

Life Would Be A Dream
by
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FADE IN.

EXT. GROVER CLEVELAND HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Grover Cleveland High School slumbers in the morning sun. TEENS rub sleep from their eyes, and file into the building.

MAIN LAWN -

CINDY WILLIAMS, 17, stunning - knows it - struts passed yearning BOYS and Jealous Girls.

TOBEY CLARK, 17, a clean cut, easy-going kid, with farm boy good looks marches confidently through the CROWD toward Cindy.

CINDY

(sensual)

Tobey, I've wanted to say this to you for a long time....

Tobey leans in with anticipation.

CINDY (CONT'D)

(continuing; annoyed)

--get out of my way, dweeb.

Tobey shakes off his day dream. Cindy and her boyfriend CHAD BURNETTE push passed. Chad growls at Tobey.

CHAD BURNETTE, 18, a walking Michelangelo's DAVID. He's cool, sullen, and captain of the Basketball team.

Tobey is standing next to his buddies--ZACK, 17, class clown, and BUD, 17, the brain.

TOBEY

(pointing at Cindy)

Why do girls like Cindy always date guys like Chad?

ZACK

It's in the breeding. Their mother's dated guys like that and their grandmothers dated guys like that--We, on the other hand, have to settle for girls like that.

(points to plain looking GIRLS)

So, forget her, man.

BUD

Zack's right, you should really give up on this. She's way out of your league.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Tobey is annoyed.

TOBEY

You guys are always giving me advice about girls, but I've never seen you two even talk to a girl!

The boys look crushed. Tobey's got them.

ZACK

Eh--listen--you're not always around. We talk to plenty of girls.

TOBEY

Yeah, name one?

Zack and Bud don't even try.

ZACK

Don't upset me!

BUD

Why are you so interested in Cindy anyway? She's the cruelest, mean spirited, most hate filled person in our entire school.

INSERT - GROVER CLEVELAND HIGH SCHOOL YEAR BOOK an elegant hand opens it to the index.

We see Cindy Williams' name followed by countless page references. Suddenly, the yearbook fans open to a series of Black and White still photos of Cindy - A FAST PACED MONTAGE BEGINS.

We stop at a page with a HEADLINE that reads: "Drama Society Proudly Presents, Shirley Jackson's The Lottery." We PAN DOWN, and find a black and white still of Cindy Williams dressed up as "MRS. WATSON". She brandishes a giant rock.

The STILL of Cindy in The Lottery COMES TO LIFE.

INT. AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Cindy is on stage stoning TESSIE.

CINDY

Come on. Get it over with! Hit her!

We CUT BACK TO the yearbook. We see Cindy on other pages too: "Cindy Williams: Lead Cheerleader."

The STILL of Cindy as "lead cheerleader" COMES TO LIFE.

INT. GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

Cindy is leading a team of cheerleaders through their paces.

CINDY
Annihilate! Annihilate! Go team!

CUT BACK TO the yearbook. A beautiful black and white photo of Cindy as the "Junior Prom Queen" COMES TO LIFE.

INT. AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

In SLO-MO, Cindy struts across the stage holding a bouquet of roses. She doesn't wait to be crowned, she takes the tiara, and crowns herself.

CUT TO - GROVER CLEVELAND HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK, the elegant hand that opened it, now closes it.

INT. WILLIAMS' HOUSE - DAY

It's a beautiful home. The Williams' are an affluent family.

SUPERIMPOSITION: "LAST DAY OF SCHOOL, Spring 1960."

HALLWAY
Cindy stands facing the hall mirror, applying lipstick. She's dressed impeccably. Her mother, JOAN WILLIAMS, early 40's, is a tall stunning woman. She steps up behind Cindy, and smiles.

MRS. WILLIAMS
You look beautiful.

CINDY
Thank you.

MRS. WILLIAMS
(disappointed)
Oh, Cindy, that colour doesn't suit you.

Her mother pulls a handkerchief from her apron, and wipes the lipstick from Cindy's face.

MRS. WILLIAMS (CONT'D)
(continuing)
Ruby red is your colour.
(applies red lipstick to Cindy)
There. That's much better. You look beautiful.

CINDY
Thank you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MRS. WILLIAMS

Remember to smile when they take your photo. You have such beautiful teeth, sweet heart.

(she takes Cindy's face and pulls up on her cheeks)

You really should smile more.

CINDY

I know.

MRS. WILLIAMS

I'll pick up your prom dress from the tailors at 6 tonight.

(she beams)

You're going to be the most beautiful prom queen this town has ever seen.

CINDY

I know.

INT. CLARK'S HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Tobey sits at the breakfast table across from his father. DON FRANCIS CLARK, 40's, is a tough, rumped looking man.

TOBEY

Dad?

MR. CLARK

What?

TOBEY

Is there a God?

MR. CLARK

What? Of course there's a God.

(beat)

And he's always watching.

Tobey gets up from the table and slings his backpack over his shoulder. He steps out of the kitchen.

MR. CLARK (CONT'D)

(continuing)

He saw that!

EXT. GROVER CLEVELAND HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Establish.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Welcome to Grover Cleveland High School. The halls are crowded with excited TEENS.

Cindy Williams--swelling with beauty--struts past her usual admirers.

FAR END OF HALL - CONTINUOUS

Looking flawless are PEGGY SUE, 18, very pretty, and MARY LUE, 19, snooty. Cindy's best friends. They're huddled together, and seem pensive when Cindy draws near.

PEGGY SUE
 (whispering to Mary)
 Here she comes.
 (to Cindy; overly sympathetic)
 I am so sorry!

MARY LUE
 (to Cindy)
 You must feel awful!

CINDY
 What, about Mr. A's history exam? I'm not worried.

Peggy Sue, and Mary Lue seem puzzled.

PEGGY SUE
 You're really taking this well.

CINDY
 (confused)
 What am I taking well?

MARY LUE
 Chad, what else?

An awkward moment passes between Cindy and Mary Lue.

CINDY
 What about Chad?

PEGGY SUE
 (to Mary Lue)
 Oh my God, she doesn't know.

Suddenly -- A VOICE.

J.T. (O.S.)

CHAD!

FAR END OF THE HALL - CONTINUOUS

SLO-MO - Chad strolls confidently past gushing girls. He's more a rock star than a high school student. ON CHAD - He smiles, and then strolls up to Cindy.

CHAD
Listen, we need to talk.

INT. GIRLS' WASHROOM - DAY

CLOSE ON - DEBBIE GREENBERG, 16, full of energy. She swings open the washroom door, and blurts out...

DEBBIE
You're not going to believe this...

INT. GYMNASIUM - DAY

CLOSE ON - BONNIE LAYTON, 17, she strikes a volleyball before finishing Debbie's sentence...

BONNIE
--Chad dumped Cindy. I swear to God,
dumped her right in front...

INT. TEACHERS' LOUNGE - DAY

CLOSE ON - KENNY BEAL, 40's, takes a sip of coffee, and then sits down, before finishing Bonnie's sentence...

KENNY BEAL
--of the entire graduating class.
(frowning at his coffee)
Cream's gone bad!

INT. GYMNASIUM - DAY

A shabbily dress Bud sits in the bleachers watching the GIRLS play volleyball. Tobey sits next to him.

TOBEY
I spoke to God last night. I asked him to
deliver onto me, Cindy Williams.

BUD
Did He answer?

TOBEY
(depressed)
Not yet.

Suddenly, Zack comes bounding up the gym bleachers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZACK
Did you hear?!

TOBEY
Hear what?

ZACK
Chad dumped Cindy! The whole schools
talking 'bout it.

Tobey sits stone faced, he looks pale.

ZACK (CONT'D)
(continuing; to Tobey)
You're taking it kinda hard. I thought
you'd be excited. You were--

INT. SCHOOL OFFICE - DAY

ZACK (V.O.)
--really crazy about Cindy once!

Cindy Williams takes a seat on a bench outside the
Principal's Office. Tobey spots Cindy, and nervously takes a
seat next to her. Cindy, annoyed, slides over.

CLOSE ON - TOBEY, he clears his throat, and begins.

TOBEY
It's been a long time since we've talked,
huh?
(laughing)
Yeah... Yup.

CLOSER ON - TOBEY, just his face fills the frame.

TOBEY (CONT'D)
(continuing)
Okay, listen, I've just gotta come out
and say this--I'm totally, truly, madly,
in love with you!

Tobey pauses and turns to face Cindy.

WIDE ON - TOBEY sitting on the bench. Cindy is long gone, and
sitting in her place is an ELDERLY WOMAN.

SUDDENLY, the school BELL RINGS.

INT. GYMNASIUM - DAY

Tobey stiffens at the sound of the BELL.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOBEY

(dazed)

Yeah, listen guys, I've gotta go--
History exam.

Tobey gathers his books, and exits.

ZACK

(to Bud)

What gives?

BUD

There's more to Cindy Williams and Tobey
Clark than we know.

INT. HISTORY OFFICE - DAY

Mr. ED AARON, 50's, steps into the office. He's a sweet old
man, with a pleasant smile.

MR. AARON

What did you want to see me about, Cindy?

CINDY

I'm really sorry Mr. Aaron, I know I'm
asking a lot. But my mother's been ill,
and I couldn't study for the test. Could
I possibly take it another time?

MR. AARON

You're one of my favorite students Cindy,
I'd hate to see you do poorly on this
test. You can write it the day after
tomorrow.

CINDY

(beaming)

That would be great, Mr. Aaron.

WIDE ON - CINDY, as she finishes her sentence, we see the
real Mr. Aaron step into the room carrying a manila envelope
full of test papers.

MR. AARON

What did you want to see me about, Cindy?
I'm very busy.

CINDY

The test sir, I was hoping I could write
it tomorrow?

MR. AARON

(unsympathetic)

This is an exam.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MR. AARON (CONT'D)

That means no exceptions. You have to write it along with everyone else.

INT. HISTORY CLASS - DAY

Cindy trundles into class and cautiously makes her way down the aisle toward Mary Lue, and Peggy Sue.

Cindy approaches an empty desk directly in front of her friends, but before she can sit down, Peggy Sue puts her FEET UP on the chair.

Cindy, bewildered, gives Peggy Sue a curious look.

FRONT OF THE CLASS

Defeated, Cindy turns back, finding an empty desk next to Tobey Clark. She pulls up to Tobey, unsure of his reaction.

TOBEY

You can sit here, if you want?

Cindy sits, ignoring Tobey's goofy smile.

Cindy turns her attention to the exam. She opens her exam booklet and begins to read the questions. She seems confused.

CINDY (V.O.)

(panicky)

What the...? It's like reading ancient egyptian!

CLOSE ON - EXAM BOOKLET, suddenly, the english words DISSOLVE and are replaced by HIEROGLYPHICS. Cindy draws a heavy sigh, and buries her head in her hands.

WIDE ON - HISTORY CLASS

Cindy and six kids remain writing the exam. TWO KIDS DISSOLVE, leaving Cindy and four others writing the exam. Soon, others disappear in the same way, until only Cindy remains.

MR. AARON

That's time, Cindy.

INT. GYMNASIUM - DAY

The BOYS are segregated to one side of the gym with the GIRLS on the other.

COACH HANK HENDRICKSON, 50's, windswept and rugged, BARKS orders at his troops like a later-day Patton.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COACH HANK
This is MURDERBALL! Hit him!

Tobey runs frantically back and forth as Chad, and J.T., 18, thin and inurbane, chase him around the gym with a ball.

CHAD
(to Tobey)
You're only making it worse on yourself!

Chad lunges at Tobey, SMASHING the ball into his back.

Tobey crashes to earth. J.T. picks up the ball, and hits Tobey again and again. He squirms on the floor, like a multiple shooting victim.

COACH HANK
Good shot, boys!

GIRLS' HALF OF THE GYM - CONTINUOUS

Cindy and the other girls prepare for a game of Volleyball.

Peggy Sue, and Mary Lue sit at the far end of the room, AVOIDING Cindy.

BOYS' HALF OF THE GYM - CONTINUOUS

Tobey peels himself off the floor, and runs at the ball, finally grabbing it, and turning toward Chad.

GIRLS' HALF OF THE GYM - CONTINUOUS

COACH MADI BOWEN, 30's, short and stocky, foams at the mouth-- she's short one girl for the game.

MS. BOWEN
CINDY! Get up here!

Cindy reluctantly climbs off the bench and strolls toward the net.

BOYS' HALF OF THE GYM - CONTINUOUS

Tobey takes the murder ball, and hurls it at Chad.

J.T.

(to Chad) Look Out!

CLOSE ON - MURDER BALL, as it goes by Chad's head, missing him completely, and instead knocks Cindy off her feet.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLOSE ON - ALL THREE COACHES - Mr. Hendrickson, Ms. Bowen, and MR. GLADSTONE, 20's, a thin coaching assistant. Stunned they turn and gaze at Tobey.

COACH HANK
(to the group)
Is that boy in special ed?

COACH BOWEN
I don't think so.

COACH GLADSTONE
Good shot though.

INT. WASHROOM - DAY

Cindy stands in front of the mirror with a huge WELT on the side of her head.

Standing next to her is SANDY MAY, 18, soft and thoughtful. Sandy is a pleasant girl, and pretty except for a large and cumbersome set of BRACES and HEAD GEAR. This apparatus slurs Sandy's speech making her unintelligible.

Cindy pulls from her purse some DUSTING POWDER and struggles with the top.

SANDY MAY
(subtitle)
Do you dye your hair?

Cindy smiles, she can't make heads or tails of Sandy's speech.

SANDY MAY (CONT'D)
(continuing; subtitle)
You should think about it! I see a couple of greys.

CLOSE ON - SCREW ON TOP, suddenly, the top FLIES OFF, and white face makeup EXPLODES. Cindy is covered in the stuff.

Sandy grins devilishly.

A TEENAGE GIRL'S VOICE -

HAPPY GIRL (O.S.)
Hurry up, they're taking the graduation photos! Hurry!

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

KENNY BEAL
Are you ready...?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kenny Beal stands behind a camera.

CLOSE ON - CINDY, looking dreadful. She scowls at Kenny.

CINDY
Oh, shut up Kenny, and take the photo!

Kenny, edgy, snaps the photo. FREEZE FRAME - CINDY'S GRAD PHOTO, her eyes shut, her dress ruined

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Cindy slinks down the hallway toward the Cafeteria. She has a crazed, uncomprehending stare in her eyes.

FAR END OF THE HALL - CONTINUOUS

Chad and Peggy Sue, now an item, are laughing and holding hands.

CLOSE ON - CINDY, she stops and glowers like a feral animal. Suddenly, Cindy realizes that every student in the hall is GOSSIPING about her.

VOICES: MALE/FEMALE (O.S.)
He DUMPED her! I don't think he ever loved her. Just look at her!

Suddenly, JOEY STEIN, 16, a sophomore, stammers up to Cindy.

JOEY
So, is it true Chad dumped you?

Cindy snarls at Joey. He SCREAMS with pain.

INT. GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE - DAY

CINDY'S POV - MS. BEEDER, 30's, peevish and academic, sits before us.

MS. BEEDER
--it's a serious matter, Cindy. I'm afraid I have no choice but to send you to Vice Principal Davies' office.

INT. VICE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

CINDY'S POV - VICE PRINCIPAL BILL DAVIES, 40's, jaded, hates his job.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

V.P. DAVIES

--Mrs. Williams, you'll be happy to know Joey's out of the hospital--apparently they dropped, the retrieval operation wasn't necessary, but you're still in big trouble, missy. Kicking Joey in the groin is a suspendable offense! I think it best you see Principal Cheevers.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

TOBEY'S POV - PRINCIPAL DANIEL CHEEVERS, 50's, a noble man, with a soft demeanor.

PRINCIPAL CHEEVERS

--the next time you do something like this, I'll have no choice but to suspend you.

There's a KNOCK at the door.

WIDE ON - PRINCIPAL CHEEVERS and TOBEY CLARK, they turn and face the door.

Cindy TIMIDLY pokes her head in.

CINDY

You wanted to see me, sir?

PRINCIPAL CHEEVERS

Cindy, yes. Come in.

(to Tobey)

We're through here Mr. Clark. Remember, bombardment is a gentleman's sport.

Tobey exits. Cindy takes a seat.

PRINCIPAL CHEEVERS (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Cindy... I don't know what's gotten into you today?

(reads over her file)

You're a good student, no history of trouble.

(shakes his head)

Well, the situation is very simple, I should suspend you... But today being the last day of classes... And your trouble with Chad... I've decided to let you finish out the day with your peers.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PRINCIPAL CHEEVERS (CONT'D)
 Regrettably, Ms. Beeder has asked me to notify you as to the rules governing the prom... Without a date, you will not be permitted to attend. I'm sorry.

Cindy says nothing, she looks pale, her mouth agape.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Cindy steps from Principal Cheevers' office, fumbling her books, and dropping them all over the floor. She looks defeated. Tobey, with feigned coolness, saunters over to her.

TOBEY
 Here, let me help you with that.

CINDY
 (harshly)
 Leave it!

He persists.

CINDY (CONT'D)
 (continuing)
 I told you to leave it!

ANOTHER ANGLE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Prom posters adorn the wall. A path clears for Cindy through a pack of fearful STUDENTS.

TOBEY
 (calling after her)
 What is your problem! I was just trying to help you!

Cindy stops, turns, and grimaces at Tobey.

TOBEY (CONT'D)
 (continuing)
 Why do you always have to be such a.... A pain?

ANOTHER ANGLE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Cindy erupts, her eyes filled with hate, she turns to Tobey.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CINDY

A pain?! I'm a pain! First my boyfriend dumps me--then, my best friends treat me like I don't exist--I failed Mr. Aaron's history test--you, Mr. Helpful, hit me in the head with a ball during gym class, and to top it all off, I'm not going to the prom.

(Really angry)

You have no idea what I've been through today!

TOBEY

Yes I do. You've treated me, and everyone else in this school like dirt for the past four years.

Cindy is shocked, but still plays the indignant victim.

CINDY

I never treated you like dirt!

TOBEY

Oh, No...Well, come here...

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

TOBEY (V.O.)

--let me show you something.

The cafeteria is crowded with STUDENTS.

LUNCH TABLE

Tobey, Zack, and Bud are eating lunch.

STUDENTS' COMMON AREA - CONTINUOUS

Cindy, Chad, J.T., and WALLEY, 19, olympic poster-boy, march into the Cafeteria. There are no available seats. Cindy spots Tobey and points him out to Chad.

LUNCH TABLE - CONTINUOUS

Chad marches up to the table, and snarls at Tobey.

CHAD

Your mashed potatoes look a little dry.

TOBEY

(sheepishly)

Yeah, they're a little starchy.

Chad HAWKS UP a wad of PHLEGM, and spits into Tobey's lunch tray. A MURMUR of disgust rumbles through the cafeteria.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHAD
Better?

TOBEY
Yup... Thanks?

CHAD
Beat it!

Tobey and his friends clear the table and exit.

STUDENTS' COMMON AREA - CONTINUOUS

Cindy and Tobey walk into their own FLASHBACK. Cindy can't believe her eyes--was she ever really that cruel?

CINDY
That must have been a long time ago...? I don't remember that.

Flashback Tobey saunters by carrying his lunch tray.

TOBEY
That happened yesterday.
(to flashback Tobey)
Am I right?

FLASHBACK TOBEY
Yup....!

Cindy is speechless.

TOBEY
(to Cindy)
We used to be really good friends, you and me.
(beat; nostalgic)
What ever happened to that girl who helped me make it through...

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

TOBEY (V.O.)
--my first day at a new school?

SUPERIMPOSITION: "FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, fall 1952."

TOBEY CLARK, 12, scrawny and ill at ease. He eyes a class full of hostile KIDS.

MISS DALLILA KATZ, 30's, a young teacher, still idealistic about her students, nudges Tobey toward an empty desk at the back of the class.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MISS KATZ
Take a seat, Tobey.

Tobey sheepishly crawls toward an empty desk situated in front of CHAD BURNETTE, 13, a classic bully. As Tobey approaches the seat, Chad puts his feet up on the chair. Tobey gets the message--he turns--searching the class for another empty desk.

He spots one next to a pretty young girl. CINDY WILLIAMS, 12, a classic tomboy. Tobey pulls up next to Cindy.

TOBEY
Can I sit here?

CINDY
(curt)
Well sit down already.

INT. GYMNASIUM - DAY

Two hockey nets are set up at either end of the gymnasium. Tobey pensively makes his way into the GROUP of boys and girls.

COACH CUNNINGHAM, 40's, a slim well built man, BARKS orders at the CHILDREN.

COACH CUNNINGHAM
--get it together people. Chad! Walley!
You're captains, let's go, pick sides!

Chad and WALLEY march to the front of the GROUP, and start picking teammates.

WIDE ON - GYM CLASS, KIDS DISSOLVE OUT OF FRAME as their names are called. Only Tobey and the GIRLS remain. Finally, all the girls are picked, and only Tobey remains.

COACH CUNNINGHAM (CONT'D)
(continuing)
Okay, Tobey, you're on Chad's team. Let's go, grab your sticks, and warm up your goalies.

Chad throws a comforting arm around Tobey and takes him aside.

CHAD
Hey, I was just goofing wit' yah in class. No hard feelings?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOBEY
(relieved)
No hard feelings.

CHAD
Great. Here...
(he hands Tobey a goalie stick,
and pads)
--you're our goalie.

HOCKEY NET - LATER

Tobey, in full goalie attire, slinks toward the net.

TOBEY'S POV - CHAD, and his GANG stand poised behind a line of hockey pucks. They grin fiendishly at Tobey.

COACH CUNNINGHAM
--warm 'em up, boys.

SUDDENLY, Tobey finds himself on the receiving end of a barrage of pucks. Tobey drops to the floor, and shields his body. The scene is more a public stoning, then a warm up.

COACH CUNNINGHAM (CONT'D)
(continuing; to Tobey)
--don't fear the puck son.

CLOSE ON - CHAD, grinning devilishly, when suddenly, a puck STRIKES HIM in the back of the head, sending him reeling.

COACH CUNNINGHAM (CONT'D)
(continuing; stunned)
Holy Mary Mother of God...! Good shot,
Cindy! Nice slap shot.

CLOSE ON - CINDY, with hockey stick still in hand, she makes her way past Chad's lifeless body, smiling as she passes Tobey.

Tobey, peeking from behind his arm, realizes he's been saved.

COACH CUNNINGHAM (CONT'D)
(continuing; to Chad)
--walk it off son.

Chad, still sprawled out on the gym floor, doesn't move.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Cindy strolls down a tree-lined middle-class block. Tobey creeps along behind her, wistfully.

Cindy stops, spins on her heels, and faces Tobey.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CINDY
If you want to walk me home, then get up
here, and do it!

Tobey draws near, his head down, his eyes to the ground.

CINDY (CONT'D)
(continuing; giggling)
You looked a bit like James Dean just
then.

TOBEY
Me?!

CINDY
Yup.

TOBEY
Thanks... for everything, today.

CINDY
You're welcome.
(beat)
Hey, I have some really great records! Do
you wanna come over?
(shyly)
We could listen to them, if you're not
doin' stuff?

TOBEY
Sure... sure...

CINDY
Have you ever heard of Cole Porter?

TOBEY
Sure, the baseball player.

INT. WILLIAMS' HOME - DINNING ROOM - NIGHT

Tobey is seated opposite Cindy at the dinning room table.
Mrs. Williams is seated at the far end of the table. At the
head of the table is an empty plate setting.

MRS. WILLIAMS
(to Tobey)
Your mother knows you're here?

TOBEY
Yes m'am.

MRS. WILLIAMS
Good. I hope you like what we're having?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Cindy motions privately for Tobey to remove his napkin off his plate.

CINDY
Aren't we waiting for daddy?

MRS. WILLIAMS
You're father's not coming. He's very busy.

Cindy, crestfallen, looks down at her dinner plate.

CINDY
(mumbling to herself)
--three times this week...

Mrs. Williams scowls at her daughter.

The entire meal is consumed without so much as a word.

CUT TO: MRS. WILLIAMS'
INTERVIEW

Mrs. Williams sits on a couch staring into the lens.

MRS. WILLIAMS
--Yes, I'm concerned that she dresses like a tomboy. I was prom queen, and my mother before me. So, I hope when Cindy gets to be that age, she follows in our footsteps. That's why I push her to be the best. Cindy Williams is a winner.

INT. CLARK HOME - DINNING ROOM - NIGHT

Dinner at the Clark house is rowdy, and boisterous. Tobey sits across from Cindy at the dinning table. Mr. Clark, and MRS. CLARK, 30's, a round woman, full of venom, sit at either end of the table.

MR. CLARK
(shouting at his wife)
--I was in double-ya double-ya two! I saw my best friend shot!
(to Cindy; sweetly)
So, you like meat loaf?

MRS. CLARK
That's 'cause you shot him!
(to Cindy; sweetly)
If you don't like it, we have hot dogs?

CINDY
Yes. I like it very much.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MR. CLARK

--it's war. Everybody's shooting everybody!

(to Cindy; sweetly)

The little girl has such manners.

(to Tobey)

Why do you have to be such a disappointment? Why can't you have manners like her? Huh?

Tobey, too embarrassed to reply, buries his head in his hands.

MRS. CLARK

(interrupting)

--Because he takes after you!

CUT TO: MR. CLARK'S INTERVIEW

Mr. Clark sits on a couch staring into the lens.

MR. CLARK

--I don't know why I had Tobey. I think I wanted to show the world what it would be like if I made people! I wanted to build my own Frankenstein.

EXT. SCHOOLYARD - DAY

Chad and his buddies are chasing IAN HAYES, 12, a thin spindly kid, around a baseball diamond. Suddenly, one of Chad's MISCREANTS spots Tobey and Cindy walking home.

WALLEY

(pointing at Tobey)

Chad, butthead at twelve o'clock.

ACROSS THE SCHOOLYARD, Cindy and Tobey stroll along the red-gravel track.

Chad stops chasing Ian and turns to glower at Tobey.

CHAD

Let's get 'em!

Chad and his group of zombie psychos coming running across the field, and up to Cindy and Tobey.

CHAD (CONT'D)

(continuing; to Tobey)

Last day of school, buttwad, you know what that means?

Tobey sighs, awaiting his fate.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUDDENLY, Cindy steps in front of Tobey, protecting him.

CHAD (CONT'D)
 (continuing; laughing)
 Give me a break.

Chad brushes Cindy aside with his right arm, when suddenly...
 CLOSE ON - A FIST OF FURY, Cindy punches Chad in the face.

He collapses onto his back, and his head rolls to one side. A group of passersby watch, stunned.

GOOFY PASSERBY
 I think he's dead.

Out of nowhere, Chad rises up and tackles Tobey to the ground.

CLOSE ON - CHAD WHISPERING INTO TOBEY'S EAR.

CHAD
 I'm gonna get yah for this... I'm gonna hurt you where it counts, mark my words!

The group of passersby pull the two combatants apart. Cindy helps Tobey off the field.

CLOSE ON - ADULT CINDY and ADULT TOBEY, they creep into the FLASHBACK.

ADULT CINDY
 Why did you want me to see that?

ADULT TOBEY
 He did hurt me where it counts.

EXT. POND - DUSK

Cindy and Tobey walk along the edge of a pond on a beautiful overcast day. Wind blows softly through their hair.

CINDY
 (detached)
 My mother thinks I should try out for the cheerleaders squad next year, but I don't know. Maybe?

TOBEY
 Cheerleaders? I thought you were going out for the softball team?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CINDY
I don't know. I'm so confused. What if things change next year?

TOBEY
Hey, cheer up, it's Junior High, nothing's gonna change. I promise.

INT. SCHOOL - DAY

SUPERIMPOSITION: "WILLY BEAMAN JR. HIGH SCHOOL, fall 1954."

Welcome to Willy Beam Jr. High.

HALLWAY
Tobey searches the CROWDED hallway for any sign of Cindy, when suddenly he spots her. She is taller, and more adult.

TOBEY
(shouting)
Cindy! Hey, Cindy!

Cindy marks Tobey, but gives him a funny look.

TOBEY (CONT'D)
(continuing)
Hey, you didn't call! How was summer camp?

CINDY
(coolly)
It was all right.

TOBEY
You're wearing a dress?

CINDY
My mother purchased it for me.

Tobey seems confused. Cindy seems distant.

CINDY (CONT'D)
(continuing)
Listen, I've gotta go.

Cindy, visibly upset, exits. Tobey, confused, watches her go.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

A group of SUPPLICANTS is huddled around Cindy's locker. She's become the most popular girl in school.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Tobey walks by hugging his backpack to his chest. He stops for a moment and watches.

The supplicant's part, revealing Cindy and Chad hugging, they're a perfect couple.

CHAD
I think we should go steady.

Tobey gags. He can't believe it.

INT. MUSIC CLASS - DAY

The room is sparsely populated. Chad and Cindy are seated by a piano, holding hands. Tobey watches the action.

CHAD
I wrote some music for you.

Chad starts to the play the piano. He's bad. As in not good.

CINDY
(being nice)
That's sweet.

Tobey can barely keep the bile from swelling up in his throat.

HALLWAY - LATER

Tobey spots Cindy and her new friends fussing over a fashion magazine. He sneaks over to her.

TOBEY
Cindy, can I talk to you?

CINDY
I'm sorry, do I know you?

Tobey is so shocked, he has to gasp for air.

Adult Tobey and Adult Cindy saunter into the FLASHBACK.

FASHION GIRL
Who was that geek?

CINDY
That... That was nobody.

Cindy watches Tobey go. She fights back tears.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADULT CINDY
 (to adult Tobey)
 I'm so sorry.

DISSOLVE TO PRESENT --

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Cindy and Tobey are back at Grover Cleveland High school. The year is 1960.

TOBEY
 Chad used you to hurt me.

CINDY
 It's not that simple. I used him as much as he used me. I'm the one who was so keen on being popular.

WIDE ON - FAR END ON THE HALL, Chad and Peggy Sue approach.

CHAD
 (to Cindy)
 Whoa...Cindy...? Is that you? Wow you look like something the cat dragged in.
 (to Peggy)
 Doesn't she?

PEGGY SUE
 Sure does.

CINDY
 Get lost Chad.

CHAD
 I'm going. I was just wondering what you're gonna do 'bout the prom. You can't go without a date?

CINDY
 I don't care about the prom.

CHAD
 You don't care 'bout the prom?! Come on?! What's your mom gonna say?

CINDY
 You know something Chad, I don't care what she says.

TOBEY
 Hey, Chad, why don't you leave the girl alone?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHAD

Hey, buttwad, I'll hit you so hard, I'll kill your parents.

TOBEY

When you hit me, make sure to kill my dad.

Chad pushes Tobey to the ground. Cindy, flushed with rage, clenches her fist... CLOSE ON - A FIST OF FURY, Cindy punches Chad in the face, sending him reeling into the lockers.

PEGGY SUE

Oh my god, his beautiful face!

CHAD

(fighting back tears)
I think you broke my nose!

Cindy helps Tobey up off the floor, and the two exit.

EXT. MAIN LAWN - DAY

It's a lovely day. Springtime flowers are in full bloom. Cindy and Tobey step from the school.

CINDY

What are you doing tonight?

TOBEY

Do you want me to take you to the prom?

CINDY

No, I have a better idea.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Cindy and her mother are sitting together on the living room sofa. Mrs. Williams' eyes are red from crying.

MRS. WILLIAMS

You're father will be so disappointed.

CINDY

Dad won't notice.

MRS. WILLIAMS

How can you miss your prom? It was your dream!

CINDY

No, Mom, it was your dream.
(beat)
I've got to go.

INT. T.V. ROOM - NIGHT

Tobey and his father are sitting together on the living room sofa. Mr. Clark is irritated by his sons presence.

TOBEY
What are you doing, dad?

MR. CLARK
(sarcastic)
I'm splitting the atom--put on your
safety goggles.
(angry)
What does it look like? I'm watching
television!

Tobey takes a bag of POTATO CHIPS from the coffee table, and tries to open it. The SOUND of Tobey struggling with the bag provokes Mr. Clark--finally, he explodes, tears the bag from Tobey's hands, and pops it open. He hands it back to his son.

Tobey pulls a chip from the bag, and CRUNCHES into it. The sound is even more aggravating to Mr. Clark. He's flushed with rage--he pulls the bag from Tobey's hands, and shouts...

MR. CLARK (CONT'D)
(continuing)
Get out!

TOBEY
Can I borrow the car?

INT. GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

Welcome to the prom. It's a gymnasium transformed into a fantasy world. Young COUPLES dance to a slow song.

ACROSS THE ROOM

Chad, with a huge WELT on his cheek, sits alone. He's drunk, and peeved--he watches Peggy Sue dancing with J.T..

Suddenly, Joey Stein, the sophomore Cindy kicked in the groin, limps up to Chad, and coolly asks...

JOEY
So I hear Peggy Sue dumped yah.

EXT. POND - NIGHT

It is a beautiful night. Tobey and Cindy sit by the pond.

TOBEY
I haven't been here in ages.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CINDY

Everything seemed to change after our last meeting here, I thought it would be the perfect place to start over.

Tobey doesn't say a word, but hides a smile. Cindy takes Tobey's hand in hers, and they share a moment. Tobey blushes and looks at his shoes. Their SILENCE says everything.

CINDY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Kiss me. Come on kiss me.

TOBEY (V.O.)

Should I kiss her?

Tobey looks into Cindy's eyes.

CINDY (V.O.)

Please kiss me.

TOBEY (V.O.)

I should kiss her.

Suddenly, Cindy pulls Tobey to her and we...

FADE OUT.

THE END