

The Captain  
by  
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FADE IN:

SERIES OF SHOTS - FROZEN LAKE - HOME MOVIE FOOTAGE

Skaters of all ages glide back and forth on the ice of a frozen lake.

At the far end of the lake hockey players are scrimmaging.

An eight-year skates with a parent.

An elderly man and woman dance as a couple.

Several teens play tag.

TODDLER ZACH, heavily bundled against the cold, is helped onto the ice by BILL, 30s.

Zach is more or less held up and pulled along on double-runner skates. Now the hands let go.

BARB (O.S.)

Bill, no.

For a split second, uncertainty, then Toddler Zach starts to skate on his own.

BARB (O.S.)

Bill! Oh, my Gosh! He's skating!

(reverently)

Bill!

ZACH (V.O.)

That's me, Zachary H. Maley, but you can call me "awesome one." I'm here today to talk to you about the world's greatest sport: ice hockey.

SERIES OF SHOTS - ICE RINK - HOME MOVIE FOOTAGE

Skaters, ages four through eight, some with parents, wearing hockey jerseys that in some cases come down past their knees.

A kid takes a fall. His parent straightens him out and sets him on his feet again.

Another kid falls but that parent is not so fortunate -- they both go down.

Now a larger kid falls, taking the parent with him... they collide with another skater and parent. All four end up in a big tangle.

Instructors assist other skaters.

Confidently weaving his way through the chaos is FOUR-YEAR-OLD ZACH. He waves to the camera.

ZACH (V.O.)  
There I am again.

A little too confident, Zach now trips and falls, gets immediately back up.

SERIES OF SHOTS - LOCKER ROOM - HOME MOVIE FOOTAGE

Parents suit up their six-year-old players for a game.

A hockey dad laces up a player's skates. The player whips around to look at something; a long ponytail sticks out from under the back of the helmet.

ZACH (V.O.)  
That's not me, obviously.

Nearby, a RELUCTANT HOCKEY PLAYER starts bawling.

RELUCTANT HOCKEY PLAYER  
I don't wanna play hockey.

ZACH (V.O.)  
Obviously that is not me.

AT THE ICE

Six-year-olds crowd around a BEGINNER COACH, waiting by the open gate for the "all clear".

The Zamboni heads back towards its resting place.

A teen-age assistant coach sets up miniature nets on a half-sheet of ice. Black-rubber "shooter tooters" take the place of goalies.

SIX-YEAR-OLD ZACH slips by the Beginner Coach and onto the ice.

The Beginner Coach takes off after him.

Zach, with a look of pure joy on his face, makes up for short strides with maximum energy. He glances over his shoulder just as the Beginner Coach grabs him from behind.

ZACH (V.O.)  
That would be me.

Beginner Coach and Zach skate back towards the gate, the Coach's hand firmly grasping Zach's jersey.

ZACH (V.O.)

What can I say about hockey? If you think you can handle long hours at the rink, grueling hardship, intense competition, many obstacles and pain, then parents, by all means -- sign your kids up to play!

SERIES OF SHOTS - VARIOUS HOME MOVIES

Seven-year-old Mites skate in the midst of a half-sheet of ice. The Beginner Coach acts as ref.

A player takes a shot at the net, falls down, slides into the goalie.

Nine and ten-year-old players come on to the ice to warm up for a game. They are incredibly good skaters by now.

BARB (V.O.)

Zach is a Squirt now. This year we get the whole ice.

NINE-YEAR OLD ZACH, wearing a jersey with "MALEY" on the back, scores a goal.

BARB (V.O.)

Zach scored! Yippee!

The entire line of skaters skates to the bench and high-fives their teammates.

At a different rink, two teams of eleven and twelve-year-old players face off.

BARB (V.O.)

This is Zach's first game in Wenatchee. They get to body-check this year.

A ref drops the puck. The Wenatchee Center gets it into the other team's zone. ELEVEN-YEAR OLD ZACH, again wearing a "MALEY" jersey, immediately tries to body-check a larger player, but pretty much bounces off.

SERIES OF SHOTS - NON-HOCKEY SPORTS

-- Photos of Zach playing baseball.

ZACH (V.O.)

After the season is over there's  
some other stuff that happens...

-- Photos of Zach playing tennis.

-- Photos of Zach hiking.

-- Photo of Zach doing a cannonball into a lake.

ZACH (V.O.)

Until it's time to start all over  
again.

INT. ZACH'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

BARB MALEY, late 30s, is looking a bit frazzled today but  
would probably clean up nice.

A peg on the wall by the door is empty.

Barb approaches the peg, realizes it is unoccupied, stops  
short. She rummages through a pile of mail on the kitchen  
table, then checks out the countertops.

The back door opens and ZACH dashes in. Now at age fourteen,  
he's tall, lean, fit and handsome. He moves better than many  
at that age but still gives off the vibe of an overgrown  
puppy you can't quite trust not to jump on you and lick your  
face at any given moment. He's in shorts and a tee shirt.

ZACH

Mom. What are you doing?

BARB

I can't find my keys.

Zach sighs. Leaves the room.

DINING ROOM

Fairly clutter-free so Zach moves quickly through it to...

LIVING ROOM

Blanket heaped on a chair. Magazines heaped on coffee table.  
Zach jogs to blanket, shakes it and tosses it on floor. Paws  
through the coffee table contents. Everything is now on the  
floor.

## LAUNDRY ROOM

Barb snatches car keys off the ironing board, returns the way she came.

ZACH (V.O.)  
 Since my parents got divorced, I  
 live mostly with my mom.

Barb continues down the hall.

ZACH (V.O.)  
 She had the chance to move up in  
 her company if she transferred to  
 Washington state.

Barb makes her way through the kitchen and out the door.

ZACH (V.O.)  
 I don't know how she manages when  
 I'm at Dad's for the summer; she  
 can be pretty feeble.

## EXT. BARB'S CAR - DAY

Barb joins Zach by the parked SUV.

BARB  
 If you're in such a big hurry,  
 where's your gear?

Remembering, Zach dashes into the garage, then jogs out again sporting a huge and heavy gear bag on his back, like a giant hump.

BARB  
 Water bottle?

Zach heaves the bag into the open back of the van and jogs back into the house.

## EXT. TOWN - DAY

The SUV is stopped at a light. The light turns green, the SUV proceeds through an industrial area.

ZACH (V.O.)  
 Listen up, people, 'cause the warm  
 up is over. I submit to you a  
 typical season in the life of a  
 superstar.  
 (MORE)

ZACH (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 But don't take my word for it; you  
 can come to your own conclusions.

Up ahead, an SUV slows down to make the turn into a large parking lot, past a sign: "Ice Arena".

The SUV sports a specialty plate: "GOLIMOM".

ZACH (V.O.)  
 Conclusions aren't really my thing,  
 anyway. Too much like an essay  
 question.

EXT. ICE SKATING RINK - PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Zach in the parking lot with his gear bag, encounters a grinning LUCAS, fourteen, burlier and a little shorter than Zach, also with gear.

LUCAS  
 Hey, man.

ZACH  
 Whattup.

Elaborate handshake.

LUCAS  
 You wanna sleep over tonight?

ZACH  
 O.K.

LUCAS  
 Is it O.K. with your mom?

ZACH  
 Sure.

Barb joins them, along with CYNDI, a pleasant-looking woman a few years old than Barb.

BARB  
 Is what O.K. with me?

ZACH  
 Can I spend the night at Lucas's  
 house?

BARB  
 Tonight?

ZACH  
Yeah, why not?

BARB  
Not only is it a school night, it  
is the first day of high school  
eve.

CYNDI  
(speaks with Canadian  
accent)  
Where did you get the idea that one  
was gonna fly, Lucas?

ZACH  
But it's try-outs -- we have to  
compare notes.

BARB  
An optional component of life as  
you know it.

Barb stares Zach down.

Cyndi stares Lucas down.

LUCAS  
I think we just got voted off the  
island.

The two teens, followed by the two moms, head towards the  
building entrance.

INT. ICE SKATING RINK - LOCKER ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

A total of sixteen male Bantam players are suiting up. Ten  
are "first-years", age thirteen, and six are "second-years",  
age fourteen.

Zach and Lucas sit next to each other. Lucas has on only his  
shiny microfiber jock shorts and underarmour shirt and is  
retaping his stick. Zach is farther along in the dressing  
ritual, ahead by a chest protector and shin guards.

CLIVE, fourteen, is the only black player in the room.

LUCAS  
Hey Clive, did you try out for  
Triple A?

CLIVE  
Yeah. I worked out with them all  
summer but I got sent down.



LUCAS  
Do you know Zach?

CLIVE  
I've seen you around the rink,  
but...

ZACH  
Yeah, me too.

LUCAS  
He only moved here two years ago.

Lucas completes the perfectly symmetrical retaping job and admires his work product.

CLIVE  
Yeah? Where from?

ZACH  
Minnesota.

CLIVE  
You must be good. You a first-year?

ZACH  
Naw, second-year.  
(to Lucas)  
Dude, you gonna get dressed any  
time soon?

Lucas, apparently remembering why he's there, gets out his chest protector.

CLIVE  
How come you didn't go out for  
Double A last year?

ZACH  
Too expensive.

LUCAS  
Yeah, it's a lot. And there's a  
recession going on.

BEN is thirteen, small and slight but scrappy.

BEN  
How many goalies are trying out?

Nearby, two massive shin pads jut out like the white cliffs of Dover.

And emerging from the top of them, the bean-pole tall and thin body of ISAIAH, fourteen.

ISAIAH

Me and Austin and Brendan, unless somebody else shows up.

MAX is a tall, wiry fourteen-year-old with a superior air about him.

MAX

One of you will get sent down to house.

ISAIAH

It ain't gonna be me.

Zach is counting heads.

ZACH

There aren't that many trying out. I'm getting sixteen. Is that it?

LUCAS

There's one girl, Robin, so seventeen.

CLIVE

A lot of good players moved up to Midget.

LUCAS

Foster and Guerrero made Triple A.

CLIVE

So far.

LUCAS

(to Clive)

That sucks you got cut, man.

CLIVE

Whatever. Leaves me more time for the ladies...

Snickers and AD LIB derision at this.

LUCAS

Sucks that you got cut, too, Max.

MAX

(bristling)

You actually think I got cut from Triple A?

Ben and several others decide this is a good time to go out on the ice.

LUCAS  
Well, didn't you?

MAX  
I'm the best player in this one-horse town. They're not gonna cut me.

LUCAS  
So what happened?

MAX  
I was supposed to go to prep school this year, but my father messed up and missed the enrollment deadline. By that time, Triple A try-outs were already over.

ZACH  
You're going to boarding school? Wow. I love hockey, but...

MAX  
Don't want to leave your Mommy?

ZACH  
There are other ways to make it to the N.C.A.A.

MAX  
Oh, you think? Keep in mind you're not in Minnesota any more.

ZACH  
Whatever. I'm just looking to play some hockey.

LUCAS  
And impress some hot chicks with our talent.

ZACH  
And boyish good looks.

Lucas and Zach high-five each other.

MAX  
Have fun with that.

Zach and Lucas now join the exodus from the room.

MAX  
 (to himself)  
 Children.

INT. ICE SKATING RINK - LOCKER ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The players skate laps, pushing their sticks in front of them.

Ahead of Zach and Lucas, ROBIN is not only a hot fourteen-year old chick but an awesome skater.

ZACH  
 I wouldn't mind impressing her.

LUCAS  
 Robin? No way.

ZACH  
 How come?

LUCAS  
 I've been skating with her since I was four, man. She's not a girl, she's a hockey player.

WHISTLE blows. Lucas skates ahead.

ZACH  
 (to himself)  
 She looks like a girl to me.

COACH LEN, 40s, the firm-jawed head coach, is positioned next to the boards, holding his dry marker board. STEVE and SCOTT, his two Assistant Coaches, are with him.

The skaters half-kneel on the ice around them. Zach positions himself next to Robin.

COACH LEN  
 All right. Welcome to try-outs. For those of you who don't know me, I'm Coach Len. I played Junior A hockey for the Brandon Wheat Kings and flew two tours with the Air Force, and I am not the easiest guy in the world to get along with. You might even say I'm a badass.

Zach turns to Robin and grimaces -- trying to get her attention. She doesn't seem to notice. Embarrassed, Zach turns away.

COACH LEN

You'll find that I'm tough but fair.

INT. ICE SKATING RINK - LOBBY - DAY

Barb and Cyndi, along with other parents, are milling about. Lucas and Zach, back in their street clothes, come up a flight of stairs from the locker rooms, lugging their gear bags.

BARB

How'd it go?

ZACH

O.K., I guess. There aren't enough players to even make any cuts.

CYNDI

It was like that when Bobby was a Bantam, too. You'll get a couple more sent down from Triple A, but do we really have enough players in this little town for a Double A and a Triple A team?

LUCAS

Mom, I'm starving. Let's go!

CYNDI

Tell me something I don't know.

CHUCK SAUNDERS, 40s, a good-looking man, enters the building.

He walks up to Cyndi, although he is really looking more at Barb.

CHUCK

Hey Cyndi, the second day of try-outs is Saturday, right?

CYNDI

Sure is.  
(indicating the other two adults)  
Do you two know each other?

Chuck and Barb shake their heads.

CYNDI

Barb, this is Chuck, Chuck... Barb.

Chuck moves in to shake hands.

CHUCK

Nice to meet you. I'm Max's dad.

Zach and Lucas exchange glances.

BARB

And I'm Zach's mom.

CYNDI

I told you about Chuck. He's been working on the 50/50 sales with Rob and me this past year -- it really is a huge relief. I'd have to say at this point, he's pretty much in charge.

CHUCK

I had a good teacher.

CYNDI

I'm not gonna lie to you... after all these years, Bobby's in college and I'm still at the rink... I'm ready for a break.

ZACH

Mom, first day of high school...

Robin and ROBIN'S MOM come through the lobby. Now that she's in tank top and shorts, you can tell just how athletic Robin really is.

Zach checks her out, very discreetly, or so he thinks.

CYNDI

See you, Chuck.

CHUCK

See you at the rink.

Cyndi and Barb follow Zach towards the exit.

CYNDI

(to Barb)

He's single.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - DAY

High-school age students in summer clothes. Two teen girls, a BLONDE FRESHMAN and BRUNETTE FRESHMAN, sit together.

Zach boards the bus.

ZACH(V.O.)

You have to give academics some credit. It's a chance to make new friends...

BLONDE FRESHMAN

Hi Zach.

BRUNETTE FRESHMAN

Hi Zach.

ZACH

Ladies!

The two girls smile up at him.

He loses his nerve, passes them by and sits next to Lucas a few rows back. They turn around and look at him.

LUCAS

(to the girls)

How was your summer?

BLONDE FRESHMAN

It was good. How was yours?

LUCAS

Good. Went to hockey camp in Penticton.

BRUNETTE FRESHMAN

Sweet.

ZACH

I was in Minnesota.

BRUNETTE FRESHMAN

Are you still going out with Stacey?

ZACH

Naw, we broke up when school got out. I'm available.

BRUNETTE FRESHMAN

I'm just asking.

ZACH

And I'm just saying.

BLONDE FRESHMAN

We're already spoken for.

BRUNETTE FRESHMAN

I'm sure there's someone out there  
for you, Zach.

The two girls turn back around in their seats, giggling.

INT. SCIENCE CLASSROOM - DAY

Class is in session. Zach and Lucas are two seats over from each other. MR. WELLS, late 40s, somewhat nerdy in a suit and bow-tie, faces his students.

MR. WELLS

All right, this is Honors Science.  
I'm Mr. Wells and I'm something of  
a badass, so consider yourself  
warned.

Zach starts scribbling on his note pad.

MR. WELLS

You've probably heard it before,  
but High School is when it all  
starts to count.

Zach flashes his note pad reading "they're everywhere" to Lucas.

Lucas nods in agreement.

In between them is ANAIS, a studious-looking girl with braces, wondering what she's landed in the middle of...

MR. WELLS

Your grade in this class will  
appear on your transcript.

INT. SCIENCE CLASSROOM - LATER

It is well into Mr. Wells's first-day speech.

MR. WELLS

Oh, and I have what I call my  
"bundle of joy" for some of you.

He retrieves a stack of envelopes from his desk and a class list.

MR. WELLS

Let's see, Cobb...



Bell rings. The students begin leaving the classroom.

Mr. Wells hands an envelope to HENRY COBB, a student with hair in his eyes, wearing baggy jeans and a ripped tee-shirt.

MR. WELLS

Fox...

Hands an envelope to another male student.

MR. WELLS

Maley...

He hands an envelope to Zach as he passes.

EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Zach and Lucas skateboarding.

Zach does a kick flip, going airborne while the board spins around under his feet.

They come to a stop in a parking lot.

LUCAS

O.K., let's hear it.

Takes the "bundle of joy" out of his pocket.

ZACH

(reading)

"I see from your previous records that you have had some challenges either academically or behaviorally."

LUCAS

He's read our records? Does this guy have a life?

ZACH

(continues to read)

"This year represents an opportunity to start fresh. I want to encourage you to come to me with any problems you may have."

LUCAS

How many students does he have?

ZACH

(continues to read)

"Remember, I am on your side."

He puts the paper away. They start slowly moving in the parking lot.

ZACH  
I don't think it's the grades part.

LUCAS  
It's the suspensions part.

ZACH  
Hey, I had basketball shorts on under my pants.

He takes off across the parking lot.

LUCAS  
(yelling)  
So that makes it O.K. to moon in the school cafeteria?

Lucas hops on the board and follows.

ZACH  
(yelling)  
That was Middle School. This is high school. This is serious.

INT. LUCAS'S HOUSE - BASEMENT FAMILY ROOM - DAY

Lucas and Zach play a video game involving zombies on the TV.

LUCAS  
Dude, help me out here.

ZACH  
I'm coming. O.K., I'm bringing you back to life.

Noises of the video game continue and they keep poking away with their joysticks.

Cyndi appears at the foot of the stairs.

CYNDI  
Neither one of you has homework, eh?

ZACH  
Oh, Mrs. Bailey, you're so Canadian.

CYNDI

Your father will be home in half an hour. Get those chores done or you know what.

LUCAS

I have to finish this game.

CYNDI

Or what? The television will explode? Good riddance I say.

ZACH

We'll be done in a minute. I have to get home before my mom does.

CYNDI

That's the spirit.

Cyndi retreats up the stairs.

LUCAS

Who do you think they're gonna make captain?

ZACH

Maybe you.

LUCAS

It's usually the best player.

ZACH

That Max dude. How annoying. You were an assistant last year.

LUCAS

Yeah.

ZACH

We weren't on the same team last year, but I know you're a great defenseman.

LUCAS

It's always a second-year.

ZACH

It doesn't have to be. Anyway, you're a second-year.

LUCAS

I think it does. You were an assistant last year, too.

ZACH  
 On a House team. This is Rep. Die,  
 fucker.  
 (laughing)  
 There's brain matter everywhere.

LUCAS  
 Cool.

ZACH  
 Maybe it'll be Robin.

LUCAS  
 Anyone but Max... It's going to be  
 Max, isn't it?

SERIES OF SHOTS - EXERCISES

-- Outside the rink, the seventeen players are doing dry-land calisthenics in shorts and tee shirts.

ZACH  
 I have some exercises we can do.

Coach Len nods his assent.

-- Zach facing the players.

ZACH  
 Flamingo, everybody.

He grabs his foot from behind to do a quad stretch.

-- Zach leads them in high kicks.

-- Zach faces the team.

ZACH  
 O.K., Barbie on the Beach.

He sits on the pavement.

ZACH  
 Get your butts down here.

He twists around in an abdominal stretch that is called something else when it's yoga.

-- Zach stands sideways to the players.

ZACH  
O.K., here's what we're gonna do.

He does a lunge.

ZACH  
Right leg forward.

Then he moves straight into a lunge on the other leg.

ZACH  
Count of ten.

They all do a sort-of duck walk.

THE PLAYERS  
One... two... three... four...  
five.

-- Zach leads the players in jogging around the parking lot.

-- Inside the rink, they are in the last stages of a very long wall squat, legs parallel to the floor. Max slides to the floor before everyone else, trying to be cool about it. This doesn't go unnoticed by Coach Len.

ZACH  
And... done.

The rest slide their butts to the ground as one.

ZACH  
Nice work, everybody.

Zach rights himself, then holds out his hand to BRENDAN, a first-year Goalie.

ZACH  
You gotta take care of your goalies. Here, little buddy, allow me to assist you.

Zach pulls him to his feet, then literally slings him under his arm parallel to the floor, and walks a few steps thusly arrayed.

ZACH  
Is there another shrimpy little first-year here? I'll put you under my other arm.

The players are now grinning and laughing.

Zach stops in front of Ben, who fits the description.

ZACH  
How about you, Benny-Boy?

Lucas picks up Ben and inserts him under Zach's other arm. Zach takes a few steps like this. Twirls around.

Coach Len hasn't cracked a smile, but there is a gleam in his eye.

COACH LEN  
All right. Everybody get dressed and we'll meet out on the ice.

INT. ICE SKATING RINK - LOCKER ROOM - LATER

The players are in various stages of dress, undress.

CLIVE  
What about Crosby?

ZACH  
Crosby, Smosby. Ovetchkin is superior in every way.

CLIVE  
Well, if you want to ignore the statistics...

Coach Len enters the locker room and there is dead silence.

COACH LEN  
Zach, I'd like to speak to you.

He leaves the room.

ZACH  
This is not good.

LUCAS  
What'd you do now, man?

ZACH  
I can't think of anything but I'm sure it was something...

MAX  
Fooling around...

ZACH  
I wasn't fooling around, I was working, working hard. Oh well, nice knowing you all.

He takes his gear and leaves as the others watch.

INT. ICE SKATING RINK - MOMENTS LATER

Coaches Len, Scott and Steve are camped out at the exit at the top of the arena seating.

Zach climbs the stairs with an expression of dread on his face.

He arrives at the top.

ZACH  
You wanted to see me?

COACH LEN  
Congratulations, Zach. You made the team.

ZACH  
Thanks.

He waits for the other shoe to drop.

COACH LEN  
And Coach Scott and Coach Steve and I have decided to make you Captain.

He shakes the hand of the stunned Zach.

COACH LEN  
Nice job on... and off the ice. Clive and Lucas will be the two assistants. The Jersey Mom will sew on your letters in time for the first exhibition game.

ZACH  
Thanks a lot, Coach.

COACH LEN  
Well, don't look so surprised. Get out of here so we can talk to the rest of the team.

SCOTT  
Congratulations, Zach.

Shakes Zach's hand.

STEVE  
Well done.

He shakes Zach's hand. Zach, in a daze, goes to the exit.

EXT. BARB'S CAR - LATER

The thump of the gear bag hitting the rear compartment. Car door opens and Zach gets in. Barb backs out of the parking space.

INT. BARB'S CAR - MOVING - MOMENTS LATER

Zach stares over at his mother.

ZACH  
(still stunned)  
Mom. I made the team.

BARB  
Congratulations. I don't think  
there was much doubt.

ZACH  
And Mom...

BARB  
Yes?

ZACH  
They made me captain.

The van is just pulling out of the parking lot; she waits for passing traffic. Turns to look at him in amazement.

BARB  
But you're not the best player!

ZACH  
It's not always about that.

BARB  
(now understanding)  
So you got it for leadership? Wow,  
that's actually better.

She pulls out into traffic.

ZACH  
I know. And Mom?

BARB  
Yes?



ZACH

I happen to be a really good player, too.

BARB

Oh, I know that. But you've never played on Rep before, so I never even considered they'd make you the Captain.

ZACH

I was thinking they might, but I didn't want to even say it out loud in case I jinxed it.

They stop at a red light.

BARB

Hey, we're pulled over. Let me give you a hug.

Awkwardly reaches across the seat to embrace him.

BARB

Honey, sorry the first thing I said was, you're not the best player.

ZACH

That's O.K.

BARB

I'm really proud of you, it was just such a surprise.

ZACH

Yeah, Mom.

BARB

So what all does this mean? Do you have to rally the troops?

ZACH

Must you? Oh, don't even say such things...

BARB

What? What did I say?

The light changes; the car continues through the small town.

INT. ICE SKATING RINK - LOCKER ROOM - DAY

The team is now down to 16 players; the third goalie is no longer with them. The players, including Robin, are suited up in their uniforms. Zach awkwardly gets to his feet.

ZACH

O.K. Rattlers, listen up. We're going into our first exhibition game. We can do this. We have some challenges; the extra players we were supposed to get from Triple A never happened and we're up against Tri-Cities, a really tough team. We're probably gonna get our asses kicked. But let's fight hard. We didn't get our team song picked out yet -- so let's just go with "Don't Stop Believin'".

Sits down and fumbles with boom box. Music blares.

INT. ICE SKATING RINK - LATER

At center ice, the two starting lines face off, waiting for the ref to drop the puck.

Max is the Rattler Center.

Clive is their Left Wing.

Ben is the Right Wing.

Lucas is on Left Defense.

Robin is on Right Defense.

Isaiah is the Goalie.

Zach is on the bench.

The ref drops the puck and play begins.

INT. ICE SKATING RINK - LATER

On the ice, the opposing team cycles the puck, keeping it well away from the Rattlers.

An opposing player passes to a teammate at the blue line; a Thrasher skates after him but the player merely passes it sideways to the other defenseman, who shoots a one-timer and scores.

The parents in the Visitor section explode with cheers.

Silence in the Home section.

The scoreboard reads "HOME 0", "VISITOR 1". The timeclock is at "13:10".

INT. ICE SKATING RINK - LATER

Isaiah is down to stop a shot.

In the home section, Barb and a Rattler Parent are caught up in the action.

RATTLER PARENT

(yells)

Good save.

BARB

(screeches)

Look out for the...

On the ice, the visitor forward takes advantage of the rebound while Isaiah is still floundering around, and scores.

In the home section, deflated, Barb completes her thought.

BARB

...rebound.

INT. ICE SKATING RINK - LATER

The scoreboard reads, "Home 0", "VISITOR 12".

Chuck, at the very top of the stands, all alone, paces back and forth.

INT. ICE SKATING RINK - LOCKER ROOM - LATER

The team, including Robin, sits listening to Coach Len.

COACH LEN

O.K., that about wraps it up.

Coaches Len, Steve and Scott, and Robin all leave the dressing room.

BEN

Well, that sucked.

ZACH  
How was my speech before the game?

BEN  
I'd give it about a C plus.

LUCAS  
That team could whup our Triple A team.

ISAIAH  
I heard they've been practicing together all summer.

CLIVE  
This was our first game as a team.

MAX  
Isaiah, you suck as a goalie.

ZACH  
Shut up, Max.

LUCAS  
It wasn't any one player.

MAX  
Twelve to nothing... what a joke.

Pounds his fist on the bench.

EXT. ICE SKATING RINK - PARKING LOT - LATER

Lucas and Zach lug their gear.

ZACH  
I guess I shouldn't have said "shut up" as the captain. It's like I have two jobs -- work on my skating and then work on leading the team.

LUCAS  
You have natural leadership, though.

ZACH  
I guess. Sometimes I lose it, though. You're more laid back.

LUCAS  
Yeah.

ZACH  
It's like I'm the captain of the  
Titanic.

LUCAS  
Hey, we're gonna get lots of  
playing time. And we don't have to  
worry about getting cut.

Barb appears and heads to the van.

ZACH  
No, just about being the laughing  
stock of the state. See you in  
school.

LUCAS  
Later.

They go their separate ways.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Zach sits at the back of the room. Isaiah and Robin are also  
in this class. Leading the conversation is their ENGLISH  
TEACHER.

ENGLISH TEACHER  
After that, we'll tackle  
Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's  
Dream".

Zach wears an ever-deepening look of horror on his face as  
the extent of his future suffering becomes clear.

ZACH (V.O.)  
Like Shakespeare always said, it  
was the best of times, it was the  
worst of times.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Zach among the hordes, in between classes.

ZACH (V.O.)  
I was the Captain and I was finally  
on Rep, but what if we lost every  
game? That is the question. Oh  
victory, victory, wherefore art  
thou, victory?

## INT. SCIENCE CLASSROOM - DAY

Class is underway. Mr. Wells finishes handing out a stack of papers to the first person in each row; the papers get passed back.

MR. WELLS

Your syllabus is coming back. As you can see, we'll be getting into a little bit of a lot of things. We've got some chemistry, a little physics, and back by popular demand... who can tell me what a Rube Goldberg machine is... Zach?

ZACH

It's a machine that does a very simple task in a very complicated way. Like say, pick your nose with a pair of tweezers that come flying down from the light fixture...

Snickering, eye-rolling from the rest of the class.

MR. WELLS

All right, very good.

ZACH

After you shoot a rubber band at the switch to make it go up...

MR. WELLS

I think they get...

ZACH

A marble could go down a track to activate...

MR. WELLS

O.K. You're all going to get the chance to create one of these suckers. I'll be putting you into teams. And be warned -- the finished product will make up a big chunk of your second quarter grade.

ZACH

Cool.

INT. ICE SKATING RINK - LOBBY - NIGHT

Zach emerges with his gear bag. Parents are standing around waiting for the players. He plops the bag down.

A dialogue is going on between Chuck and Barb nearby.

CHUCK

And what do you do, Barb?

BARB

I'm a histologist.

CHUCK

What's that?

Zach rummages around in his gear bag.

BARB

I work in a medical laboratory looking at tissue samples -- I can only handle people in small doses.

CHUCK

Oh, right. Very small. Ouch.

BARB

Right. I'm lucky in that it does allow me to pay for him to be on this team, but just barely.

She spots Zach.

BARB

Ah! The waiting game is over.

Zach digs out his water bottle.

BARB

(to Chuck)

Maybe you can explain it to me -- where does all that money go?

Zach puts the bottle to his lips and drinks and drinks...

CHUCK (O.S)

Well, we're paying the coach's salaries and expenses including the goalie coach... then there's ice time, tournament fees, group activities...

(MORE)

CHUCK (O.S) (CONT'D)  
 and that's not even getting into  
 the travel, because there aren't  
 enough Rep teams locally to play  
 against. Not to mention the gear.

And drinks...

BARB (O.S.)  
 Is there no end to it?

Zach's Adam's Apple finally comes to a stop. A few seconds  
 later... an explosive belch.

BARB  
 Oh, Zachary!

Zachary puts his arms around her.

ZACH  
 Thank you for letting me play  
 hockey, Mommy!

Barb ruffles his hair.

BARB  
 So adorable... especially when  
 you're sleeping.

Chuck laughs at the joke.

EXT. SEMI-PRO HOCKEY LEAGUE ARENA - NIGHT

The place is as yet deserted. Barb and Zach approach a side  
 entrance, where they are met by a security guard in a blazer.

ZACH (V.O.)  
 Soon after the hockey season gets  
 going, so does the fund-raising.

The security guard looks down a printed list attached to a  
 clipboard.

ZACH (V.O.)  
 We've learned it's easier to just  
 mark our calendars full from  
 October to March.

INT. ARENA - 50/50 BOOTH - MOMENTS LATER

A sign reads "50/50, TONIGHT'S JACKPOT \_\_\_\_\_".



Cyndi and Chuck are seated behind the table, setting up for the evening. Wads of tickets, stacks of bills, plastic pails printed with "50/50".

Lucas and Isaiah, Ben and BEN'S DAD, Robin and Robin's mom are already there, wearing special jerseys printed with "50/50". The parents wear vendor aprons over the jerseys with pockets to hold the proceeds.

Barb puts her purse and coat under the table, as Zach picks two jerseys out of the pile.

Barb approaches Chuck. Chuck speaks while simultaneously counting out a stack of singles for her.

CHUCK

Hi, Barb. How are you tonight?

BARB

Oh, just fine and dandy. And yourself?

CHUCK

Good. Ready to make some big money for the team?

BARB

I sure am.

Zach, nearby, is watching this interaction. He can't quite tell if it's anything beyond the ordinary.

Barb sees him watching, smiles at Zach. Maybe too saccharine?

BARB

(to Zach)

Ready to make some big money, Zach?

INT. ARENA - CONCOURSE - LATER

Zach and Barb are in sales mode.

Hockey fans, many wearing blue/white or blue/black Wenatchee Wild jerseys, approach, going in the opposite direction.

Zach sizes them up.

ZACH (V.O.)

Fifty fifty. Get your fifty-fifty tickets here.

A group of young women walk by all in blue wigs, giggling amongst themselves.

ZACH  
Support youth hockey!

A MAN IN A WOLF HAT and his date approach with cups of beer in their hands. The Man hands his beer to his date.

MAN IN WOLF HAT  
Gimme five.

Zach rips five tickets off, hands them to the man, takes the money and hands it to Barb, who puts it in her apron pocket.

MAN IN WOLF HAT  
This is the winning ticket, right?

ZACH  
You bet!

The man howls like a wolf. His date laughs.

A huge ROAR from the crowd inside -- seems like it makes the earth move.

INT. ARENA - LATER

The game is underway. Zach and Barb are temporarily seated in the aisle. Zach rips off tickets from his roll, passes them to a spectator who passes them on.

Cash is transferred from one spectator to another until it reaches Zach.

On the ice, two players drop their gloves and start sparring, right in front of Zach and Barb.

The crowd roars its approval, most of the fans leaping to their feet. Zach hands the cash to Barb, then leaps to his feet as well. Barb starts back up the stairs.

The fight continues, as two refs stand by.

Zach tears himself away... eventually.

INT. ARENA - 50/50 BOOTH - LATER

Barb stands next to Chuck, folding the jerseys and putting them in a bin.

BARB  
Our kids won't even know music used to come on round things called records.

CHUCK  
"Hey Mom, what are these black  
frisbees in the attic?"

BARB  
You know, one of my favorite '80s  
bands will be in Spokane next week.

CHUCK  
Oh, yeah? Which one?

BARB  
Echo and the Bunnymen.

CHUCK  
Oh, yeah, real crowd pleasers,  
weren't they?

BARB  
Maybe a tad on the obscure side.

CHUCK  
So that's what you were into back  
then...

BARB  
Yeah. I still have the leather  
jacket but that's about all that's  
left from those days.

CHUCK  
A bit of nostalgia for a bygone  
era. Could be a good time.

She finishes folding. They notice Zach standing there  
waiting.

BARB  
Well, there you go. Anything else I  
can do to help?

CHUCK  
Gosh, that ought to do it.

Max approaches through the crowd.

CHUCK  
I've got a few more things to do to  
finish up here, but you know what?  
I'm starving. Anybody else hungry?

ZACH  
I'm stuffed.

BARB

Oh, Zach. Since when do you turn down an opportunity to wolf down a few french fries?

CHUCK

Or an ice cream sundae?

ZACH

I have to get up early to work on my Rube Goldberg machine.

BARB

It is getting late, I guess.

CHUCK

Geez, what a bunch of spoilsports. Are you sure?

BARB

I guess so. Well, see you at the game tomorrow.

The adults exchange smitten looks.

Zach is relieved, does an about face.

INT. AWAY HOCKEY RINK - DAY

A game is in progress. The Rattlers wear "away" jerseys.

The scoreboard reads "HOME 3" and "VISITORS 0".

Clive has the puck. He skates towards the net, trying to get a better angle. A player from the other team forces him against the boards.

Now he is one of four players vying for the puck in the corner, shoving and jostling. A ref is nearby.

The puck comes loose, sliding out on the ice. Clive emerges from the cluster and goes for it. Lucas gets to it and passes it back. It gets by Clive; he chases after it towards the corner.

Seemingly out of nowhere, a home team player slams into him from behind and knocks him into the boards.

Clive is down, sprawled on the ice. A whistle blows, then silence throughout the stands.

A ref shepherds the home team player into the penalty box.

Coach Len comes out onto the ice, moving cautiously in his street shoes.

Players from both teams skate back to their benches and kneel on the ice.

Now Robin's mom comes out onto the ice with a first aid kit.

Zach skates over to retrieve Clive's stick.

In the stands, Barb and Cyndi, sitting under a shared stadium blanket, put it aside and rise to their feet. The rest of the parents who are not already standing rise to their feet to get a better look.

This includes the only Black person in the stands, CLIVE'S DAD.

On the ice, Coach Len and Robin's mom continue to kneel by Clive, who is lying flat, not moving.

COACH LEN

What year is this?

Clive mumbles.

COACH LEN

Who is the president of the United States?

CLIVE

(faint)

Obama.

COACH LEN

Atta boy.

In the stands, the parents continue to watch and wait.

The five Wenatchee players who were on the ice kneel by the bench. Zach and Lucas exchange worried looks.

Coach Len and Robin's mom continue to work with Clive for several long seconds.

In the stands, Clive's dad starts descending the bleacher stairs.

INT. AWAY HOCKEY RINK - MOMENTS LATER

Clive's dad now has reached the ice level and stands next to Chuck behind the glass.

On the ice, Coach Len and Robin's mom help Clive to his feet.

The players on both teams pound their sticks on the ice.  
Sounds of clapping from the stands.

Coach Len and Robin's mom pull Clive along, one at each arm;  
Clive is hunched over, barely moving his feet.

Robin's mom and Coach Scott escort Clive back towards the  
locker rooms.

On the ice, the players skate back out to resume play, plus  
one more to substitute for Clive.

Zach returns to the bench.

On the bench, Zach turns to peer off-ice. The slowly-moving  
trio now meets up with Clive's dad.

ZACH

Coach! Does he have a concussion?

COACH LEN

Keep your mind on the game, Zach.

EXT. ICE SKATING RINK - PARKING LOT - DAY

The team, in shorts and tee shirts, minus Clive and Lucas, is  
doing dry-land exercises.

ZACH

Forward, ho!

They start jogging. Lucas comes running up at full speed and  
falls into place.

LUCAS

Hey!

ZACH

(not kidding)  
You're late.

LUCAS

Clive is out for six weeks, man.

ZACH

What are you talking about? I heard  
he went to the E.R. and they  
cleared him.

LUCAS

So how come he's not here?

ZACH

I don't know.

LUCAS

My mom talked to his mom. The next day he felt really sick, so he had to go back to the doctor. They said six weeks, maybe longer.

ZACH

Oh, my God. He's the best shooter, after Butthead...

Max is jogging by himself ahead of them.

The team continues the circuit.

LUCAS

Do you think we can go a whole season and never win a game?

ZACH

Oh, my God. Can it get any worse?

Nearby, a good-looking guy a few years older than Zach -- Robin's BOYFRIEND -- watches the team work out. Robin jogs past.

BOYFRIEND

Hey, I'll pick you up after, O.K.?

ROBIN

O.K.

ZACH

It can get worse, can't it? She has a boyfriend?

LUCAS

What do you care? She's just a person on the team, remember? That might even be sexual harassment if the captain asked someone on his team out.

ZACH

(re the Boyfriend)  
Who is that?

LUCAS

Some guy from school.

Lucas speeds up so that he draws abreast of Robin.

The Boyfriend gets into a car -- on the driver's side.

LUCAS  
Hey, Robin. Is that your man?

ROBIN  
No, I always accept rides from  
random strangers.

LUCAS  
Good to know, good to know. Zach  
was just wondering.

Salutes her and backpedals back to Zach.

LUCAS  
Boyfriend status confirmed.

ZACH  
You asked her? You dweeb. You did  
not mention my name, right?

LUCAS  
No way.

Zach stops running.

ZACH  
(to the team)  
O.K., let's do some stretches.  
While we're still young, people.

INT. ZACH'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Zach, Henry and Anais, and their ever-present backpacks.

ZACH  
Here's my idea. A mousetrap to  
crack open a nut.

HENRY  
How about a guillotine that comes  
down and slices it in half?

ANAIS  
(to Zach)  
O.K. But how would that work  
exactly?

HENRY  
Sounds like a job for... NBC, the  
no break club.



ZACH

Henry, have I ever told you that I love you?

HENRY

Actually, no.

ANAIS

It would require a huge amount of pressure.

ZACH

No problem. You want pressure, you got pressure.

ANAIS

I guess I don't get what the source of this pressure would be, because...

ZACH

...we could get acid to burn through a string connected to something really heavy.

HENRY

A bowling ball.

ZACH

I like it.

ANAIS

I hate it.

HENRY

I know! The acid is in a special container on the back of a train that runs on those wooden tracks, and then it runs off a cliff and dumps the acid on the string.

ANAIS

Umm, acid is dangerous.

ZACH

Come on, Anais. Where's your spirit of adventure?

(to Henry)

I have dominoes.

INT. ZACH'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Zach and Henry are on the floor creating a huge domino snake. Anais is constructing a volcano from a kit.

Zach and Henry scoot over to the beginning of the chain. Henry sets off the dominoes.

Anais looks up to watch, disapproving but also, if truth be told, impressed.

The domino chain reaction is flawless.

ZACH

Nice.

ANAIS

Great. Now can we get started?

HENRY

My mom's picking me up in ten minutes.

Anais puts her head in her hands.

SERIES OF SHOTS - ROCK VIDEO

Set to a driving ROCK SONG, a Rube Goldberg machine goes through its paces.

A shower of metal balls glides down grooves carved into a sheet of plywood, then disappear into a hole.

A golf club's trajectory sets a ball moving across a toy train track.

Attached to a pole by a swing, a tin can twirls around and causes a ball to move down more ramps.

Suddenly the image shakes as if in an earthquake--

INT. CHUCK'S SUV - MOVING - DAY

Chuck and Barb sit in the front. Barb is twisted around, shaking Zach's shoulder. She is speaking but we still hear only the music from the video.

Gear bags and luggage are piled high in the rear compartment. Zach and Max rip headphones from their ears.

BARB  
We'll be there in a few minutes,  
guys.

Zach and Max nod, then immediately replace their headphones.

ZACH (V.O.)  
Talk about a tough assignment. Team  
sports requires you to get along  
with difficult people.

INT. HOTEL - LOBBY - DAY

Chuck and Barb enter together, then stop a few feet from the desk. Zach trails behind, carrying a bulging backpack.

CHUCK  
After you.

Chuck touches her arm as he says this.

BARB  
Thank you, sir.

A desk clerk is stationed behind a computer. Barb approaches.

BARB  
(to desk clerk)  
Hello. I have a reservation under  
Maley. We're with the Wenatchee  
Bantam group.

Lucas and Robin enter the lobby from the corridor.

ZACH  
Hey, man. Hey, Robin.

LUCAS  
Hey.

ROBIN  
Hey.

LUCAS  
Unpack and come down to the pool.

They keep going. Lucas's polite upbringing gets the better of him.

LUCAS  
You too, Max.

Max is slumped up against a wall. He does a half-nod in reply.

INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR - LATER

Zach, Lucas and Robin walk in bathing suits and cover ups. As Robin walks slightly ahead, Zach can't help but admire her. Lucas seems to find this a little strange.

Now they pass a lounge. The sounds of KARAOKE are in the air. They peek into the gloom.

INT. LOUNGE - DAY

Barb and Chuck are on stage. Barb is in the middle of a tune, singing well and with great enthusiasm, while Chuck does backup.

Robin's mom, Ben's dad and some of the other parents are at one of the tables.

Barb loses her place, then speeds up. She sings a few more lines, then...

Barb and Chuck come together at the mike for the chorus, very cozy.

INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Zach retreats, followed more slowly by Robin, who is tugging at the mesmerized Lucas. Zach realizes they're not behind him, rushes back and none-too-gently moves Lucas along.

ZACH

Oh, my eyes! It burns! It burns!

ROBIN

Zach! What's the matter with you?  
Isn't your mom allowed to have a  
little fun once in a while?

Zach bounds through the door marked "STAIRS."

INT. STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

Zach bounds up the stairwell as only a very athletic teenager haunted by his personal demons and howling at the top of his lungs can.

INT. UPPER FLOOR CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER

Zach bursts through the door marked "STAIRS". There he encounters Cyndi waiting for the elevator with ROB, forties.

ROB  
(Canadian accent)  
Whoa! Nelly! Slow down a little,  
there, Zach.

Lucas and Robin now come through the door.

ROB  
Lucas! What's going on?

Zach has come to a halt by now.

ZACH  
Nothing.

LUCAS  
He saw his mom singing karaoke  
downstairs and freaked out.

CYNDI  
Oh, Zach. Your mom has a nice  
voice.

ZACH  
I know.

CYNDI  
Well, go on to your rooms and quit  
terrorizing the inhabitants around  
here. Why don't you put on "HOCKEY  
NIGHT IN CANADA"? I had to drag  
Lucas's dad away...

ROB  
Why, yes, maybe I should go along  
and ah, supervise things...

LUCAS  
That's okay, Dad.

CYNDI  
Rob, you're coming with me!

Elevator door opens. Cyndi takes his arm, and leads him in.

ROB  
(to the teens)  
You can't blame a guy for trying.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - LATER

Zach, Lucas and Robin lined up on one of the two queen-size beds watching TV.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - LATER

Robin watches TV, ignoring Zach and Lucas blowing up elongated, multi-colored balloons.

They let them fly. They make extremely loud, high-pitched squealing sounds as they fly around the room.

Lucas lets a balloon fly right at Robin's head; she bats it away.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - LATER

Robin gets up from the bed. Zach and Lucas are eating chips on the other one.

ROBIN  
It's almost curfew.

Lucas gets up off the bed.

ZACH  
(mouth full of chips)  
May I apologize on behalf of my friend for his rude behavior this evening?

LUCAS  
(mouth full of chips)  
Oh, like you're Mr. Mature, mon capitaine?

ROBIN  
Yeah, Zach.

LUCAS  
We all know your junior-in-high-school boyfriend would never act like us silly boys.

Zach realizes that indeed this might be true.

ZACH  
Yeah, sorry if we were too crazy for you.

ROBIN

Go to sleep, Zach. We have an early game tomorrow.

Lucas and Robin leave. Zach stares longingly at the door.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - LATER

Zach is now under the covers. He wads the chips bag up into a ball, tosses it in the direction of the wastebasket; it misses. Looks at the clock.

The clock reads "11:55."

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Morning. Barb is asleep in one of the beds; Zach in the other. An alarm goes off. Barb stumbles out of bed, turns it off, half falls onto Zach's bed and shakes his shoulder.

BARB

Zach! Get up.

She collapses back onto her bed. No movement from either bed.

BARB

Zach!

Zach comes to life, gets out of bed, sits at the edge for a minute clearing his head, then goes into the bathroom.

Barb lies in exactly the same position in which she originally landed.

INT. HOTEL BREAKFAST AREA - DAY

Zach and Lucas in suits and ties sit at one of the tables. Other players, also in suits and ties, along with one or both of their parents, and the three coaches, take up the other tables. Cyndi, Rob, Chuck and Coach Len sit at the table adjacent to Zach and Lucas's.

Barb enters, in full makeup but bleary-eyed. Goes to the coffee urn and pours a cup.

Barb sits with Lucas and Zach.

BARB

Boys, remind me again why I just got up at six a.m. on a Sunday?

LUCAS  
'Cause you're a hockey mom.

BARB  
Must drink coffee.

EXT. AWAY HOCKEY RINK - LATER

Scoreboard shows: "HOME 1, VISITOR 0."

Now it changes to "HOME 2, VISITOR 0."

The home team players share a group hug.

In the stands, Barb, Rob and Cyndi watch in dismay.

BARB  
Must drink coffee.

Her face is pale even with the makeup.

On the ice, Zach gets a breakaway, darting past the defenseman while the other team is finishing up a line change.

He speeds into the other team's zone.

The Goalie skates out beyond the crease, anticipating the attack.

Zach approaches, dekes, fools the Goalie.

And scores!

Now it is the shift from Zach's team who congratulate each other.

In the stands, Cyndi and Rob yell and cheer. Barb is no longer there.

EXT. AWAY HOCKEY RINK - LATER

The two teams are lined up and skate past each other, shaking hands.

SCOREBOARD READS "HOME 4", "VISITOR 1".

INT. AWAY HOCKEY RINK - LOBBY - LATER

Cyndi, Rob, Barb and Chuck await the players.



Zach emerges from the hallway leading to the locker rooms.

CHUCK  
Hey, nice goal, Zach.

BARB  
He got a goal? Zach, you scored?

ZACH  
Yes.

BARB  
Oh, no! I must have been in the  
bathroom.

CYNDI  
It was a good one, too. He got a  
breakaway.

BARB  
A breakaway! Oh, no!

ZACH  
That's considered a good thing,  
mother.

BARB  
I know that. I just can't believe I  
missed it.

ZACH  
Well, maybe if you weren't so  
hungover you wouldn't have to spend  
so much time in the bathroom.

BARB  
Zach!

CHUCK  
Now Zach, is that any way to talk  
to your mother?

BARB  
Thank you.

Cyndi and Rob drift away to meet up with Lucas.

BARB  
I am not hungover. Come on.

Zach is pissed. Barb is pissed.

She and Zach head out the doors while Chuck greets Max.

CHUCK  
Good game, Max.

EXT. AWAY HOCKEY RINK - DAY

Barb and Zach head towards Chuck's car.

BARB  
All right, maybe I am a little  
hungover... but there is a time and  
a place to be talking about these  
things.

ZACH  
(grudgingly)  
Sorry.

BARB  
So what if I got drunk? I'm over 21  
and once in a while, I get to take  
a break from driving you places.  
Deal with it.

Zach just scowls.

Cyndi, Rob and Lucas have arrived at their vehicle, parked nearby.

ROB  
You gonna be hitchhiking back to  
the hotel, there, Zach?

BARB  
Lucky thing for him he scored.

Chuck and Max arrive at the vehicle. Zach is mortified to think that this has occurred within earshot of them.

Chuck, oblivious, opens up the back of the SUV.

ZACH  
(mumbling, to himself)  
Wonder who else scored?

Zach emphatically heaves his gear into the back.

EXT. ZACH'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Zach, Anais and Henry are on the floor working on the Rube Goldberg project. The dining room table is heaped high with the objects from the last session, plus more. Zach is sketching on a pad.

HENRY

So it starts with the Newton balls.

ANAIS

Great. Where are you going to get Newton balls?

HENRY

Anais, you are so negative. I'll get them.

ANAIS

OK, but when?

HENRY

I just remembered. I was supposed to do something for my mother after school. Gotta run.

ANAIS

Are you kidding me?

Henry gets up, snatches a backpack and leaves the room. Groaning, Anais collapses backwards so she is lying on the floor like a snow angel. They hear the FRONT DOOR closing.

ANAIS

This is why I hate group projects. I didn't even get a chance to pick my group so I could work with some serious people.

Zach scoots with his pad over next to her.

ZACH

So what do you think of this?

Perfunctorily, Anais turns her head. Whatever she sees on the pad gives her reason to hope; she flops over on her stomach to get a better look.

ANAIS

I like it.

INT. ICE SKATING RINK - DAY

A game is in progress.

Zach is on the bench. Coach Len paces angrily back and forth.

COACH LEN

Maybe I should just replace all of you with house players. Go on...

Line change. Three forwards head for the bench.

Clive, wearing a helmet and a suit and tie, holds the door open on the offensive side of the bench. Ben goes through as Zach and Max climb over the boards.

The three other skaters return to the bench.

A Rattler passes the puck Zach's way but a player from the opposing team intercepts it.

A Rattler defenseman is herding the player with the puck towards the boards.

Coming full on at the skater with the puck... a clean hit to the shoulder!

But the puck is already on the other side of the ice. An opposing player deftly receives the pass, then raises his stick to take a slapshot.

Isaiah's view is now blocked by one of his own defensemen.

ISAIAH

Screen!

A puck goes in between his legs before he can stop it.

On the bench, Coach Len's jaw goes, if possible, even more rigid.

INT. ZACH'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Barb and Zach are watching T.V.

On the screen, an NHL video clip with rousing music behind it.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

"One of the most revered positions in all of sports is the team captain. One goal they all have in common is to win. Able to coach on the ice... encourage from inside..."

An NHL captain talks to his team.

NHL CAPTAIN

"Foot on the gas, boys! Foot on the gas!"

On screen, Crosby scores a goal.

BROADCASTER (V.O.)  
 "Sidney Crosby scores!"

Zach is glum as he watches.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
 "...Deal with tricky situations...  
 Much more than wearing the 'C' on  
 his chest..."

Barb glances over at Zach.

BARB  
 See, honey, it's about a lot more  
 than just winning... it's about  
 dealing with tricky situations.

Zach's shoulders are slumped. He looks at the floor.

BARB  
 Oh, come on. You're doing the best  
 you can with the hand you were  
 dealt.

ZACH  
 Mom...

It's pointless. She can't possibly understand his suffering.  
 He storms out of the room.

INT. ICE SKATING RINK - DAY

Robin and three more of Zach's teammates are squeezed into  
 the Home penalty box.

Two of the visiting team players are in the other box.

On the ice, Zach skates to the REF.

ZACH  
 How many penalties do we have?

REF  
 Fourteen. One more and your coach  
 is outta here -- league rules.

Zach skates back to the bench, where he delivers the news to  
 the coach.

ZACH  
 Fourteen.

COACH LEN

Oh, crap. O.K., guys, for the last three minutes of the game -- no contact, nothing that could possibly get you a penalty.

INT. ICE SKATING RINK - MOMENTS LATER

A somewhat awkward line change takes place. Ref blows the whistle. Skates over to the parents running the timeclock and keeping score.

Hand signal by the ref; his fingertips meet on top of his head.

In the stands, Barb and Chuck sit next to each other.

BARB

What? What's going on.

CHUCK

Unbelievable.

Nearby, Ben's dad jumps to his feet.

BEN'S DAD

Hey ref! Is your brother on the team?

Barb and Chuck look at each other in disbelief; it's so ridiculous it's funny, although not to Ben's dad.

CHUCK

Too many men. We got the fifteenth penalty for too many men on the ice!

BARB

Who was the man too many?

Chuck points to Ben's dad.

CHUCK

His kid.

On the bench, Coach Len is arguing with the ref. Christmas music, seemingly incongruous...

A linesman joins the conversation. The ref makes a gesture universally understood to be, "hit the road."

Coach Len has no alternative but to start the long walk back to the showers. He stalks around the outside of the rink while the game continues without him.

ZACH (V.O.)  
 Our losing streak was unbroken, our morale was at an all-time low, and boy were we ready for some figgy pudding, whatever that is...

And for good measure, Coach Len kicks a trash can as he passes.

EXT. AIRPLANE - DAY

An airplane soars through cloudy winter skies.

ZACH (V.O.)  
 The holidays come just in the St. Nick of time to rest, recharge...

INT. BILL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Nick with his dad, Bill and Bill's new family -- stepmother, stepsister and stepbrother, stepmother's dad and stepmother's mom -- gather round a Christmas tree devoid of presents except for four piled up in front of Zach.

ZACH (V.O.)  
 ...and stock up on supplies.

Zach opens what turns out to be, not surprisingly from the shape of it, a hockey stick in a travel case.

INT. BILL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Same room, same tree, Zach and Bill watching hockey on TV.

ZACH (V.O.)  
 I spent some quality time with Dad. Of course he had to give me a pep talk about being Captain and all. He's flying in for the State tournament, too, so that's cool. I told him the team sucks but he's coming anyway. Go figure.

INT. ZACH'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Zach and Barb enter with Zach's luggage.

BARB  
So what'd you do besides lie around  
the house playing video games?

ZACH  
Lie around the house and watch  
hockey.

BARB  
Hmm. Nothing like a little variety.

ZACH  
But now it's time to start getting  
back in shape.

BARB  
I don't think you've gone soft in a  
week.

Zach drops the luggage, turns around and indicates for her to  
get on his back.

ZACH  
Come on, Mama.

BARB  
I think not.

ZACH  
(stern)  
Mother.

BARB  
(sigh)  
Oh, all right.

She gets on his back, piggy-back style.

ZACH  
Time for some squats.

He does squats with Barb, laughing, on his back. She reaches  
down and kisses his neck.

INT. ZACH'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

Zach is on the computer while Barb is cooking.

ZACH  
Hey, Mom, you wanna see something?

BARB  
What kind of something?



ZACH  
Get over here and I'll show you.

BARB  
Oh, all right.

On the screen, a Rube Goldberg video from YouTube.

Downward momentum propels streams of water from one plastic container to another.

Something sets a bowling ball rolling down a track, tearing through a series of curtains as it goes.

The bowling ball stops; a TV is transported backwards and a mallet smashes the screen.

Watching the video, Barb crouches behind Zach, staring in wonder at the computer screen. She laughs. Zach laughs at her laughing.

INT. ZACH'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

There are many objects attached to the propped-up pegboard but even more stuff strewn around the floor. As are Zach, Anais and Henry.

ZACH  
Why don't you touch the hot glue gun again? I dare you.

Henry makes as if to touch the hot glue gun, but doesn't quite get there.

ANAIS  
I'm the only one working.

HENRY  
Did you see that video where the guy tried to grind it, and the board broke and he stabbed himself?

ANAIS  
It's just about ready.

She is mixing a concoction of baking soda and vinegar.

ZACH  
I wish I had that much pain tolerance as those guys... I'd be on the ground for twenty minutes...

ANAIS  
O.K., let's do this.

Henry starts hot-gluing cereal-box figures to the pegboard.

Anais lets fly the Newton balls -- their momentum gets the chain reaction going.

A toy car goes down a ramp, knocks a weight into a cup attached to a string that is wrapped around a jar lid. But now, instead of more momentum, some mystery liquids begin to seep out of the glass jar.

ZACH  
But it's supposed to work.

Henry keeps right on gluing.

HENRY  
I could never just ollie. I could pretty much do mad kick flips, but that's about it.

ANAIS  
The chemicals overreacted.

ZACH  
Why doesn't it work?

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Zach with his backpack walks down the corridor. Huge ROARS of applause are heard.

He is near the entrance to the gym. The door is open. He looks in.

A basketball game is in progress. A home team player dribbles, dodges past the defense, takes a shot and makes a basket. The crowd applauds.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYM - MOMENTS LATER

The scoreboard reads: "HOME 41", "VISITOR 30".

Cheerleaders perform a cheer.

On the home bench, sweaty high school basketball players and their coach, Mr. Wells.

Robin and the boyfriend are seated in the stands across from where Zach is now standing.

Zach, standing by the risers, now stares not at the game but at the happy couple. A spitball lands on his head. He shakes it off reflexively, not really noticing. Several more land on top of him in rapid succession. He doesn't react. Now an apple core bounces off the top of his head.

ZACH

What the...

He looks up.

Lucas is directly above him on the bleachers, laughing. He has painted his face half purple and half gold.

Zach snatches the apple core off the ground.

Zach bounds up the stairs to join Lucas. They sit. Zach immediately grabs Lucas in a wrestling hold, starts sticking the apple core down the back of his shirt.

Mr. Wells, standing on the sidelines, happens to glance up in their direction.

Zach instantly takes his hand out of the back of Lucas's shirt, sits up straight.

ZACH

Wells! Do you think he saw us?

Lucas is dubious.

LUCAS

I think he's got other things on his mind.

ZACH

Yeah.

Looks down to make sure.

ZACH

Got any more face paint?

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYM - LATER

A home team player makes a basket.

Lucas and Zach, now equally purple and gold, leap to their feet and cheer.

INT. ZACH'S HOUSE - BARB'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Barb is applying makeup.

ZACH (O.S.)

Mom!

He appears in the doorway. Flops on her bed.

BARB

Yes.

ZACH

Do you know what 360 times 360 is?

BARB

Not without a calculator.

ZACH

Are you going out?

BARB

Yes.

ZACH

So you know how there are points of latitude and longitude? Who with?

BARB

Just a friend.

Zach grabs her cell phone from the dresser. Punches in some numbers.

ZACH

That means there's only 129,600 points to cover the whole world. So they have to be ten miles apart or something. I never thought of that before.

BARB

I can't imagine why not.

ZACH

Which friend?

BARB

It's... a new one.

ZACH

Mom! What were you up to while I was in Minnesota? Have you been dating?

BARB

Zach, if I have something to tell you, I will tell you. Right now, yes, I have a date but it's nothing to get all excited about.

ZACH

Well, who is this guy? I want to check him out.

BARB

No. That's not how it works. I am taking it slow.

Zach collapses back on the bed.

ZACH

Oh, my God. I'm not ready for a stepdad.

BARB

That's a relief, because I'm not ready for a husband.

EXT. ICE SKATING RINK - PARKING LOT - DAY

The team is jogging in the parking lot. Zach and Lucas are together.

Max is up ahead.

ZACH

But what if it is him?

LUCAS

You don't have any proof, man.

ZACH

What if that is my new stepbrother?

LUCAS

I feel your pain. Now focus. Think about Spokane.

ZACH

I'd rather not.

LUCAS

Hey, it's your job to rally the troops.

ZACH

I thought Clive was gonna be back.

LUCAS

Nah, he had some more headaches and stuff this week.

ZACH

(incredulous)  
Again?

INT. ICE SKATING RINK - LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Post-game. The team is getting undressed. Zach sits with head in hands.

ZACH

That really sucked.

ISAIAH

They kicked our asses.

MAX

Maybe we should talk about what went wrong.

ZACH

You mean so you can tell everybody else what they did wrong? Yeah, right.

MAX

That is not what I meant, as a matter of fact, but if you all want to cry about it, go ahead.

LUCAS

O.K., guys, simmer down.

MAX

Don't you mean, Max and girls?

ZACH

Shut up.

Zach and Max stare each other down.

Isaiah snatches the boom box off the bench and turns it on, singing along with the hard rock...

ISAIAH

"Boom! Here comes the boom!"

LUCAS AND ISAIAH

"Is that all you got?"

ZACH  
 (muttering)  
 Asshole.

MAX  
 (muttering)  
 Our fearless leader...

All join in except Zach and Max, who continues AD LIB muttering. Some of the players break into dance moves.

TEAM  
 "Is that all you got? I'll take  
 your best shot."

Isaiah hits a very high note, his finger pointing up, up and away. Everybody cringes or laughs. Except Max.

MAX  
 Goalies.

INT. SEMI-PRO HOCKEY LEAGUE ARENA - NIGHT

Zach and Lucas, one row behind Cyndi and Rob in the stands at a Wenatchee Wild game, munch on food from the concessions.

Nothing is happening on the ice.

Cyndi and Rob are sipping beers.

CYNDI  
 They look cute together, don't you  
 think?

ROB  
 Sure.

CYNDI  
 Wouldn't it be great if...

ZACH  
 Who looks cute?

Cyndi seems surprised to be overheard, twists around in her seat.

CYNDI  
 Oh, Zach, you're back. What'd you  
 get?

ZACH  
 Burger and fries. Who looks cute?

CYNDI  
Just someone I know.

Barb brushes past, heading to the empty seat on the other side of Rob.

CYNDI  
There you are. What'd you get?

Suddenly the lights dim, spotlights dart across the surface of the ice.

HOCKEY ANNOUNCER (O.S.)  
Ladies and gentlemen, please  
welcome back your Wenatchee Wild.

The home team players return to the ice.

Zach, Lucas and most of the people around them get to their feet.

INT. ARENA - 50/50 BOOTH - LATER

Rob, Cyndi and Barb approach the booth. Chuck and a hockey mom not connected with Zach's team, wearing 50/50 jerseys, are closing up.

BARB  
How was tonight?

CHUCK  
Saturday night, you know. You gotta  
love it.

Barb smiles, an intimate look.

Zach and Lucas enter eating chocolate-covered fruit kabobs.

The 50/50 sign: reads "\$2,634".

Lucas takes a good look at the dollar amount on the sign.

LUCAS  
(to Zach)  
What would you do if you had \$2,634  
bucks?

ZACH  
What would I do or what would my  
mom make me do?

Zach is watching Chuck and Barb over Lucas's shoulder.



LUCAS  
Forget your mom.

ZACH  
O.K. I guess I'd save it for a car  
when I turn sixteen.

LUCAS  
Sweet. What kind of a ride you  
think you could get for that?

ZACH  
Oh, I don't know. Maybe a go-cart.  
How about this? I win one week, and  
the next week, you win.

LUCAS  
And we go in together. Now you're  
talking real money. Will you quit  
staring at them?

ZACH  
What? I'm not staring.

LUCAS  
Hey, Dad?

Lucas goes over to Rob. Zach follows.

ZACH  
(to Lucas)  
Ask him if he knows who my mom is  
dating.

LUCAS  
Do you think I could get a used  
Nissan GTR for \$5268 bucks?

ROB  
My man, you'd be mowing a lot of  
lawns to get one of those.

Barb joins the group.

The crowd at the arena has thinned.

ROB  
You might want to take a look at a  
Honda Civic, though.

BARB  
Chuck and I have a suggestion. We  
drop these two off and head to the  
casino.

Zach breaks away and stands looking out at the Zamboni slowly circling the ice. Lucas joins him.

ZACH

Chuck and I... already it's Chuck and I.

LUCAS

Dude, that doesn't mean anything. They're all friends. My folks have known Chuck for a long time. He's all right.

ZACH

Oh, gag me.

INT. ICE SKATING RINK - DAY

Zach, Lucas and Clive stand by the gate patting each player on the shoulder as the players step onto the ice in quick succession. Cheers from the stands.

Robin...

Max...

Ben...

A first-year forward and a second-year forward...

Two first-year defensemen...

Three more first-year forwards...

Another first-year defenseman...

Isaiah...

Finally Zach, Clive and Lucas step onto the ice.

INT. ICE SKATING RINK - LATER

Clive is charging towards the opposing net when the buzzer sounds. The Rattlers who are on the ice all hug each other in a victory dance. The ones on the bench pour out onto the ice.

INT. ZACH'S HOUSE - ZACH'S BEDROOM - DAY

Zach with his hair plastered to his head, still wearing his team warm up gear, on his cell phone.

ZACH  
(on phone)  
Dad, we finally won one... Seattle.  
Clive was back, and I had an  
assist.

INT. ZACH'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Zach, Henry and Anais amidst their usual mess. Anais and Zach are working, Henry is lying on the sofa.

ZACH  
How'd you know the answer to that  
question in class today, Henry?

HENRY  
What question?

ANAIS  
You know, the one that Mr. Wells  
didn't know the answer to?

HENRY  
Oh, yeah. I forget.

Henry stares at the ceiling.

ZACH  
Dude, are you smarter than the  
teacher?

HENRY  
No way, man.

Exasperated, Anais gets up, grabs Henry's arm, and hoists him into a seated position.

ANAIS  
Henry, you just need to focus!

Zach moves in and sits next to him. He is hemmed in.

ZACH  
Henry, as team leader, it is my job  
to tap all the hidden potential of  
my team.

ANAIS  
And you're doing a pretty good job  
of hiding it.

HENRY  
Wells hates me, you know.

ZACH

What are you talking about?

ANAIS

He might not like it when you do the homework about once a week. Just stop messing up.

ZACH

Why you gotta mess up, Henry?

HENRY

That's just me. It's what I do.

ZACH

Wrong answer. Now this weekend when I'm in Tri-Cities you are going to be working on getting this lever to work. We are going to meet Monday and if your part is not ready, I am going to show up at your doorstep and make sure you get it ready. O.K.?

HENRY

O.K.

ZACH

Now help Anais with the ramp.

HENRY

O.K.

Henry and Anais go over to the pegboard.

ZACH

This is serious. No more parkour talk. No more boarding talk. Just solid work, work, work.

At this point Zach is sitting on the sofa, busy "supervising" and the other two are on the floor.

Anais and Henry look up and see him sitting there; they stare him down.

Zach gets the hint. Makes a "who me" kind of gesture; Anais and Henry nod.

ANAIS

Work, work, work.

Zach gets down on the floor with them.

INT. LUCAS'S HOUSE - LUCAS'S ROOM - DAY

Zach is sprawled on the bed while Lucas plays a video game.

ZACH

(on cell phone)

Hi, Dad... Good... it was two to four.... No, we lost, but that's better than zero to twelve.... Yeah, We're actually getting better. By the way, I scored.... Well, this guy Clive, the one that was out, he's on the line with me now, we're getting a good rhythm going. He passed it up from behind the net and I got it in the five-hole.... Oh, the other goal? Max.... Yeah, He's the butthead.... Not much. Me and Lucas were just hanging out.... O.K., love you, too.

LUCAS

Hey, let's see if there's any food down there.

ZACH

Why wouldn't there be? Did you eat it all already?

INT. LUCAS'S HOUSE - DAY

As they descend the stairs -- voices from the kitchen.

CYNDI (O.S.)

They're up there playing video games.

The boys freeze.

ROB (O.S.)

Do not say a word about this.

They creep down the stairs without making any noise.

CYNDI (O.S.)

Well, I know I'm a dumb Canuck but I'm not that dumb.

ROB (O.S.)

It can't be right.

Through the kitchen door, they see Rob and Cyndi.

CYNDI

We're going to have to show this to somebody.

Zach and Lucas retreat back up the stairs.

INT. LUCAS'S HOUSE - LUCAS'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

They flop onto Lucas's bed.

ZACH

What was that about?

LUCAS

I have no idea, but I'm starving. Oh, God, what am I gonna do? Can you hear my stomach growling?

INT. LUCAS'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Lucas and Zach now sneak back down and barge into the kitchen. Lucas yanks open the fridge.

LUCAS

Is there anything to eat?

CYNDI

Get some chips or something, and then I'm taking Zach home.

LUCAS

What! He's staying for dinner.

CYNDI

Sorry, Zach, not this time.

ZACH

I have a lot of homework, anyway.

LUCAS

But...

ROB

But no.

Rob shoves a bag of potato chips into Lucas's hands.

ROB

You heard of dine and dash? Well, now's your chance.

EXT. CYNDI'S CAR - DAY

Cyndi at the wheel, driving down suburban street. Lucas and Zach in the back, munching on chips.

ZACH (V.O.)  
There I go, eating chips like I  
don't have a care in the world...

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Zach slumped at his desk in the back of the room while students are reading out loud.

ISAIAH  
(reading badly)  
"Flower of this purple dye, hit  
with Cupid's archer-eye"... I mean  
E.

Continues reading under voice over.

ZACH (V.O.)  
If I were a Literature geek instead  
of a Math and Science person, maybe  
I could come up with some famous  
quote...

Now Anais is the one reading.

ZACH (V.O.)  
...to sum up the events that  
happened next. But if you ask me,  
not even the greatest genius out  
there could do that.

ANAIS  
(reading well)  
"Shall we their fond pageant see?  
Lord, what fools these mortals be!"

INT. ZACH'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Zach and Anais are working diligently on the Rube Goldberg machine. Anais now stops, takes out a cell phone.

ANAIS  
I'm going to try one more time.

She dials and listens.

ZACH  
You know he's not there.

ANAIS  
Maybe he just got back.

She hangs up.

ZACH  
He blew us off.

ANAIS  
What is wrong with him? Is he  
trying to fail on purpose?

ZACH  
Maybe.

ANAIS  
But he's taking us down with him. I  
have a 4.0 average.

ZACH  
Don't worry. I'll take care of it.

ANAIS  
How are you going to do that?

Zach finishes attaching another part to the pegboard.

ZACH  
I am a very persuasive guy. Your  
4.0 average is safe with me.

Punches his open hand mock-menacingly.

ANAIS  
Now you're making fun of me.

ZACH  
No, I'm not. I wish I was as smart  
as you.

ANAIS  
I'm not naturally that smart. I  
study a lot.

ZACH  
Now see, that's where you mess it  
up for the rest of us.

They both laugh, then get back to work, perhaps realizing for the first time that they are a young woman and a young man alone together.



EXT. ZACH'S HOUSE - DAY

There is snow on the ground. Anais gets into a car, waving to Zach, who waves back, standing by the open garage door.

The car drives off.

Inside the empty garage, Zach puts on helmet and bicycle clips. He walks his bike to the garage door opener button, presses it and pedals like mad to just barely elude the garage door closing on him, a stunt he has probably performed many times.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

Zach on his bike, the bicycle clips glowing fluorescent and a blinking red light at the back. The late-afternoon light is already failing.

EXT. LUCAS'S HOUSE - DAY

Zach pedals into the driveway, comes to a stop and gets off the bike. He walks up the sidewalk and rings the doorbell.

Lucas answers the door.

INT. LUCAS'S HOUSE - DAY

Zach and Lucas. Lucas getting his coat on. Rob peers into the hall from the kitchen.

ROB  
Oh, it's you. Hi, Zach.

ZACH  
Hi, Mr. Bailey.

Rob returns to the kitchen.

ZACH  
Why is your dad home so early?

LUCAS  
I don't know. They won't tell me.

ZACH  
Weird.

LUCAS  
(shouting)  
I'm going bike-riding with Zach.

They step outside.

EXT. LUCAS'S HOUSE - DAY

Lucas' bike is already in the driveway. He goes to get it.

LUCAS  
Only I'm not.

ZACH  
Not what?

LUCAS  
I'm not going bike-riding with you.  
I just want it to look like I am.

ZACH  
Well, where are you going then?

LUCAS  
I have to do something for Robin.

ZACH  
Like what?

LUCAS  
I can't tell you.

ZACH  
Oh, my God. Fine, whatever.

Zach gets on his bike and starts out. Lucas follows, then pulls up alongside Zach.

LUCAS  
I promised her I wouldn't say anything.

ZACH  
Oh, I get it. You're using me as an excuse to get out of the house.

LUCAS  
Sorry, man. I had to. I'll ride as far as Webster with you.

ZACH  
It's probably better if it's just me, anyway.

LUCAS  
Yeah, you don't need me.

ZACH  
You can say that again.

Zach speeds up.

EXT. COTTAGE - DAY

This is a not-so-Ozzie and Harriet part of town. The house is in need of a paint job. Zach arrives on his bike. He pulls a piece of paper out of his jacket pocket, checks the address.

He walks his bike up the driveway, leaves it and follows the walk to the front door. Rings the doorbell. Waits a few seconds. Then he tries knocking.

Eventually the door opens. LAURA, late 30s, answers the door. She is dressed casually but well, expensive jewelry, frosted hair.

ZACH  
Hello, ma'am. May I please speak to Henry?

LAURA  
Of course. Why don't you come in?  
I'm Henry's aunt Laura.

INT. COTTAGE - DAY

Is pretty much like you'd expect from the outside. Not too clean, not too well furnished.

LAURA  
Henry! There's someone here to see you.

There is no response.

LAURA  
I'll go see what he's up to.

She steps out of the room. Zach looks around.

Old sofa covered by a throw, some foam showing.

Plastic-covered recliner.

Crumbs, cat hair on the outdated wall-to-wall carpet.

Zach goes over to an ancient, glassed-in bookcase -- among the framed family photos is a complicated model of a solar-powered car. Zach picks it up and examines it.

Henry enters, pushed along from behind by Laura.

ZACH  
Hey, man. What happened?

HENRY  
I forgot.

LAURA  
What's going on, Henry?

ZACH  
We're working on a school project together.

LAURA  
(perky)  
Oh! Great.

ZACH  
It's due on Friday.

LAURA  
Friday. That's coming right up.

ZACH  
It's a big part of our grade, so it's kind of important.

LAURA  
Were you supposed to work on the project today?

HENRY  
Yeah, but I forgot.

LAURA  
O.K., well, what's the next time you're going to get together?

ZACH  
Tomorrow.

LAURA  
He'll be there. I'll make sure of it. What's your name, by the way?

ZACH  
Zach.

LAURA  
What subject is this project for, Zach?

ZACH  
Science.

LAURA  
Henry is nuts for science. He's not going to forget again. How'd you get here, anyway?

ZACH  
I rode my bike.

LAURA  
In the middle of winter?

Zach shrugs, no big deal.

LAURA  
Well, let me get you a little snack for the road. I just got back from the store.

ZACH  
That's O.K...

LAURA  
(not asking)  
Come on in the kitchen and I'll get you something. Henry, you finish cleaning out that litterbox; that thing was a sight.

She leaves the room; Zach follows her through the kitchen door.

INT. COTTAGE - KITCHEN - DAY

Laura starts pulling groceries out of a sack.

The open refrigerator is completely and totally empty as Laura places some hamburger meat and a package of buns in it.

LAURA  
Zach, you must be a pretty good friend of Henry's to come all this way on your bike in February.

She sets aside some cookies.

ZACH  
It's not so cold today like it was last week.

Laura places a four-pack of toilet paper rolls on the counter.

LAURA

I wouldn't know. I was in Seattle last week.

She takes some pantry items out of the sack and places them on the counter.

LAURA

I don't want you to be too mad at Henry. He's having a hard time right now. Now, if you're in his science class you probably know Henry is very bright.

ZACH

He kind of drives me nuts though, because he doesn't try. Half the time he stares out the window -- but I know if he just put his mind to it he'd be the smartest one in the class.

LAURA

There are two more bags in the car. Why don't you help me with them?

She goes out the kitchen door and Zach follows.

EXT. COTTAGE - DAY

Laura opens up the back of her car, reaches in and hands Zach a bag of groceries.

LAURA

Zach, I'm going to tell you the truth and I'm going to trust you to keep your mouth shut about this, because I don't know what else to do.

They are both standing in the cold with groceries in their arms.

LAURA

We both know Henry didn't "forget" about the appointment. The truth is, his mom is a drug addict. I think he was out looking for her, trying to drag her back from some godawful place or other.

(MORE)

LAURA (CONT'D)

He won't tell me. When I got here this afternoon, there was not a thing to eat in there but ramen noodles.

ZACH

I didn't know.

LAURA

I know you didn't. He doesn't want people to know. This has been going on for years, but it just keeps getting worse. I came all the way from Seattle, and I'd take him back with me if I could, but I don't have any authority. I don't know what to do. You seem like a nice young man.

ZACH

Honestly, ma'am, I was more concerned about my own grade, mine and this girl who's on the team with us.

LAURA

See, the thing of it is, I used to be married to Henry's uncle but we're divorced now, so I'm not blood. But I've known that kid in there since the day he was born. It's killing me what's happening. He's gonna end up in foster care again, I just know it. His mom tells me to butt out... it's killing me.

Laura breaks down in tears. Zach shifts the groceries and puts his arm around her.

ZACH

Let's get in out of the cold,  
Laura.

They go back inside.

INT. COTTAGE - DAY

Zach and Laura enter and set down the groceries. Zach removes a box of tea bags that is sticking out of the top of one of the sacks.

ZACH

Now, Laura, wouldn't you like a nice, hot cup of tea?

Laura nods. Zach starts opening cabinet doors.

ZACH

I just need to find a teapot.

LAURA

There should be one on the right of the sink, there. Let me do...

ZACH

No, I got it.

Ushers her to a seat at the kitchen table.

ZACH

You just sit right there and I'll get the water on for you.

INT. COTTAGE - HENRY'S ROOM - LATER

Henry is lying on his bed, petting the longhaired cat which is curled up on his chest.

Zach enters.

What Zach sees is this:

Pinned to the wall, a life-size diagram of the Rube Goldman pegboard with every detail of the finished product intricately plotted, labelled and cross-referenced.

Zach is amazed.

ZACH

No way, dude!

Sits down on the bed and takes the cat on his lap.

ZACH

Hi, kitty. What's your name?

HENRY

Albert.

ZACH

(baby talk to the cat)  
Yeah, you look like an Albert. Yes, you do.

(normal voice)

(MORE)



ZACH (CONT'D)  
 You got a dog named Stephen  
 Hawking?

HENRY  
 No dogs.

ZACH  
 Dude, your mom wants you to do good  
 in school.

HENRY  
 Yeah, right.

ZACH  
 That diagram is amazing. We need  
 you, man. Anais and I can't do it  
 without you.

Zach takes Albert and places his hind legs on Henry's chest,  
 waving the tolerant animal's front paws in the air.

ZACH  
 (falsetto "cat" voice)  
 Do it for me, Henry. E equals MC  
 squared.

He makes the cat's paw tap on Henry's forehead.

ZACH  
 Hey, Henry. It's not that I'm so  
 smart, it's just that I stay with  
 problems longer.

HENRY  
 Quit torturing the cat.

ZACH  
 I'll come back and do it again  
 tomorrow if you don't show up.

HENRY  
 I'll be there.

EXT. COTTAGE - DAY

Henry and Laura in the doorway. Zach is just leaving.

LAURA  
 Are you sure you don't want a lift,  
 and come back and get the bike  
 another time?

ZACH

Naw, I'm good. I'm gonna go meet my mom at work; she's got the bike rack on the car. You'll be hearing from me.

(to Henry)

And I'll see you tomorrow.

Gets on his bike and pedals away.

Laura watches him go.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

It is almost dark out by this time. Two cop cars with lights flashing are parked in front of a business. A door opens; cops lead Chuck out in handcuffs.

Zach on his bike pedals by, slowly, curious to see what is happening. Then he recognizes Chuck. Almost loses control of his bike.

Chuck sees him and looks away. Zach is in shock as he pedals by the police car, looking straight ahead.

But finally, Chuck looks at Zach and has something to say.

CHUCK

I did it for my kid, Zach... tell your mother that.

Zach can't get any words out. He pedals faster, but then slows down again to take another look behind him.

EXT. CITY STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Zach is walking his bike, talking on his cell phone.

ZACH

(on phone)

Luke! Where are you? I have to talk to you, man.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

Zach sits at a booth next to Lucas and across from Robin. Robin and Lucas have mostly empty plates in front of them.

ZACH

See what you can find out. I have to go break it to my mom....

LUCAS  
What do you mean?

ZACH  
She's in love with him, moron. Have you not seen what has been going on all season?

Lucas is dialing his cell phone.

ZACH  
(to Robin)  
What are you guys doing out here, anyway?

LUCAS  
(on phone)  
Mom?

Lucas nudges Zach to get up, then slides over and out of the booth.

ROBIN  
I thought there was a bus.

LUCAS  
(on phone)  
Zach says Chuck got arrested.

Lucas walks away, his ear to the phone.

ZACH  
(to Robin)  
But why were you out here?

Lucas comes back into frame.

LUCAS  
Zach. Leave it alone....

He moves away again. Robin is unusually low key.

ROBIN  
Lucas was gonna put his bike on the front and ride back with me. Only guess what? There wasn't a bus.

ZACH  
Don't you have anybody who can pick you up?

Lucas sits down next to Robin and puts his arm around her.

LUCAS

Yeah. She has me. Do you want to hear what my mom said or not?

INT. CLINICAL LABORATORY - WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Barb in her lab coat comes out. Zach is sitting on a sofa waiting. He gets up and comes over to her.

BARB

To what do I owe the pleasure of this visit?

ZACH

I need a ride.

BARB

I thought it might be something like that.

ZACH

Mom, can we talk?

BARB

Well, I'm just finishing up a few things here...

ZACH

Mom...

INT. CLINICAL LABORATORY - CUBICLE - MOMENTS LATER

Barb sits at her desk, where there is a computer next to a microscope. Zach sits facing her.

BARB

What's up?

ZACH

I've got some really bad news.

Now he has her attention.

BARB

I'm listening.

ZACH

Chuck got arrested.

BARB

Who? What?

ZACH

Max's dad from the team. I know you're dating him.

BARB

Oh, honey, it's not like it's a state secret. We just didn't want to do anything that would make it awkward for you with the team. Not until we were sure.

ZACH

Sure of what?

BARB

Oh, I don't know. Back up to the arrested part.

ZACH

Mom, he was skimming off the top from the 50/50 money.

BARB

That's ridiculous. Who told you that?

ZACH

I saw him with my own eyes get taken away in handcuffs, Mom. So I immediately called Lucas.

BARB

I'm not following the logic... I would think your mother would be the person to call.

ZACH

Mom, you know how you are.

BARB

All right, let's not go there.

ZACH

O.K., Mom... just listen. See, Lucas called his parents and they already knew about it.

BARB

But what exactly did they know?

ZACH

They're the ones who figured it out.

BARB

Oh, no.

ZACH

They didn't know what to do so they reported it to the association. The association called the cops.

BARB

Oh, my God.

ZACH

Mom, I'm really sorry.

He gets up and goes around to where she is seated.

ZACH

Come on, give me a hug.

Barb gets to her feet in zombie fashion; they hug.

ZACH

Now, I know you've had a shock and you're probably not in any condition to drive, so I think we should go to your favorite Mexican restaurant right around the corner.

BARB

I believe that is your favorite restaurant right around the corner...

She kisses him on the forehead, smiling for her son's sake, which is when the lone tear comes.

BARB

Now get out of here and let me pull myself together and finish up, so we can hit our favorite restaurant.

INT. CLINICAL LABORATORY - WAITING ROOM - LATER

Completely empty except for Zach. Zach takes out his cell phone and dials.

ZACH (V.O.)

Unbelievable, I know, but the night of a thousand tears is still not over.

ZACH

(on phone)

Hello, Laura. This is Zach, from before.... I'm good. I have a favor to ask you. Some friends of mine need a ride... they didn't do anything bad, I swear. This guy, Lucas, he's trying to help this girl we know who kind of got dumped and she can't call her parents 'cause she kind of wasn't supposed to be with the guy. Not my friend... another guy.... Yeah, I think it's something like that.... Thank you very much... you know that diner on Miller?

Zach has to take a deep breath. It's all hitting him at once. His eyes fill with tears.

ZACH

... Yeah, I'm still here.... Yeah, fine. I'd better hang up now. My mom's waiting.

He hangs up. The waiting area is still completely empty. Wipes his eyes.

INT. ZACH'S HOUSE - ZACH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Zach lying on his bed, types out a text message.

"HENRY WIL B THERE FOR RG TOMORO. LOTS 2 TALK ABOUT. CAN U MEET ME B4 SCHOOL?"

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Zach and Anais walk through the deserted hallway, both weighed down with heavy backpacks.

ANAIS

I totally think you're doing the right thing, Zach.

ZACH

Well, here goes.

They have arrived at Wells's classroom. Mr. Wells is inside, just unpacking a few items out of a battered briefcase. Zach hovers at the doorway.

MR. WELLS

Mr. Maley. Here to talk about your Rube Goldberg project?

ZACH

Well, sort of.

Mr. Wells detects something in the tone.

MR. WELLS

Why don't you close the door behind you.

Zach does so. Anais creeps closer. Realizing she is out of earshot, she turns and walks back the way she came.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

Anais and Zach eat from sack lunches.

ZACH

So, all in all, I'd have to say, Mr. Wells rocks. Do not quote me on that.

ANAIS

Poor Henry.

ZACH

Wells seemed pretty confident... you do not know any of this.

ANAIS

Understood. Now, moving on to the problem of Max. It seems to me like you're the solution.

ZACH

What can I do? He didn't even show up for school.

ANAIS

No matter how you feel about him, what his dad did is not his fault.

ZACH

I know that. He's just such a...

Anais wags her finger.

ANAIS

Uhn uhn uhn... not...



Zach makes fake strangling motions.

ANAIS

No!

ZACH

Can I kick him in the butt just once?

ANAIS

No.

ZACH

Wedgie?

ANAIS

No. You are the Captain. You said yourself a lot of those kids are immature. They complain when you work out outside 'cause it's too cold, then you take them inside and they complain there isn't enough room. It's up to you to provide the leadership to keep the rest of the team in line through this.

ZACH

That was like three months ago that I said that.

ANAIS

I have an excellent memory.

ZACH

All right, fine. But this is bigger than the team. It's going to be all over town by tonight.

ANAIS

Well, Zachary, I happen to think you can be bigger than the team. You've already shown that once today.

ZACH

Oh. I guess I have... now it's Zachary?

Anais smiles into her apple.

ANAIS

Only during a crisis of leadership.

INT. ICE SKATING RINK - LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

There is a solemn, tense feel in the air as the team is suiting up. Robin enters, in full gear, sits on a bench.

ZACH

O.K., Robin's here. Listen up,  
people. Guys...

The chit-chat dwindles, then there is silence.

ZACH

I want to talk to you about  
something that's going on with our  
team. Some of you may have heard  
about an incident involving Max's  
father.

MAX

Shut it, Maley!

ZACH

And if you didn't hear about it  
yet, you will by tomorrow or the  
next day.

BEN

(muttering)  
Stole money from his own kid.

ZACH

We are a team so this is the team's  
problem.

MAX

I said, leave it alone.

ZACH

I do not want to hear any more  
remarks like the one I just heard.

Ben carefully examines his feet.

ZACH

Max is right here so let's give him  
a chance to put it out there  
instead of everyone getting it from  
the gossip. Max?

MAX

Bite me.

ZACH

O.K. Thank you for that. What we do know is that there is money missing from the 50/50 and that the police have arrested Max's father. We also know we have a practice tonight and a game Saturday and a game Sunday, so we have to stand together and not let this thing get us down. Understood?

Mumbling and nodding from the rest of the team except Max.

ZACH

(louder)  
Understood?

TEAM

(except Max)  
Yes!

ZACH

Who are we?

TEAM

Wenatachee!

ZACH

Who are we?

TEAM

Wenatchee! One... two... three...  
Wenatchee!

The team members put on their helmets and file out of the locker room. Last out are Max and Zach.

INT. ICE SKATING RINK - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

The boards are visible up ahead; some of the players are already lined up waiting to go on.

The Zamboni is making its rounds.

Zach catches up to Max and puts his arm on his shoulder. Wrong move. Max responds with an upper cut, and commences pounding on Zach.

Zach at first is so taken by surprise he is knocked a few steps backward, and Max follows.

ISAIAH

Fight!

Zach and Max come together in a wrestler's grip.

BRENDAN

Fight!

Brendan tries to come in between them. Zach again backs off but Max flails away and some of the blows land on Brendan.

Brendan is down. Lots of yelling from the few team members who are close enough to realize what is happening. Now Zach is incensed.

He and Max circle each other in would-be boxer's stances. Zach moves in with a barrage of blows. Max's return is weak; he is on the defensive. Zach is able to knock him off balance and he falls back against the side of the bleachers.

Coach Len pushes his way through the gathered team members. He does what Brendan tried to do, inserting himself in between Zach and Max. Although by this point Zach has clearly backed off.

COACH LEN

What the hell is going on here?

ZACH

Sorry, Coach.

COACH LEN

You're both suspended from Saturday's game.

BRENDAN

Max started it.

COACH LEN

I don't care if Wayne Gretzky started it, it doesn't matter. Now shake hands and get on the ice. Be glad it wasn't two games.

Zach and Max shake. Max won't meet Zach's eyes.

COACH LEN

Zach, I... I don't even know what to say. You let me down.

Coach Len turns and heads for the ice.

Zach's face registers shame, frustration.

INT. ICE SKATING RINK - LATER

The players kneel by the boards as Coach Len addresses the team, with Scott and Steve standing by.

COACH LEN  
O.K. see you Saturday.

The Zamboni is entering the ice at the other end.

The players start to get up.

Now Zach is the last one left kneeling on the ice.

Coach Len looks his way but doesn't say anything.

Zach comes to a decision. He gets up and skates hard to catch up to Lucas. He comes to a stop sending ice chips flying. Says something to Lucas that is drowned out by Zamboni noise, except--

ZACH  
...pass it on.

Lucas skates to Clive and says something in his ear.

Zach goes to help push stray pucks towards a central location, says something to Isaiah, who nods in response.

INT. ICE SKATING RINK - CORRIDOR - LATER

Robin, in street clothes, peeks out of the women's changing room.

Seeing the corridor is deserted, she gives the all clear. One by one, all the members of the team emerge, except for Max, and go on their way.

SERIES OF SHOTS

-- A school bus pulls up in front of the school. Several students de-board. Zach and Lucas de-board, wearing hockey jerseys.

-- A second school bus. Clive and Robin exit, also wearing their jerseys. Zach and Lucas are waiting for them.

-- Isaiah, wearing his jersey, exits another school bus. Zach, Lucas, Robin and Clive are waiting for him.

-- Max emerges from a car. Quick wave to the woman driving. He is surrounded on all sides by Zach, Lucas, Robin, Clive and Isaiah. Tries to get back in the car. Blocked by Lucas holding out a spare jersey.

-- Zach bends down and gives the thumbs up to the woman in the car, who is now smiling and returns the gesture.

-- The six second-years walk as a group through the halls. They arrive at a classroom. Max runs a gauntlet of high-fives from the others and enters the classroom.

-- The six second-years eat lunch together in the cafeteria. A student approaches the table and says something that is not appreciated. Zach gets up and gestures, as if he were a traffic cop, for the kid to move along. The kid does.

-- The school buses are lined up in front of the school. The tumult of after-school dismissal.

-- The six second-years approach a school bus. Max and Zach shake hands, for real this time. Max and Isaiah get on the bus. The remaining four disperse.

#### INT. SCIENCE CLASSROOM - DAY

Zach and Henry set up their completed Rube Goldberg machine at the front of the room. Anais removes a few parts from a plastic bag. Mr. Wells is off to one side.

Anais sets the Newton Balls in motion.

Henry and Zach forget to exhale.

The toy car goes down the ramp as before, knocking the weight into the cup, which tugs at the string that pops the lid off the jar containing the mystery liquid.

The liquid pours out into another cup, which sets a metal ball in motion. The ball goes down a series of chutes until it crashes into a bell, making the bell ring.

The ball continues on into another cup, which is catapulted back up to the top of the pegboard and plopped into a toy gondola attached to a pulley.

The gondola travels diagonally to the bottom of the pegboard, knocking over a small screen as it does so, to reveal a sign reading, "ZACH, ANAIS AND HENRY".

Relieved smiles from Zach, Anais and Henry.

Applause from the rest of the class.

MR. WELLS

Nice job, guys. Next group, start setting up.

Anais, Zach and Henry pack up the spare parts, then move the pegboard out of the way while two students come to the front of the room to set up their project.

MR. WELLS

While we're waiting, this might be a good time to say our farewells to Henry. He'll be finishing out the school year in Seattle and we wish him well in his future endeavors, whether they be on this side of the Cascades or the other.

Henry gives a sheepish salute to the class. He, Zach and Anais return to their seats.

ZACH (V.O.)

And that about wraps up the drama. But what about the hockey, you say? Well, there's a little more of that coming up right now.

INT. AWAY ICE SKATING RINK - DAY

A game is in progress.

One of the opposing players trips one of the Rattlers.

A ref's hand goes up.

Isaiah skates off and a sixth player comes on.

The puck goes back into the Rattlers' zone but one of the opposing players crosses the blue line ahead of it.

The ref blows his whistle.

Another ref, a linesman, escorts the offending player to the penalty box.

Standing in front of the scorekeeper on the ice, the ref makes a hand gesture to indicate the nature of the penalty.

INT. AWAY ICE SKATING RINK - MOMENTS LATER

Center ice. Face off. The opposing team is now one player short.

Max, the center, wins the face off, then manages to send the puck back to Lucas. Lucas sends it up to Clive, who kicks it along, and Max picks it up again.

An opposing defender tries to take out Max, but Max is able to make a clean hit, turning the tables. Now blocked, he passes.

Robin receives the pass, sends the puck up to Ben, who sends it back to Max, who wraps it around the net, then passes back to Ben.

Ben scores.

Isaiah, all alone at the other goal, pounds his stick on the ice.

In the stands, Barb, Cyndi, Bill and Bill's wife, all on their feet, cheer and applaud. In the row behind them, Rob, Clive's dad, and Ben's dad, all on their feet applauding.

Down at the ice level, Robin's mom with her medic bag applauds.

On Barb's other side is Anais. They high-five each other.

Zach applauds from the bench.

Coach Len, Coach Scott and Coach Bob -- stoic as usual.

In the stands, Barb turns to Anais.

BARB

Well, at least we can say it wasn't  
a shut out.

The scoreboard reads "HOME 4", "VISITOR 0".

Now the score changes to: "VISITOR 1".

The parents on the Visitor's side continue to applaud.

On the ice, the players in a group hug.

ZACH (V.O.)

You have now witnessed a typical  
year in the life of a hockey  
player: some ups, some downs, some  
time in the penalty box.

The on-ice players high-five the ones on the bench.



ZACH (V.O.)

We played hard and our team sucked less at the end of the season than it did at the beginning. We didn't win at the state level, but I know somebody who did.

INT. GYMNASIUM - SCIENCE FAIR - DAY

Students and parents seated on folding chairs. A PRESENTER is at the podium. A third-place winner stands to one side.

PRESENTER

For her project, "Cooking With Sun: Can an Easy-to-Make, Affordable Solar Cooker Pasteurize Water," second prize goes to Miss Anais Thayer representing Wenatchee.

Now we see Zach and Anais in nice clothes. Zach grabs Anais, kisses her on the lips.

A bit dazed, Anais goes up to the podium.

Zach leaps to his feet applauding. Motions for others to rise. On his other side, Barb gets to her feet, along with a middle-aged man; they are deep in conversation.

On the other side of the man are Lucas and Robin, holding hands. And finally, again with the bow tie, Mr. Wells.

ZACH (V.O.)

The Wenatchee delegation was too large to all fit in one car along with a science project. Fortunately, Lucas's uncle, who just moved to town to work for the family business, was available to help with carpooling. My idea. So, we'll see what next season brings. Oh, but I did say I knew the winner of this thing, didn't I?

The Presenter has his notes together and is ready to announce the next winner.

PRESENTER

And finally, the Grand Prize for the 9th Grade Division goes to...  
(MORE)

## PRESENTER (CONT'D)

Mr. Henry Cobb from Seattle for his project, The Science of Longboarding: Advantages and Disadvantages Between Drop-Through and Top Mount.

Sitting across the aisle from the Wenatchee delegation is Laura.

Zach gives Laura the thumbs up.

Laura returns it.

Henry is positioned at the rear of the room. He sets down his longboard on the floor.

The sound causes the crowd to turn in their seats and look behind them.

Henry longboards down the aisle, pops the board to an upright position, and shakes the hand of the bemused Presenter.

## PRESENTER

Lights, please. Could we have the lights?

Lights go down. A video is projected onto a screen behind the Presenter, who moves out of the way.

TITLE: "THE SCIENCE OF LONGBOARDING: ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES BETWEEN DROP-THROUGH AND TOP MOUNT."

Below the title:

"THE WORLD IS DANGEROUS NOT BECAUSE OF THOSE WHO DO HARM BUT BECAUSE OF THOSE WHO LOOK AT IT WITHOUT DOING ANYTHING.  
ALBERT EINSTEIN"

Below that, the famous photo of Einstein sticking his tongue out at the camera.

## SERIES OF SHOTS - HENRY'S VIDEO

-- Multiple shots of Henry, Zach and Lucas boarding, using different wheel sizes in each shot.

-- Henry in an Einstein wig, eyebrows and fake mustache holding up a color-coded graphs and explaining the results. M.O.S. under music playing.

-- Multiple shots of Robin, then Henry, stuffing varying amounts of weight into a backpack and boarding.

-- Henry reappears as Einstein with another chart,  
discussing the conclusions he has come to.

-- Henry, Lucas and Zach going down hills of varying  
steepness.

-- Henry as Einstein with a chart, explains these results.

FADE OUT.