

GROUNDWORK

A One-Hour Drama Series

In the summer of 1995, on the well-appointed properties of Newport Rhode Island, a stalled college kid finds himself caught in the middle of two rival landscaping companies, unaware he's about to dig up old wounds buried deep underground.

Pilot—"Breaking Ground"

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1 INT. SCOTT'S HOUSE MIDDLETOWN R.I. MARCH 1995

Range Life by Pavement is playing on the stereo.

Fade in on a house party at Scott's home. Those who went to college are back for the week. Everyone is having a great time, drinking, smoking weed. In a modest kitchen with worn linoleum floors and a small breakfast nook there are 4 people playing cards(Pitch). Scott(19, average height, athletic) is pouring a beer into a solo cup. He walks through the kitchen and into a dining room with a matching dark wood dinette set.

Midway through a game of beer die. We see an old white wooden door laid on top of the dining room table and 3 out of 4 seats are taken. Tommy(19, thin and handsome), Josh(19, average height, build, and weight, home from college), and Butch(17 almost 18, tall, a bit overweight) are seated. Scott takes the fourth seat. A young man, Cam(19, shaggy brown hair, average build, good-looking with a baby face, home from college), is sitting in the middle on a bar stool like a tennis judge.

CAM

You ready or what?

SCOTT

I'm fuckin' ready calm down.

CAM

Well sit the fuck down. The Score is 5-5. Scott, it's your throw.

JOSH

Haha, yeah, you had to fill up cuz I splunked yo'ass!

SCOTT

Just you wait fool.

BUTCH

Hell yeah, bring it.

Scott throws the die, it hits the table then Butch's cup

CAM

Cup. Drink

Maggie(19, fair skin and dark curly hair, home from college) walks up next to Cam

MAGGIE

Can we go talk for a second?

Cam only briefly looks Maggie's way, then back to the game.

CAM

Uhhh yeah, right after this game ends. It's almost over

MAGGIE

I've been standing over there waiting for you

CAM

You're with Kelly and Em.
What do you need me for.
(to the table)
Side. That's two, drink.

MAGGIE

Seriously?

CAM

I'm god. I can't leave.

MAGGIE

Whatever...

Maggie walks away

1A INT. SCOTT'S LIVING ROOM

A floral sofa sits under the windows against the wall. A floor model TV with a wooden frame sits in the corner. Standing and talking are Maggie, Kelly(19, tall, average looks, home from college), and Emily(19, petite, cute, home from college).

MAGGIE

I am so fucking pissed right now

EMILY

Well do something about it. He's a child. Just like the rest of em

KELLY

You should hook up with someone else tonight!

EMILY

Oh great idea. That will fix things.

MAGGIE

Yeah, no

Cam enters the room

CAM

Hey, I'm ready. Sorry about that.
I'm still teaching them how to
play. Apparently outside of Maine
no one's ever heard of beer die.

MAGGIE

Cool...Can we go outside

CAM

Sure

1B EXT. SCOTT'S DRIVEWAY

Just out of the reach of a single spotlight illuminating the
steps, Cam and Maggie sit on a bench. Cam hands Maggie a
cigarette and they light up.

CAM

Mags, what's going on

MAGGIE

I feel like I can never get your
attention.

CAM

I'm right here. You asked me to
come talk and that's what we're
doing.

MAGGIE

Yeah, but this whole night you've
been talking to everyone *but* me

CAM

What do you mean? We came here
together

MAGGIE

Yeah, and that was the last time I
saw you.

Cam pauses for a moment, and takes a breath.

CAM

I'm sorry, you're right. I just got
excited to see everyone and I see
you more than I see them, so I
just...

MAGGIE

I get it, but...

CAM

But what?

MAGGIE

We've had this conversation before Cam. When I call you at school, you're either not there or there's like a party going on in the background.

CAM

(sarcastically)

I'm very popular

MAGGIE

I'm being serious. This is exactly what you do. You don't take our relationship seriously. You just think because we've been together so long, I'm not going anywhere

CAM

Oh my god...

MAGGIE

What?

CAM

Nothing

MAGGIE

Well you need to say something because I'm pretty much done

Cam looks down and shakes his head slightly

CAM

I just feel like you don't get me. I'm a social person. But I also love you and love spending time with you.

MAGGIE

Well, trust me when I tell you, I don't feel like I'm a priority.

CAM

Ok, just tell me what I need to do better and I'll do it

MAGGIE

(miffed)

I'm coming to you and explaining
what I need and you want me to tell
you how to do that?

CAM

Well, yeah. I'll do whatever you
need

MAGGIE

Actually... I don't think you can.
Maybe that's the problem. I'm
expecting you to be someone you're
not

CAM

I *am* that person Maggie. We're good
together!

MAGGIE

We were *good* in High School. I'm
not in High School any more Cam.

CAM

What the hell does that mean?
You're not in High School anymore?
I'm not in High School anymore
either. That's fucked.

MAGGIE

I think you need to check that,
because it looks to me like you
never left High School

CAM

Wow...sounds like you've thought
this for a while

MAGGIE

Yeah. I have actually. I've been
waiting for you to grow up a bit,
but it just doesn't seem like
that's happening.

CAM

This is so you. You can't handle
me not giving you all my attention.

MAGGIE

All your attention? How about
some?

CAM
This is so classic. You're so
insecure.

Maggie just glares at Cam in disbelief.

Cam stands up and turns his back to her. Waits a few seconds
then turns around.

CAM (CONT'D)
(frustrated)
It all makes sense now. That's why
you're always asking who I'm
hanging out with, or if there are
any girls there.

Maggie starts to tear up a bit

MAGGIE
You're so mean

CAM
Yup, right on cue, the tears.

MAGGIE
Oh my god, could you be any more of
an asshole

Cam sees Maggie is genuinely upset. He takes a moment to
collect himself.

CAM
Listen, I'm sorry I upset you. You
need to trust that I'm still here.
We can get through this. I can do
it. I can be better.

Maggie doesn't respond

CAM (CONT'D)
Maggie...

Maggie stands up. Fighting off crying.

MAGGIE
No...you know what. I can't do
this.... I can't do this
anymore.....I'm done

CAM
You're done? You're breaking up
with me?

MAGGIE

Yes, no.... I don't know. I just
can't be here right now.

Maggie starts walking toward the driveway

CAM

Wait, what the fuck?

Maggie stops and turns around.

MAGGIE

Cam we aren't working. If you
think this is working, then you
need to wake up.

CAM

Oh fuuuuuck you. God, you're so
FUCKING condescending.

We see Emily and Kelly in the distance standing in the
driveway.

EMILY

You ok Mags?

MAGGIE

I gotta go

CAM

No you don't. Can't we talk about
this?

MAGGIE

Cam that's all we've done. Nothing
changes.

She turns and starts walking away again

CAM

Fine by me! Now I can go spend all
my time with my friends, just like
you say I do.

Maggie gets in Kelly's car with Kelly and Emily and they
leave.

Cam sits down on the bench and finishes his cigarette. He is confused, hurt, angry, and fighting sadness.

He puts his cigarette out and heads back inside.

1C INT. SCOTT'S KITCHEN

When I Come Around by Green Day is playing

SCOTT
Where ya been brother?

CAM
Oh, just getting broken up with

SCOTT
What? Why?

CAM
(to himself)
... I hate this fuckin' song

CAM (CONT'D)
(let's out a big sigh)
Maybe she's right... maybe I need
to grow up

SCOTT
Dude, seriously. Just tell me what
happened? Why did she break up with
you?

CAM
I don't know, some bullshit. And
honestly, I don't even care right
now. Let's play some die

CAM (CONT'D)
(to the party people)
Can someone skip this song!

Cam walks over to the beer die table. Scott is shocked at how Cam is handling this. He pauses for a moment and follows Cam into the dining room.

Style by Lemonheads comes on(starting at the :12 mark)

CAM (CONT'D)
I got next!

Cam sits down at the beer die table

FADE TO BLACK.

Title card 3 months later....

Thursday, June 1st 1995

2 EXT. CAM'S CAR

GOING DOWN THE ROAD FEELING BAD BY GRATEFUL DEAD FADES
IN.

An older model forest green Subaru is driving down the road
in Newport, R.I.

2A EXT. NEWPORT PREMIER LANDSCAPING PARKING LOT

Cam, male 19, shoulder-length hair in a ponytail. He has a
big Green Mountain Coffee travel mug on the dashboard leaning
against the windshield and a cigarette in his right hand. He
drives into and then parks his car in the parking lot.

A Shiny Red truck pulls up to the front of a Landscape shop.
A decal that reads "Newport Premier Landscaping Est. 1977" is
on the side. Russell, the owner, a handsome fit man mid 40's,
lives in Newport, RI, exits the truck and walks inside.

Once Cam sees Russell go inside he, turns off his car (music
stops), gets out and walks into the shop.

2B INT. NEWPORT PREMIER LANDSCAPING OFFICE

CAM

Hello?

Cam wanders his way through the shop. He passes by shovels
and rakes hung neatly on the walls, with the floor almost too
clean to be that of a landscaper. He makes it to an office
in the back with a light on. He hears a voice.

He stands outside the door just out of sight. Not to snoop
but to be respectful.

Russell is on the phone. His office is well curated. On the
desk and credenza behind Russell are pictures of his wife and
two kids, him fishing, etc. On the walls are award plaques,
certificates, and inspirational posters.

RUSSELL
I understand, but I think this is
what's gonna work.

Russell is listening

RUSSELL (CONT'D)
You're not listening to me either.
Dad, you do this all the time. If
I'm going to be in charge you have
to let me make big decisions.

Russell is listening

RUSSELL (CONT'D)
Fine... But I'm sticking with CARE!
Ok, I'll talk to you later.

Cam pokes his head into the doorway.

CAM
Hi, Russell? It's me Cam,

Russell is startled and seems confused by this person

CAM (CONT'D)
Richard's son

RUSSELL
Ohhhh, hey... right... ok um have a
seat. We gotta get you some
paperwork.

Cam sits in a chair across from his desk

CAM
Hey, thanks again for hiring me

RUSSELL
Not a problem. Your dad and I go
way back.

Beat while Cam finishes paperwork

CAM
All set. Here ya go.

Cam stands up and hands Russell the paperwork.

RUSSELL
Great. Now let's get you a shirt.

Russell takes a collared shirt with the company logo from inside a locker and hands it to Cam

RUSSELL (CONT'D)
Remember, when you wear that shirt,
you represent not only yourself,
but the whole company.

CAM
(a little taken aback)
Yes sir.

Cam puts on the shirt but it's too big.

CAM (CONT'D)
Do you have a smaller size?

RUSSELL
Sorry pal, That's all we got.
You'll just have to grow into it!

Cam tugs at his shirt, noticing the mis-fit

Russell walks Cam back through the shop and outside where there are now workers getting their tools ready for the day.

2C INT. NEWPORT PREMIER LANDSCAPING SHOP

Standing by two other similar but slightly lesser modeled trucks are 5 men aging from early 20's to mid 30's, all wearing the company shirts.

RUSSELL
Ok listen up. This here's Cam,
he's the newest member of the
Premier team.

We hear comments and some chuckling from the crew. "Hippy"
"Nice Ponytail"

RUSSELL (CONT'D)
Preston!

Preston(21, taller than average, athletic, handsome)

PRESTON (RUSSELL'S SON)
Yes sir

RUSSELL
Take Cam and show him how we load
the truck and then hop in with me.

PRESTON
To Cam(annoyed)
Let's go...

Cam and Preston walk over to begin loading the truck.

CUT TO:

3 EXT. LINDA HAMILTON'S RESIDENCE (POTENTIAL CUSTOMER)

Down a long driveway with beautiful plants and flowers flanking both sides, we come to a home that is a mix of Brick, stone and cedar clapboards. The front lawn is well manicured and the walkway to the front door is professional stone work. Just over the ridge of the side yard is a view of the ocean.

We hear laughing and what sounds like licking noises. Camera pans to a man, Pete, early 30's skinny, laying on the grass and a dog licking his face.

PETE
Oh, you're such a good boy. Aren't
you! Aren't you!

We cut to another man Greg, from Middletown R.I., owner of Leonetti landscaping, holding a clip board standing next to a well-to-do pretty woman, Linda Hamilton, who is the owner of the home.

GREG
Soooo, mowing weekly, weeding, fall
cleanup.

Greg turns and looks at Pete

GREG (CONT'D)
Ohhhh k, I think you can leave the
dog alone now Pete

PETE
Oh all right. Who's a good boy?

GREG(TO LINDA)
Sorry about that, he just really
loves dogs

LINDA
That's fine. We don't usually play
with him so it's good actually

GREG

Oh ok! You know, that's exactly the kind of company we are. We're kind, but also hardworking and we do a great job.

LINDA

That sounds fine... Um well you can leave the proposal with me and I'll have my husband look it over and get back to you.

GREG

Thank you so much. I really app-

RUSSELL

Greg, you old goat, I didn't know they let you in this neighborhood!

Russell walks up the driveway with Preston and Cam following behind.

GREG

Sooo funny as always.

RUSSELL

Oh c'mon, you know I'm just kidding

GREG

Whatcha ya doin' here Russell?

RUSSELL

I'm here to pay the lovely Linda a visit

OWNER

Oh Russ you're too kind

RUSSELL

Linda, you remember Preston

LINDA

Of course! So nice to see you again

CAM

HI I'm-

RUSSELL

So, Linda, I hope old Greg here didn't oversell his work. He's not used to working on homes of this caliber.

GREG

Anyway Russell, now what are you doing here again?

RUSSELL

Bidding on this job of course.

GREG(LOOKING AT THE OWNER)

Wait, he's up for the job too?

LINDA

Well of course, he's got a great reputation(there's definitely some flirting going on with Russell)

GREG(UNDER HIS BREATH)

Jesus Christ...

RUSSELL

What's that Greg?

GREG

Nothing

LINDA

I hope this isn't a problem for you

GREG

Nope no problem at all.

RUSSELL

Well nothing wrong with a little healthy competition right Greg! And I see your still hand writing your proposals. Very old school, I like that for you.

GREG

I see you're still trying to impress your dad. How is the old man doing? I miss him.

RUSSELL

Still bitter huh Greg?

Greg looks annoyed but doesn't respond.

RUSSELL (CONT'D)

Oh...and I see you still have your puppy dog following you around.

Cut to Pete rolling around with the dog again

GREG
Pete! Let's go!

GREG (CONT'D)
Thank you again Linda for the
opportunity and I hope to hear from
you soon!

LINDA
You're welcome

LINDA(TURNING TO RUSSELL) (CONT'D)
Now you come with me mister

RUSSELL
Yes ma'am!

Linda and Russell walk off. Preston and Cam follow
Greg and Pete start walking away. Greg passes Cam

GREG
(to Cam) Hey aren't you
Rick's kid?
Cam looks puzzled

CAM
Yeah.

GREG
Tell him Greg says hi. And
seriously...good luck with *that*
guy.

Cam, looking confused and lost

CAM
What, why?

GREG
You'll see!

4 INT. GREG'S TRUCK

A dark blue pickup truck, a few years old but showing wear
and tear from loading and unloading tools and materials.
Inside, it's basic. Hand-crank windows, no AC, and a tape
player/radio. It has a cloth bench seat.

Tide is High is playing on the radio.

PETE
That was awesome. I bet we're
going to get it

GREG
Are you fucking serious? Did you
see that?

PETE
See what?

GREG
Ugh, of course you didn't. She's
not picking us!

Greg pulls out into the road and they start driving away

GREG (CONT'D)
Fucking Russell... Are you kidding
me? Fuuuuuuuck!

PETE
I think we did a good job.

GREG
(exasperated)
Oh my god...Fuckin' Russell...

PETE
Do you think they'd let us use the
pool if we get the bid?

Greg's face turns from frustration to a slight smile.

GREG
Maybe buddy

PETE(LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW PICTURING
HIMSELF IN THE POOL WITH THE DOG)
...Nice...

4A EXT. BARLOW'S GARDEN CENTER

Greg pulls into a Barlow's Garden Center and parks. There
are customers milling about the outdoor plant center. Pete
gets out Greg just sits there.

PETE
Boss, you comin'?

GREG

Uhhh, no you just go in and let em know we need a half-pallet of the interlocking concrete pavers and 6 bags of sand.

PETE

Listen, I don't think you have to worry about going in there. They love you

GREG

No- I'm fine. I'm just in a hurry ok, so I'll drive the truck around and you can meet me back there

PETE

They're not going to think it's weird, like you're stalking her or something.

GREG

Stalking? Oh like you did with that crazy hippy-girl?

PETE

Who Jane?

Pete looks up like he's picturing her

PETE (CONT'D)

She was somethin'

GREG

She was crazy Pete.

PETE

I just think-

GREG

(cutting Pete off) I don't need a fucking lecture Pete, I just need you to go in there and order the materials.

PETE

Ok, jeez...

Pete walks into the store

4B INT. BARLOW'S GARDEN CENTER

Shake your love by Debbie Gibson playing softly in the store

The inside of the store is full of everything a home gardener would need. Aisles stretch from front to back. It's not dirty but seasoned. It's a long-established business in town.

Pete walks up to the counter.

JOHN BARLOW (OWNER)

Pete! How the hell are ya?

PETE

Good Johnny, how are you?

JOHN BARLOW

Can't complain...nobody'll listen anyway

Pete and John share a laugh

PETE

Well I need a half pallet of interlocking concrete pavers and 6 bags of sand.

JOHN BARLOW

Comin' right up. Where's Greg?

PETE

Oh, he's just really in a hurry. Super busy. Gotta be efficient!

JOHN BARLOW

If you say so...

4C INT. MANAGERS OFFICE

We see a woman, Katie Barlow, late 30's pretty, shoulder-length black hair, in the back office of the store. From behind we see Pete talking to her dad, John. We see John ring Pete up and Pete leaves. Katie is observing this from behind the Plexiglas window of her office. She walks to the back room full of boxes and opens the heavy metal back door to the pick up area, where she sees Greg in his truck waiting.

She seems to snap back into work mode, turning quickly and the door slams loudly behind her, showing just a bit of frustration.
We can't tell exactly how Katie feels about Greg avoiding coming into the store.

4D INT. GREG'S TRUCK

YARD WORKER
Greg, how we doin'?

Worker hands Greg a clipboard with an invoice on it

GREG
Stayin' busy.

Greg signs it and hands it back

Pete jumps in the truck. The workers load finish loading the truck.

PETE
I think they bought it

GREG
Bought what?

PETE
That you weren't avoiding Katie and
you were just too busy to come
inside

YARD WORKER
Good to see you as always

GREG
Take it easy

GREG (CONT'D)
Pete, I'm not- whatever.

Greg drives off.

5 EXT. LINDA HAMILTON'S RESIDENCE

Russell is walking around the property with Linda. Preston is behind him, Cam behind Preston.

RUSSELL

Ok Linda, I'll have this printed up
and Preston here will drop it off
tomorrow

LINDA

That sounds great but are you sure
you don't want to drop it off
yourself?

RUSSELL

Don't worry, you'll see plenty of
me this summer

LINDA

I like people who keep their
promises you know

RUSSELL

Ok, see you soon Linda

RUSSELL (CONT'D)

Alright you two, let's go

Russell walks confidently to the truck. Preston is right
behind him. Cam is sort of in awe of the house and is just
looking around as he walks.

PRESTON

Hey, dickhead. Let's go

CAM

Oh sorry.

Cam runs to the truck and gets in the back of the twin cab.
They drive off.

5A INT. RUSSELL'S TRUCK

Russell, Preston, and Cam driving in the truck. The seats
are leather and the AC is on.

Even The Nights Are Better by Air Supply is playing on the
radio softly

RUSSELL

Preston, why don't you tell Cam
here the 4 tenets of Newport
Premier Landscaping

PRESTON

(slight sarcasm, slight
annoyance)
(MORE)

PRESTON (CONT'D)

Well Cam, there's 1. Create a good first impression. 2. Attend to the customers needs 3. Raise the bar. And 4. Exhibit premier work ethic.

RUSSELL

Exactly. CARE. You get it Cam?

CAM

Yeah totally. Any chance I could have you write that down for me

RUSSELL

No no. CARE. C A R E. It's the first letter of each tenet. We want our customers to know we care.

CAM

Ohhhhh. Gotcha. Yeah absolutely. That makes-

Russell cuts Cam off

RUSSELL

And that makes it easier for the dumb ones to remember. Right Preston?

PRESTON

That's right dad.

Cam just realized that Preston is Russell's son. It brings a judgy smile to his face.

RUSSELL

Yeah, I came up with that a few years ago when I took over the business from my dad. He didn't like it very much, but I think it makes us more professional sounding.

CAM

Sure does.

6 INT. GREG'S TRUCK

Greg is pulling up in front of a 3-story apartment building(where Pete lives).

Aerosmith's Spaced playing loudly. Greg turns down the volume as they park.

GREG

Ok, listen, let's talk about tomorrow. It's Friday so the usual houses are on the mow list.

PETE

Yut. Morton to Wellington

GREG

Great. I'm finishing that Patio over by Sheep Point. We really gotta get these guys back up to speed with mowing. Jamie and Brian can't seem to go a day without some sorta disaster, so can you spend a little time with them at the first house?

PETE

Sure sure sure. Will do boss.

GREG

Ok buddy, I'll see you tomorrow

PETE

Yut yut

Pete starts walking towards the building

GREG

Hey Pete.

Pete turns around

GREG (CONT'D)

Hey I'm sorry about earlier buddy

PETE

I know

Greg just waves and nods at Pete. Pete waves back and continues walking to his door. Greg sits back and let's out a deep breath. Pauses, then drives away.

7 EXT. WORTHING RESIDENCE (CUSTOMER)

Huey Lewis and The News, Hip To Be Square playing softly on the radio

Russell's Truck pulls up to a beautiful white colonial house with mature plantings where there are a couple of his guys standing around.

RUSSELL
Preston, make sure these guys
aren't fucking off.

PRESTON
I'm gonna be all over these guys!

RUSSELL
Calm down.

Preston gets out of the truck

RUSSELL (CONT'D)
(looking in the back seat
at Cam, who is looking
out the window at
Preston) Hey!

CAM
Huh?

RUSSELL
What are doing? Get out there and
get to work!

CAM
Oh sorry. Yeah of course.

Cam gets out of the truck and rushes over to Preston, who is
talking to Zach(tall, athletic, and handsome) and Kyle
(shorter, a little scrawny, average looks).

CAM (CONT'D)
What should I do?

PRESTON
See this flower bed?

CAM
Yeah

PRESTON
Great. You can start here. You
need to pull all of the weeds out

CAM
(earnestly) Ok

Cam puts his headphones on. Beck's Lord Only Knows plays its
on cassette in his Walkman so it starts where he left off.
:15 second mark of the song.

We now see a montage of Cam's first day while the music plays.

-Weeding while the other guys are flirting with a girl at the mansion they are working at.

-Trying to start a trimmer but the choke was on. One of the guys finally comes over and flips the switch

-Having lunch by himself

-Cam lights up a cigarette after lunch. One of the guys comes over and takes it out of his mouth and puts it out with his boot. He offers him chewing tobacco, which is what the other guys use since Russell doesn't think smoking is a good reflection on the company. Cam refuses.

-Trimming the beds but it's kicking mulch everywhere.

-Accidentally stepping on some flowers.

Cam is now sweeping the walkway. Preston taps him on the shoulder.

Music stops abruptly at 1:25 mark.

PRESTON

Time to load up the truck. Let's
go

Cam puts the broom in the truck, looks up expecting someone, scans the yard, and then sees them all already in the truck.

He soon realizes no one else is helping. They are all in the truck just shooting the shit.

Cam is annoyed.

Male homeowner pulls into the driveway and gets out of his car.

DAVID WORTHING

(yelling)

Hey!

CAM

Hi, how's it going?

DAVID WORTHING

What the hell is that?

We see the guys in the truck straighten up and looking intently at the situation, glad that it isn't them.

CAM

What?

DAVID WORTHING

That!

(pointing at the two
rhododendron bushes
flanking the front door)

CAM

(Looking at the guys in
the truck, realizing they
aren't going to help him)

Ummmm, well you see sir, what we
did is we trimmed the bottom of the
bush and left the top.

DAVID WORTHING

No Shit! It looks awful!

CAM

Ahhh, ok, you see, what this does
is it provides more contrast with
the shorter shrubs and flowers.
Having the bottom trimmed up,
provides less visual weight
overall, creating a
(stammering)
juxt-ish- oposition of
ahhh....style and form.

The owner pauses as he looks at the front garden bed. Looks
back at Cam. Looks back at the bed.

DAVID WORTHING

You know what, I have been telling
Russell I need more contrast out
here soooo, ahhh, great.

David abruptly walks away

7A INT. WORK TRUCK

Preston is driving, Kyle is in the passenger seat, Cam is
behind Preston, and Zach is next to Cam.

KYLE

Dude! What the hell was that? That
was awesome!

ZACH

Yeah, did you even know what you were talking about?

CAM

Ahh kind of. I took an art history class last semester so i just started throwing out some buzz words.

ZACH

Well, you saved us on that one

KYLE

Yeah, that guy is an asshole!

ZACH

Total nutcase

PRESTON

Well you got lucky, that's for sure

KYLE

Oh you're just pissed because you were the one who fucked up the rhody!

PRESTON

Shut up man, let's just get outta here.

Kyle turns up the radio. Nothin' But A Good Time By Poison blasts on the radio.

Preston drives off

8 EXT. PREMIER LANDSCAPING

The crew is unloading the truck

KYLE

Yo, I'm pretty sure that chick was into me. I can' WAIT to go back to that house

PRESTON

Seriously? No chance

ZACH

Agreed

KYLE

Oh right, I forgot. You guys are a couple of Casanovas.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Hey. Cam-o. Whatta ya think?

CAM

(looking a bit shocked)

Me?

KYLE

Yeah. You think I got a shot with that girl?

CAM

Totally...

KYLE

Ha ha! See

PRESTON

He'd say anything to fit in at this point

Cam gives a half-hearted laugh

PRESTON (CONT'D)

Alright, that's it boys. Let's get the hell outta here

ZACH

Nice!

KYLE

Peace!

CAM

See you tomorrow

Cam gets in his car and starts it. Chalk dust torture picks up where it left off and he drives off.

9 INT. TOMMY'S HOUSE (SCREENED PORCH) MIDDLETOWN, RI

Pearl Jam's Rearview Mirror is playing in the background. We're panning across a coffee table with ashtrays, loose weed, a bong, a couple of lighters and empty beer bottles. Voices can be heard in the next room.

9A INT. TOMMY'S HOUSE (KITCHEN)

Inside an airy kitchen with newer appliances, Cam and a group of late teen boys(best friends from High School) are sitting around a kitchen table playing the card game pitch. Tommy and Cam are sitting across from each other and are partners. Josh and Scott are partners.

JOSH
Ok, score's 19-17 us

Josh deals out the cards.

JOSH (CONT'D)
Alright Tommy bids to you

TOMMY
Pass

SCOTT
Pass

CAM
2

JOSH
I'll take it for 3

The boys discard and Josh replenishes their cards

TOMMY
4

SCOTT
All 6

JOSH
Awe shit man

CAM
3

JOSH
I'll take 2

JOSH (CONT'D)
Alright fuckers, let's do this

The hand starts

CAM
Soooo, anyone seen Kelly or Emily
or...

SCOTT

Maggie?

CAM

No. I don't know. Just asking if you've seen any of them.

TOMMY

I saw Maggie and Emily at The Scoop

CAM

Cool

SCOTT

Listen, you're probably going to get back together this summer so stop being a little bitch and play a card

CAM

I doubt that.

JOSH

Good! We're all single now so we can go out and pick up some ladies

CAM

I'm not looking to get into a relationship with *anyone* right now

JOSH

Who said relationship? I'm just looking to mack on some hunnies and never see em again.

TOMMY

Cuz that's worked out so well in the past right?

SCOTT

You bettah recognize- smash!

Everyone laughs knowing this is in reference to a story

JOSH

Ohhh, don't bring that up again

CAM

Yeah, let's get back to the game. It's your turn Josh.

SCOTT

Ok, I won't bring it up...for now.

Josh hesitantly plays a non trump card

TOMMY
You ain't got shit!

SCOTT
Duude, c'mon

JOSH
I'm tryin'

The card game continues as they talk

JOSH (CONT'D)
Ok, but who's pumped for tomorrow?!

SCOTT
Dude, I can't believe you're not coming with us to the quarry

CAM
I know, don't remind me. I already hate this job. The guys I'm working with are idiots. One of them, Zach. He's delusional. He thinks every girl we see wants him.

SCOTT
Why don't you just quit. Or just tell your dad you got fired

CAM
After one day....

JOSH
Look at this guy. One collared shirt and he's already gone corporate!

CAM
My dad knows the owner. He'd find out and be pissed.

JOSH
Well, maybe you shouldn't have flunked out of school! Even I passed all my classes

CAM
Well that's cuz you go to URI! And I didn't flunk out...exactly.

SCOTT
Ohhhhhh damn son!

JOSH
Oooh shot's fired!

CAM
Ugh...sorry. My dad's just being a
hard ass for no reason

JOSH
It's all good man.

TOMMY
Yeah, We gonna get lit up tomorrow!

CAM
And that's different from...

JOSH
Guy, you're giving me shit cards.
I bid 3 and you're fuckin me

SCOTT
Hey man, you bid on trash, you get
trash

TOMMY
(giggling) gotta bid to
win!

CAM
Unless you don't have the ACE!

Cam slaps down the ace of hearts, winning the trick, setting
Scott and Josh back, giving him and Tommy the win

CAM (CONT'D)
Alright fuckers, I gotta get the
hell outta here. 'Nother early
morning for me

SCOTT
Big poppa's gotta bring home the
bacon!

CAM
Yeah, must be rough working part-
time at a gas station. Don't hurt
yourselves

JOSH
Hey man, we were supposed to all be
working together this summer and
scopin' out the ladies. You're the
one who fucked that up

CAM

Uh no, you can thank my dad for that

TOMMY

Alright man, well good luck cuttin' the grass tomorrow cuz We'll be smokin' it!

SCOTT

Really Tommy...That was terrible

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Hey...it's good to have you home

CAM

Thanks man.

Cam walks out the door.

Friday June 2nd 1995

10 INT. CAM'S BEDROOM

Digital alarm clock going off.

Tight shot of Cam's face barely peeking out above the covers

The door opens and Cam's Dad Richard(mid 40's average height and weight, dark hair and a beard) takes a step into a room full of posters on the wall; Pearl Jam, Soundgarden, Neil Young, Two duffle bags sit in the corner unpacked. Cam's dirty clothes from his first day sit on the floor in a pile.

RICHARD

Hey! Wake up or you're gonna be late

CAM

I am... I just need a couple more minutes

RICHARD

You barely made it on time yesterday.

CAM

That's not true. I was the second one there!

RICHARD

Well, I'm not waking you up every day this summer, so figure it out.

CAM

Ok! Fine!
I don't even want to go to this
stupid job

RICHARD

Well, you should have thought about
that before you partied your way
through Freshman year.

CAM

That's not...

Richard closes door and leaves

CAM (CONT'D)

(meekly)...what happened

Cam aggressively throws his covers off and sits up

RICHARD

(Yelling as he walks down
the stairs)
There's coffee

CAM

Thanks

10A CAM'S KITCHEN

Cam is pouring coffee into a large travel mug. The kitchen is
humble, but well-kept. Nothing high end, but functional.
Dark wooden cabinets and Formica countertops line two of the
walls.

RICHARD

So how was the first day?

CAM

Fine.

RICHARD

Fine?

CAM

Yeah

RICHARD

Well hopefully they didn't work you
too hard!

CAM

Nope, I was good.

RICHARD

Ok, I'm heading to work. Don't be late. Had to call in a favor to get you this job.

CAM

I know...
(under his breath) but I
didn't ask you to.

Richard walks out of the kitchen, leaving Cam by himself.

Beat

11 EXT. SPENCER RESIDENCE (CUSTOMER)

Cam unloading tools at a massive and beautiful home that sits atop a long slowly sloping driveway. It is privately surrounded by tall trees.

PRESTON

Ok, last week we got this done in 35 minutes, start to finish. Cam, you're the only thing that's different so I hope you don't slow us down.

CAM

I'll do my best. Where do you want me to start?

Kyle and Zach start up their mowers.

PRESTON

Listen, just trim all of the beds around the house like I showed you yesterday. I'll get all the other ones.

CAM

Ok, umm how do you start this thing again?

PRESTON

Let's go boys!

The three guys take off and get to work

Cam looks at the Trimmer.

CAM

Ok, push this button twice. Flip this switch and pull

Cam yanks the rip cord. Nothing. Rips it again. Nothing.
Rips it a third time and it starts!

Cam starts trimming the beds. He does an ok job but at one point he accidentally lops off a big chunk of a shrub. He tries to put it back together but ends up just leaning the piece against the shrub.

We see the other guys loading the mowers and gear, But cam is still going.

PRESTON
C'mon let's go!

KYLE
Hurry up man

CAM
(taking off one ear of his
ear protection)
What?

In unison the guys yell
Hurry up!

Preston grabs his trimmer and helps Cam finish.

They hustle back to the truck

The guys all look at Preston, who is looking at his watch.

PRESTON
Nope, didn't get it

ZACH
Nice going man...

KYLE
We'll get it next week. Let's just
eat lunch.

CAM
Hey I'm really sorry guys

No one responds

12 INT. NEWPORT SCOOPS DAY

Inside a well established Ice Cream shop, with old but functioning machinery, we see Maggie over the shoulder of a customer.

MAGGIE

Here you go and here's your change

CUSTOMER

Thank you

MAGGIE

Enjoy!

Maggie turns around and we see Kelly and Emily behind the ice cream machine putting visine in their eyes

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Real discreet guys

Kelly is giggling and can't seem to say anything

EMILY

Oh shit!

(laughs)

Think anyone saw?

MAGGIE

I don't think so, but your eyes look like they're on fire.

EMILY

That's what the visine's for

KELLY

You sure you don't want some?
Makes the time go by faster?

MAGGIE

I'm good. I can't believe you guys got me to smoke before work today.
I never do that

EMILY

(sarcastically)

Yah...we know

We see another customer come to the window over Maggie's shoulder.

EMILY (CONT'D)

I got this one

Emily walks to the window

KELLY

So...heard from Cam since he's been back?

MAGGIE

Nope!

Maggie turns around and starts wiping down a counter

KELLY

Ooooooh k. Well hey, you gotta come with us tonight! C'mon, it's gonna be so fun.

MAGGIE

I want to but I have to go to my Aunt's birthday dinner tonight

KELLY

The crazy one?

MAGGIE

She's not crazy.

KELLY

Well she's not sane!

Maggie gives her a disapproving look. Emily returns.

EMILY

Hey, you gotta come with us tonight! C'mon, it's gonna be so fun.

Kelly starts cracking up

EMILY (CONT'D)

What?

MAGGIE

She just said the same exact thing to me.

Emily and Kelly look at each other and laugh

EMILY

And?

MAGGIE

I have to go to my Aunt's birthday dinner tonight.

EMILY
The crazy one

Kelly is now hiding behind the ice cream machine laughing hard

EMILY (CONT'D)
Just tell your parents you have plans. Or you have to work late.

MAGGIE
You know how my parents are.

EMILY
Well maybe you can come after

MAGGIE
I'll try but I wouldn't count on it.

CUSTOMER 3
Hello?

MAGGIE
I got this. Just hide the weed.
And someplace *she* can't find it.

Emily goes over to Kelly

We see from behind the customer Maggie come to the window, and we see snippets of Kelly and Emily through gaps in the machinery behind Maggie

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Can I help you?

13 EXT. PRESCOTT RESIDENCE (CUSTOMER)

In the backyard of a mid-century modern one-story home, Greg is laying patio bricks by himself. Pete walks up.

PETE
Boss!

GREG
Pete, what are you doing here?

PETE
(out of breath)
We got a broken down mower at the Williamson's.

GREG

Ok, what happened to it?

PETE

Ummmmmm, that's hard to explain

GREG

Did you try to fix it?

PETE

It's pretty messed up

GREG

What do you mean messed up!?

14 EXT. WILLIAMSON RESIDENCE (CUSTOMER)

In the backyard of a typical New England colonial, with a fenced in backyard, Greg, Pete, and 2 other workers(Jamie, short big mouth, and Brian tall and animated) are standing next to each other staring at the lawnmower half-burned and still smoking.

GREG

Guys, what the hell?

JAMIE

Hey, I'm wicked sorry about this. I don't know what to say.

BRIAN

(very expressive with his body)

I got this. I saw the whole fuckin' thing. He was crankin' down that line and then out of nowhere....squirrel. Ran RIGHT in front the mower. I'm thinkin' we got a murder scene on our hands. Last second, Jamo cuts it right, misses the squirrel, cuts it LEFT. BOOM! Rock

PETE

Before that the guys were-

Greg cuts him off

GREG

Pete, I really don't care...just load it on the truck

Greg walks away. Pete follows.

PETE

Hey boss, we're real sorry about this.

GREG

Yeah, well, what the fuck Pete?! I thought I told you to keep a better eye on these guys; get em up to speed.

PETE

Well, you see-

GREG

(mockingly) Well you see. Jesus Christ man. I don't have money for another lawnmower!

PETE

Well maybe we can fix it

GREG

Did you see the mower Pete? Did you actually look at? It's fucked. There's no fixing that. Ughhhh!

PETE

I'm real sorry boss

GREG

And you know what Pete?

PETE

What?

GREG

Nope. Never mind. I have to go back to Sheep Point and clean up. Get the mower loaded and bring it back to the shop.

15 EXT. SPENCER RESIDENCE

In the driveway of a cedar shingled Cape Cod style home, Zach, Preston, and Kyle are eating lunch

Cam is sitting under a tree, writing in a small pocket sized notebook.

KYLE
What the hell are you doin'?
Writin' in your diary?

Cam closes the notebook and puts it back in his bag.

He walks over to where the guys are sitting.

ZACH
So where do you go to college?

CAM
I was at Colby

ZACH
Was?

CAM
Yeah, I'm taking a break

PRESTON
Sounds like you didn't have a
choice

Cam briefly looks at Preston but looks away without
responding.

KYLE
Pretty fancy school huh kid? You
must be pretty smaht?

CAM
Sometimes...

ZACH
I GET that...

KYLE
Too many bong hits!

CAM
Honestly, kinda true

ZACH
I love weed

PRESTON
You just started smoking weed like
a month ago. I don't know why.
Makes you dumb.

KYLE
Young, dumb, and full of cum!

Kyle is pretending to hump something while saying this

ZACH

That's definitely you dude.

CAM

I don't know...I love smokin' weed

ZACH

I gotta find some dude! I'm
gettin' excited! I haven't smoked
since I got back from school

PRESTON

Last thing you need

CAM

If you want I can hook you up

ZACH

Seriously?

CAM

How much do want?

ZACH

New guy comin' through!

ZACH (CONT'D)

I don't know, I've never actually
bought any. I think I just need
enough for a joint.

CAM

Oh, so like just a gram. I
actually have enough in my backpack
to give you.

ZACH

Sweet! How much?

CAM

Nah, don't worry about it. I got
you this time. Just let me know if
you want any more in the future

ZACH

Does it come already rolled?

Everyone bursts out laughing, though Cam is careful not to
laugh at Zach

KYLE

You're an idiot

ZACH
What? I don't fuckin' know

CAM
I got you. I'll roll one up real quick.

Cam goes to his backpack and sits behind a tree out of sight.

Cut to him coming back and giving it to Zach

ZACH
This guy...right!? We're keeping you around.

PRESTON
Alright cool....is the drug deal over now? Let's get everything loaded and get the hell outta here. It's gonna rain soon.

16 EXT. PRESCOTT RESIDENCE

See the Sky About To Rain by Neil Young plays. Background noise and dialogue are still audible throughout the song.

Greg cleaning up the worksite, loading his truck.

He gets in. Looks at the impending storm clouds and drives off in his truck.

16A INT. PREMIER LANDSCAPING SHOP

Cam putting the last rake on the hook. He heads for the door.

RUSSELL
Hope they didn't work you too hard!

CAM
Nah, wasn't too bad

RUSSELL
Ok, little buddy, see you tomorrow.... Unless you think it's too much for ya.

CAM
I'll be here

17 INT. GREG'S TRUCK

Music fades up a bit.

Greg is defeated. He just looks straight ahead as the music plays, windows down. He grabs his pack of cigarettes and there's only one left.

GREG

Stole my cigarettes too huh?

Greg lights up his last cigarette

The song goes back to full volume

We stick with Greg a bit longer until he turns into a gas station to buy more cigarettes. The Gas station is the one that Cam's friends work at and it's two spots down from Newport Scoops (known locally as "The Scoop") so we see The Scoop as he passes it.

17A INT. CAM'S CAR

Cam pulls out of the parking lot.

As he's driving Cam looks pained, emotionally. Paying attention but not fully present.

It begins to rain.

He makes a sudden right turn.

17B EXT. CAM'S CAR

Cam driving slowly past Newport Scoops where Maggie works.

Only a few cars dot the parking lot.

Cam slows almost to a stop.

His blinker clicks on.

He stares at the building for a beat.

Then keeps driving. We see Greg's truck at the gas station as he drives by.

18 INT. CAM'S HOUSE

The music fades down

He walks in the front door. His mom, Susan(Mid 40's cute, mom body) is sitting on a tan sectional watching TV.

SUSAN

How was it?

CAM

Fine. Long day?

SUSAN

Supper's in the oven, it should be done soon

CAM

(already upstairs and out of sight)

Ok

18A INT. LEONETTI LANDSCAPING

The music stays low

Greg walks into the shop. It smells of gasoline and cut grass. He turns on the fluorescent lights as he looks around and sees tools leaning against walls instead of hanging up, some trash on the ground near the barrel. And in the middle of the shop is the burned out lawnmower.

GREG

(sighing) Fuck me...

Greg starts picking up the shop. He looks defeated and resigned to just cleaning up on his own.

It starts raining

Greg realizes his windows are down

GREG (CONT'D)

Fuck!

The music fades up

He runs out and hops in his truck. He reaches over to the passenger seat and rolls up the window with the hand crank. He then rolls his up and sits in his truck for a second.

18B INT. CAM'S BEDROOM

Cam walks into his room. He picks up his guitar and strums it a couple of times. It's clear he isn't very good yet. He puts it back down.

The music fades down

Cam sits down on his bed and dials the phone.

SCOTT

Hello

CAM

Dude, what's up? How was the quarry?

SCOTT

Oh man... it was awesome.

CAM

What are you up to tonight

SCOTT

Fuuuuck that. I'm toast man. Long day...too much sun and weed.

CAM

Seriously? I'm leaving for Colby tomorrow morning to get the rest of my shit and I won't be back till Sunday.

SCOTT

Why didn't you just bring it with you?

CAM

My dad said I had to start my job as soon as possible so I took the bus down.

SCOTT

Sorry man. Don't worry, we have all summer to hang

CAM

Yeah yeah, alright. I'll talk to you later.

He calls Tommy. No answer.

CAM (CONT'D)

What the fuck...

He calls Josh.

JOSH'S MOM

Hello

CAM
Hi Mrs. Thompson, is Josh there?

JOSH'S MOM
No he went with his dad to
Providence.

CAM
Oh ok, just tell him I called

JOSH'S MOM
Ok honey. Am I going to see you
soon? I haven't seen you since you
got back

CAM
Definitely

JOSH'S MOM
Ok then, bye-bye.

Cam hangs up the phone. The song volume increases. He sits
on his bed deflated.

18C INT. GREG'S HOUSE

Greg isn't home yet.

We hear a phone ringing.

The answering machine clicks on.

GREG'S ANSWERING MACHINE
Hi you've reached Greg at Leonetti
Landscaping. I'm away from the
phone right now, but if you leave a
message I will get right back to
you. Have a great day.

While the machine is playing the message we Cut to Katie in
her kitchen.

The camera slowly pans out revealing Katie standing in her
dimly lit kitchen thinking.

GREG'S ANSWERING MACHINE (CONT'D)
Beeeeeeep

Almost speaks.

She abruptly hangs up the phone.

18D INT. LEONETTI LANDSCAPING

Greg running back into the shop, dripping wet. He walks through the shop, still not fully picked up. He goes to the fridge and grabs the one beer that's in there. He then picks up a ratty lawn chair, sets it up just inside the garage door to the shop and sits down. He watches the rain pour down as he sips his beer.

The music fades up

18E INT. CAM'S BEDROOM

He opens up his window, the rain is coming down hard. He lights up his one hitter and strategically blows the weed smoke out the window. We slowly zoom out on him just staring out the window.

He picks up his pen and notebook and opens it up. At the top we see the heading "New Song". Underneath we see what appear to be lyrics:

LYRICS

Though these times
Have been tough
You hurt me more
Without a touch
Where have I been
These last many days
Will I have to stop
And change my adolescent ways

Cam puts the notebook back down, takes another hit, and looks back out the window, blowing another plume of smoke out into the wet summer air.

See the Sky About to Rain fades back in and ends

FADE TO BLACK

End