

BILL

by

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EXT. MIDDLE AMERICA - EARLY MORNING

BLUE SKY, an American flag, a beautiful face.

Tight on the face of JESSICA JACOBY, thirties, long straight blonde hair, flawless skin, minimal makeup, pearl necklace; a Ralph Lauren ad come to life.

Pull back to reveal HER FAMILY.

What you would expect. What you would want. All American. Good looking. Well dressed.

Meet THE JACOBYS: MR. and MRS. JOHN JACOBY, distinguished in their sixties, JOHN JACOBY JR. and his wife MARY (40's) and their two SONS (8 and 6.) Perfection.

Pull back further and reveal BILL THOMPSON, mid thirties. Bill is Jess' husband. The man who won her.

Dressed in khakis, blue blazer and a pin striped shirt in need of ironing, Bill stands slightly separate from the Jacobys.

Bill's not really one of them, but he doesn't know that yet. Bill smiles as he tries unsuccessfully to keep his long bangs out of his face.

A CLICK of a camera shutter is heard and the picture freezes.

EXT. BLAKE PREPARATORY SCHOOL CHAPEL - MINNESOTA - DAY

A private school for grades K-12.

A CROWD has gathered in front of the recently constructed SCHOOL CHAPEL for a ribbon cutting ceremony. The Jacobys are being honored for their generous donation.

In the background an ACTION NEWS SEVEN VAN is there to cover.

CHAPLAIN

He committed to rebuild the chapel
after the fire five years ago and
he and Janice made good. Ladies
and Gentleman, allow me to present
The Jacoby Chapel.

Mr. Jacoby enthusiastically slices through the thick red satin ribbon and the crowd cheers on cue.

AFTERWARDS

The Jacoby clan shakes hands with the well-practiced sincerity of politicians. Bill stands off to the side.

Ignored, Bill turns his attention to the Newscaster CHIP JOHNSON who is surrounded by a bevy of female FANS.

CHIP

(into camera)

...Mr. Jacoby's donation benefits the entire community. In fact we have a special guest, Maria Sanchez, with us whose daughter will be getting married here this weekend. Maria works in the cafeteria here at the school...

Maria walks over. She's crying and laughing. Chip places his arm around her. She abruptly kisses his cheek. Chip feigns delight at the surprise kiss. Bill laughs to himself, happy he's not Chip.

THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL appears beside Bill.

PRINCIPAL

Hey Bill, I got a question for you.

BILL

(glad to have someone
talking to him)

Shoot.

PRINCIPAL

I was wondering if you would join our Mentor Program. It's not a big deal, like five hours a week. We're trying to get the kids involved with professionals in the community they can respect. Like you.

BILL

(pleasantly surprised)

Yeah? Okay. That would be great.

PRINCIPAL

I appreciate it. Sign-up is in the chapel, give your information to the coordinator and one of the students will contact you.

BILL

I look forward to it.

A school bell RINGS and lingering Students scatter.

INT. BOY'S BATHROOM - LATER

Bill regards his reflection in the mirror. The wind has whipped his hair into a porcupine-like mess.

Bill haphazardly slaps some water on his hair. The gel he used earlier congeals and clumps. The situation worsens as water drips down his neck onto the front of his shirt.

Suddenly A KID runs in and dodges into one of the stalls. The Principal, out of breath, appears a moment later.

PRINCIPAL

(to Bill)

Did someone just run in here?

BILL

(reflexively denies)

Ah, no. Just me.

PRINCIPAL

(gathering himself)

Don't forget to sign up for the mentor program.

The Principal leaves. Bill waits but the Kid doesn't reappear. Bill clears his throat. Nothing. He leaves.

EXT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - SAME

A click, click, click, can be heard as Bill lazily drags his hand across padlocks hanging on a row of yellow lockers. His hair is a a mess.

As he walks Bill picks up speed. He reaches the last locker, his hand flies forward and...slap! It smacks JESSICA in the face. She's just rounded the corner with NEWSCASTER, CHIP JOHNSON.

JESS

Ow!

BILL

(surprised)

Whoa. Sorry. Are you alright?

Bill places his hand on her shoulder and feels her stiffen.

JESS

I'm fine.

Bill registers a tension in her voice that makes him uncomfortable.

JESSICA
Bill, this is Chip Johnson. Chip,
this is Bill. My husband.

CHIP
Nice to meet you.

They shake hands. Chip can't help staring at Bill's hair.

BILL
Action News, right?

Chip forces a smile and nods.

BILL
(re: the church)
Pretty intense action huh?

CHIP
It's a favor for Mr. Jacoby.

Bill notices Chip is staring at his hair. Bill stares back at Chip's perfect, almost lacquered, black coif.

JESSICA
What happened to your shirt?

BILL
Nothing. I was in the bathroom.

Jessica doesn't get it. An awkward pause follows.

CHIP
Is it down there?

BILL
Yeah. To the left.

CHIP
Great. I'm going to go find it.
Nice to meet you. Bye Jess.

BILL
Be careful.

Bill's attempt at a joke is unsuccessful. Chip walks away.

BILL
Do you know that guy?

JESSICA
No. I mean I do now. I met him.
Today.

BILL
He called you Jess.

JESSICA
Everyone calls me Jess.

BILL
People who know you call you Jess.

JESSICA
Okay Bill. I have to go. Do you
want anything special for dinner?

BILL
Whatever is fine.

She smiles.

JESSICA
I'll see you later then.

Jess kisses him on the cheek and walks out.

INT. JACOBY CHAPEL -

Bill stands at the Mentor Sign-in desk. The COORDINATOR is a pleasant woman in her late thirties.

BILL
How does it work?

COORDINATOR
We post the names and the students
choose someone they're interested
in.

Bill's attention is drawn to THE WINDOW where he sees Jess walking to her car. She unlocks the door and is about to get in when Chip appears. He says something that makes her laugh.

COORDINATOR
You forgot to put down your
profession.

Bill continues watching as Jess slides into her car and Chip closes the door for her.

BILL
Banker.

COORDINATOR

One of the kids should be
contacting you after school today.

BILL

That's quick.

COORDINATOR

We had some stragglers join up
late. That's why we're scrambling
to find more mentors.

Bill frowns. The Coordinator tries to recover.

COORDINATOR

Which is why it's great that you're
joining. Finding people who like
their jobs enough to participate is
harder than you'd think.

EXT. FREEDOM BANK - DAY

CLOSE UP: A GIANT BILLBOARD. Three smiling heads: Bill,
Bill's father-in-law, Mr. Jacoby, and Mr. Jacoby's son, John
Jr.

The text reads: FREEDOM BANK - MAKE FREEDOM YOUR CHOICE.

INT. FREEDOM BANK -

The largest branch of a chain of family-run banks. CUSTOMERS
wait impatiently in an inordinately long line.

Bill is in a heated argument with his subordinate DANA, a
twenty-five year old teller with impressive cleavage.

BILL

I can't spend another day filling
in for a teller. Call Jennifer and
tell her we're short staffed, ask
her if she can come in.

DANA

I already called her. She's
getting her hair done.

BILL

Then call Jim.

DANA

Look, you make me the floor manager
and I'll call whoever the hell you
want.

BILL

Get me the phone sheet. I'll call.

Dana walks away as Mr. Jacoby and John Jr. approach with an elegant FRENCH BANKER and his FEMALE counterpart (40's.)

MR. JACOBY

This is my son-in-law Bill. He's
vice president of human resources.
Bill, these are the Jouberts.

John Jr. quietly translates Mr. Jacoby's words into FRENCH. Bill smiles and shakes their hands, he doesn't speak French.

MR. JACOBY

Bill is in charge of insuring
everything runs smoothly up front.

Which, Mr. Jacoby observes, it is not. John Jr. finishes translating. It's obvious he's added his own interpretation of the matter and the French couple share a laugh with him.

Meanwhile DANA walks past DONNY, a late twenties, ex-jock. He checks out her tits and whistles as she passes.

BILL

(ignores the whistle)
Let me know if I can answer any
questions.
(it's awkward when people
don't understand what
you're saying)
You may want to see our human
resources software I developed
which is actually fairly
sophisticated...

Bill waits for John Jr. to begin translating, he doesn't. Instead he holds out a bound PROSPECTUS.

JOHN JR.

We need five copies of this.

Irritated, Bill takes the prospectus. The French couple smile politely and continue on their tour.

Bill turns back to the situation at hand just in time to see DANA grab a stapler off the counter and chuck it at Donny's head. Bulls-eye.

INT. BILL'S OFFICE - FREEDOM BANK - DAY

A sizeable office. Through the window we can see an AMBULANCE pulling away. Bill is now at the mercy of Dana.

DANA
I'm not an idiot. Don't speak to
me like I'm stupid.

SOMETHING ACROSS THE HALL catches Bill's attention. He leans sideways in his chair to get a better view.

John Jr.'s DOOR has just opened.

The French bankers are leaving. John Jr. kisses the woman on both cheeks and zealously shakes the Man's hand.

DANA
Hello? Are you even listening to
me?

BILL
(his eyes back on Dana)
I know you're intelligent Dana.
You wouldn't be working at Freedom
if you weren't.

But Bill's eyes can't resist traveling back across the hall

TO JOHN JR.'S OFFICE

where one ASSISTANT holds documents for John Jr. to sign and a second ASSISTANT ushers in three more BUSINESS MEN.

DANA
Do you know what it's like being
born like this? I have back
problems and I'm twenty-five. I
mean look at these.

Dana places her hands under her chest and pushes up her boobs. Bill snaps back.

BILL
I can't imagine.

Bill tries to avoid looking but it's difficult considering Dana's blouse is slit down to her naval.

Bill averts his eyes and accidentally makes eye contact with John Jr.

John Jr. shakes his head in disgust before shutting his door.

DANA
This is a very hostile workplace.
I don't know if I can work in this
environment. I could sue for
sexual harassment.

BILL
Why don't you let me talk to him?

Dana relaxes.

DANA
Can Tammy work my shift tomorrow?
My nephew has a play in the
afternoon.

BILL
That would be fine.

DANA
I shouldn't have thrown the stapler
at his head. I'm sorry.

BILL
I know.

DANA
Thanks Bill.

Dana leaves and closes the door behind her.

Frustrated by the tedium, Bill opens his bottom drawer and
pulls out a CANDY BAR. He rips into the dense chocolate.

Bill considers his office. Hanging on every wall are framed
POSTERS OF TRITE TEAM SLOGANS. Bill makes a decision. He
grabs the phone and dials an extension.

BILL
Yeah, does he have five minutes?
Thanks.

He hangs up the phone, finishes off the CANDY BAR and removes
a folder from his office drawer. It reads YUM YUM FRANCHISE.

INT. MR. JACOBY'S OFFICE - SAME

Bill sits in an uncomfortably small chair across from MR.
JACOBY who now studies THE FOLDER.

MR. JACOBY
Why would I want donut franchises?

BILL

It's one of the most lucrative franchises in the country. The average store grosses over 500 K. And right now perception is that people don't believe in carbs so we can get them at somewhat of a discount.

MR. JACOBY

I don't really eat donuts.

BILL

Well, you don't really need to eat them. You don't even have to like them.

MR. JACOBY

Then why would I want the franchise?

BILL

For investment purposes.

Mr. Jacoby taps his temple as he attempts to recall some bit of lost information.

MR. JACOBY

Billy-what's-his-name down in accounting did that no carb thing and lost thirty pounds.

Exasperated, Bill clenches his jaw.

BILL

Billy Anderson.

MR. JACOBY

Right. He likes to run too.
(which reminds him)
How's your brother?

BILL

He's great. Fine.

MR. JACOBY

Good. Tell him I'm coming over to see him. Oh, and don't forget, we're hunting this Saturday.

Bill nods, powerless, nothing more he can say.

INT. BILL'S OFFICE -

Bill holds the FOLDER in one hand and nervously finishes off another CANDY BAR with the other. He picks up the phone and dials the number.

BILL
Hello? I'd like to speak with Mr. Whittman. It's regarding franchise opportunities. I'd like to leave my cell number. I won't be in the office.

INT. LOBBY - DAY

Bill is now at one of the teller stations counting out cash for a customer. He looks irritated.

Bill glances up at THE CLOCK, the day is almost over. He checks his CELL PHONE, no calls yet.

AT THE FRONT DOOR he sees the Kid he lied for earlier. He's cool without trying, casually hip, sexy even. He sees Bill.

INT. BILL'S OFFICE - LATER

BILL, slumped in his chair, slightly defeated and tired from the day, sits across from the Kid.

KID
Cool posters.

Bill knows his posters are decidedly un-cool.

BILL
Thanks.

KID
Is this your bank? I saw your face on the billboard.

This touches a nerve. Bill hates that picture.

BILL
I have an ownership interest.

Bill tries to stare down the Kid but fails.

KID
Must be cool to own a bank. You ever go just look at the cash?

BILL
No. Not really.

KID
Can I get a tour?

BILL
That's against the rules.

KID
It's your bank.

Bill is starting to wish the Kid would go away.

BILL
And it has rules.

KID
That you make.

BILL
Why are you interested in having me
mentor you?

KID
You work at a bank. I like money.

A more honest answer than Bill would have afforded.

BILL
Unfortunately, it turns out I may
not be able to participate in the
program. My schedule shifted today
and it's going to be tight.

KID
That's rough.
(beat)
If you do mentor me could I get a
tour?

BILL
Let's play it by ear.

The Kid sticks out his hand. Bill reluctantly shakes it.

KID
Thanks, Bill.

EXT. FREEDOM BANK -

The Kid gets on his bike and rolls out of the parking lot.

THROUGH THE WINDOW Bill watches him.

EXT. PARKING LOT - LATER

Bill walks to his car. He sees Jess' mother, Mrs. Jacoby walking towards him. He kisses her fondly on the cheek.

BILL
What are you doing here?

MRS. JACOBY
We're going to the movies. It starts in fifteen minutes so I came here to prod him. I hate missing the trailers.

She glances up at the FREEDOM BANK BILLBOARD.

MRS. JACOBY
Look, your head is falling down.

Bill looks and finds that his side of the billboard has peeled off and is now hanging down.

MRS. JACOBY
I'll tell John to take care of it.

Bill smiles appreciatively.

INT. VICTORIAS SECRET - SHOPPING MALL - NIGHT

The store is relatively busy. The KID walks in.

He runs his hands through the racks of silk. He loves it here. He walks up to a table where Women peruse. He watches them admiringly.

The Kid chooses a fur trimmed black G-string and brings it over to LUCY (20), the attractive yet aloof saleswoman behind the counter.

LUCY
You're back.

He's been here before. She's annoyed he's here now.

LUCY
Is that it?

KID
Do you like them?

LUCY
They're fine.

KID
Would you ever wear them?

Lucy refrains from slapping him only because she knows her MANAGER (45) is listening and she can't afford to be fired. Instead she smiles.

LUCY
Sure.

KID
Do you ever wear them?

His stare is unnerving. A CUSTOMER temporarily distracts the Manager. Lucy's demeanor shifts.

LUCY
Do you want them or not?

He produces his wallet and casually spreads it open. She can't help notice it's stuffed with cash. He plucks out three THREE TEN DOLLAR BILLS and slides them over to her.

Unimpressed, Lucy completes the transaction and places the panties in a bag and slides it across the counter.

The Kid slides it back.

KID
I want to think of you wearing
them. If that's Okay.

He smiles and walks away, out of the store.

EXT. BILL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Bill's American dream. Three-car garage. Manicured front lawn. Acre lot. Bill's Jeep glides into the driveway. He parks next to an identical Jeep that belongs to Jess.

INT. BILL'S JEEP -

Bill grabs his briefcase and notices a significant amount of CANDY wrappers have accumulated on the floor. He bends over and sweeps them into a pile.

EXT. BILL'S JEEP -

Bill creeps out of his Jeep, wrappers in hand. He looks to ensure no one is watching as he moves to secretly discard the evidence of his compulsive behavior.

Bill reaches the TRASH CAN. He quietly opens the lid and shoves the wrappers down, deep inside the bin. As fate would have it he accidentally dislodges a paper container and discovers A DOZEN FRESH RED ROSES.

INT. BILL'S HOUSE -

Bill quietly enters. He hears Jess on the phone in the other room laughing flirtatiously. He tiptoes over and peeks

THROUGH A CRACK IN THE DOOR

JESS is curled up in a chair with the phone, she's obviously flirting. Bill watches with interest this side of her she no longer reveals to him.

JESS

They're going hunting all day,
trust me. I'll meet you here at
ten.

Jess hangs up the phone. Bill scurries away from the door

INTO THE KITCHEN

Bill flings open a cupboard and removes a hidden CANDY BAR. He compulsively rips into it.

Jess walks in. She kisses him on the cheek.

JESS

I didn't know you were home.

BILL

I just got here.

JESS

(re: the candy bar)
Where did you get that?

Concerned, she grabs it out of his hand.

JESS

I wish you'd listen to the doctor.
This stuff is going to kill you.

BILL
Were you on the phone?

Jess throws the bar in the trash.

JESS
Yeah.
(she fakes a yawn)
My mom.

Bill knows Jess is lying.

BILL
Where is she? Your mom.

JESS
She's at home. Why?

Bill checks his watch.

BILL
I told her I'd drop by. I have
something to give her.

JESS
What?

BILL
You know, just a gift.

INSIDE BILL'S POCKET his cell phone RINGS. He hesitates
before pulling it out. He checks the number. He obviously
doesn't want to answer it.

JESS
Are you going to answer it?

Bill reluctantly answers.

BILL
Hello? Right. Yes, this is my
cell, thank you.

Bill steps away but Jess moves with him, intently listening.

BILL
Sure. Tomorrow at five-thirty is
fine. I'll be alone. Thank you.

He hangs up.

JESS
Who was that?

BILL
(he lies)
The office.

JESS
The office wants to know if you'll
be alone tomorrow at five-thirty?

BILL
It's a deal I'm working on.

JESS
A deal?

BILL
Yeah, I have deals.

JESS
Come on. What, "Deal?"

BILL
A financial deal.

Bill puts his hands on his hips.

JESS
You're lying.

BILL
I am not.

JESS
I can tell. You put your hands on
your hips.

Bill drops his hands.

BILL
You know what? A thief thinks
everyone steals.

Jess waits for an explanation.

BILL
That's right.

JESS
Okay. I'm going upstairs.

She walks away. Bill calls after her.

BILL
I'm calling your mom. At home.

INT. BEDROOM - LATER

Bill notices a VICTORIA'S SECRET BAG in the trash. He also notices Jess is dressed in old college sweats.

BILL
Your mom wasn't home.

Jess ignores him and flips to ACTION NEWS. The chapel spot.

JESS
Here it is.

Mr. Jacoby is being interviewed.

MR. JACOBY ON TV
There's nothing more important than
community. I've lived here for
sixty three years and...

BILL
Listen to him. I bet you a
thousand dollars he's going to run
for mayor.

Jess is too engrossed in Action News to respond.

ON TV: Chip Johnson is prominently featured with the Jacobys. All that's visible of Bill is his stomach bulging out over his pants.

BILL
Is that my stomach?

Bill moves closer to the TV to get a better look.

JESS
Move. I can't see.

Bill doesn't recognize his body.

BILL
Oh my God. I'm the Blob.

INT. BATHROOM -

Bill takes a moment to examine himself in the mirror. His hair. His stomach. It all depresses him. He turns off the lights.

INT. KITCHEN - NEXT MORNING

Bill prepares a Pop-Tart for breakfast. Jess walks in wearing a crisp white tennis outfit. She opens the refrigerator and finds it mostly empty.

JESS

I have to remember to go to the store.

BILL

Too bad there's no place to get like a really good hot fresh donut.

JESS

You really need to cut back on the sugar.

BILL

Speaking of cutting back, I've been reviewing our financial situation and I think we should consider diversifying. Invest in some other businesses.

JESS

Okay, run it by my dad.

BILL

Actually I thought we could do it independently of him. You know something for just the two of us. We could work on it together.

JESS

Work on what?

BILL

I don't know. It would be fun.

JESS

What would?

BILL

Working together.

Jess fingers the strings of her racket. Work is the last thing she's interested in.

JESS

Well, I don't want to upset my dad by excluding him.

BILL
We wouldn't be excluding him, we'd
be taking control of our finances.

JESS
We're already in control.

BILL
Wouldn't it be nice to be less
dependent on your father?

This strikes a chord and Jess is immediately defensive.

JESS
I'm not dependent on him. Why are
you so opposed to consulting him?

BILL
I'm not.

JESS
Okay. So, ask him.

Jess picks her keys up off the table.

JESS
Oh, do you want me to bring my mom
the gift you got her?

BILL
Huh?

JESS
You said you had a gift for her.

BILL
(remembers his lie)
I'll give it to her.
(beat)
What are you doing Saturday?

JESS
I don't know. Why?

BILL
Why don't you come hunting with us?

JESS
My Dad wants a guy's day.
(she looks at her watch)
I have to go.

She rolls up onto her toes and kisses him good-bye.

JESS
I love you.

INT. BILL'S OFFICE - DAY

Bill sits in his office with JAKE (42) an annoying employee.

JAKE
I don't take lunches but the half
hour has been deducted from my
check. That's fifty-eight dollars.

BILL
You don't eat lunch?

JAKE
I eat on my fifteen minute break
which I take at 12:15 every day
which I get paid for.

BILL
The accounting department assumes
you take a lunch.

JAKE
It doesn't say lunch is mandatory
in the employee handbook.

Mr. Jacoby appears at the door. He completely disregards the
conversation in progress.

MR. JACOBY
Our kids from the mentor program
are here. I want you to give them
a tour.

BILL
Which kids?

MR. JACOBY
Yours, mine and John's. We're all
doing it.

Bill is obviously irritated.

MR. JACOBY
John and I have a meeting so
they're waiting for you in the
lobby.
(beat)
Oh, and the two boys are coming
hunting with us Saturday.
(MORE)

MR. JACOBY (cont'd)
Your brother's got some guns
waiting at the store for them. I
told him you'd pick them up after
work.

Mr. Jacoby walks away.

JAKE
I wish I had a mentor.

The guy is forty-two. Bill fights the urge to slap him.

BILL
I'll get your lunch money back.

INT. BANK LOBBY -

Bill walks out. He sees the Kid and two other students,
SARAH SHELDON (16), an annoyingly perfect girl who enunciates
every syllable of every word, and DAVID CHOO (15), a quiet
reserved Asian kid, waiting for him.

KID
Hey Bill.

BILL
I thought the program starts on
Monday.

SARAH
Mr. Jacoby thought it would be
prudent for us to get acquainted
with your facility prior to the
actual commencement date.
(she smiles pleased with
herself)
I'm Sarah Sheldon class of 2007.
Your father-in-law is my mentor.

Bill immediately hates her. He looks at David.

DAVID
David Choo.

BILL
David, Sarah, nice to meet you.
(to the Kid)
I don't know what you're up to but
this is going to be a fast tour.

INT. SAFETY DEPOSIT BOXES -

Bill is pressed for time. He continually looks at his watch.

BILL
The people who own the boxes have
the only key.

KID
You ever go through them to see
what people are hiding?

SARAH
He doesn't have the key.

KID
Come on, there's no master key?

Bill doesn't respond. The Kid shrugs - is there a key?

BILL
Anyway, that's the end of the tour.

KID
Can't we see the safe?

BILL
No.

KID
Why not?

BILL
Because I have to fly to Chicago
for a meeting.
(as if to impress the
kids)
For a deal I'm doing.

They aren't impressed.

INT. BILL'S JEEP -

Bill is now very late. He merges onto the highway and looks up. ABOVE HIM, looming thirty feet tall is A BILLBOARD staring Chip. It reads, "CHIP JOHNSON IS ACTION NEWS. WE BRING YOU THERE." CHIP smiles down at Bill.

Just past Chip's billboard is one for FREEDOM BANK. Bill regards his own photo with disappointment.

Bill presses his foot down on the gas and accelerates.

INT. YUM YUM HEADQUARTERS - CHICAGO

Bill sits across from team Yum Yum which is comprised of two overly exuberant sales people, JIM and JANE WHITTMAN (early 30's.) Even smiling Jane looks uptight.

ON THE TABLE is an untouched plate of freshly baked donuts.

JANE

We ran your financials and we think you could potentially be a good fit for us.

BILL

That's great. What next?

JANE

We'll fly up later this week to approve the site.

JIM

And, of course, we do require a sort of orientation where you spend a day at one of our main stores just to insure you know exactly what business you're getting into.

Jane clenches her jaw every time Jim speaks.

JANE

You can bring your wife.

Bill impulsively reaches for a CHOCOLATE COVERED DONUT. He bites into the thick icing. It calms him.

BILL

Great. She'd love that.

JANE

Since she'll be your partner in this venture we require one meeting with her anyway. You could kill two birds with one stone.

BILL

She won't really be involved in daily operations.

JIM

It's a formality. She's listed as co-owner of all your assets.

This fact seems stressful to Jim. Jane smiles.

JANE

We encourage the inclusion of spouses, it helps promote a healthy, stable environment.

JIM

We can always meet her when we do the site check.

Bill grabs another DONUT.

JANE

They're good aren't they?

INT. COMMUTER PLANE - EARLY EVENING

Bill flies back. He flips through the in-flight magazine and comes to an ad for channel seven. The news team smiles, among them is CHIP JOHNSON.

Bill carefully tears out Chip's body and folds the cutout into his wallet.

INT. BEST BUY -

Bill walks down the aisles of CD's pretending to look at music. He scans the store, makes sure he doesn't know anyone.

He casually makes his way over to the VIDEO CAMERAS. He nonchalantly reviews the various ones on display.

SALESGUY (O.S.)

Anything I can help you find?

Bill turns to find a SALESGUY eagerly waiting.

BILL

(trying to get rid of him)

No. Thanks. I'm good.

SALESGUY

Thinking about one of these guys?

This Salesguy isn't going away. Bill gives in.

BILL

Something simple. Home stuff.

The Salesguy picks up a camera and points it at Bill.

SALESGUY

This would work for that. Screen
flips back. 'Case you want to watch
yourself. You know, see what you're
filming. Best deal out there.

Bill's image appears on several TV screens.

BILL

I'll take it.

SALESGUY

We offer classes too. If you sign
up tonight you get the first one
free.

Bill would like the Salesguy to stop filming him now.

BILL

That's great.

SALESGUY

Yeah, you wanna sign up?

BILL

Ah, maybe.

The Salesguy holds his smile.

BILL

Could you get me the camera?

INT. CHECKOUT COUNTER - SAME

Bill waits for approval on his credit card. There's a glitch
in the system. The Salesguy leans into the microphone.

SALESGUY

Manager assistance please.

A few seconds and the MANAGER walks out of his office.

SALESGUY

I need a manual override.

The Manager smiles as he slowly recognizes Bill. Bill
doesn't recognize him but smiles back to be polite.

MANAGER

Hey, I know you. Where do I know
you from?

BILL
I don't know. Freedom Bank?

MANAGER
You went to Blake? Man, you were my hero in high school. I was two years behind you. You probably don't remember me.

Bill doesn't.

MANAGER
We all wanted to be you. God damn rocket for an arm.

The Manager pulls his arm back, throws a pass with an imaginary football.

BILL
I didn't play football.

MANAGER
Come on. You're not The Sarge?

BILL
That's my brother.

MANAGER
Oh. Sorry. But that's cool. You probably kicked ass too.
(he smiles)
So, how is the Sarge? He still in town?

BILL
Yup. Lives in Ferndale.

The Manager is obviously impressed.

BILL
(can't help himself)
With his boyfriend.
(off the Manager's look)
He's great.

MANAGER
Oh.

The Manager can't mask his feelings of disappointment.

MANAGER
So, you interested in our classes?

BILL

No.

INT. SARGENT'S SPORTING GOODS STORE - LATER

SARGENT'S domain. A 20,000 square-foot mega sports store complete with rock climbing wall.

Salespeople dressed in bright colored shirts happily assist customers with everything from snowshoes to guns to canoes.

Bill walks over to where Sargent is assisting a very cute girl, ELIZABETH (17). She has a small tennis dress on and a broken racket in her hand.

SARGENT

Look at you, you're an expert, you know what you want.

GIRL

I thought I did. But this one sucks, the frame broke in four weeks.

SARGENT

Well, look at that arm. You gotta stop hitting the ball so hard.

(he sees Bill)

Hey buddy. Elizabeth, this is my brother Bill.

Elizabeth smiles, she can't help have a crush on Sargent. Bill notices. Sargent remains oblivious.

BILL

I need to pick up the guns.

SARGENT

Yeah, I heard. Ducks right?

Bill nods. Elizabeth frowns.

ELIZABETH

(to Sargent)

You don't hunt, do you?

SARGENT

No.

ELIZABETH

I was going to say, you don't seem like that kind of person.

Elizabeth shoots Bill a disapproving look.

ELIZABETH
(to Sargent)
I'll take this one.

SARGENT
If you don't love it, bring it back
and I'll hook you up with a
different one.

ELIZABETH
Bye, Sargent.

BILL
Bye.

She leaves without saying good-bye to Bill.

INT. SARGENT'S OFFICE - SAME

Bill plays with his new camera. He zooms in and out. He lifts up his shirt and films his gut. He grabs a layer of fat and jiggles it.

Sargent walks in, carrying three shotguns.

SARGENT
(holds out the guns)
Here. Ready to go.

Bill regards them unenthusiastically.

SARGENT
Why don't you just tell him you
think hunting is wrong?

BILL
The man has a stuffed bear in his
bedroom.

SARGENT
You're already his son-in-law. It
doesn't matter if he likes you.

BILL
He signs my paycheck.

SARGENT
What's up with the camera?

BILL
Nothing. Just screwing around.

Bill sees an invitation on the desk. He picks it up.

BILL
What's this?

SARGENT
The Blake Mentor program.

BILL
They sent out invitations?

SARGENT
They want me on the board or something. We had a meeting about it a few weeks ago.

Bill shakes his head, it figures.

SARGENT
You doing it?

BILL
Jim roped me into it yesterday. He didn't mention you were doing it.

SARGENT
Yeah, my kid is great. You gotta meet him, he's all-American in three sports, kicks ass in school, you'll love him.

Bill sighs, it's always been like this.

BILL
Wow, he sounds perfect for you.

SARGENT
I have to get back out there.
Have fun hunting tomorrow.

INT. BILL HOUSE - NEXT MORNING

We hear a shower. Bill, dressed in his hunting outfit, moves deftly through the room.

He searches for a strategic place to leave the camera. The nightstand. Too obvious. The bookcase. Too far away. The chair. Too sketchy.

Bill sets it on top of a chest of drawers. He aims the lens at the bed and checks the focus. He turns on the timer.

He carefully places a baseball hat over the camera.

The lens peers out through the adjustable strap.

Bill stares at their bed. He doesn't want to think about the possibility but in fact it's all he can think about as he backs out of the room.

EXT. THE WOODS - DAY

TIGHT on the face of a dog. Drooling. Panting. PAN OVER to Bill. Similar look. BAM. A gunshot.

Bill closes his eyes as a duck tumbles from the sky.

MR. JACOBY
Get the duck.

Mr. Jacoby, John Jr., David Choo and The Kid reload their guns. Bill puts his down and starts out for the duck.

MR. JACOBY
I was talking to the dog.

Bill stops and, pretending to have known this, stretches his legs. John Jr. shakes his head in disgust.

BILL
(to the dog)
Get the duck.

The Dog runs off in the other direction.

MR. JACOBY
(after the dog)
Stupid idiot. Alright, get the
damn duck.

Bill realizes this time he's it.

IN THE WATER

Bill plods through the turbid water. He reaches the dead duck and plucks it from the reeds.

He strokes the blood from its limp body, truly saddened by the sight.

Bill walks back and throws the duck on the ground next to the dog. The dog sniffs it indifferently.

MR. JACOBY
Next one's yours, Bill.

JOHN JR.
Keep your eyes open this time. Try
to aim.

Bill picks up his gun, crouches down and waits. The Kid
crouches next to him.

THE KID
This sucks, I'm fucking freezing.
(he hits his ear)
Not to mention deaf.

John Jr. expertly uses a duck caller. The sound is grating.

THE KID
That sounds like giant ass.

DAVID
Shut up. You'll scare the ducks.

The Kid gives David the finger.

Bill, his nerves frayed, checks his watch, 10:00 exactly.

He takes out his cell phone and hits SEND. The call fails.
He hits REDIAL.

THE KID
Who are you calling?

BILL
Stop talking.

Again the call fails. Desperate, he tries one last time.
Still no signal.

Bill goes to end the call and accidentally pushes the wrong
button. The sound of the failed call resounds over the
speaker.

MR. JACOBY
(whispering)
Get off the damn phone.

Bill sheepishly tucks his phone back into his pocket.

OVERHEAD

Another wave of birds fly by. Bill is ready. He takes aim,
has the bird in sight, closes his eyes, and misses.

JOHN JR.
What the fuck? You closed your
eyes again.

BILL
I did not. I squinted into the
sun.

JOHN JR.
What a waste.

Mr. Jacoby doesn't even try to mask his disgust.

MR. JACOBY
A hundred years ago your family
would be dead of starvation.

Mr. Jacoby walks away. John Jr. and David are right behind
him. The Kid stays with Bill.

KID
Those guys need to relax.

EXT. OPEN FIELD -

Mr. Jacoby's Suburban is ready to be loaded. John Jr.
divvies up the ducks. He hands one to David.

DAVID
Thank you, sir.

KID
(shaking his duck)
One Peking duck for David.

DAVID
(to John Jr.)
I told you he was a Racist.

KID
What are you talking about Choo? I
love Peking duck.

JOHN JR.
(to Bill)
You didn't get one, but do you want
one?

BILL
No thanks.

JOHN JR.
Figures.

The Kid contemplates his duck.

KID
You can keep mine too.
(to the duck)
Sorry little guy, I shouldn't have
shot you.
(to John Jr.)
You gotta admit, it's kinda fucked
up.

Bill regards the Kid with admiration.

JOHN JR.
(grabs it)
Give it to me.

MR. JACOBY
Alright, to each his own, throw the
rest in the cooler and everyone get
in.

EXT. BILL'S HOUSE -

Bill jumps out of the SUV. The Kid waves goodbye to him.

Bill walks up to the front door and hesitates a moment.

INT. BILL'S BEDROOM -

It looks undisturbed. Jess isn't there. Bill walks over to the dresser and removes the camera from underneath the hat.

JESS (O.S.)
How did it go?

Startled, Bill shoves the camera inside his vest.

BILL
Fine.

He keeps his back to her.

JESS
Did you get anything?

Jess walks over, he's forced to face her.

BILL
No.

Jess notices the bulge under his vest.

JESS
What's in your vest?

BILL
Nothing.

She steps towards him. He panics.

BILL
A duck.

Jess stops to contemplate this for a second.

JESS
What are you going to do with it?

An undeniably obvious question.

BILL
Bury it.

JESS
Where?

Bill hugs the camera to his body.

BILL
In the backyard.

Bill quickly leaves the room.

Jess watches through the window as Bill gets in his Jeep and drives off the, "Duck," still under his vest.

INT. BILL'S BEDROOM - EARLIER

A DIGITAL RECORDING of the room. Chip lies naked in the bed, his back to the camera. Jess comes out of the bathroom in new lingerie.

CHIP
He looked uptight. Like he knew.

Jess takes a hit off a joint.

JESS
He always looks like that.
Everything makes him uptight.
(she exhales)
Blowjobs make Bill uptight.

Chip takes a hit.

JESS
He has a whole complex about
(she points down)
The little acorn.
(she giggles)
That's what it looks like. I swear
to God.

She straddles Chip. She pins his hands down on the bed.

JESS
Too bad. I hear his brother is
huge. Like you.

As the pot hits Jess she starts to slowly move her body back
and forth over Chip. He moans.

JESS
Yeah? You like that?

Jess sits up and starts to strip. She playfully unhooks her
bra and slowly lets it drop to the floor. Next she unties
one side of her ribbon panties.

Chip pulls her down and now all we hear are sounds of crazy
sex.

INT. SARGENT'S LIVING ROOM - SAME

ON BILL as he watches in horror.

Pull back to reveal: Sargent and PAUL, Sargent's physically
masculine boyfriend, sitting on either side of Bill.

Silence. No one moves. The tape ends.

BILL
I'm going to kill her. After I
kill him.

SARGENT
Calm down.

BILL
Calm down? My wife is screwing the
action news guy.

SARGENT
We don't know it's him for sure.

BILL
Come on, the voice, the hair.

SARGENT
It could have been anyone.

BILL
Anyone except me.

PAUL
Anyone who works out all the time.

Paul is annoying on a good day, now he's infuriating.

BILL
She never strips for me.
(pacing)
I'm going to be sick.

PAUL
Why aren't you into blowjobs?

BILL
I love blowjobs. I am mister
blowjob aficionado.

PAUL
Must run in the family.

BILL
Paul can you stop being a fag for
half a second?

PAUL
I'll try, little acorn.

SARGENT
Alright, that's enough.

Bill resumes his pacing.

BILL
What if she's planning on leaving
me for him?
(this overwhelms him)
I'm gonna kill him. I'm going to
get my gun and go kill him.

SARGENT
You aren't going to kill anyone.
You're going to calm down.

BILL
I am calm.

Bill grabs his camera and storms out the door.

EXT. BILL'S HOUSE -

Bill screeches into his driveway. A man with purpose.

INT. BILL'S HOUSE -

Bill storms in, his face is flushed. Jess is at the kitchen counter flipping through a magazine, she doesn't look up.

JESS
Did you bury the duck?

BILL
The duck? The duck is right here.
(he holds up the camera)
Quack, quack.

Jess sees the camera and immediately understands.

BILL
Action news.

Bill plays the tape. He indignantly awaits her response.

JESS
You spied on me?

BILL
And I have it all on tape, baby.

JESS
That's illegal.

BILL
Smoking pot is illegal. You
cheated on me.

JESS
That's a complete invasion of
privacy.

BILL
Are you kidding? It was in our
bedroom.

JESS
I can't believe you would do that.

BILL
That's what I'm supposed to be
saying to you.

JESS
Give me the tape.

BILL
No.

JESS
I want the tape.

BILL
Too bad. Tape's mine.

ON TV: a voice. Bill turns, it's Chip Johnson's Action News.

At the bottom of the screen, "LIVE," flashes in bright yellow. Chip stands in front of THE HOSPITAL. Bill is out the door.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Chip is on commercial break. His makeup is touched up.

CHIP
Am I cracking?

Chip opens his mouth wide, raises his eyebrows. The MAKEUP WOMAN looks for cracks. Chip's Assistant, HUGH, walks over.

HUGH
We have thirty seconds.

CHIP
Where's Cancer Kid?

HUGH
Over there. His name is Charlie.

Chip turns to see CANCER KID, bald and in a wheelchair. He excitedly waves at Chip.

CHIP
He doesn't look that sick to me.

HUGH
He's had leukemia since he was four. His prognosis is grim.

CHIP
Tell him to tone down the smile.

HUGH

Okay. There's a story breaking at the post office. A run of holiday stamps is missing.

CHIP

(irritated)

Did my agent call?

The Assistant nods, no. Chip smiles, temporarily resigned to his fate...then BAM! Out of nowhere Bill lands a perfect blow to Chip's jaw.

CHIP

Ow. You psycho!

Bill, still dressed in camouflage, holds his camera up. Chip realizes what it is right away and tries to grab it. Bill lands another punch.

The NEWS CAMERA CREW records the incident, Cancer Kid watches in shock as Bill and Chip wrestle on the floor.

Finally TWO SECURITY GUARDS rush Bill and pull him off. His camera falls to the ground.

Chip drops to his hands and knees and scrambles to recover Bill's camera.

CHIP

(to his crew)

Stop filming.

Bill struggles against the Guards but they're too strong and they pull him away. Chip stands up and immediately smooths down his hair.

The Kids are waiting for something, an explanation maybe.

CHIP

Sometimes people who watch me on TV have really big imaginations. And sometimes they get confused...

And just like that Chip is once again the master of his audience.

INT. JAIL - DAY

Bill is fingerprinted. An OFFICER flips through his wallet. He finds the paper doll of CHIP (the one Bill ripped out of the in-flight magazine.) The Officer holds up the paper figure. His look says it all, "Stalker."

BILL
Can I make my phone call?

INT. JAIL CELL - DAY

Tight on Bill's face. Misery. It doesn't get any worse. A young, fresh-faced COP appears at the door.

COP
Your brother's here.

Bill stands up. The Cop unlocks the door.

COP
I watched the tape. That acorn thing is harsh.

Turns out it does get worse.

COP
I gotta tell ya', I woulda beat the living crap outta him.

INT. SARGENT'S CAR - DAY

Sargent drives Bill home. Bill holds his camera in his lap. He pushes delete and erases the digital recording.

SARGENT
He filed a restraining order against you.

Bill doesn't respond.

INT. BILL'S HOUSE - DAY

Bill and Jess sit across from each other.

BILL
I don't know what to say.

Jess chews at one of her perfectly manicured nails.

BILL
Are you in love?

Jess rolls her eyes.

BILL
What, you're mad? You cheated on me.

JESS

You spied on me. Everyone saw you
on the news.

Bill thinks about the tape and is immediately upset.

BILL

Why would you say that about the
acorn? You know I hate that.

JESS

(her eyes water)
I think you should leave.

BILL

Are you going to keep seeing him?

JESS

I don't know Bill. I guess if you
spy on me you'll find out.

BILL

You were having sex with someone
who is not your husband. Remember
our wedding vows? Does any of this
register with you?

JESS

You only see things from your
perspective. What about looking at
it from my side?

BILL

Okay. I'm looking.
(he contemplates it for a
moment)
I still don't like it.

JESS

Well, I do.
(she smiles through tears)
I like buying underwear.

Bill can't stand to see Jess cry, even now.

BILL

Underwear?

JESS

Yeah. Underwear.

BILL

Did you dislike it before?

Jess's eyes well up.

BILL
I'm trying to understand. I want
to work this out.

JESS
Bill we haven't had sex in six
months.

This sounds shocking even to Bill

JESS
(almost a whisper)
You can't get it up.

Bill squirms. Unable to stop crying, Jess gets up and walks
out. Bill stands, torn.

BILL
I'll call you later.

INT. SARGENT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Bill and Paul sit on the couch watching the clip of Bill
attack Chip. A caption reads, "Deranged fan."

ON TV: another ANCHORMAN interviews Chip.

ANCHORMAN
Wow, a deranged fan. Is this the
first time something like this has
happened to you?

Bill hits pause, freezing Chip's face in an ugly grimace.

BILL
See that hair? He dyes it.

PAUL
Looks like it.

BILL
That's why he's so shiny.
(beat)
Do you think he's good-looking?

Paul shrugs, he's good looking.

SARGENT (O.S.)
Bill, he's not better than you.

Which is most likely the real issue.

SARGENT

We have to be at Blake at seven for the mentor thing.

BILL

Right, the deranged fan, the pillar of society.

SARGENT

Kids don't watch that crap.
They're too busy downloading.
(beat)
Try and get some sleep.

Sargent and Paul leave Bill alone to obsess.

INT. STARBUCKS - EARLY MORNING

Bill is the first person there. He slides over exact change. The Manager recognizes him.

MANAGER

I know you.

BILL

Yeah? Freedom Bank maybe.

MANAGER

You're the insane fan.

Bill takes a moment.

BILL

Deranged.

MANAGER

Dude, that's awesome. Can I get your autograph?

This is not the kind of celebrity Bill had hoped for. The Manager provides Bill with chalk and the daily chalkboard.

INT. BLAKE HALLWAY - DAY

Bill drags his hand across the padlocks.

AHEAD, Bill sees Sargent and the Principal talking. They hear the noise of the locks and stop. The Principal shakes his head and walks away. Sargent waits for Bill.

BILL

Give it to me straight. How many, deranged fan jokes?

SARGENT

No one saw it. Come on, we're late.

Sargent walks inside the CHAPEL. Bill remains in the hallway an extra minute. He takes a deep breath and prepares to feel the sting.

INT. CHAPEL - SAME

Bill walks in and as expected there is SILENCE. One by one everyone turns to stare.

ON STAGE AT THE FRONT OF THE ROOM are Mr. Jacoby, Sargent, Paul, the Principal, John Jr. and other random BUSINESS PEOPLE. And it's obvious they all saw him on TV.

Bill holds his head high and walks towards them.

And then he hears it. Someone starts to clap, someone else joins in, one by one the entire student audience applauds Bill.

Bill looks over where it began and sees his new friend, the Kid. The Kid smiles and gives Bill the thumbs up.

Bill continues to the front of the room and takes a seat next to Mr. Jacoby.

Sargent takes advantage of the crowds momentum and hops up to the podium, a born public speaker.

SARGENT

Alright, is everyone ready to get started?

The kids nod.

SARGENT

Well I for one think this is going to be an excellent program. But I wanna make sure you guys all believe that too. So let's hear it. Is this going to be a great program?

A few people weakly mutter, yes, in response.

SARGENT

Come on, you guys get more excited than that when you get to wear jeans on Friday. I remember those days.

(MORE)

SARGENT (cont'd)
That uniform gets a little old five
days a week, huh?
(the kids laugh)
Let's try it again. Is this going
to be the best program ever?

The kids enthusiastically respond, yes.

SARGENT
Now we're getting somewhere.

INT. CHAPEL - LATER

The meeting is over. Students and mentors stand around
talking. A group of kids surround Sargent.

OFF TO THE SIDE Bill watches. He's joined by the Kid.

KID
(imitating Sargent in a
hokey voice)
Is this going to be the best
program ever?

Bill finds nothing amusing at this point.

KID
I can't believe you kicked that
guys ass. Local news usually
sucks.

Bill looks over to see if Mr. Jacoby is watching him.

BILL
(quietly)
Listen, no offense but I think
you'd be better off choosing
someone else. I don't think this is
the best time for me to be
mentoring someone.

KID
What are you talking about? This
is the perfect time.

BILL
Why are you so hell bent on me
mentoring you? Is someone paying
you to torment me? John Jr.?

KID
You really don't want to mentor me?

Bill immediately feels guilty.

BILL
 Why don't you ask John Jr. or Mr.
 Jacoby to take you on?

KID
 Would you wanna spend time with
 either one of them?
 (the answer is, no)
 Come on, is this about your wife?

BILL
 It's about more than my wife.
 (frustrated he's even
 answering the kid)
 It's about none of your business.

Bill notices Mr. Jacoby and Sarah are on their way over.

KID
 Don't worry about your wife, we'll
 get her back.

BILL
 Drop it.

KID
 She'll be over that guy in a week.

Mr. Jacoby and Sarah are almost to them. David and John Jr.
 are right behind them.

BILL
 Drop it, now.
 (the foursome arrives)
 Hi, John, Sarah, John, David.

MR. JACOBY
 Bill, you're going to make a
 schedule for all three kids.

SARAH
 We agreed it would simplify things
 if we all reported to one person at
 the same time every day.

Bill is about to agree.

KID
 No way. Bill's my mentor. It's
 not a group project.
 (to Sarah)
 I don't wanna be all tied to you
 and Choo.

(MORE)

KID (cont'd)
(to Mr. Jacoby)
Forget it, we're not scheduling.

Mr. Jacoby doesn't know how to respond. He's not used to being told, no.

SARAH
Fine.

DAVID
Fine with me.

The school Bell RINGS.

KID
Bill, I'll see you tomorrow after school.
(he starts to back away
down the hall)
Don't go deadbeat on me.

Mr. Jacoby and John Jr. are left standing with Bill.

BILL
This is going to be a great program, huh?

EXT. FREEDOM BANK -

ON THE BILLBOARD Bill's head is still falling down.

INT. BILL'S JEEP -

Bill sits, parked, not quite ready to face his day.

INT. FREEDOM BANK -

Bill rushes through the lobby. People stop what they're doing when they see him. He notices some of them looking down at his crotch.

He passes Dana. She can't resist glancing down. Bill steals a glances south, did he spill something on his pants?

INT. BILL'S OFFICE -

Bill opens a large Federal Express box. In it are two dozen Yum Yum donuts. He opens the card: THANKS FOR THE VISIT WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU TOMORROW.

Bill grabs a donut and picks up a framed photo of he and Jess.

DANA O.S.

Hey.

Dana is at the door.

DANA

How are you?

BILL

Great. You want a donut?

She takes one.

DANA

Can I show you something?

BILL

Of course. What's going on?

DANA

Promise you won't be mad at me.

Bill shrugs, why would he be mad?

She moves over to his desk. He watches as she types in a web site. She hits a link. A video plays.

It's the tape. It's out. Everyone has seen it.

VIDEO CLIP OF JESS

The acorn. That's what it looks like. I swear to God...

Bill lunges forward and stops the recording. Dana looks down at him. He uncomfortably crosses his legs. But there's no where to hide. She's heard the nickname.

DANA

I thought you should know.

BILL

It doesn't look like an acorn.

DANA

Everyone got it in e-mail this morning. I had Donna delete it from Mr. Jacoby's. He can barely use the internet anyway...

BILL

Oh my G-d.

INT. CLUBHOUSE - WOODHILL COUNTRY CLUB - DAY

Jess' second home. She confidently strides past other members and over to the COUNTER where four college age BOYS work coordinating court times.

The Boys smile, they can barely contain their excitement.

BOY 1
Hi, Mrs. Jacoby.

JESS
Hi.
(she signs in)
What court am I on?

Boy 2 is practically giddy. He can't stop himself from mentally undressing her.

BOY 2
Three.

Jess smiles at Boy 3 but he looks away, his face flushed.

The fourth BOY is JIMMY (22.) Jimmy is a wholesome sweet Christian boy who keeps his virginity intact by praying.

JESS
(to Jimmy)
Ready?

EXT. TENNIS COURTS -

Jess and Jimmy volley. IN THE STANDS a group of teenage boys have gathered to watch. Jess self consciously tugs at her skirt.

Finally, Jess approaches the net. Jimmy runs up to meet her.

JESS
(re: the boys)
What's going on?

JIMMY
I don't know.

JESS
Yes you do.

Jimmy can't lie. He'd go to hell if he did.

JIMMY
I think it may be, you know, the
acorn tape.

JESS
What?

JIMMY
The thing on the Internet.

Jess lets this sink in.

INT. BILL'S JEEP - SAME

The glove compartment is open. Candy bars spill out onto the floor. Bill speeds towards his house.

INT. BILL'S HOUSE -

Jess, still in her tennis outfit, sits waiting for Bill. She takes a heavy drag on a cigarette.

Bill walks in. He knows it's serious. She's smoking.

JESS
Did my Dad see it?

BILL
No.

JESS
John Jr.?

BILL
Not yet.

Jess tags a deep drag.

JESS
My life is ruined.

BILL
Don't exaggerate.

JESS
I'm in a sex video. That's porn.
(she thinks)
Chip is going to go into cardiac
arrest.

BILL
Screw Chip.

JESS
He's a celebrity. This could ruin
his career.

BILL
Action News Seven doesn't exactly
qualify as celebrity.

Jess looks at her watch.

JESS
I have to go take a shower.

BILL
Where are you going?

JESS
To talk to Chip about your film.

Jess gets up and walks out of the room. Bill storms out.

EXT. BILL'S HOUSE - LATER

Jess walks out the front door. She's dressed in a pretty skirt and sheer top, a date outfit.

INT. BILL'S JEEP - SAME

A few blocks away, Bill sits on the side of the road, his Jeep obscured by trees. He's waiting.

Bill watches as Jess's Jeep pulls out and turns left. He waits until a few cars pass and pulls out to follow.

EXT. CHIP'S HOUSE - SAME

Jess gets out of her Jeep. Behind her, Bill jumps out of his Jeep. Jess notices the smudge of chocolate on his cheek.

Bill moves to his trunk and grabs his shotgun.

JESS
Bill! What are you doing? Put
down the gun.

Bill points his gun at the house, aims at a small light by the front door.

BILL
Hey, Action News Guy!

He shoots and hits the light dead on.

BILL
Breaking story at your house!

JESS
Bill, you're going to be arrested.

BILL
Won't be the first time.

Bill aims at the light on the other side of the door and shoots again. Turns out he's an expert shot.

JESS
Go home. This is not about you.

Jess grabs the gun, they wrestle for it.

INT. CHIP'S KITCHEN - SAME

Chip is in the process of dying his hair and it's a messy endeavor. The gunshots draw him to the WINDOW where he looks out and sees Bill and Jess screaming at each other in front of their identical Jeep's.

Chip's curious neighbors watch from their windows.

Chip grabs the phone. The doorbell RINGS. Chip's distress intensifies. He touches his hair, slick with coloring.

CHIP
Dammit.

EXT. THE FRONT DOOR - SAME

Jess impatiently pushes the doorbell. Bill is behind her.

JESS
Why are you blaming him for your tape?

BILL
How long have you've been lying to me?

JESS
Oh please, what about you?

BILL
I never lied to you.

JESS

Right. You've never even managed to clip a feather let alone get a duck and you just hit two four-inch targets from twenty yards. So who's the liar?

Chip cracks open the door, a towel on his head.

CHIP

What the hell is going on?

JESS

It's me.

CHIP

I can see that.

Bill eyes Chip's head suspiciously. Dark streaks of dye trickle down Chip's temples.

CHIP

(to Bill)

I filed a restraining order against you.

BILL

Well then, congratulations. Looks like you got your top story for tonight.

CHIP

(to Jess)

This is not going to look good.

JESS

I don't care how it looks.

CHIP

I can't be involved in this. Take your husband and leave.

JESS

Don't treat me like I'm some groupie you just fucked.

CHIP

I just want you off my property.

BILL

Don't talk to her like that.

Bill grabs at the towel on Chip's head. Chip tries to hold on to it.

CHIP
Get your hands off me.

Chip pushes Bill. Bill pushes back. Jess tries to intervene. The towel is off, the hair dye is everywhere.

BILL
Apologize to her.

CHIP
You are going to be arrested.

BILL
Apologize.

An Action News van pulls into the driveway.

INT. SARGENT'S STORE - SAME

ON TV: Action news. The caption, THE DERANGED FAN STRIKES AGAIN. Police lights flicker in the background.

Bill has wrestled Chip to the ground and now straddles his chest. Chip's arms are pinned. Bill points his finger down at Chip's shocked face and demands:

BILL ON SCREEN
Apologize! Apologize!

SARGENT
Jesus Christ.

INT. JAIL - SAME

Bill sits in the now familiar cell.

COP O.S.
Acorn, you're up.

EXT. SARGENT'S CAR - SAME

Bill stares out the window. Sargent drives.

SARGENT
She filed a restraining order
against you.

Bill already knows.

SARGENT
You can stay ay my house.

BILL
My life is over. I'll never get
the Yum Yum thing now.

SARGENT
You really want a donut franchise?

BILL
They gross over 500K a year.

SARGENT
It's not all about money.

BILL
That's an elitist sentiment.

Bill shakes his head.

BILL
What a disaster.

INT. SARGENT'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

5:00 a.m. Bill can't sleep. He hasn't slept all night. He
sees a light go on in the Kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN -

Paul, dressed in sweats, prepares his daily power drink.
Bill, exhausted, slides onto a stool at the counter.

PAUL
You want to come swim?

BILL
It's five o'clock in the morning.

PAUL
So, you going back to sleep?
(the answer is obvious)
You used to swim every day. Don't
you remember how liberating it is
to be in the water?
(beat)
It's the only thing that turns off
the noise.

Bill sighs. He knows exactly what Paul means.

PAUL
Come on, everyone needs an
occasional escape from their
reality. I'll drive, you can sleep
on the way there.

BILL
I need my car.

PAUL
Okay, meet me there I'll bring you
a suit.

Paul downs the rest of his drink.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - BLAKE

Bill walks in carrying a Starbucks coffee and muffin. A few
MEN stop what they're doing to stare. One whispers,
"Deranged Fan," to his friend. Bill pretends to ignore them.

Paul is dressed in a small, yellow Speedo and matching cap.

PAUL
You can put your stuff in my
locker.

Paul reaches in his bag and procures the exact same Speedo
for Bill.

PAUL
There are towels over there.

Bill examines the small strip of material.

BILL
What size is this thing?

Paul smiles.

PAUL
I'll meet you in there.

Bill self consciously unbuttons his shirt. He quickly
concludes that privacy is underrated and makes his way to the
bathroom stalls.

INT. BATHROOM STALL -

A small space. Bill, now shrink wrapped in his tight Speedo,
stands face to face with the door. He takes a deep breath
and prepares to step out into public.

INT. POOL -

Bill shuffles out to the edge of the pool.

IN THE FAR LANE Paul executes a perfect crawl.

Bill slides into the water. It's cold. He pulls on a pair of goggles and starts to swim. The water feels like molasses against his arms.

He reaches the end of his lane and flips. The execution is frustratingly imperfect, his brain has lost touch with his body. He glides forward and stops.

He rolls over on his back and catches his breath. He closes his eyes and floats, waiting for the noise to disappear.

INT. AIRPORT -

Bill waits for Jim and Jane. He has a Yum Yum baseball hat pulled down low over his face in the hope that no one will recognize him.

Jim and Jane pass security and immediately spot the hat. They wave as they walk towards him.

INT. BILL'S JEEP

Bill drives. Jim and Jane take in the city. Jane sits in front. They pass the Freedom Bank Billboard, Jane waves.

JANE

Look, there you are. Hi.

Bill forces a smile. Jane is too annoying to ignore.

EXT. EMPTY LOT NEXT TO THE MALL - LATER

It's been a long day. Jane and Jim consider the space.

JANE

Actually I think this is the best one. The location is perfect.

JIM

The traffic pattern is great.

JANE

And you could do a drive-thru.

A CAR drives by. The PASSENGER screams out the window.

PASSENGER
Apologize!

Jim looks confused by the request but responds anyway.

JIM
Sorry?

JANE
That was strange.

BILL
Yeah. Anyway, that's the space.

JANE
When do we get to meet Jessica?

BILL
Actually she's sick. Flu. It's pretty bad. You'll meet her when we come up and spend the day with you.

JIM
(looks at his watch)
Well, we have some time to kill.
Maybe we could see your offices?

JANE
I would love to see your operation.
I read about it in Entrepreneur Magazine. Your father-in-law sounds like a pretty amazing fellow.
(to Jim)
Great idea Jim.

It's the worst idea Bill's ever heard.

BILL
Sure. Great idea.

EXT. FREEDOM BANK -

ON THE BILLBOARD Bill's head is still falling down. Jane tilts her head sideways matching the angle.

JANE
There you are again.

Bill walks them to the front door and stops.

INT. FREEDOM BANK -

Bill takes a quick look inside, the coast is clear. He grabs Jane's hand and pulls her through the doors. A few people say hello but Bill moves past them at lightening speed.

Jane and Jim are forced to run to keep up with him.

Bill pushes through the doors to the HALLWAY.

He's almost to his office. He can hear John Jr.'s voice.

Bill practically sprints the rest of the way. He sees John Jr. lecturing David Choo in his office. Bill reaches over and slams John Jr.'s door closed.

Jim and Jane reach Bill a split second later.

Bill quickly opens his office door and shoves them inside.

INT. BILL'S OFFICE -

Bill, Jane and Jim catch their breath.

JANE
Whoa. You're fast.

Bill looks over at his desk. The Kid is at his computer.

KID
Hey, Bill.

Bill doesn't want to introduce him but knows he has to.

BILL
This is Jim and Jane, this is my student I'm mentoring, it's an alumni participation program.

JANE
That's fantastic. We love when our family is part of the community.

KID
You guys are family?

JANE
Well hopefully when Bill becomes part of the Yum Yum team it will feel that way.

The Kid raises his eyebrows.

KID

As in, "Yum Yum in your tum tum?"

Jane is thrilled. She came up with that. Jim forces a smile.

KID

You're going to make donuts?

(off Bill's look)

I love the chocolate covered
vanilla cream ones.

JANE

You should come visit our store in
Madison with Bill and Jessica next
week. You can see how the
operation works.

KID

I wouldn't want to miss that.

Bill's office door starts to opens. It's Sarah. Bill kicks
the door closed. Sarah knocks. Jane and Jim wait for Bill
to respond.

BILL

I'll be right back.

INT. HALLWAY -

Bill squeezes out the door blocking Sarah's view of the room.

BILL

Sarah, I'm really busy right now.

SARAH

David told me you went hunting last
weekend. Why was I intentionally
excluded?

BILL

What, you want to go kill helpless
birds?

SARAH

It's discriminatory.

BILL

Let me tell you something, life is
discriminatory. Deal with it.

He slips back into his office leaving Sarah fuming.

INT. BILL'S OFFICE -

Bill leans against the door. Jane eyes him suspiciously.

JANE

So, is this where the tour starts?

Off Bill's panic stricken expression.

KID

They don't give tours here. It's against the rules.

JANE

Oh.

JIM

Well, we don't want anyone to break the rules.

Jane smiles, clearly irritated.

EXT. FREEDOM BANK -

Bill and the Kid wave as Jim and Jane speed away in a cab.

KID

What the hell was that? Dude, donuts?

BILL

I have to go back to work.

Bill walks away.

KID

We're supposed to spend five hours a week together.

BILL

I'll call you.

INT. FREEDOM BANK -

Bill walks over to Dana's station. He leans down.

BILL

(whispering)

Has he seen it?

DANA

Not yet.

Bill stands up and straightens his jacket.

INT. MR. JACOBY'S OFFICE -

Bill sits across from Mr. Jacoby in the same uncomfortable chair.

BILL

I know how this entire debacle must look and I'm sorry if I've embarrassed you in any way.

MR. JACOBY

Bill, you're dangerously close to losing everything you've worked for.

BILL

I understand that.

MR. JACOBY

Banking is about stability and consistency.

BILL

I couldn't agree with you more.

MR. JACOBY

Pull it together and resolve your personal problems in private, like a gentleman.

BILL

Yes sir.

MR. JACOBY

We're having a family dinner tomorrow. I expect the two of you to be there. Together.

BILL

She has a restraining order against me.

MR. JACOBY

Work it out.

BILL

We'll be there together.

EXT. FREEDOM BANK - END OF THE DAY

Bill walks out and heads to his Jeep. ABOVE HIM he notices the billboard. The Kid is pinning Bill's head back up.

BILL
What are you doing?

KID
I'm fixing your head.

BILL
Get down from there.

KID
Man, you own this place, you can't have your face all saggy.

BILL
(nervously watching him)
I'll have someone fix it in the morning. Come on, get down.
(beat)
We'll go do something.

The Kid quickly shimmies down the ladder.

KID
What do you wanna do?

Bill sighs, how did he get stuck with this kid?

INT. SARGENT'S STORE -

Bill flips through racks of swim suits. The Kid watches him.

KID
I was on swim team one year.

BILL
What do you want out of this mentor thing?

KID
An A.

A pretty sales woman, LAURA (24), walks over.

LAURA
Hey there. Do you need any help?

BILL
No thanks.

KID
He needs a suit.

The Kid holds up a Speedo.

KID
You got anything besides these lame
plumb smugglers?

LAURA
(laughing)
Just a second.

Laura walks over to another rack.

KID
How are you ever going to meet any
new chicks if you don't work it?

BILL
For your information I'm still
married.

KID
The only way to get the old one
back is to get a new one she's
jealous of.

BILL
When you're fifteen.

Laura comes back with a few suits. She holds one up. It
resembles a pair of light weight biking shorts.

LAURA
These are cool, a lot of guys are
wearing them.

BILL
Thanks.

Bill appreciatively takes the suit and holds it up.

KID
Do you like to swim?

LAURA
I love to swim.

KID
You should come sometime. It's
great exercise.

Laura tries to deduce why these two are together.

LAURA

Are you guys, like, brothers?

KID

Bill's my mentor. He's teaching me about life and stuff.

LAURA

And you swim together?

BILL

No, we don't swim together. I swim at Blake. They have the pool open in the mornings - friends and family.

LAURA

Gotcha. Well if you want any of those, I'm Laura. You can just tell them my name at the register.

KID

Thanks Laura.

Laura smiles and walks away.

BILL

My brother owns this place so try to behave.

KID

The, "This is going to be a great program," guy is your brother?

Bill nods, yes that guy.

KID

You own a bank, he owns this place? Can I get the family discount?

(Bill concedes, yes)

This is a great program.

INT. CASH REGISTER -

The Kid's many purchases are rung up. Among them are a suit and a pair of goggles.

KID

It'll be cool. We can train together.

A CUSTOMER walks by. He recognizes Bill.

CUSTOMER
(he points at him)
Apologize.

Bill smiles facetiously.

CASHIER
What did you want the guy to
apologize for?

KID
For screwing his wife you idiot.

CASHIER
That will be fifty-five sixty-two.

The Kid pays cash for his purchases.

Bill finishes putting his stuff on the counter and notices a pair of BINOCULARS, he adds them to his pile.

KID
Bird watching?

BILL
Duck hunting.

EXT. BACKYARD - BILL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

THROUGH BINOCULARS we're looking into Jess' bedroom. She's with Chip Johnson. It's obvious that they're in a heated discussion.

The phone RINGS interrupting them, they temporarily stop talking. Jess decides to ignore it.

PUSH INSIDE

Jess continues to ignore the phone.

CHIP
Unfortunately your husband has put
my entire career in jeopardy.

JESS
Come on, you're more popular now
than ever. People love the
deranged fan, apologize thing.

Jess can't help but let out a little laugh, it's ridiculous.

CHIP
 I'm glad you're amused.
 (beat)
 What do you think would happen to
 Tom Brokaw's career if he were to
 be caught on tape with someone
 else's wife?

The phone starts to RING again.

CHIP
 It would be O-V-E-R.

JESS
 Don't be dramatic. Look at Paris
 Hilton and Clinton for that matter.
 This could be the thing that gets
 you a national spot.

Chip considers this while he fixes his hair in the mirror.

CHIP
 I don't know. Maybe I should hire
 my own PR person.
 (re: the ringing phone)
 Who the hell keeps calling here?

Jess finally picks it up.

JESS
 Hello?

There's no one there. She hangs up.

OUTSIDE

BILL and the Kid are watching through binoculars. The Kid
 has been dialing Jess' number on his cell phone.

BILL
 I think he's leaving.

Bill takes out his cell phone and hits send. Jess' phone
 starts to ring again. Chip quickly kisses her cheek and
 leaves.

BILL watches with some degree of satisfaction. Frustrated,
 Jess snaps up the phone.

JESS
 Hello?

BILL
Hey, it's me.

Bill continues to watch Jess.

JESS
Have you been calling here?

BILL
No.

JESS
(tired from arguing)
Oh. What's up?

BILL
Just wanted to see if you want me
to pick you up for dinner tomorrow
night.

JESS
That's fine.

BILL
Good. So, how are you?

JESS
Great.

BILL
I'm really sorry Jess.

JESS
Yeah, well I am too.
(she softens)
How are you?

BILL
Fine. Considering present
circumstances.

Jess undresses down to a sexy bra and underwear. The Kid
lets out a loud sigh. Bill grabs the Kid's binoculars by the
strap. They wrestle for them.

JESS
What's that noise?

BILL
(he let's go)
The TV.

JESS
How's Sargent?

BILL
He's good. You know him, he's
always happy.

JESS
Yeah, that's true. I have to go
down to his store. My Dad said
it's amazing.

JESS critically eyes her body in the mirror. Holding a small
cosmetics mirror she turns around and checks out her butt.

JESS
(sotto)
Gross.

BILL
Come on, you have a great ass.

JESS
What?

Shit. Bill scrambles to recover. He starts to pace.

BILL
Nothing. I was just thinking how
great your body is.

JESS
You were thinking about my butt?

BILL
Just the way you said, gross.

JESS
So when I said gross you thought of
my butt?

BILL
No. But that's what you say when
you check it out. Sometimes you
say, gross.

Jess notices her drapes are open. She walks over to the
glass and peers outside. Bill dodges behind a tree. The Kid
hits the ground. It's too late, she's seen them.

JESS
Bill, what the hell are you doing?

BILL
I need some clothes.

JESS
You're not supposed to be here.

BILL
I know but I really don't have any clothes.

JESS
Jesus Christ, Bill.

BILL
I'm sorry. I just don't understand what you see in that guy.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - LATER

Bill stands at the end of the driveway. Jess walks over to him and drops two large plastic trash bags at his feet.

JESS
Stop spying on me.

Jess turns to walk away.

BILL
So, I'll pick you up at seven tomorrow?

JESS
(re: the Jeep)
Tell your little friend I saw him.

Jess goes back into the house. Bill begrudgingly picks up the bags.

INT. BILL'S JEEP -

Bill gets in. The Kid is crouched down in the back seat.

KID
Dude, you gotta reclaim your balls.

BILL
I'm going to kill you if you say another word.

INT. SARGENT'S HOUSE ENTRYWAY - SAME

Paul opens the door to find Bill standing there holding his trash bags. He tries to smile but instead begins to cry.

INT. SARGENT'S HOUSE - BATHROOM

Bill, wearing a plastic hair cap with small holes, sits next to Paul on the side of the large marble bathtub.

They drink beers while flipping through a copy of *Esquire*.

PAUL
(re: a photo)
Here's a good one.

BILL
Too grey. She doesn't like older
guys.

Paul flips more pages. He comes to a photo of a handsome
MODEL.

PAUL
Hel-lo.

Bill takes in the half naked model. He has a six-pack, light
brown hair and a seductive smile.

PAUL
That's as hot as it gets.

Bill considers the photo and what it means to be hot.

BILL
You sure you're qualified for this?

Paul points to his own head.

PAUL
Mocha 765.

BILL
(bill chugs his beer)
Alright, hit it.

Paul starts to work on Bill's hair, pulling small strands
through the holes in the cap.

PAUL
You just treat tomorrow like a
first date. Get some new clothes,
bring her some flowers. Make her
feel like you care.

Sargent walks by.

SARGENT
What's going on?

Bill salutes Sargent with his beer bottle.

BILL
Upgrading the package.

Sargent refrains from commenting.

INT. POOL - MORNING

Bill, dressed in his new bathing suit, swims laps. He's found his rhythm. His arms stretch further with each stroke as he slowly regains his physical prowess.

Paul swims in the lane next to him. Bill paces himself against Paul. Paul tries to ignore him.

INT. LOCKER ROOM -

The room is empty.

Bill enters the showers. He turns on the water and is about to step in when he hears a commotion in one of the bathroom stalls. It sounds like someone has fallen.

Bill walks over to THE STALL and knocks.

BILL
Are you Okay?

From behind the door comes a muffled grunt. Bill steps back. He bends down and peeks under the door. He sees a pair of feet. Everything appears to be fine.

Bill walks back to the shower and slips off his suit. He steps under the water and lathers his hair.

ACROSS THE WAY the door to the bathroom finally opens. The Kid walks out dressed in a bathing suit.

He sees Bill and smiles. Bill regards him suspiciously.

BILL
What are you doing here?

But before he can answer a young girl, KELLY, sheepishly exits the stall. Bill quickly covers himself with his hands.

BILL
Jesus!

KID
This is Kelly.

Kelly smiles at him while her fingers play with a gold necklace she wears around her neck.

KELLY
You're the deranged fan.
(she points at him)
Apologize!

BILL
May I please take a shower?

Kelly's eyes travel down to Bill's crotch.

KELLY
Does it really look like an acorn?

BILL
What? No. How do you know about that?

KELLY
I saw it on-line.

BILL
You shouldn't be watching porn,
you're like fifteen.

KELLY
I'm sure it doesn't always look
like an acorn, I mean, you know.

BILL
I got it, thanks.

The BELL RINGS.

KELLY
Oh my god, we're going to be so
busted.
(she kisses the Kid)
Thanks for the necklace.
Don't tell anyone.

The Kid walks over to Bill. He's shivering. He turns on the shower next to Bill and lets the hot water run over his body.

BILL
What are you doing here?

KID
I was going to swim with you.

BILL
And what, you elected to have sex instead?

KID
Which would you choose?

BILL
Right now, anything besides what's actually happening in my life.

KID
Don't beat yourself up. Think how lucky you are. You have like seven million guys who want to jack off to your wife.

The thought horrifies Bill. He closes his eyes and refrains from strangling the Kid.

BILL
Does this count as part of the five hours per week?

The Kid laughs.

KID
Will you write me a note so I don't get detention for being late?

BILL
No.

KID
You could say I was at the bank.

INT. LOCKER ROOM -

Bill is at the mirror shaving. The Kid walks over holding a note in his hand. He notices Bill's unfortunate highlights.

KID
(staring at his head)
I guess I'll see you after school.

BILL
I won't be there.
(thinking he'll deter him)
I have to go buy some new clothes.

KID
Cool, we'll go to the mall.

Paul walks over and checks his reflection in the mirror.

PAUL
(to the Kid)
Aren't you late?

KID
Bill's signing a note for me.

Paul silently expresses disapproval as Bill gives in and signs it. The Kid and Paul walk off.

Alone now, Bill continues to shave. He runs his razor down his chin and continues down his neck. He hesitates for a brief second before impulsively continuing down his chest to his navel. It feels liberating.

He grabs the can of shaving cream and squirts some of the thick white foam onto his chest.

INT. BILL'S OFFICE -

Bill sits at his desk. He takes a candy bar out of his drawer and is about to bite into it when he stops and after a second tosses it into the wastebasket.

He dives back into the drawer and discards his entire stash.

EXT. FREEDOM BANK - LATER

Three PHOTOGRAPHERS hover around the door. Mr. Jacoby argues with them. The Kid rides up on his bike.

PHOTOGRAPHER
Come on, the guy's the deranged
fan, he's public property.

MR. JACOBY
This is my property and I'm calling
the police.

INT. BILL'S OFFICE -

The Kid rushes in. Bill is putting on his coat to leave.

KID
We need to go out the back door
right now.

BILL
Why?

KID
Give me your keys. I'll get your
car and meet you in back by the
trash.

Bill glances out his window and quickly closes his shades.

INT. MALL - LATER

The Kid and Bill, his baseball hat back on, walk through the
busy corridors. They pass a pretty WOMAN.

KID
She's hot.

BILL
I'm shopping for clothes.

KID
You need a new strategy. If your
wife saw you with her she'd think
twice about hitting the Action News
again.

BILL
Lets say I buy your theory. Who am
I going to go on a date with?

KID
Unlike you, I have a plan. You
could borrow my girlfriend.

BILL
The girl in the stall?

KID
She's not my girlfriend.

BILL
Of course she's not.

INT. VICTORIA'S SECRETS -

Bill trails in after the Kid. A variety of WOMEN peruse the
tables. Bill immediately feels uncomfortable.

BILL
What are we doing in here?

The Kid smiles at a WOMAN with a slip in her hand.

KID
I like that one.

The Woman is immediately flustered, Bill does his best to pretend he and the Kid aren't together.

Lucy walks out of the dressing room.

KID
There she is. I'll be right back.

The Kid takes off and leaves Bill alone. Bill tries to act at ease but fails.

He picks up a pair of lacy black underwear. He fingers the material. He looks up and finds a WOMAN watching him. He puts the underwear down.

OVER AT THE CASH REGISTER

The Kid sweet talks Lucy.

KID
It's a matter of life or death.
(beat)
Come on. I'll pay you a hundred
bucks.

Lucy considers the offer.

LUCY
Let's go.

INT. DRESSING ROOM -

Bill tries on a pair of SEVEN JEANS. He looks ridiculously un-hip. He rips them off.

KID O.S.
That action loser's jamming his
wife but he's got a date with her
tonight.

LUCY O.S.
I saw the video. I sold her those
underwear.

Bill cringes.

KID O.S.
That's hot.

LUCY O.S.
(quietly)
What's up with that hair?

BILL
(fixing his hair)
I can hear you.

OUTSIDE the Kid and Lucy wait for Bill to appear.

KID
He's still sensitive.

LUCY
It's probably his fault.

BILL O.S.
It's not my fault.

LUCY
When was the last pair of panties
you bought her?

Bill doesn't respond.

KID
I love panties.

LUCY
(to Bill)
I bet you don't even know what kind
she wears.
(sadly to the Kid)
I see it everyday, women investing
hope in underwear.

KID
I bought you those black furry
ones.

LUCY
I returned them.

KID
I would never forget how sexy you
are.

LUCY
You're kind of creepy.

KID
But only kind of.

Bill walks out in a slim black pair of PRADA pants and a green shirt with french cuffs.

LUCY
That's hot.

The Kid nods in agreement. Bill checks his new image in the mirror. He feels kind of hot.

KID
Now all you have to do is show up
at 9:30 tonight.

Bill looks at the Kid. This is never going to work.

INT. VICTORIA'S SECRETS - LATER

Lucy locks up for the night.

KID
Thanks for helping out.

LUCY
I need the cash.

KID
There's more where that came from.

LUCY
I'm not trying on underwear for
you.

KID
What's your hang up with underwear?
It's just like a bathing suit.

LUCY
Then why don't you model some for
me?

KID
I model for you, you come on a
date with me Friday night.

LUCY
I get to choose the underwear.

EXT. BILL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Bill holds a Victoria's Secrets box. He reaches for the door handle but hesitates and politely rings the BELL instead.

Jess comes to the door. She sees Bill's new outfit, new hair. She's impressed. She takes the box.

JESS
Bill...

BILL
It's no big deal. You look beautiful.

An awkward first date moment passes between them.

JESS
Ready to face my dad?

BILL
I face him everyday. It will be fine. I'll pretend I'm sick and we'll leave early.

He turns and makes his way to the car. She follows.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Everyone has gone home. Lucy sits in a chair waiting.

LUCY
I'm waiting.

The Kid is inside one of the dressing rooms. He screams out.

KID
Ready?

LUCY
Yep.

The door slowly opens. The Kid kicks out a bare leg.

KID
You sure you can handle this?

LUCY
Let's see it.

Using the door as a stripper pole, the kid slink's out. It's burlesque male drag: garter-belt, stockings, G-String, robe.

He dances over to Lucy, a young Mick Jagger shamelessly strutting his stuff. He starts to sing Prince's, "Nikky."

KID

*I knew a girl named Nikki. I guess
you could say she was a sex fiend.
I met her in a hotel lobby
masturbating with a magazine.*

He drops the robe.

KID

*She said how'd you like to waste
some time and I could not resist
when I saw little Nikki gind.*

The Kid grinds his hips. Lucy practically chokes.

He spins around and reveals several TEN DOLLAR BILLS tucked into the back of his G-String.

KID

Bite 'em off baby.

He wiggles his butt.

KID

You wanna piece of this?

He continues his rendition.

KID

*She took me to her castle and I
just couldn't believe my eyes. She
had so many devices, everything
that money could buy.*

He grinds his hips and slaps the back of his ass.

KID

Come on, tap it. Harder. Ride the pony baby. Ride it.

LUCY

You are such a freakshow!

KID

*The castle started spinning or
maybe it was my brain. I can't
tell you what she did to me but my
body will never be the same.*

He licks the mirror. The more Lucy laughs the more the kid gets into it.

INT. THE JACOBY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The Jacoby's have gathered. They sit at a long dining room table. The tension is palpable.

JOHN JR.
The duck is great.

Everyone nods their agreement.

MOM
The acorn squash is my favorite.
It's in season now.

John Jr. shoots Bill an admonishing look.

Bill continues to eat. He puts a fork full of duck in his mouth and bites down onto a bullet. He feels it crack the enamel of his back molar.

BILL
Ow.

Bill removes the bullet.

BILL
I got the bullet.

JOHN JR.
It's good luck. You have to
swallow it.

What?

MR. JACOBY
That's right. Swallow it.

Bill rolls it over to John Jr. It lands on his plate.

BILL
Go ahead.

JOHN JR.
Don't disrespect the hunt.

John Jr. rolls the bullet back over to Bill.

JOHN JR.
Swallow it.

Bill rolls it back.

BILL
No thanks.

John Jr. stands up and leans over the table.

JOHN JR.
Swallow it.

Bill doesn't move.

JOHN JR.
You ingrate.

MRS. JACOBY
Please, we're at the dinner table.

JOHN JR.
He has no respect for this family,
or what we've done for him.
(to Jess)
He wouldn't even have a job if it
weren't for you. And now he's vice
president of human resources, a
position we created specifically
for him.
(to Bill)
We put you on the billboard.

JESS
Shut up John. Since Bill's been at
the bank unemployment claims have
been cut by 41 percent.

Bill grabs Jess' hand as an indication of solidarity. She
looks down at it, momentarily confused.

JOHN JR.
That's because he never fires
anyone. Why are you defending him?

BILL
Okay, stop fighting.
(he holds up the bullet)
Here.

Bill swallows the bullet.

BILL
To the hunt.

John Jr. sits down infuriated.

MR. JACOBY
I'm running for mayor.

This grabs their attention.

JESS
What? Why?

MR. JACOBY
Because I want to. And I expect
all of you to behave. Like a
family. I'm going to announce it
at the club picnic.

No one comments. He's made up his mind.

MR. JACOBY
Does everyone understand what I'm
saying? Jessica?
(she nods yes)
Good. Who wants to get the
fireworks?

Bill raises his hand. Mr. Jacoby sinks back in his chair.

MR. JACOBY
Just don't screw it up.

INT. BILL'S JEEP -

Bill and Jess sit outside the Jacoby's. Jess bites her
nails. Bill takes Jess' hand away from her mouth and holds
it in his.

JESS
When he finds out it's on the
Internet he's going to freak.

BILL
Maybe he won't find out.

JESS
He's running for mayor.

BILL
I told you.

This further irritates Jess. Bill looks at the clock, it's
almost 9:30.

BILL
Let's go grab a coffee.

JESS
I'm too stressed.

BILL
It will be a good distraction.

Bill starts the Jeep and quickly backs out of the driveway.

INT. STARBUCKS -

Jess and Bill sit across from each other. Jess picks at a muffin.

BILL
It's going to be Okay.

Jess sighs.

BILL
Come on, what happened to the girl
who didn't give a shit what other
people thought?
(fondly remembering)
Where's the Jess who used to go
commando under her uniform and
flash me outside science class even
though Jenny Bradley called her a
slut?

JESS
(smiling)
She was the slut. I can't believe
she told on me.

Lucy walks in. On her way up to the counter she sees Bill.

LUCY
Bill?

Bill feigns surprise. Lucy walks over. She flashes a sweet smile at Jess but then proceeds to totally ignore her.

LUCY
What's going on?

BILL
Just a little late night coffee.

Lucy laughs gratuitously. Bill's never been this funny.

LUCY

You coming by the store tomorrow?
There's still some stuff you didn't
see. You're going to love it.

BILL

Um, yeah. Maybe tomorrow after
work.

LUCY

That would be fun.
(she twirls her hair)
Okay, I guess I'll see you tomorrow
then. Bye.

Lucy winks and sashays back to the counter.

JESS

Isn't that the Victoria's Secrets
girl?

BILL

Yeah.

JESS

How do you know her?

BILL

I just met her.

Jess checks to see if Bill is lying. His hands are by his
side. She decides to keep an eye on Lucy.

BILL

(picking at the muffin)
You know what I could really go for
right now? A donut.

JESS

What?

BILL

You know coffee and a donut. Fresh
out of the oven with milk chocolate
icing.

JESS

(looks at Lucy's body)
I don't know, I shouldn't even be
eating this.

BILL
But think how successful Krispy
Kremes is. If we had one of those
we wouldn't have to worry about
your father.

JESS
What are you talking about?

BILL
Donut franchises are extremely
lucrative.

JESS
Who the hell wants a donut
franchise?
(beat)
Bill, you've got to do something
about that tape.

BILL
What can I do? Seven million teens
have probably already downloaded
it.

JESS
I feel sick.

Jess pushes away from the table and gets up. Bill follows
her.

LUCY
(mouths to Bill)
Call me.

Jess storms out the door.

EXT. BILL'S HOUSE -

Bill and Jess pull up to the house. A car is parked outside.
It's CHIP.

INSIDE HIS CAR Chip sees Bill and quickly jams the lock down
with his elbow.

INSIDE BILL'S JEEP Jess is torn.

JESS
I swear I don't know what he's
doing here.

BILL
It's okay. I understand. You
should go. I'm not sure I can
handle another deranged fan
incident.

But Jess isn't sure she wants to go.

JESS
Are you seeing that girl?

BILL
I told you, I just met her.

JESS
Well, she obviously likes you.

Bill shrugs. What can you do?

JESS
Do you like her?

BILL
She sells underwear. She's nice.
(he looks over at Chip)
You should really go.

Bill leans over and kisses Jess on the cheek. He sees Chip
watching and lingers there.

JESS
Good night.

She jumps out. Bill smiles slightly satisfied. Jess walks
over to Chip's car and goes to open the door but it's locked.
She rolls her eyes and knocks on the window.

Bill pulls his Jeep out of the driveway without looking back.

INT. POOL - MORNING

Bill swims laps. Paul is in the lane next to him. Paul
pulls ahead, Bill matches his pace. Paul tries again, Bill
accelerates.

Paul flips around and pushes off. Bill continually checks to
see where Paul is. Paul finishes the next lap a tenth of a
second before Bill and stops.

PAUL
What are you doing?

BILL
Pretty good huh?

PAUL
It isn't a competition Bill.

BILL
Okay.

The Kid drags himself over to the wall. He breaths hard.

KID
I gotta stop smokin' the chronic.

Paul pulls himself out of the water and storms away.

KID
Roser the poser looks pissed. He probably couldn't punch out his algorithm this morning.

Bill dunks the Kid under the water.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - MORNING

Bill and the Kid get dressed. The Kid notices the time.

KID
Shit, will you write me a note?

BILL
Maybe you should try being on time.

KID
(he smiles)
How'd dinner go?

BILL
Great. My father-in-law's running for mayor. He's going to announce it this weekend at the club picnic. And after that, when the media picks up the Internet thing, my life will officially be over.

Bill has relaxed into his fate.

KID
Sweet. Can I come to the picnic?

BILL
Sure. Why not.

KID
Was she jealous?

BILL
(he smiles)
Yeah, she was.

KID
I knew it. It's just a matter of
time now.

The Kid victoriously high-fives him.

KID
She coming yumming?

BILL
No.

KID
(smiling)
Yes, she is.

INT. BILL'S CAR -

Bill, the Kid and Lucy are in the Jeep. The Kid has his feet up, his window open and his I-pod plugged in.

BILL
This is never going to work.

KID
Of course it is. Hey, Jessica.

He waves to Lucy in the back seat. She waves back.

KID
(re: his iPod)
Okay, listen to this song. I got
it last night. It's not even
released yet.

BILL
You stole it.

KID
Whatever man. Just listen.

The Kid cranks the music, Bill listens. It's actually good. The Kid air guitars next to Bill. Bill laughs. For the first time in what seems like a long time.

EXT. INTERSTATE I94 - WISCONSIN

A Wisconsin highway. The Jeep passes a FIREWORKS STORE.
Bill pulls over.

INT. FIREWORKS STORE - WISCONSIN

Bill, Lucy and the Kid stand at the counter talking to TATOO TOM (20), the fireworks expert whose full sleeve tatoos do nothing to conceal his geekdome.

KID

We want full pyro-technics.

BILL

It's a family picnic.

TOM

Depending on what you want we got
Romans, Comets, Collisions,
Fandangos, Bad Attitudes, Baja
Bombers, Pyro Madness, Shock Waves,
Sword Fight, Task Force.

(he stops for a second)

You may need some kind of permit
for some of those.

BILL

You know what, fuck the permit, if
I'm going down I may as well go
down with a bang.

KID

Sweet, let's test some of these
suckas out.

EXT. BACK OF STORE -

Tom and Lucy sit on the edge of a picnic table eating french fries while Bill and the Kid test the fireworks.

In the daylight it's difficult to see.

Bored, the Kid lights a pack of poppers and throws it at Bill. Bill jumps when it explodes at his feet.

BILL

Shit!

The Kid laughs.

BILL

You think that's funny?

Bill lights a pack and throws it the Kid.

The Kid throws another at Bill. Soon, they're lighting them as fast as they can until finally one explodes in the Kid's hand. He screams. Blood pumps out of his fist.

BILL
Holy shit.

KID
I lost my thumb.

Bill tries not to panic.

BILL
Stay calm. Where is it?
(he yells at Tom and Lucy)
Find the thumb!

Bill drops down on all fours.

The Kid starts to laugh and holding up several empty packets of ketchup. He wiggles his thumb.

KID
Gottcha.

Bill grabs the Kid and wrestles him down on the ground, the Kid is laughing too hard to put up a fight.

KID
I give, I give.

Bill lets him go and rolls away, onto his back. Tom stands there watching them off to the side.

LUCY
Don't we have to go make donuts?

Bill stands up and catches his breath.

BILL
(to Tom)
We'll take five of the Froggers,
the Mother Load and the Big Dipper.
(beat)
You gotta bathroom in there?

TOM
In the back.

*

Bill walks off.

KID
You know what, double that.

TOM
Dude, you want insane? Try the
Crack Pipe and the Roller Coaster.

KID
Bring it on my man.

The Kid opens his wallet and peels off a stack of twenties.

KID
Pack 'em together so he won't know.

EXT. BILL'S JEEP -

Tom loads the cases of fireworks into the back of the Jeep.

BILL
That looks like a lot.

KID
It's going to kick ass. You're
gonna be like the pyro picnic pimp.
Show 'em who's really got the
action.

Bill finds himself laughing again. And it feels good, really good.

EXT. YUM YUM STORE - MADISON, WISCONSIN

The parking lot is crowded. Cars wait in line at the drive-thru.

INT. YUM YUM STORE -

The big meeting. Jim and Jane are wearing Yum Yum uniforms. Bill, Lucy and the Kid stand across from them.

BILL
This is my wife, Jessica.

Bill throws his arm around Lucy. Jane isn't sold.

JANE
Jessica. It's nice to meet you.

LUCY
Likewise.

JANE
Alrighty then.

Jane hands them their uniforms.

JANE
Let's get started.

INT. YUM YUM BEHIND THE SCENES -

The Kid, Lucy and Bill are in their uniforms. Jane demonstrates the donut machine.

She removes a dozen hot donuts from the oven.

JANE
And now we put the topping on them.
We have glaze, chocolate,
sprinkles.

The Kid dips his finger in a vat of frosting. Jane grabs his hand, furious.

JANE
What the hell are you doing?

KID
Sorry.
(Bill scowls at him)
Sorry. It looked so good. Lucy
tried the chocolate.

JANE
Who's Lucy?

KID
I don't know.

BILL
He has an imaginary friend. Lucy.

Jane looks at the Kid, he shrugs.

JANE
We're going to have to throw all
that away now.

KID
I'll take it home.

JANE
That's against company policy.

KID

What, frosting can't leave the building?

JANE

It's a secret recipe.

KID

Fine, if you're going to throw it away.

He sticks his finger in and holds it out for Lucy.

KID

Here, taste it. It's really good.

Lucy licks it off. The Kid feels her tongue and moans. Jane's eyes dart over to Bill.

BILL

I'm not eating sugar right now.

JANE

Let's go to the boxing station. Then we'll set you up at the register.

INT. CASH REGISTER -

Bill stands at a register. A FAT MAN orders. The Kid plucks donuts off a shelf and places them in a box that Lucy holds.

FAT MAN

Three chocolate, two vanilla, three cherry, no two chocolate...

KID

(quietly to Lucy)
What color bra are you wearing?

She reaches in her shirt and pulls her bra strap over. Pink.

KID

Matching panties?

Lucy laughs. The Fat Man notices the Kid ignoring the order.

FAT MAN

(to the Kid)
Actually, I'll have six chocolate.

KID
Maybe you should consider laying
off the chocolate.

BILL
He's kidding. He wants them for
himself.

FAT MAN
Six glazed. And a dozen raspberry.

BILL
That will be eight sixty-two.

FAT MAN
I gave you the coupon for the free
dozen.

KID
Dude, the last thing you need is
the free dozen.

Lucy can't help laughing.

BILL
Here's your change. Thank you for
yumming!

The Man storms away.

OFF TO THE SIDE JIM AND JANE WATCH

JANE
Don't you think she looks a little
young to be his wife?

JIM
Oh Jane, who gives a shit? We need
to move some of these franchises
and he could be a huge asset to us.

JANE
Don't cuss at me. I'm trying to
protect your interests too.

JIM
I'm sorry. I just think you have
unreasonable expectations.

Jane walks off. Jim dutifully follow her.

THE KID watches Jane leave. He steps over to Bill.

KID

Why do you want a donut store?
This place sucks.

BILL

Let me tell you something, working
sucks.

(he looks at both of them)

And it doesn't matter if
you're in a bank, a department
store, or a donut factory because
after you're there long enough the
only thing you'll care about is
when your next pay increase is, how
many vacation days you've accrued
and if your health insurance is
going to keep paying for the
cholesterol medicine that keeps
your heart working no matter how
much shit you pump through it.

(Bill's voice steadily
rises)

Then after you've gained twenty or
thirty pounds because you're so
fucking uptight all the time, you
wake up one day and discover that
you're working for your father-in-
law in a position with a gratuitous
title and you're totally
replaceable. And that not only is
the new guy better at your job, but
he also has a better car and better
jokes and better hair.

(beat)

So, no matter what you do, make
sure you make a lot of money doing
it because it all sucks. That is
one lesson I as your mentor can
teach you.

KID

Lesson learned.

Bill turns back to the register to find A WOMAN waiting with
her five fat little children. She obviously heard him.

BILL

May I help you?

EXT. YUM YUM STORE -

The day is over. Bill carries out a dozen donuts. Jim and
Jane escort him. The Kid and Lucy wait to get in the Jeep.

JANE

If you have any questions you can
always call us at home.

JIM

Otherwise we'll send the paper work
down Monday. Congratulations.

Bill smiles and they shake hands. The Kid impatiently
watches.

KID

Lucy has to be back by six.

JIM

Who's Lucy?

JANE

(doubtful)
His imaginary friend.

BILL

Alright let's go.
(to Jim and Jane)
We'll talk Monday.

Bill quickly gets into the car before anything can go wrong.

EXT. RIDGEDALE MALL -

Bill pulls his Jeep into the parking lot.

INT. BILL'S JEEP -

Lucy leans forward into the front seat. The Kid extracts a
hundred from his wallet and hands it to Lucy.

KID

Don't forget tomorrow night.

LUCY

Are you coming Bill?

KID

Of course he's coming.

She kisses both of them on the cheek before jumping out.

LUCY

Thanks you guys. That was fun.

ACROSS THE PARKING LOT Jess sits in her Jeep watching. Lucy gets out of Bill's Jeep and walks into the mall. Jess drives off before Bill notices her.

INT. BILL'S JEEP -

Bill leans back in his seat. His eyes close.

KID
Congratulations, man.

An empty victory.

BILL
I still have to convince Jess to
buy into a donut franchise.

KID
You already did all the work. Just
tell her how much cash it makes.
All she has to do is sign a piece
of paper.

BILL
She doesn't do anything without her
father's permission.

KID
She sounds lame.

The Kid lights a joint. Bill smells the smoke, his eyes open.

The Kid offers him the joint. He hesitates for a moment but then grabs it and takes a drag. Soon they're both very high.

The Kid remembers the donuts and digs into the box.

KID
These are pretty damn good.

BILL
Give me one.

KID
You're not eating sugar.

Bill grabs a donut just as A COP CAR pulls up and parks.

BILL
Shit. Stop eating.

KID
Why, it's not illegal to eat
donuts.

BILL
Put down the box. Put it down.

The Officer gets out of his car, the Kid waves, he moves on.

KID
You gotta learn to live a little.
Why don't you dump your wife?

BILL
You don't just dump your family.
We've been together since we were
your age.

KID
That's the problem, you need a new
piece of ass.

Bill thinks about this.

KID
Whatever your holding on to isn't
there anymore.

BILL
Yeah, well I'd like to know where
it went.

KID
People change. You think when I'm
your age I'm gonna be the same me?
You gotta let go man.
(beat)
You're way too cool to be the donut
guy.

BILL
Thank you for yumming.

KID
Let's go to the super sports store.
That Laura chick was hot.

INT. SARGENT'S STORE - NIGHT

Bill and the Kid are stoned out of their minds. They walk
through the store looking for Laura.

They finally find her at the climbing wall.

KID
Hey, Laura. Can we climb your
wall?

Laura laughs.

LATER ON THE WALL

The Kid and Bill are strapped in and climbing.

KID
Catch me if I fall.

LAURA
It's automatic.

The Kid misses a handle and falls, the automatic catch clicks and he dangles in space. He starts kicking his legs.

KID
Bill, apologize! Apologize!

Bill laughs and lets go. He dangles next to the Kid. They continue to crack up.

SARGENT hears the commotion and walks over. He lowers Bill.

SARGENT
What are you doing?

Bill rubs his eyes.

SARGENT
Are you, high?

KID
Hey, this is a great program guy!

SARGENT
(to Bill)
Did you get your kid high?

BILL
Actually, he got me high.

SARGENT
You're supposed to be mentoring
him. You're in enough trouble as
it is.

KID
Laura you dominatrix unstrap me.

Laura can't help but laugh at them.

SARGENT
I'm calling Paul to come get you.

LATER

The Kid and Bill are in a fierce game of air hockey. They're really getting into it, laughing and scoring.

Paul and Sargent walk over.

BILL
Paul you wanna play? We'll kick your ass.

PAUL
Everything has to be a competition with you.

BILL
Come on, we're just having fun.

PAUL
I'm serious. That's why Chip Johnson and that damn acorn thing drive you crazy. You're perpetually unhappy because you can't stop comparing yourself to other people.

Bill becomes noticeably uncomfortable.

KID
Whoa, take it easy, Rose-man.

SARGENT
It's air hockey Paul.

PAUL
It's in the pool too.

SARGENT
(to Paul)
Just take him home.

PAUL
To his house or our house?

SARGENT
Don't start that.

BILL
Hey, forget it. I can take a hint.
Roser the poser can't handle a
little competition.

SARGENT
Bill...

BILL
No really. I don't need to live
with you guys.

Bill sees a TENT the size of a small house in the distance.

BILL
(to the Kid)
Come on.

INT. SARGENT'S HOUSE -

Sargent and Paul watch as Bill and the Kid finish erecting
the tent in their back yard. It's a solid team performance.

SARGENT
I don't know why you said that.

PAUL
Can't you see that's his problem?

SARGENT
His life is falling apart. Why
don't you show him some sympathy.

PAUL
You always take his side.

SARGENT
He's my brother. And for obvious
reasons he's having an identity
crises. Remember what that feels
like?

Paul feels sufficiently chastised and leaves the room.

INT. TENT -

Bill cracks a beer while the Kid finishes pumping an
airofloat mattress. When it's done he flops onto it.

KID
Solid.

Bill cracks open a beer.

BILL
Cheers.

KID
Cheers, Bill.

INT. POOL - MORNING

Bill swims laps. He's improved substantially. His timing is back. His body glides through the water.

INT. LOCKER ROOM SHOWER

Bill expertly shaves his body, his arms, his legs.

INT. TELLER'S STATION -

Bill is behind the teller station. The name plate reads DONNY. He finishes with a CUSTOMER. Donny casually walks in the door and over to Bill. They talk through the glass.

DONNY
Hey, Bill.

BILL
Donny, you're late.

DONNY
I missed the bus.

BILL
It's the sixth time you've been
late in the last five weeks.
(beat)
You're fired.

Bill shoves the name plate under the window. Dana beams.

INT. BILL'S OFFICE -

The posters have been taken down. Bill and the Kid play nerf basketball. John Jr. and David Choo watch from across the hallway. Bill doesn't care. Lucy sits in Bill's chair.

KID
You know I have to hand in a paper
on banking to get my final grade.

BILL
I'll help you.

KID
Maybe I can pay Sarah to write it.

BILL
Maybe you should stop paying people
to help you.

Bill scores against the Kid.

KID
Cheap shot.

Jessica appears at the door.

BILL
Hey. What are you doing here?

JESS
I was just here seeing my Dad,
thought I'd stop by.

BILL
Oh. What's up?

JESS
Nothing. I actually just wanted to
see what you were doing tonight,
since I was here.
(she looks at Lucy)
But I guess you're busy.

The statement seems like more of a question.

BILL
You can hang out if you want.

JESS
No, thanks, I have to go. I'll see
you tomorrow.

Jess walks out. The Kid throws the nerf ball at Bill's head.

INT. PIZZA PARLOR -

Bill, Lucy and the Kid finish a huge deep dish pizza. Lucy
leans over and wipes cheese off Bill's face.

LUCY
Maybe you should get a pizza
franchise next. Donuts and pizza.

KID
You'd be like the king of fat food.

BILL
We'll see how the donuts go.

KID
She's gonna sign those donut
papers. Did you see her face?

LUCY
She looked sad.

KID
She wants back in.

Another seemingly empty victory. Lucy drinks some of her
beer. The Kid steals a sip.

LUCY
I love this song.

KID
Come on. Let's dance.

The Kid jumps up. He pulls Lucy to her feet.

LUCY
(to Bill)
Come on.

Bill slowly gets on his feet and before he knows it they're
all on the dance floor together.

INT. BILL'S JEEP - LATER

The Kid sits next to Bill in the front seat. He turns the
radio on and sings along with the song. Lucy laughs. He
climbs over the seat.

He puts his arm around her. She giggles. He kisses her
neck. She playfully slaps him. Bill starts to feel
uncomfortable. He avoids looking in the rearview mirror.

The Kid takes a break from canoodling and leans forward.

KID
(to Bill)
Can you drive around for a little
longer?

BILL
No. I can't.

KID
Let's go back to your house then.

BILL
I'm dropping you off.

KID
Come on let me sleep over. Please,
dude, you gotta do this for me.
We'll call one of her friends.

In the rear view mirror Bill sees that Lucy is already dialing her cell.

KID
You've only had sex with one person
your entire life. You could change
that. Tonight. Right now.

This touches a nerve. Bill's not sure he can even have sex.

BILL
I'm married.

KID
To what?

Bill sighs with resignation.

INT. BILL'S TENT - LATER

Lucy and her friend, BECKY, a hot number with a low IQ, sit on the airofloat mattress across from BILL.

BECKY
Cool tent.

BILL
Thanks.

LUCY
So you live here? For real?

BILL
Yeah. Temporarily.

BECKY
Do you ever get any, like, wild
animals out here?

The Kid walks in, he takes a hit off a joint and passes it to Becky.

KID
Careful, that's White Widow.

The Kid turns his iPod on. The music blares out of the small speakers. Bill takes a hit of pot.

INT. SARGENT'S BEDROOM - SAME

The music outside is loud and Paul stares at the ceiling unable to sleep.

PAUL
What's going on out there?

SARGENT
Let him have some fun.

PAUL
It's ten thirty.

SARGENT
Go do some sit-ups.

PAUL
We never party anymore.

SARGENT
Fine, is that what you want? Come on.

INT. TENT - SAME

Sargent and Paul, both in their bathrobes, are in the tent smoking pot with Bill the Kid and their dates.

Everyone is very high.

PAUL
You got any beer?

Bill goes over to his small refrigerator and grabs a beer.

KID
Roser you ain't no poser.

PAUL
Thanks.

SARGENT
I'm really hungry.

BILL
We are going to have the motherload of all picnics tomorrow.

PAUL
Whad-ja get?

KID
Don't tell. It's a secret.

BILL
Okay. It's a secret.

BECKY
I have a really good secret.

She unbuttons her top.

BECKY
I got fake boobs.

Becky pops open her shirt revealing new perfect C cups held up by a pink and black lace Victoria's secrets bra.

LUCY
No way! You slut.

KID
I love that bra and the matching
panties with the bows on the sides.
Fucking sa-weet.

LUCY
Can we touch them?

Becky leans down and the Kid and Lucy fondle her new tits.

KID
(to Paul and Sargent)
You guys gotta feel these.

Becky throws Paul and Sargent a seductive look.

PAUL
What the hell. Bring 'em over.

Paul and Sargent touch the new boobs.

PAUL
They're bouncy.

SARGENT
They feel pretty real.

BILL
How would you know?

SARGENT
I've felt tits before.

BILL
When?

PAUL
Yeah when?

SARGENT
Lynn Algrin for one.

BILL
You were eleven.

Becks smiles.

BECKY
You wanna feel em.

BILL
That's Okay.

KID
Go on feel 'em. They're only
boobs.

He leans over and tries to fondle Lucy's chest but she slaps
his hand away.

SARGENT
Let's go get some chocolate.

KID
Mmmm, that sounds good.

Sargent, Paul, Lucy and the Kid leave.

Now it's just Becky and Bill.

Becky walks over to Bill. She straddles him in the chair.
He leans back. She presses into him. He tilts back on the
chair. She leans in seductively. He tilts further back.
The chair creaks.

BECKY
Don't you wanna feel them, just
once?

Bill slowly reaches up to feel her boobs but the chair can't
hold. It breaks and they crash to the ground.

And that's the last thing Bill remembers.

INT. TENT - MORNING

A loud NOISE wakes Bill. He peels his eyes open and sees the Kid. He's naked save for a small pair of victoria's secrets underwear.

BILL
What the hell are you doing?

KID
Making coffee.

BILL
Put some pants on for Christ's sake. You look like a god damn fruit loop.

KID
They're actually pretty comfortable.

BILL
Don't you have school?

KID
It's Saturday.

BILL
(moaning)
Oh, the picnic.

KID
Don't worry I'm making the coffee.

INT. POOL -

It's Saturday. The only light comes from inside the pool. The rest of the room is dark.

Bill is alone. He swims a perfect stroke.

EXT. COUNTRY CLUB -

The picnic. Mr. Jacoby's big day. Trays of champagne are passed to guests. Hundreds of people swarm the grounds.

Bill grabs a glass of champagne off a passing tray. He has dark sunglasses on.

The Kid and Lucy horse around on the grass.

The ACTION NEWS VAN is at the side of the road. CHIP sees Bill and immediately mouths FIFTY YARDS.

Bill turns the other way. He sees David Choo carrying John Jr.'s golf bag. He also sees Jess.

Jess is outside the clubhouse ignoring the stares of catty women.

Bill is about to make his way over to her but before he can take a step he hears his name.

JANE

Bill.

He turns to find Jim and Jane eagerly staring at him.

BILL

What are you doing here?

JIM

Sarah invited us.

JANE

We love picnics.

BILL

That's great.

JANE

Where's Jessica?

Bill sees Lucy and the Kid. He's all over her.

BILL

I'll go get her.

Bill rushes over to Lucy and grabs her hand. JESS watches as Bill throws his arm around Lucy.

Jess, completely frustrated, makes her way over to Chip. He's in the process of getting his hair fixed.

BILL

We have to get Jessica out of here.

LUCY

Any ideas?

KID

Lock her in the bathroom.

LUCY

You have to be kidding me.

BILL
I'll do it.

Bill makes his way towards Chip and Jessica. He drags Lucy behind him DOWN TO THE ACTION NEWS VAN.

Chip and Bill meet again. And Once again, Chip stares at Bill's head. Bill ignores him.

BILL
Jess we need to talk.

CHIP
I said fifty yards.

BILL
This doesn't concern you.
(beat)
Stop staring at my head.

Chip diverts his eyes to Lucy. She flirtatiously smiles. He can't help but smile back. Jessica fumes.

JESS
I can't believe you have the nerve
to bring her to my father's picnic.

BILL
It isn't what it looks like.

Out of nowhere two SECURITY GUARDS approach Bill.

GUARD 1
Sir, you're going to have step
back.

Guard 1 grabs Bill's arm.

BILL
I just want to talk to my wife.

Chip notices people are watching and seizes the opportunity.

CHIP
(loudly to Bill)
You need help. I'm willing to get
that for you.

JESS
(to Chip)
What are you doing?

CHIP
(sotto)
The deranged fan thing.

Chip nods to his crew to film.

BILL
Give it a rest.

The Guard grabs Bill and pulls him away.

BILL sees Jane and Jim watching and attempts to act casual.

BILL
(to Jim and Jane)
I'll be right back. I need to
check on security.
(to Lucy)
Meet me at the back entrance.

Bill is escorted away. Jess slaps Chip across the face.

EXT. PARKING LOT -

Bill rushes towards his Jeep and jumps inside.

EXT. COUNTRY CLUB DRIVEWAY - SAME

Bill speeds towards the back of the club. Going sixty miles per hour makes the tight turns difficult to navigate.

Bill cranks the wheel to the left to avoid hitting a tree and tries to recover into the next turn but a squirrel darts into the road. He swerves to hit it.

Bill loses control of the steering wheel and the Jeep veers off the road. He smashes into a large maple tree and comes to an abrupt halt.

Inside the air-bags inflate punching Bill in the side and the stomach.

The engine is totaled. Sparks spit out of the bent metal. Bill struggles to push open the bent door.

EXT. PICNIC -

People are getting situated. John Jr. walks up to the podium with pride.

JOHN JR.
Ladies and Gentlemen it's almost
time for me to introduce my father
Mr. John Jacoby.

A smattering of applause.

EXT. BILL'S JEEP -

A spark jumps through the broken dashboard and flies into the back seat where boxes of FIREWORKS wait to ignite.

The spark burns through the cardboard.

DEEP IN THE WOODS Bill stumbles, disoriented, he looks up into the sky, his knees buckle and he sinks to the ground.

EXT. PICNIC -

John Jr. is still enjoying the podium when BANG! The thunder of an explosion draws attention towards the sky. An amazing kaleidoscope of light mushrooms out over the crowd as the fireworks explode in rapid succession. People ooh and ahhh.

EXT. JEEP -

Fireworks blast out of Bill's Jeep. The entire Jeep explodes with them. Fire jumps to a tree.

Bill lies back and closes his eyes. The light from the fireworks dances inside his closed lids.

INT. PICNIC -

...and just when it couldn't get any bigger. THE CRACK PIPE hits. It really is the mother of all fireworks.

SIRENS can be heard in the distance.

THE KID screams with delight. CHIP'S crew films. This could make his career. JOHN JR. is livid. MR. JACOBY watches confused.

Until they see the fire rapidly spreading through the autumn leaves. People scatter. Jim and Jane run. Mayhem ensues.

INT. CLUBHOUSE - NIGHT

The entire Jacoby family, Sargent and Paul, along with the Kid, Lucy, Sarah and David Choo intently listen as a FIREMAN addresses them.

FIREMAN

No sign of any body yet. Jeep's pretty burned, he could have gone through the windshield. We'll find him.

PAUL

What the hell was he doing with all those fireworks?

MR. JACOBY

They were supposed to go off at the end of the night.

JOHN JR.

He couldn't even get that right.

KID

What is it with you guys? Why are you always so down on Bill? All he does is try to be a part of your family. Now he's probably dead and none of you ever had the decency to treat him with even a little bit of respect. Maybe you should all be asking why someone as cool as Bill cared so much about what you thought.

(to Jess)

Lucy is my friend. I thought if he made you jealous you would see how stupid you were being.

(beat)

It's my fault. I bought those fireworks.

The Kid sits down and starts to cry. John Jr., moved by the Kid's relationship with Bill, awkwardly places his arm around David Choo but David shrugs him off.

MR. JACOBY

Call us if you find anything.

FIREMAN

Yes sir. You'll be the first to know.

Jess stands up in defiance.

JESS

He's my husband. I want to be the first to know.

EXT. CLUBHOUSE -

Lucy walks over to the Kid.

LUCY
That was really sweet of you to
defend Bill.

The Kid nods, still upset.

LUCY
Here.

She lifts his hand and places a folded stack of cash in it.

LUCY
You don't have to pay me to be your
friend anymore. I want to be.

She raps her arms around him and holds him.

INT. BILL'S HOUSE -

Jess walks in. She's really crying now. She walks upstairs to her BEDROOM and flips on the light.

To her surprise BILL is in bed sleeping. The light startles him. He's still in shock and is disoriented.

JESS
Oh my God! Bill, what are you
doing here?

BILL
Sleeping.

She starts to cry again.

JESS
I thought you were dead.

BILL
I'm just sleeping.

JESS
Bill everyone is looking for you.
You totaled your Jeep. The entire
fourth hole is on fire. Don't you
remember what happened?

Bill struggles to remember.

Jessica turns on the TV and flips to local news. A caption reads DERANGED FAN SUSPECTED OF FIRE and sure enough there's Chip at the scene. Just like that it all comes back to Bill.

Bill looks at Jess' tear streaked face.

BILL
You were crying because you thought
I was dead? That's so sweet.

JESS
(re: the news)
Bill.

BILL
(he no longer cares)
Who cares?

Bill manages to swing his feet over the edge of the bed. The covers fall away revealing his naked body. Jess turns away.

As Bill prepares to stand up he looks down at his crotch.

BILL
Look at my dick.

JESS
We're not getting into that whole
thing right now. I'm sorry about
the acorn. I'm sorry about
everything. I apologize.

BILL
No, look at it. It's black.

Jess looks. It is black.

JESS
Oh my God.
(she double takes)
You shaved?

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY -

Bill sits on one of the beds, the privacy curtain is drawn around him. A NURSE walks in.

She's pretty in a wholesome Minnesota way. She smiles while she takes his blood pressure.

NURSE
You've had a pretty big night.

Bill sighs. It's true.

NURSE
You were in a car accident.

BILL
Ah, yeah. And now, ah, my, you
know...my dick is black.

NURSE
That doesn't sound good.
Why don't you lie down and I'll
have a look.

BILL
If you've seen the tape you can
just say it....

Her warm smile lulls him into complying and he lies back.
She moves his robe aside and sees the dark purple of his
crotch. She presses on his stomach.

NURSE
Try to relax.

He feels relaxed. More now than ever before. There's
nothing left to hide.

NURSE
Does this hurt.

BILL
No.

She continues down.

NURSE
This?

BILL
No.

She's on his upper thighs. He stares at her face, her long
eye lashes, her soft skin, her long neck. He closes his
eyes, tries to relax, but it's no use. He's excited and his
body is responding. The Nurse stops.

NURSE
(smiling)
Well, it doesn't look like an
acorn any more.
(beat)
It's just a bad bruise.
(MORE)

NURSE (cont'd)
I'll give you something for the
pain and you'll be fine.

Bill feels like it's true, he is going to be fine.

EXT. LOBBY -

Bill makes his way over to Jess. He sits down next to her.

JESS
Is everything alright?

BILL
Everything's fine.

THROUGH THE SLIDING GLASS DOORS Bill can see the
PHOTOGRAPHERS waiting for him. He waves, tired of fighting,
tired of pretending.

INT. JESS' JEEP -

Bill and Jess are outside Sargent's. Jessica holds up the
Yum Yum folder now burnt at the edges.

JESS
Is this why you've been talking
about donuts so much?

BILL
I thought it was a good opportunity
for us, that we could gain some
independence.

(beat)
But to be honest with you I don't
think it's salvageable.

JESS
What are you going to do?

BILL
Fly down there Monday and tell them
the truth.

Bill opens the door to get out.

JESS
Bill, you can come home.

BILL
I know.

He gets out and walks to the BACKYARD.

INT. TENT -

Bill enters and is greeted with a bear hug from the Kid.

BILL
Don't think I'm not going to kill
you.

The Kid steps back. He has tears in his eyes.

BILL
Why are you crying?

KID
I thought you were dead.

BILL
Not yet.

KID
You missed the crack pipe. It was
fucking amazing.

Bill gingerly lies down on his mattress.

KID
I understand if you don't want to
mentor me anymore. I just thought,
you saved my ass in the bathroom
that day, you seemed like a cool
guy, and you know, I thought that
maybe we could be friends...

The Kid's eyes are watering again and he falters.

BILL
Kid, you're the best time I've had
in over ten years. I think we'll
probably always be friends.

KID
Really?

BILL
Yeah, really.

Bill lies down.

BILL
But I'll tell you one thing, I'm
not signing any more notes for you.
(MORE)

BILL (cont'd)

You're going to class and you're going to learn and if you don't you're going to get detention.

(beat)

I don't want you to float through life pretending nothing matters because, trust me, one day you'll wake up and realize you don't have the one you wanted.

INT. POOL -

Bill swims laps. He's relaxed, his breathing is controlled.

INT. LOCKER ROOM -

Bill's body has changed. His smooth skin glistens. He brushes his bangs out of his face, they fall back down. He studies himself in the mirror. He's always hates his hair.

He grabs a RAZOR of the shelf.

INT. MR. JACOBY'S OFFICE -

Bill, his head completely shaved, walks into Mr. Jacoby's office. He avoids the small chair and remains standing.

BILL

I'd like to tender my resignation effective immediately.

Bill looks at the stuffed gazelle head on the wall.

BILL

And, I know my opinion is of little consequence to you, but I think hunting defenseless animals for sport is wrong.

MR. JACOBY

Is this about the Internet thing?

BILL

No. That was a mistake. And I'm sorry if it jeopardizes your campaign in any way. But John Jr. was right, I don't belong here.

MR. JACOBY

I would have done exactly the same thing to that Chip Johnson fellow. Good luck, Bill.

Mr. Jacoby sticks out his hand and they shake.

EXT. YUM YUM - CHICAGO

Bill is a changed man. He has confidence. He's sexy. He's alive.

INT. YUM YUM - LOBBY

Bill walks in. He unexpectedly finds Jessica, professionally dressed, a humble smile on her face, sitting on the couch waiting for him.

JESS

I thought you could use some help.

Jane and Jim enter. Jessica steps forward.

JESSICA

I'm Jessica, Bill's wife.

Jane smiles. She knew it.

JANE

Well, every partnership has it's ups and downs. The important part is that you stick it out. That's how we've grown to fifteen stores in under twenty-four months.

JIM

I don't think we've ever seen anyone so committed to getting one of our franchises.

The remaining tension in the room dissolves. Bill laughs.

EXT. YUM YUM -

The meeting is over. Jess has a huge smile on her face.

JESSICA

We did it.

BILL

You did it.

Jess smiles. She actually feels proud of herself.

JESSICA

Are you happy?

BILL

I am happy. But not because of the donuts.

(MORE)

BILL (cont'd)

In fact I don't want the franchise anymore. I think you should keep it.

JESSICA

What? Why not?

BILL

Because I'm tired of sticking it out. I'm tired of being addicted to snickers bars and pretending to hunt ducks.

(Bill laughs)

I don't want to be the donut guy. And I don't want to be the bank guy. And frankly I'm kind of sick of being the deranged fan guy.

JESSICA

Okay. You can be whatever you want.

Bill watches as Jessica tries to smile. Tears stream down her face. He quietly kisses her on the cheek. She knows it's over.

EXT. INTERSTATE 394 - DAY

The Freedom bank billboard featuring Bill is slowly dismantled.

INT. TENT -

Bill cracks open a beer. He turns his iPod on. Music blares. He pushes back the tent doors and walks outside.

EXT. TENT -

But Bill's not in Sargent's backyard anymore. He's in a beautiful field, the sun is setting and his new life is just beginning.