

Ordinary People

Screenplay by Alvin Sargent
from the novel by Judith Guest

A Robert Redford movie

with Timothy Hutton, Donald Sutherland,
and Mary Tyler Moore.

1980

aka (French): Des gens comme les autres

Full Film Transcript by Pierre Gautard
January 2006
557

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Cast

Donald Sutherland...Calvin Jarrett (the father), Tax attorney.
 Mary Tyler Moore...Beth Jarrett (the mother)
 Timothy Hutton...Conrad Jarrett (youngest son)
 Judd Hirsch...Dr. Tyrone C. Berger (psychiatrist)
 M. Emmet Walsh...Coach Salan (sports coach)
 Elizabeth McGovern...Jeannine Pratt (Conrad's girlfriend)
 Dinah Manoff...Karen (Conrad's friend from psychiatric hospital)
 Scott Doebler...Jordan 'Buck' Jarrett (eldest son, Jarrett's brother, died in a boat accident)
 Fredric Lehne...Lazenby (Conrad's best school friend)
 Adam Baldwin...Stillman (Conrad's school friend, empty head)
 Carl DiTomasso... Dick Van Buren aka "Dickie" (Conrad's school friend)
 James Sikking...Ray Hanley (Calvin's business partner)
 Basil Hoffman...Sloan
 Quinn K. Redeker...Ward (Beth's brother in Texas)
 Mariclare Costello...Audrey (Ward's wife)
 Meg Mundy...Grandmother
 Richard Whiting...Grandfather
 Elizabeth Hubbard...Ruth
 Tim Clarke...Truan
 Ken Dishner...Genthe
 Lisa Smyth...Gail
 Ann Eggert...Mitzi
 Randall Robbins...Bryce
 Cynthia Baker...Ms. Mellon
 John Stimpson...John
 Liz Kinney...Liz
 Rudy Hornish...Ed
 Clarissa Downey...Chris
 Cynthia Burke...Annie
 Jane Alderman...Linda
 Paul Preston...Dennis
 Gustave Lachenauer...Gus
 Marilyn Rockafellow...Sarah
 Don Billett...Philip
 Ronald Solomon...Joel
 Virginia Long...Choir Director
 Paula Segal...Shopper
 Estelle Meyers...Saleslady
 Stuart Shiff...Waiter
 Rose Wool...Waitress
 Douglas Kinney...Actor (in play, on stage, beginning of movie)
 Constance Addington...Actress (in play, on stage, beginning of movie)
 Edwin Bederman...McDonald's Manager
 Bobby Coyne...Young Jordan 'Buck' Jarrett
 Michael Creadon...Young Conrad Jarrett
 Steven Hirsch...Mack
 Allison Caine...Additional Voice

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Randy De Troit...Man on Bridge

CONTINUED:

ORDINARY PEOPLE

[Main Credits]

1 EXT. BEAUTIFUL COUNTRYSIDE, SMALL TOWN - DAY 1

Small beautiful country town in the fall, on the shore of a great lake. Close in on school. [Music: Canon in D by Pachelbel, and angel voices singing then:]

CHOIR

(OS: young male voices)
In the silence of our souls,
O Lord, we contemplate Thy peace

2 INT. SCHOOL HALL, CHOIR - DAY 2

Students' choir rehearsing Canon in D by Pachelbel (not originally written with lyrics). Among many, Conrad is singing. He is just behind Jeannine Pratt. They don't know each other yet.

CHOIR

(girls and boys
together)
Free from all the world's desires
Free of fear and all anxiety
Ooooh. Ooooh
Ooooh. Ooooh
Alleluia
Alleluia
Sing Alleluia!

[Close in on Conrad]

3 INT. CONRAD'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 3

Conrad suddenly wakes up from nightmare

4 INT. THEATER PLAY - ON STAGE - NIGHT 4

A man of fifty is holding his wife's hand over the breakfast table.

MAN

Do you know we've made love one
hundred and thirteen times?

We hear laughter (numerous).

MAN (cont'd)

I figured it out on my Bowmar
calculator.

(CONTINUED)

Laughter again. The man and the woman are two actors on stage of the local theater. A very conventional play. The set represents an average American kitchen. A man and a woman are having coffee. Man is holding woman's hand.

We gradually discover the audience of the theater.

MAN (cont'd)

To know someone that well is a wonderful thing.

Pause

MAN (cont'd)

Two lumps?

[close in on two couples in the audience] Beth and Calvin and their friends. The women are amused, the men trying to keep awake.

WOMAN

No, one.

MAN

So I don't know everything about you. I don't know your favorite movie stars. I can't remember the name of your favorite perfume. I have racked my brain and I can't remember.

WOMAN

That's funny. It's "My Sin."

Audience laughs, Alvin wakes up and behaves. Gives a conventional smile to his wife Beth.

MAN

But I do know, in the last twenty four years, that I have never been out of love with you.

The four of them come out of the theater. The women walk together in front, men behind.

CALVIN

Well, did we like it?

FRIEND'S WIFE

I loved it.

BETH

Bev Walsh was wonderful.

5 CONTINUED:

FRIEND'S WIFE
I liked them all.

CALVIN
It was funny.

FRIEND
It was a comedy. Wasn't it?
Essentially?

FRIEND'S WIFE
Well let's face it: Clyde Banner's
getting fat.

BETH
Yes.

FRIEND'S WIFE
He should never turn profile.

CALVIN
Most of us shouldn't turn profile.

6 INT. CAR. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

6

Calvin seems stunned.

BETH
What was it you were you thinking
about?

CALVIN
When?

Calvin gives his wife a conventional smile. She cuddles up
against him, but it is cold.

7 INT. JARRETT'S HOME. - NIGHT

7

Car enters garage.

[car door Alarm On] / [car door Alarm Off] as car doors open
and close.

Beth goes upstairs and directly into her bedroom. Calvin
notices this, then notices the light under his son's bedroom
door. He knocks.

8 INT. CONRAD'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

8

Conrad is lying on his stomach, on his bed, thinking. He
composes himself, grabs his book as if he had been reading.

CONRAD
Yeah?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Calvin opens the door, but does not enter the room, respecting his son's privacy:

CALVIN

You okay?

CONRAD

Mmm, mm. Yeah.
How was the show?

Calvin shrugs, as if to say "so and so..."

CALVIN

Mmmh. Trouble sleeping?

CONRAD

No.

CALVIN

You're sure?

CONRAD

Mm-hmm.

CALVIN

Burning the midnight oil?

CONRAD

Yeah.

CALVIN

Okay.

Pause

CALVIN (cont'd)

You thought about calling that doctor?

CONRAD

No.

CALVIN

Well, the month's up. I think we should stick to the plan.

CONRAD

The plan was if I needed to call him.

CALVIN

Yeah. Okay. Don't worry about it. Get some sleep. By the way, I am working on those Michigan State tickets.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

CONRAD

Okay.

Calvin closes the door. Conrad reflects, then shuts off light.

9 INT. PARENTS' BEDROOM - NIGHT 9

Calvin shuts off bedside lamp. Then kisses Beth. They embrace.

10 INT. KITCHEN - MORNING 10

Beth prepares the breakfast table geometrically (CU).

11 INT. CONRAD'S BEDROOM - MORNING 11

Conrad's lies on his bed, fully dressed, full awake, thinking.

BETH

(OS, IN THE KITCHEN)

What about the Warrens, did you call them?

CALVIN

(OS, IN THE KITCHEN)

Yeah, they said they'll make it some evening soon.

Look at these people. Everybody I grew up with... is in the paper these days.

12 INT. KITCHEN - MORNING 12

Calvin is reading his newspaper. Beth is preparing the breakfast

CALVIN

"Joey Georgella. New football coach for Trinity."

13 INT. CONRAD'S BEDROOM - MORNING 13

Conrad's sits up on his bed.

CALVIN

(OS, downstairs)

Did you check with Jane for the Michigan State tickets?

14 INT. KITCHEN - MORNING 14

Calvin is reading his newspaper. Beth is cooking some French toast.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

BETH

Yes. She'll talk to John.
Where's Conrad? This'll get
cold.

CALVIN

Con!

15 INT. CONRAD'S BEDROOM - MORNING

15

Conrad's sitting on his bed.

CALVIN

(OS, downstairs)

(to Beth)

Will you drop those suits at the
cleaners for me?

BETH

They won't be back by Saturday.

16 INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

16

Beth still preparing breakfast.

CALVIN

That's okay. Connie!

Calvin goes to the stairs and calls upstairs.

CALVIN (cont'd)

Conrad!

17 INT. CONRAD'S BEDROOM - MORNING

17

CONRAD

I'll be right there!

18 INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

18

Calvin sits back at table. Conrad finally appears at the
bottom of the stairs.

CALVIN

Here he is!

CONRAD

Morning.

BETH

Morning.

CONRAD

Morning.

(CONTINUED)

CALVIN
Did you sleep?

CONRAD
Yeah.

CALVIN
Hungry?

CONRAD
(wondering)
Uh...uh... hungry, uh?

Beth slides a French toast onto Conrad's plate.

BETH
It's French toast. It's your
favorite.

CALVIN
Yeah.

CONRAD
Uh... I'm not really hungry.

CALVIN
Breakfast, pal, remember? Main
meal. Energy!

Beth comes and takes away Calvin's plate right away.

BETH
You're not hungry, you're not
hungry!

Beth takes away the food and goes to throw it away.

CALVIN
Wait a minute, Beth, Hang on. He's
gonna eat it. Come on.
(to Conrad)
It's French toast.

Beth pushes the toast in the sink's grinder. French toast
disappears.

BETH
There's fresh fruit for you when
you get home from school later.

Grinding noise of disposal.

CALVIN
What are you doing? What are you
doing?

BETH

You can't save French toast.

BETH (cont'd)

Listen, I've got to run. I'm playing at nine. Will you please call Mr. Herman about the shutters? I can't get anywhere with that man.

Beth exits.

CALVIN

You have to charm Mr. Herman. Did you charm him?

(to Conrad)

You have to eat, Con. We just want you keep on getting stronger.

CONRAD

Dad, I'm not hungry.

CALVIN

Are you okay?

CONRAD

Yeah. I got to go. Lazenby's picking me up.

Calvin is strangely overenthusiastic.

CALVIN

Oh. Is he? Great!

CONRAD

Why is it great?

CALVIN

Well. I don't see the old gang much anymore. I miss them. Bring them around... Phil, Don, and Dick Van Buren. We'll play some touch football on the lawn.

CONRAD

See you later.

Exit Conrad. Calvin resumes eating, reflects, then :

CALVIN

Con!

But his son is gone.

19 EXT. JARRETT'S HOME - MORNING

19

Calvin walks up the alley to the street. [Horn honks]
Lazenby's car stops, with music playing. Lazenby is driving,
Stillman is with him in the front and Dickie van Buren is at
the back.

LAZENBY
(to Stillman)
It's called flake.

Conrad just stands there, waiting.

DICKIE VAN BUREN
Come on, Jarrett! We're late,
let's go!

LAZENBY
Jarrett. Come on!

Conrad gets in the car.

20 INT. LAZENBY'S CAR - MORNING

20

STILLMAN
Uh, we're late 'cause little
Dickie's mom had to pack his lunch.

DICKIE VAN BUREN
Christ, Stillman! You guys were
late at my house. I been up all
night studying for this poly-sci
exam.

STILLMAN
That guy wants a goddamn personal
analysis of it all.
How do you make sense of that
crap, anyway?

LAZENBY
You read the crap!

DICKIE VAN BUREN
Oh, shit! When was the last time
you read something?

STILLMAN
Yeah. Right! We swim our ass
everyday, when are we supposed to
study, uh?.

LAZENBY
I swim and I study.

(CONTINUED)

STILLMAN

Get a sense of reality, Lazenby.
(to Conrad))
What you reading?

DICKIE VAN BUREN

(to Lazenby and
Stillman)
Meditation!

CONRAD

Hardy.

DICKIE VAN BUREN

You guys tried meditation?

STILLMAN

Meditation?

LAZENBY

It's just like thinking, Stillman.
No, I don't do it too often.

STILLMAN

(to Conrad)
Ain't that junior English? You got
all junior classes this year? They
didn't pass you on anything?

LAZENBY

Stillman, you know they don't
pass you on... breathing in that
dump if you don't take the final.

DICKIE VAN BUREN

Hey, man, get something on that
radio, really. You know, I gotta
study.

Conrad stares at the barrier, then away.

DICKIE VAN BUREN (cont'd)

Get something lighter for your
head.

Car stops at railroad crossing.

DICKIE VAN BUREN (cont'd)

(OS)

I hope it's a long train. I've
got to get the stuff down. I'm
gonna flunk this test.

LAZENBY

We're going to be late.

(CONTINUED)

Train passes, Conrad stares through it and as in a zoetrope sees glimpses of a graveyard.

.../...

Car slows down near school.

LAZENBY (cont'd)
Does my hair look like shit,
doesn't it?

DICKIE VAN BUREN
Yeah.

LAZENBY
Yes, it looks like shit. Thanks.

STILLMAN
Hey, hey, hey! Hey, there's Pratt.

DICKIE VAN BUREN
Look at that ass!

STILLMAN
Let me out, I need a jump.

LAZENBY
No dirty stuff out of the window.

DICKIE VAN BUREN
No dirty stuff?
(to Janine, outside)
Pratt! You have nice ...knees!

Conrad looks at Jeannine seriously.

STILLMAN
Hey. Interested in something.
Jarrett?

She looks back.

21 SCHOOL - MORNING 21

A crowd of students entering school.

22 INT. SCHOOL, CLASSROOM - MORNING 22

Conrad seems to be day-dreaming, looking outside. Female literature teacher questions about the character of Jude in the story of *Jude the Obscure*, written by Thomas Hardy.

TEACHER
How about we discuss some theory,
here? Conrad, what's your theory on
Jude Fawley? Conrad?

Conrad comes back to it

TEACHER (cont'd)
What's your theory on Jude Fawley?

CONRAD
Uh...

TEACHER
Do you think he was powerless in the grip of circumstances... or could he have helped himself?

CONRAD
I don't... Uh...Powerless? I guess he thought he was, yeah.

JOEL
The guy was a real jerk. He was hung up on what was the moral thing to do. It didn't make any sense.

TEACHER
I think that's a little too easy, Joel. Paul? What do you think?

PAUL
I found the book hard to follow. I couldn't figure it out.

23 EXT. SCHOOL STADIUM - DAY 23

Conrad eats on a bleacher, reflecting, looking at some students training.

24 INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR. PHONE BOOTH - DAY 24

[Telephone Rings OS]

Conrad is calling Dr Berger.

DR BERGER
(OS)
Hello?

CONRAD
Hello.

DR BERGER
Hello?

CONRAD
Uh, Dr. Berger?

DR BERGER
(OS on phone)
Yes?

CONRAD
Hi. This is Conrad Jarrett calling.

DR BERGER
Who?

CONRAD
Conrad Jarrett!
Dr. Crawford at Hillsboro
Hospital gave me your number...
and...

DR BERGER
Oh, yes! I'm with a patient now.
Can you call back at two
fifteen?

CONRAD
I don't think I'll be free.

DR BERGER
Then give me your number. I'll call
you tonite. Hello? Hello?

CONRAD
Uh, that's OK, I'll try to call you
back. Thanks.

Conrad hangs up.

Conrad with goggles, ready to jump. Swimming training
session. Conrad and six others dive. They swim in their
lanes.

COACH SALAN
Go!
OK, Come on, now! Move it, you
guys! Move it! Keep it going!
Keep it going! Keep it going!
Come on! Keep plugging! Plugging!
Use those legs! Use those legs!
Lazenby, get with it! Jarrett,
keep your head down!
Work it out there! Work it! Come
on, now! Come on! Push off! Get
your head down. Jarrett! Come on!
Keep it up! Keep it going! Dig!
Dig! Dig in there! Come on! Get
at it! Push on. Jarrett! Push on!

26 INT. SWIMMING POOL, LOCKER ROOM - DAY 26

Conrad slams his locker's door

27 INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT 27

BETH

Was he actually a client of yours?

CALVIN

Well. Regionally.

BETH

It's too bad.

CALVIN

I mean.. it's tragic. Really.
Look at him now. He's lost
everything.

BETH

Fish too dry?

CALVIN

It's not too dry.

BETH

They have a new mechanic at C&S.

CALVIN

What happened to little Harry?

BETH

I don't know. I think he took a job
in Skokie. Anyway, this new
mechanic is so ...awkward.

(to Conrad)

Is that shirt ripped?
Leave it on the table in the
hallway.

CALVIN

That girl from the hospital, the
one you painted with, she was from
Skokie, wasn't she?

CONRAD

Uh, uh.

CALVIN

What was her name?

CONRAD

Karen.

(CONTINUED)

CALVIN
Sharon?

CONRAD
Karen!

CALVIN
Karen.

BETH
Conrad, do you want me to sign you
up for round robin at the club?

CONRAD
I haven't played in a year.

BETH
Well, don't you think it's time to
start?

Silence

BETH (cont'd)
Also, Calvin, we have to go to the
Murrays on saturday, I couldn't get
out of it, it's Clark's birthday. I
bought him that book on wine.

CALVIN
(aside)
Good god, not the Murrays...

28 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

28

Conrad is twisting in his bed under a nightmare

EXT. NIGHTMARE. STORM on LAKE - NIGHT

Conrad and Buck are fighting against the storm in their small
sailboat

CONRAD
Lift the rope off Bucky!

29 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

29

Conrad is twisting in his bed under his nightmare

EXT. NIGHTMARE. STORM on LAKE - NIGHT

Conrad and Buck are fighting against the storm in their small
sailboat

BUCK
We're going in!

- 30 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT 30
 Conrad is twisting in his bed under his nightmare
 EXT. STORM on LAKE - NIGHT (NIGHTMARE)
 Buck is overboard swimming, trying to cling at the overturned small sailboat
- CONRAD
 (OS)
 Give me your hand!
- 31 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT 31
 Conrad is twisting in his bed under his nightmare
 EXT. STORM on LAKE - NIGHT (NIGHTMARE)
 Conrad is clingin at the keel of the overturned sailboat
- CONRAD
 Bucky!
- 32 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT 32
 Conrad is twisting in his bed under his nightmare and muttering in his sleep.
- CONRAD
 Fuck! Fuck! Ha...
- 33 EXT. DR BERGER'S OFFICE BUILDING. STREET. - DAY 33
 Conrad, sitting on a bench, looks at Dr Berger's office windows on the other side of street, hesitating to go. He finally crosses the street and enters building.
- 34 INT. DR BERGER'S OFFICE BUILDING. LIFT - DAY 34
 Conrad, kind of terrified, rehearses his meeting Dr. Berger:
- CONRAD
 Oh, hi. How are you? /.../ Oh. I'm fine /.../ Couldn't be better, really. Oh, terrific, yeah.
- 35 INT. DR. BERGER'S CORRIDOR - DAY 35
 Conrad sees « Dr Berger » on a bell. He rings but another door opens behind him. Dr Berger motions him to come in.
- DR BERGER
 Ha! Hi! Come in. It's OK, they all do that.

(CONTINUED)

INT. Dr. BERGER'S OFFICE - DAY

Dr BERGER (cont'd)
Jarrett?

Conrad nods.

Dr BERGER (cont'd)
Come in. Sit down.

Dr Berger is fixing an amplifier

Dr BERGER (cont'd)
I just have to... wire some...
volume.

Music suddenly blares. Dr Berger stops it.

Dr BERGER (cont'd)
Ah... sorry. Sit down! You've had
trouble finding the place?

CONRAD
Not yet.

Dr Berger gives him a second look. Telephone Rings. Dr
Berger sits at his desk, looks up file.

DR BERGER
Hmm... Jarrett. How long since
you've been out of the hospital?

CONRAD
A month and a half.

DR BERGER
Feeling depressed?

CONRAD
No.

DR BERGER
On stage?

CONRAD
Pardon me?

DR BERGER
People nervous... treating you
like you're ...a dangerous character?

CONRAD
Yeah. I guess a little.

DR BERGER
Are you?

(CONTINUED)

CONRAD

I don't know.

Dr Berger sits at table, looks up another file.

DR BERGER

How long were you in the hospital?

CONRAD

Four months.

DR BERGER

What did you do?

CONRAD

I tried to off myself. Isn't it down there?

DR BERGER

It doesn't say what your method was.

CONRAD

Double-edged Super Blue.

DR BERGER

Oh.

Dr Berger closes file

Dr BERGER (cont'd)

So how does it feel being home?
Everybody's glad to see you?

CONRAD

Yeah.

DR BERGER

Friends?

CONRAD

Yeah.

DR BERGER

OK?

CONRAD

Yeah.

DR BERGER

Everything...

CONRAD

Yeah.

DR BERGER
You're back in school?
Everything okay at school?
Teachers?

CONRAD
Yeah.

DR BERGER
No problems?

CONRAD
Uh-uh.

DR BERGER
So why are you here?

Pause

CONRAD
Uh... I'd like to be more in
control, I guess.

DR BERGER
Why?

CONRAD
So people can quit worrying about
me.

DR BERGER
Who's worried about you?

CONRAD
My father, mostly. This is his
idea.

DR BERGER
What about your mother? Isn't she
worried about you, too?

CONRAD
I don't know, listen. You... You're
a friend of Dr Crawford, so you're
probably all right, but I'll be
straight with you, I don't like
this already.

DR BERGER
Well, as long as you're straight.

CONRAD
What do you know about me? Have
you talked to Crawford?

(CONTINUED)

DR BERGER

Yes. He called me on the phone. He told me your name and... he told me to look for you. And, uh... he said you had a brother who died. A... boating accident, wasn't it? Want to tell me about it?

Silence

Dr BERGER (cont'd)

Well I suppose you talked this over with Crawford at the hospital. Right?

CONRAD

Right.

Conrad nods.

DR BERGER

How did that go?

CONRAD

It didn't change anything.

DR BERGER

Why do you want to change?

CONRAD

I told you, I'd like to be more in control.

DR BERGER

Why?

CONRAD

I told you, so people can quit worrying about me.

DR BERGER

Well. I'll tell you something. I'll be straight with you, okay? I'm not big on control. But it's your money.

CONRAD

So to speak.

DR BERGER

So to speak.
Okay...

Dr Berger picks up his diary.

Dr BERGER (cont'd)
How's Tuesdays... and Fridays?
Same time.

CONRAD
Twice... a week?

DR BERGER
Well. Control's a tough nut.

CONRAD
I've got swim practice every night.

DR BERGER
Well. That's a problem. How do we
solve that?

CONRAD
Guess I'll have to skip practice
twice a week, and come here.

DR BERGER
Well. It's up to you.

CONRAD
I don't like being here. I got to
tell you I don't like being here at
all.

Dr Berger nods.

DR BERGER
Mm-mmm.

Beth tidies up some napkins, neatly tied up in rolls in a
drawer which she closes (CU). She is in the kitchen, Calvin
speaks to her from the dining room table. Conrad is sitting
there too, looking at his father.

CALVIN (OS)
I saw Mort Swain. His sister died.

BETH
The one from Idaho?

CALVIN
The one with the restaurant.

BETH
Did she die in Idaho?

CALVIN
I guess so. Why?

BETH

You said she was always traveling.
I just... wondered if she died in
Idaho.

CALVIN

I don't know. Maybe she died in
Idaho. Maybe Kansas City.

Conrad laughs. Calvin too. Calvin is first surprised, then
pleased by his son's reaction.

CONRAD

I went to see Dr. Berger.

In the kitchen, Beth stops and listens.

CALVIN

Berger?

CONRAD

Yeah.

CALVIN

Did you?

CONRAD

Yeah.

CALVIN

Good! You didn't say anything.
Good!

CONRAD

I went.

CALVIN

When?

CONRAD

Today.

Beth comes closer

BETH

I didn't know you made an
appointment.

CALVIN

How did it go?

CONRAD

If it's too much money, I don't
have to go. It's not necessary..

CALVIN
(enthusiastic)
Don't worry about the money, it's
okay.

CONRAD
Well it's 50 \$ an hour. Twice a
week.

CALVIN
Ah, it's okay. And it is necessary.
What did you talk about?

CONRAD
Not much.

CALVIN
What about your schedule? Will that
be all right?

CONRAD
Well, it'll cut into swim practice.

BETH
Where's his office?

CONRAD
Highland Park.

37 INT. SWIMMING POOL, POOLSIDE - DAY

37

COACH SALAN
(screaming at a swimmer)
Keep that head straight Genthe! I
don't want to tell you again!

Conrad is standing in front of him shivering from cold.

COACH SALAN (cont'd)
(to Conrad)
Now, this is what I see.
I see you yawning, I see you
come late. I don't see you
having any fun out there. Are you
getting enough sleep?

CONRAD
Yeah.

COACH SALAN
Well, are you having fun out there?

CONRAD
Fun?

COACH SALAN

There's no point if you're not having fun. Right?

CONRAD

Yeah. I guess so.

COACH SALAN

You guess so...? Are you on medication, Jarrett? Tranquilizers? Anything?

CONRAD

No. No, sir.

COACH SALAN

Did I ask you if they gave you shock out there?

CONRAD

Yeah.

COACH SALAN

Yeah what?

CONRAD

Yeah. You asked me. Yeah, they did.

COACH SALAN

Don't look at us, Lazenby! Get your ass in the water! Look at the bottom of the pool! You know, I'm no doctor, Jarrett. I would never have let them put electricity in my head.

Students coming out of the pool. Lazenby and Dickie, followed by Conrad and Stillman

DICKIE VAN BUREN

God that Salan! He's such a picky bastard! He drives me nuts!

STILLMAN

Everybody drives you nuts.

STILLMAN (cont'd)

Don and Fenetch look good, don't you think, Jarrett?

CONRAD

They look very good.

DICKIE VAN BUREN

Hey, Con, is he giving you a hard time?

LAZENBY

He gives everybody a hard time, Dickie.

JEANNINE'S FRIEND

You guys don't want a clarinet, do you?

STILLMAN

Yeah, Van Buren wants a clarinet.

DICKIE VAN BUREN

I don't need a clarinet. Who's selling it?

JEANNINE'S FRIEND

My brother. He needs a motorcycle.

DICKIE VAN BUREN

Uh, uh... I need a new pair of shoes.

STILLMAN

You need a new personality.

Dickie Van Buren and Stillman leave. Conrad and Lazenby stand in front of Jeannine and her friend.

JEANNINE

(points at Jarrett)
You, you stand behind me in the choir.

CONRAD

Oh? I do? You do? Is that you?

JEANNINE

You have a lot of energy.

CONRAD

I do?

JEANNINE

Yeah. I mean, That's good. My name's Jeannine Pratt.

CONRAD

Nice. Hi!

JEANNINE'S FRIEND

You're Conrad Jarrett, remember?

38 CONTINUED:

38

CONRAD

Right. Hum. Yeah. Um. Bye.

JEANNINE

Bye-bye.

LAZENBY

"You've got a lot of energy."

39 INT. JARRETT'S HOUSE, ENTRANCE - NIGHT

39

Halloween : Beth opens door with a plate of candied apples ready. Outside, five kids screaming.

CHILDREN (OS)

Trick or treat!

BETH

You're the scariest ghost I've ever seen! And the tiger and the witch... You all look just wonderful. Take an apple.

CHILDREN

Thank you.

BETH

There you go. Be careful.

CHILDREN

Thank you Mrs Jarrett, bye.

BETH

Good-bye.

Children's laughs. Beth closes the door.

BETH (cont'd)

The Cabbots. Little Julie's first time. God, she's so cute!

40 EXT. JARRETT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

40

The children run away, laughing.

CHILDREN

Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!

BETH (OS)

Know what I've been thinking?

41 INT. JARRETT'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

41

Calvin is lying back on the couch. Beth is by his side, and talks to him seducingly.

(CONTINUED)

CALVIN

Mmm?

BETH

That Christmas in London would be like something out of Dickens. We've never done that before, right? Christmas in London?

CALVIN

Maybe we shouldn't plan to go away right now.

BETH

Yes, we talked about that. We decided on that.

CALVIN

Yeah. I know we talked about it, but the more I talk about it, the more the timing doesn't seem right.

BETH

(interrupting)

Calvin, we've always gone away at Christmas time.

CALVIN

I know.

BETH

I think... I think it would be good for him too. Isn't it time we got back to normal?

CALVIN

He's just started with this doctor.

BETH

Alright, so he'll miss three weeks. Why interrupt it?

BETH (cont'd)

Because I want to get away! I think we all should. It's important.

CALVIN

No. If he doesn't go through with this now, he might change his mind.

BETH

Alright then if he changes his mind, maybe it's not something that was right for him to do.

41 CONTINUED:

41

CALVIN

You talked to him about it? Does he want to go to London?

BETH

I don't think he knows what he wants to do.

42 EXT. JARRETT'S HOUSE -DAY 42

Beth arrives in alley with car, takes out shopping, enters house.

43 INT. JARRETT'S HOUSE, BEDROOM'S LANDING -DAY 43

Beth goes upstairs with her shopping, knocks on Conrad's door. No answer. She enters in an authoritarian way, then comes out and closes the door. She then goes to the next door on the landing (Buck's bedroom), stops in front of it. She hesitates, then enters.

44 INT. JARRETT'S HOUSE, BUCK'S BEDROOM -DAY 44

Beth slowly enters Buck's abandoned bedroom, all silent. Everything has stayed like it was. Beth looks around, sits on bed. Stares at photos, prizes and objects. It's like a museum.

45 EXT. JARRETT'S HOUSE -DAY 45

Conrad arrives on foot.

46 INT. JARRETT'S HOUSE, BUCK'S BEDROOM -DAY 46

Beth in Buck's abandoned bedroom, all silent, sitting on bed. Conrad appears at door, Beth is startled.

BETH

HA!

CONRAD

Oh, I'm sorry.

BETH

Don't do that!

CONRAD

I'm sorry, I...

BETH

Ha. I didn't think you were here

CONRAD

I'm sorry, I just got in. I didn't... I didn't know you were here.

(CONTINUED)

BETH

I didn't play golf, today. It's too cold.

CONRAD

How's your golf game?

BETH

I didn't play.

CONRAD

Oh... It did get colder today.

BETH

No, I mean, ...for the year it's colder.

CONRAD

Yeah.

Beth leaves Buck's bedroom.

BETH

Weren't you swimming today?

CONRAD

Uh-huh. Sorry I scared you.

BETH

How'd it go?

CONRAD

Good. I swam well, today.

BETH

Good.

CONRAD

Yeah.
Personaly I think I could swim
the 50 if my timing got...

He leans back against a wardrobe. Beth sees it.

BETH

Off.

CONRAD

...my timing got better.
I'm a just a little.. a little
off with my... my timing.

BETH

Well, you have to work at that.

CONRAD

Yeah. Oh, I got seventy four on a trig quiz.

BETH

Seventy four? Gee, I was awful at trig.

CONRAD

Oh? Did you...? You took Trig?

Beth stares, trying to remember.

BETH

Wait a minute... Did I take trig? That's... - uh...? I bought you two shirts. They're on your bed.

Beth enters parents' bedroom and closes the door. Conrad just stands there, paralyzed.

48 INT. CAR - NIGHT

48

Beth and Calvin are going to the Murray's birthday party, Calvin is driving.

CALVIN

Who's gonna be there?

BETH

Well. The Murrays of course, and the Gunthers, and the Caines, and... the good old us.

CALVIN

Why don't we just go to the movies instead?

BETH

Don't be negative.

CALVIN

That's not negative. That's unpredictable. Come on. Let's really go to the movies.

BETH

Okay.

Calvin smiles, thinking she agrees, not understanding she is taking this as a joke.

CALVIN

Really?

(CONTINUED)

BETH

Okay. Yeah. Come on. Let's go.
What's our excuse?

CALVIN

Beth wanted to go to the movies?

BETH

Good. Very good.

She laughs strangely.

49 EXT. MURRAY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

49

The car is arriving at the Murrays' house, we see in background

BETH

All right now, smile.

And remember, not too many martinis.

50 INT. MURRAY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

50

Gladyce the maid goes open the door. Beth enters all smiles, followed by Calvin.

BETH

Hello Gladyce. Will you put that
with the rest of them?

Several guests. Beth sees Mrs Murray coming down the stairs eyes wide open, showing off.

BETH (cont'd)

Oh, look, we're in time for the
grand entrance!

MRS MURRAY

Hello! Look who's here! Three
blocks away and the last to arrive.

They kiss.

MRS MURRAY (cont'd)

Come on in.

While going to the dining room, they meet their host, Clark Murray a thin blond man.

BETH

Clark! Happy birthday! You look
wonderful for a 75-year-old!

BETH (cont'd)

Is that new?

(CONTINUED)

MRS MURRAY

Yes. It is. Do you like it?

BETH

You did the mousse?
It turned out well?

CALVIN

Hey. Partner. How are you?

Calvin meets his business associate Ray Hanley, and Man #2 (red tie striped cream, wearing glasses), and their wives.

RAY HANLEY

Hey, pal!

Calvin kisses Ray's wife. Beth is with two women : Woman #1 with dark hair (in green), the other, Woman #2, with grey hair (in orange).

BETH

Hi there.

WOMAN #1

Hi. Beth.

BETH

Good to see you, and where were you
at the lunch last week?

Man #3 is giving Clark Murray some financial advice

MAN #3

Call your bank and borrow the
money.

MURRAY

I was thinking of going public.

MAN #3

I wouldn't do that, I wouldn't
do it now...

MURRAY

Why not?

MAN #3

...because the market's low.

Beth is talking to Woman #2 (with grey hair, orange dress)

BETH

Your hair looks wonderful. It's
shorter, isn't it? I like that.

Man #2 is telling a joke to two women

MAN #2

I said: "Would you please put out your cigar?" and he says: "Huh?". I said: "Would you put out your cigar?", he says: "Huh?". I said: "Would you please put out your cigar?", he says: " I don't have another one!"

The two women laugh.

BETH

Good to see you! You look beautiful. As ever.

MAN #4

(full grey hair)

It's a macho factor. When these kids are at school, they just think they've got to walk on the edge of danger.

Beth joins the two women and man #2 :

BETH

What are these hushed tones all about?

WOMAN #

He just told the funniest joke!

Calvin laughs with two male guests. MAN #4 (with grey hair) passes him

MAN #4

I'm not talking to you.

CALVIN

Why?

Woman #2 with grey hair (in orange) is sitting on a couch talking to other guests

WOMAN #2

Obviously, you know, I have my fingers crossed on this merger.

Man #3 and Clark Murray are still talking financial advice.

MURRAY

When can we have lunch?

MAN #3

Great. Fill me in the office, I have no idea of my schedule, but I'm free almost everyday.

(CONTINUED)

Calvin talks with Man #2 (red tie striped cream, wearing glasses)

MAN #2

I ran into Billy white. Bob Mc
Lean's leaving Coles and Johnson.

CALVIN

Where is he going?

MAN #2

He doesn't know.

CALVIN

Jesus.

Beth is laughing, addressing MAN #4 (with grey hair)

BETH

No. You didn't. You're so mean.
Isn't he the meanest man you've
met?

A guest, Man #5, talks golf with a woman.

MAN #5

When a ball is in play, if a
player, his partner, their
equipment or their caddies
accidentally move it...

Birthday cake comes in with candles (CU)

GUESTS

He's a jolly good fellow
For he's a jolly good fellow
Won't regret, can't forget
What we did for love

Beth and other women and gathered around the piano. They
are a little drunk are singing a little false.

Annie, a guest with red blouse, is sitting on the steps of
the stairs, eating out of her plate. Calvin comes and sits
next to her.

CALVIN

Hi. Annie. What's your boy up to
these days?

ANNIE

Oh. Who knows? They won't tell.
How's Conrad doing?

CALVIN

He's great. Just great.

ANNIE

I asked Donald, and he says they haven't talked much. I said maybe he's a little self-conscious.

A woman in green going upstairs, drunk, trips over Calvin

CALVIN

Oh!

Calvin laughs. The woman goes upstairs.

CALVIN (cont'd)

No, no. No. No. He's...

Beth, not far, listens.

CALVIN (cont'd)

There's a doctor in Highland Park... that he sees a couple of times a week. That kinda cuts into his social life.

Beth, still.

CALVIN (cont'd)

He's great. Just great.

ANNIE

Really? Is he still having some problems?

CALVIN

Oh, no, no. Nothing like that. No, no, just somebody to talk to... that's all. Kind of polish off the rough edges, that's all.

Beth joins in, to cut him off.

BETH

How are you. Darling? Is he falling asleep on you, yet?

ANNIE

Nah. He's great.

CALVIN

(Mimicking "Mr. Wonderful")
Mr. Great. That's me!

Beth looks uptight and scornful. Calvin notices it.

CALVIN

Hey?

BETH

You drink too much at parties,
Calvin.

CALVIN

I'm not drunk.

BETH

Why did you tell Annie Marshall
that Conrad is seeing a
psychiatrist?

CALVIN

I dunno. Why not?

BETH

Well for one thing, I don't think
people hear that kind of thing very
easily.

CALVIN

Come on, for most people, it's a
status symbol, right up there with
going to Europe.

BETH

Well, I thought your blurting it
out like that was in very bad
taste...

CALVIN

I did not think it was that...

BETH

Not to mention a violation of
privacy!

CALVIN

Whose privacy?

Beth is strangely vehement.

BETH

Our privacy! The family's privacy!
I think it is a very private
matter.

Calvin sighs.

INT. Dr. BERGER'S OFFICE - DAY

Conrad sits in an armchair, very nervous, scratching his leg.

(CONTINUED)

CONRAD

So what do I do... tell you my dreams?

DR BERGER

I don't hold much stock in dreams.

CONRAD

What kind of a psychiatrist are you? They all believe in dreams.

DR BERGER

Really? What's happening? What's going on?

CONRAD

I just feel... I feel so...

DR BERGER

What?

CONRAD

Jumpy. I don't know.

DR BERGER

Look. Kiddo... I lied. I do believe in dreams. Only sometimes I want to know what's happening when you're awake. Come on, something's bugging you, making you nervous. You're making me nervous.

CONRAD

Maybe I need a tranquilizer.

DR BERGER

Tranquilizer?

CONRAD

Yeah.

What do you think?

DR BERGER

I think you came in here looking like something out of The Body Snatchers. It's not my impression that you need a tranquilizer.

Conrad notices a cube on the table.

CONRAD

What is this?

DR BERGER

Clock.

CONRAD

Oh, I see. So you get to tell the time, but I can't. Is that it?

DR BERGER

Mmm, mmm.

CONRAD

So you know when the hour's up?

DR BERGER

Right.

CONRAD

Fifty minutes, fifty five minutes? What is it?

Dr Berger doesn't answer.

CONRAD (cont'd)

Maybe... Maybe I don't want to swim anymore. You know, I mean my timing is for shit. You know, he's got two guys that swim the fifty, they're better than me, and...

DR BERGER

Ha, ha.

CONRAD

They're a bunch of boring ass jocks.

DR BERGER

Ha, ha.

CONRAD

And him... I can't stand him. He's a tight ass son of a bitch!

DR BERGER

Ah, ah?... Have you ever thought about quitting?

CONRAD

Are you telling me to?

DR BERGER

No.

CONRAD

It wouldn't look good.

DR BERGER

Forget about how it looks! How does it feel?

CONRAD

How does it feel? How does it feel?

DR BERGER

Yes!

CONRAD

How does it feel?!

DR BERGER

Yes! How does it feel?

CONRAD

It's the same thing that happened last year... It's the same damn thing I did last year.

DR BERGER

Are you the same person you were last year?

CONRAD

I don't know!

DR BERGER

That's why you need a tranquilizer?

CONRAD

You tell me!

DR BERGER

No. It's up to you!

CONRAD

Fifty bucks an hour, can't you decide if I should have a pill or not? I mean, you're a doctor, I'm supposed to feel better! Right?

DR BERGER

Not necessarily.

Conrad reflects.

Dr BERGER (cont'd)

How is it with your friends? Is it getting any easier?

CONRAD

No. It's still hard.

DR BERGER

Is anyplace easy?

CONRAD

The hospital was.

DR BERGER

It was? Why?

CONRAD

Because nobody hid anything there.

DR BERGER

Was there anyone there you could talk to?

CONRAD

Uh-huh.

DR BERGER

I mean, besides Dr. Crawford?

CONRAD

Uh-huh.

52 INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

52

Conrad is sitting, reflecting. A young woman's hand blinds him for a second : Karen has arrived.

CONRAD

Whoa!

KAREN

Hi!

CONRAD

Hey, Karen! Hi! How are you?

KAREN

Good. Real good.

CONRAD

Sit down. Please.

KAREN

Thank you.

CONRAD

Wow.

Long Pause. They laugh.

KAREN

When did you get back?

CONRAD

Uh... The end of August.

KAREN

God...

(CONTINUED)

CONRAD

It's great to see you.

KAREN

Oh, you too. Listen. I am not gonna be able to stay a real long time. I've got a meeting over at school. Drama Club meeting. We're doing "A Thousand Clowns" this year. You know it? Anyway. We're going so crazy trying to get it together. I am secretary this year too.

CONRAD

Don't let me hang you up.

KAREN

No. Oh, no, you're not hanging me up! No, I really wanted to see you. I didn't know quite what to expect, though... I mean, you sounded...uh, you sounded sort of funny on the phone.

CONRAD

(interrupting)

No, no, I wasn't. It was just a gray day, that's all. Kind of... But everything's great, I'm back in school, I am on the swim team, and...

KAREN

Oh. You're swimming? Terrific, Conrad! That's... That's really wonderful.

CONRAD

We haven't had any meets yet. I could end up on the bench all year, but...

KAREN

Come on, you'll do great. I'll bet your folks are real proud of you.

CONRAD

Yeah, yeah.

WAITER

What can I get you guys?

CONRAD

You're hungry, at all?

KAREN

Uh... I just want a coke.

CONRAD

Uh... two cokes, please.

KAREN

You think we offended him?

CONRAD

Something I said? Definitely a low self-image day.

KAREN

So. Uh...

CONRAD

- Are you...

KAREN

- What did...

CONRAD

I can't believe how beautiful you look.

KAREN

You know what I really wanted to...

CONRAD

You really look beautiful.

KAREN

So do you.

CONRAD

Do you miss it?

KAREN

Miss what?

CONRAD

The hospital.

KAREN

No.

Waiter brings two cokes

KAREN (cont'd)

Thank you.

CONRAD

You don't miss it? At all? Nothing? Nothing about it?

KAREN

No.

CONRAD

You don't miss Leo's corny jokes?

Pause. She looks at him sternly.

KAREN

Are you seeing a doctor?

CONRAD

Yeah. I'm seeing a doctor. Are you?

KAREN

Uh... Uh, well, Dr. Crawford gave me a name, and I went for a while. But uh... I dunno. It just didn't work for me, I guess. He just kept telling me all the things I already knew, and, uh... finally, I decided... the only one who can help me is myself. At least, that's what my dad says. I don't mean it's not right for you, Conrad. I mean I think that if it's something you want to do, that's what you should be doing.

CONRAD

Well, ya, I don't know how long I'll keep it up. I sorta got shoved into it.

Pause

KAREN

Your hair grew in.

CONRAD

Oh, yes. That was such a dumb thing to do.

KAREN

I like it.

CONRAD

You do?

KAREN

Yeah!

CONRAD

I don't know, I just... Uh... I miss it sometimes, the hospital. Really do.

KAREN

Things have to change. You know?

CONRAD

But that's where we had the laughs.

KAREN

But that was a hospital. This is the real world.

CONRAD

Yeah, yeah, I... you're sure right.

Pause

KAREN

I really have to go. I'm sorry. I have a meeting over at the school. Drama Club meeting. We're doing "A Thousand Clowns".

CONRAD

I know, you told me.

KAREN

Did I?

CONRAD

Yeah.

KAREN

I better hurry. Don't wanna be late.

CONRAD

Thanks for seeing me.

He clears his throat.

KAREN

Conrad? Let's have a great Christmas! Okay? Let's have... a great year. Let's have the best year of our whole lives, OK? We can, you know. This could be the best year ever.

CONRAD

Yeah... Yeah.

KAREN

Yeah!

She gets up

KAREN (cont'd)

Mmm... Will you call me?

CONRAD

Yeah...

KAREN

You mean it?

CONRAD

Yep!

KAREN

You. Uh... You look good. Conrad.

CONRAD

Yeah.

KAREN

Bye.

CONRAD

Bye-bye.

She leaves. Then stops a few steps away, and shouts :

KAREN

Hey!

A customer is startled.

KAREN (cont'd)

Would you cheer up?

Conrad sits there with a strange feeling of embarrassment, reflecting.

From inside, Beth stares outside in the garden where Conrad is lying on a chaise lounge. She comes out.

BETH

It's cold out here. You should put that on, or do you want a sweater?

CONRAD

Do I need one?

Beth is taken off guard by Conrad's reaction, doesn't know what to do.

BETH

What are you doing?

CONRAD

Nothing. Thinking.

BETH

About what?

CONRAD

Not about anything.

BETH

Your hair is starting to grow out.
It's looking... looking better.

Pause

CONRAD

I was thinking about the pigeon...
You know the one that used to hang
around the garage. How it used to
get on top of your car, and he take
off when you pulled out of the
driveway.

BETH

Oh. Yeah, I remember. I remember
how scared I used to get... That
whosssshhhhh! Flap, flap, flap,
flap!... Every time I started the
car.

CONRAD

Yeah. That was the closest we ever
came to having a pet. You remember
Buck asked you, he tried to talk
you into... getting a dog. Do you
remember that?
He said. "How about it, if it's
the size of a little football?"

BETH

You know. Uh... That animal next
door, that Pepper or Pippin,
whatever its name is...

CONRAD

Pippin. Pippin. Pippin!

BETH

He's not a very friendly dog... I...
I don't care what Mr. McGreary
says.

CONRAD

- What he really wanted was a
retriever. It was down the
street for sale. That's what
he wanted. A retriever.

BETH

- Everytime time that dog
comes into this backyard, I
try to get him out...

CONRAD
 (he barks)
 Arf! Arf! Arf!

Beth stops in her tracks, startled, but doesn't show it.

BETH
 Put that on if you're gonna stay
 out here, okay?

Conrad stays alone a while and stares. Then goes inside.

Conrad enters hesitantly, back from garden. Beth is busy dressing up the table.

CONRAD
 Can I help?

BETH
 Help what? Oh, you mean with this?
 No.

CONRAD
 I will.

BETH
 (casually)
 No, I tell you what you can do
 though. You can go upstairs to that
 room of yours and clean out the
 closet.

CONRAD
 Mom...

BETH
 Okay? Because it really is a mess.

They stand there, facing each other, uptight. The telephone rings. Beth goes over to it, picks it up, seems suddenly delighted.

BETH (cont'd)
 Hello. /.../
 Oh, hi! /.../
 Yeah, , no, I didn't get there. I
 was swamped with work. How did it
 go? /.../
 No, no, I'm not doing anything,
 just getting ready for dinner.
 Uh-huh.

Beth laughs to a gossip. Conrad is devastated.

54 CONTINUED:

54

BETH (cont'd)
Did she really?

Beth laughs again.

[echo effect to get into Flashback]

55 EXT. JARRETT'S HOUSE, GARDEN - DAY

55

Beth is laughing at Buck story. She is lying leisurely on a mattress on the lawn. Buck is standing, telling his story.

BUCK
Oh anyway, Mary Ann Ramon started to just scream, just cry, right? It was crazy. We got so drunk that we couldn't talk to each other. It was the last day... the last day of school.

A younger Conrad, sitting aside, is listening too, amused.

BUCK (cont'd)
We walked out of the building in the middle of the class!

Conrad laughs. Beth laughs.

BETH
Oh, Bucky!

Beth laughs.

56 INT. JARRETT'S HOUSE, DINING ROOM - DAY

56

Beth laughs. Conrad stares at Beth laughing on the phone. The gossip gets too funny.

BETH
No. Stop!

Beth laughs.

INT. Dr. BERGER'S OFFICE - EVENING

DR BERGER
What do you expect from her?

CONRAD
We just don't connect.

DR BERGER
Why not?

CONRAD
I don't know. We just don't.

(CONTINUED)

Silence

DR BERGER
What are you thinking?

CONRAD
That I jack off a lot.

DR BERGER
So what else is new? Does it help?

CONRAD
For a minute.

Silence

DR BERGER
What now?

CONRAD
John Boy.

DR BERGER
Who?

CONRAD
You know, in "The Waltons". John
Boy?

DR BERGER
Yeah. What about him?

CONRAD
My father came into my room and he
didn't know what to say.
This is right after Buck died.
And he came over and sat on the
bed next to me, put his arm
around my shoulder. We just sat
there.
I remember I was watching his
shoe.
And thinking...
Cos his shoe was turned over on
its side.
I was thinking: "He's so uptight,
it's gonna crack off."

Dr Berger listens carefully.

CONRAD (cont'd)
And I knew I should have felt
something.
But I didn't know what to feel.
I kept thinking what they say on
TV, you know, stuff like:
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONRAD (cont'd)
 "Oh, no, noo! Ooh, My god!"
 But I didn't say that... because
 I didn't feel sad...
 so much as...

Conrad sighs.

DR BERGER
 So much as what?

CONRAD
 I dunno. I kept thinking that John
 Boy would've said something...about
 the way he felt, you know.
 Something.

DR BERGER
 What would John Boy have said?

CONRAD
 I don't know.

DR BERGER
 Come on.

Conrad seems lost. Dr Berger is on to something.

Dr BERGER (cont'd)
 Come on.

CONRAD
 Come on what?

DR BERGER
 Don't hold back.

Silence

Calvin walks with his business partner Ray Hanley (seen at the party).

RAY HANLEY
 Well. At least she's an
 improvement. She doesn't crack gum
 in your face. That's what you get
 when your partner does the hiring
 and firing.

CALVIN
 Oh, I'm sorry. That's my fault.
 I just can never seem to tell
 anybody that they're not making
 it.

RAY HANLEY

Hold, hold it. Wait a minute.
That's not the problem.
Where are you?

CALVIN

What?

RAY HANLEY

I've been losing you these days.

CALVIN

Oh, I'm sorry.

RAY HANLEY

That's okay. That's okay. You off
the track?

CALVIN

Huh?

They laugh.

RAY HANLEY

Come on. I've known you for twenty
years. You think I can't tell when
something's wrong? How's Connie?

CALVIN

Connie's all right. He is. He's
okay.

RAY HANLEY

Look, I am sorry, it's none of my
business, but I think you worry too
much. You've been on the rack about
him long enough. You're making it a
habit. You've gotta let him go
sometime.

CALVIN

I'm not on the rack about him.

RAY HANLEY

The thing about it is, in a year
he'll be gone. Off to Michigan or
Harvard or wherever in the hell he
gets it in his head he wants to go.
Maybe he'll decide to take a tour
of Europe for a year and not even
go to school at all. Who knows?

CALVIN

I can't argue with "Who knows."

RAY HANLEY

I'm just try giving you the benefit of my experience.

CALVIN

Thanks.

RAY HANLEY

With Valerie, it's more than her living away from home... She's gone. Got her own friends, her own life. She breezes in ...for a couple of days on vacations, but... I don't know, maybe girls are different. Or maybe she was too aware of what was happening between Nance and me. But they leave... And all that worrying doesn't amount to a hill of crap. It's just wasted energy.

Calvin is troubled.

58 INT. COMMUTER TRAIN - NIGHT

58

Going home on the commuter, Calvin is thoughtful. He remembers his sons when they were kids.

59 INT. JARRETT'S DINING ROOM - DAY

59

YOUNG CONRAD

Give me back my sweater! Come on, it's my sweater!

YOUNG BUCK

Possession is nine tenths...

CALVIN

Hang on!

YOUNG BUCK

Dad, what's possession?

YOUNG CONRAD

Give it to me!

YOUNG BUCK

I can't, it's already on me.

CALVIN

Wait, hang on! Whose sweater is it?

YOUNG CONRAD

It's my sweater!

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED:

59

YOUNG BUCK

OK! Alright! I'll give it back to you... as long as you give me back my hockey stick and my skis.

YOUNG CONRAD

All right.

Calvin laughs

CALVIN

That's fair!

In the commuter train Calvin also remembers...

60 INT. JARRETT'S HOME. LANDING - NIGHT

60

Calvin knocks violently on Conrad's bedroom door

CALVIN

Conrad! Conrad!

BETH

What is it?

61 EXT. JARRETT'S HOME. STREET - NIGHT

61

Conrad is taken away on a stretcher into an ambulance.

AMBULANCE MAN

Watch your back. Cuts are vertical.
He really meant business.

WS on Beth, hand on mouth, astonished. Beth and Conrad have overheard.

AMBULANCE MAN (cont'd)

Let's go.

62 INT. COMMUTER TRAIN - NIGHT

62

CONDUCTOR

Lake Forest is next. Lake Forest.

Calvin realizes he has to get off.

63 INT. SWIMMING POOL - NIGHT

63

Another training session at the swimming pool. Conrad is heavily swimming in his lane, although he looks tired and bored, not really fit for training. He stops, exhausted at the end of a row, looks at his friends happily discussing by the side of the pool, then at coach Salan in his office glass booth overlooking the swimming pool. Conrad reflects.

64

INT. SWIMMING POOL. COACH SALAN'S OFFICE BOOTH - NIGHT

64

Coach Salan is sermoning Conrad in his office glass booth overlooking the swimming pool.

COACH SALAN

What it is you want?
I don't know what else to do for
you.

CONRAD

I'm not asking you for anything.

COACH SALAN

You gotta be kidding me. I don't
get it. I excuse you from practice
twice a week so you can see some
shrink. I work with you every damn
night at your convenience. What the
hell more am I supposed to do for
you?

CONRAD

Nothing.

COACH SALAN

Bright kid like you, everything
going for you. See, I don't get it.
Why do you wanna keep messing up
your life?

CONRAD

I don't think that ...that quitting
swimming will mess up my life. I...
I really don't.

COACH SALAN

Okay. Okay. Now, this is it.

CONRAD

Yeah.

COACH SALAN

You're a big kid now.

CONRAD

Uh, uh.

COACH SALAN

Actions have consequences.

CONRAD

Okay!

(CONTINUED)

COACH SALAN
I'm not taking you back again.
You'll remember that?

CONRAD
I won't ask you to ...sir.

Conrad stands up and leaves. Coach Salan is disappointed.

65 INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

65

[Laughter]

Conrad tidies his closet. Lazenby comes to him.

LAZENBY
What happened? You all right?

CONRAD
Yeah.

LAZENBY
Salan says you quit the swim
team.

CONRAD
Yeah.

LAZENBY
Why?

CONRAD
I don't know. I felt like it was a
bore.

LAZENBY
That's not a real reason!

CONRAD
Well, that's the way it is.

LAZENBY
So what's going on?

CONRAD
Nothing.

LAZENBY
What happened?

CONRAD
Nothing.

LAZENBY
Connie, come on, talk to me.

(CONTINUED)

CONRAD

Nothing. Swimming's a bore. That's all.

LAZENBY

Well listen, I talked to Salan...

CONRAD

Well, quit talking to people! Okay?

LAZENBY

Holy shit! Yeah. Sure. Fuck you. Jarrett.

Lazenby walks away to the others, waiting. They leave.

STILLMAN

Ooh! Ohh!

LAZENBY

Shut up. Leave it alone.

STILLMAN

I told you. The guy's a flake.

They laugh. Conrad, angry with himself, slams his locker's door.

Conrad reclining on couch. Dr Berger washes his hands in background room, then comes in.

DR BERGER

So, what did your dad say about it?

CONRAD

I haven't told him yet.

DR BERGER

How come?

CONRAD

I don't know. The timing isn't right, you know. He sweats everything so much, he'll just get worried about it.

DR BERGER

Can you tell your mother?

CONRAD

My mother? My mother and I don't connect. Don't you listen? I told you that.

(MORE)

CONRAD (cont'd)

What do people have in common with mothers anyway? It's all surface junk. You know: "Clean your room, brush your teeth, get good grades, nah, nah, nah, veh..." Hey, look, I'm just wasting money today. I am not gonna feel anything. I'm sorry.

DR BERGER

No. Sorry's out. Come on, something's on your mind.

CONRAD

What time is it?

DR BERGER

No, no, never mind the time. There's time. Look. Remember the contract? Control? Maybe there's some connection between control and uh... - what do we call it? - lack of feeling? Mmm?

CONRAD

I said I feel things.

DR BERGER

When?

CONRAD

Ah, God... Come on.

DR BERGER

When?

CONRAD

Sometimes. I don't know.

DR BERGER

Come on, come on, Jarrett, I thought you didn't like to fool around.

CONRAD

I don't? I'm not.

DR BERGER

Like to play games, do you?

CONRAD

I don't!

DR BERGER

So?

CONRAD

What do you want?

DR BERGER

I'll tell you what I want. I want you to leave "I don't know" out there on the table with the magazines. Okay?

CONRAD

Yeah, and if I don't have an answer you want me to make one up?

DR BERGER

Yeah. That would be nice. Make one up. Right now. About how there's no feelings in there.

CONRAD

I said I have feelings.

DR BERGER

Oh! Now you have, now you don't! Get it together, Jarrett.

CONRAD

Why you hassle me? Why are you trying to make me mad?

DR BERGER

Are you mad?

CONRAD

No!

DR BERGER

Oh, cut the shit! You're mad! You're mad as hell! You don't like being pushed. So why don't you do something about it!

CONRAD

What?

DR BERGER

Tell me to fuck off! I don't know.

CONRAD

Well, fuck off! No. No, I can't, I can't do this.

DR BERGER

Why not?

CONRAD

I can't...

DR BERGER

Why not?

CONRAD

I can't do this. It takes too much energy to get mad!

DR BERGER

Do you know how much energy it takes to hold it back?

CONRAD

When I let myself feel low, I feel as lousy.

DR BERGER

Oh! I beg your pardon! I never promised you a rose garden...

CONRAD

Fuck you. Berger!

DR BERGER

What?

CONRAD

Fuck you.

DR BERGER

Yeah?

CONRAD

Fuck you!

DR BERGER

That's it!

CONRAD

Jesus, you're really weird! What about you? What do you feel, huh? Do you jack off or jerk off? Whatever you call it?

DR BERGER

What do you think?

CONRAD

(shouts at him)

What do I think? I think you married your fat lady... and you goona over fuck the daylights out of her!

(CONTINUED)

DR BERGER
Sounds good to me.

CONRAD
Ah! Ha! Ha...

Conrad falls on the couch, out of breath.

DR BERGER
A little advice about feeling,
kiddo... Don't expect it always to
tickle.

Beth, Grandfather (Beth's father), Conrad and Calvin pose in front of Grandmother (Beth's mother) aiming her camera to take a photo. Grandfather is very excited and noisy.

GRANDFATHER
Ha! Ha! Mother do you know
how to aim that thing?

GRANDMOTHER
Be quiet. I have to
concentrate. Be quiet.

GRANDFATHER
Is it in focus?

GRANDMOTHER
Smile. Smile. Okay. Good.
Okay, now I want to take the
three young ones. Dad, will
you get out of there. Will
you get out of there?

GRANDFATHER
Oh, all right, all right.

GRANDMOTHER
And be quiet. Be quiet. Be quiet.
Conrad. Where are you?

GRANDFATHER
Connie!

GRANDMOTHER
Connie.

GRANDFATHER
Over in the middle between your
mother and father.

CALVIN
That's good.

GRANDMOTHER
That's great. All right, smile
everybody.

GRANDFATHER
You're taller than your
mother is! Really!

GRANDMOTHER
Quiet! Will you be quiet?
All right, smile!

GRANDFATHER
This is beautiful. Hold it
level, would you?

GRANDMOTHER
Shut up! Wonderful. OK, now I
want to take Cal and Beth.
OK?

GRANDFATHER
Great! Sure. Oh, come on. You
can do better than that.

GRANDMOTHER
Oh, hooooold it!

GRANDFATHER
Ohhh!

CALVIN
Connie. I want one of Connie and
his mother.

BETH
No, I tell you what. Let's get the
three men in there, and I'll take a
picture of you.

CALVIN
Connie, move in a little closer to
your mother. Okay... prize
winner...

GRANDFATHER
Yeah. That's great.

CALVIN
Portrait...

GRANDFATHER
It's great.

BETH
Do it.

CALVIN
Page one, Lake Forrester...

GRANDFATHER
Ain't it mother?

GRANDMOTHER
Yes. It's marvellous. I love
it.

Calvin clicks but it doesn't work, the camera wasn't
cocked.

CALVIN (cont'd)
Shoot, I didn't cock it.

BETH

Calvin...

CALVIN

Hold it. Connie, smile!

BETH

Calvin!

CALVIN

Just a second, smile!

BETH

Calvin, give me the camera.

CALVIN

No, I didn't get it yet , Beth.

BETH

Come on, give me the camera.

CONRAD

Dad, give her the camera.

CALVIN

I want a really good picture of the two of you, OK?

BETH

No but I really want a shot of the three of you men. Give me the camera, Calvin. Please...

CALVIN

Not until I get a picture of the two of you.

BETH

Cal?

CONRAD

(shouts)

GIVE-HER-THE-GODDAMN-CAMERA!

Calvin is startled. Conrad sits in an armchair. Calvin hands the camera to Beth. They exchange places.

BETH

Smile.

Beth takes a photo of Calvin.

BETH (cont'd)

Who's hungry? I'll make the sandwiches.

67 CONTINUED:

67

Beth leaves for the kitchen, leaving the camera to her mother.

68 INT. GRANDPARENTS' KITCHEN - DAY

68

[plate crashes]. We follow the grandmother going to the kitchen to see what's happening. With her, we discover Beth kneeling, picking up a broken plate on the ground.

GRANDMOTHER

Beth?!

BETH

I think it can be saved.

Beth gets up, goes to the table and starts preparing the sandwiches.

BETH (cont'd)

That was dumb. It was just so dumb.
I don't think he's happy in school.

GRANDMOTHER

Have you talked to his teachers?

BETH

I don't think people want to be
with him. He provokes people.

GRANDMOTHER

Well. / Why don't you do this? /
It's an awkward age.

BETH

Thank you.

GRANDMOTHER

Maybe he needs a change. Are you
sure he's eating enough?

BETH

Yes, Mother, of course.

GRANDMOTHER

I think he'll be all right - if
you're firm with him, mmm?

BETH

I think maybe he should go away to
school. I just don't know how to
deal with him any more.

GRANDMOTHER

Who would make that decision?

(CONTINUED)

BETH

I don't know. I suppose this doctor
he's seeing.

GRANDMOTHER

What sort of doctor... would make
that decision for you?

BETH

A psychiatrist.

GRANDMOTHER

I thought we were all finished with
that.

BETH

No...

GRANDMOTHER

What's his name?

BETH

Berger.

GRANDMOTHER

Jewish doctor?

BETH

I dunno, I suppose he's Jewish.
Maybe just German.

GRANDMOTHER

What does Cal say about all this?

Beth shows her mother the two pieces of the plate and puts
them together.

BETH

You know, I think this can be
saved. It's a nice clean break.

The choir is rehearsing.

CHOIR

Alleluia, Amen. Amen. Alleluia,
Amen. Aaaaaamen.
(final)

CONDUCTOR

Okay. Altos, that last "E" natural
could be just a little higher.
Officers, don't forget your
meeting tonight. That's it.

69 CONTINUED:

69

Choir breaks. Jeannine looks at Conrad.

70 INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - EVENING

70

Jeannine in school corridor still singing.

JEANNINE

Mmm mm mmm, Mmm mm mmm, Mmm mmm
Mmm mm mmm.

Jeannine stops to drink some water at the tap of the fountain. Conrad see her when he is already too near, and has almost his coat on. Seeing an opportunity to talk to her, he steps back, takes off his coat while she is not looking, then passes her, putting on his coat as if he was naturally on his way out.

GIRLS

Hi. Jeannine!

Jeannine notices Conrad passing by.

JEANNINE

You are really a terrific tenor.

CONRAD

Oh...

JEANNINE

In fact. You should be doing the solo in that Russian thing.

CONRAD

Ha, no. I...

JEANNINE

No. I'm serious. You really sing well. I'm getting to know your voice.

CONRAD

Yeah?

JEANNINE

Yeah!

CONRAD

How can you hear me sing if you're singing?

JEANNINE

Well... I don't always sing. Sometimes I just listen.

CONRAD

Oh?

(CONTINUED)

JEANNINE

For instance, Marcia Blair can't sing a note.

CONRAD

Uh, uh...

JEANNINE

Janet Fox only mouths the words and never sings.

CONRAD

Ha, ha? Ha, a detective?

JEANNINE

Yeah...

JEANNINE

Do you like Vivaldi?

CONRAD

Uh...

JEANNINE

Telemann?

CONRAD

Telemann? Um...

JEANNINE

What kind of music do you like?

CONRAD

Oh. Uh... Modern jazz. I like. Folk rock. Spoon on a glass.

JEANNINE

Spoon on a ...glass?

Conrad laughs.

JEANNINE (cont'd)

Oh, you mean like ...tablespoon?
Oh, dear! Why do I ask dumb questions? I'm just showing off.
Why is it so hard... the first time you talk to somebody?

Conrad shrugs.

CONRAD

Mmmm. You make it look easy.

Jeannine is touched.

JEANNINE

Really?

Jeannine looks at him, then:

JEANNINE (cont'd)

Oh, that's my bus, I got to go!

She runs and gets into the bus. Conrad follows and see her gets into the bus.

JEANNINE (cont'd)

I'll see you later!
And you're really a terrific
tenor!

CONRAD

(singing like a tenor)
Ah. You're just saying that?

Bus goes away.

CONRAD (cont'd)

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Conrad goes home through park.

CONRAD

Alleluia! Ah ha, ha, ha, ha, ha,
ha, ha. Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha,
ha, ha, ha, alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Conrad enters his room still singing in a low voice.

CONRAD

Alleluia!

He browses quickly through a pocket book, finds the piece of paper inserted in it, picks up phone and dials the number written on the paper

KAREN'S MOTHER

Hello?

CONRAD

Hello. Is Karen there?

KAREN'S MOTHER

Who's calling, please?

CONRAD

It's a friend of hers from
Hillsboro?

KAREN'S MOTHER

Oh... Well, she's ...not home from
school yet.

CONRAD

Oh. Um...Hmm. Just tell her I
called. This is Conrad. Calling.
Just tell her I called and I'm
feeling great, and I just wanted
to talk to her.

KAREN'S MOTHER

Yes. I will.

CONRAD

OK. Thank you.

KAREN'S MOTHER

Good bye.

Conrad walks nervously around to and fro for a while then
looks up into directory. He finds Jeannine number, writes it
down "Pratt 5556719", then picks up the phone.

CONRAD

All right

Conrad hangs up, and rehearses what he is going to say, but
he is yet too shy to call.

CONRAD (cont'd)

Hello. Jeannine. This is Conrad.
Hello. Jeannine, this is Conrad.
Hello. Jeannine. This is Conrad.
Conrad. Conrad? What a dumb name.
Hello. Jeannine. This is Bill.
Uuuuurgh!

Conrad takes courage and dials Jeannine number.

JEANNINE

Hello?

CONRAD

Hello. This is... Hello, this is
Conrad calling. Jarrett?

JEANNINE

Oh...

(realizing, more
enthusiastic)

Oh. Hi!

CONRAD

Hi. Listen. I was... I was wondering if maybe you'd like...to go out sometime?

JEANNINE

You mean, with you? Like on a date?

CONRAD

Well, yeah, we wouldn't have to call it a real date. We could fake it sort of, to see how it goes..

Jeannine laughs.

JEANNINE

That was dumb. Forget it. Just forget it. Now start over.

CONRAD

Hi, this is Conrad Jarrett...

JEANNINE

(interrupting))
I'd love to. When?

Conrad laughs.

74 EXT. STREET JARRETT'S HOME - DAY 74

[Happy music] Calvin and Conrad happily come back home with a Christmas tree on top of car.

75 INT. JARRETT'S LIVING ROOM - DAY 75

Christmas tree standing in living room ready to be decorated. Beth silently comes in. Calvin finally notices she is here.

CALVIN

I didn't see you there. What do you think?

BETH

(cold)
Fine.

CALVIN

Rawlins used to have such great Scotch pines. And they all look like skeletons this year.

Conrad comes in with a box of christmas tree decorations

CONRAD

Hi. What do you think?

(CONTINUED)

BETH
(cold)
Very nice.

Conrad and Calvin stop at the tone of her voice.

CALVIN
What's wrong?

BETH
(cold)
Why don't you ask him what's wrong?
Maybe you won't have to hear it
from Carol Lazenby.

CALVIN
Hear what?

CONRAD
Dad, I quit the swim team.

CALVIN
What?

BETH
Carol thought I knew. Cos why
wouldn't I? It happened over a
month ago.

CALVIN
Quit? When? Where have you been
every night?

CONRAD
Nowhere. Around. The library
mostly.

CALVIN
Why didn't you tell us, Connie?

CONRAD
I don't know, I didn't think it
mattered.

CALVIN
What do you mean? Why wouldn't it
matter? Of course it matters.
And...

BETH
(interrupting)
No, that was meant for me, Calvin.

CALVIN
What was meant for you?

BETH

It's really important to try to hurt me. Isn't it?

CONRAD

Don't you have that backwards?

BETH

Oh? And how do I hurt you? By embarrassing you in front of a friend? Poor Beth! She has no idea what her son is up to! He lies and she believes every word of it.

CONRAD

I didn't lie!

BETH

You did! You lied everytime you came into this house at 6:30 ! If it's starting all over again, the lying, the covering up, the disappearing for hours, I will not stand for it! I can't stand it! I really can't!

CONRAD

Well don't then! Go to Europe!

CALVIN

Connie! Now, Connie! Connie!...

CONRAD

Cos the only reason she cares, the only reason she gives a fuck about it...

CALVIN

Connie!...

CONRAD

...is because someone else knew about it first!

CALVIN

Just stop it, Connie! ...

CONRAD

No! You tell her to stop it! You never tell her a godamn thing! And I know why she never came to the hospital, she's busy going to goddamn Spain and... goddamn Portugal! Why should she care if I'm hung up by the balls out there?

BETH

Maybe this is how they sit around and talk at the hospital, but we're not at the hospital now.

CONRAD

You never came to the hospital!

CALVIN

How do you know she never came? You know she came but she had the flu and couldn't come inside, but she came.

CONRAD

Yeah! She wouldn't have had any flu if Buck was in the hospital! She would have come if Buck was in the hospital!

BETH

Buck never would've been in the hospital!

Conrad takes his head between his hands and runs upstairs.

CALVIN

That's enough! That is enough!

BETH

I won't do it again. I really won't do it.

CALVIN

What in hell has happened?

Upstairs, Conrad's bedroom door slams.

CALVIN (cont'd)

Somebody better go up there.

BETH

Ah! Oh, god, that's the pattern, isn't it? He walks all over us and then you go up and apologize to him.

CALVIN

I am not going to apologize...

BETH

Yes of course you are! You always do! You've been apologizing to him ever since he got home from the hospital, only you don't see it!

CALVIN

I am not apologizing. I'm trying to goddamn understand him!

BETH

Don't talk to me that way. Don't you talk to me the way he talks to you!

CALVIN

Beth. Let's not fight. Okay? No fighting. Okay? Please. Let's go upstairs.

Calvin goes, but Beth doesn't, and turns away.

Calvin enters Conrad's bedroom and closes the door. Conrad is lying on his stomach, feeling all crooked. His voice is muffled by his head between his arms.

CALVIN

I want to talk to you.

CONRAD

I need to sleep.

CALVIN

In a minute...

CONRAD

I didn't mean it. I didn't mean any of it. I am sorry. Please don't be mad.

CALVIN

I'm not mad ! I'm just trying to figure out what happened down there.

CONRAD

I don't know what happened! I am sorry about it all. I am sorry about the whole thing. What I said, I didn't mean it. Just please tell her. Tell her I'm sorry, will you?

CALVIN

Why don't you tell her?

CONRAD

Oh, God, no, I can't! Don't you see? I can't talk to her!

CALVIN

Why not?

CONRAD

Ha! Because it doesn't change anything. It doesn't change the way she looks at me.

CALVIN

She was upset, Conrad. Your mother was hurt because you quit the swim team. I don't understand it myself.

CONRAD

I don't mean just now. Don't you see? I don't mean just today.

CALVIN

What then? Explain it to me.

CONRAD

Ha! I can't! Everything is German pudding with you , dad. You don't see things!

CALVIN

What things?

Conrad sighs.

CALVIN (cont'd)

What things? Please, I want you to tell me.

CONRAD

That she hates me! Can't you see that?

CALVIN

Your mother doesn't hate you, Conrad?

CONRAD

All right, all right. You're right. She doesn't. Please leave me alone, now.

Silence. Then Calvin stands up and goes to the door.

CALVIN

What about this Dr. Berger? Do you think he's helping you?

CONRAD

Don't blame it on Burger, it's not his fault!

(CONTINUED)

Calvin opens the door.

CALVIN

I'll be downstairs if you need me.

Exit Calvin. Conrad remains lying on his back with his arm over his eyes.

INT. Dr. BERGER'S OFFICE - EVENING*

DR BERGER

Tuesday you felt great. You bought a Christmas tree, it was all hunky-dory. Okay?

CONRAD

You're the doctor.

DR BERGER

Don't take refuge in one-liners like "You're the doctor". Okay? Because that pisses me off.

CONRAD

Okay. Okay.

DR BERGER

So everything was fine till you had the fight with your mother, then everything was lousy.

CONRAD

Yeah, but I don't blame her. I mean, she's got... She's got her reasons. It's impossible after all the shit I've pulled!

DR BERGER

What shit have you pulled? Hey! Remember! I'm talking proportion here. Now, what shit?

Conrad sighs.

DR BERGER (cont'd)

Come on. You must be able to come up with at least one example. And don't give me "I tried to kill myself", that's old turkey. What have you done lately?

CONRAD

Lately?

DR BERGER

Uh, uh.

(CONTINUED)

CONRAD

Hey, come on, if you... Listen, I'm never gonna be forgiven for that. Never! You know, you can't get it out, you know, all the blood in her towels, in her rug. Everything had to be pitched. Even the tiles in the bathroom had to be regouted. Christ, she fired the godamn maid because she couldn't dust the living room right. If you think I'm gonna forgive... - that she's gonna forgive me...

Conrad stops. Dr. Berger looks at Conrad to signal him he just said something: Conrad realizes he just made a Freudian slip, looks at him,

DR BERGER

What?

Conrad stands up, reflects, looks outside window.

CONRAD

I think I just figured something out.

DR BERGER

What?

CONRAD

Who it is who can't forgive who...

DR BERGER

Well a real problem... a real problem has a real solution.

CONRAD

I've heard this all before.

DR BERGER

Doesn't make it any less true.

CONRAD

I'm so tired.

DR BERGER

Yeah, well... that's a hell of a secret you've been keeping on yourself.

CONRAD

So what do I do now?

DR BERGER

Recognize her limitations.

CONRAD

You mean, like she can't love me?

DR BERGER

Oh, kiddo, no. Like she can't love you enough. Like don't blame her for not loving you more than she's able.

CONRAD

But she loves my father. I know she loved my brother. It's me!

DR BERGER

Ha! Now we're back to the rotten kid routine! She can't love you because you're unlovable. Where does that leave your dad? How come he loves you? You're a rottenkid, doesn't he know that?

CONRAD

That's different. He feels responsible. Besides, he loves everybody.

DR BERGER

Ho, I get it! The guy's got no taste! He loves you, but he's wrong. Look... maybe she just can't express it the way you'd like her to. Maybe she's just afraid to show you what she feels.

CONRAD

What do you mean?

DR BERGER

I mean there's someone besides your mother you've got to forgive.

CONRAD

You mean me?

Conrad is wondering.

CONRAD (cont'd)

For trying to off myself?
Don't you sit there and stare at me. What for?

DR BERGER

Why don't you give yourself a
break? Let yourself off the hook?

CONRAD

What did I do?

No answer.

CONRAD (cont'd)

What did I do?

DR BERGER

We'll talk about it on Thursday.

CONRAD

Come on!

DR BERGER

Time's up.

CONRAD

What do you mean? You're gonna pull
the plug... Come on! What did I do?

DR BERGER

Come on, Con. You know the rules.

CONRAD

Rules? What rules? Can't I have a
few minutes?

DR BERGER

You think about it. Just think
about it.

Silence

CONRAD

Jesus!

Conrad is out of breath.

Calvin and Friend are jogging in sportswear. Calvin's friend
explains a stock market deal he made.

FRIEND

Say. After going to a new high, it
falls to 112 1/4 and then rallies
on good volume. I shoot an order to
buy 4000 at the market. If I get
the 4000 shares at 113 3/4, I know
something's wrong.

(MORE)

FRIEND (cont'd)

But suppose the order to buy the 4000 shares I put in at the price of 113 3/4, I get 2000 at 114, 500 at 114 1/4, and the rest on the way up, so the last 500 shares I pay 115 1/2, then I know I'm right. I'm going to peel off here.

Friend leaves Calvin and runs toward his home.

CALVIN

OK.

FRIEND

I'll see you, Cal.

CALVIN

See you later.

Now Calvin is running through the park alone. Different voices are echoing off screen.

FRIEND

(OS)

Suppose the order to buy 4000 at 113 3/4...

BETH

(OS)

He walks all over us and you go up there and apologize to him...

FRIEND

(OS)

500 at 114...

CONRAD

(OS)

It's all German pudding with you, dad, you don't see things.

BETH

(OS)

You've been apologizing to him ever since he came home from the hospital. And you just don't see that!

CONRAD

(OS)

Tell her to stop it! You never tell her a godamn thing!

BETH

(OS)

Buck never would have been in the hospital!

CONRAD

(OS)

She hates me! Can't you see that?

Calvin trips, and falls in dead leaves. He sits up, thoughtful.

CALVIN

(OS)

I want to be clear.

INT. Dr. BERGER'S OFFICE - EVENING

Calvin laughs nervously, all smiles.

DR BERGER

(OS)

That's good.

CALVIN

In the car, I was thinking: "be clear.". I suppose that's what psychiatry's about. Being precise and clear. And honest, of course. I'll level with you. I'm not a great believer in psychiatry.

DR BERGER

Okay.

CALVIN

I know what happens here is only between you and him, and...I like that, I respect that. And...he's better, I can see that. I am not trying to put you down, I just don't believe in psychiatry as a panacea for everybody.

DR BERGER

Neither do I.

Calvin laughs.

CALVIN

I wish I knew what the hell I was doing here.

DR BERGER

Well, you said you... thought you could shed some light on some things. What did you mean by that?

CALVIN

I don't know actually, I'm not sure, I think I meant in terms of Conrad. You see, I knew something was wrong even before he tried to... to kill himself. But I thought that... It's clear that he's very smart. He's been an "A" student ever since he started school, and naturally I thought that ...intelligent people could work out their own problems.

DR BERGER

But you still feel responsible?

CALVIN

Yeah, sure I do. It's hard not to. It was luck. It was just luck that I happened to be there when he tried it. I could have been at a meeting. We both could've been away. It was luck!

DR BERGER

You think of yourself as a lucky man, then?

CALVIN

No! No. No. I used to. I used to think... that I was a lucky person... before... the "accident".
Mmm, I guess the whole of life is nothing but an accident, is it? What happens to you. I should do with it.

DR BERGER

That sounds more like the philosophy of a drifter than a tax attorney.

CALVIN

Yeah. Maybe, maybe I am drifting a little. I can see myself, ...and I can see the two of them drifting away from me, and I just stand there watching.

DR BERGER

What would you want to do about that?

CALVIN

Something. I gotta do something about it. I don't know what.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CALVIN (cont'd)
I feel like I'm sitting on a fence,
and I don't like it.

DR BERGER
And you see them as on ...opposite
sides of this fence?

CALVIN
Yeah... No. I don't know. I see her
not being able to forgive him.

DR BERGER
For what?

CALVIN
Oh, I don't know exactly. Being too
much like her. People always think
that she and Buck are... were
...were alike. But it's really she
and Conrad. They were the only two
that didn't cry at the funeral, you
know? It's not easy for me to admit
this but, uh... she didn't...
His mother doesn't show him a
great deal of affection. I'm not
trying to put her down in any way
at all. She is a wonderful woman,
huh...

DR BERGER
Did she give Buck much affection to
...Buck?

CALVIN
Oh, god, yes, she loved Buck!
Bucky got so much... I think what
she felt for him was special. You
know, he was her first-born.
That's not unusual, is it?

DR BERGER
And you?

CALVIN
Me? I loved Buck.

DR BERGER
What I mean is, your wife's
affection.

CALVIN
For me you mean?

DR BERGER
Yes.

CALVIN

Mmm. She's very... No. There's no problem with her for me. We've been... We've been married nearly twenty one years. Everybody loves Beth. But, huh... for Conrad, - it's been difficult. He didn't talk about that? We don't know what happens here. It doesn't come up. I guess that's what it is. It's private here. Isn't it?

DR BERGER

Mm-hmm. Very private.

CALVIN

I think I know why I came here. I think I came here to talk about myself.

DR BERGER

Okay. Why don't we?

Calvin sits in the dark in his car behind the wheel, not looking too happy. Door to garage opens and Beth appears.

BETH

Hi!

Calvin slowly opens the door. Car Buzzer Alarm. Calvin heavily comes out.

BETH (cont'd)

Calvin?

[Buzzing Continues]

BETH (cont'd)

What's the matter?

Calvin heavily comes out of the car, and finally closes door. Buzzing stops.

CALVIN

This will sound strange.

What I'm gonna to say will sound strange.

BETH

What happened?

Come inside.

CALVIN

Could we talk about Buck's funeral?

BETH

What?

CALVIN

I know it'll seem trivial, but it's on my mind, or has been, and I'd just like to talk about it.

BETH

Why?

CALVIN

When I was getting dressed for Buck's funeral, I was...

BETH

Calvin, what's the matter with you?

CALVIN

Just let me get it off my chest, OK?

BETH

What could getting dressed for Buck's funeral possibly have to do with anything right now?

CALVIN

I was wearing a blue shirt. And you said: - Wear a white shirt and the other shoes!

It was nothing at the time. But it's always seemed to stay with me. And I, for some reason, been thinking about it and it suddenly occurred to me what difference did it make what I wore at Buck's funeral?

BETH

Ha, ha.

Beth retreats inside the house to the kitchen.

CALVIN

Just hear me out, Beth! It won't hurt you to listen!

BETH

I won't listen to that! No one in their right mind would listen to that.

CALVIN

I just want to talk about something
I always remembered.

BETH

Why do you want to remind me of it?

CALVIN

Because I've always wondered, in
some needling way, what it mattered
what I wore. I was crazy that day.
We were going to our son's funeral.
And you were worried about what I
wore on my feet. I'm sure it
sounds like nothing to you, but
it sticks with me and I just
wanted to ...tell you about it.

She comes to him and takes him into her arms.

BETH

It's all right.

Two stairways, one going down, one up, cross each other in
the middle space of the mall. On the one going down is Beth,
Caroll, Beth's friend, is on the other. They have to shout.

CAROLL

Beth! Beth! Hi! How are you?

BETH

Caroll! I'm fine. How are you?

CAROLL

I haven't seen you!

BETH

I know. I'm so busy. I promise I'll
call you soon and we'll have lunch.

CAROLL

Right!

BETH

How's Brad? Give him my love.

CAROLL

Fabulous! Is everything okay?

Beth gestures to the crowd in the mall.

BETH

Isn't this madness? It gets worse
every year!

79 CONTINUED:

79

Good-bye!

CAROLL

Good-bye!

80 INT. MALL SHOP - DAY

80

Beth is spacing, seemingly gazing at a dress.

SALESWOMAN

May I show you this in your size?

BETH

What?

SALESWOMAN

May I show you this dress in your size?

BETH

Oh... No, no. No. Thanks.

81 INT. MALL DINER - DAY

81

Beth and Conrad are having lunch at a table in the diner. Beth is summing up the birthday presents she bought.

BETH

We've got Bennett's, and Grant's and Foley's. Ha, Conrad should get something for my mother and father. He's not supposed to get something for his doctor, is he?

CALVIN

I don't think so. I think we should go see him, Beth. - Dr. Berger.

Beth laughs.

BETH

What?

CALVIN

I think we could all go and see him together.

BETH

Why?

CALVIN

He thinks it's a good idea.

(CONTINUED)

BETH

Ho... He thinks it's a good idea?
What does he know about me, about
this family? I've never even met
him.

CALVIN

Exactly. That's the point.
Wouldn't it be easier if we all
talked about it? In the open.

BETH

About what? What are we gonna talk
about? Don't try to change me,
Calvin. I don't want anymore
changes in my life. For God's sake,
hasn't enough happened? Let's just
hold on to what we've got!

CALVIN

Darling, that is what this is for.
Maybe you'll get a surprise.

BETH

I don't want any surprises.
I know I'm not perfect. And if I
can't go around hugging everybody
all the time the way you do, then
I'm sorry.

CALVIN

I am not asking you to be perfect,
you're missing the point.

BETH

I don't want to see any doctors or
counselors. I am me. This is my
family. And if we have problems,
then we will solve those problems
in the privacy of our own home, not
by running to some kind of
specialist everytime something goes
wrong...

WAITRESS

(interrupting)

Are you folks ready to order?

CALVIN

Huh, no... Could you give me a
couple of minutes, please?

WAITRESS

Sure.

BETH

...running to experts every time something goes wrong.

Silence

BETH (cont'd)

I know you mean well. I want this to be a nice Christmas.

CALVIN

I do too. I want all of them to be nice Christmases

BETH

We need time together, Calvin. You and I. We have to get away. New Years'. We can spend some time in Houston with my brother and Audrey. You know, play a little golf. Relax.

Calvin seems doubtful. Beth goes softly.

BETH (cont'd)

I have already talked to Mother about it, and Conrad can stay with them. Please don't worry about it. Please, for his sake, don't indulge him. We need time together. Okay?

CALVIN

Okay. Okay.

Beth takes his hand but it seems almost like a handshake.

BETH

I love you.

CALVIN

I love you, too.

Beth stares at him.

BETH

Let's just give things time. Okay?

Calvin doesn't say anything.

Conrad came to pick her up, they both come out. Conrad fetches his car keys while she closes her door.

JEANNINE

Conrad?

CONRAD

Hmm?

JEANNINE

I don't bowl. I mean, I'm a horrible bowler.

CONRAD

Oh, that's all right.

JEANNINE

Yeah. Well...

Conrad wants to open the door on her side.

JEANNINE (cont'd)

I got it. That's OK. Thing is, I'm a funny bowler.

CONRAD

Well, listen. We don't have to go bowling if you'd rather not, I'm not a bowling nut or anything. How funny are you?

JEANNINE

On a scale from one to ten? ... About a ten.

CONRAD

Hoo, that's pretty funny. Hey, well, listen, I promise you won't look silly.

JEANNINE

Guarantee it?

CONRAD

Guarantee it.

They get into the car.

Jeannine enters frame looking very focused, ball in hand. Conrad looks. She shoots but the ball drops and goes into the gutter to the end. Conrad does not react. The skittles are intact.

Jeannine is eating a hamburger.

JEANNINE

Can you ever break the ball?

CONRAD

Can't break the ball, can't break the floor, can't break anything in a bowling alley. And that's what I like about bowling alleys. Can't even break the record.

Jeannine giggles with laughing eyes.

CONRAD (cont'd)

Anyway...

JEANNINE

Hmm? What?

CONRAD

Just "anyway", it's a conversation starter.

JEANNINE

Catchy!

CONRAD

You like it?

JEANNINE

Mmm, mmm.

CONRAD

I thought it'd get to you. I've been working on it all day.

Jeannine laughs, then:

JEANNINE

Do you think people are punished for the things they do?

CONRAD

You mean by God?

JEANNINE

Yeah.

CONRAD

Mmm, I don't believe in God.

JEANNINE

Not at all?

CONRAD

No. Well, it's not a question of degree. Either you do or you don't.

JEANNINE

I believe in God.

CONRAD

So you're afraid he'll punish you
for something you did?

JEANNINE

I've done a lot of things I'm
ashamed of.

CONRAD

Yeah? So have I.

She looks up at him, then at his wrists.

JEANNINE

Did it hurt?

CONRAD

No, I dunno, I don't remember
really.

JEANNINE

You don't want to talk about it?

CONRAD

Ah, I don't know... I've never
really talked about it.
To doctors, but not to anyone else.
You're the first who's asked.

JEANNINE

Why did you do it?

CONRAD

Uh... I don't know. It was like...
falling into a hole.
It was like falling into a hole,
and it keeps getting bigger and
bigger, .and you can't get out,
and then, .all of a sudden, it's
inside...and you're the hole, and
you're trapped, and it's all
over. Something like that. And
it's not really scary, except it
is when you think back on it.
'Cause you know what you were
feeling stange and new...

A group of noisy students enter the Diner.

STUDENTS

(singing and horsing
around)

(MORE)

STUDENTS (cont'd)
Like McDonald's can, nobody can
do it. Like McDonald's can, you
deserve a break today. So get up
and get away!

The manager tries to calm them down. A student comes to
Conrad's table and steals some fries.

STUDENT
Hey. Jarrett. How you doing? How
about some fries?

Some students grab Jeannine and dance around, put a Mac
donald's hat on her head. She laughs.

JEANNINE
What are you doing?

The manager pushes them towards the exit.

STUDENT
Hey, what's your problem? Lighten
up!

MANAGER
Hey. I don't like your attitude.

Going out, a student pulls the manager's ear. Jeannine
laughs, a bit stupidly. Conrad notices it. She sees that.

Conrad drives sadly. He is disappointed and acts as if he was
sulking. Jeannine tries to make it up.

JEANNINE
Energetic. Those guys.

CONRAD
(not believing)
Yeah, they were pretty funny.

JEANNINE
No...

CONRAD
What? You thought they were funny?

JEANNINE
No. I...

Silence

JEANNINE (cont'd)
I'm sorry, I...

CONRAD

What for?

JEANNINE

Anyway...

Conrad does not find this funny. Finally car stops. Conrad sighs.

JEANNINE (cont'd)

Do you want to talk?

CONRAD

About what?

JEANNINE

Are you okay?

CONRAD

Yeah. Yeah, I'm fine. Uh... I'll give you a call.

JEANNINE

Will you? I want you to.

CONRAD

Sure.

JEANNINE

Well... Guess I'll see you in choir.

CONRAD

Okay. Yeah. Thanks.

JEANNINE

Okay.

CONRAD

I mean. Good night. Good night.

JEANNINE

Good night.

Jeannine leaves the car.

Beth is all smiles, she succeeded with Calvin. They both are playing with their earphone

CALVIN

Seven.

BETH

Yes... It's not even plugged in.

86 CONTINUED:

86

Stewardess' voice in loudspeaker.

STEWARDESS

In preparation for our landing in
Houston, observe the fasten seat
belt sign.....

87 EXT. JET -DAY

87

Jet lands on Huston's airport runway.

STEWARDESS

.....and please no smoking until well
inside the terminal. Thank you.

88 EXT. HUSTON GOLF - AFTERNOON

88

Golf ball being wished out of sight by a club. Beth, Calvin,
Ward (Beth's brother) and his wife Audrey, are having drinks
sitting at a table on a golf course under a parasol.

WARD lifts his golf club and demonstrates a clumsy hesitating
swing, and how it misses.

WARD

Watch this. Pessimistic golfer.
Pessimistic golfer.

Ward arms his club as if to strike, then stops.

WARD (cont'd)

Oh. Damn!

They laugh.

WARD (cont'd)

Are we two up? Two?

GOLF PLAYER

(OS)

Two!

WARD

All right. Let's hustle up. We're
close here.

CALVIN

I'll never get over how flat it is
here. I'll never get over...

WARD

I know it's flat, but we decided to
teach you to love it.

(CONTINUED)

AUDREY

He is trying to get everybody to move down here.

BETH

Really?

AUDREY

Gosh, you guys, it's so good to see you. You look tired. Cal.

CALVIN

Airplane scotch.

BETH

Would you tell me why it is I am still hungry?

WARD

'Cause you're in Texas, girl. When we get done, we'll get you home. Get ya some steaks on the barbecue. Audrey will put together her famous salad.

BETH

With baked potatoe and sour cream, too, uh? How long has he had that drawl?

AUDREY

Ever since we joined the country club.

Revolver fires upwards. Swimmers dive. It's a swimming competition. Conrad is sitting on one of the top bleachers, fully dressed, uneasy, while down there, by the side of the pool, his friends, in swimming trunks and wet hair, watch the race. Lazenby sees him, Conrad looks down. In the audience, everyone is shouting for his team.

.../...

Now the competition is finished. The swimming pool is empty and silent, except for someone sweeping the side of the pool, and Conrad sitting still, reflecting, looking around.

The group comes out of the pool. Conrad at the back, as if he wasn't part of it.

LAZENBY

I am glad you can laugh about it,
cos' it sure as hell wasn't
funny.
Come on, we weren't that bad.

STILLMAN

Let's face it, we stunk.
I don't know how you can listen
to that lecture on Buck Jarrett
one more time.
I know he is the world's greatest
swimmer, but it bugs the hell
outa me when he does that.

LAZENBY

Stillman, cut it.

STILLMAN

Think he's ever gonna stop kissing
the guy's picture?

LAZENBY

Stillman, shut the hell up, would
you? Hey, con, you want a ride?

CONRAD

Oh. No. Thanks.

LAZENBY

We sure could've used you today,
buddy.

CONRAD

Oh, no, I don't think so.

LAZENBY

Yeah... I don't think anybody
could've helped us today.

STILLMAN

How's it going, Jarrett? I hear you
got eyes for Pratt these days. You
in her pants yet?

CONRAD

Hey, do me a favor, Stillman, try
not to be such a prick.

STILLMAN

You're the prick. Guys like you
walk around like you're king shit.
You give me a goddamn pain in the
ass, you think we owe you...

Conrad hits him hard with a jab, then jumps on him. They fall in the plastic bags of the disposal, Conrad still hitting. Lazenby tries to stop him. Conrad pushes him away. Two students take hold of Conrad and pull him away, two others with Stillman.

LAZENBY

Come on! Connie. Come on! Cool it, Jarrett! Connie! Connie. That's enough.

STUDENTS

No, Stillman, no! No!

STILLMAN

Let go! Let go!

LAZENBY

It's all right! He's crazy! Just calm down, uh?

STILLMAN

You're crazy! You're crazy! You know that?

Conrad walks back to his car

STILLMAN (cont'd)

Send him back where he came from!

OTHERS

Now, now, it's over. It's over.

STILLMAN

All right! Shit!

Stillman hits a garbage bag.

Conrad opens the door and sits down in his car. Lazenby comes, opens the door and hands Conrad his hat.

LAZENBY

Here's your hat.

Lazenby comes in and sits.

LAZENBY (cont'd)

You want to talk? The guy's a nothing. He's a zero upstairs. You used to know that about him, Con. Ever since fourth grade, you've known it.

CONRAD

So?

LAZENBY

So you just make yourself look stupid when you let him get to you like that!

CONRAD

So I look stupid, is that it?

LAZENBY

No, it isn't. What is it with you? Huh? I don't know why you want to be in this alone? You know, I miss him too. Connie, the three of us were best friends!

CONRAD

I can't help it, it hurts too much to be around you. I gotta go.

Lazenby looks at him, then opens the door and goes out.

LAZENBY

Yeah. Okay.

Conrad remains alone and touches the horn by accident.

92 INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOME, STAIRS & LANDING - NIGHT 92

Conrad gets home, climbs upstairs directly to his room, and closes the door. His grandmother hears him, opens her bedroom door, closes it.

93 INT. CONRAD'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 93

Conrad reflects for a short time, then goes down to..

94 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT 94

Conrad enters the kitchen, takes something in the fridge, goes to the phone to make a call. He dials.

KAREN'S MOTHER (OS)

Hello?

CONRAD

Hello. Is Karen there?

KAREN'S MOTHER (OS)

She...uh... Ah!... Bill?

KAREN'S FATHER (OS)

Hello.

CONRAD

Yes, hello. Is Karen there? This is Conrad Jarrett, calling. I'm a friend of hers.

KAREN'S FATHER

Karen's...

CONRAD

I called...

KAREN'S FATHER

Karen's dead.

CONRAD

What? What?

KAREN'S FATHER

She killed herself.

Karen's father hangs up. Conrad suffocates under the shock. He hears Karen's voice.

KAREN

(OS)

Let's have the best Christmas ever.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Conrad rushes into the bathroom

CONRAD

Ha!

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

[Very short flashback on Karen]

KAREN

We can. You know.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Conrad has rushed into the bathroom where he ends up sitting on the toilet and grabbing the washbowl, out of breath under the shock.

KAREN

(OS)

We could have the best year of our whole lives.

Conrad opens tap, water flows.

EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

[Flashback to the boat accident on the lake] Conrad yells at Buck (who is holding tight the rope maintaining the sail up) to have him get the sail down;

98 CONTINUED:

98

but Buck is stubborn and asks Conrad (who is at the helm) to maintain starboard course.[The result of opposites will overturn the small boat]. Waves of water

CONRAD

Get the sail down! Get it down!

BUCK

I can't hold it! Keep it starboard!

99 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

99

Conrad stares at himself in the mirror

100 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

100

CONRAD

Get the sail down! Get it down!

BUCK

Keep it starboard!

101 INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

101

Conrad takes water in his hands..

102 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

102

BUCK

Go for it!

CONRAD

I am trying! I can't! Let it out!

103 INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

103

Conrad stares at the water in his hands

104 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

104

CONRAD

Let it out!

BUCK

Just keep it starboard!

CONRAD

I can't!

Boat overturns.

CONRAD (cont'd)

Ahh!

BUCK

Ahh!

105 INT. STAIRS - NIGHT 105

Conrad rushes downstairs with his coat.

106 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT 106

Conrad comes out from underwater, taking air in.

CONRAD

Aaah!

107 INT. STAIRS - NIGHT 107

Conrad rushes downstairs with his coat.

108 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT 108

CONRAD

Bucky!

BUCK

Give me your hand!

CONRAD

Here!

109 EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT 109

Conrad rushes out of the house.

110 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT 110

The boys are holding each other's hands over the overturned boat's hull.

BUCK

We screwed up this time, Buddy!
Dad's gonna haul ass over this!

CONRAD

It ain't so goddamned funny!

111 EXT. STREET - NIGHT 111

Conrad rushes.

112 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT 112

BUCK

Just don't let go!

CONRAD

I won't, honest to God!

BUCK

Everything gonna be okay!

113 EXT. STREET - NIGHT 113

Conrad rushes.

114 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT 114

BUCK
Hang on. Brother!

But Buck's wet hand slips away. Buck tries to gain hold on the curved slippery surface of the hull, but he can't make it and disappears into the water, while Conrad manages somehow to hold on.

CONRAD
Stay with me! Stay with me!
Stay with me! Bucky! Where are
you?

Buck disappears into water.

115 EXT. STREET - NIGHT 115

Conrad rushes.

116 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT 116

CONRAD
Bucky!

117 EXT. STREET - NIGHT 117

Conrad rushes.

118 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT 118

Conrad holds on firmly to keel of boat

CONRAD
Bucky!

119 EXT. STREET - NIGHT 119

Conrad rushes.

120 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT 120

Conrad holds on firmly to keel of boat

CONRAD
Buck!

121 EXT. STREET - NIGHT 121

Conrad rushes.

122 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT 122

Conrad holds on firmly to keel of boat

CONRAD

Buck!

123 STREET - NIGHT 123

Conrad runs, gets to a phone booth, calls Dr Berger, out of breath.

DR BERGER

(OS, drowsy)

Hello?

CONRAD

This is Conrad!

DR BERGER

What's going on?

CONRAD

I need to see you!

DR BERGER

What time is it?

CONRAD

I don't know!

DR BERGER

Where are you?

CONRAD

I... I don't know!

DR BERGER

All right. Listen to me. Get to the office somehow, and I'll meet you there.

CONRAD

Okay.

124 INT. DR BERGER'S OFFICE LIFT & CORRIDOR - NIGHT* 124

Dr Berger comes out of the lift and finds Conrad waiting in the dark corridor, in a state of emotional shock.

DR BERGER

Oh, good. You're here.

CONRAD

Something happened...

(CONTINUED)

Dr Berger fiddles for his keys in the dark to open his office's door.

DR BERGER
Just wait, just hold on...

CONRAD
I need... I need...

DR BERGER
Just wait till we get inside...

Dr Berger finally opens the door. They enter.

DR BERGER (cont'd)
There...

Dr Berger enters the dark office

DR BERGER
Shit. You'd think they'd assume there'd be an emergency now and then?!

DR BERGER (cont'd)
Don't take it off. Just sit down.

Conrad cries.

CONRAD
Something happened!

DR BERGER
What?

CONRAD
It's...

DR BERGER
It's what?

CONRAD
Oh. God! I need something.

DR BERGER
What do you need? Tell me!

CONRAD
It just keeps coming! I can't... I can't make it stop!

DR BERGER
Don't try.

CONRAD

I gotta... I gotta... I gotta get
off the hook for it. I gotta get
off the hook!

DR BERGER

For what?

CONRAD

For what I did!

DR BERGER

What did you do?

CONRAD

What I did to him!

DR BERGER

What did you do?

CONRAD

It's something... It's something...
Don't you see? It's gotta be
somebody's fault or there's no
godamm point!

DR BERGER

Point? What point? It happened!

CONRAD

No, no... Oh, no. I don't mean
that. It's that... It's just
that... Buck, Bucky, I didn't mean
it!

126 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT 126

Flash of Buck in storm.

127 INT. DR BERGER'S OFFICE 127

CONRAD

Bucky, I didn't mean it!

128 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT 128

Flash of Buck in storm.

129 INT. DR BERGER'S OFFICE 129

CONRAD

Bucky!

(CONTINUED)

129 CONTINUED:

129

DR BERGER

I know that, it wasn't your fault.

CONRAD

But it was: you said. "Get the sail
down!" ...

130 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

130

Flash on both hands of Conrad holding tight the rudder

CONRAD

...and I couldn't!

131 INT. DR BERGER'S OFFICE

131

CONRAD

I couldn't! It jammed! And then the
halyard, the halyard jammed! I
couldn't because the godamn halyard
jammed! And then you're sittin'
here, you're screwing around...

132 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

132

Flash of Buck in water trying to hold on overturned boat.

133 INT. DR BERGER'S OFFICE

133

CONRAD

...until it's too late to do
anything! And I'm supposed to take
care of it!

134 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

134

Flash of Conrad giving Buck a hand over the overturned hull
of the boat.

CONRAD

And I'm supposed to take care of
it!

135 INT. DR BERGER'S OFFICE

135

DR BERGER

And that wasn't fair, was it?

CONRAD

No! And then you say ...

136 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT 136

Flash of Conrad holding Buck's hand.

CONRAD

(OS)

"Hang on!"...

137 INT. DR BERGER'S OFFICE 137

CONRAD

..."Hang on!", and then you let go!

138 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT 138

Flash : hands separating

139 INT. DR BERGER'S OFFICE 139

CONRAD

Why'd you let go?

DR BERGER

Because I got tired!

CONRAD

Yeah? Well. Screw you, you jerk!

Conrad breaks down and cries.

DR BERGER

It hurts to be mad at him, doesn't it?

CONRAD

Yeah. He just wasn't careful. He just wouldn't care. He didn't see how a bad thing might happen.

DR BERGER

Bad things happen even when people are careful.

CONRAD

We were screwing around out there, we should've come in when it started to look bad.

DR BERGER

OK, so you made a mistake.

CONRAD

Why did he let go? Why?

(CONTINUED)

DR BERGER

Maybe you were stronger. Did it ever occur to you that you might have been stronger?

Conrad comes out of it and stares at him.

DR BERGER (cont'd)

How long you gonna punish yourself?
When you gonna quit?

CONRAD

Oh, God, I'd like to quit.

DR BERGER

Why don't you?

CONRAD

It's not easy. It's not that easy.
God... I loved him.

DR BERGER

I know.

Dr Berger takes off his coat, sits down. Calvin cries.

DR BERGER (cont'd)

What happened? You said something happened. What started all this?

Calvin stutters with pain and cries.

CONRAD

Ka-ren. She killed herself! I just found out she's dead.

DR BERGER

Jesus.

CONRAD

And she was fine, she was OK.

DR BERGER

No. She wasn't.

CONRAD

She was! She was! She told me! She said she was...

DR BERGER

What?

CONRAD

She was busy, she was feeling good and she...

DR BERGER

And what?

Conrad cries.

DR BERGER (cont'd)

What?

CONRAD

I just wish I'd known...I could've done something.

DR BERGER

You saw her once and now you' want to take her on too?

CONRAD

No!

DR BERGER

No?

CONRAD

No. I just...

DR BERGER

What?

CONRAD

That isn't it. I... I feel bad about this, I feel really bad about this. And just let me feel bad about this!

DR BERGER

Okay. Listen. I feel bad about it too.

CONRAD

Why do things have to happen to people? It isn't fair.

DR BERGER

You're right. It isn't fair.

CONRAD

You just do one wrong thing... and...

DR BERGER

Um-hmm.

And what was the one wrong thing you did?

140 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT 140

Flash of Conrad looking around in the water for Buck.

CONRAD

(OS)

Haaa...

141 INT. DR BERGER'S OFFICE 141

DR BERGER

You know.

Conrad looks at him and cries and sighs.

142 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT 142

Flash of Conrad getting back on hull and clutching to the keel.

CONRAD

(OS)

Haaa...

143 INT. DR BERGER'S OFFICE 143

Conrad stares at Dr Berger.

CONRAD

Haaa...

DR BERGER

You know.

144 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT 144

Flash of Conrad clutching to the keel.

CONRAD

(OS)

Haaa...

145 INT. DR BERGER'S OFFICE 145

Conrad stares at Dr Berger.

CONRAD

I hung on. I stayed with the boat.

DR BERGER

Exactly.

Conrad cries.

146 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT 146

Flash of Conrad clutching to the keel.

CONRAD

(OS)

Haaa...

147 INT. DR BERGER'S OFFICE 147

DR BERGER

Now. You can live with that. Can't you?

148 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT 148

Flash of Conrad clutching to the keel. Waves.

CONRAD

(OS)

Haaa...

149 INT. DR BERGER'S OFFICE 149

Conrad cries

CONRAD

I'm scared! I'm scared.

DR BERGER

Feelings are scary. And sometimes they're painful. And if you can't feel pain, then you're not gonna feel anything else either. You know what I'm saying?

CONRAD

I think so.

DR BERGER

You're here and you're alive. And don't tell me you don't feel that.

CONRAD

It doesn't feel good.

DR BERGER

It is good. Believe me.

CONRAD

How do you know?

DR BERGER

Because I'm your friend.

(CONTINUED)

Conrad is out of breath.

CONRAD

I don't know what I would've
done...if you hadn't been here.
You're really my friend?

DR BERGER

I am. Count on it.

Conrad falls into Dr Berger's arms, crying.

150 EXT. JEANNINE'S HOME - EARLY MORNING

150

Jeannine opens her curtains, sees Conrad, outside her home,
walking to and fro. She puts on a jacket and comes out to
him.

CONRAD

Hi. I was gonna call but I didn't
want to wake anyone.

JEANNINE

Might have been easier...

CONRAD

Listen, I want to say something
about the other night. I mean I
liked being with you but I didn't
like myself.

JEANNINE

Conrad. I was stupid.
That was dumb of me to laugh and
it was my fault. I just didn't
know what to do. I was
embarrassed.

CONRAD

Really? You were embarrassed?

JEANNINE

Yes. When those boys came in, it
was awful and awkward. That's what
I do when I get embarrassed. I
laugh.

CONRAD

But they were all right. They were
just up and they were having a good
time, and I let them get in the way
of what was happening. It was dumb.
It was dumb. I've been doing lots
of dumb things lately. I just
didn't know wether or not you were
being straight with me.

(CONTINUED)

Jeannine is moved, she extends her hand to him then put it to her heart.

CONRAD (cont'd)

Yeah?

Jeannine nods.

CONRAD (cont'd)

Anyway, I'd like to try it again. I thought it worked out okay. Well, except for the bowling.

Jeannine laughs, looks down, then looks up straight in his eyes.

JEANNINE

Yes.

CONRAD

Yes?

Jeannine nods.

JEANNINE

Yes.

Conrad is moved.

CONRAD

Uh... Are you going to school?

JEANNINE

No, not on Sunday.

Conrad realizes. Laughs.

JEANNINE (cont'd)

Have you eaten?

CONRAD

No. I haven't.

JEANNINE

Do you want some breakfast?

Conrad nods. She smiles at him.

CONRAD

Okay.

They go up the steps and Jeannine opens the screen door.

JEANNINE

Mom!

151 EXT. HUSTON GOLF - AFTERNOON

151

(CU) Golf ball falls into hole.

WARD

Oh !...

BETH

All right. How about that?

CALVIN

Boy, oh, boy.

Beth is beaming from her success at golf.

BETH

Oh, I do love that.

CALVIN

Oh, these holes sure do love you.
Oh boy, oh boy.

BETH

We should spend more time playing
golf together, you know that?
Maybe our next vacation, strictly
golf. Pinehurst, Myrtle Beach...

CALVIN

Pinehurst would be nice. I think
Connie would like Pinehurst.

She pulls back and looks at him.

BETH

Do you do that deliberately or is
it just a reflex?

CALVIN

Well, you said "vacation", so I
just assumed you meant him too.

BETH

I'm surprised you haven't felt the
need to call him since we've been
here.

CALVIN

I was gonna call him tonight.

BETH

(to Ward and Audrey)
Hey, could we have a little drink
before we head back?

(CONTINUED)

WARD

Drink, yes. Little, no.

(to Calvin)

What'd you get? Cal, what'd you get?

CALVIN

(to Ward)

Six.

(to Beth)

Let's finish this.

BETH

What?

CALVIN

What you started.

BETH

What I started?

CALVIN

What you started.

BETH

Ha! There's no point discussing it.

CALVIN

I think there is a point.

BETH

He controls you even when you are two thousand miles away.

CALVIN

He isn't the problem.

BETH

Isn't he?

CALVIN

No, he isn't. Let's talk about what's really bothering you.

BETH

No, no. Let's talk about what's bothering you. Cos' that's what you want, isn't it?

CALVIN

Jesus, what have I done to make you so angry with me?

BETH

It's not what you've done, it's what you think I've done. You blame me for the whole thing.

CALVIN

Can't you see anything except in terms of how it affects you?

BETH

No! I can't! And neither can you, and neither can anybody else! Only maybe I'm just a little more honest about it!

CALVIN

Well, stop being so godamn honest, and start being a little generous! And start thinking about him for a while!

BETH

I don't know what he expects from me. I never have known.

CALVIN

Well, I'll tell you what he expects!

BETH

What? He wants me to throw my arms around him everytime he passes an exam? Well, I can't do it! I cannot respond when someone says: "Here, I just did this great thing. Love me.". I can't!

CALVIN

All he wants... All he wants is to know you don't hate him. That's it.

BETH

Hate him? My God! How could I hate him? Mothers don't hate their sons! Is that what he told you? Do you see how you accept what he says with no questions, and you can't do the same thing to me, can you?

CALVIN

I just try to keep this family together...

BETH
 (she shouts)
 I don't know what everyone wants
 from me anymore!

AUDREY
 Beth, nobody wants anything from
 you.

WARD
 Beth, listen. We all just want...
 Cal, Con, everybody, we just want
 you to be happy.

BETH
 Happy?

WARD
 Yes.

BETH
 Ward, you tell me the definition of
 happy, uh? But first, you better
 make sure that your kids are good
 and safe, that no one's fallen off
 a horse, or been hit by a car, or
 drowned in that swimming pool
 you're so proud of! And then you
 come to me and tell me how to be
 happy!

She leaves. Calvin follows. Ward and his wife just stand
 there.

152 INT. JET - DAY

152

Beth stares away from Calvin, as in a void. She sighs, closes
 her eyes; Calvin turns away from the window, looks at Beth
 and remembers...

When they were happily dancing... [to and fro twice]

Calvin in his plane seat, reflects.

153 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

153

Beth checks a pile of mail. Conrad comes in.

CONRAD
 I think I'm gonna turn in.
 Dinner was good.
 Really good.

CALVIN
 It's pretty early. You tired?

(CONTINUED)

CONRAD

Yeah. It was kind of a rough week.

CALVIN

I hope your grandmother wasn't too tough on you?

CONRAD

No. She was fine. I'm glad you're back.

Conrad gives his mother a hug, but she is like made of stone. Calvin sees it.

CONRAD (cont'd)

Good night.

Beth remains transfixed as if she didn't know what it was all about. Calvin sees it.

154 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

154

Beth is not sleeping, she looks up, sees her husband wrinkled pillow, but he is not in bed. She looks at the time, gets up, puts on a robe.

155 INT. STAIRS - NIGHT

155

Beth goes downstairs, tying up her robe. She stops, hearing someone sobbing in the dark, in the dining room.

156 INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

156

Beth enters the dining room in the dark.

BETH

Calvin?

Calvin is sitting at table in the dark, sobbing, his head in his hands.

BETH (cont'd)

Why are you crying?

Calvin doesn't answer.

BETH (cont'd)

Can I, uh... Can I get you something?

Calvin mutters in a very low voice.

CALVIN

I don't...

BETH

What did you say?

Calvin sits back in his chair.

BETH (cont'd)

Calvin. What did you say?

Calvin produces a very deep sigh.

BETH (cont'd)

Tell me.

Calvin looks up at her with a sad expression.

CALVIN

You are beautiful. And you are unpredictable. But you're so cautious. You're determined, Beth. But you know something? You're not strong. And I don't know if you're really giving. Beth is looking at him not knowing what this is about.

CALVIN (cont'd)

Tell me something. Do you love me? Do you really love me?

BETH

I feel the way I've always felt about you.

Calvin is disappointed by the answer, but not surprised, just sad.

CALVIN

We would've been all right, if there hadn't been any ..mess. But you can't handle mess. You need everything neat and ..easy. I don't know. Maybe you can't love anybody. It was so much Buck. And Buck died, it was as if you buried all your love with him, and I don't understand that. I just don't know.

Calvin sighs.

CALVIN (cont'd)

Maybe it wasn't even Buck. Maybe it was just you. Maybe, finally, it was the best of you that you buried.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

156 CONTINUED:

156

CALVIN (cont'd)
 But whatever it was, I don't know
 who you are.
 I don't know what we've been
 playing at.
 So I was crying.

Calvin is overcome by sadness

CALVIN (cont'd)
 't know if I love you anymore. And
 I don't know what I am going to do
 without that.

Beth does not know what to say or do. She turns away and goes upstairs.

157 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

157

Beth enters, kind of reflects, then goes open a closet, takes out some luggage. A sudden burst of emotion overcomes her, she cries but does not seem to identify the emotion, then restrains it.

158 INT. CONRAD'S BEDROOM - DAWN

158

In his bed Conrad is not sleeping. He hears the door of the house close, then someone walking outside on the gravel. He gets up, go look out of the window. Outside, a taxi leaves. He goes downstairs.

159 INT. STAIRS - DAWN

159

Conrad goes downstairs, curious. Looks around, sees nobody.

160 EXT. GARDEN - DAWN

160

From inside, Conrad finally sees his father in the garden, reflecting. Patches of snow. Conrad puts on his coat over his pyjamas, and joins him.

CONRAD
 Dad?

CALVIN
 The yard looks smaller without
 leaves.

CONRAD
 Dad? What happened?

CALVIN
 Your mother's going away for a
 while.

CONRAD
 Where? Why?

(CONTINUED)

CALVIN

Back to Houston.
Then I... I don't know.

CONRAD

Why? What... I know why. It's me.
Isn't it?

CALVIN

No.

CONRAD

Yeah, it is. It's my fault.

CALVIN

Don't do that! Don't do that to
yourself! It's nobody's fault!
Things happen in this world,
people don't always have answers
for them, you know.

Calvin sits down.

CALVIN (cont'd)

I don't know why I'm yelling at you
for...

CONRAD

No, that's right! You're right! You
ought to do that more often.

CALVIN

Oh, yeah?

CONRAD

Yeah, yeah, Haul my ass a little,
you know. Get after me. The way you
used to for him.

CALVIN

Oh, he needed it. You didn't. You
were always so hard on yourself, I
never had the heart.

CONRAD

Oh, Dad. Don't.

CALVIN

No, it's the truth. I... I never
worried about you. I just wasn't
listening.

CONRAD

Well, I wasn't putting out many
signals then. I don't think you
could have done anything.

(CONTINUED)

CALVIN

No, no, no, I should ...I should've
got a handle on it somehow.

CONRAD

You know, I used to figure you had
a handle for everything. You knew
it all.

Calvin looks at him and laughs briefly at himself.

CONRAD (cont'd)

I know that wasn't fair but you
always made us feel like everything
was gonna be all right. I thought
about that a lot lately. I really
admire you for it.

Calvin is moved.

CALVIN

Well, don't admire people too much.
They'll disappoint you sometimes.

CONRAD

I'm not disappointed.
I love you.

Calvin looks at him, cries and takes him in his arms.

CALVIN

I love you too.

They hug each other.

[Camera pulls back / Canon in D by Pachelbel]

Credits roll.

The End