

CHARLIE SAVES THE BLOCKBUSTER

Written by

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EXT. PENN STATE CAMPUS - MORNING

SUPER: Penn State, 1999

CHARLIE HARRIS (20, quiet, confident type) is bundled up, walking with a messenger bag slung across his chest.

His phone rings with the Indian Jones theme song. He pulls it out and flips it open.

CHARLIE  
Hey mom, what's up?

MOM (O.S.)  
(voice shaky)  
Charlie? Umm...

Charlie's MOM catches herself.

CHARLIE  
Mom? Is everything okay?

MOM  
No.

She starts to cry.

MOM  
Dad had an accident, on the farm.  
It's... Bad. You need to come home.  
He..

Her voice is muffled as she continues talking.

Charlie stops walking, finally crumpling to the ground.

INT. OFFICE

PROFESSOR DAVIDSON (60s) looks at the door at the sound of a knock.

PROFESSOR DAVIDSON  
Come in.

Charlie walks in, head hanging.

PROFESSOR DAVIDSON  
Ahh, Charlie. And what's the next Spielberg doing in my office? Sit, please.

CHARLIE  
No, it'll just be a moment. I just  
wanted to tell you personally that  
I'm leaving.

PROFESSOR DAVIDSON  
Leaving? The program?

CHARLIE  
Penn State. I, uh, have to go home.  
My...

Charlie tears up. He clears his throat.

CHARLIE  
My dad had an accident, on the  
farm. And... My mom, she needs...

Charlie trails off.

PROFESSOR DAVIDSON  
Oh. Yes, I heard. I'm so very sorry  
for you. What a tragedy.

Charlie nods and wipes his eyes.

PROFESSOR DAVIDSON  
Well whenever you're ready to come  
back, your spot in the film program  
will be here and waiting for you.

CHARLIE  
Thank you.

PROFESSOR DAVIDSON  
And Charlie, if there's ever  
anything else that you need, don't  
hesitate to reach out.

FADE OUT.

INT. BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO - EVENING

SUPER: 2 Years Later

The bells on the door jingle as a CUSTOMER walks in.

A few other CUSTOMERS are milling about.

DEREK THOMAS (17, corn-fed all-American) wears headphones  
connected to a **Walkman** clipped to his hip and re-stacks  
movies on the shelves.

TINA SMITH (23, artistic in a showy way) leans on the counter staring up at the TV playing **The Wedding Singer**.

Charlie stands at the register staring at Tina. He doesn't say anything, but she feels his stare.

TINA  
What?

CHARLIE  
(quietly)  
Nothing.

She continues to watch the movie and laughs loudly.

TINA  
Just say it.

Charlie pauses and looks up at the TV, then back down.

CHARLIE  
You gonna finish checking those  
DVDs in? Or...

TINA  
Oh Charles, this is the best part.

They both stare up at the TV as Adam Sandler takes a bite from a meatball in his hand.

Tina cackles and Charlie smiles.

Charlie looks at the stack of movie boxes next to her.

He clears his throat.

Without looking, Tina responds.

TINA  
Just say it, Charles.

CHARLIE  
I mean you could scan and watch at  
the same time. It's not like you  
haven't seen it a dozen times.

Tina huffs and starts to scan the movie boxes.

TINA  
Ya know, I'm not sure you even like  
movies.

The customer walks up to Charlie and puts two movies on the counter.

CHARLIE

Find everything you were looking  
for?

The customer nods as Charlie opens the cases to check the  
DVDs and then scans them both.

He looks at the camera.

CHARLIE

It's not that I don't like movies.  
I love movies, it's all I ever  
think about. It's just that, unless  
you're studying it, I just don't  
see the point in re-watching a  
movie over and over again.

Take this guy as an example.  
(nodding to the customer)

He's rented Cruel Intentions seven  
times. Seven. Now, I think the  
kissing scene in that movie is as  
hot as anyone else, but not enough  
to watch the movie seven times. But  
here he is, eighth rental.

Now, of course there's a few s to  
this re-watching rule of mine.

Charlie hands the customer his rentals.

CHARLIE

Due back on Thursday.

The customer takes the movies and walks out.

Charlie takes a stack of DVDs and walks out onto the floor.

He continues to look at the camera as he talks.

CHARLIE

**Exception number one:** Jurassic  
Park.

Every time you watch that movie,  
it's like the first time you saw  
it. When Sam Neill and Laura Dern  
see the Brachiosauras for the first  
time? I mean, come on.

Charlie continues to re-shelf the movies as he walks. He  
picks up **Scream** and holds it up.

CHARLIE

**Exception number two:** Horror.

When a movie can make you jump even when you know what's coming. Gold.

Charlie continues.

CHARLIE

**Exception number three:** sports movies, especially baseball.

Why? I don't really know why. Maybe it's because it's so American. Nostalgic? Romantic? Poetic? All of them?

Charlie puts the last DVDs on the shelf and turns to face the camera.

CHARLIE

**Exception number four:** Every Jim Carrey movie ever.

He's funny, of course. But he's got so many layers, that if you pay enough attention, you'll see something new that he says or does that completely catches you off guard. Even in his bad movies. They're like new movies every time you watch.

DEREK

Yo Charlie.

CHARLIE

Yeah?

DEREK

You see The Firm?

CHARLIE

Yeah.

DEREK

You see The Devil's Advocate?

CHARLIE

Yeah?

DEREK

Are they the same movie?

CHARLIE

Yeah.

Derek thinks about this.

DEREK

They both good though. Right?

CHARLIE

Yeah.

DEREK

Yeah.

Derek nods his head and puts his headphones back on.

Charlie is back behind the counter.

Tina cackles again as Adam Sandler screams "Kill me, I want to die."

TINA

I mean if you haven't felt that way before, I feel sorry for you.

CHARLIE

Are you talking to me specifically?

Tina shrugs her shoulders.

The door bells chime and in walks LINDSAY STRATTON (21, Neve Campbell in 54 if the club was in Lancaster County, PA).

Charlie stares at her. Tina looks at Charlie looking at her.

Lindsay pays little attention to either of them.

LINDSAY (O.C.)

Charlie?

CHARLIE

(perks up)

Yeah?

LINDSAY

Finding Forrester... worth the watch?

CHARLIE

Sounds like a soup question to me...

LINDSAY

Huh? I heard it's kinda lame.

CHARLIE

Um. I guess that depends what you're in the mood for. Obviously everyone loves Sean Connery, so...

LINDSAY

I'm watching it with Kyle tonight, and he doesn't really like things that are too...

CHARLIE

Intellectual?

LINDSAY

Ha. Ha.

Charlie looks at the camera.

CHARLIE

I know. I know. She's her. I'm me. And Kyle... Well

MONTAGE

CHARLIE (V.O.)

Kyle's father owns, pretty much everything. And Kyle looks like the guy who's father owns everything.

- KYLE BRENNAN (23, tall dark handsome) gets into his **Mustang Convertible** and smiles.
- Kyle wears a suit at a ribbon cutting.
- Kyle glistens with sweat as he curls dumbbells and **winks at the camera.**

BACK TO:

INT. BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO

CHARLIE

Maybe Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle is more his speed then.

Lindsay puts the movie down on the counter in front of Charlie who smiles.

LINDSAY

Maybe. But tonight he's gonna watch Finding Forrester.

CHARLIE  
I can give you some talking notes  
if he needs help with the plot. Or  
we could...

Lindsay picks up the movie and walks to the door.

LINDSAY  
Bye Charlie.

She leaves before he can respond.

CHARLIE  
(under his breath)  
...watch it.

TINA  
Smooth.

CHARLIE  
Just finish so we can leave... On  
time.

INT. DINER - NIGHT

Charlie and Tina walk to the corner booth where MARK (22, as nondescript as possible) smiles and waves wildly.

MARK  
Guys! I'm over here!

There's no one else in the section.

Tina smiles broadly. Charlie shrinks.

CHARLIE  
Do you have to?

MARK  
Yes.

CHARLIE  
Every time?

MARK  
Yes.

Charlie and Tina slide into the booth.

CHARLIE  
Where's Charlotte?

MARK  
On her way. With...

TINA  
(snaps her head to Mark)  
With who?

MARK  
With Emily.

Tina stands to leave.

TINA  
Move. I'm leaving.

MARK  
No! Come on... She's, harmless.

TINA  
Annoying. Obnoxious. She's...  
She's... Ughhh. She's...

CHARLIE  
Here.

Charlie nods to the door.

Tina breaths out a guttural huff.

Mark waves wildly again.

MARK  
Charlotte, love! I'm here!!

CHARLOTTE TILLY (21, shy and happy) shakes her head. EMILY NEFF (22, blonde and bold) giggles loudly.

EMILY  
Oh my god, Mark. You're, like, so funny.

MARK  
I try.

TINA  
(mockingly to Charlie)  
Oh my god, like he's sooooo funny.

Charlotte and Emily slide into the booth beside Mark.

Tina leans into Charlie.

TINA  
I'm smoking ALL of your cigarettes.

Charlie agrees.

EMILY

Oh my god, Tina. You're shirt is like retro or something. I love it.

TINA

It's my uniform. For Blockbuster.

So...

(to Charlie)

And you're buying me a muffin.

Charlie doesn't respond. There's no need.

LATER

A waiter replaces a **giant carafe of coffee** with a new one, and clears a few empty baskets.

Cigarette butts pile in ashtrays as the area is now hazy with smoke.

Charlie takes a Camel Light from a pack on the table.

CHARLIE

Last call for me.

Everyone in unison utters disappointments.

MARK

It's still early. What are you gonna do, go home and watch movies by yourself?

Charlie shrugs.

He looks at the camera.

CHARLIE

Generally speaking, I think movies are communal. They should be watched with other people. Friends. Lovers. Strangers. Doesn't matter.

Charlie lights a cigarette. Takes a drag and breathes out.

CHARLIE

Obviously there are a few s.

**Exception number one:** trilogies and anthologies. Star Wars. Rocky. Back to the Future.

(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

If you're flipping through the channels and a marathon is running, you can't expect everyone to drop what they're doing that day to binge the whole thing.

Doesn't mean YOU can't, though.

Tina clears her throat. Charlie looks at her, takes another drag and then hands the cigarette to her.

CHARLIE

**Exception number two:** Campy or Slapstick comedies.

Take Dumb and Dumber as an example. There are people who can't stand that kind of movie. And while I can't say I agree with them, if they're not into it, well then, it's better off you watch it alone than not at all.

And, for those of you taking notes; because of the Jim Carrey exception, Dumb and Dumber is an example of a movie you can watch by yourself as often as you'd like.

Tina passes the cigarette back to Charlie. He takes another puff and then snuffs it out in the ashtray.

CHARLIE

I assume you need a lift?

TINA

(leans in)

I sure as hell ain't getting a ride from...

Tina gestures to Emily.

Charlie looks over at Emily, who's reapplying make-up. She laughs obnoxiously.

EMILY

Oh my god, Mark, I can't with you.

TINA

(to Charlie)

I gotta pee. I'll meet you in the car.

Tina forcefully climbs over Charlie, out of the booth and walks away.

Charlie gets out. Puts down a twenty dollar bill, and solutes to the others who just "boo."

Charlie starts to the front and looks at the camera again.

CHARLIE

**Exception number three:** war movies.

I mean who wants to have a long chat after seeing Saving Private Ryan? War is heavy enough to justify watching alone. Full Metal Jacket was never called a *crowd pleaser*.

Charlie takes a mint and walks out the door.

INT. BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO - THE NEXT DAY

Charlie is scanning returns and Derek is shelving the new releases: **Castaway** and **O Brother, Where Art Thou?**

The bells jingle and Charlie looks up to see FRANK MORRISON (50s corporate guy) walk in. Charlie sinks.

CHARLIE

Mr. Morrison, I didn't know you were coming in today.

FRANK

Yeah, well I didn't either. It's not often I get to drive out to the middle of nowhere on my day off. But... Here I am.

CHARLIE

Is something wrong?

FRANK

Yes. This Internet Flix company...

CHARLIE

Netflix?

FRANK

Yeah, sure. That one. It's taking over in these rural areas and numbers are falling off the cliff. I'm afraid corporate has a list of stores that are closing, and this is one of them.

CHARLIE  
Closing? Today?

Frank shakes his head, walks to the closest shelf and adjusts the boxes.

FRANK  
Sixty days.

CHARLIE  
That's it? Just... Closed? But...

Derek takes off his headphones and looks at Charlie like his puppy just died.

FRANK  
I'm afraid so. Unless you can think of a way to increase rentals by forty percent, you have two more months and it's time to find a new hobby.

CHARLIE  
I... Need this job.

FRANK  
You've worked here for what...

CHARLIE  
Six years.

FRANK  
Six? Jesus. It's probably time for something new anyway. I'm sorry, but this is the end of the line.

Charlie hangs his head.

EVENING

CUSTOMER 1 tries the door, but it's locked. Charlie points to the closed sign.

CUSTOMER 1  
(muffled)  
The hours say til eight pm.

Charlie just shrugs.

Tina and Derek sit on the counter looking at Charlie, completely dejected.

There's a knock at the door.

CHARLIE  
(shouting)  
I said...

He looks over to see Lindsay peering in.

Charlie stops himself. He walks over begrudgingly, unlocks the door, and opens it slightly.

CHARLIE  
Hey Lindsay. We're closed.

LINDSAY  
No you're not.

She pushes through him and into the store.

Tina rolls her eyes as Charlie locks the door behind her.

LINDSAY  
Y'all look like someone peed in  
your lemonade.

CHARLIE  
Yeah. We just found out they're  
closing the store.

Lindsay turns and looks at him.

LINDSAY  
Blockbuster? This Blockbuster?

TINA  
That's what closing means.

Lindsay ignores her.

LINDSAY  
What the hell? When did you find  
out?

CHARLIE  
Couple hours ago. District Manager  
came out and told us.

LINDSAY  
When? Is it closing?

CHARLIE  
Sixty days.

LINDSAY  
Dang that sucks...

(MORE)

LINDSAY (CONT'D)  
Nothing you can do?

CHARLIE  
Nope.

DEREK  
Increase rentals.

They all look over at Derek.

LINDSAY  
What?

DEREK  
If we increase rentals by forty  
percent we can stay open.

TINA  
Yeah, but for how long?

Derek shrugs. Charlie shrugs.

Lindsay puts two movies on the counter.

Charlie scans them along with her rental card and then hands  
them all back to her.

She waits for him as he stares off.

LINDSAY  
Yo, Charlie. The door.

Charlie looks at her and then to the door.

CHARLIE  
Oh. Right. Sorry.

Charlie goes to the door and unlocks it.

LINDSAY  
Maybe y'all should watch a funny  
movie, cheer yourself up.

Lindsay walks out and Charlie re-locks the door.

TINA  
(mocking)  
Maybe you should watch a movie in  
the movie store...

This day! Why is everyone so dumb  
and annoying???

Charlie looks at the camera.

CHARLIE

She's right. *This* is dumb. And. You should never try to cheer yourself up with a movie, save for two very specific exceptions.

Charlie walks to one of the shelves and picks up a movie.

CHARLIE

**Exception number one.**

Charlie holds up **Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory**.

CHARLIE

Yeah, I get it. Ironic that my name is Charlie and I chose this movie. And I'm also not unaware that there's literally a song called "Cheer-up Charlie" in it.

But let's be honest, if you don't think about that room. Where everything is eatible, edible...

And not smile. Well, then, maybe it's too late for you. But everyone has that one movie that does it for them. This... Is mine.

Charlie puts the movie back and continues on.

CHARLIE

**Exception number two:** long, and super-depressing films, especially those that involve a life in prison.

You think your life is bad? At least you weren't set up for a life sentence at Shawshenke State Penitentiary, Mr. Dufresne if you please.

Charlie picks up **Requiem for a Dream**.

CHARLIE

Watch this and not only will you have some perspective, but also never, ever, want to do heroin.

Kind of a win win.

Charlie puts it back. He looks up at Tina and Derek who are still moping.

CHARLIE  
Coffee and cigarettes?

TINA  
Yes, god.

DEREK  
I don't smoke.

CHARLIE  
Then just have coffee.

DEREK  
It's seven o'clock at night.

Tina shakes her head.

CHARLIE  
You coming or not?

DEREK  
Yeah...

INT. DINER - NIGHT

Mark and Charlotte walk up hesitantly.

Charlie, Tina, and Derek all stare pensively.

MARK  
Jesus. You all look...

TINA  
Depressed? We are.

Mark and Charlotte slide into the booth.

CHARLOTTE  
(cautiously)  
Why?

They're all silent for a moment.

Charlotte gives Mark a look and he shrugs.

MARK  
Umm... Did Scorsese die or something? Oh yeah, did you hear that Frasier Friedman is in the area looking for locations for his film?

Charlie takes a drag.

CHARLIE  
(exhaling smoke)  
They're closing the store.

MARK  
The store?

CHARLIE  
Blockbuster. Closing it. Said  
Netflix is taking over.

MARK  
Oh. That sucks. But. I mean it's  
just a Blockbuster, right?

They all glare at him like he just confessed to murdering  
their dog.

CHARLIE  
It's not *just* a Blockbuster, man.  
It's movies. It's everything.  
Blockbuster is an institution, and  
it's dying.

Mark looks at Charlotte who shrugs.

MARK  
Isn't Netflix just mailing the DVDs  
instead of you having to pick them  
up at the store? Kinda the same  
thing? And it is more convenient.

Tina scowls.

TINA  
Is watching TV at home the same as  
a theater?? No, it's not. And  
choosing a movie on a website is  
not the same as going to a store  
and browsing.

Or watching the coming soon board  
in anticipation of something you  
missed in the theaters. Or  
stumbling across something new you  
haven't even heard of...

MARK  
Right. Of course. It's definitely  
different.

LATER

Mark and Charlotte look uncomfortable as the other three are still staring, smoking, and sipping coffee.

Charlotte nudges Mark and mouths "Do something."

Mark clears his throat.

MARK

Charlotte asked me the other day what my favorite Tarantino movie is, and I said I don't really like any of his movies.

Tina's head whips around. Charlie shakes his and lights another cigarette. Derek looks confused.

TINA

Are you trying to make this night worse?

Mark grins.

MARK

I dunno, maybe I just don't get it.

TINA

Clearly.

MARK

Fine. Which one is *your* favorite?

Tina looks at Charlie who nods and looks at Derek who smiles. In unison they all reply.

TINA

Pulp Fiction

CHARLIE

Reservoir Dogs

DEREK

Jackie Brown

They all look at each other incredulously, and start talking over each other, arguing why their preference is better.

CHARLOTTE

(softly)

I've never seen any of them.

No one reacts.

TINA  
Wait. Hold up!

They all stop and look at Tina.

TINA  
Did you just say you've never seen  
any Tarantino movies?

Charlotte looks like she regrets saying anything.

CHARLIE  
See... This is the problem. No one  
even watches good movies anymore.  
Like how did you get this far in  
life without Tarantino?

CHARLOTTE  
I dunno. Don't his movies have a  
lot of swearing?

TINA  
What, are you too sensitive for  
perfectly placed four-letter words?

CHARLOTTE  
No. Not really. I just, I dunno.

DEREK  
I kinda get it.

TINA  
Of course you do, you chose Jackie  
Brown.

DEREK  
(ignores her)  
If I didn't work at the store, I  
wouldn't have seen half these  
movies. It's not like they show  
them in the theaters anymore.

They're all quiet.

CHARLIE  
Shit, Derek. That's it.

Derek looks around sheepishly.

DEREK  
What's it?

CHARLIE  
We need to show people more movies!

Tina lights a cigarette.

TINA

Riiiiight. Show people, who aren't renting enough movies, MORE movies. And exactly how do you think we should do this?

CHARLIE

I haven't gotten there yet.

They all remain silent, smoking and sipping.

DEREK

What about bringing back the festival?

CHARLIE

The festival? What festival?

INT. BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO - THE NEXT DAY

Charlie rips a poster off the wall and they all crowd around, as he reads it.

CHARLIE

The ninth Annual Sunrise Film Festival, 1994. How did I not know about this?

TINA

Well you were like fourteen the last time they had it.

DEREK

This poster been on the wall the whole time I've been here, so...

They both look at Derek. He slinks down. Tina points at the poster where it reads "Hosted by the Starworth Theater."

TINA

Look. That's probably why there wasn't a tenth annual festival. The Starworth shut down, I used to go there as a kid.

Charlie walks away, dropping the poster on the floor.

Derek carefully picks it up and pins it to the wall.

DEREK

Can't we do it somewhere else?

LATER

Charlie is pacing behind the counter. Tina is moping while watching **10 Things I Hate About You**. Derek is restocking shelves with his headphones on.

The door bells jingle and no one looks up as Lindsay walks in. She looks at everyone and decides to stay quiet.

CHARLIE  
What about the Plaza?

TINA  
You can afford to rent out the Plaza?

CHARLIE  
No. But it's big enough to host a film festival.

Tina doesn't reply.

CHARLIE  
Yeah, you're right.

Charlie leans against the counter.

CHARLIE  
10 Things I Hate About You?

TINA  
Yeah, so what?

Charlie shrugs.

TINA  
I'm thinking about buying a Tercel.  
It's a Toyota.

No one reacts and Tina's smile drops.

CHARLIE  
What about Filmont Square?

TINA  
The dollar movie place?

CHARLIE  
Yeah. I like it there.

TINA  
I mean, sure. But it's pretty disgusting. A festival in that place might ruin it forever.

LINDSAY  
What festival?

They both look over at her as she sets movies down.

Charlie doesn't respond.

TINA  
Charles over here...  
(thumbs at Charlie)  
Thinks that if we bring back the  
Sunrise Film Festival, that people  
will start renting movies again.

Lindsay snorts.

Charlie blushes.

CHARLIE  
Technically it was Derek's idea.  
But... I just. Maybe. I dunno. I  
can't just do nothing.

LINDSAY  
So do it.

CHARLIE  
I would. But the problem is, we  
don't have a venue.

LINDSAY  
You could do it at the Apple Patch.

TINA  
That shut down like five years ago.

LINDSAY  
Yeah, but Kyle's dad owns it.

Charlie perks up.

CHARLIE  
Would he... let us use it?

LINDSAY  
No. But. I mean, he wouldn't even  
know. He's in Florida until August.  
I don't know if he's even been  
there since he bought it.

Charlie paces.

CHARLIE  
Okay.  
(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Okay.

Okay... Yea. A Drive-in Film Festival.

TINA

Why are you helping us?

They look from Tina to Lindsay.

LINDSAY

What else is there to do here?

Derek takes off his headphones.

DEREK

I've never been to a drive-in.

Charlie shakes his head, walks to the door, and changes the sign to closed.

FADE OUT.

EXT. APPLE PATCH DRIVE-IN - DAY

The four of them stare out at the overgrown drive-in, neglected for years.

TINA

I guess that ends that.

LINDSAY

Why?

TINA

Umm... This place is a disaster... and the store closes in sixty days...

DEREK

(interrupts)

Fifty seven days.

Tina scowls at him.

TINA

We can't create a film festival, clean this place up, and host it in fifty-something days.

CHARLIE

Yeah...

Lindsay looks annoyed. Tina looks happy that Charlie's agreed with her.

Charlie looks miserable, and Tina's face drops at the sight of him.

TINA  
Charles...

Charlie walks further into the lot.

TINA  
Maybe there's something else?

CHARLIE  
Dammit!!!! Why?!?

Charlie starts kicking at the weeds and screaming more.

CHARLIE  
Give me a frickin' break!

He continues to throw his tantrum as the others stare.

Charlie finally settles and sits on the ground.

No one moves.

Lindsay approaches him swiftly.

LINDSAY  
You done your little temper  
tantrum?

Charlie looks up at her and then back down. After a moment he looks back at Derek and Tina, both look melancholy.

He looks up at Lindsay and shields his eyes from the sun.

CHARLIE  
Yeah, I guess so.

LINDSAY  
You ever mow your parents' lawn?

CHARLIE  
(annoyed)  
Of course.

LINDSAY  
You ever make a flier?

CHARLIE  
What's your point, Lindsay?

LINDSAY

Nothing stopping you but you.

Charlie sits silently until Lindsay huffs and walks away. She walks past Tina and Derek who continue to watch Charlie.

Charlie look at Lindsay who's already at the car. He looks at Derek. He looks at Tina.

Finally, Charlie looks at the camera.

CHARLIE

There's nothing that embodies movies more than the drive-in. Any movie is better at the drive-in. With, naturally, a few exceptions.

Charlie stands up and starts walking toward the others.

CHARLIE

**Exception number one: Period Pieces.**

No one, and I mean no one, wants to sit in a car or on a blanket outside and watch Pride and Prejudice.

DEREK

We're doing this aren't we??

Charlie nods. Derek grins as Charlie continues on.

Tina looks almost disappointed. Derek nudges her and she feigns a smile.

CHARLIE

**Exception number two: Long, slow romances.**

Now listen, I have no problem with The English Patient. It's a great film for what it's trying to be. But no one wants to bring a bucket of beers to the middle of field to watch a three hour love story.

Charlie looks at Lindsay who smiles.

CHARLIE

**Exception number three: Holiday movies.**

(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
 I don't know why exactly, but  
 there's just something about  
 Christmas and drive-ins that  
 doesn't sit right with me.

FADE OUT.

INT. BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO - DAY

A stack of flyers lands on the counter with a thud.

TINA  
 What's this?

CHARLIE  
 Tickets. Kind of.

Tina picks up one of the flyers and reads aloud:

TINA  
 Milltown's Sunrise Film Festival  
 Revival. Friday July twenty seventh  
 through Sunday July twenty ninth.  
 Starts at dusk at the Apple Patch  
 Drive-in Theater. Support movies at  
 the local level. Every rental at  
 Blockbuster admits one.

Hm.

CHARLIE  
 Hm what?

TINA  
 Nothing. Just. Think this will  
 work?

Charlie shrugs his shoulders.

CHARLIE  
 I hope so.

CUSTOMER 2 walks up and puts two movies down.

Tina scans them and looks at Charlie who nods to the flyers.  
 She places a flyer on top of the movie boxes.

CUSTOMER 2  
 What's this?

He picks it up and scans it.

TINA

Um, its a ticket, kind of. To a film festival. You get one with, um, every rental.

CUSTOMER 2

I thought the Apple Patch shut down a long time ago.

TINA

It did. But we're, um, bringing it back for this weekend only.

The customer doesn't respond, just continues to review the flyer. Finally he picks up his movies.

CUSTOMER 2

Cool.

He walks out and Tina looks up at Charlie. Both with broad smiles on their faces.

LATER

**Top Gun** plays on the TVs and Derek stares at it.

DEREK

I've never seen this before.

TINA

It's nothing special if you ask me.

Charlie walks out from behind a shelf.

CHARLIE

Excuse you. One of the seminal movies that defined my childhood is... *Nothing special?*

I don't like you because you're dangerous.

Charlie bites dramatically. Tina and Derek stare.

CHARLIE

Iceman?

TINA

This brings up a really good point. What exactly are we showing at the festival?

CHARLIE

I have some thoughts.

TINA  
You have no idea, do you?

CHARLIE  
Umm...

DEREK  
How many do we need?

CHARLIE TINA  
Six. Nine.

They look at each other incredulously.

CHARLIE  
Two each night. Three's too many.

TINA  
Six? That's not enough.

CHARLIE  
It's already too much.

TINA  
Don't Charlie this.

CHARLIE  
Charlie this? Did you use my name  
as a verb?

TINA  
I did.

CHARLIE  
And it's definition?

TINA  
Almost doing something great, and  
then flaking.

CHARLIE  
I don't do that. And besides, we  
aren't even allowed to do this. We  
don't have the rights to ANY  
movies, let alone nine movies.

TINA  
We don't have the rights to six  
movies either, who cares if it's  
six or ten or a hundred??

CHARLIE  
Don't Tina this.

TINA

Define.

CHARLIE

Make everything so dramatic and big  
and bold and look at me!

Tina recoils.

CHARLIE

I'm sorry, that was...

TINA

No. I know... What you think. Of  
me.

CHARLIE

Tina, it's not.

TINA

Charlie, stop. Six is fine.

DEREK

What about seven?

They both look at him.

DEREK

Um, two on Friday and Sunday, and  
three on Saturday.

TINA

Fine. If no one cares, I'm going to  
take my lunch.

CHARLIE

Tina...

Tina walks out the front door.

CHARLIE

Shit. Was that too much?

Derek shrugs. He puts his headphones back on and stocks the  
shelves.

CHARLIE

(to himself)

Dammit.

Derek pulls his headphones down.

DEREK

Charlie?

CHARLIE

Yeah?

DEREK

How are you gonna fix up the Apple Patch?

Charlie exhales audibly.

CHARLIE

Good question.

EXT. APPLE PATCH DRIVE-IN - DAY

Charlie pulls up next to a Mustang Convertible. Lindsay is leaning on the hood staring out to the rough screen.

He gets out and leans against the car hood next to her.

CHARLIE

Steal a car?

LINDSAY

Kyle's. He lets me drive it sometimes.

CHARLIE

Very generous of Kyle.

Lindsay slides away from Charlie slightly.

LINDSAY

Why are we here, Charlie? What do you need?

CHARLIE

I need your help getting into the projection room.

Charlie points over to the only building on the lot.

LINDSAY

How am I supposed to do that?

CHARLIE

Ask Kyle? I don't know.

LINDSAY

Yeah, that's not gonna happen. He wouldn't even know how to get in any better than we do. Beside, the less he knows the better.

Just break in.

CHARLIE  
That's like a crime, isn't it?

LINDSAY  
Only if they press charges.

Charlie slides away from Lindsay slightly.

CHARLIE  
Would they?

LINDSAY  
Probably not. But. They're  
definitely going to find out at  
some point, so you should have some  
kind of plan.

CHARLIE  
Gee. Thanks.

LINDSAY  
Anything else?

CHARLIE  
Yes. Does your brother still work  
at Lowes?

LINDSAY  
Yeah. Why?

EXT. APPLE PATCH DRIVE-IN - THE NEXT DAY

Charlie drags a large garbage can to a large pile of weeds.  
He picks up the pile, throws it in, then wipes his forehead.

There are dozens and dozens of piles all around.

He looks around.

CHARLIE  
Dammit.

Then he looks over at the building, huffs audibly.

CHARLIE  
Dammit.

LATER

Charlie wedges a pry bar into the door. He starts wrenching  
on it and finally the door gives way.

Charlie hesitantly takes a step forward. He checks the  
lights but they don't work.

The light from outside shows the dust in the room. On the other end, a giant project sits.

Charlie walks to it.

CHARLIE  
I hope you work, buddy.

He looks around. Sees a shelf full of reels. He picks one up and wipes it off.

MARK  
Hey, buddy!

Charlie jumps and holds a reel ready to swing.

CHARLIE  
What the f...

MARK  
Sorry, did I scare you??

CHARLIE  
You know the answer to that. What are you doing here?

MARK  
Came to help. And from the looks of things, you need it.

CHARLIE  
Yeah... Does your dad still have that generator by chance?

Charlie motions to the lights.

MARK  
Yeah, sure. What's that?

Mark is pointing to the reel in Charlie's hands. He sets it down and wipes the dust off.

The label reads: **E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial**

CHARLIE  
Hell. Yes.

Mark smiles. Charlie pulls down another one and wipes the label. Then another, and another.

CHARLIE  
(looking at the camera)  
We still don't have our film line-up.

(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

It's not lost on me that this is a big deal. Most film festivals have an expectation that the movies that are shown have a certain level of artistic quality. And mainstream movies that people want to go see are not, generally, artistic.

Charlie walks out the door and closes it best he can behind him. He picks up the crowbar.

CHARLIE

**Exception number one: nostalgic family movies.**

Charlie walks down the exterior stairs of the building.

CHARLIE

E.T. Everyone remembers watching E.T. for the first time, and it's as beautiful as it is entertaining.

My Girl. Was there anyone ever who wasn't in love with Vada? It was sad. It was sweet.

The Goonies.

Because it's their time. Their time! Up there! Down here, it's our time. It's our time down here.

Charlie shrugs and gets into his car.

CHARLIE

**Exception number two:** Bill Murray. He's just great at everything. Funny and serious is like salty and sweet. Perfect for anyone.

And,

**Exception number three:** Arnold.

(bad schwarzenegger accent)

Get to the chopper!

Okay, maybe I missed the mark on the last one for artistic, but who doesn't love Arnold?

INT. BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO - LATER

Charlie walks in, Tina and Derek look up at him.

TINA

Dude. Go home and get a shower.

Charlie looks down. He's covered in dirt and dust.

CHARLIE

I will. I just need to grab something, first. I have an idea.

Charlie walks to the back room. Tina looks at Derek who takes his headphones off.

DEREK

What's he doing?

Tina just shakes her head.

Charlie comes back with a huge stack of cardboard cut-outs.

DEREK

What are you doing with those?

CHARLIE

There's more back there, will you get them?

Derek hesitantly listens and heads to the back room.

CHARLIE

It's all family and nostalgia. E.T., My Girl, Goonies. Groundhog Day. Terminator. I dunno. Think of the movies that made you love movies. Big iconic characters.

Before Derek gets to the back he turns.

DEREK

Hey Charlie?

CHARLIE

(without looking back)  
Yeah?

DEREK

Um, I got a movie. Maybe we could show it at the festival?

Charlie stops and turns.

CHARLIE  
You made a movie.

DEREK  
(smiling)  
Um, yeah.

CHARLIE  
(shakes his head)  
Nah, I think we stick with movies  
people know.

DEREK  
(smile drops)  
Yeah.

Derek goes into the back.

TINA  
Charlie... Wait!

Charlie walks out of the store.

A moment later, Derek comes up to the front with another  
stack of cut-outs.

DEREK  
Where'd he go?

Tina points to the door.

EXT. APPLE PATCH DRIVE-IN - LATER

Mark turns into the drive and slowly drives back the path.  
Dozens of cardboard cut-outs of famous movie characters line  
the path. He pulls next to Charlie's car and gets out.

Charlie stands on the bottom of the movie screen, painting.

MARK  
Charlie!

Charlie turns around and smiles.

CHARLIE  
Grab a roller!

MARK  
No!

CHARLIE  
Do it anyway!

Charlie turns around and continues to paint.

MOVIE SCREEN

Mark climbs up the ladder, and Charlie stops.

CHARLIE  
Just grab any of these cans, and  
start painting.

Charlie hands him a broom.

MARK  
Um?

CHARLIE  
Take off the broomstick. Cheaper  
than a roller extension.

MARK  
Ahhh...

Mark grabs a can of paint and pours some into a tray.

MARK  
Um, this isn't completely white.

CHARLIE  
(without looking)  
Nope. Mistake colors are half off.

Mark looks at all the cans.

MARK  
Are they all different colors?

CHARLIE  
Wouldn't be mistakes if they  
weren't.

MARK  
Are you gonna be able to see it?

CHARLIE  
I hope not.

Mark starts to roll paint on the screen. He looks up.

MARK  
How are you gonna get up there?

CHARLIE  
(without looking)  
Good question. Maybe you could  
borrow your dad's bucket truck?

Mark stops. Charlie doesn't.

MARK  
You're not serious.

Charlie doesn't respond.

MARK  
You're serious. That's why I'm here. Do you only talk to me when you need something?

CHARLIE  
You said you wanted to help. And the answer to that is no.

It's not always *need*... Something I call when I *want* something as well.

Charlie looks at Mark and smiles.

Mark flings paint from his roller and splatters him.

Charlie nods.

CHARLIE  
Okay. I probably deserved that.

EXT. APPLE PATCH DRIVE-IN - THE NEXT DAY

Charlie sits on the hood of his car and drinks a Coke.

A cherry-picker sits next to the screen which is three quarters of the way painted and looks like a patchwork quilt of whites and off whites.

The Indiana Jones song plays from his pocket. He reaches in, pulls out his phone and answers.

CHARLIE  
Yeah? Okay, I'll leave in a few minutes.

Emergency?

What does not exactly mean?

Okay. I'm on my way.

Charlie stands up as the Mustang stops next to him.

LINDSAY  
Get this out of my car, please.

Lindsay nods to the back seats. Charlie leans in and sees a few cans of paint and smiles.

LINDSAY  
The screen looks good.

CHARLIE  
(proudly)  
Doesn't it?

LINDSAY  
No. Come on, hurry and get the paint out.

CHARLIE  
You know what this is about?

LINDSAY  
Of course I know. Let's go!

INT. BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO

Charlie walks in and sees Tina and Derek staring at Kyle who looks happy in a bully kind of way and his father, JACK BRENNAN (50s) who looks completely stoic.

JACK BRENNAN  
You're Charles Harris I presume?

CHARLIE  
Charlie. Yes.

JACK BRENNAN  
Then you know why I'm here?

CHARLIE  
(gulps)  
I do? I mean, I do.

JACK BRENNAN  
I could have you arrested for breaking and entering.

Charlie nods.

JACK BRENNAN  
How much are you making?

CHARLIE  
Um, making sir?

JACK BRENNAN  
How much money? With this...  
Festival.

CHARLIE

Nothing.

Kyle snorts.

JACK BRENNAN

Nothing?

CHARLIE

We're just trying to get support for this store, they want to shut it down.

Jack contemplates this.

JACK BRENNAN

I see. Well you'll have to figure out somewhere else to do it. Because we are breaking ground on the Apple Patch next week.

CHARLIE

Breaking ground?

JACK BRENNAN

Condominiums.

CHARLIE

Now? Can it... Wait, just until after the weekend, um, of the festival?

JACK BRENNAN

No. Not unless you plan on paying me for the time. Are you planning on paying me?

CHARLIE

Um...

Charlie looks at Tina and Derek who have nothing to say.

Lindsay walks in and stands beside Kyle who gives her a dirty look. She mouths "sorry".

CHARLIE

Sorry, um, Mr. Brennan. I don't really have any...

KYLE

Dad, he works at a Blockbuster. He's poor. Let's go.

Jack holds up his hand and Kyle stops abruptly.

JACK BRENNAN  
Fifty thousand dollars. Before the  
twenty fifth. Or find a new venue.

Jack turns and walks to the door.

Kyle follows, but Lindsay remains.

KYLE  
(under his breath)  
Linds. Let's go.

LINDSAY  
(quietly)  
I'll meet you in the car, I'm gonna  
get a movie.

KYLE  
Fine.

Kyle storms out. When the door closes, Charlie speaks.

CHARLIE  
You couldn't help us??

TINA  
Don't be stupid, Charlie, she  
doesn't actually care.

LINDSAY  
I care plenty. But I'm not going to  
mess up my life for a Blockbuster.

Lindsay walks over and picks up a movie. She goes to the  
counter, grabs the scanner, scans her box and walks out.

DEREK  
What are we gonna do, we don't have  
fifty grand.

Charlie rubs his face and sighs.

TINA  
You... we tried.

CHARLIE  
I knew it. I knew I couldn't do it.

TINA  
I mean, you almost...

CHARLIE  
Yeah. Almost: Story by Charlie  
Harris. I'm going home to clean up.

Charlie walks out of the store.

EXT. APPLE PATCH DRIVE - THE NEXT DAY

Charlie is in the bucket of the cherry picker, painting the screen, when the Mustang drives up.

He ignores it.

Lindsay gets out of the car and walks toward the screen.

LINDSAY  
Charlie! What are you doing?

Charlie continues to paint.

LINDSAY  
Charlie, I know you can hear me!

Charlie stops and his shoulders drop. Finally he turns around and looks down at Lindsay.

CHARLIE  
What are you doing here?

LINDSAY  
I... I...

CHARLIE  
Lindsay, seriously, what is this???

Lindsay stares up at him. Finally, she just turns around and starts back to her car.

CHARLIE  
No! No, you don't just get to do that! Not this time.

Charlie lowers the bucket, but Lindsay continues undeterred.

When Charlie gets down he runs to the cars and stands in front of the Mustang.

LINDSAY  
Get out of the way, Charlie!

CHARLIE  
No, not until you tell me what this is.

LINDSAY  
This? This is nothing. I gotta go.

CHARLIE  
No, I don't accept that.

LINDSAY  
Well too bad.

Lindsay starts the reverse. Charlie runs to block her again.

LINDSAY  
Charlie get out of my way.

CHARLIE  
You get out of MY way.

LINDSAY  
That doesn't even make sense.

CHARLIE  
It does! I can't do this. I need to know why you're never *in* my life, but always somehow *in* my life.

LINDSAY  
What are you even saying?

CHARLIE  
You come to the store every day. Barely talk to anyone except for me. And you're helping with this, but not helping with this. Why are you actually here?

Lindsay doesn't respond. Charlie finally turns and slides down the hood onto the ground.

Lindsay throws her head back and then turns off the car.

She gets out and stands at Charlie.

LINDSAY  
Get up.

Charlie looks up at her.

LINDSAY  
Get up, I'm not sitting on the ground.

Charlie hesitates but finally, slowly, stands. Lindsay immediately leans on the hood, and Charlie does the same.

LINDSAY  
You don't even know me.

CHARLIE  
You don't know me!

LINDSAY  
Please. Everyone knows you,  
Charlie. You have your movies, your  
rules and exceptions.

The Indiana Jones theme song plays in Charlie's pocket.

LINDSAY  
You gonna get that?

CHARLIE  
They'll leave a message.

They sit silently.

CHARLIE  
You're wrong.

Nothing.

CHARLIE  
I do know you.  
  
You play, 10 different instruments?  
Have since I met you in fourth  
grade. You come into the store and  
rent movie after movie after movie.  
And no one can figure out what you  
like and don't like. Because it  
seems like it's all over the place,  
but it's not.

Your Spielberg, your James Cameron,  
your Scorsese is Hans Zimmer, James  
Horner, John Williams. You don't  
care about the stories, you care  
about the scores. I know it. I've  
know it for... Ever.

Do you actually write scores? Does  
anyone know? Does Kyle know that's  
what you love?

LINDSAY  
Kyle doesn't know anything. And  
neither do you. Because all I've  
ever know about me is I want to get  
the hell out of Milltown.

Indian Jones plays again.

LINDSAY  
Just answer it.

CHARLIE  
It's fine.

LINDSAY  
No, you know what, I'm not interested in any of this shit! I came here to ask if you needed help with anything, not to get a lecture on how you've known me for however long and done exactly zero about it. Go ahead, Charlie. Do the zero for this too.

Lindsay gets up and rushes into the car. She reverses and Charlie almost falls off the hood. She takes off leaving him in a cloud of dust.

Indiana Jones plays again and he takes out his phone.

CHARLIE  
What?!

INT. BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO

Charlie walks in hesitantly. The group immediately turns to him, and he freezes in his tracks.

Tina mouths "Frasier Freidman" to Charlie, whose eyes widen.

FRASIER FREEMAN (40s) smiles. His assistant, TEDDY RICKS (20s) stands slightly behind him.

CHARLIE  
You're... Uh...

Frasier holds out his hand.

FRASIER  
Frasier Freeman.

CHARLIE  
W-w-w-what are you doing here?

FRASIER  
Ah, yea, we're checking out some locations for my next shoot.

CHARLIE  
Okay...

FRASIER

And we saw your flyer, for the festival at the coffee shop in town.

CHARLIE

I, uh, didn't know they were in there.

TINA

(sheepishly)

I dropped some off a couple days ago.

FRASIER

Anyway. I had an idea.

TINA

An idea? What idea?

Frasier smiles. Charlie looks uncomfortable.

Frasier walks to a shelf and looks at the movies.

FRASIER

You know, I've been doing this for god, like ten years. But I've *really* been doing this for, I dunno, my whole life it feels like.

Frasier hold up **Stand by Me**.

FRASIER

Love this one.

CHARLIE

Put River Phoenix on the map.

FRASIER

Killed River Phoenix if you ask me. And like, that's the thing. It's a machine.

DEREK

Stand by Me is a machine?

They all look at Derek. Charlie shakes his head.

FRASIER

Hollywood is a machine. And I'm in it. Part of it.

Frasier walks back to the group.

FRASIER

And then I see your flyer, and I'm like, hell yeah. People love movies. They don't need to be Sundance or Cannes. Just like a small, little drive-in, and a good film.

CHARLIE

Yeah, well...

FRASIER

Anyway. I want to do something. I have a movie that's supposed to premier in a few months after a big press tour, and all the things, but I just want real, unsolicited reaction without all the bull shit. What do people think of my movie if they haven't been hyped up for it for half a year?

CHARLIE

What are you saying?

FRASIER

I want to show my new movie at your festival.

TINA

Holy shit.

DEREK

(under his breath)

Holy shit.

CHARLIE

Holy shit.

But we're in the middle of no where, the festival, it's nothing.

FRASIER

No way, man, this is amazing and real. I'm all for it.

CHARLIE

I don't really know what to say...

FRASIER

(smirks)

Yes. Everyone would say Yes. And probably thank you.

CHARLIE

No, I mean, yes, thank you, but we can't...

FRASIER

Can't? Or Won't?

CHARLIE

We have to call off the festival. I mean, we're canceling it.

FRASIER

Why?

TINA

We kinda of just created it and decided to use a drive-in that we don't have any right to use, and basically committed a crime. Well not me, but definitely Charlie...

They all look at her.

FRASIER

What does that mean?

CHARLIE

It was abandoned. And the owner found out we were fixing it up, and now he wants fifty grand to hold him off from turning the place into condos.

FRASIER

Fifty grand?

The three look dejected.

CHARLIE

Yeah. And obviously we don't...

Frasier turns to his assistant and nods. The assistant starts scribbling in a book and tears out a check.

He hands it to Frasier who hands it to Charlie.

Charlie takes it and looks down.

FRASIER

Is that it?

CHARLIE

We can't... I can't just take this money. It's... too much.

Frasier waves him off.

FRASIER

The machine does have its perks.  
Charlie, it was nice meeting you,  
give Teddy your information, and  
we'll be in touch. Teddy, I'll be  
in the car. Bye all.

Frasier walks out.

TEDDY

Your phone number?

CHARLIE

Um, 717-684-8794.

TEDDY

Okay, perfect. I'll give you a call  
in the next few days to iron out  
the details. Have a nice day  
everyone.

Teddy walks out.

The three look at each other, and then erupt in excitement.

Charlie smiles and looks at the camera.

CHARLIE

I get it. Dumb luck. Randomness  
enters and changes the whole story.  
Movies where the main character's  
entire life changes because of some  
random act are usually awful.

But not always.

Charlie walks to the door and turns the sign to "Closed".

CHARLIE

Tina, I think we need new flyers.  
And maybe we should get some  
vendors there? Food trucks?  
Popcorn? I dunno.

TINA

Yeah, I'll figure it out.

She smiles and nods.

CHARLIE

Derek, does anyone at the AV club at your school know how to fix a projector?

DEREK

Probably, I can ask.

CHARLIE

Do it.

TINA

Is this really happening?

CHARLIE

It is now. I'm gonna go back to the drive-in and finish painting the screen. Derek, let me know what your dad says.

They all grin even bigger.

CHARLIE

Okay, let's get to it.

Charlie walks out the door and looks back at the camera.

CHARLIE

**Exception number one:** where money is the story.

Brewster's Millions isn't a movie without a random inheritance. It Could Happen to You, nothing without the lottery.

Charlie gets in his car.

CHARLIE

**Exception number two:** time travel movies.

Back to the Future needs some randomness to make it interesting, and funny - implausibly plausible.

EXT. APPLE PATCH DRIVE-IN - DAY

Charlie gets out of his car.

CHARLIE

**Exception number three:** underdog stories.

(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Underdogs can't show the world what they're capable of without a little randomness. Rocky isn't Rocky unless he's picked to fight by Apollo. Daniel doesn't defeat the Cobra Kai if he doesn't randomly move into Mr. Miyagi's building.

Charlie climbs into the cherry picker bucket.

CHARLIE

Sometimes. A good story, just has some random luck in it. Right?

MONTAGE

- Charlie and Mark work to set up the generator.
- Tina strings lights along the entrance path.
- The generator starts and the lights come on.
- Derek and two FRIENDS get the projector running.
- Everyone sits on the car hoods and watches the E.T. flying bike scene on the screen.

FADE TO:

INT. BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO

Tina is making copies of new flyers. She finishes and walks to the front.

TINA

Here, what do you think?

Charlie takes one and examines it.

TINA

You do realize that no matter what you *actually* think, I'm not doing it again, right?

CHARLIE

I do.

Tina grabs it out of his hand.

TINA

I'll leave some here, but I'm gonna take the rest into town, you good by yourself here for a while?

Charlie looks around at the empty store.

CHARLIE  
Yeah. I think I got it.

Tina leaves.

Charlie is completely by himself.

LATER

The store is filled with CUSTOMERS when Tina walks back in.

TINA  
Charlie, what's going on?

CHARLIE  
I don't know, you tell me!

TINA  
(to a customer)  
Excuse me, um, why are you here?

CUSTOMER 3  
Heard about the Festival on  
Facebook. Is Frasier Freidman  
really showing his next movie  
there?

TINA  
He is.

CUSTOMER 3  
So cool.

Tina looks at Charlie and raises her eyebrows. Charlie does the same in return and then nods at the stack of movies that need to be scanned in.

Tina huffs and shakes her head.

INT. BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO - NIGHT

Tina sits down on the counter as Charlie finishes stocking the shelves.

TINA  
That was a lot.

CHARLIE  
Yeah, tell me about it. I don't  
think this place has had a line  
like that since it opened.

TINA

I feel like I've never seen more than like five people here, ever. It was like we had Dave Matthews playing for us.

Charlie sits next to Tina.

CHARLIE

Oh god. I need a break. C and C?

Charlie waives a pack of cigarettes in front of her.

CHARLIE

Got a lot of cigarettes with your name on them.

Tina looks at him, long enough to make him squirm.

TINA

No. I need to go home.

CHARLIE

Need to go home? Or need to get away from me.

TINA

I don't know.

CHARLIE

That was a joke, but okay.

Tina, please. I'm sorry about the other day. I mean it. I was, just... I'm sorry.

TINA

Yeah, I'm sure you are.

Tina hops off the counter.

TINA

You need anything else before I leave?

CHARLIE

(quietly)

No...

Tina nods, gets her things, and walks out the door - leaving Charlie alone in the store.

INT. DINER - LATER

Charlie walks in and sees Mark, Charlotte, and Emily.

Mark sits up a little straighter.

MARK

Hey buddy. Fancy seeing you here.

CHARLIE

Yeah, I know.

MARK

Where's Tina?

Charlie shakes his head.

EMILY

Awww... I like love her. She's so funny.

Charlie mostly ignores her.

CHARLIE

Room for one more?

MARK

Yeah of course.

Mark motions to Charlotte and Emily to slide over.

CHARLOTTE

Actually, Emily, can you take me home?

EMILY

Now? Um, yeah, sure I guess.

Charlotte gives Mark a kiss on the cheek and the girls slide out. Mark slides over and Charlie slides in.

CHARLOTTE

Bye Charlie.

CHARLIE

Yeah, see ya, Charlotte. Emily.

Emily smiles and the two walk away.

CHARLIE

What was that about?

MARK

What? Nothing.

CHARLIE  
I mean it definitely wasn't  
nothing.

MARK  
No, she just knows how you are, we  
are.

CHARLIE  
I am?

MARK  
No, us. Like you and I. We just  
talk about movies and stuff a lot.

CHARLIE  
You don't talk about movies... Like  
ever.

MARK  
No. Not really.

CHARLIE  
Then what is it?

MARK  
Nothing. Don't worry about it.  
How's the festival? Frasier  
Freidman, are you kidding?

CHARLIE  
I know. It's insane. Like actually  
insane.

Charlie lights a cigarette.

MARK  
What do you think is gonna happen?

CHARLIE  
At the festival?

MARK  
No after.

CHARLIE  
Oh. I don't know. They keep the  
store open I guess.

Mark doesn't respond.

CHARLIE  
What?

MARK

Nah, it's good man. I'm excited for the festival. Glad you're like, into something.

CHARLIE

Dude. You are being really weird and cryptic and I don't know what's going on.

Mark lights a cigarette, takes a drag, and blows it out.

MARK

Listen, I don't want to like be that person. But as your best friend...

Charlie lights his cigarette and waits for him to continue.

MARK

We just thought...

CHARLIE

We?

MARK

Yeah, we... Us...

Mark motions around the table.

MARK

We just thought maybe this would make you care about more than, um, Blockbuster.

CHARLIE

I do care about more than Blockbuster.

MARK

Do you?

CHARLIE

Yes.

MARK

Like?

CHARLIE

I dunno, man. A lot of things.

MARK

Listen, I'm saying this because I'm your best friend, and I care.

(MORE)

MARK (CONT'D)

But ever since your dad died, it's just been the store, and here, on repeat.

CHARLIE

That's all you do!

MARK

No it's not. And it's isn't about me.

CHARLIE

Convenient.

MARK

I'm not trying to ruin the night or anything. Let's just, ignore everything I've said. What do you think his movie is going to be about?

Charlie takes a drag and snuffs out his cigarette. He looks at Mark for a beat, and then finally just smirks.

CHARLIE

I don't know, man. Like it could be anything. His last two were so totally different, so who knows??? I'm stoked though. Like really, very stoked.

MARK

Good.

INT. BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO - THE NEXT DAY

Derek is stocking the shelves and Tina is at the register when Charlie walks in, talking on the phone.

CHARLIE

Thanks Teddy, I will. Yeah, okay, thanks, bye.

Charlie flips his phone closed and looks at Tina smiling.

Derek pulls off his headphones and walks over to them.

CHARLIE

That was Teddy. Holy shit.

TINA

Holy shit what?

CHARLIE  
They want to show the movie  
Saturday night.

TINA  
Obviously.

CHARLIE  
They're concerned about having two  
other before it.

TINA  
Then show it in between.

CHARLIE  
Yeah. Okay. We just don't want to  
outshine it before or after, so  
let's think about what that looks  
like.

DEREK  
Maybe we do something old, like  
Jimmy Stewart or something after,  
then people won't really compare or  
whatever.

CHARLIE  
Yeah, maybe. Um, let me worry about  
that. Right now...

Derek gives Tina a look and she shrugs.

CHARLIE  
What?

They both just stare at him.

CHARLIE  
What was that look?

TINA  
Look?

CHARLIE  
Derek gave you a look and you just  
shrugged. What was that?

TINA  
Nothing, what were you saying?

CHARLIE  
I really don't need this right now,  
so whatever. Um, we need some help.  
That night.

(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Teddy said there's gonna be some press, so we need a place for some interviews. And a few agents and producers and whatnot are gonna show up. I honestly don't know what any of this means, but I think we need to be prepared for everything.

TINA

Yes, Captain!

Tina solutes and Derek laughs, but catches himself when Charlie looks at him.

CHARLIE

You two done?

TINA

Yes.  
(quietly giggling)  
Captain.

Derek laughs and then looks down.

CHARLIE

Whatever.

Charlie storms off.

LATER

Charlie, Tina, and Derek are all working quietly ignoring each others' presence. Charlie is clearly annoyed.

The door jingles and Frank walks in. No one notices, as the store is still very busy.

Frank looks around and finally clears his throat. No one acknowledges him. So he does it again, louder.

Charlie looks up and sees him, rushes over.

CHARLIE

Mr. Morrison. What are you doing here?

FRANK

Hi Charlie. Just trying to figure out what's going on here.

Charlie beams.

CHARLIE

Well sir, we heard your call to action, and well, we acted.

FRANK

My... Call to action?

CHARLIE

Yes. Raise rentals by forty percent.

Frank starts to shake his head solemnly.

FRANK

I said that...

Charlie, I didn't mean it. I. I'm sorry, but nothing was going to change the outcome. They're closing the store, no matter what.

CHARLIE

What do you mean no matter what. Look at all the customers we have.

Charlie gestures around.

CHARLIE

We have to have increased it by two hundred percent.

FRANK

You did. Honestly, pretty amazing job well done. But I'm not here to tell you the store is staying open...

CHARLIE

Why are you here?

FRANK

Obviously I wanted to see what was going on. But more importantly I have to give you the closing instructions so you can start getting things ready. We need to pack all the inventory for shipment. Take all the signs, everything down. Sell what we can.

Charlie doesn't respond.

FRANK

I, um, can see you're busy. Today. So, I'll come back mid-week, and we'll talk more about the next few weeks. Okay?

CHARLIE

Yeah...

FRANK

I mean, whatever you did to, um, you should feel proud. I'm sorry it doesn't mean as much as you thought it did.

CHARLIE

Yeah.

Charlie looks at Derek who's wiping his eyes.

FRANK

Right then. Okay.

Frank robotically walks away and out the door.

INT. BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO - NIGHT

Charlie sits alone with most of the lights out.

He looks at the camera.

CHARLIE

When the hero of the story doesn't save the day, the movie leaves you feeling bitter, sad, both.

Charlie starts to walk through the store.

CHARLIE

There are exceptions, always exceptions to when an audience is satisfied with failure.

**Exception number one:** addiction movies.

When the main characters are addicts, sometimes there may be a false sense of hope, but usually, not so much. Everyone knows Leaving Las Vegas is going to end in tragedy and they're there to watch it happen.

Charlie turns off the lights in the back room.

CHARLIE

**Exception number two:** mob movies.

Anyone connected is an antihero but we're all still for it. Take Goodfellas as a prime example... Does anyone want Henry Hill to succeed? Probably not. But we sure loved watching him fail.

Charlie walks back to the front and stops at the door.

CHARLIE

What does leave you bitter...

...is when you want the Blockbuster to stay open... But it doesn't. Or maybe that's just me. Right now.

He opens the door to walk out and Derek is standing there.

CHARLIE

Oh. Hey, what are you doing here?

DEREK

Oh, I just forgot my Walkman.

Charlie moves to the side to let Derek in.

MOMENTS LATER

Derek walks back to the front.

CHARLIE

Got it?

DEREK

Yup.

Charlie nods. Derek is silent, puts on his headphones. Charlie opens the door.

CHARLIE

Plans tonight?

Derek pulls down his headphones, but doesn't answer. Charlie looks at him, and Derek just looks down.

CHARLIE

Everything okay?

DEREK

Yeah.

CHARLIE

You sure?

Derek doesn't reply. He starts to say something and hesitates. Charlie lets out a deep breath.

CHARLIE

Just say it.

DEREK

Nah. We're good.

CHARLIE

No. Please. Just say whatever it is.

Derek looks at him. Charlie looks defeated.

DEREK

Um... My movie. You... Never even seen it.

Charlie looks relieved.

CHARLIE

Yeah, I'll watch it.

DEREK

Sure, but you wouldn't put it in OUR festival. It is ours isn't it?

CHARLIE

Yeah, of course.

DEREK

YOU wouldn't put it in, and you never even seen it.

CHARLIE

It's just not that kind of festival.

DEREK

How would you know?

Charlie hesitates. Starts to reply and catches himself.

CHARLIE

Yeah. I guess I wouldn't. I'm...

Derek puts his headphones back on and leaves the store.

CHARLIE

Dammit.

INT. CAR - LATER

Charlie sits in the dark. Across the street sits a Mustang Convertible. Charlie looks down at his phone and calls.

LINDSAY (O.S.)

Hi you've reached Lindsay, leave a message if you need to.

Charlie snorts.

CHARLIE

Hey... Um, it's me, Charlie. And, I just wanted to say, um... Shit. I don't know...

A tap on the glass interrupts him, making him jump.

CHARLIE

Jesus.

Charlie snaps his phone shut and winds down his window revealing Lindsay.

LINDSAY

You're stalking me now??

CHARLIE

What? No. I just came over to... And saw Kyle's car, so I...

LINDSAY

So you what?

CHARLIE

I don't know, I just didn't want to interrupt.

LINDSAY

Kyle's in Florida with his dad.

CHARLIE

Oh.  
(perks up)  
Oh.

LINDSAY

What are you doing here Charlie?

CHARLIE  
I don't actually know. I haven't  
seen you around, the store.

LINDSAY  
I haven't been around the store. No  
point since it's closing.

CHARLIE  
You heard?

LINDSAY  
Heard what?

CHARLIE  
My boss came by, didn't matter how  
much we increased the rentals,  
they're still shutting it down.

Lindsay doesn't respond.

LINDSAY  
Obviously.

CHARLIE  
I thought...

LINDSAY  
I'm cold. You can come in I guess.

INT. LINDSAY'S APARTMENT

Charlie walks in to Lindsay's small apartment made to look  
even smaller because it's filled with records, instruments,  
a piano. There's barely room for a sofa.

LINDSAY  
(pointing at the sofa)  
Sit.

Charlie obeys as she walks to the kitchen.

LINDSAY  
Beer?

CHARLIE  
Um, sure.

Lindsay walks back with two beers and hands one to Charlie.

LINDSAY  
What are you doing here, Charlie?

Charlie takes a sip. Lindsay continues to stare at him.

CHARLIE  
Will you at least sit down?

Lindsay stares, then finally sits at the other end.

LINDSAY  
Happy?

CHARLIE  
No.

LINDSAY  
Charlie! What are you doing here?!?

CHARLIE  
I...

LINDSAY  
What???

CHARLIE  
(softly)  
I just wanted to see you.

Lindsay's hard stare softens.

LINDSAY  
Well. You saw me. Now what?

The Indiana Jones song plays.

LINDSAY  
Why does that song interrupt every  
conversation we have?

CHARLIE  
Honestly, I don't get that many  
calls.

LINDSAY  
Answer it.

CHARLIE  
No. I'm fine. It's fine.

LINDSAY  
(exhausted)  
Charlie, what do you want from  
me???

CHARLIE  
I think...

Charlie clears his throat.

CHARLIE  
I, um, think just, maybe... This?

LINDSAY  
This what? You're not making any sense.

The Indiana Jones song plays again.

LINDSAY  
Answer your damn phone, Charlie.

Charlie winces, but pulls his phone out and answers.

CHARLIE  
This is Charlie.

Who?

Yes, Charles Harris.

Charlie takes a gulp and stands.

CHARLIE  
No, no, I, we didn't mean to.

Charlie's eyes widen and he looks at Lindsay who's now concerned. He sits back down.

CHARLIE  
No, please. No. I...

Lindsay slides over and takes Charlie's hand.

Charlie looks down at their hands and then at her.

CHARLIE  
No. I'm very sorry, I can fix it.

I promise.

Yes. Thank you.

Okay, thank you.

Yes.

Goodbye.

Charlie hangs up the phone and then sits back on the couch.

LINDSAY  
What happened???

CHARLIE  
Touchstone happened.

LINDSAY  
Touchstone?

INT. BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO - THE NEXT DAY

Charlie is pacing. Tina and Derek are watching him.

TINA  
What did Frasier say?

CHARLIE  
He hasn't called me back.

DEREK  
Can we still do the festival? I mean without his movie.

CHARLIE  
I dunno... Hopefully Frasier calls me back and has a solution.

TINA  
When's that gonna be?

The Indiana Jones song plays.

CHARLIE  
I guess now?

He pulls the phone out of his pocket.

SPLIT SCREEN - BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO/FIELD

Charlie continues to pace. Frasier is walking in a field with Teddy behind him.

FRASIER  
Charlie! What's going on my friend?

CHARLIE  
I don't know, you tell me.

FRASIER  
Ah, you got the call from corporate, huh?

CHARLIE  
Yes! They said if we didn't pull the plug on the premiere we'd owe them thirty million dollars!

FRASIER

I know, I know, calm down, Charlie.  
No one owes them anything.

CHARLIE

So what are we gonna do about the  
premiere?

Frasier laughs. He holds up his hand to Teddy and whoever  
else is around and continues walking.

FRASIER

Charlie. Come on. It was a great  
idea. And of course I wanted to do  
it. But it's not happening.

CHARLIE

What do you mean? We told the whole  
town, people are coming from  
everywhere.

FRASIER

I'm sorry, I really am. But this is  
how it works. They said no. It is  
what it is at this point. I, we,  
tried to fight the man, and the man  
won. The man usually wins. That's  
why they're the man.

CHARLIE

No! Come on, there's nothing we can  
do? What is everyone gonna say,  
about the festival?

(cautiously)

Can you pay it?

FRASIER

Pay? Thirty million dollars?  
Charlie, tell me you're not that  
stupid.

CHARLIE

I don't know. You have money,  
right? The festival is in two days!

FRASIER

Yes, of course. But no one is  
paying anyone thirty million  
dollars for some rinky-dink fake  
film festival in the middle of no  
where to save a Blockbuster video.

(MORE)

FRASIER (CONT'D)

It was fun kid. But the fun is over. Find a way to get over it, too.

CHARLIE

But...

FRASIER

Good luck, kid.

BACK TO:

INT. BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO - CONTINUOUS

Charlie looks at the others who are staring at him. His hand drops from his ear.

CHARLIE

He hung up.

TINA

What did he say?

CHARLIE

He asked if I was stupid enough to believe that this would happen...

Charlie stands there. He pulls a pack of cigarettes out of his pocket and lights one. After a few drags, he walks out the door.

TINA

Charlie! Where are you going??  
Charlie?!

EXT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - LATER

Charlie sits in his car in the driveway, smoking a cigarette and staring at nothing.

Charlie's mom walks out of the house and stares at Charlie.

Finally, she waves him in, turns and goes back inside.

Charlie takes a last drag and then flicks it out the window.

CHARLIE

Shit.

INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Charlie walks in and his mom is sitting at the kitchen table, hugging a mug of tea with her hands.

MOM

Oh, Charlie... What's wrong?

Charlie sits down at the table and sighs.

CHARLIE

The festival... It's over.

MOM

Oh.

(frowning)

Oh... Do you want some tea? Let me make you some tea.

She gets up before he can answer.

MOM

I thought it was going well. You have that new movie from that famous director?

CHARLIE

You know about that?

Charlie's mom laughs.

MOM

Oh stop. Everyone knows about that.

CHARLIE

Well that's the thing. The production company is making him pull out of the festival.

She turns.

MOM

What? No! They can't!

CHARLIE

Actually they definitely can do that. Unless you have thirty million dollars lying around to buy the movie.

MOM

Hmm... Let me check my purse.

Charlie actually laughs.

His mom sets a cup of tea in front of him and settles back into her seat.

MOM

So.

Charlie smiles at his mom.

CHARLIE

So, yeah, that's it.

MOM

It's just one movie, right? You can show the rest?

CHARLIE

Yes. But everyone's coming to see a new movie from a great director. And now we're just showing old ones. So, I'm just gonna tell everyone and call it off.

Charlie's mom looks at him and frowns. She sips her tea.

CHARLIE

Just say it, mom.

MOM

Charlie... I love you, but why are you here?

CHARLIE

I live here?

Charlie sips his tea.

MOM

I know you live here. But why are you *here*?

CHARLIE

I dunno. I just, got the news, and came home.

Charlie's mom smiles softly and places a hand on his arm.

MOM

I'm okay, ya know.

CHARLIE

Yeah, I know.

MOM

Charlie, look at me. I'm okay.

CHARLIE

Yeah, right.

She continues to smile and look at him.

CHARLIE  
Yeah... Yeah.

Charlie tears up, but wipes them quickly.

MOM  
So. Let me ask you again, what are you doing here?

CHARLIE  
(softly)  
I don't know where else to go.

MOM  
Your father was always better at this, but do you want my advice?

CHARLIE  
Dad was *terrible* at this stuff. His advice was only ever to work in the field.

MOM  
True.

CHARLIE  
Go ahead, mom. What's your advice?

MOM  
Go. Leave. You're too big for this place. Your wings, they won't spread here.

CHARLIE  
Go where?

MOM  
Wherever you want. Go make movies in Hollywood. Or New York. Or find a girl in Spain. Or make friends in Thailand. Whatever you want, but go do something... For you. Go back to school! Anywhere. I love you, but get out of my house!

She laughs and he does as well.

CHARLIE  
Okay, okay, I get it. I gotta figure this festival thing out first.

(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
 How do you tell everyone it's  
 canceled when you don't know who's  
 coming?

MOM  
 Why cancel?

CHARLIE  
 We don't have the movie, mom.  
 Remember?

MOM  
 So replace it with something else.  
 They want a new movie, right? Find  
 a new movie.

CHARLIE  
 Where am I gonna find a...

Charlie jumps up, startles his mom.

MOM  
 Charlie, what's wrong.

Charlie rushes past her, kissing her on the cheek.

CHARLIE  
 I gotta go, thanks mom!

He's half way out the door when he pauses and peers back in.

CHARLIE  
 I'm glad you're okay. I think I'll  
 be okay too. Bye!

INT. BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO - MOMENTS LATER

Charlie rushes in. Tina and Derek are there, several  
 customers as well.

CHARLIE  
 I'm sorry everyone, but we have to  
 close early today!

Charlie changes the sign on the door.

TINA  
 What are you doing, Charlie?

CHARLIE  
 Saving the festival.

(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
 Sorry everyone. If you have  
 something in your hands, we can  
 check you out quickly. Otherwise,  
 I'm afraid you have to leave.

MOMENTS LATER

Charlie walks the last customer out and turns to Derek.

CHARLIE  
 Your movie, you got it here?

DEREK  
 Yeah, why?

CHARLIE  
 If we're replacing a Frasier  
 Freidman film with yours, I want to  
 at least see it first.

DEREK  
 Wait, what?

TINA  
 What are you talking about Charlie?

CHARLIE  
 Everyone wants a new movie, let's  
 give them one. Is it good, Derek?

DEREK  
 (smiles)  
 I think so.

TINA  
 What's it even about??

CHARLIE  
 (points to the TV)  
 Put it on.

LATER

The lights are off, and the TV flickers as the three watch.

Finally, the movie ends.

LINDSAY  
 It needs music.

They all look back at her.

Charlie turns the lights back on and they all wince.

TINA

When did you get here?

LINDSAY

A little more than an hour ago. The movie, it's good.

Derek smiles.

LINDSAY

Needs a better soundtrack though.

His smile drops slightly. Derek looks at Charlie.

CHARLIE

She's right. Breakfast Club?

Derek nods.

TINA

We can't show a Breakfast club remake.

CHARLIE

It's a little different.

DEREK

It's like what you said, Charlie.

CHARLIE

What I said?

DEREK

Yeah. The Firm and The Devil's Advocate. Same movie, but they're both good.

CHARLIE

Yeah. Um. But, I don't know if they are different enough.

LINDSAY

I'm telling you, it's the music.

TINA

And what do you know about that?

LINDSAY

A lot actually. Charlie, I can help him.

(looking at Derek)

If you're interested.

Derek looks at Tina who shakes her head "no" and then at Charlie who nods in approval.

DEREK

Um. I guess we can try...

Derek smiles.

CHARLIE

Yes. Do it!

TINA

Whatever. It's not Frasier  
Freidman, so I don't know why we're  
bothering.

CHARLIE

Tina. If you don't want to do this,  
we won't. It's as much your  
festival as it is ours. So, just  
say the word and it's done.

Tina looks at him, and then the others.

TINA

Fine, whatever. Better that than  
nothing.

DEREK

Hell yeah!

Charlie laughs. Lindsay and Tina both can't help but smile.

INT. DINER - EVENING

Charlie, Tina, Mark, Charlotte, and Emily are all squeezed into a large corner booth. Coffee and piles of cigarettes on display, they're all laughing.

Derek and Lindsay walk up to the table.

CHARLIE

Finished?

DEREK

Finished.

CHARLIE

How is it?

Derek looks at Lindsay who casually nods.

DEREK  
Really, a lot better. I mean, like,  
she made the movie.

CHARLIE  
Nice man. You staying?

DEREK  
Yeah, sure.

LINDSAY  
No. Kyle's waiting for me, so I  
gotta go.

CHARLIE  
Oh. Right. Umm... Let me walk you  
out.

Charlie gets out of the booth and Derek takes his place.

He and Lindsay start to walk away.

EMILY  
(loud whisper voice)  
She seems unfun.

Tina cackles with laughter.

TINA  
Maybe you're not so bad.

EMILY  
Wait, you thought I was bad? Like  
why??? I'm so much fun!

Emily giggles, loudly.

EXT. DINER - PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Lindsay is in the Mustang and Charlie leans on the side.

CHARLIE  
Is it actually good?

LINDSAY  
It actually is.

CHARLIE  
What did you do?

LINDSAY  
Mostly? I just picked more modern  
music.

(MORE)

LINDSAY (CONT'D)  
 He had a movie set now with music  
 from the 80s. So I fixed that.

CHARLIE  
 Nice.

So Kyle's back from Florida?

LINDSAY  
 Yeah.

CHARLIE  
 I'm mov...

LINDSAY  
 I'm ending...

LINDSAY  
 What?

CHARLIE  
 Nothing, what were you gonna say?

LINDSAY  
 I'm ending it. With Kyle.

CHARLIE  
 Oh. I'm moving to LA.

LINDSAY  
 I know.

CHARLIE  
 Oh. Why... Now? Kyle I mean.

LINDSAY  
 It's not right, it's never been. I  
 thought he was my way out of here.  
 But...

CHARLIE  
 He pulled you in more.

LINDSAY  
 Something like that.

CHARLIE  
 What are you gonna do?

LINDSAY  
 Leave. Finally.

Charlie clears his throat.

CHARLIE  
 Um, where?

LINDSAY  
Charlie, I gotta go.  
(pats the steering wheel)  
Return my rental.

CHARLIE  
Oh. Hah, yeah. Hope you get your  
deposit back.

LINDSAY  
You've never rented a car before,  
have you.

CHARLIE  
No, definitely not. There's no  
deposit?

LINDSAY  
Nope.

CHARLIE  
Right. Well. Good luck with... The  
return.

LINDSAY  
Thanks.

Charlie takes a step back. Lindsay reverses out of the  
parking spot.

LINDSAY  
Hey Charlie. After all this, we  
should finish that conversation.  
Okay?

CHARLIE  
Yeah.

INT. DINER - CONTINUOUS

Charlie walks up to the table.

MARK  
So... How was that?

CHARLIE  
Oh, fine. Just asking what she  
actually thought about the movie.

TINA  
Well?

Charlie looks at Derek. Shake his head, but starts to smile.

CHARLIE  
She said really good. We'll see  
what everyone things tomorrow.

EMILY  
Oh my god, this is so exiting. Like  
a real life movie premier. Amazing!

EXT. APPLE PATCH DRIVE - EVENING

Charlie is standing by the concession stand when Tina runs  
up to him.

TINA  
Charlie, we have a problem.

CHARLIE  
Of course we do. Throwing a film  
festival on at abandoned Drive-In  
and debuting a seventeen year old's  
first feature film.

TINA  
Yeah, well, when you put it that  
way, we have an unexpected problem.

CHARLIE  
Okay?

TINA  
There's too many people.

CHARLIE  
Too many?

TINA  
Yeah, one of Derek's friends who's  
helping out said the line of cars  
starts at Union Street.

CHARLIE  
Union?!

TINA  
Uh huh. There's no way that many  
cars are gonna fit. What are we  
gonna do?

Charlie looks around and then starts to laugh.

INT. APPLE PATCH DRIVE - PROJECTOR ROOM - LATER

Charlie looks out through the window in the front.

Outside, there's a field of people, on chairs and blankets, no cars around.

CHARLIE

Tina thinks there's five thousand people out there. You ready?

Charlie looks back at Derek, who looks like he's going to be sick. Charlie smiles.

CHARLIE

(Yoda Voice)

Do or do not, there is no try.

DEREK

Not helping. But yeah, let's do it.

Charlie flips the switch and the projector starts. He pats Derek on the shoulder and walks out the door.

He continues down the stairs and looks at the camera.

CHARLIE

Why do we love movies so much? I mean, they're stories, right? People have loved stories since the beginning of time. But, it's funny, because people love different types of stories, of mediums. But I think for me...

Charlie continues walking towards the path.

The crowd laughs exuberantly.

CHARLIE

Movies create icons.

Charlie points to **John Belushi** from Animal House. He keeps walking past more characters.

CHARLIE

They show us new worlds.

He points at **Chewbacca**.

CHARLIE

Movies, they create a barrier for a few hours between our lives and the people and places inside the story. I've always loved that barrier.

Charlie continues to walk and stops at **Ferris Bueller**, thumbs in his direction and laughs.

CHARLIE

Generally speak, films that break that barrier, the fourth wall so to speak, ruin that divide.

Charlie smiles at the camera.

CHARLIE

With a few exceptions.

Charlie starts walking again. The crowd laughs loudly.

CHARLIE

**Exception number one:** Matthew Broderick movies.

Ferris Bueller's Day Off.

It's just one of those movies that makes you smile. And for that reason, he can break any of the walls and everyone still enjoys him.

There are others where Mr. Broderick nearly talks directly to the audience, but it just feels like he does it all the time. Something about his style lends itself to being included in the joke.

Charlie walks past more iconic characters: **Ghostbusters, Forrest Gump, Marty McFly, Indiana Jones.**

CHARLIE

**Exception number two:** Richard Pryer and Gene Wilder films.

Whether apart or together, those two just have a knack for heightening the comedy with a little wink or something more.

The crowd laughs loudly and continuously for a long moment.

Charlie looks out and smiles. He turns back and continues.

CHARLIE

**Exception number four:** Monty Python.

(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

It's as if the whole point of their movies is to see how far they can bring the audience in and still maintain the joke.

Charlie gets to the ticket booth where he sees Tina sitting by herself. He knocks on the window and she gestures him in.

Just before he opens the door he looks at the camera...

CHARLIE

Oh and High Fidelity. Because come on...

Charlie walks into the booth and sits on the desk.

TINA

Not watching the movie?

CHARLIE

Tina... I...

She holds up her hand.

TINA

Don't.

The crowd laughs again.

CHARLIE

Derek's movie...

TINA

She was right.

CHARLIE

Who?

TINA

Who do you think? Lindsay, your whatever she is.

CHARLIE

Tina, please.

TINA

Ya know, I never cared that you didn't feel the same way about me as I did about you...

CHARLIE

I...

TINA  
 No. Let me finish.  
 (takes a deep breath)  
 I never cared. I'm fine with loving  
 someone who doesn't love me back.  
 But, please, if you have any place  
 in your heart for me, just tell me,  
 why her?

CHARLIE  
 I don't know.

Tina wipes a tear as the crowd erupts again.

CHARLIE  
 Tina, I'm leaving Milltown.

TINA  
 I know.

CHARLIE  
 You know?

TINA  
 Of course. Everyone knows. You  
 don't belong here.

CHARLIE  
 Yea. I guess. What about...

Tina turns away and covers her face.

TINA  
 (struggling)  
 Charlie, if you have any feelings  
 for me, just go.

CHARLIE  
 Tina...

TINA  
 Please.

Charlie looks at her, nods solemnly, and goes.

LATER

Charlie is leaning up against the concession stand, watching  
 the movie intently.

DEREK'S MOVIE - HIGH SCHOOL THEATER - DAY

A TEEN BOY and a TEEN GIRL sit in the front row. She has an  
 alternative/emo style. He's a linebacker.

The stage is dark. Microphone feedback deafens the theater.

BOY 2  
 (from the control booth)  
 Sorry! Sorry... I got it. There.

Another TEEN GIRL on stage taps the microphone. She looks like she should date the linebacker.

GIRL 2  
 What do I do?

BOY 2  
 Just sing. Ready?

The girl takes a deep breath and then nods.

The music starts playing, "Dreams" by The Cranberries.

The lights on the stage change. The girl looks around. The two in the audience look back at the TEEN BOY at the control booth who shrugs.

The girl starts singing. As she does the lights change theatrically.

The two in front settle in.

BACK TO:

INT. APPLE PATCH DRIVE - PROJECTOR ROOM

Lindsay walks up next to him.

Charlie notices, looks at her, wiping his eyes, and laughs.

CHARLIE  
 This... is you?

Lindsay is quiet and watches with him.

LINDSAY  
 We never finished that conversation...

CHARLIE  
 Yeah. Was there, um, something more you wanted to say, or...

LINDSAY  
 You asked me where I'm going.

CHARLIE  
 And?

Derek walks up next to them.

She looks at Derek and smiles.

She leans up and kisses Charlie softly on the cheek, and whispers...

LINDSAY  
The city of angels.

She walks away, gently placing a hand on Derek's shoulder as she passes.

They both watch her go, and both touch the places where Lindsay just touched them.

DEREK  
(softly)  
She made it great.

CHARLIE  
(softly)  
I think... she had something great to start with.

Derek smirks. They both look at each other.

DEREK  
Thanks, Charlie. That means a lot.

CHARLIE  
Well it's true.  
  
Hey, um, I know this feels far away, but what are you doing next year? When you graduate?

DEREK  
Oh, I don't know. Probably work full time on the farm. Why?

The credits on the film start to roll and the crowd cheers wildly. Derek looks around in wonder.

CHARLIE  
(leans in talking over the crowd)  
I got you a spot at Penn State, in the film school.

DEREK  
What do you mean, a spot?

CHARLIE  
It's yours if you want it. All you  
have to do is apply.

DEREK  
How?

CHARLIE  
Called in a favor. Let's just say  
it was my spot, and now it's yours.

DEREK  
Holy shit. That's...

CHARLIE  
Hey. More importantly...

Charlie nods to the screen.

CHARLIE  
Go take a bow.

Derek smiles. Charlie mouths "go", and Derek reluctantly  
walks toward the screen and crowd.

The applause gets louder.

FADE OUT.

INT. DINER - A FEW DAYS LATER

Charlie, Mark, Charlotte, and Emily are all sitting in the  
booth, laughing.

EMILY  
Char, I think I need to go home.

CHARLOTTE  
Oh, okay, why?

EMILY  
Um, honestly, I met this super cute  
boy on AIM, and we like chat every  
night...

The other three look at each other.

CHARLOTTE  
Ummm...

MARK  
Emily, your cute boy is definitely  
a forty year old guy living in his  
moms basement.

EMILY

What? No!

She looks at Charlie who agrees.

EMILY

I mean he does make a lot of Star Trek references... But whatever, I don't care, he's so sweet. Anyway, Char, ready?

CHARLOTTE

Sure...

Charlotte kisses Mark on the cheek and the two slide out of the booth.

CHARLOTTE

Bye Charlie. Good luck.

CHARLIE

Thanks, Charlotte.

EMILY

Oh my god, right. Totally kick ass in LA.

CHARLIE

Thanks.

The two leave and both Charlie and Mark light cigarettes.

MARK

This is last call, isn't it.

CHARLIE

It is. You knew?

MARK

I tried to be cool, but...

CHARLIE

But were being a good friend.

MARK

The Blockbuster?

Charlie takes a drag.

CHARLIE

Closed. Well, closing, but I said I was done.

MARK  
Quit before being fired. Damn the  
man.

CHARLIE  
Something like that.

They both take a puff off their cigarettes.

MARK  
The festival?

CHARLIE  
One time thing. I think. Who  
knows...

Mark gives him a look.

MARK  
What are you gonna do in *Hollywood*?

CHARLIE  
LA. I don't know, I just need to be  
there. Be around it. Ya know?

MARK  
It was hard for me when you left.

Mark takes a drag.

MARK  
But harder when you came back.

CHARLIE  
You really are a good friend.

MARK  
I know.

They continue to smoke their cigarettes. Charlie smiles.  
Mark looks at him and smiles as well.

FADE OUT.

INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE

Charlie walks into the kitchen with a few packed bags. He  
sets them down on the floor.

MOM  
Ready to go?

CHARLIE  
I am.

MOM

Want something to eat first?

CHARLIE

Um, no i don't think so.

MOM

Are you sure? I can just whip something up quickly. A sandwich, a roasted turkey, slow-cooked anything?

Charlie smiles and looks at his mom, who's crying. He walks towards her and hugs her. She bats him away.

MOM

It's time for you to go.

CHARLIE

I love you, mom.

MOM

I love you too, Charlie.

She hugs him and he hugs her back.

MOM

I do have one more thing for you before you leave.

Charlie pulls back and looks at her.

INT. GARAGE

Charlie's mom pulls the cover off an old **60s Mustang Convertible**. She throws the keys to Charlie.

CHARLIE

Dad's mustang?

MOM

Yeah, dad's mustang. I want you to have it.

CHARLIE

But mom...

MOM

No, I've only driven it once since he passed. Last week to have the oil changed.

CHARLIE

Right.

Charlie caresses the car. Finally his smile breaks out.

EXT. LINDSAY'S APARTMENT

Charlie sits in the car, waiting. Lindsay walks out with a roller bag and stops when she sees him.

LINDSAY  
What's that?

CHARLIE  
It was my dad's...

Lindsay raises her eyebrows.

INT. CAR

Charlie and Lindsay are driving down the highway with the top down. Lindsay is leaning down talking on her phone.

She hangs up and sits up straight.

LINDSAY  
Oh my god. You're NEVER gonna believe this.

Charlie smiles.

CHARLIE  
Believe what?

LINDSAY  
Kyle's being sued.

CHARLIE  
Sued?

LINDSAY  
Yes. Apparently he sold tickets to the Film Festival, took out an ad in the paper or something. He's being sued for copyright infringement.

CHARLIE  
No!

LINDSAY  
Yes.

CHARLIE  
What did you see in that guy, honestly?

LINDSAY  
Same thing I see in you...

Charlie points to himself.

CHARLIE  
A mustang.

LINDSAY  
A mustang.

Charlie looks into the camera.

CHARLIE  
Movies that end with the lead and  
the girl driving off into the  
sunset are generally kind lame.

Lindsay takes his hand and settles into her seat.

CHARLIE  
There are a few exceptions though.

Charlie winks.

FADE TO BLACK.