

INT. JOEY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Joey, a 4th grade boy wearing glasses and a jacket, walks through the front door, as the bus from outside fades away. He enters the kitchen where JOEY'S MOM is preparing dinner. Joey is CLENCHING TIGHT a packet in his hands, close to his chest.

MOM

Hey Joey, how was school today?

JOEY

It was great, we did the 'future-self' book today!

MOM

(While trying to clean up)
Oh really?

JOEY

Yea! I put down when I get older, I'm going to git rid of world hunger, travel to space, dunk a basketball, and most important of all, to finish my comic book!

MOM

What comic book?

Joey starts running up the stairs towards his room.

JOEY

(Hollering back down to her)
You know, Space Adventures? The comic book about the astronaut? It's gonna be the best space comic book EVER! I'm almost done!

MOM (O.C.)

(Hollering back as she finishes prepping food)
I'm excited to hear about it but, let's talk about it at dinner, okay?

Joey RUSHES into his room, closing the door behind him.

INT. JOEY'S HOUSE - JOEY'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Joey places the packet on his bed, and takes in his NBA POSTER of a player slam dunking a basketball above his Mini-TV.

He looks over to the other wall, with a poster of the moon with an astronaut on it. Next to it is a TELESCOPE.

He smiles at both and heads over to the mini-TV, kneeling down to press the 'ON' button.

JOEY'S MOM (O.C.)

JOEY!!!

Joey IMMEDIATELY and ANXIOUSLY FLINCHES.

JOEY'S MOM (O.C.)

Don't start playing video games,
dinner's gonna be ready in 20 minutes.
In the meantime, put your basket of
clothes away, OK?!

JOEY

Mmmkay!

Joey stares down the basket of clean clothes placed by his bed and rolls his eyes, turning the TV off. He walks back over, picking the packet. He stares at it for a moment.

CUT TO:

A close up of the pamphlet, turned to Joey's page with his name at the top. The first sentence below his name reads...

'When I grow up, I'm going to...'

The following bullet points below are shown at the camera dollies down...

'Become an astronaut and land to the moon'

'Do a 360 dunk'

'Finish writing my comic book Space Adventures, and get it published for millions of people to read around the world.'

Joe then heads over to his nightstand.

CUT TO:

An angled up shot over his nightstand, slowly opening up the drawer, and pulling out another large, stapled packet. He is now smiling bigger than ever!

CUT TO:

A close up shot of the first page of the stapled packet. The top of the page in bold, colored letters is...

'Space Adventures'

Below it is a picture of a guy in an orange and black astronaut costume with glasses, similar to Joey.

Joey's finger starts skimming through the pages, he flips through the first 3 or so pages that are filled with colored pictures and words, the rest of the packet is completely blank.

CUT TO:

Joey's smile returns to a more half frown, and slides the 'Space Adventures' packet back into the nightstand drawer carefully.

Joey starts to take off jacket as he opens his closet. He reaches for one of the hangers to put his jacket on.

BOOM!

Something from the top shelf of his closet falls into the back corner.

JOEY'S MOM

JOEY!

Joey ANXIOUSLY FLINCHES towards the door.

JOEY'S MOM (CONT'D)

IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT?

JOEY

(Yelling back down)

YEA!

Joey reaches into the corner of the dark closet, pausing and raising his eyebrows. He picks up a FLASHLIGHT off of his nightstand, shining it into the corner.

CUT TO:

Hidden within the corner of the closet, the light shines on a mini cupboard with a mini cupboard knob.

CUT TO:

Joey looks back at his bedroom window, then back towards the

closet, and reaches for the cupboard.

As he pulls his hand out of the cupboard off-screen, back towards him into the shot, a small Sci-fi contraption fills his hand. Joe looks around at the FUTURISTIC DEVICE.

It is a handheld clock that has knobs to change the different-titled 'YEAR', 'MONTH', 'DAY', and 'TIME'. At the top is a button.

Joey starts turning the 'YEAR' date from 2013 to '2025'.

JOEY (CONT'D)

That should be enough time.

Joey looks back at his bedroom door one final time before closing his eyes, and clicking the button.

CUT TO BLACK:

FADE INTO:

INT. JOE'S HOUSE - JOE'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

As the camera opens, Joey is standing there in the same exact position. He slowly opens his eyes to see a similar formatted bedroom, but entirely one shade of a color.

He turns around, looking at the wall.

CUT TO:

The place where the NBA basketball poster once hung is now gone, and replaced by a random art piece that matches the coloring of the bedroom.

CUT TO:

Joey looks over to his window, and the TELESCOPE is no longer there, just a larger dresser that matches the color coding of the bedroom. Same with the poster of the astronaut on the moon.

CUT TO:

As Joey stares at it for just a moment longer, he hears...

EEEEKKKKK!

Joey turns around, and his jaw drops to the floor, physically frozen.

CUT TO:

Standing there is JOE, Joey all grown up in his twenties, with a full beard, and more mature glasses.

CUT TO:

A wide shot of the two standing still, staring each other down.

CUT TO:

Joe slowly points his finger at Joey, squinting his eyebrow.

JOE

How did you...

Joey raises up the FUTURISTIC DEVICE, then mirrors Joe by pointing his finger at Joe's face.

JOEY

(Slight disgust)

We have...a beard?

Joe chuckles. Joey starts to look around the room again.

JOEY (CONT'D)

What happened to our poster?

JOE

It started to look...tacky.

JOEY

What does that mean?

JOE

It means mom didn't want it in the room anymore.

Joey looks over to the window, seeing that the telescope is no longer there. He rushes over to where it once stood.

JOEY

And the telescope! How are you able to see the moon up close to do ANY research?

Joe genuinely laughs. Joey turns around. He notices Joe's DRESS CLOTHES hanging on the closet door handle. He points to it.

JOEY (CONT'D)
What's that for?

Joe smirks and sighs.

JOE
Just for work.

Joey quickly looks back over to Joe with wide eyes.

JOEY
AT NASA?!

Joe chuckles.

JOE
...Not yet buddy.

JOEY
What about dunking a basketball, can we at least do a 360?

Joe smiles ear to ear now.

JOE
(Playfully)

I'm sure closer than you are!

Joey doesn't chuckle like Joe.

After a beat...

JOE'S MOM, same voice as JOEY'S MOM, YELLS up to Joe.

JOE'S MOM
JOE!

Both Joe and Joey FLINCH IN THE SAME FASHION at the sound of their mother, eyes widening in unison.

JOE'S MOM (CONT'D)
Your laundry is done! Come grab your basket of clothes and put them away, OK?!

Joey opens his mouth, about to respond as he normally does to his mother's request, but Joe puts his hand up in front of Joey, to prevent him from instinctively answering.

JOE
(Back downstairs)
Mmmkay!

They turn back to each other.

JOEY
(Shocked)
Mom still does our laundry?

JOE
(Calm, smiling)
You'll know when you get older.

Joey starts looking around again at the bedroom.

JOEY
So, why are we at home still?

JOE
We're just...figuring some things out
right now buddy.

Joey stares off for a moment, taking all this in before his head JOLTS back up, and eyes LASER IN back on Joe.

JOEY
What about Space Adventures? I'm SURE
we completed that by now...right?

Joe is silent for several moments staring off, pondering how to respond. Just as he opens his mouth, he hears light weeping.

He looks down to see Joey tearing up, wiping a single tear away.

Joe gets down on one knee, eye level with Joey. He rests his hand on Joey's shoulder.

JOEY (CONT'D)
Are we a loser?

JOE
No buddy, not even close.

JOEY
You promise?

Joe nods his head.

JOE
I promise.

JOEY
(Wiping another tear away)
Okay...I'm just scared to grow up.

Joe brings Joey into his chest, and hugs him. As he pulls him back out of the hug, both hands on both of Joey's shoulders.

JOE
Listen to me when I tell you this--

He looks at his younger self right in his own eyes.

JOE (CONT'D)
Eventually, you HAVE TO mature...but you NEVER have to grow up. Ok buddy?

Joey wipes away the last tear, and nods his head.

JOEY
Okay.

Joey looks down at the FUTURE DEVICE in his hand, starting to back away.

JOEY (CONT'D)
(Rubbing his arm)
Well, dinners probably almost ready, so I gotta go.

JOE
Alright buddy.

Just as Joey is about to press down on the FUTURE DEVICE trigger, Joe reaches his hand out.

JOE (CONT'D)
Wait!

Joey FREEZES, looking up at Joe.

JOE (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
I...I know it seems like it's not worth it, but keep working on the
(MORE)

JOE (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
book. For me. Okay buddy?

JOEY
(Melancholy)
Okay.

Joey puts his hand back on the trigger, Joe watches.

JOEY (CONT'D)
(Waving)
Bye.

JOE
See ya soon bud.

Joey shuts his eyes, pressing down on the FUTURE DEVICE before...

HARSH CUT TO:

INT. JOEY'S HOUSE - JOEY'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Joey opens his eyes, and looks around his original room. The NBA poster is back in it's palace, and the telescope is once again aimed out the window underneath the poster of the astronaut on the moon.

Joey smiles.

He runs over to his drawer, pulling out his Space Adventures book, flipping through the completed AND empty pages once again while sitting on his bed.

He sighs after flipping the final, empty page in the packet.

JOEY'S MOM
JOEY!

Joey, once again, FLINCHES towards the door, but not as anxiously as before.

JOEY'S MOM (CONT'D)
I said dinner is ready! Come on your dad and I have been waiting!

JOEY
Mmmkay!

He hugs it tight against his chest, then stares it down within his hands.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S HOUSE - JOE'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Joe, standing in the same pose on his bed, staring down a similar looking packet in his hands.

CUT TO:

Within his hands is the same Space Adventures book, but the cover is now more fully fleshed out, professional looking, and FULL of color.

Joe's fingers start flipping through the pages, and EVERY SINGLE PAGE is full from beginning to end.

CUT BACK TO:

Joe smiles, and turns to the closet, putting on his shirt and tie that Joey pointed out earlier.

He then goes over to his nightstand dresser, and pulls out another packet. He takes a pen, and checks off something on the packet.

CUT TO:

A close up shot of young Joey's 'Future Self' packet page. A check mark is right next to...

'Finish writing my comic book Space Adventures, and get it published for millions of people to read around the world.'

CUT TO:

Joe sets down the 'Future Self' packet, and walks over to his desk.

Joe sits down with Space Adventures in his hands. He joins a virtual meeting, and waits. He holds the book in a position where the laptop camera can see it.

MAGGIE, a voice on the other end, chimes in.

MAGGIE

Good afternoon Joe, nice to meet you.

JOE

(High energy)

Hello Maggie, thank you for the opportunity to present this to you!

MAGGIE

Of course, the team is excited about
the comic. We're ready when you are.

Joe clears his throat, and gets physically situated.

JOE

Alright, Right so- -

Joe holds up the 'Space Adventures' cover page right in front
of the camera.

CUT TO BLACK: