

SHINY HAPPY PEOPLE

Written by

Michael J.S. Murphy

***TRIGGER WARNING: physical/mental abuse, violence, and bullying

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. FITZPATRICK HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY

CLOSE ON: THE SCREEN OF A STANDARD DEF TV. MUSIC CUE: "SHINY HAPPY PEOPLE" music video BY R.E.M. plays on MTV.

PULL OUT TO REVEAL: MATT FITZPATRICK (12, White, overweight, anxious, creative, sarcastic) SINGING and DANCING, lost in the music. The decor screams 1980s, but it's 1991!

MATT

(singing)

*SHINY HAPPY PEOPLE HOLDING HANDS /
SHINY HAPPY PEOPLE HOLDING HANDS /
SHINY HAPPY PEOPLE LAUGHING...*

As Matt continues, his mom, DOLORES (late 30s, White, bi-polar, overly-protective, insecure) rushes into the kitchen in the B.G. A half-wall with wooden bannisters separates the rooms. She grabs FOOD TRAYS then turns to Matt.

DOLORES

(calls off)

Matt! Are you gonna help or what?!

(off nothing)

Matt!

Dolores watches as Matt continues to hop around and sing. She shakes her head and smiles -- he's adorable! As Matt sings with his eyes closed, Dolores comes in and KISSES his forehead.

MATT

(annoyed)

Mom! Knock it off!

DOLORES

You're my son and I'll kiss you if I want! Now c'mon and help with the party before your father gets mad.

MATT

As soon as the song's over.

DOLORES

That's what you said last song.

As he performs for Dolores...

MATT
(singing)
....LOVE THEM, LOVE THEM / PUT IT IN
YOUR HANDS / TAKE IT, TAKE IT
THERE'S NO TIME TO CRY / HAPPY, HAPPY...

She smiles, shakes her head and exits.

MATT (CONT'D)
(singing)
PUT IT IN YOUR HEART WHERE TOMORROW
SHINES / GOLD AND SILVER SHINE...

As Matt continues, his little sister GINA (10, White, a bit chubby, positive, determined) runs in.

GINA
Matt! Dad says you better come
outside right now or you're in big
trouble!

MATT
Yeah, yeah, tell him I'm coming.

GINA
Whatever. And let your friends know
I don't want them calling me Lil'
Fitz at the party. My name is Gina!

MATT
Fine. Just go away. You're ruining
the song!

Gina smiles and exits, as Matt starts singing again...

MATT (CONT'D)
(singing)
...HAPPY PEOPLE HOLDING HANDS /
SHINY HAPPY PEOPLE HOLDING HANDS /
SHINY HAPPY PEOPLE LAUGHING...

As Matt BOUNCES IN A CIRCLE, his dad, JERRY (40s, White, beer belly, charming, depressed, anger issues) RUNS IN and PUSHES Mike ONTO THE COUCH. The MUSIC CONTINUES IN THE B.G.

JERRY
Why aren't you helping set up YOUR
party?!

MATT
It's Gina's party, too!

Jerry PULLS UP a scared Mike from the couch.

JERRY

You know damn well it's mostly for you! Only two of her friends are coming -- you invited your entire class! Now get your fat-ass out there and help!

Jerry PUSHES Matt toward the kitchen as he starts crying.

JERRY (CONT'D)

What? You gonna cry? Ya big baby! You're going into seventh grade! Start acting like it!

As they exit, LAND ON: a FRAMED PHOTO OF THE FITZPATRICK FAMILY (a nice family portrait a la "Growing Pains" or "Family Ties.")

MICHAEL STIPE (V.O.)

(singing)

*SHINY HAPPY PEOPLE HOLDING HANDS /
SHINY HAPPY PEOPLE HOLDING HANDS /
SHINY HAPPY PEOPLE LAUGHING...*

As the song continues, THE MAIN TITLES APPEAR, and THE SCREEN AND PHOTO GLITCH OUT and DISTORT, LIKE A BAD VHS TAPE, WARPING THE IMAGE OF THE FAMILY, and we...

FADE OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. FITZPATRICK HOUSE - DAY

A BOOMBOX BLARES: DJ JAZZY JEFF & THE FRESH PRINCE'S "SUMMERTIME."

A COMPUTER PAPER PRINT-OUT BANNER that's hung over the GARAGE READS: "GOOD LUCK MATT & GINA!" Gina and her friends jump rope in the grass as Jerry fires up the grill. While Matt, wearing a BROWNS BERNIE KOSAR JERSEY, and CORY (12, White, athletic, laid back, rural, in a ratty shirt and jeans) play CATCH with a football:

MATT

I can't believe Brunswick already started their football program.

CORY

They don't mess around in seventh grade. We're practically adults, Fitz!

MATT

I guess... Kinda weird that my school is holding tryouts after the first day of class.

CORY

Eh. It's actually probably good for you. Nothing easier than making friends on the football team.

MATT

I hope so, Cory. I mean, I don't know anybody at St. Joe's. At least my sister already has two friends from Bible Camp.

CORY

Yeah, but that sounds like a brutal way to make friends.

MATT

(chuckles)

Totally.

(then)

Wanna take a break? Grab a drink?

Cory nods. They walk to the garage, passing Gina and her friends, BRIDGET (9, White, insecure) and STACEY (10, Black, fashionable, inquisitive).

CORY
(to Gina)
Hey, Lil' Fitz.

Gina and the girls stop jumping rope. Gina rolls her eyes but the other two girls wave back, smitten by Cory.

BRIDGET
What did he call you? "Lil' Fitz"?

GINA
Just ignore it, Bridget. I hate that nickname. My name is Gina.

STACEY
(smitten)
I wish he called me a nickname.

GINA
Oh my god, Stacey! Shut up!

As the girls giggle and go back to jumping rope...

ANGLE ON: Matt and Cory by the garage drinking Capri Suns next to the BOOMBOX.

CORY
Kinda had enough hip-hop, dude. Can we put on some rock?

MATT
How do you not like The Fresh Prince? This is already a classic and it just came out! Your brother's probably playing it on his college radio show.

CORY
My brother? No way. It's all rock or weird, out-there shit. You know that.

MATT
Yeah, but I'd bet he'd find really cool rap tracks if he got into it.
(then, off his look)
But you wanna rock, so let's rock.

Matt ADJUSTS THE RADIO DIAL. STATIC, BLURBS, then... GUNS 'N' ROSES: "YOU COULD BE MINE" BLASTS out mid-song.

CORY
Hell yeah, G'n'R!

MATT
Oh man, this song was so rad in T2!

Matt starts a silly Axle Rose imitation/dance. Cory laughs, as:

MATT (CONT'D)
(SINGING)
YOOOOOOU COULD BE MINE / BUT YOU'RE
WAY OUT OF LINE...

CORY
You're such a weirdo!

MATT
(SINGING)
WITH YOUR COCAINE TONGUE AND YOUR--

The MUSIC SHUTS OFF. Matt turns to see Jerry by the BOOMBOX.

MATT (CONT'D)
What the hell, dude?!

JERRY
I'm your dad, not your "dude!" That
song is way too offensive to be
playing with your sister and
neighbors around.

MATT
But it's on the radio!
(off Jerry's stern look)
Whatever.

Jerry walks over and nicely slaps Cory on the back.

JERRY
(chummy)
Cory! How's it going, bud? Hungry?

CORY
Nah. Thanks, Mr. Fitzpatrick.

JERRY
Alright, let me know if you change
your mind. I'm gonna start throwing
stuff on the grill. The other kids
should start showing up soon.

As Jerry exits inside, Matt checks his WATCH.

MATT
Yeah. Where is everybody? The guys
should be here by now...

A long beat as Cory seems to wrestle with something, then:

CORY

(uncomfortable, sighs)
Look, Matt, I don't know what to say, but... they're not coming.

MATT

What? What are you talking about?

CORY

Jackie's throwing a huge party for all the kids going to Brunswick Junior High. Like, kids from all the other elementary schools. I don't even know how she got that info.

MATT

(devastated)
What? And it's happening today?

CORY

It actually already started.

MATT

Wow. But the guys are gonna show eventually, right? Like, after? Or some people are gonna do both?

CORY

(shakes head sadly)
No. Sorry, man.

MATT

Oh my god. I can't believe this. Nobody's coming. So, like, does everyone hate me because I'm going to Catholic school or what?

CORY

No. It's just... this is a big deal for everyone going to Brunswick. It's, like, the first chance to meet everyone. Plus, they'll be new kids, new girls, and maybe even beers. So--

MATT

Yeah, I get it -- my party sucks and that one's gonna rule.

Matt looks at a clearly disappointed Cory. He sighs.

MATT (CONT'D)

Do you wanna go to Jackie's party?

CORY

No way. I'm not leaving. You're my best friend, Fitz.

MATT

Right. But, hell, even I kinda wanna go to Jackie's party.

CORY

("sorry")

I don't think you were invited.

MATT

I know!

(shakes head, laughs, then)

Look, Cory, I appreciate you coming. But we can hang out anytime. This party sounds important for, like, the rest of the year. Go.

CORY

Are you sure, dude?

MATT

Yeah. We can meet up at the park Monday after school. Just don't tell anyone how badly this sucked.

CORY

No way. I'll say a bunch of cool kids from your new school showed up and it was rad.

MATT

Thanks, Cory.

CORY

See you Monday, Fitz!

Matt nods to Cory as he jumps on his bike and rides off. Matt waves, but as soon as Cory is gone, he slumps into a nearby lawn chair. A beat and Dolores and Jerry approach with food.

JERRY

Matt, where's Cory? I got him a skewer just in case.

MATT

He had to go.

DOLORES

To the bathroom? I didn't see him come inside.

(then)

(MORE)

DOLORES (CONT'D)

Oh, please tell me he didn't go on the side of the house. I told you guys not to do that!

MATT

No, Mom. He left.

Jerry and Dolores look at each other confused.

JERRY

What? He grabbing something at home? He's coming back, right?

MATT

No. He's gone gone. Nobody's coming.

JERRY

What do you mean nobody's coming?!

Matt, holding back tears, shrugs.

MATT

I don't know. There's some big party for all the Brunswick kids. And I guess nobody likes me anymore now that I'm going to Catholic school.

DOLORES

What?! That's ridiculous! You're an amazing boy!

JERRY

So, seriously? No one's coming?

MATT

I don't think so, Dad.

JERRY

Then why the hell did I buy food for fifty kids?! Money down the drain!

MATT

(breaking down, angry)

What do you want me to do? It's not like I told you to buy all that food!

Jerry SMACKS him. Dolores immediately jumps in between them.

DOLORES

Hey! Leave him alone!

JERRY

Eh, you always baby him!

Jerry heads back in with the food as Dolores turns to Matt.

DOLORES

It's okay, honey. Don't worry about your father. Or those dumb kids from your old school! Look at your sister. She's already got friends from Bible Camp. You'll make friends, too. I promise.

She hugs him.

MATT

Can we still have ice cream cake?

DOLORES

Of course. I'll go defrost it now.

She smiles and exits. Alone, Matt watches Gina and friends happily playing, completely oblivious to everything.

INT. FITZPATRICK HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

It's chaotic. Gina, in her PLAID JUMPER UNIFORM AND WHITE SHIRT, happily puts her coat on. Dolores packs Gina's brown bag lunch.

DOLORES

Now, Gina, I want you to have a good day. Your brother, too. Where is--
(gags)
Oh god...

Dolores RUNS OUT of the room, pushing a frantic Jerry aside as he rushes in with a BINDER and places it in his BRIEFCASE.

JERRY

Where's Matthew? If you guys miss the miss bus, I can't drive you. I'm late enough as it is.

GINA

We missed the bus five minutes ago.

JERRY

Shit.
(then, calls out)
Matthew! Let's go! Now!

Matt, in a WHITE POLO, ILL-FITTING BLUE SLACKS, AND CHEAP BLACK DRESS SHOES -- enters, FEIGNING SICKNESS.

MATT

I'm not feeling good.

JERRY

Oh no, you're not missing the first day of school.

DOLORES (O.S.)

He must have what I have! I'm sick!

MATT

Yeah. I'm going to stay home.

Matt turns to leave, but Jerry spins him back around and puts the back of his hand on his forehead, causing Matt to FLINCH!

JERRY

Calm down, I'm taking your temperature.
(beat, then)
You're fine.

MATT

But I feel like I'm gonna throw up!

JERRY

No, you're not; it's just first day jitters. Now get in the van.
(off his sad look, sighs)
What's the problem, huh? Weren't you king shit at your old school? Voted class president? Everyone knew you?

MATT

Yeah...

JERRY

Then what makes you think this won't be the same? Or even better?

MATT

(shrugs)
Because nobody came to my party.

JERRY

Eh, screw those kids. They're just mad you're leaving them behind. You're gonna make new, better friends.

Matt shrugs, HUMMING "I guess" back to Jerry.

GINA

Can we go?! I wanna get a good locker!

JERRY

Yes! Everyone, in the van! Now!

Jerry makes way so Gina can exit and he motions for Matt to go. As Matt passes, Jerry musses his hair. Matt smiles.

JERRY (CONT'D)
You'll be fine, Matthew. If you worry about it too much, you'll just make yourself sick.

Matt nods as he and Jerry exit. A beat, then...

DOLORES (O.S.)
Can someone call the doctor's and make me an appointment? Hello?!

INT. VAN / EXT. ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - DAY

A medium-sized parochial school. Kids in uniforms (like Matt and Gina) mill about. A TRAFFIC GUARD directs traffic.

JERRY
You guys are gonna make it on time after all! I might make it, too...

The Fitzpatrick VAN, a forest green caravan, RACES down the drive as the TRAFFIC GUARD frantically WAVES at them!

JERRY (CONT'D)
(then, re: Traffic Guard)
What the hell's she waving at?

MATT
I think she's hoping you don't hit her.

JERRY
Shut up.

Jerry passes the Guard, SLAMS on the breaks, and the VAN SCREECHES to a halt. The Guard reacts upset in the B.G.

JERRY (CONT'D)
Okay, kids, I know it's a new school, but don't let that scare you. You guys--

Gina's already gone.

JERRY (CONT'D)
Alright, Gina's good. Matt, I know it's a new school and you don't know anyone.

Jerry notices Matt's LEGS NERVOUSLY SHAKE. Jerry calmly puts his hand on Matt's knee. Matt's legs stop.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Calm down. You'll be okay. This might seem hard, but it's only because it's different. And don't forget, you wanted to go here. You're becoming a man and that means you gotta start sticking to your guns. Understand?

MATT

I guess so.

JERRY

Look, you don't quit something because it scares you. You'll just regret it. Believe me. You got this. You're a smart, likable, and funny kid. And you know where you get that from, don't you?

MATT

(joking)
Mom?

JERRY

(chuckles)
Ha! See?! You'll be fine!

MATT

Thanks, Dad.

JERRY

Alright, I'll pick you up after football tryouts. Have a good--

The Traffic Guard KNOCKS on Jerry's window, startling him.

JERRY (CONT'D)

What the hell?!

MATT

Okay, I'm gonna go.

Matt exits. Jerry rolls down the window for the Traffic Guard.

TRAFFIC GUARD

Sir, first you come flying in like a bat out of hell, and now you're holding up my entire line!

JERRY

I was just about to leave, if you'd--

TRAFFIC GUARD

Sir, I don't need your attitude.

As Jerry's eyes WIDEN...

EXT. ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL - ENTRYWAY - DAY

Matt smiles as he looks ahead and sees: GINA, BRIDGET, AND STACEY excitedly hug and introduce Gina to another girl, YVONNE (10, White, conceited, casually cruel, popular girl).

YVONNE
(to Gina)
Hey, new girl. Welcome!

GINA
Hi. My name's Gina.

As Yvonne shoots her a forced smile and turns to the other girls, Matt confidently WAVES to a couple kids his age, but they quickly look away. His confidence wavers as he walks on, passing some boys. KENNY (12, Asian, rebellious, class clown, wealthy), notices Matt and PRETENDS THE GROUND IS SHAKING:

KENNY
(to others)
You guys feel that? Is it an earthquake?
(then, points to Matt)
Oh, no. Just that fat kid walking!

The boys LAUGH. Matt feels a PANG IN HIS STOMACH. He looks around and it appears everyone is staring or pointing at him. Matt begins BREATHING HEAVILY, his HEART RACING as the world around him SEEMS TO BE SLOWING DOWN.

KENNY (CONT'D)
Uh-oh, he's freaking out!

FROM MATT'S POV: HIS VISION BLURS and A PIERCING SOUND DROWNS OUT and WARPS most of what he hears. Light-headed, he stumbles:

KENNY (CONT'D)
(warped and drowned out)
And down goes fatty!

As Matt falls, overwhelmed by his first ever PANIC ATTACK, kids (including Gina and her friends) crowd around him. And we...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL - ENTRYWAY - DAY

The kids stare and mumble as Matt struggles to get up.

YVONNE

How embarrassing. I mean, how do you just fall? What's wrong with him?

Gina looks on, worried for her brother and her own rep, when:

BRIDGET

Gina, isn't that your--

GINA

Hey, we should go pick our lockers!

YVONNE

Good idea, new girl. This is just sad.

Yvonne nods and heads in as Gina and the others follow. Jerry finally gets away from the Traffic Guard and runs over to Matt.

JERRY

Matthew! Matthew, are you okay?

Jerry helps Matt up as kids look on.

JERRY (CONT'D)

(waves others off)
Everyone. Go to class.
(off no reaction, bossy)
Now!

They all scatter as Jerry helps him up.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Matt, what happened?

MATT

I... I don't know. It was weird. I--

JERRY

Did you slip or...?

MATT

(eyes watering)
I don't know... I think I--

Jerry straightens out Matt's shirt and backpack.

JERRY
(quietly)
Eh, you'll be okay. And wipe away
those tears. Don't let these kids
see you like this.

Jerry hands him a HANDKERCHIEF. Matt reacts grossed out.

JERRY (CONT'D)
(re: handkerchief, annoyed)
I haven't used it yet.

Matt wipes his face as Jerry pats Matt on the shoulder.

JERRY (CONT'D)
There you go. And if anyone gives you
shit about tripping, just make a joke.

MATT
Dad, I don't think I tripped. I--

JERRY
(re: watch)
Shit. I'm gonna be late! Good luck!
See you after tryouts!

Jerry RUNS back to the still running van and PEELS OUT as
Matt watches him go. The BELL RINGS. Matt walks in alone.

INT. OFFICE - CUBICLE AREA - DAY

Jerry rushes into his cubicle, throwing his things down and
fixing his tie as a co-worker, EDUARDO (late 20s, Latino, man-
child with a mustache and slicked back hair), who wears a silk
shirt under a very '90s baggy, double-breasted suit, approaches.

EDUARDO (O.S.)
(mock "boss voice")
Fitzpatrick! You're late!

Jerry turns startled, then acts relieved to see Eduardo.

JERRY
(startled then)
Eduardo. Shit. Is Rich here?

EDUARDO
Take a chill pill, Fitz! The
bossman is still in with Otis.
(then, re: Jerry)
(MORE)

EDUARDO (CONT'D)

What's up with you? You look like
shit. Like, more than usual.

JERRY

Eh, kids started that new school
today. Dolores was sick. We were
running late. Just a disaster.

EDUARDO

Well, you can breathe, man. Otis is
in there with boards and graphs
probably putting Rich to sleep.

JERRY

I hope so. Anything to give me an
edge. I need this promotion. Bad.
(leans in, quietly)
If I get it, I'm telling Dolores
it's over.

EDUARDO

What? You're getting a divorce?!

JERRY

(motions to shh)
Keep it down! But, yeah, that's the
plan.

EDUARDO

Wow... so what happens if you don't
get it?

JERRY

I don't even wanna think about that.

Another co-worker, WENDY (30s, Asian, upbeat, confident,
organizer) in a 1990s blazer and pantsuit.

WENDY

Hey, guys! Coming to happy hour? I
figure we can all relieve some of
the promotion tension around here.

EDUARDO

You know it!

JERRY

Yep. I'll be there, Wendy!

WENDY

Whoa! Two in a row, Jerry? Guess
you can get me back for last time.

JERRY

You bet!

(then, remembering)

Oh shit. I forgot. I've gotta pick up my kid from football. I'm out.

WENDY

Damn. Well, I'm not letting you out of this! You got my drinks next time.

JERRY

Definitely. I got you.

They smile. Wendy heads to the next cubicle as Jerry watches.

EDUARDO

(suspicious)

So what's going on there, buddy?

JERRY

Nope.

RICH (50s, White, respected, personable) walks by with OTIS (30s, Black, confident, critical), who carries CHARTS.

RICH

(big smile)

Fitzpatrick! You're up!

(then)

Otis, appreciate the work on the charts!

OTIS

Of course. I believe my forecasts are accurate and show how I would not only improve our sales, but avoid those bad months from last year.

(then, to Jerry)

Good luck, Irish.

JERRY

Thanks, Otis. I hope your--

Otis is already gone. Rich slaps Jerry across the back...

RICH

Get your ass in my office, Fitz!

Jerry smiles as they head into Rich's office...

INT. ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - DAY

Matt takes a deep breath as he walks in to find a seat. He sees a table at the other side of the room, plasters on a smile, and walks to it. As he passes Kenny...

KENNY

Look, it's the kid who fell on his ass this morning! Let's see if he can walk to a table without falling!

Everyone LAUGHS. Matt turns to them, trying to play along.

MATT

(smiles nervously)
Yeah... it's weird because I'm usually a pretty good walker. It's flying I'm bad at.

Matt expects a laugh but everyone just stares at him, then:

KENNY

Go sit with the nerds, nerd!

Kenny points off to a table with three kids. One has weird hair and glasses, another holds a briefcase and a third wears headgear. As Matt approaches, they all shake their heads "no."

KENNY (CONT'D)

(yelling out)
Even the nerds won't take him!

Everyone LAUGHS. Matt walks over to an empty corner and sits on the floor, forcing a smile, as he eats his lunch.

INT. DOCTOR'S EXAMINE ROOM - DAY

Dolores sits across from DR. DAO (40s, Asian, pleasant, witty).

DOLORES

Yeah, I just don't feel right. I'm tired, throwing up, sweating... you think it's the flu?

DR. DAO

Could be. But no cough, right?
(off her nod)
Hmm. Well, we're just gonna have to take some blood. Let me--

DOLORES

Oh, no, Dr. Dao. I don't do needles. Can't you just give me some pills first? See if that works?

DR. DAO
(laughs)
No, I need these samples or I can't
treat you.

Dolores starts to get up...

DOLORES
Then I guess you can't treat me!

DR. DAO
Dolores, calm down. I'll take the
blood myself. No need to worry.

Dr. Dao picks up the needle and Mom's eyes go WIDE.

DOLORES
No, no, no, no, no...

DR. DAO
Don't worry, just a little pin prick...

As he POKES her, Dolores FREAKS and KNOCKS the NEEDLE away!

DOLORES
(screaming)
AAAAAHHHHHHH!!!!!!

FLIP TO:

INT. HALLWAY - OUTSIDE DOCTOR'S EXAMINE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The SCREAM continues as the door flies open and DR. DAO, with
some BLOOD SPLATTER ON HIS SHIRT, RACES OUT...

DR. DAO
I need nurses! Stat!

He runs back in as NURSES come to his aid, and we...

INT. ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL - HALLWAY - 5TH GRADE LOCKERS - DAY

As Bridget and Stacey fawn over Yvonne's NECKLACE. Gina grabs
her BROWN BAG LUNCH from her locker and approaches.

YVONNE
(re: necklace)
Yeah, my mom says it's time I start
wearing jewelry.

BRIDGET
Wow.

STACEY
So cool.

GINA
(impressed)
That's really pretty! Did you get
it at Delia's?

YVONNE
As if. It's from Kay's.
(then, re: brown bag)
Please tell me that's not your purse.

GINA
No! It's my lunch. Where's yours?

YVONNE
We all buy lunch, Brown-Bag.

Gina looks around and notices she's the only one with a BROWN
BAG LUNCH as kids head off to lunch.

GINA
Oh. Well, everyone brown-bagged it
at my old school.

YVONNE
Really? Where was that?

GINA
Crestview.

YVONNE
That's not in Strongsville.

GINA
No. It's in Brunswick.

Yvonne bursts out LAUGHING.

YVONNE
Brunstucky?! No wonder you bring
your lunch! Everyone there is poor!

GINA
No they're not!

Gina looks hurt as Yvonne laughs and the others stifle laughter.

GINA (CONT'D)
(to her friends)
You guys pack sometimes, right?

BRIDGET
Not really.

STACEY
Never.

YVONNE

It's okay. You just keep saving up
for that big family trip to
McDonald's this weekend, Brunstucky!

As Yvonne smiles and walks off, Bridget follows. Stacey waits.

GINA

My name is Gina!

STACEY

You coming?

GINA

(forces smile)

I forgot something. I'll meet you.

Stacey nods and exits. A teary-eyed Gina opens her locker and checks herself out in the mirror. She wipes some tears away. She considers tossing her lunch in a nearby trash, but then shakes her head, shuts her locker, and walks off.

EXT. ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Recess. Matt watches kids play "ONE DOLLAR" (the thrower sets a price -- up to a dollar -- then tosses the football to a group trying to catch it. Whoever catches it, gets that amount and becomes thrower once they obtain "One Dollar"). It's physical, but Matt wants to play. As he tries to get an invite...

KENNY

(to Matt)

Still hungry, Fatty? You're looking
at us like we're lunch!

MATT

What? No! I wanna play. I'm going out
for the football team!

KENNY

(mocking him)

I'm going out for the football team!
(then)

Who cares? Go play with the nerds!

Another kid, ANDY (12, White, easy-going, lanky) steps up.

ANDY

Just let him play, Kenny.

KENNY

Seriously, Andy?
(off his look)

(MORE)

KENNY (CONT'D)

Okay, Fatty, you make the football team later, you can play tomorrow.

MATT

Really?

KENNY

Maybe. Probably not. I guess you'll just have to wait and see. Until then, go play with yourself, Fatty!

The kids LAUGH as Matt exits, a mix of anger and sadness.

INT. FITZPATRICK HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

A concerned Dolores is on phone...

DOLORES

(into phone)

...They took blood, Mom. He said it could be anything at my age. Knowing my luck, it's prob--

(off door opening)

I gotta go, it's Gina!

Dolores hangs up the phone and plasters on a smile as Gina enters and tosses her bag on the table.

DOLORES (CONT'D)

Gina! How was your first day?

GINA

Pretty good.

(then)

Do you have any jewelry I can borrow?

DOLORES

Wow, that came out of nowhere. You don't need to wear jewelry to school.

GINA

You don't know! So what? Are we poor?

DOLORES

What? No. We're not poor. I mean, we're definitely not rich. But we're not poor. What's going on? What happened at school?

GINA

Nothing. My friends just wear jewelry now. And buy lunch.

DOLORES

Bridget and Stacey were just here
and weren't wearing any jewelry.

GINA

They do it for school! Gah! This one
girl wears it and if I don't start
wearing something or buying lunch,
I'm not gonna have any friends!

DOLORES

Hold on, slow down. I'm not following.

GINA

Ugh. Of course not! I don't want to
lose the friends I just made!

DOLORES

You don't need friends who only like
you because you have nice jewelry. But
I can give you money for lunch.

GINA

(sighs)

Thanks, Mom. Big help.

Gina starts to grab her things and go, but Dolores stops her.

DOLORES

Pumpkin, you're wonderful. You
don't need to do anything for these
girls to make them like you.

GINA

I'm not. I'm just trying to be like
everyone else!

DOLORES

You should just be you!

(then)

You know what... you should make
these girls friendship bracelets!

GINA

I guess it is technically jewelry...
but it's not really that nice.

DOLORES

What do you mean? A handmade,
personalized gift? Made by my amazing
daughter? Sounds pretty nice to me!

GINA

I guess. But I think it would be better if I just got fancy jewelry.

DOLORES

Let's try this first. And give the mean girl a bracelet, too! I bet they all love it!

GINA

(shrugs)

Okay. It might work. Thanks, Mom.

Gina hugs Dolores and runs off.

EXT. ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL - FIELD - DUSK

A few boys play catch with a football while others goof off. TWO ADULTS, COACH (40s, Black, former jock, strict, athletic) and LANGLEY (late 30s, White, former jock, jerk, stout) the assistant coach, watch on from behind registration tables. Matt excitedly approaches.

MATT

Hi! I'm here for football tryouts.

LANGLEY

All right, a big guy! We could use someone like you on the line!

MATT

I actually wanna play running back.

Langley stifles a laugh then whispers into Coach's ear. He nods.

COACH

Yeah... We better weigh you.

MATT

Weigh me? Why?

LANGLEY

Catholic League Football has a weight limit. For safety.

MATT

But I'm not gonna hurt anybody.

COACH

Of course not. But it's mandatory.

Coach grabs a SCALE out of a box and places it on the ground.

MATT

Do I really need to do this?

COACH

If you want to play.

Matt looks to see if anyone is watching. They are. Embarrassed, he slowly steps on the scale. The coaches' EYES GO WIDE.

COACH (CONT'D)

(re: scale)

Wow...

MATT

Am I over? Should I take off my shoes?

LANGLEY

Kid, you're gonna have to take off a lot more than your shoes.

Matt gets off the scale and looks at them sadly.

COACH

Sorry. You're over the limit.
If you lose some weight -- a lot of weight -- you can try next year.

MATT

(crushed)

Oh. Okay. I'll try that. Thanks.

Devastated, Matt walks to the parking lot and sits on a curb. As the other kids laugh and start tryouts, Matt puts on HEADPHONES and presses play on his WALKMAN. MUSIC CUE: DEPECHE MODE "ENJOY THE SILENCE."

DAVE GAHAN (V.O.)

(singing)

*WORDS LIKE VIOLENCE / BREAK THE SILENCE
/ COME CRASHING IN / INTO MY LITTLE
WORLD / PAINFUL TO ME / PIERCE RIGHT
THROUGH ME / CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND...*

As Matt listens, and TEARS RUN DOWN HIS FACE, we...

INT. VAN - LATER - NIGHT

The MUSIC CONTINUES... an irate Jerry drives as Matt sadly sits staring out the window listening to his headphones.

JERRY

I can't believe this! Matthew?! Damn it, are you listening to me?!

Jerry RIPS Matt's HEADPHONES OFF. Matt turns to him upset.

JERRY (CONT'D)

You're seriously so fat, you can't even play football?!

MATT

I guess. I don't know. Maybe I should go back to public school.

JERRY

Oh, no! You're the one who begged for this so you could get into a good college. Plus, the check is already cashed. You're in it now, pal.

Tears start rolling down Matt's face.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Quit your crying! You know I had to miss an important work event to pick you up! And after all this, you could've just taken the bus!

MATT

How do you think I feel? I've wanted to play football my entire life! Instead of playing, I just got laughed at! And you were late! As usual!

Enraged, Jerry SWATS him across the arm. Matt grabs it, hurt.

JERRY

What? I give up so much for you damn kids and you don't even appreciate it!

MATT

Whatever. You don't get it.

Jerry holds back from hitting him again, noticing he's hurt.

JERRY

You know, instead of giving me a hard time, you should be standing up to those kids at school!

MATT

(angry)

What am I supposed to do? Everyone thinks I'm a loser! They all hate me!

(then, small)

'Cause I'm a fat loser.

Jerry softens, then sighs.

JERRY

Look, being a big guy, you're an easy target. I know. But use it. Don't be afraid to throw your weight around. Quit putting up with their shit. Or who knows how long you'll be putting up with it for. Got it?

Matt shudders, holding back tears. A long beat, then...

MATT

Mm-hmm. Can you drop me off at Cory's?

JERRY

Really? You're kind of a mess.

MATT

But we promised we'd hang after school and--

JERRY

Okay, okay. Fine. Just be home by seven.

Matt smiles. Jerry nods and tosses him a HANDKERCHIEF.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Here. Wipe your face. You can't let Cory see you like this. And yes, you're the only one who used it.

As Matt blows his nose, we...

EXT. PLAYGROUND - NIGHT

Matt and Cory sit on the top of this weird Mushroom-esque playground slide that's attached to more playground equipment.

CORY

Seriously? They won't let you play football? That's bogus. We've got guys twice your size playing.

MATT

It's a stupid Catholic rule.

CORY

Dumb Catholics and all their rules.

MATT

Right?

They laugh.

CORY

Bummer your first day sucked.

MATT

(shrugs)

Can't get worse, right? So really, how was Jackie's party? Tell me the truth.

CORY

I told you. It wasn't that great.

(off his look, then)

Okay, it was awesome. Threw some kids in the pool, egged a house, and met some new girls. Junior high is gonna rule.

MATT

Wow. That sounds rad! I'm starting to wish I was still going to Brunswick.

CORY

It's only been a day. You're a weird, funny dude. Once people get to know you, they'll like you.

MATT

Yeah, I'm not sure they appreciate my weirdness or jokes. Or me.

CORY

They will. Hey, like you said, it can't get worse, right?

Matt nods. Cory pulls out a CLOVE CIGARETTE AND LIGHTS it.

MATT

(worried)

Whoa, what are you doing?

CORY

What? It's just a clove. Everyone was smoking them at Jackie's party. I snagged a few. Want one?

MATT

No way! My dad will kill me if I come home smelling like that.

CORY

You gotta stop worrying about
getting in trouble all the time.
We're practically adults now.

(then)

Oh, I almost forgot...

Cory reaches in his pocket and pulls out a CASSETTE.

CORY (CONT'D)

(re: tape)

I made ya a mixtape of my brother's
college radio show.

MATT

Oh, sweet! Thanks!

CORY

Yeah, I felt bad about leaving your
party so I edited it down to my
favorite songs from his first show.
Some pretty heavy stuff on there.

Matt nods and smiles. Cory hands him the CASSETTE. As Matt
takes it, he NOTICES THE TIME ON his WATCH: 7:07 P.M.

MATT

Oh, shit! I'm late!

Matt jumps off the slide. As he RUNS through the park...

CORY

(calling out)

You still have a curfew?

Matt stops and turns back.

MATT

Yeah! You don't?

CORY

No way! We're in seventh grade!

Matt shakes his head and runs off, as Cory puffs his clove.

CORY (CONT'D)

(to himself, coughing)

Poor bastard.

As Cory continues to choke on the smoke, we...

INT. FITZPATRICK HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jerry and Dolores are mid-argument. Jerry's shirt is sloppily unbuttoned, clearly interrupted in the middle of changing out of his business attire. Dolores throws a dish towel on the counter.

DOLORES

What do you mean Matt can't play football?

JERRY

There's a weight limit and he's too damn fat! So now he's probably gonna get made fun of even more at school!

DOLORES

My poor baby! I can't believe this.

JERRY

You should! You're the one who constantly force feeds us crap! It's your fault he's fat!

DOLORES

What?! It is not!

JERRY

Oh yeah? What's for dinner tonight, Dolores? I bet it's fast food.

DOLORES

You know, Jerry, I'm doing the best I can with everything going on. I didn't have time to cook. You're lucky I grabbed pizza!

JERRY

Lucky. Ha. You never cook anymore.

Jerry spots the pizza box and opens it.

JERRY (CONT'D)

And of course, no mushroom.

DOLORES

Nobody likes mushrooms, Jerry.

JERRY

I do. But I guess I can never get what I want. Right, Dolores?

DOLORES

All about you, huh, Jerry? You didn't even ask what's happening with me!

JERRY

Why would I? You never want to talk!
Our marriage is crumbling and you
refuse to see a therapist!

DOLORES

I'm not telling a stranger my secrets!
And if you do, you're an idiot!

JERRY

I'm the one trying to make things
better, but, yeah, I'm the idiot!

DOLORES

Yeah, you care so much. Did you even
ask about my doctor's appointment?
Of course not. Asshole!

Matthew enters and they both stop and look at him. Jerry
looks at the clock. Seeing Matt is late, he becomes ENRAGED.

JERRY

Where the hell have you been?!

MATT

I'm barely late! God! It's so dumb
you still give me a curfew!

JERRY

(eyes widen, enraged)
Oh, ho-ho-ho, not tonight!

Jerry runs at Matt, but he DODGES Jerry and runs into the
adjoining room as Jerry follows. Dolores watches as they run
out of sight, but THEIR SHADOWS APPEAR VISIBLE on a wall.

DOLORES

Jerry! Stop it!

Jerry KNOCKS Matt DOWN. As JERRY'S SHADOW STANDS OVER MATT,
HIS HAND CASTS AN EVEN BIGGER SHADOW AS HE RAISES IT... AS IT
RAISES AND FALLS REPEATEDLY:

MATT (O.S.)

Ow! No! Stop!

It's over. Jerry re-enters, walks past Dolores and grabs a beer
from the fridge as Matt cries and heads to bedroom. Dolores
angrily stares at Jerry.

DOLORES

You're a real pice of work, Jerry!

He gives her a dismissive look, opens the beer, and exits to the living room. Dolores follows him to the edge of the kitchen.

DOLORES (CONT'D)
Yeah, just keeping drinking! You
selfish prick!

Jerry "toasts" her with his beer. Pissed, Dolores storms out.

INT. FITZPATRICK HOUSE - MATT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Wearing headphones, Matt lies in bed as tears roll down his face.

CORY'S BROTHER (V.O.)
...Okay, this new one is LOUD.
Crank it up! It's Nirvana with,
"Smells Like Teen Spirit."

MUSIC CUE: NIRVANA, "SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT." The song's RIFF
KICKS IN as Matt wipes away tears and slowly stops crying, then:

KURT COBAIN (V.O.)
(singing)
*LOAD UP ON GUNS, BRING YOUR FRIENDS /
IT'S FUN TO LOSE AND TO PRETEND /
SHE'S OVER-BORED AND SELF-ASSURED /
OH NO, I KNOW A DIRTY WORD /
HELLO, HELLO, HELLO, HOW LOW /
HELLO, HELLO, HELLO, HOW LOW /
HELLO, HELLO, HELLO, HOW LOW /
HELLO, HELLO, HELLO...*

As the chorus kicks in, Matt begins head-banging in bed...

KURT COBAIN (V.O.)
(singing)
*WITH THE LIGHTS OUT, IT'S LESS
DANGEROUS / HERE WE ARE NOW, ENTERTAIN
US / I FEEL STUPID AND CONTAGIOUS...*

As a wicked smile comes across Matt's face, we...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. FITZPATRICK HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Matt sits anxiously shaking his leg as Gina packs her FRIENDSHIP BRACELET SUPPLIES. Dolores hovers.

GINA

I still have one friendship bracelet to finish.

DOLORES

Good job, sweetie! I can't believe you got so many done last night!

(then, angry)

You know, with all your father's yelling. I'm sorry things got so out of control. He's such an ass!

The kids look at each other, sitting in silence.

DOLORES (CONT'D)

(upbeat)

Don't worry, I still love you. How about we get some Frosties later?!

The kids perk up as an annoyed Jerry enters, tying his tie.

JERRY

I guess last night's argument about crappy food fell on deaf ears.

DOLORES

Unlikely. With all your yelling, the entire neighborhood probably knows everything about us now!

JERRY

Nice priorities, Dolores.

DOLORES

And where are yours?! You still haven't asked about my doctor's visit.

JERRY

When it becomes a "real" problem, then I'll worry.

DOLORES
(shakes head)
You don't even--

Dolores GAGS and runs off to the bathroom.

MATT
(to Jerry)
Mom gonna be okay?

JERRY
Yeah. She's fine. It's all up here.
(points to head, then)
Let's go. You've gotta catch the
bus. I'm not driving you!

They all exits as Dolores DRY HEAVES O.S., and we...

INT. ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - DAY

Gina eats PIZZA with Yvonne, Stacey, and Bridget.

YVONNE
Look at Brunstucky with her hot lunch.
(to Gina)
Did your mom win on a scratcher?

GINA
No. I'm not poor. I can buy hot lunch
whenever I want. And I love pizza.

BRIDGET
Yeah, pizza's the best.

STACEY
Totally.

YVONNE
Good pizza is. This is basically
cardboard, grease, and cheese.

GINA
Then maybe you should've brown
bagged it, Yvonne!

The other girls laugh as Yvonne reacts annoyed.

GINA (CONT'D)
Oh. I almost forgot...

Gina goes into her vest pocket and pulls out a handful of
FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS.

GINA (CONT'D)
I made us all friendship bracelets so
everyone will know we're friends!

STACEY
(taking one)
Oh, cool!

BRIDGET
(taking one)
Thanks!

YVONNE
Really? You made those yourself?

GINA
Totally! I spent a lot of time
personalizing each one with your
favorite colors!

Gina hands them out. Yvonne gets hers last. She waves it off.

YVONNE
Yeah. No thanks. This is poor
people jewelry and I don't wear
poor people jewelry. Any real
friend would know better than to
give me some garbage like this.

GINA
(hurt)
It's not garbage. I made them. For
you. Because we're friends.

YVONNE
About that. You just kind of butted
your way in. Just because you decided
to be part of this group doesn't mean
you are. Understand?

GINA
No. What are you saying?

YVONNE
Shocker. Brunstucky is confused.
Maybe sit here and think about it
while we go to recess. Girls.

Yvonne gets up and walks off. She looks back and Bridget
hurries up and follows. Stacey gets up slower. As she does...

STACEY
(off Gina's sad look)
Don't worry, she'll forget about
this tomorrow. Then we can all hang
again. You get it, right?

As Stacey walks away, Gina sighs and eats her pizza alone.

INT. FITZPATRICK HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

A shocked Dolores is on the phone, mid-conversation.

DOLORES

Are you sure? ...Uh-huh... I mean,
is everything gonna be okay?

(beat)

Right. Talk to you at the next
appointment. Thanks, Doctor.

Dolores begins to CRY as she hangs up and collapses in the chair.

INT. OFFICE - BOSS'S OFFICE - DAY

Rich sits at his big fancy desk talking to a nervous Jerry.

RICH

Fitz, I like you, so--

JERRY

(joking)

I like you, too, Rich, but let's
keep this professional.

RICH

Ha! Good one! Look, I'm going to be
blunt. The board seems to be leaning
toward Otis or Wendy over you.

JERRY

What? Why? I've been here the
longest. I have a great track record.

RICH

You're preaching to the choir. But
the board is pushing for diversity.

JERRY

Oh. I see...

RICH

Don't get too down, you're not out
yet. I'm still pushing for you.

JERRY

Thanks. I appreciate that, Rich.

(then, hesitant)

Sorry. I gotta say, I don't get it.
I mean, Otis and Wendy are both
great salesmen-- people-- but...

RICH

I know -- Otis had those bad months and Wendy is new.

JERRY

Exactly! You get it.

RICH

Yes. But the board argues Otis came back with a few strong months.

JERRY

Sure. But c'mon, that was a miracle. And Wendy hasn't even been here a year? She's going to manage me? And Otis?

RICH

Wendy's new, but her potential is through the roof. Which is why I assume she'll get a better offer somewhere else soon. And frankly, she'd be dumb not to take it.

JERRY

Oh, I didn't realize.

RICH

Yeah. And that's why you're my pick. Not like you're going anywhere!

JERRY

Ha. Right... well, lemme know if there's anything I can do to help my odds.

RICH

Let me take it from here. But if you happen to see the board later, it never hurts to kiss a little ass.

JERRY

You got it, Rich. I'm a company man.

RICH

And that's why we love ya, Fitz! No matter what kind of shit sandwich you get handed, you keep coming back!

A disappointed Jerry forces a smile, nods, and exits.

INT. ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Matt watches as some boys play ONE DOLLAR. A BOY goes up to grab the ball, but he's KNOCKED AWAY by Matt, who catches the ball. Kenny notices and angrily PUSHES Matt.

KENNY

Hey! What are you doing, fatty?!

MATT

Just trying to play.

KENNY

I heard you were too fat to play football! Which means you're too fat to play with us.

MATT

So you're afraid of me, Kenny?

KENNY

What? No. Go eat something, Fatty.

MATT

You are. You're scared.

The kids look at Kenny. He feels pressure. Matt is nervous and starting to sweat, but keeps his composure.

KENNY

Okay, McFatterson, you wanna play, let's play!

MATT

The name's Matt.

KENNY

Oh. My bad, Matt... McFatterson!

The kids LAUGH as Matt tosses back to the thrower -- Andy.

ANDY

Let's do this. Fifty cents!

Andy tosses the ball. Matt USES HIS HIPS TO KNOCK A FEW BOYS AWAY and clear a path. He JUMPS. AS HIS FINGERS TOUCH IT... KENNY runs in and KNOCKS MATT to the ground. As Matt gets up, to everyone's surprise, HE CAUGHT THE BALL. A beat, then:

KENNY

Looks like those fat fingers are good for something other than stuffing your fat face!

Matt's anxiety and anger rises as his BREATHING INTENSIFIES and SWEAT DRIPS FROM HIS HEAD.

MATT
Shut up, Kenny!

KENNY
Or what? You gonna sweat on me?
You've barely played and you're
already dripping!

Matt feels the SWEAT on his forehead as kids LAUGH. Matt starts to PANIC and everything is DROWNED OUT BY A PIERCING SOUND.

KENNY (CONT'D)
Uh-oh. He's freaking out!
(then, to Matt)
What? You gonna cry? Ya big baby!

Hearing this echo of his Dad, Matt switches from PANIC ATTACK to BLACKOUT RAGE. He TOSSES THE BALL AT KENNY and CHARGES.

MATT
AHHHHHHHHH!

Before anyone can react, Matt RUNS INTO Kenny LIKE A BRICK WALL, KNOCKING him to the ground. A beat of shock as the kids all look at each other, then:

ANDY
FIGHT!

Before Kenny can get up, Matt jumps on him. As he throws punches, more kids crowd in, including Gina, Bridget, Stacey, and Yvonne.

YVONNE
(re: Matt)
Oh my god, it's that new kid! He's
psycho!

Stacey looks to Gina, who shakes her head "no," hoping Stacey stays quiet. Kenny SCREAMS turn their attention back.

KENNY
Ow! Shit! You're skinny! Stop!

Kenny covers his face as some kids pull Matt off Kenny. As Matt struggles and SCREAMS, tears pouring down his face, we...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. FITZPATRICK HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

It's dark as Jerry and Matt enter, turning on the lights.

JERRY
(annoyed)
Hello?! Is anyone here?

Dolores walks in, surprised.

DOLORES
Oh, hey, what's going on? What are
you both doing home already?

JERRY
Where the hell have you been?!

DOLORES
What? I was just at my mom's.

JERRY
For how long?!

DOLORES
I don't know. Not that long. What's
the big deal?

JERRY
The big deal is your son got in a
fight at school and I had to leave
work early to pick him up because
nobody could get a hold of you.

DOLORES
Oh my god! A fight! Matthew, are
you okay? Are you hurt?

Dolores runs and hugs him.

JERRY
He's fine! The little shit started it!

MATT
I did not! I just stood up for myself!
Isn't that what you told me to do?

DOLORES
You told him to fight, Jerry?!

JERRY

No! This is not my fault! He screwed up my day! I was supposed to meet the board and kiss some ass!

DOLORES

Then go back to work! I certainly don't want you here yelling!

JERRY

It's too late! They'll already be gone! So thank you, Matthew!

MATT

(sarcastic)
Sorry.

JERRY

Don't you get smart with me.

MATT

What? So you want me to be dumb?
Doy, doy, doy!

Jerry ANGRILY SLAPS Matt across the face. Matt doesn't move, taking the hit and holding back his tears. He stares Jerry down.

JERRY

Don't you dare. Go to your room. Now.

A beat and Matt storms out.

DOLORES

What the hell, Jerry? It's the boy's second day of school and he's clearly having a tough time. He doesn't need you piling on!

JERRY

You love him so much, you can pick him up from detention after school. I'm not doing it.

DOLORES

Of course not. Why would you ever do anything?!

JERRY

Can it, Dolores! I'm the only one in this house that works! What did you do today? I don't see dinner being made.

DOLORES

Wow... you talk about being too fat, but all you care about is food and yourself! You still haven't asked about the doctor!

JERRY

Why would I? It's probably just another delusional sickness.

DOLORES

I was really sick last time, I just saw the doctor too late.

JERRY

Sure. The doctor was wrong.

DOLORES

You know what? My day was going great until you got home!

JERRY

Hey, same here!

DOLORES

But you just had to ruin it! You ruin everything!

Dolores storms out...

JERRY

I didn't ruin shit! It was your damn son!

Jerry shakes his head and storms out the opposite way.

INT. FITZPATRICK HOUSE - MATT'S BEDROOM - DAY

Matt is sitting on the bed with his headphones on, staring out the window. Gina enters slowly and shakes his shoulder. He turns.

MATT

(angrily)
What?!
(then, re: Gina)
Oh. Sorry. Is dinner ready?

GINA

No. I don't think there is dinner tonight.

MATT
(shakes head)
Unreal.

GINA
How are you?

MATT
(shrugs)
I'm okay. Why?

GINA
I saw the fight. It was kinda crazy.

MATT
Shit. Sorry you saw me like that. It sucked. I just, like, totally blacked out and lost it. I feel terrible. Everyone probably thinks I'm crazy now.

GINA
(shrugs)
So what?

MATT
I mean, I do. I was hoping to have some friends. But I guess not.
(thinks, then)
Oh, and if you wanna tell people we're not related or I'm adopted or whatever, I get it. I wouldn't want to be associated with me either.

GINA
No way. You're my brother. And I get it. Sometimes I feel that angry, too.

MATT
That sucks. Must run in the family. I don't know what to do about it. I guess just try and control it better than I do.

GINA
I'm glad you stood up for yourself. Even if it wasn't exactly in the right way. I love you, Matt.

She hugs him. Surprised, he hugs her back -- a sweet moment.

MATT
(confused)
I... love you, too.
(MORE)

MATT (CONT'D)

(then)

Are you sure everything's okay?

They break the hug. Gina smiles.

GINA

I think so...

INT. FITZPATRICK HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jerry sits watching TV, drinking beer, and eating pistachios. The phone RINGS. He answers it...

JERRY

(into phone, disgusted)

Yeah. Hello...

INTERCUT TO:

INT. OFFICE - BOSS'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Rich sits behind his desk, tie loose, and nursing a bourbon.

RICH

(into phone)

Fitzpatrick! It's Rich.

JERRY

(perks up)

Rich! Hey!

RICH

Everything okay at the homestead?

JERRY

Eh... you know.

RICH

Look, I know you've got your hands full, but the board just left.

Jerry sits up in his chair and puts his beer down.

JERRY

Did they make a decision?

RICH

First of all, they were really disappointed you weren't around.

JERRY

Oh, man. My damn kid! I'm so sorry!

RICH

It's okay. They just wanted to tell you in person -- you got the promotion!

JERRY

What?! Really?! I did?

RICH

Yep! You're the new manager of our sales team!

Jerry JUMPS UP -- A MOMENT OF PURE JOY CROSSES HIS FACE.

JERRY

That's so great! Thank you so much! You have no idea how big this is for me. I'm gonna work my ass off!

RICH

I know you will! Now relax and celebrate. But not too much. You've got a call with the board tomorrow.

JERRY

You got it! Thanks again, Rich.

Jerry hangs up. He looks happy and relieved for first time.

DOLORES (O.S.)

(suspicious)

Who was that, Jerry?

Jerry's face falls as he turns to see Dolores has entered.

JERRY

Work. You know how I've been on edge the past week?

DOLORES

I'd say longer than that, but go ahead.

JERRY

Well, I didn't want to say anything, but I've been up for a promotion.

DOLORES

(sadly)

Oh... and you didn't get it?

JERRY

No.

(smiles)

I did!

DOLORES

You did? Oh my god, congratulations,
Jerry! That's such fantastic news!

JERRY

Yeah, I think things are going to
start changing around here...

DOLORES

I think so, too.

JERRY

(confused)
Hmmm?

DOLORES

I've been trying to tell you. I've
got news, too. The doctor got back
to me.

JERRY

("fuck")
Oh my god. Dolores. I'm sorry I
haven't talked to you about that.
I've been an ass.

DOLORES

Yes. You have.

JERRY

Okay. I deserve that. So... is it
serious?

DOLORES

Well, I think so.
(off his worried look)
I'm pregnant!

Jerry's JAW DROPS. Dolores can barely contain her excitement!

DOLORES (CONT'D)

I know! That's why I've been off the
last few days! We're having another
baby! I can't believe it! A pregnancy
and a promotion! How blessed are we?!

As Dolores hugs a stunned Jerry, we...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

INT. FITZPATRICK HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

An overjoyed Dolores serves the kids eggs and bacon.

GINA

Mom, I don't know if we have time for this.

DOLORES

You do. Your father's driving you in this morning.

MATT

I can't eat. My stomach is so upset. Today's gonna suck!

DOLORES

It'll be fine. I bet they don't even remember.

MATT

Are you kidding? They're definitely gonna remember me beating up a kid! Everyone's gonna hate me!

DOLORES

That wasn't you yesterday. I know you, Matthew. You're a sweet, caring, and peaceful boy.

GINA

You are a momma's boy!

MATT

Shut up, Gina.

DOLORES

Just be yourself, Matthew. And apologize to the kid you beat up.

MATT

What? No way! He started it!

DOLORES

I don't care. You don't hit someone and then not apologize. Who knows? Maybe you guys will end up great friends one day.

MATT

Yeah, I doubt that. And why are you so positive? What's happening?

DOLORES

(coyly)

Nothing...

Jerry enters fully dressed and ready to go. He kisses Dolores. The kids react.

MATT

Gross. What's going on?

DOLORES

(surreptitiously, smiling)

Jerry... should we tell them?

GINA

Tell us what?

JERRY

Later. Finish up and get in the van.

Dolores smiles all excited as Jerry gathers the kids to leave.

INT. VAN - DAY

Jerry drives the kids to school.

GINA

Why was Mom so weird?

JERRY

As opposed to other mornings?

GINA

C'mon, I'm serious, Dad.

JERRY

Everything's fine. Don't worry.

MATT

(nervous)

Can I, like, just go to work with you today?

JERRY

No. You're going to school. It'll be okay.

MATT

No it's not! Everyone's gonna hate me!

JERRY

(joking)

Maybe. But after that fight, who's gonna mess with you?

MATT

Dad!

JERRY

I'm kidding. Look, if anyone brings up the fight. Just change the subject. Or tell a joke.

MATT

I've tried that. They don't like my jokes. And they just turn everything into a fat joke. Things would be so much easier if I wasn't fat.

JERRY

Maybe. I mean, we could all stand to lose some pounds. What do you think about us getting a Bowflex?

MATT

Really? Can we afford one?

JERRY

As of last night, we sure can.

GINA

I knew we weren't poor!

JERRY

And who knows, Matt, maybe you can get in good enough shape for next football season.

MATT

You think I could lose the weight?

JERRY

If you put the time in, why not? Maybe they'll even let you play running back.

As Matt smiles at the possibility, we...

INT. ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL - HALLWAY - 7TH GRADE LOCKERS - DAY

Matt enters as kids stare and whisper about him. He sees Kenny and approaches.

MATT

Hey, Kenny.

KENNY

I don't want any trouble, Fitzpatrick.

MATT

I just want to apologize. Sorry.

Kenny is taken aback and confused as he looks to Andy and some of the other kids.

KENNY

Is this some kind of trick?

MATT

Nah. I've never been into magic.

KENNY

Was that a joke?

MATT

I'm trying, dude. This is awkward. I just wanted to play One Dollar with you guys. I didn't wanna fight. That wasn't me. I'm sorry I lost it.

Matt turns, a bit flustered, and heads to class. As Kenny considers him a beat, we...

INT. OFFICE - CUBICLE AREA - DAY

Jerry is surrounded by co-workers who congratulate him. He seems to be forcing his happiness, but doing it well.

OTIS

Congrats on the promotion, Irish. I guess the better man got the job.

JERRY

I don't know about that. But hopefully, we'll all get a little more friendly now that we're working closer together.

OTIS

I don't know about that.

Otis is stone-faced as everyone is suddenly quiet.

OTIS (CONT'D)

I'm kidding. Later, Irish.

Still stone-faced, he walks off.

JERRY

Thanks, Otis.

(then)

Aren't you supposed to at least smile when you say "I'm kidding"?

WENDY

That's just Otis. So when are we going out to celebrate?

EDUARDO

It's ten-thirty AM, but I could clock out now.

JERRY

Very funny. We have work to do. I'm busy tonight, but we'll figure something out soon. For now, let's get back to it.

EDUARDO

Wow. First day as boss and already a stickler.

Eduardo and Wendy laugh. Wendy walks off as Jerry sits in his chair. Eduardo pops his head into Jerry's cubicle.

EDUARDO (CONT'D)

Hey, what's up, buddy? You don't seem as excited as I thought you'd be. Isn't this what you wanted?

JERRY

Yeah. Totally.

EDUARDO

Then what's the matter? Why aren't you jumping off the walls, man? Aren't you gonna be a free man soon?

JERRY

(sighs, devastated)

No. Dolores is pregnant.

EDUARDO

Wait, what? Are you serious?

JERRY

Yeah. No way I can divorce her now.

EDUARDO

Wow, just when you thought you were out, she pulled you back in.

(then)

Damn. What made you sleep with your wife?

JERRY

(ashamed)

Remember when we all went out and Wendy bought me all those drinks...

EDUARDO

(thinks, then realizes)

Ohhh, shit. I'm sorry, man.

As Jerry nods and Eduardo pats his shoulder, we...

INT. ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL - HALLWAY - 5TH GRADE LOCKERS - DAY

Kids at their lockers grab their bags and exit as Gina, Bridget, Stacey, and Yvonne walk out together...

YVONNE

Can you believe they let that psycho seventh grader back in school?

Bridget and Stacey look at Gina, who struggles to stay silent.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

I heard he got kicked out of his last school for biting a kid's ear off!

GINA

(over it)

That's not true at all!

YVONNE

And how would you know, Brunstucky?

GINA

Because he's my brother, Yvonne.

YVONNE

Crazy kid is your brother? Now it all makes sense.

GINA

He's not crazy. He was just sick of getting crap from people!

YVONNE

Whoa, calm down. Don't want you
going all crazy, too.

(laughs, then)

I mean, does it run in your family?
Should I be worried?

Yvonne and the girls laugh as Gina thinks a beat, then smiles:

GINA

Nah. I'm not like him. I'm calmer.
Smarter. If I ever go crazy, you'd
never see it coming. So yeah, there
could be a reason to be worried.

YVONNE

(uncomfortable laughter)

Hahaha. That's funny.

GINA

Yeah, so you shouldn't have
anything to worry about. You know,
since we're friends. We are still
friends, right?

Gina slyly smiles at a suddenly nervous and scared Yvonne.

YVONNE

(nervous)

Yes. Definitely. ...Right?

GINA

Of course! So you probably want
your friendship bracelet back then.

YVONNE

Oh. Yeah. Sure. Thank you!

GINA

Cool. I actually made a new one
just for you.

Gina grabs a BRACELET out of her vest pocket and hands it over.

GINA (CONT'D)

(smiling big)

This should help you remember my
name.

CLOSE ON: FRIENDSHIP BRACELET. It reads: "GINA'S FRIEND."

YVONNE

(re: bracelet)

Thank you... Gina.

GINA

You're welcome! Isn't this great?
Now we're all officially friends!

Gina smiles big, seemingly taken over as leader of their group.

EXT. ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Recess. Matt sits on a bench by himself with his headphones on. Kenny approaches. Matt takes his headphones off.

MATT

Hey. What's up?

KENNY

Nothing. What're you listening to?

MATT

Nirvana.

KENNY

Who?

MATT

Nirvana. They're new. Here.

Matt hands Kenny his headphones. Kenny listens a beat.

KENNY

Wow. Dude sounds really angry.

MATT

Yeah. I like it.

Kenny looks at him a beat as he hands the headphones back.

KENNY

So... you wanna play One Dollar
with us or what?

MATT

Yeah? For real? No joke?

KENNY

Look, if you wanna play, play. If
not, sit here and listen to music.

Kenny turns and starts to walk off.

MATT

Kenny, wait.

Kenny turns back.

MATT (CONT'D)

I'll play.

Kenny smiles and waves him over. Matt smiles, puts his headphones in his hoodie and joins him and the other guys.

INT. FITZPATRICK HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Matt and Gina are sitting at the table as Dolores begins to plate homemade food -- baked chicken and green beans.

DOLORES

So today was better, huh, kids?

MATT

Yeah, no fights and I got to play football at recess!

DOLORES

Well, that's fun!

GINA

And you were right, Mom. Yvonne loved the friendship bracelet!

DOLORES

See? You're both amazing! You just had to be yourselves.

(smiles)

I'm glad you're both in a good mood. Your father and I have some big news!

GINA

Yeah. What is it?

MATT

Are we going on another dumb family vacation?

DOLORES

Dumb? You didn't like Amish country?

MATT

No. It was just quilts and cheeses.

DOLORES

But I like quilts and cheeses.

Jerry enters from work.

GINA

Dad! What's the big news?

JERRY

Can I walk in the door and just
have five minutes of peace?
(off their looks, sighs)
Of course not.

Jerry drops his briefcase and walks over to Dolores.

JERRY (CONT'D)

So your mom and I want to--
(notices food, smiles)
Hey... you cooked dinner.

DOLORES

(smiles)
I did!

Jerry smiles back -- a nice moment between the two of them.

MATT

So is somebody going to tell us
what the hell is going on or what?

JERRY

Hey! Mouth!

DOLORES

(excited)
It's gonna start getting a bit more
crowded in this house.

GINA

Are grandma and grandpa moving in?!

MATT

Oh, no! Are they okay? What happened?

DOLORES

Grandma and grandpa are fine.

JERRY

And definitely not moving in.

GINA

Ooooh, is it a dog?

JERRY

(frustrated)
We're not getting a dog! Dolores,
just tell 'em already!

DOLORES

I'm pregnant! You're going to have
a little brother or sister!

GINA

Wow! That's so cool!

MATT

Really? But you're so old.

DOLORES

I'm not that old!

MATT

What do you mean? I'm practically old enough to be the parent.

JERRY

Good. Then you can help take care of it and change the diapers.

MATT

I mean, I'm not that old!

DOLORES

Aren't you guys excited? I thought you'd both be more excited.

GINA

I am! I want a sister!

MATT

I hope it's a boy!

DOLORES

(happy)

Isn't this great?! Just such perfect timing. Your father got a promotion, our family's getting bigger... everything's getting better! Finally!

Matt and Gina hug their parents. Dolores couldn't be any happier, but Jerry's clearly not so sure. MUSIC CUE: R.E.M.'s "SHINY HAPPY PEOPLE" plays, as we...

FADE OUT:

END OF SHOW