

MY ALL-AMERICAN

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FADE IN.

INT. JAMES BUCHANAN HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

Tight on SPENCER HAGAN, his face expressionless. Spencer is seventeen, a senior, and forgettable. We pull back. Spencer stands in a deserted high school hallway.

CLOSER ON Spencer. Camera circles him slowly, keeping him in frame. HOLD ON Spencer's face. After a beat, Spencer sighs heavily. The bell rings.

Roth-era Van Halen's jam, "Outta Love Again" kicks in like a locomotive. Spencer begins to trudge down the hallway.

BEGIN OPENING CREDITS.

Spencer makes a turn, the camera following close behind. Kind of like the big tracking shot in "Boogie Nights".

The hallway has gotten a little more crowded. Still nobody notices Spencer as he strides past a hall-spanning banner reading, "Welcome Back, Buchanan Buckeyes".

Spencer dodges a couple who are making out furiously. They don't look up. Spencer takes a left turn, passing students of all types reuniting after summer vacation.

Jocks, dirtbags, Honor Students, et al. It looks as if a lot of them have begun to follow Spencer. They're not. They're just walking.

Spencer turns down another hallway. He nears a few wrestling-type dudes who crash into him. No apologies. Spencer keeps on, passing a group of hot girls and guys. He makes yet another turn.

The mass of students trooping behind Spencer increases. Still alone, he ducks under another hanging banner that reads, "PEP RALLY - STRAIGHT AHEAD".

From another hallway, CHEESE bounds into frame, joining Spencer in stride. Cheese is a bit of a freak, but lovable. Sort of like what Andy Dick used to be like. He wears brown cords and a matching brown sweater-vest.

END OPENING CREDITS.

CHEESE

(in French with subtitles)

Man, we are so kickin' on some of that motherfuckin' ass this year...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPENCER

Hey, what is that, French?

CHEESE

(in French with subtitles)

New year. New language.

Spencer laughs and they continue toward the gym. They're essentially invisible to the rest of the student body, which by now has clogged the hall and is moving en masse.

Cheese looks at Spencer, excited, hopeful.

CHEESE (CONT'D)

(in English, for good)

Can you feel it, Spence? This year is going to be different. I've got my new car, you're rocking the morning announcements... We have presence, bud.

SPENCER

Yeah, well, guess what? I didn't learn how to throw a football sixty yards. How about you? You start a rock band this summer?

Cheese lowers his head, feigning sorrow.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

What people here think is cool means nothing. I really don't care. It's *high school*. I'm fine with how I am.

CHEESE

That makes one of you.

They stop at the gymnasium door. Cheese looks at Spencer dramatically.

CHEESE (CONT'D)

Let's do this.

Spencer nods and opens the door to the gym.

INT. GYMNASIUM - CONTINUOUS

The place is rocking, with the bleachers saturated with Buchanan students. First day of school: New clothes, hairstyles, summer stories, text messages...

(CONTINUED)

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Actually, the student body packs into half of the gymnasium, as the other half is cluttered with scaffolding, drop-cloths, two by fours, etc. It's clearly under some form of construction.

Cheerleaders hug each other and flirt with football players, who are decked out in immaculate game jerseys.

Spencer and Cheese push their way through the crowd to a couple of vacant seats. PRINCIPAL KING is at the podium, trying in vain to get everyone's attention.

Spencer looks around the gym, shakes his head, and sighs.

CHEESE

No. No you don't. Not now.

SPENCER

I'm not. I'm just saying... Next year, it's college, a new start...

CHEESE

Sucks to next year! Starting now, we rock. I am a fucking rockaholic this year.

Cheese stands, arms raised.

CHEESE (CONT'D)

Buckeyes rule! Let's go Buke! Yeah!

Cheese continues his ridiculousness. A GIRL sitting behind him taps his shoulder.

GIRL

Would you sit down, asshole?

CHEESE

(to girl)

Can I get a shake with that?

Cheese goes for a Spencer high-five. Spence leaves him hanging, rolling his eyes. Cheese sits.

SPENCER

Yeah, that really rocked, Cheese.

Spencer notices AMBER STEVENS, Head Cheerleader, amidst the football contingency. Amber is seventeen, a senios, and spectacular.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

You wanna know who rocks, Cheese? Look.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPENCER AND CHEESES' POV: Amber. Just stunning.

CHEESE (O.S.)

"I am Amber Stevens from the Planet Hot".

SPENCER (O.S.)

I heard she spent the entire summer in Cincinnati, teaching poor kids how to swim and stuff.

Amber waves to someone.

SPENCER (O.S.) (CONT'D)

She's unbelievable. Everything about her.

Amber and BOBBY WALKER, quarterback, share an intimate moment. They hug, Amber pulls away, and they embrace again.

Bobby is even more stunning than Amber. Great-looking. No, he's beautiful. He's confident, cool, adored... He's also the best fucking quarterback in the Mid-West.

CHEESE

You're as cool as Bobby Walker, sort of... In a sad, loser way.

SPENCER

That's what I'm talking about. He's a football star. I do Drama Club.

The crowd settles as Principal King coughs into the microphone. The mike feeds back.

PRINCIPAL KING

Welcome back to a new school year at James Buchanan High!

A smattering of applause.

PRINCIPAL KING (CONT'D)

As you can see, the gym is undergoing some renovations. What you're looking at is the future home of the state's first High Definition, Omni-Tron Plasma SpectraVision scoreboard, equipped with satellite feeds from across the globe and Broadband Internet access!

The crowd applauds energetically. Spencer leans into Cheese.

(CONTINUED)

SPENCER

Just what we needed.

Cheese laughs.

PRINCIPAL KING

The arrival of a new school year also means the arrival of a new football season...

From the bleachers a student interrupts.

RANDOM STUDENT (O.S.)

Bobby Walker is God!

The crowd applauds agreement.

PRINCIPAL KING

(chuckling)

Well, he just might be. How about I let the man himself tell you all a little something about Buckeye football. Bobby?

The students go wild as Bobby Walker confidently detaches the microphone from the stand and leans against the podium. Girls of all types sit with mouths agape.

BOBBY

What's up Buchanan High!

The crowd erupts. This is like a political convention, with cheering and applause after everything Bobby says.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

As some of you know, funding for all non-athletic extra-curricular activities has been frozen, and the football budget has been increased.

The crowd cheers. Bobby shakes his head, disapprovingly.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

No, man... That's not cool. And as a supporter of all students, I'll be wearing this yellow armband in protest until the Board of Education reverses this decision. I think it would be damn cool if you would join me.

Big applause. Spencer looks at Cheese as if to say, "Is this guy for fucking real?"

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOBBY (CONT'D)

A few things about the upcoming season...
First, this Saturday we open here against
Western... And we're going to kick their
ass!

Wild cheering. Principal King titters at the mild
obscenity. Bobby holds the room in the palm of his hand.
Even Spencer is into it a little, while Cheese is losing
his mind.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

We have fifteen returning starters from
last year, and we're going to repeat as
State Champs, no doubt! Let me hear you!

Still more cheering.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

A couple of quick things about me... I've
decided to turn down full rides to
Stanford, Michigan, and Notre Dame, and
play ball at Ohio State next year!

Insanity.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

After we bring the State Championship to
'Buke High, I'm going to help bring the
National Championship home to the
greatest state in the country!

The crowd is in ecstasy, especially Cheese. Bobby Walker
screams over the adoration.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

And one more thing I've learned about
myself! I'm gay! I'm a homosexual!

The crowd sits in stunned silence, except for Cheese, who
has worked himself into a full-throttle, standing,
screaming, applauding ovation.

INT. FOOTBALL LOCKER ROOM - LATER

Bobby's at his locker, shirtless, changing into street
clothes. A dozen football players, of all sizes,
approach him, menacingly. BEEF, an enormous African -
American offensive lineman, leads the pack.

BOBBY

Problem, Beef?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The players surround Bobby, who's too confident to feel intimidated.

BEEF

Yeah, Walker. I'd say there's a *big* problem. We go way back, you and me. Known you a long time...

Bobby stands up to face Beef. They're nose to nose.

BOBBY

Got something on your mind?

The two stare hard. A beat, and Beef smiles, soft.

BEEF

You could have told me, man. You could have told any of us, right guys?

The team nods and grunts in agreement.

BEEF (CONT'D)

We got a lot of important shit to focus on. Like Saturday night, like the State Championship, man...

BOBBY

I didn't think it would any difference.

BEEF

Well you were right. It doesn't.

Beef and Bobby embrace.

BEEF (CONT'D)

Just don't be checking out my fat ass.

The other players chuckle nervously and join Beef and Bobby in hugs. One player, RICE, goes to hug Bobby, thinks better of it, and pats him on the shoulder.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - LATER

CLOSE ON Spencer's face, crying exaggeratedly. Pull back, and Spencer's on stage, donning a ratty blond wig.

He pulls the wig off, jumps a few feet to his left, and puts on a baseball cap.

SPENCER

What team do you play for?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Spencer skips to the right, putting the wig on lamely.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

I'm a Peach.

He jumps back again. Switching wig to baseball cap.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

Are you *crying*? Rogers Hornsby was my manager and he called me a talking pile of pig shit. And that was when my parents drove all the way down to Michigan to see me play the game, and did I cry?

In the background, Cheese stealthily enters the auditorium and takes a seat to watch.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

No. No. And do you know why? 'Cause there's no crying in baseball. There's no crying in baseball.

Cheese laughs and claps wildly. Spencer sees him for the first time. He removes the hat, embarrassed.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

What's so funny? I'm just trying some old movie stuff. Popular ones to get people interested.

Cheese approaches the stage.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

What am I supposed to do? There's no Drama Department anymore in this retarded school.

CHEESE

Well, take a hint. That's the second craziest thing I've seen today.

SPENCER

I know. Can you believe that? I heard Amber Stevens knew all summer but kept it a secret.

Cheese nonchalantly puts on the blonde wig.

CHEESE

That means she's single and starving for action. The love of your life. You going to do anything about it, loser?

(CONTINUED)

SPENCER
Shut up. Like you would. (Pause) You
wanna go through some of these scenes
with me?

CHEESE
Got better things to do.

Absentmindedly, Cheese starts putting on stage makeup.

SPENCER
Cheese, what to you do besides drive me
around while I deliver Chinese food?
You're the loser, loser.

CHEESE
Look around. Who's the bigger loser?

EXT. SUBURBAN HIGHWAY - EVENING

Kid 'n Play's "Rollin' With Kid 'N Play" emanates loudly
from a green 1992 Dodge Neon as it flies down the road.

INT. CHEESE'S DODGE NEON - CONTINUOUS

Spencer and Cheese stare ahead in silence, their heads
bobbing to Kid 'n Play. Cheese is essentially dressed in
drag, with stage wig and makeup.

EXT. UPSCALE RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD - A LITTLE LATER

The Dodge Neon pulls up to a driveway. Spencer gets out
of the car, carrying a bag of Chinese food and a stupid
delivery cap. Cheese notices something.

CHEESE
Holy ass.

SPENCER
What?

CHEESE
Look at the mailbox.

"STEVENS" is stenciled across it. Spencer cringes.
Cheese steps out of the car.

CHEESE (CONT'D)
I'm coming with you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPENCER

No. No way. Forget it. If this is Amber's house it'll be humiliating enough to be bringing her food.

CHEESE

Oh, I get it... You're scared. You're scared I'm gonna nick your girl. How lame.

Spencer pulls Cheese over to the passenger-side window.

SPENCER

Look.

Cheese looks at his reflection: A distorted, scrawny drag-queen in cords and a sweater vest. He stares at himself, lowers his head, and walks sadly out of frame.

EXT. AMBER STEVENS HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

The front door swings open and it's Amber. She looks, well, spectacular.

AMBER

Hi.

SPENCER

Hey.

AMBER

I've seen you. You're that guy... Peter, right? Sophomore?

SPENCER

No... Spencer. I'm a senior, too.

AMBER

Wait, you're the morning announcement guy.

SPENCER

That would be me, yes.

AMBER

Are you doing some fundraising thing or something? It's weird you dropped by. I just ordered some food if you want some.

SPENCER

(holding up bag of food)

Well...

(CONTINUED)

AMBER

You deliver Chinese food?

SPENCER

Yeah. Pretty gay, huh? (quickly) I mean, lame. Pretty *lame*.

AMBER

Not at all. I did Meals On Wheels last winter break. C'mon in.

Amber looks out toward the street.

AMBER (CONT'D)

Who's that weirdo out there?

Spencer, enchanted, keeps his eyes on Amber.

SPENCER

That's Cheese. He's with me.

AMBER

What's he doing?

EXT. AMBER STEVENS HOUSE - SAME

Cheese cavorts in the middle of the street, still in drag, throwing rocks at passing cars and laughing crazily.

INT. AMBER STEVENS FOYER - MOMENTS LATER

Amber is getting money together.

SPENCER

Wild day, huh?

AMBER

That's an understatement.

A beat.

SPENCER

So... Are you all right? I mean, it must be a pretty big... shock.

AMBER

It was when I found out, but not anymore. I'm really proud of Bobby. He didn't have to do what he did. I mean, to come out so, so...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPENCER

But he's so popular anyway. It must have made it easier for him. You know, Mr. Perfect?

Amber stares at Spencer.

AMBER

That's a stupid thing to say, you know that? That's the problem with everyone. They think someone like Bobby gets everything on a silver platter...

SPENCER

I didn't mean...

AMBER

And when he does something really courageous - like today - people immediately write it off by being like, "Oh, everything's easier for Bobby Walker."

SPENCER

I'm sorry, I...

AMBER

Yeah, he is Mr. Perfect. You know what? His whole life, he's worked harder than anyone could imagine. You think you would be man enough to do what he did today? I doubt it. Here's your tip, buddy. Goodbye.

Spencer steps out of the door, stunned, as the door slams behind him.

EXT. AMBER STEVENS DRIVEWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Cheese is sitting in his car. Spencer gets in the passenger side. Cheese smiles, lecherous.

CHEESE

You work that old Spencer voodoo on her?

Spencer glares back.

SPENCER

Yeah, Cheese. (Pause) Would take that goddamn thing off?

Spencer pulls Cheese's wig off and tosses it aside.

EXT. SPENCER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Cheese's Neon pulls in front of Spencer's house. Spencer exits the car and walks away, glumly. Cheese peels out, runs over a mailbox, and takes off, out of frame.

INT. SPENCER'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Spencer enters his house and starts up the stairs.

MOM (O.S.)

Spencer?

SPENCER

Yeah, Mom?

MOM (O.S.)

Your father and I are in here.

Spencer turns back down the stairs and enters the living room. His MOM and DAD, 50's, sit on the couch.

MOM (CONT'D)

How was the first day?

SPENCER

Fine. Something weird happened.

MOM

What?

SPENCER

(thinking better of it)

Nothing. Just something.

DAD

I heard about Bobby Walker.

SPENCER

You *did*?

DAD

Yep. Ohio State. What a class act. That boy could've gone anywhere and he stays right here.

A beat.

SPENCER

Yeah, well... I gotta go do something.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Spencer is out the door.

MOM
There's food in the fridge!

INT. SPENCER'S BEDROOM - A LITTLE LATER

Spencer sits at his desk, typing on his Mac. INSERT:
Spencer is working on the next morning's announcements.

He pauses, reaches to a bookshelf, grabs his yearbook from junior year, and flips to Amber Stevens' picture. The page is noticeably dog-eared. He looks. And looks.

He flips to Bobby Walker's picture and stares at his picture for a beat. CLOSE ON Spencer, contemplative. He begins typing away at the computer.

INT. BUCHANAN HIGH SCHOOL P.A. BOOTH - MORNING

Spencer sits alone in the P.A. Booth. It's antiquated. Aging plywood walls are engraved with ex-announcers names and years they attended school. A microphone, circa 1960's, sits on the table. He flicks it on. Feedback.

SPENCER
(reading)
Uh, good morning. This is Spencer Hagan with the announcements...

INT. VARIOUS HOMEROOMS - SAME

Spencer resonates over the loud speakers. Students are chatting, gossiping, texting each other, listening to iPods, etc. Nobody is really paying attention.

Many wear Bobby Walker-suggested yellow arm bands.

SPENCER (V.O.)
...and as everyone knows, on Saturday night the Buckeyes play Western, the number two ranked team in the state...

In one homeroom, Amber Stevens is listening to Spencer. She wears a slight look of contempt.

SPENCER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPENCER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Also, anybody interested can join me
after school in the auditorium, where
I'll be doing scene-study in our non-
sanctioned, non-supported Drama
Department.

Cheese sits in his homeroom and snickers. He leans over
to an ATTRACTIVE GIRL.

CHEESE
'Sup, cool breeze.

ATTRACTIVE GIRL ignores him as Spencer continues.

SPENCER (V.O.)
Yesterday, someone at school did
something pretty brave. I don't really
know this person, but he made me
understand something about courage and
individuality. That they're always hard-
fought. That making bravery look
effortless is a form of bravery in
itself.

Amber's contemptuous look softens. The camera moves in
on her, slowly.

SPENCER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
... I also learned something about myself
yesterday. Something I'm not very proud
of. A girl asked me if I'd ever have the
guts to do something so brave...

Booby Walker sits in his homeroom, listening intently.
Beef walks by and shakes Bobby's hand, finishing it off
with a snap. Bobby continues to listen.

SPENCER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
... I couldn't say anything because I
know the answer was no. Maybe it takes
another person's strengths to show
ourselves our own weaknesses.

CLOSE ON Amber, clearly moved.

CLOSE ON Bobby, transfixed.

CLOSE ON Cheese, laughing his ass off.

INT. BUCHANAN HIGH SCHOOL P.A. BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Spencer finishes up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPENCER (V.O.)

I still don't know if I'd have that kind of courage, and maybe you don't know if you would. But I do know that everything seems just a little different to me today. Thanks for listening. This is Spencer Hagan.

Spencer clicks off the microphone. HOLD ON Spencer.

EXT. BUCHANAN FOOTBALL FIELD - LATER

The Buckeyes are in the midst of an intense inter-squad scrimmage. The offense huddles. SPARKS, an All-State wide-receiver, steps forward.

SPARKS

Bobby, let me loose on that freshman DB, Rice... He's talking a lot of smack.

Bobby nods, all business. The football field is his.

BOBBY

Trips right, on one.

The huddle breaks, the offense gets into position. Bobby lines up over Beef, the center. Beef looks back to Bobby.

BEEF

Remember what I said about my ass, superstar.

BOBBY

What? That it's fat?

Beef laughs and gets into position. Bobby barks out the cadence and takes the snap.

Bobby casually drops back and looks down-field. He steps into the pocket, gracefully splitting the upcoming rush.

Sparks does a stutter-step. Rice bites left. Sparks blows by his right.

Bobby throws a laser. Sparks doesn't have to break stride and the ball hits him in the numbers. Rice lies in a heap, burnt and embarrassed.

Sparks jogs back the line of scrimmage, pointing at Rice.

SPARKS

Whatcha got to say about that, meat?

(CONTINUED)

Rice says nothing, glaring at Bobby with disdain. Bobby ignores him, and heads to the huddle, nodding to Beef.

BOBBY
Way to block, Beef.

Bobby smacks Beef on the ass the way football players do. Beef freezes, blushing crimson.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - AFTERNOON

Spencer sits on the stage, surrounded by open cans of paint and drop-cloths. He earnestly paints a cardboard replica of an automobile's front end.

CLOSE ON Spencer, content, peaceful. He paints away, doing vocal exercises as he goes.

SPENCER
AAAAAHHHHHH. AAAAAHHHHHH. OOOOOHHHHHH.

Off screen, the auditorium door bursts open. Loudly. Spencer looks up, seeing... Cheerleaders. A lot of them.

Amber and BECKY BARRETT, cute, hot, and bitchy, lead the way. The cheerleaders stride toward the stage. From Spencer's perspective it's a vision to be seen. Dramatic, almost back-lit.

Spencer stands instinctively, paintbrush in hand.

BECKY
Hey, Heath Ledger. Move your acting shit out of here.

SPENCER
What? I...

BECKY
You heard me. Hit the bricks, buddy.

A group of cheerleaders hop onto the stage, shouldering Spencer aside as if he were invisible.

AMBER
Becky... Don't be a dick.

Amber shoots an apologetic smile at Spencer.

AMBER (CONT'D)
Sorry. Mr. King didn't say anything to you about this?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Spencer ungracefully hops off the stage, facing Amber.

SPENCER

About this?

Becky climbs onto the stage, making herself at home.

AMBER

He said we have to share this space. The construction in the gym?

SPENCER

So, you're using the stage?

AMBER

Yeah. Just until the gym is ready.

SPENCER

Oh.

QUICK TO Becky, eyeing Spencer's cardboard automobile.

BECKY

What's this?

Becky nudges it for no real reason.

SPENCER

Um, you shouldn't touch that...

Too late. The cardboard car falls over, knocking cans of paint over as well. It's just a mess.

BECKY

(not sorry)

Sorry.

Spencer jumps onto the stage, scrambling to pick up spilled paint cans. Amber follows.

AMBER

Becky, just get everybody out of here so Sperry can clear some space out.

BECKY

All right. God.

Spencer turns to Amber.

SPENCER

It's Spencer, actually.

(CONTINUED)

AMBER
(genuine)
Oh... Sorry, Spencer.

Spencer and Amber watch the cheerleaders file out of the auditorium. A beat.

AMBER (CONT'D)
Here. Let me help.

Spencer smiles.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - MOMENTS LATER

Spencer and Amber sit across from each other, cleaning up spilled paint with rags and elbow-grease. A beat.

AMBER
So... I'm sorry about yesterday. When you were at my house, I mean.

SPENCER
You shouldn't be. I'm the one...

AMBER
No. I really let you have it.

SPENCER
I deserved it. It was stupid what I said about Bobby having it easy.

A beat.

AMBER
You're right. You were stupid.

They laugh. A nice moment.

AMBER (CONT'D)
I guess it was a pretty tough day for me. Maybe I wasn't prepared for how, I don't know, *exposing*, the whole thing was for me.

SPENCER
I think you handled it really well.

AMBER
Thanks. And that was awesome what you said this morning.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPENCER

I meant it. It took a lot of courage for Bobby to do that.

AMBER

Yeah, well... Bobby thought it was pretty awesome, too.

Spencer stops cleaning.

SPENCER

Really?

AMBER

Yeah. He was really, like, moved. As confident as he is it's always nice to hear someone understand, you know?

SPENCER

Yeah. I guess so.

AMBER

You guys should meet. Maybe we'll all hang out or something.

SPENCER

Yeah?

AMBER

Uh-huh.

HOLD ON Spencer.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA - LUNCH

Spencer is sitting at a table peopled by similarly under-whelming students. Cheese enters frame, grabbing a seat across from Spencer.

SPENCER

Hey. Where were you?

CHEESE

I sort of made in my pants. Dairy kills me.

Spencer drops his pizza slice.

SPENCER

Thanks.

(CONTINUED)

CHEESE

So, I'm sitting in homeroom this morning, minding my own, and all of a sudden this voice comes over the loudspeaker...

SPENCER

Cheese...

CHEESE

... And this voice - that sounds strangely familiar, mind you - starts spewing out this wussness about individuality, and courage...

SPENCER

Look, I...

CHEESE

I mean did you hear that ridiculous shit? Did you? Oops. I guess you didn't. Because you were the one saying it.

Cheese cackles and smacks the back of a nearby NERDY KID.

SPENCER

Look, if Amber Stevens had berated you... Besides, I meant what I said. All of it. Sorry if it was too insightful for you to grasp.

Cheese looks over at the "cool" tables. Cheerleaders, jocks, and beautiful people circulate.

CHEESE

I swear to God, Amber Stevens and Becky Barrett are looking over here.

SPENCER

Get out.

CHEESE

I shit me not.

Spencer not-so-discreetly turns around, and sees Amber talking to Becky and pointing towards him.

SPENCER

Holy shit. You think they're talking about us?

CHEESE

Maybe about you, and your whack-ass announcements.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

Amber and Becky are in mid-conversation.

AMBER

Don't do it, Beck.

Becky smiles deviously, winks at Amber, and makes her way over to Spencer and Cheese.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

CHEESE

Oh, God. Becky is coming over here. OH
GOD! OH GOD! OH GOD! OH GOD! OH GOD!

SPENCER

(not so calm)

Would you calm down, Cheese! Just calm
down! JUST CALM THE HELL DOWN! C'MON!
JUST CHILL OUT!

Becky has arrived at a less-than-opportune time for
Spencer and Cheese, who are freaking out.

BECKY

You're Spencer, right?

SPENCER

I am him, he. Yes, I am.

CHEESE

Strawberry Shortcake like a motherfucker.

BECKY

Who are you?

CHEESE

I'm Cheese.

BECKY

You're really gross.

CHEESE

At times.

Becky sort of smiles at this. But just sort of. She
turns her attention to Spencer.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BECKY

This may blow your mind, but I know
someone who likes you.

CLOSE ON Spencer. Fairy tales can come true...

SPENCER

(trying hard for cool)

That is, um, cool. Yeah. That's kick-
ass.

Becky looks around at the unfamiliar surroundings.

BECKY

Actually, I'm getting really nauseous
standing next to this table, so...
Follow me.

Becky starts to walk away. Spencer gets up to follow.

CHEESE

I should come, too. For protection.
I'll fucking kick the fuck out of anyone.
I don't even give a shit. I'll fuck
anyone's shit up. Seriously. No one can
even fuck with my shit.

BECKY

What the hell are you talking about?

CLOSE ON Cheese. He doesn't know. Becky saunters off.
Spencer gives a quick look to Cheese and follows.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Becky and Spencer stand in an empty hallway. Spencer
leans against a water fountain: His idea of cool.

BECKY

So, you're a senior? I never see you
around.

SPENCER

I just kind of, you know, do my own
thing.

BECKY

I could care less. Okay, so my friend
likes you. God only knows why.

SPENCER

So... You're the bird.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BECKY

What? What the fuck?

SPENCER

The bird. Like, the little bird. You know... The little bird that told me.

BECKY

You're totally weirding me out.

Becky turns and walks away. Spencer just stands there, confused.

EXT. BUCHANAN PARKING LOT - LATER

End of the day. Students' cars file out the parking lot.

Cheese's Dodge Neon remains parked, with Spencer sitting on the hood watching Cheese practice silly dance moves as Kid N' Play's, "Brother Man Get Hip" emanates from the car stereo.

CHEESE

Remember in "House Party" when Kid was pissed at Play because Play blocked him with the hottie?

SPENCER

Yeah. So?

CHEESE

So... Kid ended up with the even hotter honey who didn't seem like the hotter honey, but then she was in her bra and panties and, boom... The hotter honey.

SPENCER

What the hell does that have to do with anything?

Cheese shrugs. It has nothing to do with anything. Spencer sighs wistfully.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

I think we really, like, connected.

CHEESE

Who?

SPENCER

You know... Me and Amber.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Cheese snickers at the thought.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

What?

Cheese ignores Spencer, as Amber's white BMW droptop pulls into the space next to the Neon. Amber driving, Bobby Walker riding shotgun.

Spencer, a little shocked, tries to come off as cool. Amber leans out the window.

AMBER

Hey, Spencer. What's going on?

SPENCER

Uh, you know. Nothing really.

AMBER

Is that Kid N' Play?

Cheese steps forward, cutting off Spencer.

CHEESE

Damn straight it is.

AMBER

Cool. My uncle used to listen to them.

Amber cuts the ignition and steps out of the car. Bobby follows.

AMBER (CONT'D)

Hey, Spencer, this is Bobby.

Spencer and Bobby shake hands. Spencer tries to keep up with the cool-guy snap at the end of the shake.

BOBBY

What's up, Spencer? Cool to meet you.

SPENCER

Yeah, yes. Uh, this is Cheese.

CHEESE

Yo.

The three exchange greetings. A beat.

AMBER

So, Spencer does Drama Club.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOBBY

Cool.

SPENCER

Yeah, I guess it's pretty cool.

Spencer stands awkwardly.

BOBBY

That was great, the stuff you said on the announcements this morning. It really meant a lot to me.

SPENCER

Yeah, well, Amber really made me think about what you did. How cool it was and stuff.

Cheese rolls his eyes at the corniness.

AMBER

Well, we should all hang out. What are you up to Friday night?

Spencer shuffles a little.

SPENCER

Friday night?

BOBBY

Yeah. We're all going over to Grampy's. Get some food, take it easy. You know, big game on Saturday.

CHEESE

Yeah, let's hook up.

A beat. Amber and Bobby stare at Cheese like he's from another planet.

SPENCER

Yeah, all right. Sounds cool.

AMBER

So, pick you up at eight?

SPENCER

Uh, all right. Yeah. I'm at one-seventy Overlook.

BOBBY

Cool.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPENCER

Yeah. Cool.

Amber gives Spencer a big smile. HOLD ON Spencer, smiling awkwardly.

A DOORBELL chimes. A DOOR creaks open.

INT. SPENCER'S HOUSE - FRIDAY NIGHT

Spencer opens the front door, revealing Bobby Walker, looking as splendid as ever.

BOBBY

Hey.

SPENCER

Hey.

A long, painful pause. Spencer looks around uncomfortably, noticing that Bobby is indeed alone.

BOBBY

Cool shirt.

SPENCER

Uh, thanks.

BOBBY

You ready?

SPENCER

Sure.

BOBBY

Cool.

Nervous and awkward, Spencer follows Bobby to his car in silence. Bobby stops suddenly, turning to Spencer.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Oh, we were gonna pick up Amber but Becky sort of bullied her into going with her.

SPENCER

(a little relieved)

Okay. Sounds good.

BOBBY

She thinks you're great. Amber, I mean.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPENCER

Really?

BOBBY

Yeah. Talks about you a lot.

Bobby grins wide. Spencer smiles back.

EXT. SPENCER'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Spencer follows Bobby to Bobby's car, a jet black, 1978 Mustang. Fucking sweet.

Bobby gets to the car first and casually opens the passenger door for Spencer to get in. Spencer pauses briefly, smiles awkwardly, and gets in.

INT. BOBBY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Spencer sees that the driver side door is locked. Shit. He quietly debates. Should he unlock it for him?

SPENCER

Shit. Shit. Shit. Shit.

Bobby nears the driver's side door and Spencer reaches over and pops the lock for him. Bobby gets in.

BOBBY

Thanks.

SPENCER

No problem.

Another awkward moment. Bobby starts the car and revs the engine. He backs slowly into the street. A beat.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

Did you see the Tonys on Monday?

BOBBY

The whats?

SPENCER

The Tonys. They're the awards for all the Broadway shows and musicals and stuff.

Bobby stops the car and looks at Spencer like he's nuts.

(CONTINUED)

BOBBY

Are you kidding? Monday night?

SPENCER

What?

BOBBY

Monday Night *Football*? Oakland at Cincinnati? Game of the year. It was incredible.

SPENCER

(feeling foolish)

Oh.

A beat. Bobby looks at Spencer, flashes a million dollar smile, and throws the Mustang into gear.

EXT. SPENCER'S STREET - CONTINUOUS

Bobby smokes the wheels, lays a tremendous patch of rubber, and takes off.

INT. SPENCER'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Spencer's Mom walks down the stairs and joins Dad, sitting in the living room, reading the paper.

MOM

You see where Spencer went?

DAD

He left here just a minute ago.

MOM

Cheese pick him up?

DAD

I think. (pause) You know, we should really think about getting him a set of wheels. It can't feel very good to get driven around by that jackass.

MOM

Jim, watch your mouth.

DAD

Nancy, our boy can't even pick a nice girl up and take her for a soda.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MOM

(with pride)

Well, don't worry about that. I have a feeling that Spencer does *pretty good* with the ladies.

A beat.

DAD

You wanna fuck?

INT. BOBBY'S CAR - SAME

Bobby and Spencer are driving in stone silence. Bobby reaches for the radio, hits scan, and waits. After a moment, AC/DC's "Back In Black" comes on. Bobby locks it in and turns the volume way up.

BOBBY

Now *that's* more like it.

EXT. SUBURBAN ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Bobby's Mustang blazes down the road with AC/DC kicking at maximum octane.

EXT. GRAMPY'S DINER PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

The Mustang growls into the parking lot, which is absolutely crammed with cars. GRAMPY'S is the traditional spot for the Buchanan High elite to see and be seen.

INT. BOBBY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Bobby clicks the radio off and cuts the engine. Spencer stares forward. For a moment, they sit in total silence.

BOBBY

You cool with this?

SPENCER

With this?

BOBBY

With going in there with me?

SPENCER

Yeah. Sure. Okay.

(CONTINUED)

BOBBY

You know, it's okay if you're not.

SPENCER

It's okay. Why wouldn't... This is fine, really.

A beat.

BOBBY

All right. Let's do it.

Bobby gets out of the car. Spencer closes his eyes, takes a giant breath, and follows.

INT. GRAMPY'S - MOMENTS LATER

The place is jumping. Some football players monopolize a few video games as their girlfriends look on.

An improbable number of cheerleaders pack into a couple of booths, dishing excitedly, as teenagers do.

Waitresses and line chefs are working furiously, seemingly enjoying themselves. This is the American idea. Happy kids being kids. Yellow arm-bands abound.

Camera tracks toward the entrance. Cheese is sitting with a group of not-so-cool kids. He is talking to a NOT-SO-COOL GIRL.

CHEESE

And I'll say it again... Kid 'N Play is the best band ever, and anyone who doesn't think so has no idea what the hell they're talking about.

Cheese stands, exasperated, and strides away. Debate over. Not-So-Cool-Girl watches, not sure how to react.

Camera continues toward the door. The place is jammed. Bobby enters, followed by Spencer a few steps behind. A group of football players, led by Beef, greet him with a ceremonial fist-and-shoulder pounding handshake.

The room is buzzing: Bobby Walker has arrived.

BOBBY

What's up, boys?

Beef raises an immense cheeseburger.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Hey, fellas. This is Spencer.

The football players greet Spencer with an exaggerated warmth. Beef shakes Spencer's hand with an array of complicated snaps and grips. Spence struggles with it.

BEEF

You're the announcement guy, right?

SPENCER

Yup. That's me.

BEEF

Yeah! That's the same voice! Hey, guys, listen to this cat!

Spencer looks confused.

BEEF (CONT'D)

Spencer, say something.

SPENCER

What? I don't understand...

PLAYER #1

Yeah! That's the voice! (to Spencer)
Say something else, buddy.

SPENCER

Say something else? What?

PLAYER #2

Nah... I don't think it's him.

Laughter. Bobby steps in to break up the chiding.

BOBBY

All right, guys. Knock it off. Don't embarrass me, okay? (To Spencer) you want to grab a booth?

SPENCER

Sure. Okay.

INT. GRAMPY'S - MOMENTS LATER

Bobby and Spencer squeeze their way through the crowd. Several students pat Bobby on the back along the way. They slide into an empty booth, facing each other.

(CONTINUED)

BOBBY

Sorry about that. They're great guys,
just short a few bills upstairs.

SPENCER

Well, hearing a voice and then meeting
the person can be a little weird, I
guess.

BOBBY

At least they aren't drinking. No booze
before game day. You hungry.

SPENCER

I guess so. Definitely.

Bobby stands up and looks off-screen.

BOBBY

Hey, Patty!

PATTY THE WAITRESS ambles over.

PATTY THE WAITRESS

Hi, Dreamboat. What can I get you?

BOBBY

I guess we'll have a couple of
cheeseburgers. That all right, Spence?

SPENCER

Okay.

Amber and Becky enter frame. Amber scoots Bobby over,
taking the seat directly across from Spencer. Becky
remains standing. Amber kisses Bobby on the cheek.

AMBER

Hey. Hi, Spencer.

SPENCER

Hi.

AMBER

You know Becky, right?

SPENCER

Yeah. Hi, Becky.

BECKY

What's up, bird man?

Becky looks at Spencer and Bobby together.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BECKY (CONT'D)

This whole thing is just too fucking hot.

Bobby smiles at Spencer, proudly. Beef scrambles into frame, looking concerned.

BEEF

Walker, we need you over there. I just quizzed all the freshman on tomorrow's audibles. They don't know shit.

BOBBY

What the fuck!? All right. I'm coming.

Beef leaves. Bobby climbs over Amber and follows Beef.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Sorry, Spence.

SPENCER

No problem.

On cue, Cheese enters frame and stands in front of Becky, his face expressionless. He does not even acknowledge Spencer and Amber.

CHEESE

I sexed on you from over there.

BECKY

You are absolutely nauseating.

Cheese is unmoved.

CHEESE

You wanna see something?

BECKY

What?

CHEESE

Follow me.

Becky is oddly intrigued. She will do strange things in college next year.

BECKY

If you touch me I swear to God I will beat the fuck out of you.

CHEESE

Deal.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Cheese exits frame. Becky follows. Spencer and Amber are left alone. She smiles.

AMBER

Hey.

SPENCER

Hi.

A beat. The food arrives. Amber picks at Bobby's fries.

AMBER

So, you and Bobby? It's really great.

SPENCER

(chuckling nervously)

Yeah. Actually Amber, I think you and I need to talk. There's been a misunder...

Bobby comes back to the table. Spencer doesn't get to finish his thought.

BOBBY

Those idiots. We went over those plays all week. Frustrating...

SPENCER

They figure it out?

BOBBY

Yeah. Finally. Hey, you want to play Thunder Road?

Spencer looks at Amber. Just to look at her. She motions for him to go.

SPENCER

Okay. Sure. I love that game.

BOBBY

Cool.

INT. GRAMPY'S - MOMENTS LATER

CLOSE ON Thunder Road. Two animated Monster Trucks race along enemy tracks, destroying weaker vehicles.

Camera pulls back and we see Bobby and Spencer sitting side-by-side at dual steering-wheels. A crowd has gathered, as they are coming close to the high score.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The game is getting intense. Bobby reaches over and grabs Spencer's steering wheel, instinctively, helping him out of a jam. They are both way into it.

The crowd has grown large, kids cheering on the duo. The animated trucks hit a jump and rumble to the finish line.

BOBBY

C'mon, Spencer! Keep it up!

Spencer grits his teeth as he steers his truck to the finish. Closer. Closer... They win! The crowd applauds.

Bobby raises his arms in sweet victory. He looks over at Spencer proudly, and musses Spencer's hair. Spencer smiles as the crowd pats him on the back.

EXT. GRAMPY'S DINER PARKING LOT - LATER

The parking lot has emptied, save for a few cars. Spencer and Bobby sit on the hood of Bobby's Mustang.

BOBBY

... So I just knew it had to be Ohio State. I used to picture myself playing there. I'm totally psyched.

SPENCER

You nervous?

Bobby doesn't understand.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

You know... About...?

BOBBY

You can say it, Spence. That I'm gay? That people there won't... yeah. Damn right I'm nervous. Well, I don't have to explain it to you. You know how it is.

Spencer half-nods, a little confused.

SPENCER

Anyway... I think what you did was pretty incredible. I can't think of anyone else who would of done that.

BOBBY

You keep saying, "that". You can say "come out".

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPENCER

Okay. "Come out".

They both chuckle.

BOBBY

Well, I think what you said over the announcements was pretty great. I was like, "who is *that*?"

SPENCER

I just wanted to say how brave you were for, uh, "coming out" in front of the entire school.

BOBBY

That's just the way I do things. Everything. Just Do It. Like the old Nike ads.

SPENCER

And everyone has been so cool with it. It's amazing.

BOBBY

Some are cool, yeah... But you think that if I wasn't, "Bobby Walker, All-American" that everyone would be so tolerant? No way, bro.

A beat.

SPENCER

Amber's great.

BOBBY

She sure is. I was worried most about her. Can't be great on a girl when her "first" comes out of the closet.

SPENCER

She's hot.

Bobby punches Spencer in the arm playfully and chuckles.

BOBBY

Yeah, Spence, she's hot. You're funny.

A beat, as Bobby looks off-screen, his eyes wide.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

HOLY SHIT! LOOK OUT!!!!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Cheese's Omni flies around the corner. It careers right, then left. Bobby and Spencer hop off the hood just in time. The Neon slams into the side of Bobby's Mustang.

INT. CHEESE'S DODGE NEON - CONTINUOUS

Becky's in the passenger seat, laughing hysterically. Cheese is inexplicably nude - save for a yellow armband - and blindfolded.

CHEESE

Did I make it?! Did I make it?!

EXT. GRAMPY'S DINER PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Spencer and Bobby stare at Cheese, and then at each other, stunned.

EXT. SPENCER'S HOUSE - LATER

Bobby's dented Mustang pulls up to Spencer's curb.

INT. BOBBY'S CAR - SAME

Bobby puts the car in park. Spencer stares forward, one hand on the door handle. They sit in silence for a beat.

BOBBY

That was fun.

A beat.

SPENCER

Sorry about your car.

BOBBY

Eh, it's just the back side panel.

SPENCER

I'll talk to Cheese about paying for it.

BOBBY

Forget it. But you're coming to the game tomorrow, right?

SPENCER

Sure. I think so.

(CONTINUED)

BOBBY
Cool. It's gonna rock.

A beat.

SPENCER
So... Good night.

Spencer opens the door and climbs out a bit too quickly.

BOBBY
Hey, Spence?

Spencer turns around.

SPENCER
Yeah?

Bobby flashes a huge grin.

BOBBY
Good night, man.

Spencer smiles awkwardly, pulls himself out of the car, and slams the door. Bobby revs the engine, pops it in gear, and leaves another tremendous patch of rubber.

Spencer watches the Mustang tear down the street and out of frame. CLOSE ON Spencer.

INT. SPENCER'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Spencer enters the house, quietly closes the front door, and makes his way up the stairs.

MOM (O.S.)
That you, Spencer?

Spencer freezes.

SPENCER
Um, yeah, Mom.

MOM (O.S.)
Out pretty late for a Friday.

SPENCER
I guess so.

MOM (O.S.)
Who's the lucky gal?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPENCER

No one, Mom. Good night.

MOM (O.S.)

Well, "no one" drives a pretty fancy car.

Spencer hurries back downstairs and into the living room. Mom is sitting on the couch. Dad is asleep on the chair. There was no fucking.

SPENCER

What?! Were you spying on me?! What did you see?!

MOM

I wasn't *spying*, honey. I just so happened...

SPENCER

(interrupting)

You just so happened to be looking outside at 1:30 in the morning?! What did you see?!

MOM

Nothing! Why are you so upset?

Spencer heads back to the stairs.

SPENCER

You can't just *spy*, Mom! Jesus.

Dad awakes, groggily.

DAD

What?

SPENCER

Mom's *spying*!

DAD

(half-asleep)

Don't *spy*.

INT. SPENCER'S BEDROOM - NEXT MORNING

Spencer is asleep, tangled in a pile of sheets and blankets. After a beat, the bedroom door bursts open.

It's Cheese. He's wearing a "Buchanan Buckeyes Cheerleading" top. It barely reaches below his nipples.

(CONTINUED)

CHEESE
(singing)
"Cheese and Spence are on the mike.
We're too hype!"

Spencer awakes with a start.

SPENCER
What? Cheese?

CHEESE
Kid 'n Play back rollin' strong, dope and
def!"

Cheese starts doing the Kid 'n Play Kick Step, dancing
spastically around the room.

SPENCER
What're you doing? What time is it?

CHEESE
You are a rock 'n roll, kick-ass
superstar!

SPENCER
Why are you wearing a cheerleading top?

CHEESE
Becky gave it to me.

SPENCER
Becky Barrett gave you her cheerleading
top?

CHEESE
I stole it from her car.

SPENCER
Nice, cheese. Did you hook up with her?

CHEESE
Spencer, I wouldn't expect you to
understand what goes on between two
consenting, heterosexual adults.

SPENCER
Did you hook up with her?

CHEESE
No.

Spencer shakes the sleep off, putting his feet to the
floor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHEESE (CONT'D)

Man, everyone at Grampy's was talking about you and Bobby...

SPENCER

What?! That we...?!

Cheese grins sheepishly, confirming the worst. Spencer falls back onto his bed, exasperated. It wasn't just a bad dream.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

SHIT!

CHEESE

C'mon, bud... it's awesome.

SPENCER

I'm telling Bobby the truth today. I can't believe everyone thinks... This is out of hand.

Cheese jumps onto the bed with Spencer. They're nose to nose.

CHEESE

You will do no such thing.

SPENCER

Cheese, get away from me.

Spencer pushes Cheese off the bed.

CHEESE

C'mon...

SPENCER

C'mon what? Bobby's just a guy. A really good guy. And he's going through enough shit to not have to deal with this.

CHEESE

What about Amber?

SPENCER

What about Amber?

CHEESE

I saw you talking with her last night. It was going amazing.

(CONTINUED)

SPENCER

Going amazing? She thinks that I'm a homosexual and that I'm dating her ex-boyfriend.

Cheese is losing.

CHEESE

Well, you can't tell him today.

SPENCER

Cheese, don't be a bitch. I just have to tell him. And why not today?

CHEESE

Duh. It's the first game of the season tonight. If you tell him he'll be a mess. Break up with him after.

SPENCER

When?

CHEESE

After the game. If they win, Beef is having a big, post-game party. Tell him then. He'll be too happy to care.

SPENCER

"Beef is having a big party...?" What are you, the cruise director all of a sudden.

CHEESE

What can I say? I told you this year was gonna be different.

SPENCER

Shit. I have to talk to Amber, too. Tell her it was a big misunderstanding.

CHEESE

You suck.

SPENCER

You're stretching her shirt.

Cheese pulls it down a little more, over his nipples.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

By the way, you owe Bobby like a billion dollars for his car.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHEESE

I like that. Standing up for your man.
Very hot.

Spencer tackles Cheese, who screams like a girl.

EXT. AMBER STEVENS HOUSE - AFTERNOON

The front door opens, revealing Amber's mom, LYNNE.
Lynne is Mom-ish hot.

SPENCER

Hi.

LYNNE

Hello. Can I help you?

SPENCER

Is Amber home?

LYNNE

She's in the garden. And you are...?

SPENCER

Spencer. Spencer Hagan.

A beat.

LYNNE

So you're Spencer?

SPENCER

Yeah. Yes, that's me.

LYNNE

Amber has told me all about you.

Spencer is momentarily hopeful, then reality sets in.

SPENCER

Yeah? Oh, she did...

LYNNE

She sure did. Your parents must be so proud.

SPENCER

Oh, yeah. Yes, they are really,
really...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LYNNE
(interrupting)
Bobby's great. We were upset for Amber,
but...

SPENCER
Yeah. He's a good one. Is Amber here?

LYNNE
Oh, I'm sorry. Come in.

EXT. AMBER'S BACK YARD - MOMENTS LATER

Amber is in the garden, standing amidst rows of flowers and herbs. She holds a hose, watering, and wears a work-shirt tied below her bosom, midriff exposed. Perfect.

Spencer just stands there, watching, taking in the vision. After a beat, Amber feels a presence and turns. Spencer is busted.

AMBER
Hey. How long have you been standing
there?

SPENCER
(bumbling)
I was already here. I just got here. I
really just, uh...

AMBER
It's good to see you. What's going on?
Hey, I talked to Bobby this morning.

SPENCER
You did?

AMBER
Uh-huh. He had a blast, he said. Except
for his car.

Spencer chuckles nervously.

SPENCER
Yeah. That was bad.

A beat. CLOSE ON Spencer, just watching Amber, contemplating. She's perfect, and so close...

Amber sprays Spencer with the hose a little. She looks at him playfully.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMBER

Hey, you there?

Spencer wipes water away from his eyes.

SPENCER

Amber, I really need to talk to you.

AMBER

Look. You started talking about it last night. Really. It's okay. I'm okay.

Spencer moves a little closer.

SPENCER

No, it's just that this thing with Bobby is...

AMBER

(interrupting)

I've carried this weight for a really long time, Spencer. I mean, frankly, I suspected something a little before.

SPENCER

Really? You could tell?

AMBER

I think a little.

SPENCER

How?

AMBER

I guess just a lack of interest. And I don't want to toot my own horn, but...

Amber shows off her body a little.

SPENCER

Good God.

Amber sprays Spencer again.

AMBER

Hey, watch it. Wrong team.

Spencer chuckles nervously.

SPENCER

Actually, that's what I wanted to talk about, I...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMBER

(interrupting)

Spencer, I barely know you. But I know that this is a very difficult time in your life, and...

SPENCER

That's the thing, it's...

AMBER

... And I just want you to know that you can talk to me anytime. Really. No one else knows like I do what you're dealing with.

A beat. Spencer just listens.

AMBER (CONT'D)

And Bobby is just so happy. Not just about you, he just met you, but just free. It's been so hard for him. Nobody knows how hard. Just me. And now you.

Spencer lowers his head. He can't tell her know. Amber sprays him again.

AMBER (CONT'D)

Hey. Chin up.

SPENCER

You're amazing.

AMBER

I think that maybe you're pretty amazing, too.

Amber continues to water the garden. Spence just stands there.

AMBER (CONT'D)

So, tonight. Big game.

SPENCER

Yeah. It's a big one.

AMBER

We are going to kick the shit out of Western.

SPENCER

Yeah. No doubt about that.

Spencer chuckles, unconvincing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMBER

We're going to see you there, right?

HOLD ON Spencer.

EXT. BUCHANAN FOOTBALL STADIUM - NIGHT

Establishing. Wide on James Buchanan Stadium. A seemingly endless line of students and Buckeye fans snakes around the stadium fence.

EXT. BUCHANAN FOOTBALL STADIUM - SAME

Spencer and Cheese are on line, amidst a throng of fans waiting to enter the stadium. Cheese is still wearing Becky's cheerleading sweater.

Students walk by. Several of them recognize Spencer and whisper amongst themselves, pointing.

SPENCER

Are you really only wearing that? You're gonna freeze.

CHEESE

Love keeps me warm, friend.

Two STUDENTS walk by. One recognizes Spencer.

STUDENT #1

Hey. You're the Bobby Walker guy, right?

For a moment, Spencer is paralyzed. He doesn't respond. Student #1 gives him a thumbs up.

STUDENT #1 (CONT'D)

Fuckin' all right, man.

Student #1 walks on. Spencer generates a response, far too late.

SPENCER

Uh... yeah, man.

Cheese celebrates the recognition with some clapping.

CHEESE

Oh, man! You're famous! Holy shit!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPENCER

Shut up! I told you this was out of control.

CHEESE

Out of control? People you've never met know who you are! You've gotta like this a little.

SPENCER

I guess I'm into hanging around Amber.

CHEESE

There you go. There's the "Can Do" attitude I've been looking for.

Cheese and Spencer edge forward.

SPENCER

She's great. She's just so easy to talk to.

CHEESE

Of course she is. She thinks you're gay, idiot. Do you think you can just go over to Amber Steven's house anytime you want if you're straight? Please...

SPENCER

Why not?

CHEESE

Because, stupid. She's not threatened by your gayness.

SPENCER

The word is "homosexuality". Not "gayness". You sound like a hillbilly when you talk like that.

Cheese lowers his head, feigning shame.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

C'mon. Act normal.

GIRL'S VOICE (O.S.)

What the fuck?! Hey, asshole!

Cheese looks up. Becky enters frame. She's in a black sports-bra and a cheerleading skirt.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BECKY

Give me my sweater, dildo! You stole my fucking sweater!

CHEESE

We should discuss this later. Like adults.

BECKY

Fuck you, loser! Give me that!

Becky wrestles the sweater off of Cheese, who puts up little fight. He is left shirtless, with "Buchanan Cheerleading" painted on his bare chest.

BECKY (CONT'D)

Fucking moron.

Becky storms out of frame.

SPENCER

You two really seem to be hitting it off.

CHEESE

(without irony)

Yeah. Things are good.

Spencer and Cheese reach the ticket table. Two STUDENT COUNCIL type students are sitting across the table.

SPENCER

Two please.

STUDENT COUNCIL #1

Wait. You're Spencer Hagan, right?

SPENCER

Yup. That's me.

STUDENT COUNCIL #1

(impressed)

Cool. And you're Cheesy?

CHEESE

Just Cheese, friend.

STUDENT COUNCIL #2

Spencer, you're supposed to sit behind the far end-zone. All the players' girlfriends sit there.

SPENCER

But I...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHEESE

And me, too? I'm with Becky Barrett.

STUDENT COUNCIL #2

No problem, Cheesy.

Cheese beams. Student Council #1 leans toward Spencer, conspiratorially.

STUDENT COUNCIL #1

(half-whispering)

You know what? You didn't hear it from me but I think you're being nominated for Homecoming Queen.

A beat. Cheese bursts into hysterical laughter. Smiling, Student Council #2 rips a couple of tickets and hands them to Spencer. CLOSE ON Spencer, speechless.

INT. BUCHANAN FOOTBALL FIELD - LATER

The game is in full swing. Buchanan has the ball. The huddle breaks, and the offense falls into stance. Bobby, the slick veteran, surveys the defensive scheme.

Bobby takes the snap and drops into the pocket. Ignoring the rush, he steps up and throws a bullet to Sparks. Fifteen yards. First down. The crowd rocks.

INT. BUCHANAN STADIUM BLEACHERS - SAME

Behind the far end-zone, Spencer and Cheese sit in the front row, amid a gaggle of pretty girlfriends. They are all cheering wildly, wearing Varsity football jackets.

Cheese, in ecstasy, jumps up and down. Spencer is uncomfortable and applauds discreetly.

INSERT SCOREBOARD:

BUCHANAN 20 WESTERN 24 QUARTER: 4 TIME: 1:10 REMAIN

INT. BUCHANAN FOOTBALL FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

Bobby kneels inside the huddle. The players look at their leader desperately. Bobby is way calm, focused.

BOBBY

All right. Second and eight. Sparks, I want Flood Right, Button.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPARKS

Got it.

BOBBY

On two. Beef, hold 'em back.

Beef, breathing heavily, nods.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Break.

The huddle splits up. Bobby barks the cadence. Hike. Bobby drops back. Sparks can't free himself from the cornerback. Bobby looks for an alternate. No one open.

Beef loses his LINEBACKER, who darts past him and closes in on Bobby like a missile. Blind-sided, Bobby is thrown to the turf by the Western linebacker.

As the linebacker rises, he pushes Bobby's head into the ground violently.

WESTERN LINEBACKER

Eat that, you fucking faggot.

Bobby's teammates freeze, shocked. Beef runs over, grabbing the Western linebacker by the throat. Players from both sides converge.

Bobby pulls Beef away. Cooler heads prevail. Bobby herds his team back into the huddle.

BEEF

I'm not gonna let that son-of-a-bitch get away with that shit, Bob!

Bobby grabs Beef by the face-mask. Bobby is different. He is hurt, and angry.

BOBBY

Shut up! I got it! Thirty-two dump, on one!

BEEF

Bobby, man! It's third and fifteen! A tight-end screen? We need a first...

BOBBY

(interrupting)

Thirty-two dump, on one! Break!

The huddle breaks, save for Beef, who stands with Bobby.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEEF

We need yards, Walker! We're fucking losing!

Bobby grabs Beef's face-mask again. He's possessed.

BOBBY

Do you trust me, Beef!? Do you!?

Beef nods.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

I know what I'm doing! I will not lose this game! Got it!

Beef nods. The two friends stare at each other briefly and line up. Bobby snaps the ball and drops back. The tight-end is open up the middle. Bobby doesn't care.

Bobby shuffles right, eluding the rush with ease. He finds his target. He fires a cannon, the pass of his life...

Direct hit! The ball hits the "faggot" linebacker right in the balls. Akin to the Burt Reynolds' scene in "The Longest Yard". The linebacker writhes in agony.

CLOSE ON Bobby, stoic. The crowd explodes in approval. As the linebacker is carried off the field, the Buckeyes huddle. Beef gives Bobby an understanding nod.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Okay. Fourth down. We need six and it's over. Just fucking block. Leave it to me.

The huddle breaks. The Buckeyes line up. Bobby takes the snap, rolls left. He's not passing.

Bobby side-steps a tackler, reads a massive block by Beef, and turns up field. There's little suspense. Bobby flies up the sideline, taking it himself. He's gone.

The final gun sounds as Bobby runs in the winning touchdown. He is mobbed by his teammates.

The crowd is beside itself. Bobby waves to his adoring fans, football still in hand. The players carry Bobby to Spencer's section.

Rice, the embarrassed freshman from practice, tramps away from the celebration. The cheerleaders, led by Amber and Becky, dance and kick with gusto.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The crowd is chanting: "Bob-by! Bob-by!" Cheese is berserk. Too much so. He leans down and vomits off-camera.

Bobby looks for Spencer, finally spotting him in the middle of the chaos. Bobby tosses the game to Spencer, who catches it without athleticism.

The crowd noise reaches crescendo. It's just too much. CLOSE ON Bobby, beaming at Spencer. HOLD On Spencer.

EXT. BUCHANAN PARKING LOT - LATER

Students and fans file back to their cars, excitedly discussing the game - and Bobby and Spencer.

Spencer and Cheese trail behind, both pale: Spencer from the unwanted attention and Cheese from cheering-sickness.

BOBBY (O.S.)

Hey, Spencer! Wait up!

Bobby jogs into frame. He's still in uniform, his "Buchanan Football" jacket wrapped around his shoulders. It's decorated with a huge number of pins and patches.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Hey, Spence. What's the word? Hey, Cheesy.

Cheese is a little annoyed by the mispronunciation.

CHEESE

Hi, Booby.

The three stand in silence.

CHEESE (CONT'D)

(to Spencer)

See you at the car.

Cheese exits frame. Bobby grins widely.

BOBBY

Pretty amazing game, huh?

SPENCER

Yeah. Incredible. Cheese actually puked from screaming.

They chuckle.

(CONTINUED)

SPENCER (CONT'D)

Bobby, you were unbelievable. Really.
Congratulations.

BOBBY

Hey, thanks. I guess one pass just got
away from me a little.

Bobby gives Spencer a knowing look. They laugh again.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Thanks for coming, man. It really meant
a lot to have you looking down at me.

SPENCER

No problem. Sure.

BOBBY

I hope I didn't embarrass you at the end.
I just kind of got caught up in it.
Sorry if I did.

SPENCER

No. It's okay. Really.

BOBBY

You going over to Beef's? It's gonna
rock. All the guys are pretty pumped up.

SPENCER

We're going over now, I think.

BOBBY

Cool. (Pause) So I'll see you there.
I have to clean up and stuff.

Cheese's Neon pulls up next to Spencer and Bobby. Cheese
yells out the window like a soccer-mom.

CHEESE

Hey, loverboy! Let's do this thing!

Spencer gives an "I have to go" look to Bobby and starts
toward the car.

BOBBY

Hey, Spence. It's cold out, bro. Take
this.

Bobby takes off his "Buchanan Football" jacket and hands
it to Spencer. Before Spencer can say anything, Bobby
was walked away. HOLD ON Spencer, holding the jacket.

INT. CHEESE'S DODGE NEON - MOMENTS LATER

Cheese and Spencer drive in silence. Not even the radio. Spencer wears Bobby's jacket. It's too big. By a lot.

CHEESE
Cool jacket.

SPENCER
Yeah. Bobby gave it to me.

CHEESE
Sweet.

SPENCER
Yeah.

A beat. HOLD ON Spencer and Cheese. They stare ahead.

EXT. CHEESE'S DODGE NEON - CONTINUOUS

Cheese's Neon ambles down the road. Original house music kicks in. It plays throughout the party.

INT. BEEF'S HOUSE - LATER

The music is louder, cranking out of Beef's system. Camera starts on the back deck, and tracks through the house. This party is for the cool and the beautiful.

On the deck, couples are either making out, arguing, or smoking. We move into the kitchen, where a bunch of kids are concocting drinks their bodies can't handle.

The main room of the house is filling up with kids. Some drunk, some high. We move through the crowd. Two EXQUISITE GIRLS stand in frame, obstructing our view.

The girls move aside, revealing Spencer and Cheese standing side-by-side, expressionless. They're simply awed. So this is what goes on when we're not around.

Bobby's jacket hangs off Spencer, weighing him down. Cheese is shirtless, the painted lettering on his chest is beginning to run.

CHEESE
Holy shit.

(CONTINUED)

SPENCER
Incredible.

CHEESE
Do you realize that a week ago tonight we
were watching "Skating With The Stars",
and giving my Dad a massage?

Spencer looks at Cheese.

SPENCER
That's disgusting, Cheese. I've never
even met your father.

CHEESE
Oh.

Cheese skulks out of frame, embarrassed. Spencer is
alone. A PRETTY GIRL approaches.

PRETTY GIRL
Spencer, right?

SPENCER
Yeah.

PRETTY GIRL
Bobby here yet?

SPENCER
Not yet. He's on his way.

The girl is looking around distractedly.

PRETTY GIRL
Great game, huh? Bobby rocks.

SPENCER
Yeah. He sure does.

PRETTY GIRL
He sure does what?

The girl looks at Spencer strangely.

PRETTY GIRL (CONT'D)
Whatever. Later.

INT. BEEF'S HOUSE - SAME

Topless Cheese approaches a group of immense football players and their hit girlfriends sitting around a table. They stop their conversation, staring at Cheese.

CHEESE
'Sup fellas. Ladies.

The football players stare at Cheese, menacingly.

INT. BEEF'S HOUSE - SAME

CLOSE ON Spencer, in the kitchen, attempting to pour himself a keg beer.

GIRL'S VOICE (O.S.)
You have to pump it and hold the tap lower.

Spencer looks up. It's Amber.

SPENCER
Hey! I was just... The ones I usually, uh, have beer at are different.

Amber pumps the keg.

AMBER
(knowingly)
I guess they can be different.

SPENCER
Yeah. I'm happy you're here.

AMBER
I wouldn't miss it. Only because it was such an amazing game. Otherwise these parties usually suck. Keggers for Kids. You know.

SPENCER
Oh, yeah. Yes. They're so lame. Really lame.

Spencer makes a just-drank-sour-milk face. A beat.

AMBER
Bobby here?

(CONTINUED)

SPENCER

Not yet.

AMBER

Nice jacket. I remember that one.

SPENCER

Remember what one?

Spencer realizes what she's talking about. He laughs uncomfortably.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

Oh, same jacket... Funny.

AMBER

Who's that guy over there?

Amber points discreetly across the room to a HOT GUY with cool-guy movie hair.

SPENCER

That guy?

AMBER

Yeah, him.

SPENCER

I've never seen him before. Why?

AMBER

Why? Are you kidding? He's hot as hell.
Don't you think?

SPENCER

(defensively)

How would I know?

Amber chuckles.

AMBER

You're funny. Seriously though, how
fucking hot is that guy?

SPENCER

I guess he is. Are you gonna... talk to
him?

AMBER

Why not? I'm newly single, I'm grieving,
and I'm a little drunk.

Amber leans into Spencer's ear. Spencer sips his beer.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMBER (CONT'D)
(whispering)
I'm also horny as hell.

Spencer does a spit take, getting some beer on Amber.
She laughs.

AMBER (CONT'D)
You're hilarious. Really. Talking to
you is the best.

SPENCER
You think?

AMBER
Totally. It's like you're not even a
guy.

CLOSE ON Spencer. From the other room clapping and
whooping breaks out among the revelers. The man of the
hour has arrived.

AMBER (CONT'D)
Sounds like "you know who" is here. See
you later. I've got my own business to
attend to.

Amber winks at Spencer and strides over to Hot Guy.

INT. BEEF'S HOUSE - SAME

Bobby has arrived, to the delight of everyone. Beef
gives him a big bear-hug. Beef is drunk.

BEEF
Yeah, baby! Who's the man?

BOBBY
Beef! You're the man!

They hug, laugh, etc.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
You seen Spencer?

BEEF
I think so. He's around.

BOBBY
All right, man.

INT. BEEF'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Cheese has somehow won over his new crowd, the group of football players and girls has trebled in size.

Cheese is now donning one of the player's game jerseys and is speaking animatedly. The jersey hangs below his knees. Cheese has the group's undivided attention.

CHEESE

... So then I say, "You don't know what to do?! Are you kidding!? He's gay! You're gay! GO FOR IT!"

The crowd cheers in appreciation. Cheese soaks up the adoration. A few players pat him on the back.

CHEESE (CONT'D)

Hey, hey, hey. Watch the shirt, watch the shirt.

INT. BEEF'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

SPENCER'S POV: Amber is flirting heavily with Hot Guy. She leans into him, moving her hair behind her ear. Hot Guy moves in closer, whispering.

CLOSE ON Spencer. He's clearly jealous. Bobby enters frame, surprising Spencer from behind.

BOBBY

Hey, you.

Spencer bumbles, feeling busted for spying on Amber.

SPENCER

Hey. Hi. Didn't see you. But I was looking for you.

BOBBY

Here I am. Having fun?

Spencer continues to stare at Amber and Hot Guy.

SPENCER

This is a great party, yeah. How about you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOBBY

I'm having a blast. All the guys are totally stoked about the game. We're all just blowing off steam now.

A beat. Spencer still stares across at Amber.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Hey, what are you looking at? Amber?

SPENCER

She's talking to some guy. I think she's into him.

BOBBY

Good for her. She deserves a good time. Let's have some fun with her.

Bobby gets Amber's attention, calling her over. Amber reluctantly breaks free from Hot Guy. She's a little drunk, and ambles her way to the boys.

AMBER

Man, you're totally busting my rap over there.

BOBBY

(chuckling)

Hi, baby.

Bobby and Amber hug.

AMBER

What's up, boys?

SPENCER

So, who's the guy? What does he want?

AMBER

I don't know. He just moved here this summer. He's a sophomore. Scandal.

Amber and Bobby laugh.

BOBBY

He's pretty cute.

AMBER

Yeah he is. More like hot.

Spencer is just a little too annoyed.

(CONTINUED)

SPENCER

I don't think he's that great. You could do a lot better.

AMBER

Spencer, I don't wanna do a lot better... I just wanna do.

Bobby laughs and gives Amber a high-five.

SPENCER

I don't know... He just looks like trouble. All cool and stuff.

AMBER

What's your problem?

SPENCER

Nothing. I don't have a problem. I'm just saying is all.

Sparks comes up between Bobby and Amber, draping his arms around both of them. He's shitfaced.

SPARKS

Bobby's in the muthafuckin' house!
Spencer's in the muthafuckin' house! 'Sup
Amber...

They all laugh. Spencer just a little.

SPARKS (CONT'D)

Yo, B. You're neglecting the boys. They think you're feeling all cool and shit.

BOBBY

Gotcha. Spence, I'm gonna go hang with my troops a little. I'll be over there.

SPENCER

Cool. No problem.

BOBBY

All right. See you guys later.

Bobby and Sparks exit frame, leaving Spencer and Amber.

INT. BEEF'S HOUSE - SAME

Cheese is wedged tightly on the couch between a group of enormous football players. Again, in mid-monologue.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHEESE

... And then my Mom comes home with a string of brook trout in each hand, and a frozen turkey dragging from her butt!

The crowd roars it's approval. They tap beers with Cheese and each other. A beat. Cheese grimaces.

CHEESE (CONT'D)

Oh, man... This music is ass. I'm changing this shit.

Cheese gets up. Some of the players instinctively grab him, pulling him back down.

PLAYER #1

Don't, Cheesy. Beef will fucking kill you.

PLAYER #2

Yeah, man. His brother wrote this shit. Don't fuck with Beef's music. Seriously.

CHEESE

Look, fellas. Ass music is ass music... Let me up!

Cheese gets up and walks out of frame.

INT. BEEF'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Spencer and Amber are where we left them.

AMBER

Sorry about what I said before.

SPENCER

What?

AMBER

That you weren't like a guy. It came out all wrong and I didn't mean it that way. Really.

SPENCER

I know. It's just that I really am like that normally.

A beat.

AMBER

What do you mean?

(CONTINUED)

Spencer shuffles a little.

SPENCER

I mean that I'm, uh, like *that*, or, I would be like that.

AMBER

Okay... I know I'm a little drunk, but you're losing me.

Spencer tries to change the subject.

SPENCER

So, that guy? Sorry if I said bad things about him. I don't even know him...

AMBER

Hold on, Spencer... What does that mean, "I'm like that normally"?

SPENCER

I don't know, okay? I just wanted to say that even if all this stuff wasn't happening, that I would be like that anyway. With you.

AMBER

All what stuff?

INT. BEEF'S HOUSE - SAME

Bobby is standing with a group of adoring teammates and others. They're just shooting the shit.

TEAMMATE

So, where's Spencer?

BOBBY

He's over there, just talking to some people, I think.

His teammates nod.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

That's what's cool about Spencer. He can hang out with his friends over there and I can just be with you guys bullshitting over here... You know what I mean? No pressure.

Bobby's teammates nod, envious.

INT. BEEF'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

CLOSE ON Beef. He's talking to a couple of girls, clearly hitting on them.

BEEF

Then let's go over there and just kick it a little. You know what I'm sayin'...

Suddenly, the music shuts off. Hold briefly on Beef, his eyes blazing. This is not good.

BEEF (CONT'D)

WHAT THE FUCK!?

Beef leaves the girls and storms to the main room.

BEEF (CONT'D)

Who the fuck is fuckin' with my tunes? I said, who the fuck is fuckin' with my tunes!?

The place goes silent. People clear the way for Beef. Beef sees Cheese at the stereo, a beer in one hand, an array of CD's in another.

BEEF (CONT'D)

What the fuck are you doing, motherfucker!? That's my brother's shit!

Cheese turns to Beef.

CHEESE

(calm)

You got that right, hoss. It's shit. Just changing the vibe a little.

Beef grabs Cheese by the huge jersey, hoisting him to eye level.

CHEESE (CONT'D)

Hey, hey, hey... The shirt, Daddy. It's new.

BEEF

I don't give a fuck! Put my tunes back on, bitch!

Without looking, Cheese pops in a CD and hits play.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHEESE

Just two seconds, big dog. I got you. I got you.

Beef continues to hold Cheese up. They're nose to nose.

BEEF

Yeah. Two seconds. And then you're over.

One excruciatingly long second passes. Then two. And then... Kid n' Play's "Rollin' With Kid n' Play" kicks in.

Beef continues to glare at Cheese. Slowly, a slight grin crosses his face. Still holding Cheese up, Beef starts moving his head to the music a little.

CLOSE ON Cheese, reading Beef's reaction. Back to Beef.

BEEF (CONT'D)

Yeah, muthafucka! That's what the fuck I'm talking about! Old school shit! Yeah!

Beef puts Cheese down and starts moving to the beat.

Cheese joins in, showing off the beginning moves of the Kid n' Play Kick-Step, a tricky series of kicks, feet front then back, a little like half-break dancing.

Beef knows it, too! They dance with each other, clicking heels, moving together, and turning around on a dime.

A group gathers around them. They are on! Cheese and Beef grab hands, pulling each other around. They jump back, spin, and pick it up again perfectly.

The circle around them grows. This has turned into quite a big DANCE NUMBER. A great combo. Cheese and Beef, like Kelly and Astaire.

The entire party now surrounds them. Becky muscled her way to the front of the crowd. A HOT GIRL leans to Becky, pointing at Cheese.

HOT GIRL

Who is that?

BECKY

Forget it, bitch. He's mine.

The dance continues. Awesome.

INT. BEEF'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Cheese and Beef dance comes to a close as the song ends. The revelers are laughing, hugging, dancing, etc. Beef embraces Cheese.

BEEF

One love, dog. One love.

CHEESE

No doubt, hoss. But watch the shirt.

Bobby and Spencer look on proudly as their best-buds hit it off. Suddenly, the football player Rice breaks through the crowd. He holds a half-empty booze bottle.

Rice staggers toward Bobby and Spencer. The party falls silent as Rice addresses the room.

RICE

What's wrong with everyone? Acting like this is all normal!

Rice motions to Bobby and Spencer. Beef steps in to take care of business. Bobby stops him.

BOBBY

No. Let him do his thing.

Beef relinquishes. Rice continues.

RICE

This isn't even natural! Guys liking guys! Why are you like this, Walker?

BOBBY

(sincere)

Why don't you go home, Rice... Sleep it off.

RICE

I don't need to go home!

Beef steps in again. Bobby doesn't stop him. Beef grabs Rice. Rice breaks free, turning his attention to Spencer.

RICE (CONT'D)

And you! Who the fuck are you?

Rice moves toward Spencer, who backs up.

(CONTINUED)

RICE (CONT'D)

Huh? Who are you?! I never seen you before, and all of a sudden you're in this group?! Huh?!

Rice moves closer to Spencer. Spencer continues to back up but is nearing the wall.

SPENCER

Look, buddy. I don't want any trouble...

RICE

"Buddy?" I'm not your buddy, faggot!

Rice gets closer. Spencer flattens himself against the wall. He and Rice are practically nose to nose.

SPENCER

Don't say that. Don't say that word.

RICE

Why not? That's what you are, faggot!

Rice pushes Spencer.

SPENCER

Just stop! Why are you doing this?!

Rice pushes Spencer again. Spencer is boiling.

RICE

What are you gonna do? You gonna go cry to your faggot boyfriend?

Spencer has had enough. He explodes, throwing the first punch of his life.

It lands square on the bridge of Rice's nose. Rice goes down. Half from the punch, half from the booze.

Spencer looks down at Rice. Nobody cheers. It's just a sad moment. Spencer looks at Bobby, who stares back.

After a beat, Beef picks up Rice, who's bloodied and humiliated.

BEEF

Get the fuck out of my house.

Beef pushes Rice off-screen. Spencer looks at his own hand, then to the surrounding crowd. CLOSE ON SPENCER.

INT. BEEF'S KITCHEN - LATER

The music has kicked in again. The party is back on, but everything feels a little different now.

Spencer stands at the sink, alone, running his bruised hand under the water. Bobby enters.

BOBBY

Hey. I was looking for you.

SPENCER

I'm just in here. Cut my hand a little.

BOBBY

Are you all right? That was awful.

SPENCER

I never hit anyone before.

BOBBY

You could'a fooled me.

They chuckle.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry about that. Here.

Bobby steps in and holds Spencer's hand under the water. Spencer lets him. They're standing pretty close.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

I gotta admit. I'm pretty amazed. You really laid that dude out.

SPENCER

I don't know what to say. People shouldn't talk like that. It's stupid.

BOBBY

Yeah, people can be stupid. I guess this is the way it's gonna be, though.

They're a bit closer. Spencer is a little uneasy but he's not going to embarrass Bobby by backing away.

SPENCER

Why can't everyone just be cool? It doesn't affect them. I don't get it.

Bobby turns to Spencer.

(CONTINUED)

BOBBY

You do, though. More than you know.

Spencer chuckles, very nervous.

SPENCER

Yeah...

BOBBY

I'm glad I know you, Spencer. You're really great. More than you know.

Bobby leans in and gives Spencer a small kiss on the lips. They look at each other. Spencer is frozen.

Bobby leans in again for another. Spencer has to fight with himself not to pull away. They kiss again. Spencer isn't doing very well.

CLOSE ON Spencer during the kiss. It's light a light kiss, an innocent one. One eye pops open. Spencer's in too deep now. He's not kissing back, but sort of is. He just has to go with it. Akin to the kiss in "In And Out".

QUICK TO the kitchen entrance. Cheese pops his head in, watching Spencer and Bobby. Cheese is about to laugh/say something, when Becky comes from behind, putting a hand over his mouth, just in time.

Back on Bobby and Spencer. They stand apart, a little too far apart, a little awkward. HOLD ON Spencer.

Party over.

INT. BUCHANAN AUDITORIUM - MONDAY

Spencer is on stage, reading from a sheet of paper. He dons a short, brown wig and holds a cropped blonde wig with his free hand.

He is rehearsing a scene, using a thick, bad Boston accent.

SPENCER

Yeah. They gonna hook you up with a job, or what?

Spencer moves stage right, replacing the brown wig with the blonde. He continues.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPENCER (CONT'D)

Yeah. Fuckin' sit in a room and do long division for the next fifty years.

He switches again, changing wigs.

Spencer is rehearsing the big Damon/Affleck buddy scene from "Good Will Hunting".

SPENCER (CONT'D)

Better than this shit. It's a way outta here.

Spencer switches to the blonde wig yet again.

Cheese enters the auditorium and takes a seat in the back row, watching. He is still wearing his Buckeye football jersey.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

What do I want a way out of here for? I mean, I'm gonna fuckin' live here the rest of my life.

Spencer looks up and notices Cheese.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

Hey.

CHEESE

That was really great, Spencer.

SPENCER

Really? You think?

Cheese approaches the stage.

CHEESE

Definitely.

A beat.

CHEESE (CONT'D)

Is this the scene when the two guys go into the kitchen and make out?

Cheese laughs uproariously, cracking himself up until he falls to the floor.

SPENCER

Shut up, dick. I wasn't "making out".

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Cheese continues hysterical laughter as Becky bursts into the auditorium.

BECKY
Holy shit, Spencer! You have to come to the cafeteria!

Cheese looks up from the floor.

CHEESE
'Sup, girrrrrrl?

Becky rolls her eyes and ignores Cheese completely. Becky is fickle.

SPENCER
Why? What's going on?

BECKY
Just come on!

Becky exits. Spencer looks down at Cheese.

SPENCER
Get up. You're getting dirt all over your shirt.

Cheese looks down at his jersey, horrified. CLOSE ON Cheese.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA - MOMENTS LATER

Spencer and Cheese arrive at the cafeteria. Scores of students are grouped together, passing copies of the town newspaper back and forth excitedly.

A few students look up and see Spencer, pointing and gesticulating animatedly.

Spencer and Cheese approach one group of buzzing kids. Beef turns from the group and sees Spencer.

BEEF
Speeeence! Check it out. You're famous, little dude.

BEEF (CONT'D)
Look.

INSERT: Sports page cover. The headline reads: "Fourth and Goal for Gay Gridiron Great".

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THE PHOTO shows Spencer holding the ball that Bobby had just tossed to him. Spencer is shown raising his hands over his head, as the crowd cheers wildly.

BEEF (CONT'D)

Sweet, huh?

Spencer, stone-faced, looks up at Beef.

BEEF (CONT'D)

Congratulations, man.

Cheese grabs the newspaper from Spencer.

CHEESE

HOLY SHIT! HOLY SHIT!

Cheese laughs hysterically.

CLOSE ON Spencer, stunned. Life is over. Cheese sticks the paper back into Spencer's hands.

BOBBY (O.S.)

Hey, Spence!

Bobby enters frame, waving the newspaper in the air.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Did you see this!? This is amazing!

Spencer is catatonic.

SPENCER

Yeah.

BOBBY

But they didn't even mention our goal-line stand at the end of the half.

Always the team player, Bobby frowns at the oversight and looks back down at the article.

Spencer walks away slowly, like a zombie. Bobby looks up and notices.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Hey, Spencer? What's up?

Bobby starts to follow Spencer but is intercepted by a group of psyched-up players and students.

Spencer heads for the exit, paper still in hand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Amber runs over to Spencer, looking concerned.

 AMBER
 Spencer, wait.

Spencer shakes her off without responding and continues to walk away.

CLOSE ON Amber.

EXT. BUCHANAN PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Spencer ambles slowly through the student parking lot with no particular destination. Just away.

 CHEESE (O.S.)
 Hey, Spence! Spencer, man, wait up!

Spencer doesn't. Cheese runs to catch up.

 CHEESE (CONT'D)
 What's your problem?

Spencer stops walking and turns to Cheese, angry.

 SPENCER
 What's my problem?! What's my problem?!
 Look!

Spencer throws the newspaper in Cheese's face.

 SPENCER (CONT'D)
 That's my problem, Cheese!

Cheese picks up the paper, dusting it off.

 CHEESE
 What's the big deal? It's just...

 SPENCER
 (interrupting)
 Shut up, Cheese! Just shut the hell up!
 You ask what the big deal is?!

 CHEESE
 What? It's a great picture!

Spencer approaches Cheese, eyes narrowed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPENCER

Fuck you, Cheese! Do you understand what's happening to me?! Do you?! Do you even care?!

CHEESE

I care...

SPENCER

(interrupting)

You *don't* care, Cheese! You don't! All you care about is your own pathetic existence!

CHEESE

Don't blame this on me!

SPENCER

Yeah, you're right, it's *my* fault! But you pushed, and *pushed*... "I'm Cheese. Who gives a shit about anyone else!"

CHEESE

You're overreacting.

SPENCER

I'm overreacting?

CHEESE

You are.

Spencer gets closer to Cheese.

SPENCER

The entire town thinks I'm *gay*, Cheese. I'm being nominated for damn Homecoming Queen! Do you understand what that feels like?!

CHEESE

No one even knew who you were before!

SPENCER

There are other people's feelings involved here! Do you ever think about that?

CHEESE

I do! I do!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPENCER

No, you don't! You're supposed to be my friend? You're a loser, Cheese. You really are a loser.

CHEESE

Am not.

Cheese holds his jersey out a little, as if it's proof. Spencer shakes his head, kind of disgusted. A beat.

CHEESE (CONT'D)

C'mon, just a little longer, and...

Spencer gets nose to nose with Cheese.

SPENCER

(yelling)

Did you hear anything I just said?! Did you?!

CHEESE

What? You're gonna hit me now? You hit people now so you're gonna hit me?

Spencer grabs Cheese by the jersey.

CHEESE (CONT'D)

Hey, watch the shirt!

Spencer grabs Cheese with more intensity.

SPENCER

Fuck your shirt, Cheese! Fuck your shirt, and fuck you!

Spencer pushes Cheese away and walks off.

HOLD ON Cheese, hurt.

INT. SPENCER'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Spencer is sitting on the foot of his bed with his head hanging low. There is a knock on the door.

MOM (O.S.)

Spencer? Spencer, honey, can we come in? I'm with your father.

Spencer looks up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPENCER

What do you want?

MOM (O.S.)

Can we come in?

SPENCER

It's not locked.

Spencer's Mom walks in, with Dad following a few steps behind. Dad holds a folded newspaper in his hand. Spencer doesn't move.

Mom just stands in front of Spencer, staring at him, not saying a word. Dad stands noticeably in the background. He looks nervous and ashamed.

MOM

Spencer, do you want to talk?

Spencer stares ahead.

SPENCER

About what, Mom?

MOM

Well, we saw the article in the paper, and...

SPENCER

(interrupting)

It's not what it seems.

MOM

It's okay, Spencer. Your father and I know that this is a very difficult and confusing time, and...

Spencer looks at his mother. His father fidgets nervously, not knowing what to say.

SPENCER

Mom, I'm not gay, all right? This is all just an awful mistake.

MOM

Spencer, don't be ashamed. Who you are is who you are, and it's okay. It's okay with us, right Jim?

Mom looks back to Dad, who wasn't really paying attention.

(CONTINUED)

SPENCER

Guys, I'm not gay. I like girls.
Really.

Mom holds Spencers chin.

MOM

You poor, struggling soul... I saw an Oprah on this a few months ago. What you're going through is natural. It's natural to bury your feelings in what Oprah calls, "a little sad place."

Spencer looks at his Mom as if she's nuts.

SPENCER

Look. I made a mistake and I have to make it go away.

MOM

You can't make your feelings "go away", Honey. All I can say is that I - We - are here for you. (Pause) Should we get sushi?

SPENCER

No! I don't want sushi, okay!?

MOM

Well, just know that we are here for you. Whenever you need to talk. We love and support you.

Mom stares at Spencer for a beat, and walks out. Dad turns to follow but lingers sheepishly, knowing he has to say something. He turns back to Spencer.

DAD

Son?

SPENCER

Yeah, Dad?

A beat.

Dad hold up the newspaper.

DAD

(proudly)

Captain of the football team.

Dad gives Spencer the big "thumbs up", turns, and walks out. HOLD ON Spencer.

INT. SPENCER'S BEDROOM - LATER

Spencer sits at his computer, typing up the next mornings announcements. He opens his yearbook and flips easily to Amber's page. CLOSE ON Amber's picture.

INT. SPENCER'S GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER

The garage door opens, revealing years of clutter and disorganization. Spencer negotiates his way through, knocking over boxes and trash cans.

He stops at an object covered with a decrepit drop-cloth. He lifts the cloth, revealing...

An equally decrepit three-speed bicycle. It's rusted, rickety, and hasn't been used in a decade.

EXT. SUBURBAN ROAD - A LITTLE LATER

A truck blows past frame. When it's dust clears, we see Spencer pedaling slowly along the highway. One foot slips and Spencer spills to the ground.

Spencer picks himself up, dusts off, and looks if anyone has seen.

He gets back on the bike and rides off.

EXT. AMBER STEVENS HOUSE - A LITTLE LATER

The front door swings open. It's Amber. Spencer looks messy from the ride.

AMBER

Hey, I was just... What happened to you?

SPENCER

Could I talk to you, please?

AMBER

Come in. We just finished dinner.

EXT. AMBER'S BACK PORCH - MOMENTS LATER

Spencer and Amber sit across from each other at a patio table. They are in mid-conversation.

(CONTINUED)

AMBER

Look, Spencer, I know you're confused and scared and all of that. Bobby was the same way...

SPENCER

(interrupting)

No, Amber... I'm not gay. Really.

AMBER

That was Bobby's reaction, at first. It's hard. I know that's part of it. It's easier just to think that everything's fine, you know? Just... normal.

SPENCER

I know all about that. I'm not gay. It was all just a mistake, a misunderstanding. I don't know how it happened but it did, and...

AMBER

A mistake? I don't understand...

Spencer talks in one sweeping breath.

SPENCER

It's just that I met you and wanted to get to know you, and Bobby came out, and Becky told me that somebody liked me and I thought it was you, and then Bobby...

AMBER

(interrupting)

Wait, wait... You thought Becky meant *me*?

SPENCER

Well, I saw you and Becky at lunch pointing at me and then Cheese thought I should just go out with Bobby and get to know you, but I didn't think it was really going out...

AMBER

So you pretended?

SPENCER

No! Well, yes, I kind just went with it because Cheese talked me into it, and...

AMBER

Because Cheese talked you into it!?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Spencer is on his heels.

SPENCER

I know! I know it was stupid and wrong,
and, and...

AMBER

And what about your little monologue
praising the virtues of individuality?!
That was all bullshit?!

SPENCER

No! I meant it! I meant all of it!

AMBER

You meant it!? You are pathetic!

Spencer gets up and takes a seat closer to Amber.

SPENCER

No, I know... But when we were talking
and hanging out I started to really like
you, really, and I was afraid that if I
wasn't around you...

AMBER

(interrupting)

What?! What?! What did you think would
happen?!

SPENCER

I didn't think, Amber! And Cheese kept
pushing me and...

AMBER

No! Don't blame Cheese! You did it!
You are such a loser! I can't believe
how much I liked you!

SPENCER

And I like you, Amber! A lot!

AMBER

Oh, shut up. Do you have any idea what
this will do to Bobby? He has struggled
with this for so long, and you come along
and he just feels, feels... good. Like
things are right.

SPENCER

Amber, I...

(CONTINUED)

AMBER

And at the party? When you said that stuff about acting the same with me? Now I understand. You're disgusting. Just leave.

Amber gets up. Spencer stays seated looking off into space.

SPENCER

(sincere)

Amber, I'm sorry. I really am.

AMBER

Just get the hell out of here.

Spencer gets up to leave, awkward.

SPENCER

Are you going to tell Bobby?

AMBER

You wish, asshole. You're telling him, not me. Goodbye, Spencer.

Spencer starts to say something. Amber cuts him off.

AMBER (CONT'D)

Goodbye! Leave!

Spencer stares at Amber for a moment. He turns slowly and walks off the porch, out of frame.

EXT. BUCHANAN HIGH - VARIOUS LOCATIONS - NEXT MORNING

Spencer's general morning announcements resonate over the school's loudspeaker. He sounds a little downtrodden.

SPENCER (O.S.)

... And with the excitement of Saturday's big win over Western, let's not forget that this weekend is Homecoming against Lincoln High. The pep-rally will be this Friday at two-thirty in the gymnasium.

Spencer's announcements continue over:

- 1) A few students strolling down the hallway.
- 2) a class of wind-instrument pupils, wailing away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

3) The football team inexplicably practicing during school hours, yet again.

4) Various homerooms. Some students listen. Most don't.

SPENCER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
... And the ballots for Homecoming King and Queen will be available in both the library and the cafeteria...

CLOSE ON Amber in class. She listens to Spencer with a disdainful look on her face.

SPENCER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
... and that's it for Tuesday. I'm Spencer Hagan. Thank you, and... uh, remember to be yourself.

Amber scoffs quietly at Spencer's lame attempt at redemption.

INT. JAMES BUCHANAN HIGH SCHOOL P.A. BOOTH - SAME

Spencer cringes at his own line and flicks the microphone off. He just sits there. CLOSE ON Spencer.

EXT. BUCHANAN FOOTBALL FIELD - LATER

The football players have just finished practice and are jogging lazily back to the locker room entrance.

Spencer hovers near the bleachers. A few players say, "What's up, Spencer?" Spencer looks pale.

SPENCER
(weakly)
Bobby?

Bobby notices Spencer.

BOBBY
Hey, Spence! What's going on?

A few of Bobby's teammates let out a few teasing whistles as they walk by.

Bobby turns to them, smiling.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
Shut up, dicks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Bobby turns back to Spencer.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
Those guys... Always busting on me.

Bobby chuckles. Spencer not so much.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
So, what's up?

SPENCER
Nothing, really. Could I talk to you?

BOBBY
I'm right here, man.

Spencer fidgets.

SPENCER
Bobby... This is really difficult, but...

Bobby doesn't like where this is going.

BOBBY
What's on your mind, Spencer?

SPENCER
I can't go out with you anymore. I'm sorry.

A beat.

BOBBY
Why? Did I do something?

SPENCER
No! No, it's nothing with you. It's just, it's that...

Spencer can barely look at Bobby.

BOBBY
(interrupting)
I don't understand, Spencer.

SPENCER
I know. But it's not you. This whole thing was just wrong.

Bobby looks confused.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOBBY

Are you having problems with being out?
I understand that it's tough, man...

Again, Spencer speaks in one burst.

SPENCER

I'm not gay, Bobby. I lied and pretended
to be, so I could be closer to Amber and
I know this sounds awful, and it is, but
it's not what I wanted, and it's all just
so screwed up.

A beat. Bobby half-smiles.

BOBBY

You're kidding, right?

Spencer can barely look at Bobby. He's too ashamed to
respond. Bobby gets his answer in Spencer's silence.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Spencer?

Spencer just stands there.

Bobby looks at Spencer confusedly. He doesn't understand
this level of deceit.

After a long moment, Bobby turns and walks away.

SPENCER

Wait, Bobby! Bobby!

Bobby keeps walking. Spencer calls after him.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

Bobby! I'm sorry! Bobby! I'm really
sorry!

Bobby continues to walk, disappearing into the locker
room door. CLOSE ON Spencer.

INT. BUCHANAN HIGH SCHOOL - LATER

Becky is at her locker, putting books away. She stops,
checking herself out in a full-length mirror glued to the
inside of the locker. She pushes her breasts up a bit.

Satisfied, she shuts the door, revealing Cheese standing
behind it.

(CONTINUED)

Cheese looks bad. He is still trying to pull off the football-jersey-look. The jersey is filthy. He smiles at Becky, sort of disgustingly.

CHEESE

It's what's happenin', baby.

BECKY

(startled)

Jesus fucking Christ! You're just standing there, looking at me?!

CHEESE

Yes.

BECKY

Would you just get away from me for, like, ever?

CHEESE

Why, love?

BECKY

Don't play stupid. Amber told me what you and your idiot friend did. You're vile.

CHEESE

Wasn't my idea.

Cheese stupidly moves a little closer, like to make out. His instincts are awful.

BECKY

Ugh! Get away from me! And to think that I sort of thought you were hot in a gross way!

CHEESE

Really?

BECKY

I wasn't going to *do it* with you but I was thinking of letting you touch me! Ugh! Gross!

Cheese gets excited.

CHEESE

Just give me another chance! Please! I *am* hot in a gross way!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BECKY

Get away from me or I'll scream.

A big WRESTLER-TYPE GUY walks past the commotion.

WRESTLER-TYPE GUY

Uh, is this retarded kid bothering you,
Becky?

Becky waves him off.

BECKY

No. It's okay. And he's not retarded...
He's just a loser.

Becky shuts her locker and walks off.

CLOSE ON Cheese, looking a little retarded.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA - LATER

Spencer pays the lunch cashier and carries his tray into the general seating area. He stands frozen, looking around, his sitting options suddenly limited.

He spots Cheese sitting at the end of a table, noticeably alone. Cheese looks up.

Spencer and Cheese make eye contact. Cheese looks miserable, broken down, and guilty. He lowers his head. Spencer looks away.

Spencer scans the cool table, spotting Amber. She's gabbing with Becky and a handful of other cheerleaders. He skulks over.

SPENCER

Amber?

Amber hears but ignores, continuing her conversation.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

Amber, please... Let me just try to
explain...

Becky looks up.

BECKY

Just go away, loser. She doesn't want to
talk to you. No one does.

Spencer just stands there.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BECKY (CONT'D)

Did you hear me, asshole? She doesn't want to talk to you. Why don't you just take your loser friend and go back to wherever the hell you came from.

Amber glances up briefly at Spencer. They make eye contact. She turns away.

BECKY (CONT'D)

Go away, dickhead! Leave! Just get the hell...

AMBER

(interrupting)

All right, Becky. He gets it. He's leaving.

Amber turns to Spencer.

AMBER (CONT'D)

Please.

Spencer gazes at Amber one last time, turns, and walks off.

Spencer steals past Cheese, who has his head down. Spencer stops at a trash can, tosses his lunch away, and walks out.

CLOSE ON Amber, watching.

EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - EVENING

Spencer leans his rickety bicycle against a residential mailbox. He has affixed a huge basket to the front of his bike for his Chinese food deliveries.

He grabs a bag of food from the basket and walks out of frame.

HOLD ON the bike. After a beat, it falls over, spilling food everywhere.

INT. RESIDENTIAL HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Spencer is standing in the foyer of his customer, a STUDENT. We may have seen this guy say hi to Spencer earlier.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STUDENT

You know, everybody knows what you and
that guy Cheesy did to Bobby Walker.

Spencer doesn't look up.

STUDENT (CONT'D)

That's fucked up.

Spencer, head down, makes change for the customer.

STUDENT (CONT'D)

That's fucked up, I said.

SPENCER

Here's your change.

STUDENT

Whatever. Later.

The student opens the door for Spencer, who walks out.

EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - MOMENTS LATER

Spencer returns to his spilled bike/food. He tries to
salvage what he can. It's futile. Lo Mein hangs from
his handlebars. He kicks a food carton in frustration.

CLOSE ON Spencer.

EXT. BUCHANAN FOOTBALL FIELD - NEXT DAY

Practice is in full swing. Bobby takes the snap from
Beef and drops back to pass. Business as usual.

Bobby lets it fly to Sparks, and misses him completely.
The ball is overthrown and uncatchable.

Back to Bobby, his head lowered. He kicks the turf in
anger and confusion. This just doesn't happen to him.

The players huddle up. Beef looks up at Bobby.

BEEF

What's up with you, man? I never seen
you like this?

Bobby is lost.

BOBBY

I don't know. I don't know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Beef looks at Bobby pleadingly.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

All right. Splits on two. Break.

The players line up. Bobby takes the snap and rolls to his right. He rifles one down field. Once again he misses everything.

The players gather themselves. Beef pulls Bobby aside.

BEEF

Look. I know what that little punk did. Everyone knows. You gotta put it out of your head.

BOBBY

I know. It's hard.

A beat.

BEEF

That little bitch! I'm gonna kick the shit out of him!

BOBBY

C'mon, Beef. That won't do shit.

BEEF

Homecoming is Saturday, Bob! You're a mess!

Bobby exhales deep.

BOBBY

I'll get it together. I promise.

Beef just stares at Bobby, then storms off. He's very pissed off. Back on Bobby, looking to the sky for help.

INT. CHEESE'S HOUSE - EVENING

CLOSE ON the television. Todd Bridges does an awful double-axle on "Skating With The Stars".

VERY CLOSE on Cheese's face. He stares blankly, watching the television. His shoulders are moving in an odd, rhythmic motion.

Pull back, and we see that Cheese is giving his father a massage.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

His FATHER is wearing a tourist-like, gift shop tank-top. Generous clumps of hair sprout from his chubby shoulders.

CLOSE ON Cheese, again. This is really gross.

INT. SPENCER'S HOUSE - LATER

Spencer enters the kitchen, flipping the light on. He throws his backpack onto the kitchen table. He looks tired and miserable.

He proceeds to the refrigerator. A note is taped to it.

INSERT NOTE: Hi, Spence! We're out. Sushi in the fridge! Love, Mom.

Proudly displayed next to the note is the newspaper picture of Spencer at the game. Spencer rips it down and throws it to the floor. He walks out of frame.

INT. BUCHANAN HIGH SCHOOL - NEXT MORNING

Spencer lopes down the hallway, staying close to the wall. A few students see him and whisper amongst themselves.

Spencer pretends he doesn't notice them.

Spencer walks past a group of African-American girls. They are talking just loud enough for Spencer to hear.

GIRL

(pointing at Spencer)

Look. Maybe he'll come in black-face tomorrow, try to get with one of us.

The girls laugh loudly, exchanging high-fives. Spencer keeps on, wishing himself invisible.

INT. BUCHANAN HIGH SCHOOL P.A. BOOTH - MOMENTS LATER

Spencer sits at the P.A. Booth. He pulls out a handwritten sheet of paper.

He sighs heavily, flicking on the mike. No feedback. Nothing. He flicks it again and again. It doesn't work.

He leans forward to check the connections, following the wire to...

Nowhere. The wires have been cut.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLOSE ON Spencer.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - AFTERNOON

Spencer is on stage, continuing to work on the "Good Will Hunting" scene.

Cardboard has been folded into a make-shift car trunk that Spencer is using for scenery. He stands next to the car, stage right.

He wears the cropped blonde wig.

SPENCER

What do I want a way outta here for? I mean, I'm gonna fuckin' live here the rest of my life. You know, you know... *Shit.*

Frustrated, Spencer checks the line and begins again.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

I mean, I'm gonna fuckin' live here the rest of my life.

Cheese quietly enters the auditorium. He still wears the now-disgusting football jersey.

Spencer notices Cheese but continues.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

You know, we'll be neighbors, you know, we'll have little kids... Fuckin' take 'em to Little League together up at Foley Field.

Cheese continues toward the stage, lifting himself up onto it. Spencer just watches him.

Cheese grabs the short, brown wig off the car trunk and puts it on.

Spencer and Cheese stand opposite each other. Spencer continues, repeating the line.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

... we'll have little kids... Fuckin' take 'em to Little League together up at Foley Field.

Cheese jumps right into the scene.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHEESE

Look. You're my best friend, so don't take this the wrong way. In twenty years, if you're still livin' here, comin' over to my house to watch the Patriots games, still workin' construction, I'll fuckin' kill you...

Cheese is great! And he's off-book!

Spencer sort of half-smiles, shocked.

CHEESE (CONT'D)

... that's not a threat, now. That's a fact. I'll fuckin' kill you.

Spencer get his cue and continues.

SPENCER

Oh, come on... Why is it always this, I mean, I fuckin' owe it to myself to do this... What if I don't want to?

CHEESE

All right. No, no, no... Fuck you. You don't owe it to yourself. You owe it to me. 'Cus tomorrow I'm gonna wake up and I'll be fifty. And I'll still be doin' this shit. And that's all right, that's fine. I mean, you're sitting on a winning lottery ticket, and you're too much of a pussy to cash it in. And that's bullshit.

Spencer and Cheese just look at each other. Matt and Ben's words cut deep. Cheese extends a hand.

CHEESE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, Spencer.

Spencer looks at Cheese's hand for a beat and then shakes it. HOLD ON Spencer and Cheese, shaking hands.

Fight over.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA - LATER

Spencer and Cheese have found an abandoned sitting area. They sit side by side, facing the world.

CHEESE

Are you gonna try to talk to Amber?

(CONTINUED)

SPENCER

That's the least of it. I just feel awful about Bobby. You should have seen his face when I told him.

CHEESE

We really screwed everything up.

SPENCER

Yeah. We deserve this.

A beat. Spencer and Cheese scan the cafeteria, like it's somewhere else.

CHEESE

Maybe spending the rest of the year as total losers won't be so bad maybe. Many have done it before...

On cue, a flying pizza slice slams into Cheese's chest. It sticks for a moment and falls to the ground. Another stain for the jersey.

CHEESE (CONT'D)

This sucks balls. Let's get out of here.

SPENCER

Done.

Spencer and Cheese get up and walk out of frame.

EXT. BUCHANAN PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Spencer and Cheese walk to Cheese's Dodge Neon.

VOICE (O.S.)

Hey, motherfucker!!!

They turn. It's beef, accompanied by a group of scary looking football players.

They approach quickly. Spencer and Cheese are frozen.

BEEF

You going somewhere, bitch!?

Spencer shuffles a little.

SPENCER

Hey, Beef. We were just getting...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Beef gets close. The other players surround Spencer and Cheese.

BEEF
Shut the fuck up, asshole! You're dead!

Cheese turns to run. Player #1 grabs him.

PLAYER #1
Where do you think you're going?

CHEESE
Hey, watch the jersey!

Player #1 pulls Cheese close.

PLAYER #1
That's my jersey, punk!

Player #1 pulls the jersey off of Cheese, violently.

PLAYER #1 (CONT'D)
(looking at jersey)
Jesus! What the hell did you do to it?

CHEESE
Nothing.

Player #1 tosses it to the ground as if it's a rag. Beef goes nose to nose with Spencer.

SPENCER
Beef... I don't want to fight.

BEEF
There's not gonna be a fight, bitch. I'm just gonna wax the parking lot with your ass!

Cheese inexplicably charges Beef. He bounces off him and falls to the ground in a heap.

Beef makes an aggressive move, throwing Spencer to the hood of Cheese's Dodge Neon.

Beef then picks Spencer up like a rag-doll, makes a huge fist, winds up, and...

VOICE (O.S.)
Beef! Don't! Leave him alone!

Beef and Spencer look. It's Bobby.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Bobby runs over, pushing Beef off of Spencer.

BOBBY
What the hell are you doing?! This isn't
the way, man!

BEEF
Bob, I was just...

BOBBY
Bob, nothing! You think this is right?!
That this will make things okay?!

Beef hangs his head a little, shamed.

BEEF
I was just...

BOBBY
Just get the hell out of here, Beef! All
of you guys! Go on!

Cheese picks himself up.

CHEESE
Yeah, assholes!

BOBBY
You get the hell out of here too, Cheesy!

CHEESE
Gotcha.

Cheese, having pushed his luck, runs to his car, jumps
in, and takes off.

Beef and his players walk away. Bobby and Spencer stand
alone. A long beat. They just look at each other.

SPENCER
Bobby, I...

BOBBY
(interrupting)
Spencer, let me talk.

Spencer nods.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
You already know how much you screwed up,
how bad you acted... I don't need to tell
you that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPENCER

I know, I...

BOBBY

Let me finish. The weird thing is that no one ever talked to me about everything like you did. I can't forgive what you did, man... Someday, maybe. But I know that what you did doesn't define who you are. You know, the rest of who you are. That's it. That's all I want to say.

A beat.

SPENCER

I... I don't have a lot of friends. Just Cheese, pretty much.

Bobby grins.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

I know, he can be a jackass, but he's a good friend. Bobby, when I got to know you, I realized that you were one of the best people that I ever met. I mean, I always thought you were just this guy, you know? This guy that had it all, had it easy...

BOBBY

Mr. All-American, huh?

SPENCER

But that's not the way it is. And the whole time I was being so deceitful and mean... I just don't know what else to say. I feel terrible.

Bobby smiles sincerely.

BOBBY

I know you do.

SPENCER

I'm sorry, Bobby. I'm really, really sorry. You're my friend. I know you probably hate me. I would hate me. But I'm always gonna think of you as my friend.

Spencer extends his hand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Bobby hesitates, then puts his hand in Spencer's and flashes a big Bobby Walker smile.

BOBBY
All right, Spencer.

A beat.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
You going to the pep-rally on Friday?
It's Homecoming.

SPENCER
And get my ass kicked by the entire
school right after I'm named Homecoming
Queen? I think I'll pass.

BOBBY
I hear you.

SPENCER
So. I guess I'll see you around.

BOBBY
Yeah. Okay.

Spencer looks at Bobby for a moment, and smiles. Bobby
smiles back. Spencer turns and walks away. A beat.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
Hey, Spencer!

Spencer turns.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
(smiling)
You're a real shitty kisser, you know
that?!

Spencer smiles warmly.

SPENCER
Thanks, Bobby. Thanks for everything.

Spencer strides out of frame. CLOSE ON Bobby, smiling.

INT. JAMES BUCHANAN HIGH SCHOOL - FRIDAY

CLOSE ON Spencer, his face blank of expression. We pull
back. He stands in a deserted hallway. This is nearly
an identical shot to the first of the movie.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The bell rings.

Van Halen's, "Outta Love Again" kicks in one more time. Alone, Spencer begins to walk. A few steps and he comes to a turn that leads into a more crowded area.

The few students who notice Spencer shoot him dirty looks. Someone throws balled-up paper at him, but Spencer keeps on, taking a left down another corridor.

A banner spans the hallway, reading, "PEP RALLY - TODAY!" Spencer walks past it, motoring on.

From an adjacent hallway, Cheese shows up to join Spencer in stride. Cheese is back in pre-cool attire - sweater vest and cords.

Other students begin to head in the same direction, more and more of them behind Spencer and Cheese.

Many of the students snicker, throw food, paper, etc. At Spencer. And emerging from another adjoining hallway to join the boys in stride is...

Bobby! He struts up beside Spencer and Cheese. He is in full pep-rally attire: Immaculate game jersey and jeans.

Nothing is said. Just the three boys striding down the hallway. With purpose.

The sight of Bobby with Spencer and Cheese serves to shock the rest of the student body, which by now has clogged the hallway to move, en masse.

The three continue, busting a left down another hallway. Students stand aside, pointing and whispering.

Bobby, Spencer, and Cheese stop at the gymnasium door. They look at each other for a moment.

CHEESE

Let's do this, boyeeeeee.

Bobby nods. He reaches to push the door open...

SPENCER

Wait.

BOBBY

What's up?

SPENCER

I can't go in there. I can't do this.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Several students squeeze by the boys. Some give Spencer nasty looks. One DICKHEAD pushes Spencer aside.

DICKHEAD

Move, loser.

Spencer moves aside, giving Bobby a "see what I mean?" look.

Spencer, Bobby, and Cheese move away from the door, allowing students to enter the gym. They confer.

BOBBY

What, you're gonna hide until the end of high school?

SPENCER

Why not?

BOBBY

C'mon, Spence. I'm going in.

SPENCER

It's different. I just can't. I'm sorry.

A thrown plastic Coke bottle flies past Spencer's head, bouncing off the wall. Spencer looks defeated. A beat.

BOBBY

Rise above it, bro. Let 'em know who you are. Me and Cheesy can't do it for you.

CHEESE

Damn straight.

Cheese tries for a severely miss-timed high five from Bobby, who looks back strangely.

SPENCER

I can't. Not now. Not Homecoming, in front of everyone.

BOBBY

If not now, when?

Spencer shrugs. Bobby's eyes narrow at Spencer.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

(fed up)

You know what? Forget it!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Bobby turns to walk off. Spencer is thrown by Bobby's uncharacteristic tone.

SPENCER

What?

Bobby turns back to Spencer, angry and animated.

BOBBY

I'm not fighting your battles anymore!
It's now or never! Grow up!

Bobby turns and marches into the gym. Cheese pauses a moment, giving Spencer a sympathetic, "He's got a point" look. He follows Bobby into the gym.

CLOSE ON Spencer.

INT. GYMNASIUM - MOMENTS LATER

There's already a crowd inside, and it's mighty fired up. The bleachers are rocking with cheering students and Homecoming rowdiness.

The brand new, kick-ass Omni-Tron scoreboard flashes the Buckeye logo with an astonishing display of digital color.

QUICK CUT to a NERDY KID in the Omni-Tron tech-booth, maneuvering a camera around the gym via wireless remote.

Bobby joins his teammates on the floor. Beef smiles at him. Bobby winks back.

Cheese chooses a seat next to an attractive girl. The girl reflexively gets up and walks out of frame.

The crowd settles as Principal King speaks into the microphone.

PRINCIPAL KING

Welcome, everyone! It's Homecoming so
let's get the spirit going with a number
from the Buckettes!

The crowd applauds, whistling and cat-calling, as the cheerleaders ready themselves in the middle of the gym floor.

Cheerleader-type dance music launches the girls, led by Amber and Becky, into a kind of "Bring It On" routine.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The simultaneous video-feed to the Omni-Tron keeps up with every ass-shake.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - SAME

Spencer slips into the dark, empty auditorium. Faint sounds of music and cheerleading are heard through the vacant school corridors.

Spencer looks dejected. He walks down the center aisle and plops himself into a front row seat.

He stares at the floor.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

The girls finish their routine to the delight of the student body. Bobby strides to the podium, joining the students in applause.

BOBBY

(chuckling)

All right. Settle down, fellas.

Applause grows louder as the student body shows appreciation for their hero. Bobby quiets the crowd with a wave of his hand. A beat.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

What's up, Buchanan High!?

The crowd rocks.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - SAME

Spencer is pacing back and forth in front of the stage. His demeanor is changing. He's becoming angry and determined.

He stops, straining to listen to Bobby's words emanating from the other side of the school.

HOLD ON Spencer.

INT. GYMNASIUM - CONTINUOUS

Bobby continues to fire up the crowd with his Homecoming speech. This speech is about football and kicking ass. Nothing more.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOBBY

... And when Lincoln comes to town, the
same thing is gonna happen to them!

Bobby's players fist-pump and cheer. The place is
rocking.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

CLOSE ON Spencer/ he is on stage leaning over the hood
of the cardboard "Good Will Hunting" car.

CLOSER ON Spencer's face. His eye's narrow. He's had
enough. He kicks the paper car tire. The prop crumbles
at the force of the blow.

Spencer jumps off the stage and walks, quickly, toward
the auditorium exit.

INT. BUCHANAN HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The auditorium door bursts open. Spencer is possessed.
He walks quickly and determinedly down an empty hallway.

Muffled cheers drift from the gymnasium, filling the air.

Spencer busts a left, breaking into a jog. Beads of
sweat break out on his forehead.

The sounds of crowd cheering and Bobby's rah-rah speech
gets closer. Spencer takes a right, pressing on.

CLOSE ON Spencer, running full on. We've never seen him
like this. His eyes narrow and he turns on the gas,
breaking into a full-on sprint.

Spencer takes a left a little too wide, crashing into a
wall. He gets himself together and continues on.

INT. GYMNASIUM - SAME

Bobby finishes up. The crowd noise dies down a little.

BOBBY

So, Mr. King has asked me to announce the
Homecoming King and Queen...

INT. BUCHANAN HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - SAME

Spencer flies past frame. The sounds of the crowd and Bobby are very close.

One last turn. Spencer shifts into over-drive and barrels straight for the auditorium entrance. Closer, closer...

INT. GYMNASIUM - SAME

Bobby continues, donning the newly awarded Homecoming King's crown, for the fourth straight year. He actually looks good in it.

BOBBY

... And the 2006 Buchanan Buckeye Homecoming Queen is...!

The gymnasium door bursts open. It's Spencer! Presenting himself to the entire school!

QUICK TO the Omni-Tron. Spencer's slightly pixelated image stands in the middle of the gymnasium.

The student body is silenced. Three thousand eyes simultaneously fix on Spencer.

Becky elbows Amber, who's tying her shoe. Amber looks up and sees Spencer. Cheese looks like he's has just seen a ghost. Beef looks on, curious.

Random students just stare. Some at Spencer, some at the Omni-Tron televised Spencer. It is stone silent.

SPENCER'S POV: The entire student body looks down on him. He looks up at the Omni-Tron. His own face stares right back.

Spencer breathes heavy, winded from the run. CLOSER ON Spencer. A beat.

SPENCER

I want to say something!

The crowd is silent. Maybe they've seen something like this in a movie, but this is a real moment. Spencer walks to the podium, where Bobby waits.

The shock has worn off a little and a few students boo and heckle Spencer. Jeers beget jeers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Spencer gets to the podium. He looks at Bobby.

NOTE: The following sequence cuts back and forth between Spencer's live and video Omni-Tron image.

Bobby smirks at Spencer, impressed. He moves away, allowing Spencer the podium. Spencer taps the mike with his hand. Feedback.

"You suck" and "Loser" type comments rain down. Spencer is unmoved, though. He scans the crowd, making eye-contact with Amber. She gives a subtle nod of support.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

(into mike)

Hi.

RANDOM STUDENT #1 (O.S.)

Sit down, asshole!

Spencer swallows hard.

SPENCER

You probably all know who I am by now.

Some boos and hisses greet him.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

It's funny. I always wondered what that would be like.

Bobby listens, focused on Spencer.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

A while ago I told my friend that I was fine with who I was.

RANDOM STUDENT #2 (O.S.)

What, a loser?!

Students laugh, but Spencer doesn't miss a beat.

SPENCER

Yeah. A loser. But you know what? Doing the announcements and doing Drama Club didn't make me a loser. I like doing those things... No, I became a loser when I wasn't true to myself, and I didn't have the guts to stop.

CLOSE ON some random students. A few are beginning to actually listen.

(CONTINUED)

SPENCER (CONT'D)

You've all probably heard that I did a really stupid thing. Something I'm going to regret forever.

Boos and Jeers fill the gym. Spencer keeps his footing.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

(re: the booing)

Yeah, yeah, I know... I deserve that. I know I do... You know, I once said some things about individuality. About being yourself. I said it was hard, and that it took a lot of courage.

Some students start nodding their heads in agreement. They know it does. Spencer detaches the mike from it's stand and gets his footing.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

You know, we're constantly judging each other. Labeling. Categorizing. The Chees Club kid is a dork, or the Head Cheerleader is a snob... It's so stupid. We all struggle with the same things, you know?

Pan across rows of students. Familiar and nameless faces play close attention.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

You know, when we categorize people, we automatically just write them off, and shut them out.

Spencer pauses to effectively make his point.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

We shut them out! Well, that's too bad, because when you shut people out you miss out on a whole lot of good stuff, and a whole lot of good people.

Students nod in agreement.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

It's so weird... I did this awful thing and because of it I've met some really incredible people. People I never would have met. Never in a million years.

Spencer looks at Bobby, who smiles back, approvingly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPENCER (CONT'D)

I don't expect anyone to forgive what I did. I haven't. But I know that because of it I have a better idea of the person that I want to be. I'm just sorry that people were hurt along the way.

Spencer nods to Bobby, and to Amber. QUICK TO Cheese, who's sobbing uncontrollably.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

You know, there's a lot of good people in this room. I think it's time to forget all the nonsense, all the bullshit.

Mr. King blushes at the vulgarity but knows that this is a special moment.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

I know that I'm going to come into school each day and have just a little more faith in the people around me. I hope that you'll do the same. Thanks for listening. That's all I wanted to say.

Spencer puts the mike back in the little stand, looks at Bobby, and starts walking toward the exit.

The room is silent. Spencer's footsteps can be heard as he walks across the gym floor. Students just stare.

CLOSE ON Spencer, stoic as he heads to the door.

Someone begins clapping. Slowly deliberately. QUICK TO Becky, who shakes her head, dreading the inevitable group clap. The slow clapping continues...

It's Bobby! Amber joins Bobby in the applause. Becky folds her arms, defiant. Amber elbows her and she reluctantly, finally joins in.

Spencer stops in his tracks. He turns around, slowly. He's shocked. Pretty soon, the entire student body is applauding vigorously. Spencer's words have resonated.

Spencer stands in the middle of the gym, looking up. This is incredible. Fifteen-hundred students applauding.

Bobby strides to the podium, yelling over the din of the crowd.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOBBY

Wait, everyone! Let me finish! THE 2006
Buchanan Buckeye Homecoming Queen is...
AMBER STEVENS!!!

Amber smiles. Becky hugs her and pushes her toward the podium where Bobby awaits with a heartfelt embrace.

Spencer looks on, smiling.

QUICK TO Cheese, standing next to the Nerdy Kid in the Omni-Tron tech-booth. Cheese holds up a familiar CD.

CHEESE

Where's the audio on this Bad Boy?

Cheese fiddles with some wires, not waiting for the answer.

NERDY KID

Don't, Cheesy! We haven't figured out all the inputs yet!

Cheese ignores him.

CHEESE

Just Cheese, Sport. Just Cheese.

Cheese plugs in a few wires, pops in his CD, and exits frame. Back to Bobby.

BOBBY

And one more thing! LET'S BEAT THE CRAP
OUT OF LINCOLN!!!

The crowd is pushed over the top. They stand, cheering. Bobby walks over to Spencer. They shake hands.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

That's what I'm talking about!

The elation is contagious. Students spill out onto the gymnasium floor, surrounding Bobby and Spencer. Cheerleaders kick up a storm.

The opening bars of a now-familiar song blast from the Omni-Tron. It's Kid 'n Play, of course!

CLOSE ON Beef.

BEEF

Yeah, baby! Yeah!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Beef starts moving his ass a little. The Kid 'n Play Kick-Step has begun! Cheese runs down to join Beef. They embrace.

CHEESE

Hey, watch the sweater.

They dance. Other students join in.

QUICK TO the Nerdy Kid in the tech booth, frantically crossing and recrossing wires. The music gets louder.

NERDY KID

SSSSHHHHIIITTTT!!!

On cue, the Omni-Tron explodes in a blaze of glory. A burst of color rains down on the revelers.

The kids continue to dance, and celebrate. It looks like the great Redford home-run scene in "The Natural", with embers falling to the gym floor.

Spencer catches up to Amber, who is wearing her crown.

SPENCER

Hey.

AMBER

Hi.

Back on the crowd, Kick-Stepping beneath a shower of light. The cheerleaders have actually made a little routine out of it.

Bobby looks on, proud. Smiling wide.

Ecstasy.

FADE OUT.

FIN

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

111.