

THE SOMETHING

by

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FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM- MORNING - DAY

BOBBY awakes from his sleep. A noise startled him. He sits up and listens, hearing only the white noise created by his computer's cooling fan.

He climbs out of bed. His hair a hot mess.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM- DOWNSTAIRS - DAY

BOBBY is the typical modern-day teenager. He is (17), dark-haired and skinny.

His family performs their daily ritual of sitting at the breakfast table prior to leaving the house.

JENNI, his sister, (19) is beautiful. Her blonde hair flows down to the small of her back. She listens to her MP3 player while eating some bland looking toast.

WILLIAM, his father (50), is a successful businessman. His shirt is perfectly pressed and his hair is immaculate. He reads his newspaper.

KATHERINE, his mother, (mid 40's), is Mrs. Cleaver reincarnated. She stands over a hot stove cooking pumpkin pancakes in her cheesy apron.

KATHERINE

(turns to him)

Happy Halloween! Come get some breakfast.

BOBBY

Thanks mom --

Bobby sits and is taken back by the orange and green color of the pancakes on his plate.

BOBBY

What is this?

KATHERINE

They're pancakes honey...your favorite.

BOBBY

I know they're pancakes... but
these are strange colored
pancakes...

KATHERINE

They're festive.

Bobby examines one of them, lifting it with his fork.

BOBBY

That they are --

KATHERINE

-- You know, Ethiopian kids would
love to have colored pancakes, or
any pancakes for that matter.

WILLIAM

(reading his paper)

Just eat 'em... they're not gonna
kill you.

BOBBY

Are you sure?

WILLIAM

(stern look)

I'm sure.

KATHERINE

You don't have to eat them if you
don't want to, I can fix you
something else --

BOBBY

-- no it's fine. I'll just eat
around it.

JENNI

God, you are so picky...

He mocks her.

BOBBY

I'm sorry what was that? I
couldn't hear you... I have my mp3
player in my ear so I can't hear
what people are saying --

JENNI

-- real mature --

BOBBY

-- actually I'm very mature for my age, but I wouldn't expect you to know anything about that.

JENNI

(rolls her eyes)
Whatever... tool.

BOBBY

I am very cool, thank you. That's nice of you to say, and I love your costume by the way...

JENNI

What are you talking about?

BOBBY

Your costume... the wicked bitch of the west? Isn't that what you're wearing?

She flips him the middle finger.

WILLIAM

Enough you two, you're giving me a headache.

KATHERINE

And watch your language...

BOBBY

What about the finger mom, you saw she flipped me off?

KATHERINE

No fingers either...be nice.

Bobby smirks at Jenni through a mouth full of green pancakes. She sticks her tongue out at him.

Katherine sits down and drinks her tea.

KATHERINE

So, tonights the big party huh?

BOBBY

That reminds me, I need to borrow the car.

WILLIAM

You know I hate when you ask last-minute.

BOBBY

Please dad...I swear I'll be home by midnight. And I'll wash and wax it this weekend...

WILLIAM

Eleven.

BOBBY

Eleven-thirty.

WILLIAM

The time is not open to discussion...eleven and it's yours. If not, then you can walk.

BOBBY

Eleven is so early --

JENNI

-- what would KERRY think about a little boy that has to be home by eleven?

KATHERINE

Who's Kerry?

BOBBY

She's just a girl... don't listen to her mom. She's just mad because she still lives at home and only eats plants and grass.

JENNI

(snaps back)

I'm a vegan.

BOBBY

You're malnourished.

WILLIAM

Good God! That's enough with you two, can't you just get along for five minutes!

She looks at her father with angel eyes.

JENNI

Sorry daddy...

William jets up from his chair, downs his coffee and folds the newspaper.

WILLIAM

I'm late... gotta run.

He kisses his wife, puts his suit jacket on and walks out the front door.

WILLIAM

Have a good day everyone!

BOBBY

(yells to him)

Bye dad.

Jenni stands and puts her dishes in the sink, then makes her way to the staircase. She flips BOBBY the bird a second time on her way up.

Bobby's mouth crammed full of pancake.

BOBBY

You saw that! She flipped me off again! You said no fingers...

KATHERINE

Oh relax. You two need to learn to get along. She's your older sister.

BOBBY

We're kids, that's what we do. It's a love-hate thing.

KATHERINE

I know it doesn't seem like it, but she'll need you eventually.

She sips her tea.

KATHERINE

So who's Kerry?

BOBBY

A girl at school.

KATHERINE

Do you like her?

BOBBY

A little...

KATHERINE

Are we going to get to meet her?

BOBBY

Maybe... I gotta tell you this conversation is making me a little uncomfortable.

KATHERINE

Why? It's not like we're talking about...ya know.

BOBBY

No... I don't know.

KATHERINE

You know --

She mouths the word "sex".

BOBBY

-- you know what? I don't wanna know. I'm late for school.

He jumps up, kisses his mom on the cheek and heads for the door. He compliments her on the way out.

BOBBY

I was wrong about the pancakes, they were fantastic... love you mom.

KATHERINE

Have a good day.

She is left alone at the table.

INT. STONECREST HIGH- SENIOR HALLWAY - DAY

Bobby stands at his open locker, the inside is riddled with movie posters. He searches through his books and slams the locker door closed. SUDDENLY - TOBY appears.

TOBY

Boo!

BOBBY

(startled)

I hate it when you do stuff like that!

TOBY (17) is your typical long-haired surfer boy. His Hawaiian shirts never match his pants.

TOBY
Did I get you?

 BOBBY
Yeah, pretty good.

 TOBY
Right on man.

 BOBBY
Listen, good news, I got my dad's
car for tonight.

 TOBY
Rad...

 BOBBY
So don't be late. I'll pick you up
around seven.

 TOBY
My 'rents are out of town so I can
stay out as late as I want.

 BOBBY
I wish, I have to be home by
eleven.

Toby looks past him.

 TOBY
Dude, check it out. A little slice
of heaven at twelve o'clock...

KERRY, (18), gorgeous brown hair, a slim waste and flawless wardrobe walks towards them. She is the envy of every high school girl and the desire of every adolescent boy.

 BOBBY
 (whispers)
She's perfect...

Toby urges him from behind.

 TOBY
Go talk to her.

 BOBBY
No, not yet.

 TOBY
What are you waiting for? She's
right there man.

BOBBY
You don't understand...I need to
figure out what to say to her
first.

As she arrives where the two of them are standing, Toby
shoves Bobby out into her path, forcing them to collide.

BOBBY
(slamming into her)
I'm sorry...I just --

KERRY
-- it's okay.

BOBBY
I hope I didn't break any of your
nails or anything...

She smiles at him.

KERRY
Really, it's fine.

Bobby wears a childish grin.

KERRY
Do I know you?

BOBBY
Why? Do I look familiar?

KERRY
Kind of...

BOBBY
We've been in school together for
like six years.

KERRY
Really?

BOBBY
Yeah, it's okay...I didn't expect
you to notice. I'm Bobby.

She studies him, thinking there might be a spark of
chemistry between them.

KERRY
Sorry...I'm Kerry.

They smile awkwardly.

KERRY

So, are you going to that party tonight?

BOBBY

Yeah, I'll be there. You?

KERRY

Some friends are basically dragging me out there...so I guess so.

BOBBY

(uneasy)

Ah, friends...can't live with them or without 'em.

He knows his attempt at humor has failed. She awkwardly laughs.

KERRY

Didn't Bono sing about that?

BOBBY

I guess.

KERRY

I'll see ya there?

She continues down the hall.

BOBBY

(to her)

You bet.

He walks back over to a jittery Toby.

BOBBY

Why would you do that?

TOBY

Do what?

BOBBY

Push me into her? You don't push people into girls that look like that!

TOBY

She totally thought you were hot.

BOBBY

No, I'm pretty sure she thought I was an idiot with stupid jokes.

TOBY

You guys are gonna get...it...on.

Bobby shakes his head.

BOBBY

You know, sometimes I wonder why I hang out with you.

INT. CLASSROOM- LATER - DAY

Literature class.

Rows of bored seniors and books adorn the shelves. MR COSFELD, the starving-artist-slash dramatic-poet, calls on his next victim.

He peruses his class role book.

MR. COSFELD

Oh I don't know, why don't we go with... Mr. Harris?

Bobby sits up from his slouch.

BOBBY

I'm sorry?

MR. COSFELD

Your presentation... we would like to hear it.

BOBBY

We would?

The class rolls their eyes.

MR. COSFELD

Are you prepared to give your presentation on author Madeleine L'Engle's... A Wrinkle in Time?

BOBBY

I didn't read that book...

A few laughs from the other students.

MR. COSFELD

Really? Well what book did you read?

BOBBY

(stutters)

I thought my report wasn't due until next week...so I hadn't started reading yet. I was going to though.

MR. COSFELD

Which work of classic American literature did you choose? Since my selection didn't tickle your fancy.

Bobby rummages through his bag, as if an answer could be found in it. He takes out a copy of *The Watchmen*. The class laughs yet again.

MR. COSFELD

What... is that?

BOBBY

This is the book I was going to read for my presentation.

MR. COSFELD

That is not a book... that is a comic --

BOBBY

-- right, a comic book. Emphasis on book...

MR. COSFELD

(discontent)

And what is this comic book about?

BOBBY

(uncertain)

I dunno. I was gonna read it this weekend...but it is the best selling graphic novel of all time.

MR. COSFELD

Really? Tell me...what is a graphic novel.

Bobby looks around, the entire class awaiting his magical escape from the hole he has dug.

BOBBY

(smiles)

Wait a minute...is this one of those things where you don't know the answer to something, so you're asking me so that I can tell you, and then you pass it off like you knew it all along?

MR. COSFELD

Get out.

INT. JENNI'S ROOM - NIGHT

Bobby cracks open the bedroom door. He sneaks a peek inside, then knocks softly.

Jenni is on her bed, studying and watching television.

JENNI

Usually you'd knock..

BOBBY

I did.

JENNI

Yea but usually you knock, then come in.

BOBBY

You want me to try it again?

JENNI

What do you want vermin?

BOBBY

Well, can I come in?

JENNI

Fine.

He sits at her desk, faces her and dances around the subject.

BOBBY

I haven't been in your room in awhile. I like it. It's ...nice.

JENNI

(unfazed)

Flattery...what do you need?

BOBBY

Look, I don't know a subtle way to ask this...but I need your help.

JENNI

(shocked)

You need my help?

BOBBY

Your advice really.

JENNI

On what?

Bobby forces out the words.

BOBBY

Girls.

JENNI

Are you serious?

BOBBY

Yea I am. I thought that because you were a girl who dated a lot of guys in high school, you would know what a girl would want in someone...

She sits up and inquires.

JENNI

Is this about that Kerry girl?

BOBBY

Maybe.

JENNI

Yes or no?

BOBBY

How do you even know about her?

JENNI

Our walls are paper thin.

BOBBY

Did you hear anything else?

JENNI

If you tell me...I'll help you.

BOBBY

Not fair.

JENNI

Well? Is it?

BOBBY

(sighs)

Yeah it is.

JENNI

Well, I'll let you know how to win her over, but you have to tell me how many times you two have gone out.

BOBBY

None.

JENNI

Well how many times have you talked outside of school?

BOBBY

None.

JENNI

How many times have you talked at school?

BOBBY

Including earlier today...once.

JENNI

Okay, well that's not a good start. Does she even know you like her?

BOBBY

No. Honestly...she didn't even know my name until I bumped into her today. So tonight, at the party, I'm gonna let her know. I just don't know how to tell her.

Jenni gets close and explains.

JENNI

There are three steps you need to follow to have her eating out of the palm of your hand in no time. First, make her laugh. Tell her a joke, nothing too funny, but just funny enough and definitely

(MORE)

JENNI (cont'd)
nothing sexual. Second, eye
contact. If she looks right at
you, make sure you stare right back
at her. It lets her know you mean
business. And third...show her you
can stand up for yourself, have
opinions but be sensitive to hers
too.

He commits it to memory.

BOBBY
Be funny but not too funny, show
her I mean business and have
opinions but be sensitive?

JENNI
That's it.

BOBBY
That's....really good advice. I'm
kinda shocked --

JENNI
-- well try it out and see what
happens, but don't tell me because
I do not want to be part of your
love life.

BOBBY
Thanks...

He leaves her room.

INT. BOBBY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Bobby puts on his costume; a white t-shirt, black vinyl
zip-up jacket, black polyester pants, dark sunglasses and
slick-back hair.

He winks at himself in the mirror.

BOBBY
(to himself)
Funny and sensitive with some
opinions... that's me.

INT. CAR- FRONT SEAT - NIGHT

Bobby, resembling every male character from Grease, puts it in reverse and backs down the driveway slowly.

FRONT PORCH

William walks out of the front door in his robe and boxer shorts.

WILLIAM

Eleven on the dot...not a minute after!

BOBBY (OS)

Don't wait up!

WILLIAM

(to himself)

He's gonna be late...

EXT. TOBY'S DRIVEWAY- LATER - NIGHT

Bobby stands outside his father's sports car in full costume. The driver's side window is rolled down, allowing him to honk several times from outside.

A moment later, Toby walks out of the garage in costume.

A discouraged look comes over Bobby's face.

BOBBY

Are you kidding me?

TOBY is dressed up as the Burger King "King." He talks while wearing his mask, his words muffled.

TOBY

What?

BOBBY

That's the best you could do?

TOBY

You don't like it?

BOBBY

It's terrible.

TOBY

Why?

BOBBY

Because, you're wearing the scariest and gayest costume at the exact same time... I mean really, the King?

TOBY

Dude, I told you this was what I was wearing.

BOBBY

When you said The King... I thought you meant Elvis.

TOBY

Elvis? What was he ever the king of?

BOBBY

Rock and roll!

TOBY

He sucked.

Bobby gives up the argument.

BOBBY

Fine. Just get in the car and lets go..

They each get in the car, looking foolish as they back out of the driveway.

TOBY (OS)

I wish this suit came with real cheeseburgers...

BOBBY (OS)

You're unbelievable.

INT. PARTY - NIGHT

As high school Halloween parties go, this is a good one. The entire house is peppered with fully costumed teens, music in the background and tiny conversations.

Bobby and Toby enter. Around them, teenagers flirt and mingle.

BOBBY

Stick to the plan alright? Go survey the crowd and I'll head for the keg.

TOBY

Got ya.

BOBBY

If you find her first, come get me.

Toby walks off but Bobby stops him and hands him the car keys.

BOBBY

Hold these, I can't have anything in my hands when I talk to her. I don't want to come off too fidgety.

He takes them and saunters off.

INT. PARTY- KITCHEN - NIGHT

Bobby's eyes light up.

Kerry, dressed as a sexy playboy bunny, stands by the sink. She is surrounded by a group of jocks. They talk MOS and the MUSCULAR JOCK begins to place his hands all over her butt. She shoves his hand away several times.

Bobby gulps, musters up some courage and approaches them. The harassment stops for the moment.

BOBBY

How's it going guys?

MUSCULAR JOCK

It was going just fine, why don't you get lost...

BOBBY

I saw that you were getting a little touchy, and she didn't seem to like it much...so why don't you cut that out?

The guys laugh. Kerry freezes and moves slightly toward Bobby.

MUSCULAR JOCK

And what if I don't wanna cut it out?

BOBBY

Look, I don't want any trouble, it's just that...
(he freezes)
she's my girlfriend.

MUSCULAR JOCK

(to Kerry)

You can't be serious... him?

She nods.

BOBBY

Sorry to disappoint.

MUSCULAR JOCK

Aren't you the kid that's always picked last in gym class? You're always standing there with your hands in your pockets.

BOBBY

I guess so.

MUSCULAR JOCK

(jokes)

You shouldn't pick at it...it'll grow on it's own.

They all laugh, Bobby forces an artificial smile and zings back.

BOBBY

I was just warming your lunch...

The muscular jock frowns and leads the group out of the kitchen, defeated.

KERRY

Thanks for that.

Bobby looks at her, completely plasticized and wearing an artificial smile.

BOBBY

It looked like you needed a hand with those guys.

Awkward silence.

KERRY

I'm gonna grab some fresh air.

BOBBY

Yeah, go right ahead...

She walks off. Bobby watches, completely confused, like a lost child at the carnival. He scratches his head. Then, realizing --

BOBBY

-- Kerry wait up!

EXT. PARTY- POOL DECK - NIGHT

Kerry and Bobby share a lounge chair by the pool. The blue lights in the water create an ocean-like atmosphere of ripples and lines.

KERRY

I so just wanna go home right now.

BOBBY

You're not having a good time?

KERRY

I am...it's just that I'm so sick and tired of all of this.

BOBBY

All what?

KERRY

Being popular, being me, always putting up a front at school.

BOBBY

You? Put up a front? I can't see that.

KERRY

It's the unseen side of being popular.

BOBBY

(thinks)

Well do you know what the difference between a handgun and a popular girl is?

KERRY

No...

BOBBY

A handgun never asks if the new grips make its hips look fat...

They snicker.

KERRY

But seriously... the judgement I get, it's enough to make you wanna stay home everyday.

BOBBY

That's terrible.

KERRY

Tell me about it. And then they call me names when I walk down the hall... as if I don't hear them.

(sad)

Maybe they want me to hear them.

BOBBY

I would have thought it might be the other way around.

KERRY

What do you mean?

BOBBY

I mean I have my own opinion about those people...

She perks up.

BOBBY

I think they're just jealous. It's easier to poke fun than pay a compliment.

KERRY

That's true... sometimes I want to transfer schools and start over.

BOBBY

(abrupt)

No. You don't wanna do that.

KERRY

Why not?

BOBBY

Because... people would miss you...

KERRY

Like who?

BOBBY

Like...teachers. Teachers love you, they'd miss their favorite student.

KERRY

Nice try.

Bobby looks around, then turns to her and gazes right into her eyes.

BOBBY

I'd miss you.

KERRY

(taken back)

What? You don't even know me...

BOBBY

I know that, but I've waited for this moment for like six years --

KERRY

-- what moment?

BOBBY

Just to sit and talk to you.

Her eyes glaze a bit. They sit there looking at each other in silence. The party is still going strong inside the house behind them.

Their heads slowly inch toward one another, meeting halfway for a sweet kiss. She pulls her head back abruptly, killing the moment.

She looks flustered.

KERRY

I should get going, my friends are gonna wonder where I am.

BOBBY

I'm sorry. I hope I didn't make you --

KERRY

-- No it's alright, I just need to go.

They both stand, she begins to walk away and turns back to him.

KERRY
Why'd you wait six years to talk
to me?

BOBBY
I have no idea.

KERRY
You shouldn't have.

She walks through the sliding glass door. Bobby takes in the moment and pumps his fist in excitement.

INT. PARTY- FRONT YARD - NIGHT

Bobby searches the pockets of drunk teens for Toby, but he is nowhere to be found. He glances down at his watch.

INSERT: Wristwatch

It reads 10:45 pm.

BOBBY
(to himself)
Dammit, I'm gonna be late.

His eyes settle ahead of him, followed by a grim stare.

EXT. THE CAR- JUST THEN - NIGHT

His father's car, once unblemished, now rests atop cinder blocks, is missing all four tires and the words "Warm My Lunch Now" have been spray-painted down one entire side of the shiny red finish.

BOBBY
(to himself)
That's just perfect...

He looks back down at his watch and makes an apprehensive decision.

BOBBY
(low)
Sorry Toby.

He begins jogging down the street.

EXT. STREET- MINUTES LATER - NIGHT

Bobby's pace has quickened. His legs moving as fast as they can while he races against the clock.

His body knives its way past white picket fences, tall oak trees, houses decorated with pumpkins, dangling ghosts and fake spider webs.

WRISTWATCH

It reads 10:54 pm.

BOBBY

He stops running. His palms rest on his knees as he bends down to catch his breath. Upon standing upright again, it hits him-

BOBBY

(low)

-- where is everyone?

It's too quiet for Halloween night. There is a feeling that someone is watching him, followed by a sense of isolation.

He takes a few cautious steps down the uneven sidewalk when SUDDENLY AND WITHOUT WARNING there is a LOUD SCREECH followed by a glowing EXPLOSION in the nearby woods.

He flinches at the sound, his eyes reflecting the deep red and yellow colors given off by the mushroom cloud of fire just beyond the rooftops.

EXT. WOODS- MINUTES AFTER THE EXPLOSION - NIGHT

He arrives at the crash site, and is met there by a dozen or so confused individuals from the surrounding homes.

CRASH SITE

Circular in shape, letting out smoke and producing small manageable fires. Nearby trees are bent halfway up the bark, their tops pointing down toward the abyss.

OLDER WOMAN

Someone call the police!

UNKNOWN MAN (OS)

What the hell is it?

FAT MAN
Was it a plane?

OLDER WOMAN (OS)
It's too small to be a plane.

Bobby, unsure of what he is experiencing, glances back at his watch.

WRISTWATCH

It reads 11:05pm

CRASH SITE

He slowly steps away, turns and sprints back to the dark street.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Bobby looks ridiculous running down the street in his greaser getup. From behind, a police car appears in the darkness, lights beaming.

Breathing heavier than before, he flags him down and struggles to talk.

BOBBY
(exhausted)
Stop! Stop! There's been an
accident...

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICER WITNAM'S OFFICE- LATER - NIGHT

Bobby waits quietly in the unimaginative room, still wearing his costume.

OFFICER WITNAM, 40, salt and pepper hair and seriously in need of a vacation, struts in and sits across from him.

OFFICER WITNAM
This isn't what you expected when
you got picked up?

No answer.

OFFICER WITNAM
So...

No answer.

OFFICER WITNAM

Where do you want to start?

BOBBY

I already told the other officer everything I know.

OFFICER WITNAM

Do you know why you're here?

BOBBY

I have no clue.

OFFICER WITNAM

Well, here's what I know... I know that it's after eleven o'clock and you're sprinting down the middle of River Street dressed like the Fonz...

Bobby rolls his eyes.

OFFICER WITNAM

I know that we picked you up and you were hysterical, talking about something crashing into the woods off Ellerton. The officer described you as being "as incoherent as a crackhead." That doesn't sound like normal behavior to me.

BOBBY

Look, I already explained everything --

OFFICER WITNAM

-- explain it again.

Bobby grows impatient.

BOBBY

I was at a party, that's why I'm dressed like this. I got into an argument with some guys from school --

OFFICER WITNAM

-- argument about what?

BOBBY

Over a girl.

OFFICER WITNAM

What happened?

BOBBY

They were touching her, so I told them to stop, that's pretty much it.

OFFICER WITNAM

So party, argument, then what?

BOBBY

Then, I went outside to leave so I could be home by eleven and the same douchebags from the party had destroyed my father's car --

OFFICER WITNAM

-- destroyed?

BOBBY

They took off the tires and spray-painted it.

OFFICER WITNAM

Anything specific?

BOBBY

(embarrassed)

They asked me why my hands were always in my pockets and I told them I was warming their lunch... so that's what they wrote on the car...

OFFICER WITNAM

I'm confused...

BOBBY

(aggravated)

Look, it's not important...I just want to go home.

OFFICER WITNAM

Calm down. What happened after you saw the car?

BOBBY

I saw that I couldn't drive home so I started running to try to make it in time, and that's when I

(MORE)

BOBBY (cont'd)
had this strange feeling --

OFFICER WITNAM
-- like what?

Bobby's face changes to a concerned frown.

BOBBY
There was no one around. It was
completely dark...

OFFICER WITNAM
It was late at night.

BOBBY
It's Halloween...

OFFICER WITNAM
Okay...so from the party to the
street I got that. Tell me about
the crash.

BOBBY
I was standing there and heard
this loud sound, I turned to the
woods and there was all this smoke
and a huge fire --

OFFICER WITNAM
-- so you didn't actually see a
crash?

BOBBY
No, I was facing the other
direction when it happened.

OFFICER WITNAM
What crashed?

BOBBY
I DON'T KNOW!

Officer Witnam leans back, sighs and thinks.

OFFICER WITNAM
Well... was it a car? A plane,
fireworks?

BOBBY
Look, I told you...I don't know
what it was. There had to be
someone else that called it in,
there was a woman there telling us
(MORE)

BOBBY (cont'd)
to call the police, there were
plenty of other people standing
around!

They stare at each other. Bobby's face shows his
frustration.

BOBBY
No one called it in?

Officer Witnam nods no.

BOBBY
Great...

OFFICER WITNAM
There hasn't been a call all
night...

BOBBY
That's not strange to you either?

William and Katherine rush into the room and see Bobby
there.

WILLIAM
(angry)
What the hell is going on here?

KATHERINE
(concerned)
Are you okay?

BOBBY
I'm fine mom...

OFFICER WITNAM
Folks, I'm Officer Witnam. We
brought your son in because he was
running down a pedestrian street
late at night, claiming to have
seen a crash nearby --

BOBBY
-- I did see a crash.

OFFICER WITNAM
You just told me you didn't...so
which is it?

WILLIAM

What crash? What are you talking about?

OFFICER WITNAM

I'm trying to figure it out myself...

The voice of reason sounds.

KATHERINE

In a town this small, it would have been on the news. We were watching the news...

OFFICER WITNAM

We hadn't received any calls either.

WILLIAM

You are in big trouble. Let me tell you, this takes the cake.

OFFICER WITNAM

Standard procedure says have to take his claim seriously...so I think what might be best is for the four of us to take a ride out there...if there was a crash, there's bound to be signs of one.

BOBBY

(relieved)

Thank you! Yes, let's do that... then you'll see that I'm not crazy.

KATHERINE

Officer, what if we don't find anything?

OFFICER WITNAM

Then he's all yours...

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Officer Witnam, Bobby and his parents use flashlights to navigate through the thick wall of trees. They arrive at the crash site. Nothing is out of the ordinary.

OFFICER WITNAM

Is this about where you said it happened?

BOBBY

(frantic)

Yea but...there was a huge hole and smoke. The trees were all bent down --

WILLIAM

-- trees this tall don't just bend.

Bobby paces, searching for an answer.

BOBBY

You have to believe me. It didn't look like this an hour ago.

OFFICER WITNAM

So right now, it looks like nothing happened, but an hour ago, there was a gigantic hole right where we're standing?

BOBBY

Yes!

OFFICER WITNAM

How do you explain that?

BOBBY

I dunno, maybe the other people that were here cleaned it all up?

KATHERINE

(sarcastically)

The filled the hole and unbent the trees?

BOBBY

Maybe we should ask them?

KATHERINE

It's after midnight...

There is a moment of silence.

OFFICER WITNAM

It may be the only way we're gonna get to the bottom of this mess.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT DOOR- A HOUSE NEARBY - NIGHT

Officer Witnam rings the bell. Bobby, tired and dirty, stands at his side. His parents wait back at the police car.

The older woman from earlier opens the door wearing a tattered old nightgown and has rollers in her hair. She owns a bizarre, wide-eyed look, as if she were from another planet.

OFFICER WITNAM

Good evening miss. I'm sorry to bother you so late, but this young man mentioned that he might have seen an accident of some sort in the woods behind your house.

She freakishly turns her stare to Bobby.

OLDER WOMAN

(monotonous)

Is that so?

OFFICER WITNAM

Yes, about an hour ago.

She holds her frightening gaze on him.

OLDER WOMAN

I've been home all night.

OFFICER WITNAM

So you haven't seen or heard anything like that tonight?

OLDER WOMAN

No.

Bobby and the older woman have an awkward stare off.

OFFICER WITNAM (OS)

Well thank you for your time, and have a good night.

She shuts the door, never breaking eye contact with Bobby.

THE DRIVEWAY

They walk to the police car.

BOBBY

Did you see the way she was
looking at me? She's got something
to hide...

OFFICER WITNAM

She's probably just pissed off
that I got her out of bed this
late. We'll give it one more a
shot.

BOBBY

She looked like a zombie.

OFFICER WITNAM

(grins)

So now you're seeing zombies?

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT DOOR- NEXT HOUSE OVER - NIGHT

Officer Witnam rings the bell, again with Bobby at his side.

The fat man from earlier opens the door wearing the exact
same freakish wide-eyed expression as the old woman. He
speaks in a bland scripted manner.

FAT MAN

Can I help you officer?

OFFICER WITNAM

I'm sorry to bother you so late,
but could you tell me if there's
been an accident of some kind in
the woods behind you home
recently?

FAT MAN

Not that I know of, did someone
say there was?

OFFICER WITNAM

This young man reported it around
eleven o'clock.

The fat man glares a hole through Bobby.

FAT MAN

He must be insane --

BOBBY

-- that's bullshit! You were there!

OFFICER WITNAM

Alright, that's enough! Sorry to bother you sir, have a good night.

FAT MAN

You really should learn some manners young man...

They move off the front steps.

FAT MAN

(more)

It isn't nice to make up stories.

Bobby yells back at him.

BOBBY

You were standing right there!
This is ridiculous...

He slams the door shut.

EXT. POLICE CAR- MINUTES LATER - NIGHT

They arrive at Bobby's parents still without an explanation.

OFFICER WITNAM

Well folks, I don't think we're gonna get anywhere trying to ask the neighbors if they saw anything.

WILLIAM

What did they say?

OFFICER WITNAM

Nothing. They said they haven't see anything out of the ordinary.

Katherine's worried mother mode kicks in.

KATHERINE

So now what? I mean does he go to jail?

OFFICER WITNAM

No. I think the best thing to do would be to take him home. I'll fill out a report and we'll settle

(MORE)

OFFICER WITNAM (cont'd)
on it being Halloween and your son
just freaked out a little bit.

BOBBY
I didn't freak out, I know what I
saw.

MR. COSFELD
I could say you were on drugs?

KATHERINE
Oh please don't do that officer.

WILLIAM
If I were you, I would keep my
mouth shut. You're in enough
trouble as it is.

OFFICER WITNAM
Well, he's all yours...
(remembers)
By the way, what do you want me to
do about your car?

Bobby's eyes roll back, he forgot to add that disaster to
his tab.

WILLIAM
What happened to my car?

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Bobby leans up against the kitchen counter, taking a verbal
lashing from his parents.

WILLIAM
How did you ever screw up so
badly?

BOBBY
I didn't do anything on purpose.

WILLIAM
It doesn't matter --

BOBBY
-- it's not my fault you don't
believe me.

William grows angry.

WILLIAM

First you get the car vandalized
by a bunch of high school punks,
then you're late getting home, you
don't call and to top it off you
get arrested for claiming you saw
some kind of explosion that never
happened!

(sighs)

I'd say that's one pretty exciting
night wouldn't you?

KATHERINE

Honey, we just want you to be
honest with us.

BOBBY

I am being honest --

WILLIAM

-- do you have any idea how hard
this makes it to trust you now?

Silence.

KATHERINE

It's late...your father and I will
talk about this and let you know
what we decide in the morning.

BOBBY

Decide?

WILLIAM

Someone needs to pay for the
damage on the car, and you can bet
your ass you're gonna be spending
a lot more time at home for the
next couple weeks.

BOBBY

That isn't fair --

WILLIAM

(snaps back)

-- life isn't fair, get over it.

KATHERINE

We'll talk in the morning.

Bobby's cell phone rings in his pocket. He takes it out and
Katherine snatches it out of his hand.

BOBBY

Who is it?

She looks at the screen, it reads: Toby.

KATHERINE

It's Toby, but you're not gonna
have a phone until we figure out
this mess.

Bobby rolls his eyes and stomps to the stairs.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bobby lays on his bed, in normal clothes and staring at the
multitude of pictures thumb-tacked to the adjacent wall.

His eyes focus on a photo of Kerry in her cheerleader
uniform.

The door swings open, killing sweet thoughts and startling
him.

BOBBY

What the hell!

JENNI

Now you know how it feels.

He is brief with her.

BOBBY

What do you want?

JENNI

What happened?

BOBBY

Let's see...I had the car
spray-painted, I got arrested and
mom and dad think I'm crazy --

JENNI

-- I meant with your girlfriend.

BOBBY

She's not my girlfriend.

JENNI

And...?

BOBBY
We kissed.

JENNI
(jokes)
Poor girl.

BOBBY
Doesn't matter though. I'll
probably be locked in here for
forever.

JENNI
Were you really arrested?

BOBBY
Yes.

JENNI
God, you're so strange...

He rolls over on his side.

BOBBY
Goodnight.

INT. BREAKFAST TABLE- THE NEXT MORNING - DAY

Bobby's family performs their usual early morning rituals. Jenni eats her tasteless meal, Katherine drinks her tea and William reads the newspaper.

Bobby takes a seat, no one pays him any attention. It's as if he is not even there.

BOBBY
(to Katherine)
Is there anything to eat?

KATHERINE
You're a big boy, go fix yourself
something.

He can tell his parents are still very upset with him.

BOBBY
I take it your talk last night
didn't go very well?

WILLIAM
What gives you that idea?

BOBBY

Just...
(sighs)
Nothing.

WILLIAM

People old enough to get arrested
can make their own breakfast,
that's how it is in prison, go
practice.

BOBBY

I'm suddenly not hungry --

WILLIAM

-- your mother and I are going to
DC for the night. Until we get
back, your sister is in charge.

KATHERINE

We're taking away your phone,
television and video games.
Understood?

WILLIAM

That's just the beginning. And
don't even think about going out
tonight.

BOBBY

Is this a joke?

JENNI

Nope.

BOBBY

I can pay her off.

KATHERINE

Too late.

BOBBY

What?

WILLIAM

We already paid her to make sure
you follow the rules...always one
step ahead.

BOBBY

Am I in Russia?

Katherine and William glance at each other, satisfied.

INT. HOUSE- LATER - DAY

FOYER

Bobby spies out the front window, making sure his parents are gone and then walks into the living room.

LIVING ROOM

He sits at the computer desk, cautiously surfing the web and keeping an eye out for his sister. A few clicks later, he jots down an address.

INSERT: PIECE OF PAPER

It reads: 142 Hamlin Court

LIVING ROOM

Bobby shuts the laptop, rips off the sheet of paper and turns. JENNI IS STANDING THERE WITH HER ARMS CROSSED.

Bobby jumps at her sight.

BOBBY

You scared the crap out of me.

JENNI

Mom said no computer.

BOBBY

So?

JENNI

So, you're breaking her rules.

BOBBY

She said no computer...but maybe she only meant my computer? Maybe I'm fine to use the family laptop...

(trails off)

Which was purchased for the family to enjoy.

JENNI

Whatever. What's on the paper?

BOBBY

What paper?

JENNI
The one in your pocket.

BOBBY
Nothing.

JENNI
Let me see it and I won't say
anything about you going on-line.

He gives in.

BOBBY
You're an extortionist.

He hands her the paper.

JENNI
Who's is it?

BOBBY
Kerry's... I was gonna try and see
her later.

JENNI
But you're not supposed to leave
the house.

He snatches the paper back from her and folds it up.

JENNI
Fine, whatever...listen I need you
to look at the TV for me.

BOBBY
I'm not supposed to do that.

JENNI
You're not gonna watch it, I just
want you to fix it for me.

BOBBY
Watch in another room.

JENNI
I did that.

BOBBY
So what's the problem?

DEN

They stand in front of the television, staring at the irritating black and white snow on the set.

BOBBY
What channel is this?

JENNI
Any channel...watch.

She flips the channel up a few times, the same nothingness fills the screen.

BOBBY
Is the cable plugged in?

JENNI
I checked that. Every TV in the house is the same way.

BOBBY
Maybe it's the line outside?

JENNI
But you just went on-line. It's the same cable.

BOBBY
We should go check.

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

Bobby follows the cable from the base of the house to the grass line, which leads to the cable box. Everything looks fine.

BOBBY
(looking around)
That's strange.

JENNI
What?

BOBBY
Something doesn't feel right.

JENNI
With the cable?

BOBBY
Forget the cable for a
minute...look around.

She does. No one is outside. There are no cars moving down
the street. There is no sound... just an eerie wind blowing.

JENNI
What am I looking for?

BOBBY
Listen.

JENNI
You just said look --

BOBBY
-- well listen now.

There is no sound.

BOBBY
Doesn't it seem a little strange
to you that there's nothing going
on? No people out or dogs barking
or anything?

JENNI
A little, but so what?

BOBBY
It's just that last night on my
way home, I had this feeling that
something was wrong...it feels the
same way right now.

JENNI
Was the cable out then too?

He ignores her comment. His eyes rapidly searching for signs
of life on his street.

BOBBY
(concerned)
Let's go back inside.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

THE DEN

Jenni stands in front of the TV, endlessly changing
channels, hoping that will somehow fix the problem.

Bobby walks over and hits the power button.

JENNI
What did you do that for?

BOBBY
That's not gonna work. Let me call
Toby to see if his cable is out
too?

JENNI
Mom said no phone.

BOBBY
Did she say I couldn't use my
phone or any phone? Again, there
are loop holes in these rules...

She is desperate.

JENNI
You have five minutes, and only
Toby, no one else.

BOBBY
Deal.

He grabs the cordless phone off the end table and dials.

BOBBY
(into phone)
Hi, is Toby home?
(pauses)
Do you know where he might be?
(listens)
Okay, will you tell him Bobby
called? I need to speak with
him...about one of our
assignments... thanks.

He hangs up. The perturbed look on his face tells Jenni
something is not right.

JENNI
What did they say?

BOBBY
(slow)
He wasn't home...

JENNI
What's wrong?

BOBBY
(troubled eyes)
His mom never answers his phone.

JENNI
So? What does that mean?

BOBBY
It didn't sound like her either,
she sounded... different.

JENNI
You're starting to wierd me out.

He stands there, deep in thought, clutching the phone.

BOBBY
Should we go over there?

JENNI
(confused)
Why?

BOBBY
To make sure everything's cool.

She sits on the couch, frustrated with him.

JENNI
You're not driving anywhere,
rememeber?

BOBBY
I'll walk.

JENNI
You are so asking for it...

Bobby holds up the phone and dials another number. It rings,
then an answer.

BOBBY
(into phone)
Officer Witnam?

INT. OFFICER WITNAM'S OFFICE - DAY

Officer Witnam sits at his desk on the phone, filing endless
stacks of paperwork.

OFFICER WITNAM
(into phone)
Speaking.

INTERCUT- PHONE CONVERSATION

BOBBY
(into phone)
This is Bobby Harris, from last
night...

OFFICER WITNAM
(into phone)
Oh, hey kid... see any UFO's since
the last time we spoke? Maybe
bigfoot?

BOBBY
(into phone)
No. Nothing like that.

OFFICER WITNAM
(into phone)
What can I do for you?

BOBBY
(into phone)
I just wanted to check and see if
anyone has called in about last
night? About seeing the crash?

OFFICER WITNAM
(into phone)
Nope... I thought we took care of
that before I let you go home last
night?

BOBBY
(into phone)
Nothing at all?

OFFICER WITNAM
(into phone)
I'm sorry son, but I can't waste
any more time on this.

BOBBY
(into phone)
Anything about the cable being
out?

OFFICER WITNAM
(into phone)
We are not the cable company...

INT. THE DEN - DAY

BOBBY
(into phone)
Will you please let me know if you
hear something?

GARY (VO)
Have a good day son.
(hangs up)

Bobby hangs up, shoots a look of concern to his sister.

BOBBY
I'm going...

She is confused and about to blow up because she has no clue
what is going on inside Bobby's head.

JENNI
Bobby, what the hell is going on.
I'm not letting you leave until
you tell me.

BOBBY
Are you gonna hear me out or are
you blow me off like everyone else
and not listen to a word I say?

JENNI
Just tell me.

He describes his story with passion and purpose.

BOBBY
Last night, after the party, I
tried to run home so that I
wouldn't get in trouble. I stopped
at one point and looked around. It
was dead silent out. I'm talking
freaky quiet, just like right now.
I heard an explosion and saw this
fire in the woods and when I went
to check it out there were all
these people there that beat me to
it.

JENNI

-- was it a an accident?

BOBBY

I don't know. I left and this cop stopped me and brought me in for questioning on why I was running in the middle of the street. When I told him, they didn't believe me so we all went to the crash scene together to check it out and it was gone.

JENNI

What was gone?

BOBBY

Everything. The hole, the fire, the smoke...everything. The officer and I went to the nearby homes, but the people that were at the crash earlier, said they hadn't heard or seen anything...they all had this strange look on their faces and weird tone to their voice. They looked at me like I was nuts!

JENNI

So why are you freaking out now?

His face sickens.

BOBBY

Because Toby's mom sounded exactly the same...

She begins to believe him.

JENNI

I dunno, Bobby.

BOBBY

You don't have to believe me, but you have to let me go.

They stare at each other. She can tell that he is genuinely worried.

FOYER

Bobby opens the front door, Jenni runs up from behind.

JENNI
I should go with you.

BOBBY
(surprised)
Okay.

JENNI
Crazy or not, dad would kill me if
you left and something happened to
you.

They walk out one after another.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Bobby and Jenni walk briskly. White picket fences and green lawns in every direction. There is no sound, except for the CLICKING of a sprinkler nearby. Bobby stops.

BOBBY
It's too quiet.

JENNI
...where is everyone?

ROOFTOP

Something silently watches them as they stand in the middle of the street.

STREET

BOBBY
I don't even hear any birds.

They survey their surroundings. Jenni looks to her left, takes a few slow steps ahead and squints in confusion.

JENNI
Look...

BOBBY (OS)
What is it?

He walks up next to her, their eyes expand.

EXT. THE PARK - DAY

Just down the hill, desolate ball fields and play areas.

Baseball gloves, bats and balls are left lying on the field in their respective positions.

Football helmets and pads riddle the sidelines.

The jungle gym is unattended with strollers and backpacks resting on the park benches close by.

INT. STREET - DAY

They look out in confusion.

BOBBY

It's all just laying there...like everyone just got up and left.

JENNI

Why would someone do that?

BOBBY

Maybe something happened?

JENNI

Like what?

BOBBY

I dunno...Something must have scared them off...

JENNI

(sarcastically)

So they just laid everything down perfectly and ran away?

BOBBY

You have a better explanation?

JENNI

Maybe it started raining.

BOBBY

(skeptical)

It rained here but not at our house?

THE TREES

In the distance, something silently watches them through the branches.

STREET

JENNI

So is everyone just hiding in
their homes?

BOBBY

Maybe they skipped town?

JENNI

Sure...thousands of people left
without realizing it? Impossible.

Bobby stares down the hill, seeing someone at the edge of
the park.

CUT TO:

EXT. GREEN FIELD - DAY

A man sits atop his riding mower. He moves over the green
patch of grass, whistling and carefree.

EXT. PARK STORAGE SHED- MINUTES LATER - DAY

They reach GARY, (40) and not extremely smart. He wears
overalls and a red checkered flannel shirt underneath. He is
locking up his mower.

They startle him.

BOBBY

Excuse me...

GARY

(turns to them)

Hello.

BOBBY

Hi. My sister and I were hoping
you could help us out.

GARY

With what?

BOBBY

It's Saturday...the park should be
packed. Any idea where everyone
is?

Gary looks at the abandoned park.

GARY

Temple?

JENNI

There are like five Jewish people
in this whole town.

GARY

Well, then I haven't the foggiest.

BOBBY

How long have you been out here?

GARY

Two hours...maybe more.

BOBBY

And has it been this quiet the
whole time?

GARY

I think so...I was pretty busy. I
didn't notice.

JENNI

How can you not notice something
like this?

GARY

I'm sorry. Just doing my job.

BOBBY

Look, will you do me a favor? Will
you call the police and tell them
you need to speak with officer
Witnam?

GARY

Witnam?

BOBBY

Yes, and tell him that the park is
empty. Don't touch anything just
leave it all the way it is and let
him come down here and see it...

GARY

I suppose I can do that.

BOBBY

Good --

GARY
 -- what did you say his name was?

BOBBY
 (slowly)
 Officer...Witnam. You got it?

GARY
 Yep. I'll call him.

Bobby grabs his sister and they race off toward the street.

Gary's body TWITCHES as if being stung by a bee. He covers his mouth with his hand, then removes it. There is a single drop of blood on his palm.

Seconds later, he falls to his knees, blood streaming from his mouth. A HAND REACHES ACROSS HIS FACE AND DRAGS HIS BODY BEHIND THE SHED.

INT. TOBY'S HOUSE - DAY

The front door creeps open. Bobby walks in first, placing the house key back in his pocket, Jenni follows him in. They secretively look around.

JENNI
 (whispers)
 I still say it's weird that you have a key to his house...

BOBBY
 (whispers)
 It's for emergencies...get over it.

Everything is normal. Quiet, but normal.

BOBBY
 (louder)
 Hello? Anybody home?

No answer. Bobby looks back at her.

JENNI
 See, he wasn't answering his phone because he wasn't here. Let's leave.

BOBBY
 But I just talked to his mom --

JENNI

-- so maybe she went out too.

BOBBY

What time is it?

She looks at her watch.

JENNI

Just after twelve. Why?

BOBBY

Toby never gets out of bed before
one on weekends.

She rolls her eyes at him.

JENNI

You have an excuse for everything.

BOBBY

With everything that's going on...
(pleads with her)
I have to be sure.

INT. TOBY'S BEDROOM- UPSTAIRS - DAY

They push open the bedroom door. It opens and reveals a pig sty of a room.

JENNI

Oh my God...I am not going in
there.

Clothing basically substitutes as carpet. There are half-eaten burritos by the nightstand and surfer magazines piled throughout the room.

Bobby searches the room. Jenni stands in the corner disgusted, she's careful no to touch anything.

BOBBY

This is so weird.

JENNI

The fact that your best friend is
a disgusting slob?

He sits on the raunchy bed.

BOBBY

All his stuff is here....

JENNI

Maybe he's trapped under one of
these piles of crap.

Jenni steps over soiled boxers and socks on her way to the
bedroom window.

WINDOW

She looks out of the second story window. The backyard is
well taken care of and children's toys are scattered on the
lawn.

BACKYARD

Toby and his mother stand in the middle of the yard, their
backs to the house, hovering over a frightened little girl.

WINDOW

Jenni takes a step back.

JENNI

I think I found them.

Bobby jumps up and joins her. They gawk out the window
together.

JENNI

Who's that girl?

He leans in close to the glass, confused by what he sees.

BOBBY

His younger sister...

BACKYARD

The young girl lets out a SHRILL CRY as Toby and her mother
gaze at her with evil, lifeless eyes. They creep closer to
her and proceed to grab her off the ground. Toby holds her
high in the air with both hands.

He stops suddenly as if someone had called his name from
behind.

WINDOW

Bobby and Jenni are fully engaged at the window. They both
harbor looks of extreme concern.

JENNI
What the hell is he doing to her?

BOBBY
I have no idea.

BACKYARD

Toby tosses his younger sister to his mother, who holds onto her. They exchange an expressionless stare, then Toby slowly turns his head in the direction of the house.

He sees Bobby and Jenni in his window. He venomously smiles at them.

INT. TOBY'S ROOM - DAY

They both jump back from the window frightened to death.

BOBBY
There's definitely something wrong
with him --

JENNI
-- we need to get out of here,
now.

BOBBY
Did you see the way he looked at
us?

JENNI
(scared)
Yes , now can we get the hell out
of here!

BOBBY
Just calm down!

They turn, A LARGE MAN APPEARS IN THE DOORWAY. He is TOBY'S FATHER (52) looking at them with vacant eyes and standing there stiff as a board.

TOBY'S FATHER
(witless)
You must be Toby's friends.

Bobby stutters.

BOBBY
We were just looking for Toby.

TOBY'S FATHER
Did you find him?

BOBBY
(pensive)
We did...so we're gonna head out
now.

TOBY'S FATHER
How'd you get in here?

BOBBY
Spare key. He gave me one in case
he needed to get inside.

Toby's father takes a clumsy step forward. Jenni shields herself behind Bobby.

TOBY'S FATHER
It isn't polite to come into
someone's home without asking.

JENNI
(scared)
Bobby do something.

BOBBY
I'm thinking...

TOBY'S FATHER
There's nothing you can do.

He steps closer, pinning Bobby and his sister near the window. Bobby never breaks eye contact with him.

BOBBY
(to Jenni)
Open the window.

She turns and Toby's zombie-like face and palms SLAM UP AGAINST THE WINDOW, sending her into a frenzy of screaming panic.

TOBY'S FATHER
(sinister)
There's no need to be afraid...

Bobby bends down, grabs the surfboard near his feet and swings it at Toby's father. The skeg of the board STRIKES the side of his face, lodges into his skin and his body drops to the floor.

They jump over him on their hurried way out of the room.
TOBY POUNDS ON THE GLASS IN ANGER.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Bobby and Jenni swiftly tear down the lonely street. He glances back at her, making sure she is always just a step behind.

BOBBY
(breathing heavy)
Hurry! You gotta keep up.

JENNI
(winded)
I'm trying!

BOBBY
Try harder!

JENNI
What was that back there!

BOBBY
Now do you believe me?

CUT TO:

EXT. TOBY'S FRONT YARD - DAY

Toby and his mother stand passively staring down the street. His younger sister walks up and takes her place at their side, now looking as lethargic as they do.

They turn to Toby's father in unison. He stands in the doorway, blood dripping from the stab wound on his cheek.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Bobby leans against the staircase, breathing heavy and collecting his thoughts. Jenni is nearby on the couch, crying and holding her head in her hands.

BOBBY
Alright look...we have to hold it together. We should call mom and dad.

JENNI
(disordered)
You just killed someone...

BOBBY
What was I supposed to do?
Besides, you don't know if he's
dead or not --

JENNI
-- he's dead, I know it --

BOBBY
-- stop saying that.

JENNI
Is this some kind of sick joke
you're trying to pull on me?

BOBBY
(sarcastically)
Yeah, you got me. I'm hiding
everyone in town. And slamming
surfboards into people's faces for
the amusement of a hidden
camera...

JENNI
Then what the hell was that all
about back there? The street,
Toby's family?

BOBBY
Get me my cell phone, we'll call
mom and dad. I don't know what
else we can do...

She just stares at him.

BOBBY
(rushed)
Please!

JENNI
(low)
I'm scared...

BOBBY
(pleads)
Don't do this.

JENNI
I'm so scared.

She begins to sob. He walks up to her and looks directly at her.

BOBBY

I'm scared too. But we're gonna be fine. We'll figure this out... I promise you.

Bobby halfway laughs.

JENNI

What's funny?

BOBBY

I was just thinking... maybe this, whatever it is, is gonna be the thing that gets us to stop fighting.

She hugs him and refuses to let go of his shirt.

BOBBY

I have to get my phone. Can you wait here?

JENNI

Don't leave me alone.

He talks to her like a child who has fallen and scraped her knee.

BOBBY

We'll go together...tell me where mom put it.

JENNI

In the kitchen junk drawer.

BOBBY

Okay. Just hold onto me and we'll go into the kitchen together.

JENNI

What if there's one of those things in the house?

BOBBY

What things?

JENNI

Like Toby...

BOBBY
(being brave)
Let's just get the phone...

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

They walk to the counter, Jenni clinging to his side. Bobby rummages through the junk drawer, not finding the phone.

He wildly tosses items aside.

BOBBY
I don't see it.

JENNI
That's where they put it.

BOBBY
Are you sure it was in this
drawer?

JENNI
Why don't you just use the house
phone.

BOBBY
I don't know mom's number by
heart.

JENNI
Me either.

He stops looking, frustrated.

BOBBY
What would we do without cell
phones...

JENNI
Forget phone numbers.

BOBBY
Well where else could it be?

WILLIAM (OS)
I thought I said no phone?

They turn to see William and Katherine standing in the kitchen doorway. William holds a cell phone in his hand.

BOBBY

Dad --

WILLIAM

-- I take it you were looking for this?

BOBBY

We were just gonna call you --

KATHERINE

-- why are you both all sweaty?

BOBBY

There is something very wrong happening in this town, you have to listen to me --

WILLIAM

-- Again with this? When is this gonna end?

JENNI

Listen to him, please.

WILLIAM

Great. Now you've dragged your sister into this too. She's still normal ya know.

William places the cell phone on the breakfast table.

KATHERINE

(to Jenni)

I'm disappointed in you.

WILLIAM

(stern)

We decided not to spend the night. It was a good way to see if we could trust you two...and I think we got our answer. Why don't you both go upstairs...

Bobby and Jenni look at each other in disbelief, then back at their parents.

KATHERINE

Go on.

They walk to the staircase dejected. William looks at his wife.

WILLIAM

What do we do now?

KATHERINE

Let's just unpack our things and
we'll figure something out.

INT. FOYER - NIGHT

William leads his wife to the front door. He opens it,
revealing the darkness outside. Before she can scream-

SOMETHING SNAGS THEM FROM THE DARKNESS AND VIOLENTLY RIPS
THEIR BODIES OUT OF THE DOORWAY.

The sheer force of the attack causes the door to SLAM shut
behind them.

INT. BOBBY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bobby lays on his back in his bed, Jenni sits on the floor
nervously messing with her shoe laces. She cannot stand the
silence.

JENNI

Why won't they believe you?

BOBBY

Welcome to my world. It's just us
now.

JENNI

Maybe we should try talking to
them --

BOBBY

-- forget it. They won't listen.

JENNI

Maybe we can show them?

BOBBY

I don't exactly want to add
attempted murder to my Juvie
record. I doubt they'd be
impressed with a dead guy.

JENNI

Then what do we do?

He sits up, and it comes to him -

BOBBY
We get proof.

JENNI
For mom and dad?

BOBBY
No. The police...but I have to get
my phone from downstairs.

JENNI
How?

He looks at her with seriousness in his eyes.

BOBBY
I'm gonna need your help.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Everything is quiet.

Jenni takes tiny, unsettled steps across the tile floor. She reaches the breakfast table and snatches up Bobby's phone with her shaking hand.

She turns, WILLIAM IS STANDING RIGHT IN FRONT OF HER. His eyes black and face as pale as a ghost.

WILLIAM
(lifeless)
What are you doing?

She spirals to escape what is obviously no longer her loving father.

KATHERINE STANDS IN THE OTHER DIRECTION.

KATHERINE
(spiritless)
I thought we asked you to stay
upstairs?

Jenni SCREAMS in horror. They begin to close in on her from each side.

WILLIAM
There's no need to be scared --

KATHERINE

-- we'll take good care of you
now.

WILLIAM

Very good care of you...

KATHERINE

Then we'll take care of your
brother...

They are about to engulf her, a CLUNK is heard behind William. He reaches around his head and reveals blood on his fingers, then he collapses.

Bobby stands behind the fallen body of his father, holding a baseball bat.

Katherine indignantly LUNGES for him and is met with a face full of fifty year old ash wood. Her body falls to the floor.

JENNI

(hysterical)

Mom!

BOBBY

That isn't mom anymore. C'mon we
need to go.

JENNI

No! We can't just leave them
here--

He holds onto her shoulders to calm her down.

BOBBY

Listen to me! They are not our
parents anymore! We have to go or
whatever happened to them is gonna
happen to us...

She nods, still visibly upset. Bobby grabs the car keys from off the kitchen counter.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR WASH PORT - NIGHT

Bobby pulls his mother's car into the unmanned port. He jumps out of the driver's side and pulls down the retractable garage doors on each side of the vehicle.

Jenni waits until he is done to slowly exit the car.

BOBBY
Gimmie the phone.

She reaches in her pocket and tosses it to him. He looks at the screen.

INSERT- CELL PHONE SCREEN

It reads: One New Message.

BOBBY
Let me check this and then we're
gonna call the cops and wait here
until they come get us okay?

She nods, her face traumatized.

Bobby presses the speaker phone button, enters his pin number and waits.

KERRY (OS)
(on phone)
Hey Bobby, it's Kerry...from last
night? I totally got ditched
tonight...so if you were free I
was gonna stop by and hang out for
a bit. Your number wasn't in the
directory so I looked up your
friend Toby and called him. He
told me you'd be over at his
place, so I guess I'll head over
there. Hope to see you then...

Bobby looks up at his sister with a sick look on his face.

JENNI
What is it?

BOBBY
If she goes to Toby's house...

JENNI
Who!

BOBBY
It's Kerry.

JENNI
We need to call the police, we
can't worry about her.

BOBBY

I can't let them do that to her.

JENNI

(angry)

You just said you were going to call the police and we'd wait here for them. We should stick to the plan Bobby.

BOBBY

I know, but what if she's still okay? We can help her --

JENNI

-- in case you failed to notice, we were the only car on the road on the way over here. Don't you think that driving over to Toby's house is gonna look suspicious?

BOBBY

I have to know.

JENNI

What if she's not normal?

BOBBY

We have to go back to Toby's.

JENNI

Do you remember what happened the last time we went over there?

He stares at the phone in his hand, then pleads with her.

BOBBY

I can't go without you --

JENNI

-- don't worry, you're not going to --

BOBBY

(his eyes glaze)

-- you're all I've got...

JENNI

Do you think it's safe?

BOBBY

Safer than being here, we have to go.

His phone beeps.

INSERT- CELL PHONE SCREEN

It reads: Battery Dead

Bobby attempts to lighten the mood.

BOBBY

I'll let you carry the bat.

INT. TOBY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Bobby uses his foot to softly kick open the front door. The house is completely dark inside.

Jenni clamps down hard on the handle of the Louisville Slugger. Bobby looks back at her alert eyes.

BOBBY

Stay close...

They slowly enter.

THE STAIRS

Bobby leads his sister up, step by cautious step. Her knuckles are white from her tight grip on the bat.

THE HALLWAY

Their heads spin, surveying the empty hall, as they walk tenderly along the creaky hard wood floor.

JENNI

(whispers)

How do you know she's even here?

BOBBY

(whispers)

I don't.

JENNI

(whispers)

Then why are we going back to his room?

BOBBY

(whispers)

It seems like she'd be in there, if she's here at all.

TOBY'S BEDROOM DOOR

They stand outside, taking large breaths of stale air.

Bobby takes the bat from his sister and signals for her to be quiet. She positions herself behind him, Bobby musters up some courage and then kicks open the bedroom door.

INT. TOBY'S ROOM - NIGHT

The door flings open. Kerry sits, tied with her hands above her head, firmly knotted to the headboard. Bobby passes the bat to Jenni and attends to her.

BOBBY

Kerry!

Kerry opens her eyes.

KERRY

(exhausted)

Help...

BOBBY

Don't worry I'll get you out of here...

He works to untie her hands, seeing her once pretty face now bruised and battered. He looks back to Jenni.

BOBBY

Get away from the door. In fact shut the door and put that desk in front of it.

Jenni does just that. Bobby undoes the rope, lifts Kerry to her feet and places her on the edge of the bed.

JENNI

(holding her bat)

Is she okay?

BOBBY

I think so.

He holds Kerry's wobbly head steady and tries to get through to her.

BOBBY

Stay with me. Do you know where you are? Are you hurt?

Kerry's voice is fatigued.

KERRY
He's in the house...

JENNI
(frightened)
What!?

BOBBY
Who's in the house?

Her head slips back, he grabs it and holds it steady with both hands on either side.

BOBBY
Tell me...who's here?

Jenni glances down at the surfboard from earlier, blood splattered on it.

JENNI
We have to get out of here...

Bobby presses her harder for answers.

BOBBY
Kerry! Please tell me.

KERRY
(slow)
Toby...

Kerry's answer sucks the air out of the room.

JENNI
Toby?

BOBBY
He's in the house?

KERRY
He told me... he was waiting for you.

BOBBY
Why?

KERRY
He wanted you to see...

BOBBY
See what?

THE BEDROOM DOOR ERUPTS, SENDING THE DESK HALFWAY ACROSS THE ROOM.

Toby stands in the doorway with a malicious look on his face.

BOBBY
(taken back)
Holy shit!

TOBY
(smiles)
Hello everyone.

Jenni swings the bat wildly at him, he catches the barrel in mid air, looks deep into her eyes, and SNARLS at her.

TOBY
Bobby first...

He tosses her away like a rag doll, her body lands in the corner of the room.

Toby walks toward the others.

TOBY
Don't be scared, we're best
friends...

Bobby's eyes search the room for a weapon. Kerry cowers behind him.

TOBY
We do everything together...
what's the matter? Don't you trust
me?

Bobby looks over Toby's shoulder, his eyes widen. Kerry covers her face.

BOBBY
Heads up...

Toby snap turns. Jenni, riding her adrenaline, holds the surfboard up over her head.

JENNI
Like father, like son asshole...

She SLAMS the board down into Toby.

INT. STONECREST POLICE STATION - DAY

Bobby, Kerry and Jenni thunder into the reception area like a bat out of hell. They repeatedly tap the buzzer on the vacant welcome desk. For a moment, there is no answer.

Officer Witnam gingerly walks out from the back, his glasses down to the tip of his nose.

OFFICER WITNAM
(disbelief)
You have got to be kidding me.

BOBBY
Please, we have to talk to you.

Officer Witnam sizes them up, he looks concerned.

OFFICER WITNAM
Where have you kids been?

BOBBY
We've had a very long night. I'm sure you know all about what's going on by now --

OFFICER WITNAM
-- no, all I know is my receptionist never showed up this morning, the cable's out and I slept under a pile of paperwork for the third night in a row.

JENNI
Will you please just listen to him!

He looks at Kerry's bruises.

OFFICER WITNAM
What happened to her face?

BOBBY
That's what we need to talk about.

OFFICER WITNAM
What have you kids gotten into?

Bobby steps forward, holding a camcorder in his hand.

BOBBY
I think you're gonna believe me now...

INT. MEDIA ROOM - DAY

The camcorder is hooked into a television set. Officer Witnam settles into his seat, seemingly uninterested and unamused. Bobby presses play.

ON THE TELEVISION- TOBY'S CAMCORDER INTERVIEW

SUPER: 02 Nov 2009

Toby's hands and ankles are each securely tied together. Thick rope is lapped around his chest and around the back of a kitchen chair. He bleeds from his head, his eyes are cold and lifeless.

The camera comes into focus and holds on his face.

JENNI (OS)

Okay...I'm ready.

BOBBY (OS)

Toby...tell us what's happening.

TOBY

Toby?

BOBBY (OS)

Who are you?

TOBY

Who?

BOBBY (OS)

What are you?

Toby laughs devilishly.

BOBBY (OS)

Where did you come from?

TOBY

You don't understand, do you?

BOBBY (OS)

Tell me...

Toby leans forward.

TOBY

(whispers)

In the morning, none of this is going to matter. Everyone you know will be ours. There is no avoiding

(MORE)

TOBY (cont'd)
us.

BOBBY (OS)
What exactly are you?

He looks off camera at Jenni, then grins into the lens.

TOBY
She looks nervous...

BOBBY (OS)
Answer the question Toby.

TOBY
Why do you think we chose this planet? No offense...but humans aren't the smartest species out there.

BOBBY (OS)
So why here? Why such a small town? Why not go after everyone at once?

TOBY
What's the rush?

BOBBY (OS)
How does it happen?

TOBY
Oh, well it doesn't feel good if that's what your asking...it really does hurt at first.

Toby looks around the room, then down at his tied hands.

TOBY
You know, Bobby...I think I wanna go now.

BOBBY (OS)
So it's an invasion?

TOBY
(dead serious)
It's an infection...

He revs up his sinister laugh again.

TOBY

You see, humans can never stay in one place for very long. They have to spread out...move around. We are evolving, learning to live in your bodies, figuring out what it means to be...human.

(his eyes widen)

And then, we'll spread...everywhere.

JENNI (OS)

That's ridiculous. People will figure this out --

TOBY

-- Really? How's that been working out for you? Seen your parents and friends lately?

BOBBY (OS)

How many of you are there?

TOBY

...more than enough.

BOBBY (OS)

Okay, shut it off.

JENNI (OS)

What are we gonna do with him?

BOBBY (OS)

Shut the camera off!

Toby continues to laugh in obscene delight.

The television screen goes fuzzy. Bobby presses stop.

BACK TO THE MEDIA ROOM

Officer Witnam takes off his glasses, folds them and places them on the table in front of him.

OFFICER WITNAM

I don't know where to begin.

BOBBY

You can start by calling in for help.

Officer Witnam points to Jenni.

OFFICER WITNAM
Who is she?

JENNI
I'm his sister.

He points to Kerry.

OFFICER WITNAM
And you?

KERRY
I'm a friend, from school.

OFFICER WITNAM
And who bruised your face like that?

KERRY
The guy on the tape.

He turns his attention to Bobby.

OFFICER WITNAM
I will admit, this is all very convincing, but how do I know this isn't some elaborate, very elaborate, hoax you and friends are trying to pull off?

BOBBY
You saw the tape for yourself. What else do you need?

OFFICER WITNAM
You're not gonna make this easy on me are you?

BOBBY
(pleading)
Look, the crash was real. By the time we got there, whatever these things are had covered it up. The people we talked to, they were already turned. My parents have already been turned. The whole town has been infected by now. That thing, was my best friend!

OFFICER WITNAM
And what did you do with him, after the interrogation?

BOBBY
We just left him there.

OFFICER WITNAM
Tied up like that?

BOBBY
What should we have done?

OFFICER WITNAM
This sounds insane, you realize
that right?

Officer Witnam stands up.

OFFICER WITNAM
I tell you what, you tell me where
he lives and I'll go pay him a
little visit. If things are like
you say they are, we'll get you
three out of town and I'll call in
some backup. You'll wait here
until I get back --

KERRY
-- don't leave us here alone!

OFFICER WITNAM
Well you dure as hell aren't
coming, so you best stay put.

JENNI
Lock us in.

OFFICER WITNAM
Fair enough.

JENNI
And leave us your gun.

OFFICER WITNAM
Is that a joke?

Bobby puts the camcorder in his back pocket.

BOBBY
(to Jenni)
He's probably gonna need it more
than we will...

TIME LAPSE

They sit in the media room as time slips by.

-- Bobby, in deep thought, rests his folded hands on the cold metal table in front of him.

-- Jenni dozes off in her chair.

-- Kerry sits in silence, her arms folded and close to her chest.

MEDIA ROOM

Kerry breaks the silence.

KERRY

What do you think is gonna happen to us?

BOBBY

He'll come back and take us somewhere safe.

KERRY

Are you sure?

BOBBY

I'm just staying positive.

KERRY

I can't believe this is happening to me.

BOBBY

We're all in this together...at least you didn't have to see your parents turn into those things.

She remembers-

KERRY

Oh my God... my parents.

BOBBY

For what it's worth, they're probably not your parents anymore.

She begins to cry. Bobby walks over and puts his arms around her. He looks at the bruises on her face.

BOBBY

You know, even with all your
bruises, you're still beautiful.

She dries her eyes and sniffles a few times before pulling
herself together.

KERRY

I'm glad you came for me.

BOBBY

Me too.

KERRY

And in case something happens to
us, I'm glad we kissed that night
by the pool...

BOBBY

Me too.

KERRY

It would be a perfect last kiss.

BOBBY

I won't let that happen.

KERRY

What if it's too late?

BOBBY

How about I make you a deal? I
promise to look after you until we
get out of town and if and we make
it...you have to kiss me again.
Deal?

Her glowing eyes speak louder than words. Jenni squashes the
tender moment.

JENNI

Sorry to interrupt, but hasn't he
been gone for a really long time?

BOBBY

It feels like it's been over an
hour by now.

JENNI

There's a chance he's not making
it back, so what do you wanna do?

KERRY

We can't go out there right now.

JENNI

I'd rather go now before it gets dark.

BOBBY

She's right. Things are always scarier in the dark.

JENNI

So then, are we going?

KERRY

(confused)

I think we should wait here.

JENNI

We should get out of town!

BOBBY

Maybe we should give it some more time --

JENNI

-- Bobby! We don't have more time!

He looks around the room, seeing a window on the far side behind some large book shelves.

BOBBY

The door's locked from the outside, so if we can climb up those shelves and get to that window, we can get out that way.

KERRY

What if it's wired shut?

BOBBY

Then we break it.

Jenni nods, agrees.

THE DOOR

There is a LOUD, SOLITARY THUMP on the other side of the media room door.

The girls scamper behind Bobby for protection.

A second LOUDER THUMP.

JENNI
(whispers)
Have you ever killed a cop before?

A third VIOLENT THUMP, causes the hinges to bend.

JENNI
(whispers)
Before I forget to tell you, I
totally believe you now...

Bobby nabs a globe shaped paperweight off the desk next to them. With every THUMP they step further back from the door.

KERRY
What are you gonna do?

The CLINK of METAL HITTING METAL RINGS OUT from the other side of the door.

Bobby holds the paperweight up like a pitcher.

BOBBY
You might wanna close your
eyes...in case I miss.

JENNI
What if there's more than one?

The door BLOWS open. Officer Witnam stands in the doorway, an ax in his hand and an infested look on his face.

OFFICER WITNAM
(evil)
Time to go...

He takes a step forward and Bobby guns the round paperweight at Officer Witnam's face.

It SMACKS into his forehead, sending him into a painful stupor. He drops the ax and falls to his knees.

They sprint for the doorway, stepping around Witnam's injured body. Bobby snatches up the ax, stares at the razor sharp edge and then up ahead at the girls.

JENNI
(frantic)
Come on, let's go!

KERRY

Hurry!

Bobby flips the ax around, now holding the head. He slowly swings the long wooden handle out to one side.

BOBBY

Like you said...time to go.

With one swift motion, he ruthlessly PULVERIZES Officer Witnan's face with the handle.

He turns to the girls, their faces in a state of shock, and drops the ax.

BOBBY

What?

They are too surprised to talk.

BOBBY

It's better than him gettin up...

EXT. POLICE PARKING LOT - DAY

Bobby runs to his mother's car, the girls just behind him. His nerves make simple tasks, like opening the door, difficult to accomplish.

KERRY

(disappointed)

I don't think we can drive.

The front tire is completely deflated.

BOBBY

(agitated)

That's just great.

JENNI

What now?

Bobby inspects the looks on the troubled girl's faces.

BOBBY

We go somewhere big. We don't wanna be anywhere they can easily get to us.

JENNI

Like where?

BOBBY

The school. There are plenty of places to hide in there.

JENNI

Hide? I thought we were leaving --

BOBBY

-- we'll never make it out of town right now. If anyone sees us, we're done.

KERRY

How are we gonna get there without getting spotted? It's broad day light.

BOBBY

We're gonna have to run...

KERRY

Run? It's a mile away --

BOBBY

-- I understand it's far, but what choice do we have?

JENNI

He's right... we should go.

EXT. STREET - DAY

The three of them tear down the middle of the road. Jenni leads, followed by Bobby and then Kerry.

Dark silhouettes watch them from bedroom windows, their eyes as dark as coal.

Jenni forces herself to talk through her labored breathing.

JENNI

They're watching us!

BOBBY

Just look straight ahead and keep running!

His head spins back to check on Kerry.

BOBBY

Don't stop running!

Kerry's legs begin to slow.

BOBBY
You have to keep going!

KERRY
(crying)
I can't... I can't do this
anymore!

She stands in the middle of the road, Bobby stops running and they both recover their breath for a moment.

KERRY
It's no use...

BOBBY
Please don't say that.

Bobby turns and sees Jenni further down the street. He yells to her-

BOBBY
Wait a minute!

JENNI (OS)
I'm not waiting!

As he turns his attention back to Kerry, he sees a speeding car approaching from the corner of his eye.

Before he can react, the car PLOWS into Kerry, CATAPULTING her unsuspecting body into a nearby front yard.

Bobby's face becomes flushed with rage.

BOBBY
No!

Gary steps out of the vehicle with an awkward, but content smirk on his face. He stares at Bobby.

GARY
(lifeless)
Need a lift?

Bobby's body turns limp. He sees front doors beginning to open, revealing entire infected families.

Gary takes a few steps closer to him.

Further up the street, an army sized crowd of infected townspeople approaches in a calm, yet determined manner.

Bobby looks at Kerry's body, now being dragged into a home by two zombie-like teenage boys.

Jenni comes running up behind him.

JENNI

Bobby! Come on!

He resists at first, content with giving in to the dire situation, but she persists.

JENNI

(begging)

I can't do this without you!

Bobby snaps out of his daze and they sprint away in the opposite direction of the dread behind them.

INT. STONECREST HIGH- HALLWAY - DAY

Bobby and Jenni walk swiftly among the empty rooms and barren lockers.

JENNI

How did you know how to get in?

BOBBY

Someone showed me once.

JENNI

We should hide in one of the empty rooms.

They breeze past plenty of open doors, finally settling on one midway down the hall.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

After shutting the door behind them, they go straight to work.

They stack desks against the door.

Jenni shuts the blinds and checks picks up the phone receiver, but the line is dead.

Bobby searches the room for a weapon to use as protection, finding only a chrome leg off of a broken chair.

JENNI

Do you think they'll find us in here?

BOBBY

Maybe... but we can hide for a while.

JENNI

How long?

BOBBY

I dunno. What time is it?

She reads the clock on the wall.

JENNI

Almost five.

BOBBY

I say we wait. When it gets dark, we run for it.

JENNI

But that means we have to make it until it gets dark...

BOBBY

(fakes confidence)

We will.

Jenni confesses.

JENNI

I'm sorry...

BOBBY

About what?

JENNI

Everything.

BOBBY

You didn't do anything wrong.

JENNI

I know you cared about her...and mom and dad too.

BOBBY

I'd rather be stuck here, in this mess, with you.

JENNI
I'm sorry I haven't been nice to
you all these years --

BOBBY
-- me too.
(he laughs)
Mom was right.

JENNI
Right about what?

BOBBY
She told me that one day you would
need me. I just thought it would
be for something way less serious
than this.

JENNI
Do you think...we'll ever be safe
after this?

He nods no.

JENNI
I was afraid of that.

Bobby walks over and hugs her tightly.

Indecipherable VOICES can be heard outside the classroom.
They separate.

BOBBY
Do you hear that?

JENNI
Is it coming from the hallway?

BOBBY
I don't think so.

They listen.

BOBBY
I think it's outside...

Bobby sneaks over to the windows, he mindfully peaks through
the blinds.

EXT. BREEZEWAY - DAY

A group of infected individuals circle a large bonfire, gazing at the growing flame.

More defile adults arrive with wheelbarrows full of HISTORY books, unloading them into the fire. They methodically repeat this process several times.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Bobby backs away from the window.

JENNI

What is it?

BOBBY

They're burning books.

JENNI

What books?

BOBBY

It looks like...history books.

JENNI

Why would they do that?

He intensely gazes at her.

BOBBY

No one will know we were here...

JENNI

Is that possible?

He leans his back against the wall in defeat, drops the metal chair leg and slowly slides down to the ground. His legs are spread out in front of him.

His eyes burn a hole in the classroom door.

JENNI

What are you doing?

BOBBY

(deflated)

Who would even believe us?

JENNI

You're giving up?

BOBBY
(his eyes glaze)
There's no way around it.

She joins him on the floor, burrowing in. They both stare at the door in anticipation. FOOTSTEPS can be heard from the hallway.

BOBBY
Whatever happens...I'm here.

She glances up at him with tears in her eyes.

Bobby removes the camcorder from his pocket and lays it on the ground in front of them, pointed at the door. He presses record.

THE DOOR

Multiple shadows appear from under the door frame. The round metallic handle slowly turns, followed by the repeated POP of the wooden door hitting the desks lined up against it.

One final SLAM severs the desks from the door, allowing whatever is outside entrance into the classroom.

BOBBY AND JENNI

Bobby stares straight ahead at his incoming demise, his sister tightly closes her eyes and shields her face in his chest. He wraps his arms around her and pulls her close.

The sound of multiple inelegant, maladroit FOOTSTEPS now fills the room. Bobby rests his head back and closes his eyes.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. STONECREST HIGH - DAY

SUPER: 10 YEARS LATER

An empty classroom.

MRS. WENDALL (57) grey hair and glasses, sits at her desk reviewing a pile of homemade research projects.

She grabs the next project in the bunch, consisting of a single typed sheet of paper and a DVD.

Her eyes scan the words on the paper. As she finishes, a troubled look appears on her face.

She holds the disk in her aged fingers.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Mrs. Wendall's heels CLOP as she power walks her way down the marble floor.

INT. AV ROOM - DAY

She stands at the door, the AV ROOM WORKER walks up to her with a clipboard in his hand.

AV ROOM WORKER
What can I do for you?

MRS. WENDALL
I need something that will play
this...

She shows him the DVD.

AV ROOM WORKER
Gimmie a minute.

He walks off, Mrs. Wendall apprehensively looks around the hall.

He returns, holding a DVD player under his arm.

AV ROOM WORKER
Jusy sign for it.

She scribbles her name on the clipboard.

AV ROOM WORKER
Is everything alright, Caroline?

MRS. WENDALL
Why do you ask?

AV ROOM WORKER
No reason... you just looked
concerned.

MRS. WENDALL
I'm fine.

She takes the DVD player from him, turns and makes her way back down the empty hall.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Mrs. Wendall shuts and locks the door. She closes each window and lowers the blinds.

She inserts the DVD into the player, then sits back in her chair, anxiously watching the television screen.

The screen lights up, reflecting in her glasses. She watches for a few moments, then her quivering hand quickly hits eject.

CUT TO:

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE- LATER - NIGHT

PRINCIPAL ROW (60) bearded, stoic and soft spoken, sits within a circle of fellow teachers and administrators. They talk MOS among themselves.

The door opens and an uneasy Mrs. Wendall stands there with a tense look on her face.

Her appearance there stalls the other conversations. Principal Row stands up.

PRINCIPAL ROW
Is something the matter?

MRS. WENDALL
I think we have a problem with one of the students...

PRINCIPAL ROW
Which one?

MRS. WENDALL
JOSEPH PETERSON.

YOUNG TEACHER
He's new. Transferred last month.

PRINCIPAL ROW
Has he been... talked to?

MRS. WENDALL
He must have fallen through the cracks.

YOUNG TEACHER
What about his parents?

MRS. WENDALL
I have no idea.

PRINCIPAL ROW
(upset)
We'll find him tomorrow...I'll let
the others know.

MRS. WENDALL
There's something else...

PRINCIPAL ROW
What is it Caroline?

She holds out the DVD.

MRS. WENDALL
He handed this in as an
assignment. I watched it...

PRINCIPAL ROW
And?

MRS. WENDALL
There's an interview on it...a
former student of mine. Toby
Hickle. The video is ten years old
--

The group stares in awe.

PRINCIPAL ROW
-- let me have it.

She hands it to him.

PRINCIPAL ROW
We've come too far...

He snaps the DVD in half.

EXT. PARKING LOT- THE NEXT AFTERNOON - DAY

Joe (16) blond hair and clean blue eyes, leans up against a
brick wall, surrounding him are Mrs. Wendall and Principal
Row.

JOE
So you want me to go home...right
now? And skip class?

PRINCIPAL ROW
Go straight home, don't stop
anywhere, we already called ahead
and you're parents are expecting
you.

JOE
Did I do something wrong?

PRINCIPAL ROW
They're expecting you...

Joe, somewhat intimidated, walks away confused.

MRS. WENDALL
(whispers)
His parents?

PRINCIPAL ROW
It's been arranged.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Joe walks down an oddly quiet sidewalk. His books held close to his chest.

There are no sounds. No moving cars. Not one person as far as he can see. His eyes become engorged with uncertainty.

Suddenly -- front doors begin to open. People step out onto their front lawns. Cars begin to pull up behind him. Each face as barren as the next.

Joe drops his books. Before he knows what is happening, hundreds of the infected are closing in on him.

The End