

END OVER END

by

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EXT. PLEASANT VIEW HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL STADIUM - NIGHT

Stadium lights illuminate the cloudy sky. The seats are packed. Energy radiates from screaming fans.

Cheerleaders wave pompoms to a heavy drum-line beat.

On the field, two football teams prepare for the next play. They look like they've been at war.

KEVIN (V.O.)  
Away game against Pleasant View,  
our cross-town rivals -- for the  
championship. Brutal game. That's  
them in red. The Bulldogs.

Defensive players in red jerseys await the huddled blue team.

KEVIN (V.O.)  
We're the blue team, obviously. The  
Lawrenceville Cowboys.

The Cowboy offensive team breaks from their huddle. They approach the line of scrimmage to face the Bulldog players.

KEVIN (V.O.)  
That's Michael... My best friend.

The Cowboys' quarterback is MICHAEL OLSON (17). He's tall, athletic, bloodied. Looks exhausted.

INSERT: A hand holds a photo of Michael wearing a Green Bay Packers jersey, then tosses it into a cardboard box.

KEVIN (V.O.)  
It's his last year. The big senior  
moving on to greater things. "Goin'  
places, Kev!" Always the optimist.

Michael crouches behind the center. Time seems to slow as he starts his cadence.

MICHAEL  
Four-three, Four-three...

ON THE COWBOYS' SIDELINE

Cowboy players edge the field, concerned eyes on the game.

KEVIN (V.O.)  
Dozer and Mudcat. Defensive  
badasses. The most feared brother  
and sister in the Tri-County.

Black twins tower over their teammates on the sideline: DERECK CHAPMAN (aka DOZER, 16) and ROSE CHAPMAN (aka MUDCAT, 16).

INSERT: A photo of Michael, Dozer, and Mudcat. The hand tosses it into a cardboard box.

KEVIN (V.O.)  
I'm Kevin, the guy on the bench.

KEVIN FISHER (16) sits on the bench. More scrawny than you'd expect from a football player. His worried eyes are glued to Michael on the field.

INSERT: A photo of Michael and Kevin, arms around each other. Best friends. The hand tosses it into a cardboard box.

Still in slow motion, Michael continues his cadence.

MICHAEL  
Blue 25, Blue 25...

Kevin buries his head into his arms, unable to watch.

KEVIN (V.O.)  
I'll have to go back a bit to  
explain my role on the team. Back  
when it was just...

EXT. QUARRY - DAY [**FLASHBACK**]

Pre-teens Michael, Kevin, Dozer, and Mudcat, dressed in swimwear, stand on the ledge of a cliff. They stare down a daunting drop to a lake below.

KEVIN (V.O.)  
Sun...

Michael takes a confident step back.

KEVIN (V.O.)  
Fun...

Michael runs and jumps. His friends follow him over the edge.

KEVIN (V.O.)  
And football.

EXT. MICHAEL'S HOUSE - DAY [**FLASHBACK CONTINUES**]

A Craftsman-style home sits at the end of a cul-de-sac. Bicycles are corralled on the sidewalk. Two teams of kids are huddled on the street.

IN THE HUDDLE, Michael looks at Kevin, Dozer, and Mudcat. They wear mismatched football gear. Michael wears the Green Bay Packers jersey.

YOUNG MICHAEL  
On twelve, ready?

TEAMMATES  
Break!

On the driveway, FRANK OLSON (20s), Michael's father, muscular and intense, waxes a red muscle car, a keen eye on the kids setting up for the play.

KATIE (O.C.)  
Go, Michael!

KATIE OLSON (7), Michael's sister, cute with pigtails, sits on the porch next to her mother, NANETTE OLSON (20s), immaculate and polished. Nanette sips wine and watches the boys.

Dozer moves to the center position. Kevin and Mudcat bookend the line as receivers.

Michael glances at his father's intense glare, then takes a deep breath. He crouches behind Dozer to take the snap...

YOUNG MICHAEL  
Thirty-seven, twenty-four, nine-  
hundred and fifteen gazillion...

But stops -- his keen eye on the shifting defense players -- and changes his mind. He shouts an audible.

YOUNG MICHAEL  
Fried eggs over easy! FRIED EGGS  
OVER EASY!

Michael jumps into a shotgun formation. Kevin springs into action and leaps behind Michael. HIKE!

Dozer hikes the football. Michael snatches the ball midair and guides the tip to the ground.

Kevin wallops the ball with a soccer-style kick. The football soars over Frank's muscle car and THE HOUSE!

Michael catches Frank's reserved stare. Katie, also eying their father's expression, shifts her eyes toward Michael and raises her fists. Victory!

**END FLASHBACK**

EXT. PLEASANT VIEW HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL STADIUM - NIGHT

Time still feels slow. Still behind the center, Michael eyes the Bulldog's defensive players shifting positions.

IN THE STANDS

Nanette (now in her 30s) and Katie (now 15, still wearing pigtails) sit on the edge of their seat. They could be praying.

Time speeds up, back to normal, as Michael shouts an audible...

MICHAEL  
Blazing Hot Fajitas. Blazing Hot  
Fajitas! HIKE!

The football snaps into Michael's grip. He spins back.

Both teams lunge forward. Thunderous collisions. A battleground of sheer determination.

A Pleasant View player breaks through the Cowboy's offensive line and clobbers Michael.

The ball pops loose.

ON THE SIDELINE

Frank (now in his 30s) wears school colors -- the Cowboys' coach. He rips his headset off, screams, and points.

FRANK  
FUMBLE! FUMBLE! God damn it!

Players scramble for the ball. Michael dives on it.

FRANK  
Time out! Time out! Fuck!

The REFEREE blows the WHISTLE.

Michael has the recovered football in his grasp. He removes muck stuck in his face mask and looks up at the scoreboard:

**COWBOYS: 13, BULLDOGS: 14**  
**4th Quarter**  
**4th Down**  
**Time Remaining: 3 seconds**

Frank's angered eyes bore into Michael exiting the field.

FRANK  
My God. What were you thinking?!

Michael ignores him and sits dejected next to Kevin.

Kevin rises and places a comforting hand on his shoulder. Michael doesn't acknowledge it.

Kevin jogs onto the field with the kicking team.

LATER

Kevin nods. The center spirals the football. The placeholder snatches it midair, sets the tip to the ground.

Kevin's foot smashes into the football. The ball rises and arcs across the sky.

A LIGHTNING STRIKE flashes everything WHITE.

EXT. QUARRY - DAY

A white lily descends from the sky and settles onto the lake.

INSERT: A casket being lowered into the ground.

EXT - CEMETERY - DAY

Graveside funeral services. Dozer, Mudcat, the rest of Michael's teammates, and dozens of others hold white lilies.

Nanette sits stoic, in shock. Katie cries in her arms.

Frank places his hand on Nanette's hand. She pushes it away.

Kevin, eyes swollen, sits off by himself. He can't pull himself to be near others. Or even watch the service.

EXT - CEMETERY - LATER

Kevin, alone now, sits with his back against Michael's headstone. The SOUND of a CAR CRASH jolts his teary eyes open. He gasps, finding it difficult to catch his breath.

EXT. QUARRY - DAY

Another lily falls from the sky and settles onto the lake.

Climbing up from the water, rising past a jagged cliff wall, to the ledge where Kevin, Dozer, and Mudcat sit. They peer down, unable to meet each other's gaze.

Kevin rises, grief seeping from his pores. He screams, his voice echoing the quarry walls, and walks away.

Dozer looks to Mudcat. She shrugs. Dozer pursues Kevin.

DOZER

Come on, man. It wasn't your fault!

Kevin picks up his speed. Dozer stops and tosses up his hands.

INT./EXT. MICHAEL'S HOUSE - DAY

The second-story attic window is slightly ajar.

IN THE ATTIC

Frank, distraught, sits in a rickety chair. He holds a photo of himself, Nanette, Michael, and Katie. A once-happy family. He weeps as he tosses the photo into the cardboard box and closes the flaps.

MICHAEL'S BEDROOM

Nanette sobs on Michael's bed. Frank's anguished-looking face peeks in. Nanette catches his gaze and turns her back to him.

BACKYARD

The gate swings open. Frank looks in to see Katie slumped on a swing set seat, dangling motionless from a chain.

Katie turns her head, acknowledging his presence, then turns back, ignoring him.

Frank hangs his head. He retraces his steps. Shuts the gate.

FRONT YARD

Frank carries a travel bag to his brown quad-cab truck. He drives away.

SERIES OF SHOTS

-- A distraught Nanette hands a REALTOR the key to the house.

-- Nanette and Katie drive away.

-- The realtor spears a "for sale" sign into the front lawn.

-- The sunny day turns cloudy. The sign sways in the wind.

EXT. MICHAEL'S (JEFF'S) HOUSE - DAY

**SUPERIMPOSE: NEARLY ONE YEAR LATER**

The house is held captive by overgrown brush and a brown lawn. The realtor adds a "sold" placard to the sign.

EXT. MICHAEL'S (JEFF'S) HOUSE - DAY

A U-Haul truck pulls into the cul-de-sac. It backs into the driveway.

JEFF GUZMAN, 17, good-looking, tall, spindly, steps out of the passenger seat of the U-Haul. He pushes up the rolling cargo door. Grabs a box.

INT. MICHAEL'S (JEFF'S) HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Jeff removes items from boxes, settling into his new room.

INT. MICHAEL'S (JEFF'S) HOUSE - ATTIC - DAY

The door swings open. Jeff pops his head into the opening. He heaves items through the doorway, then enters, curious.

He spots Frank's abandoned cardboard box.

LATER

Jeff sits in the rickety chair. He pours through the contents of the box: photos, newspaper clippings, and trophies.

He pulls out a football and spins it on his finger while reading a newspaper article.

He sits up. Something in the article catches his attention. The spinning football plummets and bounces away.

EXT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - COUNSELING OFFICE - DAY

Disheveled and listless, Kevin looks at the bespectacled school counselor, PATRICIA BERG (30). She taps a pencil on her notepad. Her concerned eyes find Kevin's eyes.

COUNSELOR BERG

Tell me what happened after the game, Kevin. You said Michael drove out of the parking lot.

Kevin Fidgets. Counselor Berg lowers her glasses to give Kevin her absolute attention.

COUNSELOR BERG  
 (flips through a notepad)  
 You said you followed him. And  
 there was an accident.

Kevin's eyes are swollen and red. He looks away.

KEVIN  
 He just... I can't...

COUNSELOR BERG  
 Can't what, Kevin?

KEVIN  
 I can't see it, okay?! Can I go?

Counselor Berg cranes her neck to look at the wall calendar.

Kevin jumps from his chair and rushes out the door.

EXT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

The school's service buildings edge the field. A stark contrast to Pleasant View High School's lavish football stadium.

Kevin leans against the gate to the football field, a tortured look on his face. A breeze whips past him.

INSERT: The haunting sound of Michael whispering, "Kevin."

Kevin spins around, searching. Nothing to see.

INSERT: The sound of tires spinning and ripping through gravel.

Kevin gasps. Fear pushes him through the gate. To safety. He looks back again. Nothing there. He takes a deep breath, summoning the courage to move toward the football field.

EXT./INT. JEFF'S CAR - SAME

A Nissan sedan glides by.

In the car, Jeff sees Kevin entering the football field. He slows the car for a better look. Pulls the car to a stop.

The cardboard box sits on the passenger seat. Jeff pulls out a photo of Kevin and Michael. He gives Kevin one more look to be sure. Bingo.

EXT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Kevin sits on the empty bleachers. Distraught and listless. He looks at the uprights. Remembering, maybe wishing he couldn't.

Something catches his attention. It's Jeff standing near the gate, waving the football in the air.

Kevin looks around, confused, then alert, as Jeff chucks the ball into the air. A perfect fifty-yard spiral -- right at him.

The ball lands in Kevin's arms. He drops it.

JEFF

Hey, what's up? Nice catch.

Kevin rolls his eyes. Jeff picks up the football and sprints up and down the bleachers.

JEFF

How you doing? Saw you coming in.  
Summer training starts next week.  
You on the team?

Kevin gives Jeff a bewildered look.

KEVIN

No, I, umm...

Jeff sits next to Kevin.

JEFF

I'm Jeff. Jeff Guzman. They call me  
Goose... Not sure who 'they' are,  
but we'll get there, right? We just  
moved from Arizona. This a good  
school?

Kevin shrugs.

JEFF

Mind if I throw you some passes? It  
really helps to dust off those  
cobwebs. Get my timing down.

KEVIN

No, I umm, I have to--

Kevin scurries away, sidestepping the conversation. Jeff pulls a photograph of Kevin and Michael from his pocket. Examines it. Satisfied, he pockets it and continues running the bleachers.

INT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - GRAPHICS DEPARTMENT - DAY

Printing presses, computers, and a handful of STUDENTS. GILBERT HARVEY, 40s, the hip teacher, hands out graded tests.

GILBERT  
...Well done, Artie. Cindy,  
wonderful... Kenny, very good...

Gilbert glances over to see Kevin peering out the window.

KEVIN'S POV:

The football field is sprawled out below him. He watches Jeff run the bleachers.

Gilbert slips Kevin his test. Kevin looks down and cringes. A red "F" is scribbled on the paper.

The SCHOOL BELL RINGS. Students bolt toward the door.

GILBERT  
Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Kevin throws his backpack over his shoulder.

GILBERT  
You'll need to make it up. I could  
use your help with the program.

KEVIN  
I'll have time.

Kevin starts to head out. He catches Gilbert's concerned look.

KEVIN  
I'm fine. Really. I'm okay.

Gilbert nods, not fully convinced. He watches Kevin mope out.

INT. WIMPY WILLY'S HAMBURGER RESTAURANT - DAY

Mudcat and Dozer attend the grill and counter. Their gazes are locked onto a table occupied by rowdy PLEASANT VIEW STUDENTS wearing red team jerseys.

DOZER  
They have money. They eat food that  
we cook...

Dozer flips a sizzling burger. He adjusts his glasses.

DOZER

And their cheerleaders. Damn!

He lets out a deflated sigh. Mudcat grabs a cleaning bucket. She heads into the dining area.

The bell above the door JINGLES.

HOWARD THACH (17) enters. Polished and groomed like a rich kid. He wears a red Bulldogs football jersey.

JULIE CORONADO (17), a pretty cheerleader, enters behind Howard. He wraps a possessive arm around her. She pulls away, maybe not into the public display of affection. Howard scoffs.

SHOUTS from a nearby table. Howard looks over. Other boys wearing red jerseys wave him over. He acknowledges them with a nod, then shoos Julie to the table.

Julie scoffs at his gesture. She sits with the others.

Howard turns his attention away and locks eyes with Dozer. Dozer groans. There's an inherent rivalry tension in the air.

DOZER

Sup?

HOWARD

Nothing. Just wanted to offer my condolences. Last year's QB. Shame.

Dozer returns a surprised look.

DOZER

Thanks. Appreciate it. It's been difficult to--

Shouting gets Howard's attention. He heads over to his friend's table. Dozer shakes his head and flips sizzling burgers.

EXT. WIMPY WILLY'S HAMBURGER RESTAURANT - DAY

Jeff examines another photo: a group shot of Mudcat, Dozer, Michael, and Kevin. Satisfied, he opens the restaurant door. The bell JINGLES.

INT. WIMPY WILLY'S HAMBURGER RESTAURANT - DAY

Jeff reads the wall menu. Dozer waits to take his order.

JEFF

Give me the Wimpy Burger, Feeble  
Fries, and the Measly Malt.

DOZER

You got it. Geek. Coming right up.

Jeff squints, not understanding. Dozer notices and points out "Geek Combo" on the menu. Jeff approves with a thumbs-up.

IN THE DINING ROOM

Mudcat clears tables. A BURST OF LAUGHTER gets her attention. She looks over to see Howard and his friends laughing and high-fiving each other.

Her eyes fall on pretty Julie sitting between Howard and ROCKY RAMOS (17), a huge, well-muscled player.

Julie scrolls through her phone, sucking a malt through a straw. She looks up and catches Mudcat's gaze. Their eyes lock. Julie's face brightens. Hmmm. Interesting.

Mudcat catches her return gaze and sucks in her breath. The bucket slips from her grip and bounces away. She looks back at Julie and shrugs. Awkward but cute.

Julie stifles a giggle.

Howard's eyes narrow, catching the exchange. He wraps an arm around Julie. Shoots a hostile look at Mudcat.

HOWARD

What?

Mudcat shrugs. Julie pushes his arm away. Howard slides Julie's malt off the table. SPLAT.

JULIE

I was drinking that, jerk!

Howard smirks and high-fives his buddy across the table. He's all smiles as he watches Mudcat collect her cleaning bucket.

Mudcat steps over the mess and disappears into the kitchen.

Howard's smile fades. He slides everything off the table.

HOWARD

Clean this shit up, you idiot!

At the counter, Dozer and Jeff look over. Dozer sees the mess on the floor and sighs.

DOZER  
She's just trying to do her job.

HOWARD  
Yeah? Tell her to do it.

JULIE  
Knock it off, Howard.

HOWARD  
Shut up.

Dozer removes his apron and heads toward the table.

Rocky peels his beefy frame out of his seat. He stands toe-to-toe with Dozer. A stare off ensues. The place goes quiet.

DOZER  
Just get out.

ROCKY  
Fuck you.

Their jaw and neck muscles tense. Both are a breath away from throwing punches.

Jeff brushes past Dozer. He extends a hand to Rocky, deflecting the tension.

JEFF  
Jeff Guzman. They call me "Goose."

Rocky crosses his arms, leaving Jeff's hand hanging in the air. Jeff shifts his eyes to Howard.

JEFF  
How you doing?

Howard bursts into laughter.

HOWARD  
What the fuck? Let's go.

Howard starts to head out but stops, something catching his attention.

HOWARD  
Well, well...

Everyone follows his eyes to see Mudcat. She returns to the dining room carrying a freshly made malt. She hands it to Julie.

JULIE  
Thank you!

Their eyes linger. Much too long for Howard's ego.

HOWARD  
OH, FUCK NO!

Howard shoves Mudcat. She tumbles across the room.

Dozer knocks Howard to the ground. Rocky tackles Dozer. Fists fly. A brawl ensues.

EXT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Mudcat and Dozer, with swollen and bruised faces, sit amongst the rest of the Cowboy football team, dressed in scrappy practice uniforms. Mudcat taps Dozer and points.

Jeff sits nearby. He rubs his aching jaw and grimaces.

DOZER  
Guzman. Gooozse, yeah?

Jeff smiles and nods. Dozer returns a respectful nod. Then his face turns serious, searching for someone.

DOZER  
Shit. Kevin didn't show. Damn...

The players exchange a chorus of concerns, just as...

The gym doors blow open. COACH BOLEN, 45, emerges. He's solid framed, with a buzz cut, and what looks like a permanent scowl on his face. His three ASSISTANT COACHES follow in formation.

DOZER  
Jesus... So, yeah, new coach. He looks like... like a tree stump... with legs... Christ.

Snickers from the players.

Coach Bolen steps up to the team. He glances down at the players sitting before him. He doesn't look happy.

COACH BOLEN  
I'm Coach Bolen, not Camp Counselor Bolen. Stand the fuck up!

The players spring to their feet. Coach Bolen moves through the team, assessing them.

COACH BOLEN  
Win. Sear that word in your brain. Tattoo it under your eyelids.  
(MORE)

## COACH BOLEN (CONT'D)

Carve it onto your little peckers.  
Do whatever it takes to see that  
word when you eat, sleep, and piss.

Players' eyes drop as his intense stare passes them.

## COACH BOLEN

Being good enough is not enough. I  
am going to demand more from you. I  
am going reach into your pathetic  
souls and squeeze each of you to  
the point of wanting to quit.

Coach Bolen's glare finds Jeff. Jeff's eyes hold strong until  
Coach Bolen squares off with him. Gulp. Jeff's eyes surrender.

## COACH BOLEN

Because that's my job, gentlemen.  
To turn you boys--

Coach Bolen's eyes catch the determination in Mudcat's eyes.

## COACH BOLEN

--and girl...into a badass winning  
team. If you're not here to win,  
then I invite you to get the fuck  
off my field.

The players glance at each other. Nobody moves.

## COACH BOLEN

Good. As a player on this team, I  
consider you an ambassador of this  
school. Those failing to show  
respect and pride on and off the  
field will find my wrath. Do you  
understand?

## ALL PLAYERS

Yes, Coach!

INT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - GRAPHICS DEPARTMENT - DAY

Gilbert watches the team practice from the window.

Kevin mopes in and slumps onto a stool. He starts arranging  
football artwork and players' photos.

EXT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

The team has split into three practice zones.

## ZONE ONE

Dozer, Mudcat, and other players thrust themselves into a tackling sled. They dig in their heels and muscle the sled across the field.

## ZONE TWO

Running backs take hand-offs from an assistant coach, then slalom through a line of pylons.

## ZONE THREE

Quarterback candidates watch Coach Bolen self-snap a football. He shuffles his feet through a set of pylons. Tosses a pass to a receiver sprinting downfield.

COACH BOLEN

Quick feet. Quick release. Got it?

-- QUARTERBACK #1 tosses the pass over the receiver's head.

COACH BOLEN

Next!

-- QUARTERBACK #2 under-throws the pass to the receiver.

COACH BOLEN

Next!

-- QUARTERBACK #3 trips over a pylon. Falls to the ground.

COACH BOLEN

Mediocre will not be tolerated. Do you hear me? Next!

Coach Bolen shoves the football into Jeff's midsection. But Jeff was ready for it. He matches Coach Bolen's glare, then grins and steps forward.

Jeff self-snaps the football and moves through the pylons with grace and speed. He cocks his arm and throws a perfect pass.

COACH BOLEN

Faster. Quick feet. Quick release. Again!

## AT THE FENCE OUTLINING THE FIELD

Kevin peers through the fence. He watches Jeff throw a perfect pass. He raises his eyebrows, impressed.

EXT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY

A banner welcomes students to a new school year. Kevin reads the school bulletin board. FOOTBALL PLAYER #1 approaches him.

FOOTBALL PLAYER #1  
Kev! Aren't you playing this year?

Kevin avoids him and rushes around the corner of a building. He stops to find FOOTBALL PLAYER #2 in his path.

FOOTBALL PLAYER #2  
Dude! Where were you?

Kevin turns, only to find Dozer and Mudcat staring him down.

KEVIN  
What?!

DOZER  
You bring some of your mom's cookies? Let's talk.

Dozer wraps an arm around Kevin and escorts him away.

DOZER  
You doing okay, buddy? I hear you're seeing Berg. She helping?

Kevin shrugs.

DOZER  
I mean, Jesus, she's fucking hot. How could she not help, right?

Mudcat smacks Dozer's arm.

DOZER  
That fucking hurt, jerk.

Dozer returns a punch. Just sibling rivalries. Mudcat rubs her aching arm. Dozer turns back to Kevin.

DOZER  
You get me in? With the counselor. Just a meet and greet.

Kevin bursts into laughter.

DOZER  
Dude, I'm serious.

KEVIN  
Me too. Thanks. I needed that.

DOZER  
Hey, you're playing this year,  
right?

Kevin shakes his head and starts to walk away.

DOZER  
Come on, Kev. We get it. We do.

Kevin spins back, angry.

KEVIN  
Yeah? What do you get, Dozer?

DOZER  
We miss him too. But we have to  
move on, brother. It's our senior  
year. Come on...

Kevin sighs and mopes away. Dozer looks to Mudcat. She shrugs.

EXT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - COUNSELING OFFICE - DAY

Kevin stares at the clock. Each tick of the second-hand POUNDS  
like a heartbeat. Counselor Berg watches him watch the clock.

COUNSELOR BERG  
I imagine it has a lot of meaning.  
Especially to a football player.

KEVIN  
It's just a clock. It means  
nothing.

MICHAEL (O.C.)  
Sure it does.

Kevin looks over. A wispy apparition -- conjured in his mind --  
of Michael sitting next to him, wearing the Packers jersey.

MICHAEL  
It means death is coming.

Kevin gasps and jumps from the chair.

MICHAEL  
Tick... Tick... Tick...

Kevin bolts for the door. Counselor Berg looks up, confused.

EXT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Kevin pushes his way through the crowded hall. The SCHOOL BELL RINGS. Students filter into classrooms. FOOTBALL PLAYER #3 blocks Kevin's path.

FOOTBALL PLAYER #3

Game next week, Kevin. You're going to play, right? Should be a hell of a season!

KEVIN

Leave me alone!

Kevin storms toward the bathroom. He brushes past Jeff standing in the doorway, zipping up his fly.

INT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - BATHROOM - DAY

Kevin seethes and kicks stall doors. They splinter and crack off their hinges. Jeff enters, examining the destruction.

JEFF

Dude, what the...?

Kevin slumps his shoulders and slides down the wall. He buries his head under his arms. Jeff sits next to him.

JEFF

Look, I umm... I get it, this--

KEVIN

(scoffs)

Everyone gets it. That's good. Gives me a sense of peace and--

JEFF

(continuing his thought)

--darkness. You can't let it bury you, Kevin. Focus on the light. That feeling, you know? That's what I do when I'm struggling. A bad pass, or whatever.

Kevin looks at Jeff, baffled.

KEVIN

How'd you know my name?

Jeff hands Kevin a newspaper clipping. Kevin scans the headline: "Missed Field Goal Crushes Cowboys' Dreams."

KEVIN

Way to make me forget about it,  
jeez. I failed. That's all it says.

JEFF

You only missed one field goal.

MICHAEL (O.C.)

Look at how that turned out!

Michael's apparition sits next to Kevin.

MICHAEL

Tick... Tick... Tick...

Kevin lifts the hoodie of his sweatshirt over his head, hiding his eyes from the apparition.

JEFF

Look, I need your help. The team  
needs your help. We're going to win  
this year, but we can't do it  
without you. You got this.

Jeff exits.

MICHAEL

Sure you do. You had one job to do!

KEVIN

Shut up. Shut the fuck up!

Kevin scrapes up the wall, pushing himself to escape Michael's apparition. Kevin races out.

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

In a simple room with sports posters and paraphernalia. Kevin sits slumped at his desk. He looks tired and drained.

ON THE TELEVISION

Monday Night Football. Two teams are set up for the kickoff.

GAME ANNOUNCER (V.O)

Just a brilliant showing by this  
rookie QB, bringing the Raiders  
within one point heading into the  
second half.

Kevin's eyes droop.

INT. KEVIN'S BEDROOM - LATER

Kevin is sound asleep at his desk. The game on the television drones on.

GAME ANNOUNCER (V.O)  
 With seconds remaining, this kick  
 will put the game into overtime or  
 send the Raiders packing.

Kevin wakes and rises, confused. He turns to see...

On the television, A FIELD GOAL KICKER swings his foot. SMACK.  
 The ball arcs through the sky.

The referee waves judgment. No good.

Kevin's wide eyes.

INSERT: Michael's muscle car careens into a tree. SMASH!

Michael's apparition sits nearby.

MICHAEL  
 Tick... Tick... Tick...

KEVIN  
 I said, "Shut up!"

Kevin tears open the closet door. He grabs a bag of footballs and storms out of the room.

EXT./INT. MICHAEL'S (JEFF'S) HOUSE - NIGHT

Jeff's Nissan sedan sits curbside. A football flies through the air and hits the fender. BAM.

-- Another football snaps off the car's antenna.

-- And another ball SMASHES into the side-view mirror.

JEFF'S BEDROOM

Jeff wakes and covers his ears with his pillow.

ON THE STREET

A football is propped up on a kicking tee. Kevin swings his leg. SMACK. The ball THUDS into the car and dents the door.

INT. DOZER'S CAR - MOVING - NIGHT

Dozer drives. Mudcat stares dreamy-eyed out the window.

DOZER  
You heard about Martinez, yeah?

Mudcat shakes her head.

DOZER  
Pete. No? Huh. Well, he had a  
girlfriend at Pleasant View and  
decided to visit her one day.

Mudcat shrugs. Dozer is stunned.

DOZER  
So?! Jesus, Rose. They caught them  
sucking face and beat the crap out  
of him. Do you hear me?

Mudcat smirks and shakes her head. Dozer groans, then stomps on the brakes. He eyes something down the street.

DOZER  
What the fuck?

He shoves the gear into reverse.

EXT./INT. MICHAEL'S (JEFF'S) HOUSE - NIGHT

Dozer's car SCREECHES to a stop. Dozer and Mudcat jump out.

DOZER  
What the hell are you doing?!

Kevin kicks another football.

JEFF'S BEDROOM

SMASH noise outside. Jeff sits up in bed, irritated. He rushes to the window and notices the commotion outside. Storms out.

ON THE STREET

Dozer and Mudcat try to grab Kevin. He spins away and kicks another ball. The car's door window explodes.

DOZER  
He's gone, Kevin. He's gone! You  
have to stop this!

Kevin's teary eyes dart between his friends.

KEVIN

I can't get it over the house. It won't go over the house! I can't even get it over that stupid car!

DOZER

It's just a car. Just stop, please.

Kevin takes a deep breath. Nods. Just as...

A LIGHT INSIDE THE HOUSE TURNS ON. Mudcat sees it. She taps Dozer with urgency.

ON THE STREET - SECONDS LATER

Screeching tires. Dozer's and Kevin's cars speed away.

EXT. WIMPY WILLY'S HAMBURGER RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Closed for the night. Dozer, Mudcat, and Kevin are visible through the window, sitting in a booth.

INT./EXT. WIMPY WILLY'S HAMBURGER RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Dozer and Mudcat devour burgers. Kevin picks at his food.

DOZER

Right! Like those bets he used to make: best-looking wife, biggest house, best job. Jeez. He would've won those... Or who'd die first? Remember that? And the losers had to piss on the winner's grave!

Mudcat, remembering, snaps her fingers and points at Dozer. Kevin closes his eyes, maybe wishing this memory away.

DOZER

We were in his bedroom. His dad told him not to come out 'til he decided on a "suitable" college. Suitable to his dad. Damn. That was intense.

Mudcat sees something outside. She taps Dozer and points.

DOZER

Shit... Is that Guzman?!

## OUTSIDE

The nearly-destroyed Nissan sedan screeches to a halt; its side-view mirror swings from a wire like a pendulum.

## IN THE RESTAURANT WINDOW

With stunned eyes on the car, Kevin is oblivious to Dozer and Mudcat sliding down and out of view.

Jeff emerges from the car, pissed off. Slams the door.

Kevin realizes his friends have ducked down.

Jeff watches Kevin slide down and out of view.

JEFF

Jesus. Do you think I'm stupid?  
Outside!

Everyone's timid heads reemerge in the window.

## EXT. WIMPY WILLY'S HAMBURGER RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Kevin, Dozer, and Mudcat exit the restaurant.

DOZER

Oh, hey, Guzman! Goooooose! Haha.  
Got a ring to it! What are you  
doing out so late? Burger? So, you  
moved into Michael's house, huh?

Jeff stands rigid, staring at his destroyed car.

JEFF

Apparently.

Kevin and his friends approach the car and examine the damage. Mudcat touches the dangling mirror. It snaps from the wire and shatters on the ground. Everyone looks at Kevin.

KEVIN

There's a wrecking yard -- just  
outside of-- I'm sure I can get it  
looking...  
(big sigh)

Jeff dangles his car keys. Kevin reaches for them. Jeff snaps them back and opens the trunk. He pulls out the cardboard box. Jeff nods to Kevin. Kevin opens it.

KEVIN

Holy shit!

Kevin pulls out trophies and photos. Excited, he passes them to Dozer and Mudcat.

Dozer holds up a photo of Kevin and Michael. Kevin wears the Green Bay Packers jersey.

DOZER  
He let you wear his jersey?

KEVIN  
He gave it to me.

This throws Dozer off. He looks to Mudcat. She shrugs.

DOZER  
His autographed Aaron Rodgers jersey? That was Michael's-- That was his thing--

Kevin snatches the photo back.

KEVIN  
He said it didn't fit anymore.  
Jeez!

Dozer throws up his hands. He looks at Jeff.

DOZER  
Sorry, man. Look, Kevin's been freaking out since Michael's-- accident-- He's not normally--

JEFF  
It wasn't an accident.

DOZER  
Huh?

A confused-looking Dozer and Mudcat look at Jeff. Kevin sucks in his breath and closes his eyes.

JEFF  
Tell them, Kevin.

Dozer gets into Jeff's face.

DOZER  
What the hell's wrong with you?  
It was an accident. Leave him alone!

Jeff yields with raised arms, not looking for a fight.

Kevin opens his eyes and exhausts his breath. He rests his hand on Dozer's shoulder. Dozer softens his stance, realizing.

DOZER

Ah, Christ, Kevin... Don't say it.  
Did you... Did you kill him?

KEVIN

What?! No, Dozer! What is wrong  
with you?!

DOZER

Sorry. It was the first thing that  
popped into my head!

Kevin shakes his head and leans against the car for support.  
Takes a deep breath. It's time.

KEVIN

After the game, when everyone was  
heading to the locker room, Michael  
headed out to the parking lot...

INSERT: Michael, distraught, sits in the red muscle car.

KEVIN

I just thought he was pissed off  
that we lost. Pissed off at me for  
missing the kick.

INSERT: Michael turns the ignition key. The muscle car ROARS to  
life. He punches the gas pedal.

KEVIN

So I followed him.

INSERT: Two cars blast down a windy country road. The muscle car  
weaves and slides on the asphalt.

KEVIN

I could barely keep up... But it  
was obvious. It was so obvious.  
He... He... Turned...

INSERT: Michael steers the speeding muscle car with purpose off  
the road. Tires spin and rip through gravel.

KEVIN

And just went faster...

INSERT: Michael, rage on his face. His white-knuckled hands grip  
the steering wheel. He screams and punches the gas pedal. Steers  
the car into an oak tree. SMASH!

Dozer and Mudcat are stunned. Finally...

DOZER  
He-- He killed himself? Jesus,  
Kevin... Why didn't you say  
anything?

KEVIN  
I wanted to. But his--

INSERT: Emergency vehicles and flashing lights. Kevin pulls his phone away from his ear. Ends the call. Drops the phone.

JEFF  
Dad...

Kevin looks at Jeff, surprised.

KEVIN  
Yeah.

INSERT: Frank's truck rolls up onto the scene. Kevin's tormented face gazes up. Frank, stern, approaches him.

KEVIN  
Said I better not say anything.  
Made me vow not to say anything.

Jeff nods and lets out his breath.

JEFF  
That's the darkness. Just hangs  
there. Like a thick fog.

Jeff looks up to catch the bewildered looks on the others.

JEFF  
I mean, I imagine that's what it  
feels like, right?

Kevin returns a puzzled but affirmative nod.

LATER

Kevin, Dozer, and Mudcat return the photos to the cardboard box. Jeff gives them a sympathetic look.

JEFF  
Sorry about your friend.

DOZER  
Yeah, man, thanks. Appreciate it.  
(to Mudcat)  
(MORE)

DOZER (CONT'D)

We have to jet.

(to Kevin)

We got your back on this, always.

You hear me?

Kevin nods. They exchange bro hugs. Dozer and Mudcat head out.

Kevin smiles at the last photo in his hand. It's of himself and his friends -- just kids -- playing football on the street.

KEVIN

Michael had these audibles: "Fried eggs over easy" was--

JEFF

Eggs?

KEVIN

Over Easy. A surprise field goal.

Jeff raises his eyebrows. Kevin clears his throat.

KEVIN

We were kids.

Jeff smirks and nods.

KEVIN

"Hot Wings and Curly Fries" meant a blitz was coming; look for a pitch out... And "Blazing Hot Fajitas" was run like crazy and get open.

Kevin chuckles at the thought. His joy fades.

KEVIN

That's what this last year has felt like -- Blazing Hot Fajitas. Just running like crazy. From everyone.

Kevin tosses the photo into the box.

KEVIN

You remind me of him. I saw you at practice. I thought he had a cannon. But, you? Wow. Seriously, you could have a future--

Jeff shrugs off the idea.

JEFF

Firefighter.

KEVIN

What? Bullshit... Nothing wrong with it. It's just. Come on...

JEFF

Seriously. I got this from one when I was five.

Jeff displays a gold medallion that dangles from a necklace.

JEFF

I started a grass fire. Just an idiot kid playing with matches-- That dude looked like a superhero in his gear. So cool.

Jeff tucks the medallion back into his shirt.

Kevin nods, appreciating his words. He drops the box into his car, jumps into the driver's seat, and starts the engine.

KEVIN

How'd you know?

JEFF

The articles. Single car accident. Parents moving away. It just didn't feel right.

Kevin drops his head.

KEVIN

His dad was... He was a mean son-of-a-bitch. But I just never would've expected Michael to... Not that. I didn't see it coming.

Jeff nods, understanding.

JEFF

Look, I'm... I'll probably sound like an a-hole here, Kevin, but I have to say it. You need to stop running and start kicking.

Kevin gives Jeff a long look. He shrugs and drives away. Jeff watches him, his face etched with concern.

DOWN THE STREET

A car pulls away from the curb and follows Kevin's car.

EXT. CEMETERY - NIGHT

A teary-eyed Kevin stands at Michael's grave.

KEVIN  
Dozer's right, you know. I have to  
move on. I'm sorry... It's time--  
to pay up--

Kevin reaches down and unzips his pants. He stands there for a second, thinking, maybe having second thoughts, finally...

KEVIN  
This is stupid. And besides that,  
you cheated!

He zips up his pants, turns, and gasps. Katie, Michael's sister, stands there. She looks devastated.

KATIE  
I followed you from the house. I'm  
sorry. I didn't mean to scare you.

KEVIN  
Katie, jeez! You okay?

KATIE  
I'm fine. I'm okay... I'm... I miss  
him, Kevin. I miss him so much...

Katie cries. Kevin pulls her into his arms.

EXT. CEMETERY - LATER

Kevin escorts Katie through the cemetery gate and toward their cars parked on the street.

KEVIN  
I had no idea where you moved to. I  
figured you left the state.

KATIE  
No. Dad, he--

INSERT: A disheveled and tormented Frank sits in a grungy and dark apartment. With a blank stare, he repeats a video playback of a teenage Michael tossing a football.

KATIE  
...moved out by the sports park.  
And Mom and I, we--

INSERT: In a stark white room, a DOCTOR extends a prescription across his desk. Nanette sits across from him, unable to process. Katie, angry and impatient, snatches the prescription and storms out.

KATIE

...moved across town. It just didn't feel right living in that house anymore. I hate him, Kevin. I don't ever want to see him again.

Kevin nods, understanding.

KATIE

You could come with me.

KEVIN

Huh?

KATIE

To see him.

KEVIN

You just said--

KATIE

I know, right? I had to say it. It felt good to say it. Will you?

KEVIN

Fuck, no. I don't want to see him.

Katie drops her head, disappointed. They stop at Katie's car.

KATIE

Well, at least come by and see Mom. She'd love to see you.

KEVIN

No, I don't, umm. No, no. I--

Katie cocks her head at Kevin's avoidance, just as her words register with him.

KEVIN

Wait. Did you say "across town?"

Katie nods, a slight smirk on her face.

KEVIN

That means... You go to Pleasant View? Seriously? I hugged you, for Christ's sake! Yuck!

This brings a much-needed smile to Katie's face.

KATIE

Shut up. You know I'll always be a  
Cowboy at heart. Hey, I heard  
you're not playing this year.

Kevin offers a restrained yet frustrated sigh.

KATIE

The players at school were joking  
about you. One said, "Big Deal.  
That cowboy couldn't kick his way  
through a pile of horse shit."

Kevin shrugs and opens Katie's car door. Katie hops in.

KATIE

I know they're full of shit, Kevin.  
It's just-- Michael would've wanted  
you to play.

Kevin's look softens. Katie examines him and smiles.

KATIE

See you around, cowboy!

Katie punches the gas pedal.

EXT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Kevin walks the fence line bordering the football field. He stops to watch the team practice for a second, then continues toward the school.

INT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - GRAPHICS DEPARTMENT - DAY

Kevin sits at a computer, munching on a cookie from a plate. He glides the mouse and drops player photos into a design app.

Sensing Gilbert's presence, Kevin slides the plate toward him. Gilbert grabs a cookie, takes a bite, and nearly melts.

GILBERT

Holy shit!

KEVIN

Language.

Something outside catches Gilbert's attention. He looks out the window and cringes. Kevin glances over.

An angry voice is heard yelling from the field below.

COACH BOLEN (O.C.)

Next!

EXT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Football Player #2 attempts a field goal. The ball veers off and smashes into the water cooler.

COACH BOLEN

Next!

Football Player #3 steps forward, confident. He swings his foot. Misses the ball completely. Lands on his back. THUD.

ON THE SIDELINE

Dozer and Mudcat watch and cringe. Jeff sighs with concern.

COACH BOLEN

For the love of God! Next!

Mudcat sees something and taps Dozer. Dozer looks over. Intrigued, he taps Jeff.

INT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - GRAPHICS DEPARTMENT - DAY

Kevin and Gilbert peer out the window. Gilbert smirks and points. Kevin cranes his head down to see...

KEVIN'S POV:

The irritated faces of Jeff, Dozer, and Mudcat, now on the ground directly below, each flipping him the bird.

Kevin gasps, recognizing the "Bro Call Out" gesture. He lets out a deep, resolving sigh. It's time. He heads for the door.

Gilbert smiles and grabs another cookie.

EXT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

A few players' attention gets drawn away. This causes a chain reaction. The whole team goes silent, eyes focused on...

Kevin dressed in shorts. Soccer cleats dangle from his grip.

LATER

The team is set for a field goal attempt. The center spirals the football to the placeholder. Kevin swings his foot. SMACK.

FADE TO BLACK:

OVER BLACK

Game scores soar end over end across the screen:  
Cowboys 48 - Mustangs 14, Cowboys 24 - Falcons 0,  
Cowboys 34 - Matadors 21, Cowboys 28 - Wolverines 3

EXT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

A football game is in progress. A football soars end over end across the sky toward the goalpost. It splits the uprights.

ON THE FIELD

Kevin's arms shoot up in triumph.

ON THE SIDELINE

Jeff, Dozer, Mudcat, Coach Bolen, the other players, the crowd behind them, EVERYONE screams and raises their fists skyward.

IN THE ANNOUNCER'S BOOTH, a shaggy-haired RADIO ANNOUNCER (17) can't contain his excitement.

RADIO ANNOUNCER  
Yeeeessss!!! Field goal, Kevin  
Fisher! And the Cowboy's dominance  
continues as they plow through  
Amador for their sixth straight win  
of the season!

INT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - GRAPHICS DEPARTMENT - DAY

The school bell RINGS. Students shuffle out of the room. Kevin tosses his backpack over his shoulder. He looks at Gilbert.

KEVIN  
I wanted to apologize. It's been,  
umm, well, the last year has been a  
lot of fun, and--

GILBERT  
Glad to see you're working through  
it -- and playing again. However...

Gilbert holds up a test with a large "D" scribed in red ink. This wipes the joy off Kevin's face. Gilbert crumples the paper. Tosses it into a trash can.

GILBERT

A "D" on the test. An "A" in life.  
You'll need to retake the test.

KEVIN

Will do. Thanks...

Gilbert watches Kevin exit, full of energy.

EXT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

The opposing team warms up on the field.

AT THE END OF THE FIELD. A huge banner reads COWBOY POWER. Behind the banner, the Cowboy football team is gathered.

IN THE ANNOUNCER'S BOOTH, the P.A. ANNOUNCER moves toward the microphone. Clicks the switch.

P.A. ANNOUNCER

Ladies and Gentlemen. Please  
welcome your undefeated COWBOYS!

The Cowboy football team rips through the banner. The crowd cheers. Jeff leads the pack with his friends close behind.

EXT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD - LATER

The Cowboys kick-off. Mudcat and Dozer team up for a BONE-CRUSHING tackle. The ball pops loose. Mudcat dives on it.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Whoa! Mudcat and Dozer. That's why  
they call those two the Earth  
Movers! Did you feel the Earth  
move? I sure did!

Jeff confers with Coach Bolen, then heads out to the waiting huddle. His teammates listen and nod.

Jeff and the Cowboy offense line up for the play. Hike. Jeff fires a pinpoint-accurate pass to his receiver.

ON THE NEXT PLAY, Jeff side-steps a defensive player, then another. He finds an open patch of grass and launches the ball. It lands in his receiver's arms.

IN THE ANNOUNCER'S BOOTH

RADIO ANNOUNCER  
The Cowboys quarterback is  
literally moving the ball at  
will...

ON THE SIDELINE, Coach Bolen hand signals a play to Jeff.

IN THE HUDDLE, Jeff looks at his teammates.

JEFF  
Alright. Let's take this one in.  
Double-Deuce, Y on the Fly, on  
three. Ready...

TEAMMATES  
Break.

The team moves into position.

Jeff takes the snap. He turns, pump fakes in one direction,  
then fires a beauty to a lone receiver in the end-zone.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
Touchdown, Cowboys! What a pass  
from Jeff Guzman. Don't bother  
writing that name down, folks.  
You're not likely to forget it!

The crowd POUNDS the bleachers and SCREAM: Goooozse! Goooozse!  
Goooozse! The sound dissolves into a hard-driving ROCK-N-ROLL  
SONG that leads into a...

A SERIES OF SHOTS:

- Cheerleaders at school practice a new dance routine. They are interrupted as Kevin jumps in and dances with the girls.
- Kevin pushes open a gate that leads into a wrecking yard. Jeff follows, driving his destroyed car.
- Kevin splits the goalpost with another perfect kick.
- Lunchtime at the school cafeteria. Dozer and Mudcat study Kevin's reaction as he reaches into his lunch bag.
- Jeff joins Kevin with the cheerleaders. His dancing moves make the cheerleaders melt.
- Jeff rifles a football to his receiver.
- Jeff and Kevin insert a new driver-side window.

-- Kevin and Jeff, still dancing, spin in unison. They point to Dozer and Mudcat, who join their friends with hip-grinding moves.

The dynamic range of the song softens as...

EXT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - COUNSELING OFFICE - DAY

Counselor Berg taps her pencil against a notepad. She clears her throat and takes off her glasses.

COUNSELOR BERG  
So, this blockage, this fear, as  
you put it...

Kevin sits slumped in the chair across from her. His head rests in his arms.

COUNSELOR BERG  
Are you saying it feels like an  
overwhelming sense of dread that  
grips you?

Kevin raises his head. He looks over. A teary-eyed Dozer sits next to him.

DOZER  
Yes! That's it, exactly!

COUNSELOR BERG  
Then I'd suggest you pick yourself  
up by your bootstraps and be a real  
Cowboy. And not some whiny-ass  
little bitch.

Dozer, shocked, stares wide-eyed at Counselor Berg.

Counselor Berg and Kevin exchange smirks.

Dozer shifts his confused face toward Kevin. He gets it now.

DOZER  
You set me up!

Dozer gives Kevin a playful smack on the arm, then leans forward, eyes zeroing in on Counselor Berg.

DOZER  
You know I'll be eighteen in a few  
months, yeah?

Smack. Dozer yelps as he gets tagged on his arm. Mudcat, sitting next to him, pulls her fist back. She winks at Counselor Berg. Girl power.

Jeff sits nearby. He chuckles at his friends and buries his head back into a magazine.

The rock song volume picks up as...

THE SERIES OF SHOTS CONTINUE

-- Mudcat and Dozer devour a quarterback.

-- Kevin exposes the contents of his lunch bag. Dozer and Mudcat, wide-eyed desire. Kevin surrenders his cookies.

-- Jeff and Kevin continue to repair Jeff's car: the side-view mirror, the antenna, and the front quarter panel.

-- A crowd has gathered, clapping along, watching Kevin, Jeff, Mudcat, and Dozer strut their stuff.

-- Jeff runs a cloth over his newly repaired car. He tosses a beer into the air. Kevin drops it. He dusts it off. Pops the top. Cheers. Chugs.

THE SERIES OF SHOTS END as...

EXT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

The end of the song builds to its finale. Now dancing in unison, the boys and Mudcat spin and land on one knee, their arms extended toward the cheerleaders.

They all topple to the ground, laughing.

Coach Bolen stands nearby, arms crossed, angry eyes bearing down on Jeff. Jeff catches his glare. Uh oh. He scurries away. Coach Bolen pursues him.

Kevin, all smiles, picks himself up, then looks around, confused, looking for Jeff. He was just here.

Jeff rushes toward a nearby building. He cocks his head back to see -- Coach Bolen, like a machine, pursuing.

Coach Bolen follows Jeff into the building. He grabs Jeff by the neck and shoves him through an open classroom doorway.

INT. GAS MART BATHROOM - DAY

Frank, disheveled and retching, hugs the toilet. He pukes.

EXT. GAS MART - DAY

Kevin fuels his car.

Across the street, kids play football in a sports park. Kevin smiles, then spots Frank's truck parked nearby. Gulp! Then, ah, oh...

Frank emerges drunk from the gas mart bathroom and stumbles toward his truck.

Kevin watches Frank climb into his truck. VROOM!

Kevin's face shows a mix of hatred and concern. An idea strikes. He grabs a football and tee from his car, sets it up, and SMACK.

Frank's passenger window explodes. The football bounces away.

Startled, Frank jumps out of his truck and spots a hooded figure (Kevin) running away.

FRANK

Hey!

He gives chase around the building.

Kevin emerges from the back of the building. He jumps into Frank's truck, kills the engine, tosses the keys into the bed, and then dashes back into his car.

Frank and his wobbly legs emerge from the back of the building. Winded, he climbs back into his truck, only to notice the silent engine. Confusion follows.

He reaches to find a keyless ignition. The alcohol gets the best of him. He teeters and passes out.

Satisfied, Kevin smiles and drives away.

CLOSE ON FRANK'S EYES as SERIES OF MEMORIES flood his mind.

-- Frank screams at high school-age Michael after a game.

-- Frank trains Michael, age 13, on an obstacle course.

-- Frank teaches Michael, age 10, to tie a necktie.

-- Frank mows the lawn with Michael, age 5, on his back.

-- Nanette holds infant Michael as Frank beams with joy.

END MEMORIES

## FRANK'S TRUCK - LATER

Frank's crusted-over eyes open. He pulls bits of glass from his face. Kids playing across the street catch his attention.

He steps out of the truck and watches the kids scream and shout, just having fun.

Emotions wash over Frank. He puts his emotions in check and smiles. Spots his keys in the truck bed.

He drives off, tossing his bottle out the window.

## EXT. WRECKING YARD - DAY

Kevin and Jeff sit atop a wooden fence. They peer out to a sea of wrecked cars.

JEFF

What now?

KEVIN

Now... we jump.

Kevin slides off the fence and disappears into the wrecking yard. Jeff sighs, disinterested, but jumps.

## INT. WRECKED CAR - DAY

A rusted-out car. Jeff and Kevin sit in the front seat.

KEVIN

...working my way up the ranks:  
assistant manager, manager--

Kevin catches Jeff staring out the window, thumping his impatient fingers on the broken steering wheel.

KEVIN

Then, I'll dive headfirst into  
politics. Can you imagine? I mean,  
wow, I could become president of  
planet Zargon!

Jeff nods. His mind is elsewhere.

KEVIN

Shit, I could even make  
interplanetary alliances, sign  
treaties, and maybe even legalize  
tacos as a universal currency.

Jeff finally blinks and looks at Kevin.

JEFF

Huh?

Kevin looks at Jeff and smirks.

KEVIN

Nothing.

JEFF

What about college? Have you thought about that?

KEVIN

Maybe. I don't know. You? Is that required to be a firefighter?

JEFF

Right. Can you honestly see me doing that? I'm going to college, Kevin. To play football.

KEVIN

That's great. You should.

JEFF

Don't say that. Don't fucking tell me what I should do, Kevin!

Kevin, shocked, throws up his hands.

KEVIN

I wasn't telling-- I'm sorry, I--

JEFF

I know what I should do.

KEVIN

Okay. Right on. Good. Good.

JEFF

Sorry. I... I want you to have something to prove I'm serious.

Jeff removes his medallion and extends it.

JEFF

Take it.

KEVIN

No, what the hell's wrong with you?

Kevin sees desperation on Jeff's face. He grabs the medallion.

JEFF  
Put it on.

KEVIN  
What? No, fuck no.

JEFF  
I can't do it with that thing  
hanging around my neck.

Kevin slips it over his head. Jeff sighs with relief.

JEFF  
Firefighter. What was I thinking?  
Anyway, I gotta--

Jeff exits the car. Kevin studies the medallion. Shrugs.

EXT. KEVIN'S HOME - DAY

Mudcat drives her car into the driveway. Dozer hops out and  
knocks on the door. Kevin opens it.

DOZER  
Let's go.

He examines the concerned look on Kevin's face.

DOZER  
What's up?

INT. MUDCAT'S CAR - MOVING - DAY

Mudcat drives. Dozer rides shotgun. His head is cocked back,  
listening to Kevin in the back seat.

KEVIN  
Just weird.

DOZER  
Weird, like how?

KEVIN  
Like weird. I don't know!

DOZER  
That's it? He gave you a stupid  
necklace, and now you think he's  
weird? Strange maybe.

KEVIN  
What's the difference?

DOZER  
 Strange, like he wanted you to cut  
 his meat for him. Weird, like he  
 wanted you to chew his meat for  
 him. Got it?

KEVIN  
 You know what? You're fucking  
 weird.

DOZER  
 Yeah? I'm not the one wearing the  
 dude's necklace...

Dozer and Mudcat laugh. Kevin huffs and snaps the necklace  
 off. He stuffs it into his pocket.

They pull around the corner. Jeff's house becomes visible.

Jeff is on the front lawn, rifling footballs through a tire  
 that dangles from a tree.

KEVIN  
 See!

DOZER  
 Kevin... I think you're right. This  
 is serious. Mudcat, call 9-1-1. Our  
 quarterback is throwing footballs!

Dozer and Mudcat laugh. The car pulls up to Jeff's house.

Jeff throws footballs like a machine.

Dozer sticks his head out the window.

DOZER  
 You wanna grab a bite?

JEFF  
 Can't. Busy.

Jeff rockets another football through the tire.

KEVIN  
 Now do you believe--

Dozer holds up his finger, silencing Kevin.

DOZER  
 You haven't missed one yet.

Jeff picks up another football.

DOZER  
Come on, Guz, you're giving Kevin  
the creeps...

Kevin smacks Dozer.

DOZER  
...and Mudcat gets all rashie if  
she doesn't eat something every  
twenty minutes.

Mudcat tags Dozer.

DOZER  
...and now they're beatin' the shit  
out of me because you're being an  
idiot!

JEFF  
I shouldn't.

DOZER  
You're right. Come on.

Jeff glances toward the house. Ponders.

INT. MUDCAT'S CAR - MOVING - DAY

The car heads into town.

DOZER  
Chicken? Burgers?

Mudcat shrugs.

DOZER  
Do you ever know what you want?

Mudcat shrugs again, then glances at the car in the lane next  
to her. Her eyes light up.

It's Julie, the Pleasant View cheerleader. She glances over,  
recognizes Mudcat, and returns a warm smile.

DOZER  
Burgers good with you guys?

JEFF  
Yeah, whatever.

Mudcat and Julie exchange smiles. Julie winks at Mudcat and  
waves goodbye. She disappears into the maze of traffic ahead.

MUDCAT  
I want chicken!

Mudcat punches the throttle. She follows Julie.

DOZER  
Mudcat made a decision!

Dozer exchanges high-fives with Jeff and Kevin.

Mudcat zigzags from lane to lane, Julie in her sights. She punches the gas pedal.

Kevin looks out the window. Buildings seem to blur past him. His breathing becomes sporadic.

KEVIN  
Slow down.

Mudcat catches Julie's car. They exchange smiles.

Dozer notices the chicken restaurant pass by.

DOZER  
You just passed--

He notices Julie in her car.

DOZER  
What are you doing?!

MUDCAT  
Just lookin'...

Dozer grabs the steering wheel. The car swerves.

Julie's car pulls away and moves through an intersection. The traffic light turns yellow, then red.

KEVIN  
Stop!

Mudcat brakes hard. The car skids to a halt.

INSERT: The sickening SOUND OF A CAR IMPACTING A TREE. A fiery explosion reflects in Kevin's eyes.

JEFF  
Fuck...! This is what I'm talking  
about! We've got a game tonight,  
and we're out fucking around! FUCK!

Jeff exits and slams the door shut. Dozer glares at Mudcat. She shrugs. Dozer looks back.

Kevin hyperventilates in the back seat.

DOZER  
Kevin?! Jesus! It's okay, buddy.  
Breathe, breathe!

Kevin takes deep, calming breaths.

Dozer shoots an angry look at Mudcat.

DOZER  
You get a good look, jerk?

INT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

The team suits up for a game.

Jeff slips his undershirt on, exposing fresh marks on his back. Kevin notices.

KEVIN  
Dude, what happened?

Jeff slides the shirt down, hiding the marks.

JEFF  
Football. It's nothing.

He slips his shoulder pads.

Coach Bolen enters.

COACH BOLEN  
Okay, Gentlemen, sit down, be quiet, and THINK about your assignments. Guzman. My office.

INT. COACH BOLEN'S OFFICE - LATER

Jeff enters and sees Coach Bolen conversing with ALLEN KEIZER, 40s, Stanford University branded from head to toe.

COACH BOLEN  
I'll leave you to it.

Coach Bolen exits but hovers just outside the office.

KEIZER  
Mister Guzman, nice to meet you.  
Allen Keizer, Stanford QB coach.

Jeff, taken back, forces a smile. They shake hands.

KEIZER

Got a hell of an arm, kid. You can run and pass. You're fast, strong, efficient, competent. You could have a hell of a future.

Jeff crosses his arms.

KEIZER

The team is down to a few open slots. One of those is going to QB. And I love you. I do. But the head coach wants to see how your season plays out.

Jeff raises his eyebrows.

KEIZER

Let me make this clear. The Cowboys haven't beaten the Bulldogs in over a decade. Bring the trophy home next week, and I guarantee he'll give you that slot.

JEFF

Really... That's all it'll take, Huh? Just win?

KEIZER

You got it.

Jeff looks over at Coach Bolen, who peers through the office window with a gleam in his eye. Jeff gives him a thumbs-up.

JEFF

Then let's play ball...

INT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

The gathered team, ready and eager to play, await Coach Bolen's pre-game inspiration.

COACH BOLEN

Attitude, Gentlemen. Attitude is what will--

An excited player cuts in.

PLAYER

Pleasant View!

The team chimes in, "Pleasant View! Pleasant View!"

Coach Bolen takes a deep breath. He simmers beneath a facade of calmness, then picks up a football helmet and chucks it across the room. It punctures a hole into the wallboard.

The players are stunned into silence.

COACH BOLEN

All week, gentlemen. All week, we have planned, prepared, and practiced for tonight. Your friends, your families--everyone--is sitting out there IN THE RAIN...to see you play TONIGHT!

Coach Bolen closes his eyes and takes deep breaths.

COACH BOLEN

Winners play for the moment. For tonight! Now, let's go, gentlemen! Let's go, let's go, let's go!

The team scrambles for the exit and bursts through the door.

EXT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

The Cowboys line up to receive the kick-off. Heavy rain drenches the players and crowd.

ANNOUNCER'S BOOTH

RADIO ANNOUNCER

What an exciting season this has been. With the Cowboys thoroughly dominating every opponent, they have but one obstacle to pass before facing the defending champions, the Pleasant View Bulldogs.

ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD, a Cowboy player receives the kick. He zigzags through opponents and turns upfield for a touchdown.

RADIO ANNOUNCER

TOUCHDOWN COWBOYS!

ON THE COWBOY SIDELINE

Kevin turns to Jeff, gleaming with confidence.

KEVIN

Pleasant View, here we come!

JEFF  
Yeah, whatever...

Kevin gives him a curious look. He watches Jeff walk away.

ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD, the opposing quarterback gets flattened. Fumble! Mudcat dives for the ball and rises victorious, football in hand.

ON THE COWBOY SIDELINE, Coach Bolen pulls Jeff aside.

COACH BOLEN  
Let's not get hasty. Keep the ball  
on the ground.

JEFF  
Got it, Coach.

Jeff heads onto the field. Joins the huddle.

IN THE HUDDLE, Jeff glances through his teammates, his eyes on Coach Bolen. He looks back to his teammates.

JEFF  
Bird's Eye View, 89 to Fly the  
Coop. On three. Ready...

TEAMMATES  
BREAK!

Jeff puts the play into action. He fakes a handoff, then chucks the ball. Interception. The Cowboy crowd moans.

Jeff exits the field. Coach Bolen, angry, pulls him aside.

COACH BOLEN  
I said keep the ball on the ground!

JEFF  
Yeah, sorry. I thought it'd be a  
nice surprise.

COACH BOLEN  
It was for the little prick who  
intercepted it! I call the plays.  
Not you!

Jeff watches him storm away. He develops a satisfied smile.

JEFF  
We'll see about that...

SERIES OF SHOTS:

-- Jeff trips over his own feet and fumbles.  
-- Jeff misses a hand-off. Gets tackled.  
-- Jeff throws another interception.  
-- Coach Bolen, seething mad, crazed eyes bore into Jeff.  
-- SCOREBOARD: One quarter remaining.  
-- COWBOYS: 7, OPPONENT: 37.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

EXT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

A rain-soaked Coach Bolen fumes. He glances at the Cowboy team. The crowd. Zero enthusiasm by all. He kicks over the beverage cooler.

COACH BOLEN  
Get him out of there! Get him out!

INT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

The locker room is dead quiet. Players mope about.

LOCKER ROOM SHOWER

Jeff showers. A player confronts him.

PLAYER  
Tough break, Man. You did good.

The player exits. A smile develops on Jeff's face.

Coach Bolen enters the room and stands at the entrance of the shower. He glares at Jeff.

COACH BOLEN  
In case anyone is interested,  
Pleasant View lost tonight. We're  
still in it...

Cowboy players scream with joy. Jeff's smile washes away.

EXT. MICHAEL'S (JEFF'S) HOUSE - DAY

Kevin and Jeff sit inside Kevin's car, their hair still wet from the football game.

INT./EXT. KEVIN'S CAR - NIGHT

Jeff, arms crossed, stares at his house and sighs.

KEVIN

You okay?

JEFF

Yeah, yeah. Good. I'm Good. Must've been nice growing up here.

KEVIN

We used to have these football games. Everyone would bike over. Old Man McBee's property was one sideline. The Bettencourt's was the other. Your yard -- Michael's yard -- was the end zone. I used to sit and watch him play.

JEFF

Michael?

KEVIN

Yeah. His dad felt sorry for me and started sending me in with plays. I got my big break when Billy Schweiger broke his front teeth on McBee's brick flower bed.

Jeff cringes.

KEVIN

Ha! I made that same face! I got his position, though. Receiver.

JEFF

Receiver? You pretty good?

KEVIN

Naw. Turns out my feet work way better than my hands.

Jeff nods, then silence. Jeff turns his attention back to the house. Kevin checks his watch.

KEVIN

Dude, seriously. I have to--

JEFF

Everyone told me how good I played tonight.

KEVIN

You kidding me? You played like  
shit. I couldn't believe it!

JEFF

I was right about you. You'll be  
there when the times get tough,  
won't you?

KEVIN

Sure... For what now...? Be where?

Jeff opens the door. He gives Kevin a long look...

JEFF

You will be...

Kevin, confused, watches Jeff walk toward the house.

Jeff stops. He takes a deep breath and then enters the house.

Kevin, disturbed, shuts off the engine. He opens the door.

Kevin heads up the walkway. The lights inside the house turn on.  
Then, the sound of a DOOR SLAMMING SHUT.

Kevin stops, startled.

MUFFLED SHOUTING from inside the house. More DOORS SLAM SHUT.

Kevin stands wide-eyed and frozen in place. The lights in the  
house go out. All quiet now. He sighs in relief and heads back  
to the car.

INT. KATIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

A dirty kitchen. Dishes piled high. A TELEVISION BLARES in the  
other room.

Katie steps back from behind an opened refrigerator door.

KATIE

Because you don't care!

Nanette sits joyless at the dining table, prescription bottles  
in front of her, pills in hand.

KATIE

Go ahead. Take another! It doesn't  
matter. Right? Nothing matters!  
Except that I hate you! That's all  
that matters!

Katie slams the refrigerator door shut.

A picture frame falls and shatters. Katie spins, startled, to find a photo of her and Michael under broken glass. Tears.

She watches Nanette, her face etched with sorrow, exit the room with an air of detachment.

Katie grabs her keys and exits.

INT. WIMPY WILLY'S HAMBURGER RESTAURANT - DAY

Dozer cleans the grill.

Mudcat mops the floor, her mind a million miles away.

EXT. JULIE'S CAR - DRIVING - DAY

It's a beautiful day. The sun beats down. Julie has the radio on. She sings Little Runaway, runnin' down a dream...

INT. WIMPY WILLY'S HAMBURGER RESTAURANT - DAY

Mudcat snaps from her gaze to see...

OUTSIDE, THROUGH THE WINDOW, Julie's car zooms by.

The mop stick hits the floor. The bell above the door jingles.

Dozer pokes his head into the room, curious.

DOZER

Mudcat?

OUTSIDE, THROUGH THE WINDOW, Dozer sees Mudcat's car fishtail from the parking lot and onto the street.

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - DAY

Knock at the door. Kevin opens it. Dozer's anguished face stares back at him.

INT./EXT. DOZER'S CAR - DAY

Dozer drives. Kevin looks at him, worried.

DOZER

I told her, "She's gonna get you hurt." I told her!

Dozer steers the car into the cul-de-sac.

Jeff, on his front lawn, rockets a football through the tire.

KEVIN  
Oh, no...

DOZER  
Hey, Guz, we've got trouble.

JEFF  
Pleasant View.

DOZER  
Yeah, yeah. Besides that. Mudcat went after that girl -- the one from Pleasant View. Come on!

Jeff sighs. He looks at the house.

EXT. PLEASANT VIEW HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

The school sits on the wealthy side of town. An ornate wooden sign reads "Pleasant View High School. Home of the Bulldogs."

Dozer's car pulls up to the curb. Dozer's head spins on a swivel, concerned, searching.

DOZER  
I just know it. Discarded and thrown into a trash bin.

KEVIN  
Please stop.

The boys hop out of the car and cross the lawn, heading toward the school.

DOZER  
Cold-blooded murderers! Skinned her alive. Nothing left but a broken heart for the girl she--

Kevin stops and glares at Dozer. Dozer gets the hint. He pretends to lock his lips and throw away the key.

They make their way around a building. The stadium comes into view. A sign reads: Bulldog Stadium. Jeff is awestruck.

JEFF  
Holy shit! A stadium? It's actually called a stadium? For a high school? Does ours have a name?

KEVIN  
Ummm... Yeah. A field, I think.

Dozer nods in agreement. Then, AN ECHO SOUND emits from within the stadium. HIT – HIT – HIT.

DOZER  
Jesus Christ! A human sacrifice!  
They're killing her!

KEVIN  
Shut up already.  
(points)  
She's right there!

Mudcat mopes alone. Dozer's eyes light up. He runs over and gives Mudcat a bear hug. Looks her over.

DOZER  
Where's your cheerleader?

Mudcat pouts her lips and shrugs.

DOZER  
Thank God! Let's get out of here.

JEFF  
Wait a sec. We're here. Let's check  
out the team.

DOZER  
What? No... No, no, no, no...

Dozer watches his friends continue toward the stadium. He throws up his hands, then runs to catch up.

INT/EXT. PLEASANT VIEW HIGH SCHOOL – FOOTBALL STADIUM – DAY

ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD IS THE SOURCE OF THE ECHO: The Pleasant View football team, evenly conformed and spinning quarter turns. HIT – HIT – HIT – HIT.

Kevin and his friends enter.

DOZER  
Okay, we've seen enough...

JEFF  
Hang on. Something looks off.

DOZER  
Yeah. Us...standing here.

ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD, quarterbacks throw wobbly passes. The linemen struggle to move the tackling sled.

KEVIN  
They look small.

Dozer's fear turns to intrigue.

DOZER  
Wait, what? Haha. I know what the problem is... THESE GUYS SUCK!

DOZER'S VOICE ECHOES the stadium.

ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD, the Pleasant View team stops their activity to seek out the source of the echo.

JEFF  
Crap. That's not the varsity team.

HOWARD (O.C.)  
Nope.

Howard, Rocky, and a few of his teammates emerge from a corridor. Howard points with a tilt of his head.

Massive Pleasant View players flood the stadium's upper level.

JEFF  
Look, we're not here to cause trouble. We can keep this on the field. We're leaving. Cool?

Howard considers. He shoos them away. Jeff starts to escort his friends out.

HOWARD  
(To Rocky)  
Told you. Pussies.

Mudcat stops in her tracks. The other three, realizing Mudcat has stopped, also stop. Jeff looks back at her.

JEFF  
Don't...

Mudcat winks at Jeff and turns to face Howard.

MUDCAT  
You fear the vagina.

HOWARD  
Excuse me?

Jeff groans in disbelief. Kevin places a hand on his shoulder.

KEVIN

It's okay. I got this.

Kevin turns to face Howard.

KEVIN

She's right, you know. I mean, you guys are like serious badasses. It just seems you'd be lapping it up. Not making fun of it.

Jeff rolls his eyes. He looks at Dozer. Dozer smiles and winks. Then turns to face Howard.

DOZER

Maybe stop by Wimpy's. I can fry you up a juicy Fur Burger.

Mudcat and Kevin snicker. Jeff throws up his hands.

JEFF

(whispers to Dozer)  
Dude, I had this. What the fuck?

DOZER

(whispers back)  
Just so tired of being afraid of this school, you know?

Jeff nods, understanding. He turns to face Howard.

JEFF

The Fur Burger is an excellent choice. Maybe add a bowl of steamy Bearded Clams, and you've got yourself a meal!

Howard's confused eyes dart between them.

KEVIN

And top all that off with a slice of moist Moose Knuckle Pie!

Our crew howls with laughter, enjoying the moment.

HOWARD

You know what? Fuck you!

Howard leaps at Mudcat and punches her. Dozer clobbers Howard.

A brawl ensues. Evenly matched until...

The Pleasant View players on the upper level scramble down the stairs to assist.

Jeff sees them.

JEFF  
Too many! Go. GO!

They run back through the entrance. Dozer sees something.

DOZER  
There!

They sprint towards a set of doors to a building.

INT. PLEASANT VIEW HIGH SCHOOL - WOMAN'S LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Our crew crashes through the doorway. They tumble from the momentum. Scramble to their feet.

They sprint past a bank of lockers, a toilet area, and the stunned faces of Julie and other cheerleaders showering.

EXT. PLEASANT VIEW HIGH SCHOOL - WOMAN'S LOCKER ROOM - DAY

The door burst open. Kevin, Jeff, and Dozer storm out, exhausted yet relieved. The car is just a quick dash across the lawn, but...

DOZER  
(realizing)  
Where's Mudcat?!

INT. PLEASANT VIEW HIGH SCHOOL - WOMAN'S LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Mudcat stands, transfixed. Julie walks toward her, wearing nothing but a smile. Both are oblivious to the other girls scrambling for towels.

MUDCAT  
Hi. You come here often?

Julie stares into Mudcat's eyes and smiles.

Dozer, Jeff, and Kevin burst back into the room. They grab Mudcat and wrestle her off her feet.

MUDCAT  
No!

They turn back toward the exit. Uh oh. Pleasant View players.

KEVIN

This way!

They take a detour, still carrying Mudcat. Julie waves goodbye, eyes locked on Mudcat. Mudcat blows Julie a kiss.

EXT. PLEASANT VIEW HIGH SCHOOL - GYM - DAY

Kevin and his friends crash through the doors. But it's the wrong side of the school. Dozer's car is nowhere in sight.

DOZER

Crap!

Howard and his friends bust through the doorway just as...

A car SCREECHES to a halt. It's Katie.

KATIE

Get in!

Our crew dives into Katie's car. She punches the gas pedal, leaving Howard and his friends in her wake.

INT. KATIE'S CAR - DRIVING - DAY

Katie drives. Her friends sigh with relief. They untangle their arms and legs and settle in.

KATIE

So... What's up? Hey, guys.

MUDCAT & DOZER

Hi, Katie...

Jeff extends his hand over the seat.

JEFF

Jeff. Jeff Guzman. They call me...

KATIE

Goooozsse. I've heard.

JEFF

Yeah?

KATIE

Yeah. Some of the players were talking about you. They said their dead grandmother could throw harder than you.

Jeff sighs.

KATIE  
They said they'd lasso that cowboy  
and break him like a filly.

Jeff sinks back into his seat.

KATIE  
And, I'm paraphrasing here, but  
they said something like, "Can't  
wait to rip his head off and skull  
fuck his eye sockets..."

KEVIN  
Katie!

She sees Kevin's eyes boring into hers.

KATIE  
What? I'm working through it. Jeez.

EXT. MICHAEL'S (JEFF'S) HOUSE - DAY

Jeff, Dozer, and Mudcat file out of Katie's car.

JEFF  
(to Kevin)  
I'll take them to get their cars.

Kevin nods with appreciation.

DOZER AND MUDCAT  
Bye, Katie!

KATIE  
Later. See you, Goooozsse!

Katie punches the gas pedal. Jeff, Dozer, and Mudcat watch the car speed out of the cul-de-sac. Jeff looks at Dozer.

DOZER  
Michael's sister.

JEFF  
Oh... Damn...

INT. KATIE'S CAR - MOVING - DAY

Katie offers Kevin a bittersweet smile.

KATIE

I miss you, too. You know that,  
don't you?

Kevin takes a second to digest her words. Katie looks at the sadness in his eyes. She pulls out a cigarette and lights it.

KEVIN

What are you doing?

She blows a smoke ring at him. He waves it away.

KEVIN

Katie... Come on.

She glares at him, then tosses the cigarette out the window.

KEVIN

Thank you.

An awkward silence. Katie steers the car into a lefthand turn.

KEVIN

Where you going?

KATIE

Home.

KEVIN

What? Why?

KATIE

Just for a sec. I need to grab my  
crack pipe and heroin stash.

KEVIN

What?!

KATIE

I'm kidding. Come say hi to mom.

KEVIN

No, come on. Just take me home. She  
doesn't want to see me. Why would  
she want to see me?

KATIE

Jesus Christ, Kevin. Nobody blames  
you. Just you.

KEVIN

Would things be different if I had  
made that kick?

Katie looks at him. Hard to argue that point. She pulls into the driveway of her house. Kevin throws up his hands.

EXT. KATIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Katie opens the car door for Kevin. She reaches in and offers her hand. He groans and takes it.

INT. KATIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Kevin enters, apprehensive. Katie smiles at him.

KATIE  
Was that so difficult?

KEVIN  
Walking through the door? That was easy. I'll give you that. It's the rest that I'm--

KATIE  
(shouts)  
Mom, you'll never guess who's here!

Kevin starts to head back out. Katie grabs his hand.

KATIE  
What are you afraid of?

KEVIN  
If she looks at me and smiles, I know I'm in the clear. If she looks at me with--

Katie, alarmed, turns her head.

KEVIN  
What's the matter?

KATIE  
The T.V. is usually on.  
(shouts)  
Mom?!

Silence.

KATIE  
Mother?!

Katie rushes into...

HER MOTHER'S BEDROOM

Katie shrieks, aghast to find Nanette in bed, comatose, an empty bottle of pills dangled in her hand.

KATIE

Mom!

Kevin rushes to Nanette's side. He checks for a pulse.

KEVIN

She's still alive! Call 911. Did you hear me? Call 911, NOW!

Katie stumbles for the phone. Kevin gives Nanette mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

INT. HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR - DAY

A devastated Katie sits with her phone wedged to her ear.

KATIE

(into phone)

Daddy. Hi... I know, I know, Daddy. No, no... Not me. It's mom.

INT. HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - DAY

Kevin, flowers in hand, looks up to see a NURSE enter.

NURSE

She's going to be okay.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Frank's brown quad-cab work truck screeches to a halt. Frank, cleaned up, sprints into the building.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Kevin enters. Nanette is in bed. Katie lies next to her, cradled in her arms. Nanette strokes her hair. She looks up and smiles at Kevin.

Kevin exhausts a sigh of relief.

KEVIN

How are you feeling?

NANETTE

Better, now. Thank you.

Frank explodes into the room. Kevin looks at him, shocked. He avoids him and heads for the door.

KEVIN  
I'll be outside.

KATIE  
Wait. I'm coming.

Kevin looks at Katie, surprised and confused. He opens the door. Katie heads toward it.

FRANK  
Katie, please...

Katie scoots past Frank and exits. Frank sighs, disappointed.

Kevin flips his hoodie over his head and exits. Frank watches him, cocking his head. Hmm. That looked familiar.

Frank looks at Nanette. She smiles and extends her arms.

EXT. KATIE'S CAR - MOVING - DAY

Kevin drives. Katie stares out the window.

KEVIN  
I thought you wanted to see him.

KATIE  
It wasn't enough. I thought it would be.

KEVIN  
We'll get through this.

KATIE  
How?

Kevin pulls the car into the Sports Park parking lot.

EXT. SPORTS PARK PLAYGROUND - DAY

Katie and Kevin sit on swing set seats.

KEVIN  
Together. That's how. Ready?

They both kick the ground and start to sway in unison.

KEVIN  
Everything will get better from  
this moment on.

KATIE  
Promise?

KEVIN  
Ehh.

They both chuckle. Katie rests her head on his shoulder.

INT. MICHAEL'S (JEFF'S) HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Quiet. Jeff eats dinner. The DOORBELL RINGS. He looks over and  
nods. Sets his napkin down and exits into...

THE LIVING ROOM

Jeff reaches for the front door, and... it blows open.

An excited Dozer, Mudcat, and Kevin bust in.

DOZER  
We have tools. We have attitude.  
We're ready to rock 'n' roll!

JEFF  
What the hell?

DOZER  
That's a fine "how you doing?"  
Sheesh!

JEFF  
We're eating. You can't--

DOZER  
(sniffs)  
Did somebody say food?

Dozer moves into the living room. Jeff blocks his path.

JEFF  
Seriously. You can't be here.

DOZER  
Or... Or... Just a thought here,  
but maybe you can be a gracious  
host and invite your buddies in?

KEVIN  
This was a bad idea. Let's go.

Jeff and Dozer stare at each other, defiant. Jeff resigns to the idea.

JEFF  
 You want to stay? Have some food?  
 Not sure what I was thinking.  
 There's always plenty.

DOZER  
 Not with me around.

Jeff chuckles and escorts his friends through the living room.

JEFF  
 Come on in. Meet mom and dad.

DOZER  
 Excellent. Mister and Missus  
 Guzman! Goooozsse! Goooozsse!

Jeff chuckles at Dozer's enthusiasm. He escorts his friends around the corner and down the hall.

DOZER  
 Man, can you believe Pleasant View?  
 Every year we steal their sign, and  
 every year they replace it.

And into the dining room...

DOZER  
 And practicing on Saturday? I think  
 their coach is a bigger asshole  
 than --

Dozer stops, stunned. Coach Bolen sits at the dinner table.

DOZER  
 -- ours. Crap...

Kevin and Mudcat enter the room. Wide-eyed shock.

INT. MICHAEL'S (JEFF'S) HOUSE - DINING ROOM - LATER

Jeff's Mother, BRENDA BOLEN, 40, hands out dessert to Mudcat, Dozer, and Kevin. They sit in stunned silence.

COACH BOLEN  
 You ready for Pleasant View, Kevin?

KEVIN  
 Yes, coach.

COACH BOLEN

Defense is the key to their success. It will take all aspects of our offense to beat them. We may have to put your foot on overtime. Should be a hell of a game. Like two freight trains on a collision course...

BRENDA

Honey, I'm sure the kids have heard enough of--

COACH BOLEN

(taps table to emphasize)  
--Football is a game of individuals...

Brenda glares at Coach Bolen.

INT. MICHAEL'S (JEFF'S) HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dozer, Mudcat, and Kevin look like little kids sitting on a giant overstuffed couch. Jeff sits nearby.

Coach Bolen admires a trophy case.

COACH BOLEN

...it appears to breathe as a whole being, but the individuals feed the team its strength. That's the reason behind the scholarship system...

(looks proudly at Jeff)  
...to draft the best individuals possible.

Kevin glances at Jeff. Sees a hint of sadness on his face.

Coach Bolen's eyes move from the trophy case to a gun case -- rifles, pistols, ammo. Photos of him and Jeff hunting.

COACH BOLEN

It's all about timing, preparation, and hard work. That's my job. As your coach, I lay out the blueprint, I find the tools needed to construct the team and execute the plan. To create a masterpiece. Not unlike the men who built this beautiful hunk of metal.

Coach Bolen reaches into the case and grabs a revolver.

Everyone else sits up, uneasy.

COACH BOLEN  
It took a brilliant team to build  
it, but it only takes one person to  
fire it. Perfection.

JEFF  
Dad--

COACH BOLEN  
It's coach or sir.

KEVIN  
I think we should--

Kevin nods towards the door. Dozer and Mudcat return an assertive nod in agreement. They start to rise.

COACH BOLEN  
No, no. Sit, sit.

They are caught between standing and sitting.

COACH BOLEN  
I said sit.

Gulp. Kevin, Dozer, and Mudcat ease back onto the couch.

Coach Bolen catches Jeff's sigh. He ignores him and puts the revolver's cylinder to his ear.

COACH BOLEN  
If you listen closely, you can hear  
how perfectly it works. How in sync  
it is. Can you hear it?

Coach Bolen spins the cylinder. He closes his eyes. Listens to the spinning cylinder.

COACH BOLEN  
Click, click. Click, click, just  
like each individual player, the  
heartbeat of the game.

Coach Bolen inhales and exhales with a disturbing trance-like look on his face. He snaps out of it with a smile and returns the gun to the cabinet.

Kevin, Dozer, and Mudcat sit there, unsure how to react.

EXT/INT. TRUCK - MOVING - NIGHT

Jeff drives. Kevin sits shotgun. Dozer and Mudcat ride in the bed. Dozer pokes his head through the sliding rear window.

DOZER  
Dude, what the fuck was that?

JEFF  
He can get a bit... intense.

DOZER  
You think?

JEFF  
Look, Guzman is my mom's maiden name. Coach...dad, thought it was best not to say anything. You know, for favoritism and all that.  
(chuckles)  
You should've seen the looks on your faces!

Dozer howls with laughter.

DOZER  
Holy shit! I called the Coach an asshole! To his face!

Everyone starts to laugh except Kevin.

KEVIN  
Why didn't you say something? We would've understood.

JEFF  
You wouldn't've. Nobody would. How would it look if the only person on the team with scouts looking at him was the Coach's son?

Dozer pokes his head through the sliding rear window again.

DOZER  
Scouts?! You got scouts coming?

Dozer and Mudcat howl. Jeff glances at Kevin. Kevin stares at him. Analyzes him. Jeff averts his eyes.

EXT. PLEASANT VIEW HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

Kevin and his friend's heads pop up from behind the cobblestone wall. They dash toward the ornate wooden sign near the main entrance.

EXT. PLEASANT VIEW HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

Kevin removes the last nut and bolt from the sign. He nods.

Dozer launches his massive leg into the sign. CRACK! The sign tumbles. It hits the ground and splinters in half.

INT./EXT. PICKUP TRUCK - MOVING - NIGHT

Jeff drives. Kevin sits shotgun.

IN THE BACK OF THE TRUCK, Mudcat and Dozer ride on top of the newly acquired Pleasant View sign pieces, beer bottles in hand. They drunkenly sing a victory chant.

DOZER AND MUDCAT

*Here's to Brother Jeffrey, who's  
with us tonight. He eats it; he  
beats it...*

IN THE CAB OF THE TRUCK, Kevin looks at Jeff.

KEVIN

Jeff...

There's a hint of sadness on Jeff's face. It shifts as he looks at Kevin with a smile.

JEFF

I wanted to tell you, Kevin. I  
wanted you to be the first to know.

DOZER AND MUDCAT

*...he really mistreats it. Here's  
to brother Jeffrey, who's with us  
tonight. So... Drink, mother  
fucker. Drink!*

Dozer and Mudcat down beers. Howl with excitement.

KEVIN

You said you didn't want to play  
football after high school. What  
was all that crap about being a  
firefighter?

JEFF

It wasn't crap. It was a fantasy. Look, I couldn't see it. Coach set me straight. This is a great opportunity, Kev.

KEVIN

You threw the last game.

JEFF

What? Fuck you!

KEVIN

I heard him screaming at you when I dropped you off!

Silence. The look on Jeff's face softens.

JEFF

I-- I just wanted to do it my way for once. During that game, I felt like I had some control over my--

KEVIN

You have to tell him.

JEFF

Are you serious?

KEVIN

I'm just saying talk to him.

JEFF

You saw him tonight. He only likes to be heard. There's never been an in-between with him. But the more I think about it, the more I think he's right...

KEVIN

What?! No, Jeff, he's not.

There's a hint of sadness in Jeff's voice.

JEFF

He's got me excited about my future.

Kevin looks at him and just shakes his head, not buying it.

JEFF

And I'm going to play my heart out for him.

KEVIN  
What? For your dad?

Kevin holds his stomach. Looks queasy.

JEFF  
No, jeez. For the scout. Pleasant View is the deciding factor, Kev.

KEVIN  
Deciding factor? What if we lose?

JEFF  
That's not an option.

Kevin looks like he might puke.

JEFF  
The only option we have is to win. I'm glad you're with me on this. Friday, Pleasant View. We've got to play the game of our lives...

A stunned Kevin just looks at Jeff.

MICHAEL (O.C.)  
Ah, oh...! Tick... Tick... Tick...

Kevin turns, shocked. Michael's apparition sits beside him.

KEVIN  
I... I gotta... Stop the truck.  
STOP THE FUCKING TRUCK!

The truck swerves to the side of the road. Kevin hops out and pukes. Dozer and Mudcat peer over the wall of the truck bed.

JEFF  
Kevin?

Kevin sprints away.

DOZER  
What the fuck happened?

Jeff shrugs. He digs his hand into an ice chest and grabs a beer bottle. Chugs. They all watch Kevin sprint away.

EXT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Moonlit. Jeff sits alone in the empty bleachers. He opens another beer bottle, chugs it, then launches it into the sky. It smashes into the scoreboard.

Jeff staggers away, eerily singing to himself.

JEFF  
*"Here's to brother Jeffrey who's  
 with us tonight..."*

Jeff stumbles and tumbles to the ground. He chuckles at his miscalculated footwork. His face turns sad, then serious.

JEFF  
 Quicker, Guzman! Faster! Come on!  
 Yes, Coach! YES, COACH!

Jeff picks himself back up and heads toward the truck.

JEFF  
*"...He really mistreats it..."*

He climbs into the truck. The engine roars to life. The tires spin against the asphalt. The truck speeds away.

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kevin, worried, picks up his phone and punches a number.

KATIE (V.O.)  
 Hi. This is Katie. Leave a message,  
 and I might call you back. BEEEEEP.

Kevin groans and ends the call. He sits at his desk and buries his head under his arms.

On the television, a professional FOOTBALL ANNOUNCER closes out the game.

FOOTBALL ANNOUNCER  
 With Green Bay heading to Detroit  
 for the playoffs.

KEVIN  
 Green Bay...?

Kevin rises and gives the television a closer look. A Green Bay Packers player holds a football in the air, victorious. Kevin focuses on the jersey. He opens the closet door.

Michael's Green Bay Packers jersey drapes on a hanger. Kevin's eyes widen as he remembers:

INSERT: A distraught-looking Michael handing him the jersey.

MICHAEL (O.C.)  
 There it is. Now you see it.

Kevin looks over to see Michael's apparition watching him. He ignores him, reaches into his pocket, and pulls out Jeff's medallion. He dangles it.

KEVIN  
Oh, God...

MICHAEL  
Tick... Tick... Tick...

Kevin storms out of the bedroom.

EXT. MICHAEL'S (JEFF'S) HOUSE - NIGHT

Jeff drives the truck over the lawn and parks skewed across the driveway. The porch light turns on.

Coach Bolen storms out of the house. He opens the truck door. Jeff sits drunk and slung over the steering wheel.

JEFF  
I'm sorry.

Coach Bolen grabs him by the scruff of his neck and pulls him out of the truck.

JEFF  
I'm sorry, dad! I'm sorry!

Coach Bolen drags Jeff into the house.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Kevin's car blasts by.

INT. KEVIN'S CAR - MOVING - NIGHT

Kevin, frantic, steers and dials. TELEPHONE RINGING from the phone held to his ear.

DOZER (V.O.)  
Yo.

KEVIN  
Dozer, it's me. We've got a--

DOZER (V.O.)  
Yo. Yo. Leave a message. BEEEP.

KEVIN  
Shit!

Kevin dials another number. He negotiates a street corner. The car fishtails. TELEPHONE RINGING. It connects. Silence.

KEVIN  
Mudcat! Hello?

More silence.

KEVIN  
Mudcat?

The silence falls to the BEEEP of voice mail. Kevin screams and throws the phone.

INT. MICHAEL'S (JEFF'S) HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dark and quiet. The gun case. The revolver is missing.

HALLWAY

Jeff, tears in his eyes, looms in a doorway with the revolver in his grip.

MASTER BEDROOM

Coach Bolen and Brenda are sound asleep.

Jeff stands in the open doorway. He pulls back the hammer on the revolver. He sets it back into place. Pulls the hammer back again. Sets it back into place.

Jeff wipes the tears away, steps forward, and shuts the door. He staggers down the hallway. The revolver dangles his side.

INT. MICHAEL'S (JEFF'S) HOUSE - JEFF'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jeff sits at his desk, the revolver in his grip. He puts the cylinder to his ear. Spins it. CLICK-CLICK, CLICK-CLICK. The sound morphs into a heartbeat.

Jeff turns the revolver on himself. He peers into the barrel and takes a deep breath. Tears stream down the tortured look on his face.

EXT. MICHAEL'S (JEFF'S) HOUSE - NIGHT

Kevin's car screeches to a halt. Kevin jumps out of the car. He sees Jeff's bedroom window. Lights glow through closed drapes. He sprints up to it and bangs on the window.

KEVIN

Jeff!

INT. MICHAEL'S (JEFF'S) HOUSE - JEFF'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jeff shoots a startled look at the window. He exhales a huge sigh of relief. Lowers the gun.

JEFF

(quietly to himself)

Thank you...

Jeff sets the gun down and starts to cry.

KEVIN (O.C.)

Jeffrey?

Jeff reaches for the light switch.

EXT. MICHAEL'S (JEFF'S) HOUSE - NIGHT

Kevin watches the lights go out in Jeff's room. He bangs on the window again.

KEVIN

Jeff! Come on!

Silence. Kevin bangs on the window.

KEVIN

Please...

EXT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

The big game. The stands are packed. Banners proudly display their team's name.

Julie and the other Pleasant View Cheerleaders lead the Pleasant View crowd with a cheer.

Katie works her way into the Pleasant View bleachers.

IN THE COWBOY BLEACHERS, Allen Keizer, the Stanford University scout, takes a seat, iPad ready.

ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD, both teams warm up.

Jeff fires practice passes to his receiver. He stops, looks around, then sees Dozer.

JEFF  
You seen him?

DOZER  
Turned in his uniform.

JEFF  
He what?!

Dozer shrugs and throws up his hands. Jeff sees lights on in the distant building. He storms off the field.

DOZER  
Where you going?

INT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - GRAPHIC ARTS DEPT - NIGHT

CROWD NOISES from the football field envelop the room. Kevin operates a printing press.

Jeff storms in carrying Kevin's football uniform.

JEFF  
Mother fucker!

Jeff chucks the uniform at Kevin.

JEFF  
Fucking quitter.

Jeff starts to head out.

KEVIN  
I know what you did, Jeff!

Jeff stops but doesn't look back.

KEVIN  
All that stuff you said... about the light, the darkness. You weren't talking about football, were you? It wasn't about Michael or me. I thought you understood. I thought you were my friend. Well, fuck, Jeff.

JEFF  
No, fuck you. I am your friend.

Jeff exits.

KEVIN  
I can't go through it again!

Kevin kicks a chair across the room. Jeff's voice echoes from the hallway.

JEFF (O.C.)  
Fucking quitter!

EXT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

A Cowboy player tees up the football. It wobbles through the Pleasant View kick-off return team. A player picks up the ball and scrambles into a pack of his teammates.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
And welcome to the final game - the  
showdown.

ON THE FIELD, Mudcat flattens the Pleasant View ball carrier.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
OUCH! A solid hit to start the  
game.

The ball pops loose.

COACH BOLEN  
FUMBLE!

Mudcat dives on it. She rises with the ball in her grip.

COWBOY SIDELINE

The Cowboy offense heads onto the field. Coach Bolen holds Jeff back.

COACH BOLEN  
Remember, I call the plays here.  
Not you. Keep the fucking ball on  
the ground.  
(glances at Keizer. Then  
back to Jeff)  
Don't embarrass me. Not tonight.

JEFF  
Yes, coach.

Jeff trots out to the waiting huddle.

IN THE HUDDLE

The offensive team eagerly awaits Jeff's instructions.

JEFF  
Let's go with a slant five.

COWBOY PLAYER  
A slant? Seriously?

JEFF  
You heard me! Slant five. Ready...

THE OFFENSIVE TEAM  
Break!

The Cowboys face Rocky and the other huge Pleasant View players. Jeff scans the field. He takes a deep breath. Hike.

The teams dig in. Jeff hands off. The running back is snuffed at the line of scrimmage.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
It will be a long night for Guzman  
unless he makes his move early.

NEXT PLAY

Jeff gets sacked and fumbles. A Pleasant View player picks up the loose ball. He runs it into the end zone. Touchdown.

ON THE COWBOY SIDELINE, Coach Bolen slams down his clipboard.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
Pleasant View breaks the ice as  
their defense scores the game's  
first touchdown...

Jeff makes his way back to the sideline. He heaves his helmet in anger. Turns to avoid Coach Bolen's glare.

Pleasant View's kicker makes the extra point.

**COWBOYS: 0, BULLDOGS: 7**

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Frank pushes Nanette in a wheelchair to his truck.

INT. FRANK'S TRUCK - MOVING - NIGHT

Frank places a comforting hand on Nanette's hand. She smiles.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
 ...with the Pleasant View Bulldogs  
 ahead by seven in the first  
 quarter.

Frank reaches to turn off the radio. Nanette stops him.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
 No word yet on why Kevin Fisher,  
 the Cowboy's star field goal  
 kicker, is not in attendance...

Frank sighs. They drive in silence. She looks at him.

NANETTE  
 It's okay. I'll be okay. Let's go.

EXT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Howard glances through his huddled teammates at the Pleasant View cheerleaders. Sees Julie. He points at Mudcat.

HOWARD  
 That one. Got it?

PLEASANT VIEW LINEMAN  
 You got it.

The teams set up for the play. Hike! Mudcat finds a gap and takes it. She scrambles after Howard, the ball carrier.

The Pleasant View Lineman head-butts a devastating blow into Mudcat's side. She crumples to the ground in pain.

Howard hovers over Mudcat.

HOWARD  
 Stay away from her, cunt.

MINUTES LATER

Julie looks on, concerned, as Mudcat is removed from the field on a stretcher, Dozer by her side. Howard smirks.

MINUTES LATER

Howard drops back and heaves the ball. It lands in his receiver's hands, who trots it into the end zone.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
 The Bulldogs have taken control of  
 the game.

The placekicker converts the extra point.

**COWBOYS: 0, BULLDOGS: 14**

IN THE COWBOY STANDS

The hometown crowd looks demoralized. Keizer checks the time on his watch.

ON THE FIELD - LATER

Jeff puts the ball in motion. Rocky demolishes the Cowboy's line. He grabs Jeff and slams him to the ground.

INT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - GRAPHICS DEPARTMENT - NIGHT

Kevin is perched at the window, focused on the game below. He watches Jeff rise, clearly in pain.

KEVIN

Come on, Jeff... Get in the game...

EXT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Keizer closes the cover on his iPad. He works his way onto the field and pulls Coach Bolen aside.

KEIZER

Listen, coach. We have a game out of state tomorrow. I'll catch the rest of this game on film.

COACH BOLEN

We can turn this around. We're going to turn it around.

KEIZER

A win, coach. You need to win.

Keizer walks away. Coach Bolen rips his headphones off. He looks like he is going to burst a blood vessel.

THE SCOREBOARD time clock ticks down to zero, ending the first half of the game.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

That brings us to the end of the first half, with the Bulldogs on top of the Cowboys by fourteen.

INT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - GRAPHICS DEPARTMENT - NIGHT

Kevin pulls back from the window and gasps.

Frank stands in the doorway holding a football.

FRANK  
You forgot something.

Frank tosses the football. It bounces off Kevin's hands and tumbles out the window.

FRANK  
It saved my life, Kevin.

KEVIN  
Better luck next time, eh?

FRANK  
Look, I didn't come here thinking  
this was going to be easy. But I  
need you to know something.

Frank moves toward him. Kevin steps back, unsure.

FRANK  
Stop.

He does. Frank grabs him. Hugs him.

FRANK  
I never meant for you to carry this  
weight. I'm sorry.

Kevin reciprocates the hug. He lets out his breath like a million pounds have been lifted from his shoulder.

KEVIN  
Thank you... Thank you...

LATER

Frank sits with Kevin, his eyes downcast.

FRANK  
What I said to you, what I asked of  
you. It wasn't about me. It was for  
whatever legacy Michael's had.

Michael's wispy apparition appears behind Frank. Kevin looks at it, not surprised.

FRANK

I pushed him because he wanted to  
be pushed, to be great.

Michael nods in agreement.

FRANK

What I should have focused on was  
the truth. The truth is, he was  
never going to be that player.

Michael looks at Kevin with a tint of sadness. He nods again.

FRANK

And I failed him by giving him  
false hope. I'll have to live with--

Frank's thoughts trail off. Kevin puts a consoling hand on  
Frank's shoulder. Michael puts a hand on his other shoulder.

FRANK

But Michael would want you out  
there, Kevin. And this new kid,  
Guzman, he needs you out there.  
(beat)  
If it helps, I'll go with you.

Kevin gives in and nods. Michael looks at Kevin and smiles.

Poof. Michael's apparition vanishes.

INT. COWBOY LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

The room is quiet. The assistant coach attends to Mudcat.  
Dozer is by her side.

ASSISTANT COACH

Ribs.

COACH BOLEN

Broken?

ASSISTANT COACH

She'll need x-rays--

COACH BOLEN

Tape her up.

INT. COWBOY LOCKER ROOM - SHOWER AREA - NIGHT

Jeff sits isolated from the others, his head buried in his  
arms. Coach Bolen enters. He hovers over Jeff.

COACH BOLEN  
You're a real beaut' out there. My  
God, you're not even trying. Stand  
up. You don't deserve to sit.

Jeff stands.

JEFF  
I am trying.

Coach Bolen gets into his face. Jeff avoids eye contact.

COACH BOLEN  
Look at me when I'm talking to you.

Jeff doesn't. Coach Bolen slaps him.

COACH BOLEN  
I said look at me!

Jeff looks him straight in the eyes.

JEFF  
Is that better, Dad?

COACH BOLEN  
Coach. Coach!

Curious team members filter into the room.

JEFF  
Afraid I might embarrass you, Dad?  
Look at my dad. The big man. The  
big scary man.

Coach Bolen slaps Jeff to the ground.

COACH BOLEN  
How dare you speak to me like that!

Hushed silence.

The SOUND of cleats CLICK against the tile floor.

KEVIN (O.C.)  
Tell him.

Kevin passes his teammates, fully dressed and ready to play.  
Frank follows him into the room.

KEVIN  
Tell him, Jeff. Tell him!

Jeff is silent, building up his courage. Finally...

JEFF

Growing up, all I wanted was to play catch with you. No drills, no playbook. Just... being together. But now, football's not about what I want. It's only about being the best, no matter what. And I love the game, Dad. I do. But sometimes, I just need you to be my dad, not my coach. Please, I'm begging you to ease up.

Coach Bolen's face softens a bit. Maybe... Maybe... Nope...

COACH BOLEN

Hell no. You don't know. You're just-- a kid...

Coach Bolen composes himself and exits.

Frank follows him out.

Jeff buries his head into his arms.

KEVIN

Sorry. That didn't play out like it did in my head. You going to be okay?

JEFF

Fuck if I know. I do know I want to kick the shit out of Pleasant View.

Jeff offers Kevin his hand. Kevin smiles and clamps onto it.

KEVIN

Atta boy!

Kevin helps Jeff to his feet.

EXT./INT. COACH BOLEN'S TRUCK - NIGHT

Coach Bolen sits in his truck. His fists grip the steering wheel, shaking in anger. He lets out a scream.

FRANK (O.C.)

It's not worth it. Just be there for him.

Coach Bolen looks over to see Frank.

FRANK

That's all you can do. Trust me...

Coach Bolen shakes Frank's hand loose. He drops the shifter into drive and stomps on the gas pedal.

INT. COWBOY LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Dead quiet. Zero enthusiasm. Frank enters. He approaches Jeff.

FRANK

I'm--

JEFF

I know who you are, sir.

FRANK

Look, I can give you some guidance out there. But in here...

JEFF

It's my team. I get it.

Frank nods and moves away, giving Jeff the floor. Jeff scans the players. They look like they've been at war.

JEFF

I know everyone out there expects us to fail. But that doesn't matter. What matters is what we leave on the field. Your blood, your sweat, your courage. Forget the scoreboard, forget the scouts. This game isn't about them. It's about this family we've built. When you step out there, play for the guy next to you...

Jeff looks at Kevin.

JEFF

...and for Michael.

Kevin smiles through teary eyes and raises his helmet.

KEVIN

For Michael!!

His teammates spring to their feet. They scream "For Michael" and scramble out the door.

Dozer stays back to attend to Mudcat, who now has tape wrapped around her midsection.

DOZER

What's the plan, Rose?

Mudcat feels her ribs and winces in pain. She sits up and launches a blood spitball onto the floor.

MUDCAT

Time to fight blood with blood.

EXT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Pleasant View kicks off. The Cowboy receiver returns the ball for decent yardage.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Wow! This looks like a new Cowboy team coming into the second half. But they're playing catch-up football.

MINUTES LATER

Jeff confers with Frank, then trots out to the huddle. The offense anxiously awaits Jeff's command.

JEFF

Alright, gentlemen. Flying Saucer, Guz to Foster. On one. Ready...

THE WHOLE TEAM

BREAK!

Jeff puts the ball into action. The teams grind in. Rocky pulverizes the Cowboy front line. He sacks Jeff as he drops back to pass. Jeff lies on the ground, dumbfounded.

ON THE NEXT PLAY, Rocky destroys the Cowboy front line again and makes another brutal tackle on Jeff. Stunned, Jeff painfully sits up, trying to understand what is happening.

ON THE COWBOY SIDELINE

Frank scans the players, an idea brewing.

FRANK

Time out!

The referee signals the time-out. Jeff trots off the field and confers with Frank.

FRANK

Tired of getting your ass kicked?

Jeff throws up his hands, not understanding.

FRANK

A bit of a life lesson I've learned lately. Sometimes, you've just got to have a little fun.

(addresses the team)

It's okay to have fun! Got it?!

The team nods. Frank looks to Dozer and Mudcat.

FRANK

(shouts to the huddle)

Broadman, Cole. On me.

Two players, BROADMAN and COLE, break away from the huddle and trot over to confer with Frank.

FRANK

You two are doing great, but we need to mix things up a bit. Do you mind?

The two players shake their heads and exit the field.

JEFF

I know what you're trying to do, coach, but they don't know the plays.

FRANK

I've known these two since they were crapping in their diapers. Trust me.

JEFF

Okay... You two. With me...

Dozer and Mudcat follow Jeff onto the field. The hometown crowd chants: Goose! Goose! Goose!

IN THE HUDDLE

DOZER

What's the plan?

JEFF

It's simple. Protect your quarterback.

DOZER

Right... And have fun?

JEFF

Absolutely.

The team breaks from the huddle. Dozer looks over to the Pleasant View defensive line. Sees Rocky.

DOZER

Hey, hey! Pleasant View, huh? Dang. Maybe they should call your school Ugly View. Have you looked in the mirror? Ewww...

ROCKY

Fuck you.

Dozer smirks. Jeff puts the ball into play.

Mudcat flattens two players. Dozer clobbers Rocky. He sends him airborne. Jeff sits comfortably in the pocket and threads the ball to his receiver. Touchdown!

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Yeeesss! Touchdown Cowboys!

Goose! Goose! Goose!

IN THE PLEASANT VIEW BLEACHERS, Katie rises.

KATIE

Yeehaw!

Then she sees something across the field. She squints.

KATIE

Dad...?

ON THE COWBOY SIDELINE, Frank, lacking rhythm, performs an awkward victory dance for the crowd.

KATIE

What the...?

Frank looks at Jeff exiting the field.

FRANK

See? Fun!

ON THE FIELD, Kevin and the kicking team set up for the point after. He splits the uprights.

**COWBOYS: 7, BULLDOGS: 14**

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

The Cowboys are back!

ON THE FIELD - LATER

Howard and his offense break from their huddle. They set up to start the play. Mudcat glares at him.

MUDCAT

My turn... Mother fff--

HOWARD

Hut, hut, hut...

The snap. Both teams burst into action. Mudcat, like a steamroller, plows through Pleasant View's offensive line.

Howard, ball in hand, notices the fast-approaching Mudcat and makes a beeline for the Pleasant View team sideline.

Mudcat, in hot pursuit, dives... A violent collision sends her and Howard through Pleasant View's sidelined players...

Mudcat and Howard tumble to a stop, narrowly missing Julie and her squad of cheerleaders.

BACK ON THE FIELD, Dozer sees...

Mudcat and Howard, still on the ground, stunned and shaken.

DOZER

Rose...?

His eyes widen, seeing a concerned Julie breaking away from the Pleasant View cheerleader squad and work her way toward Mudcat and Howard.

Dozer runs toward the Pleasant View sideline, the rest of the team on his heels.

Julie extends her hand. Mudcat and Howard reach up to grab it.

Dozer and his teammates now sprinting.

DOZER

Don't take off your helmet. DON'T  
TAKE OFF YOUR HELMET!

Julie takes Mudcat's hand. She helps her to her feet.

JULIE

You come here often?

Mudcat removes her helmet and plants a kiss on Julie's lips. The Pleasant View crowd gasps. Julie reciprocates with a full-on tongue swap.

Howard jumps to his feet and shoves Mudcat away from Julie.

Dozer bursts through the crowd and tackles Howard. A riot unfolds as both teams dive into the mix.

EXT. LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Mudcat sits between Kevin and Dozer on the bench. Mudcat's face is bloody. Dozer chuckles and ruffles her hair.

DOZER

My sis is gonna get a little...

Blood drips from Mudcat's mouth. She smiles, victory! Her two front teeth are missing.

Kevin glances at the game clock. It ticks away to a mere five minutes remaining.

LATER

Frank confers with Jeff.

FRANK

Let's get inside their heads a little.

JEFF

Meaning?

FRANK

Come out of the huddle laughing. They'll melt down.

Jeff smirks and nods.

JEFF

You got it, coach.

IN THE COWBOY HUDDLE - MINUTES LATER

Jeff eyes his teammates.

JEFF

Let's go with a red right rooster 824 Y seam. Only the X runs the skinny post with an inside release. If the safety jumps the route, I'll hit the X. If someone messes up, we can adjust and curl inward toward the quarter or outward the dime. Your call. Questions?

Dozer squints and sheepishly raises his hand.

JEFF

Dozer.

DOZER

Yeah, ummm, what the fuck was that?

Jeff and his teammates burst into laughter.

JEFF

Just messing with you, brother.

DOZER

Funny. Very funny.

Jeff eyes the Pleasant View defense standing across the line of scrimmage. They look rattled -- pointing, shouting, confused at the lack of seriousness in the Cowboy huddle.

Jeff looks over at Frank on the sideline and gives him the thumbs up. He returns his attention back to Dozer.

JEFF

Have you ever played center?

DOZER

Center? Ah, come on...

JEFF

Listen up...

LATER

The team breaks from the huddle. Dozer heads toward the 'center' position. He looks over at Rocky.

DOZER

Hey, you know what your momma said when you were born? She said, "what a little treasure," and your daddy said, "Yeah, we should bury it!"

ROCKY

I'm going to rip off your face!

DOZER

Wear it proudly. Go forth and be this pretty. I dare you.

Rocky switches positions with his teammate to face Dozer.

Jeff starts to call the cadence but stops. HE DOESN'T CALL TIME OUT but starts to walk toward his receiver.

JEFF

God damn it! If we've done this once, we've done it a thousand times!

Jeff continues toward the receiver, yelling at him. The rest of his team appears unaffected, ready. The Pleasant View Defense starts to relax, watching Jeff.

Jeff suddenly stops. Dozer winks at Rocky, then hikes the ball to the running back. The Cowboy offense springs to life. Jeff bolts toward the end zone, catching Pleasant View's defense off guard.

The running back heaves the ball. It lands in Jeff's hands. He prances into the end zone – untouched. The Referee signals a touchdown. Goose! Goose! Goose!

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Touchdown Cowboys!

Howard runs up to the REFEREE.

HOWARD

Why didn't you call a penalty?  
That's not a play!

REFEREE

The quarterback is considered part of the backfield. You should've played the whistle.

HOWARD

Quarterback in motion? This is bullshit!

The referee throws the penalty flag.

REFEREE

There's your penalty. Taunting the referee. Happy now?

Howard swears through gritted teeth. He hears commotion on the Cowboy sideline. He looks over.

Frank performs another awkward dance. Katie is now in the Cowboy stands. She mimics her dad's weird dance moves.

Howard throws an angry and dismissive wave at the crowd.

The Cowboy fans howl at Howard. They all join in on Frank's dance. Katie raises her arms in joy and screams.

KATIE

Cowboys!

ON THE COWBOY SIDELINE - LATER

Frank holds back Kevin and the kicking team.

FRANK

Two points, and we got this.  
Objections?

No objections from Kevin and the kicking team. Jeff and the offense head onto the field. Goose! Goose! Goose!

ON THE FIELD

The Pleasant View team is pumped up.

Jeff puts the ball into play. He spins, fakes a handoff, then tosses the ball to the corner of the end-zone.

His receiver, midair, arms out. The ball floats toward him. A Pleasant View player dives and tips the ball away.

The Pleasant View crowd erupts.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Oh, tough break for the Cowboys.

The scoreboard reads:

**COWBOYS: 13, BULLDOGS: 14**  
**The clock reads: 1 minute remaining.**

ON THE COWBOY BENCH, Frank confers with Kevin.

FRANK

We need to get the ball back. Have you ever tried splitting anything besides a goalpost?

KEVIN

Like what?

FRANK

(points)  
Number Seventy-nine.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

The Cowboys need to get the ball back, so expect an onside kick here.

ON THE FIELD, Kevin charges the ball. SMACK. The football line drives into the face mask of number seventy-nine. The ball bounces into the hands of a Cowboy player. The Cowboy team and their crowd go wild.

A SERIES OF SHOTS:

- Jeff hits his receiver with a beautiful pass and...
- THE CROWD, unhinged.
- THE GAME CLOCK ticking down: 11, 10, 9... And...
- Kevin, on the bench. He watches the clock tick down.
- EIGHT SECONDS.
- Car tires spin and rip through gravel.
- SEVEN SECONDS.
- Michael's car smashes into the tree.
- SIX SECONDS.
- Michael's car explodes into a fireball.
- FOUR SECONDS.
- Jeff delivers a pass to a receiver. The receiver dives out of bounds to stop the clock.
- THREE SECONDS.
- Kevin buries his head into his arms.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

ON THE COWBOY BENCH, Kevin sits up, his face etched with concern and doubt. He looks around. Everyone, it seems, is looking at him.

He sees Jeff coming off the field.

KEVIN  
See you later?

Jeff gives Kevin a thumbs up.

Kevin takes a deep breath and rises from the bench. He heads out to the waiting huddle on the field.

Frank approaches Jeff.

FRANK

Jeff, we need you out there.

Jeff looks at him, confused.

FRANK

If they see you out there, it'll  
keep them guessing. Give Kevin some  
breathing room. Take the snap.

Jeff understands. He shouts at the kicking team.

JEFF

(waving him in)  
Lavelle! I got this one.

Jeff jogs toward the kicking team. He high-fives LAVELLE  
exiting the field.

The Pleasant View players see him. They are pumped up and buzz  
concern: "Watch for the fake!" and "They're going for it!"

THE KICKING TEAM

Jeff kneels into position. He looks at Kevin. Kevin takes a  
deep breath and nods. Jeff signals the center, and...

The PLEASANT VIEW COACH shouts...

PLEASANT VIEW COACH

Time out!

WHISTLE.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Time out called by Pleasant View.

The teams relax. Kevin shakes his head. He turns and glares at  
the Pleasant View coach.

KEVIN

Mother Fu--

DOZER (O.C.)

Kev! Hey Kevin!

Kevin turns to see Dozer waving his arms on the sidelines.

DOZER

You bring cookies?

KEVIN

What?!

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

There appears to be a conversation going on with the kicker. It's most likely an attempt to distract him during the time-out.

DOZER

Cookies! You bring cookies?

KEVIN

I'm kind of in the middle of something here, Dozer!

DOZER

It's cool. Just wondering. You don't have to be a dick about it.

Kevin throws up his arms in disbelief.

ON THE COWBOY'S SIDELINE

Frank shouts at Dozer and Mudcat.

FRANK

Helmets on. Helmets on! Get out there! Bookends. Bookends!

Frank screams to the kicking team huddled on the field.

FRANK

Draper, Hamlow! On me!

Dozer and Mudcat race onto the field and join their huddled teammates. Two teammates, DRAPER and HAMLOW, retreat to the sideline.

The referee blows the WHISTLES to start the play.

The Cowboys break from the huddle and set up for the play.

Jeff sets up in the holder position and looks up at Kevin.

JEFF

They are good cookies.

KEVIN

Just hike the fucking ball!

PLEASANT VIEW COACH

Watch for the pass!

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
 Fisher has the strength and  
 accuracy. But this kick is closing  
 in on his range.

Jeff signals to the center. The football spirals toward him.  
 He snags it midair and guides the tip to the ground.

Kevin swings his foot. SMACK.

EVERYONE watches the ball arc through the sky.

A pantheon of excited Cowboys players and fans spring to their  
 feet in celebration.

The football tumbles from the sky and drops dead center  
 through the goalpost.

Kevin falls to his knees. He raises his arms, victorious.

The joy on his face fades.

A penalty flag sits on the field.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
 Oh, no! Penalty on the play! Oh, my  
 God! The Cowboy kicker nailed it.  
 He just nailed that kick. But  
 there's a flag! There's a penalty  
 on the play. The ball is coming  
 back!

An eruption of roars from the Pleasant View players and fans.

Kevin's angered face shifts to see the sheepish look on Dozer's  
 face. The culprit.

DOZER  
 Sorry. I just-- I um-- He--

**INSERT FLASHBACK - DOZER'S POV - SECONDS EARLIER**

Dozer crouches into position and looks across the line of  
 scrimmage at Rocky, who wiggles his tongue between his two  
 fingers. Nasty.

ROCKY  
 That's for your sweet-assed sister.

Dozer's eyes enlarge in rage. He screams and lunges at Rocky,  
 then stops himself and tries to jump back. Too late. Offsides.  
 The yellow penalty flag floats through the air. Rocky smirks.

**END FLASHBACK**

ON THE FIELD

The referee steps off five yards.

INSIDE THE HUDDLE

KEVIN  
(to Dozer)  
You just-- All you had to do was--

JEFF  
It's fine. We got this.

KEVIN  
What's this "we" crap? I'm the one  
who has to kick it again!

DOZER  
I shall forever believe you made  
that kick.

KEVIN  
I did make it, Dozer!

DOZER  
I am super proud of you.

Kevin groans. The referee hovers near the huddle.

REFEREE  
Let's go, gentlemen.

Jeff pokes his head up from the huddle.

JEFF  
Just one sec. We got this, umm...  
Whatever this is...

Jeff drops back into the huddle.

The irritated referee blows his whistle. He tosses another  
penalty flag into the air.

The Pleasant View crowd screams its approval.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
Penalty, again! Five more yards.  
This is not good. Not good at all!  
Does Fisher have enough strength at  
this range? I don't know, but they  
appear to be going for it!

The referee jogs the ball five yards further from the uprights.

The Cowboy's kicking team reorientates into a new huddle.

Kevin pops his head out of the huddle and glances at the new distance to the goalpost. He grimaces, then drops back down and seethes at Dozer.

KEVIN  
I have a better idea.

JEFF  
Whatcha got?

KEVIN  
Instead of kicking it, why don't we shove the ball up Dozer's ass and make him run it in.

Smirks from the other players.

DOZER  
I am feeling a bit of hostility here.

JEFF  
Okay, okay. That's enough. Let's do this. Ready. And...

THE WHOLE TEAM  
Break!

The teams set up for the kick again. Dozer and Mudcat bookend the line of scrimmage, protecting the edges.

Jeff examines Kevin's worried face.

JEFF  
You got this, yeah?

Kevin gives him an unconvincing nod. Jeff gives Kevin a deep, concerned glance, then kneels into position to take the snap.

Kevin steps off his distance.

The referee blows the WHISTLE to start the play. The Pleasant View players are pumped up. Jeff looks at them, then at Kevin.

JEFF  
Blazing Hot Fajitas...

KEVIN  
What? No!

JEFF  
BLAZING HOT FAJITAS!

Jeff signals the center. The ball spirals toward him. He snatches it midair and leaps to his feet, sprints right.

Kevin is stunned but manages to sprint left.

Pleasanton View players chase after Jeff, screaming, "Pass! Pass!" They dive at Jeff.

Jeff jukes one player, then another. He pitches the ball to Mudcat. The Pleasant View players scramble after her.

Mudcat pitches the ball to Dozer.

Dozer tosses the ball back to Jeff.

Jeff steadies himself and heaves the ball high and deep.

Dozer sees where the ball is headed.

DOZER

Oh, fuck...

Kevin is wide-eyed and wide-open in the end zone. He adjusts, gauges, moves... Eyes on the ball, coming in fast...

KEVIN

Fuck, fuck, fuck, fuck...

The ball lands into his arms.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Touchdown, Cowboys! Oh, my God. OH, MY GOD!!! The Cowboys have defeated the Bulldogs! I can't believe it. What a comeback!

The Cowboy crowd rises to their feet. VICTORY!

Kevin offers zero celebration. Instead, he drops to his knees and looks at the football cradled in his arms as if it were a precious newborn child -- then a big sigh of relief.

Howard kicks over a beverage cooler in anger.

HOWARD

FUCK!!!

The Cowboy players hoist Kevin onto their shoulders.

## IN THE COWBOY BLEACHERS

Nanette sits atop the bleachers. Frank walks up the steps to her, a hint of sadness on his face, a moment of realization. Nanette hugs him. They sit and notice...

Katie. She stands at ground level. She looks up at them.

Frank and Katie lock eyes. They exchange smiles. She runs up the bleachers and into his arms.

## ON THE FIELD

Kevin, Jeff, and the rest of the team mingle and celebrate.

Kevin looks up at Frank and his family sitting in the bleachers. He catches Michael's apparition sitting with them.

Michael smiles at Kevin. Kevin returns a nod and a smile.

Kevin removes the medallion from his neck and shifts his attention back to Jeff.

KEVIN

You should be the one carrying this thing.

Kevin tosses the medallion. Jeff catches it. He returns a look that suggests he may say something meaningful.

JEFF

I, ummm... I can't believe you were still wearing it.

Kevin groans.

JEFF

What I meant to say was "thank you" for being there.

KEVIN

Eh, it was nothing.

They clamp hands and give each other a bro hug. Kevin indicates the medallion.

KEVIN

What are you going to do about that?

JEFF

It's already done. I've made a decision.

KEVIN  
You going to play?

JEFF  
Yep. Baseball.

KEVIN  
What? That came out of left field.

JEFF  
Ha! Funny. Dad's not a fan. Says  
it's too slow. Training starts  
soon. You want to play?

KEVIN  
Is that the game where they throw  
and catch balls? Fuck that.

They both chuckle. Dozer and Mudcat run up them.

DOZER  
Hey, I think I saw Berg in the  
stands. Think she wants me?

Laughter erupts.

DOZER  
What? It could happen.

The four friends walk off the field together.

EXT. QUARRY - DAY

The crew is here, relaxing, roasting marshmallows. Julie is  
snuggled with Mudcat. Kevin sits with Katie.

KEVIN (V.O.)  
Today is pretty much the same as it  
was back then.

Kevin rummages for something behind himself. He reveals a  
carved-up piece of the stolen Pleasant View sign.

He tosses it into the fire pit.

EXT. QUARRY - DAY

Jeff, Kevin, Dozer, and Mudcat, dressed in swimwear, stand on  
the ledge of a cliff. They stare down a daunting drop to a lake  
below.

KEVIN (V.O.)

Sun...

Jeff takes a confident step back.

KEVIN (V.O.)

Fun...

Jeff jumps. His friends follow him over the edge.

KEVIN (V.O.)

And football.

EXT. MICHAEL'S (JEFF'S) HOUSE - DAY

Jeff, Kevin, Dozer, and Mudcat gathered for a huddle. They all wear mismatched football gear. Kevin wears Michael's Green Bay Packers jersey.

JEFF

On twelve, ready?

TEAMMATES

Break!

They break from the huddle to face off against a horde of eager-looking pre-teens.

FADE OUT