

**Build  
Community, Man!**

INT. MICHAEL'S BEDROOM - MORNING

On a computer monitor, a couple of YouTube ads are playing after a video. The ad already playing on screen is of the town of Crystaltonne in a very corporate style promoting the reelection of Mayor Bernslay.

The second ad that plays is a 90s stylized ad for Crystaltonne about the community and public social projects such as a Community Clean Up Crew, Community Garde, etc. Towards the end of the ad, it details the "Protest For The Park". From the ad, it say's there's a protest Saturday to stop the new strip mall planned to be built over Deerfield Park. At the end of the ad is an outro slide that reads: "ORGANIZED BY COMMUNITY MAN!" The title of the video the ads played after was for "How to look Cool" by

The camera slowly zooms out of the of the monitor to reveal Michael's room. There's a picture of him and his bestfriends, Mo and Reggie, under the monitor.

Around the room is various 90s memrobilia and posters for pop culture movies, musicians, and tv shows ie. Power Rangers, Nirvana, Star Wars, etc.

The door to Michael's room is slightly ajar and conversation is heard from downstairs.

Michael exits his room.

CUT TO:

INT. MICHAEL'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The conversation is slightly heard more, but sounds hushed. Michael slowly approaches the edge of the stairs to listen in.

He hears his Dad, MAYOR BERNSLAY (40s), talking to someone in the kitchen.

MAYOR (O.S.)

What do you mean you're organizing a protest?

UNKNOWN (O.S.)

The town doesn't need another glorious waste of space that'll end up closing down after the first year. People actually go to the park. No one needs another Hizza Put.

MAYOR

(sighs)

It's more complicated than that. You have to atleast see that.

UNKNOWN

See what? You're taking money from under the table to create more business for the town?

Beat.

UNKNOWN

There are other ways to help the town, and constructing another monument to fascist mini-golf pizza slingers isn't gonna make the town happier. Going to the park with their friends and family will.

Shuffling is heard from the kitchen. Michael steps back to hide in the hallway before the stairs but still peeks out.

The Unknown figure is halfway out the door when they stop. There's a red fabric hanging out of the duffel bag they carry.

MAYOR

You're making the wrong decision.

The Unknown figure stops and hears a creak from upstairs. As they look back, Michael hides. Then the figure look towards the Mayor and then leaves the house.

1. INT. MICHAEL'S BEDROOM - MORNING - CONTINUOUS

Michael enters his room rubbing his eyes and look towards his alarm clock. It reads 6:49 AM.

MICHAEL

Oh shi-

Semi-Charmed Life by Third Eye Blind plays as the alarm goes off.

Michael slaps the alarm off and starts rushing around getting his books for his backpack, throwing on clothes as he stuffs the bag.

2. INT. HOUSE HALLWAY - MORNING - CONTINUOUS

He hops out of his room putting on his shoe and falls over. THUMP.

MAYOR

Michael? You okay?

MICHAEL

Yeah!

MAYOR

Well, hurry up the bus is coming!

Michael gets up and brushes himself off. He checks himself in a mirror hung up in the hallway, then checks for his keys, wallet, and phone. He runs back into his room to snatch his phone.

He wakes the phone and it reads 6:55 AM.

Michael starts running down the stairs and runs to the kitchen to grab a Poptart packet. He's about to head out the door when...

MAYOR

Michael!

Michael turns around.

Mayor throws Michael's pair of retro headphones down the stairs to him. He fumbles catching them.

MICHAEL

Thanks. See you at dinner!

MAYOR

Probably gonna have dinner with the Fox's!

MICHAEL

Really?...nn Is it work related again?

MAYOR

Uhh... Yes? Look, it's important, plus I'll get whatever you want! Sound good?

MICHAEL

Sure, Mister Mayor.

MAYOR

I told you not to-

Michael leaves the house. SLAM.

CUT TO:

3. EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - MORNING - CONTINUOUS

Michael untangles his headphones and puts them down as he hears the bus turning the corner to the bus stop at the end of the street. He starts running as the song No Rain by Blind Melon plays from his headphones.

Michael gets to the stop just as the bus opens its door. He awkwardly shuffles into the line.

Everyone in line has a glazed over zombie eyed look.

He is about two people away from hopping on the bus just as JACKSON FOX (15) passes by him and knocks off his headphones onto the ground. Jackson is wearing a lot of misappropriated street wear clothing that matches in a discomfoting way.

Michael puts his headphones back on just as an empty energy drink can hits him square in the forehead. Jackson snickers as he finds a seat on the bus. Michael sighs as he gets on.

4. INT. BUS - MORNING

Michael scans the bus looking for a seat. Most of them are taken except the empty front row. He goes to rest his head against the window as the bus continues on it's route.

The bus ride goes through the rest of Michael's neighborhood then through the center of town. They pass the best pizza shop in the area, Planet Pizza, Deerfield Park, and the ponds surrounding the park.

The surrounding area of the school is upstate New York scenic with hilly forests and spread out bodies of water.

The bus pulls into the school parking lot. Michael gets up to get off then...

MATCH CUT TO:

5. INT. SCHOOL LUNCHROOM - AFTERNOON

Michael's head is smacked down into his lunch tray of mystery meat lasgana.

Jackson is seen walking by snickering with two other lenky white boys known as THE DIXERS. DIXON (17) and RICHARD (17) are not related. Essentially they are similar to each other, but in different fonts.

JACKSON

Nice to meat ya!

Jackson scoffs as he saunters away. Michael wipes his eyes clear of mystery meat.

MO (16) and REGGIE (17), arrive just after the show.

Mo hands him a napkin.

MICHAEL

Took you guys long enough.

MO

This one wanted the pudding from the small cafe.

REGGIE  
 (mouth full of pudding)  
 It tastes better when you get it  
 from there!

Michael chuckles as he cleans up. Mo and Reggie sit down in front of him.

MO  
 (to Reggie)  
 So do you know about his plan?

REGGIE  
 (mouth still full of  
 pudding)  
 Plan? I think so?

MO  
 (to Michael)  
 Are you still going through with  
 it?

Michael is focused off in the distance. It is clear is lost in a daydream.

REGGIE  
 (mouth still full of  
 pudding)  
 There he goes again.

MO  
 Jeesus. We need a new best friend.

Michael is still lost in a daydream with his eyes wandering off.

REGGIE  
 You wanna RPS for it?

MO  
 I did it last time!

REGGIE  
 And I did it twice before that!...  
 Also I hear his fanstical BS every  
 other period.

MO  
 Fine.

Mo and Reggie play rock, paper, scissors. Mo loses.

REGGIE  
 (as he eats more pudding)  
 Nice.

MO  
 I hate you.

Mo takes a slice of cheese from her sandwich. She winds up and smacks Michael back to reality. SLAP.

MICHAEL  
Shit, what the hell Mo!

Reggie chuckles a bit as he finishes his pudding.

MO  
You are welcome my dear friend.

MICHAEL  
Cheese? Really?

MO  
We both know you're not lactose intolerant.

MICHAEL  
Why?

REGGIE  
Cause you were stuck in dream land again.

Michael scoffs. His eyes start to drift off again then...

MATCH CUT TO:

6. EXT. CENTER OF TOWN - AFTERNOON

SMACK. Michael gets hit with a football in the face.

He gets knocked down as Mo and Reggie just watch him fall.

A full second passes before Michael starts moving on the ground and his friends break out in laughter.

MICHAEL  
I hate you guys.

MO  
Pay attention next time!

REGGIE  
Yeah like, to the ball!

Michael gets up and brushes himself off.

MICHAEL  
Why are we throwing a football again? We suck at sports.

MO  
Speak for yourself.

REGGIE

One of the Cool Kids was being a douchenozzle during gym so Mo bet she could throw better than him.

MO

If Jackson "injures" himself during the contest, he'll have to sit out and won't be in gym class.

MICHAEL

(to Reggie)

And she wants our help? Do you see what we look like?

(to Mo)

And Jackson of all people?

MO

I know you guys were lovers-

MICHAEL

Jesus, we we're not at all like that! We just had

MO

A lovers quarrel into a falling out between two-

MICHAEL

We were friends and now... we aren't.

Reggie eats a chip. It crunches so loudly it cuts through the awkwardness.

MO

Just tell him not to come to school tomorrow as you pull your hoodie over real slow like.

MICHAEL

Who shit in your breakfast?

MO

THE PATRIARCHY!... Also, my dad said I can't use the car because I missed a taekwondo class.

REGGIE

Don't you always go?

MO

Exactly! I miss one class in five years and it's anarchy.

MICHAEL

Well, I don't wanna start a streak of lying to my dad about random bruises or why I eat like a pig with all my mystery meat stained shirts.

REGGIE

You're a growing boy, he'll understand.

MO

Well, maybe if you weren't day dreaming literally everyday the next Cool Kids party then maybe I wouldn't be in this dilemma.

MICHAEL

What are you talking about

CUT TO:

7. INT. CLASSROOM - MORNING

FLASHBACK: Michael is presenting with Reggie and Mo, with Mo obviously carrying the group.

TEACHER

And who answered question 3?

MO

That would be Michael.

TEACHER

Michael?

Michael is staring off into nothingness.

CUT TO:

8. INT. SCHOOL LUNCHROOM - MIDDAY

FLASHBACK: Michael is staring into nothingness. A meatball is thrown at him but misses and hits Mo.

JOCK

(to friend)

Nice shot.

MO

I'll show you a nice shot!

Reggie holds her back. Mo tries to break free as Michael continues to daydream.

CUT TO:

## 9. EXT. FIELD - AFTERNOON

FLASHBACK: Earlier that day, gym class is going on and Michael is standing still in the field. A football misses his face barely as it bonks Mo in the head.

As Michael looks off in the distance, Mo is getting into an altercation with the Jock.

CUT TO:

## 10. EXT. CENTER OF TOWN - AFTERNOON

Mo is staring her dead cold eyes through Michael.

Reggie backs up.

MICHAEL

Oh, yeah... So, why did you pick a fight with a roided out tree branch with meat sweats?

MO

Why did I- why-...

Mo paces for a quick second.

MO

Reggie, my dear, would you like to explain the reasoning for this "practice" we are having for the contest?

REGGIE

(without missing a beat)  
We're trying to help you get laid.

MICHAEL

Who told you I wanted to get laid.

Michael looks at Mo. Mo looks at Reggie. Reggie looks at Michael with raised eyebrows.

MICHAEL

Oh... Yeah makes sense... Wait who told you who it was?

MO

God, you're that oblivious.

REGGIE

(to Mo)  
You've just figured that out?

MO

No, of course not. A tree is more sentient than this whipped butter boy.

MICHAEL

Alright, but what does having Jackson break his arm do with me getting laid?

REGGIE

Because if Mo show's him up and humiliates him, one of the Cool Kids would take notice and throw us an invite, we go to the party, do our charisma checks and so on, AND they'll probably kick him out of the group.

Reggie eats another chip.

REGGIE

And honestly, we all know why he kicks it with those teen hearthrob wannabes...

MICHAEL

Wait, they're in gym class with you?

MO

(to herself)

Are all guys this stupid?

Reggie nods.

MICHAEL

Well, whatever, that's not something I'm willing to get caught up in if one: it doesn't secure us a way into that Cool Kids party Saturday night or two: bodily harm.

Just as Michael is talking, the Cool Kids, an assortment of highschool stereotypes, are passing by on the sidewalk.

MICHAEL

I'd rather impress them than have a chance to get an off hand invite.

CUT TO:

11. EXT. GROCERY STORE - AFTERNOON

A figure in what seems to be a superhero costume is walking an old lady across the street with her groceries

The figure's superhero costume is blue, green, and yellow, with a oddly short red cape.

CUT TO:

12. EXT. BIKING TRAIL - AFTERNOON

The figure is picking up trash along a hiking trail. A passing biker throws a plastic bottle into the grass.

As he picks up the bottle, COMMUNITY MAN's (30s) face is shown. He smiles at the biker zooming down the trail then continues picking up trash.

CUT TO:

13. EXT. PARK - AFTERNOON

Community Man picks out a couple of bottles from the bottom of the trash can he is fishing through. After getting out of the trash can he looks to the town's park.

He walks up to the parks entrance and places a dandelion on the edge of the park's entrance.

He bows his head for a second, then goes on his way towards the center of town.

CUT TO:

14. EXT. CENTER OF TOWN - AFTERNOON

Community Man is walking towards the center of town and notices a kid's ball rolls into the street. He sees the kid start waddling after the ball as a car is turning the corner.

In a valiant success, he snatches the ball and kid in time to dodge the car.

The neglectfull mother finally notices something is up and starts to beat Community Man away from her child.

KAREN MOM

(beating at CM with a  
rolled up newspaper)

Git away from my lil Timmy! How  
dare you put your hands near my  
sweet lil baby.

Community Man backs off and continues on his way.

CUT TO:

## 15. EXT. CENTER OF TOWN - CONTINUOUS

Community Man starts to pass by some high school kids that seem to be a strange assortment of high school stereotypes. The other groups is a group of three talking with the larger group. One of the kids in the smaller group holds a football.

Community Man sees a plastic bottle sticking out of a mud puddle.

He goes to pick it up. As he struggles to pick it up, SPLASH, he's face down in the puddle.

CUT TO:

## 16. EXT. CENTER OF TOWN - CONTINUOUS

Michael is standing over Community Man's muddied body. Mo and Reggie are to the side in disbelief.

Michael turns to the Cool Kids to see their nods of approval. Jackson is with them, and pouts like a baby bitch.

Michael looks back down at Community Man, and he is visibly upset, but has mud in his eyes.

DUDE (18) the leader of the Cool Kids throws Michael a crumpled piece of paper. Unraveling it says in crude handwriting: "PARTY? Yeah, my place. WHEN? Like Saturday."

MICHAEL

Sweet.

The Cool Kids Roll out as Community Man starts to get up.

Mo motions to Michael and Reggie to get out of there. They grab their bags and run away.

As Community Man gets up he wipes off the mud in his face. He looks around to see an empty park.

He continues to get the plastic bottle still stuck in the mud out. After he frees it, he notices a football laying in the grass nearby.

Community Man picks it up and sees that there's a label for the owner of the ball: Monique Azura. It has her address too.

CUT TO:

## 17. EXT. DOWNTOWN - MOMENTS LATER

Michael and company are running down the street.

After a bit, they stop in an alley. They are all out of breath.

MO

What the crap was that?

MICHAEL

What?

MO

What do you mean what?

REGGIE

We already had a plan!

MICHAEL

And I improvised!

MO

There's a reason we stick to the plan!

MICHAEL

And what's that?

MO

Something always goes wrong!  
Murphy's Law! And when you follow a plan, at least you know what can go wrong. When you don't have one, everything can go wrong!

They all catch their breath in silence.

MICHAEL

It's not that bad.

REGGIE

How is it not that bad? I got my favorite shirt muddy?!

MO

See! You made Reg upset now.

Reggie is licking his thumb to try to get a spot of dirt off his shirt while the entirety of his bottom half is muddied.

MICHAEL

Guys, it's fine! It was just that weirdo that goes around town recycling and helps ducks cross the road.

MO

(scoffs)

Murphy's Law... They should change it to Michael's Law.

MICHAEL

Screw you! At least I was doing something that was for all of us!

MO  
 You are unbelievable!  
 (to Reggie)  
 C'mon, let's go get cleaned up.

Reggie looks at his fairly clean shirt then back to Michael. As Mo is leaving, Reggie does a quick turn of his head in a motion of shunning Michael and they walk away.

Michael is there dusting himself off in the alley way, alone.

MICHAEL  
 (to himself)  
 What could go wrong?

CUT TO:

18. EXT. MO'S HOUSE - LATER

There is a knock at the door. Mo's Mom answers the door. A semi dried up and muddied Community Man is standing there. He outstretches his arm with a muddy football.

Mo's Mom steps out of the doorway to reveal Mo facepalming.

Mo looks at her mom, then to Community Man, then back to her mom.

MO  
 I can explain.

CUT TO:

19. INT. SCHOOL LUNCHROOM - MIDDAY

Mo keeps slapping Michael with the same slice of American cheese from her sandwich.

MO  
 Explain to me why you are such an idiot!? All for a stupid-

MICHAEL  
 I don't know what you mean?!!

MO  
 So you DO know you are an idiot!

Reggie is sitting between them with his pudding untouched.

MICHAEL  
 Maybe if you stop hitting me I could figure why I'm an idiot?

MO  
 Okay fine.

Mo stops.

MO  
But I'm still upset with you so, in  
ten minutes.

Mo continues to smack Michael with the withering slice of  
American cheese.

REGGIE  
Guys...

Mo keeps walloping Michael as he tries to defend himself with  
a banana.

REGGIE  
Guys!

They both stop. Mo has Michael by the collar with cheese  
still in hand.

MO  
What? What's up Reg.

REGGIE  
You have to stop.

MO  
He hasn't told me why he's a big  
stupid dumb-

MICHAEL  
Oh, I'm dumb for getting us an  
invite to-

REGGIE  
Both of you stop!

Mo and Michael are quiet. Mo and Michael exchange concern  
with their eyes.

REGGIE  
Because Michael was being selfish  
and horned out for some dumb party,  
we all got in trouble with our  
parents-

MO  
Or Parent.

REGGIE  
And I got it the worst out of all  
of us.

MO  
How did you get it worse than us?

MICHAEL

Yeah, you guys don't have to go to do some volunteer work for whatever is happening in town. My dad said to

(mocking)

"go do something useful and help some old lady stock her candles in town" or whatever. Probably just gonna go to the Crystaltonne Creep's weekly community forum and snag a flyer to show him I "volunteered". And if I don't I-er, we can't go out this weekend.

Beat.

MO

Oh boohoo, you're "helping the community". Since your little stunt, my mom isn't letting me go to taekwondo practice and since I'm going to be missing practice, I won't be able to compete next week in the junior regional championship.

Reggie stands up.

REGGIE

I got my Handbook taken away!

Mo looks to Reggie with remorse and Michael is dumbfounded.

MICHAEL

Handbook?

Reggie looks like he is on the verge of tears.

REGGIE

Yes! My D&D handbook that has all my papers and notes I was making to create a campaign for us, but this beefhead over here had to ruin it for all of us.

MO

Yeah, what the hell, Michael.

REGGIE

(to Mo)

And because you were fighting all lunch I lost my appetite for my pudding.

Reggie gets up from the table and walks away, but then turns back to the both of them.

REGGIE  
And I love pudding!

Reggie storms off. Mo and Michael share an exasperated sigh.

CUT TO:

20. EXT. SCHOOL LAWN - MOMENTS LATER

Reggie is under a tree drawing in his leather bound notebook. Mo and Michael meekly walk up to him.

MICHAEL  
Hey Reggie.

Reggie is focused intently on his notebook.

MO  
Reggie, will you talk to us?

Reggie continues to write. Michael takes a knee to Reggie.

MICHAEL  
Sir Reginald of the High  
Mountains...

Reggie perks up a bit behind his notebook.

MO  
What are you-

MICHAEL  
I have broken our bond of trust and  
as an ally to the High Mountains, I  
must do all in my power to restore  
your faith in me.

Reggie puts down his notebook and leans back against a tree. Mo awkwardly takes a knee next to Michael.

MO  
And I, Lady Mo, have been in the  
same... Boat?

Mo looks to Michael as if she wants to know if she is doing the bit right. Michael shakes his head yes.

MICHAEL  
(to Mo)  
Let me handle the high fantasy  
talk.  
(to Reggie)  
As I was saying, we both are  
indebted to you, but are also at a  
loss for our mutual bond of trust  
has been broken.

Reggie crosses his arms.

REGGIE

Speak your purpose.

MICHAEL

We ask for your forgiveness and  
pledge our unwavering fidelity to  
you to as recompense for the  
penalties you have suffered that  
our actions have made true.

Reggie stands up.

MICHAEL

What is your decree?

Reggie places his hand on Michael's and Mo's shoulders. Mo  
and Michael share a confused look.

REGGIE

Though your shortcomings have  
wounded me so, I will overlook them  
on a token of good faith due to our  
friendship, only in hopes to create  
a stronger bond moving forward,  
together.

MO

Cool, so we cool?

REGGIE

And you guys have to get me pudding  
cups for the next week until I get  
my Handbook back.

MO

Deal.

MICHAEL

Deal.

They all get up and brush themselves off.

MO

I still hate Michael.

REGGIE

I do too.

MICHAEL

We'll figure it out, guys. We  
always do.

MO

Not when you only use one of your  
heads to think.

Michael and Reggie share and uncomfortable look with Mo.

MO

What? Don't act like that's not true.

Michael and Reggie shrug.

REGGIE

Well, while I enjoy the real world for a little bit, I'm glad this adventure is with you guys.

Beat.

Mo reaches into her backpack. She throws a broken slice of cheese at Reggie.

MICHAEL

Why do you still have that?

MO

Why are you stupid?

Mo and Reggie laugh as Michael peels the cheese from his face. They all start to rough house with one another and dodge the abused slice of cheese that is being used as a weapon.

CUT TO:

21. INT. MICHAEL'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

They are all laying down on the floor in a triangle formation, heads next to each others. They are exhausted from "fighting" with each other.

Reggie puts a handfull of goldfish into his mouth and passes the bag around.

As Mo and Michael both partake in the snack, they all euphorically sigh.

MICHAEL

I don't know whether to love or hate cheese now.

MO

Shhhh shh shhhhhh...

REGGIE

Savor the rainbow... Or taste the punch?...

Beat.

REGGIE  
Whatever, just enjoy the moment,  
Michael.

They all continue to pass around and eat goldfish.

Michael sits up.

MICHAEL  
Crap.

Mo sits up groggily.

MO  
What?

Reggie tries to sit up but falls back. He rolls over on his side to sit up.

REGGIE  
Huh?

Michael turns to both of them.

MICHAEL  
I have to befriend the Creep.

REGGIE  
I love indie music.

Michael gets up and starts to frantically pace.

MICHAEL  
No, no, no, no.

Mo sits up against Michael's bed.

MO  
Why are you freaking out? That guy  
is the most docile thing in this  
town... Aside from the birds.

REGGIE  
Canadian Geese are mean.

MO  
Damn, you're right.

REGGIE  
Also, birds aren't real.

MICHAEL  
Guys, how am I supposed to be seen  
around budget Captain Planet  
without having anyone see me next  
to him?

(MORE)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

My dad said I have to get a paper signed by the person I volunteered for. I can't just go up to the guy and be like "hey I really don't wanna be here but I need your signature".

MO

Why is that an issue?

REGGIE

I like his costume.

Michael slumps into his desk chair.

MICHAEL

You guys don't get it.

Beat.

MICHAEL

This town is so small you could hear a bird sneeze from across town. And with everyone on MySqueek, if anyone even sees me near him, word will get around I'm friends with Dollar Store Dungaree and they'll tell the Cool Kids that I'm lame and care about this dumpster fire town.

REGGIE

You want some goldfish?

Reggie shakes the bag towards Michael as he shoves a mouthful in.

MICHAEL

And then if they find out, I'll be uninvited to the party!

MO

So you're stressing over nothing?

REGGIE

Yeah, you need some goldfish.

Michael buries his head in his arms on his desk.

MO

Wait... Didn't you said "we" got invited to the party?

Michael lifts up his head from the desk. Reggie slows his chewing.

MICHAEL

Yeah, I meant "we" will be uninvited. And I want you guys there so we can experience our first real party together.

REGGIE

Liar.

Reggie continues to stuff his mouth with goldfish.

MO

Admit it, you just wanna get back at Jackson for leaving and ascending the hierarchal structure to

(mockingly)

"Cool Kid" status.

REGGIE

Yeah, since when do you care about beer?

MICHAEL

Okay fine, I was lying. I don't care about the beer. That was just a bonus. But you guys are my best friends and best friends are supposed to help each other! So help me help you get unpunished so we could all enjoy this weekend!

Mo gets up. She crosses her arms.

MO

Why should we help you?

Beat.

MICHAEL

Cuz I'll tell your mom it's my fault the cool youth pastor in tights fell into the mud and came to your door with the ball.

MO

Have you met my mom?

MICHAEL

Yes.

REGGIE

That was rhetorical.

MO

You're gonna need more than your charm and boyish good looks to convince my mom to let me practice for next week's tournament.

Michael crosses his arms and bites his lip while he thinks. He turns around, then turns back to Mo with a puppy dog look.

MO

Ew, what are you doing?

MICHAEL

Charm? ...ing? ... You?

MO

Stop, you look like you're gonna pop a blood vessel in you eye.

Beat.

MO

Fine. I'll help you.

MICHAEL

Yes! Thank yo-

Michael goes to hug Mo but she stops him.

MO

Only if! You also help Reggie get his book back.

MICHAEL

What? I thought we just had to get him pudding!

REGGIE

I'm not just filled with pudding, Michael. My thirst for adventure needs to be quenched.

Beat.

Mo raises her eyebrows at Michael. Michael flops back in his chair.

MICHAEL

Okay fine, we'll help Reg get his book back.

REGGIE

Nice.

MO

Then it's settled.

Michael leans forward towards them.

MICHAEL  
One thing though.

Michael motions for them to lean in. They comply.

MICHAEL  
How do I befriend the Mr. Goodie  
Two Tights?

They all take a second to think. Reggie raises his finger.

MICHAEL  
You got something?

REGGIE  
No. But I know where we can plan  
this.

Mo and Michael share a confused look with each other. Then  
banging on the wall is heard from downstairs.

MAYOR BERNSLAY  
MICHAEL! The Fox's are coming! Get  
ready for dinner!

Michael groans.

MICHAEL  
(mutters to himself)  
Shit, I forgot about that.  
(to his friends)  
You guys better go. Wanna be White  
Prince is coming.

MO  
Jackson is coming here? Why would  
he come here?

MICHAEL  
My dad works with his mom. They  
always have these dinners to talk  
about town stuff, and I have to  
share a table with that weasel  
faced prick.

REGGIE  
That's not nice to say about your  
about your dad.

MICHAEL  
I meant Jackson.

REGGIE  
Oh.

MO

Well, while you have a candle lit dinner with him, Reg do you wanna help me with history?

REGGIE

The Balkans shall be historized!

Michael, Mo, and Reggie do a synchronized handshake. It's epic.

MICHAEL

We'll continue planning at lunch tomorrow.

They nod.

MAYOR BERNSLAY

Michael come down!

CUT TO:

22. INT. MICHAEL'S HOUSE - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

Michael is at the dining table with his dad, Mayor Bernslay, Jackson's mom, and Jackson. Jackson is sitting right across Michael, both are slowly eating their chinese food while the adults talk about town plans.

JACKSON

(coughing)  
Shartface.

MICHAEL

Dork got your tongue?

JACKSON

Sorry, I was just choking on how awful you look without meatloaf on your face.

MRS. FOX

JACKIE!

Jackson recoils in the utterance of that nickname.

MRS. FOX

Apologize.

JACKSON

(unintelligible)  
I'm sorry.

MRS. FOX

Apologize like you mean it!

Jackson's Mom pinches his ear.

JACKSON  
OW! Okay, okay.  
(sighs)  
I'm sorry for call you ugly,  
Michael.

Awkward beat. Michael shrugs and continues eating.

The adults have barely eaten any of their food. The dining table is sprawled out with blue prints and documents.

MICHAEL  
Whatcha planning?

Mayor Bernslay doesn't respond.

Michael goes to touch one of the blueprints with his greasy fingers but gets swatted away by a manila folder.

MICHAEL  
Ow!

Jackson snickers. Michael glares.

MAYOR BERNSLAY  
No touching! If you must know,  
we're working on the plans for the  
new strip mall construction this  
Friday.

Michael rolls his eyes and continues eating.

JACKSON  
(kiss-ass tone)  
Yeah sounds totally cool Mister  
Mayor Sir!

Mayor laughs.

MAYOR BERNSLAY  
Just call me Mister Bernslay.

Jackson nods and smiles evilly to Michael.

Michael peek at some of the plans and see that there's a name of a company called Hizza Putt on the blue prints.

MICHAEL  
What's a Hizza Putt?

JACKSON  
You don't know what a "Hizza Putt"  
is? Do you live in a closet?

Michael glares through Jackson.

Mayor Bernslay sighs and takes a bite out of his food.

MAYOR BERNSLAY

If you guys both can't behave at the dinner table, just go out front and kick a ball or something? I have to finalize these plans and get the word out before your un-ahem... Before local news stations get wind of this and run me ragged with interviews.

Mayor Bernslay looks at Michael and then to Jackson. Jackson looks to his mom and she nods in agreement with Mayor. Both Michael and Jackson's chairs squeak as they leave the table.

CUT TO:

23. EXT. MICHAEL'S HOUSE - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

Michael and Jackson are in the front yard kicking a soccer ball around. They both have two left feet. It Jackson kicks a little too hard and it passes Michael, rolling onto the street. A distracted neighbor is on their phone while walking their dog as the ball reaches the middle of the street.

MICHAEL

What the hell was that for?

JACKSON

Just get better at sports.

Michael scoffs as he starts walking to get the ball.

In that same instance, the dog runs after the ball in the street as a pickup truck is coming down the road. Michael sees the oncoming disaster but is frozen in fear of what to do.

As the dog owner is still preoccupied with their phone and is carelessly calling for their dog, a bike bell is heard. Coming down the opposite side of the road from the truck is what appears to be a man in a 90s retro superhero costume, cape flowing in the wind towards the dog in the street.

The caped crusader jumps off his bike, slides to kick the ball out of the way and get the dog to follow, just as the truck narrowly passes them both.

Michael stands their still frozen, not in fear now, but awe. The caped figure kicks the ball up to Michael and he catches it right in front of his face.

As he lowers the ball, he sees the caped figure running from the now leashed dog back to his bike that skidded on the sidewalk.

The caped figure looks back for a moment at Michael, then nods. Michael nods back.

As Michael turns back towards his house, he sees his dad through the curtains of the window, frowning, then retreats back into the house.

JACKSON  
Kick the ball, dirt for brains!

MICHAEL  
Did you just see that?

JACKSON  
(on his phone)  
See what? You not kicking the ball?

MICHAEL  
No, the dude that just saved the dog?

Jackson looks up to see Michael with the ball in his hands and the dog leashed to the neighbor's fence.

JACKSON  
What dude?  
(gaslighting)  
Are you seeing things? Are you on drugs?

MICHAEL  
What? Are you- what is your problem?

JACKSON  
Oh, I have a problem now?

MICHAEL  
Ever since you joined those pretentious caricatures, you stopped hanging out with us and became a literal douchebag.

Jackson is silent.

MICHAEL  
And all for what? To be their lapdog and jester? A Jestering Poodle?

Jackson is balling his fists.

MICHAEL  
You know what?... You're better off with them... I can't believe I even thought I lik- nevermind.

JACKSON  
Oh, yeah, maybe I am better off with the Cool Kids because at least they're honest.

Michael looks to Jackson with confusion.

MICHAEL  
Whatever, poser.

Michael drops the ball and kicks it over to Jackson. As Michael starts walking to the mailbox, Jackson throws the soccer ball at Michael, slamming his hand against the mailbox.

MICHAEL  
What the hell was that for?

JACKSON  
You always liked her better didn't you?

MICHAEL  
What are you talking about?

Michael is wringing his hand as Jackson approaches him.

JACKSON  
(whispered)  
You and I both know what we know.

MICHAEL  
That you're still an asshat?

Out of frustration and rage, Jackson pushes Michael down and they start fighting. The neighbor's dog starts barking as the neighbor walks in still on their phone.

JACKSON  
I hate fairys! Especially, lying ones!

MICHAEL  
Get off me! You're the fairy!

As the scuffle continues and they each get a couple hits in, Mayor Bernslay and Mrs. Fox hurriedly come outside to see the kids fighting.

MAYOR BERNSLAY  
Michael! What are you doing?

They both stop fighting. They push each other off one another and situp on the grass in a huff.

MRS. FOX  
Jackie, get your things.

JACKSON  
(whiny)  
He start-

MRS. FOX

One more word out of you and I'm taking your Gamecube controllers.

Jackson pouts as he gets up and begrudgingly enters the house. Mayor Bernslay looks to Michael with distain, shaking his head. Michael gets up and starts towards the house.

MAYOR BERNSLAY

Don't forget the mail!

Michael nods and turns back around to see the scattered envelopes. DOOR SLAM.

CUT TO:

24. INT. VIDEO PRODUCTION CLASSROOM - DAY

It is the next day after school. Michael has a hat covering his face. Mo is sharing puzzled looks at the board and Reggie. Reggie is setting up the SmartBoard. He is struggling to get to set it up. Reggie gestures to the now on SmartBoard.

REGGIE

Eh?!!

Michael shrugs. Mo snaps her fingers.

REGGIE

Okay party, how are we to handle this encounter with The Ward of Crystaltonne!

Michael raises his hand.

REGGIE

Yes, Bard.

MO

This isn't a class.

MICHAEL

And we're not playing D&D.

REGGIE

My life is D&D.

Beat.

MICHAEL

Okay, so how are we going to do this?

MO

I mean, you could just talk to him like a normal person.

MICHAEL

Are you insane?

REGGIE

My aunt is.

MICHAEL

I can't be seen with him in public!  
What if someone sees?

MO

Yeah, what of it?

MICHAEL

Do I have to explain again-

MO

You could explain why you have a  
hat on inside?

Beat.

MO

Or not... I'm gonna use the  
bathroom before we start.

Mo gets up and starts walking towards the door, but as she  
passes behind Michael's chair, she snatches his hat.

Mo drops the hat as she and Reggie gasp.

REGGIE

Dude... What happened.

MICHAEL

Jackson happened?

MO

Did that twig of a neanderthal jump  
you with his cartoonish goons?

MICHAEL

No.

REGGIE

Was it the bridge trolls?

MICHAEL

No, guys look, he was just being a  
dick and wanted to start something,  
and it's fine now. You should see  
him.

MO

Oh, if I see him, I'll finish the  
job.

Michael gets up and claps.

MICHAEL  
Okay, so let's get back into  
Operation...

Michael looks to Reggie. Reggie thinks.

REGGIE  
Operation Get Michael Laid!

Mo and Reggie look at each other then to Michael. They laugh  
at him. Michael slouches in his chair.

MO  
We're messing with you, dingus.

MICHAEL  
Thanks guys.

REGGIE  
Yeah, besides we already figured  
out the plan.

MICHAEL  
You already have a plan?!

REGGIE  
Yuh huh.

MO  
Yeah while you were daydreaming in  
Spanish, we found that he has a  
website.

MICHAEL  
Wait really?

MO  
Yup.

MICHAEL  
Wait then why are we here?

MO  
Reggie wanted an excuse to use a  
SmartBoard.

Reggie nods and shrugs.

MICHAEL  
Okay, then what's his website  
about.

Reggie looks up the website. It gets projected onto the  
smartboard.

MO  
So here's his deal.

Mo gets up and motions to the board. Reggie raises his hand.

MO  
Reg, this isn't a class.

REGGIE  
But this is important.

MO  
What?

REGGIE  
I can't think on an empty stomach.

MICHAEL  
You had three cups of pudding at lunch AND a chicken sandwich.

REGGIE  
And?...

MICHAEL  
Actually... I'm kinda hungry too.

Reggie and Michael look to Mo.

MO  
I'm not paying for either of you.

REGGIE  
Last one there is a bowl of spoiled stew!

Reggie fumbles out of his chair and rushes towards the door, pushing Michael out of the way.

Mo walks out of the classroom reluctantly.

25. INT. HALLWAY VENDING MACHINE - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Reggie is looking at the choices in the vending machine. Michael is tapping his foot. Mo is reading a book against a wall.

MICHAEL  
Hurry up dude.

REGGIE  
You cannot hurry up a choice that will either detriment or advantage to our quest.

Michael throws up his hands in exasperation at Reggie. The Dixers and Jackson are passing by them in ridiculous outfits reminiscent of an MTV hip hop music video outfit.

MICHAEL

Are you going to pick?

Reggie is patiently looking at the bag of chips fall down. He gets the bag and opens it up. As Michael's bag of chips hits the bottom of the vending machine he gets shoved out of the way by Richard. Reggie steps back and puts down her book to stand up.

RICHARD

Nice trip, see ya next autumn.

MICHAEL

That's not even how that goes!

Richard shrugs as Dixon picks up Michael's bag of chips and opens it up for Jackson.

JACKSON

Thanks for the snack.

MO

Hey asshole, do you just get off to being a dick to people or are you THAT insecure?

Reggie makes an "oh snap" face as he munches another chip. Michael gets up with Reggie's help.

JACKSON

What was that, dyke?

Mo is about to square up against Jackson and the Dixers, but Reggie stops in the way and offers his bag of chips. Jackson looks at Reggie then the chips, and snatches the bag.

JACKSON

Good thing one of you is smart.

Michael steps in between Mo and Jackson.

JACKSON

Heard you gaggle of dorks got invited to the party this weekend.

MICHAEL

Yeah, what of it?

JACKSON

I'm just surprised is all. I hope Dude made the right call inviting such

(Jackson looks them up and down)

Egh, I don't even know what to call you.

DIXON  
Unfashionable.

JACKSON  
Nice one.

The Dixers and Jackson high five and locker room smack each other's asses annoyingly. Michael and company try to walk away, but they block the path and are annoying about it.

DIXON  
(to Mo)  
Where you going short stack?

MO  
What was that?

RICHARD  
(to Reggie)  
Sup six head?

Jackson is blocking Michael's way, and in annoyance, Michael pushes past him, which Jackson over dramaticizes.

JACKSON  
Woahhh, you wanna go shit stain?

Michael is about to turn around a clock him, but Reggie steps in between them.

REGGIE  
Fellas! Let's all just calm down  
and eat our overpriced but tasty  
snacks.

Jackson and Michael share a deadly stare. Reggie steps in front of Jackson and brushes him off. Jackson shoos Reggie off him.

JACKSON  
Whatever Dungeon Dork. Let's leave  
these basement dwellers.

REGGIE  
I mean, we're all on the bottom  
floor of the school so  
technically-

JACKSON  
No one asked you!

Jackson and the Dixers form up and turn about face to walk away.

MO  
Asshats.

MICHAEL

Let's go back.

REGGIE

Not before I get some more snacks.

Reggie shows a wallet with "JAXSON" in shitty bubble letters across it. Michael and Mo smile at Reggie. Just as they go back to the vending machine, Mo stops them.

MO

Wait... He'll know if we took cash.  
Use his card.

Reggie nods in devilish approval. They gather the snacks and throw the wallet a little away from the vending machine.

CUT TO:

26. INT. VIDEO PRODUCTION CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

They are back inside the classroom, now with snacks and drinks. Reggie has enough snacks to share with five people. Mo burps.

MO

Excuse me.

MICHAEL

Nice.

REGGIE

7 out of 10.

MICHAEL

Okay, so how do we contact him? Is there like a garbage can signal we can shine in the sky to alert him?

MO

No, there is not.

REGGIE

Plus that's impractical.

Reggie shoves a handful of popcorn in his mouth.

MO

Anyways, on his website he has a bio, contact information, but most importantly, a cause!

MICHAEL

A cause?

MO

Yeah. All superheros have one.

MICHAEL

Okay, yeah... I guess.

MO

Take for example, Superman. He saves people who are in need and fends off his angry family from space. Or Daredevil. He protects the people in Hell's Kitchen from the big scary white man with money...

MICHAEL

Oh, I think I get it now.

REGGIE

Or Batman. He brutally injures criminals because his parents died.

Beat.

MICHAEL

So how does this help me?

MO

He is having a community meeting about the plans to tear down Deerfield Park.

MICHAEL

They're tearing it down?

REGGIE

(in an announcer voice)  
To build a State of The Art...  
STRIP MALL!

MICHAEL

But so many people go to that park. Why would-

MO

Why don't you save your questions for him at the open forum at the park?

Mo points to the screen. On Community Man's website, there is a retro flyer of the forum he is holding on Wednesday. Michael scratches his head. Reggie pauses chewing, then raises his hand.

MO

Yeah, do you have something?

REGGIE

I miss my handbook.

MICHAEL  
 What does this have to do with the  
 plan.

Reggie looks to Mo. Mo understands.

MO  
 That's right, Reg. YOU made a deal.

MICHAEL  
 Wha-... Oh yeah...

Beat. Michael gets up and dusts himself off of cheeto dust.

MICHAEL  
 So who's first?

Mo and Reggie shrug at each other.

CUT TO:

27. INT. OUTSIDE VIDEO PRODUCTION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jackson is peering into the room through the door window as not to be seen. Richard comes around the corner with Jackson's wallet.

RICHARD  
 Nothing was taken. No cash or  
 anything.

Jackson nods as he spies on the trio.

JACKSON  
 Keep an ear or two on them.  
 (turning to Richard)  
 If we can get some dirt on them and  
 bring it to Dude, he'll uninvite  
 these dweebs for sure.

CUT TO:

28. EXT. MO'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Michael, Mo, and Reggie walk up to the sidewalk to Mo's house. Reggie is eating a granola bar. Michael starts pacing up and down the sidewalk as he mutters to himself.

MO  
 (to Reggie)  
 What's up with him?

REGGIE  
 He's using trying to figure out how  
 to cast Bardic Inspiration, but is  
 failing fantastically.

MO

Now in English?

REGGIE

He's nervous to talk to your mom.

MO

Well, I hope so, cause my shot at the belt this year is riding on this.

Mo steps in Michael's way. She holds his shoulders, brushes them down, then slaps him across the face.

MICHAEL

HEY! What the-

Mo slaps him again.

MO

You. Listen.

Michael concedes. Reggie is munching on the granola bar in the background.

MO

I didn't practice all year for you to flub up my chances to finally get the Tri-Regional belt in Taekwondo, so here's what you're gonna do: You're gonna go in there with us, we're gonna talk to my mom, you put on what minimal boyish charm you have and convince her that you're the bozo that messed up and that I'm clear to compete next week. Got it?

MICHAEL

Uhhh, I gues-

Mo slaps him again.

MO

No, you know. You know you got this.

Mo brushes his shoulders off and fluffs up his hair.

MO

Relax. Woman up. And remember, no pressure, but if you mess this up, I'm going to pants you everyday randomly for the rest of the year.

Michael gulps. Reggie offers the rest of his granola bar. Michael takes it, gulps it down, and they start walking. Cue short epic walking montage to the door.

CUT TO:

## 29. INT. MO'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Mo opens the door to reveal the trio being backlit by the outside. Mo's dog, Rufus runs up to her. Michael and Reggie get aquaninted to the space.

MO'S MOM

(O.S.)

Monique, is that you?

Mo has Rufus in her hands as she pet's him.

MO

Yeah mom! I brought my friends.

MO'S MOM

(O.S.)

Who's ya friends?

MO

Michael and Reggie, the dummies I call my friends?

MO'S MOM

(O.S.)

Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, all of you come into the kitchen!

As they make their way to the kitchen, Michael takes notice of the TV. It's playing an ad from the office of the Mayor detailing the plans to make the old town park into a huge strip mall with a Hizza Putt complex.

Michael takes the TV controller and turns off the TV.

CUT TO:

## 30. INT. MO'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Mo enters the kitchen first with Rufus following her.

Michael and Reggie enter and are hit with a wave of cooking heat.

Mo's Mom is cooking up ingredients for tacos.

MO

Mom, these are my friends.

Mo's Mom turns around and to Michael and Reggie's surprise, she is stunning. Reggie closes Michael's dropped jaw. Mo darts them both a weird look.

MICHAEL  
(voice cracks)  
Hi- ahem. Hello there, I'm Michael.

Michael shakes her hand. She shakes his flop fish hand then wipes her hand on pants after.

MO'S MOM  
And you are?...

REGGIE  
Sir Reginald Fortsworth, Level 31  
Paladin, at your service.

Reggie gets down on a knee and kisses the hand of Mo's Mom. Mo is face palming behind them. Michael is stiffling a laugh.

MO'S MOM  
Oh ho! Well, it's a pleasure to  
make both of your acquaintances.

Mo motions her friends to sit down.

MO  
Please excuse Reg, he really likes  
D&D... Dungeon's and Dragons. It's  
a roleplaying thing.

Mo's Mom laughs as she goes back to cooking. Mo looks confused.

MO'S MOM  
Oh yes, I know about Dungeon and  
Dragons very well.

MO  
Really? How-

REGGIE  
Pray tell!

MO'S MOM  
Well, if you must know, it's how  
your father and I met.

Mo's jaw drops, Reggie crosses his leg, and Michael closes Mo's jaw.

REGGIE  
What a fantastical origin, Miss?...

MO'S MOM  
Call me...

Mo's Mom poses with a cooking spoon.

MO'S MOM

Lady Lotus!

Reggie is clapping in awe. Mo is covering her face. Michael is in disbelief shaking his head.

MO

Mom! What are you-

Lady Lotus puts the cooking spoon to Mo's lips shushing her.

LADY LOTUS

Hush child. For what purpose does your company serve us today? Perhaps my world's famous Taco Night?

MO

(to herself)

I can't believe this.

Mo looks to Michael and Reggie. Reggie is nodding "yes" and Michael is nodding "no".

MO

We were here because...

REGINALD

Fair Lady Lotus...

Lady Lotus nods approvingly.

REGINALD

It has come to my party's attention that there is a grievance between one of our members and your estate.

Lady Lotus half turns around while cooking.

LADY LOTUS

Proceed.

Reginald gets up from his seat and starts to pace.

REGINALD

The grievance is question concerns a little misunderstanding that we must rectify on the behalf of our party member, Miss Monique.

Mo and Michael share confused looks.

LADY LOTUS

Oh, yes, I am quite aware of the grievance. It is still stated that she cannot attend anymore practices until her sentence is served.

REGINALD

But alas! Bare with me a moment,  
Lady, and for this moment consider  
this: the greivance was not her  
fault.

Lady Lotus turns around to face Reginald. She crosses her arms.

LADY LOTUS

State your case. And depending on  
the quality deliverance of it, I  
will mayhaps reconsider the  
punishment. Charisma check!

Reggie takes out a D20 from his pocket and rolls on the  
ktichen counter. It's a natty 20.

REGINALD

I present only the truth Lady, and  
the truth is, Miss Monique is not  
at fault for the ball might have  
been hers, but it was not she that  
threw it, or worst of all, dirtied  
up the Ward of Crystaltonne.

Lady Lotus nods for Reginald to continue. Mo and Michael lean  
closer to whisper as Reggie talks to Mo's Mom.

MO

What the hell is happening???

MICHAEL

I think Reg got this in the bag.

MO

Is he flirting with my Mom?

MICHAEL

No? But I think he's gonna get your  
"sentence" lifted.

An egg timer goes off.

REGINALD

So as you can see plainly, it was  
the fault of our dear debaucherous  
dragonborn bard that instigated  
this whole ordeal, isn't that right  
my friend.

Reginald gestures to Michael, Lady Lotus looks to him with  
crossed arms. Michael looks confused for a second, then reads  
the room.

MICHAEL

(to Mo)  
Oh, I think it's my turn now.

Michael approaches Reginald and Lady Lotus.

MICHAEL

Ah yes, your Lady-ness.

He awkwardly bows to her. Lady Lotus laughs.

LADY LOTUS

We do not do such greetings here,  
but it is much appreciated Ser...

MICHAEL

Uh...

Reggie motions for Michael to go with the bit.

MICHAEL

Uh- Ser Michaelson... But  
regardless of my names or whatever,  
I do claim responsibility for this  
whole, uhhh, ordeal.

Reggie motions for Michael to take a knee. He does.

MICHAEL

And for this mess I've made, I am  
deeply sorry, Lady, and the  
grievance I have brought upon your  
house?

Reggie nods disapprovingly.

LADY LOTUS

Rise, Ser Michaelson.

She puts the cooking spoon down.

LADY LOTUS

As it appears to me, it is clear  
this whole ordeal has been quite  
the misunderstanding, and by my  
hand, no one under my rule shall be  
falsly accused of such crimes.

Michael and Reggie smile to each other than to Mo. Mo is  
bored and playing with Rufus.

LADY LOTUS

So, as the culprit has made his  
accountability known, I must recify  
this plight...

Lady Lotus switches her voice back to Mo's Mom.

MO'S MOM

Monique?

MO  
(distracted)  
Uh huh.

MO'S MOM  
Clean your practice gear, we're  
going tomorrow after school.

Mo realizes what she said and looks up. She smiles at Michael and Reggie, and then goes to hug her mom.

MO  
Thank you, thank you, thank you!

MO'S MOM  
I know, I know.

Mo's Mom goes back to cooking. Mo goes to her friends. She bear hugs Reggie then steps back.

MO  
(in a character voice)  
Much gratitude towards you, Ser  
Reginald!

Reginald nods his head.

MO  
(to Michael)  
Also, thanks buttface.

MICHAEL  
(in a character voice)  
Oh, you are quite welcome, Madam  
Monique.

Mo playfully hits him. Michael smiles as he rubs his arm where Mo hit.

REGGIE  
Eh, it's not half bad. A couple  
more sessions and you could get it  
down I think.

Mo's Mom clears her throat.

MO'S MOM  
So are you adventurers hungry? I've  
made plenty of everything.

Mo's Mom reveals the spread for her World Famous Taco Night. The friends look at each other and shrug. Rufus barks in approval.

MO  
I think we could stay for a bit.

Reggie gives a thumbs up and Michael nods as he grabs a plate.

CUT TO:

31. MONTAGE OF TACO NIGHT

They all surround the kitchen table and feast upon the Taco Night Spread. They laugh, some shredded cheese is thrown, a fight of forks happens between Michael and Reggie. Rufus eats a taco in his food bowl.

CUT TO:

32. INT. MO'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The friends all sit on the couch watching TV. They are all tired and filled to the brim with tacos as they watch Community. Rufus jumps onto the couch with them.

MO

I'm-

REGGIE

Stuffed.

MICHAEL

Yup.

They all readjust themselves as to not sink into the couch.

Reggie groans.

MO

What is it? You okay? Does your stomach hurt?

MICHAEL

I mean he did eat ten tacos.

REGGIE

And a tostada.

MO

Then what's the problem?

Reggie sits up a little.

REGGIE

We forgot something.

They all look to the TV. Mo is confused. Michael tilts his head back as he finally gets it.

MICHAEL

I hate it here.

CUT TO:

## 33. EXT. REGGIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Reggie motions Mo and Michael to come in. Mo and Michael are taking in the eccentric nature of the front of Reggie's House.

There are a strange collection of garden gnomes, flamingos, and various niche pop culture references spread throughout the little garden and the front deck.

MO

Wow.

MICHAEL

Yeah, no wonder Reggie is... Well, Reggie. Hey look! It's that model boat we all made when we were kids.

A worn model boat sits on a comically large treasure chest lawn decoration.

Reggie pops his head out the door.

REGGIE

My mom is asking if you guys want pizza rolls?

Michael is entranced by the boat. Mo shrugs.

CUT TO:

## 34. INT. REGGIE'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Mo and Michael are sitting around three puzzles on the floor as Reggie comes in with a plate of pizza rolls and a couple of sodas.

REGGIE

Sorry, if you guys don't like pepperoni, it's all we have, plus it's my favorite.

MO

Thanks Reg, but what are these and why are we here again?

Mo takes a soda from Reggie. Michael takes a handful of pizza rolls. He tries to eat one but it's too hot, so he's holding it in his mouth.

MICHAEL

(incoherent)  
Hot, fuhkc, shihit.

MO  
(sarcastically)  
Need a drink or something hot  
stuff?

Michael finally swallows the pizza roll.

MICHAEL  
I wouldn't get so high and mighty.  
I just got you back in the  
tournament.

MO  
Technically, it was Reg so if  
anything, thank you Ser Reginald.

Reggie nods his head as he pops another roll into his mouth.

MICHAEL  
Gimme a break. I'm holding my part  
of the deal up and helping you  
guys. Do you not want to go to the  
party?

MO  
No. Yes? Whatever, I just think  
chasing the attention of people  
that don't even know you exist is  
stupid.

Beat.

Mo and Michael stare each other down. They have a staring  
contest. They both try to win. They both blink at the same  
time.

MICHAEL  
You lost!

MO  
You blinked first!

REGGIE  
I have more pizza rolls!

Beat.

REGGIE  
Can we call a truce to both of your  
bickering so I can get my handbook  
back?

Mo and Michael agree with their eyes. They both pick up a  
pizza roll and eat it.

MICHAEL

So what's the deal? Your parents seem cool enough to have your front yard looking like a circus fun house from the 70s threw up on a suburban garden. Why can't you just ask for it back?

REGGIE

Can't. I was raised playing board games, doing 1000 piece puzzles every Sunday after dinner, and learning the ins and outs of D&D. So being as weirdly fun as my parents are, they didn't see the purpose of physical or mental punishment because you never really learn anything other than you hate your parents, and in place of that, they devised a different way to teach me right from wrong.

Reggie gestures to the puzzles in front of them.

One puzzle is a box with a number lock on it. Another puzzle is a key lock. The last puzzle is just a picture of Reggie when he was little with a sticky note on it that says: "Remember why."

Mo and Michael pick up the puzzles and exchange one another looks and the different puzzles.

Reggie sits contemplatively.

MO

Well, one needs a number, one needs a key, and one is just a cute picture of lil Reggie. Look at em!

Mo shows Michael and he giggles.

MICHAEL

Dang, Reg, looking pretty suave in this.

Reggie gets up and looks down at the puzzles, sizing them up.

REGGIE

Mo?

MO

Yuh huh?

REGGIE

Can you put in my birthday?

Mo puts in the number in the number lock and it opens.

MO

Nice! There's a key in here.

Mo hands Michael the key and he opens the locked box. He opens the box and there's a note in it. Michael reads it to himself then hands it to Reggie.

MICHAEL

I don't get it.

REGGIE

"What floats above a sea of people  
when everyone on board is laughing  
and no one knows why?"

They all share perplexed looks. Mo picks up the picture of Reggie and walks around a bit. She yelps and they turn to her.

REGGIE

Did you figure it out?

MO

Look at this picture. This is your  
front yard right?

REGGIE

Yeah.

MO

And remember the boat we made when  
we we're little that we sailed in  
the garden pond?

Mo gives them frustrated look.

MO

If this picture was before we made  
the boat, then where the boat is  
sitting might be where Reggie's  
book is at?

Mo takes the picture and the note from the puzzle box and lays them out on the floor.

MO

Look! The picture says "remember  
why" and the note is a riddle about  
something floating above people  
when everyone on board is laughing  
and no one knows why.

Michael and Reggie nod on.

MO

So what is another name for a boat?

MICHAEL

A yacht?

MO

Well, if you wanna be rich-tentious, yes. But a more simpler name would be-

REGGIE

A ship.

MO

Andddd, the note on the picture says "Remember why", but that could mean anything.

REGGIE

Remember why.... Maybe remember why I got into this problem in the first place... The issue and the solution are the same thing and remembering why... which means...

MICHAEL

The answer is friendship.

Beat. They all look to each other.

REGGIE

Wow.

MO

I don't know what your parents do for a living but they have a LOT of time on their hands.

REGGIE

Well, they do make board games, and sometimes video games.

Michael nods in agreement. They all get up and brush off pizza roll crumbs.

MO

Let's go see if it's there.

Mo and Reggie leave the room. Michael's gaze lingers on the the picture and the note with the riddle on it. He leaves the room. Reggie comes back in to get the plate of pizza rolls.

CUT TO:

35. EXT. REGGIE'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Reggie is finishing up a pizza roll as Mo and Michael step in front of the old model boat on the comically large treasure chest.

MO

Do you wanna do the honors?

Michael nods. He moves the boat off the chest and opens it up. Reggie's Player Handbook is sitting on top of a bunch of random pop culture memorabilia and old nerf guns. Michael takes out the handbook and dusts it off.

He gets on one knee and presents it to Reggie. Reggie bows and accepts the book.

MO

If you nerds are done, I'm gonna go home.

MICHAEL

Wait, what about the deal? I helped you guys, now you guys gotta help me!

MO

(playfully)

I mean I guess we'll help you be nice to Tightly Whitey Tim, but being nice is something I don't think you're proficient at.

REGGIE

Nice one.

MICHAEL

C'mon, why do you guys hate the plan? It's an easy plan, and we'll be on track to party it up in no time!?

Mo and Reggie share a look deciding who to talk first.

MO

It's not the plan we have a problem with.

REGGIE

It's why you're doing it.

Beat. Michael takes a step back.

MICHAEL

I thought you guys wanted to go to the party.

MO

Yeah, we wanted to go WITH you, but not if you just wanna bump elbows with people that don't know you exist.

MICHAEL

If they didn't care, then why did they invite me?

MO

They invite everyone! It's not that crazy that half the school gets invited to one of the Cool Kids Parties.

MICHAEL

So, I'm the cool half of the school is what you're saying!

MO

It doesn't matter! Popularity is a disease and you're infected with some grand notion that magically you're gonna fit in with some caricatures of high school's hierarchy.

Michael huffs in disbelief. He turns to Reggie. Reggie quickly hides behind his handbook.

MICHAEL

What about you?

Reggie lowers his handbook.

MICHAEL

Do you agree with her?

Reggie looks down then to Mo. Michael throws his hands up in frustration.

MICHAEL

Unbelievable.

MO

I know. You are.

MICHAEL

Okay, I've had it. I thought you guys would be grateful that I'm going out of my way to help you guys so we could all enjoy the party at the end of this wild week from Mordor...

Reggie smiles, but Mo cuts him a look and he stops.

MICHAEL

...But it seems to me you guys don't want to even go to the party.

Mo gives up and pushes past Michael to leave.

MICHAEL

MICHAEL

Where are you going?!

MO

Home!

Mo walks away towards her house.

Reggie goes to open his door, but stops.

REGGIE

That's just the thing Michael...

Michael looks up to him at the door.

REGGIE

You never went out of the way. You just got in the way of seeing what really mattered.

Reggie points to the model boat on the ground next to comically large treasure chest. He goes into his house and locks the door.

MICHAEL

I thought we were gonna be the cooler version of Green Day together...

Michael walks around for a bit then plops down on the curb. He takes out his phone and goes to dial his dad, but stops. He starts walking home from Reggie's.

CUT TO:

36. INT. MICHAEL'S BEDROOM

Michael turns on the light in his room with a chinese takeout box in his hand.

He looks at his desk to see Community Man's website pulled up on his monitor. Under the monitor is a picture of him, Mo, and Reggie.

Michael slumps onto his bed. He gets up and goes over to his desk, takes the picture frame and looks at it for a second. Then he throws it into one of his drawers and slams it.

He looks to the website and scrolls down to see that there is an open forum at the Communtiy Center at 4:30 PM that Community Man is leading.

Michael writes it down on a sticky note, the gets up and puts in on his backpack. He flops into bed and turns off the light.

CUT TO:

## 37. INT. SCHOOL LUNCHROOM - NOON

Michael has just got his lunch and walks over to where Mo and Reggie are sitting. They don't acknowledge him, but he places next to Reggie a pudding cup. Reggie looks to the cup then looks up to see Michael walking away. He then looks to Mo who's poking her food.

A couple of kids walk pass the table with their lunch trays and one of notices Reggie's Player Handbook.

NERD #1

Is that a fifth edition?

REGGIE

Yeah.

Nerd #2 says something to Nerd #1. He nods in agreement.

NERD #1

Well, it looks like you know a bit about D&D, and my buddies and I were wondering if you were down to fill in for the fourth in our campaign?

Reggie looks to Mo. She nods and waves him on to join them.

REGGIE

Yeah, sounds fun.

NERD #1

Come over with us, we can talk about details.

Nerd #1 lead his friends and Reggie to another table. Mo is still poking at her food.

She looks down to her open backpack and sees her taekwondo uniform. She closes the bag and goes to put her lunch tray back. Michael sees her leave as he eats lunch outside under a tree. He sees Jackson walk over to the Cool Kids table and joins them.

Michael gets up and walks over to the table. The Cool Kids all talk and laugh, all surrounding DUDE (18), the leader of the Cool Kids, who is perpetually stoned and enlightened.

JACKSON

What do you want dweeb?

Michael shoots an annoyed look at Jackson but Dude puts his hand in front of Jackson.

DUDE

Woah, Jacks, that wasn't... Cool. Apologize, man.

Jackson gives a "seriously" look to Dude. Dude waves him on to apologize.

JACKSON  
(dryly)  
Sorry, Michelle.

DUDE  
One more mean thing, and you're outta here mannnn.

JACKSON  
Okay, sorry! Sorry, Michael!

Michael stands there awkwardly as the other Cool Kids chat amongst themselves.

DUDE  
Now actually look him in the eyes and say it.

Jackson throws up his hands and then turns to Michael.

JACKSON  
I am very sorry, Michael. It won't happen again.

DUDE  
See how hard was that?

Jackson scoffs and leaves the table.

DUDE  
Sorry, about him, he's new to this... Dynamic we have here.

Dude gestures for Michael to take a seat.

DUDE  
So what brings you here?

The rest of the Cool Kids still talk amongst themselves but eye Michael up and down.

MICHAEL  
I, uh... Was just really hyped to go to the party this weekend.

Dude is not paying attention as he practices rolling a joint with a napkin.

DUDE  
Uh huh.

MICHAEL  
Yeah...

The Cool Kids whisper to each other as they size up Michael.

MICHAEL  
I actually had a question.

DUDE  
Uh huh.

MICHAEL  
You guys invited a lot of people  
right?

DUDE  
Yeah, we always do. People usually  
just usually come.

MICHAEL  
Uh... Cool. Yeah. Cool...

The Cool Kids' stares make Michael sweat. Dude stops what he's doing and looks Michael straight in the eye. Michael gulps.

MICHAEL  
(rushed)  
Okay cool see you there!

The Cool Kids snicker to each other and keep on chatting while eating lunch. Michael gets up and leaves the lunchroom.

Michael passes the lunchroom as he catches the gaze of Reggie sitting with the D&D nerds. Reggie goes back to writing something on a character sheet.

NERD #1  
Note taker! I respect it!

CUT TO:

38. INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Michael opens his locker and puts a couple books in. He stands there looking at himself in the tiny mirror in the back of his locker. Reggie comes up next to his open locker door but Michael doesn't acknowledge him.

MICHAEL  
I thought you weren't talking to  
me.

REGGIE  
Well, I did the math and factored  
in the pudding cup charisma check,  
and it turns out you get a pass.

Michael looks forward at the mirror as Reggie talks to him through the open locker door.

MICHAEL

What do you want from me?

REGGIE

I could ask you the same thing.

Michael takes a second.

MICHAEL

Why is it so hard?

REGGIE

To fit it a place where no one does?

MICHAEL

I guess?... I don't know.

Mo is passing by as Michael is talking.

MICHAEL

They're all so cool. That one music girl, she's just super cool and pretty, and hell basically they're all cool and pretty. Like a cast of a CW show.

Mo smiles to herself as she turns the corner.

REGGIE

Have you ever considered talking to any of them outside of lunch? They gain an area of effect charisma boost from each other.

MICHAEL

Don't be ridiculous. Everyone knows that lunch is the only place you're supposed to talk to people outside of class.

Reggie peaks at Michael from behind the locker door. Michael sees him, understands, and sighs. He shuts the locker.

MICHAEL

So what then? What am I supposed to do?

Michael starts to walk to class and Reggie catches up.

REGGIE

Maybe you start by showing Mo you actually care about being friends.

MICHAEL

I'm gonna burn your handbook.

Reggie laughs then understands his tone of voice.

MICHAEL

Well, I still have to go help  
Community Dude out after school so  
I don't know what to do about Mo.  
Why is she still mad?

REGGIE

Why don't you ask her?

MICHAEL

Whatever, I'll just text her later.  
We have to go to the open forum  
today.

Michael pulls out his phone and shows Reggie Community Man's  
Website. It's pulled up to the page for the open forum.  
Reggie frowns.

REGGIE

Ah, damn.

MICHAEL

What? What's up?

They stop at a hallway intersection. Reggie hands him back  
the phone.

REGGIE

I can't today.

MICHAEL

What?! Dude-

Dude, Jackson, and the Cool Kids are walking by.

DUDE

Sup!

Jackson sends Michael a sneer. Michael doesn't react.

MICHAEL

Why not?

REGGIE

I got invited to a D&D session  
today, and they need a fourth to  
get pass the Serpent's Pass.

MICHAEL

So... You're not coming?

Reggie steps to the side of Michael and pats his shoulder.

REGGIE

(in a character voice)  
Some adventures must be embarked on  
alone with nothing but your wit and  
your will.

Reggie leaves the hallway. Michael stands in the middle of the hallway intersection alone as the bell for the next period rings. Michael notices a security guard sitting on a bench. The security guard shrugs to him as she heard the entire thing.

SECURITY GUARD

Here's a pass, you NEED it after that.

Michael takes a hallpass from the security guard and he gives her a head nod as he walks to class.

CUT TO:

39. DAY OF CLASSES MONTAGE

- Michael sits in English Class eyes glazed over
- He sits in Chemistry half helping with the Lab as his partner does most of the work.
- He stands with the basketball in P.E. As the coach yells at him to "put some effort in". He chucks the basketball at the hoop, turns to the coach to give a him a shrug, but then the ball hits him in the head and he goes down.
- He leaves the nurse's office with an ice pack as the dismissal bell rings.

CUT TO:

40. INT. SCHOOL ATRIUM - MOMENTS LATER

Michael is walking to his bus when he sees Mo waiting at the curb. He walks up to her with an ice pack on his face and taps her shoulder. She looks with her peripheral vision at him then looks back to the cars. Michael notices that she has her taekwondo uniform on.

MICHAEL

Are you excited for next week?

MO

(dryly)

Sure.

MICHAEL

Nice.

Michael kicks some dirt as he stands there awkwardly with his ice pack on his face.

MO

What happened to your face?

MICHAEL

Oh, I've always been this ugly.

Mo half smiles, then returns to looking for her Mom's car.

MICHAEL

I actually just really hate basketball and apparently it hates me back.

Mo nods.

MICHAEL

So after your practice, are you doing anything?

MO

I am actually. I have to catch up on some forms for next week so I'll be in the dojo till 8.

Michael nods.

MICHAEL

Cool. That's uh... Great.

Mo's Mom is pulling up in her car. She gets in the driver passenger seat silently.

MICHAEL

I hope you're practice goes well!

Mo clicks her seatbelt in, looks at Michael, then looks forward!

MO'S MOM

Hi Michael dear! Do you need a ride home?

MICHAEL & MO

(simultaneously)

No.

Mo's Mom looks confused.

MICHAEL

I'm actually gonna go catch the bus.

The first bus starts to pull out the parking lot.

MICHAEL

Shit! Uh, see you later!

Michael runs to his bus. Mo's Mom drives off. Mo looks straight for a moment then looks back at the buses.

CUT TO:

## 41. INT. TAEKWONDO DOJO - AFTERNOON

Mo walks into the dojo and sets her bag down. She starts taking off her shoe as she gets a notification ping from her phone. She sees it's the groupchat with her, Michael, and Reggie. She turns off her phone and heads to the mat.

CUT TO:

## 42. INT. NERD'S BASEMENT - AFTERNOON

Reggie walks down into a basement decorated to the T with various fantasy and sci-fi memorabilia and posters. The Nerd Herd friends he made are around a circular table already playing D&D. They notice Reggie and welcome him to the table.

A phone ping goes off from Reggie's phone, but as he goes to reach for it, Nerd #1 offers him a Dr. Pepper. He reaches for the soda and sits down.

CUT TO:

## 43. EXT. COMMUNITY CENTER - MOMENTS LATER

Michael is standing in front of the building finishing a text to the groupchat. It reads: "infiltrating the HQ" with a bunch of emojis. He puts his phone in his pocket and enters.

FADE TO:

## 44. INT. COMMUNITY CENTER - MOMENTS LATER

Michael takes a seat and someone hands him a flyer for the Rally on Saturday.

It says the Rally is starting @ 3 PM at the Town Park.

He looks up and sees a sparsely populated audience facing the stage. Most of the people in the crowd are from their late 20s to late 40s.

Retro music starts playing as COMMUNITY MAN (31) prances onstage. He is in a fully comic book costume with red boots, blue jumpsuit, a yellow and green chest emblem, with red cape. Everyone but Michael claps as the music settles.

COMMUNITY MAN

Hello neighbors! I thank you all for attending and being here for the debriefing of the Rally!

Clapping is heard along with some cheers.

AUDIENCE MEMBER #1

Fuck the mayor!

Laughing is heard.

COMMUNITY MAN

Now, I wouldn't use those words in that order, but I share the same sentiments! What the Mayor is doing to the lovely town park is an egregious oversight and a detriment to the well being of the communtiy!

Cheering is heard as Michael nods off.

FADE OUT:

45. INT. COMMUNITY CENTER - LATER

Michael is shaken awake. He looks around to a mostly empty space of the Communit Center. People are stacking up the chairs.

AUDIENCE MEMBER #1

You good my guy?

Michael sits up and brushes his face.

MICHAEL

Yeah, just didn't think I was that tired.

AUDIENCE MEMBER #1

Well, all you missed was that we're gonna be putting flyers around tomorrow and Friday to get the word out.

He hands Michael a flyer and then leaves.

MICHAEL

Thanks.

Michael gets up and looks around. He stacks his chair up and leaves the center.

CUT TO:

46. EXT. COMMUNITY CENTER - MOMENTS LATER

Michael gets out and checks his phone. It's 6:30 pm. He checks the groupchat. No one has responded to him. He sighs then sits down on the curb. What seems to be a joint in an unmarked bottle of pills falls to the ground and rolls near Michael. He looks at the bottle then the shadow behind him. It's Community Man.

COMMUNITY MAN  
Sorry! Didn't mean to startle you.  
Are you okay?

Michael looks back to the street and sighs.

MICHAEL  
I guess?... I don't know.

Community Man frowns.

COMMUNITY MAN  
Can I join you?

He gestures to the curb next to Michael. Michael nods.

MICHAEL  
Sorry, if I uh, snored during your  
presentation. It's been a long day.

COMMUNITY MAN  
Oh, that's quite alright. You had  
some company though because Enid  
and her husband Joey always hang  
out during the meetings and usually  
nod off-

Community Man notices Michael's sulking.

He readjusts his posture.

COMMUNITY MAN  
Well, what made you come to this  
meeting? I noticed you were a  
newcomer.

Michael slouches on his arm.

MICHAEL  
It's really stupid why I came.

COMMUNITY MAN  
Nothing is ever really stupid. Most  
things that seem stupid are not  
really well understood.

Michael sits up a bit. Community Man turns to him.

COMMUNITY MAN  
So why did you come?

Michael sighs.

MICHAEL  
I'm sorry.

COMMUNITY MAN  
For what?

Michael takes a deep breath.

MICHAEL

I was the kid that pushed you into  
the mud Monday.

Beat. Community Man starts laughing.

COMMUNITY MAN

Oh that's quite alright! I needed  
to clean the suit anyways.

MICHAEL

So, you're not mad?

COMMUNITY MAN

How can I be mad? I needed to clean  
my suit and you're just a kid.

Beat.

COMMUNITY MAN

The whole purpose of being a kid is  
to make mistakes.

MICHAEL

Never thought about it that way.

Community Man laughs a bit more.

COMMUNITY MAN

Oh, boy, I haven't laughed like  
that in a long while.

Michael laughs a bit at him.

MICHAEL

You're really weird, man.

COMMUNITY MAN

So is everyone else! Everyone is  
weird to someone. I don't think  
much of it, but when I do, I think  
that's what people call "normal".

Community Man stands up.

COMMUNITY MAN

And if you can see how I'm dressed,  
I'm pretty normal as they come.

Michael laughs then Community Man joins in.

MICHAEL

You're really normal.

COMMUNITY MAN

I strive to be.

They laugh some more. Michael's stomach growls.

MICHAEL  
I better get home.

Community Man reaches out his hand and helps Michael up.

COMMUNITY MAN  
Well, I hope you get home safe...  
What did you say your name was  
again?

MICHAEL  
Michael. What can I call you?

COMMUNITY MAN  
Well, as you know, I am...  
(poses)  
Community Man!... But my friends  
call me Ted.

Michael laughs.

MICHAEL  
Well it was nice to meet you, Ted.

He reaches his hand out to shake Community Man's hand.

Ted accepts.

COMMUNITY MAN  
I'll see you around then? Will you  
be helping tomorrow with teh  
flyers?

MICHAEL  
Yeah, maybe. I'll see ya.

Michael checks his phone, then starts to walk off. He stops to turn around and see Community Man posing towards the sunset. He walks back to the statuesque Community Man.

MICHAEL  
Hey, uh, Ted?

COMMUNITY MAN  
Yes?

MICHAEL  
I actually have a couple of  
questions about the Rally?

Michael's stomach growls again.

COMMUNITY MAN  
It seems you need fuel.

MICHAEL

Yeah...

COMMUNITY MAN

Might I suggest a conversation and  
pizza?

Community Man points to the corner pizza shop called Planet  
Pizza.

MICHAEL

That would be cool.

Michael and Community Man head towards the shop.

CUT TO:

47. INT. PLANET PIZZA - MOMENTS LATER

Community Man and Michael are sitting down eating pizza.  
Michael asks questions and eats his pizza as Community Man  
answers. He laughs as Community Man says something and spits  
up some soda. They both laugh.

Michael cleans up the table as Community Man wipes himself  
off. They go back to talking and eating pizza.

CUT TO:

48. EXT. PLANET PIZZA - LATER

Community Man is waving bye to Michael as he leaves on his  
comically tricked out bicycle. Michael waves bye back as a  
car stops at the stop light in front of the pizza shop.

A tinted back passenger window rolls down and it's revealed  
to be Jackson. Michael freezes at the sight of Jackson. He  
rolls up the window as the car pulls away.

Michael freaks out and looks for his phone. He finds it and  
it about to text the groupchat, but stops. He puts his phone  
away and starts biking home.

CUT TO:

49. INT. MICHAEL'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Michael enters his room, slams the door, and flops on his  
bed.

MAYOR

(O.S.)

What did I say about slamming  
doors?

MICHAEL

Sorry!

Michael looks up to the ceiling. He turns over and looks to his computer desk.

He goes over to his desk and wakes his computer. He's about to type something in but then opens his drawer to see the picture of him, Mo, and Reggie. He picks it up and places back on his desk.

FADE TO:

50. INT. SCHOOL LUNCHROOM - MIDDAY

Michael walks into the lunchroom alone. He looks at the he usually meets up with Reggie and Mo at. It's empty. He sits down.

Reggie watches Michael sit down. He is sitting with the Nerds. Outside the window, Mo is eating under a tree reading a book. Reggie takes a scoop out of his pudding and sighs back into the converstaion.

Michael looks around again for his friends. Defeated, he takes a bite out of his lunch and pulls out the flyer from the forum. The Flyer reads: SAVE THE HEART OF CRYSTALTONNE! Protest the construction of the Strip Mall at the Park! 5 PM!

Michael crumples it up and tosses it on the table.

He gets a ping notification on his phone. It's an update from the Community Man Twitter. Michael gets up and leaves.

Right as Michael leaves the lunchroom, Mo walks in from outside. She notices their empty table with crumpled paper. She goes over and picks it up. Looking up from the paper, she catches Reggie's gaze.

CUT TO:

51. EXT. CENTER OF TOWN - EARLY AFTERNOON

Michael is sitting at the gazebo. A handful of people from Crystaltonne are waiting around the gazebo.

Community Man arrives and greets everyone.

COMMUNITY MAN

Hey everyone! Are you guys ready spread the town red?

Everyone looks confused. Someone whispers to CM.

COMMUNITY MAN

Sorry, I'm terrible with sayings,  
but I know what we're all good at:  
talking to people! Everyone take a  
handful of flyers and let's talk to  
everyone and anyone about the  
Protest tomorrow! Every store  
owner, home owner, dog owner, lawn  
mower, talk to them, hand them a  
flyer, and let's save the park!

Everyone claps. Michael doesn't. People start dispersing and  
CM notices Michael sitting alone. CM goes up to the gazebo.

COMMUNITY MAN

Come to help?

Michael shrugs.

MICHAEL

I guess?

CM takes a seat next to him.

COMMUNITY MAN

You guess you came to help?... Or  
do you need some?

MICHAEL

Uh... I... That's a tough-

As he's about to finish his sentence, he spots Dude and the  
Cool Kids walking across the street.

Michael leans over and hides his face with one of his hands.  
CM raises his eyebrow.

COMMUNITY MAN

A tough cookie? A tough what?

MICHAEL

Shshshshsh...

CM leans back.

COMMUNITY MAN

Micha-

MICHAEL

(whispers)

Don't say my name.

COMMUNITY MAN

(whispers)

Why?

Dude looks over at the gazebo for a moment, then continues on  
walking with the Cool Kids.

Michael wait until they're out of sight. He relaxes back, but checks down the street for other people. CM notices.

COMMUNITY MAN  
Did those kids bully you?

MICHAEL  
No, they-

COMMUNITY MAN  
Did they steal your lunch money?

MICHAEL  
No-

COMMUNITY MAN  
Did they insult your shoes?

MICHAEL  
What? No, they're just the uh...

Beat. CM puts it together.

COMMUNITY MAN  
They're the popular kids, right?

Looking for words, Michael just nods.

COMMUNITY MAN  
Weird. Times have changed I guess.  
And pants.

Michael looks to CM.

MICHAEL  
What do you mean?

Beat. CM gets up.

COMMUNITY MAN  
Here.

CM hands him some flyers and tape. Michael takes them.

COMMUNITY MAN  
I'll show you what I mean.

CUT TO:

52. EXT. CENTER OF TOWN - MOMENTS LATER

Michael and CM are walking down the street putting up flyers.

MICHAEL  
I still don't understand.

COMMUNITY MAN  
High school never ends.

Michael gives him a puzzled look.

COMMUNITY MAN  
You see how those 'Cool Kids',  
which if I'm going to be frank,  
could be more creative, are the  
social royalty of your school?

Michael nods.

COMMUNITY MAN  
Well, how they seem to be  
untouchable and higher in status  
than you, when in actuality,  
they're just people.

MICHAEL  
I guess... But they are literally  
they're the best of the best from  
every group in my school.

Michael tries to hand a flyer to a passerby but they keep walking. CM laughs.

COMMUNITY MAN  
They might be that now, but life  
doesn't end when you graduate high  
school.

Beat.

CM is putting up a flyer when a delivery man stops and notices him.

DELIVERY MAN  
Teddy? Teddy Citroni?

CM turns around and smiles him. Michael watches. CM and the Delivery Man hug and laugh.

COMMUNITY MAN  
Benny! How are you? How are the  
kids?

DELIVERY MAN  
Oh they're doing wonderful! I  
thought you left this rinky dink  
town wayback when.

COMMUNITY MAN  
I did, but this is my home.

The Delivery Man nods.

COMMUNITY MAN  
And the town is hurting.

CM hands him a flyer.

DELIVERY MAN  
What's this?

COMMUNITY MAN  
I'm organizing a protest to stop  
the strip mall that Mayor Bernslay  
is trying to tear down the old Park  
for.

DELIVERY MAN  
Really? I thought they were gonna  
bulldoze the old movie theater and  
do that. I guess Bernslay never  
left either.

COMMUNITY MAN  
Yeah, I guess student government  
wasn't enough for him.

They both laugh. Michael walks up to them.

DELIVERY MAN  
Oh, hello! Are you helping Ted out  
with this?

MICHAEL  
Yeah.

DELIVERY MAN  
You're helping out the right side  
of the town son.  
(to CM)  
I gotta make some more deliveries,  
but it was great to see you Teddy!

COMMUNITY MAN  
Same here, Benny.

They hug again and do a handshake. Michael looks to CM and  
the Delivery Man as he walks away.

MICHAEL  
What the heck was that?

COMMUNITY MAN  
That? Oh, hahaha, that was Benny.  
He was the president of the  
Environmental Club at Crsytaltonne  
back in my day. I was a member and  
helped a bunch out back in '04. We  
put up the community garden in town  
and a bunch of other projects that  
are still around now.

MICHAEL

You guys are still friends?

COMMUNITY MAN

Well, some friendship transcend lifetimes, and even stages of life. What was even crazier is that we used to hate each other.

Michael and CM stop in front of a music store.

MICHAEL

Really?

COMMUNITY MAN

Yeah, I was dating someone we both liked back in high school. She chose me over him, but it didn't stop the fact that we both wanted to put good into the town.

Beat. CM turns to Michael.

COMMUNITY MAN

If you open yourself to the endless possibilities of life, and focus on the good and the good you want to see in the world, life has a funny way of reconnecting you with people you would never have talked to because of high school's treacherous social tight rope.

CM waves Michael in holding the door.

COMMUNITY MAN

Come on in, I want you to meet someone.

CUT TO:

53. INT. MUSIC STORE - CONTINUOUS

CM and Michael walk into the music store. RING. The door bell swings as they enter. It's small and cramped, but jam packed with various instruments and books.

There is a burly man behind the register fiddling with a violin on the counter. He looks up and smiles.

KASSANDER

Theodore!

COMMUNITY MAN

How's it sounding Ass Hander?

KASSANDER

Oh my god, I haven't heard that in years.

CM and Michael approach the counter. CM and Kassander share a hefty handshake.

KASSANDER

So what brings you to this part of town? I thought you left for good?

COMMUNITY MAN

I thought I did, but the good I thought I was needed to do out there was needed more here.

KASSANDER

Look at you, Monk Theodore come back to save the town again. In a sick suit might I add.

COMMUNITY MAN

Thanks, Kass, I had to make some changes after the first couple ones proved not to be fire or slime proof.

They both laugh. Confused at what is happening, Michael starts looking through the glass counter cases.

KASSANDER

(comcially loud)

So what do you need Oh Great Theodorus of the Highlands?

COMMUNITY MAN

(character voice)

I have a request to beqeath upon thine palace of musicry.

(cuts accent)

Do you have a Speaker and Microphone I can borrow for tomorrow?

CM hands him a flyer. Kassander nods in approval.

KASSANDER

(character voice)

A noble cause for a noble leader.

(cuts accent)

Just bring them back in one piece.

I know how your protests can get sometimes.

Michael looks at CM. CM nods and Michael acknowledges. Kassander brings a Speaker with a corded Microphone on the counter.

COMMUNITY MAN  
 (character voice)  
 Thank you for your aid, Kassandrax.  
 It will be of great use to us.

KASSANDER  
 (character voice)  
 May the suns and moons smile upon  
 your protest.

Kassander bows. CM bows back. They are about to leave, but CM  
 tuns back.

COMMUNITY MAN  
 Wait. Last thing.

KASSANDER  
 Yes, Theodore?

COMMUNITY MAN  
 Can I borrow a cart for this?

Kassander and CM enage in a staredown. They both break and  
 laugh.

KASSANDER  
 Sure, let me get it.

CUT TO:

54. EXT. CENTER OF TOWN - MOMENTS LATER

Michael is carrying flyers as CM wheels the speaker and  
 supplies behind him.

MICHAEL  
 I am so confused.

COMMUNITY MAN  
 About what?

MICHAEL  
 What was that?

COMMUNITY MAN  
 Kassander? Me and him go way way  
 back. And-

MICHAEL  
 No, I mean, what am I supposed to  
 take from all that. The mailman,  
 the music store dude.

Beat. CM puts up a flyer on a light post they pass. They  
 continue walking down the street.

COMMUNITY MAN

Kindness? Honestly, I don't know what to tell you, that's why I showed you the two people from before. Each of them came from universes different from mine, but a simple smile and kind hello transcend the lifetimes we live in this one we have.

Beat. Michael focuses on every step as the words sink in.

He looks up from the sidewalk and sees Jackson talking to someone that's hidden by the corner of the street. Michael stops dead in his tracks as CM continues walking.

CM looks back to see the wagon Michael was hauling slightly in an alley. CM walks back to the wagon to see Michael staring at the other side of the alley. Michael is startled by CM and motions him to join in the alley.

From the street, CM is seen walking into the alley as Jackson just misses him walk in. She goes back to her conversation.

55. EXT. ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

Michael is looking petrified. CM takes in the look of Michael as the handle of the wagon is shaking.

COMMUNITY MAN

Uh, you good, Michael?

The shaken Michael slowly looks to him and shakes his head.

COMMUNITY MAN

What's up, man? Is that person down the street someone who took your lunch money or broke your heart?

CM peeks his head out of the alley to see Jackson in a over the top denim on denim outfit. Michael pulls him back in and we see his head get yoinked back into the alley.

MICHAEL

Worse.

CM connects the dots.

COMMUNITY MAN

OHHHH!... Ahahaha, that's adorable.

CM goes to look again but Michael stops him by holding his arm.

MICHAEL

NO!

(whispered and rushed)

I uh... Okay fine I hate that person you see down the street and all the kids in school make fun of you, and if I'm seen with you and the Cool Kids find out, I'll die of embarrassment.

CM leans back against the opposite side of the alley.

He laughs to himself then looks up at the shaken Michael.

COMMUNITY MAN

So your embarrassed of being embarrassed?

Michael takes a second to soak in those words, looks back down the street to see Cally P, then back to CM. Michael nods. CM understands.

MICHAEL

Got any sage advice Captain Confidence?

COMMUNITY MAN

Well, I feel like any rational and elongated quote will go over your head right now. Hmmm.

CM looks at Michael then out the alley.

COMMUNITY MAN

Listen...

Michael settles a bit and looks up to CM.

COMMUNITY MAN

The only people that you should be concerned about what they think are the people that you love and that love you back.

Michael stops shaking entirely. He takes a moment to reflect. CM peeks his head out the alley again.

COMMUNITY MAN

Who is that? He's got a lot a bravado for someone that has that many holes in their jeans.

Michael peeks his head out the alley with CM to see Jackson talking to Dude at the corner. The rest of the Cool Kids round the corner and exchanges hellos between them and Jackson.

MICHAEL

Nope.

Michael dips his head back into the alley. CM is confused for a moment. CM pulls his head back into the alley to see Michael running down the alley with the wagon bouncing after him.

COMMUNITY MAN

Kids these days.

CM walks after the bounding Michael.

CUT TO:

56. EXT. ALLEY - MOMENTS LATER

Michael is behind a dumpster sitting on the wagon. CM catches up and finds him out of breath.

COMMUNITY MAN

Get your cardio in for the day?

MICHAEL

(exhausted)

Ha haaaa.

COMMUNITY MAN

Oh, bud. Don't sweat it. Everything gets easier with time.

MICHAEL

Then why does it feel like forever?

Beat.

COMMUNITY MAN

Because you're young. I can promise you as you get older, the problems you think you have now and will look back on, was just all part of growing up. Growing pains.

Michael finally catches his breath. CM leans against the alley wall opposite the dumpster.

MICHAEL

What now?

COMMUNITY MAN

Hmmm.

Both of their stomachs grumble.

COMMUNITY MAN

Pizza?

Their stomachs grumble again. They laugh.

A random movement from inside a dumpster startles both of them.

MICHAEL AND CM

Nope.

They speed walk down the alley with wagon creaking.

FADE TO:

57. INT. PLANET PIZZA - MOMENTS LATER

CM and Michael cheers two pizza slices and devour them.

CUT TO:

58. INT. MICHAEL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Michael chucks a flyer on his desk then plops on his bed. He rolls over and pulls out his phone. Excited to text his friends, he looks at a message he wrote to them days ago. No one has responded to him.

He puts down his phone and stares up at the ceiling. Michael sighs. He looks up at his desk and sees the curled up flyer then focuses on the picture of him, Reggie, and Mo under his computer monitor. He lays his head back down and closes his eyes.

Suddenly, Michael's eyes shoot open. He gets up from his bed and picks up the flyer from his desk. He glances over at the picture then to his closet.

He takes the flyer and flattens it on his bed.

Clothes and shoes are seen flying onto the bed from the direction of his closet.

FADE TO BLACK

59. INT. COMMUNITY MAN'S HOME - NIGHT

Community Man enters his home with a bunch of empty beer bottles rattling as he does. The decor of his home is very much inspired by the 70s but similar to Michael's room with 90s memorabilia and more niche music posters.

He passes through the living room where there is an empty dog bed with old wilted flowers in a beer bottle next to the recliner. There's a collar hanging off the bed that says "Kiwi".

The Power Rangers theme song plays as a ring tone from his phone. He looks at it for a beat. It's his brother with an old baby picture of the both of them. Community Man answers but doesn't say anything.

MAYOR BERNSLAY

I know what you're up to, and I know I can't stop you... But that's it.

Beat.

MAYOR BERNSLAY

You've made your decision, but you need to make one more.

COMMUNITY MAN

Why should I even listen to you right now?

MAYOR BERNSLAY

Leave town and your silly fucking goodness brigade and you'll still be able to see Michael, or I'm filing a restraining order.

COMMUNITY MAN

What the hell do you mean?

MAYOR BERNSLAY

The Town Administrator's son told him he saw a freak in tights walking around with some kid. I thought by telling Michael to do some volunteering around town it would make him a better person, but if that volunteering is going to get in the way of the strip mall construction, I can't have that. I have an obligation.

COMMUNITY MAN

And you have an obligation to your son to teach him what's right and what's wrong.

Silence.

MAYOR BERNSLAY

You have till 10pm tonight.

End call beep. Community Man slowly puts down his phone. His home is dimly lit. He turns on the TV and the theme song of The Fresh Prince of Bel Air plays.

FADE IN:

## 60. INT. SCHOOL LUNCHROOM - MIDDAY

Reggie just got his lunch and eyes the table where he used to sit with Mo and Michael. It's empty. As he sees his Nerd Friends wave to him, he sees Mo come into the lunchroom and plop into her arms on the table.

Reggie waves back to his friends then goes to sit next to Mo. Mo doesn't move.

MO  
I'm stressed Reggie.

REGGIE  
Yeah.

MO  
Like really really stressed.

REGGIE  
Damn, that stressed?

Mo nods as her arms still cover her on the table. Reggie goes to pickup his pudding cup, but he stops.

REGGIE  
Can I... Ask?...

Mo shrugs, still on the table.

REGGIE  
What's got Mo stressed stressed?

Mo looks up and fixes her hair. She turns to Reggie. She shows her finger to him. It's wrapped in a bandage and a splint.

REGGIE  
Mo, what the- how?

MO  
How else?

Reggie offers his pudding cup to Mo.

MO  
(excited but unsure)  
Reg... Really?

REGGIE  
Really really.

Mo starts eating the pudding cup.

MO  
(mouthful of pudding)  
Thank you.

Reggie recoils a bit at that, but relaxes.

REGGIE

I'm glad you enjoy pudding like I do.

MO

Yeah.

They both look at the seat where Michael used to sit.

REGGIE

Have you heard from him?

MO

Not in a while. I saw his text in the groupchat, but... I was at practice.

REGGIE

Ah. Yeah. Me too.

Two kids that are in Mo's taekwondo class pass their table and snicker.

MO

(mouthful of pudding)  
Fucking assholes.

REGGIE

Monique, pudding should be enjoyed, not spat around everywhere.

MO

Sorry. It's just... I don't know.

Beat. They both sigh.

REGGIE

Life's not the same.

MO

Tell me about it.

REGGIE

I heard that Michael was walking around with the Community Dude guy yesterday.

Jackson inserts himself into the conversation and the table.

JACKSON

So I wasn't hallucinating.

Mo and Reggie share a look and dart one through Jackson.

REGGIE

What? No.

MO  
 (finishing a gulp of  
 pudding)  
 What the hell do you want?

JACKSON  
 The truth. It's quite mallable, you  
 know that "Earth Science"  
 mumbojumbo, same thing applies  
 here.

Jackson takes Reggie's Milk. Reggie doesn't do anything.

REGGIE  
 Hey!

JACKSON  
 (opening the milk carton)  
 You wouldn't want the truth to be  
 bent or shaped, would you know  
 Reggie?

Jackson sips the milk and looks at the Cool Kids table. The Cool Kids are having an arm wrestling contest between a jock and an art kid. The intensity is felt as the music kids clap and hit a beat out on the table as the wrestling continues; it's a really close game. Mo and Reggie look over then look to each other.

JACKSON  
 (slamming the carton down)  
 So... Is it true?

MO  
 That you're an asshole dressing up  
 as a dollar store version of a boy  
 band burnout? Yes.

JACKSON  
 (impressed)  
 Yeouch. Good one for someone that  
 hurt themselves sitting on a chair.

MO  
 (loud then hushed.)  
 HOW THE- hell do you know?

JACKSON  
 I'm friends with people and they  
 tell me things. Some good, some  
 hilarious...

Jackson stares at Reggie.

JACKSON  
 (con't)  
 And some not so good. So Register.  
 (MORE)

JACKSON (CONT'D)  
(puts a firm grasp on his  
shoulder)  
Did I hear that Michael was hanging  
around that town loser or am I  
hearing things? Last I checked from  
my European ear doctor, I have  
perfect hearing.

Reggie moves uncomfortably in his seat and away from Jackson,  
but Jackson holds tighter.

REGGIE  
(wincing)  
Uh, um...

JACKSON  
Is. It. True?

Mo throws her empty pudding cup at Jackson's face and some of  
it gets on his Michael Jackson t-shirt. Jackson is appalled.

JACKSON  
(getting up)  
Well... If that's the truth, be  
fortunate that this is only my  
SECOND favorite MJ t-shirt.

Jackson pours the rest of the milk carton on Reggie's head.

Mo goes to get up and give Jackson a piece of her mind and/or  
fist, but Reggie grabs her arm down. She understands.

As Jackson gets up from the table, he sees Michael passing  
the lunch room with his backpack that has a piece of fabric  
jutting out from the side. Jackson waves to him and joins the  
Cool Kids in their arm wrestling ring.

Michael stands there and looks at the Cool Kids. He then  
takes a moment to see Mo comeback with napkins for Reggie.

Michael and Mo share a look of longing and confusion. Mo  
continues to pat Reggie dry with the napkins as Michael walks  
away.

CUT TO:

61. INT. MICHAEL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Michael is doing homework as he a 90s playlist plays in the  
background. He goes to take a drink of water from his cup but  
it's empty. The outside door of the house is heard closing  
from his room. Michael gets up to get some more water.

CUT TO:

## 62. INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Michael is stepping towards the top of the stairs but hears a heated conversation happening in the kitchen. The kitchen table is head rattling. He can't quite make out who's talking but both voices sound familiar.

There's a long silence. Then movement is heard and he backs away from the stairs. He peeks around the corner of the stairs to the same Unknown figure from earlier in the week with the same duffel bag. The red fabric poking out looks torn up. The Figure looks towards the kitchen then up to Michael, which he dips his head back when he saw a glimpse of who it was.

It's Community Man.

Community Man sighs as something unintelligible comes from the kitchen. He looks back at the stairs then to the door.

He drops the duffel and leaves. SLAM.

Mayor goes to the duffel and kicks it aside. He sighs then starts to go upstairs. Michael quickly hides in his room just as his dad passes his door and goes into his room.

Michael comes back out and slowly tip toes down the stairs. He opens the duffel to find an envelope on top of the Community Man suit.

Michael opens the envelope and finds a letter with an old polaroid. The letter reads:

COMMUNITY MAN

Dear Michael, I know you may not know who I am to you other than the local town weirdo, but in the reality of things, I am your Uncle. I always have been, and even in my costume, I tried to be a role model that you could look up to. Your father thinks the opposite, but like I showed you around town, I have faith in him that he'll turn around and see the good in people and the town, and not just the money to be made or titles to be had. Regardless of my relationship with your father, you are family, and you always will be. The whole reason I started doing this Community Man thing was to make the town a better place for you to grow up in. Alas, your father has forced me out of superheroing in respect to our family, so in lieu of my retirement, I leave you my suit.

(MORE)

## COMMUNITY MAN (CONT'D)

It may not fit now, but hopefully you can grow into one day. I wish you the best of luck with school and hope you can find it in your heart to do what is right in anything that you do. Who knows, maybe Community Man never left Crystaltonne afterall. Sincerely, Uncle Teddy.

Michael looks at the polaroid and it matches the picture on the mantle in the living room.

MATCH CUT TO:

## 63. INT. SCHOOL BATHROOM- CONTINUOUS

Michael is walking down the hallway and escapes into the bathroom.

He looks up at himself in the mirror then looks at his bag through it with the fabric sticking out. He unzips it a bit to look at the fabric, but then he hears a clinking noise. He reaches into his bag and finds a dog collar wiht the nametag saying "Kiwi".

He goes down to splash some water on his face. As he gets up from the sink, he sees someone waiting behind him. Michael turns around.

STUDENT

I was uh wanted to use that sink.  
It's the only one with hot water.

MICHAEL

Oh, yeah you got it.

Michael steps away and wipes his face with some paper towels.

STUDENT

(washing his hands)  
Thanks. This place sucks.

Michael takes a moment to think about what to say.

MICHAEL

Yeah, it does... But it doesn't  
mean we can't make it better.

He smiles at the Student then walks out of the bathroom.

STUDENT

Whatever weirdo.

CUT TO:

## 64. EXT. REGGIE'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Reggie is coming home from school and sees something on his porch. As he gets closer he notices it's a pudding cup with a 'Stop the Mall' flyer under it. The time says 5:00 pm at Deerfield Park. He notices there's some writing in sharpie on the back of the flyer.

He stands there at his porch with the pudding cup and flyer. Reggie puts down the flyer and looks at the pudding cup with an inquisitive look then realizes what it means.

Reggie walks into his home.

CUT TO:

## 65. INT. TAEKWONDO DOJO - MOMENTS LATER

Mo is just getting to practice and is setting down her things. The receptionist waves her over and gives her a bag.

MO

What's this?

RECEPTIONIST

I don't know but some boy said you were friends and gave me the bag.

Mo looks into the bag and sees a small vaporub container and a flyer for the protest.

RECEPTIONIST

Looks like you have a lil admirer.

MO

Yeah, I don't think so.

Mo goes to her stuff and tosses the bag on top.

RECEPTIONIST

Believe me honey, no man, let alone a boy, would go out of his way to a place you work and drop off a gift if he didn't really love you.

Mo scoffs at her. Just at that moment, the flyer slips out of the bag.

Mo goes to open her duffel bag and sees the writing on the back of the flyer.

She smiles.

RECEPTIONIST

Whoever that boy is, he's a keeper.

Mo blushes, then gets takes out her taekwondo gear out of the duffel.

CUT TO:

66. EXT. PARK - EARLY AFTERNOON

Someone that looks like Community Man is gathering people around and talking to the protestors individually. The crowd is pretty sparse.

CUT TO:

67. EXT. DUDE'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Someone with a yellow cape is walking towards the McMansion of a house. There's a sign on the door that reads in crude handwriting: "go around or not, whatever."

The gate to the back opens and the backyard is littered with huddles of highschool stereotypes.

The music and theater kids are in a cabana making impromptu beats and singing, the atheltic and gym class heroes are playing pool football, the art kids are drawing each other in a circle, and at the top of a hill sits, Dude surrounded by some other Cool Kids, stoners, The Dixers, and Jackson are next to them.

The person slowly walks to the top of a divider wall and looks around. Snickers erupt into pointed laughter from the crowd. It's Michael, but in a 90s stylized version of Community Man's Suit.

JACKSON

Nice costume fairy! You dressing up as a loser or a faggot?

Cally P's hand is seen hitting Jackson's shoulder for that remark.

COOL ART KID

I like the... Ingenuity.

COOL MUSIC KID

Weird, but cool weird?

COOL THEATER KID

Fantastical!

COOL JOCK KID

What the hell you want dipstick?

Michael looks around and sees the crowd around him. He takes out a piece of paper with his hand writing on it, but it gets blown out of his hand and falls into the pool, dissolving into mush.

Hushed laughter is heard around him. A shadow appears from behind him. Michael turns around to Dude, standing amongst his entourage. He takes a couple steps closer to Michael and the group tries to join, but Dude waves them back.

DUDE

What do you want my guy? Have you come to join the party?

Beat. Michael looks for words to say, then relaxes his shoulders and opens his eyes straight to Dude.

MICHAEL

I have come to party, yes.

Laughter erupts from the crowd.

DUDE

Well, that's a wild getup to party in.

Michael clears his throat. AHEM.

MICHAEL

Uh, yeah, but this is not the party I am talking about.

The crowd falls silent. Whispers are heard.

DUDE

Go on.

MICHAEL

I have come here not to party, but to gather one. I know it may be stupid or silly to come dressed to a place where the royalty of high school gather to relax-

A jock burps after downing a beer.

MICHAEL

...and drink beer.

Michael looks straight at Dude.

MICHAEL

But the real reason I came here is to ask for your help.  
(looking around)  
For all of your help.

The crowd murmurs.

MICHAEL

If all of my 3 years in the hallowed halls of bullshit have taught me anything about actual life it's this: stand up for what you believe in. I never thought the day would come where I would make the soccer team, be socialite in school...

(glancing at someone that looks like Mo)

...ask a girl out... But here I am, despite all of the labels we have given ourselves and each other that further seperated us as people to ask you all... To ask for your help to protest the destruction of the park.

Silence. Some people in the crowd tilt their heads in confusion.

COOL MUSIC KID

The what?

MICHAEL

The destruction of the town park? Have you guys not heard of the protest?

Some people in the crowd are either more confused or are starting to grasp what Michael means. Some nod in agreement and others are just not paying attention.

MICHAEL

Look, whether you know it or not, they're protesting today the construction of the new strip mall in place of the park. I'm asking all of your help because the park means a lot to people. It means a lot to me too! It's where I lost my first tooth on the swings with my  
(tepid breath)

With my two best friends. And it means a lot to many others, some of which have memories in that park or siblings that always beg you to take them there. Regardless of whatever you feel about the park, I know it means a lot to a few of us here and even in the town, but I will not stand for the destruction of it because other's deem it unworthy.

Murmurs start to spread around the crowd. Dude take a seat on the hill to listen.

MICHAEL

A good friend once told me the only opinions that matter in this life are the ones from those you love. Now I don't necessarily love any of you here, but the people I love and care about are at that park. The people that I care about that want the park to stay are there. And all I'm asking of you is an hour out of your day to stop the construction of the strip mall so we can keep the memories and keep making more at that park with people we love.

Michael steps down and raises both his fists like he's about to fly away.

MICHAEL

So who's with me?

Silence.

Then an empty beer can flies past Michael's head. Jackson sits back into his chair. More people start throwing stuff at him and laughing, spilling drinks on him even. Dude gets up and walks back to sit in his chair.

Michael runs out of the party as cups and laughter follow him out. Dude looks patiently peeved.

CUT TO:

68. EXT. SIDEWALK - MOMENTS LATER

Michael drenched in drinks and covered in chips/cheese dust is walking down the street with his head down.

BRRING BRRING. A bike bell is heard then the tires screech to a stop. It's Reggie. Michael keeps walking with his head down past Reggie.

REGGIE

Hey!

Michael looks up, then back to Reggie. He's holding a flyer in his hand. Michael smiles.

REGGIE

I got your message. You need a ride?

Michael nods.

REGGIE

Hop on the back, hopefully we can get there before it starts.

Michael hops on the back wheel bars of the bike and they start heading down the street.

REGGIE

Why do you smell like... Piss?

MICHAEL

I'll tell you on the way.

Reggie nods and then wipes his face from a pudding smudge from earlier.

CUT TO:

69. EXT. PARK - AFTERNOON

Reggie and Michael are seen making their way to the center of the field where protestors are gathered. The group has grown but is still sparse. Community Organizers are seen outside of it with a microphone connected to a loudspeaker.

Mo is on the edge of the crowd. Reggie and Michael pull up next to her.

REGGIE

I got him.

MO

I can see that. Why does he smell like shit? What are you weaing?

REGGIE

I think it looks cool.

MICHAEL

Thanks Reg. And I- forget it, we got a park to save. I'll tell you later.

Mo shrugs. They all move towards the crowd forming around the elderly Community Organizers.

Michael stops Mo by the shoulder.

MICHAEL

Hey, did you get the bag?

MO

(hiding her emotions)

Yeah.

(softly)

Thank you.

Michael smiles. Mo smiles. Then Mo punches his shoulder with her good hand.

MICHAEL  
(softly)  
Ow. You hit like a-

Mo shoots him a look that stops his sentence, then Michael nods and smiles.

MO  
Keep that up and you'll give me a fun reason to injure my good hand.  
The group joins the crowd around Community Man.

70. EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Michael motions for people around him.

MICHAEL  
So if you're here for the free merch, I'm sorry to tell you, but you might've mixed up the dates with the Neighborhood Mixer.  
Some people in the crowd laugh or unironically groan.

MICHAEL  
Jokes aside, thank you all for coming on short notice. Now the purpose of this demonstraion is to show Mayor Bernslay that we as a community don't need another strip mall or a fancy Hizza Put. We're here to show a peaceful protest to keep this park. This park means a lot to the kids and families of the town, but it alsot means a lot to me.

Beat.

MICHAEL  
A good friend of mine really enjoyed this park. And his best friend he used to enjoy this park with isn't here anymore.

Michael looks around the crowd and stops for a second when he sees his friends.

MICHAEL  
In the aimlessness I felt after losing my best friends, I felt upset, guilty, angry... But I didn't let that ruin my idea of hope.  
(MORE)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

I saw how the park was poorly taken care of and other places around town and thought to myself: if not me, then who else?

Light cheers and claps come from the crowd.

Beat.

MICHAEL

So this may be selfish of me, but this is not just a protest to the strip mall, but I want this protest to show Mayor Bernslay that we want to keep this park and to keep this little memory making machine alive and well. Let's show him we're going to be here for each other and the things that matter, the things we love! So let's hear it!

Cheers erupt from the crowd. Just as Michael finishes, an SUV followed by construction trucks comes onto the mainstreet near the park. The protestors form a wall and pick up their signs towards the cars.

MAYOR BERNSLAY, comes out of his SUV accompanied by two construction workers.

Mayor Bernslay lead them and a handful of construction workers to meet the crowd. Mayor Bernslay and Michael stand face to face. The protestors chant in the faces of the construction workers.

MICHAEL

Dad.

MAYOR BERNSLAY

Son, what are you doing?

Reggie and Mo make their way to the front of the wall of protestors. They see the stand off. They start chanting with the protestors.

MICHAEL

What good is a strip mall here?

MAYOR BERNSLAY

That's- you shouldn't be here!

Mayor Bernslay looks down then back up at Michael.

MAYOR BERNSLAY

What am I to do? You don't know the logistics and politics of running a town, but we need this money.

MICHAEL

What matters more to you?

Beat.

MAYOR BERNSLAY

My hands are tied.

Michael frowns. Mayor Bernslay turns back to the construction workers.

MAYOR BERNSLAY

Okay, listen up-

Some sort of music is heard in the distance is coming closer. A caravan of minivans come down mainstreet and turn down the road near the park. A foot steps out of the lead minivan and it's Dude. The rest of the head Cool Kids file out of the minivan.

Out of the other minivans, a mishmosh of assorted highschool stereo types come out with various items in hand. A skateboard, a basketball, a painted canvas, an acoustic guitar, a pool noodle. Michael makes his way out of the crowd to meet Dude.

MICHAEL

I- I don't know what to say.

DUDE

You don't have to say anything. I heard you. And I saw you, more than anyone at the party on in this crowd.

Michael smiles and nods. Dude turns to the menagerie of misfits behind him.

DUDE

Come on guys so we can get back to the party!

The group cheers. Mayor Bernslay turns and notices the group, then Reggie and Mo do too.

Jackson stays back at the minivan. He crosses his arms and pouts like a baby bitch boy.

The menagerie join the protestors in a weird yet oddly fitting manner. The music kids accompany chanters. The art kids draw a collective peace sign with their sketchbooks. The athletic kids get to the front of the crowd and chant vigorously with protestors with signs.

The group of protestors grow and the construction workers look uneasy. One of the construction workers puts down his hard hat and joins the crowd. More follow him.

One of the two construction workers next to Mayor Bernslay start to take off his hard hat.

MEAN CONSTRUCTION WORKER

What are you doin'?

NICE CONSTRUCTION WORKER

The right thing.

MEAN CONSTRUCTION WORKER

You can't pay a mortgage with "the right thing".

NICE CONSTRUCTION WORKER

You might be right, but at least our kids will be able to spend time with their dads at their favorite park.

The Nice Construction Worker joins the protestors. They all chant louder. The Mean Construction Worker relents and joins the Nice Construction Worker.

Michael, Reggie, Mo, Dude, a reluctant Jackson, and the Mean and Nice Construction Worker are at the front of the crowd. Mayor Bernslay is alone facing the crowd.

Michael breaks the line to whisper something into Mayor Bernslay's ear.

Beat. Mayor Bernslay relents. Michael gives him the microphone. The crowd slowly settles down.

MAYOR BERNSLAY

In all of my years being Mayor, never have I seen the comraderie and togetherness of this town in one place. So, in light of this demonstration, I'll keep it short so I can start on the paper work, but...

Beat. Everyone takes a baited breath.

Michael looks to Mayor Bernslay and nods. He nods back.

MAYOR BERNSLAY

The park stays!

The crowd erupts in cheering and whooping.

The menagerie of highschool social groups are teaching other groups and various protestors their niche skills.

Reggie awkwardly whoops and chest bumps with the Nerds and the athletic kids. Michael and Mo find each other in the crowd. Mo sees Jackson and Dude talking to some of the protestors then focuses back to Michael.

MICHAEL  
So, did the bag help at after  
practice?

MO  
(hiding her emotions)  
A little bit.

Michael smiles down as he kicks the dirt. Mo does the same.

MICHAEL  
I'm glad.

Mo surprises him with a hug. Michael accepts and hugs back.

MICHAEL  
What was that for?

MO  
For being a good friend.

Michael blushes. Mo punches his shoulder again.

MICHAEL  
Ow, what was THAT for?

MO  
For being a bad friend.

MICHAEL  
Yeah, I guess I deserved that.

Mo blushes. They both face the crowd and the intermixed Cool Kids.

MO  
You did this you know.

MICHAEL  
I didn't think they would come.

MO  
But whatever you did, it brought  
them here. You brought them here.

Beat. Mo kisses Michael on the cheek.

They share a tender moment.

MO  
You're a good person, Michael.  
Never forget it.

Beat.

MICHAEL  
I have an idea.

FADE TO BLACK

## 71. YOUTUBE VIDEO 2000S AESTHETIC - PARK

The video starts with a slightly updated video of all around Crystaltonne, with Michael, Reggie, Mo, along with Dude and The Cool Kids showing the town off. From the pond to the updated community garde, updated Deerfield Park, and a brand new dog park. The video ends praising the opening of a new dog park opening near Deerfield Park.

FADE TO:

## 72. EXT. DOG PARK - CONTINUOUS

Michael in his Community Man Costume is standing in front of a grand opening ribbon. Reggie, Mo, Dude and The Cool Kids are all there along with some dog owners. A news crew is filming the whole thing. Michael cuts the ribbon and everyone cheers.

Everyone starts to file in and the dog owners are pulled by their dogs into the park.

Michael is pulled aside by the camera crew for an interview. As he's getting adjusted for the interview and they set up the camera he notices someone in the back of the dog park.

It's Community Man but in plain clothes. He's wearing a ball cap and windbreaker, similar colors to his old costume. He nods to Michael. Michael nods back.

Just as he's about ready to be interviewed, he notices a dog runs up to Community Man. He looks more than happy. He picks up his dog and uses its paw to wave at Michael. Michael smiles. He adjusts his costume and nods to the camera person.

NEWS CASTER

Ready? 3... 2... 1...

## 73. SUPER: COMMUNITY, MAN!

FADE OUT:

THE END