

PAULINO

By

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First Draft

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FADE IN:

EXT. CALIFORNIA - IRVINE - PRESTRA ACADEMY - DAY

We pass through the stilled suburbs and end up at Prestra, an opulent private school.

INT. PRESTRA ACADEMY - HALLWAY - DAY

Various high school groups fill the hallways: JOCKS, EMOS, HIPSTERS, and even a SAFE SPACE PROTEST GROUP. We continue up the stairs until we see classroom 210: Social Studies.

INT. PRESTRA ACADEMY - SOCIALS CLASSROOM - DAY

Maps, globes, and all the social studies necessities fill the classroom.

JESSE O'BRIEN (40s), a social studies teacher with an apathetic appearance and careless disposition, sits at his desk, hiding behind his newspaper.

REID (16) A corpulent male ginger with a half-eaten burrito in his hand walks up to Jesse. The rest of the class is hard at work.

REID
(mouth full of food)
Excuse me. Mr. O'Brien?

Jesse lowers his newspaper, revealing his unkempt appearance. He looks up at Reid while chewing his gum (which we see is Nicorette from the package on his desk).

Reid wipes his mouth and throws the burrito into the garbage. He then places his failed test with a Burger King application stapled to it and a comment that reads, "*put in some effort next time,*" onto Jesse's desk.

REID (CONT'D)
What does the Burger King application mean?

JESSE
It's a joke.

REID
Oh, okay. I thought it was funny because my dad owns seven of them.

JESSE
Of course he does.

REID
Could I retake the test so that he
doesn't get mad at me?

JESSE
No.

REID
But it's Spring break in five
minutes, and he might not let me--

JESSE
Sit down, kid.

Reid goes back to his desk.

Jesse stares at the clock until it strikes three.

Everyone quickly jumps from their chairs. Half the students
leave their marked quizzes on their desks.

Jesse's left alone, staring at the quote on the wall in front
of him that reads, "Develop a passion for learning. If you
do, you will never cease to grow" - Anthony J. D'Angelo.

Jesse grabs a flask from his desk drawer and takes a sip.

JESSE (CONT'D)
Time to fly.

EXT. AIRPORT - RUNWAY - DAY

A plane takes off into the sky.

EXT. ACAPULCO, MEXICO - AIRPORT - RUNWAY - DAY

A plane lands.

EXT. ACAPULCO, MEXICO - HOTEL - PARKING LOT - DAY

An Uber drives up to a standard three-star hotel. Palm trees
and beautiful flowers surround it.

Jesse steps out of the cab and walks around to open the door
for RACHEL STEVENS (40s), a natural beauty that doesn't need
or want any man opening the door for her.

He opens the door but then notices that Rachel crawled out from the other side with BRENT FEENEY (38) a man that hides behind an immaculately polished gym-going appearance. His smile belongs in a Crest commercial.

Jesse awkwardly closes the door again.

Freddy (40s), a man with a heart of gold and a brain controlled by his balls, pulls himself out from the sunroof of the Uber and jumps out.

FREDDY
I'd like to propose a toast!

Freddy looks around.

FREDDY (CONT'D)
Where are the bags?

The UBER DRIVER (30s) struggles to grab the luggage out from the trunk.

FREDDY (CONT'D)
You got this *amigo*.

The Uber Driver struggles even more.

Jesse SIGHS and grabs the bags from the Uber driver.

Freddy opens his bag in which he pulls out four shot glasses, handing one to Jesse, Rachel, and Brent.

Freddy pours each person a shot, and then himself.

FREDDY (CONT'D)
To my beautiful Spanish teaching
sister.

Rachel smiles.

FREDDY (CONT'D)
My best friend!

Jesse nods his head.

FREDDY (CONT'D)
And to this guy.

BRENT
(correcting)
We've worked together for over five
years, Freddy.

FREDDY
And to Prestra staff going wild on
Spring Break!

Brent's phone RINGS just as everyone CLINKS their glasses.

BRENT
Sorry, I have to get this.

Freddy, Jesse, and Rachel awkwardly lower their glasses.

BRENT (CONT'D)
Hello, mother.

MIRANDA (O.S.)
(filtered)
Anyone try and stab you yet down
there?

BRENT
No.

Brent rolls his eyes, "oh Moms."

MIRANDA (O.S.)
Did you pack enough underwear?

BRENT
Yes.

MIRANDA
You never were any good at packing
underwear.

BRENT
I'm all set.

MIRANDA
What about socks?

BRENT
I gotta go.

MIRANDA
And condoms? You better have
brought those condoms I bought you.

BRENT
Stop, please.

MIRANADA
There's no way that woman is having
my grandchild.

BRENT
I'm hanging up now.

INT. IRVINE - BRENT'S HOUSE - MIRANDA'S ROOM - DAY

MIRANDA FEENEY (75) a coarse, racist grandma sits in her bed, drinking tea.

MIRANDA
Don't hang up on--

BEEP. Brent hangs up. Miranda looks at the phone, shakes it, and then puts it down in anger.

EXT. ACAPULCO, MEXICO - HOTEL - PARKING LOT

Freddy and Jesse stare at Brent.

BRENT
Mothers. Am I right?

FREDDY
No.

Freddy grabs Jesse and walks off.

Brent looks at Freddy, slightly upset.

INT. HOTEL - FREDDY & JESSE'S ROOM - DAY.

Jesse and Freddy unpack their bags on separate beds.

Jesse pulls out some clothes and places them in the cupboard.

JESSE
Maybe you should offer Brent some counseling sessions.

FREDDY
Oh yeah, definitely.

JESSE
School principal crying in the office of the school councillor. That's something I'd like to see.

FREDDY
Funny.
(beat)
Have you gone to see the psychiatrist I recommended yet?

Freddy pulls out a hookah from his bag and sets it up in the centre of the room.

JESSE
I'm fine, Freddy.

FREDDY
You watched two seasons of Friends
in a day. You're not fine.

JESSE
One.

FREDDY
That's not the point.

JESSE
Then what's the point?

FREDDY
The point is that it's only been
two years since Sydney and Ethan's
car crash--

JESSE
I know what the point is.

FREDDY
You just wanted to hear me say it
out loud.

Jesse doesn't answer.

FREDDY (CONT'D)
You're becoming addicted to the
pain because at least it makes you
feel something.

JESSE
Drop it.

FREDDY
Talk to Rachel. She loved Sydney
too--

JESSE
Freddy, shut up.

Freddy SIGHS as he pulls out a lava lamp and puts it on the counter next to his bed.

Jesse looks around the hotel room, which Freddy's clothes now occupy.

JESSE (CONT'D)
You realize we're here on holiday,
not moving in, right?

Freddy finishes hanging up another poster, now of a nude woman.

FREDDY
I get homesick.

EXT. BEACH BAR - BEACH - DUSK

Freddy and Jesse walk along the beach towards Rachel.

RACHEL
Hey guys.

Jesse squints as he notices Brent performing the freestyle stroke in the ocean.

JESSE
Is that Brent?

RACHEL
Yup, he's been in there for almost
an hour now.

Brent runs out of the water and jogs towards the crew, his muscles gleaming.

Jesse sucks in his gut and tries to fix his posture.

BRENT
Hello friends.

FREDDY
S'up Brad.

BRENT
(quietly)
It's Brent.

The female, Latina BARTENDER (20) with an accent walks over.

FREDDY
What do we want?

RACHEL
Three strawberry squirters, and--

BRENT
Do you have any protein shakes?

BARTENDER
No.

BRENT
Really?

BARTENDER
Yes.

BRENT
Yes, you do have protein shakes?
Or, yes, really, you don't have
protein shakes?

The bartender looks confused.

RACHEL
They don't have protein shakes.

BRENT
Really?

RACHEL
Yes.

BRENT
This really is a third world
country.

RACHEL
(to Jesse and Freddy)
He's being facetious.

FREDDY
Is he though?

BRENT
(to the bartender)
An orange juice and five packets of
almonds will do.

The Bartender nods and then walks off.

Jesse stares out at the sunset.

RACHEL
There's something about sunsets
near the equator, isn't there?

JESSE
They don't last as long. I guess
there's a beauty in the
ephemerality.

BRENT
It's not as beautiful as you, babe.

Brent gives Rachel a quick kiss.

FREDDY
I'm going to kill this guy.

The bartender returns with three fruity looking drinks.
Freddy isn't impressed.

FREDDY (CONT'D)
This looks like Glee in a cup.

Rachel holds up her glee in a cup.

RACHEL
Cheers, guys.

They all take a sip of their drinks. Freddy's is more of a
gulp.

BRENT
Huh, the orange juice tastes
different around here.

Brent takes another sip.

JESSE
I would stop drinking that, Brent.

BRENT
Why?

Jesse glances at the jug of orange juice sitting on the
counter, non-refrigerated.

JESSE
That orange juice could have been
sitting out there all day.

Brent suddenly holds onto his stomach.

BRENT
I'll be fine. Mind over matter.

FREDDY
You're going to shit your pants.

BRENT

No I--

INT. HOTEL - BRENT & RACHEL ROOM - NIGHT

Brent's explosive diarrhea is heard, but not seen (thank god) from behind the door. Rachel feels Brent's pain as she KNOCKS on the door.

RACHEL

Brent, are you okay?

Brent YELLS from the washroom.

BRENT (O.S.)

Just go! I don't want you to see me in this state.

RACHEL

Are you sure? We might go into town.

BRENT

Yes, I'm sure!

Rachel stands up to leave.

INT. HOTEL - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Freddy uses the hotel's luggage cart as a skateboard, LAUGHING. Jesse walks behind up, also tipsy, but still in his sullen mood.

RACHEL

I'm good to go.

FREDDY

Woohoo!

RACHEL

You guys start drinking without me?

Before Freddy can answer she grabs the rum bottle out of Freddy's hand.

JESSE

How's Brent?

RACHEL

Do you actually want to know?

FREDDY
Nope. Let's go!

INT. BAR - NIGHT

The bar has a DOZEN LATIN PEOPLE inside, all staring at Jesse, Freddy, and Rachel because they're the only white people. The chattering suddenly stops, causing silence. Jesse and Rachel look worried. Freddy just waves.

A man in a stained tank top and tatted muscular arms steps forward. His name: MACHETE MAN (50), and yes, in his right hand he holds a machete.

MACHETE MAN
(heavy accent)
This isn't a Gringo bar.

RACHEL
(in Spanish)
We don't want any touristy bullshit.

MACHETE MAN
(in Spanish)
Do the others speak Spanish?

FREDDY
Una cerveza por favor. That's all I know.

RACHEL
(in Spanish)
Sorry, my brother is dumber than a donkey's dick.

MACHETE MAN
(laughs)
And why should I let you in?

RACHEL
Uh... because--

Freddy notices some graffiti on wall that has a snake with 'CIA' written inside of it weaving it's way through a geographical image of Nicaragua.

FREDDY
Because we hate the CIA!
(beat)
We know the Guadalajara cartel was benefited by the CIA...
(MORE)

FREDDY (CONT'D)

I mean no offense if you have any affiliation. But seriously, the CIA comes in here, protects the cartel they need, and Mexico is no better off than before. A bunch of hypercritical bull shit.

Machete man doesn't look impressed.

Freddy can barely make out the rooster that's hung upside down in the kitchen behind the bar.

FREDDY (CONT'D)

The CIA stands for cock in ass!
America being the cock and Latin
America providing the ass.

Freddy throws up his arms, expecting applause. Three LATINO MEN in the background CLAP.

The Machete man stares at Freddy with indignation.

JESSE

Wait.

Jesse pulls out his wallet.

JESSE (CONT'D)

Here's one hundred and thirty
American.

The Machete Man looks over to the male DJ (30).

MACHETE MAN

(in Spanish)

Music!

Machete man grabs the money, and ruffles Freddy's hair.

MACHETE MAN (CONT'D)

Nice speech.

MONTAGE:

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Machete Man spots Rachel at the bar and offers his hand to dance to some UPBEAT LATINO MUSIC.

As Rachel dances with Machete Man, she looks over at Jesse, who's dancing non-provocatively with a LATINO WOMAN (30). Jesse quickly glances at Rachel.

Freddy is at the bar with a TRINA (18), a gorgeous Latino woman. They both chug from a bottle of tequila.

Trina puts the bottle down first. Freddy is love-struck.

INT. HOTEL - BRENT & RACHEL ROOM - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Brent sits on the toilet, tensing up as though he may give himself a hernia.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Machete man buys Jesse and Rachel several shots. They fire them back.

Jesse walks over to Rachel, but the Machete Man notions Rachel to dance with him. They begin to dance in a platonic manner.

INT. HOTEL - BRENT & RACHEL ROOM - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Brent lays on the bathroom floor, CRYING.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

The song changes to more SENSUAL MUSIC. Rachel and Jesse share an affable look and then begin to dance to the song.

Freddy and Trina are winding (a form of provocative dance) at the bar.

END MONTAGE:

INT. BAR - WASHROOM - NIGHT

Freddy HOWLS like a wolf from the bathroom stall. At that moment, the door swings open.

Machete Man looks at Freddy and Trina with proliferating rage.

MACHETE MAN
My daughter!

Freddy quickly turns himself and Trina around. As Trina faces her father, while holding up Freddy's shirt to cover herself, Freddy dives out from under the stall and runs.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Freddy runs past Jesse and Rachel. Before they can react they see Machete Man running towards them.

EXT. BAR - NIGHT

Trina tries to hold back Machete Man as he madly swings his machete at Freddy.

FREDDY

I love you--

Jesse runs out the door with Rachel, grabbing Freddy. Just as Jesse pulls Freddy away, Trina throws Freddy a note.

JESSE

Off we go, buddy!

Jesse, Rachel, and Freddy run down the street, all staggering in their drunken state.

Trina can no longer hold back Machete Man. Machete Man bursts out from Trina's grip.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Jesse, Rachel, and Freddy dart down the street.

FREDDY

I think I'm in love.

JESSE

She looked like she was eighteen.

FREDDY

She's mature. Might be an *abuela* actually.

RACHEL

You're an idiot.

Jesse looks back and notices Machete Man.

The Machete Man doesn't seem to notice them.

JESSE

This way.

Jesse runs into the crowded city centre.

RACHEL

Looks like we're safe.

FREDDY

Nope.

Machete man is about five meters away, looking back and forth. Suddenly he spots them, his eyes spewing with rage.

JESSE

Over there!

PAULINO (16) a precocious young man with an eager glare and roughed-up appearance sits in on a bicycle connected to a little carriage.

Jesse, Rachel, and Freddy all jump into the carriage.

PAULINO

(broken English)

Where would you like to go?

RACHEL

(in Spanish)

Far!

Paulino peddles madly through the streets.

Jesse looks back; there's no Machete Man in sight.

Jesse looks forwards again and-

Machete Man jumps out at the intersection. Paulino swerves the bicycle. The carriage is about to tip over, but levels out just in time.

FREDDY

Here.

Freddy throws Jesse some mace.

Jesse curiously looks at Freddy, but then realizes this is no time to ask questions.

Machete Man catches up and swings his machete. The machete blade almost slices Jesse.

For a second, Jesse's tension dissipates, ready for death.

Machete man tries to swing again, but Rachel pulls out some mace and sprays the Machete Man in the face.

Paulino turns off onto another street.

EXT. CALM STREET - NIGHT

Jesse, Rachel, and Freddy all stagger out of the cart. Freddy knocks a bunch of books out from the back.

FREDDY

The things we do for love. Am I right?

JESSE

No.

Rachel picks up the books.

RACHEL

(in Spanish)

These must be yours.

Paulino smiles and grabs them. Jesse notices the books. They're all school textbooks. One is a Spanish to English translation book.

JESSE

What school do you go to?

PAULINO

No school.

JESSE

What are all these books for?

PAULINO

I want to speak English to go to America.

FREDDY

Honestly kid, the educational system in America sucks.

RACHEL

We're working on it.

FREDDY

(laughs)

OK, Rachel! Because charter schools-

-

JESSE

Hey, guys, the last thing I want to think about is school or anything related to teaching. Let's get out of here before we're chopped to pieces and sold as pork.

FREDDY

(to Paulino)

My future father-in-law is quiet the guy.

RACHEL

Freddy, just shut- up.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

The moonlight reflects off the ocean water. Jesse, Rachel, Freddy, and Paulino sit around a little fire, drinking a bottle of rum. Freddy hands Paulino the bottle. Paulino gives it to Jesse without taking a sip.

FREDDY

Come on kid, what's the drinking age here? Ten?

Paulino looks up at Freddy, not completely understanding him.

RACHEL

Don't listen to him.

Freddy pulls out a bag of mushrooms.

FREDDY

Mushrooms anyone? I got hooked up at the bar.

Freddy notices Paulino staring at him, shocked.

FREDDY (CONT'D)

Oh sorry.

(to Paulino)

Don't do this until you're ready to feel that we are all one consciousness experiencing life subjectively. That's Bill Hicks, kid.

Paulino stares blankly.

FREDDY (CONT'D)

Never mind.

RACHEL
We're too drunk for that.

JESSE
I don't know. I haven't done those things since college.

RACHEL
Helps depression, you know.

JESSE
Oh yeah. Are drugs how you got over Sydney?

Rachel doesn't answer.

FREDDY
Jesse...

RACHEL
I never got over her. Nor do I want to.

(pause)
If life isn't beautiful without the pain. Well, I'd rather never even see beauty again.

(beat)
The View, man. Remember when we'd all get high and listen to Modest Mouse for hours?

FREDDY
As life gets longer, awful feels softer. Well, it feels pretty soft to me.

FREDDY & RACHEL
And if it takes shit to make bliss
Then I feel pretty blissfully.

Jesse smiles.

JESSE
Give me those shrooms, Freddy.

Freddy hands Jesse some mushrooms. Freddy and Jesse gobble away at the mushrooms.

PAULINO
Many tourists in my country die from that kind.

Jesse and Freddy's eyes go wide-eyed.

FREDDY
Put your fingers down my throat!

JESSE
What? No. Put your own fingers down
your own throat.

Freddy tries to make himself throw up.

FREDDY
They're too small.

Paulino LAUGHS his heart out.

PAULINO
I joke. I joke.

Rachel LAUGHS along with Paulino.

RACHEL
I like this kid.

FREDDY
Yeah, yeah. You got good old
Freddy.

Jesse smiles at Paulino. Paulino notices and smiles back.
There's a genuine connection.

INT. HOTEL - BRENT & RACHEL ROOM - NIGHT

Brent crawls out from the washroom on his hands and knees.
He's a total mess. He GROANS and MOANS as he drags himself to
the cell-phone on the ground. He picks it up and dials.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Jesse and Freddy stare at the stars in wonder. Rachel's phone
RINGS.

RACHEL
Hey.
(beat)
How you feeling?
(looks at Jesse and
Freddy)
Yea, I can come back. I'll be right
there.

Rachel tucks away her phone.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
 Hey guys, I gotta check on Brent.

Rachel leans over, giving Paulino a kiss on the cheek.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
 Nice meeting you, Paulino. Don't
 let these guys get you in any
 trouble.

Paulino SMILES.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
 Freddy, don't be an idiot... Night,
 Jesse.

JESSE
 Night Rachel.

FREDDY
 Tell Brett he's a--
 (beat)
 Fuck, that's one thing I hate about
 mushrooms. I don't even hate Brent
 right now. Wait, no. I hate that I
 can't hate. Is that a paradox? No.
 Yes.

Jesse's staring out at the ocean. He notices Paulino is doing
 the same.

JESSE
 What are you thinking about, kid?

Paulino smiles and shrugs.

Freddy's rolling around in the sand.

JESSE (CONT'D)
 What are you doing?

FREDDY
 Whatever I want! I'm trippin'.

JESSE
 Really? I'm-

Jesse looks at his hands.

JESSE'S POV:

Hands are moving and changing sizes; totally contorted.

REGULAR POV:

Jesse looks at Paulino.

JESSE (CONT'D)
We have to do something
spontaneous.

Freddy YELLS for an extended amount of time.

JESSE (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

FREDDY
I was being spontaneous...

Jesse and Paulino look confused.

JESSE
I was thinking... We get Paulino
into America!

Paulino's eyes grow huge with excitement. Freddy nods his head approvingly.

FREDDY
And I know just the right person to
help us.

INT. HOTEL - RACHEL & BRENT'S ROOM - NIGHT

Brent sits up in bed as Rachel brings Brent some tea and toast. Rachel places the food on the counter, placing herself on the edge of the bed.

BRENT
Thanks.
(beat)
Hey, uh, check this out.

Brent shows Rachel an immaculate pencil-sketched drawing of her as a superhero flying Brent away from a collection of empty alcohol bottles.

RACHEL
You look like shit in this.

BRENT
Do you like it?

RACHEL
I love it.

Rachel kisses Brent.

BRENT

I don't know where I'd be without
you, Rachel.

MONTAGE:

POV: MUSHROOM TRIP

EXT. ACAPULCO, MEXICO - BEACH - NIGHT

Jesse and Paulino Run after Freddy. The colors are vivid, and everything is slightly off. Freddy turns and runs into the ocean. After a couple of steps, he turns around and gestures "Go the other way."

EXT. ACAPULCO, MEXICO - STREET - NIGHT

Freddy looks at the address and directions on his little piece of paper. The house number reads *1155 Pollo Street*. Freddy glances up at the address on the apartment building. It first reads *1155 Pollo Street*, but then the 5 vanishes and it reads *115 Pollo Street*.

Freddy rubs his eyes and then looks back; it still reads *115*.

Jesse shakes his head, disappointed.

EXT. DRY FIELD - DAY

Paulino, Jesse, and Freddy stand in the middle of an empty field. Maybe a cow here and there.

Freddy suddenly notices a unibull (bull with a unicorn horn) and runs. Paulino and Jesse look around, but see no unibull. Jesse runs after Freddy.

Paulino face-palms.

EXT. DRIED UP FIELD - DAWN

Jesse and Freddy stare at the sunrise in utter amazement. We then see that Paulino is standing next to them, cross-armed. Jesse glances over, and Paulino gestures "let's go." Jesse signals one second, pulls out his cell-phone and gestures Paulino to come in for a picture.

THROUGH CELLPHONE:

Paulino sits between Jesse and Freddy. Freddy's pupils are almost as big as his smile, Jesse's starring at his feet, and Paulino looks perfectly fine.

EXT. AFFLUENT STREET - DAWN

Two KIDS pass a soccer ball back and forth. The ball rolls towards Paulino and Paulino kicks it back. Paulino walks past them, and then as Jesse and Freddy appear, Jesse puts his arm around a random kid and walks away with Freddy and the kid.

Paulino is left starring, shakes his head, and then jogs after them.

END MONTAGE:

EXT. SPANISH STYLE VILLA - DAY

The warped effect fades away along with "The View" by Modest Mouse, or a similar song.

FREDDY

This is it boys! This is where
Trina lives.

Paulino stares at the elegant Spanish Villa.

JESSE

What does this Trina girl do? This
place is amazing.

FREDDY

I don't know. She doesn't live with
her dad. That's all that matters to
me.

JESSE

What if she lives with her husband?

FREDDY

That's something I can work around.

Freddy rings the DOORBELL. Jesse starts panicking.

Freddy grabs Jesse by the shirt.

FREDDY (CONT'D)

Relax.

A wealthy looking LATINO COUPLE answers the door.

HUSBAND

Hola?

FREDDY

*Hola, mi nombre es Freddy. Tú
hablas English?*

HUSBAND

Yes, a little. What do you need?

FREDDY

Trina live here?

HUSBAND

Yes.

(curious)

Do you need her?

Freddy nods.

HUSBAND (CONT'D)

(yelling)

Trina!

Trina speed walks over.

TRINA

Sí--

Trina notices Freddy.

TRINA (CONT'D)

Freddy!

Trina and Freddy kiss passionately.

Freddy breaks free from the kiss.

FREDDY

Trina, my love. I'm drunk as fuck
and tripping out on mushrooms...
but please hear me out.

JESSE

(sarcastic)

Nice introduction there, Freddy.

FREDDY

You told me that your cousins are
going to America... Can you help
smuggle this boy in?

JESSE

He saved our lives... from your father.

TRINA

iNo hay problema!

WIFE

We can understand everything you're saying...

Freddy SHUSHES Jesse and then casually closes the door on the wife and husband. Jesse quickly looks at the door closing, a bit worried, but ignores it.

FREDDY

Now go!

TRINA

Come with me. Stay.

Freddy hesitates and then looks at Jesse and grabs him by the arms.

FREDDY

Jesse, I have to do this. Tell Rachel I love her... Oh, and tell Brent I saw Jesus today and that he was brown. He'll flip his shit.

Freddy hugs Jesse, and then walks over to Trina and Paulino.

FREDDY (CONT'D)

Good bye, Jesse.

Paulino smiles at Jesse.

PAULINO

Thanks-

The husband opens the door in anger, but this time holding a shot gun. Jesse stands behind the door.

HUSBAND

Nobody slams a door in my face!

Paulino freezes as though he is stuck in the past.

Jesse mouths the word "Run!"

PAULINO
 (under his breath)
 Falina.

Trina grabs Paulino's hand and they run. Freddy runs in the other direction, but then starts running back towards Trina and Paulino. Bullets fly past Freddy as they break free through the bushes.

When the husband walks back inside, Jesse quickly runs out from behind the open door.

INT. HOTEL - BRENT & RACHEL ROOM

Rachel lays on her back in bed with Brent cuddled up to her as closely as possible. Rachel slowly removes Brent's hands from her body and slides out of bed. As she staggers to the kitchen, she grabs herself an Advil from her purse and chugs it down with some bottled water.

Rachel's about to walk out the door, until-

BRENT (O.S.)
 Where are you going, babe?

Brent slowly sits up.

RACHEL
 Picking up breakfast.
 (jokingly)
 Should I get you some orange juice?

BRENT
 (not understanding the
 joke)
 Yes, please.

Pause.

RACHEL
 I was-
 (beat)
 Okay.

INT. HOTEL - HALLWAY - DAY

Rachel walks out from her room only to see Jesse, looking as though he just went to war, passed out on the ground. Rachel tries to hold back her LAUGHTER as she kneels down to wake him up. Jesse MOANS and looks up. His eyes widen once he realizes it's Rachel.

JESSE
 (in pain)
 Morning.

Rachel LAUGHS.

RACHEL
 Morning, Jesse.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
 What did you guys do with the kid?

JESSE
 I honestly don't remember. Brought
 him to his cousins I think-

RACHEL
 Wait, where's Freddy?

JESSE
 I think we went to his
 girlfriend's... wait, something
 about living here.

RACHEL
 He'll be back by sunset.

TITLE OVER: FIVE DAYS LATER.

INT. AIRPORT - TERMINAL STATION - DAY

Brent and Jesse sit across from each other in silence, both reading. Brent reads some right wing newspaper while Jesse reads *The Last Night of the Earth* by Charles Bukowski.

Brent peaks at Jesse from behind his newspaper and then looks back down. Brent continues reading and then again glances over towards Jesse.

Jesse notices Brent looking at him.

JESSE
 Do you want something, Brent?

Brent quickly looks up from his paper.

BRENT
 Oh no.

JESSE
 Okay.

Jesse gets right back to his book.

BRENT
I'm just so excited!

JESSE
Oh, and why's that?

BRENT
Well, Rachel and I partially went
on this trip to find out if we're
ready to live together.
(beat)
And she's going to think about it!

JESSE
Huh.

BRENT
Yup, won't be long until I slip on
the old ring.

JESSE
I see.

Just as Jesse looks back down at his book, Rachel arrives,
panicking.

RACHEL
Okay, what the fuck! Where's my
brother? They won't give me any
fucking information.

BRENT
Honey, please. Language.

RACHEL
My brother is illegally living in a
country with an eighteen-year-old
grandma! I'm allowed to use all the
fucking curse words I want. So shut
the fuck up!

Brent leans over to Jesse, who's trying to hold back his
grin.

BRENT
(Innocent whisper)
It's that time of the month.

RACHEL
What was that?

JESSE
Nothing. He said nothing.

RACHEL

I have no idea how Freddy could be
so stupid!

(beat)

I want him back.

Rachel tears up causing Jesse to realize how much he misses
his best friend as well.

Brent softly massages Rachel, but then starts using his
elbows, seemingly forgetting he's supposed to be comforting
her, not giving her a deep tissue massage. Just as Brent gets
way too into it--

FREDDY (O.S.)

What the fuck are you doing to my
sister, Brad?

Brent and Rachel glance over at Freddy.

FREDDY (CONT'D)

Can't you see you're making her
cry.

BRENT

(under his breath)

Brent.

Rachel walks up to Freddy, slaps him, sees that he notices he
deserved it, and passionately hugs him.

Freddy turns to Jesse, kisses him on the forehead, and then
hugs him.

Brent stands up with his arms open, but Freddy ignores him.

RACHEL

What happened, Freddy?

FREDDY

She has six kids... turns out, I
hate dealing with kids.

BRENT

You're our high school counselor...

FREDDY

For private school kids. Dealing
with kids who get addicted to their
mother's prescription drugs is a
lot easier than kids who--

(beat)

Actually the Mexican kids were a
lot easier...

(MORE)

FREDDY (CONT'D)

But she and the kids wanted me to go church every Sunday. Screw that.

Jesse LAUGHS and then puts his arm around Freddy.

JESSE

Well, now it's time to get back to the grind... By the way, do you remember what happened to that kid?

FREDDY

Nope.

TITLE OVER: ANOTHER FIVE DAYS LATER.

EXT. IRVINE - BRENT'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DUSK

Jesse, Rachel, and Freddy all sit around the elegantly decorated dinner table with an assortment of finished dishes and plates. Brent comes in with a mouth-watering chocolate cake.

JESSE

You've outdone yourself, Brent!

FREDDY

No, you haven't. Keep up the good work.

RACHEL

He does this almost every day.

FREDDY

Alright, so let's see these pictures of the trip!

Rachel takes a bite from her piece of cake and then pulls out her camera. Jesse and Freddy walk around to the other side of the table where Brent and Rachel sit.

RACHEL

This is from the day we surfed. Waves were a little small.

Picture one: Brent and Rachel surf a small wave.

Picture two: Brent and Rachel walk on shore with their surfboards.

BRENT

This was a few hours from the hotel.

Picture four: Rachel smiles as she holds a giant starfish.

Picture five: Brent smiles as he holds two giant fish in either hand.

FREDDY

Was Jesse even on this trip?

JESSE

Who do you think is taking the pictures?

Picture six: Jesse holds a little fish. He stares blankly at the camera.

BRENT

There he is!

(beat)

I'll teach you some of Jesus's fishing techniques.

Picture seven: Brent has his arm around Rachel while sitting on a bench. Jesse awkwardly sits a foot away from them.

BRENT (CONT'D)

There's the three of us! The three amigos.

Picture eight: Rachel and Brent kiss at a beach bar. Jesse just happens to be in the background.

MIRANDA (O.S.)

Brent!

BRENT

I'll be right back. I forgot to bring mother her plate.

Brent speeds off as Freddy stands up.

JESSE

I better get going anyway. Tell Brent I say thank you.

Rachel stands up and hugs Jesse. As Jesse walks off, Freddy gets up to.

FREDDY

I'll see you tomorrow.

INT. BRENT'S HOUSE - MIRANDA'S ROOM - DUSK

Miranda's sits on her bed, watching Fox News. She turns it off when she notices Brent walk in with a plate of food. Miranda grabs it from him.

MIRANDA

Brent, you and that woman are getting too damn close.

BRENT

I don't want to have this conversation anymore.

MIRANDA

She's going to hurt you.

BRENT

How do you know?

MIRANDA

Because I'm your mother.

(beat)

I know how damn emotional you are. Like some French poet that got his balls cut off.

BRENT

I love her.

MIRANDA

No you don't.

BRENT

She may not be a Christian, and yes, she voted for Bernie Sanders, but I love her for who she is.

MIRANDA

Does she love you for who you are?

BRENT

She does.

MIRANDA

So I can tell her why you really went to jail?

BRENT

Please. Don't.

MIRANDA

Find another woman, Brent.

EXT. JESSE'S HOUSE - DAY

The house is an average middle-class home with a slight Spanish flare.

INT. JESSE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The interior design is simplistic and most of the decorations consist of old pictures. Many books and political magazines are scattered around.

On the counter we see a picture of Jesse, his ex-wife SYNDEY (30s), a beautiful woman with a bohemian style, and his son RYAN (3).

Freddy sits across from Jesse. Jesse pops a Nicorette gum.

FREDDY
Is that Nicorette?

JESSE
Yup.

FREDDY
You never even smoked.

JESSE
It gives me something to look forward to.

The doorbell RINGS.

Jesse stands up to answer the door, leaving Freddy staring at a picture of younger Jesse on top of a stage in front of fifty or so protestors.

Jesse freezes.

Freddy looks back from the couch and sees Paulino, trying to hide his shock and worry.

Paulino waves at Freddy.

Freddy blankly waves back.

JESSE (CONT'D)
Uh... are you the kid from--

PAULINO
It's me, Paulino.

JESSE
Paulino.

Paulino nods.

JESSE (CONT'D)

Um... I don't know what... this
isn't... Why are... how did you get
here?

PAULINO

Once you left, Freddy took me to
Trina's family.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. ACAPULCO, MEXICO - A SECLUDED DIRT ROAD - DAY

Freddy helps lift Paulino into the back of cargo truck in
which several other Latino's are sitting. Freddy scruffs
Paulino's hair, hands Paulino a paper with directions, and
then gives TRINA'S COUSIN (30) a stack of cash.

Freddy sobs as he has his arm around Trina and waves good-
bye. He then throws up.

Paulino is in the truck. All that you can see is a lit
cigarette and part of the WEATHERED MAN's face who smokes it.
It immediately gets knocked out of the man's hand.

END FLASHBACK:

INT. JESSE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jesse stares at Freddy with indignation and then looks over
at Paulino.

PAULINO

I got into the truck where I see
nothing for days.

Freddy can't seem to keep eye contact with anyone for once.

PAULINO (CONT'D)

The driver takes me to Irvine like
Freddy tell me. Then I found boys
who drove me here.

JESSE

Which boys? How did you find them?

PAULINO

Damond, Shawn, and Jacob. They know
you.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. IRVINE - SUBURBS - DAY

Paulino walks around, looking for the street name that's on the paper.

A LIFTED SUV pulls up besides Paulino.

DAMOND (21), a macho quarterback with a sensitive side sits in the front passenger seat. He sticks his head out the door and looks at Paulino.

DAMOND
Where ya heading?

PAULINO
I look for this address.

The driver, SHAWN (17), a preppy yet adventurous teenager in the driver's seat pokes his head around Damond and looks at the address.

SHAWN
Oh, nice. That's not even five minutes away.

JACOB (17), a politically aware stoner opens the back door for Paulino.

INT. SUV - DAY

Paulino sits next to Jacob in the back.

JACOB
Names' Jacob. You want a drag man?

Paulino shakes his head.

JACOB (CONT'D)
Well, have some chips and pop.

Jacob hands Paulino chips and a pop. Paulino attacks the food.

JACOB (CONT'D)
Kid's already got munchies.

Paulino looks out the window. They drive through an high-end neighborhood. Paulino is mesmerized.

PAULINO
Who lives here?

SHAWN
We do.

PAULINO
(In Spanish)
Amazing.

DAMOND
Did you just call us snobs?

Paulino looks at his dictionary.

DAMOND (CONT'D)
I think that's Spanish for snob.

PAULINO
No.

DAMOND
Do you know how many kids I've
fucked up?

SHAWN
Shut up man. The kid's going to
think that Americans are all about
violence.

JACOB
They have reason to, man.

DAMOND
Don't start with your fucking hippy
bullshit.

JACOB
Man, you don't know the shit that
America has done down there. In
Nicaragua they funded the right-
wing Contra's. In Chile they helped
the nut job, Pinochet. They send
economic hit men down there to
convince leaders to accept loans,
causing them to be part of the
American Empire, and if that
doesn't work they send in an Army-
just like when their manipulative
bullshit didn't work on Saddam.

DAMOND
Thanks for the history lesson,
loser.

JACOB
Ignant dumb ass.

DAMOND
Ignant? Ignorant. You're not black,
just cause you smoke blunts.

JACOB
I smoke spliffs. Difference.

DAMOND
You should move back to Canada.

JACOB
I'm not from Canada, you fuck.

DAMOND
Fuck you.

Paulino continues concentrating on the houses, pools, and gardens.

SHAWN
Excuse my friends.

Paulino is mesmerized as he sees Prestra in the distance.

SHAWN (CONT'D)
That's Prestra. The school we went
to.

PAULINO
Es beautiful!

DAMOND
You know what's even more
beautiful? All the babes' v-cards
that I've taken there.

PAULINO
V-cards?

SHAWN
Ignore him.

JACOB
Yea, we all know that your dick has
to be big enough to pop a cherry to
really take a girls V.

DAMOND
You only need three inches to
please a woman, asshole.

Everyone, but Paulino LAUGHS.

DAMOND (CONT'D)
Not saying it's three inches.

The car drives through Jesse's suburban middle-class neighborhood.

SHAWN
We're here.

Shawn parks in front of Jesse's house.

PAULINO
Thank you!

Paulino shakes Shawn's and Jacob's hand. Damond gives him the fist bump.

Paulino exits the car. Jacob reaches and closes the door for Paulino.

DAMOND
It's like, nine inches.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. JESSE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Paulino smiles.

PAULINO
Now I'm here.

Jesse and Freddy stare at each other, worried.

PAULINO (CONT'D)
Please let me stay.

JESSE
What about your home... your
parents...

Paulino's countenance says it all; He doesn't have either.

Freddy and Jesse look at each other, almost feeling guilty.

EXT. JESSE'S HOUSE - PATIO - DAY

Jesse paces back and forth, next to the table where Freddy and Rachel sit.

RACHEL

Look, it's not like half this neighborhood doesn't already have illegal immigrants living or working for them.

Jesse looks into the house where he sees Paulino watching television and mouthing the words.

JESSE

He's here to learn, and I just... I really don't have it in me to help a kid after school hours. Or even during school hours, to be honest.

FREDDY

We'll enroll him in our school... well, not enroll, but... place him in our school.

JESSE

With Brent as the principal? He hasn't broken a rule in his life.

FREDDY

He won't notice.

JESSE

Really... the principal of a private school won't notice someone getting a free--

RACHEL

Actually... Freddy has a point. There are ESL students coming and going all the time.

JESSE

And what about the other classes?

RACHEL

They're allowed to audit other classes.

Jesse looks over at Freddy, who's nodding his head in approval. Jesse looks back over at Paulino.

JESSE

Alright.

INT. JESSE'S HOUSE - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Paulino lays in bed, staring up at the ceiling. Jesse hears a KNOCK, and walks into the room.

JESSE

Hey, just ask if you need anything.

PAULINO

Okay.

(beat)

Oh, I think you drop these.

Paulino hands him a prescription bottle of Paxil or some sort of antidepressants.

Jesse grabs the bottle.

PAULINO (CONT'D)

Are you sick?

JESSE

No, just... have a good a sleep,
Paulino. *Buenas noches.*

PAULINO

Buenas noches.

(pause)

Jesse.

JESSE

Yeah.

PAULINO

Thank you... For everything.

Jesse smiles and leaves.

DREAM SEQUENCE

INT. PRESTRA ACADEMY - SOCIALS CLASS ROOM - DAY

Paulino sits in a classroom with SEVERAL STUDENTS diligently taking notes as Jesse stands in front of the classroom with a suit on.

JESSE

Can anyone tell me the names of the
president and vice president during
World War Two?

Everyone's hands shoot up.

JESSE (CONT'D)
How about we let the new student
answer?

PAULINO
President Roosevelt!

JESSE
And?
(pause)
Can someone give him a hint?

The STUDENT (16) next to Paulino leans over.

STUDENT
It starts with a T.

PAULINO
Truman!

Everyone in the classroom CLAPS.

END DREAM SEQUENCE.

INT. PRESTRA ACADEMY - SOCIALS CLASS ROOM - DAY

Jesse looks half asleep as he sits at his desk while an old documentary about the Cold War plays on the classroom television.

Most of the students are busy playing with their phones and GIGGLING.

Rachel walks in with Paulino. Paulino looks around, deterred and confused.

After a moment, Jesse notices Rachel and Paulino. Jesse puts the video on pause.

JESSE
Oh, one second. This is Paulino,
everyone. He's a new ESL student
from Mexico.

Most people don't even bother looking up. A group of GIRLS (15-16) GIGGLE and smile. BRITTANY (16) a well-developed younger girl locks her eyes with Paulino's.

JESSE (CONT'D)
He's going to audit our class on
occasion.

RACHEL
Thanks, Jesse.

Rachel smiles at Paulino and then hurries off. Jesse turns the video back on.

Paulino sits down at the empty desk next to Reid. Reid looks over at Paulino who's still staring at Brittany.

REID
Where you from?

PAULINO
Mexico.

REID
Cool. I like nachos.

PAULINO
Okay.

REID
But my mom started buying the ones with flax seeds in them because they're healthier.

PAULINO
Oh.

REID
Now I have to go poop all the time.

PAULINO
Should we not watch video?

REID
Cold wars are boring. I like hot ones.

Paulino looks over at Jesse who is resting his head in his hands.

EXT. PRESTRA ACADEMY - FIELD - DAY

MR. OLSON (40), a husky appearing physical education teacher stands in front of a group of several BOYS holding their football helmets by their side.

MR. OLSON
Alright boys, who here has never played football before? And yes, never includes flag football.

Paulino, EITHAN (16) a teenager with a cigarillo behind his ear, and a SCRAWNY BOY raise their hands.

MR. OLSON (CONT'D)
Alright, then before we split into teams, we're going to run some drills.

Mr. Olson points at three LARGE BOYS.

MR. OLSON (CONT'D)
I want you three to scatter yourselves between the cones. The three of you that raised your hands are going to take turns to see who can get past them.

Ethan and the Scrawny boy line up a fifty yards from the large boys. Paulino quickly follows.

MR. OLSON (CONT'D)
Ethan! You're up.

Mr. Olson throws Ethan the ball. One of the large boys runs towards Ethan. Ethan throws the football in the large boy's face.

MR. OLSON (CONT'D)
Ethan, go home!

ETHAN
Sweet. Thanks Mr. Olson.

MR. OLSON
You're turn, kid.

Mr. Olson passes the scrawny kid the ball. The scrawny kid fumbles it forward. As the kid tries to pick it up, one of the large boys simply hip checks him, and the scrawny boy falls down. Everyone LAUGHS.

MR. OLSON (CONT'D)
Alright, Mexico! You're up.

Mr. Olson throws Paulino the ball and he catches it. Paulino darts towards the largest boy of the group and pump-fakes him last second. The other large boy runs after him, but Paulino is much faster. A second before the goal line the other large boy tackles him hard.

Everyone, including Mr. Olson, cringes, but Paulino is up in a second, smiling.

Mr. Olson looks impressed.

INT. PRESTRA ACADEMY - ESL CLASSROOM - DAY

Rachel stands in front of the few students in her class.

RACHEL

Can anyone tell where the stress in
rebel is in these two sentences.

Rachel points at the whiteboard which has the sentences,
"There are rebel soldiers" and "teenagers that rebel."

A MARCO (15) A German student raises his hand.

MARCO

I can do it. In the first sentence
it's the second syllable, bel, that
is stressed, and in the second
sentence it's the first syllable,
Re, that is stressed.

RACHEL

That's right.

PAULINO

You know everything, Marco.

MARCO

English is one of my best
languages.

PAULINO

How many languages do you know?

MARCO

Four. Three fluently.

PAULINO

Four!

An NATSHA, an East-Indian girl (15) looks at Paulino.

NATASHA

I speak five languages. In Bombay
we have many languages.

PAULINO

(sullen)
I want to know more.

RACHEL

You should be proud you want to
learn more languages, Paulino. Most
native English speakers only know
one language.

MARCO

Languages help with brevity. I can capture feelings with one word in German that would take a sentence to explain in English. Like, schadenfreude.

PAULINO

What does that mean?

RACHEL

It's a german loan word. We use it here now too. It means to laugh or enjoy someone else's misery.

PAULINO

I don't think I understand that one.

EXT. JESSE'S HOUSE - PATIO - DAY

Jesse walks onto the Patio and sees Paulino doing his homework.

JESSE

How was the first week of school?

PAULINO

Great. I have so much I can do.

JESSE

You should take a break. Go for a swim; it's nice out.

PAULINO

I don't know how.

JESSE

To swim? Uh, I can teach you.

PAULINO

Now?

JESSE

Sure. I'll just go get my swim trunks on.

EXT. JESSE'S HOUSE - POOL - DAY

Jesse and Paulino stand in the shallow end of the pool.

JESSE
Okay, first you need get
comfortable with going under water.

Jesse inhales and then goes under water. After a second, he comes back up.

JESSE (CONT'D)
You're turn.

Paulino goes under water and then pops back up.

JESSE (CONT'D)
That was easy, right?

Paulino nods.

JESSE (CONT'D)
Okay, now hold onto the edge of the
pool, kick, and blow bubbles.

Jesse demonstrates the kicking and blowing bubbled.

Paulino copies Jesse, but struggles.

JESSE (CONT'D)
Good enough. You wanna try swimming
towards me. You can just doggy
paddle for now.
(beat)
Like this...

Jesse demonstrates the doggy paddle. He swims to the deep end and treads water.

JESSE (CONT'D)
Swim towards me.

Paulino frantically swims towards Jesse. As Paulino approaches the deep end, he swallows water, chokes, and begins to go under.

Jesse hurries towards Paulino, drags him to the shallow end and pats Paulino's back.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. JESSE'S HOUSE - POOL - DAY

Jesse pats Ryan's back in the shallow end of the pool.

JESSE
You okay, buddy.

RYAN
Yeah, daddy.

Ryan COUGHS.

RYAN (CONT'D)
I want to try again.

JESSE
That's my boy.

Sydney approaches in a Summer dress.

SYNDEY
How's it going?

JESSE
The kid's got perseverance.

RYAN
What do I have?

JESSE
The right attitude; you don't give
up.

Ryan smiles and flexes his little arm. Jesse and Sydney
LAUGH. Suddenly Sydney's face turns gray and pale.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

A semi-truck crashes into a small hatchback.

END FLASHBACK.

EXT. JESSE'S HOUSE - POOL - DAY

Jesse's still patting Paulino's back.

PAULINO
I think I'm okay.

Jesse snaps out of it.

JESSE
Oh, yeah. Sorry.

PAULINO
Can I try again?

Jesse smiles.

JESSE
Yeah.

INT. PRESTRA ACADEMY - STAFFROOM - DAY

Rachel, Jesse, Freddy, MR. RATTLER (50) a wacky looking math teacher, and MR. OLSEN (50), a pugnacious gym teacher that enjoys wearing his wife's soft shirts sits at a table eating breakfast foods.

MR. OLSON
There's this new Mexican kid that got here a couple of weeks ago... Wait, he could be from Nicaragua or Panama or... oh, no, am I racist?

RACHEL
No.

MR. OLSON
Okay, good, because some of smart kids got me thinking I'm a racist. Intersectional discourse, they say. Goes over my head, but leaves me feeling--

RACHEL
Who's the kid.

MR. OLSON
Oh yeah, the Mexican kid. Well, he's faster than anyone on he team. He's tough as a bull as well.

RACHEL
What's his name?

MR. OLSON
Paulino, I think.

MR. RATTLER
Paulino! He audits my grade eight math class. He's not the most knowledgeable, but I've never had a kid so interested in what I had to say.

(beat)
Or anyone for that matter.

JESSE

The kid really seems to stand
out...

Jesse looks at Rachel and Freddy, worried.

MR. OLSON

He sure does.

Brent walks over to the four teachers. He rests his hands on
Jesse's shoulder.

Everyone stares at Brent.

BRENT

So! I'm sure you've all heard the
whispers and such in the hallway
about what's going to happen
tonight.

Everyone looks at each other confused.

BRENT (CONT'D)

A high school party.

MR. OLSON

Oh phew! I thought I missed the
teen choice awards again.

Jesse SIGHS with relief.

BRENT

Any ideas on how we can stop this?

(beat)

No?

(beat)

Okay, I didn't think so, which is
why I want you to free up five
minutes at the end of the day to
show my announcement to the kids.

MR. RATTLER

Okay...

BRENT

Great!

Brent kisses Rachel on the cheek and leaves.

MR. OLSON

I hate him. And I don't usually
hate when I'm off the field.

FREDDY

Amen.

INT. PRESTRA ACADEMY- SOCIAL STUDIES CLASS - DAY

Jesse nonchalantly lays back in his chair when an announcement comes on.

BRENT

Please turn your televisions to channel one.

Jesse SIGHS and turns on the television.

ON TELEVISION:

Brent points at the word *Party* on the top centre of the white board.

BRENT (CONT'D)

Party. Now if I ask you to define party, some of you may say it's a social gathering; however, our school reports from the last parties conclude it's something very different.

Brent points at the word, "DRUGS."

BRENT (CONT'D)

It's not a social gathering. It's a drug gathering. Drugs that lead to-

Brent points at the word, "MISTAKES."

BRENT (CONT'D)

And mistakes lead to--

Brent points at the word, "REGRETS."

Brent shows a picture of someone staggering out of a vehicle that crashed into a pole.

Brent shows a picture of someone wrapped around a toilet.

Brent shows a picture of an upset girl looking at pregnancy test.

BRENT (CONT'D)

Trust me, you don't want to live a life full of regrets.

The television turns off.

Jesse rests his head in the hands; his eyes are closed.

The school bell RINGS and all the kids storm out of class. Paulino looks at Jesse, concerned, as he walks out of the classroom.

EXT. PRESTRA ACADEMY- TEACHER/STUDENT PARKING LOT - DAY

Paulino walks out from the front door of the school and sees Shawn's SUV performing a drift around the corner. The SUV hits a garbage can from which a bunch of recyclable material falls out, and then parks right in front of Paulino.

Shawn sticks his head out the window.

SHAWN

What's up, man? You hear about the party tonight?

Damond crawls over top of Shawn.

DAMOND

Party!

Shawn pushes Damond off of him.

PAULINO

I don't think I should go--

Damond crawls over Shawn again.

DAMOND

Fuck that shit, you're getting in.

Damond grabs Paulino, dragging him through the window.

SHAWN

Damond! What the-

Paulino gets slammed into Shawn's face.

Jacob is in the back seat with the door wide open.

Paulino finally makes it to the back.

Jacob shrugs and closes the door.

SHAWN (CONT'D)

Fuck man.

Shawn punches Damond in the shoulder. Damond threateningly gestures at Shawn.

DAMOND
I'll fuck you, and you know it!

JACOB
You'd fuck him?

SHAWN
I'd rather you not.

The SUV drives off into the street.

DAMOND (O.S.)
I meant fuck you up.

SHAWN (O.S.)
The subconscious is a powerful
thing, my friend.

DAMOND (O.S.)
You guys are assholes.

EXT. JACOB'S HOUSE - PATIO - DUSK

Everyone sits at a table on the patio. In the middle of the table is a giant bong.

JACOB
Welcome to my humble abode... Well,
my parents place.

Paulino looks at a picture in Jacob's open wallet of an AFRICAN AMERICAN COUPLE (50s). The picture is next to some rolling paper.

PAULINO
Is that them?

JACOB
Yes.

DAMOND
He's adopted.

There's an awkward pause as Paulino slowly nods his head, "no shit."

Shawn picks up the bong.

SHAWN
Can we pack this bad boy?

DAMOND

I wish I were adopted. My Mom
always tells the coolest orphan
stories.

Paulino looks lost in his own thought.

SHAWN

Damond, just don't talk.

Damond performs a threatening gesture towards Shawn. Shawn
shakes his head in disappointment. Meanwhile, in the
background, we see Jacob walk towards a marijuana plant, pick
a dried bud from the drying rack next to it, and walk back.

JACOB

See what I just did right there?
That's the only true luxury in my
life.

Paulino looks up at the giant villa.

PAULINO

Huh.

Jacob already takes a hit from the bong. He then passes it to
Paulino.

PAULINO (CONT'D)

I never smoke.

SHAWN

You've never smoked?

Jacob clenches his heart.

DAMOND

Dude, you gotta take a hit!

Jacob nods his head as he puts down the bong and exhales
smoke.

JACOB

Paulino, if not for you, do it for
me. Better yet, do it for Jah. Jah
has blessed me with this plant, and
he would be hurt if you were to not
take a bong hoot.

JACOB, SHAWN, AND DAMOND

Bong hoot!

PAULINO

I don't want to.

Shawn ruffles Paulino's hair.

SHAWN

Come on, man. You're too uptight. I don't know what you're thinking for feeling half the time.

DAMOND

Maybe that's cause he thinks in Spanish.

SHAWN

But we feel in human.

DAMOND

Deep.

Paulino hesitates, but then finally grabs the bong. Jacob lights it for him and then releases the bowl.

DAMOND (CONT'D)

Keep sucking!

Jacob and Shawn look at each other and LAUGH.

DAMOND (CONT'D)

What? That's what my uncle told me to do my first time.

Shawn and Jacob LAUGH.

SHAWN

You should go to counseling in that case.

Paulino exhales and COUGHS a bunch.

JACOB

Isn't it so cute when first timers cough?

Jacob rubs Paulino's back. Paulino closes his eyes.

PAULINO

(whisper)
Falina.

SHAWN

What was that?

PAULINO

Nothing. So many thoughts.

JACOB
That's being stoned for ya.

PAULINO
I don't like it.

SHAWN
You can talk to us, man. Who's this Falina?

PAULINO
I don't talk about her.

SHAWN
Alright, man.

Damond lifts up a 24 pack of beer and drops it on the table.

DAMOND
Shot gunning time!

SHAWN
Do as we do Paulino.

Everyone picks up a beer, poking it with the nail. They shotgun the beers.

Paulino puts the empty beer can down. He has a giant smile on his face.

INT. JESSE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DUSK

Jesse walks into his house and throws down his keys.

JESSE
Paulino?

Jesse walks past the staircase and hears WATER RUNNING.

Jesse flops onto the couch and turns on the TV, flipping through the channels. The first channel he turns on mentions refugees, the second channel mentions pop stars, the third channel is playing reruns of a classic sitcom, and the fourth channel is a kid's show.

Jesse pauses, staring at the kid's show. He starts to cry.

FREDDY (O.S.)
Hey Jesse.

Jesse turns around and notices Freddy with a towel wrapped around his waist.

JESSE

What the hell are you doing here?

FREDDY

Sorry, the hot water ran out at my place.

(beat)

I told you not to watch that show, Jesse.

JESSE

Have you seen Paulino?

Freddy pours himself a glass of scotch.

FREDDY

I thought you were with him. It's already seven.

JESSE

Yeah, I lost track of time.

FREDDY

You fell asleep at your desk again, didn't you?

JESSE

Maybe.

The DOORBELL rings.

Jesse opens the door and sees Rachel.

JESSE (CONT'D)

Damn it!

RACHEL

Excuse me?

JESSE

Sorry. Hey, Rachel... I don't know where Paulino is.

RACHEL

Maybe he's going to that party.

Freddy, changing in the middle of the room, looks back at Rachel and Jesse.

JESSE

I heard some kids say it's right near the school.

Freddy fixes his collar and then finishes his glass of scotch.

FREDDY
I'll drive.

EXT. THE PARTY HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

The SUV parks on the lawn, in front of a modern house. Everyone steps out of the car, staggering slightly.

Paulino looks up at the house in awe. Damond puts his arm around Paulino and guides him into the house.

INT. PARTY HOUSE - MAIN ROOM - NIGHT

The house has its own heartbeat from the HIP HOP MUSIC playing loudly. The pandemonium inside the house ensues with drunk teenagers flailing around with red plastic cups.

DAMOND
What's up, ladies? Anybody want a man who can boot for them?

Damond heads over to the cheerleaders.

Jacob sells marijuana to a group of TEENAGERS.

Shawn jumps over the backside of a couch and lands on the couch, sitting down and thinking he's smooth. The TEENAGE GIRL (17) gets startled and drops a drink on herself.

INT. HOUSE PARTY - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Paulino walks through the party, both enticed and frightened by the deer heads and other game on the wall. A bra flies up and lands on one the antlers of an elk head.

Paulino opens a door.

INT. HOUSE PARTY - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

As soon as Paulino closes the door, Brittany spins him around.

Brittany suddenly drags Paulino into a crowd of dancing teenagers. At first, he grinds with her like everyone around him is doing. Then a SALSA FUSED WITH HIP HOP song comes on, and Paulino begins to dance salsa with Brittany.

INT. PARTY HOUSE - MAIN ROOM - NIGHT

Damond dances shirtless on a table all by himself. A provocatively dressed TEENAGE GIRL TWO (17) jumps on stage with Damond and makes out with him right away. She guides Damond's hands onto her breasts.

Damond's eyes burst open, and he slowly moves his hands. He tries to dance casually, but then the girl gives him a strange look and walks away.

Damond punches the wall, angry with himself.

INT. PARTY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

There's a huge circle formed around Paulino and Brittany. Everyone CHEERS as Paulino performs some salsa moves.

Brittany grabs Paulino and makes out with him.

Shawn and Jacob CHEER as they poke through the circle.

SHAWN
Yea little buddy!

JACOB
Wait, that's-

Damond bursts through the crowd and notices Paulino.

DAMOND
What are you doing with my sister?

Paulino and Brittany stop kissing.

Damond grabs Paulino by the collar.

BRITTANY
Damond, stop!

Damond drops Paulino as though he won't hurt him and then turns around, punching Paulino in the gut.

Shawn and Jacob hurry to Damond and grab him.

SHAWN
What the fuck, man?

JACOB
Somebody call an ambulance!

RANDOM MALE VOICE (V.O.)
Okay!

Shawn pulls Paulino up. Paulino seems fine, just a little winded.

SHAWN

You okay?

PAULINO

Yes.

JACOB

Cancel the ambulance! He's fine.

RANDOM MALE VOICE (V.O.)

Too late!

SHAWN

Fuck, let's find Damond and get out of here before cops show up too.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - NIGHT

Freddy's driving his old convertible. Rachel's in the front passenger's seat, and Jesse's in the back.

INT. FREDDY'S CAR - NIGHT

Freddy looks back at Jesse. Jesse looks perturbed as he gazes out the window.

FREDDY (O.S.)

Everything will be fine, Jesse.

Rachel looks back at Jesse from the review mirror.

RACHEL

It's nine. I'm sure they haven't been at the party long. What can go wrong?

FREDDY

I think I see something. There's a bunch of cars parked at the end of the block.

EXT. PARTY HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Shawn and Jacob help Paulino walk out of the house. Paulino's nose is bleeding, but nothing too serious.

Damond sits under the street lamp.

SHAWN

What the hell was that, Damond?

DAMOND

Leave me alone.

JACOB

If you punched out every dude in this city who's hooked up with your sister, half the city would be unconscious.

Damond swings around.

DAMOND

That's an over exaggeration!

Freddy comes roaring in with his old convertible, slams on his breaks, and skids onto the curb.

RACHEL

Freddy!

Jesse jumps out from the back. Jesse runs to Paulino.

JESSE

What happened?

PAULINO

Nothing. I fell when drunk.

DAMOND

He's lying... I punched him.

Damond notices Jesse.

DAMOND (CONT'D)

You're my old Social Studies teacher... And my councilor.

FREDDY

Hi Damon.

SHAWN

Man, you and the councillor are on a first name bases. You must be fucked up.

FREDDY

Don't get to cocky now, Shawn.

Shawn's face reddens.

JESSE
Why did you punch, Paulino?

DAMOND
I don't know.

PAULINO
I kissed his sister. I'm sorry,
Damond.

DAMOND
I'm the one that should be sorry,
dawg. I was just pissed off about
something else.

JACOB
Was it your small dick?

DAMOND
No Jacob, it wasn't my small dick.

JACOB
So you admit--

FREDDY
Let Damond talk.

DAMOND
I'm mad cause, well... I'm
frustrated.
(pause)
I'm gay.

JACOB
Dude, really?

Damond looks at his friends, not sure what to say.

DAMOND
Yea.

SHAWN & JACOB
Okay, cool.

Jesse puts his arm around Paulino as they walk towards the
car.

JESSE
We should get going.

FREDDY
Proud of you, Damond. Fuck what
your dad thinks.

Freddy, Jesse, and Paulino walk towards the car.

SHAWN
Paulino, wait up, man.

Shawn grabs Paulino's hand and pulls him in for a hug.
Paulino looks awkward and uncomfortable as Shawn hugs him.

SHAWN (CONT'D)
See ya later, man.

Paulino walks away and waves at the boys.

JACOB
Peace, bro.

DAMOND
Wait, so that's it? You guys don't
care?

JACOB
Nope. Now I can tell you I like it
when a girl slides her thumb up my
bum without feeling weird about it.

Shawn shakes his head as the three boys walk off.

Just as Paulino is about to step into the back of Freddy's
car, two cop cars come speeding in and come to a ridiculously
abrupt stop, as though it's an urgent crime scene.

Paulino looks confused as he sees the cop walking into the
party.

Freddy notices Paulino.

FREDDY
I know, you'd think they have
better things to do with their
time.

Paulino nods his head and steps into the car.

INT. FREDDY'S CAR - SUBURBAN AREA - NIGHT

Jesse sits in the back with Paulino.

JESSE
You're supposed to tell me where
you go, Paulino.

PAULINO
I'm sorry.

Rachel turns around from the front passengers seat and places her hand on Paulino's lap.

RACHEL

It's okay.

JESSE

It's not okay.

(beat)

If the cops or an ambulance arrived and needed some form of identification, you would have been deported.

PAULINO

I did not want to scare you.

JESSE

I'm not losing another kid, Paulino!

Freddy and Rachel glance at Jesse with lenity and surprise.

Jesse doesn't look at anyone, but after a moment he looks over at Paulino who has tears running down his face. Jesse places his hand on top of Paulino's.

Through the review mirror, Rachel looks back at Jesse with fervor and a new felt attraction.

They drive through the suburbs in silence. Suddenly Freddy CHUCKLES. The CHUCKLES soon turn into a cathartic LAUGH.

RACHEL

What's up, Freddy?

FREDDY

This is a good night; a damn good night.

Jesse lovingly squeezes Freddy's shoulder.

Freddy stops the car.

RACHEL

Alright, this is me. I told Brent I'd stay over tonight.

Rachel steps out of the car.

FREDDY

Jesse, get up here. I'm no taxi driver.

EXT. BRENT'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Jesse steps out of the car. Rachel is half way to the door and then turns back and taps Jesse on the shoulder just as he opens the door the passenger seat. Jesse turns around and Rachel kisses him.

Jesse's eyes stay open.

RACHEL
Sorry, I don't--

JESSE
No, it's... it's fine.

RACHEL
I should go.

Jesse steps into the car.

INT. FREDDY'S CAR - NIGHT

Paulino CLAPS when Jesse steps inside.

JESSE
Freddy told you to clap, didn't he?

PAULINO
Yeah.

Freddy has a giant grin on his face.

INT. BRENT'S HOUSE - MIRANDA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Brent's standing at the window, staring at Freddy's car. He catches a glimpse of Paulino's just before Freddy drives off.

Miranda looks at Brent from the bed.

Brent turns around, CRYING.

BRENT
Rachel just kissed Jesse.

MIRANDA
Told you that would happen.

Brent keeps HOWLING.

MIRANDA (CONT'D)
Stop your crying, boy. And don't
you tell Rachel what you know.

BRENT

Why?

MIRANDA

We need to figure out a way to ruin her and Jesse.

RACHEL (O.S.)

Brent?

MIRANDA

Now go shower and then go down there like nothing happened.

BRENT

I'm in the shower. Be right down!

MIRANDA

The water's not running, you idiot.

BRENT

I mean, I'm not in the shower, but I will be.

INT. BRENT'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Brent runs past Rachel who's on the staircase.

RACHEL

Hi babe.

BRENT

Gotta shower!

Rachel looks confused.

EXT. PRESTRA HIGH PRIVATE SCHOOL - TEACHER PARKING LOT/
BRENT'S OFFICE - DAY

Brent drives his truck into his parking spot which has the word *Penis Wrinkle* spray-painted on it.

Brent and Rachel step out of the truck. Brent notices the spray paint.

BRENT

What's a penis wrinkle?

RACHEL

These kids are getting creative.

Paulino and the group of foreign exchange students walk toward the entrance of the school a few meters away. Brent notices Rachel looking at Paulino.

BRENT
Who's that?

RACHEL
Who?

BRENT
The kid you're looking at.

RACHEL
Oh, that's one of my students.

BRENT
I see.

INT. PRESTRA ACADEMY - STAFFROOM - DAY

Jesse, Freddy, Mr. Rattler, and Mr. Olson all sit around the table. Freddy can't stop smiling.

MR. OLSON
Okay, what's going on?

Freddy can't help but have a giant grin on his face as he eats his sandwich.

FREDDY
My mouth is sealed.

Jesse shakes his head.

MR. RATTLER
Freddy, you're mouth is never sealed.

MR. OLSON
You know how much Ollie Bear loves gossip.

MR. RATTLER
Who's Ollie Bear?

MR. OLSON
It's what my kids call me.

FREDDY
Sorry, Ollie Bear.

MR. OLSON
Oh, come on, Freddy! Please.

FREDDY
Okay, I'll tell you.

Jesse kicks Freddy from under the table.

MR. OLSON
Really?

FREDDY
No.

MR. OLSON
I'll give you my Springbank Single
Malt. Aged fifteen years.

FREDDY
Rachel kissed Jesse.

MR. OLSON
Touchdown!

JESSE
Freddy, what the hell?

MR. RATTLER
You just lost a one hundred and
fifty dollar bottle.

MR. OLSON
Shit.

MR. RATTLER
You have a problem.

MR. OLSON
I know.

Rachel and Brent appear and sit down next to Mr. Olson. Jesse tries to hide his smile when he notices Rachel look at him.

BRENT
So Jesse, you seem happy this
morning.

JESSE
Do I?

BRENT
Oh yes. Anything new going on?

JESSE

Nope.

Rachel and Jesse suddenly become very tense. Mr. Olson looks even more taut; his face is redder than the devil's ass.

BRENT

Mr. Olson?

MR. OLSON

Yes?

Mr. Olson bursts out LAUGHING. Everyone but Brent looks worried.

MR. OLSON (CONT'D)

Okay, okay. I'm sorry. I'm just...
elated.

BRENT

Why's that?

MR. OLSON

Um, well... because my wife made me
an incredible breakfast this
morning. Eggs Benny, Waffles,
sausages... hash browns. Um, a BLT
without the lettuce and tomato.

BRENT

I see.

JESSE

Yup, well. I gotta get to class. I
have a few things to set up.

RACHEL

Yeah, me too.

INT. PRESTRA ACADEMY - HALLWAY - DAY

Jesse and Rachel hurry down the hallway.

JESSE

He knows. I know he knows.

RACHEL

He didn't ask me about us.

JESSE

Something's going on though.

RACHEL

Well, he did ask who Paulino was
this morning. Something didn't feel
right.

JESSE

I'll call you after school.

Jesse is about to open the door to his classroom.

JESSE (CONT'D)

And Rachel...

RACHEL

Yeah?

JESSE

Last night was the happiest I've
been in a long time.

Rachel smiles.

EXT. PRESTRA ACADEMY - FIELD - DAY

MR. OLSON GRUNTS in a cheerful manner when Paulino scores a
touchdown. A GROUP OF BOYS, including Ethan carry Paulino to
the sidelines.

MR. OLSON

Great game, boys.

Brent walks toward the group of boys.

BRENT

So are any of these boys going to
move on to Prestra Academy's wall
of fame?

MR. OLSON

Um, yup.

Mr. Olson grabs Paulino.

MR. OLSON (CONT'D)

Paulino here is the fastest kid
Prestra has ever known.

BRENT

Where are you from, Paulino?

PAULINO

Mexico.

BRENT

Oh, and your parents sent you to
the great US of A to study?

PAULINO

Mhm.

BRENT

Who's your billet. Maybe I know
them.

PAULINO

Oh, um. I stay with--

ETHAN

Mr. O'Brian, right? I always see
you with him.

PAULINO

I don't know.

BRENT

You don't know?

MR. OLSON

Stop interrogating the kid.

(beat)

You seem out of it, buddy. Let's
get you some Powerade.

BRENT

I'll see you later, boys. Keep up
the good work.

Brent walks back towards the school and pulls out his
cellphone.

BRENT (CONT'D)

Mother. I think Jesse might be
harboring an illegal.

MIRANADA (O.S.)

Meet me at his place in fourteen
hundred hours.

BRENT

That's two, right?

Miranda hangs up.

INT. JESSE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Brent MURMURS in pain, but is not seen until--

BANG, he falls and crawls out the chimney. Miranda is standing right in front of him.

BRENT
How did you already get in?

MIRANDA
The door was open.

BRENT
Why did I have to take the chimney!

MIRANDA
To toughen you up.
(beat)
Let's hurry and find the evidence.
I'm not getting charged for
breaking and entering again.

BRENT
When did that happen?

MIRANDA
The good old days.

BRENT
When was that?

MIRANDA
Before nineteen seventy one.

BRENT
Wait, that's the year I was born...

MIRANDA
What a coincidence.

Miranda walks away, leaving Brent looking around the living room.

First Brent sticks his hand through the cracks in the couch cushions, finding a big ball of dust and hair. Brent SCREAMS.

MIRANDA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
What happened?

BRENT
Sorry, I thought it was a mouse.

MIRANDA (O.S.)
For fuck sake.

Brent keeps wandering around the living room. He finds a picture of Jesse, Sydney, Rachel, and Freddy in college.

Brent trembles in anger and then punches the wall. He holds back his cry in pain as he rubs his knuckles.

EXT. PRESTRA ACADEMY - TEACHER PARKING LOT - DAY

Jesse and Paulino walk to Jesse's car.

PAULINO
Why couldn't I just take the bus?

JESSE
Brent might be on to you. You need
to be by my side.

Jesse looks around to see if anyone's looking around, sees nobody, and let's Paulino into the car.

JESSE (CONT'D)
Crouch down in the back of the car
just in case someone comes by.

A Smart Car pulls out from behind a giant truck and stops right beside Jesse, startling him.

The window rolls down, revealing Mr. Olson sitting in the passenger seat. Mr. Rattler sticks his head out from the drivers seat.

MR. RATTLER
You didn't even see me, did you,
Jesse.

JESSE
Nope. No, I didn't.

MR. RATTLER
I love this little car.

JESSE
What are you guys up to?

Mr. Olson steps out of the car.

MR. OLSON
I think we should be the ones
asking the questions around here.

MR. RATTLER
That's right.

Mr. Rattler steps out of the car as well, leaving the car in the middle of the parking lot.

JESSE
What are you guys on about?

MR. RATTLER
Paulino.

Jesse tenses up.

JESSE
Who? That new foreign exchange student?

MR. RATTLER
Come on Jesse. Why do you need to hide anything from us?

JESSE
I shouldn't be talking about this.

Mr. Rattler and Mr. Olson look into Jesse's car, right at Paulino. Paulino's freezes, frightened. Mr. Olson and Mr. Rattler look back at Jesse.

JESSE (CONT'D)
He isn't legally supposed to be attending this school.

MR. RATTLER
How did his parents manage to get him in without Brent finding out, or the school board for that matter?

Jesse takes in a deep breath, not wanting to answer.

Another vehicle pulls into the driveway, but Mr. Rattler's car is in the way. The male VEHICLE DRIVER sticks his head out the window.

VEHICLE DRIVER
Hey, move your car, bud! I gotta pick up my kid.

MR. OLSON
Give us a second!
(towards Jesse)
So?

JESSE
You guy's don't want anything to happen to Paulino, right?

MR. OLSON
Hell no.

MR. RATTLER

I don't want to lose the one kid
that likes me.

JESSE

Okay.

(beat)

In Mexico, Freddy and I got wasted,
promised Paulino a better life,
hooked him up with some smugglers,
gave him my address, and then
forgot all about it. The next thing
we know Paulino shows up at my door
a few days later.

Mr. Olson and Mr. Rattler just stare at Jesse, bewildered.

VEHICLE DRIVER

Hey asshole!

JESSE

Listen, please don't tell anyone.
Paulino has no parents, no home,
nothing.

The vehicle driver steps out of his car and kicks Mr.
Rattler's vehicle.

MR. RATTLER

Sorry, we're leaving right now!

(beat)

Don't worry, Jesse.

JESSE

Thank you.

Mr. Rattler and Mr. Olson step into the car and reverse into
a parking spot so that the vehicle driver can get through.

The vehicle driver slams his door shut, REVS his engine, and
parks a few meters away.

As Mr. Rattler and Mr. Olson drive past, Mr. Olson looks over
at Jesse once again.

MR. OLSON

Hey Jesse.

JESSE

Yeah?

MR. OLSON

It's good to have you back, man.

Jesse looks confused for a second, but then smiles. Jesse steps into the car.

INT. JESSE'S CAR - DAY

We notice that Jesse has a pack of regular gum in his car, not Nicorette.

Jesse looks back at Paulino.

JESSE

Don't worry, they won't tell anyone.

INT. JESSE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Brent spots a college yearbook on the counter. He opens it to a page with a picture of Freddy Stevens as a sixteen-year-old boy. He looks stoned out of his mind and a quote that reads, "Offering free love advice to all women. Call me 457 111 1234- Soon to be a worldwide love guru sensation."

Brent notices Rachel Stevens further down the page. She's got long gorgeous hair with flowers in it. Her quote reads, "I'll figure it out after my year of traveling. And Warning to all womankind: don't call my brother."

MIRANDA (O.S.)

Brent!

Brent drops the book and looks back at Miranda.

MIRANDA (CONT'D)

You're supposed to be looking for clues, not yearbooks.

BRENT

No, no. I did find some things.

Brent takes some items out from his bag.

BRENT (CONT'D)

Dulce de leche. The immigrant's caramel.

Brent pulls out--

BRENT (CONT'D)

Vaseline... To escape the grasp of immigrant services.

Brent pulls out--

BRENT (CONT'D)
A five peso bill--

MIRANADA
Brent, just stop. You're
embarrassing yourself.

Miranada pulls out the picture of Jesse and Freddy sitting
with Paulino on the beach.

MIRANDA
I also took some photos of the
guest room. There's definitely
someone living here.
(beat)
Now all we gotta do is make a
little phone call to my friend over
at immigrant services.

BRENT
But what if he's not an illegal
immigrant?

MIRANDA
That's for my friend to find out.

Brent follows Miranda to the door. Just as Miranda's about to
open the door, she turns around.

MIRANDA (CONT'D)
What do you think you're doing?

Brent looks perplexed.

MIRANDA (CONT'D)
Up the chimney you go.

Brent slouches as he walks towards the chimney. He grabs the
rope and gives it a good tug to test it out.

EXT. JESSE'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD/DRIVEWAY - DAY

Miranda stands in Jesse's small front yard next to the
driveway. She motions for Brent to come over.

Brent's standing on the roof, timidly walking to the edge.
Miranda just finishes placing the ladder for him.

Jesse's car pulls into the driveway.

Miranda notices Jesse's car and motions for Brent to hurry.

Jesse and Paulino step out of the car and walk to the front door. Paulino and Jesse are too focused on Paulino's little dictionary to see Miranda glaring at them.

Just as Jesse and Paulino close the door, Brent misses the last step of the ladder, falling flat on his face. Miranda SIGHS and places the ladder beside the house.

INT. JESSE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jesse stares forward, lost in thought. Paulino walks over and hands Jesse a glass of scotch.

JESSE

Thanks.

Paulino sits across from Jesse, thinking of something to say.

PAULINO

I was born on the street. No parents, no hospital, there's no proof that I exist.

Jesse looks up at Paulino.

PAULINO (CONT'D)

I always thought I not know who I was because I not know my past. One day, my best friend, Falina, tell-- I mean told me the past is dead. The person I am is the person standing with her. That gave me courage.

(beat)

We decided we were going to go to America together.

(beat)

The only way for us to eat was to steal... One day, a farmer saw us. He was drunk and shot his rifle, trying to scare us. He did more than just scare us...

Jesse stares at Paulino and puts down his glass of scotch.

Paulino can no longer contain his pain.

PAULINO (CONT'D)

(crying)

She was the only person who showed me what family could feel like.

Paulino looks up, staring Jesse right in the eye.

PAULINO (CONT'D)
Until I met you.

Jesse puts his hand on Paulino's lap.

JESSE
We'll figure this out, Paulino.

Paulino grabs Jesse's hand. Jesse grips tight and at that moment, Freddy opens the door.

Freddy notices Paulino and Jesse.

Rachel walks in behind Freddy.

Freddy walks over to Paulino and swings his arm around him.

FREDDY
You're in America now, buddy. We
leave the crying to the Europeans.
(beat)
Where's that tough, rugged,
individualistic American attitude.

PAULINO
Sorry, Uncle Freddy.

Freddy GASPS and comes to the verge of crying.

FREDDY
I've always wanted to be an uncle.

RACHEL
No, you haven't...

FREDDY
Well, not to Brent's fucking kid.

Paulino notices Jesse walk up stairs.

PAULINO
Jesse?

Rachel and Freddy look at the stairs.

RACHEL
What's he doing? You told me it was
urgent for us to come here...

FREDDY
I don't know, but I'm stealing some
scotch.

Freddy picks up a scotch bottle and a glass on the living room table; he slowly pours the scotch.

FREDDY (CONT'D)
Oh yea, baby. Nice and slow.

Paulino looks back at Freddy, shaking his head, LAUGHING.

JESSE (O.S.)
We're going swimming!

Jesse comes down the stairs wearing nothing but swim shorts and a hand full of folded towels.

Freddy turns around with a glass full of scotch.

FREDDY
Oh hot damn, take a look at that stud.

Freddy friendly nudges Rachel. Rachel pushes Freddy away, but can't help GIGGLE.

Jesse throws everyone a towel.

RACHEL
Shouldn't we figure this out?

JESSE
There's nothing left to figure out.
I'm adopting Paulino.

PAULINO
Really?

JESSE
Yes, really. Immigration office is closed now, but we're heading there first thing tomorrow morning.

INT. BRENT'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - DAY

Miranda places the phone down and faces Brent with her sinister smile. In the background, there's a small sculpture of Jesus on the crucifix hanging on the wall.

MIRANDA
The immigration officer is going to give Jesse an evening visit for me.
(beat)
I didn't say you can stop!

Reveal Brent bench pressing in the garage. Brent struggles to get his last rep out.

BRENT

Spot!

Miranda effortlessly lifts the bench press bar.

MIRANADA

You're slowly becoming the man your father was.

Brent smiles.

EXT. SECLUDED BEACH - DAY

A lyrically positive UPBEAT SONG plays in the background. Forests and cliffs surround the lake. There's under a dozen people scattered on the beach.

Jesse notices Rachel gazing off into the distance, past an OBESE MAN (50s) slightly closer to shore, trying to get into a kayak.

JESSE

What's up?

Rachel takes a moment to answer.

RACHEL

Did I make a mistake?

Jesse looks at Rachel, unsure.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

I mean, Brent's a great guy. I shouldn't hurt him.

JESSE

Oh.

RACHEL

I mean, he plays by the rules, but he gives me security. He's a great artist, he's grateful--

JESSE

Are you trying to convince me or yourself?

RACHEL

Does it matter?

(beat)

I mean, would Sydney want this?

JESSE

(pause)

How could I ever love someone the way I loved Sydney? A best friend I shared everything with; a son with. I thought I lost everything when that semi hit them.

(beat)

With Paulino... well, I realized I didn't lose everything. I do have people to live for; You, Freddy.

(pause)

I love you, Rachel.

RACHEL

And I love you, Jesse. We share a past... but I don't know. Brent's my lover and he'll always need me. What you need is, Paulino.

Paulino runs out from the water.

JESSE

I do need Paulino.

PAULINO

Come on! Let's swim. I'm ready to swim further.

Freddy stands waist deep in the water.

FREDDY

Enough talk. Get your asses in here.

Paulino drags Rachel and Jesse to the water.

Everyone LAUGHS and together they jump into the lake. Everyone's splashing each other and playing in the water. As Jesse shows Paulino how to perform a breaststroke, everyone is oblivious to an OBESE MAN trying to lift himself out of a kayak but is obviously stuck.

Rachel swims over to Jesse and jumps on his back. Freddy jumps on Rachel's back and they all fall in the water. Paulino LAUGHS.

EXT. FREDDY'S BACHELOR PAD - DAY

Jesse's sedan pulls up to Freddy's little bachelor pad. Freddy steps out of the car, waving goodbye.

INT. JESSE'S SEDAN - DAY

Rachel sits in the front with Jesse, as Paulino's sprawled out in the back, recovering from swimming all day. Jesse looks over at Rachel.

JESSE

So should I drop you off at Brent's or your place?

RACHEL

Um, just drop me off at Brent's. I should talk to him...

INT. BRENT'S HOUSE - MIRANDA'S ROOM - DAY

Brent stares through a pair of high tech binoculars and sees Rachel approaching the house.

MIRANDA

Is he back yet?

Brent moves the binoculars and sees Jesse park in his driveway.

BRENT

Yeah. And Rachel's here.

RACHEL (O.S.)

Sorry I'm so late.

BRENT

What should I do?

MIRANADA

Tell her to come upstairs. Watch her suffer.

BRENT

Oh, Okay.
(beat)
Come to mother's room!

Rachel walks inside.

RACHEL

Hi Miranda. I think this is the first time you've let me in your room.

MIRANADA

Why don't you take a look through those binoculars.

Rachel hesitates.

MIRANADA (CONT'D)

Just do it.

Brent hands Rachel the binoculars and points.

THROUGH BINOCULARS:

EXT. JESSE'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Jesse's sedan parks in the driveway, next to a sleek looking sedan. Jesse and Paulino step out of the car.

As they approach the door, they notice SARAH GILLY (30), a fit, tough, conservative immigration officer.

Sarah turns around, facing Jesse. We can see Sarah talking to Jesse.

Sarah faces Paulino.

Just as Paulino is about to run, Sarah grabs him by the collar with a firm grip.

END SHOT THROUGH BINOCULARS:

INT. BRENT'S HOUSE - MIRANADA'S ROOM - DAY

Rachel lowers the binoculars.

RACHEL

What the hell did you do?

MIRANDA

No, what the hell did you do? You socialist slut.

RACHEL

I didn't do anything.

BRENT
I saw you kiss, Jesse!

RACHEL
I'm sorry, Brent. But it was just a
kiss. I was confused. It was the
first time I saw my best friend
happy in a long time, and I don't
know--

BRENT
So you kissed him!

RACHEL
It was a kiss, Brent. You're about
to ruin someone's life.

Brent looks out the window.

EXT. JESSE'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Paulino desperately looks at Jesse.

SARAH
(to Jesse)
Would you be so kind to let me in?

JESSE
(angry)
No.

SARAH
Huh, so you have the paperwork for
this boy living here and attending
an American school on you right
now?

Jesse stares at Sarah with hatred.

SARAH (CONT'D)
If you don't have any records of
this boy, I'll have to go look them
up myself.
(to Paulino)
Come on.

Sarah drags Paulino towards the car.

JESSE
Listen... I'll figure out how to
get him papers--

SARAH

Too late.

Just as Paulino is stuffed into the back seat--

PAULINO

Jesse!

Sarah steps into the car and drives off.

Jesse kicks over a flower pot.

JESSE

Fuck!

Jesse pounds on the door in anger.

INT. BRENT'S HOUSE - MIRANADA'S ROOM - DAY

Miranda LAUGHS with joy as she walks towards the door, leaving Brent sitting there in guilty silence.

RACHEL

What the fuck, Brent?

BRENT

I follow the rules unlike you. You always said that's something you admired.

RACHEL

But when you weren't following the rules, I was there for you.

Brent looks guilty.

MIRANDA

Oh, don't be such a sissy, Brent. Why don't you tell her why you really went to jail?

RACHEL

What is she talking about?

BRENT

Mother, please.

MIRANDA

Tell her.

BRENT

No.

MIRANDA

He--

BRENT

Mother!

MIRANDA

He shat in a Mexican's burrito.

RACHEL

What?

MIRANDA

He took a shit in a Mexican's burrito.

RACHEL

You took a shit in someone's burrito?

BRENT

This was a long time ago...

RACHEL

Why did you shit in someone's burrito?

BRENT

Because--

MIRANDA

Because he was part of a white supremacy group.

RACHEL

(pause)

That's fucked up, Brent.

BRENT

It was a long time ago. I didn't think the guy would end up in the hospital.

MIRANADA

Yes, you did.

Rachel storms out the door.

INT. JESSE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jesse pours Rachel and himself a drink of scotch. Jesse looks back as Freddy walks in and kicks off his shoes.

FREDDY
I don't know why I even bother
going home anymore.
(beat)
So what's the plan?

Jesse downs his drink.

JESSE
There is no plan.

FREDDY
And did Brent really take a shit in
a guys burrito?

RACHEL
Yes.

FREDDY
Huh.

JESSE
Enough about this shit burrito.
What are we going to do about
Paulino?

The DOORBELL RINGS.

INT. JESSE'S HOUSE - ENTRANCE - DAY

Jesse opens the door, revealing Damond.

DAMOND
What's up, Mr. O'Brien? I was
wondering if you knew where I could
find Paulino? Is he here?

JESSE
No, he isn't.

DAMOND
Where is he? I wanted to apologize
again and see if he could come out
with me and the boys.

JESSE
How did you know he lives here?

DAMOND
Oh, he told us when we got him
stoned for the first time. But
don't worry, we're chill, man.

EXT. JESSE'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Shawn and Jacob wave at Jesse from the hood of the SUV.

SHAWN

Sup teach!

Jacob takes a drag from his joint.

INT. JESSE'S HOUSE - ENTRANCE - DAY

Jesse tries to hold back his frustration.

DAMOND

You cutting onions in there or some
shit? What's up?

JESSE

Paulino is going back home.

DAMOND

Yo, fuck that! This is his home.

Damond turns to SHOUT at Shawn and Jacob.

DAMOND (CONT'D)

(to Shawn & Jacob)

Paulino's going back to Mexico!

SHAWN & JACOB

What the fuck?

DAMOND

(to Jesse)

Why the hell would he do that?

Jesse just looks at Damon in anguish.

DAMOND (CONT'D)

Oh shit. He's a border hopper isn't
he?

(beat)

Well, I'm a minority as well. Gay
pride equals Latino Pride, baby!

Damond turns around to SHOUT at Shawn and Jacob again.

DAMOND (CONT'D)

Shawn, Jacob! Teach here has been
harboring an illegal immigrant.

EXT. JESSE'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DUSK

SHAWN
Paulino's an illegal!

Shawn and Jacob jump down from the SUV.

INT. JESSE'S HOUSE - ENTRANCE - DAY

Jesse looks at the boys hurrying towards him.

JESSE
Don't be shouting that out!

DAMOND
If anyone else hears, I'll fuck
them right up, Mr. O'Brien.

JESSE
That's comforting.

SHAWN
May we come in?

Jacob's already inside.

JESSE
Uh... sure.

INT. JESSE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Shawn, Damond, Jacob, and Freddy sit around the table, with drinks in their hands, except for Jacob. Jesse hands Jacob a drink.

JACOB
Thanks, man. You know, I always dug
social studies.

JESSE
I know. You would have been one of
my best students if you didn't come
to class high all the time.

JACOB
That wasn't it, man. I was just too
busy reading up on social issues
that weren't in the curriculum.

Rachel sits in the chair next to where Jesse stands.

DAMOND

Nerd.

JACOB

Gay boy.

DAMOND

Tree hugger.

JACOB

Penis gobbler.

DAMOND

Orphan!

SHAWN

Guys, shut up. We're here to--

JESSE

Did you just say orphan?

JACOB

Oh, it's not a big deal. If he says something offensive I remember it's just because he's retarded. Plus, it's because of his mother that I ended up with such a great family.

JESSE

What do you mean?

DAMOND

My mom owns an adoption agency. Jacob's foster parents were some crazy alcoholics back in the day, so I helped this tree hugger out and told my mom to get him a new family.

Jesse grabs Damond by the shoulders.

JESSE

I can adopt Paulino!

INT. ADOPTION AGENCY - OFFICE - DAY

Ms. Porkshire (50), an obese vulgar woman that secretly loves to do the right thing, sits at her desk, puffing a cigarette. Behind her hangs a giant American flag. She looks across her desk at Jesse, Rachel, Freddy, and Damond sitting down. Behind them stands Jacob and Shawn.

MS. PORKSHIRE

Even if he doesn't have any record of birth, you're still asking me to look past legal procedures... You know how much red tape this usually takes?

Jesse slides Ms. Porkshire three hundred dollars.

Ms. Porkshire takes a huge drag from her cigarette and then blows it out.

MS. PORKSHIRE (CONT'D)

But fortunately, I've been able to pull some strings.

Ms. Porkshire prints a document and stamps it.

Ms. Porkshire looks up at Jesse.

MS. PORKSHIRE (CONT'D)

This might not be good enough for Immigration Services, but you're officially a parent.

Ms. Porkshire looks over at Damond.

MS. PORKSHIRE (CONT'D)

(sarcastic)
Woohoo.

INT. IMMIGRATION OFFICE - DAY

Jesse, with the rest of the crew following, races towards a preppy looking SECRETARY. A sign that reads Immigration Services is in the background.

JESSE

My son's in here!

DAMOND

Yea, and he's our bro!

Jesse looks towards Damond, Shawn, and Jacob.

JESSE

Why are you guys still with me?

JACOB

One for all, all for one, Mr. O'Brian.

Jesse shakes his head and then looks back at the secretary.

SECRETARY

Can I--

Sarah walks past and notices Jesse.

SARAH

What are you doing here?

JESSE

Getting my son back.

Jesse pulls out the adoption certificate, where we see the words, Paulino O'Brian.

Sarah pushes the certificate back to Jesse.

SARAH

Huh, curious that you didn't show me it earlier...

Jacob looks over at Shawn.

JACOB

Look at this, man. People's lives being played with over pieces of paper.

Shawn rolls his eyes.

JESSE

As my son, he's an American citizen.

SARAH

This will take a while to process, Mr. O'Brian.

Damond rips off his shirt, tosses it, and it lands on an OLD MAN in a wheelchair.

DAMOND

You give us back Paulino right now!

SARAH

Young man, I'll have you thrown--

Damond YELLS and tackles Sarah to the ground. Damond shakes Sarah ferociously as she's on the ground.

DAMOND

Give us back Paulino!

Jesse, stands there, hopeless.

INT. JAIL CELL - DAY

The jail cell door slams closed as Damond stands there in a prison suit.

DAMOND

Shit.

EXT. BRENT'S HOUSE - ENTRANCE - DAWN

Freddy, Jesse, and Rachel stand at the entrance. Jesse KNOCKS ferociously.

Brent opens the door, tensing as he sees Freddy, Rachel, and Jesse.

FREDDY

Hey, Brad.

BRENT

It's--

Jesse punches Brent in the face.

Brent simply wipes the little bit of blood from his lip.

BRENT (CONT'D)

I deserved that.

JESSE

Wait, what?

Miranda waddles over.

MIRANADA

I heard my friend paid you a visit.

BRENT

I'm sorry, Rachel. I didn't want to ruin anyone's life. I promise that I'm not a white supremacist--

FREDDY

Dude, you took a shit in a guy's burrito.

BRENT

You told them?

RACHEL

Of course.

BRENT

Well, anyway. I'm not that guy anymore. My mother didn't want to help me at all; she just wants to see other people suffer as much as she does.

MIRANDA

I don't need love. I have son that wipes my ass whenever I ask him to.

FREDDY

Do you really wipe your mother's ass?

BRENT

You don't?

FREDDY

No, I don't. I would if she was sick.

BRENT

Mom, are you sick?

MIRANADA

No.

BRENT

Well shoot... You know what? You're moving out, mother!

(beat)

And I want you to move in, Rachel. I'll do whatever I can to make things better.

RACHEL

Brent, I can't.

BRENT

Why?

RACHEL

It's just--

BRENT

It's the burrito, isn't it.

RACHEL

It's a big part of it, but it's not just the burrito. It's... well... the burrito was a lot.

Rachel, Jesse, and Freddy walk away leaving Miranda LAUGHING at Brent.

TITLE OVER: Two months later.

INT. JESSE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

The DOORBELL rings, and Rachel appears from around the corner to answer the door.

As Rachel opens the door we reveal Jesse and Paulino standing there with giant smiles spread among their faces.

JESSE
(hillbilly accent)
I found me one of them wall
hoppers.

Rachel GIGGLES as she hugs Paulino and kisses him on the cheek. She then kisses Jesse on the lips.

PAULINO
I do not understand how you got me
back so quickly.

RACHEL
Well, with a father in the country
and a reference letter from a
private school asking for a boy of
special talents, it wasn't hard.

SPLIT SCREEN:

INT. PRESTRA ACADEMY - STAFFROOM - DAY

Rachel and Jesse sit in the staffroom eating as Brent approaches.

Rachel and Jesse look up and, without saying a word, Brent slides a letter where we read the sentence, *Prestra Academy would like to offer Paulino O'Brian a full ride scholarship for we believe him to be an extraordinary asset to our school and reputation.*

Rachel and Jesse both look up and smile. Brent just nods his head and walks away.

END SPLIT SCREEN:

INT. JESSE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Jesse and Rachel guide Paulino into the kitchen where Freddy, Damond, Shawn, Jacob, Mr. Rattler, Mr. Olson, and Damond's boyfriend, PHILLIP (40), a rough tattooed man with gentle eyes, all stand-up and CHEER.

We notice that Jesse has a brand new Teacher of The Year Award.

Freddy walks over to Paulino, hugging him.

PAULINO
Hey, uncle Freddy.

FREDDY
Holy shit! You're a hugger now.

PAULINO
I'm an American now.

DAMOND
Hey, Paulino, I'd like you to meet my boyfriend, Phillip.

Phillip shakes Paulino's hand.

DAMOND (CONT'D)
We met while I was in jail.

PHILLIP
(jokingly)
But don't tell my wife.

Everyone lets out a small LAUGH,

PHILLIP (CONT'D)
(whisper to Paulino)
No, but serious. If you ever meet her... Don't.

DAMOND
My mom should be here too.
(beat)
Mom!

Ms. Porkshire quickly waves from out on the patio, takes a drag from her cigarette, and coughs like she's a cat with a fur ball.

Someone KNOCKS at the door. Jesse walks over towards the door and opens the door to reveal Brent [who now calls himself Brad] standing there, holding a delicious cake dripping with *Dulce de Leche*.

BRAD
Sorry, I'm late.

JESSE
No worries, come in.

Brent kicks off his shoes and walks in.

FREDDY
Hi Brent!

BRAD
It's actually Brad now, Freddy.
After I kicked my mom to the curb,
and ate a Mexican's poop-filled
burrito to reprimand for my sins, I
was reborn a new man.

FREDDY
Wow.

PAULINO
You really ate that?

BRAD
I did, and the ads on the youtube
poop paid for your admission,
Paulino.

PAULINO
God, I love America.

Everyone toasts with their glasses full of beer.

FADE OUT.