

WILD

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. ZEKE'S BEDROOM - DAY

ZEKE(15) sits on his bed, staring at an old polaroid of a father and son, both smiling by a new bike.

His mom BRENDA(40s) appears in the doorway, keys in hand. She spots the photo but says nothing about it.

BRENDA
We'll be back from Grandpa's on
Monday.

Zeke nods, barely looking up.

BRENDA (CONT'D)
Try to do something productive
while we're gone instead of wasting
time with your friends.

Zeke tenses but stays quiet. Brenda lingers for a second, glancing once more at the photo, then walks off.

ZEKE
(to himself)
Yup, wouldn't wanna waste it.

Zeke sighs, gets up and sets the photo down on his desk like it's heavier than it should be. He boots up MySpace, scanning for any new messages. Nothing.

He leans back in his chair, staring at the ceiling for a moment, the silence settling over him.

After a moment, he clicks over to SOFIA(16)'s page. She is online, the little green dot taunting him, but she has not posted anything in days.

Zeke types out a message asking if she is going to the party tonight. He stares at the words, fingers hovering over the send button. Then, quietly deletes it.

He leans back again, the weight of it sinking in, another thing he is too scared to finish.

EXT. ZEKE'S HOUSE - DAY

JASON(15) shows up at the house as Brenda and BRYAN(40s) are getting into their car.

BRYAN
I don't want that animal in my
house again.

JASON
Yeah you got it big dog.

BRYAN
(under his breath)
Bunch of bums.

BRENDA
Enough.

They pull out of the driveway and Jason enters the house.

INT. ZEKE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jason makes his way up to Zeke's room.

JASON
Where are they going?

ZEKE
My Grandpas I think, until Monday.

JASON
Hell yeah, we crashing here after
Landon's?

ZEKE
As long as Evan doesn't try to
bring a plus-one again.

Jason spots the picture on Zeke's desk and picks it up.

JASON
Bryan used to have hair?

Zeke quickly but gently takes the picture from Jason and puts
it into his desk drawer.

ZEKE
It's my old man.

JASON
Oh shit... I didn't know he was
around for that long.

Jason notices Zeke start to space out a bit, and opens up his
backpack.

JASON (CONT'D)
Guess what came in the mail.

Zeke sees that Jason is holding a letter in his hand, and his mood shifts to excitement.

ZEKE
Did you open it yet?

JASON
Not yet, let's go wake up sleeping beauty.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS - DAY

Zeke and Jason ride through town.

ZEKE
You think Sofia will go tonight?

JASON
If she does, I'm sure she'll be with Shane.

ZEKE
Yeah, I guess so.

JASON
Still don't get it. Why does she even like him?

ZEKE
I wish I knew.

EXT. EVAN'S HOUSE - DAY

When they arrive at EVAN(15)'s house they find him screaming and chasing an older man out of the house to his car with a bat in hand. The man gets in his car and starts it up. Evan tosses a pair of shoes at the car.

EVAN
Get the fuck out of here you broke piece of shit!

ZEKE
(to Jason)
He's awake.

The man backs out of the driveway and peels away in the street. Evan's mom STACY(40s) runs out of the house holding her robe closed.

STACY
What are you doing?

EVAN
You think I'm gonna let you give up
dad's alimony for a guy in a
fucking Honda Accord? Be better,
Stacy!

Stacy goes to the end of the driveway to pick up the thrown shoes. Zeke and Jason get off their bikes and set them up by the door.

JASON
Yo A-Rod, we got the letter.

EVAN
That's what I'm fuckin talkin
about, to the dojo.

Evan throws the bat into the yard and the boys head inside.

INT. EVAN'S BASEMENT - DAY

The boys make their way down the stairs to their hangout spot in the basement.

EVAN
Sesh?

ZEKE
Dude, it's like 9 in the morning.

EVAN
That's why I need it.

Evan grabs his bong and begins packing the weed. Zeke and Jason sit on the couch next to Evan in his chair.

JASON
Are you coming with us to Landon's
tonight?

EVAN
You know I hate that chode.

JASON
I also know you like his parties.

EVAN
Yeah because I sneak off to his
mom's room and clap those cheeks.

JASON
You're so full of shit.

Evan hits the bong and passes it to Zeke.

ZEKE
You know, D.A.R.E. warned me about you.

EVAN
Oh fuck those liars. Where are all the free drugs from strangers?

ZEKE
So much for a productive day.

Zeke hits the bong, coughs, and passes it to Jason.

JASON
It's all good because we'll be celebrating!

EVAN
Let's fucking go boys!

Jason opens the letter and begins to read it aloud.

JASON
Dear team, while we recognize the talent displayed in your footage, we are unable to move forward with a sponsorship offer.

EVAN
Fuck. Me. Sideways.

Jason falls back into the couch, his tone switches from excitement to dejection.

ZEKE
That's it?

JASON
We are looking for riders who can bring a level of spectacle to our roster. If you're able to incorporate more creative flair in your tape, we would be happy to consider an updated submission by the original deadline.

They are all devastated and zoned out thinking about the letter.

JASON (CONT'D)
I don't get it, we nailed everything.

ZEKE
Can we even make the deadline now?

JASON
It's the same date from before, so we'd have to shoot it today and overnight the tape tomorrow.

ZEKE
It needs more flair...

EVAN
Yeah, whatever the fuck that means.

JASON
I swear, man... this is how it starts. First it's "not enough flair", next thing you know, we're working at Casey's wondering where the hell it all went.

The boys sit in silence for a moment, wounded from the rejection.

ZEKE
Let's go to Lenny's, he'll have an idea.

Evan snaps his finger and points at Zeke in approval.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS - DAY

As they're riding down the road SHANE(16)'s car speeds around them honking it's horn, getting way too close to them on their bikes. They all stagger to the side of the road as the car drives off.

EVAN
Was that Shane? The fuck's that all about?

JASON
He knows Zeke's into Sofia.

EVAN
(yelling down the road)
Yeah well either way that's some little bitch shit!

EXT. LENNY'S BIKE SHOP - DAY

When they arrive at LENNY(40s)'s bike shop they find him out back doing yoga, and smoking weed.

LENNY
Hola bromigos, what's crackin on
this fine morning.

JASON
They turned us down.

LENNY
What? Those fucking suits... You
dudes are definitely pro material.

ZEKE
They told us to add some flair to
the demo and get it back to them.

LENNY
Flair? You dudes are technical! Who
the hell is watching these tapes?

Police sirens are heard in the background. Lenny panics and runs inside the shop and closes the door behind him. The boys go to follow him but the door automatically locks. They bang on the door together.

EVAN
Lenny you paranoid prick, it's
locked!

ZEKE, JASON & EVAN
Let us in!

LENNY
My bad little buddies, it's just
the bud.

Lenny ushers them inside and does a quick scan of the area out of paranoia.

INT. LENNY'S BIKE SHOP - DAY

As they walk through the shop Evan immediately goes to the couch and starts playing on the old Atari. Zeke spots a large ramp with items displayed on it.

JASON
Lenny, do you even sell those ramps
anymore?

LENNY

The big boy in the corner? No, not for years, I just like to hang stuff off of it.

JASON

Can we borrow it?

ZEKE

For what?

LENNY

Yeah man, but you dudes gotta figure out the transport.

JASON

(to Zeke)

You still have that old ramp in your garage right?

ZEKE

Yeah, so?

JASON

Dude let's gap Landon's pool.

EVAN

Fuck yes!

ZEKE

That's a pretty big gap.

JASON

We can handle it.

ZEKE

I guess it does sound like flair.

EVAN

How the fuck are we gonna move it?

JASON

I have an idea... Lenny we'll be by later to pick it up.

LENNY

No problem man, I'll be here.

Jason leads the boys outside in a hurry.

EXT. LENNY'S BIKE SHOP - DAY

JASON
Let's go to the record shop.

EVAN
For what?

JASON
Transport.

As they begin to ride off, Zeke's bike chain snaps.

ZEKE
Go ahead, I'll grab one inside and
catch up.

Zeke leans his bike against the front window and sees a man
inside purchasing a children's bike at the front counter.

INT. LENNY'S BIKE SHOP - DAY

As Zeke walks into the shop, the doorbell goes off. He
hesitates for a second and begins to walk towards the
counter.

LENNY
Back already dude?

Zeke gets in line behind the man and checks out the small
bike that he's purchasing.

ZEKE
That's a good bike.

The man turns around and gives Zeke an indifferent nod. Zeke
freezes. The man doesn't recognize Zeke, but Zeke recognizes
his face. The same face from his polaroid, ZEKE'S
FATHER(40s).

His pregnant WIFE(30s) enters the shop.

WIFE
We're gonna be late.

ZEKE'S FATHER
Almost done honey.

He finishes his purchase and exits the shop. Zeke approaches
the counter with his head down, trying to hide his emotions.

ZEKE
I need a new chain.

Lenny sees the tears filling Zeke's eyes and drops his normal goofy demeanor.

LENNY

Whoa, what's wrong dude?

Zeke takes a second to compose himself.

ZEKE

Nothing, my chain just snapped outside.

Lenny takes a moment and grabs a new chain from behind the counter.

LENNY

This one's on me.

Zeke gives a small nod of thanks and walks outside to his bike. He begins to switch out the chain when the new one slips off the sprocket and falls to the ground.

Zeke stares at the chain, then sinks to the ground beside his bike, head hanging. Lenny sees Zeke through the window and exits the shop.

Lenny crouches down next to Zeke.

LENNY (CONT'D)

What's going on? Never seen you down like this.

Zeke fights back another flood of emotion.

ZEKE

It's stupid, just someone I didn't expect to see.

LENNY

The guy buying the bike?

ZEKE

Yeah, he's my dad... biologically anyway.

LENNY

(sincerely)

Oh shit...

Lenny sits down on the pavement next to Zeke.

ZEKE

I found a picture of me and him, from before he left.

(MORE)

ZEKE (CONT'D)

My mom won't tell me what happened
or why he's not around.

LENNY

I'm so sorry Z-Man.

ZEKE

I always thought about what it
would be like to meet him. Never
thought it would happen like that.
It just fucking hurts.

LENNY

Yeah. And it will for a while. But
listen... people like that... if
they don't want to be in your life,
it's their loss, not yours.

Zeke sniffles, not totally convinced.

LENNY (CONT'D)

I get it, though. My mom split
before I was old enough to remember
her. Left my old man stuck with a
kid he didn't know what to do with.
He was military, and cold as hell.
Barely said two words to me unless
I screwed something up. For a long
time, I thought that was just what
life was. People leave, or they
make you feel like shit for
staying.

He leans toward Zeke, voice softer.

LENNY (CONT'D)

You know what got me through it?
The people I found along the way.
My friends, the ones who gave a
shit even when they didn't have to.
That's family, not blood. And not
some guy buying a bike for his new
kid. It's the ones who stay.

Zeke finally picks his head up and stares ahead.

ZEKE

Yeah... I guess so...

LENNY

Come on man, let's switch out that
chain.

Zeke composes himself, they both get up, and Lenny gives Zeke a hug.

ZEKE
Thanks Lenny.

Lenny gives Zeke a hand putting on the new chain, and Zeke rides off to meet up with Jason and Evan.

EXT. RECORD STORE - DAY

Zeke pulls up to the record store and sees Jason and Evan talking outside.

EVAN
Dude she wants me.

JASON
Bro you're high.

ZEKE
What are we doing here?

JASON
You'll see.

The boys make their way into the store.

INT. RECORD STORE - DAY

As they enter the store, they see their friend ASTRID(16) reading a book behind the counter.

ASTRID
Jake isn't here yet.

JASON
How does he keep his job?

ASTRID
He's your brother, ask him.

Astrid turns to Zeke.

ASTRID (CONT'D)
What's up Z, you hear the news?

ZEKE
What news?

ASTRID
Sofia and Shane broke up yesterday.

ZEKE

No fucking way, are you serious?

ASTRID

Yeah, she was going to go to Landon's party solo, but I guess none of us are now.

JASON

What do you mean?

ASTRID

Landon's parents found his stash of booze, he's grounded. Thought you'd know.

JASON

God dammit!

EVAN

So we're fucked.

Zeke zones out and wonders away from the counter as the others talk. After a moment he walks back to the counter and interrupts their discussion.

ZEKE

What if I had the party at my house?

EVAN

Fuck yeah!

ASTRID

Do you guys have any alcohol?

EVAN

I know a guy.

ZEKE

(to Astrid)

Spread the word. My place.

ASTRID

For sure, I'll let 'em know.

Evan leans against the counter while giving Astrid a seductive look.

EVAN

Astrid, you uh, trying to be my plus one tonight?

ASTRID
Depends, can you able to drink and
keep your clothes on?

EVAN
No promises baby girl.

ASTRID
Seriously, what's that all about.

EVAN
It was one fuckin' time. Why is
everyone so hung up on this?

JASON
You climbed a tree in nothing but
your boxers and a Michael Myers
mask, and then just made weird
animal noises at everyone.

EVAN
I'm a free spirit.

JAKE(17) arrives and walks in from the back door.

JAKE
What's up fellas.

JASON
(to Zeke and Evan)
Follow my lead.

JASON (CONT'D)
(to Jake)
I think I left a book in the van,
can I see your keys.

Jake gives the keys to Jason and the boys all head out back.

EXT. RECORD STORE - DAY

EVAN
Please tell me we have the same
idea right now.

JASON
We're gonna use the van to move the
ramp.

EVAN
Not the same idea, but I'll do it.

Evan takes the keys from Jason and the boys get into the van.

EVAN (CONT'D)
Let's fucking go!

Jason and Zeke sneak around the store and grab their bikes, and then load them into the back of the van. Evan peels out of the parking lot as Jake runs out of the shop yelling.

JAKE
Get the fuck out of my van!

EVAN
(out the window)
I'm her daddy now!

INT. JAKE'S VAN - DAY

Jason, sitting in the passenger seat, opens up the glove box and finds some cash.

JASON
Thanks Jake, so who's this guy you know?

EVAN
About that, it's on the east side.

ZEKE
The bootlegger?

JASON
Jesus Christ.

EVAN
It's our only option, I'm open to better ideas.

They boys drive across down, blasting music with the windows down.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD ALLEY - DAY

The boys drive the van slowly down a back alley.

JASON
You sure this is the house?

EVAN
I'm never sure about anything.

The boys get out of the van and walk into the backyard.

JASON
How do we let him know we're here?

EVAN
Go knock on that window.

JASON
You fucking do it!

EVAN
Shhh! Okay, fuck.

Evan walks up to the window and knocks on it hesitantly.

ZEKE AND JASON
Harder.

Evan knocks a second time, slightly harder.

Suddenly the window flies open and the BOOTLEGGER(50s)'s voice is heard coming from the darkness within.

BOOTLEGGER
What do you want?

EVAN
Hey what's going on my man, we're here to get some liq.

The man's face comes into view as he leans forward to get a look at Evan. He slowly leans back without a word, and shuts the window.

Evan looks back at the boys and shrugs in confusion.

JASON
Way to go dipshit.

EVAN
Fuck you.

The backdoor opens and the man slowly makes his way out of the house and over to a shed up against his fence. He opens the shed doors and turns to the boys.

BOOTLEGGER
What do you want?

EVAN
Some Goose, Hypnotic, Jäger, and as much beer as this will get us.

Jason extends his arm out with Jake's cash in hand.

The boys load the booze into the van and drive back across town.

JASON

We're gonna need some mixers, stop
at Casey's.

Evan pulls the van into the Casey's parking lot.

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

As they pull up Zeke spots Sofia in her car parked at the store. He gets out of the van and approaches Sofia's driver's window. Jason and Evan go into the store.

ZEKE

Hey stranger.

SOFIA

Hey! How've you been? I miss our
study hall chats.

ZEKE

Me too, and yeah I'm good, me and
the boys are still working on our
demo, almost finished though.

SOFIA

That's awesome! I was here to grab
some things for Landon's party, but
then I got a text that it was
canceled. So that's a bummer.

ZEKE

Yeah, actually we were just talking
to Astrid about it, and I think I'm
gonna throw a party at my place
tonight.

SOFIA

Are your parents cool with it? I
thought they were a little strict.

ZEKE

They're out of town until tomorrow.

SOFIA

Look at you being a rebel.

ZEKE

Do you wanna come by later and
check it out?

SOFIA
Ya know, I think I might.

Zeke and Sophia smile at each other and lock eyes for a second.

Jason and Evan exit the store and begin yelling at Zeke to join them back in the van.

ZEKE
Gotta go, hope I see you later.

Zeke starts to get back into the van.

SOFIA
Did you steal Jake's van?

EVAN
Hell yeah we did!

Sofia looks directly at Zeke with a smile.

SOFIA
You guys are wild!

Zeke grins as they drive away.

ZEKE
(to himself)
We're fucking wild.

JASON AND EVAN
We're fucking wild!

Evan cranks the music back up as they drive to Lenny's.

INT. LENNY'S BIKE SHOP - DAY

The boys get back to Lenny's to pick up the ramp and find him speaking with a CUSTOMER(20s).

CUSTOMER
This helmet seems a bit, dated.

LENNY
Vintage, my dude. You're not just riding, you're time-traveling.

The boys wheel the ramp outside to the van.

EXT. LENNY'S BIKE SHOP - DAY

EVAN

This is either gonna be epic, or
really fuckin stupid.

ZEKE

Probably both.

They load the ramp on the top of the van and drive to Zeke's house.

INT. ZEKE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The party is in full swing, the music's loud, and the house is packed. Scene kids, preps, burnouts, and theatre geeks mix and mingle.

Zeke is devastated when he spots Sofia walking in... with Shane right behind her.

Zeke watches as they drift through the crowd. Sofia looks uncomfortable. Shane's already grabbing a drink, acting like he owns the place.

The backdoor to the house opens and LANDON(16) appears with a couple other friends.

LANDON

Miss me?

JASON

Aren't you supposed to be on
lockdown?

LANDON

You think I'm gonna miss Zeke's
first party? Let's play.

Landon holds up a deck of cards and a wad of cash.

EVAN

Yes! Let's go!

They set up a poker game in the dining room. With a crowd around the table watching.

The boys laugh. Cards are dealt. Zeke plays along, but his head is elsewhere.

As the game rolls, Zeke glances toward the couch where Sofia sits alone, looking uncomfortable, drink in hand.

EVAN (CONT'D)
(to Zeke)
You gonna fold or what?

Zeke looks down at his hand, then back at Sofia.

ZEKE
Yeah, I'm out.

He puts his cards down, takes a breath, crosses the room, and sits down next to her.

ZEKE (CONT'D)
Hey.

SOFIA
Hey...

There's a pause, music thumping around them, but it feels quiet between the two of them.

ZEKE
Saw you came with Shane...

Sofia gives a half-shrug, eyes down.

SOFIA
Yeah... wasn't really the plan.

Zeke nods, picking his words carefully.

ZEKE
I heard you guys... split.

SOFIA
We did... he just showed up. Says
he wants to fix things.

Zeke looks at her, searching for more, but before he can say anything, Shane drops down on Sofia's other side, grinning like he owns the place.

SHANE
What're we talking about?

He throws his arm lazily around Sofia, leaning back like it's nothing.

SOFIA
Nothing.

Zeke clenches his jaw but doesn't move. Jason and Evan wave him down from across the room.

ZEKE
(To Sofia)
We're about to do some tricks for
our demo, you wanna check it out?

SOFIA
Hell yea, let's go.

Sofia shrugs off Shane's arm and gets up off the couch.

ZEKE
(to Shane)
I guess you can come too.

Zeke get's up and follows Sofia.

Shane sighs in frustration and follows them outside.

Jason waits for Evan to finish a beer bong and then brings him to the backyard.

EXT. ZEKE'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

As the boys are setting up for their tricks Evan gives Jason a concerned look. Jason pauses what he's doing and turns to Zeke.

JASON
Just say the word and we'll take
out the trash.

EVAN
Gladly.

ZEKE
It's all good, I want him to see
it.

Jason sets up the camera and gets into position for Evan's trick.

Evan comes around the corner on his bike at a high speed. He's now only wearing board shorts and a Michael Myers mask.

ASTRID
Of course...

He launches high in the air and does backflip, miraculously sticking the landing on the other ramp. He pops up off his bike as if he'd just won the X-Games and cannonballs into the pool.

Evan climbs out of the pool, walks up to Astrid, takes off the mask, and tries to kiss her. She palms his face before he can.

ASTRID (CONT'D)

No no no, dry off first lover boy.

She takes Evan by the hand and brings him inside the house.

Zeke takes the camera from Jason.

Jason hits a tail whip over the pool, gets a ton of air, and lands it easily. He celebrates with a cool confidence as the party cheers.

Jason makes his way over to Zeke to take the camera.

JASON

How did it look?

ZEKE

So sick! You nailed it, now I have to not fuck this all up.

JASON

Just go for it, don't think. You got this.

ZEKE

Yeah, I got this.

Jason takes the camera as Zeke gets ready.

Sofia gives Zeke a worried look.

SOFIA

(mouths)

Be careful.

Zeke gives her a smile and turns to his bike.

Zeke launches off the ramp, does a superman seat grab over the pool and sticks the landing.

The party goes crazy, Sofia goes to meet him. Shane grabs Sofia's hand to keep her there, she shakes his hand away and goes to Zeke.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

That was amazing, you did it!

ZEKE

I really like you. I've always really liked you.

(MORE)

ZEKE (CONT'D)

I know you came here with Shane and
I don't know the rules, but...

SOFIA

There are no rules nerd.

Sofia grabs Zeke and kisses him by the pool.

Shane looks on in frustration before storming off and leaving the party.

The boys celebrate together now that they have the footage they need to finish their demo tape.

INT. ZEKE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Zeke wakes up the next morning and checks MySpace. He sees a ton of messages and notifications from everyone at the party.

He scrolls through them and finds a message from Sofia. She asks him about his plans for the day and tells him that she wants to see him.

Zeke cracks a smile and relaxes back into the desk chair. For a second he glances at the drawer with the polaroid, and then his attention goes back to exporting version 2 of the demo video. He loads it onto a cd and leaves his room.

FADE TO BLACK: