

ESCAPE FROM DETENTION

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BEGIN FLASH-FORWARD

INT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" SCHOOL CAFETERIA — DAY

TUCKER ANDERSON (14), BOSTWICK (14), BECCA (14) and EMMA (14) are standing at attention in a line in the middle of the school cafeteria, covered in food. Headmistress MS. MCGUIRE (late 60s) paces back and forth, angrily surveying them and the aftermath of a food fight. Food is strewn about everywhere, dripping from tables and fixtures. Dean of Students RUBEN CHAMLEY (early 60s) stands next to her, holding back his amusement until some messy food plops on his head from the ceiling.

MS. MCGUIRE

From what I understand, Tucker, this all started with you! I am so disappointed. Perhaps I was wrong about you.

TUCKER

(sheepish)

I'm sorry, Ms. McGuire.

MS. MCGUIRE

Thankfully no one was hurt. Dean Chamley has suggested expulsion for each of you.

The kids collectively gasp. Emma starts to cry.

MS. MCGUIRE (cont'd)

But ... I'm willing to limit the punishment to detention. For the remainder of this week, plus all of next week.

Bostwick groans. Becca rolls her eyes and Emma holds back her tears. Ms. McGuire continues to scold the kids.

MS. MCGUIRE (cont'd)

Now, as for this mess. You will clean this lunchroom up until it shines! After that, report to Mr. Surdu for the rest of the day plus an hour after school. And this time Tucker, my conversation with your parents won't be so gentle.

TUCKER

(looking down)

Yes, ma'am.

END FLASH-FORWARD

INT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" HALLWAY — DAY — A FEW DAYS EARLIER

Students are milling about between classes at Overton Academy, a posh private school. Tucker is in front of his locker, gathering books for his next class. He is speaking with his best friend CARTER (14) who is dressed with a Safety Patrol belt over his uniform.

CARTER  
Hey, Tucker. Coming over after school?

TUCKER  
Can't. I mean maybe. I don't know.

CARTER  
What's up?

TUCKER  
I was going to ask Emma over to play some video games.

CARTER  
Ooh. Smooth move, bro.

TUCKER  
I'm not so sure. She seems to like hanging out with me, but I'm not sure she--

CARTER  
Likes you?

TUCKER  
Yeah. Has she said anything to you or Trish?

Carter looks down, avoiding eye contact with Tucker.

CARTER  
Well, ummm ...

TUCKER  
What?

CARTER  
It's just that ... I told Trish I wouldn't tell you.

TUCKER  
C'mon, Carter. Spill.

CARTER  
Trish will kill me. She's like the best girlfriend. Ever. She likes zombie movies, and pineapple on pizza.

TUCKER  
She's a real find. C'mon, tell me. Let me guess. It's not good is it?

CARTER  
It's just ... Emma likes you. She just doesn't "like" like you. Sorry.

TUCKER  
I was afraid of that. I just wish there was a way to get her attention. Impress her.

CARTER  
She's really smart. You both like science class.

TUCKER  
I paid Todd Spetzer twenty bucks to switch lab partners to be with Emma. Didn't help. All she wants to do is pay attention and get a good grade.

CARTER  
Bummer.

TUCKER  
And I promised her I'd do the last part of our project, and now Ms. Davis is on leave and the lab is closed until she returns.

CARTER  
Closed? What are you going to do?

TUCKER  
I don't know. I need to use the lab to finish it. If I don't get it done, we'll both get a bad grade.

CARTER  
What does Emma say?

TUCKER

I haven't exactly told her. I was hoping to somehow get into the lab. If we don't get our project done, she'll hate me.

CARTER

Good luck with that. I've got to go, there's a special meeting of the safety patrol during free period.

TUCKER

Special? What? New reflective belts?

CARTER

Very funny. I don't know. Dean Chamley called it. He took over as adviser for the Safety Patrol. See you later. Let me know about after school.

TUCKER

I will.

Carter exits. Tucker opens his locker and retrieves some books. He turn around to see Emma approaching. Emma is cute, dressed in a Bohemian style with long curly hair. Tucker quickly smooths his hair and turns to her, smiling.

EMMA

Hi, Tucker!

TUCKER

Hi, Emma.

EMMA

Ready for science? I'm so glad we got our labs done before Ms. Davis went on leave.

TUCKER

About that--

EMMA

Anyway, I've almost got the rest of the report done. I just need your data and charts.

TUCKER

I'm still ... working on them. I'll have them ... Friday.

EMMA  
Okay. No worries.

The school bell rings.

EMMA (cont'd)  
There's the bell. You ready for class?

TUCKER  
As ready as I can be.

Tucker and Emma start walking toward their science class.

TUCKER (cont'd)  
Emma?

EMMA  
Yes.

TUCKER  
I was wondering ... would you like to come over to my house this afternoon? Play some video games?

EMMA  
Ummm. I'm not into video games that much. I prefer ... real life.

TUCKER  
This is real. You can play against real people. And I live stream the game. I've got a lot of followers.

EMMA  
Really? How many?

TUCKER  
Over sixty.

Emma giggles.

TUCKER (cont'd)  
What? I know that's not a lot like that fashion page you follow.

EMMA  
That's got like over a million.

TUCKER  
But I'm just starting. Anyway, it's pretty exciting. You can play, too.

EMMA

I'm really not interested. And I don't like shooting games. Too violent.

TUCKER

We don't have to do a shooting game.  
(thinking)  
I know! I have a new treasure hunt game. With pirates! Pretty awesome.

EMMA

Okay, Tucker. I'll come over and play your "awesome" game.

TUCKER

Awesome.

Both laugh. Emma turns away and enters the science class first. Tucker lags behind and gives a fist-pump in the air.

TUCKER (cont'd)

(to himself)

Yes!

INT. OVERTON ACADEMY SCIENCE CLASS - DAY

Students are sitting in the science classroom, Their substitute teacher, MRS. ARNOLD, is addressing the class.

MRS. ARNOLD

There will be a short quiz on Friday.  
We will cover solutions and  
suspensions plus acid base reactions.

Random groans erupt from the students.

MRS. ARNOLD (cont'd)

That will be my farewell gift to all of you. As you know, Ms. Davis will be returning on Monday. And don't forget your partner projects are due on Tuesday. I trust you all got your lab work done before Ms. Davis left?

Tucker thinks for a moment. He sighs and starts to raise his hand, when another student, TODD SPETZER, raises his first.

TODD

Mrs. Arnold?

MRS. ARNOLD  
(looking down at her  
grade book)  
Yes ... Mr. ... Spetzer. Todd  
Spetzer, right?

TODD  
Yes. I ... didn't get all my lab  
work done. Is there any way to get  
into the lab before Monday?

MRS. ARNOLD  
Sorry Todd. It's closed. The Dean  
of Students didn't want anyone  
unsupervised in there. For safety  
reasons. You'll have to wait until  
Ms. Davis returns on Monday.

Emma turns to Tucker.

EMMA  
(whispering)  
Good thing you got the labs done.

Tucker nods trying to hide his guilt.

TODD  
Is there any way to get in this week?  
I have a lot on Monday, we've got a  
Mathlete championship coming up.

MRS. ARNOLD  
Your lack of planning is not my  
problem, Mr. Spetzer. You've had  
several weeks to complete it.  
Besides, there's nothing I can do.  
They didn't even give me the key.  
Only Headmistress McGuire can approve  
opening it. She's out today, but you  
can talk to her tomorrow.

Tucker perks up upon hearing this and sits back in his seat,  
relaxed. Mrs. Arnold continues addressing the class.

MRS. ARNOLD (cont'd)  
Now, open you textbooks, and let's  
review the difference between a  
suspension and a solution. And yes,  
it will be on the quiz, so I suggest  
paying attention.

INT. TUCKER'S HOUSE, FAMILY ROOM - DAY

Tucker is sitting with Emma on a sofa playing a pirate-themed video game. Emma is beating Tucker.

EMMA  
Gotcha! Now I can get the treasure.

TUCKER  
Not fair. You memorized the entire game map.

EMMA  
(giggles)  
Fair. I have a photographic memory, it's a skill.

Emma's avatar captures the treasure chest, winning the game.

EMMA (cont'd)  
And were done.

TUCKER  
Good game. Want to play another?

EMMA  
No thanks. I've got to get home. Thanks for having me over.

TUCKER  
Sure. Emma--

EMMA  
Yes?

TUCKER  
(nervously)  
I was thinking ... we're good friends, right?

EMMA  
Of course. Along with Trish and Carter, you're my best friends.

TUCKER  
Exactly. Trish and Carter. They really ... like ... each other.

EMMA  
Yes. To be honest I didn't see them as a couple, but it works for them.

TUCKER

A couple. Yes. So ... I was wondering ... you and I ... you like me, right?

EMMA

Of course, I like you, Tucker. Oh! You mean "like" like.

TUCKER

It's just, you're really nice, and I like hanging out with you, and you're pretty--

EMMA

(flattered)

I am? I mean ... Tucker, I do like you. Just not--

TUCKER

(dejected)

Like that. I understand.

EMMA

I'm sorry. It's just that ... we're in 8th grade.

TUCKER

Trish and Carter are our age, and next year we'll be in Upper Academy, and--

EMMA

That's not what I meant. I don't know how to say this--

TUCKER

Go ahead. You already made me walk the plank.

EMMA

Exactly.

TUCKER

Huh?

EMMA

What do you like to do?

TUCKER

I don't know. Play video games. Watch TV. Pizza. Hang out with you. Regular stuff.

EMMA

I'm don't want to be "regular stuff".

TUCKER

That's not what I meant.

EMMA

I know. But that's who you are.  
Your nice, sweet--

TUCKER

But.

EMMA

A little, ummm, boring. Sorry. Like  
I said, we're in 8th grade now. I'm  
maturing. I need a mature  
relationship.

TUCKER

Mature? Like old? Upper Academy?

EMMA

No. I mean less couch potato and  
more adventure. I want to find the  
treasure! Run off with a pirate!

TUCKER

Really?

EMMA

Metaphorically. I'm not expecting  
real treasure or a real pirate, just  
someone who challenges me, and wants  
to explore the world.

TUCKER

I can be challenging. Ask my mom.  
Or my little brother.

EMMA

(laughs)

I'm sure they would agree. What do  
you want to do when you get older?

TUCKER

I don't know. I like video games.  
Maybe design them.

EMMA

That could be fun. What kind of  
games?

TUCKER

Maybe a treasure hunt game like this one. Or aliens. I don't know. Carter and I could create a zombie game.

EMMA

Okay. But don't you want to have experiences to feed your creativity?

TUCKER

How do you mean? Don't tell Carter, but zombies aren't real.

EMMA

(teasing)

How do you know?

(impersonating a  
zombie)

I want your BRAINS!

Both laugh. Tucker gazes at Emma.

TUCKER

You're a pretty zombie.

EMMA

Slow your roll, Tucker. We're talking about getting out and having fun. First things first. What about treasure hunting? Have you ever done it?

TUCKER

Here? I don't think my mom and dad would appreciate be digging up the yard.

EMMA

No, silly. Don't you know anything about Beverly Point? There used to be silver mines around here. Last summer my parents took me and my sister to a park where you can actually pan for real gold. It was fun.

TUCKER

Did you get any gold?

EMMA

Just a few grams. It was a lot of work. We were there for like three hours.

TUCKER

No thanks. I'd rather stay inside and try for more viewers.

EMMA

Suit yourself. Look, Tucker, you're really sweet--

TUCKER

I know you said that. Are you breaking up with me?

EMMA

We were never together. Just trying to set ... boundaries.

Tucker looks down, sadly.

TUCKER

Sure.

EMMA

Let's talk about something else. Like our science project. I'm going to need the results of the lab work for our report.

TUCKER

About that. With Ms. Davis being out until next week, the lab is locked and I can't get in to finish it.

EMMA

Tucker! You had three weeks to do it! I trusted you. You said you wanted to do it.

TUCKER

I'm sorry, I just--

EMMA

Forgot? Or were too busy playing video games?

TUCKER

Sorry. I promise I'll get it done. I just need to ask someone to open the lab.

EMMA

Why don't you ask the Dean of  
Students to open the lab?

TUCKER

Mr. Chamley? I try to avoid him.  
Everyone says he's a hard-nose.  
He'll give you detention if you so  
much as look at him wrong. Besides,  
Mrs. Arnold said to ask Ms. McGuire.

EMMA

Then ask her. If it's for an  
assignment, how can she say no?

TUCKER

You're right. Thanks, Emma. I'm  
sorry about not getting it done  
sooner. And about ... us.

EMMA

It's okay. Just make sure you get  
into the lab. I'm counting on you.

Emma gets up to leave.

EMMA (cont'd)

See you at school tomorrow?

TUCKER

Sure.

EMMA

Are we still friends?

TUCKER

Of course.

Emma grabs her backpack and walks to the door. Through the  
open doorway Tucker's six year-old little brother BRADY runs  
in and plops down on the couch next Tucker, grabbing a video  
controller.

BRADY

My turn!

TUCKER'S MOM enters the room, visibly exasperated.

TUCKER'S MOM

Sorry, Tuck. He's a bit wound up.  
C'mon Brady, let's leave your brother  
and his friend alone.

EMMA  
Hi, Mrs. Anderson.

TUCKER'S MOM  
Hi, Emma. Nice to see you. Would  
you like to stay for dinner?

EMMA  
No, thanks. I was just leaving. See  
you tomorrow, Tucker.

TUCKER  
(dejected)  
Sure.

Emma exits the room. Tucker's Mom senses that Tucker isn't  
happy.

TUCKER'S MOM  
C'mon, Brady. Let's give your  
brother some space.

BRADY  
But I wanna play.

TUCKER  
It's okay. Mom. Think you can beat  
me squirt?

BRADY  
Yep.

TUCKER  
Your on! Choose your avatar.

BRADY  
The parrot!

Tucker laughs. His mom smiles.

TUCKER'S MOM  
Thanks, Tuck.

Tucker's Mom leaves the room. Tucker contemplates his  
situation.

TUCKER  
(to himself)  
Boring, huh? I'm just going to have  
to step up my game. If it's a  
adventure you want, Emma, I'm going  
to find it for you.

Tucker picks up the video controller and starts a playing with Brady.

TUCKER (cont'd)  
The treasure is mine.

Tucker's continues playing the game with Brady. Brady scores, killing Tucker's avatar. Tucker sighs and tosses the video game controller aside. He sees that Brady is delighted with his victory, smiles at him, and gives him a fist bump.

INT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" HALLWAY — DAY

Students are milling about in the hallway between classes. Tucker is in front of his locker, gathering items for his next class. He is speaking with Carter who is dressed with a Safety Patrol belt over his uniform.

TUCKER  
I can't, Carter. I've got to get my science project done. It's overdue already, and I need a good grade.

CARTER  
But it's Zombie Week on the Horror channel. All the classic movies. C'mon Tuck.

TUCKER  
Sorry. Ms. Davis is back from leave on Monday. She gave me until then to finish. I just hope I can get some lab time after school.

CARTER  
I just hope I can get home in time for the first movie. I gotta work the pick-up line again after school. All those parents are like a Zombie hoard!

TRISHA and Emma walk up to the boys.

EMMA  
Hey guys!

Trish affectionately puts her arm around Carter.

TRISHA  
How's my zombie boy?

CARTER  
Hungry for  
    (impersonating a  
      zombie)  
BRAINS!

Trish squeals in delight. Emma laughs.

TRISHA  
    (turning to Tucker  
      and Emma)  
You guys coming over to Carter's  
after school for the zombie fest? I  
made brownies in the shape of brains.

TUCKER  
    (sighs)  
I can't, Trish. I need to ... work  
on my gaming videos.

Emma gives Tucker a disapproving look.

TUCKER (cont'd)  
Emma, You should go. It will be fun.  
Not boring.

TRISHA  
Yeah. We can eat brain brownies and  
laugh at the dumb old movies.

EMMA  
I don't think so. You guys have fun  
without me. Besides, those movies  
scare me! I remember everything.  
Stupid photographic memory!

TRISHA  
Yeah, but it's handy for tests,  
right?

EMMA  
I guess. But I don't need tests.  
I'm an artiste!

CARTER  
    (yelling in zombie  
      voice)  
BRAINS!

The bell rings.

TUCKER

Gotta run! I have to talk with  
Headmistress McGuire about getting  
into the lab during study period.

Tucker shuts his locker and rushes off, waving goodbye to his friends. As he rounds a corner, he runs into Bostwick, the school bully. Bostwick is large and imposing. They collide, and Tucker falls to the ground while Bostwick stands and sneers.

BOSTWICK

What's the matter with you, you dork?  
Watch where you're going!

TUCKER

(stammering)

I . . I'm sorry Bostwick! I didn't  
mean to run into you. Are you okay?

BOSTWICK

Of course I'm okay! Didn't feel a  
thing!

(grabs his books and  
mutters under his  
breath)

Oww!

(angrily)

And don't call me Bostwick! It's B-  
Dawg to you. Got it?

TUCKER

(afraid)

Got it. B-B-B-Dawg. Yes, sir.  
Mister Dawg.

Bostwick approaches Tucker with a menacing look. Tucker backs up into the wall, trapped. Bostwick looks like he's about to punch Tucker. Dean Chamley approaches from behind, unseen.

RUBEN

(sternly)

Mister Bostwick!

Bostwick quickly backs down and pretends nothing is wrong. He glares at Tucker who looks down, fearful.

RUBEN (cont'd)

Looks like someone needs more  
Detention.

BOSTWICK

We were just having a polite conversation, right ... ummm.

TUCKER

Tucker.

BOSTWICK

Yeah. Tucker and I were having a conversation.

RUBEN

Looks like it was one-sided to me. Aren't you two late for class?

TUCKER

I was on my way to the office.

BOSTWICK

I've got gym.

RUBEN

Then on your way. Mr. Bostwick, I have my eye on you. Let's try to keep out of Detention for more than a week this time.

Bostwick stares menacingly at Tucker as he passes him. Tucker hurries down the hall to the office.

INT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" OFFICE — DAY, A SHORT TIME LATER

Tucker, shaken from his encounter with Bostwick, enters school office area. MS. SANDY, the administrator is sitting behind the counter. She sees Tucker and smiles.

MS. SANDY

Good morning, Tucker! What can we do for you today?

TUCKER

I need to see Ms. McGuire. I have to get into the science lab to finish my project.

MS. SANDY

Oh, I'm afraid it's closed. Ms. Davis will be back from leave Monday.

TUCKER

I know. But I need to get in there this week.

(MORE)

TUCKER (cont'd)  
For only about half an hour. I  
promise I won't mess anything up.

MS. SANDY  
Well, if it were up to me ...

TUCKER  
That's why I need to speak to Ms.  
McGuire.

MS. SANDY  
Headmistress McGuire is very busy.  
Come back after school and you might  
catch her then.

TUCKER  
But I was hoping to get into the lab  
today. Please?

MS. SANDY  
Okay. Just a moment.

Ms. Sandy gets out of her chair and exits. Ruben enters the  
office area.

RUBEN  
There you are, Mr. Anderson. I  
wanted to talk to you about this  
morning. You and Mr. Bostwick.

TUCKER  
(nervously)  
Ummm. Nothing happened. We were  
just discussing ... my project.

RUBEN  
You know we have a zero tolerance for  
bullying. Sure you don't want to  
provide more details?

TUCKER  
No, it's all good.

Ms. Sandy returns. She motions to Tucker and Ruben.

MS. SANDY  
She only has a few minutes. Go on  
in. You too, Dean Chamley. She has  
a conference call with the board  
after she's finished with Tucker and  
she wants you to attend.

RUBEN

Very well.

INT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" MS. MCGUIRE'S OFFICE — DAY, A SHORT TIME LATER

Tucker and Ruben enter Ms. McGuire's office. Scattered about are rolls of blueprints, stacks of papers, and easels with architectural renderings. Ms. McGuire is standing at a long table, bent over and looking at an unrolled set of blueprints. She looks up over her glasses at Tucker and Ruben.

MS. MCGUIRE

Tucker Anderson! To what do I owe the honor?

TUCKER

Huh?

MS. MCGUIRE

(deadpan)

Why are you here?

TUCKER

Oh. I wanted to ask if I could use the science lab after school. I have a project due Monday and Ms. Davis is out, so it's locked--

RUBEN

(interrupting)

Absolutely not! There are chemicals, glassware, Bunsen burners, and all sorts of things that can cause trouble. Absolutely not safe.

TUCKER

But I won't be able to finish! I need this for my grade!

RUBEN

You should have thought of this before you procrastinated. Let me guess. Video games? Pokey-thing Go?

MS. MCGUIRE

Mon. Pokémon.

(sheepish)

Guilty.

(to Tucker)

What do you need the lab for?

TUCKER

It's an acid/base comparison. I just need to compare some everyday liquids like milk, soda, water, and test them with Phenolphthalein. I record the results and make a spreadsheet.

RUBEN

Phenolphthalein is poisonous. Ms. McGuire, we can't have a student use it unsupervised.

MS. MCGUIRE

I agree.

Ruben smiles. Ms. McGuire gives Ruben a disapproving look.

MS. MCGUIRE (cont'd)

But academics is important. Wouldn't you agree, Dean Chamley?

RUBEN

(hesitantly)

I suppose.

MS. MCGUIRE

Tucker, you can't use the lab unsupervised. So ... Dean Chamley will supervise you.

RUBEN

What? I don't have the time for this!

MS. MCGUIRE

How much time will you need, Tucker?

TUCKER

(smiling, excited)

I can test everything and record it in about 30 minutes.

MS. MCGUIRE

Perfect! When is your study period?

TUCKER

Last period.

MS. MCGUIRE

It's settled then!

(MORE)

MS. MCGUIRE (cont'd)

(to Ruben)

Dean Chamley, meet Tucker in the lab last period and see that he gets the chemicals and supplies he needs.

Ruben nods and lets out a sigh of reluctant acceptance.

TUCKER

Thanks, Ms. McGuire!

(looks at the  
blueprints on the  
table)

What are all these?

MS. MCGUIRE

It's Overton's one hundredth year. We're having a big celebration next week.

TUCKER

With cake?

MS. MCGUIRE

Of course!

TUCKER

I'm in!

MS. MCGUIRE

We're also having a dedication to our new construction project. The courtyard is getting a make-over. And there's going to be a new refreshment bar in the student study lounge.

TUCKER

Cool!

RUBEN

(sarcastically)

A priority for our more fortunate students no doubt. Refreshment bar, indeed.

MS. MCGUIRE

Our generous parents and alumni are what keep Overton on the cutting edge of educational advancement. Without them we wouldn't be able to make such overdue improvements.

TUCKER  
When will it be finished?

MS. MCGUIRE  
The contractors tell me two weeks.  
The work crews are starting this  
week, so there may be a bit of noise.

RUBEN  
This week? I thought the ground-  
breaking was next week.

MS. MCGUIRE  
Yes, the ceremony. But the  
contractor has asked to get an early  
start before the weather turns.

RUBEN  
Oh. I wasn't aware.

MS. MCGUIRE  
Ruben, we have a conference call with  
the board. Please join me.

RUBEN  
Of course.

Ruben sits down in front of Ms. McGuire's desk.

MS. MCGUIRE  
Well, off you go, Tucker. Good luck  
with your project.

RUBEN  
I expect to see you at the lab on  
time this afternoon. Understand?

TUCKER  
Yes. Thanks!

Tucker leaves the office as Ms. McGuire prepares her phone  
call.

INT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" SCIENCE LAB — LATER IN THE AFTERNOON

Tucker approaches the science lab and notices that the door  
is ajar and the lights are on. He looks around the hallway,  
and seeing no one, cautiously enters the lab.

TUCKER  
Hello? Dean Chamley?

Tucker opens his backpack and places his notebook and some small jars of various liquids to test on one of the lab tables. He looks around and curiously walks around the lab. He looks at the clock and sighs. He looks out the windows at the courtyard and sees piles of landscaping material and a statue of Jebediah Overton, the school's founder. He turns and sees the door at the back of the lab with a sign that reads "Storeroom". The door is ajar and it appears the light is on. Tucker opens the door peeks in.

TUCKER (cont'd)  
Dean Chamley? Are you in here?

No one answers. Tucker scans the shelves full of jars of chemical compounds and liquids and sees a container with a clear liquid labeled "Phenolphthalein". He smiles and begins to reach for it, but decides otherwise. He turns around and sees broken lab equipment on the floor. He crouches down to examine it. He gets up and as he turns he is startled by Ruben Chamley standing directly behind him.

RUBEN  
So! Thought you could just break  
into the lab yourself?

Ruben points to the broken lab equipment.

RUBEN (cont'd)  
What's this? You've damaged school  
property! You'll have to pay for  
that.

TUCKER  
(stammering)  
No! I didn't! The door was open!  
That was already broken.

RUBEN  
You know the rules. Ms. McGuire  
agreed you could use the lab only  
under my supervision.

TUCKER  
I was waiting for you. I didn't  
break anything, I swear! Please,  
Dean Chamley! Let me just finish my  
project. Please?

RUBEN  
Sorry, Mr. Anderson. Rules are  
rules. Overton has been too lax with  
students lately. I for one intend to  
see to it that rules are enforced.

INT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" OFFICE — A SHORT TIME LATER

Tucker and Ruben are in Ms. McGuire's office standing in front of her desk

RUBEN

Rules are rules! Overton has been too lax with students lately, and I'm here to see to it that rules are enforced!

MS. MCGUIRE

Yes. You said that already.

(to Tucker)

Are you telling the truth, Tucker? The door was open and the lights were on?

TUCKER

Yes. I was waiting for Dean Chamley. And I didn't touch any chemicals. I saw the broken stuff and then Dean Chamley walked in.

RUBEN

I caught him red-handed myself! No telling what kind of trouble he could have caused!

MS. MCGUIRE

Let's all calm down, shall we? Tucker's a good student. I think this was all a misunderstanding.

Tucker smiles.

RUBEN

Headmistress McGuire. With all due respect. May I remind you why the trustees hired me? Student discipline has been lacking for years. As the new Dean of Students, I'm responsible for discipline.

MS. MCGUIRE

(sighs)

Yes, you are. And since you've been here, detentions have been up. I'm not quite sure that's a good thing. I'm not a fan of "zero tolerance"; there needs to be some compassion.

RUBEN  
(interrupting)  
We should not confuse compassion with weakness. Who are you going to believe?

Ms. McGuire looks at Tucker, sighs, and looks apologetically.

MS. MCGUIRE  
Sorry, Tucker. I'm afraid I have to go with Dean Chamley on this. You were in the lab without permission.

TUCKER  
(protesting)  
This isn't fair! How am I going to get my project done?

RUBEN  
(smirking)  
Perhaps a failing grade will make you think twice next time. So will a two-day suspension.

TUCKER  
(shocked, yelling)  
WHAT?

MS. MCGUIRE  
Dean Chamley, compassion. I'll make the decision on punishment. Tucker, you can't use the lab for the rest of the week. You can finish your project when Ms. Davis returns. You can work out lab time with her.

RUBEN  
What about the broken lab equipment?

MS. MCGUIRE  
(to Tucker)  
I'll take your word that you didn't do it.

RUBEN  
His word? What about mine?

MS. MCGUIRE  
Did you see him break it?

RUBEN  
Well ... I--

MS. MCGUIRE

Then it's settled. Tucker will finish his project next week.

RUBEN

Where's the punishment in that? I've sent students to Detention for less.

MS. MCGUIRE

Very well. Tucker, you'll spend the rest of the week in Detention for last period and one hour after school. I'll inform your parents.

TUCKER

But I need my study period to work on homework. I have an English paper due-

RUBEN

There's a computer in Detention. You can use that.

MS. MCGUIRE

I think we're done here. Off you go!

Ruben exits. As Tucker reaches the door, Ms. McGuire stops him.

MS. MCGUIRE (cont'd)

And Tucker ...

TUCKER

Yes?

MS. MCGUIRE

I'll make sure your parents understand that you didn't mean any harm. I'm sorry, but--

TUCKER

It's okay.

MS. MCGUIRE

It won't be so bad. Think of Detention as ... well, just a different kind of Study Hall.

INT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" DETENTION — THE FOLLOWING DAY

Tucker stands before a door to Detention. It's in the basement of Overton Academy. He looks around to see a dingy, dark hallway lined with old file cabinets and discarded desks and chairs. The hallway is dimly lit by industrial lights. Tucker straightens his backpack, lets out a deep breath and opens the door.

He enters Detention and looks around. It's cluttered with old office equipment. In the center are some desks. A few students are gathered at one side, clustered around a desk talking to someone. Unsure, Tucker makes his way toward the front of the room where there is a teacher, MR. SURDU (late 60s), sitting at the desk, reading a book.

Suddenly, a loud roaring fire erupts from the other side of the room. Startled, Tucker turns to see a huge, ancient boiler spewing steam, with gauges actively shaking.

MR. SURDU

It's okay, man. Just the boiler.  
It's been doing that for as long as  
I've been here. And we're both going  
strong.

Tucker, startled turns back toward the desk where Mr. Surdu has set his book down and is smiling at Tucker. He's in his early seventies, with long grey hair and a scraggly beard. He's dressed in a white dress shirt which looks out of place, but has a tie-died necktie that hangs loosely about his neck. Mr. Surdu picks up a note and reads it.

MR. SURDU (cont'd)

Tucker Anderson?

Tucker nods.

MR. SURDU (cont'd)

Cell phone and tablet?

TUCKER

Dean Chamley took them.

MR. SURDU

Surrendered it to The Man, huh?  
Welcome to captivity.

TUCKER

We can't have electronics? How can  
we do homework?

MR. SURDU  
Chamley's rule, not mine. Makes no sense, but neither does he most times.

Tucker remains standing, puzzled.

MR. SURDU (cont'd)  
Find yourself a seat. I'm your warden, not your babysitter.

TUCKER  
Ummm ... where is the computer?

Mr. Surdu points to a table piled with old computers, keyboards, monitors, and other junk.

MR. SURDU  
There. You'll have to figure it out for yourself.

Tucker sees the pile of computer junk and groans. He walks over to the desks with the students. They turn to look at Tucker and slowly disperse revealing Bostwick sitting at the desk.

BOSTWICK  
You!

Tucker looks around for an escape route. Bostwick rises out of his chair and confronts Tucker, getting in his face with a menacing look. Tucker turns away and winces.

TUCKER  
(pleading)  
Look, I said I was sorry. Don't hit me!

Bostwick relaxes his posture and smiles.

BOSTWICK  
(laughing)  
Hit you? Dude, if you're in here, you must be okay.

TUCKER  
Really? You're not mad at me?

BOSTWICK  
Oh, I'm still mad, but not at you. At Chamley. That guy has it out for me.

TUCKER  
I know how you feel.

INT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" DETENTION — A SHORT TIME LATER

Bostwick and Tucker are sitting at a table. Tucker is attempting to assemble a working computer.

BOSTWICK  
So, he railroaded you, too?

TUCKER  
What do you mean?

BOSTWICK  
Chamley's been after me since he started here six months ago. I was never in Detention before then.

TUCKER  
Never?

BOSTWICK  
Okay. That one time. But the other guy started it!

TUCKER  
Sorry I brought it up.

BOSTWICK  
Chamley has it out for me!

TUCKER  
Why?

BOSTWICK  
I don't know. Maybe he's jealous.

TUCKER  
Of what?

BOSTWICK  
Well, my Mom and Dad have the largest construction company in Beverly Pointe. They built the new Upper Academy addition two years ago and they're working on the new refreshment bar and courtyard.

TUCKER

Jealousy? Most of the kids at Overton have pretty successful parents. If that were the case, this room would be packed.

BOSTWICK

True.

TUCKER

Maybe it's just ... you.

BOSTWICK

Okay, I admit I have some anger issues. But when you have a name like--

Bostwick looks around and lowers his voice.

BOSTWICK

Bostwick, you've got to put up appearances.

TUCKER

I get it. B-Dawg.

BOSTWICK

(smiles)

You're okay. Actually he was very friendly to me at first. He was really interested in my parent's business, asked a lot of questions about the new remodeling.

TUCKER

Questions?

BOSTWICK

Yeah. He was really interested. He even insisted on coming with Ms. McGuire to see the plans and renderings.

TUCKER

Renderings?

BOSTWICK

The illustrations that show what it's going to look like when finished. After that, things just started to happen. Any little thing I did -- Detention.

(MORE)

BOSTWICK (cont'd)

My parents were so mad, they almost pulled me out of school ... and the project. But Ms. McGuire stepped in and calmed them down. But I still get Detention. I guess this time was my fault.

Tucker, failing to get the computer components together, slams the parts on the table, frustrated.

TUCKER

I can't figure out how to make this pile of junk work!

Becca, appears behind them. She's slight, dressed in goth style with dark lipstick and jet-black hair.

BECCA

Can I help?

BOSTWICK

Tucker, this is Becca. She's really good at computers and stuff.

Tucker eyes her up and down and gives her a doubting look.

BECCA

What's the matter?

TUCKER

(embarrassed)

Well ... I ... ummm ...

BECCA

Step aside, boy band reject.

Becca starts assembling the computer parts.

BECCA (cont'd)

It needs a boot disk.

Becca looks around and sees a box of floppy disks.

BECCA (cont'd)

Perfect!

TUCKER

What are those?

BECCA

Floppy disks. Before our time. But I know what to do.

Becca inserts the floppy disk into the computer and the computer boots up. It displays a character-based menu that says "Overton Academy" with a logo made of characters.

BECCA (cont'd)  
Voila!

TUCKER  
Now what?

BECCA  
What do you want to do?

TUCKER  
I need to write my English paper.

BECCA  
Here.

Becca clicks on the keyboard and starts the word-processing program.

BECCA (cont'd)  
You can use WordStar. It's pretty easy. Here's a list of keyboard shortcuts.

TUCKER  
How will I save this to my tablet?

BECCA  
You won't. You can print it out and type in it later.

Becca points to an old printer.

TUCKER  
(frustrated)  
Great. I may as well do it at home tonight.

BOSTWICK  
(pointing to the  
menu on the  
computer)  
Any games? What's "Oasis"?

BECCA  
Overton Academy School Information System. It connects to the school mainframe computer. The one that does all the scheduling, billing, grades--

BOSTWICK  
(grinning)  
Grades?

TUCKER  
Oh no! I'm not getting in any more trouble!

BOSTWICK  
Easy for you to say! Yours are probably perfect.

TUCKER  
No. Well, yes, mostly.

BOSTWICK  
I just want to see what Chamley put in about me.  
(to Becca)  
Is that in there?

BECCA  
Should be.

Becca starts typing on the keyboard. The computer beeps loudly. They look around and see that Mr. Surdu is reading a book and oblivious.

BECCA (cont'd)  
We need a password. Look in that box of floppy disks.

Tucker hands her the box of floppy disks. Becca finds a piece of paper with passwords written in pencil.

BECCA (cont'd)  
Looks like Ms. McGuire reuses her favorites. Let's try some of these.

Becca types in some passwords. After the third try, the computer screen changes to the Oasis system screen.

BECCA (cont'd)  
In!

BOSTWICK  
Cool! How do we see my records?

BECCA  
Let me drive, B-Dawg.  
(types on computer)  
Dean Chamley's comments on your detention would be ... here!

All three lean in and stare at the screen.

BOSTWICK  
(reading)  
There's nothing!

TUCKER  
I don't understand. Check mine.

Becca types on the computer. It beeps. She points to the screen.

BECCA  
Nothing on you either, Tucker.

TUCKER  
I don't get it. Why didn't he put anything about our detention in our record?

BECCA  
Maybe because he doesn't care. Or it's not important.

BOSTWICK  
Or he doesn't want any complaints from our parents.

BECCA  
Tucker, what are you in for?

TUCKER  
Being in the science lab storeroom without permission. But Dean Chamley was supposed to let me in. And the door was open!

BECCA  
Sounds kind of ... convenient. Kind of makes you think that maybe he wanted you to get caught in the storeroom?

BOSTWICK  
What about me? I have been kind of a jerk.

TUCKER  
But you said Dean Chamley really got down on you after your parents wouldn't share the plans for the remodeling.

BOSTWICK  
Why would he care about the  
remodeling?

Unbeknownst to them, Mr. Surdu has been listening to them  
and suddenly appears behind them.

MR. SURDU  
Probably to find the hidden treasure.

TUCKER  
(startled)  
Oh! Mr. Surdu! We were just ...  
ummm. Looking up research. For my  
English paper.

MR. SURDU  
On Oasis? Interesting.

BECCA  
We just ... stumbled upon it.

MR. SURDU  
(smiling)  
Don't sweat it. I see you're  
revolutionaries like I am. Well, was  
anyways. Besides, don't think I  
don't see what's going on. Even  
stuck here in this dungeon. I  
figured Ruben Chamley put you here  
for no good reason.

BOSTWICK  
You said something about treasure?

MR. SURDU  
Well, not like pirate treasure. More  
like silver. Lots of silver.

The kids listen intently as Mr. Surdu continues his story.

MR. SURDU (cont'd)  
You see, Overton Academy was founded  
by Jebediah Overton. He was quite  
the character. He fancied himself  
what we would call a "Renaissance  
Man" - into everything. He was a  
painter, sculptor, loved science.  
Wrote poetry. He made and lost  
several fortunes, but finally made it  
big in the early 1900s in silver  
mining.

(MORE)

MR. SURDU (cont'd)

Anyway, he never married or had any kids but took a liking to his miner's children. They lacked a decent education. So he founded Overton Academy for them. After the mine closed, Beverly Pointe became built up with homes of the bourgeoisie.

TUCKER

Bourge-what?

BOSTWICK

Bourgeoisie. Rich people.

MR. SURDU

Yes, rich kids. Anyway, before he died, he willed his property and fortune to the school to keep it open for all students.

(sighs)

He was quite the eccentric. Never trusted banks. They never found his fortune. To keep the school afloat, they made it appeal to the bourge-, wealthy families. It's been open now for one hundred years.

TUCKER

That's why there's a celebration next week.

BOSTWICK

And the remodeling.

TUCKER

Which requires a lot of tearing down and digging!

MR. SURDU

You may be on to something. But others have tried and failed to find anything before. Maybe Dean Chamley has an idea where it's hidden. He was a student here, you know.

TUCKER

He was? When it was built?

MR. SURDU

(snickers)

Very funny. He was here around fifty years ago. I remember because he was one of my first students.

(MORE)

MR. SURDU (cont'd)

(excited)

Hey! I just remembered something!  
Come with me!

Mr. Surdu leads Becca, Bostwick, and Tucker to a large steel door next to the boiler. He opens the door, steps inside, and flicks on a light switch. The long hallway lights up revealing a series of pipes hanging from the low ceiling, steam hissing out of them at various junctures. Long rows of file cabinets line the walls along with cabinets piled with old books and bound newspapers. The kids are hesitant as Mr. Surdu leads them inside.

INT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" DETENTION STEAM TUNNEL — A SHORT TIME LATER

Mr. Surdu leads them to a table along the wall. He clears away the pile of old folders and office equipment. He looks around and sees the shelves of bound newspapers and, finding the correct volume, pulls it down and sets in on the table. He turns the pages, gazing at the newspaper pages.

MR. SURDU

It was around this time of year ...  
nineteen ... seventy ... four ...  
here!

The kids gather around and lean in to get a closer look. The page has the school newspaper, "The Pick Ax", with the headline, "50th Anniversary Celebration" and "Students Bury Time Capsule".

TUCKER

A time capsule?

MR. SURDU

Yes! It was my first year teaching.  
There was a celebration for the 50th  
anniversary and we buried a time  
capsule. See here? There are  
pictures.

The kids burst out laughing. On the newspaper front page is a photo is a group of teachers and students all dressed in the period, standing next to the statue of Jebediah Overton. One of the students is holding a metal box. Standing among the teachers is Mr. Surdu, dressed conservatively with a short haircut and clean shaven.

BECCA

Mr. Surdu! Is that you?

MR. SURDU  
(reminiscing)  
Pre-revolutionary. Pre-Summer of  
Love.

Mr. Surdu starts reminiscing and gets lost in his thoughts.

TUCKER  
Ummm. Mr. Surdu?

MR. SURDU  
(embarrassed)  
Let's just say I didn't find my far-  
out style until the following summer  
break. Besides, working for The Man  
paid the bills.

BOSTWICK  
(pointing to the  
metal box in the  
photo)  
Is that the time capsule?

MR. SURDU  
Yes. And I forgot. The student  
holding it is--

TUCKER  
Mr. Chamley!

BOSTWICK  
What was in it?

MR. SURDU  
I don't remember. But it should be  
in the article. Let's see.

Mr. Surdu pages through the newspaper and stops.

MR. SURDU (cont'd)  
Hmmm. The article says it's  
continued on page 15, but it's not  
here. It looks like it was ...

TUCKER  
Ripped out!

EMMA  
We'll never know what was in the time  
capsule.

MR. SURDU  
Don't give up. There's another way.  
Over here!

Mr. Surdu hurries over to an old microfilm machine. Mr. Surdu clears away the papers and folder stacked on top of the machine. He finds the electrical cord and plugs it into an outlet on the wall. The machine lights up.

TUCKER  
What is this?

MR. SURDU  
The way people kept information,  
before everyone had a computer in  
their back pocket. It's a microfilm  
reader.  
(points to a cabinet  
with drawers.)  
And in there is what we seek.

Bostwick opens the cabinet and pulls out a microfilm canister.

BOSTWICK  
These?

MR. SURDU  
Yep. Let's see. Look for the one's  
in the drawer labeled "Pick Ax". Find  
1974.

Becca and Bostwick open drawers and search intently. Becca excitedly finds a canister

BECCA  
Found it!

Becca hands the canister to Mr. Surdu and he loads it into the machine. Newspaper pages are displayed. The kids lean and look at it, amazed.

TUCKER  
Wow! That's cool.

BECCA  
How do you search? There's no  
keyboard.

MR. SURDU  
Like this.

Mr. Surdu spins the control and pages whiz by on the screen. He slows down and concentrates on the images.

MR. SURDU (cont'd)  
Should be right around ... here!

The kids lean in closer to the screen which displays an image of the same school newspaper page.

MR. SURDU (cont'd)  
Okay, the article continued on page 15.

Mr. Surdu moves the control and displays page 15. The kids lean and look at the display.

TUCKER  
(reading)  
"The time capsule was filled with artifacts from the past and present and included a cafeteria menu, pennant, and mementos from our founder, Jebediah Overton"

BOSTWICK  
What mementos?

TUCKER  
(frustrated)  
It doesn't say. Mr. Surdu, can you zoom in on the photo?

MR. SURDU  
Sure.

Mr. Surdu moves the controls and zooms in on the photo of the contents of the time capsule.

BECCA  
(pointing to the photo)  
What is that?

MR. SURDU  
A silver bar. And a piece of paper.  
(excited)  
I remember! It was an original poem by old Jebediah! He was quite the poet.

BOSTWICK  
Maybe there's a clue in there? Maybe it leads to the treasure.

TUCKER  
Where is the box buried?

MR. SURDU

At the base of the statue. In the courtyard.

BOSTWICK

That you can see from the--

TUCKER

Science Lab! That's why Dean Chamley wanted me out of there. So he could dig up the time capsule!

BECCA

But why then? Why not just come at night? Or wait until the weekend?

TUCKER

Because they're starting the remodeling early! He was really concerned when Ms. McGuire told him that.

MR. SURDU

And right after school is the best time. Most students are gone and the night janitors haven't arrived.

TUCKER

And I'm not in the lab. What time is it?

MR. SURDU

Last period is almost over. And you guys have another hour of detention after school.

TUCKER

I've got to get out of here! I need to get the time capsule before Dean Chamley does!

MR. SURDU

Whoa, man! I'd like to help, but I can't let you go. If you get caught Dean Chamley will have me fired! I may be a revolutionary, but I need my pension.

BECCA

How about a hall pass?

MR. SURDU

Sorry. No can do. No hall passes.  
I don't even have any to give out.  
Chamley's rules.

TUCKER

What if we have to go to the  
bathroom?

MR. SURDU

Janitor's closet.

BECCA

(disgusted)

Ewww.

BOSTWICK

We just need to escape, err ... leave  
briefly. Just quick enough to get  
the time capsule and get back. No  
one will know. And you wouldn't  
tell, would you, Mr. Surdu?

MR. SURDU

I know nothing! I see nothing!

TUCKER

If it were only that easy. It's like  
a prison down here. I'd tunnel out  
if there were enough time.

MR. SURDU

Tunnel? That's it!

Mr. Surdu rushes over to a set of flat-file cabinets. He  
scans the drawers and opens one of them. He removes a large  
set of blueprints and places them on the table.

MR. SURDU (cont'd)

Here are your tunnels. Already dug.

BOSTWICK

Tunnels? Under Overton?

MR. SURDU

Steam tunnels. They deliver steam  
heat, water, electricity all over the  
campus.

(points to the  
blueprint)

We're here. There's a tunnel that  
leads to the Upper Academy. It goes  
under the edge of the courtyard.

(MORE)

MR. SURDU (cont'd)  
There's an opening ... here. Should  
only be a few yards from the statue.

BOSTWICK  
I'll go!

TUCKER  
You're already in enough trouble. I  
need to do this alone. I can't risk  
any of you getting caught. We might  
get expelled. Thanks, Mr. Surdu.

MR. SURDU  
(smiling)  
For what? I know nothing, remember.

Tucker looks down the hallway and starts to follow the steam  
pipes.

EXT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" COURTYARD — A SHORT TIME LATER

In a corner of the courtyard, a manhole cover moves, then  
slides to the side as Tucker pokes his head out and looks  
around. Wisps of steam emanate from the hole. Tucker,  
satisfied that all is clear, climbs out from the manhole.  
He spies piles of landscaping material and a toolbox of  
gardening tools. He crawls over to the toolbox and takes a  
small trowel. He crawls over to the statue and begins to  
dig in front of it.

The sound of voices interrupt his digging and Tucker quickly  
hides behind the statue. He sees Dean Chamley and Ms.  
McGuire entering and talking.

MS. MCGUIRE  
I don't see why they can't continue.  
We need this done by Friday for the  
Celebration.

RUBEN  
I know, Ms. McGuire. But I don't  
have enough time to get everything  
ready. The study lounge is a mess  
and we won't have the fixtures  
removed until this weekend.

MS. MCGUIRE  
You've had plenty of time. When you  
volunteered for this, I had  
confidence given your reputation for  
attention to detail.

RUBEN

Everything was planned out until you moved up the schedule. And it doesn't help that we've spent all afternoon together going back and forth on the planning--

MS. MCGUIRE

I'll leave you to it, then. We can still have the groundbreaking ceremony on Friday. The demolition crew will be here on Monday, so be sure everything is removed from the study lounge.

RUBEN

(pointing to the statue)

What about that old thing?

MS. MCGUIRE

"That old thing" has been here since the school opened. Jebediah Overton designed and commissioned it himself.

Ruben looks at the statue and makes a disgusted face.

MS. MCGUIRE

(sighs)

Yes, it's an eyesore. I'm afraid we're stuck with it. Moving it would be too expensive. They already moved it once, years ago. Weighs a ton. Anyway, I trust you'll see to it that everything is arranged.

Ms. McGuire quickly turns and walks away, exiting the courtyard.

RUBEN

(to himself)

Oh, you can be sure of that.

Tucker drops his trowel. Ruben hears the noise and turns to the statue. He starts to move toward it, when he hears Ms. McGuire calling to him.

MS. MCGUIRE (O.S.)

Dean Chamley? Come here, please. I need your opinion on this!

Ruben hesitates, but seeing nothing turns and walks away. Tucker, relieved, checks to see that it is clear, and resumes digging.

INT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" STUDY HALL — A SHORT TIME LATER

Ruben and Ms. McGuire are in the Study Hall standing near a large portrait of Jebediah Overton. The Study Hall is in disarray, with tables and chairs piled up to one side and garbage cans filled with trash and demolition material. Ms. McGuire is impatiently pointing to the painting.

MS. MCGUIRE

Why is this still here? It needs to be removed and carefully stored until the room is finished. I spoke with the contractors and they said that you told them to wait and you would take care of it.

RUBEN

It's over one hundred years old. Very fragile. I was going to work on it this afternoon, but between meeting with you and other priorities ...

MS. MCGUIRE

Very well. Just make sure you don't damage it. It will have a prominent place in the new lounge.  
(pointing)  
Right behind the new refreshment bar!

RUBEN

Of course. I'll take care of it tomorrow afternoon. Please tell the contractor to hold off with work in here. We can't risk any damage from all the dust and activity.

MS. MCGUIRE

Okay. Just let me know when you're finished.

RUBEN

(smiling)  
Of course.

EXT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" COURTYARD — A SHORT TIME LATER

Tucker continues his digging at the base of the statue. His trowel hits an object, and excitedly, he removes the dirt and retrieves the time capsule. He tucks it under his arm, tosses the trowel aside and returns to the manhole. He jumps into the manhole and pulls the cover over from the inside, sealing the hole.

Ruben returns to the courtyard. He looks around and turns to leave when he notices the hole in the ground next to the statue. Ruben gives a look of concern. He turns and walks toward the exit.

INT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" DETENTION — A SHORT TIME LATER

Tucker, Bostwick, Becca, and Mr. Surdu are gathered around a table. Bostwick struggles to open the time capsule. Becca grabs it out of his hands.

BECCA

Here!

Becca pops open the cover. Everyone leans in to look. Becca turns over the box and out falls an old felt Overton pennant.

TUCKER

That's it?

BOSTWICK

Empty!

The kids, dejected, step away from the table.

BECCA

I guess that's that.

MR. SURDU

You kids gave it a good try. I'm sorry.

TUCKER

It's okay. I guess we'll never find the treasure now.

BOSTWICK

If there ever was any.

MR. SURDU

Without any more clues, we'll probably never know.

The bell rings

MR. SURDU (cont'd)  
Detention's over kids.  
(smiles)  
I know you know what I mean when I  
say I hope I don't see you again.

BOSTWICK  
I'm sure you'll see me soon, Mr.  
Surdu.

TUCKER  
Thanks.

MR. SURDU  
Anytime. I haven't had excitement  
like that since 1975!

BECCA  
End of the war?

MR. SURDU  
That. And they finally let us  
faculty wear bell bottoms to school!

INT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" HALLWAY — THE FOLLOWING DAY

Tucker and Emma are chatting by Tucker's locker.

EMMA  
So, your parents weren't mad?

TUCKER  
Actually they were pretty cool. Ms.  
McGuire must have said some nice  
things. So, at least I'm not  
grounded.

EMMA  
That's good. Sorry we missed  
Carter's zombie movie fest.

TUCKER  
That's okay. You didn't want to go  
anyway.

EMMA  
(flirty)  
I would have, as long as you were  
there.

Tucker smiles and turns without looking. He runs into Bostwick. Becca is walking with him. Tucker's initial reaction is fear, but it soon fades as he sees it's his new friend.

BOSTWICK  
What's up, Tuck!

Emma is confused, expecting a confrontation. Tucker reassures her.

TUCKER  
It's okay! B-dawg's cool. And so is Becca.

BECCA  
Hi.

EMMA  
Hi.

TUCKER  
I see you two are ...

BECCA  
(deadpans)  
Walking to class.

TUCKER  
(smiles)  
Riiight.

BOSTWICK  
Sit with us at lunch?

TUCKER  
Sure. See you there.

Bostwick and Becca exit. Emma looks puzzled.

EMMA  
Looks like a lot happened in Detention.

TUCKER  
Yeah. Not so bad.

The bell rings.

TUCKER (cont'd)  
That's the bell. C'mon, I'll fill you in.

INT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" SCHOOL CAFETERIA — LATER THE SAME DAY

Tucker, Bostwick, Becca, Trish, and Carter are seated at a table in the center of the lunchroom. Carter is wearing a safety patrol belt. Carter wolfs down his lunch, gulps his milk, and gets up to leave.

TRISHA

Ewww. We gotta talk about your eating habits, zombie boy.

CARTER

Can't right now. Got extra Safety Patrol duty! Dean Chamley has asked all the Safety Patrol officers to make sure no one is in the halls without a pass. Something to do with all the remodeling. They don't want anyone wandering around.

Emma approaches the table carrying her tray of food. Carter rises and takes a swig of his milk and eyes the small pie on Emma's tray. Emma protectively grabs her pie.

EMMA

My pie!

CARTER

Awww.

Carter chugs down his remaining milk and takes his tray away and exits. Trisha rises from her seat.

TRISHA

I have to go, too. They closed and locked the Study Hall this morning. We were moved to the Upper Academy. Gotta move so I won't be late. Bye.

The other kids say goodbye to Trisha and she exits.

TUCKER

(to Emma)

Where were you?

EMMA

Had to drop off my art project at the art room.

Emma grabs the hall pass on her tray and stuffs it in her pocket.

TUCKER

I still think there's something fishy.

BOSTWICK

Me, too.

BECCA

Yep.

EMMA

Well, from what Tucker told me, it looks like you don't have any more clues. What were you expecting to find in that old time capsule anyway?

TUCKER

It had a silver bar. Maybe it had an inscription or something.

BECCA

And don't forget the poem. An original poem written by hand by Jebediah Overton himself.

EMMA

What was the poem?

BOSTWICK

Ummm. I don't remember. The ...

TUCKER

Treasure! "The Treasure Within".

Emma laughs

TUCKER (cont'd)

What's so funny?

EMMA

It's only our school's motto.

Emma points to the school logo on her uniform. Below the school coat of arms is the Latin phrase "Quaerite in Thesaurum"

BOSTWICK

"Choir eats in the ... dictionary"?

EMMA

(laughing)

No, silly! "Quaerite in Thesaurum" is Latin for "Seek the Treasure Within".

BECCA

I always thought it was about finding  
your talents or something like that.

EMMA

So did I.

BECCA

Apparently also, the title of one of  
his poems.

TUCKER

(sighs)

Too bad it's gone!

BOSTWICK

Chamley beat us to it. He's probably  
already found the treasure.

TUCKER

(thinking)

I don't think so! When I overheard  
him and Ms. McGuire talking in the  
courtyard, we was complaining that he  
had been too busy all day. Maybe he  
has the clue, but hasn't solved it or  
had time to find anything!

BOSTWICK

Yeah, besides, if I had found the  
treasure, I'd be outta here.

TUCKER

(sighs)

If we only had that poem.

BECCA

Maybe it's in one of the books in the  
library.

BOSTWICK

Or in one of the old school  
newspapers.

Emma straightens up, and starts to recite, loud enough that  
the other students turn to listen.

EMMA

"Seek the treasure within  
Neither far nor buried  
The key to opening your desires  
Lies within your grasp  
Follow as we gaze west

(MORE)

EMMA (cont'd)  
Behind I leave but a taste  
Beneath pride lay the rest  
Tis all for good fortune"

The other students clap. Emma, embarrassed, sits down.

BOSTWICK  
That doesn't even rhyme very well.

BECCA  
How did you know that?

EMMA  
It was part of our third grade  
English class.

BECCA  
And you memorized it?

EMMA  
I memorize lots of stuff. Can't help  
it. Photographic memory.

BOSTWICK  
What do you think it means?

TUCKER  
"As we gaze west". Where would  
Jebediah be gazing?

BECCA  
Maybe it's outside or something.  
Hey! What about the statue?

EMMA  
(thinking)  
That faces north.

The others stare at her, surprised.

EMMA (cont'd)  
What? So I'm good at directions,  
too. And I memorized the school map  
on my first day of Middle Academy.

BECCA  
The only other thing with Jebediah  
gazing is that old painting of him in  
the--

TUCKER

Study Hall! That's it! That's why Dean Chamley is so interested in the remodeling. He knows that painting is the key to the treasure!

EMMA

The poem says "Behind I leave". Maybe the treasure is hidden behind the painting.

BOSTWICK

Do you think it's behind the wall?

TUCKER

Probably.

BOSTWICK

What are we waiting for? Let's go!

TUCKER

Wait. Trish said they locked up Study Hall. We can't get in there now. We need somehow to get in there with no one watching... .

(smiling)

I know how we can get in.

BOSTWICK

Uh oh. No way, Tucker.

Tucker stands up and looks around the table.

BOSTWICK (cont'd)

(groans)

I was hoping to make it through the rest of the week ...

EMMA

What's going on? Tucker?

Tucker reaches for Emma's pie.

EMMA (cont'd)

My pie!

BECCA

(deadpans)

I think you're about to get all the pie you ever wanted.

Tucker stands up and starts to yell at the other students.

TUCKER

This pie ... is DISGUSTING!

Tucker hurls the pie across the room, hitting a large football player in the back of the head. The boy rises, angry, and grabs a pie from a student next to him and hurls it back, hitting Emma.

BECCA

See?

Everyone freezes, looking warily at each other, then it all goes crazy with a frenzied food fight, pies flying everywhere.

INT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" SCHOOL CAFETERIA — A SHORT TIME LATER

Tucker, Bostwick, Becca and Emma are standing at attention in a line in the middle of the cafeteria, covered in food. Ms. McGuire paces back and forth, angrily surveying them and the aftermath of the food fight. Food is strewn about everywhere, dripping from tables and fixtures. Ruben Chamley stands next to her, holding back his amusement until some messy food plops on his head from the ceiling.

MS. MCGUIRE

From what I understand, Tucker, this all started with you! I am so disappointed. Perhaps I was wrong about you.

TUCKER

(sheepish)

I'm sorry, Ms. McGuire.

MS. MCGUIRE

Thankfully no one was hurt. Dean Chamley has suggested expulsion for each of you.

The kids collectively gasp. Emma starts to cry.

MS. MCGUIRE (cont'd)

But ... I'm willing to limit the punishment to Detention. For the remainder of this week, plus all of next week.

Bostwick groans. Becca rolls her eyes and Emma holds back her tears. Ms. McGuire continues to scold the kids.

MS. MCGUIRE (cont'd)  
Now, as for this mess. You will clean this lunchroom up until it shines! After that, report to Mr. Surdu for the rest of the day plus an hour after school. And this time Tucker, my conversation with your parents won't be so gentle.

TUCKER  
(looking down)  
Yes, ma'am.

Ms. McGuire and Dean Chamley turn and exit.

BOSTWICK  
Well, I hope you're right. We'd better find the treasure now.

TUCKER  
Let's get this cleaned up fast. We need to get to Detention as soon as possible.

EMMA  
(crying)  
My Mom's gonna kill me!

The kids pick up garbage bags and mops and start working on the cleanup.

INT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" DETENTION — LATER THE SAME DAY

Mr. Surdu opens the door to Detention and Tucker leads Emma, Bostwick, and Becca inside. Their school uniforms and hair are messy with remnants of the food fight, faces still covered in pie filling. Mr. Surdu smiles and hands them a pile of folded clothing.

MR. SURDU  
Here. Change into these. Then we'll talk.

Bostwick looks at the old clothes, puzzled.

BOSTWICK  
What are these?

MR. SURDU  
Old uniforms and gym clothes. It's all I could find.

EMMA

Ewww. There's vintage, then there's  
... just ... old. Where can we  
change?

Mr. Surdu points to the janitor's closet.

MR. SURDU

The spa is that way.

BOSTWICK

Ladies first!

The kids head to the janitor's closet.

INT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" DETENTION — A SHORT TIME LATER

The kids stand before Mr. Surdu, freshly washed. Emma is in a uniform from the seventies, Becca from the fifties, and the boys are in old gym uniforms. Mr. Surdu chuckles.

MR. SURDU

Far out! You all look great. So  
tell me, why did you deliberately get  
back in here?

TUCKER

We think we have an answer to the  
mystery of the treasure. And we  
needed your help and--

MR. SURDU

The steam tunnels?

BOSTWICK

Yeah.

MR. SURDU

I know nothing! I see nothing!

BOSTWICK

Thanks, Mr. Surdu.

MR. SURDU

What makes you think you know where  
the treasure is hidden?

TUCKER

The poem. The one that was buried in  
the time capsule. "The Treasure  
Within".

MR. SURDU

Yes, I know it well. Of course!  
Right under our noses! Brilliant!

TUCKER

We think the line "As we gaze west"  
refers to the painting of Jebediah in  
the Study Hall. It faces west.

BOSTWICK

And Dean Chamley has been very  
interested in the remodeling,  
especially the Study Hall. He tried  
to get renderings from my parents.

TUCKER

And I overheard him and Ms. McGuire.  
He hasn't been in there alone. Yet.  
But he will be this afternoon.

MR. SURDU

And you think the treasure is behind  
the painting?

BECCA

Yep.

MR. SURDU

You may be on to something.

Mr. Surdu pulls out some old blueprints and unrolls them  
onto the table.

MR. SURDU (cont'd)

After you left Detention, I started  
thinking about everything. I found  
these old blueprints. They're for  
the Middle Academy, the oldest  
building. And look here!

(points to

blueprint)

There's a space behind this wall  
where the painting hangs. And it's  
built with cement block walls. Like  
a vault.

TUCKER

We've got to get there before Dean  
Chamley does!

BOSTWICK

Where do the steam tunnels come out?  
Anywhere near there?

MR. SURDU

Well, there's the one that runs to the courtyard, but the door to the Study Hall is blocked now. The only entrance is off the main hall.

Mr. Surdu rolls back the blueprint, revealing another with steam tunnels outlined. He points to one of the tunnels and follows it with his finger.

MR. SURDU (cont'd)

Here. It leads to the stairwell just down the hall. You'll have to go a short distance and turn. About one hundred feet.

BOSTWICK

Easy peasy.

TUCKER

What about the Safety Patrol? Carter said they were everywhere.

BOSTWICK

You can't sweet talk your friend?

TUCKER

Maybe, but Carter's--

BECCA

Unpredictable?

EMMA

That. And he takes Safety Patrol pretty seriously. When he's in the zone, he's in the zone.

TUCKER

We can't take any chances. We'll need hall passes. You sure you don't have any, Mr. Surdu?

MR. SURDU

Sorry.

EMMA

Wait! I have one!

Emma runs over to a pile of their food-stained uniforms. She carefully pulls out a crumpled hall pass from her pocket.

EMMA (cont'd)

Got it!

BOSTWICK

Only one?

BECCA

And it says "Art Room" for the destination. That's on the other side of the building.

EMMA

Leave it to me. I'm the "artiste", remember? Mr. Surdu, are there any art supplies in here?

MR. SURDU

Better than that! We have all the old layout supplies for the school paper and yearbook. Girls, come with me.

BOSTWICK

What about us?

MR. SURDU

How are you going to get into the locked Study Hall?

TUCKER

Oh. Right.

BOSTWICK

Kick in the door?

BECCA

Steel, reinforced and fireproof.

TUCKER

She's right.

MR. SURDU

I have an idea for that!

Everyone, come with me!

They all follow Mr. Surdu into the steam tunnel.

INT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" DETENTION STEAM TUNNEL — A SHORT TIME LATER

Mr. Surdu leads them to a table along the wall near the microfilm machine. The table is stacked with old school newspapers and yearbooks. There is a drafting table next to it. Old graphic designer tools are stored along the top. On the table is a storage file with old graphic transfer sheets. Mr. Surdu opens the drawers to show Becca and Emma.

MR. SURDU

Think you can use these?

BECCA

I ... think ... so?

EMMA

I can! This is great. Thanks.  
Becca, will you help me?

BECCA

Sure.

Becca and Emma sit down on some stools next to the drafting table and get to work. Mr. Surdu turns his attention to Bostwick and Tucker.

MR. SURDU

Come here, boys.

Mr. Surdu opens a cabinet along the wall. Inside there are hundreds of keys stored in buckets and on rings hung on hooks.

TUCKER

Great! Which one opens the Study Hall.

MR. SURDU

I have no idea.

BOSTWICK

How do we find the right key?

Mr. Surdu pulls a bound journal from the top shelf in the cabinet.

MR. SURDU

Look in here. It's the key log.  
Each room is assigned a key number.  
You need find the room number on the  
blueprint for the Study Hall then  
look up the key number in here.

(MORE)

MR. SURDU (cont'd)  
Then find the same numbered key in  
the pile.

TUCKER  
That's going to take a long time.

BOSTWICK  
Not if we work together. I'll go  
look up the room number.

Bostwick exits.

TUCKER  
Thanks Mr. Surdu.

MR. SURDU  
I just want you to know. I believed  
you from the start.

Tucker smiles.

INT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" DETENTION STEAM TUNNEL — A SHORT TIME  
LATER

Emma and Becca are hunched over the drafting table, working  
on creating fake hall passes.

BECCA  
That's really good.

EMMA  
Thanks. I love art. I want to be an  
illustrator.

BECCA  
Cool.

EMMA  
You?

BECCA  
Definitely computers. I dream of  
being the world's best hacker. For  
good only, of course.

EMMA  
Of course.

BECCA  
My bark is worse than my bite.

EMMA  
Kind of like B-Dawg?

BECCA  
(smiling)  
Yes. He's really sweet and smart.

EMMA  
You two are a couple?

BECCA  
Yes. He just doesn't know that ...  
yet.

Both laugh. They continue with their forgery project.

BECCA (cont'd)  
What about you and boy bander?

EMMA  
Tucker? No, we're just friends.

BECCA  
I see the way he looks at you.

At that moment, Tucker looks up and glances at Emma, smiling at her. Emma smiles back, but seeing Becca's reaction, quickly returns to her project.

BECCA (cont'd)  
Just friends, eh?

EMMA  
He's got it bad. It's just that ...  
I kind of broke his heart. I told  
him he wasn't "adventuresome".

BECCA  
Dude. We're in the school dungeon,  
forging hall passes to look for  
hidden treasure. How much more  
adventure do you need?

EMMA  
Your right. Maybe I can give him a  
chance. Just don't say anything,  
okay?

BECCA  
Lips are sealed, girlfriend.  
Besides, I don't think he needs to be  
distracted now. Treasure first,  
romance later.

Tucker and Bostwick are looking at keys, one at a time, searching to the right one.

BOSTWICK  
One thirty ...

TUCKER  
Seven.

BOSTWICK  
Nope.

Bostwick tosses a key into the bucket.

TUCKER  
Hey! I haven't gone through those,  
yet!

BOSTWICK  
Sorry, dude.

Tucker empties out a bucket of keys into another.

TUCKER  
Here. This is for those we've  
already checked.

Mr. Surdu comes over to see how they are doing.

MR. SURDU  
Find it yet?

TUCKER  
(sighs)  
Not yet.

Mr. Surdu turns and walks over to Becca and Emma.

MR. SURDU  
Find everything you need?

EMMA  
Yeah! This is way cooler than using  
a computer!

BECCA  
How do they look?

MR. SURDU  
Amazing.

EMMA  
Well, I am an artiste!

MR. SURDU

More like forger. Remind me not to let you anywhere near my checkbook!

BECCA

What's a checkbook?

The girls laugh and continue their work. Mr. Surdu walks back over to the boys.

TUCKER

Something still bothers me.

BOSTWICK

What's that?

TUCKER

When I dug up the time capsule, the dirt was very hard and compact. Like it was that way for a long time.

BOSTWICK

So?

TUCKER

So, if Dean Chamley wanted me out of the lab so I wouldn't see him dig up the time capsule, and it was already dug up long ago, then why did he care that I was in the lab?

BOSTWICK

Maybe someone else dug it up years ago and beat both of you to it.

TUCKER

Maybe. But Dean Chamley seems determined to get into the Study Hall. He must have the clues. There must be another reason.

BOSTWICK

Maybe he wanted you out of the lab.

TUCKER

That's it! So simple! He wanted me out of the lab! But why?

BOSTWICK

What's in the lab that he would need?

TUCKER  
Lab equipment. Chemicals.  
Chemicals! Mr. Surdu, is there a  
photo of the original poem in that  
article?

MR. SURDU  
I think there was.

INT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" DETENTION STEAM TUNNEL — A SHORT TIME  
LATER

Tucker and Bostwick are behind Mr. Surdu, seated at the  
microfilm machine. They are looking at the newspaper  
article. Mr. Surdu turns the controls and a page with a  
photo appears.

MR. SURDU  
Here it is.

Mr. Surdu turns another control, zooming in on the photo of  
the poem. The boys lean in and Tucker points to the photo.

TUCKER  
See there?

BOSTWICK  
See where? There's nothing there.

TUCKER  
Exactly.

BOSTWICK  
I don't get it.

TUCKER  
See the space between the last line  
of the poem and Jedediah's signature  
at the bottom. It's an odd space,  
like something should be written  
there. I think there's a secret  
code.

BOSTWICK  
A code for what?

MR. SURDU  
(reading)  
"The key to opening your desires lies  
within your grasp"

TUCKER

That's it. The key is within your grasp ... your grasp, or holding the poem. It must be written somewhere on that poem in invisible ink.

BOSTWICK

What's written?

MR. SURDU

Probably a combination. That space I told you about behind the painting? About the size of a large safe.

BOSTWICK

So why does he need the lab?

MR. SURDU

To reveal the hidden message using chemicals. There are lots of different types of invisible inks.

TUCKER

But most can be seen using heat, UV light, or even window cleaner. All things he could do at home.

(thinking)

That's it!

BOSTWICK

What's it?

TUCKER

The phenolphthalein! The message was probably written in an alkaline, like sodium hydroxide or sodium bicarbonate. He would need phenolphthalein to reveal the message. That's why he wanted me out of the lab.

BOSTWICK

So, do you think he has the combination?

TUCKER

I would bet on it. He's had that poem long enough. No wonder he was anxious to be alone in the Study Hall. We've got to hurry.

Tucker and Bostwick pick up the pace with their key search while Emma and Becca continue their work. Tucker picks up a key and holds it triumphantly.

TUCKER (cont'd)  
Found it!

INT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" DETENTION — A SHORT TIME LATER

The kids and Mr. Surdu are standing around a table in the main Detention room. On the table are the blueprints and forged hall passes. Mr. Surdu is examining one of the passes.

TUCKER  
Do you think it will work?

MR. SURDU  
Impressive.

EMMA  
I think it'll get by Carter.

TUCKER  
Let's hope.

MR. SURDU  
What's your plan?

TUCKER  
We go out through the steam tunnels to the stairwell. If everything's clear, we move to the Study Hall. Emma, Becca, you guys are on lookout while  
(shows key)  
B-dawg and I unlock the door and go in.

MR. SURDU  
Then what?

TUCKER  
We remove the painting and see what's behind it.

BOSTWICK  
Hopefully we beat Chamley to it.

BECCA  
But if there's a safe, you don't have the combination.

TUCKER

Don't need it. If we find the safe, we'll alert Ms. McGuire. She can call in a locksmith to open it. The fact that there's a safe will prove there's probably something valuable hidden inside.

Mr. Surdu pulls out a flip-phone from his pocket.

MR. SURDU

Here. You can use this to call Ms. McGuire.

BECCA

(sarcastically)

What's that?

MR. SURDU

I'll have you know it's a perfectly good phone. Besides, I have no need for so-called "smart" phones.

BOSTWICK

Couldn't figure out the apps, eh?

MR. SURDU

You may be surprised, but I had one once. The apps were a snap. It was just ... I ...

EMMA

What?

MR. SURDU

I sort of "butt-dialed" Ms. McGuire one night. Very embarrassing.

BECCA

Wait? You had Headmistress McGuire's number on your phone?

Mr. Surdu looks down, embarrassed.

BOSTWICK

You? And Ms. McGuire?

EMMA

(teasing)

Oooh! Dish!

MR. SURDU

(clearing his  
throat)

No time for that now. Besides, it  
was a long time ago. We were both  
different people then ...

(sighs)

such a free spirit!

BECCA

I find that hard to believe.

MR. SURDU

There's more to Ms. McGuire than  
meets the eye. Anyway, enough of my  
boring life. Good luck, my  
revolutionaries!

Emma hands out a hall pass to everyone and they exit toward  
the steam tunnel.

INT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" STAIRWELL — LATER THAT SAME DAY

A few students walk up the stairs past a ventilation grate  
on the wall. Tucker looks from the inside and waits until  
it is clear. He grabs the grate and pushes it out and sets  
it aside. He emerges along with Bostwick, Becca, and Emma.  
They dust themselves off and look around. They open the  
door to the hallway, and seeing no one, enter the hallway.

TUCKER

(whispering)

Shhh!

(looking around)

Okay. Let's go!

As they turn the corner, they run into Carter and two other  
Safety Patrol kids.

CARTER

Tucker! How's it going?

TUCKER

Great! We're ... ummm ... just going  
to see Ms. McGuire.

CARTER

Carter eyes them suspiciously and points in the other  
direction.

CARTER (cont'd)  
Her office is that way.

TUCKER  
We know. She ... ummm ... asked to  
meet us at Study Hall.

EMMA  
She wanted our advice.

BECCA  
On ...

BOSTWICK  
Decorations.

Carter looks puzzled, then smiles.

CARTER  
Okay, I guess. Papers?

TUCKER  
Huh?

CARTER  
Papers. Your hall passes.

TUCKER  
Right! Here we go!

Tucker and the others reach into their pockets and hold out the hall passes for Carter to see. Carter leans in, takes one from Tucker and scrutinizes it carefully.

CARTER  
Hmmm. Seems okay to me. Well, see  
you guys later!  
(to the other Safety  
Patrol kids)  
C'mon guys.

Carter and the other Safety Patrol kids exit. Tucker and the others breathe a sigh of relief.

BECCA  
Thank goodness for oblivious!

TUCKER  
Let's get in there!

The four of them quickly walk to the door, cautiously checking for others. Tucker takes the key out of his pocket and starts to put it in the lock.

TUCKER (cont'd)  
Here goes nothing.

Tucker pushes the key in the lock and turns it.

INT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" STUDY HALL — A SHORT TIME LATER

The kids enter the Study Hall. The windows are loosely covered with drop cloths and light streams in between the sheets. They make their way over to the large, life-sized painting which hangs prominently on the wall. Bostwick finds some tools in a toolbox and sets them down to help Tucker remove the painting. As they set it down, they see that the paneled wall is blank.

EMMA  
There's no safe!

Becca examines the wall. Then she knocks on it.

BECCA  
Hollow!

Bostwick takes a crowbar and smashes it into the paneling and pulls off a chunk of wood.

TUCKER  
Shhhh!

BOSTWICK  
I can't shhhh! We'll just have to go  
for it.

Bostwick continues to chip away at the paneling. He reaches inside the hole he's made.

BOSTWICK (cont'd)  
There's definitely something behind  
here!

Bostwick and Tucker grab parts of paneling and pull hard. The wood cracks and pieces of wood come loose, exposing a safe door.

TUCKER  
Yesss!

BOSTWICK  
You were right!

EMMA  
Let's call Ms. McGuire.

BECCA  
Yeah, let's get out of here.

Suddenly they hear the sound of the door unlocking.

BOSTWICK  
(whispering)  
Quick! Hide!

The kids scramble in different directions, with Bostwick remaining to hastily hang the painting. He barely has time to hang it up and it tilts to one side. He hides on one side of the Study Hall and Tucker and the girls on the other. The door opens and Ruben Chamley enters, pulling an office cart and holding a small folder. On the cart is a glass bottle labeled "Phenolphthalein" and a folded drop cloth. He looks around and closes the door, locking it behind him.

Ruben looks curiously at the painting and removes it. He examines the hole and looks around frantically. Seeing no one, he pulls out the poem from the folder and looks at it. He pulls off the stopper from the chemical bottle and taking a cotton swap out of his pocket, soaks it with the chemical liquid. He gasps as three numbers are revealed on the paper. He looks around again and sets the paper down on the cart.

Ruben walks back to the safe and removes more of the boards, exposing the full safe door.

Tucker and the girls step out to leave. As they pass the cart, Emma reaches out and grabs the poem. She looks at it, but seeing a panicked Tucker shake his head, sets it back down on the cart. It falls to the floor, alerting Ruben. He walks back to the cart, picks up the poem, and takes it over to the safe. Reading from the poem, he starts to work on the combination. Tucker gestures to the girls, and they quietly creep toward the door and open it and exit, leaving Tucker and Bostwick behind.

INT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE STUDY HALL — A  
SHORT TIME LATER

Becca and Emma enter the hall and quietly shut the door behind them.

EMMA  
(whispering)  
Let's get Ms. McGuire

BECCA  
(whispering)  
Right!

As the girls turn they run into Carter.

CARTER  
Hall passes, please!

Becca reaches into her pocket and flashes the pass

BECCA  
You just saw them! We told you, we're  
on our way to Ms. McGuire's office.

CARTER  
But, you're still here. Anyway, We  
were just in her office, and she  
wasn't there.

EMMA  
Not there?

INT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" STUDY HALL — A SHORT TIME LATER

Ruben Chamley enters the combination. He turns the handle on the safe door and it makes a large clicking sound. He pulls open the safe and gasps. The vault is the size of a large closet. Inside it is lined with shelves upon which are stacks of silver bars. Delighted, he quickly grabs some bars and begins to load the cart.

Bostwick and Tucker step out of hiding. They try to make their escape but bump into the cart, knocking a few bars to the floor.

RUBEN  
(startled)  
What are you boys doing here?  
Shouldn't you be in detention?

BOSTWICK  
Yes. But looks like you couldn't  
keep us there.

RUBEN  
Not to worry. I'll have you back  
there momentarily.

TUCKER  
How are you going to explain all  
these bars of silver to Ms. McGuire?

RUBEN

By the time you get out to tell her,  
I'll be long gone. Oh, and don't  
think I don't know that Surdu has  
been helping you.

Ruben points to the flip-phone on Tucker's belt.

RUBEN

(chuckles)

Only that old man would have an  
antique like that.

Ruben grabs a large hammer and some cable ties off the  
toolbox.

RUBEN

Turn around. I'll need to make sure  
you don't escape.

INT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" STUDY HALL — A SHORT TIME LATER

The boys are sitting on some boxes against the wall, their  
hands and feet secured with cable ties. Ruben continues his  
work, stepping out of the vault with bars of silver,  
stacking them on the cart.

RUBEN

(smirks)

I'm impressed. It took me months to  
figure out the clue.

TUCKER

That's when you dug up the time  
capsule?

RUBEN

(laughing)

I dug that up fifty years ago. About  
a week after they buried it. I  
wanted that silver bar. I dug it up,  
and grabbed it and everything I  
could. Good thing I kept that poem  
all these years! I knew there was  
something special about it.

BOSTWICK

And the silver bar?

RUBEN

Sold it. Back in the Eighties when silver was about fifty bucks an ounce. I got 500 dollars for it. Silver's not as high now, but all these should bring a good price.

TUCKER

So when did you figure out the clue?

RUBEN

I figured it out a few months back, when Ms. McGuire started talking about the remodel. I always believed in the legend, and when she said that this was the last part of the old building to get a face-lift, I started researching. That's why I needed the renderings and blueprints. I finally put two and two together and figured it was behind the painting. I just didn't have an opportunity ...

(holds up the poem)

Nor this piece of the puzzle, until you solved it for me, Tucker.

TUCKER

Me?

RUBEN

Yes. I figured out there was a secret message, probably a combination written in invisible ink. I tried the usual methods, heat, ammonia. But when you said you needed the phenolphthalein, it dawned on me! Thanks for that.

TUCKER

Don't mention it.

Ruben stacks the last bars on the cart and covers it with the drop cloth.

RUBEN

Well, I'm off!

BOSTWICK

What about us?

RUBEN

What about you? Hmmm. I suppose you'll have to make yourself cozy in that vault. Don't worry, there's ventilation in there

Ruben holds up their flip-phone, opens it and breaks it in two.

RUBEN (cont'd)

You won't be needing this. I'll text Headmistress McGuire with the combination when I'm far enough away from Beverly Pointe. Believe me, I can't wait to get away from here!

INT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE STUDY HALL — A SHORT TIME LATER

Becca and Emma are in the hallway speaking with Carter.

EMMA

You've got to believe us, Carter!

CARTER

But, Dean Chamley's been great to us Safety Patrol officers

BECCA

Listen, mall cop. Your friend Tucker and my ... friend ... Bostwick, could be in serious trouble! No telling what Chamley will do if he catches them!

Emma reaches into her pocket, takes out the hall pass and waves it in front of Carter's face.

EMMA

See this? Fake! Now what are you going to do? Arrest us?

CARTER

I'm not sure ...

EMMA

Don't you think you should report us to Dean Chamley?

BECCA

We know where he's at.

INT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" STUDY HALL — A SHORT TIME LATER

Emma, Becca, and Carter open the door to the Study Hall slowly and peek inside. No one is in the room. They call out to their friends.

EMMA  
Tucker!

BECCA  
Bostwick!

BOSTWICK (OC)  
(muffled)  
It's B-Dawg!

TUCKER (OC)  
(muffled)  
We're in here! In the vault.

Becca, Emma, and Carter rush over to the vault.

TUCKER (OC) (cont'd)  
(muffled)  
Get us out of here!

CARTER  
We need to find someone! Ms.  
McGuire!

BECCA  
There's no time for that. Chamley's  
getting away!

EMMA  
I remember the combination! I saw it  
on the poem!

Emma and Becca work on opening the vault. They succeed and the door opens. Tucker and Bostwick stumble out of the vault. Bostwick is breathing heavily.

BOSTWICK  
(catching his  
breath)  
Whew! Thanks! I was getting a  
little ...

BECCA  
Claustrophobic?  
(smiles)  
It's okay. Me, too.

CARTER  
The girls told me ... unbelievable!

Carter picks up a silver bar from the floor and stares at it in awe.

BOSTWICK  
We need to stop him. Where did he go?

The bell rings.

TUCKER  
That's dismissal. It's gonna be hard to get through the crowd.

CARTER  
He's got a van! In the faculty lot!

BOSTWICK  
We're going to need an army to stop him.

CARTER  
(smiling)  
I got your army.

EXT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" FACULTY PARKING LOT — A SHORT TIME LATER

Ruben is finishing loading his van with silver bars. He pushes the cart to the side and gets into the van. He starts the van and begins to pull out of the parking lot.

RUBEN  
Mexico, here I come!

Ruben pulls around the corner to the front of the building and slams on his brakes as he runs into a chaotic scene of parents and students in the pick-up line. Parents are yelling for their kids, a lost kindergartner is crying, moms are chatting. Ruben, frustrated, pounds his fists on the steering wheel.

RUBEN (cont'd)  
Aaarrrg! Stupid parents! There's got to be another way out.

Ruben looks around to back up but sees a crowd of Safety Patrol kids approaching. The kids surround the van. Carter walks up to the driver's window with Tucker, Bostwick, Becca, and Emma behind him.

CARTER  
Stop in the name of the law!

RUBEN  
Oh, give me a break! What are you  
going to do?

CARTER  
This!

Carter blows his whistle. The other Safety Patrol officers  
follow suit. Ms. McGuire and Mr. Surdu rush up to the van.

RUBEN  
Ms. McGuire! I can explain. These  
kids--

MS. MCGUIRE  
I know all about them. And what  
you've been up to. Mr. Surdu kindly  
filled me in.

RUBEN  
Are you going to believe the  
ramblings of an aging hippy?

MR. SURDU  
Hey! I resemble that remark!

Tucker pulls out the silver bar from his pocket.

TUCKER  
Maybe you'll believe this! You'll  
find plenty more in the back of the  
van.

RUBEN  
(sighs)  
I would have gotten away with it,  
too! If it weren't for you--

MR. SURDU  
Meddling kids?

RUBEN  
I was going to say something else.  
Not appropriate for children.

A police car pulls up with lights flashing and officers  
emerge and walk up to the van. Ruben exits the van and the  
officers handcuff him as Carter opens the back of the van  
revealing the pile of silver bars. Ms. McGuire and Mr.  
Surdu gasp.

MR. SURDU

Far out.

RUBEN

Listen, you hippie--

Ruben tries to lunge for Mr. Surdu, but the police officers hold him back.

TUCKER

Looks like you're the one that will be in detention.

The others laugh.

INT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" STUDY HALL — DAY

The Study Hall has been cleaned out and is a large, open space. Easels with renderings are positioned around the room and to the side is a large cake and punch bowl. There is a ribbon strung across the door. Ms. McGuire is standing in front of the ribbon, scissors in hand. Mr. Surdu and the kids are standing nearby. Other students and parent look on as Ms. McGuire begins to speak to the audience.

MS. MCGUIRE

Thank you, everyone, for coming. As you can see, we've just begun our remodeling of the old Study Hall. We're very excited to be able to bring a new experience to the student body including a new refreshment bar! I want to take a moment to thank some special students. Tucker Anderson, Bostwick Van Pelt, Emma Baker, Rebecca Hernandez, and Carter Gunderson. Come here, guys!

The kids approach and stand next to Ms. McGuire

MS. MCGUIRE

As you've probably read in the papers or seen on the news, these students discovered a treasure, hidden by our founder, Jebediah Overton. Lost for one hundred years, it will go into the school endowment to help all our students. Thank you, so much!

Audience claps.

MS. MCGUIRE (cont'd)  
And now, as part of our one hundred  
years of Overton Academy celebration,  
we're here to cut the ribbon on our  
newly landscaped courtyard!

Ms. McGuire, cuts the ribbon. The audience claps and people  
begin to mingle about moving out into the courtyard to  
admire the new landscaping.

INT. "OVERTON ACADEMY" STUDY HALL — A SHORT TIME LATER

The celebration continues with students, parents, and  
teachers mingling in the study hall and outside in the  
courtyard. Tucker, Bostwick, Becca, Emma, Carter, Trisha,  
and Mr. Surdu are gathered around the table sipping on  
punch. Carter has a large piece of cake in his hand.

TUCKER  
Five hundred bars? How much are they  
worth?

MR. SURDU  
At today's price? About a hundred  
grand.

BOSTWICK  
Doesn't really seem so much.

BECCA  
Says the boy who's dad drives a  
Ferrari.

BOSTWICK  
Three more years, and I'm behind the  
wheel!

TUCKER  
I guess in the old days a hundred  
grand was probably considered a  
fortune.

EMMA  
So, Mr. Surdu ... You and Ms.  
McGuire?

MR. SURDU  
(smiling)  
Let's just say, you guys have helped  
us rekindle our ... interest.

BECCA  
Summer of love?

MR. SURDU  
I was hoping winter and spring, too!

Everyone laughs. Carter shoves his cake toward Trish's face.

CARTER  
Want some?

TRISHA  
Just a taste.

TUCKER  
Trish! What did you say?

TRISHA  
A taste. I'm not that hungry.

TUCKER  
Emma! What did the poem say about a  
"taste"?

EMMA  
(thinking)  
Ummm. "Behind I leave but a taste,  
Beneath pride lay the rest"

TUCKER  
A taste! The silver in the vault was  
just a taste. A small portion of the  
treasure!

BOSTWICK  
You mean there's more out there?

TUCKER  
Emma, back to the gaze part.

EMMA  
"Follow as we gaze west". But we  
already said the only thing gazing  
west was the painting.

BECCA  
Who's "we"?

TUCKER  
I thought it was, you know like when  
a person say's "we like such and  
such" and they just mean them.

EMMA  
The "royal we"?

TUCKER  
Yeah. But maybe "we" means two.

EMMA  
The statue!

Tucker sees Ms. McGuire and motions to her to come over.  
She walks up to the group.

TUCKER  
Ms. McGuire! Wasn't the statue of  
Jebediah in the courtyard in a  
different location?

MS. MCGUIRE  
Why yes! Years ago they moved it.  
We were going to move it again, but  
the contractor looked at the old work  
order and it said it weighed over a  
ton. So we left it there.

TUCKER  
Do you know which direction it faced?

MS. MCGUIRE  
(thinking)  
Direction? No. It was before I got  
here.

MR. SURDU  
Before my time.

EMMA  
I know! I saw it on the old  
blueprints!

The kids all look at Emma, anticipating.

EMMA  
East!

The kids all turn at once.

TUCKER  
C'mon!

Tucker leads them out the door. They rush to the statue.  
Tucker looks around, and seeing a garden trowel left in a  
potted plant, grabs it and starts to swing it toward the  
statue.

MS. MCGUIRE

Tucker!

Tucker strikes the statue with the back of the trowel. It makes a hollow sound.

TUCKER

Hollow!

Tucker examines the base which is approximately a five-foot cube. On the top of the base at the feet of Jebediah is a plaque that reads "09.03.24".

MR. SURDU

That base must contain all the weight. Over a ton.

BOSTWICK

Looks to be about five cubic feet. Silver is about 655 pounds per cubic foot. That would be 3275 pounds of silver.

The others stare at Bostwick in amazement.

BOSTWICK

What? My interest in Heavy Metal isn't just about music.

TUCKER

About a ton and a half.

MR. SURDU

Over a million dollars.

They all look at each other and start to search the base seeking a way to open it.

EMMA

The plaque! "09.03.24"!

MS. MCGUIRE

That's the day the school was founded. September third, 1924.

EMMA

It's also the combination! 09-3-24!

Tucker places both hands on the plaque. He pushes it to one side, then the other, but it does not move. Finally, he pushes it in. The plaque moves and the front of the base creaks and the top detaches slightly. Tucker and Bostwick pull the top of the front down exposing stacked silver bars.

MS. MCGUIRE

Well, Tucker. All I have to say is ... I think your science project was a success. Even though you never got to complete it.

TUCKER

That's okay. When Ms. Davis returns next week I'm going to ask for an extension. I'm doing a new project: "The Properties of Silver". Know where I can get some?

Ms. McGuire laughs. A crowd starts to gather around looking curiously at the statue and its hidden treasure.

EMMA

Well, Tucker. I guess I was wrong about you. I think this tops the "adventuresome" scale.

TUCKER

Really? So maybe--

EMMA

Maybe. Let's keep it slow.

TUCKER

Slow? I'm ready for another adventure.

EMMA

(smiles)

Me, too.

FADE OUT.

THE END