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Caught in Katonah
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FADE IN:

1 EXT. BEACH - TONY'S SPOT - DAY

It's 1955 at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. CHILDREN jump in the waves. YOUNG WOMEN tan in the hot summer sun. The sand is carpeted with towels and crowded with umbrellas.

One small plot of valuable sea-front property has only a pair of shoes beside a fully clothed motionless body lying face down in the sand.

TONY CAVELLI, 14, slowly lifts his head. He can barely open his eyes.

Tony sees a vague figure walking toward him then his face goes back into the sand.

LINDA SCOTT, 15, wearing a white bikini that accentuates her tanned skin, reaches Tony. She bends down. Her blonde hair covers Tony's face.

Linda quickly pulls her hair back.

LINDA
I'm sorry. Are you all right? My
mom thought you might be dead.

Tony keeps his head down.

TONY
I'm fine. Can't a guy take a nap on
the beach?

LINDA
It's just that you've been lyin'
there so long. Anyway, I'm Linda.

Tony doesn't move.

LINDA
Well, I'm glad you're not dead.

Linda turns and leaves.

TONY
That's a weird...

Tony raises his head. He gets a good look at Linda walking away.

Tony springs to his feet. He quickly runs his hand through his hair.

TONY
 (to himself)
 What was her name? I know she said
 her name.

Tony watches Linda get farther away.

TONY
 I'm hungry.

Tony grimaces then hits himself in the forehead. His unbuttoned shirt reveals he's in very good shape.

Linda turns around. Her blonde locks fly across her face then settle to frame her unbelievable blue eyes. The sight takes Tony's breath away.

Linda puts on her sunglasses. She takes a long look at Tony. Her approval is shown in her smile as she walks back to him.

TONY
 I meant, you wanna get somethin' to
 eat? Tony, by the way. My name is.

Tony lets out a long sigh. Linda gets close enough for Tony to look through her sunglasses and into her eyes.

TONY
 Hi. I'm Tony.

LINDA
 Nice to meet you, Tony. Like I said,
 my name's Linda. I could eat. Let's
 go talk to my parents.

Linda grabs Tony's hand. She pulls him along the beach.

TONY
 Let's? Your parents? Are you sure
 you want to do that?

LINDA
 Of course. Come on. They're right
 over here.

2 THE SCOTT'S UMBRELLA

Linda leads Tony to her parents.

Linda's mother, SALLY SCOTT, 34, with hair as blonde as her daughter's and wearing a black bikini, holds a reflector under her chin as she hums a popular song.

Linda's father, WILLIAM SCOTT, 39, has a crew cut. His camouflage shorts advertise that he's in the military. He's trying to get his new transistor radio to work.

WILLIAM

Sally, I'm gettin' frosted here.

SALLY

What's wrong, honey?

WILLIAM

I handled radio communications over half a continent but I can't get this stupid radio to make a sound.

SALLY

I can't move for eight more minutes. You'll have to ask Linda to help you.

William turns away from his radio and sees Linda and Tony standing there. Linda is still holding Tony's hand. William takes off his sunglasses and looks Tony over.

WILLIAM

Mornin', soldier.

Tony releases Linda's hand. He stands up straight.

TONY

Mornin', sir.

LINDA

We're gonna get somethin' to eat, Daddy.

William puts out his hand.

WILLIAM

Colonel Scott. United States Air Force. Communications.

Tony strongly shakes William's hand.

TONY

Tony Cavelli. Katonah, New York. High school.

WILLIAM

Oh yes. I know the area. Was there last month. Really nice.

Linda gives her dad a kiss on the cheek.

LINDA

Bye, Daddy.

3 FOOD STAND

Linda and Tony are sitting across from each other. The wind is blowing strong enough to keep Linda's hair dancing in the breeze.

Linda can't take her eyes off Tony as they wait for their food.

LINDA

New York? How'd you end up down here?

TONY

Hitch-hiked. Took all day and most of the night.

LINDA

You do that often?

Linda leans across the table. Her face gets closer to Tony's.

TONY

Nope. Never.

Linda gives Tony a big kiss. She closes her eyes but Tony's are wide open. It takes a moment before Tony can speak.

TONY

You live around here?

LINDA

No. We're on vacation. Don't know why. We're constantly moving anyway. Honestly, I wish we stayed home.

Tony gets up then goes to the food stand. He returns with two burgers and fries.

Tony places a plate in front of Linda then sits down.

TONY

So, where you from?

LINDA

You writin' a book? Where am I from? I don't even know what that means.

TONY

Really?

LINDA

With my dad in the Air Force and all, I haven't been any place long enough to say I'm from there.

Tony takes too big of a bite from his hamburger. He finally swallows.

TONY

Outta sight. So where have you lived?

Linda rests her elbow on the table and supports her chin in her hand.

LINDA

Mostly nowheresville.

TONY

Been to Europe?

LINDA

I have an idea.

Linda leans over and gives Tony a bigger kiss.

LINDA

What do you think? Better than talking?

TONY

Were we talking about something?

Tony puts a potato wedge in Linda's mouth.

Linda moves her chair to sit right next to Tony. They stare into each other's eyes.

TONY

You're so lucky. Where do you think you'll be goin' next?

Linda puts her head down on the table.

Tony stands.

TONY

I've got plans. I'm gonna see what's out there too. I'm gonna find the things worth lookin' for.

LINDA

Plans? You're better off stayin' in one place. Happiness comes from here.

Linda gets up and stands directly in front of Tony. She gently puts her hand on Tony's chest. She seductively looks into Tony's eyes.

Tony and Linda kiss again. This kiss is gentle and long lasting.

LINDA

It's too late to go home now.
(whispering)
Why don't you spend the night?

4 INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

The Scott's bags are sitting next to the door. Sally hugs Tony.

SALLY

You sure you're gonna be okay? That's quite a trip.

TONY

It's been a blast but I got work to do. Money to be made.

WILLIAM

You ever think about signin' up. Call me. I can pull a few strings. You'd make a great cadet.

Closer to the door, Linda is waiting.

LINDA

Wow, three days. It went by so fast. But in some ways, it feels like we've been together forever.

TONY

I know.

LINDA

I had a great time. It kinda hurts to see you leavin'.

TONY

I wish I could stay but I got people dependin' on me.

Linda kisses Tony on the lips.

LINDA

Have a nice life.

Tony walks out the door.

5 EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

The sun is just beginning to rise in Katonah, New York.

Tony sits on the sidewalk rolling newspapers. He slips a rubber band around each one.

Tony's paper carrying bag is completely full so he begins his route. He delivers a few papers then approaches MR. NYLANDER, 62.

Mr. Nylander is watering the grass wearing his suit and tie. He sees Tony coming toward him.

MR. NYLANDER

How you doin' today?

TONY

I'm doin' great. Enjoyin' the summer.

Mr. Nylander hands the hose to Tony.

TONY

You know, you're the only one that's not takin' the paper. Are you sure you don't wanna subscribe?

MR. NYLANDER

Got no interest in it. It'll just end up in the trash.

Mr. Nylander turns off the water.

Tony rolls up the hose.

MR. NYLANDER

You know what, kid. The first time we talked you really tried to sell me that paper but you never pushed.

Mr. Nylander takes the hose from Tony.

MR. NYLANDER

I didn't buy it but you still took the time to talk, every day.

TONY

I've learned a lot from you. That's more important than any newspaper.

MR. NYLANDER

You probably have. A paper, huh? Guess I could do the crosswords. Supposed to keep the brain strong.

TONY
That's what they say.

Mr. Nylander hangs the hose on the side of the house.

MR. NYLANDER
Okay, Tony. Sign me up. You know,
it's not the paper you sold. It's
you. Remember that.

TONY
I will.

MR. NYLANDER
I don't care what it is, if you sell
yourself, you'll sell your stuff.

6 EXT. APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Tony's parents sleep on a bed in the kitchen leaving very little room for the table and space heater.

Tony walks through the door. He's greeted by his beautiful black lab, Ace.

Tony's father, GIOVANNI CAVELLI, 42, wearing a white shirt and slacks, hasn't shaved in a few days. He uses a cane as he hobbles over to Tony.

TONY
Hey, Dad. Made some bread yesterday.

GIOVANNI
Give it to your mother.

Tony's mother, ANNA CAVELLI, 40, comes down from the attic where Tony and his brother sleep. She looks older than her age. Her dress is ten years out of style.

Tony gives his money to Anna.

TONY
Mom, Mr. Robinson has a baseball
uniform for only two dollars. You
think I could get it?

ANNA
Of course, baby.

Anna hands the money to Tony.

Tony leaves.

Giovanni sits down.

GIOVANNI

Six years, Anna. Six years since the accident. I still need my cane just to get to the table.

Anna squeezes between the bed and the stove.

GIOVANNI

I'm gettin' tired of bein' useless.

ANNA

The doctor said it would take some time. Somethin' about nerve damage.

GIOVANNI

He's a quack. I'm beginnin' to think the only diagnosis he's capable of makin' is it'll take some time.

Anna places a large pot on the burner.

ANNA

He was very positive last time. Not much longer he said. I believe him.

Giovanni hits his bad leg.

GIOVANNI

Not soon enough is what I say. I've let my family down for way too long.

7 INT. GENERAL STORE - DAY

MR. ROBINSON, 46, is standing at the counter wearing a large green apron.

TONY

You still got that uniform? I sure hope so. Been thinkin' about it for a week.

MR. ROBINSON

Hello, Tony. I do. There were some others who showed interest but I had a feelin' you'd want it.

Mr. Robinson goes to get the uniform then turns back to Tony.

MR. ROBINSON

How's that dog of yours?

TONY

He's still the best.

Mr. Robinson walks to the back of the store.

Tony closely examines a baseball glove hanging on the wall near the counter.

TONY
(to himself))
You're next.

Mr. Robinson comes back with the uniform.

Tony puts it on over his clothes. It's way too big.

Tony rolls up the pants so they don't reach the floor. He cinches up the attached belt as tightly as he can. The whole outfit looks comical but Tony wears it with pride.

8 EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Tony walks back home.

SOME PEOPLE laugh as they see Tony coming while OTHERS wait until he passes. According to his smile, it doesn't bother him at all.

9 INT. APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Tony walks through the door. Tony's brother, SAMMY CAVELLI, 16, is sitting at the table trying to empty a big bowl of cereal and milk.

Sammy's tank-top strategically shows his powerful muscles. He looks at Tony and can barely keep himself from laughing.

SAMMY
Flat out, Tony. I think it's a little big.

TONY
What are you talkin' about?

SAMMY
Your uniform, bro. Like five sizes.

TONY
Oh yeah, I know. Most everyone on the street got a real kick outta it. I gotta tell you, it feels good.

Sammy gets up. He takes his bowl to the sink.

TONY
I kinda like wearin' a uniform.

SAMMY

You shouldn't be needin' it for long.
If you make the team. You'll get
one that fits.

Tony looks around the kitchen.

TONY

Ace.

Like a shot, Ace bounds down the stairs.

TONY

Ace. Get the ball.

SAMMY

I decided I'm goin' to Jay. All
those girls comin' to the games.
They think I'm the most.

Ace comes down the stairs with the ball.

Tony takes the ball out of Ace's mouth then pats Ace's head.

TONY

Ace. Get the bat.

(to Sammy)

Jay? You said you were gonna stay
at St. Theresa's.

Sammy washes his bowl.

SAMMY

I was but then I figured I'm on what's
gonna be Jay's baseball team.

Ace comes down the stairs with the bat in his mouth.

SAMMY

I might as well start collectin'
benefits. It's gonna be a scream.

TONY

I'm gonna go try out my uniform.

SAMMY

Coach is expectin' you to try out
for the team.

TONY

I don't know. I'm pretty busy.

Tony walks out the door.

10 EXT. BASEBALL PARK - DAY

Ace waits in the outfield.

Tony throws the ball in the air then hits it with the bat. The baseball soars into the sky.

Ace catches it before it hits the ground.

Tony hits another. The ball sails just out of Ace's reach.

Ace gets it. The dog heads back to Tony then drops the ball at Tony's feet. He lies down.

TONY

That's okay, Ace. You wanna help me pitch?

Tony moves to the target that hangs on the backstop. He winds up then throws.

Tony hits the middle of the target.

Ace gets the ball. He brings it back to Tony.

Tony pitches. The ball hits dead center.

Every time Tony throws, he hits the sweet spot.

Tony throws his best fastball. The wooden target splits down the middle.

JAMES (O.S.)

You gotta stop doin' that. Now we need to find another board.

Tony turns around to see his only friend, JAMES MILLER, 14, wearing a YANKEES ball cap, a T-shirt, and some old jeans. He's on the small side and a late bloomer.

JAMES

Come here, Ace. Here.

Ace jumps on James almost knocking him off his feet.

JAMES

Where you been, Tony? Haven't seen you in a week.

James gives Ace a major rub down.

TONY

Oh, you know. Tryin' to make as much as I can.

JAMES

Can you hang? By the way, nice threads. A little big though.

11 INT. JAMES'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Tony and James listen to some records. There's a stack of comic books alongside each of them as they lie on the floor. They both have a hard candy sticking out of their mouths.

Ace is asleep on the bed. Tony shows the cover of his comic book to James.

TONY

So where's this supposed to be?
I've never seen anything like it.

JAMES

Transylvania. That's where all the vampires come from.

TONY

Never heard of it. Where's that?

JAMES

Eastern Europe, I think. Most of those places ain't even real. Look, I don't know everything.

James goes back to reading.

TONY

I've gotta go there. I would love to see the mountains and all of those old castles.

Tony picks up another comic book.

JAMES

That one's in Australia. Really cool place. Good story.

TONY

Goin' there too. When my dad gets better, I'll have enough money to go any place.

12 EXT. GOLF COURSE - CLUB HOUSE - DAY

Tony's the first caddy at the Bedford Golf and Tennis Club in Bedford Village. He sits on the bench.

The CLUB MANAGER, 40, smoking a cigar, approaches Tony.

CLUB MANAGER

He's here.

Tony picks up the only golf bag at the stand. He's joined by GENE SARAZEN, 52.

13 FIRST HOLE SNACK STAND

Gene walks over to the table then hands a lemonade to Tony. He sits down.

GENE

So, whatcha gonna do when they don't need caddies anymore?

TONY

What do you mean? How could they get by without caddies?

GENE

Most places are gettin' golf carts. I started as a caddie. Learned a lot. I think it's a shame.

TONY

Guess I'll just have to do somethin' else. My brother always says there's a million ways to make money.

Gene finishes his morning drink.

GENE

You know, Tony, you keep showin' up first, you'll do just fine. It's true. I don't care what it is.

Gene gets up.

Tony grabs the golf bag.

14 FIRST HOLE

Gene carefully puts the ball on the tee then takes a long look at the green. He swings and the ball lands next to the cup.

Gene looks back at Tony.

GENE

Gettin' up early. It really pays off.

15 INT. APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Tony sits at the table with Giovanni. He hands his father a few quarters.

GIOVANNI

I don't know why you wanna caddy for that guy. You could make so much more with someone else.

TONY

I like bein' with the best golfer on the course. It's not just about the money. I learn a lot from him.

Sammy opens the door.

SAMMY

Tony, I wanna show you somethin'. You're not gonna believe it.

Tony follows Sammy outside.

16 EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Sammy and Tony walk over to a 1952 Chevy Convertible.

SAMMY

What do you think?

TONY

Of what?

SAMMY

The car, Tony. The car.

Sammy gets in his car then starts it. He revs the engine a few times.

TONY

I can't believe it. How'd you get the money to buy a car?

SAMMY

I know, it's awesome. It was a great deal. I couldn't pass it up.

TONY

That's not what I mean. Mom and Dad need so much help right now.

SAMMY

What a wet rag. Look, I needed it.
We needed it. I can take you to
practice.

Sammy gets out of the car. He lifts the hood then looks
back at Tony.

SAMMY

Dad can barely walk. I can take him
anywhere he needs to go. It's gonna
be better for everyone.

Tony walks away.

Sammy closes the hood. He gets in his car then backs up.

SAMMY

Later, Gator.

17 EXT. BASEBALL PARK - DAY

Tony is showing James how to throw.

TONY

You'll get it. You just need to
grow some.

JAMES

Wish I could throw like you.

Tony and James go to the stands. Ace follows right behind
them. He carefully examines the bench. They both sit down.

TONY

Sammy's goin' to Jay.

JAMES

Guess you'll be goin' there too. I
kinda figured you would. Who wouldn't
want to go to a brand new school.

TONY

I guess I might decide to switch. If
I make the team, I probably will but
I'd just as soon stay at St Theresa's.

JAMES

Are you kiddin'? No one throws the
ball as hard as you do. Look at
that target. You'll make the team.

Tony looks away from James.

TONY

I don't even know if I'm gonna try out. I need to focus on makin' money.

JAMES

Well, if you go to Jay, I will too.

Tony smiles.

TONY

Really?

JAMES

Listen. When I moved to your school, I was so scared. You really helped.

TONY

You looked like you needed a friend.

JAMES

I did. Still do. So if you go to Jay, I go to Jay.

18 INT. APARTMENT - ATTIC - NIGHT

The walls are two-by-fours and plywood. There's a few containers, half-filled with water, that are strategically placed around the room to catch the drops.

Tony and Ace lay on his bed which is a pad, two-inches thick, on the wooden floor. Sammy walks in.

SAMMY

Big news, I'm movin' out. A couple guys I know are gettin' their own place but they don't have a car.

Tony jumps out of his bed.

TONY

Seriously? How could you do that? Dad ain't workin'.

SAMMY

Listen, if I help 'em out they said I can move in for practically nothin'. I can't pass that up.

TONY

I can't do it myself.

SAMMY

Don't have a cow, Tony. I know you're gonna need to make more money.

Tony sits in the chair behind his desk. He puts his head in his hands.

SAMMY

I talked to Mr. Nellis and he said they need another janitor.

TONY

I don't want to be a janitor.

SAMMY

If you take the job, you'll make more money and have more time.

TONY

Sounds like you've thought of everything.

Sammy goes over to Tony.

SAMMY

C'mon, Tony. I need this. You'll easily be able to cover what I was givin' Mom and Dad. It's a win-win.

TONY

You can't, Sammy. Just once, can you think of someone besides yourself?

SAMMY

This'll be better for everyone and I'll have my own place.

TONY

If you really cared, you'd at least wait until Dad gets better.

Tony moves away from Sammy and goes to his bed.

SAMMY

That's low. I've done all that I can do.

Tony lies down.

SAMMY

Opportunities like this don't come around very often. You'll feel the same way someday.

TONY

You don't get it. I'd do anything to get outta here.

SAMMY

This attic ain't so bad.

TONY

I'm not talkin' about the attic, I'm talkin' about this town.

Sammy squats down next to Tony.

SAMMY

Look, my time is now. Your time will come.

TONY

As long as Mom and Dad need my help, I'm stayin'. No matter how long it takes.

Sammy gets in bed. Neither of them say another word to each other.

19 EXT. TRAIN TRACKS - DAY

Tony picks up a rock and throws it at a tree. It hits dead center.

TONY

I'm tryin' out for the team.

Tony and James leave the tracks to walk around the deep pond.

TONY

I gotta try out. Let's face it. My dad's not gettin' better.

JAMES

The doctor says he is.

TONY

Chances are I'll never make enough money to leave but if I make a pro baseball team that could be my ticket.

Tony and James walk along a ridge that juts out over the back of the pond. James puts a little more distance between him and the water.

JAMES

You should teach me how to swim someday.

TONY

Sorry. Can't help you. Someone's gonna have to teach me first.

James and Tony run up the hill.

Tony's so fast he gets to the tracks before James is halfway there.

JAMES

You know, Tony. I worry about you.
You're always tryin' to make things
better and you usually do.

Tony and James continue down the tracks.

JAMES

Sometimes it's better to accept things
as they are.

TONY

No way. I ain't gonna be broke all
my life. I'll find a way to get out
of this place and support my family.

JAMES

What happens if you can't do both?
Could you deal with it?

TONY

What are you talkin' about?

James stops Tony.

JAMES

Tony, I'd love to throw the ball
like you. I never will. No matter
how much I practice.

TONY

You don't know that.

JAMES

It's okay. I've learned to live
with it. Maybe you'd be happier if
you quit pushin' yourself so hard.

20 EXT. BASEBALL PARK - DAY

The stands are packed. There are more than a hundred KIDS
WEARING UNIFORMS. Tony's outfit looks so ridiculous that
some of the kids can't keep from laughing.

James walks beside Tony. They're joined by Sammy.

SAMMY

Some of these guys are pretty good
but they ain't you. Just don't get
nervous.

TONY

(sarcastically)

Oh. That helps.

The JAY KIDS wear old and worn out uniforms. The ST. THERESA
STUDENTS wear brand new expensive outfits.

Tony looks at the enormous CROWD IN THE STANDS.

TONY

What's going on? It looks like the
whole town is here.

SAMMY

It was news to me. Look.

A limousine is parked next to the field. The door opens.
BUFFALO BOB, 38, from the Howdy Doody Show gets out of the
car.

Buffalo Bob is wearing his leather fringed outfit from the
show. His dark hair is separated by his signature part.
He's immediately beset by a crowd of KIDS SEEKING AUTOGRAPHS.

JAMES

That's Buffalo Bob. That's why
there's such a crowd.

TONY

And that's why so many are tryin'
out.

Tony looks at James.

TONY

I think the odds of me makin' the
team aren't as good as we thought
they were.

SAMMY

Most of these guys are all show and
no go. Trust me, Tony, you're the
real deal.

Thirty potential PITCHERS are sitting in the crowded stands.

The baseball diamond is perfectly groomed. The outfield
looks like a putting green.

Buffalo Bob finishes signing autographs. He walks to home plate.

COACH GAVIN, 35, wearing his baseball uniform and cap walks over to Buffalo Bob. Both of them walk to the pitcher's mound. Gavin hands a microphone to Buffalo Bob.

BUFFALO BOB

It's great to be here. Welcome to the tryouts for the Bedford Hills/Katonah Lions.

The crowd roars.

BUFFALO BOB

This year, I'm privileged to be working with Coach Gavin as one of the managers.

The crowd cheers even louder.

Tony and James look at each other in disbelief.

BUFFALO BOB

One more thing. Say kids, what time is it?

CROWD

It's Howdy Doody time.

Everyone laughs. The tryouts begin.

21 LATER

The GROUNDSKEEPERS freshen up the diamond.

A CATCHER and an UMPIRE take the field.

Buffalo Bob walks to the pitcher's mound.

BUFFALO BOB

It's down to the two who've made the team. Now we determine the starter.

The crowd becomes silent.

BUFFALO BOB

Steven Campbell from John Jay High School will be first...

The crowd roars. Everyone gets quiet again.

BUFFALO BOB
 ... and then Tony Cavelli from St.
 Theresa's.

A few cheer along with James and Sammy.

BUFFALO BOB
 Each will pitch to six of the best
 hitters in the league. Good luck
 boys. Give it your all.

STEVEN CAMPBELL, 15, is a full inch taller than Tony. His
 biceps strain against his short sleeves. His moustache makes
 him appear older than he actually is.

Steven approaches the mound.

The crowd roars.

Steven winds up. He throws the first pitch. It's a fastball.

The BATTER swings and misses.

UMPIRE
 Strike.

SERIES OF SHOTS - STEVEN PITCHING

A) Steven throws his best change-up pitch.

UMPIRE
 You're out.

The batter leaves the box.

B) Steven hurls a fastball. The NEW BATTER walks away.

C) ANOTHER BATTER gets Steven's amazing curveball.

UMPIRE
 Out. Next Batter.

22 EXT. BASEBALL PARK - DAY

James, Sammy, and Tony stand together as Tony waits his turn.

JAMES
 That's five in a row. At least you
 made the team.

TONY
 I'm not gonna be a bench warmer. If
 I don't start, I'm not playin'.

The final batter, PAUL BREWER, 16, 6 foot 3 and built like a bull, steps to the plate. He taps his bat twice on the plate then steps back.

Paul grabs some sand then rubs his hands together. He steps into the batter's box.

Steven stands on the mound patiently. He spits, winds up, and throws his best fastball.

Paul makes contact. The ball goes over the fence then soars over the heads of the kids shagging balls.

Paul takes his left hand and makes the sign of an L on his forehead as he leaves the batter's box.

Buffalo Bob steps up on the mound.

BUFFALO BOB

Nice work, Steven. That's five strike outs in a row. I was just told that was the best tryout performance ever.

Steven holds both hands in the air. The noise from the crowd is deafening.

BUFFALO BOB

It's not over ladies and gentlemen. Next is Tony Cavelli.

Buffalo Bob covers the microphone.

BUFFALO BOB

You're up, kid, if you still want to.

JAMES

You can do it, Tony. Focus.

Tony walks to the mound. His oversized uniform elicits more laughs than cheers.

The catcher, umpire, and batter take their place.

With no pre-pitch ritual, Tony winds up. He let's the ball fly.

The batter swings.

The ball slams into the catcher's glove.

The catcher jumps up. He takes his glove off then shakes his hand in pain.

UMPIRE

Strike.

The rambunctious crowd becomes quiet.

SERIES OF SHOTS - TONY PITCHING

A) Tony throws a strike. The batter walks away.

B) Tony strikes out the new batter with a curveball.

C) Another batter leaves the plate after missing Tony's fastball.

23 EXT. - BASEBALL PARK - DAY

Tony throws the ball with blistering speed.

The catcher jumps out of the way.

The umpire ducks.

The ball crashes into the backstop.

UMPIRE

You're out.

BUFFALO BOB (O.S.)

This is amazing folks. If he can strike out the last batter. Tony will be the starting pitcher.

The FIFTH BATTER leaves.

The crowd becomes silent when Paul steps into the batter's box.

Paul hits his bat twice on the plate. He points at Tony.

Paul steps off the plate, picks up some sand, and rubs his hands together.

Paul steps back into the batter's box.

PAUL

Take your best shot.

Tony winds up. He hurls a fastball.

Paul swings and misses.

UMPIRE

Strike.

Paul leaves the plate to go through his ritual.

Tony winds up. He throws a curve ball starting so outside the batter's box that Paul doesn't even swing. At the last instant, the ball catches the corner.

The new SMALLER CATCHER gets the ball but he's forced into the umpire. They tumble to the ground.

The umpire struggles to his feet. He assumes his position.

UMPIRE

Strike.

Paul breaks his bat when he hits the plate with it. He gets in the umpire's face.

PAUL

Are you blind? What kind of an idiot are you?

Some boos are heard from the crowd.

Paul goes to the plate.

Tony winds up. He throws a change-up pitch so deceiving that Paul completes his swing before the ball even gets to the plate.

The ball lands in the smaller catcher's glove.

UMPIRE

Steeerike.

Paul stands there stunned. The crowd explodes.

James runs to Tony. He holds up Tony's arm.

Sammy raises Tony's other arm.

Buffalo Bob walks to the mound. He can barely be heard over the crowd.

BUFFALO BOB

Well. I've never seen anything like it.

Buffalo Bob turns to Tony. He shakes Tony's hand then raises it in the air.

BUFFALO BOB

Let me introduce the new starting pitcher for the Bedford Hills/Katonah Lions, Tony Cavelli.

The crowd's volume rises to it's loudest level as the sun begins to set.

24 EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Tony and James walk down the sidewalk.

JAMES

I heard they just gotta bunch of new comics. I gotta get a couple.

Steven with his two friends, MICHAEL and KURT, walk toward Tony.

The four of them meet.

TONY

Good to see you, Steven. Can't wait for practice. Next week, right?

Steven looks at Tony with disdain.

STEVEN

You won't be there.

JAMES

(To Tony)
C'mon, let's go.

James grabs Tony's arm.

Tony pulls away.

TONY

You got some kinda problem?

STEVEN

Listen, loser. I'm supposed to be pitching. Not you. So you're gonna quit.

TONY

The only loser I see is you. I'm playin'.

STEVEN

If you can play.

James moves to Tony's side.

JAMES

I'm sure the coach would be pretty upset if you hurt his star pitcher.

Steven gets in James's face.

STEVEN

You know, you're right. He wouldn't like it at all.

James puts on a big grin.

STEVEN

Of course, if somethin' happened to his friend, he wouldn't give two figs about that.

James steps back a couple steps. He swallows hard.

JAMES

Let's go, Tony.

Tony and James turn and walk away.

STEVEN

Quit, Tony. Or else.

Steven and his two friends watch Tony and James leave.

25 INT. APARTMENT - ATTIC - NIGHT

The flashlight hanging from a wire above Tony's bed barely lights up the room.

Tony climbs up to the ceiling in the corner. He looks through some notebooks that have been stashed away.

TONY

(to himself)

There you are.

Tony sits at his desk with his notebook.

Tony grabs a rag and brushes the dust off of the cover. The first page is titled: "NO EXCUSES, JUST DO IT".

Tony reaches into the slot he cut out from the top box. He pulls out a pencil.

Below his long list of rules for success, Tony writes, "SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE WAKE UP EARLY" and "YOU HAVE TO SELL YOURSELF BEFORE YOU CAN SELL YOUR STUFF".

26 EXT. MAIN STREET - BARBER SHOP - DAY

Anna and Tony walk down the sidewalk with Tony's sisters, THERESA CAVELLI, 13, and ROSE CAVELLI, 12.

Rose and Theresa have blonde hair and they're wearing circle skirts with tucked-in, tight-fitting blouses.

ANNA

You guys need a trim. I want you to look nice for Tony's birthday.

TONY

We have enough money?

ANNA

Not exactly but we've gone to Mr. Fields for years. I'm sure he'll let me pay him later.

27 INT. BARBER SHOP - DAY

MR. FIELDS, 50, has black hair and wears a clean white smock. He sees the Cavelli family walk in then waves to them. His only CUSTOMER is in the barber's chair.

Mr. Fields removes the apron then wipes away any remaining hair. He takes a dollar from the customer then puts it in the cash register.

Anna goes to talk to him.

Anna and Mr. Fields step into his office.

Tony and his two sisters can't make out what is being said but it doesn't sound good.

Anna leaves the office then heads right for the door.

ANNA

Let's go, kids.

28 EXT. MAIN STREET - BARBER SHOP - DAY

Anna leads her family toward their house.

TONY

What happened, Mom?

Anna looks at Tony and her face shows her disappointment. She tries to speak but she's too upset.

TONY

It's okay, Mom. Sammy said they need a janitor. I'll make way more money doin' that.

Anna, Tony, and his sisters all walk back home.

29 INT. JAMES'S ROOM - DAY

Tony and James are reading the latest comic books.

JAMES

Those guys were kinda scary.

TONY

Don't worry about them. They'll have to go through me to get to you and they ain't about to do that.

JAMES

You can't always be there.

30 INT. ST. THERESA'S SCHOOL - JANITOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Tony, Sammy, and MR. NELLIS are at his desk. Mr. Nellis, 64, has gray hair and wears a light blue janitor's shirt.

MR. NELLIS

So you think you can do as good a job as your brother?

TONY

I'll try, sir.

MR. NELLIS

All right. This is what I'll do. You work tonight and Sammy will supervise.

Mr. Nellis goes to the shelf behind his desk.

MR. NELLIS

Listen to Sammy, he'll show you what's up.

Mr. Nellis grabs a blue shirt and a tray with cleaning supplies and rags. He hands them to Tony.

MR. NELLIS

If the place looks good and Sammy says you can do it, you're hired.

TONY

Thank you, Mr. Nellis. I won't let you down.

31 EXT. JAMES'S HOUSE - DAY

James walks outside. He holds the door open.

JAMES
 Mom, I'm goin' to the comic book
 store.

DEBBIE (O.S.)
 Be careful, honey.

32 EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

James is almost to the comic book store when he sees Steven and his two friends.

Steven points at James. Their walk gradually becomes a run.

JAMES
 (to himself)
 This can't be good.

James turns around and runs in the opposite direction.

James turns down an alley then trips over a large pile of trash.

Steven, Michael, and Kurt catch up. They stand over James as he lies on the ground.

STEVEN
 Hey, bean.

JAMES
 Get bent, punk.

STEVEN
 Such hostilities. Help him up, boys.

Michael and Kurt grab an arm and lift up James. Steven stands directly in front of him.

JAMES
 Thanks guys. No hard feelin's right?

Michael and Kurt hold James tighter. Steven hits James in the stomach. James doubles over. Steven hits him on the side of his head.

Michael and Kurt drop the nearly unconscious James. All three kick him until they hear a police siren. They run away leaving James unconscious on the ground.

Two police cars arrive.

33 EXT. JAMES'S HOUSE - DAY

Tony knocks on the door.

James's mother, DEBBIE, 32, answers. She's very pretty with jet black hair. She looks like she's been crying.

TONY
Hello, Miss Miller. James here?

DEBBIE
Oh, Tony. James got beat up last night. It's pretty bad. I don't understand why anyone would do this.

TONY
Oh no. It's my fault.

Debbie opens the door wider.

DEBBIE
Your fault? What are you talkin' about?

TONY
Can I see him?

DEBBIE
Come in. I think he's awake.

34 INT. JAMES'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

James is in his bed.

TONY
James.

James turns toward Tony. Both of his eyes are nearly swollen shut. A large cut on his cheek is still open. His nose is swollen with tissue in each nostril.

TONY
James, I'm so sorry.

JAMES
Wow, guess I must look pretty bad.

TONY
Was it Steven?

James slowly nods.

TONY
That's it. I'm quittin' the team.

JAMES
No, Tony. Don't.

TONY
I have to.

Tony sits in a chair near the desk.

JAMES
Listen, what if they didn't do this?

TONY
I'd stay on the team.

James tries to sit up but doesn't have the strength.

JAMES
Right, so if you stay on the team
you take away their power.

TONY
Look at yourself. I'm not gonna let
this happen again.

JAMES
These wounds will heal. You may
never have another chance like this.

TONY
I've made up my mind. I'm done.

Debbie walks in.

DEBBIE
You probably should leave. James
needs to rest.

TONY
Yes, ma'am.

JAMES
Don't do it, Tony. Don't let them
win.

35 EXT. MAIN STREET - GAS STATION - DAY

Tony walks home and sees Giovanni sitting in front of the gas station with his two best friends, CHRIS, 41, and DALE, 42. They are in the middle of a conversation.

CHRIS
They just sold that place down the
street. It was up for sale twenty
years ago.

DALE

Yeah, I know. If I had bought the property back then I'd be rich.

GIOVANNI

I heard they sold it for a small fortune.

DALE

With that kinda money, I could move to Monte Carlo. Always wanted to see that place.

Chris gets out of his chair.

CHRIS

London, that's where I'd go.

GIOVANNI

If I had that property I'd take a world cruise. Man, I've got way too many "what ifs" in my life.

DALE

I know what you mean, Giovanni, I really do.

Chris sits back down.

36 INT. APARTMENT - ATTIC - DAY

Tony gets his notebook. He writes, "FOCUS ON DOING IT NOW, AND YOU WON'T SAY 'WHAT IF' LATER".

TONY

(to himself)

Okay James, I won't quit.

37 EXT. JOHN JAY HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Tony and James check out the situation from a distance.

JAMES

It ain't St. Theresa's.

TONY

Nope. Some of the kids look pretty tough.

Tony and James move closer.

Sammy startles James and Tony when he comes up from behind and puts a hand on each of their shoulders.

SAMMY

Nervous? At least we don't have to deal with those snotty rich kids.

Sammy, Tony, and James get to the front of the school. They see the boys wearing jeans and white T-shirts. The girls are wearing circle skirts and tight blouses.

JAMES

The counselor was nice. I explained the situation. She made sure we have the same classes.

They get to the courtyard. Many of the kids see Tony and stare.

BEN, 15, approaches Tony.

BEN

Great job on that no-hitter. We're a shoo-in for the finals.

SAMMY

Look at all the babes. It's gonna be a great year. Gotta find my class. Check ya later.

JAMES

(to Tony)
First period's this way.

38 EXT. BASEBALL PARK - DAY

The game has just ended.

The Lions are gathered around Coach Gavin.

COACH GAVIN

That does it boys. We're in the championship game. There's a few games left but no one can catch us.

Coach Gavin looks at Steven.

COACH GAVIN

Steven, you'll be playin' in most of those.

STEVEN

Got it, Coach.

James is wearing his uniform with "MANAGER" across the back. He's handing out cups of water to members of the team. He hands a cup to Steven.

STEVEN

Thanks, James.

COACH GAVIN

Stay focused. Keep practicin'.
Next month we have a chance to finish
what we started.

James gets to Tony.

JAMES

Nice work, Tony. Another great game.
Steven actually called me by my name.

TONY

He did?

JAMES

Nothin's like winnin' to smooth things
over.

TONY

Coach let him have it. He hasn't
been any trouble since then. I'm
still not sure if I trust him.

39 INT. JAMES'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Tony and James are sitting at his desk. A math book is open
in front of them.

TONY

I hate math. I can't get this. Did
you?

JAMES

That one's easy. See.

James shows Tony his work.

JAMES

You're doin' good in history.

TONY

That's the only class where I get to
go somewhere.

JAMES

Tony, I don't get you. Anyone in
this school would change places with
you in a second.

James stands up.

JAMES

All you can think about is gettin'
outta here.

TONY

Sure is different from St. Theresa's.
No one there even knew I existed.

Tony closes the math book. He leans back in his chair.

JAMES

I know. You think you'd be happy.

TONY

I am but all those kids bein' nice
to me don't matter much. It ain't
real.

James sits back down.

TONY

You were my friend before any of
this. I won't forget that.

JAMES

Well, you got a test to study for.
Get to work.

40 INT. NONA'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Tony and James sit at the table. They are wearing their
baseball uniforms. Both have a plate of pasta in front of
them.

Tony's grandmother, NONA CAVELLI, 71, is short and stout
with gray hair. Her wardrobe is dominated by a yellow apron.
She speaks with a heavy Italian accent.

Nona is at the stove stirring some pasta sauce.

MARIA (O.S.)

Okay guys, here I come.

Tony's sister, MARIA CAVELLI, 16, stands at the top of the
stairs wearing a beautiful formal gown. She has long curly
black hair that reaches the middle of her back.

MARCO CAVELLI, 73, in his suit and tie, gets to the stairs
then Nona joins him. He looks up at Maria.

MARCO

Bellisima.

NONA

You're so beautiful, Maria.

Tony and James stand there speechless.

Maria carefully walks down the stairs in her high heel shoes.

TONY

Wow Maria, I never realized...

JAMES

Scorchin, Maria, scorchin'.

MARIA

Thank you, James. You think this'll be okay for the Homecoming Court?

JAMES

You'll be the prettiest girl there.

Maria does a spin at the bottom of the stairs.

Nona wipes away her tears.

NONA

We're so proud of you. They couldn't have picked a better person.

JAMES

Better lookin'. What a dolly. Hubba hubba.

TONY

That's enough, James.

Maria turns a little red. A HONK comes from outside.

MARIA

That's him. I'm gonna change. I'll see you guys at the game.

41 EXT. NONA'S HOUSE - DAY

The door to the limousine is open. Buffalo Bob is inside.

Tony and James hop in.

BUFFALO BOB

Hello, James. Tony. It's time. What we've been waitin' for.

TONY

The championship. Can't believe this is happening.

JAMES

The Tigers are one tough team. In fact, most are sayin' they'll beat us.

BUFFALO BOB

Not a chance. We've got the team. We've got the pitcher. I think this one is ours.

42 EXT. BASEBALL PARK - DAY

The stands are packed. Anna and Giovanni are there with Theresa and Rose.

The limousine pulls up along the fence. Tony gets out first.

James disembarks then they walk toward the dug-out.

JAMES

Dropped off by a limousine. Championship game. We've come a long way since St. Theresa's.

TONY

We?

JAMES

You, I mean you, Tony, but I kinda like to think we did it together.

TONY

Sure. Sure. Couldn't have done it without you.

Buffalo Bob steps out of the limo.

SOME KIDS rush over seeking an autograph.

43 LATER

The TIGER'S PITCHER is on the mound. Sammy is swinging the bat near the dug-out.

MR. ROBINSON (O.S.)

Bottom of the eighth and the Lions have two outs. Neither team has been able to get a run.

Sammy walks toward home plate.

MR. ROBINSON (O.S.)
 Sammy Cavelli is up. He's the best
 hitter in the league. Can he save
 this team again?

Sammy's ready at the plate.

The pitcher hurls the ball.

Sammy gets all of it and the ball sails over the fence. He
 slowly jogs around the bases.

MR. ROBINSON (O.S.)
 The deadlock is broken. Sammy has
 put the Lions up by one.

The next BATTER steps up.

The pitcher throws a fastball.

The batter swings and misses.

The pitcher hurls a curveball.

The batter gets a piece of it but it goes foul.

UMPIRE
 Strike.

The pitcher tries another fastball.

The batter swings and misses. He walks to the dug-out with
 his head hung low.

MR. ROBINSON (O.S.)
 This is where we stand, folks. If
 Tony gets the no-hitter, he'll do it
 twice in a single season.

Steven steps out of the dug-out. He meets up with Michael
 and Kurt.

MR. ROBINSON (O.S.)
 He may have to if the Lions want to
 win the championship.

Steven and his companions walk away from the field.

44 INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Steven immediately lights a cigarette.

Michael and Kurt smoke one too.

STEVEN
Championship game and all I've done
is watch.

MICHAEL
Yeah, Tony's hurlin' that rock...

STEVEN
Shut-up. I don't care what I need
to do but I will be the pitcher next
year.

KURT
Let's just break his arm. That'll
do it.

Steven knocks Kurt in the head.

STEVEN
We can't. I almost got kicked off
the team for that number we played
on James. We gotta be smart.

KURT
Yeah. Smart. What?

STEVEN
He's such a straight-laced guy. We
need to introduce him to the wild
side.

MICHAEL
How?

Steven puts out his cigarette.

STEVEN
The only friend he has is that loser
James. He'll jump at the chance to
hang.

Steven, Kurt, and Michael walk back to the dug-out.

STEVEN
Just follow my lead.

45 EXT. BASEBALL PARK - DAY

The THIRD BATTER for the Tigers steps to the plate.

MR. ROBINSON (O.S.)
This is it. Tony needs one more
strike to complete a no-hitter.

Tony winds up. It's a screaming fastball. The batter doesn't have a chance.

UMPIRE

You're out.

The whole place goes wild. The stands empty and descend upon Tony like locusts.

Steven makes his way to Tony then shakes his hand.

STEVEN

Great game, Tony. You did it. We're champions.

TONY

We did it, Steven.

STEVEN

Hey, no hard feelings. We should hang sometime.

TONY

Sure, sounds like fun.

Ben puts Tony on his shoulders then runs around the bases.

46 EXT. JAY HOMECOMING FAIR - ENTRANCE - DAY

The front of the school is filled with an assortment of thrill rides. Some of them spin, others go up and down, and the best ones do both.

The grounds are crowded with people. Every snack stand has a line.

The row of games is filled with kids throwin' balls or darts. Other kids are shooting targets while the lazy ones just fish for a prize.

47 KISSING BOOTH

Only girls are in the longest line at the fair. Each of them are waiting impatiently with their money in their hands.

KATHY, 17, and CINDY, 16, are behind the counter. Both of them are wearing a Lions championship jersey. Kathy takes the money as Cindy watches the line.

Tony is sitting inside the booth wearing a blindfold.

One after another, the girls give Tony a kiss. Some are short kisses on the cheek and others are long ones on the lips.

Kathy walks to the front of the line then puts a rope barrier between the girls and Tony.

KATHY

Tony needs a break. We'll be back
in five minutes.

Tony stands. He takes off his blindfold. A few girls let out a squeal.

Tony and Cindy walk to the back of the booth.

Tony gets a drink of water.

CINDY

You've already broken the record for
sellin' the most tickets and we've
got a long way to go.

TONY

Really? That's crazy.

Tony sits back down then puts on the blindfold.

The rope is removed. The kissing begins again.

Linda, as beautiful as ever, walks by the kissing booth. She checks it out.

Linda immediately recognizes Tony behind his blindfold. She gets in line.

Linda gets to the counter. She pays for two tickets.

LINDA

This may take a while.

Linda walks right to Tony. She kisses him on the lips. The kiss is a long one.

Tony reaches for his blindfold.

Linda stops his hand.

WENDY, 14, is next in line.

WENDY

Okay, girlie. Give someone else a
chance.

Linda continues the kiss.

TONY
Linda?

LINDA
Small world, huh?

Tony rips the blindfold off.

LINDA
Hello, Tony.

TONY
What are you doing here?

LINDA
Funny thing. My dad saw meeting you
as some kind of sign. He started
lookin' for a house here.

Tony grabs Linda's hand then they walk away.

KATHY
Tony, where are you going? You can't
leave. Look at the line.

TONY
Find Steven, he's my back-up.

48 ENTRANCE

Tony and Linda walk out of the fair holding hands. They
walk toward James.

JAMES
What's up? I just got here.

Tony and Linda walk by James as if he wasn't there. They
are lost in conversation.

LINDA
Are we going somewhere?

TONY
Wasn't even thinkin' about it.

LINDA
Let me show you my car then you can
show me this place.

Linda stops. She tries to get her bearings.

LINDA
I think it's over here.

49 EXT. LINDA'S CAR - DAY

Linda leads Tony to her brand new two-door Dodge Lancer with a two-tone lavender paint job.

LINDA
I call her Shelly.

TONY
What a sweet ride.

LINDA
What do you have?

50 EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

It's a beautiful morning. Tony waves at every car that drives by. He walks in front of St. Theresa's church.

The crucifix on top of the spire is illuminated by sunbeams rising to the heavens. Tony takes a moment to reverently make the sign of the cross.

Sammy sees Tony just before he gets to the school.

SAMMY
Mornin', Tony. I don't get why you insist on walkin'. You know I can give you a ride.

TONY
I know. I like to walk, it gives me time to think.

51 INT. ST. THERESA'S SCHOOL - JANITOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Tony and Sammy get their supplies.

TONY
Sammy, I understand why you had to move out. You really seem happy.

SAMMY
I am but I miss the attic. Livin' with two other guys is not all it's cracked up to be.

TONY
Yeah, I miss you too. Remember that girl I met at Myrtle Beach.

SAMMY

Linda, right? She had you on the hook.

Sammy grabs the assignment list.

SAMMY

We need to set up chairs in the gym. They got somethin' goin' on tonight.

52 GYM

Tony and Sammy are setting up the last few chairs.

SAMMY

So, now that Linda's in town, are you gonna get pinned?

TONY

I don't know, we kinda come from different worlds. She likes to play back seat bingo. That was fun.

SAMMY

You dog. Where did that happen?

TONY

In her car. She's got a brand new Dodge Lancer. The two-door one. She's gonna pick me up after work.

Sammy stops then looks at Tony.

SAMMY

Those ain't cheap. She's got a lotta money, huh?

TONY

That's the problem. I'm still givin' everything I make to Mom and Dad.

SAMMY

I dig.

TONY

Linda's not gonna stick around with some broke ass dude.

Tony sets up the last chair.

SAMMY

We need to do as many rooms as we can. Leave less to do tomorrow.

53 CLASSROOM

Sammy and Tony walk through the door.

SAMMY

You can start in here. You need to make more bread or you could lose the dolly. Same old story.

TONY

It's more than that. I want her to meet Mom and Dad but I don't want her to see the place.

SAMMY

You're growin' up brother.

Sammy becomes serious. He sits at a desk.

Tony sits down with him.

TONY

If I didn't have to go to school I could make the money I need. Maybe move out too.

SAMMY

I know. Glad I just got a few months left. I do think it's important to graduate though.

TONY

Things have gotten so complicated. How can I be so happy and so sad at the same time?

SAMMY

It's called love. Remember, there's plenty of ways to make money. Guess you got some thinkin' to do.

Sammy stands.

SAMMY

And some work. Me too. I'll see ya when you're done.

54 LATER

Tony's cleaning the floor. He's working up a sweat in the corner.

Mr. Nellis comes into the room.

MR. NELLIS

I have never seen a classroom so clean.

Tony turns around.

TONY

Thank you. What we do is important. Wanna get it right.

MR. NELLIS

That floor just sparkles, even the corners. I'm lucky to have you, Tony.

TONY

You think I can put in more time? I need some extra cash.

MR. NELLIS

I wish you could but we have a strict budget.

55 INT. JOHN JAY HIGH SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - DAY

The auditorium is full of kids. Every seat is taken and many stand on the perimeter. The whole place is buzzing with excitement. James meets up with Tony.

JAMES

Do you have any idea what's goin' on?

TONY

No but the announcement sure sounded important.

JAMES

There's no place to sit. Guess we'll...

Linda walks over.

LINDA

What's happening?

TONY

No idea.

James's mood has instantly changed. He starts to walk away.

TONY

Where you goin'?

JAMES
Bathroom. See ya in class.

TONY
Did he look upset?

LINDA
Doesn't he have any other friends?

Tony keeps watching James walk away.

TONY
No. Not really.

LINDA
Honestly, I think you worry way too much about him.

Tony turns back to Linda.

TONY
Listen, he was there when no one else was.

LINDA
It's cool, Tony.

Linda gives Tony a kiss.

The principal, MR. BURR, 32, wears a suit and tie. He walks to the middle of the stage, stands in front of the microphone and raises his hand. The auditorium gets quiet.

MR. BURR
All of you must be wondering what's goin' on. I have to admit that I'm pretty excited.

Some murmurs come from the kids in the seats.

MR. BURR
Tony Cavelli, could you come up here please.

Tony has a puzzled look on his face as he slowly walks up to the stage.

Mr. Burr shakes Tony's hand then goes back to the microphone.

MR. BURR
You all know that we won the championship this year and Tony pitched two no-hitters.

The kids applaud.

MR. BURR

Some of you may not know just how difficult that is. It is quite a feat.

The kids applaud again. Some cheer.

MR. BURR

We have two very special guests today. They are here to present an award to Tony. Come on out, guys.

From stage left, WHITEY FORD, 29, and VIC RASCHIE, 38, enter.

Both are wearing their Yankees uniform. They move to center stage then shake Mr. Burr's and Tony's hand.

Everyone in the auditorium gives them a standing ovation.

Vic walks up to the microphone.

VIC

We're here to present a very special award to Tony Cavelli for pitching two no-hitters in one season.

WHITEY

Come over here, Tony.

Tony joins Whitey and Vic.

VIC

On behalf of the Yankee's, I present to you two baseball's autographed by the entire team.

Whitey hands the baseballs to Tony.

VIC

Hopefully, your signature will be on a Yankees baseball someday. Go ahead say somethin' Tony.

Tony stands in front of the microphone.

TONY

Thank you, Vic. Thank you, Whitey. I'll treasure these forever. Vic, I will be a Yankee someday.

The audience cheers.

Whitey approaches Tony.

WHITEY

Not bad kid. You know if you hang in there you'll be chosen for the exposition team.

TONY

Exposition team? Sounds great.

WHITEY

You could be pitchin' all over the world.

MR. BURR

That's it everyone. Let's hear it one more time for Tony and Vic and Whitey.

Everyone is on their feet. The applause and cheers rock the whole auditorium.

56 EXT. JOHN JAY HIGH SCHOOL - TRACK - DAY

Tony is in his P.E. class. The class is running sprints.

Tony finishes first every time.

COACH KEAN

Tony, can I talk to you a sec.

TONY

Sure, Coach.

COACH KEAN

Listen, I'm putting the track team together. The meets start in the spring.

Coach Kean hands Tony a form.

COACH KEAN

Have your parents sign this. I need you to run the fifty and hundred yard dash.

TONY

Sounds like fun. What does it pay? Just kidding.

57 INT. JOHN JAY HIGH SCHOOL - WOOD SHOP - DAY

Tony is studying the book ends he just made. He shows them to Sammy.

TONY
What do you think?

SAMMY
What are they?

TONY
Book ends.

SAMMY
Book ends? Shouldn't they be the same? Here, let me help you.

Sammy goes to the table where another student is splitting some wood with an ax. He's examining Tony's creation with one arm resting on the table.

Sammy cries out in pain. He stands there with an ax embedded in his arm. Tony looks like he's going to pass out.

The teacher, MR. SMITH, 50, runs over. He grabs a first aid kit and wraps Sammy's arm. Blood is everywhere.

MR. SMITH
Everyone just continue your work.
He'll be okay. I just need to get Sammy to the nurse.

TONY
Can I be excused? I'm not feelin' so good.

MR. SMITH
Sure, Tony.

58 LIBRARY

Tony has a pile of books in front of him. All of them are about exotic places or historical events.

Linda comes in then sits across the table from Tony. She leans over then gives him a kiss.

LINDA
Still dreamin' of gettin' away, huh?

TONY
I love these books. Best part of this school.

LINDA
You haven't even seen my parents yet. Why don't you have dinner with us tonight?

TONY

I promised James we would hang out after school. It's been awhile. I really need to...

Linda leans over and gives Tony a kiss to remember.

TONY

He'll understand.

A loud siren suddenly goes off. The kids quickly scramble to get under the desks.

The librarian, MISS MYERS, 24, goes to the middle of the room.

MISS MYERS

Everyone under the tables. Be sure to cover your head with your hands.

Linda and Tony are huddled together under a table.

Linda takes the opportunity to give Tony another kiss.

TONY

You really think that if a nuclear bomb hits the school this will protect us?

LINDA

That's what they say.

59 EXT. APARTMENT - DAY

James knocks on the door.

Anna answers it.

JAMES

Hello, Mrs. Cavelli. Tony around?

ANNA

No, James. Not sure where he is. Haven't seen much of him lately.

JAMES

Me neither. Tell him I came by.

60 EXT. JOHN JAY HIGH SCHOOL - TRACK - DAY

Tony's competing in his first track meet. His every day sneakers make him stand out from the other runners who are wearing expensive cleats.

Every school in the area has a runner in the race.

Tony moves to the starting line for the hundred yard dash. The starting gun goes off.

Tony wins. He strides over to Coach Kean.

TONY

Guess I won.

COACH KEAN

Tony, you just broke the school record. You keep this up and colleges will be offering you a scholarship.

Tony's at the starting line for the fifty yard dash. Tony wins again.

COACH KEAN

Son, how'd you learn to run so fast?

TONY

Maybe the trolls had somethin' to do with it.

COACH KEAN

Trolls? Whatever, I'm gonna start talking to colleges tonight. They will definitely be interested.

TONY

Honestly Coach, never really saw myself as college material.

Coach Kean puts a hand on Tony's shoulder.

COACH KEAN

I have a feelin' by the time the season is over you'll get an offer you can't refuse.

James walks up to Tony.

JAMES

What's up, stranger. If we didn't have classes together I wouldn't even see you anymore.

TONY

I know but with work and Linda...

JAMES

Linda. Be careful, Tony. Girls can really mess with your head. Anyway, huge Math test tomorrow.

TONY

About that. Linda is really good at Math. She said...

James has disappointment all over his face.

JAMES

You're gonna study with her. Am I losing my best friend?

TONY

No, James. We're cool. We'll hang out during the summer, promise.

Steven, Michael and Kurt approach Tony.

STEVEN

My brother. Dude, you are one fast son of a bitch. Some friends of mine are going to the drag races.

JAMES

I think that's illegal.

STEVEN

It is, germ, so what.

(to Tony)

They go for pinks. You've gotta go, Tony.

James walks away shaking his head.

TONY

Sounds like fun. Keep me posted.

61 INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Tony, Linda, and her parents are eating dinner.

TONY

So, Colonel Scott, where you goin' next?

WILLIAM

Sometime after school gets out it looks like I'll be goin' to Turkey.

TONY

Turkey?

WILLIAM

In the Middle East. It's like goin' back in time.

Tony turns to Linda.

TONY
You gonna go?

LINDA
No way. I think I have a reason to stay. I'm not goin' anywhere.

WILLIAM
That's why I got this house. Linda won't have to go.

TONY
I wouldn't pass that up. You are so lucky, Colonel Scott.

Tony takes another slice of meat from the platter.

TONY
Whitey Ford told me if I make the exposition team, I'll be pitchin' in places like that.

WILLIAM
One of the main reasons I enlisted was to see the world. It calls to you, right kid?

62 INT. JOHN JAY HIGH SCHOOL - GYM - DAY

Tony's in the middle of the floor doing sit-ups. A huge circle of kids have formed around Tony.

COACH KEAN
You can do it. Just one hundred more to go.

James walks in and approaches Ben.

JAMES
What's goin' on?

BEN
Tony's tryin' to break the record for sit-ups. He's over nine hundred. No one has ever done a thousand.

James turns around and leaves.

COACH KEAN
998, 999, 1000.

The whole place breaks out in pandemonium.

COACH KEAN
I'm gonna have to call Guinness. You
can do it again, right?

TONY
No problem.

Tony and Coach Kean walk away from the crowd.

COACH KEAN
Tony, my phone is ringing off the
hook. You have got to talk to these
guys.

TONY
I don't know, Coach. College? More
school does not sound cool to me.

COACH KEAN
Will you just talk to them?

Linda runs to Tony. She hugs him.

LINDA
You still want to leave all of this?

TONY
Guess I always have books and movies.
I might stick around.

63 INT. COACH KEAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Tony enters. Coach Kean is sitting behind his desk.

COACH KEAN
So glad you could come. Listen, a
representative from UCLA is comin'
here to talk to you.

TONY
I told you, Coach, I don't see myself
as a college guy. I really don't
like school that much.

COACH KEAN
Will you talk to him?

Tony sighs.

TONY
Sure Coach, I will, just let me know
when he'll be here.

COACH KEAN

Don't pass this up. It's a once in
a lifetime opportunity.

64 INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - NIGHT

The cafeteria has been transformed into a spectacular dance hall. The decorations cover the walls and ceiling.

Tony and Linda are one of the couples on the floor. Both of them are sensational dancers and capture the attention of everyone there. The song ends.

Tony and Linda walk to the refreshments table,

DORIS, 15, taps on Tony's shoulder. She has red hair and wears a beautiful blue gown.

DORIS

Could I have a dance, Tony?

Tony looks at Linda for approval.

Linda reluctantly nods "okay".

TONY

Sure Doris. Next song. I'm just
gonna get some punch.

Tony dances with Doris. Linda impatiently watches.

As soon as the song is over, another girl asks Tony for a dance.

When Tony dances with a third girl, Linda has had enough. She walks out of the cafeteria.

Tony sees Linda walking away.

TONY

Gotta go, girls.

65 EXT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - NIGHT

Tony runs after Linda. He catches up to her and gently turns her around.

TONY

Baby, I don't understand. I'm on
cloud nine since you've been here
and you're cuttin' out on me.

LINDA

I think I'm goin' with my dad. Tony,
I feel like I'm losin' you.

TONY

Just like James. What is with you
two? You wanna put me in a cage?
Why is everyone goin' crazy?

LINDA

You've changed, Tony.

Linda walks away.

Tony watches her leave then waves her away. He goes back to
the dance.

66 INT. JAMES'S BEDROOM - DAY

Tony and James listen to music and read comic books.

JAMES

I've decided I'm going to St.
Theresa's next year.

TONY

I saw that comin'. What a week. I
can't wait for summer. Maybe everyone
will just chill out.

JAMES

When was the last time we did this?

TONY

I don't know.

James puts his comic book down.

JAMES

It's been months. I see you in class,
every class, but lately if I was
gone you wouldn't even notice.

TONY

I get it, James, I do. Everyone
wants my attention. It's distracting.
I'll have more time when school ends.

JAMES

What about Linda?

TONY
Linda ain't stickin' around. Come
on, man. Things will be back to
normal when school is out.

James cracks a smile.

JAMES
So whatcha gonna do this summer?

TONY
I definitely need to get another
job. My family needs a lot. Baseball,
of course.

JAMES
Anything else?

TONY
I'm gonna hang out with Steven some.
Sounds like he knows how to have a
good time.

James's smile is replaced with a look of worry.

JAMES
Careful, Tony. I think I know what
he's up to. He hangs with a tough
crowd. He knows you want to fit in.

TONY
What are you talkin' about?

JAMES
Hangin' out with him could get you
in trouble. Coach is pretty strict.
You could get kicked off the team.

TONY
I can handle it. Hey, why don't we
go fishin' next week-end.

67 INT. COACH KEAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Tony is with the coach and the UCLA assistant, MR. SIMMONS,
62. The Coach sits behind his desk and Mr. Simmons sits in
the chair next to Tony.

TONY
Suppose I go to your school, what
happens to my family?

MR. SIMMONS

You can't get paid. You could get a part-time job.

TONY

A part-time job. I'm gonna have to pass. I'm concentrating on baseball.

MR. SIMMONS

I think you're makin' a mistake.

Tony gets out of his chair.

TONY

Join the club. Look, the exposition team pays. You don't. They play all over the world. I'm gonna pass.

COACH KEAN

Tony, sometimes you have to think about what's best for you.

TONY

I need to think about what's best for my family. I'm sorry, Coach, but I've gotta go.

MR. SIMMONS

If you do make the exposition team, that'll last, what, a few months? What happens if you don't get signed?

Tony opens the door. He turns back to Mr. Simmons.

TONY

I come home, work, and figure out how to make enough money to get out of this place.

68 EXT. JOHN JAY HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Tony walks down the steps. He sees Linda sitting on her car waiting for him.

TONY

Linda, I didn't know if I'd see you again.

LINDA

You know I don't wanna go with my dad. I'm just afraid that the first chance you get you'll be outta here.

TONY

I was hopin' you'd go with me.

Linda hops off her car.

LINDA

And if I can't, would you leave without me?

TONY

Your dad understands.

LINDA

I wish you could understand how important it is to me to stay in one place for a change.

TONY

I guess we're just different.

Linda puts her arms around Tony.

LINDA

I know I never said it but I really love you. Please, just promise me you won't leave?

TONY

I can't, Linda, but it wouldn't be forever.

LINDA

I guess that's it then. I hope you find what you're lookin' for.

Linda gives Tony a passionate kiss. She gets in her car and drives away.

69 EXT. TRAIN TRACKS - DAY

Tony and James approach the trestle. They both have fishing poles and tackle boxes.

TONY

The best place to fish is on the other side.

JAMES

Yeah, we have to go around the pond.

TONY

Or we could go over the bridge.

JAMES
Not a good idea.

Tony looks down the tracks.

TONY
Have you ever seen a train?

JAMES
No, but I've heard 'em.

TONY
It's too far to go around the pond.
Let's do it.

70 EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

Tony and James cross over the pond.

Tony looks at the water.

TONY
Look how high we are. I didn't
realize...

Without any warning, a wall of steel barrels around the blind curve. It comes at James and Tony like a thousand ferocious bulls.

TONY
We've got to go back.

JAMES
No time. We'll have to jump.

Tony and James leap from the bridge.

71 EXT. POND - DAY

Tony lands at the edge. He's able to stand in the shallow water. He wipes his eyes. The train finally passes and the deafening noise stops.

JAMES
Help. I can't swim.

James is in the deep water. Tony wades out as far as he can but he can't reach James.

James sinks below the water. He surfaces.

TONY

Hang on. I'll get something you can
grab on to.

Tony runs to the bank. He frantically looks for anything
long enough to reach James. There's nothing.

JAMES

Help. Help.

Tony goes back in the water.

James goes under again.

TONY

James. James.

Tony watches the pond's surface for some sign of James. He
eventually goes back to the shore.

A fire truck arrives.

Two FIREMEN run down to Tony.

FIREMAN

Are you okay?

Tony nods.

FIREMAN

The engineer said there were two.
Was someone with you?

Tony points at the deep water.

The fireman immediately jumps in the pond.

After a few seconds, the fireman comes to the surface with
James's motionless body. He reaches the shore then performs
CPR.

TONY

Please, James, please.

The fireman finally stops. He puts his head down. Tony can
only sob.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

72 EXT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

Half of the school is there. James's mother is dressed in black with a veil. A girl from school quietly sings "Amazing Grace".

Tony looks at James's mother crying hysterically. He takes a few steps toward her then stops. He turns around and walks out of the funeral before the casket is in the ground.

Steven catches up to Tony.

STEVEN

Tough break. James was all right. Listen Tony, there's a drag race tomorrow night. Why don't you come?

TONY

I don't have time.

STEVEN

It might help take your mind off things.

TONY

All I care about is makin' money for my family. I think I understand what Linda was tryin' to tell me.

Steven stops Tony by grabbing his shoulder.

STEVEN

Money? There's a lotta ways to make more money than a janitor does.

TONY

Really?

STEVEN

It may be a little risky but it really pays off. You don't see me doin' some stupid job.

TONY

You always have money.

James looks into Tony's eyes.

STEVEN

Come tomorrow night. I'll introduce you to some people.

TONY

You know what. I will. All that matters is that I make as much money as I can.

Tony walks away.

Steven smiles as he watches him leave.

73 EXT. ISOLATED STREET - NIGHT

The souped-up cars are on the starting line revving their engines.

A scantily clad girl stands in front of the cars. She drops the flag. The smoke from the burning rubber and the sound of screeching tires are heard as the two cars take off.

Tony is standing next to Steven.

STEVEN

This race is for pinks. Winner gets the loser's car. With a fast car, you could get rich.

TONY

I could never get a car like that.

STEVEN

Sure, man, but see all that money changin' hands.

The race is over. Tony sees kids exchanging money all along the street.

STEVEN

We bet on the winner. If you do a little research. It can pay off big time. Here, have a smoke.

TONY

No way, dude. I don't smoke.

STEVEN

You wanna fit in don't you? Look around. Everyone's smokin'. It shows you're one of us.

Steven hands Tony a cigarette.

Tony puts it in his mouth. Steven lights it.

Tony nearly coughs up a lung. Steven laughs.

TONY

Not too bad.

STEVEN

You'll get it, kid. Just takes
gettin' used to.

TONY

So what other ideas you have about
makin' money?

STEVEN

Slow down. Hang with us awhile.
You'll make more than you ever dreamed
of.

Tony starts to feel sick from the cigarette.

TONY

I gotta go. We'll get in touch.

Steven holds out his pack.

STEVEN

Take a few with you. It just takes
a little practice.

Tony takes three cigarettes and walks away.

Steven is joined by Michael and Kurt.

STEVEN

See boys, that's how it's done.
He'll be off the team in no time.

MICHAEL

You're a freakin' genius.

Steven, Michael, and Kurt go back to watching the races.

74 INT. ST. THERESA'S SCHOOL - BATHROOM - DAY

Tony scrubs an unusually disgusting toilet. His clothes are
filthy. A splash lands in his mouth. He spits into the
toilet then throws down his rag.

Sammy enters the bathroom.

SAMMY

How's those bathrooms coming? Gettin'
it done?

TONY

Done is right. I think I'm done.

SAMMY

Chill, Tony. Bathrooms are tough but you'll get used to it. Take a break. It's payday.

Sammy hands the check to Tony.

TONY

This ain't enough. I've gotta find a way to make more money.

SAMMY

It's more than you got delivering papers or caddying and you can count on it every week.

TONY

Have you ever thought of racin' your car? It's pretty fast.

SAMMY

Thought of it but that's a rough crowd. People gettin' arrested all the time. It's not my scene.

Tony puts the check in his wallet.

TONY

They're not so bad. Some are kinda nice. I never saw anyone gettin' arrested.

SAMMY

Stay away, Tony. That's nothin' but trouble.

75 EXT. ISOLATED STREET - NIGHT

Two cars are waiting to race. Tony is with Steven, Michael, and Kurt. All four are smoking cigarettes.

TONY

I gotta tell ya. This is great. I wanna place a bet.

STEVEN

You got some money? Want to take a chance? Okay, see that guy over there. We call him the bookie.

Steven points at Brian.

STEVEN
 You just tell him who you think is
 gonna win. If you're right, you
 double you're money.

TONY
 And if I'm wrong?

STEVEN
 Bye-bye money.

Tony walks toward BRIAN, 24.

Steven grabs Tony's arm.

STEVEN
 Listen. These guys are serious. No
 foolin' around. No negotiating.
 Never bet what you don't have.

Without any fear, Tony walks up to Brian. Steven follows
 close behind.

TONY
 I wanna bet on the blue car.

BRIAN
 Who the fuck are you?

STEVEN
 It's cool, Brian. He's with me.

BRIAN
 All right, kid. I'll take your money.
 The blue car?

Tony hands Brian some cash.

Tony watches the race. The blue car wins and Tony doubles
 his money.

76 LATER

Tony's watching the last race. Steven walks up to him.

TONY
 You were right, Steven. This is
 great.

Steven hands a cigarette to Tony. Tony's smoking like a pro
 now.

TONY
This is way better than scrubbin'
toilets.

STEVEN
You got lucky tonight. There's ways
of makin' even more.

TONY
I'm listenin'.

77 INT. APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Tony gives his mother some money.

TONY
Gotta go, Mom. I need to see Linda.

ANNA
I thought you two broke up.

TONY
Yeah, well I'm gonna fix that.

78 INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Tony and Linda are sitting at the table.

LINDA
Why are you here, Tony? I told you
I didn't wanna see you again.

TONY
I know but that's gotta change.
Look, I can't let you go.

LINDA
You still wanna leave?

TONY
Linda, I've gotta experience somethin'
other than this tiny speck of land
on this amazing enormous planet.

Linda gets up, walks around the table, then squats to get
eye level with Tony.

LINDA
Stayin' in one place and bein' with
the people you grew up with, that's
how you build relationships.

TONY

I get it. All I want is to be with you. I don't care where I am.

LINDA

You promise, Tony. Can I really believe that?

Linda hugs Tony so tightly he can hardly breathe.

79 EXT. KATONAH HILL - NIGHT

Four tents are set up on the side of the hill. The tents surround three large logs arranged around a blazing fire.

Steven is with JANICE, 17. She looks very sexy in her short white skirt. They sit down next to Tony. Michael and Kurt are there with their girlfriends.

Tony is poking the fire with a long stick. All of them are smoking and have a beer in their hand.

STEVEN

You've been pretty lucky, Tony.

TONY

I gotta tell you. Those races are a blast.

Janice is sitting closer to Tony than she is to Steven.

JANICE

Where you been, Tony? Haven't seen you in a while.

TONY

Workin' most likely.

Steven notices the extra attention that Janice is giving Tony. He slaps Janice on the butt.

STEVEN

Hey, get us some beers.

Steven takes Janice's place then lowers his voice.

STEVEN

I'm workin' on somethin' right now. A few jobs. You could get a round trip ticket to Europe if you want.

TONY

Count me in.

STEVEN
I'll let you know.

A loud clap of thunder startles those around the fire.
Lightning strikes in the distance.

Tony grabs another beer.

HEIDI, 17, walks over. She's wearing short-shorts and a bikini top.

STEVEN
Hello, Heidi. Didn't think you were gonna make it.

HEIDI
Told ya I'd be here.

Heidi gives Tony a good look.

HEIDI
How's it goin', Tony?

Janice returns with the beers.

JANICE
What are you doing here, skank?

Without hesitation, Heidi lunges at Janice.

Steven catches her before she takes a step.

STEVEN
Ladies, ladies please. We're here to have fun tonight.

Steven takes the beers from Janice then hands them to Tony and Heidi.

STEVEN
This is Heidi, Tony. She's been wantin' to meet you.

Heidi sits down next to Tony.

Steven and Janice leave to get more beer.

TONY
So, you wanted to meet me, huh?
Why?

HEIDI
This is why.

Heidi gives Tony a long wet kiss.

TONY

Good reason.

The wind starts to blow then a few drops of rain fall. Steven and Janice return.

TONY

(to Steven)

That's my tent, right?

Steven nods.

TONY

(to Heidi)

Come into my castle my lady.

Tony and Heidi grab another beer then disappear into the tent.

The others hang around the fire until the rain gets strong enough to force them into their tents.

80 INT. TENT - NIGHT

Tony and Heidi finish their beers.

Heidi takes off her top. Some serious making out ensues.

The winds increase then the rain becomes a downpour. The thunder becomes a nonstop roar. The tent collapses.

Tony and Heidi crawl out and see the others standing there soaked to the skin. They all watch as the four tents are blown down the hill.

The fire goes out. The wind increases to such intensity that none of them can stay on their feet. The lightning strikes are so close Tony can feel the ground shake.

All of them manage to make it to a building and huddle together in the doorway.

TONY

Our Father who...

STEVEN

What the hell are you doing?

TONY

This is my fault. I shouldn't be here. I know I'm being punished.

STEVEN

Grow up, Tony. No one's being punished. It's just a storm.

Tony runs out the door and into the maelstrom. He stumbles out of the park with Heidi following close behind.

Heidi catches up to Tony then grabs his shirt. Tony trips then both of them tumble down.

The wind, the lightning, and the thunder grow even more intense. Heidi crawls on top of Tony. They start making out.

A car stops in front of Tony and Heidi. The headlights illuminate their rain drenched bodies.

Linda gets out of the car.

LINDA

Are you guys okay? You need a ride?

Heidi rises to her feet.

Linda sees Tony. She gets back in her car then drives away.

Tony watches Linda's car accelerate down the street.

TONY

I've gotta go, Heidi.

The rain becomes a drizzle and the thunder fades into the distance.

Tony walks home.

Heidi watches Tony leave. She shivers in the cold.

81 EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

The hood is up on Sammy's car. Sammy is with his oldest brother, MICKEY CAVELLI, 19. Mickey is wearing a white T-shirt with rolled up sleeves. He's smoking a cigarette.

Sammy has his head buried in the engine.

82 EXT. GOODY SHOP - DAY

Tony is sitting at an outside table across the street from his brothers. He finishes his burger then lights a cigarette.

Steven, with his arm around Janice, walks toward Tony. Michael and Kurt are right behind them.

All four of them have a beer in their hand.

STEVEN

(to Tony)

Big storm, huh? Heard you left Heidi hanging.

Janice removes Steven's arm from her waist then sits down next to Tony.

JANICE

So what happened? Heidi said you just left.

Steven grabs Janice's arm then yanks her out of the chair.

STEVEN

What'd I tell you.

JANICE

Ow.

Tony stands up. He throws down his cigarette.

TONY

Take it down a notch, Steven.

Janice looks at Tony with pleading eyes.

JANICE

No, Tony.

Steven slowly turns around.

STEVEN

It may be best for you to keep your mouth shut, boy.

Steven throws his bottle. It shatters on the sidewalk.

Janice wraps her arm around Steven.

JANICE

C'mon, Steven. Let's go.

Steven violently pushes Janice away. She hits the ground hard.

TONY

I said, that's enough.

Before Tony can react, Michael and Kurt have both of Tony's arms behind his back rendering him helpless.

83 EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Mickey notices what's going on. He gets Sammy's attention then points toward Tony.

Sammy wipes his hands with a rag.

Mickey closes the hood. They walk across the street.

84 EXT. GOODY SHOP - DAY

Steven slowly walks over to Tony. He smiles at Michael and Kurt.

STEVEN

Good work, boys. Keep a good hold on him. I'm gonna have me a little fun.

Steven gets in Tony's face.

STEVEN

I've been wantin' to do this for awhile.

Steven punches Tony in the stomach. Tony doubles over in pain.

Mickey and Sammy are now standing directly behind Steven.

MICKEY

That was a mistake.

Kurt and Michael see Tony's brothers. They let go of him and slowly back away.

Steven turns around, still smiling from the enjoyment of hitting Tony. He meets Mickey's fist with his face then drops like a pile of rags.

SAMMY

Ten points for that one. Is he dead?

Steven moans and slightly moves his head.

Mickey crouches down then whispers in Steven's ear.

MICKEY

You ever heard the sound of a bat breakin' a bone?

STEVEN

No.

MICKEY

Is that so. Tell you what. I'm gonna get my bat...

Steven staggers to his feet then stumbles away with Janice close behind him. Janice turns back to Tony.

JANICE

Sorry, Tony.

Sammy and Mickey laugh at the sight of the dazed Steven trying to walk.

85 INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Tony, Theresa, and Rose are sitting around the old card table. Emptied bowls of potato stew are in front of them.

Anna puts a chocolate cake in the middle of the table. It has "TONY" and a big "16" made out of penny candies decorating the top.

ANNA

Had enough stew?

TONY

Yeah, it was so good, Mom.

ANNA

I'll get these bowls out of the way. Everyone want a piece?

THERESA

Of course.

Anna reaches for Rose's bowl then her sleeve tears.

Tony sees it. He looks across the table at Rose and Theresa.

TONY

Look at you two. Fifteen, Theresa? Rose. Already fourteen. You are both such beautiful young women.

THERESA

Happy Birthday, Tony.

Theresa hands Tony a birthday present.

Tony unwraps the newspaper from the gift. He opens a small box.

THERESA

I know its small but when the woman
sold it to me, she said it meant the
world to her.

Tony takes out a tiny silver heart.

THERESA

Since you mean the world to me, I
thought I should get it.

Rose tugs on Theresa's dress.

Tony can see all the stitches that have been needed to fix
it.

THERESA

Oh yeah, it's from both of us.

ROSE

Happy birthday, Tony.

Rose and Theresa give Tony a kiss on the cheek.

Anna comes to the table with forks, plates, and a knife.
She carves out a piece of cake.

TONY

So Rose, you don't like to wear make-
up?

ROSE

Don't look at me. I ran out a couple
days ago.

Tony becomes much more serious.

TONY

Mom, when was the last time you bought
yourself a dress?

Anna shrugs her shoulders.

Tony's eyes dampen.

TONY

How 'bout you Theresa, you remember?

Anna places the cake-filled plates around the table.

ANNA

Everything is gettin' so expensive.
There's food and rent and keepin'
the lights on.

TONY

No one said anything to me.

THERESA

Never felt the need. I knew you were doin' what you could.

Tony stands up.

TONY

That's the point, I wasn't.

ANNA

Stop it, Tony. We're fine.

Theresa and Rose nod their heads.

TONY

I'm sittin' here with three beautiful women. You can't get make-up or buy a dress? I'm so sorry.

Tony looks at his mother.

TONY

I didn't think about... You know what, don't worry. I'm gonna take care of this, right now.

Tony walks out the door as Sammy walks in.

SAMMY

Happy birthday, brother.
(to the girls)
What's up with him?

ROSE

Just Tony bein' Tony.

ANNA

I got potato stew. You hungry?

SAMMY

My favorite. Load me up.

86 EXT. BLUEBERRY FIELD - DAY

Tony is the first one there. He sits on the bench alone with his basket in his hands. It becomes bright enough to see so Tony heads out to the field.

TONY

(to himself)
Easy pickin's.

Tony quickly picks only the outside berries. He has filled a basket by the time the others begin to show up.

GEORGE, 70, wears overalls and a hat that looks like a costume. He hitches the cart to his horse then walks over to Tony.

Tony takes time out from his furious work to rub the neck of the horse, Bailey.

TONY

Hey, Bailey. You sure are looking good today. Look at what I found.

Tony pulls a carrot out of his pocket then puts it into Bailey's mouth.

Bailey shows her gratitude with a wet lick across Tony's face.

TONY

Okay, okay girl. I gotta get back to work.

87 LATER

Tony puts his last basket on the cart. George approaches him.

GEORGE

I don't know how you do it. Great job.

TONY

I get ahead and then stay ahead.

GEORGE

Well here you go. You earned it.

George hands Tony some cash. A limousine is already waiting.

88 INT. BUFFALO BOB'S LIMO - DAY

Tony gets in the limo.

BUFFALO BOB

They want you to pitch for the exposition team. It's not official yet but the decision's been made.

TONY

And my mom?

BUFFALO BOB

Most of your compensation will go to your mother. You know, you're not leavin' much for yourself.

TONY

You kiddin' me. I've never had nothin'. It'll be plenty.

89 EXT. ISOLATED STREET - NIGHT

Tony collects on his last bet.

BRIAN

Here you go, Tony.

TONY

Broke even. Tough night.

BRIAN

Yeah, I was watchin' you. Had the look of someone who needed to win.

TONY

Can't have enough money, right?

Tony lights another cigarette.

Brian hands Tony a beer.

Tony sees Steven on the other side of the street. His jaw is wired shut.

TONY

(yells)

Steven, you up to solid foods yet.

Steven flips off Tony.

Brian and Tony crack up.

BRIAN

I like you, Tony. Listen I'm plannin' somethin' big. Could use some help. You interested?

TONY

You know me. Always lookin' to make a buck.

90 EXT. HAY FIELD - DAY

It's the hottest part of a very hot day. Tony stands at the end of what seems to be an endless row of round bales of hay.

Through a cloud of dust, a pick-up truck pulling a flat bed trailer, driven by GARY, 31, drives up to Tony then stops.

Gary is wearing a hat he made from hay.

GARY

You ready Tony, got time for one more?

TONY

Yes, sir.

GARY

I wouldn't wanna keep your chauffeur waiting.

TONY

Shut-up and drive.

Tony picks up the bale then drops it on the trailer. He walks to the next bundle. His muscles seem to get bigger with every load he picks up.

Half-way down the row, the truck stops. Greg hops out with a jar of water.

GARY

Take a break, kid.

Tony takes one large gulp. He pours the rest over his head.

TONY

This ain't pickin' blueberries.

GARY

Looks like it's doin' you some good. Look at those guns.

Tony flexes his arm.

TONY

Since my brother got hurt, I'm the home run leader on my team. I guess I should thank you for that.

GARY

That's me, always tryin' to help my fellow man. So school starts next week, you goin'?

TONY

What do you mean? Of course I'm goin'.

GARY

Just sayin' there's plenty of work left to do here. Lots of money to be made.

Tony sits on the tailgate. He dries off his face with a rag.

TONY

You mean drop out of school?

GARY

You ain't makin' money at school. I know your story.

TONY

I never thought of that as an option.

GARY

What are you learnin' there anyway? Waste of time if you ask me. Somethin' to think about.

Gary gets back in his truck.

Tony loads another bail of hay.

91 EXT. ISOLATED STREET - DAY

Tony's standing next to Brian. The drag race ends.

BRIAN

You wanna place another bet?

TONY

Dude, I've lost my whole weeks pay. Spot me some cash.

Brian laughs.

BRIAN

It doesn't work that way, kid.

Tony starts to walk away when the hottest cars of the night pull up to the starting line.

Brian and Tony are surrounded as the crowd tries to get closer. There's no room for them to move. The cars rev their engines.

BRIAN

(yelling)

Listen, meet me in front of the
pharmacy tomorrow. Get there early.
Before the sun's up.

The cars take off.

When the race is over, the crowd breaks up. Tony can breathe again. He heads home.

92 EXT. PHARMACY - DAY

The sun begins to rise above the horizon.

Tony is sitting on the pharmacy steps. He smokes a cigarette as he waits for Brian.

Brian walks down the street toward Tony, followed by TWO OLDER MEN who pass a bottle of Vodka back and forth. All three of them are smokin'.

BRIAN

We're goin' to White Plains.

The two men look at Tony as if they were daring him to speak.

Tony rises to his feet. The four of them walk to the bus stop.

93 EXT. WHITE PLAINS - DAY

Brian and his two cohorts then Tony depart the bus.

Tony follows behind as he looks at the traffic on the street and the tops of the tall buildings.

TONY

Amazing.

BRIAN

Keep up, kid. Now listen.

Tony moves beside Brian.

BRIAN

This is how it's gonna go down. All
you have to do is keep your eyes
open.

TONY

I can do that.

Tony follows Brian down the street. A truck blares his air horn.

Tony jumps away from the unfamiliar sound. He collides with Brian.

BRIAN

What the hell. Get serious, screw this up and we all get busted.

Tony lights a smoke. The others take the cue and do the same.

BRIAN

See that brick building down there. That's where you're going. We'll be in the parking lot down the street.

TONY

What are you gonna do?

BRIAN

Just do what I say. It's a one-way street. Don't take your eyes off the corner.

TONY

Should I whistle or somethin'?

Brian whacks the side of Tony's head.

BRIAN

Would you shut-up. Just put your hand on top of your head if a car comes. We'll see it.

TONY

Hand on my head. Got it.

94 EXT. SIDE STREET - DAY

Brian with his companions and Tony stop in front of the four-story building with only one small window on the top floor.

BRIAN

You wait here and look that direction. Remember hand on your head.

Brian and the other two keep walking. Tony watches them as they leave.

Brian turns around. He sees Tony staring at them instead of looking out.

Brian walks back to Tony while the other two wait.

BRIAN

What the hell are you doing? Don't watch us. Turn around and do what I say.

Brian and his partners reach the parking lot. They break into the parking meters then start filling their bags with coins.

Tony can't help watching them. He realizes what they are doing then starts fidgeting nervously. He turns back around.

Tony tries to look cool but he isn't very successful. It's completely obvious what he's doing.

After only a few minutes, a police car comes toward Tony.

With an exaggerated motion, Tony puts his hand on his head.

The car stops next to him. The COP, 28, in the passenger seat rolls down the window.

COP

What're you doing, son?

Tony still has his hand on his head. The cop points to the parking lot.

Tony sees three other cop cars. Brian is being hand-cuffed.

The cop gets out of his car then violently throws Tony over the hood.

COP

Hands behind your back, now.

The cop hand-cuffs Tony then shoves him into the back seat.

95 INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

The POLICEMAN takes Tony's fingerprints.

Tony stands in front of the camera for a mug shot.

TWO OTHER COPS roughly escort Tony to the cell then slams the door shut.

96 INT. CELL - DAY

Brian is already sitting on a cot.

TONY
I did what you said. What's gonna
happen to us now?

BRIAN
Shut-up, kid.

Tony sits on the cot. He pats the pad then smiles.

TONY
Wow, this is nice.

Brian shakes his head.

97 THE FOLLOWING MORNING

Tony is sleeping with a smile on his face.

A different cop, GUS, 30, opens the door to Tony's cell. He hits the metal bars with his baton.

Tony wakes then sits up in his bunk.

GUS
You're free to go, kid.

Tony sits there as he stares at the policeman.

GUS
Now.

Tony walks out of the cell.

98 INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Buffalo Bob is waiting. He sees Tony then smiles but it quickly changes to a look of sadness.

BUFFALO BOB
Hello, Tony.

TONY
I sure am happy to see you. This
whole thing is crazy. I didn't do
anything.

BUFFALO BOB
I talked to the cops. I know what
happened.

Buffalo Bob stops as a FEW COPS signal they want a photograph. He stands for the picture.

BUFFALO BOB
I paid your bail, Tony. We can go.

99 INT. BOB'S LIMO - DAY - MOVING

Tony and Bob sit in the back of the limo.

TONY
I can't believe the cops got there so fast. I really didn't know what was going on.

BUFFALO BOB
You knew enough. That brick building you were standing in front of.

TONY
Yeah? It had one window way at the top.

BUFFALO BOB
It's a police station. The cops saw the whole thing. You'll be all right. School starts tomorrow.

Tony sadly looks out the limo's window.

TONY
I'm not goin'.

100 INT. UPHOLSTERY FACTORY - OFFICE - DAY

Tony walks in. He hands the help wanted sign to FRED KRAVITZ, 32. He's overweight and his clothes show he cares more about comfort than appearance.

Kravitz walks behind his desk and sits down then gestures for Tony to sit down too. He takes a long look at Tony.

KRAVITZ
I'm tryin' to figure out which Tony I'm lookin' at.

TONY
Sir?

KRAVITZ
Had some trouble yesterday? It's a small town, I know all about it, Tony.

Tony can't keep himself from hanging his head.

TONY

Yes, sir.

KRAVITZ

I like you, Tony. Always saw you as a winner. Now, I'm not sure. Hell, you'll be the best worker I have.

TONY

You can count on that.

Kravitz leans back in his chair

KRAVITZ

I know. You should be in school but you'd probably just work for someone else.

TONY

I have to make more money. My family needs it.

KRAVITZ

Okay, you're hired. You can start right now. I'll get Janice in here, she'll get you started.

Tony shakes Kravitz's hand.

TONY

Thank you. I won't let you down.

KRAVITZ

You made a big choice today. Welcome to your new world. You'll have plenty of time to get used to it.

101 INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Tony quietly opens the front door. He is immediately greeted by Ace.

Tony drops to his knees then uses both hands to rub Ace's neck.

TONY

(whispering)

Ace, you're the best. I know I've been an ass. You're gonna see a lot more of me. I promise.

Tony walks to his parents' bed. He gently kisses both of them on the cheek while they sleep.

Tony tiredly walks to the stairs. He cracks the door open to his sisters' bedroom.

TONY
Love you, guys.

THERESA (O.S.)
I love you too, Tony.

With his last bit of strength Tony slowly walks up the stairs with Ace right behind him.

102 EXT. ROAD - DAY

Tony's sweating profusely as he pushes a wheelbarrow full of asphalt. His shirt is off displaying his cut muscles and perfect physique.

Maria walks up to Tony carrying a huge bowl of pasta.

Tony rests the wheelbarrow on the ground.

Maria gives Tony a giant hug.

MARIA
I saw you from my bus. Thought you
might be hungry.

Maria hands the bowl to Tony. They both sit down on the curb in a sullen mood. Tony eats his food.

MARIA
So, how's the team?

TONY
Thank God for baseball, right? I
can't wait to start the tour. I'm
so ready to get out of this place.

Tony continues to eat then notices Maria has tears in her eyes.

TONY
I'll miss you though. You're The
best sister a guy could ask for.

MARIA
I'm so sorry, Tony. What if you go
to jail?

TONY
I'm supposed to see the judge the
day I get back. I'm pretty sure I
won't go to jail, maybe probation.

Maria hugs Tony again.

MARIA
This just doesn't seem real.

TONY
I know. I really screwed up.

MARIA
I'll miss you so much while you're gone.

TONY
You got so much goin' on. You won't even notice. You'll be homecoming queen again for sure.

Maria lets go of Tony then stands. She dusts off her dress.

MARIA
I better go. Love you, Tony.

TONY
You too.

103 EXT. HAY FIELD - DAY

It's an unusually hot day. Tony loads the last bail of hay onto the trailer.

Gary hops out of his truck.

TONY
Hell of an idea you had about quittin' school. This is way more fun.

Gary laughs. He hands Tony some water.

GARY
Hey, between that upholstery job and this one you must be makin' a wad.

TONY
It's nice to get what we need. I was just kiddin'. I hated school. I know I did the right thing.

GARY
So, you take off soon, don't you?

TONY
Saturday. Can't wait.

Gary and Tony look across the empty field.

GARY
That was a lotta hay.

TONY
You don't have to tell me.

Buffalo Bob pulls up in his limo.

Gary shakes Tony's hand.

GARY
It's been a pleasure knowin' you.
Tear 'em up over there. Show 'em
what it means to be an American.

Gary points at the limo.

GARY
Your chariot awaits.

104 INT. BOB'S LIMO - DAY - MOVING

Only silence pervades the interior. Tony begins to say something but decides otherwise.

Bob finally turns to face Tony. His serious look and hesitation shows how hard this is for him to say.

BUFFALO BOB
You know, Tony. The exhibition team,
they see it like the players are
ambassadors.

TONY
I know.

BUFFALO BOB
They consider you to be representin'
the good old USA, all that kinda
stuff.

TONY
Don't worry, I won't let you down.

Buffalo Bob looks away from Tony.

BUFFALO BOB
I fought for you, kid. Told 'em
everyone deserves a second chance.
Nobody's perfect.

TONY
Thank you, Bob.

BUFFALO BOB

Unfortunately, the committee didn't see it that way.

Tony's eyes well-up with tears.

BUFFALO BOB

There's no easy way to say this so I'm just gonna say it. You're off the exhibition team.

The tears flow down Tony's cheeks.

TONY

No. No, Bob. Please you gotta do something. That was my only chance to get out of this town.

BUFFALO BOB

Nothing can be done. We're almost there. Clean yourself up and get your stuff.

TONY

I'll be fine. I can practice.

BUFFALO BOB

No, Tony. You dropped out of school. The school board had decided to make an exception and let you play...

Tony's face goes blank.

TONY

But then I got arrested.

BUFFALO BOB

That's right. So get your stuff and I'll take you home.

The limo pulls into the parking lot.

105 EXT. BASEBALL PARK - DAY

Practice has already started. One by one THE PLAYERS see the limo. The park gets eerily quiet.

Tony steps out of the limo then slowly walks toward his locker.

All eyes are on him.

Steven's on the mound. He sees Tony.

STEVEN

Hey, convict. Heard any good news lately? I sure have.

Tony immediately rushes at Steven. He collides with him at full speed then tackles him to the ground.

Michael and Kurt run over. They pull Tony off of Steven.

MICHAEL

Coach wouldn't be too happy if you hurt his new star pitcher.

Tony breaks free from their grip. He tackles Michael.

Coach Gavin runs over then lifts Tony off of Michael.

COACH GAVIN

Just get out of here, Tony. It's over. Go home.

Tony walks away. He slowly accelerates until he's at a full run. A FEW KIDS begin to laugh.

STEVEN

Run home to Mommy, Tony. I told you. This is my team.

COACH GAVIN

Show's over men. Get back out there. We got work to do.

Steven heads back to the mound. A BATTER steps to the plate.

106 INT. UPHOLSTERY FACTORY - DAY

The upholstery factory has unfinished couches covering the floor. Many workers are carrying fabrics or covering the couch skeletons.

Tony has a giant pointed hook that he uses to sew the material to the couches. Kravitz comes toward him.

KRAVITZ

You're amazing, Tony. You're already the fastest guy I have. No one does as many couches as you do.

Tony stops working. He wipes the sweat from his brow.

TONY

Does that mean I'll get some kinda bonus?

KRAVITZ

Can't do that. What's wrong? You need to make some more money?

TONY

I want to get some new clothes for my mom and sisters. They really need it.

KRAVITZ

Listen, I found out somethin' about your judge. He'll probably give you the option of joining the military.

Tony turns his back to Kravitz. He goes back to work.

TONY

Military?

KRAVITZ

It turns out breaking into parking meters is considered very serious. If I were you, I'd sign up.

TONY

I'll think about it.

Kravitz grabs Tony's arm. Tony puts the hook down then turns back to Kravitz.

KRAVITZ

Look, there's no guarantee. I would do as much as I could to show the judge you're serious.

TONY

But I...

KRAVITZ

Tony, it's either join the military or go to jail.

107 INT. AIR FORCE RECRUITMENT OFFICE - DAY

Tony rushes into the room shivering. The place is completely empty. No one's behind the desk.

TONY

(to himself)

It's freezing in here.

Tony jumps up and down as he wildly swings his arms back and forth.

PRIVATE HARRY, 19, in full uniform, walks into the room. He sees Tony.

HARRY
Can I help you?

Tony doesn't hear him.

HARRY
(louder)
Can I help you?

Tony instantly stops his get warm activity. He slowly turns around to face the voice.

HARRY
Can I help you?

TONY
I'm here to enlist. You know, join up.

HARRY
Okay. First thing you need to do is fill out some paperwork. I'll go get it.

The private leaves the room.

Tony looks around the office. It's wallpapered with posters showing recruits in far away countries.

TONY
(to himself)
This may not be such a bad idea.
But Nona would say, "You wanna die?"
I'd say, "No. I wanna see the world."

Tony acts out the parts.

TONY
(to himself)
Then Linda would chime in. "It's better to stay home. There's no place..."

Private Harry comes back. He sees Tony impersonating Linda.

HARRY
Sir?

Tony freezes.

HARRY
The paperwork, sir.

Tony quickly turns. He smiles at Harry.

TONY

Boy, you must really think I'm nuts.
I'm not. I was just...

HARRY

Fill out this paperwork and we'll go
from there.

Private Harry hands him the papers and a pen then sits behind his desk. He starts reading a pamphlet.

Tony sits in the chair across from him.

Private Harry slowly looks up at Tony.

HARRY

No.

Private Harry points to the small table and chair on the other side of the room.

Tony turns and looks.

TONY

Of course. Over there. That's where
I should sit.

Tony almost knocks the chair over as he gets up and goes to the table.

108 LATER

Tony hands the paperwork to Private Harry.

Private Harry gestures for Tony to sit down. He looks over the forms.

HARRY

So, why do you want to become part
of the Air Force?

TONY

I wanna see the world.

HARRY

As good an answer as any. Whoa,
you're sixteen. Come back when you're
seventeen.

TONY

No. You don't understand. I need
to sign-up now.

Private Harry looks Tony over.

HARRY

You're certainly strong enough.
Let's see. You can enlist six months
before you're seventeen.

TONY

I turn seventeen in five months.

HARRY

Then this form needs to be signed
off by a parent and at least a
colonel. You know any colonels?

Tony slumps back in his chair.

TONY

One.

HARRY

Then it shouldn't be a problem,
barring the medical exam.

TONY

Medical exam?

109 EXT. LINDA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Tony has his ear against the door. He can hear Linda talking.

TONY

(to himself)
Of course.

Tony knocks on the door.

Linda opens it.

LINDA

Tony?

TONY

Hello Linda, long time no see.
Hey, has your dad left for Turkey
yet?

LINDA

No. He leaves tomorrow. I'm goin'
with him.

TONY

It's very important that I talk to
him.

If looks could kill, Tony would have died right there. Linda gestures for him to come in.

110 INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Linda closes the door behind them. Colonel Scott is sitting at the table.

LINDA

I can't believe you're here. Can't you get the message. You know I don't wanna see you.

TONY

It's not about that. I understand. I just need to...

Colonel William Scott sees Tony then gets out of his chair.

WILLIAM

Tony. Haven't seen you in awhile. Where you been?

TONY

Stayin' busy. Workin'. Colonel, they said I need your signature.

Tony holds out the paperwork.

WILLIAM

My signature? What's this about, Tony? Let me see that.

Colonel Scott looks over the papers.

WILLIAM

The Air Force? What made you pick them?

TONY

You did. I've always looked up to you. They said I could join now. I just need your signature.

WILLIAM

Absolutely, no finer organization on the planet. You're doin' the right thing, kid.

LINDA

Oh brother.

Linda leaves the room.

Colonel Scott grabs a pen from the table then signs the form.

TONY

Thank you, Colonel.

WILLIAM

Now you listen, Tony. You need anything, anything at all. You just get a hold of me.

TONY

Yes, sir.

Tony looks around for Linda and sees that she's gone.

TONY

Well, now I need to break the news to my mom.

WILLIAM

Moms. They never like it until they realize how proud they are. Wait a minute. I've got somethin' for you.

Colonel Scott leaves the room. He quickly comes back with a duffel bag.

WILLIAM

You'll need this. Government issue. They don't get better than that.

TONY

Yes, sir. Thank you, sir.

111 INT. APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Tony, Anna, and Giovanni are sitting at the table. Giovanni has the paperwork in his hands.

GIOVANNI

You sure you want to do this, son?

TONY

I think I have to but I won't go if the military doesn't pay enough to send you guys what you need.

GIOVANNI

It's not about that. It's about what you want. The doctor said I'll be working soon.

TONY

Really?

Anna stands then pours some coffee in Giovanni's and Tony's cups.

ANNA

Your father was at the school
yesterday. They need a bus driver.

TONY

He was? They do?

Giovanni stands then takes a few steps without his cane.

Anna gasps.

Tony stands to help his father.

TONY

Wow, Dad. You are getting better.

Giovanni reaches Tony then grabs his shoulders.

GIOVANNI

You've been through a lot, son.
Maybe this is just what you need.

ANNA

Stay or go. We will always love
you.

GIOVANNI

I'm signin' the paper, after that,
it's up to you.

Giovanni slowly goes back to his seat.

TONY

Mom, you shoulda seen the posters in
the recruiting office. They were
from every place.

ANNA

You sound excited. You know, Tony,
you never think of yourself. Maybe
now you should.

Giovanni signs the paper then slides it across the table.

TONY

All I need now is the health checkup.
I'll look into that. I better get
to work. Don't wanna be late.

Tony leaves the apartment with a spring in his step.

ANNA

Giovanni, are you okay? How did you do that?

GIOVANNI

I was not gonna let him think he had to stay here on my account.

ANNA

I love you so much, Giovanni.

GIOVANNI

Hurt like hell though. You know, a bus driver isn't a bad idea. That was some quick thinkin'.

Anna hugs Giovanni and gives him a kiss.

ANNA

We've always made a great team, honey.

GIOVANNI

I sure will miss him though.

ANNA

Me too.

112 EXT. NONA'S HOUSE - DAY

Maria's in the front yard with a hula hoop around her waist.

Mickey and Sammy are watching her.

Tony walks over to Mickey and Sammy.

TONY

What's Maria doing?

MICKEY

That thing around her waist is called a hula hoop. Maria's seems to be pretty good with it.

Maria stops then hands the hoop to Sammy.

Sammy tries to get it to spin but has no success.

Maria goes to Tony then gives him a big hug.

MARIA

You gotta try this. Everyone is doin' it.

Sammy finally gives up then hands the hula-hoop to Mickey. He's even worse than Sammy.

MARIA

Mickey, you need to relax. Look at my big baseball star brothers. Guess I'm the real athlete in the family.

TONY

I wouldn't exactly call that a sport.

MARIA

Really? Go ahead, Tony, try it.

TONY

Sure, how hard can it be?

Mickey gives the hula hoop to Tony.

Tony does no better than his brothers.

Maria laughs so much that she grabs her side in pain.

SAMMY

You really are enjoyin' this aren't you.

MARIA

Yeah, it's awful funny to see three perfect physical specimens get destroyed by a plastic circle.

Tony gives up too. He gives the hoop to Maria.

MARIA

It isn't that hard guys.

Maria spins it around her waist then around her neck. It flies off her neck then it's spinning around her arm. Her three brothers watch in disbelief.

MICKEY

Okay, okay show-off. It's starting to get cold. Let's go inside.

113 INT. NONA'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Mickey, Sammy, Maria, and Tony are sitting around the table.

Nona places a plate of delicious Italian food in front of the brothers.

Marco sits at the end of the table as he plays quiet sad melodies on his guitar.

NONA

It's so nice to see the four of you together.

MARIA

I love it.

MICKEY

When was the last time we did this?

SAMMY

Just the four of us? Never.

Nona places the last plate in front of Maria.

NONA

Let me see if I got this. Mickey, you're twenty. Sammy's eighteen. Maria's seventeen and Tony's sixteen.

MARIA

That's right, Nona. It seems so hard to believe.

Tony stands up.

TONY

Thanks for coming, Sammy. Mickey. I wanted to talk to all of you.

MICKEY

Any time, brother.

TONY

You all know how bad I've screwed up. Apparently, it's a serious charge.

SAMMY

I told you nothin' good would come from those races.

Tony looks at Sammy.

TONY

I know. I sure picked the wrong time to not listen to you. It looks like I'm joining the military.

MICKEY

Military? You kiddin'?

MARIA

How long will you be in the army?

TONY

It's the Air Force actually. I have to commit to six years.

Maria begins to cry.

Sammy puts his arm around her.

TONY

The problem is it doesn't pay much. I'm hoping we can figure out a way to take care of Mom and Dad.

MARIA

And Theresa and Rose.

TONY

I'll be gettin' eighty a month. I'm gonna give fifty to Mom and Dad but that won't be enough.

SAMMY

Isn't Dad gettin' better? I think he'll be workin' soon.

Mickey looks at Tony.

MICKEY

I can give 'em fifty a month.

Sammy slumps back in his chair.

Maria shakes her head.

MARIA

I just started working. I can only do twenty-five.

Nona comes back to the table.

NONA

What do you need, Maria? Twenty-five more a month? I can pitch in and help out.

Maria gets up then hugs Nona with all her might. Everyone's eyes turn to Sammy.

SAMMY

Guys. This look ain't cheap. I gotta reputation. The ladies expect...

Simultaneously, Mickey, Maria and Tony throw their napkins at Sammy.

SAMMY
 Okay, okay, I'm in. I can come up
 with fifty.

TONY
 A month?

SAMMY
 Yes, a month.

TONY
 So, we all agree then.

Everyone nods.

MICKEY
 Hands in the middle. We'll seal it
 with a Cavelli promise.

MICKEY/MARIA/JULIE/JOEY
 Promise.

The phone rings.

Maria answers it. She listens a second then covers the
 mouthpiece.

MARIA
 It's Theresa. It sounds like she's
 crying.

Maria talks into the phone.

MARIA
 Boys? What boys?

Mickey, Sammy, and Tony stand up.

MARIA
 Calm down, Theresa. Where are you?

Maria writes down the address then gives it to Sammy.

SAMMY
 This is just down the street. Keep
 talkin' to her. We're out of here.

Nona boxes with the air.

NONA
 Go get 'em boys.

114 EXT. NONA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sammy gets into his 1952 Chevy Convertible then starts the engine.

Mickey jumps into the passenger seat.

Tony jumps in the back.

Sammy burns rubber as they back out of the driveway. He narrowly misses a car driving by then floors it.

115 EXT. BAD BOYS HOUSE - NIGHT

Sammy screeches to a halt.

The three brothers jump out of the car.

Theresa and Rose run out the front door crying. They see their brothers. Theresa runs to Sammy and Rose runs to Tony.

SAMMY

Get in the back of the car girls.

THREE BOYS, Tony's age, come out of the house. They're laughing and obviously drunk. They see Theresa's and Rose's brothers then turn to get back in the house.

Mickey's already on two of them. He grabs the two boys by the back of their shirts then pulls each of them down with one hand.

Tony takes off like a shot and gets to the third boy before he can get to the door.

In the front yard, the Cavelli brothers are beating the boys senseless. They have fun as they switch to different boys making sure to get a piece of each one.

The fighting stops when they hear sirens approaching.

Three cop cars pull up to the house.

The COPS jump out then grab the Cavelli brothers and the three boys.

116 INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Tony, Mickey, and Sammy get finger printed then pose for their mug shots.

The cops put the Cavelli brothers in a cell.

117 INT. CELL - NIGHT

Mickey and Sammy give each other a high five.

MICKEY

Did you see the look on their faces
when they saw us?

SAMMY

Man, that was great. I hope the
girls are okay.

MICKEY

They probably went to Maria's. It
wasn't far.

Tony's sitting quietly on the bunk with his head in his hands.

Sammy notices Tony.

SAMMY

Tony, you okay?

TONY

I'm goin' to jail for sure now.

The mood changes.

MICKEY

You don't know that.

TONY

Gettin' arrested again. I haven't
even seen the judge yet.

Sammy and Mickey sit down on either side of Tony.

Mickey puts his arm around Tony's shoulder.

MICKEY

I'll vouch for you. I'll tell 'em
you had nothin' to do with it.

Sammy shakes his head indicating that won't work.

118 INT. CELL - DAY

Sammy, Mickey, and Tony are asleep in their bunks.

A cop, LARRY, 27, opens the door.

LARRY

Mickey Cavelli, you're free to go.

Mickey wakes then slowly rises. He walks through the cell door.

Sammy and Tony wake up.

LARRY
Sammy Cavelli, you're free to go.

Sammy goes to Tony's bunk.

SAMMY
Don't worry, Tony. We'll do what we can. We'll get you outta here.

LARRY
Now.

Sammy walks out the cell door.

LARRY
Tony Cavelli, you're free to go.

TONY
What?

LARRY
Unless you want to stay. Let's go.

Tony walks out.

119 INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Tony joins his brothers. They walk toward the doors.

SERGEANT PERES, 56, stops the brothers before they can leave.

SERGEANT PERES
We talked to your sisters.

Sergeant Peres looks at the police report.

SERGEANT PERES
Theresa and Rose.

TONY
Yes, sir. Are they okay?

SERGEANT PERES
They're fine. One of my men took them home. Those other three sang like canaries.

Sergeant Peres closes his notebook.

SERGEANT PERES
 Anyway, we know what happened. No
 charges. No record.

Tony vigorously shakes Sergeant Peres's hand.

TONY
 Thank you, sir. Thank you.

SERGEANT PERES
 You guys beat the hell out of those
 boys.

SAMMY
 Yeah, we kinda lost it.

SERGEANT PERES
 Well, just between you and me, I
 would've done the same thing. Now
 get outta here. Stay out of trouble.

Mickey, Sammy, and Tony leave.

120 INT. MEDICAL OFFICE - DAY

Tony is sitting on the paper covered bench.

The DOCTOR, 39, walks through the door. His eyes are on
 Tony's medical report.

DOCTOR
 (to himself)
 They just keep gettin' younger.

The doctor gets to the bench then looks at Tony.

DOCTOR
 So what's your hurry, young man?

TONY
 Well, I really needed some money.
 So I...

DOCTOR
 Stop. I really don't care. That
 was a rhetorical question. You know,
 one you don't want an answer to.

Tony nervously squirms on the bench.

The doctor looks at the report.

DOCTOR
 You've never been to a doctor before?

TONY

No, sir.

The doctor puts the report on the table.

DOCTOR

Nurse.

The beautiful NURSE, 23, walks in. She has long brown hair and her thigh high white dress looks very sexy.

DOCTOR

Tony will need the complete comprehensive exam.

TONY

Complete comprehensive, what does that mean?

DOCTOR

It means buckle up, cowboy. It's gonna be a bumpy ride.

A look of fear comes across Tony's face.

TONY

What?

DOCTOR

Just kiddin'. It means you need all the tests. This won't take long. Take off your clothes.

Tony laughs.

DOCTOR

No, seriously, strip down to your underwear.

Tony quickly removes his clothes. He stands there in his skivvies.

The doctor escorts him to the scale. He records Tony's weight and height.

DOCTOR

Go back and sit on the bench please. You can put your pants back on.

The doctor makes some notes as he walks to the bench. He takes one hand and slowly rubs Tony's head then he uses two hands. He rubs hard forcing Tony to make hilarious faces.

TONY

Doctor.

DOCTOR
Quiet, almost done here.

The doctor moves his hands to the sides of Tony's head. He puts his face right up to Tony's.

The doctor jerks Tony's head one way then the other. He writes some notes as Tony straightens his neck.

The doctor grabs his otoscope. He examines Tony's ears.

The nurse comes in. She puts some equipment on a table.

The doctor listens to Tony's heart and lungs with his stethoscope.

NURSE
Ready, Doctor.

DOCTOR
Hop down. We just need to take a little blood.

TONY
Blood?

Tony nervously sits down.

The nurse cleans a part of his arm. She slides in the needle.

TONY
That was nothing. I thought...

Tony sees the vial filling with blood then passes out. The nurse keeps him from hitting the floor.

121 INT. APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Giovanni and Anna are wearing their Sunday best as they sit at the table with a cup of coffee.

Two honks are heard from outside.

ANNA
Tony, he's here.

Tony comes down the stairs. He has a fresh hair cut and is wearing brand new clothes.

Tony knocks on his sisters' bedroom door.

TONY
Theresa. Rose. He's here. You ready?

THERESA

We heard him. We're coming.

122 EXT. APARTMENT - DAY

Anna helps Giovanni down the stairs as he supports himself with the railing. Theresa and Rose are wearing new dresses as they follow close behind.

Tony is the last to come out the door.

Buffalo Bob is in a stretch limo with both doors open. All five of the Cavelli's climb inside.

123 INT. STRETCH LIMO - DAY

Maria, Marco, and Nona are in the back seat with Buffalo Bob. Theresa and Rose sit with their parents in the middle seat.

Tony gets in the front seat next to the new chauffeur is KEVIN, 21.

BUFFALO BOB

I'm glad you all made it. It can only help.

TONY

Thank you, Bob.

BUFFALO BOB

Okay, Kevin. The courthouse.

124 INT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

The Cavelli's with Buffalo Bob fill the first two benches.

Mickey and Sammy come through the door. They squeeze into the last available space.

JUDGE THOMAS, 63, enters the room. Everyone rises.

The judge sits down at the bench then goes over the docket. He clears his throat. Everyone sits down except the Cavelli family.

JUDGE THOMAS

Tony Cavelli.

Tony approaches Judge Thomas with a hand full of papers.

The judge points at Tony's family.

JUDGE THOMAS
Are those all yours?

TONY
Yes, sir, those are my sisters and
brothers. Next to them are my
parents. Then my grandparents.

JUDGE THOMAS
Nice lookin' group. Folks you can
sit down. You don't need to stand.

Judge Thomas studies more paperwork.

JUDGE THOMAS
Breaking into parking meters. That's
a serious offense. I understand you
have plans to join the military?

TONY
Yes, sir. The Air Force.

JUDGE THOMAS
And how do I know you're serious?

TONY
I have this form signed by Colonel
Scott and this one with my parent's
signature.

Tony shuffles through his papers.

TONY
I've been cleared by the Air Force
doctor. That's what this paper's
for.

Tony hands everything to Judge Thomas.

Judge Thomas takes his time looking over the forms. He takes
a long hard look at Tony.

JUDGE THOMAS
Cavelli family.

The entire Cavelli family stands.

JUDGE THOMAS
No, you don't have to stand. Please,
sit down.

Judge Thomas waits for them all to get comfortable.

JUDGE THOMAS

If I choose to accept Tony's request, he's signing up for six years. I know you'll miss him.

Judge Thomas looks at Anna.

JUDGE THOMAS

But be proud he's serving our country. Mrs. Cavelli, how do you feel about this?

ANNA

He's a good son, your honor. He made a mistake. I hope you can give him a second chance.

Judge Thomas studies the paperwork again.

JUDGE THOMAS

Tony Cavelli, if you fail to follow through, you will receive the harshest sentence allowed. Do you understand?

TONY

Yes, sir.

Judge Thomas slams down his gavel.

JUDGE THOMAS

Case dismissed. Good luck, son.

Judge Thomas gets up then begins to leave the room. Everyone stands except the Cavelli family.

Judge Thomas glances back just before he exits. He stops.

JUDGE THOMAS

You can stand up now.

Everyone gathers together to congratulate Tony.

125 INT. NONA'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Maria, Marco, and Tony sit at the table. Nona, with her plate of food, joins them. Everyone's sad and silent as they eat. Maria's eyes are red from the crying.

TONY

I have to be at the train station by three. It's so early. You guys don't need to come.

NONA

I'm so worried. The world is so dangerous. We just sent five thousand troops to Beirut.

TONY

Don't worry, Nona. I'll be fine.

MARIA

Do you think you could get Elvis's autograph?

Tony looks at Maria with a smile.

TONY

Sure Maria, the minute I see him.

Tony has eaten all that he can. He gets up from the table then gives Marco a long hug. He goes to Nona and puts his arms around her.

Nona wipes the tears from her eyes with her apron.

Maria gets out of her chair. She lovingly embraces Tony.

MARIA

I'll miss you so much. Six years. It may as well be forever.

TONY

I'll be back before you know it.

126 INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Tony is greeted by Ace as soon as he opens the door. He squats down then gives Ace the best rubbing ever.

TONY

Ace, I may miss you the most. Now don't worry. Theresa and Rose promised to take good care of you.

Ace looks at their bedroom.

TONY

You really do understand everything I say.

Ace barks. Anna and Giovanni come out of the girls' bedroom.

ANNA

I thought I heard you come in. Come on, give your mother a hug.

Tony hugs his mother then his father.

GIOVANNI

I love you, son.

Tony lets go.

TONY

I love you so much. So what are you guys going to do with the attic?

ANNA

Theresa and Rose will move in there. We'll move into their room.

TONY

Mom, you'll have the whole kitchen.

ANNA

I ain't gonna lie. It'll be nice gettin' that bed outta here.

Theresa and Rose enter the kitchen.

Tony gives Theresa a long embrace.

TONY

You'll probably be married when I get back.

THERESA

Shut-up, Tony. Not a chance. I'll really, really, really miss you.

Rose hugs Tony.

ROSE

I love you so much.

TONY

If there's any trouble, you can always count on Sammy and Mickey. I guess I better get my stuff together.

Tony gives everyone another hug then walks up the stairs to the attic with Ace right behind him.

127 INT. APARTMENT - ATTIC - NIGHT

Tony turns on the flashlight. He looks around his bedroom then smiles.

TONY

More than ten years in this place.
It's gonna be weird bein' somewhere
else.

Tony grabs his duffel bag then begins to fill it. Everything he owns leaves it half empty. He removes his notebook from the rafters.

Tony sits at his desk and opens it. He reaches in the drawer then pulls out a pencil.

Tony writes, "Always look for new opportunities no matter how much it hurts."

A tear falls down Tony's cheek then he closes the notebook. He carefully puts it in the duffel bag along with the contents of the drawer.

Tony pets Ace.

TONY

All I wanted to do was see the world.
Looks like it's gonna happen. I
just didn't expect to be so sad.

After one last look at the attic, Tony turns off his flashlight then slowly goes down the stairs.

128 KITCHEN

Tony hugs everyone.

TONY

Really guys, you don't need to come.
It's so late and it's a long walk.
I'll be fine.

The last thing Tony does is hug and kiss Ace.

TONY

Ace, you've been the best dog any
guy could have asked for. Be good
while I'm gone.

Tony's eyes overflow with tears. He walks out of the kitchen then closes the door.

Ace barks twice then whimpers. Anna, Theresa, and Rose begin to cry. Even Giovanni has a tear roll down his cheek.

129 EXT. LOADING DOCK - NIGHT

Tony approaches the train station. PEOPLE are waiting to board.

A COUPLE separates after saying good-bye which allows Tony to see his grandfather dressed in his suit and tie. They walk toward each other then embrace.

TONY

You didn't have to come. You are a
crazy old man aren't you?

MARCO

I will... miss you, Tony.

TONY

Grandpa. English? Sounds great.
I'll miss you too.

Tony boards the train then finds a seat. Through the window, he sees his grandfather dabbing his eyes with his handkerchief.

Tony's eyes become wet from the sadness. His smile is slight from the anticipation.

TONY

(quietly to himself)
Look out world. Here I come.

The train pulls out of the station and into Tony's unknown.

FADE OUT.

THE END