

MAN/CHILD

Written By:

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FADE IN:

INT. CHERYL'S WOMB WITH BABY FETUS

In the womb of CHERYL, we see a baby fetus. We can hear a heartbeat, the scene lights in and out from each beat. It is just pure silence on the baby fetus. We maintain the scene for over 2 minutes and take in the silence, nothing but the heartbeat rhythmically beating.

INT. CHERYL'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

The scene opens with sudden noise, we can hear a loud party outside the bathroom. We hear people yelling and singing, this should be a stark contrast to the opening scene inside the womb. We see 5 year old JACOB, small, brown hair and blue eyes. He is playing in the bath with toys. He is happy and content.

INT. CHERYL'S HOUSE - LOUNGE -NIGHT

We see CHERYL singing "4 Non blonds - What's going on?", she has the audience of a few male members of the party. She is hanging off random men and smoking. She is having fun.

INT. CHERYL'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

We return to JACOB, we hear a knock at the bathroom door and RICHARD walks in. RICHARD is an older Maori man, he has a mustache and is the epitome of 80s throwback.

RICHARD

Hey little man, you must be
CHERYL'S boy. I'm a friend of your
mums, I'm not scary.

The scene shows the two of them in the bathroom. RICHARD stares at JACOB, this scene should keep focus on the two of them and attention should be paid to the time RICHARD spends looking at JACOB. A knock at the door startles RICHARD and he comes back to reality. RICHARD opens the door

RICHARD

CHERYL'S boy is in here.

He walks out quickly and we see CHERYL finishing the last part of the song. RICHARD walks up and starts flirting with CHERYL. CHERYL is receptive to RICHARD'S flirting and the two spend the night talking to each other.

INT. CHERYL'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

The night continues on and JACOB hops out of the bath, dries himself and put's on his own clothes. He leaves the towel on the ground and walks out of the bathroom

CHERYL

There's my boy, there he is.
Everyone, everyone shut the fuck
up, this is my son JACOB, isn't he
handsome? Of course he is handsome,
you all need to watch out, my son
is smart too, he's going to be a
fucking doctor. Aren't you?

JACOB

Mum, can you take me to bed?

CHERYL

Not now boy, can't you see your mum
has a party, she's got friends she
has to take care of. You don't want
me to be rude, do you? Well, do
you?!

JACOB

No... okay.

CHERYL

Take yourself to bed and I'll be in
later, okay?

JACOB

okay.

JACOB walks to bed by himself. He checks under his bed and in his closet. He grabs his teddy bear and hops into bed, he puts the teddy bear behind him and spoons with the teddy bear.

JACOB

Good night mum.

He falls to sleep

EXT. JACOB'S SCHOOL - DAYLIGHT

EXTERNAL SHOT OF SCHOOL

INT. JACOB'S SCHOOL - DAYLIGHT

The scene opens with JACOB waiting outside the principals office. CHERYL comes rushing in

CHERYL
what have you done? You little shit

PRINCIPALS ASSISTANT
Ms. Wright, the principals waiting.
Please go in.

CHERYL
You wait here

The principals assistant notices JACOB'S flinch and she wait's until CHERYL is inside the office. She sits down next to JACOB and smiles.

PRINCIPALS ASSISTANT
Hey JACOB, you'll be okay. You
don't normally hurt people, are you
okay?

JACOB remains silent

PRINCIPALS ASSISTANT
It's just that I've never seen you
here before, but you've been here 4
times this month. That doesn't seem
like you, are you okay? You can
tell me, you won't get in trouble

JACOB pauses to look at the principals assistants face, he see's she is kind and warm. He trusts her smile and is about to speak before CHERYL burst out of the principals office.

CHERYL
Thanks for letting me know, I will
take care of it. You, get up, I'm
taking you home.

PRINCIPALS ASSISTANT
Talk to you later JACOB.

CHERYL
Hurry up, your wasting everybody's
times.

JACOB and CHERYL walk out of the building, she is dragging him along and he is hesitant to go with her.

EXT. JACOB'S SCHOOL - DAYLIGHT

CHERYL

(mockingly mimicking the
principals assistant)
"Talk to you later JACOB" - talk
about what boy? What lies have you
been telling her?

JACOB

Nothing.

CHERYL

What? Speak up!

JACOB

Nothing, mum.

CHERYL

Nothing is right, I don't know why
you do this to me, it's so selfish,
you are so selfish. Four times I
have been here picking you up, four
times you have made me drive down
here. Why?

CHERYL opens the door and JACOB hops into the car, we see
RICHARD in the front seat of the car. He smiles at JACOB.
JACOB doesn't look at him, instead looks outside of the
window.

CHERYL

I don't know what's going on with
you boy but you better get your
shit together or you'll soon get a
hiding. Did you say hello to
RICHARD? Say hello!

RICHARD

He might need some medicine CHERYL

CHERYL

You're not fucking wrong about
that. Say hello JACOB

JACOB

Hello.

CHERYL

I have to go back to work, RICHARD
is going to watch you and if you
start acting up I swear to god you
will get some medicine, do you hear
me?

(CONTINUED)

JACOB
Why can't you watch me?

CHERYL
Are your ears not working? I said I
have to go to work, fucking WINZ.

JACOB
Can't I come with you?

CHERYL
Don't ask stupid questions plus you
should be lucky that RICHARD even
wants to look after you. He is
making my life easier, trying to
help out and you should be
grateful.

JACOB
If the other mums at school liked
you I could hang out with their
kids.

CHERYL reaches back behind the car and slaps JACOB across
the face

CHERYL
Look what you made me do. Other
mums, the other mums all like to
pretend they're better than me,
looking down on me, judging me. You
don't know shit

JACOB remains silent after the slap, he doesn't show
emotion. He looks out the window and disappears into his
imagination. He watches other kids with their parents and
they are all smiling, happy. The car pulls up to the house,
it is a run down state housing place. RICHARD and JACOB hop
out of the car.

EXT. CHERYL'S HOME - DAYLIGHT

CHERYL
I'll see you after work honey

RICHARD
See you later hun.

CHERYL
thank you for looking after him,
I'll make it up to you after.

(CONTINUED)

RICHARD
I'll hold you to it.

CHERYL smiles and drives off. RICHARD and JACOB walk into the house and RICHARD hops on the couch. JACOB goes up into his room and starts reading, an hour later RICHARD calls him.

RICHARD
Boy, come down here.

JACOB hears him and ignores him

RICHARD
I'm not going to say it again, come down here.

JACOB gets up and walks downstairs

RICHARD
Here's five dollars, go down the road to the dairy and go get some lollies for us.

JACOB stares at him curiously and walks down the stairs and grabs the five dollars from him

RICHARD
what do you say?

JACOB
Thank you.

RICHARD
Not hard was it? Go on

EXT. CHERYL'S HOME - DAYLIGHT

JACOB is walking to the Dairy and he see's a local boy, he is a Maori boy and is riding around on his bike. He has no shoes on and JACOB smiles at him

LEON
Hey, what you up to?

JACOB
me?

LEON
yeah, where you going?

(CONTINUED)

JACOB
To the dairy

LEON
Can I come with you?

JACOB
I don't care.

LEON
You don't really talk much do you?

JACOB just looks at him and keep's walking

LEON
My mum say's that I talk too much,
she said I talk lots but I have
selective hearing. Whatever that
means. How much money you got
there?

JACOB shows him the five dollar note

LEON
what a rich fella, put that away
before someone see's it

JACOB smiles at LEON and continues walking whilst LEON rides
along. They walk into the dairy and JACOB grabs 5 \$1 bag's
of lollies. He gives the money to the cashier and walks out.
He sits down outside and LEON is about to bike away

JACOB
Which one is your favorite?

LEON
I like the planes

JACOB grabs out the planes from the lolly bag and hands it
to LEON

LEON
I like the milk bottles too

JACOB grabs out the milk bottles as well. They sit and eat
lollies outside the dairy

LEON
I'm LEON, what's your name?

JACOB
JACOB.

LEON

That's a flash as name, are you a flash guy?

JACOB

No.

LEON

I bet you're lying, bet you got millions of dollars and your hiding it all.

JACOB

No...

LEON

yeah yeah.

JACOB laughs at LEON. They start walking back to JACOB'S house.

LEON

That's my house up there, with the cars.

JACOB

The one with the broken cars?

LEON

Yeah, but dad says they are work in progress, he is just getting around to fix them. He say's that but mum told me that they are more likely to win lotto then him fixing up those cars. Let's hang out again, tomorrow after school?

JACOB

Okay, maybe, I'll try. I think I'm going to get in trouble for eating a bag already.

LEON

Aw, that's easy to fix, pass the lollies here.

He grabs little bits of lollies from each bag and puts them into the empty white bag

LEON

when your parents ask about the lollies just tell them that those Indians are getting cheaper, they

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LEON (cont'd)
don't make the bags like they use
to

JACOB
what does that mean?

LEON
I don't know, but I've heard my
brother say that to my mum and he
didn't get a hiding when he ate
half the lollies

JACOB smiles at LEON'S resourcefulness and he waves him
goodbye. JACOB walks slowly and he notices the open drainage
with all the greenery built around it. He see's a butterfly
and stops to look at it, he smiles and carries on walking
home. Before he enters the house, he pauses and closes his
eyes. He opens the door and walks in.

INT. CHERYL'S HOUSE - LOUNGE - EVENING

RICHARD is sitting down watching TV, he is about to put a
VHS in and notices JACOB

RICHARD
About time, where you been boy?

JACOB
Sorry.

RICHARD
Don't need to be sorry boy, I'm not
scary.

He lifts JACOB up and puts him on his knees

RICHARD
See, I'm nice?

He starts making funny faces and JACOB smiles

RICHARD
Told you, me and you can be
friends, you know? We could just be
friends you and me. Hmm? What do
you think about that? Would you
like to be friends?

JACOB pauses, he doesn't really know what to say

(CONTINUED)

RICHARD
Friends get lollies boy, do you
like lollies?

JACOB shakes his head in agreement

RICHARD
So, we can be friends?

JACOB
OK.

RICHARD
So where are the lollies?

JACOB grabs the lollies out and RICHARD notices how small
the bags are

RICHARD
Did you eat some, boy?

JACOB
No, the Indians have made the bags
smaller

RICHARD
That would be right, that's typical
fucking Indians for you.

RICHARD and JACOB watch the Maori channel news, JACOB
eventually goes up to his room when RICHARD has fallen to
sleep. About half an hour later RICHARD calls him downstairs

RICHARD
Boy, come down here please.

JACOB starts walking downstairs, he see's on TV there are
two naked people having sex, although he doesn't understand
fully what it is that he is looking at. RICHARD pauses the
VHS

RICHARD
Come down here boy, I want to show
you something but it's only a
secret, between me and you. Can you
keep a secret?

JACOB pauses and studies his face

RICHARD
This is what friends do for each
other boy.

JACOB nods his head, he walks next to RICHARD. He presses play on the porn video

RICHARD

Do you know what that is, boy?

JACOB shakes his head

RICHARD

That's a lady's pussy. They are playing a game with each other.

RICHARD starts rubbing himself, he is looking at JACOB. The scene goes to black with only the audio

RICHARD

We're going to play a game, okay?
Touch this here, go on, touch it.
That's it.

The scene closes with the dramatising voice of the porn actress. The scene opens up with the shot of JACOB inside his mothers womb, his heartbeat slowly rising and falling, the light in the shot dropping at each beat.

INT. JACOB'S IMAGINATION

The scene opens up on JACOB reading, he is in a completely dark room, a spotlight highlights him. He looks around and starts running, he hits the darkness and falls over, he gets up again to start running and keeps hitting the darkness.

EXT. THE STREET OUTSIDE CHERYL'S HOUSE - DAYLIGHT

JACOB plays by himself, he is running up and down the road when LEON spots him.

LEON

JACOB! JACOB! bro, it's me. Want to come over to my house?

JACOB looks around and notices that CHERYL isn't watching him, he nods his head and starts following LEON up the road.

LEON

Are you okay bro? You look funny or do you always look like that? Hmmm?

(CONTINUED)

JACOB keeps walking, and doesn't say anything to LEON. They arrive outside the house. We see a Bob Marley flag hanging on the deck and some broken down cars. The house is a two story one. JACOB walks in the house, he can smell food cooking

LEON
mum's making fry bread, but good
luck because she never gives us any
to after.

JACOB walks into the lounge and he see's LEON'S parents, he hears the Maori channel playing. AROHA is in the kitchen kneading the dough, she has the pot of oil boiling and some fry bread is out on a plate.

LEON
Mum and dad, this is JACOB, he's
the flash as guy I was telling you
about.

AROHA
Hi JACOB.

AROHA comes up to hug JACOB and wraps both her arms around him and kisses him on the cheek.

WINSTON
Kia ora, boy

LEON
He doesn't talk much.

LEON tries grabbing one of the fry breads off the plate but AROHA notices

AROHA
If you don't put that back you'll
get a hiding. Do you hear me?

LEON
JACOB said he wanted to try one, he
said it smelt good.

AROHA
aww, are you hungry JACOB?

LEON looks at JACOB with a gesture that indicates he wants him to nod and agree

JACOB
yes, please. If that's okay.

AROHA

Do you see WINSTON, why don't our kids talk like that?

LEON

I always ask nicely.

AROHA

LEON, I told you about lying. Well if you're hungry boy, hop up I'll make you a plate. Have you ever had kinas?

JACOB shakes his head

AROHA

Well lucky for you my older boys just came back from getting some. You can try some with the fry bread. You a Maori boy?

JACOB nods

AROHA

And you've never had kinas? You've been living a deprived life boy. I'll fix that though.

JACOB

Thank you.

AROHA

Oh my goodness, you can stay, maybe I'll swap you out for this one here

LEON

stink mum.

AROHA

Aww I'm kidding you little rat, you know I love you.

She grabs LEON and starts kissing him all over. He smiles and starts pushing away with laughter. JACOB doesn't know how to react but he finds himself smiling and he stops himself. AROHA goes back to serving up some fry bread and Kina to JACOB and LEON. JACOB looks at the plate and grabs it. He takes the first bite and JACOB finishes the whole thing in less than a minute. AROHA, WINSTON and LEON look at him in shock. He looks at AROHA and smiles. She smiles back at him.

(CONTINUED)

AROHA

Why don't you stay for dinner? LEON
and you can go ask your mum

JACOB

My mum is at work, she doesn't come
back to later. She won't mind.

AROHA

Who's looking after you?

JACOB

My mums friend RICHARD, but he
won't let me.

AROHA

You know what, I'll go ask with
you. C'mon, WINSTON, WINSTON! Can
you watch this pot of oil, I'm just
going to pop down the road okay

AROHA, LEON and JACOB walk down the road and AROHA arrives
at the door, She knocks at the door. JACOB grabs her hand as
the door opens. She holds onto it but is confused

RICHARD

Who are you?

AROHA

I'm AROHA, I'm LEON'S mum, we live
up the road. JACOB is friends with
LEON

RICHARD

There you are, boy? I was looking
for you.

AROHA

My husband and me were just
wondering if it would be okay if
JACOB could spend dinner at our
house.

RICHARD

aww that sounds nice but he can't,
his mum doesn't like him to be out
too late, you know

AROHA

He will be well looked after and we
are just up the road.

(CONTINUED)

RICHARD

Sorry, no, he has to be here but
thanks anyway. Come on boy.

JACOB squeezes AROHA'S hand, she senses something is off and
as RICHARD moves to grab JACOB, she moves in front of him

AROHA

I'll bring him back before sunset.

RICHARD sensing that AROHA has authority over him, moves
away and back behind the door line. The power of the scene
shifts to AROHA and suddenly she is in charge of the
dynamic.

RICHARD

Make sure he gets back before 7.

AROHA

Of course, tell JACOB'S mum to stop
by if she wants to meet us.

RICHARD

I'll do that.

AROHA

Good.

JACOB, LEON and AROHA walk away, JACOB looks back and see's
RICHARD looking at him. He is furious at JACOB. They three
of them are quiet on the way back, JACOB is still holding
AROHA'S hand. She seems worried and stressed. They arrive
back at their family home.

AROHA

Dinner will be ready soon, you boys
go play in the room okay, don't
annoy your brother LEON okay.

The whole family is eating at the table and AROHA is there
looking at JACOB, she tries to hide her concern and smiles
when JACOB looks at her.

WINSTON

Do you like the Kai, boy?

JACOB

Yes sir.

RUANUKU

"Sir" what? (laughs) Where did he
come from?

(CONTINUED)

WINSTON

He knows to respect his elders,
unlike you, you little shit. We
pray every day you don't come back
from school expelled, you could
learn from JACOB, hmmm?

LEWIS

Shame nuk's

AROHA

Do you want to get started on you?
Just eat your dinner. We're glad
you like the food JACOB. You know,
you're welcome here anytime you
want, boy.

LEON

Yeah that would be cool

We hear a car pulling up outside the house. JACOB puts his
back up, he knows it's his mum.

AROHA

Who's that?

JACOB

I think it's my mum.

AROHA

Oh good, she came.

AROHA walks down stairs to open the door on CHERYL who is
banging on the door

AROHA

Hel...

CHERYL

Where the hells my son?

AROHA

He's upstairs eating dinner.

CHERYL

He has food at home.

AROHA

Oh yeah, I didn't say you didn't
have food it's just him and LEON
are friends and we wanted him over
for dinner. He is a very good boy.

(CONTINUED)

CHERYL

Is he now? Try having him as a child.

AROHA

You know, we would be happy..

CHERYL

Where the hell is my son? Hmmmmm
JACOB?? JACOB COME DOWNSTAIRS NOW!
HURRY UP YOU LITTLE SHIT

AROHA

I'm AROHA, what's your name?

CHERYL

CHERYL, if you don't get my son now
I will call the police.

AROHA

JACOB wait a second.

CHERYL

What the fuck are you doing? Are
you serious right now? I get home
and my partner tells me that you
took my son without his consent for
dinner? Who the fuck do you think
you are? Hmmm

AROHA

First of all, you are raising your
voice and this is my house. If you
want to do this, if you want to
make a scene then I will take care
of it.

CHERYL

You'll take care of it huh? I have
just finished a 11 hour shift, you
don't want to start shit with me
bitch.

AROHA shuts the door calmly

AROHA

My dad was in mongrel mob, I grew
up around that shit. You want to
talk anger, I know anger, I know
anger you can only have nightmares
about. So if you raise your voice
in my house again, I'll show you
what real anger looks like. See,

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

AROHA (cont'd)
 you're a hard bitch, I respect
 that, but your son was practically
 shitting himself going back to that
 boyfriend of yours.

CHERYL
 Who the fuck are you? You don't
 know shit!

JACOB
 Mum, please stop yelling. I'll go
 home

AROHA
 I'll see you around JACOB, remember
 what I said

CHERYL
 Thanks a fucking lot.

AROHA
 Is that how you talk around your
 kids? Nice.

CHERYL
 Oh fuck off, you don't know shit.
 get in the fucking car JACOB.
 JACOB!!!!!! In this fucking car, now

JACOB
 Sorry Ms. AROHA.

AROHA
 don't apologise, go before your mum
 starts yelling again.

JACOB hops in the car and his mum says nothing. He is
 scared.

EXT. CHERYL'S HOME - NIGHTTIME

The scene opens on a stark quiet night, we can hear CHERYL
 yelling and suddenly we can hear JACOB yelling

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACOB
 Stop please mum.

(CONTINUED)

CHERYL

If you want to be a smart ass, you
can be treated like one. Want to be
a smart ass?

JACOB is receiving a beating and he is screaming, we can hear smacks but the scene has gone to black and it's only audio

INT. CHERYL'S WOMB WITH BABY FETUS

The scene goes quiet and we hear JACOB'S heartbeat, the scene goes darker with each heartbeat.

EXT. CHERYL'S HOME - DAYLIGHT

Three weeks pass. JACOB is playing, he see's LEON and they smile at each other. LEON starts walking over and JACOB walks back into the house. LEON looks at him and it goes quiet between the two of them.

INT. PUB - DAYLIGHT

The scene opens up to the sound of slot machines going off, we see JACOB drinking raspberry soda. He is mindlessly playing with \$2 coins. CHERYL is on the slot machine and has eyes fixated on the machine. Her face should be almost zombie-like and unresponsive.

JACOB

Mum, can we please go? We've been
here for ages.

CHERYL is unresponsive again and continues playing.

JACOB

Mum, please, can we go?

CHERYL

baby, we can go soon. Here, take
some money and go across the road
to woolworths, go get yourself
something to eat.

JACOB

Mum!

CHERYL

Go on.

(CONTINUED)

CHERYL grabs ten dollars worth of two dollar coins and shoves it into JACOB'S hand. JACOB scowls and walks off across the street. He journeys through the bread section and grabs some buns, he makes his way to the deli

DELI WORKER

What can I get you little man?

JACOB

Can I please get two dollars worth of luncheon and one dollars worth of that ham there.

DELI WORKER

sure thing.

JACOB grabs the items from the deli worker and heads around to the condiment section, grabs a small pouch of tomato sauce and makes his way through the checkout. He makes his way to the park behind the supermarket and sits down to make his luncheon, tomato sauce sandwich. The camera should follow him from behind, indicating his isolation and having his back to the audience. JACOB is alone, he is distant from the other kids playing and absorbed into his own world. JACOB returns to the pub and can see that CHERYL has come into a lot of money.

JACOB

Are you winning, mum?

CHERYL

yes, finally some fucking good luck.

JACOB

We should go now, while you've got money mum.

CHERYL

No, I can't go now, because the machine is about to turn out another win and if I leave those other vultures will jump on and get a win. A win that could be ours, hmmm? If mum wins some more we can go to Valentines? Hmmm? You like valentines don't you, boy?

JACOB

Mum lets just go now.

(CONTINUED)

CHERYL

I said no, go get a drink before
you get a smack

JACOB

Mum please let's go or else you'll
lose it all like last time.

CHERYL

keep your voice down.

JACOB

NO!

CHERYL

Excuse me?

JACOB

I want to go home, I've been here
for ages.

CHERYL

Good, I've got some free spins.
Come with me.

By now a few of the women are looking at CHERYL with disapproval. They can see she is neglecting JACOB. CHERYL drags JACOB outside.

CHERYL

Why are you trying to make my life
so hard? Hmm what's wrong with you
boy?

JACOB

I just want to go home, it's boring
here and I don't want you to lose
that money.

CHERYL

We'll go home in half an hour, I
promise.

JACOB

You said that an hour ago.

CHERYL

Well now I mean it, just let me
breathe for fuck sakes. Here's the
key, go wait in the car.

JACOB walks to the car, he is waiting for CHERYL and goes into himself. It's late out and CHERYL is still inside. A worker from the bar can see JACOB in the car and walks up to him.

EXT. PUB - NIGHT TIME

DIONNE
Hey man, are you alright?

JACOB doesn't say anything.

DIONNE
I'm Dionne, you can call me Dee. Is your mum still inside?

JACOB still doesn't say anything.

DIONNE
Wait here, I'll be back in a sec.

She rushes inside and is gone for a couple of minutes, she comes back with a container. She knocks on the door

DIONNE
This is some food, don't tell anyone but I took it from the kitchen.

JACOB smiles

DIONNE
It's for you, so I'll just leave it here and if you want it you can grab it.

She walks away and JACOB unlocks the door and grabs the food. She smiles at him and he smiles back.

DIONNE
It's pretty good, I mean for pub food. Well it's not shit. You don't really talk much, do you? That's okay, I don't normally talk much either. We're the good ones, you know? We watch people, we're smarter. Soon when you're older you can get out of this shit town and not worry about waiting for anyone, you can just go anywhere and be anyone you want to be, you know? I have to go back to work, I wasted

(MORE)

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DIONNE (cont'd)
my ciggy break talking to thin air.
Take care kid, make sure to get rid
of that box before your mum gets
back.

Dionne is walking away

JACOB
Thank you.

DIONNE
Don't mention it kid. Seriously,
don't say anything.

She smiles and walks away. JACOB finishes the food and
throws the container out the window, he opens all the
windows to air out the smell. He is waiting in the car, he
wakes up and he is being carried to bed by CHERYL

EXT. CHERYL'S HOME - DAYLIGHT

RICHARD rides up to the house in a Harley and CHERYL runs
outside

CHERYL
Oh my god babe, what is that?

RICHARD
It's only a fucking Harley
(laughs).

CHERYL.
It's beautiful

RICHARD
I know, right? It's pretty choice.

CHERYL
How did you afford it?

RICHARD
Don't worry about that, one of my
mates invited us out for a weekend
poker run, you want to come with?

CHERYL
Oh my god yes.

RICHARD
What about the boy?

(CONTINUED)

CHERYL
I'll deal with him, just wait here.

RICHARD
Don't take all day!

CHERYL walks into the house where JACOB is playing solitaire on the table. CHERYL grabs some money out of her wallet. It's fifty dollars.

CHERYL
Hey honey, are you okay?

JACOB
Are you going out?

CHERYL
Mummy is going out for a little bit, maybe for the night.

JACOB
Are you going to come back this week?

CHERYL
Of course I will, don't be a drama queen.

JACOB
Why do you always have to go out? Can't you stay here with me, you promised me.

CHERYL
I know, but we can go out tomorrow, don't make me feel bad about this? Hey, look at me.

CHERYL grabs his face with her hands

CHERYL
Don't you want mum to be happy? Hmmm? Don't you want me to have fun? Go see your friend up the road and buy some dinner, just leave the change okay? I love you, I'll see you later my honey. Lock the door and don't let strangers in, okay?

She kisses JACOB on the cheek and runs out with her bag. JACOB watches as she drives off with RICHARD. We see JACOB isolated again, he returns back to playing solitaire. The scene cuts to him watching television, he is noticeably

bored. It is dark outside and CHERYL still hasn't come home. He decides to pack his pajamas and walk up the road. He knocks on the door and AROHA answers.

AROHA

JACOB - are you okay? Where's your mum, boy?

JACOB

She went on a poker run.

AROHA

Did she?

JACOB

Can I please stay here the night?

AROHA

Of course you can, come in, it's freezing out here.

JACOB walks inside

AROHA

Put your bag in LEON'S room, okay?

JACOB nods and walks upstairs and walks into LEON'S room. LEON looks surprised to see him?. he is playing Sega Sonic on an old square box television unit.

JACOB

Hey.

LEON

Far out what are you doing here? I thought your mum said we can't hang out.

JACOB

My mum is out for the night.

LEON

With that creepy fella?

JACOB

yeah.

LEON

sweet, are you staying the night?

JACOB

yeah.

(CONTINUED)

LEON

aww mean, you can sleep on the bottom bunk. Hey, you want to play two player, it's sonic.

JACOB

okay.

AROHA walks into the room

AROHA

Have you had some Kai?

JACOB looks confused, LEON noticing is quick to respond.

LEON

She means food, you white Maori.

AROHA

Enough of that LEON, are you hungry, boy?

JACOB

That's okay, I already had some food.

AROHA

Okay, but if you get hungry, just tell me okay. Not too late, boys, okay?

She hugs both JACOB and LEON. LEON goes back to playing SEGA and JACOB looks around LEON'S room. LEON has lots of sports awards and rugby balls everywhere. He has a signed poster of Tana Umanga on his wall. JACOB is amazed at the achievements of LEON.

JACOB

Are those all your awards?

LEON

Yeah, most of them are mine, some are my brothers from when he use to live here.

JACOB

Where is he now?

LEON

Prison, but mum keeps saying he is on holiday away but I overheard my older brothers saying he was in prison because he hit his girlfriend or something.

(CONTINUED)

JACOB

oh.

LEON

Are you playing? Do you want to be
sonic or tails?

JACOB

I'll be tails.

LEON

Sweet, Sonic is faster you know?

JACOB

No, I think they are the same.

LEON

yeah nah.

JACOB smiles at LEON and starts playing the SEGA again.

EXT. CREEK NEAR LEON'S HOUSE - DAYLIGHT

An aerial shot opens over the area that JACOB lives in, it's rural New Zealand, far away from the rest of civilisation. It feels isolated, quaint, beautiful. We transition the shot to the creek near LEON'S house, they are grabbing Wild Watercress from the creek.

JACOB

So, why are we here?

LEON

Mum want's us to get the watercress
and this is the best spot.

JACOB

So you eat this stuff?

LEON

Yeah. Man you really are the
whitest Maori I know. This is for a
boil up, man you are going to love
mums boil up. The dough boys are
the best, and that fat as pork
bones hmmmmmm.

He starts making a gesture of sucking his fingers in premature satisfaction of his upcoming meal and smiles at JACOB.

(CONTINUED)

LEON

There's something really cool about getting food from here, it's like we are in the wild you know? Like warriors, getting our food, like they use to back in the day, before all the Pakeha took over. Put your feet in, it's not deep, look.

LEON shows JACOB for reference how deep the water is, JACOB braves it and walks in. The water runs through his feet and JACOB feels alive, he feels connected to the water. It is a spiritual moment of silence and he stares at his feet and watches as the water passes through, as the current pushes him as if it is challenging him to stay still. The audio for this scene should just be his breathing and the faint sound of water passing and breaking. We hear LEON'S voice fade in

-

LEON

Are you listening to me? Helloo??!

JACOB

Yeah, I'm here, what?

LEON

Start grabbing some watercress you egg. You're a strange one JACOB.
Are you alright?

JACOB nods his head and they return to grabbing watercress - the scene shows them plucking it all out. Once they have enough watercress, they lead through a paddock of overgrown grass and lie down in it. They are looking up at the grass.

INT. LEON'S HOUSE - NIGHTTIME - LOUNGE

The scene opens up with the camera looking over a plate, AROHA scoops some boil-up into the plate. We see JACOB anxiously await his dinner. He takes the boil up to the table to join the rest of the kids. Fry bread is in the middle of the table and Watties tomato sauce is placed in the center. JACOB takes his seat and starts eating the boil up with the same conviction of a homeless man eating his first hot meal. Everyone is impressed by his ability to eat an adult sized meal in under five minutes. JACOB and LEON are doing the dishes and playing around. JACOB and LEON make their way to the bedroom and talk the rest of the night until they fall to sleep. The next morning comes and JACOB wakes up with a smile on his face. He makes his way to the kitchen to grab a glass of water and he can hear his mum's car pulling up, he knows that she is going to make a scene

(CONTINUED)

again so he writes a "thank you" note and places it on the bench and grabs his stuff. He doesn't want to wake anyone up so he quietly sneaks out. His mum, who looks disheveled and worse for wear, is waiting out by the car.

CHERYL

Don't worry, I'm not going to make you embarrassed.

JACOB doesn't say anything and hops in the car.

CHERYL

Don't be that way boy, look, mummy loves you, I love you, you know? You are so fucking beautiful my little boy, so beautiful, yeah. I don't want you to be mad but I needed some me time, I needed a break, you know?

JACOB

You always say you need a break, you always say that you need "me" time. I don't care.

CHERYL

You make me need a break, you aren't the easiest child, you know? Try and understand it from my point of view honey, hmmm? Can you do that, can you just understand that?

JACOB doesn't respond

CHERYL

Did you have fun at your friends? Leo?

JACOB

LEON

CHERYL

all right, fuck, sorry. Do you think I'm a bad mum? Do you?

CHERYL starts crying and pulls the car over, JACOB is caught off guard.

CHERYL

I'm sorry, mummy doesn't mean to be a bad mum, I'm sorry boy.

JACOB
Don't cry mummy, please stop
crying.

He unbuckles his belt and grabs her and hugs her

JACOB
I'm sorry mummy, I'm sorry I didn't
mean to make you cry. Please stop
crying, I'm sorry.

CHERYL
Because I'm trying my hardest, I'm
trying my best and all I do is let
you down.

JACOB
No you don't, you are a good mum,
I'm sorry mum, I'm sorry

INT. CHERYL'S WOMB WITH BABY FETUS

The scene goes quiet and we hear JACOB'S heartbeat, the scene goes darker with each heartbeat. We can hear JACOB saying "sorry" over and over as the scene goes darker.

EXT. RURAL COUNTRY SIDE - DAYLIGHT

The scene opens with JACOB inside a car, he is watching two flies trying to escape out the window, they are buzzing and JACOB is fascinated by the two of them. He ends up opening the window and lets the flies out. CHERYL and RICHARD are in the front talking. The song "How Bizarre" is playing by OMC.

INT. CHERYL'S HOUSE - JACOB'S BEDROOM - NIGHT TIME

JACOB can overhear RICHARD and CHERYL arguing. He walks out and can see through the gap that RICHARD has brought a friend and he has a cord around his arm along with some needles out on the table

CHERYL
I don't want any of that shit in my
house. I've got my son here

RICHARD
baby, who gives a shit about him,
what's he done for us?

(CONTINUED)

CHERYL

I don't want that shit here Richy

RICHARD

I don't give a fuck

CHERYL

Get that shit out of my house, go on, fuck off with that stuff

RICHARD

What the fuck did you say to me?

RICHARD grabs CHERYL'S hair and punches her in the stomach. JACOB'S heart starts beating and he is frozen, he doesn't know what to do.

RICHARD

Stop crying, get the fuck up, get lippy with me. Try and tell me what to do again bitch, go on!

JACOB runs into the room, his heart is beating

JACOB

Leave my mum alone

RICHARD

(laughing) Look who's a big man, hmmm? Come to protect your mum, have you? Go back to your room, you little shit! Go on, before I give you some of the same medicine your mum got.

JACOB

I'm going to call the police

RICHARD

I dare you to fucking do it, go on, I'll kill your mum if you say anything.

He grabs CHERYL'S hair and pulls her up

CHERYL

I'm okay, look, I'm up, go back to bed, mummy's okay.

RICHARD

Yeah, go on you little shit, go run to your room. Only real men here.

(CONTINUED)

JACOB returns to his room and shuts the door. He moves his draws up against the door and throws as much heavy items against it. He goes to the other end of the room and sits in the corner. His heart is beating heavier and heavier. The scene ends there until the next morning, when he hears a knock at his door.

INT. CHERYL'S HOUSE - JACOB'S BEDROOM - MORNING

CHERYL is knocking at the door and JACOB wakes up instantly when he hears the knock.

CHERYL

Honey, its me, open up the door,
c'mon, open it up for me boy. Don't
make me say it again.

JACOB

Are you by yourself?

CHERYL

Just open it, you weren't meant to
be up so late, why were you up so
late? Hmmm? You were a bad boy
yesterday.

JACOB opens his door after moving everything from the door. CHERYL has a black eye and some bruises on her arm. JACOB doesn't know what to say

CHERYL

These? Oh these are nothing boy, I
wouldn't worry about these.

JACOB

Are you okay mum?

CHERYL

Me, I'm okay, made of tougher stuff
then a few small bruises.

CHERYL sits down on the floor

CHERYL

I'm sorry you had to see that, but,
mummy needs you to do something for
me.

JACOB

what?

(CONTINUED)

CHERYL

Mummy needs you to keep what happened yesterday a secret, okay? Can you do that for me, can you keep that a secret?

JACOB

Why?

CHERYL

Do you love mummy?

JACOB nods

CHERYL

If you really love me you will keep that a secret, okay? Because what goes on in this house isn't anyone Else's business, okay? Do you love me? Say it.

JACOB

I love you mum

CHERYL grabs JACOB

CHERYL

You are such a good boy, such a smart boy. You are such a smart boy, my smart boy.

CHERYL tries to hold back her tears and the scene closes on the both of them.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAYLIGHT

JACOB is waiting outside the doctors office and CHERYL leaves the office crying. The doctor has informed her that the blow to the stomach, coupled with the new usage of methamphetamine has caused her to have miscarriage, she was unaware that she was pregnant to RICHARD. She wipes the tears off and barks at JACOB

CHERYL

Hurry the fuck up, come on.

JACOB doesn't say anything but observes his mum, she puts sunglasses on and heads to the car.

EXT. HOSPITAL CAR PARK - DAYLIGHT

A few moments after we see CHERYL in the car, she and JACOB say nothing, after a few moments of silence, she grabs JACOB'S hands.

CHERYL
It's just me and you now, okay?

JACOB doesn't understand what's happening but he nods

CHERYL
Just me and you

EXT. CHERYL'S HOME - DAYLIGHT

CHERYL has packed all of RICHARD'S things and put them in the driveway. She takes JACOB to AROHA'S house. She knocks on the door and WINSTON answers.

CHERYL
Is your missus here

WINSTON, taken aback from her bruises and panicked look goes to get AROHA. LEON comes downstairs with AROHA

LEON
Hey bro..

AROHA
upstairs now

LEON
but..

AROHA
I'm not going to ask twice

He waves goodbye to JACOB and JACOB waves back.

AROHA
Kia ora

CHERYL
I was wondering, if, umm, if JACOB could stay here for the night

AROHA
You coming back?

(CONTINUED)

CHERYL
Never mind, I don't know why..

AROHA
Sorry, yes, of course that's okay.
Why don't you go upstairs to LEON?
Sure he'll be happy to see you.

JACOB hugs his Mum and looks at her anxiously

CHERYL
Go on, hurry up.

He makes his way upstairs, the scene stays on AROHA and
CHERYL

AROHA
You all right?

CHERYL
I have some shit I need to sort out

AROHA
okay

CHERYL
okay

The two stare at each other and say nothing. CHERYL walks
to the car and AROHA shuts the door.

EXT. CHERYL'S HOME - NIGHTTIME

Later on that evening, RICHARD pulls up on his Harley, he
sees his things outside. He goes to open the door but it's
locked. He starts banging the door, he should look like the
side effects of 'P' have started to take its toll. He is
erratic and angry and starts pounding the door.

RICHARD
Let me in baby. What's happening?

CHERYL is behind the door

CHERYL
No. Fuck off

Her voice should be broken and timid, she is frightened.

RICHARD
Come on baby, let me in, come on,
Is this about the other night. I
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RICHARD (cont'd)
fucked up okay, I fucking fucked
up. You know I love you, you know I
care for you.

CHERYL
Just fuck off and don't come back

RICHARD
You don't mean that, you're just
mad

CHERYL
You killed my baby, you killed my
baby you fucking piece of shit

RICHARD
I never laid a hand on your son

CHERYL
Not him you fucking asshole, you
killed my baby! I had a baby and
you killed it.

RICHARD
You were pregnant?

CHERYL
With your child you fucking pig

RICHARD
You killed my child?

He starts banging on the door harder and starts kicking the
door

CHERYL
Not me, not me, you, you did this!
You killed my baby, not me you
fucking asshole!

RICHARD
I'll kill you for killing our baby

CHERYL
Not me!

She has broken down and is crying.

AROHA comes around the corner with a bat

AROHA

Oi! Why don't you get on your
fucking Harley and piss off down
the road

RICHARD

What the fuck are you going to do?

She grabs the bat and swings it at him, she knocks him over,
she pushes him down off the porch. He is down on the ground.
He tries to get up

AROHA

fucking men like you are all bark
till someone actually tries it. You
hard as fuck, hmmm? You hard as
fuck?

She swings the bat at him again, he get's up to try and
punch her

AROHA

I don't fucking think so, try it,
try it, go on!

She takes another swing at his crotch.

AROHA

Take your shit and fuck off, if you
turn up here again, I'll get some
of my friends and we'll fuck you up
you'll wish you were dead. Go on,
get the fuck up. I dare you to try
me, GET UP!

He grabs a bag and runs away on the Harley. CHERYL opens the
door and AROHA is standing there. They stare at each other,
she is shocked but keeps her face neutral.

CHERYL

I..

AROHA

I had an ex once

AROHA smiles briefly. They stare at each other, they say
everything through their expressions. Both are contained
within their expressions, silences codes the language
between them both and the audience should see this. CHERYL
shuts the door and locks it, and AROHA heads home.

INT. LEON'S HOUSE - NIGHTTIME - LEON'S BEDROOM

JACOB is crying and LEON can hear him, he goes and sits next to him on the bed

LEON
Why you crying?

JACOB
I.. my mum.. she..

LEON
She'll be okay man, don't worry
about her

He puts his arms around JACOB

LEON
Bro, we'll go down first thing in
the morning, okay?

JACOB
Okay

JACOB looks over at LEON, he kisses him quickly and tries to grab his crotch

LEON
What was that?

JACOB
Sorry..

LEON pauses

LEON
I'm not a poofa, you know that,
aye?

JACOB
I'm sorry, please don't stop being
my friend, please, I'm sorry, I was
just playing around. That's what
friends do

LEON
Friend's don't do that bro, aye.

JACOB
I'm sorry

JACOB starts crying and LEON pauses to examine him and then goes to hug him

(CONTINUED)

LEON

Don't kiss me though, that's what
poofs do. Okay?

JACOB

Sorry, okay.

JACOB smiles and starts crying

LEON

I'm still your friend, bro. We're
good as but if you try that again
I'll give you a hiding.

JACOB doesn't say anything and LEON returns to the top bunk.
LEON pauses for a moment

LEON

Far out, I reckon this is the most
you've ever talked

They start laughing together.

INT. MASSEY UNIVERSITY BUSINESS LECTURE ROOM - DAYLIGHT

The scene opens up on JACOB, the camera should be placed behind him, reinforcing the theme of loneliness. He is sitting in the lecture room, his mind is elsewhere, he is in deep thought. The lecturer is explaining the pros and cons of quantitative easing. His voice is faint in the background. We see JACOB'S face now, he has piercing blue eyes and long curly hair. He has matured into a handsome young adult.

EXT. MASSEY UNIVERSITY - CAR PARK - DAYLIGHT - EVENING

JACOB is walking to his car, it is a run down car that he bought second hand. He hops in it.

INT. AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY HALL APARTMENTS - EVENING

JACOB is visiting his friend who is throwing a party in the main dining area, he is helping set up. We see Alicia (22) brown hair and freckles on her face.

ALICIA

Thanks so much for helping me

(CONTINUED)

JACOB

That's okay, I'm worried for you though. Do you think you're going to get in trouble?

ALICIA

Yeah, for having the party here?

JACOB

Yeah

ALICIA

Probably but I really don't give a fuck. We all need this, you know?

JACOB

Yeah

ALICIA

How's Massey?

JACOB

The same

ALICIA

Boring?

JACOB

Yeah, pretty much

ALICIA

Cool. Hey, I know crowds aren't really your thing but thanks for staying tonight

JACOB

It's fine, honestly. A drink would be nice

ALICIA

I am way too opinionated when I drink, it's like I suddenly have enough confidence to say what I want to say and sometimes it's not always nice.

JACOB

In my experience, a drunk tongue is an honest one (he smiles)

ALICIA

Yeah, hard. Ugh, I feel like shit, my face just decided to shit itself

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA (cont'd)
and I broke out all here, can you
see it?

JACOB
No, it's fine honestly. Okay, I
think that's everything. You've got
food?

ALICIA
yes

JACOB
mixers?

ALICIA
Yes, we might have to get some
later though

JACOB
Well everyone else can bring there
own so, it's good

INT. AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY HALL APARTMENTS - LATER ON

Later that evening we see people drinking and talking, some people are playing on the old school arcade machines and "Feel the love" by Rudimental is playing in the background. JACOB is in the kitchen, pouring himself another drink. He is not impressed by what he see's around him. A group of mixed young adults, some from different social classes hanging out by themselves. He is approached by a guy wearing federation jeans and a Iowa hat that he has on backwards.

RANDOM GUY #1
Hey, you're friends with Alicia
aye?

JACOB
Yeah

RANDOM GUY #1
Are you like her boyfriend or...?

JACOB
No, I'm a flaming homosexual

RANDOM GUY #1
What? Oh cool, that's cool, I'm
cool with that

(CONTINUED)

JACOB

cool

RANDOM GUY #1

So you like dudes?

JACOB

That's what being gay is, I think.

RANDOM GUY #1

There's this guy from my econ
tutorials who's gay

JACOB

congratulations

RANDOM GUY #1

So umm, is Alica like keen on me do
you know?

JACOB

Keen? On you? I don't think she's
mentioned you

RANDOM GUY #1

Oh cut throat, just me and her we
kind of hang out, you know? We're
both in the same business computer
class so..

JACOB

Sounds like a love story waiting to
happen

RANDOM GUY #1

What?

JACOB

Nothing, why don't you go talk to
her

RANDOM GUY #1

Yeah, she's pretty hot though, she
could like fuck any guy she wants,
aye?

JACOB

Maybe don't open with that

RANDOM GUY #1

I can't hear you, what'd you say?

(CONTINUED)

JACOB

Never mind, go talk to her, she'll
be fine

RANDOM GUY #1

Do you think so? Sweet, thanks man.

JACOB

Tell her that you can barely notice
her skin with her face, she'll
appreciate that

RANDOM GUY #1

I don't know what that means but
thanks man

JACOB turns around and rolls his eyes and goes to sit down on the rundown chair that is tearing and has blankets thrown over it. He drinks the rest of his wine and grabs his phone out. He is scrolling through his facebook mindlessly. Someone has broken a glass in the background, JACOB looks up to observe who it was and then looks back down at his phone. "212" by Azelia Banks is playing now. There is someone who keeps trying to change the music to "Korn" but gets shut down pretty quickly. A guy approaches him with a 6 pack of Ranfurly drinks. He is wearing a singlet and shorts and flip flops. He is the spitting image of every cliché of a gym buff, not so smart looking. Blond hair which is cut in a military style, he is classically handsome, think 60s golden age actor. JACOB braces himself for another uneventful conversation.

MASON

Hey, do you mind if I sit here?

JACOB

Sure

He sits down

MASON

This party is umm different

JACOB

Not really your scene?

MASON

No, not really

JACOB

Do you prefer to be around people
drinking protein shakes?

(CONTINUED)

MASON

Wow

JACOB

I'm sorry, I'm in a shitty mood and it's not your fault

MASON

It's cool, I get it. I don't dig big social things too

JACOB

I didn't say that

MASON

You're on your phone at a party, I mean that's pretty anti-social

JACOB

Okay, thanks for this

MASON

I'm just taking the piss, have a beer with me

JACOB

Ranfurly?

MASON

I like them

JACOB

Really?

MASON

Nah, they're cheap though

JACOB smiles and grabs a Ranfurly

MASON

So, who do you know here?

JACOB

That girl there

He points to Alicia who is in a large group of people who are smoking outside. She is yelling at the guy JACOB spoke to before. JACOB smiles.

MASON

What the..

(CONTINUED)

JACOB
Who do you know here?

MASON
The guy your friend is yelling at

JACOB
He's your friend?

MASON
Yeah

JACOB
Oh, okay. I umm.. why are you..
friends with him?

MASON
We've been friends since we were
kids, we're tight, he's legit

JACOB
I feel bad, I kind of set him up to
fail with my friend

MASON
That's a dick move

JACOB
I told you, I'm in a bad mood

MASON
Fuck, remind me to not get on your
bad side. He can handle it though,
wears his heart on his sleeve that
one

JACOB
Oh, you don't?

MASON
Wear my heart on my sleeve? Nah, I
got too much shit to do

JACOB
So what do you do, are you in
business with your special friend
there?

MASON
Fuck no, too boring. I'm in IT,
that's where the real party is

JACOB

Really? Party? That's where it's
all happening?

MASON

Yeah man, I'm getting bitches left
right and center

JACOB

Bitches?

MASON

Sorry, I meant female woman. I
forget, we're in a post modern
feminist world now

JACOB

Jezebel will soon publish an
article about you

MASON

If they haven't already

JACOB

Or buzzfeed will do a list about
you, "Men to avoid at parties"

MASON

Would you be on there?
"Misanthropic misery spends his
time on his phone updating about
party he isn't socialising at".

JACOB

You had me at misanthropic

MASON and JACOB laugh

MASON

I'm MASON

JACOB

JACOB

MASON

I'm outta beer, I'll be back soon.
I saw a bottle shop not so far from
here. You could maybe join me, I
mean, unless you want to stay on
your phone awkwardly?

(CONTINUED)

JACOB
Fine, I don't see why not

MASON
Coolio

JACOB looks at him strangely

EXT. AUCKLAND STREET - NIGHT TIME

JACOB and MASON are walking to the shop, they are both silent

JACOB
So coolio, that's a thing you say?

MASON
What's wrong with "Coolio", Coolio is..

JACOB
Don't say it

MASON
It's all coolio

JACOB
Ugh, I feel like I've been assaulted

MASON
Assaulted by my awesomeness

JACOB
Now I'm speechless

MASON
Speechless by my..

JACOB
No, just no. Not by anything, like at all

MASON
Hey you're smiling, that's a big fucking win. You look better smiling

JACOB
I kind of have this resting bitch face, it's unfortunate because I feel I am so misunderstood

(CONTINUED)

MASON

Really?

JACOB

No, but I like to think I'm more complicated than I am. Adds layers, you know?

MASON

So I don't know much about you

JACOB

We met 30 minutes ago

MASON

But it feels like a life time

JACOB

What?

MASON

I'm fucking with you, man "why so serious?" (Joker voice)

JACOB laughs

MASON

Sooo... If you could erase one food from this world, what would it be?

JACOB

That's easy, Mi-Goreng noodles

MASON

Why?

JACOB

I've basically lived off those for the two years I've been at uni and I have this deep love/hate relationship with those noodles. Like on one hand, I know they are shit, but on the other hand, they're like \$5 for a 12 pack. Throw in a can of tuna and some frozen veggies and you have yourself a meal. If you kinda of blink really hard you can see it's a kind of substantial meal

MASON

Ugh, I hate those because noodles should be easy, you know? I

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MASON (cont'd)
shouldn't have to mix in three
sachets just for fucking noodles.

JACOB
Right? And don't even get me
started on noodles, I am still
harboring a deep hatred since they
switched 'Maggie noodles' to "baked
instead of fried".

MASON
It's not the same

JACOB
No, it really isn't. Like they
should make two options, like here
is the fried original noodles

MASON
right

JACOB
And here is your shitty baked ones
for all you losers that don't
deserve to live or breathe

MASON
That's a bit intense but I respect
the passion

JACOB
Thank you, I feel like I am the
only one suffering through this
tragic ordeal. Could you think of
anything worse?

MASON
Maybe, off the top of my head;
ethnic cleansing? Religious Wars?
Starving children?

JACOB
Yeah, all those things but also
baked 'Maggie noodles' too

MASON laughs. They arrive at the liquor store

INT. LIQUOR STORE - AUCKLAND - NIGHT TIME

JACOB

Don't buy those shitty drinks again

MASON

The price is right

JACOB

Get this one

He picks up a bottle of wine

MASON

Wine ugh no thanks

JACOB

Ranfurly's are wife beater drinks,
one step off from Lion Red

MASON

Those are fighting words

JACOB

I'm just being honest

MASON

Fine, wine it is

JACOB

trust me you'll like it, it's
feijoa wine. It's not even wine
really

MASON

Okay, let's do it, I'm ready to
take this leap with you

JACOB

You like to joke a lot, don't you?

MASON

It's contagious, isn't it? It is, I
can see under that tough exterior
is a smiling person just waiting to
come out. Set yourself free!

JACOB

Shush, you're making a scene

MASON

I am not (feigns offense). I am not
making a scene!

(CONTINUED)

MASON raises his voice so that everyone can hear

MASON
How dare you say that!!

JACOB
Oh my god, please stop

MASON
I will not! (feigns more fake
offense with a fake proper English
accent) who's the other guy you're
texting? HMMMM?

The cashier looks up to see what the scene is about

JACOB
What are you even saying? You're an
idiot, I'm walking away now

MASON
That's right, walk away, you always
do!

JACOB
I don't know you!

JACOB begins to walk away, and is followed by MASON. MASON
pays for everything at the checkout. JACOB walks up and puts
beef jerky on the checkout

JACOB
Thanks

MASON
So I guess I'm paying?

JACOB
Yeah, thanks.

JACOB smiles at him and walks away

EXT. AUCKLAND STREET - NIGHT TIME

JACOB and MASON are returning to the party, they are walking
back along the same street.

JACOB
Thanks for the jerky and the wine

(CONTINUED)

MASON

I didn't really get much of a say,
did I?

JACOB

Of course you did

He takes a bite into the jerky

JACOB

You want some?

MASON

Can't, I'm on a kind of strict diet

JACOB

I'm sorry for you

MASON

I'm doing cross fit now

JACOB

Of course you are, you look like a
hulk

MASON

I know you're insulting me but to
fellow corssfitters, that's a
compliment

JACOB

I don't doubt it is. I am impressed
though, I think I lack the
discipline. I like beef jerky too
much

MASON

It's all a mental thing, you know?

JACOB

I just keep imagining those posters
that are pictures of mountains, you
know the ones? The inspirational
ones? They have like a mountain and
then some white bold text that says
something like "Fulfillment".
That's what I just imagined when
you said that

MASON

Hey (grabs the jerky bar and takes
a bite of it) not all of us can be
too cool to not try things.

JACOB smiles and they arrive outside the apartment block

EXT. AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY HALL APARTMENTS - NIGHT TIME -
MOMENTS LATER

JACOB and MASON are sitting outside on the bus stop

JACOB
Are we going to go in at any point?

MASON
Do you really want to?

JACOB
ummmm no, I like it out here

People start exiting the apartment block, the party has been
shutdown.

JACOB
Looks like the party got shutdown,
sucks for them

MASON
I can hear the hurt and pain in
your voice

JACOB
I reserve that hurt and pain for
important things

MASON
Like baked noodles?

JACOB
exactly, it's all about priorities

MASON laughs. His friend approaches him

RANDOM GUY #1
Party got shut down Mase, where
should we go?

MASON
No luck with the girl?

RANDOM GUY #1
Nah, no thanks to this guy

points to JACOB

(CONTINUED)

JACOB
I'm sorry, honestly. Look, I'll
give her your number

RANDOM GUY #1
You'll probably tell her I'm into
weird shit or something

JACOB
I won't, I promise. I was in a
shitty mood

RANDOM GUY #1
Fine

JACOB grabs out his phone and types in the guys number.

RANDOM GUY #1
You promise?

JACOB
I swear on deep friend noodles

RANDOM GUY #1
Huh?

MASON
I would take that promise, man.

RANDOM GUY #1
Thanks, I have to get the car, I
parked all the fucking way up the
top.

MASON
I'll wait here

RANDOM GUY #1
okay

He walks up the road. The scene returns to JACOB and MASON.

MASON
Pass your phone

JACOB
Why?

MASON
Just pass it

JACOB passes the phone to him and MASON puts his number into
his phone.

MASON

If you want to hang, message me.
I'm at course for most of the week
but I have weekends off

JACOB

Okay

Moments later the car arrives

MASON

Message me, unless you're too cool
to

JACOB

Well yeah, super cool, too cool for
you

MASON

That's what I feared

JACOB smiles and MASON hops in the car.

INT. MASON'S APARTMENT - AUCKLAND CITY - NIGHT TIME

Six months has passed and JACOB and MASON have grown closer.
They are both in bed together

MASON

Hey

JACOB

Hey

MASON

So, it kind of occurred to me that
this is, I mean, what is this?

JACOB

What?

MASON

This, us. What is this?

JACOB

Us? We hang out, we're friends

MASON

But are we, I mean I don't know why
this is so fucking hard. Is this a
relationship?

(CONTINUED)

JACOB
You and I?

MASON
Yeah

JACOB
I don't know, is it?

MASON
That's what I'm asking you

JACOB
I really don't know

MASON pauses for a few moments

JACOB
We haven't had sex or kissed, isn't that the stuff that relationships are made up of?

MASON
It's just.. that, I feel like this is a relationship. I spend all my time with you, we go to movies, I make dinner, you make noodles.

JACOB
Some might say the best noodles

MASON
The best, yes. Also, we sleep together. That's pretty fucking gay. So, do you.. I mean.. is this a relationship?

JACOB
Now that I think about it, it does seem like one.

MASON
Kiss me

JACOB
What?

MASON
If you want to

JACOB
Now?

(CONTINUED)

MASON

yeah

JACOB

This is weird to me, right?

MASON

I know but just do it

JACOB kisses MASON. JACOB feels instinctively closer to MASON. MASON kisses him back, this time longer. JACOB puts his hand on MASON'S face and starts to kiss his neck. MASON is about to grab a condom

JACOB

I don't want to do that

MASON

Okay, I.. is it me?

JACOB

No, I just, I haven't had.. I mean.. I haven't done it before

MASON

Me neither, it was all females before you

MASON smiles nervously

MASON

We can do it together, new?

JACOB pauses and looks at him, he grabs his face

JACOB

I don't want things to change between us, you, you're all I have, you know? And I know how sad that sounds but it's true. I don't have many people. I don't want to lose you

MASON pauses and then hugs JACOB

MASON

We'll take it slow, okay?

JACOB

Okay, I'm sorry

(CONTINUED)

MASON

Don't apologise. You're always so serious (smiles at JACOB). I'm not going anywhere

JACOB smiles at him.

INT. MASON AND JACOB'S APARTMENT - DAYLIGHT

Another 6 months pass and JACOB and MASON have moved in together. They live in shabby apartment in Auckland City. The scene opens on JACOB dancing around the house to "Alabama Shakes - Always Alright". Both of theirfa diplomas are on the wall. He is still singing the opening part of a song with a hairbrush, moving past MASON who is on his laptop and who only briefly looks up and smiles before looking down again. JACOB kisses MASON before returning to his singing.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - OUTSIDE OF AUCKLAND - DAYLIGHT

Five more months have passed and JACOB is hauling all of his things in his car. He pulls up outside of CHERYL'S house. The camera should track him from behind. He walks into the house, before he does, he takes a deep breath.

INT. CHERYL'S HOUSE - LOUNGE - EVENING

We see JACOB walk through the house, it is dirty and looks like people have been squatting in it. JACOB notices the smell of burnt curtains, he recognises the smell instantly. He Can't find his mum, he is searching through the whole house. He looks out the back of the house and notices his mum on the lawn, passed out. He walks out, grabs the hose and turns it on. He sprays her. She wakes up instantly

JACOB

Get up

CHERYL

What the fuck are you doing?

JACOB

To be honest I wasn't sure you would of woken up

CHERYL

You'd like that, wouldn't you?

(CONTINUED)

JACOB

The house is disgusting, I thought crack addicts are meant to be tidy

CHERYL

I'm not doing that shit anymore

JACOB

I can smell it mum, I know you are, so instead of lying maybe you could clean the house when you're on one of your highs

CHERYL

Why are you here? Just come down to make me feel shit?

JACOB

I need to stay here for a while

CHERYL

Haven't seen you for 5 years and now you come see me? I tried calling you know? You never answered, never answered your phone

JACOB

I know

CHERYL

Because I tried calling and you never answered

JACOB

I know, you just said that

CHERYL

Hmmm, that's what I said!

JACOB

Okay, I don't have time to deal with your, whatever this is. I need to get my stuff, can you get yourself cleaned before Ms. Walker see's you and call's the police, again.

CHERYL

Yeah fucking bitch, hey my honey, I'm happy to see you, you know? I missed you my baby. I really want us to get along, I don't want to fight anymore

(CONTINUED)

She hugs JACOB who is unresponsive

JACOB

I need to get my stuff out of the
car

JACOB walks away and starts unpacking his things. He goes to his room which is untouched. He runs his hands along his cabinets, there is one photo of him and CHERYL from when he was 5. He lies down on his bed and falls to sleep. A few hours have passed and he is awake now, we can hear him and MASON arguing in the background

EXT. AUCKLAND STREET - NIGHT TIME

Flashback to 4 weeks before. MASON and JACOB are outside their apartment. They are now in a heated argument.

MASON

This is so fucking one way, this
whole relationship is one way

JACOB

Okay

MASON

Are you going to say anything else?
You never talk about your fucking
feelings. It's like cold fish with
you

JACOB

I can't be what you keep wanting me
to be Mase, I can't give you what
you need.

MASON

It's not fucking hard, it's not
honestly. You make everything
harder.

JACOB

What do you want? Do you want to
meet my mum? Do you want to know
more about my family? Have dinner
with them?

MASON

I want to know more about you but
every time I try to get you to open
up you push me away

(CONTINUED)

JACOB

You're being hyperbolic and you know it

MASON

But I don't think I am though, I think I've got you pegged

JACOB

This is why I didn't want to be in a relationship, this right here

MASON

Oh fuck off, that's such a shitty argument

JACOB

It's true, I told you. I'm not good at this thing. I'm not good at being this way

MASON

Being an adult?

JACOB

Yes, I don't know how to deal with you. I didn't expect you to be still in my life.

MASON

Can you stop with your self loathing for a second? I'm here now, with you. I'm here and I want to be in your life, I want to be apart of your life but you keep fucking pushing me away and I can't do it anymore. Every time I want to move closer it becomes harder and you give me nothing.

JACOB

Sorry

MASON

Don't be sorry, just let me in.

INT. CHERYL'S HOUSE - JACOB'S BEDROOM - NIGHT TIME

Return to present time. CHERYL knocks at the door

(CONTINUED)

CHERYL
Can I come in?

JACOB
What do you want?

CHERYL
I was just checking on you

JACOB
Are you going out?

CHERYL
No! Why don't you believe me, I'm
here with you aren't I?

JACOB
Mum, what do you actually want?

CHERYL
Don't be mad but I've got a friend
coming over

JACOB
Are you doing 'P' with him?

CHERYL
He's just a friend, a close friend
actually. I like him a lot.

JACOB
Okay, I don't care. I need to sleep

CHERYL leaves his room and JACOB keeps tossing throughout the night, he is restless. JACOB can hear CHERYL laughing in the next room, the smell of Port Royal tobacco starts wafting through the house. He mumbles under his breath and returns to sleep.

INT. CHERYL'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

JACOB is having a shower, he is sat on the floor letting the water wash over him. HE stays there for half an hour

INT. CHERYL'S HOUSE - LOUNGE - DAY

JACOB is reading, the house is cleaner. He is isolated again, lost in thought. The emotion of loneliness, of desperateness, of hurt - they should fill the scene. He decided to go for a walk to the dairy

EXT. THE STREET OUTSIDE CHERYL'S HOUSE - DAYLIGHT

JACOB has arrived at the dairy and is about to walk in when AROHA spots him.

AROHA
Hey boy, where the hell ave you
been, aye?

JACOB
Oh my god! Hello!

JACOB rushes to hug AROHA. She slaps him on the hand.

AROHA
That's for not telling anyone where
you've been

JACOB
I'm sorry

AROHA
I understand though boy, with that
mum of yours I would have left ages
ago

JACOB laughs

JACOB
Have you been okay?

AROHA
Yeah, all right! Just pretty much
the same, you know how it is out
here.. Not hing really ever changes

JACOB'S studies her as she is talking, he feels closely connected to AROHA and that shows in his body language. He is closer in proximity to her, his arms are open.

JACOB
I've, umm, I've missed you

AROHA
The same here you bloody idiot.
Where you been? Actually, why don't
you come up to the house? I was
making fry bread

JACOB
I don't want to bother you

(CONTINUED)

AROHA

"Bother me" - bloody hell you are a white Maori. You're no bother love, never have been.

JACOB

Okay

They both walk up to the house and are talking passionately between the both of them. When JACOB approaches the house, it's as if time has stayed still. The two cars, which have not been repaired have grass growing over them. The Bob Marley flag remains on the porch. The only difference now is little kids toys are scattered throughout the front lawn. JACOB smiles

AROHA

He hasn't fixed those bloody cars, you know how WINSTON is. Been telling me for years he was going to. I have a better..

JACOB

.. chance of winning lotto?

AROHA

Yeah

She laughs

INT. AROHA'S HOUSE - DAYLIGHT

The house is just as JACOB remembers, full of warmth, full of clutter with pictures of her kids streamered all over the wall. He looks at LEON and notices he is in one of the photos as well

JACOB

Is that me?

AROHA

Yeah, that was when you guys won the potato sack race at the school gala

JACOB

That's right, I remember that. I can't believe you have that photo still

(CONTINUED)

AROHA

Yeah, LEON was so happy, you were his first friend, you know?

JACOB

Really?

AROHA

Yeah, he was the happiest I had seen him on that day. You were happy for a moment but then sad after, I remember that's when your mum got back with that idiot RICHARD

JACOB

Yeah, one of the hundred times

AROHA

Hmmm. Want some kai?

JACOB

Yes please

AROHA

Glad those manners haven't left you, hare mai.

She walks upstairs and JACOB follows, he notices new pictures, pictures of babies. He walks upstairs. They sit down. She serves him up some food and he eats with with feverish passion.

AROHA

So, how you been boy? Honestly

JACOB

Okay, I've been..

LEON walks through the door, he walks upstairs and see's JACOB.

AROHA

Look who's here

LEON

Holy shit

AROHA

Language or else it'll be a hiding

LEON
Mum, I'm a grown man

AROHA
Not too old for a hiding

JACOB see's LEON, he has grown into a handsome man, tan skin, (24), he is quite tall and has long hair. He has a few tattoos. LEON notices the name 'Awhina' on his wrist.

LEON
Far out, it's been ages since I
last saw you

JACOB
Yeah, a couple of years

LEON
more like 5 years

JACOB laughs

LEON
So what you been up to?

JACOB is about to answer before he is interrupted by a little girl. She is about 5 years old, brown hair. Her features are similar to LEON.

AWHINA
Daddy, can you push me on the
swing?

AROHA
Aww there she is, my little
mokupuna. Come here sweetheart.
Give nanny some kisses.

She lifts Awhina up and starts kissing her. Awhina studies JACOB with genuine curiosity, as does JACOB

LEON
This is my girl, Awhina. Awhina say
hello, this is JACOB

Awhina goes shy and puts her head into AROHA'S chest.

AROHA
She get's shy very easily, a bit
like you JACOB, when you were a boy

JACOB
You are very beautiful

JACOB smiles at her warmly, she looks up for a brief moment before pushing her head into AROHA'S chest again

AROHA
I'll push her, you two can catch up
aye?

LEON
Sweet

AROHA
There's some fry bread there, but
leave some for dinner. I'm talking
to you LEON

LEON
Yeah, okay

She takes Awhina outside and JACOB and LEON stare at each other

JACOB
Sorry, I didn't call. I ..

LEON
It's cool, I get it

JACOB
It's just everything..

LEON
Yeah, I know.

JACOB
So... you have a daughter

LEON
Yeah

JACOB
She really is beautiful,
congratulations

LEON
Yeah, got my ex missus knocked up
not long after you left

JACOB
That's a nice way of putting it

(CONTINUED)

LEON
Only way I can put it

JACOB
Fair enough

LEON
Want to go to the dairy?

JACOB
Yeah actually

They both walk downstairs and walk pass AROHA and Whina

LEON
We're just going to the dairy

AWHINA
Can I come with you daddy?

LEON
Not now baby, I'll be back soon,
okay?

Awhina looks sad but returns to being pushed on the swing. JACOB and LEON walk down to the dairy, they don't speak to each other. It's slightly awkward but also seems natural. They arrive at the Dairy. JACOB purchases some lollies bags and LEON gets a few blue lollipops and two L&P drinks. They sit down outside.

JACOB
You want the milk bottles?

LEON smiles

LEON
Yeah and the airplaneS

JACOB smiles

LEON
So, what you been up to?

JACOB
Not much, I've umm graduated uni

LEON
Fuck, really?

JACOB
Yeah

(CONTINUED)

LEON

Yeah, you were always smart as.
Fuck, this fella always the flash
fella

JACOB

It's honestly not even like that

LEON

Don't be ashamed, that's fucking
cool

JACOB

Thanks man. What about you? What
you been up?

LEON

Nothing like you, just kind of been
making shelves and stuff for
people. Building shit

JACOB

Cool. Is that like, carpentry?

LEON

Yeah but I'm not really legit so I
can't take proper jobs, you know?

JACOB

You should do an apprenticeship?

LEON

My ex missus pissed off so it's
just me raising Awhina, mum helps
out but dad's been sick as lately

JACOB

I didn't know that

LEON

Yeah, mum doesn't like talking
about it

JACOB

What's wrong with him? If I can
ask?

LEON

Yeah he had a heart attack last
year and he was in hospital for
ages.

(CONTINUED)

JACOB
Fuck, I'm sorry

LEON
He's all good he just has to watch what he eats and you know dad, he eats heaps as so he doesn't help himself. Mum tries her best but dads stubborn as, he doesn't admit when things are wrong.

JACOB looks at LEON and smiles

INT. AROHA'S HOUSE - EVENING

The scene opens on LEON and JACOB sitting on the couch talking

JACOB
So your daughter, that's crazy. What's she like?

LEON
She's awesome, she has this quiet strength to her. You were always like that as a kid, all the shit you went through and you just kept it all inside. You never wanted people to know you were sad. She does this thing where she's about to say something and then she say's "never mind daddy, it wasn't important" and I can't kind of take that in, that she kind of stops herself because she doesn't think what's she saying is important enough. I'm trying to give her strength, that's what I want to teach her

JACOB
I'm proud of you man

LEON
You too bro

JACOB smiles at him

LEON
You'd be a good dad as well

JACOB shakes his head

(CONTINUED)

JACOB
Are you kidding me? I would be the worst

LEON
You don't know yourself well enough

JACOB
No, it's because I know myself that I know I would be a shit parent

LEON
Why?

JACOB
Off the top of my head, I have no idea how to parent. I didn't exactly get stuck with Mary Poppins as a mother did I? (JACOB snort laughs)

LEON
That's exactly why you would be a good parent, you know how not to parent.

JACOB
I suppose, I didn't really look at it like that

LEON
Hard, you need to be nicer to yourself, be kind to yourself

JACOB drinks more wine

INT. AROHA'S HOUSE - EVENING

JACOB is in bed and he receives a call, it is from North Shore Hospital

NURSE
Is this JACOB WIREMU?

JACOB
Yes, who is this?

NURSE
I'm calling from North Shore Hospital, your mum has been admitted to hospital.

INT. NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL - NIGHT TIME - WAITING AREA

JACOB is in the waiting area sitting down, he looks around and notices how clinical it is, how isolated it is

INT. NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL - NIGHT TIME - DOCTORS OFFICE

JACOB is sitting down waiting for the doctor. The doctor enters after a few minutes and sits down opposite JACOB

DR. RICHARDS

Your mum is stable, for now. We have her under close observation. She overdosed on Methamphetamine and appears to have caused some brain damage. We ran a few tests and the results are alarming. We measured levels of brain chemicals that indicate whether brain cells are healthy or are diseased or damaged. There are three brain regions, okay?

JACOB

Right

DR. RICHARDS

So all three of your mothers brain regions are showing abnormal activity.

JACOB

What does this mean?

DR. RICHARDS

N-acetyl-aspartate, were reduced by at least five percent in the your mum. Many diseases associated with brain cell loss or damage, such as Alzheimer's disease, stroke, and epilepsy, are also associated with reduced N-acetyl-aspartate. We believe that your mum's long term use of methamphetamine has caused her irreversible damage to her brain. This means that her mental health is deteriorating in a rapid pace. You may have noticed that she is asking you to repeat things more often or she may repeat herself, without realising. In laymen terms, your mum has what is very similar to Alzheimer's.

(CONTINUED)

The doctor continues to talk but he is drowned out by JACOB'S thoughts, suddenly he is listening to the doctor but he can not hear what he is saying.

JACOB

Okay

DR. RICHARDS

Okay, what?

JACOB

Thanks for telling me

DR. RICHARDS

Don't you have questions?

JACOB

My mum is losing her mind, I think
I got the general gist of it

Dr. RICHARD'S looks shocked

JACOB

Oh I'm sorry, I can see I've
shocked you. You're thinking that I
am acting cavalier about this.

DR. RICHARDS

No..

JACOB

You're thinking that I am cold,
uncaring, maybe even callous? How
should I act? Tell me? What should
I do here, who do you want me to
be? Should I cry, will that make
you feel less uncomfortable? Should
I be deep in thought and upset?

DR. RICHARDS

I didn't mean that..

JACOB

How I act now will determine what
you think of me as a person. So
maybe I should cry, act surprised?
The truth is that my mum has
brought this all on herself, and it
is not shocking to me that she has
fucked herself up. I'm just
surprised it's happening now and
not five years ago.

JACOB starts laughing

(CONTINUED)

JACOB

This is perfect, I think I can escape her and stop looking after her and here I am, forced into a situation where I am going to have to fucking look after her and it's just incredible. So you can think I'm an awful person all you want and you can judge me but I honestly don't care

DR. RICHARDS

You're the only person who can tell you what type of person you are, not me, not anyone.

JACOB pauses for a few moments before Dr. RICHARD speaks again

DR. RICHARDS

We have some treatment plans, I'll give you the information and you can go over it, okay?

JACOB looks out the window

INT. NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL - NIGHT TIME - PATIENT ROOM

JACOB is sitting down next to CHERYL who is sleeping. He wait's patiently. He watches her and drifts off into his own mind. He get's up and walks out of the room.

EXT. MASON'S APARTMENT

JACOB knocks on the door, he starts banging. MASON opens the door half asleep.

MASON

JACOB? What the hell?! What are you doing?

JACOB

My mum is a P addict, has been most of my life. She was awful, she would leave me at home by myself for long periods of time because she had found a new guy who "got her" and she wouldn't bat an eye lid. She was constantly frustrated with me because I reminded her of my father who she hated and would

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JACOB (cont'd)
remind me constantly of the fact. She didn't care. I raised myself because I had to, not because I wanted to. I don't let people in because I don't want to be fucked over. So you came into my life and you just loved me, there weren't any strings attached, you didn't want anything in return, you just loved me and I don't know how to handle that. My version of love isn't healthy or good, it's toxic and it's all I know. I know I hurt you, I know I pushed you away and I know I have fucked up and I can't keep blaming my childhood for my mistakes because at some point I have to take ownership, but I just wanted you to know that I didn't mean to hurt you. I love you, I just didn't know how much I loved you. I'm so sorry. I have to go, I'm sorry.

JACOB runs away to his car

INT. MENTAL HOME - DAYLIGHT

JACOB is visiting CHERYL, she is vacant

JACOB
I'm so mad at you, mad at everything. I'm so angry that you fucked up so much as a mum, you fucked up

CHERYL
I did my best

JACOB
You did nothing! You did fucking nothing. You always say that, you always play the victim "I tried, I did my best", it's such a shitty thing to say because you know you fucked up and if you could be honest with yourself for one fucking second you would know that.

(CONTINUED)

CHERYL

I don't remember

JACOB

Now you get to lose your memory, you get to forget this and how fucked is that? You won't even remember how much you ruined me. My whole life has been about you, about taking care of you, about worrying about you.

CHERYL

Stop! Stop it!

JACOB

Worrying about you not paying rent because you gambled your money away! Worried that you drunk the nail varnish because it smelt like alcohol, worried that you didn't use clean needles to do your fucking meth. Worried about your fragile mental state, always compensating always trying to please you. Always at the cost of my own mental state, my own development. I thought for sure that at least at the end of it when I never visited you could remember how much you failed, I thought I could at least have that as some form of payback. Now you've ruined me and you get to walk away from it and I'm so mad.

CHERYL

Please stop! STOP!

JACOB

YOU ARE A MONSTER! Everything, everything you have done in your pathetic life, everything you have done is worthless.

CHERYL

You don't mean that, why are you hurting me?

JACOB

There it is again, ME ME ME!
"mummy's trying her best, why are you making this harder for me?",

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JACOB (cont'd)

"He left me because of you, you did this to me JACOB". It is always about you, you fucking waste of space. Do you even realise what you have done to me? Do you know what you let that man do to me?

CHERYL

I didn't know RICHARD was interfering with you, I would have never let him do that, you know that

JACOB

Every night he would come in, touch me, tell me it was a game, he would rape me when you were in the next room passed out. He raped me and you were only one room away, so you tried your hardest? Did you? Was that you, trying your hardest?

CHERYL

No! NO! NO!

JACOB

SHUT UP, I'M TALKING NOW! I AM TALKING, NOT YOU!

JACOB takes a breath and tries to calm down

JACOB

I can't do normal things, I can't be normal. I try but I can't. I can't even have a relationship with a man because I'm scared that being gay meant that I enjoyed what that man did to me, do you understand? Do you know how messed up that is? Your emotional manipulation, the way you use to use me as a kid, to make you feel better to prop you up. It was sick. I hate you so much, I hate that I was born to you, I hate that I'm forced to care for you. You have done nothing! Do you hear me? Nothing!

CHERYL starts crying, he walks up to her and she cowers in the corner, he goes up to her ear

(CONTINUED)

JACOB

I hope you feel the hate, I hope you feel everything I am saying because I mean every word. I want you to understand the hatred I feel for you, I want it to resonate with you. Do you understand

She looks at JACOB scared and nods her head. JACOB storms out of the room. He is outside by the car park, he is so mad he kicks his car. His phone starts beeping, he has a voice mail. It's from MASON

MASON (OVER VOICE MAIL)

I miss you, call me when you can, okay?

JACOB sits down on the bonnet of his car. Deep breathing, we hear the faint sound of a heartbeat, his fetus heartbeat from inside his mothers womb. Rheumatically matching his breath.

INT. MENTAL HOME - DAYLIGHT - CHERYL'S ROOM

JACOB returns to find CHERYL in the corner, she has been crying but seems lost in her thoughts

JACOB

Mum, get up.

CHERYL

Mum? Who are you? My little boy, where is he?

JACOB

I'm here

CHERYL

No, he is only 6 years old, not an adult, I don't know who you are

JACOB

Just hop up

CHERYL hops up

CHERYL

I went toilet, I couldn't move, I'm sorry, I pissed myself

CHERYL starts crying

(CONTINUED)

CHERYL

I'm sorry

JACOB

It's fine

INT. MENTAL HOME - DAYLIGHT - CHERYL'S ROOM - BATHROOM

JACOB runs the bath, CHERYL hops in. He grabs the wash cloth and starts washing her back

CHERYL

What's your name?

JACOB

JACOB

CHERYL

That's a nice name, I like that name. My son's name is JACOB you know? It's lovely. JACOB like from the bible

JACOB

Are you a religious person?

CHERYL

No, my family is. We're all Mormons. Not me, I've always been the black sheep of the family. Always breaking the rules, not really cut out for all that stuff. What do you do?

JACOB

Me, I'm umm, I just graduated from uni

CHERYL

So you're smart? My JACOB'S smart too, he's going to be a doctor. I want to be a good mum to him, do it right, he's the only thing I haven't fucked up

JACOB continues to wash CHERYL whilst sitting on the floor next to her. The scene goes to black and we can hear Baby JACOB'S heartbeat

END OF SCENE