

THE WAY BACK
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THE SCREEN IS BLACK as we hear:

MAN'S VOICE (V.O.)

Duncan, are you asleep?

As we FADE UP we're CLOSE IN on DUNCAN (15), staring off, lost in thought.

PULLING BACK we see that Duncan is surrounded by a mountain of suitcases, coolers, and beach chairs. He barely has any room.

PULLING BACK even further, we see that Duncan is sitting in that ill-conceived back bench seat that faces out the rear of a station wagon. Suctioned to the back window, one of those "Baby on Board" signs.

INT. STATION WAGON - DAY

CLOSE ON EYES glancing into the rearview mirror.

MAN'S VOICE

Duncan?

PULLING BACK we see, at the wheel, TRENT RAMSEY (40s), the source of our MAN'S VOICE. Riding shotgun, asleep, is PAM RAMSEY (40s). In the back seat, comfortably stretched out and asleep as well, is STEPH RAMSEY.

TRENT

Duncan, are you sleeping?

Clearly, Duncan wishes he was.

DUNCAN

No.

DUNCAN'S POV as a car of TEENAGERS passes. They gawk at him. Laughing, and flipping him off.

TRENT

Duncan, let me ask you something.
On a scale from one to ten, what do
you think you are?

(beat)

Duncan? I'm asking you how you see
yourself. On a scale from one to
ten.

DUNCAN

I don't know.

TRENT
What? You need to speak up.

DUNCAN
(louder)
I don't know.

TRENT
You don't know? You don't have any
opinion of yourself one way or the
other?

Duncan doesn't respond.

TRENT (CONT'D)
I'm just curious. How you see
yourself? Any number...

DUNCAN
A six.

TRENT
What?

DUNCAN
A six!

Trent takes this in.

TRENT
I think you're a three.

Duncan can't believe he said that. On the opposite side of
the highway, Duncan sees a billboard.

CLOSE ON BILLBOARD. It reads, "Turn around! You just passed
Wet 'N Wild Waterpark! Two miles back!"

TRENT (CONT'D)
Do you know why I think you're a
three? Do you know what would make
me say that?
(beat)
Duncan...?

DUNCAN
No.

TRENT
You don't know why I think you're a
three? You have no idea why I'd say
that?

DUNCAN

No.

TRENT

You've got to speak up.

DUNCAN

(louder)

No.

TRENT

You spent all last summer just
sitting on your ass. Doing nothing.
You barely left the beach house.
Why is that?

(beat)

Is that a choice? Is that enough
for you? Not to take any chances?
To meet people? Is that how you
want to be? Because that's a three
to me.

Duncan digs into an open backpack.

TRENT (CONT'D)

Well, that may work for you. But, I
want your mother to enjoy her
summer. She deserves that. So,
instead of hanging around us, why
don't you challenge yourself to not
be a three. Do you think that's
something you can do?

Duncan pulls out his Walkman, puts on the headphones.

TRENT (CONT'D)

Duncan?

"Blister In The Sun" by the Violent Femmes, blares.

BEGIN MAIN TITLES.

EXT. HIGHWAY

The station wagon pulls off the exit ramp. Another billboard
reads, "This is it! This is the exit! Wet 'N Wild Waterpark!
Myrtle Beach's #1 Attraction (Next to the Atlantic Ocean,
that is.)"

EXT. STREET

The station wagon drives along the main strip of Myrtle Beach, S.C.. It doesn't get any cheesier than this. We pass garish miniature golf courses and cheap retail store after cheap retail store. Bikini clad girls with big 80's hair. Guys, with mullets, wearing Jams.

The station wagon comes to a stoplight.

CLOSE ON REAR BUMPER. It's covered in bumper stickers. "Mondale/Ferraro in '84." "Shit Happens." "1982 World's Fair."

Just then, a convertible pulls up next to the station wagon. The DRIVER, all "cool" with classic Vaurnet sunglasses, looks over at Duncan, nods his head. Light turns green, and the convertible screeches away, turning into...

Wet 'N Wild Waterpark. This is our first glimpse. A gigantic, neon monster. All 80's.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH HOUSE

The station wagon pulls up. It's a beach front property. Classic east coast feel, up on stilts.

END TITLES.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - DRIVEWAY

Trent and Pam are unpacking. Duncan leans against the side of the car, playing one of those classic hand-held football games. A woman, BETTY THOMPSON, pops out from her place next door, wine glass in hand.

BETTY

Yoonhoo!

TRENT

Are you kidding? We just got here.

Pam laughs and playfully hits Trent.

PAM

Be nice.
(then, selling it)
Hey, Betty!

BETTY

Thank God you're here! I've been turning down invites left and right. I tell them, "Not until the Ramseys get here. They're my partners in crime."

(then, re: wine glass)
And, yes, I'm off the wagon again.

Betty hugs them both, aggressively.

BETTY (CONT'D)

Oh my God, is that Duncan?! Look at you all grown up!

Betty hugs Duncan.

BETTY (CONT'D)

And your face cleared up! Good for you.

(then)
Where's your daughter, Trent?

TRENT

Well, we've been here all of two minutes, so probably changing for the beach.

BETTY

Everybody's back this year. The Gales. The Hutchinsons. The Campbells, sans Ben because of his prostate. The Smythes. Oh, and the Ramkins, who I'm not talking to, but you can if you want, but just know that most of us aren't.

(then)
So, are you going to?

PAM

Going to what?

BETTY

Talk to them.

PAM

Oh, I don't know.

BETTY

Well, do if you want to, but know that I'm mad at them. I don't even want to get into why.

(then)

They called me a cunt.

(then, excited)

I'm so glad you're here!

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE - KITCHEN

Pam is unpacking groceries. Duncan sits on a stool at the breakfast counter. Steph is slathering on baby oil. Trent makes a Bloody Mary.

BETTY

So, how was your winter?

PAM

It was fine.

BETTY

Because our year was a challenge.

PAM

Oh no.

BETTY

Yeah. My niece was raped in October...

PAM

Jesus.

BETTY

I know. Not even food courts are safe. Oh, and well, Bob came out of the closet. So, I'm flying single this year. Watch out. My oldest, Charlie, is still into the drugs and psychedelic music. I'll tell you this, I'll be grateful when they're dead.

(laughs, then)

My daughter, Susanna, is here for the first time this summer, against her better wishes. She's going through an "I hate my mother phase," which I think began when she came out of my womb.

(MORE)

BETTY (CONT'D)

And my youngest, Peter,...well, the surgery to fix his lazy eye went bad. Now, it's worse. I try to get him to wear the eye patch, so people don't feel uncomfortable, but what are you going to do? And me, well, I burned my legs making iced tea! I know! Like an idiot, I poured boiling water into a crystal pitcher. So, don't be surprised if you see me in a pantsuit down at the beach. I've got all this new skin.

(then)

Oh shit! I've got a cake in the oven! Fuck.

Betty heads to the door.

BETTY (CONT'D)

Nancy's having people over tonight. Told her I'd bring dessert. It's Duncan Hines. I'm not making one from scratch for her shitty party.

(then)

Now, I'm still having our annual Fourth of July clam bake even though Bob's not here this year. He's probably fucking our gardener right now. Well, I'll see you later? Let's have a fun summer!

She's gone. The first moment of silence.

PAM

Trent, I think I'm ready for one of those...

Just then, Trent hands her a bloody mary. They kiss.

STEPH

Trent, grab me a Bartles and James.

He does, with no protest.

PAM

Duncan, do you want a wine cooler?

DUNCAN

No.

PAM

You sure? You can have one if you want.

(MORE)

PAM (CONT'D)

If you're going to get drunk this summer, I'd rather you'd get drunk in front of me.

DUNCAN

Mom...

PAM

What? Oh, are you embarrassed that your mom's all cool now.

Duncan rolls his eyes. Pam brushes back his hair with her hand.

PAM (CONT'D)

I'm ready to have a little fun. Is that okay? To see your mom have some fun? I promise not to scar you for life...unless it would be fun for me to do it.

Duncan smiles. Pam kisses him on the forehead.

PAM (CONT'D)

Now, are you hungry? Do you want me to make you a sandwich? Cut you up some fruit?

TRENT

Jesus, Pam. He's fifteen. He can fend for himself. Right, Duncan?

Trent looks eyes with Duncan.

TRENT (CONT'D)

You can do things for yourself this summer, right?

Steph crosses through, wearing an over-sized Panama Jack T-shirt, carrying a huge jam box.

STEPH

I'm outta here.

PAM

I hope you're wearing a one piece under there?

STEPH

Yeeeeessss.

(then)

I'll be at the beach.

TRENT
Take Duncan with you.

STEPH
Fuck that noise.

DUNCAN
I don't want to go to the beach.

TRENT
Yeah, you do. It's too beautiful to
be sitting around here.

STEPH
I'm not baby-sitting him all
summer.

DUNCAN
You're only a year older than me.

TRENT
You're taking Duncan with you,
young lady.

DUNCAN
Do I not get a say in this?

PAM
Sweetie, you'll be bored around
here. We're just going to be
unpacking.

TRENT
(suggestive)
Yeah, that's all we're going to be
doing.

Trent slaps Pam on the ass. They laugh and kiss. That's all
Duncan has to see. He heads to the door.

EXT. DUNES

Steph walks along the wooden path. Duncan lags behind. Steph
takes off the T-shirt. She, in fact, is wearing the tiniest
bikini.

STEPH
Okay, keep your distance from me
and if you have to say something,
make sure it's not lame.

Duncan doesn't respond.

STEPH (CONT'D)
And get some Jams. Those shorts
look totally queer.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH

It's a sea of flesh. Steph spots a group of TEENAGERS in the distance.

STEPH
What's up, bitches!

"Vacation" by the Go-Go's, blares.

The teens all cheer. Two girls, LAURA and KATY run toward Steph. They all hug. Duncan follows, slowly.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH - MOMENTS LATER

Steph is in her element. She and the girls are drinking and smoking. The group of guys they're with are playing tackle football. Duncan sits to the side.

One of the guys, CHAD, catches a pass close to the girls, spraying them with sand.

STEPH
Dammit, Chad, you got sand in my bikini!

CHAD
Then, take it off.

All the guys laugh.

STEPH
(sarcastic)
Oh yeah, that's just what I'm going to do. Why don't you take off yours first?

CHAD
Okay.

With that, Chad pulls down his Jams. The girls scream and cover they're eyes, except for Steph who doesn't bat an eye.

Chad pulls up his jams and runs back over to the guys, high-fiving them all.

KATY

Oh my God. Please tell me that you plan to get on that this summer, Steph.

STEPH

Katy! My step-brother's right over there!

(then, sotto)

But, yeah, totally.

LAURA

Oh hey, just so you guys know, my house is out this year for partying.

GROUP

What?!/Are you fucking kidding?!

LAURA

My grandmother came up with us. So, my mom's like, "This could be her last summer alive." And I'm, like, "Yeah, well, I'm currently living, so..."

KATY

No, totally. What a bitch.

LAURA

I know. This is, like, my summer.

STEPH

Well, we can absolutely party at my place. Duncan's mom is totally cool. She basically demands that we get drunk.

LAURA

That's, like, totally the type of parent I'm going to be.

Katy looks over at Duncan, who's pushing sand around with his feet.

KATY

What's his deal anyway?

STEPH

Who knows? He rarely speaks.

KATY
He's kind of cute.

STEPH
Katy!

KATY
What?!

LAURA
Seriously, gag me with a spoon!

STEPH
Oh, we're not saying that anymore.

LAURA
Really? Since when?

Just then, Chad practically tackles Steph on her towel, kissing her neck.

STEPH
Ew, Chad! You're all sweaty!

CHAD
Well, come in the water and wash me off.

STEPH
Uh, try playing a little hard to get.

CHAD
Well, if I did, that would make one of us this summer.

Steph slaps Chad on the back.

STEPH
Asshole!

CHAD
Alright, that's it! You're going in the water!

Chad picks her up.

STEPH
(laughing)
No, Chad, no!

He carries her toward the water.

CHAD

Guys, grab the rest of them!

The guys all runs over. Laura and the other girls barely put up a fight. In fact, they practically put themselves in the guys' arms. Duncan watches as they splash around in the ocean.

CUT TO:

EXT. DUNES - MOMENTS LATER

Duncan walks down wooden path. He passes Betty and her son, PETER (13).

BETTY

Oh hey, Duncan. I'm glad we ran into you. You remember Peter?

CLOSE ON PETER. His eyes go in all sorts of directions. Every direction but the right one.

PETER

Hey, Duncan.

DUNCAN

Hey.

Duncan doesn't know where to look.

BETTY

(off Duncan)

Oh, just stare at the bridge of his nose. That's what I do.

PETER

Mom!

BETTY

Well, if you wore the eye patch, I wouldn't have to tell people that!

(then)

Duncan, I was thinking that you and Peter should have some play dates this summer. Lord knows he brought enough of his Star Wars dolls. You could have fun with those.

PETER

They're action figures, mom!

(then, to Duncan)

(MORE)

PETER (CONT'D)

I've got a rare wookie and the C-3PO with detachable arms. They lose value if I take them out of the boxes, but we can still have awesome battles with them.

BETTY

Should we set up a time for you two to get together tomorrow?

DUNCAN

Uh, I should check with my mom. She may have plans for us.

BETTY

Okay, well, don't stand us up because we know where you live!

Betty laughs. Duncan walks off.

BETTY (CONT'D)

See, I told you. Your eye makes people uncomfortable.

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE

Duncan enters. He hears LAUGHING coming from his mom's bedroom. Off Duncan's look...

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH HOUSE

Duncan sits on the stairs. Unfortunately, he can still hear SOUNDS OF PASSION from inside the house.

CUT TO:

INT. STATION WAGON

Duncan is now sitting on the back bench seat, with his walkman on.

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE - THAT NIGHT

Duncan comes down the hall. Pam and Trent are in the kitchen with their friends, KIP and JOAN SMYTHE.

"Bad Moon Rising" by Creedance Clearwater Revival, blares on the kitchen radio.

Drinks in hand, Pam and Joan are dancing. They're trying to sing along, but clearly don't know all the words.

KIP

The truth is, I don't blame him. If I was married to her, I'd go gay too.

PAM

No more bad-mouthing Betty.

JOAN

Kip, you could never be gay. You're too ugly.

The women laugh.

KIP

I'll have you know, I've been approached.

JOAN

Oh, you've been approached.

TRENT

Jesus, Kip.

KIP

I got propositioned at a Harris Teeter.

JOAN

No, you didn't!

KIP

Yes, I did! Produce section.

PAM

Well, what did you do?

KIP

What do you think I did? I sucked his dick!

JOAN

Kip!

They all laugh.

KIP

See? I can talk the talk!

Pam notices Duncan.

PAM

Oh hey, sweetie. I didn't see you standing there.

She kisses him on the forehead.

PAM (CONT'D)

You remember the Smythes.

DUNCAN

Hey.

PAM

Dance with your mom.

Pam puts down her drink and grabs Duncan.

DUNCAN

No, mom.

PAM

Come on, humor me. Let's see you get your groove on.

DUNCAN

Mom...

JOAN

Duncan, girls love guys who aren't afraid to dance.

KIP

Oh, don't fill his head with that crap, Joan.

JOAN

You danced when I met you!

KIP

I wanted to get in your pants!

Kip and Trent high-five.

PAM
Duncan, you might as well start
dancing now because you're not
getting away until we see your
moves.

Duncan slowly starts to comply, dancing quite badly.

JOAN
Whoo! There you go!

Joan moves behind Duncan. He is now uncomfortably sandwiched
between the two women.

KIP
Jesus, Joan! Stop gyrating behind
him! You're going to give the kid
nightmares!

Just then, Steph crosses through wearing an over-sized
sweatshirt.

STEPH
I'm outta here.

PAM
Please tell me you're not wearing a
tube top under that.

STEPH
I'm not.

She grabs a wine cooler.

STEPH (CONT'D)
I'll be back when I'm back.

PAM
Steph, check out your step-
brother's moves.

She watches for a beat, then...

STEPH
Enjoy therapy.

Steph leaves.

PAM
(to Duncan)
Okay, you've been punished enough.
You're released.

TRENT

Hey, we've got 8 o'clock reservations. We should down these drinks and go.

KIP

Let's just take them with us.

TRENT

Even better.

DUNCAN

(to Pam)

You guys are going out?

PAM

(sotto)

Yeah, I'm sorry. I was hoping we'd just do the family thing our first night, but I guess Trent ran into Joan today and made these plans. Are you disappointed?

DUNCAN

No. I don't care.

PAM

Are you sure?

DUNCAN

Yeah.

PAM

Well, there's plenty of food. Make whatever you want. We're just going to be down at Big Daddy's Fish Camp.

TRENT

Come on, Pam. He'll be fine.

PAM

The number is in the phone book. Do you want me to write it down for you?

TRENT

We've got to go, Pam.

Trent leaves.

PAM
 Okay, okay.
 (then, to Duncan)
 We shouldn't be too late. I love
 you.

Duncan nods. We hear incessant HONKING.

PAM (CONT'D)
 Jesus, I'm coming!
 (then)
 Oh, and the TV is broken. Trent
 kicked it. Something about a bad
 call from a ref. Sorry.

Pam leaves. Duncan stands in the kitchen. It's quiet.
 Unsettling.

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE - LATER THAT NIGHT

Duncan looks through the bookcase in the living room. Nothing
 but cheap romance novels. He opens a closet.

CLOSE ON a Twister box and a few puzzles.

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE - STILL LATER

Duncan has just about finished a giant puzzle. It's a unicorn
 jumping over a rainbow. He has only two spaces to fill, but
 realizes he has no pieces left. He looks around, but nothing.
 Beaten, he pushes the whole puzzle back into the box.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - DECK - EVEN LATER

Duncan is looking out over the dunes. He notices a GIRL on
 the deck next door.

Feeling his stare, the girl looks over. Caught, Duncan
 quickly looks away. He waits and then, when he feels enough
 time has past, looks back over. She is, in fact, still
 looking at him.

BETTY (O.S.)
Susanna, close the screen door! I'm
getting eaten alive by mosquitos!

SUSANNA
Well, get off your fat ass and
close it!

BETTY (O.S.)
I don't like the way you're
speaking to me, young lady! If your
father was here, you'd close it for
him!

SUSANNA
Fine!

Susanna starts for the screen door.

BETTY (O.S.)
Would it kill you to give me just a
little respect...?!

SUSANNA
Stop speaking!

Susanna enters her house, slamming the door.

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE - DUNCAN'S BEDROOM

He's in bed. We hear LOUD VOICES and LAUGHING. A door
OPENING. People KNOCKING into furniture. Duncan looks over at
his bedside table.

CLOSE ON ALARM CLOCK. It says "3:30 AM."

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE - HALLWAY - THE NEXT MORNING

Duncan passes by his mom's room. The door is closed. Silence.

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Duncan finds a note on the counter.

CLOSE ON NOTE. It reads, "We're going to sleep in. Got home later than we thought. Plan on family dinner tonight. Love you, Mom."

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH HOUSE

Duncan walks down the stairs.

BETTY (O.S.)
Yoo-hoo, Duncan!

Duncan stops in his tracks. Shit. Betty comes out onto her porch, carrying what is very clearly a cocktail.

BETTY (CONT'D)
I'm so glad I caught you. I'm off to a tennis lesson. Don't ask me why, but I decided I'm going to be physical today.

(then)
I was thinking it might be a good day for that play date?

(then, calling off)
Peter!

(then)
Between you and me, I just want him to get some human contact. He's been having too many conversations with those dolls.

(then)
Peter!

PETER (O.S.)
What?! I'm in the middle of a battle!

BETTY
Peter, come down here! Duncan wants to play...

Betty turns. Duncan is nowhere in sight.

BETTY (CONT'D)
Duncan?

Betty starts to go back inside.

BETTY (CONT'D)
You missed your window, Peter!

CUT TO:

EXT. DRIVEWAY

Duncan is ducked behind the station wagon. He crawls over to the storage shed, opens it. A bike leans against the back wall, but we can't quite make it out.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET

"Highway to Hell" by AC/DC, blares.

Duncan rides the bike. It's a girl's pink cruiser, complete with front basket and tassels. But, he doesn't care. For the first time, he seems content.

CUT TO:

EXT. GAS STATION/CONVENIENT MART

Duncan pulls up. At one of the gas pumps, a group of TEENS are gathered around the Cadillac convertible we saw earlier. They are all in blue shirts.

CUT TO:

INT. GAS STATION/CONVENIENT MART

Duncan approaches the counter, carrying a giant fountain drink and some candy. He notices a small row of upright video arcade games. They are the (now) classics. Pac Man, Berserk, Tempest, Centipede, etc.. There's a GUY (Late 20's) playing Pac Man. He's also in a blue shirt.

Duncan approaches the video games. Standing right behind the guy. He watches him play.

GUY

Do you mind standing to the side? I
can see your reflection in the
screen.

DUNCAN

Sorry.

Duncan steps to the side. As he does, we get our first good look at the guy. It is, in fact, the DRIVER (in the classic Vaurnets) from the stoplight. Duncan looks at his blue shirt.

CLOSE ON LOGO. It reads, "Wet 'N Wild Waterpark."

GUY

I wouldn't normally care, but I'm having the game of my life. I'm on the cherry level.

DUNCAN

But, that's the first level.

GUY

Yeah, and I still have one man left. So, like I said, it's the game of my life.

(then)

See, my mistake is that I get greedy. Going for all the ghosts and fruit instead of just clearing pellets.

DUNCAN

You know, there's a pattern.

GUY

Oh, don't tell me you're one of those guys. That takes all the challenge out of it. Anybody can learn a pattern.

Just then, a blue-shirted TEEN from outside, runs in.

TEEN

Owen, we're outta here!

We hear the familiar sound of PAC MAN DYING.

OWEN

Well, so much for the game of my life.

DUNCAN

You still have another man left.

OWEN

Naw, I've yet to see the second board. Gives me something to look forward to.

DUNCAN

Oh, the board's always the same.

OWEN

Well, there's that. Thank you. Now, I can die.

(then)

Here. You play it.

DUNCAN

No, I...

OWEN

Go, go. It's all you.

Duncan plays.

OWEN (CONT'D)

But, no pattern.

(then)

Oh, and it's still my quarter. So, if you end up getting a high score, I don't want to see...what's your name?

DUNCAN

Duncan.

OWEN

I don't want to see that up on the screen.

DUNCAN

Oh, they only let you use three letters.

OWEN

Wow. Nothing's left to the imagination with you, huh?

Owen starts to walk away.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Make me proud, Duncan.

Duncan watches him leave. Through the window, we see Owen and the other teens pile into the convertible and screech away. Suddenly, we hear PAC MAN DYING again. Duncan looks back at the screen.

DUNCAN
Shit.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH HOUSE

Duncan rides up.

GIRL'S VOICE (O.S.)
Nice bike.

Duncan looks up. It's SUSANNA. She's on her deck.

DUNCAN
Oh, it's not mine. It came with the place.

SUSANNA
Yeah, I figured.
(then)
I'm Susanna.

Duncan just smiles, awkwardly.

SUSANNA (CONT'D)
This is where you tell me your name.

DUNCAN
Oh, sorry. Duncan.

Beat.

SUSANNA
Well, this has been fun.

She starts off.

DUNCAN
Feels like it's going to be a hot summer.

SUSANNA
Oh, I thought we were done.

DUNCAN
Oh. That just came to me. That hot thing.

Beat.

SUSANNA

(smiling)

Okay. Well, if something else comes to you, I live right here.

She goes inside her house. Duncan just rolls his eyes. He lets the bike drop to the ground, and starts inside.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - BACK DECK - MOMENTS LATER

Pam, Trent, Kip and Joan are having drinks. Duncan enters from the sliding door.

PAM

Well, there you are. Someone's been gone all day. Did you meet some people?

DUNCAN

No.

PAM

Peter came over earlier. He was looking for you.

TRENT

With those eyes, I'm surprised he could find our door.

Joan laughs.

PAM

Trent, be nice.

TRENT

(crossing his eyes)

Mrs. Ramsey, is Duncan home?

(then)

Oh, wait.

Trent turns a little to his left.

TRENT (CONT'D)

Mrs. Ramsey, is Duncan home?

Joan is in hysterics.

TRENT (CONT'D)

Leave it to Duncan to befriend the nerds.

PAM
I think it's a wonderful quality.

TRENT
A whole beach filled with teens,
and that's who he makes a
connection with.

PAM
(smiling)
Alright, that's it!

Pam runs over and playfully attacks Trent.

PAM (CONT'D)
I will not allow you to pick on my
son!

TRENT
Oh yeah, what are you going to do
about it?

PAM
This.

Pam starts making out with Trent, aggressively. Joan watches
for beat. Her demeanor seems to change, and she goes back to
her drink. Pam breaks away from Trent.

PAM (CONT'D)
So, Duncan, are ready to crack some
crabs tonight?

TRENT
(to Kip/Joan)
Hey, you guys should join us.

PAM
(taken aback)
Oh, I thought...

Kip notices this.

KIP
No, we don't need to intrude.
You've seen enough of us.

TRENT
Nonsense. We have plenty of food.

JOAN
Well, sounds good to me.

PAM
(to Duncan)
Is that okay with you, sweetie?

DUNCAN
Sure.

TRENT
There you go. Plus, you can add Kip
and Joan to your list of friends.
Right, Duncan?

JOAN
I'd be happy to be on there.

Pam goes over to Duncan, brushes his hair with her hand.

PAM
Thank you.

Just then, Steph pops her head outside. This time, she's
wearing an off-the-shoulder sweatshirt a la "Flashdance."
Chad is with her.

STEPH
We're outta here.

PAM
Wait. You're going out tonight?

STEPH
Dad said you were having the
Smythes over.

Pam looks at Trent, confused.

TRENT
Well, I figured we were going to
ask them. No need for her to have
to hang with the old people.

KIP/JOAN
Hey!

Trent smiles. He grabs Pam, playfully. She tries to resist,
but alas, this is something Trent does well.

STEPH
See you in the morning.

PAM
(calling off)
There better be a bra under that!

STEPH (O.S.)

There's not!

We hear the front door SLAM.

TRENT

Why are we sober right now?!

Joan and Kip cheer. Pam just looks at Duncan, who turns and goes inside.

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE

Dinner is over. They all sit around the table. It's covered with newspaper, empty crab shells piled in the center. All four of the adults are smoking, laughing. They are being way too loud. Duncan just pushes food around on his plate.

KIP

I'm just saying that by even casting your vote for Mondale, you're basically telling me you don't give two shits about this country!

TRENT

I didn't want four more years of an actor in charge of the economy!

KIP

Which has never been better than it is now!

TRENT

For the rich!

KIP

Of which you're one of them!

JOAN

Well, I for one voted for Mondale because we could have had a woman as vice-president!

PAM

You go, sister!

KIP

My wife, everyone! The queen of pragmatism!

The adults all laugh.

TRENT

Hey, Duncan, do you know what that means?

PAM

(still laughing)
What?

TRENT

(to Duncan)
Pragmatism? Do you know what that means?

PAM

Trent, don't embarrass him.

TRENT

I'm not trying to embarrass him.
I'm just curious if he knows what it means. He didn't laugh at Kip's joke, so I'm wondering if he even understood it.

The air is being let out of the room.

TRENT (CONT'D)

Come on, Duncan, at least take a guess.

PAM

What does it matter, Trent?

TRENT

He hasn't said anything all night, so I'm throwing him a bone.

PAM

By putting him on the spot.

JOAN

If it helps, Duncan, I don't know what the word means either.

KIP

Yet, you laughed at it.

JOAN

Well...

DUNCAN

(barely looking up)

It's a noun, meaning a practical approach to something. So, Mr. Smythe was referring to his wife wanting to vote for someone just because they're a woman. He doesn't see that as a practical approach to electing officials. Thus, his sarcastic reference to Mrs. Smythe being the "queen of pragmatism."

JOAN

Whoo!

DUNCAN

And no offense, Mr. Smythe, but I didn't laugh because I didn't find it funny.

KIP

(laughing)

None taken.

PAM

(to Trent)

How awesome is he?

KIP

He got you, Trent!

TRENT

Yes, he did.

(then)

He got lucky.

Trent and Duncan lock eyes. A look we haven't seen before from Duncan. There's venom behind it.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - BACK DECK - LATER THAT NIGHT

Duncan watches as the four adults stumble along the wooden path through the dunes, lit only by the light of a full moon. They sing loudly, butchering some late 70's song. Duncan goes back inside.

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE - KITCHEN

Duncan surveys the mess. He sighs and starts to clean up.

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE - KITCHEN - THE NEXT MORNING

Duncan comes down the hallway to find Pam, Trent, Kip, and Joan making breakfast. They are all in the clothes they had on the night before. It's possible they never went to sleep. The kitchen is once again, a mess.

TRENT

Okay, who's having eggs?

They all laugh, toasting with mimosas.

KIP

We need to party again with that Charlie kid. That was some good pot.

JOAN

No. No more smoking for me. I get all weird and quiet.

KIP

Yeah, and you take your clothes off.

JOAN

Hey, we all streaked!

They laugh. Just then, Pam notices Duncan.

PAM

Duncan. I didn't see you there.

She crosses to him.

PAM (CONT'D)

You sure know how to sneak into rooms.

Pam goes to brush his hair with her hand. This time, Duncan deflects by moving away.

PAM (CONT'D)
(trying to keep it light)
Thank you for cleaning the kitchen
last night, sweetie. Wasn't that
thoughtful of him, Trent?

TRENT
Hey, the cook never cleans, so
that's the hat he wears.

PAM
It was still nice of you to do.
Duncan's giving her nothing.

PAM (CONT'D)
(re: kitchen)
Well, we'll take care of all this.

KIP
In fact, why don't we start on that
right now.

PAM
Thanks, Kip.

DUNCAN
(to Joan)
Did you all stay here last night?

The room goes quiet. Joan looks to Trent and Pam.

JOAN
Um...yes we did. We had a little
too much to drink...

PAM
And I wasn't about to let them
drive home. So, yes, they stayed
the night.

Pam and Kip start cleaning.

DUNCAN
(under his breath)
Did you fuck each other?

PAM
Excuse me?

TRENT
What the hell did you say?!

Trent moves toward Duncan. Pam grabs Trent's arm.

PAM

Trent....

Trent shakes her off.

TRENT

No.

(then, to Duncan)

You want to repeat that?

Come on. Repeat it. Let's see if you have the balls to say that again.

Duncan looks up and locks eyes with Trent.

DUNCAN

Did you fuck each other?

PAM

That's it. Other room. Now!

Pam leads Duncan down the hall, by the arm.

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE - DUNCAN'S BEDROOM

Pam slams the door.

PAM

You want to tell me what that was all about!

Duncan just stares out the window.

PAM (CONT'D)

Fine. If you won't talk then I will. Kip and Joan are old friends. That's it. That's all they are. Now, if this is about being out too late, having a little too much fun. Then, I apologize. But, that's all I'll apologize for.

Duncan doesn't respond.

PAM (CONT'D)

I'll assume your silence is my apology, but they deserve more than that.

She exits.

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE - KITCHEN

Pam heads down the hallway. She gives the adults a "What are you going to do?" shrug, just as Duncan storms past her.

DUNCAN
(barely audible)
Sorry.

He continues out the door, slamming it shut.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH HOUSE

He runs down the stairs. Standing on her deck next door, Susanna watches him leave.

EXT. STREET

Duncan rides the bike, peddling furiously, sweating. Before he even knows it, he's made it all the way out to the highway. Jumping off the bike, he pushes it to the ground. He paces, barely able to catch his breath. Just then, in the distance, he notices it...

THE WATERPARK.

CUT TO:

INT. WATERPARK

Duncan enters, taking it all in. As 80's as the place looks from the outside, it pales in comparison to the inside. A giant structural mass of bright, neon tubes. Rows of checkered flags are strung up along the side of the waterpark wall. Children run amok. Teens congregate around the lounge chairs and snack shop. The wading pool is packed, as are the lines for the slides. 80's tunes blare out of a less than stellar sound system. Duncan can barely take it all in.

OWEN (O.S.)
How'd we do?

Duncan snaps out of his daze and notices Owen passing by. He's followed by CAITLIN, an officious-looking teen.

OWEN (CONT'D)
Nothing less than highest score I
hope. I've got a reputation to
protect.
(to Caitlin)
This kid has seen the second level
of Pac Man.

Caitlin barely looks up from her clipboard.

CAITLIN
Good for you.

OWEN
Damn, Caitlin. Watch the
electricity.
(then, to Duncan)
She wants you.

Caitlin shoves Owen.

CAITLIN
Owen!

OWEN
Alright, Caitlin, calm down! I'll
find out if he likes you or likes
you, likes you.

Caitlin flips him off. They both start to cross off.

OWEN (CONT'D)
You owe me a quarter, Duncan. Or
you can just set me up with one of
Caitlin's slutty friends.

CAITLIN (O.S.)
Shut up, Owen!

OWEN
See you around, my man.

Duncan finds an empty lounge chair near the front entrance. He sits on the edge. Dressed in jeans and a T-shirt, Duncan should stand-out among the scantily clad patrons, but somehow he disappears. He looks over at the Snack Shack.

DUNCAN'S POV of Owen and other employees laughing, having a good time.

CUT TO:

EXT. WATERPARK - EARLY EVENING

Duncan is getting on his bike. An employee locks the front gate. The last remaining guests are walking to their cars. Duncan watches as Owen's convertible screeches out of the parking lot.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - LATER

Duncan puts the bike away. From the stairs, he can see his mom and Trent cooking dinner. Pam checks her watch. She looks out the window. Duncan ducks under the stairs. She doesn't see him.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH - LATER THAT NIGHT

Duncan sits at the end of the wooden path, looking out into the ocean. He turns, looks back at the beach house. The lights in the windows go off.

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATE THAT NIGHT

Duncan enters from outside. The kitchen is lit only by the dim light above the oven.

TRENT (C.S.)

Your mom was worried about you.

Duncan didn't even notice that Trent was in the kitchen, making a sandwich. Trent doesn't look up.

TRENT (CONT'D)

So, congratulations. You got what you wanted.

Duncan looks straight to the ground, trying to just pass through. Trent slams his fist down on the counter.

TRENT (CONT'D)

Hey!

Duncan stops at the entrance to the hallway, but doesn't turn back.

TRENT (CONT'D)

I'm not interested in being your father. I already did this with Steph. I'm not looking to do it again.

Trent goes back to his sandwich. Duncan continues down the hallway.

CUT TO:

INT. WATERPARK - THE NEXT DAY

Duncan is back on the edge of the lounge chair, still sporting the jeans and T-shirt look.

OWEN (O.S.)

I'm afraid I'm going to have to ask you to leave.

Duncan looks back over his shoulder.

DUNCAN

What?

OWEN

Yeah, you're going to have to take off. I'm getting complaints. You're having too much fun. It's making everyone uncomfortable.

Duncan smiles. Owen sits next to him.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Seriously. They're all coming up to me and complaining, "Who is this guy, Owen? I can't compete with that. I can't party like him."

DUNCAN

(rolling his eyes)

Yeah, I'm pretty awesome.

OWEN

Jesus, and you're modest, too? Fuck.

(MORE)

OWEN (CONT'D)

You've got to throw me a bone here, man. Dial down the good times.

Duncan still just smiles. He doesn't know what else to do.

OWEN (CONT'D)

There you go. Thank you. Much better. Now, you seem approachable.

Owen gets up.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Okay, how about a walking tour? Meet some of your fans.

DUNCAN

Oh, no. I don't think so.

OWEN

Come on, you owe it to them. They put you up on this pedestal. We need to show them that you're just like us.

DUNCAN

But,...

OWEN

First things first. As much as I love those Wranglers, let's get you a swimsuit.

Duncan gets up, reluctantly.

CUT TO:

INT. WATERPARK - RENTAL BOOTH

Owen and Duncan approach. SEMI (30s) is working behind the counter. An odd, nebbish fellow, who always wears a knit cap way back on his head.

OWEN

Semi, hook up my man, Duncan, here with one of our finest rentals.

Semi pulls out a pair of ragged-looking swim trunks from below the counter.

SEMI

These don't have any mesh to hold in your junk, so be careful if you sit down.

DUNCAN

People have already worn these?

OWEN

If you're lucky, someone famous...or, at least, someone who didn't have crabs.

SEMI

(to Owen)

By the way, some kid threw up over near Crazy Tubes.

OWEN

Come on, Semi, let's try not to impress Duncan all at once.

CUT TO:

INT. WATERPARK

Owen is showing Duncan around. Duncan is now wearing the ill-fitting swim suit. It's clearly too big.

Over the PA system, we hear "Panama" by Van Halen, as we begin a "tour of the park" a la the long, continuous shot in "Goodfellas."

OWEN

Wet 'N Wild Waterpark. It was built in the summer of '79. That's four whole years of history within these walls, Duncan. I know. Impressive. Now, you may ask, why a waterpark when the ocean is eight blocks away? Well, that's simple.

Owen stands silent for a long beat, then...

OWEN (CONT'D)

Now, over here is the wading pool.

Caitlin approaches, carrying a deflated raft.

CAITLIN

Owen, we've got problems. Those break dancers have set up their cardboard again by the Snack Shack, and we're running out of rafts and inner tubes. Somehow they're getting holes in them. Oh, and some kid threw up near Crazy Tubes.

OWEN

I'm on it.

(then)

Caitlin, you remember your
boyfriend, Duncan, right?

CAITLIN

Shut up, jerk!

(then, to Duncan)

Hey.

Caitlin crosses off in a huff.

OWEN

Clearly, your relationship with her
is all sex. Nice.

Duncan smiles. They walk past four SUNBATHING GIRLS. All 80's
hair, putting on baby oil for sunscreen.

GIRLS

Hiiiiiiii, Owen.

OWEN

When you're of age, ladies, when
you're of age.

GIRL #1

Well, why don't you add up a couple
of our ages, and see what that does
for you?

GIRL #2

Or to you!

They all giggle.

OWEN

(to Duncan)

And they're considered the good
girls around here.

GUY'S VOICE (O.S.)

Yo, Owen!

We see that the voice belongs to some cheeseball, sitting in
the wading pool. This is ACE (30s). Very cocky. He's
surrounded by a small group of women, clearly in their late
50s. With the deepest of tans and tightest of swim trunks,
Ace slowly lifts himself out of the pool, giving the ladies
the show they obviously want from his backside.

OWEN

Ace is our resident player. Loves him some cougars.

(then, off Duncan's look)

Older women looking to fuck.

(then)

Wait, your parents let you say and hear the word "fuck," right?

DUNCAN

Yeah.

OWEN

Fuck yeah.

Ace catches up to Owen.

OWEN (CONT'D)

So, I see you're going after Ms. Tomkins, huh?

ACE

Man, I've been working that for two days now. If I don't get some return on my investment soon, I'm gonna have to bail on that project. And by "return", I mean sex. And by "investment", I mean pretending I'm interested in her.

OWEN

I think I might be able to help you out.

(then, calling off)

Sammy, come here!

A teenager, SAMMY, runs over.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Sammy, my man, Ace here is trying to get in your mom's pants. Any suggestions?

Owen and Duncan continue on, leaving Ace with an obviously pissed Sammy.

ACE

Fuck you, too, Owen.

(then, to Sammy)

Oh, don't act like you don't know what your mom does.

Sammy kicks him in the shin. He goes down.

ACE (CONT'D)
(off kick)
Really?!

Owen and Duncan approach the maintenance shed. Three boys, KYLE, NEIL, and JASON, run up to them. These are the nerds of the waterpark, although they don't see themselves as that.
(NOTE: They are all white.)

KYLE
Owen, settle a debate for us.

OWEN
Hello, boys. Duncan, this is Monroe, Ismael, and Ming Lee.

KYLE
Those aren't our names, Owen!

OWEN
Those are the names I'm giving you, Monroe.
(to Duncan)
These are my illegitimate sons. All different mothers, but I want to make sure I'm a positive influence in their lives.

JASON
Shut up, you prick!

OWEN
Ismael, is that any way to speak to your father!

KYLE
You're not our dad!

OWEN
They grow up so fast.

JASON
Listen, Owen, Neil says that years ago some kid figured out how to pass someone on the water slide. Is that true?

NEIL
He did!

KYLE

It's physically impossible, Neil!
You can't catch up to someone and
pass them!

OWEN

Actually, Ming Lee's right. I was
here when it happened.

JASON

Then how'd he do it.

OWEN

It happened inside the tube. So, no
one knows. Only the kid.

KYLE

(not believing) Oh, really?

OWEN

Yes. And watch your tone with me,
Monroe.

KYLE

Then what happened to the kid?

OWEN

Well, last I heard, he went into a
deep depression. The fame was too
much for him. He turned to cocaine
to escape the limelight.
Eventually, breaking down and
becoming a male prostitute.
(then, pointing)
Oh, no. Wait. There he is over
there.

The guys spot him and run off.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Man, my sons are nerds.

Owen and Duncan enter the maintenance shed.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Barry, I need you to clean up some
vomit near Crazy Tubes...

Just then, Owen and Duncan see BARRY, the maintenance guy. He
has a mullet and often wears a "lifting belt." Currently, he
is laying on top of an inner tube with his pants down. He is
clearly "doing" the tubes.

BARRY

Hey, Owen.

Owen seems un-fazed. Duncan, on the other hand, doesn't know where to look.

OWEN

Oh, and another thing. I'm gonna need you to stop fucking the rafts. You're putting a lot of holes in them.

BARRY

Sorry.

There's a long, awkward beat.

BARRY (CONT'D)

(sheepishly)

You mind if I finish?

OWEN

Fuck on, my friend.

(then, to Duncan)

Oh, look at me being rude. Do you want to stay for this?

DUNCAN

No thanks.

Owen and Duncan exit the maintenance shed. Kyle, Neil, and Jason run up again.

KYLE

That wasn't the kid, Owen!

JASON

He didn't know what we were talking about.

DAVE

Actually, guys. Barry's got some insight on the subject. You should ask him.

As Owen crosses off, the guys enter the shed. A beat later, WE HEAR screams from the shed, followed by the guys running out. Owen and Duncan continue on, making their way through the long line for the water parks most famous slide...

DEVIL'S PEAK. The "macdaddy" of waterslides. Giant, imposing. From the massive line, we can tell that this is the most popular ride.

OWEN

Excuse us, kids. We've got a gold member here.

KIDS

Ah, come on, Owen!/No fair!/You can't jump in line!

OWEN

Hey, you donate a bunch of cash and you'll get these privileges, too.

A RICH KID leans over the railing, yelling down to the wading pool.

RICH KID

Hey, mom! Make me a gold member!

The kids continue to protest as Owen and Duncan make their way to the top.

OWEN

Excuse us, Make-A-Wish kid coming through. His dying wish is to slide one last time. I know. I'd ask to get laid. But, apparently, he has low aspirations.

(then, to other kids)

Pardon us, Gary Coleman coming through.

KIDS

Where, where?!

OWEN

(to Duncan)

Prove it to them.

DUNCAN

(awkwardly)

What are you talking about, Willis?

OWEN

There you go.

KIDS

Bullshit!/That's not Gary Coleman!

OWEN

Ever heard that the camera adds ten pounds? It adds blackness, too.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN KID

Hey!

OWEN

Don't kill the messenger. Blame technology.

They finally make it to the top. A lifeguard, RODDY (HOT ROD) is sitting at the mouth of the slide. He has the daunting task today of pacing the people as they go down the slide.

RODDY

(dry, bored)

Alright, go.

A boy goes down the slide. Another boy steps up.

OWEN

What's up, Hot Rod?

RODDY

Awesome times.

(then, to next kid)

Hold on. Alright, go.

The boy goes down the slide. Another boy steps up.

OWEN

Can I get a special "ride with perks" for my man, Duncan, here?

RODDY

Yeah, hold on.

(then, to boy)

Alright go.

Just then, A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN steps up. RODDY just stares at her butt for way too long.

RODDY (CONT'D)

Hold on. Hold. Hold. Alright, go.

(then, to Owen)

Okay, Duncan, you're up, go!

DUNCAN

But, she just...

OWEN

Go, man, go!

Owen pushes Duncan down the slide. Owen follows right behind him.

RODDY (O.S.)
(yelling down tube)
I want to get high tonight!

We travel down the tube with Duncan. Owen catches up to him, sending them both bumping into the beautiful woman.

BEAUTIFUL WOMAN
Hey!

She looks back.

BEAUTIFUL WOMAN (CONT'D)
Damn you, Owen! I know what you're doing!

Suddenly, all three come shooting out the end. Duncan is sandwiched between the two. Owen, acting clumsy, pretends to be all tangled with the beautiful woman, groping her.

OWEN
Oh, excuse me. I'm sorry. Let me just...I can't seem to get my footing.

By now, the beautiful woman can't help but smile. It's the power of Owen.

BEAUTIFUL WOMAN
(laughing)
Owen, you pervert! We're in shallow water!

OWEN
It's not me! It's the punk kid. He's like an octopus!

DUNCAN
(laughing)
I'm not doing anything!

OWEN
The hell you are! Shame on you!

Just then, a pair of ratty, old swim trunks pop up to the surface of the water.

OWEN (CONT'D)
Uh, Duncan? Did you lose something?

Duncan realizes his swimsuit came off. He grabs them and puts them on.

OWEN (CONT'D)
(smiling)
Too far, Duncan. You took it to
far.

Duncan is beet red.

OWEN (CONT'D)
(to beautiful woman)
My apologies.

The beautiful woman swats him, playfully.

BEAUTIFUL WOMAN
You dork.

OWEN
Can Duncan get your number?

Duncan dunks his head under the water, embarrassed. END of
"Goodfellas" shot.

CUT TO:

EXT. WATERPARK - EARLY EVENING

Duncan unlocks his bike. Owen pulls up in his convertible.

OWEN
It's late. You want a ride.

DUNCAN
No, thanks. I've got my bike.

OWEN
Where are you staying?

DUNCAN
Over by the beach, on Hampton.

OWEN
That's far. Throw your bike in the
back.

DUNCAN
Oh, no. You don't have to...

OWEN
Come on.

DUNCAN
Yeah?

OWEN

Yes.

DUNCAN

No, it's too much trouble....

OWEN

Jesus, Duncan, we've got to start having faster conversations. Put it in the back.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

OWEN

So, not many kids come to the waterpark when they've got the beach right outside their door.

DUNCAN

There's not much for me there.

Duncan leans his head back, closes his eyes, feeling the sun and wind.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH HOUSE

Duncan is getting his bike out of the back. In the background, it is obvious that Betty Thompson's Fourth of July Calm Bake is in full swing. People are still arriving, carrying lawn chairs and plates of food around to the back. Her house is covered with decorations, to the point of being garish.

DUNCAN

Thanks for the ride, Owen.

OWEN

No problem.

Duncan walks the bike up the driveway.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Hey, I was thinking.

Duncan turns.

OWEN (CONT'D)

I could use someone to be a floater
at the park. Do odd jobs. You
interested.

Duncan's face lights up.

DUNCAN

(too much)
Definitely. Awesome. Yeah.
(then, collecting himself)
No, totally. If you need me, sure.
I mean,...

OWEN

Duncan.

DUNCAN

Yes.

OWEN

There you go. Tomorrow. 8am.
(then)
Always say what you want, my man.
No one knows but you.

The convertible screeches away.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH HOUSE

Duncan runs up the stairs, excited, just as Pam exits.

PAM

Who was that with you?

DUNCAN

Just a friend.

PAM

A friend who drives?

DUNCAN

Mom.

Duncan runs past her.

PAM

I want you to make an appearance at
the Thompson's.

DUNCAN

I will.

He starts in the door.

PAM

I'm serious about coming by the party.

DUNCAN (O.S.)

Okay.

CUT TO:

EXT. BETTY THOMPSON'S HOUSE - LATER - EARLY EVENING

Everyone is gathered by the dunes. Late 70's tune blares. Some drunk people are dancing. Betty, Pam, Trent, Kip, and Joan are among those gathered around the fire, laughing. Dancing dangerously close the fire, lost in his own world, is CHARLIE (20s), a very strung out looking hippie. Duncan approaches, sitting on one of the bar stools behind them.

BETTY

I think my first hint was catching Bob blowing our gardener. The second would be our pool boy. And the third would be Peter's principal.

Everyone gasps with laughter.

BETTY (CONT'D)

(nodding her head)

P.T.A. meeting.

(then)

Hey. I didn't want anything to do with his small, crooked penis, so I was like, the more the merrier. The way I saw it, each blowjob was just more alimony in my pocket.

They all laugh.

BETTY (CONT'D)

(getting up)

Okay, okay. Who wants another drink?

All the adults chime in.

BETTY (CONT'D)
Charlie, don't do your dead dance
so close to the fire!
(then, noticing)
Oh, hey, Duncan.

Pam looks back.

PAM
I didn't know you were there,
sweetie.

She reaches out for Duncan's hand. He complies and she pulls
him closer.

BETTY
Duncan, you should hang out with
Peter. He's playing under one of
these tables.
(then, calling off)
Peter!

PETER (O.S.)
What?!

Peter's voice, in fact, comes from under one of the table-
clothed folding tables. Betty points in the direction.

BETTY
Yeah, that one.

PAM
Do you want me to make you a plate
of food?

DUNCAN
No, I can do it.

BETTY
Be sure to get some clams.
(to group)
Those are all my doing this year.

PAM
Well, bring it over and eat with
me, okay?

Duncan catches Trent shooting him a glare. Beat.

DUNCAN
(deliberately)
Yeah, okay. I'll come hang out with
you all.

CUT TO:

EXT. BETTY THOMPSON'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Duncan approaches the folding table, starts to make a plate.

DUNCAN
What's up, Peter?

PETER (O.S.)
Hey, man.

DUNCAN
How's the battle going?

PETER (O.S.)
Luke and Leia are hooking up.

DUNCAN
You know, they're brother and
sister, right?

PETER (O.S.)
Yeah.

DUNCAN
Cool.

GIRL'S VOICE (O.S.)
I'd avoid the clams, if I were you.

Duncan turns around. It's Susanna.

SUSANNA
They're one of the many casualties
of my father's absence.

Duncan gives an awkward smile. Uncomfortable.

SUSANNA (CONT'D)
That was supposed to be a joke.
See, the clam bake was my dad's
thing, so...

DUNCAN
No, I know.

SUSANNA
Oh.

DUNCAN
No. Not, that I knew it was a joke.
I did. I meant,...

SUSANNA
It's fine.

DUNCAN
No, I know that your dad used to
make the clams.

SUSANNA
Yes, I know. I was saying "it's
fine" because...

They both seem exhausted by this conversation. Awkward beat.
Duncan finishes loading up his plate with food.

DUNCAN
I should get over to the fire. Said
I'd eat with my mom.

We hear CHEERING off screen. Duncan and Susanna look over by
the fire. Charlie is clearly enticing the adults with a large
bag of pot.

SUSANNA
Looks like my brother just made
another sale.

Duncan watches as Trent, Kip, Joan, and Pam walk off with
Charlie. His lips tighten, angry. He watches in contempt.
Susanna can't help but notice.

SUSANNA (CONT'D)
Peter, do you want to go chase
ghost crabs?

PETER (O.S.)
Yes!

Peter comes out from under table.

SUSANNA
Duncan? Any interest?

Duncan barely snaps out of it.

DUNCAN
Huh?

SUSANNA
Want to do something really lame?

PETER
It's not lame!

Duncan takes a beat.

DUNCAN
Yeah.

He dumps his whole plate of food into the garbage can.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH

Susanna and Duncan are walking. Susanna keeps looking over at Duncan, checking in. He seems lost in thought. In the distance, Peter, carrying a flashlight, is looking for and chasing ghost crabs.

SUSANNA
When I was younger, my dad used to bring me down here to do this all the time. He'd fill my head with all these useless facts about ghost crabs. Like, did you know that they're omnivorous? Basically, they feed on both animals and vegetables.
(then)
My mom jokes, "Leave it to your dad to be interested in a creature that goes both ways."

Duncan can't help but smile. Beat.

SUSANNA (CONT'D)
So, do you want me to keep talking, or are you going to say something eventually?

DUNCAN
Sorry. I'm just pissed at my mom.

SUSANNA
Why? Because she's smoking pot?

DUNCAN

Shit, I'd be mad at her every day
if that was the reason. No,
it's...It's complicated.

SUSANNA

It usually is when our parents act
younger than us.

They smile, connect.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH - DUNES

Duncan and Susanna sit at the top, watching the fireworks
explode over the ocean. Peter runs by them, chasing a crab.

PETER

Susanna, look! The crab grabbed the
light saber! He's got Luke's light
saber!

SUSANNA

That's awesome, Petey.

PETER

This is the battle of all battles!

SUSANNA

(to Duncan)

How are you the same age as him?

They smile. Beat.

SUSANNA (CONT'D)

So, where have you been going these
past few days?

DUNCAN

What?

SUSANNA

On your pink cruiser? Where do you
disappear to?

DUNCAN

Nowhere.

Susanna smirks.

SUSANNA
Fine. Don't tell me.

DUNCAN
No, I...

SUSANNA
It's okay. Let it be yours.

She smiles. They look out onto the ocean. Lit only by the moonlight, Peter runs by chasing a crab.

CUT TO:

EXT. BETTY THOMPSON'S HOUSE - LATER THAT NIGHT

Duncan and Susanna return from the beach. They see Pam, Betty, and a group of women, still sitting around the fire. They are all clearly high, drunk, all of it.

SUSANNA
I'm going to sneak up the back way,
so I don't have to deal with that.

DUNCAN
Lucky.

SUSANNA
Good night.

DUNCAN
Yeah, good night.

Duncan watches Susanna head up the stairs. Suddenly, he hears LAUGHING from the side of the house. He goes to investigate. He peeks around the side. He sees Trent and Joan clearly flirting. She's leaning against Trent's body, as he appears to be whispering in her ear. Joan slides her hand down over Trent's crotch. Suddenly, Trent looks over in Duncan's direction. Duncan whips around, slamming his back against the wall. Trent takes a beat, then just goes back to flirting.

EXT. BETTY THOMPSON'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Duncan hurries past the women at the fire.

PAM
Hey, sweetie, have you seen Trent?

DUNCAN
No.

He's gone.

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE - DUNCAN'S BEDROOM - THAT NIGHT

Duncan lies in bed, awake. He hears the SQUEAKING of the floor. Through his ajar bedroom door, he sees Trent tip-toeing down the hall. He looks at his bedside table.

CLOSE ON ALARM CLOCK. It reads 4:35 AM.

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE - KITCHEN - THE NEXT MORNING

Duncan watches from the hallway, as Pam is making breakfast. Something seems off. She seems unfocused, searching for ingredients, as if she doesn't know what to do first. Suddenly, she turns toward the hallway, seeing Duncan. She screams.

PAM

Jesus, Duncan! You scared the shit out of me!

DUNCAN

Sorry.

Pam goes back to making breakfast.

PAM

If you want breakfast, speak up now because I don't want to be stuck in here all morning.

DUNCAN

You don't have to make me anything. I'll just get cereal.

Pam takes a deep breath.

PAM

Fine. Then, I'll just put all this stuff back.

Pam starts to put away everything she had been pulling out.

DUNCAN

Mom...

PAM

What?!

Pam looks right at Duncan. They hold the stare.

DUNCAN

I, uh...

Just then, Trent enters.

TRENT

Good morning.

Pam turns around instantly, putting her back to the guys. She starts to feverishly wash dishes in the sink. Duncan notices this. Trent pours himself some orange juice.

PAM

You got in late.

TRENT

Hmm? Yeah, me and Kip kept it going.

PAM

And I heard you take a shower?

TRENT

Yeah, I was nasty. All that sand and bug spray.

Trent saddles up behind Pam, hugging her from behind.

TRENT (CONT'D)

Should I have woken you? Did you want to join me?

He smiles at his own cleverness. He goes to kiss her neck. She seems to pull away. Trent tries a second approach.

TRENT (CONT'D)

Oh, now, come on. It's summertime.

He hugs her, resting his head in the curve of her neck. Pam's body relaxes. She turns into him, and kisses him passionately, almost desperately. Duncan, disgusted, leaves out the front door.

CUT TO:

INT. WATERPARK

Duncan enters. Owen, standing at the rental booth, sees him.

OWEN

You're late, Duncan!

DUNCAN

Sorry.

OWEN

Are you planning on making this a habit? If so, we're done here!

Duncan looks like a deer in headlights.

OWEN (CONT'D)

And that's what you would be hearing me say if I actually gave a shit.

Owen throws him a blue shirt.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Get suited up. I'm going to throw you right into the fire. You up for it?

DUNCAN

Definitely.

CUT TO:

INT. WATERPARK - RENTAL BOOTH

Duncan is sitting behind the counter with Semi. There's activity everywhere in the park, but here. They sit in silence, looking around, until...

DUNCAN

Is there something we should be doing?

SEMI

No. Not really.

Beat.

DUNCAN

I could organize the suits.

SEMI
Into what?

DUNCAN
Sizes?

SEMI
It won't matter.

DUNCAN
Oh.

SEMI
Not many people rent suits. My theory is that when people are heading out to the waterpark, that's pretty much the first thing they're gonna grab.

DUNCAN
Then, why have this booth?

SEMI
To give me something to do.

Just then, Owen passes by.

OWEN
How's our man doing, Semi?

SEMI
He's getting the hang of it.

OWEN
I knew he was a fast learner.

DUNCAN
Uh, Owen, could I ask you something?

Duncan jumps over the counter, catching up to Owen.

OWEN
What's up? Is Semi riding you too hard? Because, if he is, I'll punch him in the face for you.

DUNCAN
Uh, what? No, it's...

OWEN
You sure?

DUNCAN

Yeah.

OWEN

Cause I'll do it even if he isn't.
Just to do it.

DUNCAN

No, I was just wondering...

OWEN

I feel like you want me to punch
him in the face.

DUNCAN

I was wondering if you need
something else done around here?

OWEN

Oh. That's it. You're not happy
with your job.

DUNCAN

No,...

OWEN

Yeah, you are.

DUNCAN

I'll do it...if that's what you
need me to do.

OWEN

But, you hate it.

DUNCAN

I don't hate it.

OWEN

But, you hate Semi.

DUNCAN

No!

OWEN

You're right. He's got to go.

DUNCAN

What?!

OWEN

Hey, Semi...

Owen goes over to booth. Duncan chases after him.

DUNCAN
Owen,....!

OWEN
Semi, you're fired.

SEMI
Ah, man. Again?

OWEN
Alright, you make a good argument.
I'll give you one more chance.

SEMI
Awesome.

OWEN
(to Duncan)
What am I going to do? He talks a
good game.

Just then, Caitlin approaches.

CAITLIN
Owen, the break dancers are back.

OWEN
Don't tell me,...

He points to Duncan.

OWEN (CONT'D)
...tell him.

CAITLIN
Why?

OWEN
Duncan just said that he could run
this place.

Caitlin shoots Duncan a look.

DUNCAN
(laughing)
Owen, I did not!
(to Caitlin)
I didn't say that.

Duncan is actually enjoying the attention.

OWEN

Then, he told me to "kiss his
grits," which, to be honest Duncan,
seems a little dated.

CAITLIN

Well, someone needs to take away
their cardboard. They've been
warned enough.

OWEN

Duncan's your man.

Owen winks at Duncan, who looks over at the Snack Shack. A
large group of BREAK DANCERS are circled around one of their
own, watching him dance.

DUNCAN

Oh, I don't think...

OWEN

You got this.

Duncan takes a deep breath and starts walking over. As he
does, the sound of "AXEL F." blaring from the breakdancers'
boom box gets louder and louder. Duncan stops, looks back at
Owen, who waves him on. As Duncan gets closer, it really does
look like a scene out of "Ereakin'." An intimidating group.

DUNCAN

Excuse me.

No one hears him over the music. They are lost in their dance
circle.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

Hey, uh, guys.

Nothing. Duncan looks back at Owen, who gestures for him to
turn off their boom box. Duncan pauses, then...

CLOSE ON Duncan's hand pushing "Stop" on the tape deck.

BREAKDANCERS

Hey!/What the fuck?!

They all turn and look right at Duncan. Dead silence.

DUNCAN

I'm gonna...need to take your
cardboard.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

Whoa, whoa.

From the back of the group, the LEADER comes forward.

LEADER

What now?

DUNCAN

Um,...you've been...warned?

Duncan looks back at Owen, who is clearly enjoying this. He gives Duncan a "thumbs up" and then gestures for him to literally "pull the rug out from under them" or, in this case, the cardboard. Duncan turns back and the leader is now right in front of him. Duncan's eyes come right up to his chest.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

Excuse me.

The leader takes a moment, but eventually steps to the side.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

Excuse me. I just need to get the...

Duncan continues to work his way through the crowd, "excusing" himself the whole way. He reaches down and grabs the edge of the cardboard, just as a Vans-clad foot SLAMS down onto it. Duncan looks up.

CLOSE ON Leader's face.

LEADER

Let's see what you got.

DUNCAN

I'm sorry?

OWEN (O.S.)

Make him dance!

Duncan looks over at Owen, who is laughing hysterically. Duncan smiles, he now knows what's going on.

LEADER

(now smiling)

Show us you moves.

Duncan stands.

DUNCAN

Oh, no. I don't...

Suddenly, a BEAUTIFUL BREAKDANCER turns the boom box back on. "AXEL F" blares. She grabs Duncan's hand, leading him to the center of the cardboard.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

I can't dance.

BEAUTIFUL BREAKDANCER

Just mirror me.

The beautiful breakdancer does a move, some "Pop 'n Lock" thing, then throws it to Duncan. He tries to replicate it. Terrible. But, the crowd CHEERS, anyway. People from neighboring areas, including Owen, start to congregate around the circle. The beautiful breakdancer continues to do moves for Duncan to mirror and he continues to butcher them. But, you can't tell by the reaction of the crowd.

LEADER

Spin on your head!

Duncan looks over with a "Are you fucking kidding?!" look. Just then, a group of breakdancers pick him up and flip him over. Duncan is now in a headstand. The guys start manually spinning Duncan by his legs, faster and faster. The crowd goes crazy.

CLOSE ON Duncan's face. He is beaming.

DUNCAN'S POV as he spins around and around. A blur of legs in parachute pants, and bright, neon colors.

Suddenly, the guys let go. Duncan actually spins on his own for a moment. Then, crashes to the ground. Legs, arms everywhere.

LEADER (CONT'D)

Stick it! Stick the landing!

Duncan doesn't know what this means.

LEADER (CONT'D)

Pose!

Awkwardly, Duncan puts himself in a break-dancing "finished" pose. He gives a little "cool" attitude to go with it. The crowd goes crazy, as Owen breaks through.

OWEN
(to leader)
Thanks, man.

LEADER
No problem.

OWEN
But, seriously, get rid of the
cardboard. You've been warned.

Owen pulls Duncan to his feet.

OWEN (CONT'D)
Duncan Ramsey, ladies and
gentlemen!

Everyone claps and cheers.

OWEN (CONT'D)
Next show in five minutes!

Owen holds up Duncan's arm above his head in victory.

CLOSE ON DUNCAN'S FACE, having the time of his life.

START MONTAGE: "Some quintessential 80's tune"

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET/BEACH HOUSE - DUSK

Duncan rides his bike down the street. He can't stop smiling. He pulls up the driveway, barely stopping to hop off of it. He's too excited. He starts to run up the stairs, then realizes...he's still wearing the blue shirt. He pulls his other shirt out of his bag, changes.

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE - KITCHEN

Duncan enters, makes a bee-line for his bedroom. Pam and Trent are there.

PAM
Hey. What have you been doing?

DUNCAN
Nothing.

PAM

That's a long time to just be doing nothing.

DUNCAN

Well, that's what it was.

He's gone.

INT. WATERPARK

Caitlin is leading Duncan through the park, reading off the day's tasks from her clipboard. Duncan struggles to keep up with her. His attention is on the patrons they are passing. He can't help but notice them looking at him, whispering. Even teen girls. He's famous. He can't help but have a strut to his step.

CUT TO:

INT. WATERPARK - SNACK SHACK - THE NEXT DAY

Duncan is working behind the counter. The four SUNBATHING GIRLS from earlier are sitting at the counter, eating and drinking Tabs.

SUNBATHER #1

So, I've got some big news.

SUNBATHER #2

Oh my God. What?

SUNBATHER #1

I'm totally taking my relationship with Mark to the next level.

SUNBATHER #3

No!

SUNBATHER #1

Yeah, I'm gonna suck his dick.

They all scream, excited. Duncan spills a box of straws. He awkwardly tries to clean them up.

SUNBATHER #1 (CONT'D)

Hey, I love him.

SUNBATHER #2

Good for you.

SUNBATHER #1
And sucking his dick is really
important to him, so...
(then)
Hey, Pop 'N Lock.

Duncan is pretending to be busy with the straws.

SUNBATHER #1 (CONT'D)
New kid.

She taps an empty Tab can against the counter. Duncan finally looks up.

SUNBATHER #1 (CONT'D)
Yeah, you. Could I get another Tab?

Duncan goes to the cooler.

SUNBATHER #2
Nice moves yesterday.

SUNBATHER #1
Yeah, pretty cool, Pop 'N Lock.

The girls smile. Duncan reciprocates.

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE - KITCHEN - THAT NIGHT

Trent, Pam, Steph and Duncan are finishing up dinner. Duncan is rushing the last few bites of his food, then drops the fork on the plate.

DUNCAN
Thanks for dinner. It was great.

Duncan gets up.

PAM
We were thinking about playing a
board game.

DUNCAN
Nah, I'm sort of beat. 'Night.

He's gone.

CUT TO:

INT. WATERPARK - WADING POOL - THE NEXT DAY

Duncan is cleaning out the filter. Ace is in the pool, working his magic on one of his "cougars." A SMALL BOY is wading through the shallow end, eyes closed, playing "Marco Polo" with his MOTHER (the cougar), who is not even paying attention to him. She's busy making out with Ace.

SMALL BOY

Marco.

Beat.

SMALL BOY (CONT'D)

Marco.

Beat.

SMALL BOY (CONT'D)

Mom! Marco!

The mother comes up for air.

MOTHER

Polo, sweetie.

She and Ace go back at it.

SMALL BOY

Marco.

CUT TO:

INT. WATERPARK

Duncan is standing at the base of one of the slides. He is holding a stopwatch. Suddenly, Kyle, Neil, and Jason come shooting out one after the other.

DUNCAN

Twenty-eight seconds.

KYLE

See, I told you! There's not enough time to pass!

NEIL

Yes, there is, Kyle! You're being a jerk!

KYLE
You're the jerk!

They climb out of the pool.

JASON
Nice comeback.

KYLE
Fuck you, Ming Lee!

JASON
I'm Ismael, faggot!

CUT TO:

INT. WATERPARK - MAINTENANCE SHED

Duncan and Barry sit on the floor, patching floats.

BARRY
Hey, do you know why I always wear
this lifting belt?

DUNCAN
No.

BARRY
Because I never know when I'm going
to be lifting some lady weight.

Barry laughs.

BARRY (CONT'D)
You know what I mean by that?

DUNCAN
Yeah, I get it.

BARRY
(laughing)
Yeah, you do.

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE - KITCHEN - THE NEXT MORNING

Pam and Trent are making breakfast. Steph is slathering on
baby oil at the counter. Duncan tears through, again.

DUNCAN
See you later.

PAM
Wait, don't you want any...?

The door SLAMS. He's gone.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - THE NEXT MORNING

Duncan runs down the stairs.

PAM (O.S.)
(yelling)
You're acting weird, young man, and
I don't like it!

CLOSE ON DUNCAN, smiling.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. WATERPARK - TOP OF DEVIL'S PEAK - LATER

CLOSE ON DUNCAN STILL SMILING, now wearing Vaurnets.

We pull back to see that Duncan is running the line, with
plenty of "cool" attitude to spare.

DUNCAN
Alright, go.

Another kid steps up.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)
Hold on.
(beat)
Alright, go.

A BEAUTIFUL TEEN steps up next.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)
Hold on.

Duncan stares straight at her butt.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)
Hold.
(beat)
Hold.

Suddenly, we hear the CLEARING OF A THROAT. Duncan looks up. It's clearly the beautiful teen's MOTHER.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)
Alright, go.

Duncan smiles to the mother, sheepishly. She pats him on the head, smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. WATERPARK - RENTAL BOOTH

The whole staff is gathered. Owen is passing out paychecks.

OWEN
Caitlin.

He hands Caitlin her check.

OWEN (CONT'D)
Semi.

Owen reaches over the back of him to Semi.

OWEN (CONT'D)
Pop 'N Lock!

Duncan works his way through the crowd as they laugh, cheering "Pop 'N Lock." Duncan, himself, is all smiles.

END OF MONTAGE.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - THE NEXT DAY

Duncan heads down the driveway, bike in tow.

SUSANNA (O.S.)
I can talk on the phone with Dad
whenever I want!

He looks back at Betty Thompson's house. Through the blinds, we see DUNCAN'S POV of Susanna and Betty.

BETTY (O.S.)
This is my time with you!

SUSANNA (O.S.)
Only because you wouldn't let him
come!

BETTY (O.S.)
Don't you walk away from me, young
lady!

Duncan considers, then...

CUT TO:

EXT. BETTY THOMPSON'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Duncan KNOCKS. Susanna answers.

CUT TO:

INT. WATERPARK

Susanna takes the place in, as Duncan sets her bag on a
lounge chair.

SUSANNA
So, this is your secret?

DUNCAN
(proud)
Yep.

Two TEEN GIRLS pass by.

TEEN GIRL
(flirty)
Hey, Pop 'N Lock.

They giggle and run off. Susanna smirks at Duncan.

DUNCAN
Don't worry about it.
(then)
So, I have to work. Will you be
cool just chilling out here?

SUSANNA
Yeah.

DUNCAN
I mean, obviously, you can explore
the park.

SUSANNA

I know.

DUNCAN

Feel free to roam.

SUSANNA

(smiling)

Thank you.

DUNCAN

And if you need me, just ask
someone wearing a blue shirt and
they'll call me over the PA.

SUSANNA

Got it.

DUNCAN

Cool.

He starts to leave, but then doubles back.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

Oh, and you have to go down Devil's
Peak. At least once. It's awesome.
I mean, if you want to. No
pressure. But, avoid Crazy Tubes. A
lot of kids seem to hit that area
after a full meal. Oh, and if you
want anything at the Snack Shack,
just put it on my employee tab...

SUSANNA

Duncan, I'll be fine.

DUNCAN

Okay.

Duncan starts to walk away. Turns.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

I'll check in on you.

SUSANNA

(laughing)

Go!

CUT TO:

INT. WATERPARK - SNACK SHACK - CONTINUOUS

Duncan approaches Owen and Roddy.

OWEN

Who's your friend?

DUNCAN

Susanna.

RODDY

You making the moves on that or what?

DUNCAN

("aw shucks")

No.

RODDY

But, you're going to, right?

DUNCAN

I don't know.

RODDY

Yeah, you are.

DUNCAN

She's older than me.

OWEN

So?

DUNCAN

So, I don't know.

Duncan can't help but stare at the ground, embarrassed.
Amused, Owen nudges Roddy.

OWEN

Yeah, you'll be making a move on her.

DUNCAN

(muffling)

Maybe.

OWEN

(excited)

Wait, what?!

DUNCAN
Nothing.

OWEN
What did you say?!

DUNCAN
(with more confidence)
Yeah, maybe I'll hit that.

OWEN
Whoa! Hit that?!

DUNCAN
I don't know!

RODDY
Yeah, Pop 'N Lock's gonna hit that!

Owen rubs Duncan's head, messing up his hair. Suddenly, a WHISTLE blows. Owen, Roddy, and Duncan all look up at...

The source of the whistle. A LIFEGUARD at the top of Devil's Peak.

LIFEGUARD
Owen! Uh, we've got a situation up here!

CUT TO:

INT. WATERPARK - TOP OF DEVIL'S PEAK

Owen, Roddy, and Duncan look down the tube.

THE THREE GUYS P.O.V - Kyle, Neil, and Jason. They're arms, legs, everything - tangled. Water is rushing all around them.

KYLE
I told you we shouldn't all go at the same time!

NEIL
Screw you, Ismael!

KYLE
I'm Monroe!

JASON
I'm Ismael!

NEIL
It doesn't fucking matter!

OWEN
You guys alright?!

GUYS
Yeah.

OWEN
How'd they go down together?

LIFEGUARD
They rushed me and said it was for
the good of science.

OWEN
Hold on, guys, we're going to get
you out of there as soon as we can!

DUNCAN
I've got an idea.

Duncan runs off.

CUT TO:

INT. WATERPARK - TOP OF DEVIL'S PEAK - MOMENTS LATER

Duncan, Owen, and Roddy are now joined by Barry.

OWEN
Okay, no offense, Barry. But,
you're the fattest employee we have
here.

BARRY
None taken.

OWEN
You probably should get a running
start.
(then into tube)
I'm not going to lie to you guys.
This is probably going to hurt.

NEIL
Why? What's your plan?

Just then, all the guys see is the image of Barry running,
full speed, into the tube.

CLOSE ON boys SCREAMING.

CUT TO:

INT. WATERPARK - BOTTOM OF DEVIL'S PEAK - CONTINUOUS

A mound of flesh shooting out of the tube at an incredible speed. The force of the splash hitting our four sunbathing girls perfectly. They scream.

CUT TO:

INT. WATERPARK

Owen escorts Kyle, Neil, and Jason. Duncan follows.

OWEN

Monroe, Ismael, Ming Lee. Your father was so worried about you.

NEIL

Why didn't you just turn off the water? We could have gotten our footing and untangled.

Owen takes a beat.

OWEN

Let's call that "Plan B."
(then, to Duncan)
Hey, some of us hang out here late night, if you want to come by.

DUNCAN

(a little too excited)
Really?

OWEN

Yeah. But, you didn't hear about it from me, because I don't need your mom on my ass.

Duncan smiles, starts off.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Oh, and Pop.

Duncan looks back.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Nice job.

Duncan smiles.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - DUSK

Duncan and Susanna are walking their bikes up the driveway. Duncan seems almost high, coming down from the day.

DUNCAN

It just came to me. Like, right at the moment. We had to get someone big enough to knock them loose. There was no time to even think about it.

SUSANNA

(smiling)

I know. I was there.

DUNCAN

Sorry. It was just cool.

Duncan puts his bike under his house.

SUSANNA

Thanks for today.

DUNCAN

Sure.

They stand for a long beat, awkward. Duncan knows he should make a move.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

Well,...

SUSANNA

Yeah. Well...

Beat. But, alas...

DUNCAN

(rushed)

'Night.

Duncan starts up the stairs. Susanna smiles.

SUSANNA
(calling off)
Good night, Pop 'n Lock.

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE - KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Duncan enters. Trent, Pam, Kip and Joan are hanging out, laughing. They have clearly had a few. Duncan's demeanor changes immediately.

JOAN
Hey, Duncan!

Duncan doesn't respond. He opens the fridge, pulls out a soda.

TRENT
Joan said "hi" to you, Duncan.

DUNCAN
Hey.

JOAN
I hope you'll come to our party on Friday night. I vowed to get your step-father on the dance floor before you all leave for the summer. Should be quite a sight. Right, Pam?

Pam gives her a strained smile. Duncan tries to make a break for his room.

TRENT
Whoa, Duncan. Come back here.

Duncan just stands in the hallway, out of view. Beat.

TRENT (CONT'D)
I'll say what I have to say when you actually come into the room.

Duncan does, but slowly, on his time.

TRENT (CONT'D)
You want to explain to me why I served our good friends some drinks, and they said they seemed watered down?

KIP
Trent, it's fine.

TRENT
No, you want to help me understand
how water got in the vodka?

DUNCAN
(under his breath)
Why don't you ask your daughter?

TRENT
What was that?!

DUNCAN
Maybe ask Steph, you shithead!

Trent jumps up. Kip stops him.

KIP
Come on, Trent. We've all had a
little too much.

PAM
Duncan, why don't you go to your
room?

Duncan stares for a beat, then starts down the hallway.

DUNCAN
Yeah, way to get in there, mom.

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE - DUNCAN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Duncan enters, slamming the door. He paces for a moment,
breathing heavily. He turns and stares at his bedroom door,
as if preparing for something or someone.

CLOSE ON doorknob, still.

Nothing happens. No one comes. Duncan sits on the edge of the
bed.

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE - LATER THAT NIGHT

Duncan tip-toes down the hallway. He has his shoes in his hands.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH HOUSE

Duncan gets out his bike, careful not to make any noise. Just as he's about to hop on...

BOY'S VOICE (O.S.)
Are you going the waterpark?

Duncan, startled, jumps. He looks beneath the stairs. It's Peter, wearing his eye patch, holding some action figures.

DUNCAN
(whispering)
Jesus, Peter!
(then)
What are you doing up?

PETER
I'm having a night battle.

Duncan shakes his head. Starts down the driveway.

PETER (CONT'D)
Hey. Take me with you.

DUNCAN
What? No.

PETER
You took Susanna.

DUNCAN
So?

PETER
I'll wake up your mom.

DUNCAN
No, you won't.

Suddenly, Peter lets out a guttural scream.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Duncan rides down the main strip, with Peter on his handlebars.

CUT TO:

EXT. WATERPARK

Duncan locks up his bike.

DUNCAN

Now, don't pull out any action figures and if you have to say something, make sure it's not lame.

CUT TO:

INT. WATERPARK

Duncan and Peter approach the small group hanging out on the picnic tables. Among others, Owen, Semi, Barry and the Sunbathers are all there.

OWEN

(seeing them)

Pop 'N Lock!

The group chimes in.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Who's your friend?

DUNCAN

Oh, this is Peter.

OWEN

Nice eye patch.

PETER

Thanks.

OWEN

You don't sound to cool with it.

PETER

My mom makes me wear it.

OWEN

Well, your mom's not here, is she?

Peter smiles. Takes it off.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Wait, she wants you to hide that?
Is she insane? I'd kill to have
those eyes.

PETER

Nah, come on.

OWEN

Seriously. You know how many hits I
could do with those? Daring people
to look me straight in the eyes?
Checking out boobies on completely
different sides of the room? Those
are awesome, Peter. They make you,
you.

Peter is beaming. Just then, Roddy enters with even more
people.

RODDY

We've got libations!

Everyone cheers.

CUT TO:

INT. WATERPARK - LATER THAT NIGHT

The party is in full swing. People are spread out, dancing,
making out on the lounge chairs, splashing around in the
pool. Duncan and Peter are chugging what has to be one too
many beers. Owen pulls the cans away from their mouths.

OWEN

Alright, boys, let's slow down. You
don't have to hit puberty all at
once.

Duncan breaks away.

DUNCAN

Everyone, gather 'round! Pop 'N
Lock's gonna break it down!

Sadly, he does. Contorting and gyrating to the delight of all
those around. Owen laughs, covering his face with his hands.

RODDY

Get in there, Patches!

Roddy pushes Peter into the circle. Peter complies with little resistance. His moves look to be an early predecessor to those of "Rerun" from "What's Happening!"

Everyone claps and cheers.

CUT TO:

INT. WATERPARK - LATER THAT NIGHT

Things are slowing down a little. Some people are now passed out on the lounge chairs. Somehow, Duncan and Peter are going strong. They, along with Owen and others, are rummaging for food in the Snack Shack. Roddy is making out with one of the sunbathers on the counter. Semi sits on a stool.

SEMI

I'm not long for this place.

Owen's heard this a thousand times.

OWEN

We know you aren't, Semi.

SEMI

You know how people run after tornadoes and try to catch them?

OWEN

You mean, storm chasers?

SEMI

Yeah, I'm gonna be one of them.

OWEN

I'd imagine you have to go to school for that.

SEMI

Naw, I'm pretty sure you don't.

(then)

Learn by doing, my man. Always learn by doing.

Roddy comes up for air from his make-out session.

RODDY

Hey! We need to turn it up a notch. Who's got weed? Owen?

OWEN

Nah.

RODDY

Semi?

SEMI

Ah man, I'm out.

BOY'S VOICE (O.S.)

I can get us high.

Everyone turns. It's Peter, eating an ice cream sandwich.

PETER

(off Duncan's look)

How do you think I have such awesome battles?

RODDY

Well, alright, Patches!

Everyone cheers.

CUT TO:

INT. WATERPARK - TOP OF DEVIL'S PEAK - MOMENTS LATER

Duncan and Owen are sitting in the lifeguard chairs. Roddy shoots down the slide. Peter steps up.

PETER

Banzaii!

Peter shoots down the slide. Duncan is taking a huge hit off a joint.

OWEN

Whoa, whoa.

Owen takes the joint. Duncan, practically, coughs up a lung.

OWEN (CONT'D)

I think you've hit this enough.

Duncan laughs. He is gone.

DUNCAN

Who's the fucking three, now?!

Owen doesn't know what to make of this.

OWEN

(laughing)

Alright.

DUNCAN

I ain't no goddamn three, Owen!

Duncan a little more angry than Owen feels comfortable with.

OWEN

Okay, you're not a three.

(then)

Now, I know you're high.

DUNCAN

My step-father asked me on a scale from one to ten, what I thought I was. He said I was a three.

OWEN

Well, it doesn't sound like your step-father knows you.

DUNCAN

No, he doesn't. Never has.

Suddenly, Duncan breaks down in tears. They seem to be a long time coming.

OWEN

Hey. Hey.

Owen puts his arm around Duncan.

DUNCAN

Who says that to somebody? What a fucking prick! I didn't even want to answer! I...I shouldn't have to answer!

Duncan tries to get a control over himself, wiping the tears.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I'm being stupid.

Owen pulls Duncan into him.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

Who tells someone that?! I hate him! I hate....

Duncan lets go, cries.

CUT TO:

INT. WATERPARK - EARLY DAWN

The sun is starting to come up. Peter is passed out on a lounge chair, as is everybody else. Duncan is sitting on top of a picnic table, a beach towel draped over his shoulders. Owen approaches, carrying a cup of coffee. He hands it to Duncan.

DUNCAN

Thanks.

Owen sits next to him. Duncan takes a sip, grimaces.

OWEN

First time drinking coffee?

Duncan shakes his head, "yes."

OWEN (CONT'D)

Ah, the morning after. Still drunk enough to remember it was a good time, but just sober enough to start having regrets.

Duncan stares straight forward. Clearly, he is having some.

OWEN (CONT'D)

You know once, after five shots of tequila, I told a boss that he had an ugly wife. And after some wine in a box, I once told Hot Rod that I loved him...as a friend. And one Christmas, after very strong egg nog, I let my family know that I wanted nothing to do with them.

Duncan looks up at this notion.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Those truths are in us somewhere, my man. And they're bigger than us. So, they'll come out whether we like it or not. But, they do come out for a reason.

Owen puts his hand on Duncan's shoulder, smiles. Just then, Peter wakes up, letting out a loud STRETCH.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Rise and shine, Patches.

PETER
(still buzzing)
Last night was awesome.
(Then)
Hey, did I get some pussy?

Duncan and Owen shocked, laugh.

PETER (CONT'D)
I feel like I did. Did I?

They laugh even harder.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH HOUSE

The guys pull up in Owen's car. Peter is stretched out in the back, singing some 80's tune. Duncan looks up at the beach house.

DUNCAN
This is going to be interesting.

He smiles at Owen, almost enjoying.

OWEN
You want me to come in there? Help
explain things?

Duncan shakes his head.

DUNCAN
No, this is good.

Duncan gets out of the car, grabbing his bike from the trunk. Peter awkwardly crawls over the side of the car.

PETER
Let me know if you want more weed,
my man.

OWEN
(smiling)
Alright, my man.

Owen pulls away. Duncan goes under his house, putting the bike in the shed. Peter heads up the stairs of his house, then stops.

PETER
That was epic.

DUNCAN
Yeah, it was.

Peter continues up the stairs.

PETER
By the way, I had fun camping out
on the beach last night by myself.

Peter tries to wink at Duncan, but ends up blinking with both eyes.

PETER (CONT'D)
That was me, trying to wink.

DUNCAN
No, I got it.

Peter goes inside. As soon as he does...

BETTY (O.S.)
Where the hell have you been all
night, young man!

PETER (O.S.)
Not now, woman.

BETTY (O.S.)
What did you just say to me?!

PETER (O.S.)
We'll talk when I get up.

BETTY (O.S.)
Don't you walk away...And where the
hell is your eye patch?!

Duncan smiles. He heads up his stairs, stopping at the front door. He takes a deep breath, prepares.

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

He enters. The place is empty. No one in sight. He notices a note on the kitchen counter.

CLOSE ON NOTE. It reads "Didn't want to wake you. We're down at the beach. Join us when you get up. Mom."

Duncan fumes, grabs the note.

CUT TO:

EXT. DUNES

Duncan storms down the wooden path. He's on a mission. In one hand, the crumpled note. In the other,...

CLOSE ON: HIS BLUE SHIRT.

Just as he comes to the peak of a dune, Duncan bumps into Trent, coming up the other side. Trent towers above him. All the power that Duncan had seemed to muster, starts to fade. Duncan puts the blue shirt behind his back. Trent sees this. They stand, silent. Duncan looks beyond Trent.

DUNCAN'S POV of his mother, sitting in a beach chair, looking out at the ocean.

TRENT

As far as she knows, you were in your room all night.

Duncan darts his eyes back to Trent.

TRENT (CONT'D)

Where were you sneaking off to?

Trent reaches for the blue shirt. If ever adrenaline had gotten a hold of Duncan, it's now. Duncan swats Trent's hand away. Trent rubs his forearm. That stung. The tension is palpable. Trent smirks.

TRENT (CONT'D)

Fine. Have your secrets.

Duncan looks off at his mother again. No surprise. She's seeing none of this. He looks back at Trent, daggers.

DUNCAN

Yeah, you too.

Duncan turns and goes back the way he came.

CUT TO:

EXT. JOAN AND KIP'S HOUSE - THAT NIGHT

The party is in full swing. People are dancing. There's a giant bonfire. Duncan approaches a trash can.

He finishes off a beer, throws it in the trash. Reaching into a nearby cooler, Duncan grabs another and heads over toward....

Tables, set up in the sand. At one, Trent, Pam, Betty, and Steph are eating, family style. There are bowls and platters piled high of fried seafood. Duncan takes a seat. His demeanor definitely clashes with the festive atmosphere. Pam, herself, seems a little tipsy. In front of Duncan, an empty plate. He clearly hasn't been eating.

STEPH

And Chad's like, "I saw you with Kenny, Steph! I thought we were exclusive!" And I'm like, "Fuck that noise, Chad, it's summer! I'm free to roam!"

Duncan looks at Trent. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

STEPH (CONT'D)

Can you believe that?! What a fucking baby!

TRENT

(to Duncan)
Since when do you drink?

Duncan ignores him.

STEPH

(to Duncan)
Hey, zombie, pass the hushpuppies!
Pass something!

Duncan looks over. There's a giant "traffic jam" of fried food next to him.

PAM

Duncan, if you're going to drink beer, you need to eat.

Duncan locks eyes with Pam, passes the food to Steph, putting nothing on his own plate. Pam tries to put on a good face.

PAM (CONT'D)

Yes, why should you listen to me? I haven't practically seen or spoken to you in days. So, obviously, you must be able to fend for yourself.

(then, for Betty's benefit)

(MORE)

PAM (CONT'D)

Even though, someone clearly went to great lengths to cover all this fresh seafood in flour and dump it into boiling oil.

She looks over at Betty and smiles.

BETTY

Yes, where did Joan find the time to order take-out?

Pam and Betty laugh.

TRENT

Alright, ladies.

BETTY

And if there's one thing that travels really well, it's fried food.

They laugh again.

BETTY (CONT'D)

Joan, I must get your recipe for Big Daddy's menu!

TRENT

(serious)
Betty, cool it.

BETTY

Jesus, Trent, I'm kidding.

TRENT

Maybe you should have considered ordering your clams this year. Save us all from that disaster.

PAM

Trent.

Betty looks devastated. Pam should do more but seems unable to muster more defense.

JOAN (O.S.)

Alright, Mr. Ramsey, you've been avoiding me enough!

Joan approaches, grabbing Trent's arm, playfully pulling him out of his seat. She's clearly had a few drinks, too.

JOAN (CONT'D)

I said I'd get you on that dance floor!

(then)

Pam, you don't mind if I steal your husband away?

Pam gives her best pleasant smile, takes a swig of wine. Joan pulls Trent out of his chair. Duncan looks at his mother. She avoids his gaze. Duncan pushes away from the table, charges off.

CUT TO:

EXT. JOAN AND KIP'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Duncan grabs another beer from the cooler, pops it open. He looks over at the dance floor.

CLOSE ON Trent and Joan, laughing, flirting. Trent's showing some restraint, peeling Joan's wandering hands off anything that could look incriminating.

Duncan looks over by the bar.

CLOSE ON Kip, turning away from the scene, taking a giant swig of his mixed drink.

Finally, Duncan looks back at his mom.

CLOSE ON Pam. She turns her head away from the scene, trying to be inconspicuous as she wipes away a tear.

For Duncan, that's the final straw. He finishes his beer, drops the bottle to the sand and stumbles his way to the dance floor. All the while, his stare is locked on Trent and Joan. Something has taken over Duncan. There's no turning back now.

DUNCAN

Hey!

Trent and Joan are lost in the dancing, music.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

(to Trent)

Hey! Are you going to make sure to get a "goodbye" fuck?!

Trent and Joan look over, shocked.

TRENT

What?

DUNCAN

Come on, "It's summer!" Get in one last fuck, Trent!

TRENT

(dismissing)

You're drunk, Duncan.

DUNCAN

What are you waiting for?! No one seems to be stopping you! Not mom! Not Mr. Smythe! They're giving you the green light! Go fuck her!

The dance floor has become lifeless. There's no one within a mile that didn't hear that.

TRENT

(to partygoers)

He had his first beer tonight.

(then, at Duncan)

He's harmless.

Just then, Duncan charges at Trent, shoving him with everything he has. Joan falls to the ground. Trent stumbles, but gets his footing, and lunges back at Duncan.

Suddenly, KIP charges out of nowhere, sending Trent to the ground. He tries to get up.

KIP

I'd stay down there if I were you!

Trent, smartly, complies. Joan puts her hand on Kip's shoulder. He pulls away.

Duncan turns to Pam, who is still seated at the table.

DUNCAN

Hey! Do something! Why are you just sitting there?! Do something!

Pam is already a mess, trembling.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

This is it, mom! This is what's real! Your husband is cheating on you! But, hey, you knew that already! So, no biggie, right?!

(MORE)

DUNCAN (CONT'D)
Nothing a good fuck can't smooth
over!

Pam gets up. She doesn't know what to do. She's embarrassed.
She's beyond any sensible reaction. She backs away from the
table.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)
Where are you going, Mom?! Huh?!
Are you leaving?!

Pam's eyes well up.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)
Oh, that's right! You always leave!

Pam stops.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)
Well, don't break with tradition
now! Do it! Leave! Come back when
you need me. That's the only way it
seems to work around here!

Beat.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)
Go!

Pam turns and leaves. Betty follows. Duncan looks around. The
party is filled with stunned faces, to say the least. He
turns to find Trent, still on the ground.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)
Hey, I'm just a three, right?

He storms off, grabbing a six pack in the process. Susanna,
who has been among the on-lookers, follows.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH - MOMENTS LATER

Duncan sits in the sand, drinking a beer. Susanna approaches.

SUSANNA
I think my favorite part was when
you said the word, "fuck."

Duncan doesn't even look back.

SUSANNA (CONT'D)
Can I join you?

Duncan moves his six pack, making room next to him.

SUSANNA (CONT'D)
Such a gentleman.

She sits. Beat.

SUSANNA (CONT'D)
Oh, I talked to my dad today. I told him that we had chased ghost crabs. It made him very happy. Felt like he was here. "Did you tell him about the eyes?! You've got to tell him about the eyes!" He gets so excited...

DUNCAN
She's weak. Weak and pathetic.

SUSANNA
(short)
Don't say that. Don't ever say that about somebody.

DUNCAN
Why? She is.

SUSANNA
Nobody's weak. They can be vulnerable. They can be lost. But, don't call them weak. It sounds permanent. Like you wish them no hope.

(beat)
You don't know her side of things.

DUNCAN
I don't need to.

He hurls an empty bottle toward the water.

SUSANNA
Yeah, that's fair.

DUNCAN
(snapping)
Why did you come down here?! To make me feel bad? Because I don't ...and I won't.

SUSANNA
I'm just trying to help.

DUNCAN

Well, I didn't ask for it.

SUSANNA

Fine. Sit here. Be angry.

Susanna gets up, brushes the sand off.

SUSANNA (CONT'D)

It's much easier, that's for sure.
When you're angry, you can make it
all about you.

She starts to walk away, but then stops, looks back.

SUSANNA (CONT'D)

They're eyes can rotate 360
degrees. Ghost crabs. They can see
everything around them, but they
can't look straight up, which makes
it easy for birds to attack them.
So, they gather food at night for
safety. And that's the thing about
ghost crabs.

(then)

Just so I don't have to lie to my
dad that I told you.

She leaves. Duncan hurls another bottle. In the moonlight, we
see ghost crabs scurrying across the sand.

CUT TO:

EXT. DUNES - MOMENTS LATER

Duncan walks along the wooden path. He glances up at the
beach house. He can see a figure on their front deck, sitting
in a rocking chair.

EXT. DECK - MOMENTS LATER

Duncan steps into the doorway. From behind, he sees his
mother rocking back and forth in the chair, staring out at
the dunes. The image alone brings him to tears.

DUNCAN

I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

Pam stops rocking. Her eyes are red, as if she has been no
stranger to crying. But, now, her face looks determined,
fighting any temptation to lose it again.

PAM

I know you are, sweetie.

Duncan takes a step forward. The boards CREAK under his feet.

PAM (CONT'D)

But, I'm not ready.

She loses the battle. The tears start to win.

PAM (CONT'D)

Forgive me. I'm not ready.

Duncan lowers his head. He turns and leaves. Pam starts to rock in the chair again.

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE - DUNCAN'S BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Duncan wakes up. It's oddly quiet. Muted, almost. He rubs his eyes. We hear the faint sound of a CAR DOOR CLOSING. Duncan looks out his window.

DUNCAN'S POV - Trent packing up the car.

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE - PAM AND TRENT'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Duncan walks into the doorway. Pam is packing a suitcase, her back to Duncan.

PAM

Trent wants to leave early, so get your things together.

DUNCAN

What?! Why? You and I can stay!

PAM

I'm not real crazy about showing my face around here, right now.

DUNCAN

But, I haven't even...I need to...!

PAM

Need to what, Duncan?

Beat.

PAM (CONT'D)

What do you want me to do? Things
have changed.

(then)

Pack up your stuff.

Pam goes back to packing. Duncan turns to leave, stops in the doorway.

DUNCAN

(under his breath)

I hate you.

Pam slams her suitcase shut.

PAM

Really?! You've got more for me?

Duncan keeps his back to her.

PAM (CONT'D)

I don't expect you to understand
this. I mean, I know you're
fifteen, and you think you already
know everything, but...

(then)

He made me laugh. Trent made me
feel attractive and he made me
laugh at a time when that's all I
needed. And I wanted to keep it
that way, so yes, I looked the
other direction when it came to
certain things. It's not my
proudest moment. I'm certainly not
going to win any awards, but I
didn't feel like being left again.

(beat)

We do things, Duncan,...to protect
ourselves. To keep from being hurt.
We compromise...Sometimes against
our better judgement.

She places the suitcase next to Duncan.

PAM (CONT'D)

Take that down to the car.

Duncan picks it up. Pam turns her attention to packing
another bag, her back now to Duncan.

DUNCAN

For the record, I never left.

Pam pauses, but doesn't turn around. That's enough for Duncan. Just to know that she heard him. He walks out.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - LATER

Duncan carries the bag to the back of the station wagon, tosses it in the back. Just then, Trent comes around from the other side of the car, carrying some more bags. They face off, neither one willing to move out of the way. A long beat, until...

Trent gives in, going around Duncan, and throws the bags into the back. Duncan just stands there, almost enjoying the awkwardness he's causing.

TRENT

I'm not in the habit of
apologizing.

DUNCAN

I wouldn't want it if you were.

Trent smirks.

TRENT

You seem to be under the assumption
that I'm out of your life forever.

DUNCAN

Just things being different. That's
enough for me.

BETTY (O.S.)

This is ridiculous! You and Duncan
can stay with us!

Duncan and Trent break their stare. As they do, Duncan notices Susanna, within ear shot, standing on the steps up to her house.

Pam and Betty walk down the stairs from the house. Pam is carrying two bags.

PAM

Thanks. But, we should go.

BETTY

Just so you know, I'm personally
ostracizing Joan.

(MORE)

BETTY (CONT'D)
Maybe even seeing if Kap wants to
hook up to spite her.

Trent goes to help Pam, reaching for the bags.

TRENT
Let me get those.

Betty tries to intercede, glaring at Trent.

BETTY
No, let me get them.

PAM
No, I got them.

BETTY
She's got them, Trent!

Pam moves past Trent, giving him nothing. Duncan approaches
Susanna.

SUSANNA
So, you're leaving?

DUNCAN
Yeah. Kinda weird for us to be here
after last night.
(then)
Well, for her.

Beat.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)
I'm sorry.
(then, smiling)
I was drunk.

Susanna smiles.

SUSANNA
(sarcastic)
Oh, well, that makes it all better.

Duncan walks over, stands next to the stair railing. Beat.

DUNCAN
Well,...

SUSANNA
(rolling eyes)
Oh, please, not the awkward thing
again....

Just then, Duncan grabs Susanna, and kisses her. As Duncan pulls away, Susanna, eyes still closed, lingers. It was a good kiss.

DUNCAN
Well, see ya.

SUSANNA
(coming to)
Yeah.

Duncan turns away, smiling.

SUSANNA (CONT'D)
(calling off)
You seem to be under the assumption
that we won't see each other until
next summer.

DUNCAN
(not even looking back)
No, I'm not.

As Duncan passes by the stairwell up to his house, Steph is walking down, carrying her own bag.

STEPH
You ruined summer, you fucking
turd.

Steph pushes past him. Duncan just smiles. Then, without even looking back...

DUNCAN
Check you later, Patches.

Between the stairs, we see a couple of hands poking out, holding action figures.

PETER
See ya, my man.

Duncan watches as Pam goes to open the passenger side door. Trent beats her to it, grabbing the handle, opening it for her. She just looks up at him.

PAM
All you are to me right now is a
ride home.

Trent lets go of the door. Pam gets in. Duncan smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. STATION WAGON - LATER

We're back in the car, just like we began. Trent at the wheel. Pam riding shotgun. Steph stretched out in the back. Duncan in the "death bench," tightly packed in. They all ride in silence.

The station wagon pulls up to a stoplight. Duncan looks out the side window.

DUNCAN'S POV: The Waterpark.

He considers, then looks down at...

DUNCAN'S POV: the car door latch.

He looks over his shoulder.

DUNCAN'S POV: Everyone in the front of the car, off in their own worlds.

He looks back at the waterpark.

CUT TO:

EXT. STATION WAGON - CONTINUOUS

The back door flies open. Duncan jumps out.

PAM
Duncan,...?!

Duncan runs into the parking lot. Pam jumps out, follows.

TRENT
Pam, get back in the car!

She doesn't even look back.

TRENT (CONT'D)
We've got a long ride ahead of us!

PAM
Then, leave!

Pam continues to chase Duncan. Trent turns the car into the parking lot, following them both.

CUT TO:

INT. WATERPARK - MOMENTS LATER

Duncan, like a man on a mission, heads right up to the Rental Shack. Owen is there, with Semi, as well as Kyle, Neil and Jason.

OWEN

Hey...

DUNCAN

Let's go down Devil's Peak.

Duncan leans over the counter, pulling a suit from the rental box.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

Not a big hit with my family right now, so I could use some kind of victory.

He changes right there, getting down to his tighty-whiteys, just as Pam enters the park.

OWEN

Whoa!

This gets the attention of the entire waterpark, including the sunbathing girls, who perk up.

DUNCAN

(re: swimsuit)

Relax. I'm not wearing these without some protection.

He puts the suit over his underwear.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

Let's do this.

KYLE

(yelling, to the crowds)

Hey, Pop 'n lock's going for it! He's gonna try to pass Owen on the slide!

A large crowd gathers around the wade pool. Pam surveys this strange land she has walked into. She notices a plaque hanging on the rental shack wall.

CLOSE ON PLAQUE. It reads, "Employee of the Month. Pop 'N Lock." And there a picture of Duncan.

Pam joins the crowd, as Duncan and Owen ascend Devil's Peak, followed closely by Kyle, Jason, and Neil. The crowd cheers.

CROWD

Pop 'N Lock! Pop 'N Lock!

Trent and Stephanie step up behind Pam, even more lost than she is.

CUT TO:

INT. WATERPARK - DEVIL'S PEAK - CONTINUOUS

NEIL

So, how do you plan to do it?

DUNCAN

I have no idea.

KYLE

We've been trying all summer. What makes you think you can do it?

DUNCAN

I don't know, Ismael.

KYLE

I'm Ming Lee.

NEIL

Stop correcting people on that! Those aren't our names!

Owen smiles. He likes seeing this side of Duncan.

DUNCAN

We're going down, Hot Rod. I'm passing him.

Roddy looks at Owen, who just shrugs his shoulders. Roddy takes a mat from another kid, hands it to Duncan. Owen starts to take off his sneakers.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

No, leave them on.

(then)

You go first. I'll follow right behind you.

Owen sits down at the lip of the slide, water rushing around him. Duncan backs up a ways.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

Go!

Roddy gives Owen a push. He's off, down the slide. Instantly, Duncan starts a full sprint, diving into the tube, face first.

KYLE

(yelling down tube)

Keep your arms out in front of you!

JASON

No, put them by your side!

NEIL

Distribute your weight equally!

RODDY

(taking it all in)

You nerds need to get a laid.

CUT TO:

INT. TUBE

Owen speeds around a corner, followed closely by Duncan.

DUNCAN

Use your feet! Slow yourself down!

Owen does. Planting his feet on the sides of the tube. Duncan starts to swing back and forth on his mat, going up the sides of the tube. Duncan starts gaining on Owen. It's working.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

On the count of three, roll over on your side!

(then)

One...

Duncan swings up one side.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

Two...

He swings to the other.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

THREE!

Owen rolls on his side, flat against the tube, as...

CUT TO:

INT. WATERPARK - BOTTOM OF THE SLIDE

Everyone waits in silence, staring at the end of the tube. Pam, Trent, and Steph aren't sure what they are looking for, but they are engrossed.

Suddenly, Duncan comes shooting out, followed by Owen!

The crowd cheers. Pam takes this in.

Owen holds up Duncan's arm in victory. They climb out of the wading pool. The people swarm. Pam breaks through, locks eyes with Duncan. She's beside herself.

DUNCAN

Mom, this is my friend, Owen. Owen, my mom.

OWEN

It's a pleasure to meet you.

She shakes his hand, but Pam can barely take her eyes off Duncan.

PAM

Yeah, you too.

Kyle, Jason, and Neil break through the crowd.

NEIL

Duncan, Duncan! So?!

KYLE

How'd you do it?!

JASON

Yeah, tell us!

DUNCAN

Ah, come on. That takes all the challenge out of it. Anybody can learn a pattern.

Duncan smiles, as Owen puts him in a headlock. Kyle, Jason and Neil run off, ready to tackle Devil's Peak again. Trent steps up behind Pam.

TRENT
Are we done here?

OWEN
(exaggerated pleasance)
Oh, and this must be Trent.

Owen shakes Trent's hand.

OWEN (CONT'D)
Hi. I'm Owen, a good friend of "the
three."

TRENT
Hey.

OWEN
Duncan's told me so much about you.
None of it good.
(then)
Hey, you can answer this for me.

Owen pulls Trent toward him.

OWEN (CONT'D)
(sotto)
If you're a cocksucker, does that
mean you suck cock?
(then, off Trent' blank
stare)
You can get back to me on that.

He releases Trent.

OWEN (CONT'D)
(for everyone's benefit)
Why yes, I agree, Trent. Duncan
does indeed rock.

TRENT
I'll be in the car.

Trent leaves. Pam is still taking in the "new" Duncan.

DUNCAN
Mom, can you give us a second?

PAM
(snapping out of her daze)
Huh?

DUNCAN
Can I meet you in the car?

PAM

Okay.

(then)

What have you been...? What is...?

DUNCAN

Mom. I'll meet you in the car.

PAM

Okay.

As if in a trance, Pam walks off.

OWEN

So, I take it your leaving? Either that, or you're going to tell me I'm dying.

DUNCAN

What?

OWEN

I'm just making fun of your serious tone.

Duncan still seems confused.

OWEN (CONT'D)

'Can you give us a second?'

DUNCAN

What?

OWEN

Seriously, Duncan, faster conversations.

DUNCAN

(blurting)

Thank you for everything.

OWEN

There you go.

(then)

A little general, but to the point.

Duncan just stands there for a beat.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Always say what you want, Duncan.
No one knows more than...

Duncan hugs Owen. Eventually, Duncan breaks away, turns and heads to the front entrance. He doesn't look back.

CUT TO:

INT. STATION WAGON

The family rides in silence. Duncan is, once again, in the way back, but this time, he seems content.

All of the sudden, Pam climbs over the front seat, accidentally(?) hitting the back of Trent's head with her foot.

TRENT

What the hell, Pam...?!

CUT TO:

EXT. STATION WAGON - CONTINUOUS

We watch as Pam continues over the front seat. She steps accidentally(?) onto Steph, who is once again, stretched out on the back seat.

STEPH

Hey!

CUT TO:

INT. STATION WAGON - CONTINUOUS

Pam starts pulling down the wall of suitcases separating her from Duncan, burying Steph.

Pam climbs over, joining her son.

They just sit. Enjoying the view from the back.

FADE OUT.

THE END