia.

Malcolm goes back to the nerd club at the electronics.

DEREK

They're livid. What did you say to them?

MALCOLM

I just congratulated them.

SANDY (O.S.)

Douche face had it coming for a long time.

The nerd club are shocked as they see Sandy in a dress.

MALCOLM

Sandy?

DEREK

You know how to wear a dress?

SANDY

Why wouldn't I know?

Derek pushes Malcolm out of the way.

DEREK

Well, how about we go and grind the night away?

Sandy pushes Derek's face away from her. She goes to Malcolm.

SANDY

How about we dance?

MALCOLM

I don't know. I kinda of want to leave this place.

SANDY

My parents are out of town. We can order take out and watch Netflix.

Malcolm starts to tear.

SANDY (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

MALCOLM

Yes. I would like that a lot.

Sandy laughs.

SANDY

I parked in the back.

Malcolm and Sandy walk toward the exit. Derek shouts after them.

DEREK

Read the instructions before use!
They grow up so fast.

Malcolm gives him the Nixon two peace signs in the air before exiting the gym.

MASTERCHEF:PRISION EDITION

Written by

Sherroy Chapman

FADE IN:

INT. CALIFORNIA STATE PRISON - DAY

Inmates are leaning against the railing of the second floor balcony. Other inmates are waving their hands out of their cells. The common area has cooking stations set up with chef inmates prep their cooking equipment.

GORDON RAMSEY comes to the center stage.

GORDON

Welcome to Master chef prison edition. We are here in California State Prison where culinary perfection is mastered everyday of your life sentences.

Gordon beckons the doors behind to open.

GORDON (CONT'D)

But I have 2 guest judges with me to help me judge. First guest she is a powerful woman in entertainment. Well, there is nothing that she hasn't done. And she has the money to own all the prisons in America. Please welcome Oprah!

OPRAH WINFREY smiles and waves at the inmates. She puts the Oprah charm on them as they begin to howl and whistle as she takes the stage.

OPRAH

Wow! Now, now. I try to keep my figure but you guys are too kind!

She turns to Gordon and gives him a hug.

GORDON

As for the next guest judge. She is an extraordinary bakery. She has her own show with the triple OG Snoop Dogg. And she is all about that prison life. Please welcome Martha Stewart!

MARTHA STEWART enters with a basket of brownies. She starts to hand them out to inmates and the correction officers. She takes her place on the stage. She waves at the inmates and does a gang sign.

MARTHA

I am glad I am here. I am so ready to taste your cooking.

GORDON

Alright, we have an mystery box challenge which made the best chefs in the world crumble. Do you think one of you can overcome this test and be successful?

The chef inmates are looking at the clean dishes and others are trying to drink the tap water. OLD MAN JENKINS, 70s, is drinking the tap water.

OLD MAN JENKINS

First time I had fresh water in forever. Tastes even better without the parasites.

GORDON

Hey! You idiots-

Gordon stops as the prison gets quiet.

INMATE (O.S.)

Finish that sentence homie.

Gordon instead goes to the mystery box.

GORDON

Ahem, the mystery ingredient that you all will be perfecting is.

Gordon lifts up the box to reveal top ramen packets.

GORDON (CONT'D)

Top Ramen. It has been welcome to many homes across the globe. We have seen it been elevated from a poor man dish to an rich man appetizer.

OPRAH

That's right! I still snack on these delicious noodles and I am worth more than everyone in these room.

She does her typical Oprah smile.

MARTHA

During my time in prison this was my life. Ramen this Ramen that. So don't mess this up or else!

GORDON

Alright, you have unlimited access to the commissary for your ingredients. You will have just 20 minutes to make us your best gourmet ramen dish.

MARTHA

Your 20 minutes starts.

OPRAH

(in annoying oprah singing voice)

Now!

The chef inmates starts to prepare their dish. The camera crew is going around their tables to get a close up.

LUCAS is preparing his noodles and he places some wire and a double A battery on the table. Gordon comes to check on his progress.

GORDON

Lucas, what are we doing here?

LUCAS

Hey chef, I will doing a cup of nice streamed top ramen with gourmet tap water. With a dash of Frank's hot sauce on the top served with hot cheetos.

Gordon looks impressed.

GORDON

You're going the spicy route?

LUCAS

Exactly.

GORDON

And what's the battery for?

Lucas starts to make a fire. Gordon is impressed.

GORDON (CONT'D)

Well, be safe I guess. Good Luck!

Oprah checks on Old man Jenkins table.

OPRAH
Mr. Jenkins! How are you today!

OLD MEN JENKINS
I am doing fine.

Old men Jenkins hands are shaking as he keeps on missing the bowl with his measuring cup.

OLD MEN JENKINS (CONT'D)
Oh shoot!

Oprah begin to help him with the measuring cup.

OPRAH
What are you making today?

OLD MEN JENKINS
Well, I am making something that these young whippersnappers don't anything about.

Old Men Jenkins shows her a pitcher of jungle juice.

OLD MEN JENKINS (CONT'D)
Made it so good that you want to take out your dentures.

He takes out his dentures and takes a drink and offers it to Oprah. She takes out her dentures and drinks.

OPRAH
Wow very tasty! Amazingggg!

OLD MEN JENKINS
So, I am making ramen soaked in jungle juice with torilla chips with vienne sausages.

OPRAH
Sounds good. Look forward to tasting it! Good Luck!

Oprah leans in to whisper in his ear.

OPRAH (CONT'D)
If you have any of that jungle juice left, you know where my trailer is at.

Old Men Jenkins nods.

MARTHA

5 minutes left! You should all be plating your food now!

The inmate chefs are rushing as some are trying to steal from other inmate's table.

Old Men Jenkins is staggering as he tries to plate his meal.

GORDON

5 seconds left!

MARTHA

4,3,2--

OPRAH

Oneeeeee!!!!!!

Martha looks annoyed at Oprah.

JUDGES

Time up. Hands up!

There is applause throughout the bay.

GORDON

There is two dishes that we want to examine further.

MARTHA

Mr. Jenkins and Lucas step forward.

Old Men Jenkins curses as he staggers to the front. Him and Lucas place their plates in front of the judges.

They both have gourmet dishes in prison standard. The inmates let out sigh of disbelief.

Gordon walks up to taste Lucas dish.

GORDON

Lucas what do you have here?

LUCAS

I have a ramen dish with fine tap water topped with Franks hot sauce and served with hot cheetos.

Gordon takes sip of the tap water. He is slightly amused. He takes a hot cheetos and inspects it closely before eating it. He looks at the dish for a few moments before going back to his spot.

Martha comes to inspect Lucas dish.

MARTHA
Hello, Inmate 3435-

LUCAS
My name is Lucas.

Martha smiles as she takes a sip of his noodles. She takes a hot cheetos and eats it. She struggles her shoulders.

MARTHA
Could be better.

Lucas is sad as Oprah goes to Old Men Jenkins dish.

OPRAH
Mr. Jenkins what do we have here?

OLD MEN JENKINS
We have ramen soaked in jungle
juice served with torilla chips and
vienne sausages.

Oprah takes a long sip of the jungle juice. She lets out a demonic scream and burp.

OPRAH
Fabulous!!!!!!

Gordon goes to Old Men Jenkins dish. He is surprised.

GORDON
What is that smell?

He sniffs the bowl. He taste the jungle juice.

GORDON (CONT'D)
That will bring the chest hairs
out, don't we say?

Gordon tastes the chips with the sausages. He nods his head before going back to his spot.

GORDON (CONT'D)
Give us a minute while deciding--

OPRAH
The winner is Mr. Jenkins

MARTHA
So much for the suspense.

The inmates are cheering as Old Men Jenkins is handed a moneygram check of 5 dollars. The correction officers shoot confetti cannons.

Lucas storms the stage.

LUCAS
But wait! I am not done!

Gordon is confused.

GORDON
What are you talking about? We
already declared the winner.

Lucas puts a pitcher of mystery juice on the counter. He pours cups for the judges, Old Man Jenkins, and the correction officers.

LUCAS
Cheers to the winner.

The judges are confused.

OPRAH
I guess we should be positive when
life hands us lemons.

MARTHA
The citrus smell is wonderful!

CORRECTION OFFICER 1 (O.S.)
Thanks for the lemonade!

They all drink the mystery drink. Lucas pours his drink to the floor.

GORDON
Wow. That will certainly give you
the buzz you'll want. What's the
main ingredient in this lovely
juice?

Lucas grins as they start to look woozy.

LUCAS
Pine-Sol.

The judges and correction officers drop to the floor.

OLD MEN JENKINS
Being in prison for all of my life.
I think that drink was-

Old Man Jenkins drops to the floor. Lucas gets the moneygram check. The other inmates rush to the common area. They loot the judges' belongings.

They begin to fight each other for the remaining food and some loot the correction officers for prison keys.

The camera is taken away from the camera man and refocused on Lucas's face.

LUCAS

Until next time on this special
edition of Masterchef.

ON SCREEN: End credits of Masterchef.

FADE OUT.

Introduction: Searching for the Truth

Life is a difficult adventure that unfolds in real time. Some days may be fun and adventurous while other days may be dull and boring. Throughout my life, I have had the opportunity to experience both the adventurous aspect and the dull phrase of life. I am very blessed to say that reality almost always seemed boring to me, and I always wanted to find an escape from it. Television was a big part of my childhood as I was able to witness the surge of Nickelodeon and their influence on the youth by the way of cartoons. Watching my favorite shows such as *Hey Arnold* and *Rocko's Modern Life* was the highlight of my childhood. These cartoons were able to deal with real time narrative such as racism, social injustice, as well as satire and convert it to material that kids can relate to, which allowed me to be immersed in a world that seemed different from my own.

As I have gotten older, I now realize that I have the capacity to create my own worlds, characters, and plots. But with this creation comes many questions that require a deep understanding of my values as a writer and as a person that is a member of our society. The saying that is featured repeatedly in the Spider Man comic book series, "Power comes with great responsibility," comes to mind. While many focus on popular directors or actors, the truth is that writers have the greatest social responsibility and must ask themselves such questions as the following: Will this story offend anyone? Who is my intended audience for this story? These questions are especially important to me as a comedy writer. During my time in the MFA program at Pepperdine, my professors pushed me to think explicitly about these questions and my values as a writer. In search for the answer, I look to the shows and films that motivated me to become a writer. Comedy is all I know essentially. It is the one thing in life that I am very

good at. The MFA program has given me the opportunity to grow in my comedy writing. As I am continuing to grow as a comedy writer, the answer to the questions mentioned are becoming clearer each day especially when I examine the work of the writers I admire. Spike Lee, Mel Brooks, and Barry Jenkins are three writers who differ in writing styles and genre. I will have the privilege of analyzing their work and how it motivates me as a writer in the section below.

II. Spike Lee: By Any Means Necessary

Spike Lee's motto at the end of his films "By any means necessary" is a trademark expression that sticks with me. But as Lee inspired me, it was Malcolm X who inspired Spike Lee throughout his life. The motto "By any means necessary" was used by Malcolm X in the founding rally of the organization of Afro-American Unity on June 28, 1964. This motto also finds its way to the end scene of the film *Malcolm X*. Lee wanted to be on screen and say the words to the camera, but was warned against doing so by the late Nelson Mandela. Lee decided to take the advice of Mandela and showed a black and white shot of Malcolm X saying those very words at the end of the film.

Spike Lee is a fearless writer who is not afraid to focus on controversial topics such as racism, poverty, and urban life. Perhaps this is the reason why he is able to enjoy success away from mainstream Hollywood. One word of advice that is instilled upon us is "write what you know." This is true for the topics that Lee explores in his films. One film that resonated with me is *Do the Right Thing* (1989). This film has much of the topics that Lee usually explores in his films. *Do the Right Thing* steers away from conventional Hollywood storytelling. It does not include a nice suburban community with a picket fence and a sea of American flags waving in the wind. It displays the city life that includes a family community since most of the residents of that borough know of each other. The elders of the community are somewhat respected in terms

of Mother Sister (Ruby Dee), but disrespect is aimed toward Da Mayor (Ossie Davis) who is known as the neighborhood bum, but he too grows in character by the end of the film.

Do the Right Thing also shows the growing influence of non-black businesses in the black community. This influx ends in complete chaos as the Italian pizzeria is destroyed as opposed to the Korean-owned business. In the midst of all of this chaos, the protagonist remains cool. Mookie (Spike Lee) is best known for his iconic Dodger jersey and his flashy Nike Air Max, but he is also known for his relaxed personality. He has his own share of problems such as family and work issues as that melting pot is getting ready to erupt. Lee is able to use Mookie and other characters who have problems related to the black community. Even more effectively, Lee uses Mookie as the character of peace since he is the main person who is trying to calm down his fellow African Americans and the Italian family that owns the pizzeria. Some of the greatest scenes in the film are part of a sequence that tells us, as the viewer, consequences are near. Since Mookie works at the Italian pizzeria, it seems as if he is the community ambassador for his fellow African Americans. This is the case since Buggin' Out, a fellow member of the community, questions Sal's decision to only display pictures of famous Italian Americans in a pizzeria located in a prominently African-American community. This confrontation leads to a boombox incident that involved Buggin' Out (Giancarlo Esposito) and Radio Raheem (Bill Nunn) going into Sal's pizzeria and bothering him to the point at which Sal (Danny Aiello) takes a bat to Radio Raheem's boombox. Still, at this point Mookie remains calm at the sight of events escalating. In his book *Spike Lee's Do the Right Thing*, Mark A. Reid explains, "Mookie...lives in the neighborhood and most of its African -American and Puerto Rican residents can respect him. Mookie is the mediating character who tries to ease the racial animosity between Sal and two black teenagers, Buggin' Out and Radio Raheem" (9).

Interestingly, the film does show the human nature of Mookie as he lets his emotion get the best of him when he sees the police kill his close friend, Radio Raheem. Mookie then throws a trash can through the window of Sal's shop, prompting the angry mob to destroy the pizzeria. The actual trashing and looting of the store was not the interesting thing about this scene, but the fact that the very wall of fame that Buggin' Out complained about was also destroyed. In the absence of the pictures of the famous Italian Americans, pictures of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King are hung on the wall. *Do the Right Thing* ends in similar fashion as *Malcolm X* with quotes from Martin Luther King and Malcolm X. The Martin Luther King quote of "violence is never justified under any circumstances" aligns closely with Mookie's willingness to calm the two sides before a riot occurs. This quote is vastly different from the Malcolm X's: "violence is not violence, but intelligence when it is used in self-defense."

This film influences me as a writer, but also as a person of color. It is always refreshing to see characters who look like me deal with issues of race similar to mine. One notion that I think about is Spike Lee's fearless approach regarding racial issues. In my own scripts, I tend to tell stories about character of color instead of non-colored characters. I also give a positive light to character of color similar to Spike Lee's approach. But do I tell the story unfiltered without regards to who gets offended? Not yet. This is one of the many questions that I continue to ask myself as a writer. I question the notion of being authentic, but also getting my message across without being biased or offensive. As I continue to look at Spike Lee's work, then I perhaps I can get a clearer picture on how to master telling an authentic story that is authentic to me as the writer.

III. Mel Brooks: Unfiltered Comedy

Mel Brooks is the mastermind behind many comedies that Americans still enjoy to this day. Some of his famous work includes *Blazing Saddles* and *The Producers*. They provide iconic characters and punchlines worthy of acclaim years after their respective releases. Most notable in Mel Brooks's work is his willingness to deliver his message unfiltered. Brooks made it known throughout his career that being politically correct is like "suicide" to a comedian's career.

"I've never been a fan of political correctness. I've been a fan of decent behavior, which is different from political correctness," Brooks said. "Because political correctness demands too much respect for being good. And comics are not good. We are bad. We whisper into the king's ear. We tell him the truth. And that's our job. It's our job to say it like it is. And sometimes use the words that we use in the street. You can't always play ball with the system, you have to strike out and tell the truth" (qtd. in Gwinn). Looking back at the history of Hollywood till modern times, I understand Brooks's comments. Comedy is meant to explore new themes and subjects and see how they settle. If your idea does not work, then you will strike out, but the idea of trying to impact people and say something important is what matters in this genre.

Blazing Saddles (1974) remains ranked at number six on AFI's list of 100 funniest American movies of all time. This film explores racism and effectively uses that theme to break the conventional norms of the western genre. In *Blazing Saddles*, attorney General Hedley Lamarr (Harvey Korman) has convinced Governor Lepetomane (Mel Brooks) to choose Bart (Cleavon Little), a black railroad worker scheduled to be hanged, as the new sheriff of the town. Lamarr know that some of the settlers in the town will not be willing to accept this nomination. He also knows he could effectively tear apart the town, so he can further his plans of taking over with little resistance. Thus, Bart has to overcome resistance to win the heart and minds of the

townspeople. The fact that Bart is made sheriff is one example of something you would not see in a traditional western. Brooks used the norms of the western genre and turned them upside down. According to Gwinn, “If Brooks hasn’t convinced us up until now that most of what we ‘know’ about the wild west is unalloyed Hollywood hokum, the resulting fist – and pie – fight among the Rock Ridgers, Lamarr’s hood, and Bizarre’s dancing ‘Sissy Marys’ makes it clear enough, bursting right through the WB commissary – whose diners include, as we’ve come to expect from the man behind *The Producers*, an actor dressed as Hitler” (60).

Brooks challenged many norms in *Blazing Saddles*, and, as such, many have characterized the film as parody or spoof, which would be a fair assessment of all of his work. In my own writing, I tend to write spoofs about many of the existing themes that Hollywood explores. I look at Brooks’s *Blazing Saddles* as the ultimate motivation for writing a spoof. One of my favorite moments in film is the fight scene that involves the townsfolk and Lamarr’s army of thugs that literally breaks the fourth wall and spills out onto the Warner Bros lot. Certain elements work well in certain comedic situation, and chaos is one of those elements that work timelessly again and again. But also, the dramatic events during this film have to be noticed as well. The transformation in Bart’s friendship with Jim (Gene Wilder) dramatizes the situation of Bart being tested every step of the way as the lone black sheriff. Jim is always at the side of Bart in every crucial moment of the film. Their friendship is a sign of true hope within the punchlines and running gags of the parody, and we can relate to their relationship. Gwinn explains, “In *Blazing Saddles*, even surrounded by all that craziness, the emotional moments are played partially for real. The little old lady does break Bart’s spirit: Jim truly does care about cheering him up; Bart’s railroad pal Charlie, reunited with the buddy he’s thought dead, really is elated at

seeing him; the townspeople, if not exactly converted, truly do have a change of heart; leaving town for ‘nowhere special,’ Bart and Jim, black man and white, truly are fast friends” (57).

As a comedy writer, I tend to think that punchlines and laughs are the most important factors to invest in while crafting the story. But as I continue to look at *Blazing Saddles* and other comedies that made the AFI’s 100 funniest American movies of all time, I see a trend of the emotional connection it has with audiences. In fact, the criteria that the films were judged on contain two subjects that are helpful for me as a writer. The laughter aspect of the criteria is based on an emotional experience that goes beyond the sum of laughter. Many years from the initial release of the film, audiences can see it again and have the same connection with the story. *Blazing Saddles* was released in 1974 and still to this day has a profound impact on me as a comedy writer.

IV. Barry Jenkins: Write against the Market

Moonlight (2016) is a film that tells a story that is easy for Hollywood to overlook as something other than mainstream. But it is interesting to look at film theory and understand that Hollywood has almost never understood race theory and queer theory. I was fortunate to take the film theory course right before writing this essay. Queer theory is a fascinating theory to me since it pushes for a positive portrayal of homosexuality in film. We have seen films in the past that support this notion such as *Brokeback Mountain* (2005) and *Boys Don’t Cry* (1999), but we rarely see a film that tackles the struggles of the LGBT community in an urban area or the struggles of gay men and women of color. Barry Jenkins had a tough time trying to convince financiers to back the film in 2013. According to Jenkins, “Moonlight is a story that hasn’t been told. Whether placed as queer black cinema or urban male cinema, the lack of coming of age

films featuring people like Chiron and set in places like inner city Miami is pronounced and unfortunate. While it would be glib to say this lack makes the film an inherently important story to tell, it would be factual to frame it thusly: people like our characters exist” (qtd. in Kohn).

As mentioned, Jenkins was not able to get the film financed in 2013. It was not until years later that he was able to get the film financed and released. As writers, we often hear “write what you know,” but in Jenkins’s case it was “write against the market.” The marketplace in Hollywood is based on box office returns. So, as writers, we must understand that point, but continue to work on films that may seem less popular. Once *Moonlight* was released, it got the attention of Hollywood and the Academy of Motion Pictures Art and Science, a well-respected institution that awarded the film with best picture in 2016.

Moonlight is a unique film since it guides the viewer through three sections of Chiron’s life titled “Little” (Alex R. Hibbert), “Chiron” (Ashton Sanders), and “Black” (Trevante Rhodes). These time periods cover the young adolescence, mid-teens, and young adult phases of his life. The film does a beautiful job in emphasizing from the beginning that Chiron is a lost kid in a rough neighborhood. The other boys in the neighborhood makes fun of him because he is different. Chiron befriends a drug dealer named Juan (Mahershala Ali) who acts as his mentor. This friendship ends once Chiron knows that his mother is one of the customers Juan deals drugs to. From that moment, Chiron has to deal with the harsh realities by himself. It is a unique case of him versus society as everyone in his path seem to discriminate against him based on his sexuality.

Chiron’s sexuality is in question during all three parts of the film, but it is not until his mid-teens phase in which he engages in sexual behavior during the beach scene in which Chiron and his best friend from high school, Kevin (Andre Holland), are sitting on a beach. Kevin is a

typical jock and popular kid at school, so no one dislikes him. He is considered cool in the eyes of the other kids especially the bullies of the school. But the problem of identity does not only affect Chiron, but it also affects Kevin as he had a romantic interlude with Chiron, which indicates his genuine affection for his friend.

This memory would haunt Chiron as he grows in life and tries to be someone society wants him to be. The ending of the film delivers a heartwarming moment since it shows Chiron coming to peace with his sexuality as he bonds with his friend Kevin. This film is able to give a different perspective on homosexuality. *Moonlight* informs communities that did not know the struggles of non-white LGBT people. This revelation may have contributed to the success of the film since it was seen as an educating moment to the world and Hollywood. The success of this movie also serves as a good reminder that characters of color should appear in more mainstream films. According to one reviewer, “Moonlight is a film about faces. Chiron’s eyes say so much that this young man has not been taught how to express. He is young, black, gay, poor, and largely friendless – the kind of person who feels like he could literally vanish from being so unseen by the world” (Tallerico).

I admire Barry Jenkins’s determination to write a film that was considered not worthy of telling at first. He effectively wrote against the market and followed his passion. As writers, we have to make a living, and I understand that by making a living we need to work on projects that our hearts are not fully invested in. But during my years of schooling, I was also told by my instructors to follow your passion and never lose sight of what motivates you. Looking back at this advice, I can only translate it to write stories that you have passion for and realize that you have to fight for them because if you do not fight for your stories, then who will? Barry Jenkins’s *Moonlight* is a strong reminder of the fight we must endure as screenwriters.

V. Conclusion: Roadmap to Success

It would be tempting to say I want to do anything in comedy, but life is much harder than that. Yes, I want to do mostly everything that has to do with comedy in Hollywood. This goal would take some planning to do. Being enrolled in this MFA program at Pepperdine, I was able to find a new profession that I am interested in and that is teaching at the university level. The idea of being able to give back to the future generation of writers is very rewarding, but I must also think about reality since I would likely teach part time.

My passion to be a comedy television writer is the main goal I want to pursue post Pepperdine life. In my pursuit of this goal, I will set myself up for the best opportunities by continuing with internships until I find a good assistant job and thereby form personal relationships. Through these relationships, I hope to become the writer's assistant in a writer's room. After years of hard work, my final goal would be to join the writing staff on a sitcom.

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