

The Promise Between Brothers

Written by

Mitchel Pronga

mpronga@wisc.edu

Black

Fade In:

INT. MICHAEL AND TYE'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Camera fades in on beeping alarm clock that reads 6 A.M.

Camera then moves to the face of the sleeping teenage boy in bed next to clock.

Boy (Michael) then shuts off alarm clock and look over at his younger brother (Tye) in the next bed.

Michael

(Yawning)

Come on Tye, it's time to wake up already.

Tye rolls over as Michael gets out of bed and shakes Tye until he finally wakes up.

Tye

I hate waking up early! Why can't I just sleep all day?

Michael

Because all of your hopes of ever leaving this shit town we live in for good depend on you finishing high school.

Tye

I wish I was a senior like you already.

Michael

Don't worry, your only one year behind me, and I promise we are out of here for good as soon as you graduate.

Both Michael and Tye smile as Michael walks out of the bedroom and into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

In the kitchen the boys' mom, Sarah, is cooking breakfast, while their dad, Rob, is reading the newspaper.

Michael sits at the table and smiles at his mom, while giving his dad an angry look.

Just as Michael is about to eat a piece of toast, Tye comes in and steals it and grabs a seat next to Michael.

Michael

(Jokingly)

You asshole! I was going to eat that!

Tye and Michael laugh as Sarah brings more food to the table. She is smiling while Rob is unamused and clearly annoyed by his boys.

Sarah

Don't worry boys, I got plenty of food to go around this morning!

Tye and Michael both grab food off of the plate Sarah is holding while laughing and smiling.

Rob puts down the newspaper and looks seriously at Michael and Tye.

Rob

(Angrily)

No more! I have had enough of your shit this morning and I'm sick of it!

Tye and Michael look at each other sadly then look down at their food and continue to eat.

Sarah also looks sadly at the boys and Rob, but looks back at the food she is cooking when Rob catches her stare. Clearly, all 3 are somewhat frightened by Rob.

Sarah finally walks over to the table and joins in on the family breakfast. She senses the tense emotions in the room and tries to lighten the mood.

Sarah

So what are you guys learning about in school today?

Tye

How would I know, I'm not a mind reader, mom.

Michael smiles while Rob is clearly angered by Tye's comment.

Rob

Don't be a smartass to your mom, Tye!

Tye lowers his head and Michael also tries to stop the tension in the room.

Michael

I don't know about all of my classes, but you can bet I will be learning about something pointless in math today.

Sarah

I also hated math in school, but make sure you keep up in class so you can get into a good school.

Tye

(Jokingly)

Or you could just stay here and screw college!

Michael

(Laughing)

I don't know how I'm going to live without your stupid sense of humor next year.

Sarah

I can't believe my boys are finally growing up! Let me know if you need any help with school applications, Michael.

Michael

Thanks, Mom. But I think I'm going to try to do this on my own.

Sarah

(Smiling)

I just know you're going to get accepted to a great school and make something of yourself in this world!

Tye and Michael both smile at their mom and then each other.

Rob puts the newspaper down on the table and gets up and leaves the room.

Sarah

Don't mind your father, I think he is just a little grumpy this morning.

Tye

When isn't he?

Michael, Tye, and Sarah all share a look with each other, then Michael finally stands up.

Michael

I'm going to go get ready for school.

Tye

(Sarcastically)

Me too, I wouldn't want to be late for my exciting day.

Michael and Tye both exit the room, leaving Sarah alone.

She has a sad look on her face as the camera fades out of the scene.

EXT. DRIVEWAY- MORNING

Michael and Tye get into an old red pickup truck.

INT. MICHAEL'S TRUCK- MORNING

Michael starts the truck and drives speedily away from home on a dirt road.

Tye

What an asshole our excuse for a father is!

Michael

He was probably just upset because we were talking about me going to college in front of him.

Tye

But what excuse does he have to get mad about the fact that unlike him, you are actually doing something with your life?

Michael

None, but that's not the way he sees it.

Tye

(Angrily)

Are you trying to stand up for him?

Michael

No! I'm just saying that he thinks it's unfair that he has had to work his whole life at dead end jobs, while I just get to leave and have it easy, even though I have worked my ass off in school since first grade for this

opportunity. He sees it as me getting the easy way out, while he feels he has always gotten the short end of the stick.

Tye

(Angrily)

That is such bullshit! Him being an alcoholic loser is on him, not you. Deep down even he knows it.

Michael

Couldn't agree with you more, Tye.

Tye

Speaking of college, have you decided where you are exactly applying to?

Michael

I honestly haven't thought much about it yet, but where ever I go, it will be somewhere very close to home, I promise.

Tye

You better not be lying! I'm still going to need you help next year with dad and all. You better not get too far away, that way you can still come home often.

Michael

I swear I am not going far away at all.

Michael and Tye look at each other and smile.

Michael then turns on the radio and starts looking for a good station.

Tye

It would be nice if this small town of ours actually had at least one good radio station.

Michael

If dad taught us anything, it's that you certainly can't have it all, Tye!

Both Michael and Tye laugh at Michael's joke.

Michael takes his eyes off of the road and swerves off slightly.

Tye

(Jokingly)

Jesus! Don't kill me before school today, I have so much to learn and live for!

Michael

I wouldn't dream of killing you before you had the chance to fail your math test today.

Tye

Not all of us can be born smart, Michael.

Michael

Don't worry, Tye. You will be able to make something of yourself in this world, I know it.

Tye

I sure hope your right, like you always are.

Michael

I'm thinking we need to do something fun tonight after school.

Tye

I don't know, mom and dad are expecting us home right away and I don't really feel like pissing dad off, especially not with the way he was acting this morning.

Michael

We got our fishing poles in the back, let's just run over to the river today after school.

Tye

And what are you going to do about dad when we come home late today?

Michael

We will only go for an hour or so, we won't give him anything to really be pissed about.

Tye

I guess I would be fine with that, but only if you are willing to take the blame if he's mad when we get home.

Michael

You have yourself a deal, Tye! But the deal is off if you totally flunk your test like we both know you might. (Jokingly)

Tye

(Jokingly)

Screw you, Michael.

Michael and Tye arrive at their high school.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT- DAY

They park the old red truck and walk into school.

They are greeted by friends as they walk into the building.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

Tye and Michael walking towards their truck in the parking lot after the school day has ended.

Tye stops to talk to some friends while Michael gets in the truck and starts it up.

Tye then opens up the door and gets in the car.

INT. MICHAEL'S TRUCK - DAY

Tye

(Jokingly)

So were you serious when you said we can't go fishing if I failed that math test?

Michael

(Jokingly)

I guess you will have to plan on working in the fast food industry for the rest of your life.

Tye

Anything sounds better than school.

Michael

Lucky for you, Tye, I had my heart set on fishing so we are still going, even if you are never going to graduate high school.

Michael drives the vehicle out of the parking lot.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

Michael and Tye are then seen parking the truck next to a river.

Michael

I have been looking forward to this all day, so the fish better be biting!

Tye

I may suck at school, but luckily for us I can always catch fish.

Michael and Tye unload fishing poles and tackle boxes from the back of the truck.

They then walk over to the river and start baiting their poles.

Michael

Remember when dad would take us out fishing when we were younger?

Tye

Not really, I always remember him being a drunken loser.

Michael

You have to remember some good times. You were young but I know you remember coming out here and always catching our limit of blue gills.

Tye

I guess I kind of remember it, but any good memories have been blocked out by all the shit he's pulled on us lately.

Michael

I think it all went downhill when he lost his job, he was ashamed he couldn't provide for us and instead of dealing with his problems he resorted to alcohol.

Michael casts his pole into the water.

Tye

And mom threatening to leave him didn't really help his anger much either.

Michael

I know you're really confused about why she won't leave him, but you have to understand they were together for twelve years before he turned this way. It's harder for mom to throw that all away than we will ever understand. All we see is the hatred in his eyes, but mom still sees all of

the good, despite everything awful he has done to us. She still believes he can come around.

Tye

I guess I can understand a little.

Tye also casts his pole in the water.

Michael

I'm going to ask you to make a promise with me, Tye.

Tye

What?

Michael

I want you to look after mom when I leave for school. And I mean it, Tye. I want you to make sure she is well taken care of and that nothing bad happens to her, because she is the one person in this world who would do anything for us, and we need to return the favor.

Tye

I promise you I will, Michael.

Both brothers look at each other and smile in agreement.

Michael

It is one beautiful day out today.

Tye

(Jokingly)

And it would be even better if the fish were biting.

Michael

(Sarcastically)

I thought you were the fishing expert, Tye?

Tye

Even experts have their off days.

Michael

We can give the fish a few more minutes to bite, then we should head home so we are not back too late.

Tye

You know what? It's a beautiful day out and I am not going to miss out on fishing with my brother because of what dad may think. I don't care if he's pissed we are out late because right now I only care about fishing with my older brother.

Michael smiles just as Tye's bobber goes under.

Tye reels in a nice sized fish.

Michael

I guess you are the fishing expert after all.

Tye unhooks the fish and lets it go back into the river.

Tye

You may be better at me than a lot of things, brother, but I will always be able to out-fish you any day of the week.

Michael

You're right about that and the fact that it doesn't matter what dad thinks about us staying out late. It's a nice day out and I'm going to catch some fish with my little brother tonight.

Tye and Michael smile at each other.

Tye casts his pole back in the water as the camera zooms out.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

Tye and Michael pack up their fishing gear and load it into the truck.

Both Michael and Tye get into the truck.

INT. MICHAEL'S TRUCK - DAY

Michael

Twenty blue gills in two hours, not so bad.

Tye

I told you, I'm the fishing expert.

Michael starts the car and the boys drive away from the river.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DUSK

The truck pulls into the drive way of the house.

Michael

Let's hope dad isn't too mad about us coming home late.

Tye

I guess we are about to find out.

Both boys get out of the truck and walk to the front door.

They open the door and walk in.

INT. KITCHEN- DUSK

As they walk in, Rob turns on the lights in the living room and is seen sitting on the couch with an open bottle of alcohol.

Sarah is seen sitting on the other side of the room.

Rob

So which one of you disobedient little shits feels like telling me where you have been?

Michael

We decided to go fishing by the river for a little while, we didn't think it would be a big deal.

Rob

Oh so I get it now. It doesn't matter what your mom or I say, you guys only have to do what you feel like?

Michael and Tye share a concerned look with each other.

Tye

He didn't say that and you know it.

Rob

What the hell did you say to me? Are you mouthing off to me again?

Tye puts his head down in a look of defeat.

Tye

(Quietly)

No.

Michael

Look, dad, we really are sorry. We honestly didn't think it would be a big deal.

Rob

Well it was! Your mom and I have been sitting here worried about you for the past 3 hours and the dinner your mom made you went to waste.

Sarah

Why don't you calm down, Rob? The boys were just trying to have some fun.

Rob

Why don't you shut up already? Shut up and let me talk to my boys!

Tears are seen forming in Sarah's eyes.

Tye sees his mom and is clearly angered by how upset his dad is making her.

Rob (Cont'd)

Now, let's clear this up one more time. Did your mom or I say that you could go fishing after school?

Tye

(Angry)

It wouldn't matter if you told us we could go because your drunk ass wouldn't remember more than five minutes after you told us.

Michael looks at Tye surprised and horrified by what he said.

Rob gets a look of anger over his face and quickly gets off of the couch.

Rob walks over to Tye and grabs him by the shirt collar.

Tye has a look of fear in his face while Rob is consumed by rage.

Rob

What the hell did you just say to me? Do you have something to say to me you stupid little waste of life?

While Tye is horrified, Michael is able to come between Rob and Tye and get Rob to let go.

Michael

We are sorry, dad. We really didn't mean anything by it and we swear it won't happen again.

Rob

For your sake I hope it doesn't.

Sarah looks at her boys sadly and then gives Rob a look of pure disgust.

Rob walks back towards the couch and sits down.

Michael puts his arm around Tye, who is clearly fighting back tears.

Sarah

It's getting late, why don't you boys go to bed?

Michael and Tye both look at their mom and they all look horrified and scared with what just happened.

Michael

Yeah, I'm ready for bed.

Michael and Tye start walking towards their bedroom.

Rob

(Calmly)

Don't let it happen again boys, or there will be consequences.

Michael and Tye stop for a moment but then continue to head towards their room, without looking at Rob or acknowledging his presence.

Michael and Tye head into their room and close the door behind them.

Rob is seen drinking from his bottle of alcohol on the couch while Sarah sits in the same room without saying a word to Rob, clearly angered by his actions.

INT. MICHAEL AND TYE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tye

I hate him. I hate him so much!

Michael

Me too.

Tye

You don't understand, Michael. I hate him more than I have ever hated anything in my life.

Michael

I know that he's awful, but you have to not antagonize him.

Tye

Are you saying this was my fault?

Michael

No, I'm just saying that mouthing off to our drunk father wasn't your greatest idea.

Tye

What am I supposed to do? Sit back and let him treat us and mom however he wants?

Michael

That's not what I'm saying.

Tye

All I'm saying is that I'm sick of all of this bullshit.

Michael

Me too.

Tye

Then why don't you stand up for yourself? How is sitting back and apologizing to him helping anything?

Michael

(Slightly Annoyed)

And how did you standing up for yourself go tonight? Did you feel better after you pushed back and he came over and almost beat your ass? You're giving me advice on how to act but don't you notice how I was the one that had to come in and save you from him tonight?

The room gets silent and Michael looks down, ashamed of what he said.

Tye

Thank you for jumping in and helping me.

Michael

You don't have to thank me, I was just doing what any good brother would do.

Tye

You are one hell of a brother. I'm sorry for getting angry with you, it's just that I want to fight back against him so badly, but I guess I'm not brave or strong enough to.

Michael

Just because you're not willing to sink down to his level doesn't mean you're not brave or that you're weak. In fact, it makes you stronger than he will ever be. Don't forget that.

Tye

Thanks, Michael. Remember what you said earlier about the good times we used to have with dad?

Michael

Yes.

Tye

How come things can't go back to the way they were?

Michael

Honestly, I think he's too far gone to save. He's lost in his ways and I don't think he can ever come back. Mom keeps trying but I don't think he's coming back.

Tye

Life would be so much better if he would.

Michael

Do you remember what mom would tell us when we were little kids about sunsets?

Tye

(Confused)

I don't think so.

Michael

She said that whenever we are feeling sad, just think about the beautiful sunset. She thinks that they are the most beautiful thing in the world and that no matter how bad life gets for someone, they can always be cheered

up by a sunset. She also said that someday when she dies, she wants us to remember all of the good times we had when we see that sunset. She doesn't want us to think about anything bad, only good thoughts. And she said that when we see that sunset, we will know that she's still with us, along with all of the good memories of her.

Tye

(Smiling)

I think I remember her telling us that, now that you mention it.

Michael

I'm not going to lie to you, Tye. As long as we live in this house, there are going to be very bad times with him. And I know I'll be leaving here soon and you will only be a year behind me, but we are going to have to stick together and stay strong. And when I leave for school, I want you to look at the sunset at night and in those few minutes erase everything bad in life and only remember the good times we used to have. Just remember us fishing as a family and being happy, don't think about tonight or anything else bad. And when you look at that sunset, know that I will always be with you, even if I'm a thousand miles away at some school.

Tye smiles at Michael who smiles back.

The room is silent for a moment.

Tye

I know I'm going to miss you next year, but I will definitely remember that when you are gone. I just hope you're not going too far. I don't know what I would do without you.

Michael

I promise you I won't be going far.

Tye

(Happily)

Good! Now let's get some sleep, I'm tired after catching all of those fish today. And you must be tired from watching me catch them all.

Michael

(Laughing)

Don't get too cocky, Tye!

Both boys continue laughing and then Michael turns off the bedroom light.

INT. MICHAEL AND TYE'S BEDROOM - MORNING

The alarm clock goes off in the morning and wakes Michael up.

Michael struggles to turn the alarm off, but he finally manages and gets out of bed.

Michael walks over to Tye's bed and starts to wake him up.

Michael

(Tired)

Come on, Tye. It's time to wake up and start our exciting day of school.

Tye finally starts to wake up.

Tye

(Tired)

I really hate mornings.

Both Michael and Tye leave their bedroom and head towards the kitchen

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Sarah is seen in the kitchen making breakfast for Michael and Tye.

Sarah

(Smiling)

Good morning, boys.

Michael and Tye each pull out a chair at the table and have a seat, without responding to their mom.

Sarah puts food on each of their plates then grabs a seat at the table.

Sarah

I am so sorry about last night. I tried to calm him down before you boys got home but I couldn't, no matter what I said.

Both Michael and Tye look down at their food with a sad look.

Sarah also has a sad look on her face.

Tye

Maybe it's just time you leave him for good.

Sarah

You know I would do anything for you guys, right? If I thought that he was never going to change I would have taken you boys away a long time ago. We used to be so happy, all four of us but he has changed for the worse lately but I know that I will get things back to the way they used to be. I won't stop trying until we are all a happy family again. I promise you guys this.

Michael and Tye look at each other, both not knowing what to say.

Michael then turns and looks directly at Sarah.

Michael

When are you going to have enough? When are you finally going to stop trying? Sitting around and waiting for someone to change is useless if the person is not capable of change. It's been over ten years, maybe it's time to accept that he's never going back to the way he was. Are you really okay with spending the rest of your life waiting for someone that is never going to be ready for you? When are you finally going to move on and call it quits?

Sarah

(Crying)

I don't know if I can stop trying. I want things to get better, I swear I do, not just for me but for you guys also. And as hopeless as he may seem, I don't think I can ever stop trying.

Michael

So you're just choosing him over your happiness and ours?

Sarah

No, Michael. I would never choose him over you guys, I love you guys more than anything in the world.

Michael

You staying in this house right now with him proves that is not true, you will never choose us.

Michael gets up and pushes in his chair and angrily walks back to his bedroom.

Sarah

(Crying)

Please, Michael. That's not true.

Tye

Michael is right, mom. At some point you have to give up. I mean, look at what he's doing right now. He's passed out drunk in bed but he is still managing to get in between us. I know he was different in the past but you can't let the past control the present. Is sitting here miserable really what's best for you?

Sarah

I promise you I won't waste my whole life trying to change him, but I'm not ready to quit yet, but I promise you that I will not wait for him much longer.

Tye

I really hope your telling me the truth.

Sarah

(Smiling)

I would never lie to you.

Tye

(Smiling)

I know you wouldn't.

Sarah and Tye continue to smile at each other.

Tye (Cont'd)

I think Michael and I might just need some space tonight from dad. Would it be okay if we hung out with some friends after school?

Sarah

Sure, but be home by eleven and not a second later.

Tye

We will, I promise.

Tye and Sarah share one more smile with each other before Tye gets out of his chair and heads to his room to get ready for school.

Sarah is shown sitting at the table with tears still in her eyes.

She is eventually able to give a small smile.

INT. MICHAEL'S TRUCK - MORNING

Tye

(Laughing)

You really laid the guilt trip on mom this morning!

Michael

I was just being honest.

Tye

I know, but I couldn't help but feel sorry for her. But there is some good that came out of the brutally honest conversation this morning.

Michael

What's that?

Tye

Mom said we could go out tonight. I heard Jackson is having a fire tonight at his house and we are definitely going.

Michael

(Smiling)

You know I would never miss an opportunity to avoid home.

Tye

Then it's settled, tonight we will go out and have a good time!

The red truck pulls into the school parking lot.

EXT. SCHOOLHOUSE - MORNING

Michael and Tye both get out of the vehicle and walk into the building.

EXT. SCHOOLHOUSE - DAY

The school bell rings and Michael and Tye are seen walking out of school while talking with friends.

Both boys say goodbye to their friends and get into the truck.

INT. MICHAEL'S TRUCK - DAY

Michael

How does a long drive around town before the fire sound?

Tye

Works for me!

Tye (Cont'd)

So where should we head to first?

Michael

(Sarcastically)

With the big town we live in there so many different options.

Tye

Head out to the river first, then take me somewhere to eat, I'm not drinking on an empty stomach tonight.

Michael

(Laughing)

Yeah, we wouldn't want that.

EXT. JACKSON'S HOUSE – NIGHT

Michael's truck drives up to a small house in the country.

Tye

I'm surprised we remembered were Jackson lives, it's been so long since we were here last.

Michael and Tye get out of the truck and walk towards the house where they are greeted by their friend, Jackson.

Jackson

I'm glad our guys made it out tonight! It's been way too long!

Tye

You can thank Michael, he's the one who manipulated our mom into letting us come.

Jackson

(Laughing)

You guys can follow me to the fire.

Michael and Tye follow Jackson to his back yard.

They eventually come across a fire pit surrounded by a few other teenagers

Michael and Tye are greeted by everyone before they finally take a seat near the fire.

Jackson hands both Tye and Michael a can of beer.

Michael hands the beer back to Jackson.

Jackson

Are you not drinking, Michael?

Michael

Not tonight.

Tye

Come on, Michael. Have some fun.

Michael

Then who is going to drive your drunk ass home later?

Tye

(Laughing)

True. In that case, I'll take that.

Tye grabs the beer from Jackson's hand.

Tye, Michael, and Jackson all laugh.

Jackson

Did you figure out where you are going to school yet, Michael?

Michael

Not yet, but probably somewhere close by. I'll have to make a decision soon.

Jackson

How is everything going at home for you guys?

Tye

Not much has changed.

Jackson

(Sadly)

I'm sorry to hear that.

Tye

It's okay. Tonight, let's not think about that. Let's just worry about having a good time. I haven't seen you guys in a while and I'm ready to have fun!

Jackson

Cheers to that!

Everybody raises their beer and takes a drink.

Michael and Tye are seen smiling and laughing, clearly having fun.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Rob is seen pouring himself an alcoholic drink in the kitchen while Sarah cooks dinner.

Rob takes his drink with him into the living room and begins to drink it while sitting on the couch.

Rob

What's for dinner tonight?

Sarah

Meatloaf and mashed potatoes.

Rob

Again? Jesus Christ.

Sarah looks like she is holding back anger from Rob's comment.

Rob (Cont'd)

When's it going to be ready?

Sarah

About thirty minutes.

Rob

Where are those sorry excuses for my boys? Shouldn't they have been home by now?

Sarah

Oh, I forgot to tell you, I told them they could go and hang out at a friend's house for a while tonight.

Rob

What the hell did you just say?

Sarah

(Frightened)

They are both so stressed out from school that I figured some time out would be helpful for them.

Rob

(Mockingly)

Is that what you thought?

Sarah

(Frightened)

Yes, I'm sorry. I should have asked you if that was okay. I just didn't think it would be a big deal.

Rob

(Angrily)

Well do you know what I think? I think that you are the stupidest woman I have ever met. What were you thinking by telling the boys they could go out and party and just leave home whenever they want?

Sarah

(Frightened)

I just told them they could be out until eleven.

Rob

(Mockingly)

Only 11? Oh okay, why didn't you tell me sooner? That makes me feel so much better!

Rob laughs at Sarah who is clearly frightened and distressed.

Sarah

(Frightened)

Please! I'm sorry!

Rob

I think you need to quit apologizing. Quit apologizing and shut up already!
I am so sick of hearing you talk because everything that comes out of your
mouth is complete bullshit!

Sarah begins to cry as Rob gets closer to her.

Sarah

Please!

Rob

(Angrily)

What did I just say? Shut up already! I am sick of hearing the sorry
excuses that come out of your mouth!

Sarah begins to cry louder.

Rob gets even closer to her and grabs her by the arm and neck.

Rob (Cont'd)

(Angrily)

What are you crying about? What do you have to be upset about? Here
you are caught lying to my face and all you can do is try to justify it and
cry like the little bitch that you are!

Sarah

(Frightened)

You're right, you're absolutely right! I lied to you and it was wrong and I
promise it will never happen again! I swear!

Rob finally let's go of Sarah.

Rob

You're damn right this will never happen again!

Rob walks back to the living room and sits on the couch with his drink.

While Rob drinks his alcohol, Sarah is seen cooking dinner again.

She is forcefully holding back tears and trying not to let Rob see her cry.

Sarah

Dinner will be ready soon.

Rob

It better be.

Sarah is seen one last time crying, clearly horrified by the actions of Rob and terrified by what else he could do.

EXT. JACKSON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Michael and Tye are seen sitting around the fire, laughing with their friends.

Jackson hands Tye another beer, who starts drinking it immediately.

Jackson

Are you sure you don't want to join in on the fun, Michael?

Michael

Unfortunately, no. I'm going to make sure Tye and I get home safe tonight.

Tye

(Drunkenly)

That's my brother for you, always looking out for his little bro.

Michael

Don't get too excited, Tye. You're going to be my DD next time.

Michael, Tye, and Jackson all laugh.

Tye's smile suddenly goes away and he gets up and walks away from the fire.

Michael and Jackson both look at him, confused by his actions.

Jackson

Where are you going, Tye?

Tye continues to walk away without acknowledging Jackson.

Jackson (Cont'd)

Do you have any idea where he is going?

Michael

Not at all.

Michael gets up and walks towards Tye, who is still walking away.

Michael

Tye! Wait up!

Michael finally catches up to Tye, who has tears in his eyes.

Michael (Cont'd)

What's wrong?

Tye

(Sadly)

Why do I have to be afraid to go home?

Michael

What? What are you talking about?

Tye

(Sadly)

It's not fair!

Tye loses control of his emotions and starts to cry.

Tye (Cont'd)

I am so sick of being envious of everyone else we know.

Michael

What are you talking about?

Tye

For the first time in a long time I am finally able to relax and have fun, but I can't do it without thinking about what is going to happen to me when I get home.

Michael

Tye. It's going to be okay.

Tye

No it's not, Michael. Why is it that everyone here tonight gets to have a great family where they feel loved, and parents that actually care about them and a place they can call home, while we get none of that?

Michael

You know as well as I do that mom loves us more than anything in the world and that she will always be here to look after us. And I mean dad does care about us deep down, he just doesn't show it. I know it seems like you are always being given the short straw from life but I think you have more than you even realize.

Tye

(Angrily)

I get that mom cares about us, even if she won't do anything about dad. But I want to get one thing clear, that man does not care for us at all!

Michael

I'm not going to argue with you because you are clearly drunk right now, but you never have to feel scared or alone because you have me. I'm someone who is always going to look out for you and protect you so don't worry about not having family that cares for you, because you do.

Tye

And what happens when you leave?

Michael

I will still see you all the time, I promise. And if you ever miss me and need someone to talk to, mom will also always be there for you. Remember what mom said? Always look to the sunsets when you feel lonely.

Tye smiles at Michael who returns the favor.

Michael (Cont'd)

Now, I don't want you to think about anymore bad thoughts tonight. It's almost eleven so we should be saying goodbye to everyone and head on home, but everything is going to be fine tonight, I promise.

Jackson walks over to Michael and Tye from the fire.

Jackson

Is everything okay over here?

Michael

Yeah, but I think it's time for us to head out.

Jackson

So soon?

Michael

Yeah, I think I should get Tye home before it's too late and our parents get pissed.

Both Michael and Tye say goodbye to Jackson before getting into the truck and driving away from Jackson's house.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Michael and Tye walk into the kitchen and find Rob sitting at the table.

Michael

Is mom still up?

Rob

No, she went to bed a while ago.

Michael

Okay, that's where we are heading now.

Rob

So where were you boys tonight?

Tye

At a friend's house.

Rob

Well, did you have a good time?

Michael and Tye look at each other, confused by their dad's calm demeanor.

Michael

Yes?

Rob

(Sarcastically)

Well, isn't that nice?

Tye

Come on, Michael. Let's go to our room.

Tye grabs Michael's arm and they head towards their bedroom.

Rob stand up out of his chair.

Rob

Now where do you think you guys are going?

Tye

Like I just said, bed.

Rob

Did I say you guys could go to bed?

Tye

(Sarcastically)

I'm going to be honest, dad. I don't think you could say your ABC's right now.

Rob

(Angrily)

What did you just say to me?

Michael

Nothing. He said nothing.

Michael turns to Tye.

Michael (Cont'd)

(Whispering)

Stop antagonizing him!

Tye rolls his eyes at Michael and looks back at Rob who is clearly furious.

Rob

I think I would love to hear what Tye has to say about me.

Tye

(Sarcastically)

Like Michael already told you, I said nothing. Now may I please go to bed?

A smirk comes across Tye's face and Rob sees it as well as Michael.

Rob

Boy, you better wipe that smirk off your face before I come over there and do it for you.

Michael

Can we stop this already? I've had enough and just want to go to bed.

Tye

I don't know about you, Michael, but I would like to see this drunk fool who can't even walk in a straight line right now come over here and try to kick my ass.

Rob

(Angrily)

I am going to kill you for saying that!

Michael

No you're not! Whatever stupid and pointless power trip game you guys are playing right now is over!

Michael pushes Tye towards their bedroom.

Michael (Cont'd)

Tye, go to bed already!

As Tye reluctantly walks towards the bedroom, Rob starts walking towards him.

As Rob moves towards Tye, Michael steps towards Rob and puts his hands out in front of him, as to stop Rob from moving forward.

Michael

Stop, Dad! It's over!

Rob

Don't you dare tell me what to do! I'll kill you also!

Rob tries to move forward but Michael is able to stop him, as Rob is clearly drunk and unable to even walk correctly.

Michael

(Angrily)

You don't even have anything to be upset about! Mom told us we could go out as long as we were home by eleven and we got home right on time. What the hell are you so upset about?

Rob

(Angrily)

Since when does your mom make the rules around here? If you want to do anything, and I mean anything, you better damn well run it by me first!

Michael

(Annoyed)

Fine, Dad. Tye and I will run our daily schedules by you every morning, happy now?

Rob

You better watch yourself! One of these days I'm going to really have to teach you and your even more useless brother a lesson.

Rob walks back towards the couch and sits down in it.

Rob (Cont'd)

Now you may go to bed, my no good disobedient little shit son.

Michael gives Rob a look of disgust and then walks into his bedroom.

INT. MICHAEL AND TYE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

When Michael enters his bedroom, he sees Tye sitting on his bed with a smile on his face.

Michael

(Angrily)

Have you lost your damn mind?

Tye

(Laughing)

Come on, you have to admit it was pretty funny!

Michael

(Sarcastically)

Yeah, Tye, that was really hilarious! I think my favorite part was watching dad get up and almost kick your ass!

Tye

(Laughing)

Come on, that piece of shit was so drunk he didn't know which way was up.

Michael

(Annoyed and Angry)

That's not the point! I don't know why you always feel the need to try to push him over the edge when he's already drunk and pissed. Tonight

could have gone by a lot better if you could have just shut up for two minutes!

Tye

Look, I probably didn't need to say what I said, but I hate letting him feel like he's in control of us.

Michael

I know. Me too. But next time please make it easier on all of us and hold your tongue.

Tye

Fine, I'll give that a try next time.

Michael

Thank you.

Both Michael and Tye smile at each other.

Tye

Tomorrow we need to go fishing again.

Michael

I would love to but with dad on edge tonight I don't feel like making him more angry by coming home late tomorrow after school.

Tye

Then let's skip school tomorrow!

Michael

No, Tye. With your grades skipping isn't a good idea and I need to focus right now so I can get into a good college.

Tye

Come on, Michael! It would be so nice to have a whole day when we can relax and have fun and you deserve a break from school. You have been working so hard lately.

Michael thinks for several seconds before reluctantly speaking to Tye.

Michael

Fine, we can go.

Tye

Yes! That was easier than I thought it was going to be.

Michael

(Laughing)

Shut up and go to bed before I change my mind.

Tye laughs and then turns off the bedroom light.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Sarah is seen making the boys breakfast in the kitchen the next morning.

While she is in the middle of cooking, Tye and Michael quickly come out of their bedroom with their backpacks on.

Sarah

Why the big rush this morning?

Michael

Tye surprisingly remembered that he had a math test this morning so we are going to head to school early so that I can go over all of his math assignments with him before his test.

Sarah

Are you sure you don't want anything to eat before you go?

Michael

I'm good.

Tye

Me too. Thank you though.

Sarah

Good luck on your test!

Michael

He wouldn't need luck if he just studied for once.

Michael, Tye and Sarah laugh before Michael and Tye walk out of the kitchen door.

EXT. RIVER - MORNING

The truck is seen pulling into the brother's fishing spot on the river.

Michael and Tye both get out of the truck and grab their fishing gear from the back.
They both walk down to their spot on the river.

Tye

We really fooled her, didn't we?

Michael

Yes we did, I hate lying to mom but I wanted to get out here early while the fish were still biting.

Tye

You don't have to tell me twice, this was my plan after all.

Michael

I still don't feel like this was a good idea.

Tye

You have the rest of your life to spend worrying about everything. Right now just focus on the fishing and relaxing because you have really earned a day off from all of the bullshit that is life.

Michael

I guess you are right.

Michael and Tye smile and then get their poles ready for fishing.

Both boys bait their hook and cast their poles.

Tye

I was thinking about something last night.

Michael

(Laughing)

You? Thinking? That's a first.

Tye

(Laughing)

I'm being serious, you idiot.

Michael

What were you thinking about?

Tye

That you were right last night, I should have just kept my mouth shut.

Michael

I know that it is really hard to hold your tongue around him. I mean it's really hard for me also, even if you can't tell. But there is just no good way that arguing with him will ever end. It's an unwinnable battle.

Tye

You're right. Am I still going to be getting your wisdom and advice all of the time next year?

Michael

Of course you will. Just because I am going away it doesn't mean that we will no longer talk. We will talk everyday on the phone, where I will make sure to give you all of the advice that I have to offer.

Tye

Good! It's going to be so difficult for me without you here.

Michael

You are going to be just fine.

Tye

I know, but who is going to protect me from dad and give me unwanted advice all of the time and skip school to come fishing with me next year when you leave?

Michael

It's going to definitely be weird at first but we will figure things out.

Tye

You promise?

Michael

I promise. I promise that we will always be close to one another, no matter what happens. I promise that I will come home and visit you as often as I can. I promise you that I am always going to be there for you, even when I am not in town. And I promise that I will always protect you from dad.

Tye

I promise that I will look after mom when you are gone.

Michael

(Happily)

I know you will.

Tye

Brothers for life!

Michael

Brother for life!

Both brothers smile and laugh.

While the brothers are distracted with their conversation, Tye's bobber goes under.

Michael

Tye! You got a bite!

Tye jerks his pole and reels in a big fish.

Tye

And the fishing master strikes again!

Michael

Don't get too cocky yet, it's a long day!

Tye unhooks his fish and lets it go back in the river.

Tye

Instead of worrying so much about the future, let's worry about fishing right now.

Michael

Agreed! I need to catch a few so I can keep up with you.

Tye

You can try but we both know you will never succeed at that.

Michael

(Laughing)

Today is the day I out-fish my little brother!

Tye

That's like me saying I'm going to pull off an A in my math class.

Both brothers laugh before Tye re-baits his pole and casts it back into the water.

Michael

Let's just hope mom and dad don't find out we ditched today.

Tye

Amen to that!

EXT. RIVER- AFTERNOON

Michael and Tye load their gear into the back of their truck.

Michael

Thirty blue gills and five bass, not bad!

Tye

Yeah but twenty of those gills and three of those bass were mine.

Michael

Once again I was out-fished by my little brother.

Both boys laugh and get into the truck.

Michael starts the truck and drives away from the river.

INT. MICHAEL'S TRUCK - AFTERNOON

Tye

Let's hope mom and dad don't notice anything suspicious when we get home.

Michael

As far as they know, we had a normal day of school.

Michael drives the truck up their driveway.

Tye

Time for the moment of truth.

Michael parks the car and both boys get out of the truck and walks towards the front door.

INT. KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Both boys walk into the kitchen and see Sarah and Rob both sitting in the living room.

Sarah

How was school today?

Tye

It sucked, like always.

Sarah

Well don't worry, it will be over soon.

Tye

Unless I go to college.

Sarah

(Jokingly)

Let's not get too far ahead of ourselves.

Sarah, Tye, and Michael all laugh while Rob has a serious look across his face.

Michael

What time is dinner tonight?

Sarah

Six, and I'm serving meatloaf again.

Tye

(Jokingly)

I think you serve that every night.

Sarah

(While Laughing)

It's my specialty!

Sarah, Tye, and Michael laugh before Michael and Tye enter their bedroom.

INT. MICHAEL AND TYE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Michael

They don't seem like they know we ditched, right?

Tye

No, they are completely oblivious.

Michael,

Good, and since I have some time before dinner I should probably start working on college applications.

Tye

So where exactly are you applying to?

Michael,

Not sure yet. There are so many school's I want to apply to but mom and dad said I have to narrow it down to three, due to the application fees.

Tye

You should totally apply to Harvard or some nerd school like that.

Michael

I bet you don't even know where Harvard is.

Tye

That's a bet you would win.

Michael gets a laptop out of a drawer in his bedroom and turns it on.

Tye

So where is your dream school?

Michael

I'm not sure, maybe LSU.

Tye

That's a little bit of a drive away, isn't it?

Michael

It's farther than I was planning on but I would still make it home a few times during the school year, and I promise I will be home all summer.

Tye

I'm so jealous of you.

Michael

Because I'm going to college?

Tye

No, because you're leaving town.

Michael

You realize you aren't trapped here forever, right?

Tye

I know, smart ass. But a year here by myself will feel like a lifetime.

Michael

Let's make a promise that when you are done with school next year we will stick together and both get out of this town. Forever.

Tye

(Happily)

Deal. We will only come back occasionally to visit mom.

Michael

Deal.

Both boys smile and then Michael turns to his laptop.

Michael (Cont'd)

Now that my laptop is working, let me work on applications and then we can enjoy mom's famous mediocre meatloaf.

Tye

(Sarcastically)

I am so looking forward to dinner tonight.

Michael

It could be worse, it could be her SPAM casserole.

Tye

I hoped I would never have to think of that awful thing again in my life.

Both boys laugh as the scene ends.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Michael and Tye are seen washing dishes from dinner.

Sarah is seen cleaning the table while Rob is sitting at the table.

Sarah

Thank you for helping clean up, boys.

Michael

It's the least we could do after you managed to pull off a delicious meatloaf dinner.

Sarah

(Happily)

I told you it's my specialty.

Michael yawns as he and Tye finish washing the last of the dishes.

Sarah (Cont'd)

Somebody sounds tired.

Michael

I am beat from working on applications.

Sarah

Make sure to get a lot of sleep tonight before school.

Michael

You don't have to tell me twice.

Tye

I'm beat also, I'm going to bed early as well.

Both Michael and Tye start walking towards their bedroom.

Sarah

Goodnight.

Michael

Goodnight.

Tye

Goodnight.

Michael and Tye walk into their bedroom and close the door.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Michael crawls into bed while Tye looks at him confused.

Tye (Cont'd)

Are you seriously going to bed?

Michael

Why wouldn't I be?

Tye

Because there is a party tonight at Jacksons, don't tell me you forgot.

Michael

With everything going on lately I guess I did.

Tye

Well get yourself ready cause we are sneaking out in an hour.

Michael

What planet are you on?

Tye

Come on, don't you want to go?

Michael

Actually, no. First of all I'm tired and want to sleep, and second, I don't feel like pissing mom or dad off.

Tye

(Annoyed)

Come on! They aren't going to find out.

Michael

Do you really think you are going to be gone all night without them knowing?

Tye

Why not? They didn't realize we ditched school today.

Michael

Do you have a death wish or something?

Tye

No, but I want to have fun.

Michael

Look, if you want to have fun that bad then go, but I'm not going to cover for you and if you get caught I'm not going to be able to defend you this time. If I were you I would just stay here, it's not worth the risk.

Tye

If you want to stay here and be a loser all night that's fine with me, but I'm going out and having fun tonight.

Michael

I really think you should stay.

Tye

Tough shit, because I'm leaving. In fact, I think I'll leave now because I need to get out of this house for a while.

Michael gives Tye a disapproving look while Tye grabs his jacket and walks over towards the bedroom window.

Tye

I'll be home around 2.

Michael gives Tye another disapproving look as he climbs out the bedroom window.

The scene ends with Michael turning off the bedroom lights, and going to bed.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Michael wakes up after hearing a noise outside of his bedroom.

Michael gets out of bed and turns on the lights in the bedroom.

Tye is seen crawling in through their bedroom window.

Michael appears angry and annoyed with Tye, who seems happy.

Michael

(Annoyed)

It's three in the morning, Tye!

Tye

(Happily)

While you were busy being miserable here I was having the time of my life! Did mom and dad realize I was gone?

Michael

Apparently your luck has changed because they had no idea you were gone.

Tye

Didn't I tell you I would pull this off?

Michael

(Sarcastically)

Congrats, you managed to crawl out of a window and back in a few hours later without mom and dad noticing.

Tye

Mock me all you want, but I actually had fun tonight.

Michael

Good.

Tye stumbles as he tries to walk to his bed.

Michael

Did you have a lot to drink tonight?

Tye

Surprisingly no.

Michael

Then why so unstable?

Tye begins to laugh while Michael stares at him.

Michael (Cont'd)

(Angry)

Please tell me you are not high right now!

Tye begins to laugh more while Michael is clearly angered.

Tye

(Jokingly)

Why don't you say it a little louder and wake mom and dad up?

Michael

(Angrily)

Damnit, Tye! What the hell were you thinking? Do you realize what would have happened if mom or dad caught you before I did?

Tye

Well if you keep talking this loud we aren't going to have to wonder anymore.

Michael

I'm not joking! They would have killed you if they found out you were on drugs!

Tye

(Jokingly)

Honestly, from the looks of it I think you could use some.

Michael

If you're just going to be an idiot then I'm done talking to you.

Tye

Come on, what's the big deal?

Michael

The big deal is that I'm trying to protect you from dad but then you sneak out and pull stupid shit like this that is going to get you in serious trouble. You're making it impossible for me to look after you!

Tye

I can take care of myself.

Michael

Good. For now on I'll just worry about myself.

Tye

Works for me.

Michael

I'm going to the bathroom, but I will make sure to be quiet so dad doesn't wake up and kick your ass.

Michael walks out of the bedroom and closes the door.

Tye is getting into bed when he sees Michael's laptop is still partially open. He walks over to the laptop and opens it up and is clearly angered by what he is seeing. While he is looking at the laptop, he hears Michael walking back towards the room. Tye closes the laptop and gets into bed before Michael gets back to the room. Michael walks into the bedroom and turns the lights off and gets into bed.

Michael

The alarm is going off in three hours for school.

Tye

(Sarcastically)

Great.

Michael

I hope partying was worth it tomorrow when you're at school running off of only three hours of sleep.

Tye

Don't you worry, it totally will be.

Michael

(Sarcastically)

Awesome.

Camera fades out as the scene ends.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Camera fades in on the alarm clock that is going off in the room.

Michael wakes up and is able to turn off the alarm.

Michael yawns and slowly makes his way out of bed and walks over to Tye's bed.

Michael starts to shake Tye.

Michael

Come on, druggie. It's time to wake up.

Michael leaves the bedroom before Tye has time to respond.

Tye is seen rolling over, clearly too tired to wake up.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Michael walks into the kitchen and is greeted by a smile on Sarah's face, who is also cooking breakfast.

Sarah

Good morning. Where is your brother?

Michael

Still passed out in his bed.

Sarah

Did you wake him up?

Michael

I tried my best. He's putting up a fight this morning.

Sarah

That does sound like my Tye.

Michael

Yes it does.

Sarah

At least it is Friday! Do you have any plans this weekend?

Michael

Not really, just working on applications.

Sarah

(Happily)

My little boy is growing up.

Michael

(Happily)

It's about time, isn't it?

Both Sarah and Michael laugh.

While Sarah and Michael are laughing, Tye finally emerges from the bedroom.

Sarah and Michael look at Tye, who is clearly not feeling good.

Tye slowly makes his way to the table and sits in one of the chairs at the table.

Sarah

Good morning.

Tye

There is literally nothing good about this morning.

Sarah

Are you sick with the flu?

Tye

Something like that.

Michael gives Tye an annoyed look, while Tye continues to just look down.

Sarah

Maybe some food will make you feel better.

Sarah gets out of her chair and scoops food onto two plates.

She hands one plate to Michael, and the other to Tye

Sarah (Cont'd)

Eat up.

Michael and Tye start to eat while Sarah sits back down at the table.

Michael

Breakfast is great like usual, Mom!

Sarah

(Happily)

Good. Do you have any plans this weekend, Tye?

Tye

I actually think I'm going to go to Jackson's tonight, if that is okay?

Sarah

I'm sure that will be fine, I will talk to your dad and let you know when you get back from school.

Tye

Do I have to go to school?

Michael gives Tye another annoyed look.

Sarah

Yes you do.

Tye gives Sarah an angry look while Michael laughs at Tye.

Michael

It's a shame you feel sick.

Tye

(Sarcastically)

Isn't it?

Michael

It's weird because I feel totally fine. I guess the flu didn't get to me.

Tye gives Michael an angry look while Michael smiles back.

Michael gets up from the table.

Michael (Cont'd)

I'm going to go get ready for school.

The scene ends with Michael going to his room while Tye is seen sitting at the table with Sarah. Tye is clearly feeling awful from staying out late.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Camera fades in on school bell ringing.

Michael and Tye are seen walking out of school, while talking to their friends.

Michael and Tye separate from their friends and walk towards the truck.

Both Michael and Tye get in the truck.

INT. TRUCK - DAY

Michael

So, how was school?

Tye

(Annoyed)

Literally the worst day of my life.

Michael

I told you it would be.

Tye

I know.

Michael drives the truck out of the school parking lot.

INT. TRUCK - DAY

Michael

You're not thinking about doing anything stupid tonight, right?

Tye

Just going out to Jackson's. That's all.

Michael

Please tell me you are not planning on sneaking out if dad says no.

Tye

I'm thinking about it.

Michael

(Angry)

Damnit Tye! I'm serious, you need to stop pulling shit like this. And even if dad says yes, please don't come home high again.

Tye

(Annoyed)

Whatever.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

When the boys walk into the house, Sarah and Rob are not in sight.

Michael

(Whispering)

I mean it, Tye. Please don't do anything stupid tonight.

Tye

(Annoyed)

Please stop worrying about me.

A door is heard opening from down the hallway and Sarah enters the room.

Sarah

How was school?

Tye

Fine. How was talking to dad about tonight?

Sarah

Not too bad, surprisingly. He said you can go out until midnight, but not a second later.

Tye

Great. Can I leave now?

Sarah

You can go after dinner.

Tye rolls his eyes at Sarah.

Sarah (Cont'd)

Don't give me attitude, Tye. Even though it's the weekend you still need to spend time with your family.

Tye

Fine.

Michael

You don't have to worry about me. I'm staying home tonight.

Sarah

Are you sure you don't want to have some fun tonight?

Michael

I do, but I have way too much work to do.

Tye

So when is dinner going to be done?

Sarah

In an hour.

Tye

Great.

INT. KITCHEN - DUSK

Michael and Sarah are washing dishes while Tye is seen walking towards the front door.

Tye

I'm heading out.

Sarah

Have fun! And don't be home later than midnight. I mean it.

Tye

I understand.

EXT. JACKSON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Tye is seen walking up to Jackson at Jackson's party.

There are about twenty other students seen drinking alcohol.

Jackson

(Jokingly)

I was afraid you weren't going to show up.

Tye

(Jokingly)

Like I was going to miss this.

Jackson

Well I'm glad you came! Where's Michael?

Tye

Too busy being a loser. Now can we get this party started already?

Tye picks up a can of beer and drinks the whole can while Jackson and others watch and laugh.

Jackson

It's going to be a good night!

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Michael is sitting at his laptop in this bedroom, working on a college application.

While he is typing on his laptop, he hears a noise at the window.

Michael gets out of chair and walks over to the window, and is startled by Tye climbing in through the window.

Michael

Why am I not surprised that your home an hour late?

Tye

Screw you, I was too busy having fun.

Tye pulls the rest of himself in from the window but falls on the ground after he climbs into his room.

Michael

(Sarcastically)

If only you saw how cool you looked right now.

Tye stands up and is clearly angered by Michael's comment.

Tye

(Angrily)

You know what? I am really getting sick of your shit. Just because you're too busy planning your escape from this family it doesn't mean that I can't have a good time.

Michael

(Sarcastically)

I'm sorry, Tye. I'm so sorry that I have plans and hopes and dreams that exceed this stupid town. I'm sorry that I want to do something with my life other than get drunk and have a good time. And for the last time, I'm not running away from this family!

Tye

Yes you are! Things are too bad for you here so you have to run off to make things better for yourself.

Michael

There is a big difference between running away from my problems and leaving to go better myself. Why are you too stupid to not understand the difference?

Tye

(Angrily)

So now you think you're better than me because you are smarter than me? You may be smarter than me but at least I know that it's wrong to abandon family!

Michael

I'm not abandoning you, Tye! Once you finish school you can come move with me and leave this town for good!

Tye

I don't want to wait to leave, I want to leave now!

Michael

I know you do, but you just can't! But instead of sneaking out and coming home drunk and high you should just listen to what dad says until you leave, that way you don't have to worry about him kicking your ass all of the time. You need to stop sinking to his level!

Tye

I am nothing like him!

Michael

Really? Look at yourself, Tye! You are drunk and don't even know what you're talking about right now and starting a fight with someone for no good reason!

Tye

At least I'm not a liar!

Michael

What are you talking about?

Tye

The other night I saw that you are applying to Penn State. After all these years of telling me that you are always going to be here for me and look after me, you decide to move hundreds of miles away from me! You're the worst brother ever!

Michael

(Angrily)

Just because I'm moving it doesn't mean that we will stop being brothers or that we won't talk all of the time. I can't believe how unfair and selfish you are being right now! After years of growing up in this hell hole, I finally have an opportunity to make something of myself and be truly happy, and instead of being happy for me you decide that I shouldn't be allowed to have this opportunity because it means you have to fend for yourself for a year. Do you realize how selfish and stupid you are being? I deserve this opportunity so much and can't believe you are trying to take it away from me! Why can't you just let me be happy for once?

There is a moment of silence before Tye starts to cry slightly.

Tye

(Sadly and Angrily)

I hate you. I hate you, I hate you, I hate you.

Michael looks at him, clearly shocked by his words.

Tye is fighting back tears as he speaks.

Tye (Cont'd)

And I'm not saying this because I am just angry now in the moment, I truly mean I hate you and that I wish you weren't my brother and I wish you would leave already and never come home again! I hate you!

Tye storms out of the room while Michael is left speechless and standing motionless.

After a few moments of silence, Michael is seen fighting back tears.

After fighting back tears for a few moments, Michael walks over to the lights and shuts them off.

Michael then crawls into bed and is heard crying until the screen cuts black.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Michael is seen slowly waking up as the sun shines on his face through his bedroom window.

Michael gets out of bed and walks over to Tye's bed.

Michael doesn't see Tye in his bed and walks out of his bedroom door, and into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Michael sees Tye eating breakfast at the table, and Michael sits in the chair next to him while Tye doesn't acknowledge his presence.

Michael

I'm not even sure really what to say.

Tye

Me either.

Michael

Last night got out of control really quickly.

Tye

Yup.

Michael

Look, Tye. You're my brother and I don't want to fight with you right now, or ever. I should have told you about Penn State. I'm really sorry that I didn't say anything. I'm not even sure if I can get in, but I still should have told you.

Tye

It's okay, I don't blame you for wanting to leave.

Michael

It's not just about me getting away. This is a great opportunity for me and could be the start of a really great life for myself. But I'm still going to be your big brother, even if I move away. We can talk everyday on the phone and I will still come home a few times during the year to visit and I will be home all summer. There's something else you should know, the only reason I was considering not applying was because of you and mom. The thought of leaving you guys is so unbearable for me, but I just think that this opportunity is too good to pass up.

Tye

There is not a chance in hell that I am going to let you pass up this opportunity.

Michael looks at Tye with a surprised look on his face.

Michael

Really?

Tye

Yes.

Michael

Are you sure?

Tye smiles at Michael.

Tye

Absolutely. I have been so selfish lately. All I have been thinking about is how hard it's going to be on me when you leave. I have only been thinking about myself and I haven't even once considered how hard it's going to be on you leaving. I also haven't thought about how awesome this opportunity is for you and how much you deserve this. You have been working so hard for this and you deserve it, Michael. You deserve to have this opportunity and there is no way I will let you not go for it. You are going to finish that application and submit it and when you get accepted you are going there and not going to second guess it at all.

Michael smiles at Tye.

Michael

Thank you, Tye.

Tye

And you are damn right that we will always be brothers. You won't even have an opportunity to miss this stupid place because I am going to call you every night and even try to come down there and visit you. And when you come home in the summer I am going to make sure to spend every second of it with you.

Michael begins to form tears in his eyes.

Michael

(Happily)

That sounds like one hell of a plan.

Tye

(Happily)

Yes it does. And one more thing.

Michael

What's that?

Tye

I don't even know why I said it last night, but I don't hate you. I have never hated you and honestly, I don't think I could ever hate you.

Michael

I know.

Tye begins to form tears in his eyes.

Tye

You are one of the only people in my life who truly cares about me and look after me, and I am so grateful for all that you have done for me, and I was just angry because I am going to miss you so much.

Michael

(Sadly)

I am going to miss you too, but we are going to be fine. I promise.

Tye

Good.

Michael

And I am so sorry for calling you dad last night. You are so much better than he will ever be.

Tye

Thank you.

Michael

Now that things are good with us again, I think I'm going to head over to the library to work on my college applications.

Tye

Good, you better be getting accepted to all of the schools you apply to.

Michael smiles and then leaves the kitchen and goes into the bedroom.

The scene ends with Tye smiling at the kitchen table, while he eats his breakfast.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Tye sits at the couch in the living room, reading a magazine.

While Tye is reading, the phone rings.

The phone stops ringing and Rob is heard in the background talking.

After talking for a few moments on the phone, Rob walks into the living room with Sarah.

Rob

So coming home late last night wasn't enough for you, was it?

Tye

What are you talking about?

Sarah

That was your principal on the phone.

Tye

Okay?

Rob

Apparently you and Michael skipped school a few days ago.

Tye looks down.

Sarah

Is this true?

Tye

(Quietly)

Yes.

Rob

(Angrily)

Well that's just great. That's just really great you stupid little shit!

Rob pushes over the table next to Tye.

Tye stands up, but is clearly frightened.

Tye

Look, Michael and I have been really stressed out lately and I didn't think it would be that big of a deal if we missed one day to go fishing.

Rob

See that's the problem, you didn't think! You never do!

Tye looks at Sarah.

Tye

I'm sorry.

Rob

Don't look at her, look at me!

Sarah

You don't need to yell, Rob.

Rob looks at Sarah, clearly angered.

Rob

What did you say to me?

Sarah has a look of fear come over her.

Sarah

(Frightened)

Nothing.

Rob

Really? Because to me it sound like you opened your stupid mouth again and were trying to tell me what to do, when you can't even control your own children! Now why don't you shut up already, you stupid bitch!

Tye

(Angrily)

Leave her alone! All you ever do is make her feel like shit and I'm sick of it!

Rob walks over to Tye with an angry look on his face.

Rob

What the hell did you just say to me?

Rob grabs Tye by the shirt.

Tye

You heard me, you drunk piece of shit!

Rob punches Tye across the face, and Tye falls to the ground.

Sarah becomes hysterical, and runs over to Tye.

Sarah

No! Leave him alone!

Rob grabs Sarah by the shirt and pulls her up.

Sarah is clearly terrified of Rob.

Rob

(Angrily)

I told you to shut the hell up already!

Rob throws Sarah against the wall.

Rob then walks over to Sarah and kicks her while she is down.

While Sarah begins crying, Rob walks over to Tye.

Rob bends down and grabs Tye by the shirt.

Rob

Do you have anything else to say to me?

Tye just stares blankly at Rob.

Rob

Good.

Rob then hits Tye across the face.

Tye falls down again and Rob stands over his body.

Rob kicks Tye and then walks towards the kitchen door.

Before Rob walks out of the door, he turns around and looks into the living room.

Sarah is seen lying on the ground crying while Tye is motionless.

Rob (Cont'd)

I hope we have all learned our lesson here. I hope neither of you are stupid enough to question my authority again.

Rob walks out of the door.

The scene ends with Sarah crying, still on the ground.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Michael is driving to his house from the library.

As he gets to near his house, he sees Rob backing out of the driveway in his vehicle, but Rob doesn't see Michael.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

Michael drives his truck up the driveway.

Michael then parks the truck and walks towards the front door.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

When he walks in the front door, he hears Sarah crying.

Michael walks into the living room and sees Sarah and Tye on the ground.

Michael runs over to Tye, who is motionless on the ground.

Michael

What the hell happened?

Sarah

(Crying)

Rob.

Michael

(Angrily)

He did this?

Sarah

(Crying)

Yes.

Michael

(Angrily)

I'm going to kill him!

Sarah continues to cry while Michael helps Tye off of the floor.

Michael helps Tye onto the couch.

Tye sits on the couch motionless, but with tears in his eyes.

Michael

How are you feeling?

Tye

(Silently)

Not good.

Michael

Let me get you some ice.

Michael walks into the kitchen and gets ice from the freezer and puts it in a bag.

Michael walks back to Tye and places the ice on his face.

Michael (Cont'd)

Just hold this on your face, okay?

Tye just nods at Michael, without saying anything.

Michael walks over to Sarah and helps her up off the floor.

Michael

Are you happy now?

Sarah continues to cry.

Michael (Cont'd)

(Angrily)

You are just as much to blame for this as he is.

Sarah

(Sadly)

Michael.

Michael

(Angrily)

Don't try to justify it! You have had so many chances to leave! Tye and I have begged you to leave but you never could! Are you happy now? This wouldn't have happened if you just listened to us!

Sarah

(Sadly)

I'm sorry.

Michael

(Angrily)

Quit apologizing! Quit being sorry for his actions and just do something about it already!

Sarah

(Crying)

I don't know what to do.

Michael

Let me help you make up your mind.

Michael grabs Sarah by the arm and pulls her over to Tye.

Michael (Cont'd)

This is what happens if you stay! This is what he does. It's the way he's always been and it's the way he will always be and no matter how badly you want him to change, he never will!

Sarah becomes hysterical and falls to the floor crying.

Sarah

You're right.

Michael

I know I am.

Michael helps Sarah stand up, and then hugs her.

Michael (Cont'd)

You're making the right decision, for all of us.

Sarah

I know I am.

Michael

We can pack everything up, and leave as soon as possible.

Sarah

Okay.

Michael

And this time there is no looking back, okay?

Sarah

Okay.

The scene ends with Michael hugging a crying Sarah, while Tye remains on the couch.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Michael and Tye are sitting at the kitchen table, while Sarah cooks them dinner.

Michael (To Tye)

How are you feeling?

Tye

Okay, I guess.

Michael

I know it doesn't seem like it right now, but things are really going to get better, I promise.

Tye

I hope so.

Michael

It will, I promise. Mom is finally going to leave him, and we can finally have the new start that we deserve.

Tye

What if he doesn't let us?

Michael

It doesn't matter what he wants, because the three of us are going to look after each other and protect ourselves from him. Even when I'm gone I'm going to look after you and mom, I promise.

Tye has a slight smile come across his face.

Tye

Okay.

Michael also has a smile come across his face.

Michael

We are about to get the life that we always deserved.

Michael and Tye both smile while Sarah brings food to the table.

Sarah

Dinner is finally served.

Michael and Tye both grab food and put it on their plates.

Michael

So what happens after dinner?

Sarah

I think we pack everything off, head to a hotel, and then start looking for an apartment in the morning.

Tye

I think that sounds like a good idea.

Sarah starts to have tears form in her eyes.

Sarah

I am so sorry what I have put you guys through these past couple of years. I am so sorry, you guys deserved so much more than me and I have failed you so much.

Sarah starts to cry hysterically.

Tye grabs her hand.

Tye

It's okay, mom. Everything is going to be okay.

Sarah starts to wipe away her tears and smile.

Tye and Michael smile back.

Suddenly, Sarah, Tye, and Michael hear loud banging on the door.

Sarah

You boys go to your room and I will take care of him.

Michael

No, I will handle him.

Michael walks over to the door and opens it.

When Michael opens the door, an angry Rob is standing on the other side of the door, clearly drunk.

Rob

Well look who is finally home.

Rob tries to walk in, but Michael blocks the doorway.

Michael

Don't come any closer.

Rob

(Angrily)

Get out of my way!

Michael

(Angrily)

No! Now listen to me! It's over. The three of us are packing up and leaving tonight and you will never see us again.

Rob

And what makes you think that you can just walk away from me?

Michael

Because if you ever come near any of us again, I will call the police and make sure that you get put away for all the shit you have done to us. And unless you want to spend the night in jail, I suggest you walk away right now, and don't come back until tomorrow when we are all gone.

Rob

(Angrily)

I'm not going to let you guys leave that easily!

Rob walks towards the door but Michael is able to push him back and Rob falls on the ground.

Michael pulls out his cellphone.

Michael

That's it, you have ten seconds. In ten seconds I'm calling the police and I will let them deal with you. Or you can walk away right now and save yourself the embarrassment.

Rob struggles to stand up.

Rob

(Angrily)

Believe me when I say you're going to pay for this.

The scene ends with Michael standing motionless in the door way while Rob struggles to walk off towards his truck.

EXT. APARTMENT PARKING LOT - DAY

Michael and Tye are unloading boxes from Sarah's vehicle.

Michael and Tye carry the boxes into an apartment building and up the stairs into an apartment.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

The boys set the boxes down in the living room of the apartment, which is full of boxes.

After the boys set down the boxes, they sit down on the couch.

Sarah walks into the room shortly after the boys sit down.

Sarah

Is that the last of the boxes?

Michael

Just about. I think we have just a few more left.

Tye

We just needed a break from carrying boxes.

Sarah begins to laugh and then joins the boys on the couch.

Sarah

I don't blame you, we have been unpacking all day.

Michael

I think you owe us an awesome dinner tonight for all of our hard work.

Sarah

(Happily)

I agree, whatever you boys want. How do you like the new place?

Tye

I like it. Especially the fact that I get my own room so I no longer have to share one with this idiot.

Michael, Tye, and Sarah laugh.

Michael

What do you think of it, Mom?

Sarah smiles at Tye and Michael.

Sarah

I think it's perfect. I think that it is exactly what we needed.

Tye

I agree.

Sarah

Look at what I found when I was unpacking earlier.

Sarah gets up and walks into the kitchen.

She walks back into the living room with a big photo album.

Tye

What is that?

Sarah

It's a photo album of all of the pictures of you guys when you were little.

Sarah sits in between Michael and Tye and opens up the album.

Michael, Tye, and Sarah all laugh and they look at all of the photos.

Sarah stops when she comes across a photo of Michael, Tye, Rob, and herself from many years ago. In the photo, everyone is smiling and appears happy.

Sarah starts to form tears in her eyes.

Sarah

I remember when we used to all be happy.

Michael

Me too.

Tye

Me too.

Sarah

If I had known that he would have turned out the way he did, I would have left him a long time ago.

Michael

I know you would have.

Sarah starts crying.

Sarah

You guys deserved so much more. You deserved a much better life than I was able to give you and I am so sorry for that.

Tye

It's not your fault, mom.

Sarah

Yes it is. I should have left a long time ago. I always held onto some hope that he would change but I should have known better. I wasted your guys' whole childhood and I am so sorry for that.

Michael

It's okay, mom. Our lives are far from over and we finally have a fresh start that we all deserve. From here on out things are going to be much better for all of us.

Sarah

I promise you boys that from here on out I will do whatever I can to make your lives better. I will always put you two first because you two are the most wonderful thing in my life and you deserve nothing but the best.

Michael

We need to promise each other to always look after one another, no matter what.

Tye

I promise.

Sarah

Me too.

Michael

Me too.

Michael, Tye, and Sarah all smile at each other.

Sarah

Do you boys feel like helping me get the rest of the boxes from the car?

Michael

I guess we can finish unpacking before dinner.

Tye

We only have a few more boxes.

Sarah

A few more boxes and then we are officially all moved in to our new home.

Michael, Tye, and Sarah get up off of the couch and walk towards the front door.

The scene ends with them walking out of the door.

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - DAY

Tye sets down a box in the living room.

Tye

That is officially the last of the boxes.

Michael

Can you believe it?

Sarah

(Happily)

No, but we did it! We are officially moved in!

Michael, Tye, and Sarah all smile and then sit down on the couch.

Sarah (Cont'd)

I think we need to celebrate!

Michael

I think a celebration is well over due.

Sarah

Instead of making you guys' dinner, why don't we go into town and find someplace to eat?

Tye

That sounds like the best idea ever.

Michael, Tye, and Sarah get off of the couch and leave the apartment.

INT. SARAH'S CAR - DAY

Sarah starts the car and drives out of the parking lot.

Sarah

Where do you guys feel like eating?

Michael

I'm not sure, let's drive around until we find someplace that looks good.

Tye

I like that idea also.

Sarah

I guess we did never get a chance to eat-out a lot back at the house.

Michael

You're a good cook, mom, but I was getting sick of it after all these years.

Michael, Tye, and Sarah laugh.

Michael then turns on the radio and turns the volume up.

Tye

(Yelling)

Why don't you turn it up a little more? That way we can go deaf.

Michael

Don't be so over dramatic, Tye.

Sarah turns down the volume.

Michael

Come on, Mom!

Sarah

Tye's right. Plus you listen to the worst music.

Michael

There aren't many choices in this little town.

Sarah

How are you doing on college applications?

Michael

Good, I turned them all in and should find out if I was accepted within a month or so.

Sarah

(Happily)

How exciting!

Michael

(Happily)

Yes.

Sarah

Where would you go if you got accepted to all three schools?

Michael

I think Penn State.

Sarah

Really?

Michael

Yeah. I know it's a far way away, but I would like to go out East.

Sarah

I think you are going to love it out there.

Michael

If I get in I will.

Sarah

You will. You are the smartest person I know and I know you are going to get in, there's not a doubt in my mind.

Michael

(Happily)

Thank you.

Tye

Mom and I are going to come out and visit you sometime if you go there.

Sarah

(Happily)

Definitely. No matter what, we are always going to be a family.

Michael, Tye and Sarah smile while a truck is seen through Sarah's window heading directly at them.

The truck hits Sarah's side of the vehicle and Sarah's car flips over and is upside down.

The scene ends with a view of the car wreck.

EXT. SARAH'S CAR - DAY

The camera fades out of Michael's motionless face.

Michael suddenly wakes up and finds he is upside down in his seat, due to the car being flipped.

Michael struggles to undue his seatbelt, but is eventually able to unbuckle himself.

Michael cries and screams as he hits the ground and drags himself out of the car.

Michael sees his mom's motionless body and unbuckles her seatbelt.

Michael pulls his mom's body onto the side of the road and pulls out his cellphone.

Michael calls 9-1-1 while he holds onto his mom.

Michael

(Crying)

Mom! Mom! Please mom!

Sarah remains motionless as Michael begins to shake her and sob.

Michael

Mom! Please don't leave me!

After Michael realizes Sarah is dead, he lets go of her and begins to sob uncontrollably.

While Michael is crying, he hears Tye in the car.

Michael crawls over to Tye, who is severely injured.

Michael unbuckles Tye's seatbelt and helps him out of the car.

Michael then holds onto Tye on the side of the road.

Michael

You're going to be okay, Tye. I called the police and they are on their way.

Both Michael and Tye begin to cry.

Tye

I don't want to die, Michael

Michael

You're going to be fine, I promise.

Tye

I'm so sorry, Michael.

Michael

For what?

Tye

For everything. For being selfish and holding you back, and saying that I hate you.

Michael

It's okay, I forgive you.

Tye

I could never hate you, Michael. You and mom are the only good part of my life. I don't know what I would do without you.

Michael begins to cry uncontrollably.

Michael

Mom is dead, Tye.

Tye begins to also cry uncontrollably.

Tye

I'm so sorry that I'm also going to leave you.

Michael

Please don't say that. Please don't say that, Tye. Help is on the way. You're going to be fine.

Tye

I hope you're right.

Michael

I am. And you can't leave me, I need you. I don't know what I would do without you, you are the best brother I could ever ask for.

Tye

Remember what mom said about the sunsets? I want you to always remember all of the good times we had when you see those beautiful sunsets. I want you to remember us fishing and being happy. I don't want you to remember us fighting or all of the shit we went through. Only good memories when you see them. I also want you to remember us as a family. I lied to you the other day when I told you I didn't remember all of us being a happy family. I do. I remember dad taking us fishing and all the fun we had. I want you to think of that and also know that I will always be with you when you see them every night.

Michael

I can't lose you, please stay with me, Tye! I don't know what I would do without you, please!

Tye

Can you promise me something, Michael?

Michael

What is it?

Tye

I want you to promise me that you won't let anything hold you back. That you will leave this town and start a new, better life. I have never met anyone more deserving of a good life and I want you to be happy.

Michael breaks down and continues to sob uncontrollably.

Michael

I promise you I will. But you are going to be a part of my new life, Tye. You are going to move with me after you finish school and we are going to be so happy moving away from this town and we are going to start all over, you and me. That's what mom would want and she's going to be looking down at us and she's going to be so proud of her boys.

Tye smiles and Michael is able to smile back through all of his tears.

Tye

That sounds like a good life. I promise you I will be a part of it one way or another. Even if I have to watch over you with mom. I will always be your brother, no matter what.

Tye begins to lose consciousness.

Michael puts Tye down and sobs as Tye begins to fade away.

The scene ends with Michael crying by Tye's motionless body as sirens are heard in the distance.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

The camera fades out of a heart monitor in a hospital.

The camera then zooms over to Michael, who is sitting in a chair in a hospital room.

Michael is crying in the chair.

Suddenly, Michael gets out of the chair and he hears mumbling coming from the bed.

The camera then focuses on the bed, which shows Tye laying in it.

Michael

(Happily)

Thank god you are awake!

Tye

(Confused)

Where am I?

Michael

The hospital. They weren't sure that you were going to make it.

Michael begins to cry again.

Tye

Neither was I. Thank god you were right again.

Michael let's out a faint laugh and smile through his tears.

Tye

Is mom?

Michael shakes his head side to side and cries.

Tye is motionless for a moment but then starts crying as well.

Michael

I'm so sorry, I didn't get to her in time.

Tye

It's not your fault.

Michael

It's both of our fault. We both failed her. Even though she didn't want to leave dad we should have protected her more and forced her to leave. We were supposed to protect her but instead we sat by and let him abuse her and treat her worse than shit. We failed her and now we never get to make it up to her.

Tye

And to make it worse, I never appreciated all she did for me. I never appreciated how she went out of her way to stick up for me and protect me and make sure that I was safe and happy. She did so much for me and tried so hard to give me a good life but I didn't appreciate it. Instead I just complained about all the things I didn't have that she was trying so hard to get for me. I was the worse son ever to her and I deserved to die in her place.

Michael

No, Tye. That's not true. Just because you weren't always grateful doesn't mean that she didn't know that you loved her. She knew how much you loved her and she never thought differently, I promise. She never

questioned whether or not you loved her and don't you ever say that you deserve to die.

Tye and Michael continue to cry.

Tye

I just wanted the three of us to be happy. We were finally starting a new life for ourselves and we finally had the chance to be a happy family and now that's all gone.

Michael

That's not true. We still have each other and we can still be happy. I know that's what mom would have wanted for us. She would want us to start over and leave this town and never look back and be happy. And that's exactly what we are going to do. And every night we are going to look up in the sky and see that sunset and know that she's right there with us.

Tye

I want you to keep the promise you made me a little bit ago. I want you to start your new life away from town and make something of yourself. I promise you that when I'm done with school I will follow you but for the next year you aren't going to worry about me, you are going to worry about starting a new chapter in your life. All you have ever done is look after me and now I want you to focus on your future. I promise I will be fine here by myself for a while and that I'll join you after I graduate but for now, you are going to focus on you.

Michael

I promise.

Michael and Tye both smile.

Michael (Cont'd)

I need you to never leave me. I thought I lost you for a little bit after the crash and it was the worst feeling ever. I can't imagine losing my little brother. I already lost one of the only people who care about me in this whole world and I can't lose the other.

Tye

I promise you that we are going to be brothers for life, Michael.

Michael and Tye both smile.

Michael

I don't know how I'm going to move on without mom.

Tye

It's going to hurt like hell every day, Michael. But we can get through this. We have to. Giving up now is not an option, we have to help each other live with the pain.

Michael

It's what mom would have wanted.

Tye

I just can't believe she's gone.

Michael

Sometimes the world is such a shitty place.

Tye

And sometimes it's a beautiful place.

Michael let's out a small smile.

Michael

Good news is that doctors said you should make a full recovery in a few weeks.

Tye

That means we can go to the river again soon and I can totally kick your ass at catching fish.

Michael

I can't wait for that.

Michael and Tye smile as the scene ends.

EXT. CEMETARY - DAY

Michael and Tye are seen sitting next to each other at Sarah's funeral.

The funeral is taking place outside and Sarah's casket is visible.

A priest is seen speaking to the audience.

Michael and Tye fight back tears as the priest says kind words about Sarah.

When the priest is done talking, Michael and Tye stand up and walk over to Sarah's casket, along with a few other people.

Michael and Tye, along with others, place flowers on Sarah's casket.

Michael and Tye can no longer hold back their tears, and cry as they stand by her casket and watch as others place flowers on top of it.

EXT. CEMETARY - DAY

After the funeral, everyone is starting to say their goodbyes and leave.

Michael and Tye are greeted by one of Sarah's friends, Mary.

Mary

How are you boys doing?

Michael

Been better.

Mary

(Sadly)

I am so sorry for your loss.

Tye

Thank you. And thank you for coming, it would have meant a lot for my mom.

Mary

She was one of the kindest people I have ever met, and I am so happy to have called her my friend.

Mary begins to smile even though she is holding back tears.

Mary (Cont'd)

I am so lucky that I got to know such a wonderful lady. She will truly be missed by many.

Michael

(Sadly)

I still can't believe that she is gone.

Mary

None of us can. But I wanted to let you boys know how much she truly cared about you guys. All she ever talked about was how proud she was of her boys and how you were the best part of her life.

Michael and Tye begin to smile.

Mary (Cont'd)

She wasn't given the best life.

Mary starts to cry.

Mary (Cont'd)

But you boys managed to take the pain away. You guys made her life mean something and I can't thank you guys enough for that. Thank you for giving such a wonderful person a meaningful life.

Michael and Tye begin to cry.

Michael

She was such a great person and I wish I could have helped her more.

Mary

You boys helped her more than you could ever imagine. I mean that from the bottom of my heart.

Tye

Thank you for your kind words, and thank you again for coming.

Mary

Of course, and if you ever need anything, feel free to contact me.

Michael

Thank you.

Mary, Michael, and Tye share a smile before Michael and Tye walk away.

As they are walking, they run into Jackson and his parents.

Jackson

How are you guys doing?

Tye

About as good as possible, I guess.

Jackson

(Sadly)

I am so sorry for your loss.

Tye

Thank you.

Tye turns to Jackson's parents.

Tye (Cont'd)

And thank you for letting me live with you guys next year, it means the world to me.

Jackson's Mom

Of course. We are happy to have you stay with us. You are welcome to move in any time.

Tye

Thank you so much. Michael and I are going to stay in the apartment through the end of summer but then I would be happy to move in.

Jackson

(Happily)

It's going to be such a fun year with you as my roommate!

Tye

(Happily)

We are going to have some good times.

Jackson and Tye smile at each other.

Tye (Cont'd)

Thank you guys again for coming, it means a lot to us. I'll see you all later.

Jackson and his parents walk away and Michael and Tye walk to their truck.

Michael and Tye get in the truck.

INT. MICHAEL'S TRUCK - DAY

Tye (Cont'd)

Where to now?

Michael

Home.

Michael starts the truck and pulls out of the parking lot.

Michael turns right out of the parking lot and onto the road.

Tye

Why are you going this way? The apartment is the other way.

Michael

I need to make a stop on the way home.

EXT. MICHAEL AND TYE'S OLD HOUSE - DAY

Michael's truck pulls into the driveway.

Tye

What the hell are you doing here?

Michael

Saying goodbye to dad for good.

Tye

(Frightened)

Please don't do this! Let's just go home!

Michael

Stay here. I will be fine.

Michael gets out of the truck and walks to the front door.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Michael rings the door bell and after a few moments, Rob answers the door.

Rob

What the hell are you doing here?

Michael

I came to say goodbye to you.

Rob

Didn't you guys already say goodbye?

Michael

No, I mean I came to say goodbye forever. I was planning on doing this at the funeral but since you couldn't sober up for two hours and show up, I have to do this here.

Rob

I didn't go because I couldn't say goodbye to your mom, it was too hard.

Michael

(Angrily)

Let's get something straight. You may have been married to mom, but you didn't love her nearly as much as Tye and I did. You abused her and made her life a living hell while Tye and I tried to reverse all of the damage you did. So you don't get a right to be sad or angry by her death because you didn't feel anything for her when she was alive, so now you don't get to act like you feel anything for her now that she's dead.

Rob

I did love her.

Michael

No you didn't. The only things you love are yourself and alcohol.

Rob

That's not true.

Michael

Yes it is. Which is why I came to say goodbye forever. You see, I said goodbye to mom today forever, but that was the saddest thing I've had to do in my life so far. But saying goodbye to you is such a blessing and I am so happy that I never have to see you again.

Rob

Michael...

Michael

(Angrily)

Stop! You don't get to try to apologize or justify your actions. You made all of our lives a living hell for the past many years. You are the reason we lived in fear and couldn't be happy. And when we finally escape you and were happy, mom dies. So congrats, you win. Tye and I will never be truly happy because of you. Even though that drunk driver took away our mom, you are just as responsible for killing her and you know it. You took our

mom away from us also and I just want to let you know that we will never recover from it.

Rob is motionless, not knowing what to say.

After a few moments of silence, Rob begins to speak in an emotionless manner.

Rob

I do love you boys.

Michael

(Angrily)

No you don't. Love isn't abusing your kids and ruining their childhood. Love isn't beating up your son and wife for no good reason. You don't know how to love. And honestly I envy you in this moment because you don't have to feel the pain I do after losing mom.

Rob silently stares at Michael, not knowing what to say.

Michael (Cont'd)

But you know what I realized?

Rob

What?

Michael

You will never be happy because you are going to spend the rest of your days alone. You may have tormented mom but she had people today at her funeral who cared about her and loved her. And even though you have messed up Tye and I's life, we will always have each other. You on the other hand, are always going to be alone. From here on out you will have nobody to visit you or care about you or love you. You are going to die a miserable, old drunk. And when you do die, you are going to have nobody at your funeral. I won't even show up to identify your body. You are truly alone, so I hope you enjoy the rest of your sad and pathetic existence. I actually feel a little sorry for you.

Rob begins to tear up and is clearly hurt by what Michael said.

Rob

Michael...

Michael

Goodbye, dad. This is the last time you will ever see me and if you ever try to go near Tye again, I will kill you. I mean it, stay away from Tye! I hope you rot in hell, you miserable drunk.

Michael turns and walks away.

Rob is seen one last time. He is motionless and has tears in his eyes.

As Michael walks away, the camera zooms in on his face.

Michael has tears in his eyes, but he quickly wipes the tears away.

Michael is then seen smiling.

The scene cuts as the screen turns black.

Superimpose:

Six Months Later.

EXT. APARTMENT PARKING LOT - DAY

Michael and Tye are seen loading Michael's truck with suitcases and other luggage.

Tye

Can you believe the summer is already over with?

Michael

Not at all. It went by so fast!

Tye

I'm just glad all of this packing is over with.

Michael

Me too. Are you sure you got everything out of the apartment?

Tye

I'm sure. All of my stuff is officially moved into Jackson's house.

Michael

Are you sure you're okay living there?

Tye

Hell yeah! It's going to be a kick-ass senior year!

Michael and Tye start laughing.

Michael

Just stay out of trouble as much as possible, okay?

Tye

I guess I can try.

Michael

God I am going to miss you!

Tye

Hey! We promised today was going to be a happy day, not a sad day!

Michael

I know, I just am having a hard time saying goodbye.

Tye

(Happily)

Don't worry, Michael. I am going to annoy the shit out of you and call you every day. And I will see you all of Christmas break, and I will be coming for Spring break. And of course I am going to kick your ass at catching fish all next summer when you come home.

Michael and Tye start laughing.

Michael

One of these days I'm going to catch more fish than you.

Tye

(Jokingly)

We both know you won't.

Michael and Tye laugh again.

Michael

You're right.

Tye

Remember what you promised me, Michael. I want you to not worry about me this year and only worry about yourself, okay? I promise you I am going to be fine. I am about to have the best senior year I could ever ask for and you don't need to be sad for me or worry about me. And I promise

you we will talk every day and as soon as I'm done with school I will move out there with you and we can leave this town once and for all. And I promise I will always be your brother.

Michael and Tye both smile.

Jackson and his parents drive into the apartment parking lot.

Tye

Looks like my ride is here.

Michael

I can't believe I have such a long drive ahead of me.

Tye

Make sure to call me when you make it to your dorm.

Michael

I will. I'll see you soon, Tye.

Michael and Tye hug each other.

Michael gets into the vehicle and drives out of the parking lot as Tye waves goodbye to him.

The scene cuts black as Michael drives out of the parking lot.

EXT. CEMETARY- DUSK

Michael drives into the cemetery parking lot.

Michael gets out of his vehicle and walks over to his mother's grave.

Michael pulls an envelope out of his pocket.

Michael

I did it, mom. I got accepted to Penn State and I'm on my way there now. I am actually going to make something of myself, just like you always knew I would.

Michael begins to cry.

Michael (Cont'd)

I miss you, every day. And I am so sad that I am leaving Tye here by himself, but I promise you I will visit him as often as I can and that we will both leave this town for good when he is done with school. We will always stick together, and I wanted you to know that. You always wanted

what was best for us, and I thought you should know that we are going to make it in this world. We are going to stick together as brothers. And even though you aren't with us anymore, we will think about you every day, and I will love and miss you until the day I die. You were one of the best parts of my life, and I wanted to tell you how much I love you.

Michael begins to sob.

Michael places a rose on Sarah's grave and walks back to his truck.

INT. MICHAEL'S TRUCK- DUSK

While still sobbing, Michael starts his truck and drives out of the parking lot, onto the road.

Michael continues to sob as he begins to have flashbacks of his childhood.

Michael remembers Rob yelling at him and Tye, and when he found Tye and Sarah after Rob beat them.

Michael also remembers the car crash and finding Sarah's dead body and how Tye almost died.

Michael continues to sob uncontrollably as he thinks about these bad memories.

While Michael is driving and sobbing, he looks up and sees a beautiful sunset in the distance.

He hears Tye's voice saying that he should only remember good times when he sees the beautiful sunsets at night.

Michael begins to smile and wipe away his tears when he remembers going fishing with Tye and Rob many years ago.

Michael smiles even more when he hears Sarah's voice saying that she will always be with him, and that when he looks at the sunsets, he will know that she's by his side.

Michael looks at the sunset and wipes away all of his tears when he hears Tye's voice telling him that he needs to focus on his new life and that they will always be brothers, no matter what.

Michael looks at the sunset one last time and begins to smile and laugh.

Michael is finally ready to move on from his past. Even though he misses his mom, he knows she is always with him. Even though he misses Tye, he knows he will see him soon and that they will always be brothers. Michael finally accepts that he can be happy.

After one final shot of Michael's smiling face, the scene cuts black.

Superimpose:

The End.

