

DUNGEONS

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EXT. OUTSIDE ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY - 2018 - EVENING

There is a massive, old, colonial building on the corner of a major intersection.

Cars clutter the streets around it and at least 6 cars are packed into the wide driveway.

People are walking up the creaky steps with white paint chips flaking off.

There is a small, old, mailbox with the name "Norstein" painted on the side.

LETTER BOARD READING: "AA MEETING 2ND FLOOR"

INT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY 2ND FLOOR - A MOMENT LATER

In a small, cozy room with little book shelves, adults are sitting in a big circle.

A 65 year old white woman named, MARGO, is leading the discussion.

MARGO

This week I'd like you to share the methods you've been using to avoid drinking.

A little cookie cutter white WOMAN in a yellow cardigan (probably cashmere) raises her hand. Margo points to her.

MARGO (CONT'D)

Yes! Go ahead.

The woman smiles.

WOMAN

I realized, just the sensation of holding a glass is en-

BOOM! BOOM!

The room falls silent.

Margo looks up at the ceiling where the noise is coming from. Her face contorts in anger.

The woman awkwardly continues.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Um-uh-I sometimes put cranberry
juice in the glass-to-uh-re create
the feeling in a w-

BOOM! BOOM!

Margo shakes with anger.

MARGO

GGGAAABBEEEE!

TRACK UP, PAST THE CEILING, INTO THE ATTIC.

INT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY ATTIC - 2018 - CONTINUOUS

The room is grungy.

Stolen traffic signs are hanging up all over the deep red
walls.

The room is lit by a faint orange glow of a Heinekin light
sign.

A skateboard rack is hanging up as well with a bunch of
skate/long sector 9 boards stacked up.

The walls are drawn all over with psychedelic art.

A dart board is set up next to the flat screen TV.

Trash is all over the floor.

The one long leather couch is in terrible shape; the leather
almost completely peeled off.

A tin can is hanging from a string attached to the ceiling
and it's labeled "fuck it bucket."

Sunken into the middle of a couch is GABE. He's a husky,
white, 24 year old. His Jew fro and fluffy beard are grown
out. He wears little rectangular glasses that magnify his
eyes to a ridiculous extreme.

He's wearing a muscle T that reads "VAPE NATION." On his
right arm he has a terrible tattoo of an 8 ball. On his left
arm he has a tattoo of the word "Gemini."

He's wearing cargo shorts. On his leg he has a tattoo of the
word "OHANA."

He's holding a big bong in his lap, exhaling smoke.

Anime is playing on the TV.

ANIME CHARACTER
Aayyyyyy senpaiiiii!

The girl animation kisses a boy animation.

A door to his room CRANKS open and startles Gabe.

He pulls out a little samurai sword that was sitting behind the couch, and points it towards the door.

His mother, ELAINE, an adorable, middle aged, South African woman pokes her head in.

She has grey and brown fluffy short hair and glasses that look like Gabe's.

ELAINE
(Softly)
Hello darling.

GABE
MOM! I almost killed you! You can't
sneak up on a sensei.

He twirls the sword in his hand and slides it back into its sheath.

She disregards him.

ELAINE
Okay, well anyway sweetheart your
father has made dinner. He made his
homemade ghost pepper salsa too!
He's just finishing up the
maintenance downstairs and he'll
come back up.

GABE
MOM! You know I have IBS! I can't
eat Dad's salsa.

She pauses and stares at him.

ELAINE
Well he made his s-

GABE
MOOOOM!

She leaves the room.

GABE (CONT'D)

GOD!

Big female anime titties are all over the TV screen.

Gabe takes his bong tool, puts some wax on it, and swirls it around the bowl, inhaling.

He exhales, coughing loudly.

INT. LOCAL LIQUOR STORE - NEXT DAY

Gabe is standing behind the counter at a tiny, local liquor store. He stares off blankly. No one is in the store.

A MAN walks in wearing a suit. He browses around. Gabe watches him. They make uncomfortable eye contact a few times.

Silence.

The man finally walks up to the counter with a case of Bud Light. Gabe looks at it.

GABE

Anything else?

MAN

Nope.

The man pulls out his wallet.

GABE

You want this?

The man looks confused.

MAN

Yes.

GABE

Are you sure?

MAN

Yes.

GABE

No you're not.

Pause.

GABE (CONT'D)

Bud light is for middle schoolers and serial killers.

SQUEAK. A door at the back of the store opens up. A tall, well built, Indian man walks through. GABE'S BOSS (Who Gabe likes to call BOSSIE BOI).

BOSSIE BOI

GABE!

Gabe looks over at his boss. He bags the man's shitty beer and responds.

GABE

YA!

Bossie walks over to the counter with a paper in his hand. He waves it.

BOSSIE BOI

What's this?

He puts the paper down on the table. The title on the top of the paper reads "Application."

GABE

My application.

Bossie pinches his nose and closes his eyes.

BOSSIE BOI

You already work here you don't need to fill out an application-

GABE

This is for the wine consultant position.

BOSSIE BOI

Gabe I don't think-

GABE

I'm ready bossie boy. I'm ready for the wine.

Pause.

BOSSIE BOI

You already-

GABE

(Pronouncing Merlot with a hard T)
My pallet is refined. My buds thirst for the passionate kiss of Merlot.

Bossie boi scrunches his face in confusion.

BOSSIE BOI
(Pronounced correctly)
Merlot?

Gabe's face is a blank. Boss takes the paper back and looks at it.

GABE
I'm available Monday, Tues-

BOSSIE BOI
I know when you're available.

Pause.

GABE
I'm available Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday,
Saturday, Sunday.

BOSSIE BOI
The whole week.

GABE
Except April 20th.

Boss sighs.

BOSSIE BOI
You know positions like these
usually require a degree or
certification?

GABE
Gaaaasssssss. That's fugazie man.
Look at Kalen.

They both look out the store windows, across the street, at the coffee shop. A miserable looking young man (KALEN) with a hat and apron on is sitting behind the register.

GABE (CONT'D)
He has a masters in bioengineering.

Beat.

BOSSIE BOY
I'll think about it.

GABE
Bless you.

Gabe winks and blows him a kiss. Boss recoils and walks away.

INT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY ATTIC - LATER THAT NIGHT

Gabe is sitting in his same spot on the couch. Other people are surrounding him, sitting on the couch and the floor.

LEXI, an unhealthily skinny girl wearing a fishnet shirt.

MAYA, a quiet girl in hello kitty clothes and pom pom pony tails.

RICKY, an angsty kid with long black hair covering up his one missing eye.

JAIDA, an un-showered, greasy girl under 5ft tall.

WILL, the Justin Beiber lookin' skater boy.

They are all in a haze, watching the TV.

INT. LOCAL LIQUOR STORE - BACK OFFICE - SAME TIME

Bossie boi is turning on the new computer system, tossing the boxes aside. The computer HUMS awake.

INT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY ATTIC - CONTINUOUS

Ricky reaches up to the fuck-it-bucket attached to the ceiling and tosses the blunt roach into it.

INT. LOCAL LIQUOR STORE - BACK OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Bossy boy is scanning old documents onto the new computer system.

He picks up Gabe's documents. Resume, tax forms, etc.

INT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY ATTIC - SAME TIME

Gabe is sitting with a metal tray on his lap. Little workshop tools are scattered on the tray.

He is holding is giant vape mod, twisting some wires inside it carefully.

He stops, takes a look at it from a far, then RIPS it, exhaling like a dragon. He blows glorious O's.

GABE
Perfect.

INT. LOCAL LIQUOR STORE - BACK OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The blue glow of the computer screen lights bossie boi's face. He looks confused.

He clicks the mouse and the computer makes a rejecting noise, BWAMP BWAMP.

INT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY ATTIC - CONTINUOUS

Silence. Everyone is high.

BEEP BEEP BEEP.

Gabe's colossal Samsung phone rings. He looks down at it "Bossboi." He answers slowly.

GABE
Hello?

Beat.

GABE (CONT'D)
What?

Everyone turns their heads over slowly to look at Gabe.

GABE (CONT'D)
Okay. Cool.

Hangs up.

LEXI
What was that?

GABE
Boss.

RICKY
What'd he say?

GABE
Fired.

They all "ahhhhh."

Beat.

LEXI

Why?

GABE

Said I lied on my resume; that I never got my GED.

WILL

Did you?

Gabe furrows his brows in confusion.

GABE

I graduated years ago.

INT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY ATTIC CLOSET - MORNING

Gabe stands in front of an intimidating book case of different books, folders, papers, etc.

He stands in front of it for an awkward pause.

MONTAGE:

Gabe sifts through old school pictures. He is scowling in his 1st grade school picture.

He opens up a photo album. Pictures of his dad half naked, in a white sheet, eating grapes, is in the middle of a page. He screams and slams the album shut.

He reaches up high and pulls down an old board game of boggle. He shakes it, opens it up, and sees two perfectly rolled blunts inside. He smiles and takes them.

He's sitting on the floor surrounded by piles of things he's taken off the shelves. He's leaning back, panting, looking up at the book case.

He is moving old folders aside on the top shelf. He freezes when his hand touches something. He pulls it down. A RED DIPLOMA COVER. He opens it. Empty.

END MONTAGE.

EXT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER

Marshal is sitting in Gabe's old and busted Mercedes with his maintenance jump suit on. The hood is popped and Marshal is sitting in the driver's seat working on something in the center console.

Gabe walks up next to him.

GABE
Yo pops!

Marshal jumps, startled, and he throws his metal tool at Gabe and it hits his forehead.

GABE (CONT'D)
CHRIST!

MARSHAL
Sorry kid.

Gabe rubs his head.

MARSHAL (CONT'D)
What's up?

GABE
Where did you and mom put my diploma?

MARSHAL
What?

GABE
My diploma from high school after I graduated.

Pause.

MARSHAL
I don't remember. It was probably Martha.

GABE
Yo who the fuck is Martha?

MARSHAL
The ghost in the house.

Gabe closes his eyes and exhales, annoyed.

MARSHAL (CONT'D)
You know son, this place was a hospital over 100 years ago. Martha was a depressed nurse who hung herself from the poles in the ceiling.

GABE
And you think it was Martha because?

MARSHAL
The bitch keeps stealing my ghost
pepper salsa.

GABE
Okay.

Gabe turns to walk away.

MARSHAL
GIMME A HAND REAL QUICK!

Gabe turns back around slowly, and walks to the other side of
the car and gets in on the passenger side.

Marshal is messing with the wiring for the speakers.

MARSHAL (CONT'D)
Watch what I'm doing. If you
connect these wires-

He connects two wires.

MARSHAL (CONT'D)
And connect these-

He connects a different two together.

MARSHAL (CONT'D)
The speakers wont work right and
they'll play at different times.

Marshall takes apart the wires again.

MARSHAL (CONT'D)
But if you connect these and these.

He reorganizes the connections.

MARSHAL (CONT'D)
They will play at the same time.

He connects his phone to the Aux and clicks play. Moaning and
slapping is heard over the speakers. Marshal scrambles to
turn it off.

Gabe looks horrified.

MARSHAL (CONT'D)
Björk's new album.

Gabe plays with the wires while marshal watches.

GABE

You could do that, oooorrr, you can do it like this, which is a much more secure way of making the connection.

Gabe awkwardly takes the aux cord away from his dad and plugs it into his phone. He presses play.

WOMAN'S VOICE ON SPEAKER

You are strong. You are capable. Breath in and out 5 times. Center yourself.

Gabe scrambles to turn off the motivational speaker. He turns it off.

Beat.

GABE

That was what it sounded like .

INT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY ATTIC LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Elaine is sitting on the couch in the living room, above the poles in the ceiling that Marshal mentioned.

Gabe is standing in front of her, uncomfortably looking from the poles, down to his mother.

ELAINE

Darling I've never even seen your diploma.

Gabe grunts.

GABE

GOD!

ELAINE

What's wrong?

INT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY ATTIC KITCHEN - A MOMENT LATER

Gabe is standing next to his mom who is on the landline phone attached to the wall in the kitchen.

ELAINE

He walked with his entire class. We have the folder he was given on graduation day.

Beat.

ELAINE (CONT'D)
That can't-

Beat.

ELAINE (CONT'D)
No one informed-

Gabe snatches the phone out of his mother's hands and speaks.

GABE
WHERE IS MY DIPLOMA?!

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL - DEAN BROWN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

DEAN BROWN'S office is an average sized room, with a basic wood desk, and basic rickety chairs.

NAME CARD: DEAN BROWN.

She is hidden behind her tall swivel chair while she is on the phone with Gabe.

DEAN BROWN
(In a deep voice)
Hello Gabriel.

INT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY ATTIC KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

CLOSE UP ON GABE'S MOUTH.

GABE
(He lowers and softens his
voice with dauntingly)
Brenda.

DEAN BROWN (V.O.)
You will address me as Dean Brown.

GABE
Listen Brenda I don't know what
kind of shit you're trying to pull-

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL - DEAN BROWN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

DEAN BROWN
Oh Gabriel, I'm not pulling
anything at all.

GABE (V.O.)
Just send me another copy of my
diploma and we'll be out of your
hair.

Beat.

Brown laughs.

DEAN BROWN
I can't possibly do that...since
you never-

INT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY ATTIC KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS
CLOSE UP ON GABE'S FACE.

DEAN BROWN (V.O.)
(Slow motion, deep voice)
Graduated.

THE PHONE DROPPING OUT OF GABE'S HAND.

THE CURLY WIRE, BOUNCING THE PHONE UP AND DOWN.

INT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY ATTIC - LATER

Gabe is sprawled across his couch, passed out. His stoner
crew stands around him. Lexi is rolling a blunt.

When she finishes, Ricky takes it and sticks the non-burning
side up Gabe's nose.

Beat.

Gabe sniffs. He twitches.

Gabe JOLTS upright and YELPS.

RICKY
WOOFF! We were worried for a sec
man.

LEXI
You okay?

Gabe sinks back into the couch and looks up. They all sit
down around him.

GABE
I never graduated high school.

Silence.

MAYA
 Fuck school you don't need that
 shit!

Gabe stands up and looks down on his friends.

GABE
 NO! FUCK YOU MAYA NOW I CAN'T GET A
 JOB ANYWHERE!

The room falls silent.

GABE (CONT'D)
 Get out of my house guys.

WILL
 Dude it's not that s-

Gabe reaches for his nerf gun, sitting beside the couch. He
 point it at Will. Will raises his hands.

GABE
 Get out man.

Will sighs. They all get up and head out.

INT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY ATTIC BEDROOM - THAT NIGHT

Gabe is lying in bed, looking up at the posters plastered to
 his ceiling of naked women.

He reaches above his head to the light switch and turns the
 lights off. When the normal lights turn off, a black light
 switches on, illuminating glowing doodling all over the walls
 of penises and curse words.

Beat.

INT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY ATTIC BEDROOM - MORNING AFTER

GABES BLOODSHOT EYES. HE LOOKS AROUND.

GABE STAR-FISHING ACROSS HIS BED.

THE MESS OF CLOTHES ON THE FLOOR.

THE PILES OF PLATES ON HIS DRESSER.

THE RANDOM DILDO HANGING FROM A STRING IN THE CEILING IN THE
 CORNER OF THE ROOM.

BEAT.

Epic organ orchestral music begins.

MONTAGE:

ALL IN SLOW MOTION:

Gabe sprays the armpits of a dirty shirt with febreze and puts it on.

He combs out his massive Jew fro. It still looks terrible.

He pulls up his oversized jeans, held together by a pokémon theme belt.

He slides his tattered working boots on.

He cleans his bug eye glasses and slides them on.

He is standing, gloriously, in front of COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL, looking up at it. It's an old brick building with a clock tower on top. It has a semicircle driveway right in front and a few trees.

In the foyer of the school, Gabe sees the security guard, SULLY. He nods at the guard.

GABE

Sully.

SULLY

GABE.

END MONTAGE.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - DEAN BROWN'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Gabe is sitting in awkward silence, across a desk, from Dean Brown. She is average sized, short curly hair, slim glasses, wearing a navy blue pant suit.

They sit in silence looking at each other while the old fashioned school clock on the wall ticks loudly.

Brown presses her fingers together, prayer like.

Gabe reaches for the mints in a bowl on her desk but she slaps his hand away.

Beat.

DEAN BROWN
Okay Gabriel, what do you want?

GABE
To sit in your office, swan diving
into my emotions while exchanging
this eye contact with you.

DEAN BROWN
(Annoyed)
Really?

GABE
WHAT DO YOU THINK I'M HERE FOR
BRENDA?

She massages her temples.

GABE (CONT'D)
Daddy wants his diploma.

She makes a disgusted face.

DEAN BROWN
Gabriel you're late for
registration. You'll have to
discuss it with registrar-

GABE
You'll have to discuss it with my
ass!

After he speaks, Brown looks confused. Even Gabe looks
confused as to what he just said.

GABE (CONT'D)
SHIT!

He gets up awkwardly, knocking the chair over. He picks it up
and leaves the room slamming the door behind him.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - REGISTRAR OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Gabe is sitting in the waiting room. He is sitting next to a
really small white kid, ABRAHAM. He's little, with short
black hair, big round glasses, and a little hooked nose. He
is sitting silently.

Gabe looks over at him.

GABE
What you in for?

Abraham looks at him confused.

ABRAHAM
I'm 15. I go here.

GABE
Sorry man.

Gabe pats him on the shoulder.

GABE (CONT'D)
That's rough.

A woman calls for Gabe.

WOMAN (O.S.)
GABRIEL NORSTEIN?

He gets up from his chair.

INT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY ATTIC - THE NEXT DAY

Gabe is sitting on his couch looking down at a paper. It reads: SPRING 2018 CLASS SCHEDULE.

Gabe nods.

GABE
Noice.

He picks up a small plastic bag and dumps the contents out onto the paper. BUD.

Elaine peeps her head out from behind the curtain hanging in front of the door separating Gabe's living room and bedroom from his parents space.

ELAINE
Hello darling what is that?

She points to the dank nugs sitting on the paper.

GABE
My dank nugs.

ELAINE
Alright love. How'd it go today?

GABE
I start classes in a couple days.

ELAINE
I'm proud of you sweets.

GABE
Thanks mom.

Silence.

Gabe goes back to pulling apart his dank nugs, but Elaine is still there looking at her son with a smile.

He looks back up at her.

GABE (CONT'D)
Yeah?

ELAINE
Nothing.

She still smiles at him.

GABE
MOOOOOM!

ELAINE
Okay okay.

She leaves.

GABE
GOOOODDD!

Gabe folds the paper, hot dog style, with the weed in it.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - LIT CLASS - NEXT DAY

The classroom is pretty small. The chairs are set up in a semi circle. Gabe is sitting in the middle, surrounded by tiny teenage kids. Abraham is sitting next to him.

They are all sitting in silence, the teacher isn't in the room. While waiting, Gabe takes out his vape mod and takes a big hit, blowing a massive cloud across the room.

The teacher walks in and straight into the cloud. In slow motion she emerges from the fog. MRS. MARTLING. She is dressed, head to toe in a black leather suit. Her hair is slicked back in a high pony tail. Her boots clack against the linoleum floor.

The students look on in awe. She is still moving elegantly through the fog.

MRS. MARTLING
(Sexy, low voice)
No smoking in my class.

She grabs the thick book sitting up on the chalk board. She raises it and drops it. The book SLAPS the floor and all the kids snap out of their daze.

Gabe shuffles out of his chair and crawls onto the floor to pick up the book for her.

He reaches for the book and Martling steps on it. Gabe looks slowly up her leg.

MRS. MARTLING (CONT'D)
(Quoting)
Decent man is not the one without
weaknesses but the one with
dignity.

He stares at her.

MRS. MARTLING (CONT'D)
Vasily Klyuchevsky.

Gabe retreats back to his seat.

Martling looks around the room.

MRS. MARTLING (CONT'D)
Summer reading. Who did it?

No one answers.

MRS. MARTLING (CONT'D)
Problematic.

Gabe slowly raises his hand. Martling smiles and calls on him.

MRS. MARTLING (CONT'D)
Name?

GABE
Gabe.

MRS. MARTLING
Alright Gabe. Summer reading. Crime
and Punishment. Rodion Raskolnikov
believes in detaching oneself from
emotions in order to act
rationally. He claims in this
reading that he did just that. Do
you think he achieved it?

Beat.

GABE

Well, I didn't actually read it for this assignment. I read it a few years back now.

MRS. MARTLING

That doesn't answer the question.

GABE

No. I don't think he achieves it. After killing the pawnbroker he is haunted by nightmares. His mental state diminishes as the story progresses due to his conscience. Suggesting that he is unlike most people, severed from emotion also implies that he doesn't have a conscience. But he does.

Pause.

Martling smiles slyly. The room is silent.

MRS. MARTLING

Hm.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - CAFETERIA - AFTERNOON

The cafeteria is spacious. Basic blue and red pull out tables are set up in rows.

There are long lines of kids waiting for food.

Gabe sits down at the table where Abraham is sitting alone. Gabe sets his lunch box down.

GABE

How goes? Abraham right?

ABRAHAM

It goes. Gabe right?

They nod at each other. Silence.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)

It was cool that you read the book.

GABE

Thanks man. I'm still kinda stupid though.

ABRAHAM

Why would you say that?

GABE

I am.

Abraham looks confused.

GABE (CONT'D)

Brenda called my parents when I was in school and told them I'd be going nowhere in life.

ABRAHAM

Brenda?

GABE

Dean Brown.

Abraham nods his head.

ABRAHAM

It got worse while you were gone.

Gabe pulls a beer out of his lunch box and cracks open the top on the side of the table.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)

She essentially pushed to get rid of most special ed classes. She hired these security guards that grab the girls and shit.

GABE

Gross.

ABRAHAM

I know.

Gabe holds his beer up, gesturing for Abraham to take a swig. Abraham shakes his head no.

Gabe looks around.

GABE

So where are your friends man?

ABRAHAM

I'm a lone wolf.

Abraham howls.

GABE

It's just a room full of fetuses who think they're gangster. Most of these butt holes won't leave this town.

(MORE)

GABE (CONT'D)

They'll just cripple along with the economy, watching their hairlines recede.

Abraham points to a table of kids.

ABRAHAM

It's kinda segregated here. Right there, are all the Hispanic kids who exclusively shop at Hollister.

He points to another table.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)

That table is for the band kids who can't sit down at lunch without-

A chubby band kid with a clarinet case sits down and his ass crack shows.

GABE

Release the Kracken.

Abraham nods at the table adjacent to the band kids.

ABRAHAM

Orchestra kids. Hate to be confused with band kids. Each are an incestuous cult of adolescents.

He points at another table.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)

Theatre kids.

Kids in extravagant costumes are eating together.

Abraham motions again to a different table.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)

Mean girls club.

All the girls are wearing pink crop tops and floral pants. The boys are all wearing muscle tee's and sports pants.

Abraham nods again in a different direction at another table.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)

Your crew. The emo vape skaters.

Gabe holds up his Vape Nation gang sign at the table and the kids looks at him like he's crazy. Gabe sighs.

GABE

Young one.

Gabe palms Abraham's face.

GABE (CONT'D)

I can't come back to this place
again. Tutor me...and I shall be
your companion.

ABRAHAM

I guess.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - PHYSICS CLASS - LATER

Gabe is sitting at a lab desk in a cramped classroom, across from a jock and blond making out.

At the front of the classroom a man, MR. DENNIS, is writing his name on the board. He's an overweight man, average height, with a buttoned up shirt tucked into his pants.

He turns around, he looks completely bored and prepared for the hell that is high school.

MR. DENNIS

Mr. Dennis. That's my name, it's
not hard, so say it right. We are
not friends so don't give me any
nicknames.

Mr. Dennis looks at the couple making out in front of Gabe. He grabs the eraser sitting below chalk board, and chucks it at the couple.

It hits them, sending a chalk dust cloud into the air. They cough and separate.

MR. DENNIS (CONT'D)

No sex in the lab. Breed elsewhere
you little shits.

Gabe laughs.

MR. DENNIS (CONT'D)

This class isn't hard so if you
fail, then I hope natural selection
weeds you out of existence.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - HALLWAY - LATER

Gabe is walking through the hallway to his next class. Dean Brown is standing at the end of the hallway, watching Gabe.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - SPANISH CLASS - MOMENTS LATER

This classroom has more light than the others. The windows are big and are letting in heavenly beams of light. The room is relatively small.

MS. MARIN is standing at the front of the class with a big smile on her face. She is a really tiny woman, peachy skin, big round magnifying glasses, and a long braid of silver hair.

There are very few kids in the room, Gabe sitting in the chair closest to the door.

MS. MARIN
HOLA CLASEEEEE!

Muffled "Hola's" with stressed "H's" comes from the small crowd of kids.

Marin speaks English with a heavy Spanish accent.

MS. MARIN (CONT'D)
Oké!

She picks up stacks of text books and hands them out.

MS. MARIN (CONT'D)
In chapter 1 we will practice
pronunciation.

She shuffles back to her desk with her tiny little hobbit legs.

MS. MARIN (CONT'D)
CAPITULO UNO! PAGINA CINCO!

The kids all turn pages in their books.

Marin rubs her hands together, looking around the classroom. Her eyes lock on Gabe.

MS. MARIN (CONT'D)
AH!

She points to Gabe. She shuffles over to him and points at an exercise in the book.

MS. MARIN (CONT'D)
Say dis-co-tec-a

She pronounces the "s" like a "th." Gabe clears his throat.

GABE
Despacito.

MS. MARIN
JYESSSSS VERY CLOSE! AGAIN AGAIN!

GABE
Quiero respirar tu cuello despacito

Her face lights up with excitement.

MS. MARIN
JYESSSS!

GABE
This is how we do it down in Puerto Rico.

She waves her hands.

MS. MARIN
None of that was correct but I appreciate the passion.

Beat. She walks back to her desk. The class chuckles a little at her statement.

INT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY ATTIC - AFTER SCHOOL

Gabe walks up the stairs to his room in the attic, Abraham is following behind him.

They get to the top of the stairs and the stoner crew is hanging out on the couch.

GABE
How did you get in my house?

Maya looks up at Gabe.

MAYA
We went in with the AA peepoes.

Gabe looks pissed off.

GABE
You can't break into my house! GOD!

WILL

BRO CHILL! The boys were circling around the park so we had to bounce here.

Lexi nods towards Abraham.

LEXI

Who's the prepubescent mouth breather.

Gabe rests his arm on Abraham's shoulder.

GABE

This is Abraham, and he's MY prepubescent mouth breather.

They all pause and look around and each other uncomfortably.

GABE (CONT'D)

You-uh-know what I meant.

LEXI

Do we?

GABE

He's my tutor. Y'all gotta go hang somewhere else.

The stoner crew erupts in anger.

MAYA

The park is off limits and my mom is home!

LEXI

So is mine!

WILL

Everyone's moms are home man.

GABE

(Gesturing to Ricky)

Ricky man. Your mom shouldn't be home around now. What about your place?

RICKY

How do you know my mom's schedule.

Awkward pause.

GABE
 Because of that one time with the
 one time at the one time-you
 remember man! Anyway get out.

Silence. Everyone stands up and heads down the stairs to leave.

Gabe blows kisses and princess waves them off into the distance.

GABE (CONT'D)
 Farewell.

Abraham sits on Gabe's couch and Gabe plops next to him. They open up their backpacks and take their notebooks and folders out.

ABRAHAM
 Thanks man.

GABE
 For what?

ABRAHAM
 For calling me your mouth breather.

GABE
 You got it man.

They do a really strange long handshake that looks like a mixture of patty cake, Hanna Montana's ho down dance, with a lil bit of state champion step team.

Elaine walks in with a plate of bagels. Too many bagels.

ELAINE
 Bagels! I have bagels!

She places them down on the couch's arm rest and shuffles away.

ABRAHAM
 Your Mom is South African?

GABE
 Yeah. And Dad is part pigeon.

ABRAHAM
 He's from long island?

GABE
 Yep.

Abraham nods.

GABE (CONT'D)

And I was conceived in the
Himalayas.

Abraham squints.

GABE (CONT'D)

And delivered by SZA. (Pause) It
was pretty remarkable, she was only
1 at the time.

ABRAHAM

Okay?

GABE

Don't ask questions, it only gets
more convoluted.

They nod and lean back to relax.

GABE (CONT'D)

My godmother is Lauren Hill. Anne
Hathaway is my cousin. I was killed
on April 3rd when I was little and
brought back to life couple days
later by the same cats that
resurrected Haley Berry in the 2004
Cat Woman.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - PHYSICS CLASS - WEEK LATER

A+ TEST is slapped down on the lab table in front of Gabe.

Gabe's face lights up, he shoots a megawatt smile. A halo
forms around his head, a wind blows his Jew fro back and
choir music plays.

GABE

AH YES!

Abruptly Mr. Dennis slides the test away from him and moves
it one over to the cheerleader girl, KIRA, who sits at the
lab table with him. The music stops, the sassy wind stops and
the heavenly light turns off.

MR. DENNIS

That one's Kira's.

Gabe's face drops.

Dennis pulls out another test from his pile that he is handing out.

MR. DENNIS (CONT'D)

This one's yours.

He slaps the test down in front Gabe.

" - F - "

GABE

OH MY GOD! WHAT IS THIS?

MR. DENNIS

Didn't do so well.

GABE

What are these dashes?! IS THIS A MINUS SIGN?! DID I GET A NEGATIVE F MINUS?!

Dennis looks confused and picks up the paper.

MR. DENNIS

Oh this is Elliot's, sorry.

He hands the paper over to the jock, ELLIOT, sitting next to Kira. He looks at it and drops his head into his hands.

Dennis sifts through his papers again. He pulls a test out and once again, SLAPS it down in front of Gabe.

"A"

The halo light comes back, the choir music strikes up again.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

The choir music is still playing. Gabe is holding up his test above his head as he walks down the hallway.

He winks, points and nods at the kids passing by and they all look at him, confused and grossed out.

Gabe walks further down the hallway outside of Dean Brown's office. He looks into the window at her, lifts his shirt, and smears his gross man titties across the window as she watches.

He slaps the test onto the window to show his "A" off. She grimaces at him through the door window.

INT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY ATTIC - WEEK AFTER - EVENING

Gabe and Abraham are hovering over a lap top, looking at a big blown up picture of anime titties. Two perfectly traced circles outline them with dotted lines drawn through the center.

ABRAHAM

So if the Radius of Hatsune Miku's
breasticle is 5 inches, then-

Elaine pokes her head in. Gabe slams his computer closed.

GABE

MOM! GOD!

Pause.

GABE (CONT'D)

What do you need?

She smiles.

ELAINE

Nothing.

She leaves.

Abraham moves the laptop aside.

ABRAHAM

We need to give Spanish a shot for
a minute anyway.

GABE

Aight maestra.

ABRAHAM

Maestro.

They adjust their sitting positions. Abraham pulls a Spanish text book out.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)

So now you're working on future
tense in class. Say "we are going
to the movie theatre."

GABE

VAY-MOS A EAR AIL CINAY

ABRAHAM

You got the sentence right: vamos a
ir al cine.

(MORE)

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)
 But you're pronunciation is
 atypical of a white American.

Gabe sighs.

GABE
 I wanna get it. I wanna be one with
 the Spanish natives.

ABRAHAM
 Say it again.

GABE
 VAY-MOSS AY EAR ALL CEEN

ABRAHAM
 That's still pretty gross.

Gabe sighs again and throws his head back.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)
 I might know what to do.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - CAFETERIA - NEXT DAY

Gabe and Abraham are standing in the cafeteria, looking at the HH table (Hispanics in Hollister) from afar. They both look hesitant.

Gabe looks down at Abraham. They slowly make their way over to the table. The rowdy crew of Hispanic kids looks over at them intimidatingly.

GABE
 (Extreme emphasis on the
 "H")
 HHHHHola.

All the Hispanic kids jolt back in disgust and yell curses at each other in spanish como "Mierda" o "Coño."

Abraham looks up at Gabe.

ABRAHAM
 The "H" is supposed to be silent
 man.

Gabe looks over at the ring leader of the table, KEVIN. Kev has tattoos of owls on his arms that no one should have allowed him to get. His black hair is slicked back and he is wearing a shirt that is too tight.

Kevin stands up. He judges Gabe, looking him up and down.

KEVIN
What do you want?

Spanish guitar music plays in the background.

GABES FACE, EYES SQUINTED.

GABE
I want you to lead me. Teach me
your ways. Feed me plantain chips,
massage me with jojoba oil, touch
my soul with Latin lullabies, steam
my face and open my pores up with
boiling rice water.

The sassy guitar music stops. Kevin looks confused.

KEVIN
What?

GABE
Teach me Spanish.

Everyone at the table "ohhh"s.

Gabe shakes Kevin's hand.

GABE (CONT'D)
What was your name?

KEVIN
Ronaldo Kevin Pintos. But people
just call me Kev.

Gabe giggles a little.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
What?

GABE
No no it's just...pintos are a type
of bean right?

KEVIN
(confused)
Yeah?

GABE
Ronald Kevin Beans. That's so ugly.

Gabe laughs really loud. The table falls silent. Gabe notices
and stops laughing.

GABE (CONT'D)
 Sorry beanie boi.

He and Abraham sit down at the table with the crew.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - SPANISH CLASS - WEEK LATER

Gabe is sitting in Spanish class in his usual seat. Marin is standing at the front of the class, smiling way too big.

MS. MARIN
 I HAVE GOOD NEWS! YOU HAVE GOTTEN
 GREAT NOTAS ON YOUR LAST TEST!

She picks up the stack of tests on her desk. She walks over to Gabe. She lightly places his test down. "A++"

Sexy Spanish guitar music plays softly. A moderately strong wind blows towards Gabe's face.

CLOSE UP OF GABE'S FACE.

GABE
 (Pronounced perfectly)
 Gracias profesora.

She looks at Gabe with longing.

MS. MARIN
 (dramatically)
 De nada Gabriel.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - DEAN BROWN'S OFFICE - LATER THAT WEEK

Gabe is standing over Brown's desk with papers in his hands.

GABE
 I was Mr. Fischer's TA this week
 for photography class. I thought
 I'd show you what I've been working
 on.

Gabe sets the stack of papers down on the desk. They are pictures...of Gabe...nearly naked...in a toga...fanning himself with his A+ grade tests/papers.

She looks at it, then looks back up at Gabe. He winks at her and shoots her little snapping finger guns as he backs out of the office.

He leaves. She throws the pictures in the waste paper basket. She is PISSED.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - LIT CLASS - WEEKS LATER

All the kids are shuffling out of the classroom into the hallway. Gabe is putting his books back in his backpack.

Martling is in her usual dominatrix attire, watching Gabe get his things together.

Gabe heads to the door but Martling stops him.

MRS. MARTLING

Gabe. Can we have a moment?

He looks her up and down like he's expecting her to pounce on him.

GABE

Oh my GOD, is it finally happening?

She looks confused.

GABE (CONT'D)

(Whispering)

Take me.

He closes his eyes.

MRS. MARTLING

Gabe can you sit down please.

They sit down across from each other at desks.

MRS. MARTLING (CONT'D)

I've been very impressed with your broad interest in books. I've been very impressed by your discretionary effort.

Pause.

MRS. MARTLING (CONT'D)

But Gabe this last assignment I gave you, wasn't meant to be a deeply analytic research paper. It was a self reflective stream of consciousness creative piece.

Gabe sighs. Martling puts the paper in her hands down on the desk.

MRS. MARTLING (CONT'D)
 Although this is only the first draft, this was like a straight forward, boring biography written in the 3rd person and in past tense.

GABE
 There is not much to me to be completely honest.

She nudges him.

MRS. MARTLING
 There is always something.

Pause.

MRS. MARTLING (CONT'D)
 Remember this paper is due at the end of the year. It's your final piece that you must must must hand in before the final exam. It's a big chunk of your grade.

Gabe looks down.

EXT. COLUMBIA HIGH - FRONT YARD - AFTER SCHOOL

Gabe is walking out of the school's front doors. Abraham is waiting for him.

ABRAHAM
 Hey.

Gabe looks sad.

GABE
 Hey.

ABRAHAM
 What's going on?

GABE
 I gotta re-do this creative self portrait paper.

PING. Gabe takes his phone out of his pocket. A text notification on Gabe's phone pops up.

It's Lexi. He opens the message. It reads "Lake day today. Meet us in an hour." Gabe puts his phone back in his pocket.

INT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY ATTIC - EVENING

Gabe is slumped into his couch. His TV is off. Everything is quiet.

Muffled voices of people are heard. Gabe looks down at the floor.

INT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY - 2ND FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

The AA group is sitting in their usual circle in the room below Gabe. Margo is once again leading the group discussion.

Music BLASTS from above. Gabe is cranking "Blame it (on the alcohol)" by Jaime Foxx and T-Pain.

Margo looks up. She gets up, lifts her chair, and javelin throws it at the ceiling.

MARGO

AHHHHHHHH!

She picks the chair up and chucks it towards the ceiling again.

The ceiling CRACKS. The music stops.

Everyone in the AA meeting is frozen, watching the crack get a little bigger.

Silence.

BOOM. A big hole in the ceiling falls through. Everyone screams and retreats.

Silence. Everyone is quietly looking at the hole.

Gabe's face slowly peaks out over the hole and everyone is looking up at him.

GABE

(Mocking)

You done did an oopsie Margo.

She looks up at him, horrified by the damage.

INT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY - 2ND FLOOR - NEXT MORNING

Gabe and his father, Marshal, are standing in the AA room looking up at the hole.

MARSHAL

Um I might have some wood in the garage.

GABE

No. Leave it.

Marshal looks confused.

INT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY - 2ND FLOOR - EVENING

The next weekly AA meeting has communed in the room again.

No one is speaking, they are all looking up.

THE HOLE IN THE CEILING.

Everyone in the meeting is looking up. Silence.

A beer can is tossed through the hole. Dust falls. Paper towels and other garbage shoot through the hole and onto everyone.

INT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY ATTIC - CONTINUOUS

Gabe is lounging in his shower robe, on the couch. Abraham walks into the room with his bookbag.

ABRAHAM

Hey man, you ready?

Abraham walks forward towards the hole. Gabe jumps up from his couch to stop him.

GABE

Wait man! There's a h-

In his attempt to block Abraham, Gabe accidentally steps into the hole. The ceiling cracks further and he falls through the ceiling up to his torso.

His robe is entirely rolled up and his balls are dangling around all the faces of the AA members.

HORRIFIED FACES LOOK UP.

Margo faints.

EXT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY BACKYARD - A COUPLE DAYS LATER

Gabe walks outside, seeing Marshal work on Gabe's car again.

GABE
Greetings.

Marshal stops what he is doing.

MARSHAL
I like what you did with the
ceiling repair.

They both laugh.

GABE
I was going for a modern look.

MARSHAL
A modern look straight up your
ballsack.

Gabe laughs.

MARSHAL (CONT'D)
It's okay, us Norstein men are
known for our phenomenal sackage.

GABE
Really?

MARSHAL
No.

Awkward pause.

MARSHAL (CONT'D)
But seriously kid you're pretty
good with tools. You should
actually fix the hole this time.

Gabe smiles slightly.

GABE
Thanks marshmallow.

Marshal looks past Gabe, Gabe turns around. His stoner friend
group is huddled together on his driveway.

Gabe sighs and walks over to them. They don't look too happy.

GABE (CONT'D)
Hi.

Lexi looks frustrated.

LEXI
(Scowling)
You haven't talked to us in a long
time.

GABE
Y'all know I've been doing work.

LEXI
You missed Lake Day! It's our
tradition.

GABE
Stupid tradition, I can't even
swim. Do you remember what happened
last time I went.

FLASHBACK BEGIN:

CLOSE UP OF GABE GASPING FOR AIR AND SLAPPING AT THE WATER TO
STAY AFLOAT.

His stoner crew's screams are muffled in the background.

WIDE ESTABLISHING SHOT OF GABE DROWNING IN A TINY POND WHILE
THE CREW WAVES AT HIM.

FLASHBACK END.

GABE
The only thing that gave me the
strength to grab onto the buoy was
realizing it wasn't even a lake.

FLASHBACK BEGIN:

WOOD SIGN READING: SOUTH MOUNTAIN POND.

FLASHBACK END.

GABE
It's a pond. I wasn't gonna be the
dude who drowned in a pond.

Beat.

WILL
And you've been locking your doors
more so we can't get into your
room.

Gabe looks pissed. He looks around at the group.

GABE

You're mad because you haven't been able to use me for my room and bud?

Silence. Gabe looks at Lexi.

GABE (CONT'D)

Lexi. You're an mentally ill kleptomaniac with no interest in getting better.

Gabe looks at Will.

GABE (CONT'D)

Will. You care more about what direction your hair is swooping in, than the world around you.

Gabe looks at Maya.

GABE (CONT'D)

You lie about having a new terminal disease every other week simply for attention.

He looks at Jaida.

GABE (CONT'D)

You have, at some point, SLEPT with everyone's significant other within this group. I don't know why they like you!

He looks at Ricky.

GABE (CONT'D)

RICKY CUT YOU'RE FUCKING HAIR AND GET A GLASS EYE TO REPLACE THE HOLE!

They all scowl at him.

LEXI

Fine.

They walk away.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - REGISTRAR OFFICE - NIGHT

Dean Brown is alone in the school. She is looking around the files in a guidance counselor's room.

She pulls out Gabe's school file. She sits down at a computer and turns it on.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - HALLWAY - DAY AFTER

Gabe is walking through the hallway. He passed Kevin and a couple of his buddies and daps them up.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - PHYSICS CLASS - MOMENTS LATER

Gabe is sitting at his usual lab table spot. Before Dennis starts off class, he slyly slips Gabe a form and walks back up to the front of the class.

Gabe flips it over. It reads "Academic Warning." Gabe looks completely confused.

MR. DENNIS
(To the class)
Okay shut up.

The giggles and whispering in the class subsides.

MR. DENNIS (CONT'D)
In a couple weeks the school is hosting the annual science fair in the cafeteria, since it's the only room with air conditioning. AND! It's not mandatory but if there is anyone that's been struggling with grades...

He looks over at Gabe.

MR. DENNIS (CONT'D)
Participating could make up for a lot.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - PHYSICS CLASS - END OF CLASS

When the students gather their things and head out of the room, Gabe approaches Dennis.

GABE
Denni boi.

MR. DENNIS
Mr. Dennis.

GABE
Why did you give me this?

He gestures at the warning paper.

MR. DENNIS

The main office left it in my mailbox for you, this morning.

GABE

I've been getting all A's you know that.

MR. DENNIS

I don't know Gabe I can't remember every single grade of yours. For some reason, I can't seem to find most of your assignments' hard copies. I'm sure they will turn up. Until then, you need to improve your performance.

Gabe, defeated, leaves the room in a huff.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - FOYER - MOMENTS LATER

Gabe is walking towards the front doors to leave. Brown is standing by the doors, smiling at Gabe suspiciously.

Gabe notices the fishy feeling and approaches Brown. She is still smiling demonically.

GABE

You tryin' to shit in my fishing boots woman?

She is taken aback by the weird wording of that accusation.

DEAN BROWN

Not at all Gabriel.

He squints. He walks right up to her face. He makes a western movie Mexican stand off sound.

GABE

(Whistling poorly)
Oooweeeeoooweeeeoooo.

He leaves.

INT. HOME DEPOT - LATER THAT WEEK

Gabe is browsing home depot with Abraham. For some unknown reason Gabe has his Jew fro tied up in a mini bun on the very top of his head.

ABRAHAM

My mom doesn't like me using power tools or anything.

GABE

I'll take care of that young one.

INT. DEAN BROWN'S HOME - DAUGHTER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Brown slowly pushes a creaky door open. Peering in, she looks around at a messy room.

There are posters of half naked models on the walls. The floor is covered in clothes.

Brown steps carefully towards the dresser and moves some clothes off of it and out of the way. She picks up a fishnet shirt, frowning at it, and then tosses it down.

She opens the top drawer and sifts through the clothes, pulling out a little baggie of weed.

EXT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY BACKYARD - THE NEXT DAY

Abraham and Gabe are standing by the open garage with working equipment on. They are wearing aprons, goggles, gloves, and boots.

Gabe lifts up a blowtorch and turns it on.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - HALLWAY - THAT NIGHT

Dean Brown is alone in the school at night. She is walking down the hallway looking at the lockers.

She stops at one locker. She pulls a post it note out of her pocket and puts in the combination on the lock, opening the locker.

She pulls out the baggie of weed and places it behind books on the one shelf.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - CAFETERIA - LATER THAT WEEK

The cafeteria is flooded with students, standing next to big posters. Inventions are set up on tables and around the floor.

Abraham and Gabe are quietly standing next to each other in front of their poster board that reads "HATE-A-BLOCKAZ." It just has a terribly drawn illustration of a cat wearing glasses in the middle of the poster.

A few plain looking administration representatives and a couple teachers approach their stand.

Gabe and Abraham look awkwardly at each other and begin their presentation.

GABE

(Clearly rehearsed)

We have put together an invention that will aid our special needs students at the school that are on the autism spectrum.

Abraham moves the poster aside, revealing their invention behind it.

It's a small pair of glasses with rainbow lenses.

The judges look at each other, confused. Gabe picks up the invention and places it on Abraham's face.

GABE (CONT'D)

As you can see, these are simple glasses that do not infringe upon any school clothing policies.

Gabe takes out his phone from his backpack.

GABE (CONT'D)

People with autism generally have sensitivity to almost everything: touch, sound, light and colors.

Gabe opens up the music app on his phone.

GABE (CONT'D)

There are glasses that can be worn that essentially just function as sunglasses. These however, train eyes to become accustomed to colors and light.

He presses play.

GABE (CONT'D)

And in the ear hooks of the glasses I've installed earbuds. Music therapy is another method of treatment.

One of the judges speaks up.

JUDGE
Earbuds are not allowed in schools.

Beat.

JUDGE (CONT'D)
So it does break rules.

Gabe clenches his teeth.

GABE
If not used for music it can be
used as ear plugs. Not against the
rules.

The judges look around.

JUDGE
And have you even tested these out.

Abraham looks at Gabe, unprepared for the question.

GABE
Yes.

Abraham looks confused.

GABE (CONT'D)
On myself. I have Asperger's.

The judges look at each other. Abraham looks surprised.

JUDGE
Very good Gabe... and Abraham.

They walk away. Gabe glances over at Abraham. They are both silent for a moment.

ABRAHAM
I didn't know-

GABE
No worries. It's not a big deal.

Gabe hesitates, then walks out of the cafeteria.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Gabe is walking down the hallway. At the end of the hallway he sees Dean Brown talking to a couple security guards.

She notices Gabe and nods in his direction, notifying the guards.

Gabe squints, confused as to why they are motioning to him. The guards turn around and run full force at him. Not knowing what's happening, Gabe runs away from them.

They get closer and closer to him. Finally they SLAM him against lockers.

BLACK.

EXT. MAPLEWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT - LATER

Marshal is standing outside the station, waiting for Gabe.

Beat.

Gabe steps out of the station and sees his dad. He is led out by an officer.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Marshal and Gabe are sitting in the car outside the police station. There is a long silence between them.

MARSHAL

The one time you're actually not smoking you get slammed.

They break the silence with laughing.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - DEAN BROWN'S OFFICE - NEXT DAY

Gabe is sitting across from Brown.

LONG silence.

Gabe leans forward, resting his elbows on the desk, linking his fingers together.

GABE

I'm not doing this again with you.

DEAN BROWN

Then leave.

GABE

I did this twice before, I'm finishing out school.

DEAN BROWN

That power is not in your hands. We can have you suspended or expelled.

Gabe leans back in his seat.

GABE

I think you just can't stand it.

DEAN BROWN

Stand what Gabriel?

GABE

That this time I'm not in Special Ed yet I've been acing my classes.

DEAN BROWN

Please. Gabriel that's ridiculous. You-

Gabe stands up quickly, his book bag knocking a picture frame over on the desk. CRACK.

Beat.

Brown looks down at the frame laying flat on her desk. After a moment, her eyes water a bit and she stands up.

DEAN BROWN (CONT'D)

You can take the fall. Or you can tell the board who the dealer was.

GABE

(Angry)

I don't know Brenda, who was your dealer?

Beat.

DEAN BROWN

Your little friend is something to consider.

Gabe looks angrier.

DEAN BROWN (CONT'D)

I mean, it would be easy for the board to believe since you two spend all your time together.

GABE

No.

DEAN BROWN

Well what is your want? Your goal?
The main drive of this story that
will be assessed at the end. Do you
want your story to end negative or
positive on the want line?

Gabe glares at her, saying nothing. He storms out of the office.

Brown sits back down and sets the cracked picture frame upright. Its a picture of toddler Lexi.

INT. MAIN OFFICE WAITING ROOM - LATER

Gabe is sitting, with his head bowed down.

Beat.

A security guard walks in with Abraham. They look at Gabe, but he doesn't look up. The guard leads abraham into the office.

Gabe puts his hands over his face. Brown shows up at the door.

DEAN BROWN

You might have to find a new tutor.

Gabe looks up and over at her, scowling.

MONTAGE:

INT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY ATTIC

Sad violin music is playing in the background. Gabe finishes up a blunt and reaches up to put the roach in the "fuck it bucket" hanging from the ceiling.

Beat.

The can falls off it's string and hits Gabe in the head. The roaches go everywhere.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - LIT CLASS

Gabe is sitting alone in his Lit class.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - HALLWAY

Gabe walks past Dean Brown in the hallway, who is looking at Gabe with a smile.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - CAFETERIA

Gabe is sitting alone at a lunch table. The sad violin music gets louder. Gabe looks to his right and sees a dorky, ginger headed BAND KID playing violin.

GABE

Can you not?

The kid awkwardly stops and walks away.

END MONTAGE.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - SPANISH CLASS - DAY

Gabe is sitting in his normal seat. Ms. Marin approaches Gabe and softly slides a test onto his desk, "C."

MS. MARIN

What's going on Gabe?

He looks up at her.

INT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY ATTIC - NIGHT

Gabe is sitting on his couch, with a big bong resting between his knees.

It's clear that he is holding his breathe.

Beat.

He exhales a massive cloud of smoke. Elaine pokes her head into the room, catching a face full of smoke. She coughs and waves her hand in front of her face.

GABE

Necesito un sober.

ELAINE

You need one sober?

Gabe looks up at his mom. He tilts his head back on the couch and groans.

ELAINE (CONT'D)
 Only one? You sure you don't need
 more sobers?

GABE
 I'm loosin' my juice.

ELAINE
 Darling we have some in the fridge.

Gabe looks back at his mom.

GABE
 Not that kind of juice. I got a C
 on a test.

Beat.

ELAINE
 You should call Abraham.

GABE
 He's not talking to me right now.

ELAINE
 Friends always fight. I'm sure
 everything will be fine.

Gabe exhales, stressed.

EXT. ABRAHAM'S HOUSE - FRONT LAWN - DAY

Gabe pulls up in front of Abraham's house with his old
 mercedes. He cranks the car into park.

He crawls out of the car and trips. He gets back up, reaches
 in his car to get speakers.

Gabe thumps over to the house and stands below one of the
 windows.

He hold the two portable speakers up over his head. He
 presses a button on the side of one speaker. "Believe" by
 Cher blasts.

Beat.

Abraham's little face peaks out from the window. He opens it
 up and looks out at Gabe.

GABE
 (singing along)
 DO YOU BELIEVE IN LIFE AFTER LOVE!
 (MORE)

GABE (CONT'D)
 (Whispering)
 I love you.
 (Sing/yelling again)
 I FEEL SOMETHING INSIDE ME SAY! BUT
 I REALLY DON'T THINK YOU'RE STRONG
 ENOUGH NOW!

Abraham goes back into his room for a moment and comes back with a nerf gun.

He shoots at Gabe. In the middle of singing, the foam bullet flies into his mouth. The music stops and Gabe chokes. He falls to his knees and coughs.

Beat.

Gabe breathes again normally.

GABE (CONT'D)
 Oh my god I tried to cough it out.

Abraham looks grossed out.

GABE (CONT'D)
 I swallowed it.

Abraham continues to cringe and Gabe stands back up. He looks up at Abraham with his arms outreached.

GABE (CONT'D)
 Abraham.

ABRAHAM
 You need to go home Gabe.

GABE
 Abraham Lincoln.

ABRAHAM
 We aren't friends anymore.

GABE
 Mr. President please.

ABRAHAM
 YOU FUCKED UP MY LIFE GABE!

Silence.

Gabe's arms drop to his side and he looks down in shame.

GABE
 I'm s-

ABRAHAM

I KNOW YOU WANT TO GRADUATE GABE!
AND I KNOW BROWN IS A BITCH! BUT
YOU JUST DOOMED ME TO THE SAME FATE
AS YOU!

GABE

I HEARD YOU'RE AT AN EVEN BETTER
SCHOOL! A PRIVATE SCHOOL!

Abraham looks off into the distance and smolders.

ABRAHAM

I'VE BEEN LIVING MY LIFE AS AN
OUTLAW!

GABE

YOU'RE LITERALLY HOME!

ABRAHAM

SCAVENGING FOR FOOD IN DUMPSTERS.

GABE

YOU'RE UPPER MIDDLE CLASS!

ABRAHAM

NOT THE POINT! YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO
BE MY FRIEND!

Beat.

GABE

I'm sorry.

Abraham shakes his head.

ABRAHAM

Don't come back here. I don't want
to see your face in this town ever
again.

GABE

We live within a 3 miles radius-

Abraham shuts the window. Gabe stands there for an awkward
silent moment.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - LIT CLASS - DAY

Gabe is sitting in his lit class, looking miserable. All the
kids are shuffling out of the room.

Gabe has zoned out. Martling walks over to him and sits at the desk to his left.

MRS. MARTLING
Have you been working on the paper
we talked about.

Gabe snaps out of it.

GABE
Yeah yeah I got it.

MRS. MARTLING
You've been doing an impressive job
and I want you to stay focused.

Gabe looks to her with an earnest expression.

GABE
Thanks mom-

They both look confused. Gabe's face goes red.

GABE (CONT'D)
NO!

He gets up, grabs his bag, and shuffles to the door with his hands covering his face.

GABE (CONT'D)
So embarrassing.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - CAFETERIA - LATER

Gabe is standing in the lunch line. He is towering over all the kids.

Silence.

The line moves an inch and stops again.

Silence.

After an awkward amount of time passes, Gabe reaches the food. The LUNCH LADY is standing behind the counter.

She is definitely over 70, with wispy short hair, wrinkled off-white skin, and a big sagging stomach.

GABE
Curly fries please.

She gives him a little scoop, of about 5 fries.

GABE (CONT'D)
Is this joke to you?

She stares at him, looking unimpressed.

GABE (CONT'D)
I am a husky man. I wear beefy
hanes. I have the body of a god.

Gabe lifts his shirt slightly, revealing his gross beer belly. The lady's face crinkles in disgust.

GABE (CONT'D)
A god needs his curly bois.

Beat.

GABE (CONT'D)
Give. Me. My. Curly. Bois.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - CAFETERIA - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

Gabe's tray is only curly fries. He is walking past the "Hispanics in Hollister" table. He stops to talk to Kevin.

GABE
Hey man can you help me this week.
I'm losing my fuego and need some
help studying.

Kevin nods at him.

KEVIN
You got it man.

They perform an elaborate hand shake, ending with a hand butterfly motion.

Gabe continues to walk forward, looking around at the different tables.

He looks at the band kids' table. He sees a chubby tuba player struggling to open is apple sauce. Gabe walks over to the table.

It takes the kid a moment to notice Gabe standing over him.

GABE
Having sauce problems?

The tuba kid nods. Gabe sits down across from him.

GABE (CONT'D)

Listen I need a new tutor. Are you
down?

The band kid stares at him.

GABE (CONT'D)

I'll open all your sauces for you.

TUBA BOY

The smart kids are in orchestra.
This is band.

Gabe looks to his left and sees the Orchestra kids, sitting
with great posture at their table, eating in silence.

Gabe awkwardly looks back to the tuba kid. He abruptly gets
up and shuffles across the floor, sliding into the bench of
the Orchestra table, all while maintaining eye contact with
tuba boy.

He turns his head to the kid sitting across from him. It's an
Asian girl, JANE, who is staring at Gabe with a blank
expression.

GABE

Hey.

JANE

Hey.

GABE

I'm Gabe.

JANE

Jane.

Awkward silence.

GABE

So you good at school?

Beat.

JANE

Yep.

GABE

Wanna be my tutor?

JANE

Yeah.

GABE
Really?

JANE
No.

Silence.

GABE
I'll trade you.

JANE
For what?

GABE
A service.

JANE
What kind?

GABE
I can fix your electric keyboard.

JANE
I play the upright bass.

Beat.

GABE
I can craft you a mechanical self
rolling sushi roller.

JANE
I'm Chinese.

Longer Beat.

GABE
I can make adjustment to your car
so it self drives.

JANE
Why do I need that?

GABE
Don't make me say it.

Silence.

JANE
That's pretty r-

GABE
I know I'm sorry.

INT. JANE'S HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Gabe and Jane are crouching, looking at the device sitting on the kitchen counter. The little flat device is covered with sea weed, rice, and fish.

Gabe is holding a button panel in his hand. He presses the button.

The machine slowly folds in and perfect creates a roll of sushi. Gabe and Jane look to each other and nod in approval.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - PHYSICS CLASS - DAY

Gabe is sitting in class. Mr. Dennis is walking around the room giving graded papers back.

He gets to Gabe and places 3 papers down on top of each other, each marked with A+.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - CAFETERIA - LATER

Gabe is standing up, over the orchestra table, holding his A+ assessments over his head.

GABE
YYYYYEEAAHHHHH!

He looks down at Jane. She has a plate with a pyramid stack of sushi rolls on it.

GABE (CONT'D)
Thank you.

Jane, for the first time, cracks a small smile.

GABE (CONT'D)
ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR JANE!

Gabe grabs a conduction baton from the table, raises his arms, and conducts the table to CLAP twice in perfect time together.

The band table looks over at the commotion. The tuba kid, looks over at Jane, and she awkwardly looks back at him, blushing.

Gabe notices this, looking back and forth between the two. He sits back down across from Jane.

GABE (CONT'D)
You wanna blow that kid's tuba or
what?

She recoils in embarrassment.

JANE
NO!

GABE
I saw that little eye fu-

JANE
NO CURSING!

GABE
Fine what do we call it? Let's call
it boink.

She looks annoyed.

GABE (CONT'D)
I saw that eye boink.

Jane sighs.

JANE
We don't associate with their kind.

Gabe looks over at tuba boy who is fumbling around with his
apple sauce container.

GABE
These groups are weird. It's like
each of you are incestuous
families.

JANE
We aren't!

GABE
You are telling me you guys don't
dry hump each other on Friday
evenings before dinner time with
the fam?

Silence.

GABE (CONT'D)
Right. Break the cycle.

Jane sighs.

Gabe leans forward and speaks into her ear.

GABE (CONT'D)
(Whispering)
Open his apple sauce.

Beat. She looks at Gabe, then back at the tuba boy.

She rises slowly from the table, and walks over. Tuba kid, in shock, doesn't say anything. She abruptly SNATCHES the apple sauce out of his hands and opens it. She puts it back down on the table.

Silence.

Slight smiles start to grow on each of their faces.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - HALLWAY - DAY

Jane and tuba boy are walking down the hallway holding hands. Dean Brown is standing idly by, watching this.

Her face fixes into a scowl. Anxiety inducing music from "Law and Order" plays in the background, matching her expression.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - CAFETERIA - DAY

Gabe is looking around the cafeteria, holding a tray with 12 layer sandwich balancing in the middle.

Two big tables are pushed together. The band kids and orchestra kids are sitting together.

Jane is waving for Gabe to sit with them. He nods at them, but continues to look around.

Gabe looks at the "Mean Girls Club" table. He saunters over to them.

GABE
Hi.

They all laugh at him, then turn back to each other to continue their conversations.

GABE (CONT'D)
Hello.

They turn back to him. One of the girls, Evvie, looks Gabe up and down.

EVVIE
What?!

Gabe tries to sit down between a couple people but they are trying to push together to keep the space closed.

Gabe finally squeezes in between them.

EVVIE (CONT'D)
You can't sit with us.

GABE
Okay Regina relax, I'll let you get back to your yelp reviews in a minute.

She crosses her arms.

EVVIE
It's Evvie. And what do you want?

GABE
Daddy's got a proposition for ya.

EVVIE
Ew!

GABE
No not like that shut up.

Beat.

GABE (CONT'D)
If you help me improve my image
I'll provide you with one service.

She opens her mouth to speak but Gabe cuts her off.

GABE (CONT'D)
Except promote an all lives matter
thing your probably into.

She opens her mouth again.

GABE (CONT'D)
Or help you burn down Super Cuts.

She tries to speak.

GABE (CONT'D)
Or buy you alcohol.

Beat.

GABE (CONT'D)
But I can...fix your hoverboards.

The table falls completely silence. They all give Gabe their undivided attention.

GABE (CONT'D)

All the guys had their boards explode. I can modify them, so they wont. Plus! I'll add speakers in the wheels.

The kids all look at each other, whispering. Evvie turns back to Gabe.

EVVIE

Deal.

She reaches over and shakes his hand.

INT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY ATTIC BEDROOM - EVENING

Gabe is in his room, throwing dirty clothes in his closet in a rush.

There are two tiny KNOCKS at his bedroom doors.

Beat.

Evvie cranks the double doors to his room, open. She looks around at the posters and trash on the floor, trying to step around it.

EVVIE

Move.

She swats Gabe out of the way and goes straight for his dresser. She opens a drawer and rummages through his clothes.

She freezes, and turns to him.

EVVIE (CONT'D)

Are you shiting me?

GABE

I shit you not.

Evvie lifts up an XXL shirt with an anime woman on it with huge boobs

EVVIE

Are you contractually bound to hot topic and zumies?

GABE
You just don't appreciate Japanese
animation.

He snatches it from her hands.

EVVIE
Okay there is nothing here we can
use.

She steps back over the trash on the floor, towards the
doors.

EVVIE (CONT'D)
Let's go.

MONTAGE:

INT. LIVINGSTON MALL - H&M - DAY

Gabe is following Evvie around the store as she rips clothes
off their hangers.

INT. LIVINGSTON MALL - VANS - DAY

Evvie is skimming the selection of shoes. She stops on a pair
of perfectly white vans.

INT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY ATTIC - BATHROOM - DAY

Gabe is sitting on the toilet and Evvie is feeling his hair.
She grabs her flattening iron from her bag and plugs it in.

EVVIE STRAIGHTENING GABE'S JEW FRO.

THE STRAIGHTENER SMOKING.

THE FIRE ALARM GOES OFF.

END MONTAGE.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - HALLWAY - DAY

Mariah Carey's "touch me" song plays.

GABE'S FEET IN WHITE VANS.

GABE'S BEEFY LEGS IN REALLY TIGHT WHITE WASH JEANS.

GABE'S CHUNKY TORSO IN A SKIN TIGHT MUSCLE T.

AND FINALLY... GABE'S JUSTIN BEIBER HAIR SWOOP.

A heavy, dramatic wind is blowing his swoop back. The teenage girls in the hallway are swooning. The teachers are all standing at the doors of their classrooms, cringing.

Gabe winks and finger guns at everyone.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - SPANISH CLASS - LATER

Gabe saunters into spanish class, clearly struggling to walk normally because his pants are too tight.

He gets to his chair and has to angle his body to slide into his seat.

Ms. Marin watches him uncomfortably. Gabe nods at her.

GABE

Que pas pas?

MS. MARIN

Gabe! What happened?

GABE

You like?

Gabe gestures at his body.

MS. MARIN

No.

His face drops.

MS. MARIN (CONT'D)

You look like a sausage that doesn't fit in the casing.

Gabe's breathing is labored.

MS. MARIN (CONT'D)

Why you breathe like that?

The whole class is watching him.

GABE

I can't breathe in this.

MS. MARIN

Stop breathing like that. Stop.

Gabe holds his breathe.

MS. MARIN (CONT'D)
AY! My god don't hold your breathe.

Gabe lets out his breathe.

MS. MARIN (CONT'D)
Jesus Gabe.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - GYM - DAY

Gabe is laying on he floor of the gym and Evvie is standing over him. A jock boy, CHADLY, is standing next to her.

EVVIE
We aren't done yet.

Gabe is doing imaginary snow angles on the floor.

EVVIE (CONT'D)
Stop.

He freezes.

EVVIE (CONT'D)
This is Chadly. He's going to train you.

GABE
To get washboard abs?

EVVIE
No your body is too far gone.

Gabe looks down at his gut.

CHADLY
I'm gonna show you how to master all the P.E. games so you can impresses the bitches.

Evvie winks at chad.

GABE
Young women.

CHADLY
What?

Gabe is somehow still panting from breathing restraint.

GABE
Say it with me Chadly. Young.
Women.

CHADLY
Bitches.

GABE
Women.

CHADLY
Females.

GABE
Women.

CHADLY
Chicks.

GABE
Women.

CHADLY
Broads.

GABE
Women.

CHADLY
Hoes.

GABE
You're gonna run out of options
Chadly. Say it.

Chadly hesitates, like it physically hurts him to say the word "women."

CHADLY
W-w-w

GABE
That's it.

CHADLY
Wom-wom- women.

Gabe claps and cheers.

GABE
Good boy chadly.

Gabe nods at Evvie.

GABE (CONT'D)
 Look at that! Not all heros wear
 capes.

Evvie disregards him.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - GYM - LATER

In the middle of the room, a small net is set up. Chadly is standing on one side, holding a petite racket and tiny birdie ball.

Gabe is on the other side of the net, hunched over, panting.

GABE
 I didn't think it was a real sport
 until now.

CHADLY
 We didn't start yet.

GABE
 (Huffing)
 WOOO!

Gabe stand back up.

Chadly serves the birdie. It slowly and gently flies over the net and towards Gabe.

Gabe holds his racket in both hands and SWATS the birdie way too hard and it shoots straight down and hits the floor.

Chadly looks down at the birdie on the floor and sighs.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - GYM CLASS - DAY

Fergie's live cover of the star spangled banner plays in the background. Gabe steps into the class.

Tracking up Gabe's body:

JORDANS.

HIGH SOCKS.

TIGHT BOOTY SHORTS.

WHITE SEE-THROUGH FISH NET SHIRT.

VISOR.

Gabe is standing, confidently, holding a racket over his shoulder.

All the kids look on in shock, the tall and beefy gym teacher, MS. DEMPSY, looks disgusted.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - GYM CLASS - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

Tiny nets are set up across the gym room. All the kids are paired up with each other.

Gabe is standing at a net, across from a little brunette girl, wearing a crop top and chewing gum.

GABE

What's your name?

She doesn't answer. She only smacks her gum.

GABE (CONT'D)

You name is-

(He makes the chewing
sound)

?

She still doesn't say anything. Gabe shrugs it off and serves the birdie with one handed perfection.

It soars over the net and softly lands on the ground. His random gym partner just watches it while it fell.

GABE (CONT'D)

You're supposed to hit it.

She twirls her hair.

Frustrated, Gabe ducks under the net, grabs the birdie off the floor, and stands behind the girl.

He holds her by the wrist, bringing the racket up. He tosses the birdie up and moves her hand and racket to hit it back across the net.

GABE (CONT'D)

Like that. See?

She looks over her shoulder at Gabe. She starts to crack a small smile.

Gabe looks deeply into her eye, and she looks back at him.

Beat.

GABE (CONT'D)
 (In a low, trying to be
 sexy, voice)
 I think you have dirt in your eye.

She giggles and Gabe walks slowly back over to the other side of the net.

Beat.

IN SLOW MOTION:

Gabe grabs the birdie off the ground. The girl watches as he stands up slowly with his ass pushed out.

He tosses his beiber swoop to the side. The girl breathes heavily.

He spins the racket in his hand. The girl chews her gum faster.

Gabe serves the birdie over the net. The girl watches the ball, preparing for it. She holds her racket up. She SWING and misses, the birdie diving right down the front of her shirt.

She looks down in shock, looks back up, and giggles. Gabe nods at her and winks.

Ms. Dempsy is cringing in the background.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - CAFETERIA - DAY

Gabe is walking away from the lunch line with a tray full of only muscle milks.

As he walks towards the tables, ZIP ZIP ZIP, the popular crew of kids rolls past him on their hoverboards.

They turn around and stop in front of Gabe.

EVVIE
 You made a name for yourself
 Gabriel.

GABE
 Badminton is the game of champions.

Chadly nods approvingly.

CHADLY
 Thanks for the hover fixes dude.

Gabe nods at them. Most of the massive crew turns away to go find their lunch table. Chadly is lagging behind. He's staring at the conjoined band and orchestra tables.

CHADLY (CONT'D)

What happened?

Gabe pats him on the shoulder.

GABE

They've joined forces.

CHADLY

Gross.

GABE

I don't think so.

Beat. Gabe looks around like he just realized something.

GABE (CONT'D)

You should talk to them.

Chadly looks disturbed.

CHADLY

The band bit-

Gabe gives him a stern look.

Beat.

GABE

How bout just the wind instrument girls. Baby steps.

CHADLY

Why?

GABE

WIND INSTRUMENTS CHADLY!

CHADLY

WHY?!

GABE

Breath control, well developed tongue muscles... come on Chadly.

Chadly starts to nod in approval, looking over at the wind instrument girls.

Gabe gets closer to Chadly and puts his mouth right next to his ear.

GABE (CONT'D)
 (Whispering)
 It's always the quiet ones that are
 freaks.

A drop of sweat rolls down Chad's face.

GABE (CONT'D)
 (Whispering even quieter)
 Go get a little strange...for a
 little piece a change.

A music girl locks eyes with Chadly.

GABE (CONT'D)
 (Whispering)
 What will Evvie do for you? Give
 you a samsung quality handy and
 complain about how her parents
 didn't let her go to coachella?

Chadly is in a trance, looking at the band girl, his
 breathing is heavier. He nods, agreeing with Gabe.

CHADLY
 Yeah probably.

GABE
 (Whispering)
 Mix up the gene pool brother.

CHADLY
 Okay.

Chadly walks away and towards the music girl.

Gabe wipes away an imaginary tear.

GABE
 They grow up so fast.

Far behind Gabe, Dean Brown is talking to a custodian. She
 notices Chadly approach the music kids. She looks at Gabe.
 Her face contorts in anger.

She watches Gabe as he goes to sit down at the theatre kids
 table, and storms off, leaving the custodian confused.

The kids at the table look at Gabe, off put by his presence.

GABE (CONT'D)
 How doth it go?

A blond girl with a long Rapunzel like braid, named ALLY, is sitting next to Gabe. She is wearing a beige and pink corseted dress.

A boy that looks like a slightly overweight harry potter named, ELI, is sitting across from gabe. He is wearing a dark cloak.

All the kids at the table are in different costumes.

ELI

Yes?

GABE

I just wanted to pop a squat.

Eli squints and Ally leans away from him.

ELI

Only theatre kids can sit here.

Gabe dramatically looks into Eli's eyes.

GABE

Red leather.

ALLY

Don't say it Eli.

Eli looks like he is trying to hold in a fart.

GABE

Yellow leather.

Eli's face goes red.

ALLY

Eli don't!

Gabe continues.

GABE

Red. Leather.

ALLY

ELI!

ELI

SHUT UP ALLY!

GABE

(Whispering)
Yellow leather.

Eli lets out a whimper.

GABE (CONT'D)
 (Slow motion)
 Red leather.

Eli bursts.

ELI
 YELLOW LEATHER! RED LEATHER YELLOW
 LEATHER RED LEATHER YELLOW LEATHER!

Ally's head drops into her hands. Eli catches his breath.

ELI (CONT'D)
 Okay. What do you want?

GABE
 A mentor.

Eli looks puzzled.

GABE (CONT'D)
 I gots the performance anxiety. You
 can imagine that it hinders me in
 more than one way.

ELI
 No what do you mean?

GABE
 Never mind.

Beat.

GABE (CONT'D)
 Help me with my confidence and I'll
 do you a solid, possibly a liquid,
 maybe a gas.

ELI
 I don't need help.

Gabe looks around. He leans in, to whisper something
 privately to Eli.

GABE
 (Whispering to Eli)
 I heard the West Side Story props
 director dropped out 'cause he got
 mono.

Eli falls silence for a moment. Everyone at the table is
 looking at him, waiting for a response.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - CLASSROOM - AFTER SCHOOL

The theatre kids are pushing the desks and chairs against the walls of the classroom. Everyone makes a circle in the middle of the room.

Gabe walks in and looks around. Eli notices him.

ELI
Hello Gabriel.

GABE
Just Gabe.

ELI
Get in the circle.

Gabe walks over and stands next to Ally. She looks at him, and leans a little bit away from him.

ELI (CONT'D)
It's Friday, so do we know what that means?

GABE
Yes.

Eli looks over at Gabe, annoyed.

ELI
WHAT...does it mean Gabe?

GABE
That it's Friday.

Eli nods.

ELI
You're a simple man.

Beat.

ELI (CONT'D)
It means today we play "I love you baby."

Ally claps, too enthusiastic and startles Gabe.

GABE
(To Ally)
Stop doing coke.

She looks down, ashamed.

ELI

Someone will be chosen to go around the circle saying "You know I love you baby, wont you please please smile." The job of everyone in the circle, is to keep a straight face and respond "you know I love you baby but I just can't smile." If you crack, you lose.

Everyone nods.

ELI (CONT'D)

Gabe. You're up first. Go around the circle.

Gabe looks around and awkwardly walks into the middle of the circle.

GABE

Uhhhhh.

He approaches Ally.

GABE (CONT'D)

You know I have, really strong feeling for you, can you smile please?

ELI

STOP!

The room is quiet for a moment. Eli pinches the bridge of his nose.

ELI (CONT'D)

That's not the line Gabe.

GABE

I just feel like "love" is such a strong word. We toss it around like it's meaningless. Us melenials have lost true romanticism.

Eli exhales, frustrated.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - AUDITORIUM - EVENING

Gabe is hammering wooden pieces together in one of the isles in the auditorium.

The theatre kids are in rehearsal. Eli and Ally walk out onto stage. Ally is painted in tan-ish yellow face paint.

ELI
(Singing)
Mariiiiaaaaaa!

ALLY
(In a bad Puerto Rican
accent)
Toooooonnyyy!

Gabe looks up, confused as to what he is seeing.

GABE
(To himself)
Is she wearing?....

Eli continues to sing.

ELI
I just met a girl named Mariiiiaaaa!

Gabe gets up and walks over to the stage. He knocks against the stage.

GABE
Guys.

Eli and Ally stop singing and look at Gabe.

GABE (CONT'D)
What's uh- what's happening?

ALLY
We're in rehearsal Gabe.

Gabe points Ally.

GABE
You got a little.

She looks confused and wipes her cheek.

GABE (CONT'D)
No you got a little.

Gabe gestures to her whole face.

ALLY
What?

Ally looks to Eli.

ELI

No Gabe this is her costume. Her character is Puerto Rican! Have you ever seen a play!

GABE

You got play money?

Silence.

GABE (CONT'D)

Didn't think so.

Pause.

GABE (CONT'D)

That's not okay.

ELI

We need to distinguish the whites from the Puerto Ricans.

Gabe squints.

GABE

1. Hispanic is an ethnicity, not a color. 2. We have a diverse student body. Set up auditions.

ELI

No! Ally is the only Maria I'll accept.

Gabe looks at Ally.

GABE

Say "quesadilla."

ALLY

(In a horrific accent)
QOOWEH-SAY-DILL-UH

Silence. Gabe looks at Eli.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - HALLWAY - DAY

Gabe approaches an emo vape kid, CHRISTIAN, who is putting books away in his locker.

GABE

Hey.

Christian looks at Gabe, confused.

CHRISTIAN

Hey?

GABE

What's up?

CHRISTIAN

What do you want?

Gabe leans against the lockers

GABE

Christian, right?

He nods.

GABE (CONT'D)

Look me in the eyes Christian.

Christian squints, repulsed.

GABE (CONT'D)

We both know that the Vape Nation
cloud olympics are coming up.

CHRISTIAN

So?

GABE

Have you been practicing your
clouds?

CHRISTIAN

Do you breathe air?

Gabe nods slowly.

GABE

Good, good.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - BASEMENT HALLWAY - DAY

Gabe is standing in the hallway of the school's basement.
It's dark and gross and quiet.

He takes a breath, and walks down the hallway towards a room.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - BASEMENT CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Gabe walks into the classroom. A big group of kids are
sitting at the desks, eating their lunch.

Gabe pulls a chair up to sit next to them. Gabe looks at two kids sitting next to each other, MIRANDA and DJ.

Miranda is wearing a floral pink shirt, bell bottom jeans, and her hair is in adorable twists.

DJ is wearing magnifying goggles, a big sweatshirt, and pj pants.

GABE
(Gently)
Hi there.

Miranda looks up. She struggles to maintain eye contact. She is autistic and high on the spectrum. She sways a lot.

MIRANDA
H-h-hi

She slightly smiles.

DJ can communicate much easier. He's loud and confident but his eye contact shifts a lot, indicating his high functioning Asperger's.

DJ
Hey man what's going on?!

Gabe rests his head on his crossed arms.

GABE
Just hangin' out buddy. How's class been?

DJ
They cut some of our kinds of classes, so the classes left are more packed.

GABE
They get better teachers?

Miranda shakes her head "no."

MIRANDA
N-n-n-no.

Beat.

GABE
And you guys aren't eating in the cafeteria.

MIRANDA

Y-yes. You and y-your f-f-friends.

GABE

Yeah I have some friends here.

DJ

You have cool friends. Why are you talking to us?

Gabe smiles.

GABE

Just saving the coolest for last.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL - FOYER - NIGHT

Students, dressed in black, are standing in the foyer, right outside the doors of the auditorium.

A huge crowd of friends and family come sweeping in and the students hand out the programs as they usher the guests in.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - BACKSTAGE - CONTINUOUS

Gabe is standing behind the stage next to Eli and Ally.

ALLY

You sure it'll work?

GABE

Positive.

ALLY

I'm trusting you Gabe.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - AUDITORIUM - SOON AFTER

Everyone in the audience is seated and the room falls quiet as the lights dim.

The band and orchestra kids are set up with their instruments in the pit, right in front of the stage.

The band teacher stands in front of them, taps on her music stand, and conducts them.

They begin to play the introductory instrumental to West side story.

The emo vape kid crew gathers in two groups on either side of the pit.

CHRISTIAN
Breath on three. One-

The vapers take a deep breath.

CHRISTIAN (CONT'D)
Two-

Everyone lets out their breath.

CHRISTIAN (CONT'D)
Three!

All of them breath into their vape mods. In sync, they all POOF out their vape clouds. It creates a fog on the stage.

A group of white boys come onto the stage from the left, bending their knees and snapping as they walk in sync. It's the "popular" kids!

Beat.

A group of Hispanic kids come onto the stage from the right, also bending and snapping as they walk. It's the "Hispanics in Hollister" kids!

Gabe is standing behind the curtains on the sides of the stage.

GABE
Slay me.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Dean Brown is walking through the foyer, approaching the doors to the auditorium.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

Brown is standing in the back of the auditorium. She looks at all the students, mixing together in the play.

She looks at the popular kids, Hispanics, vape kids, orchestra and band kids.

Her fists clench. Her eyes get watery and she storms out.

FLASHBACK BEGIN:

INT. DEAN BROWN'S HOME - DAUGHTER'S BEDROOM - YEARS AGO

A younger looking Lexi in jeans and a belly shirt is standing in the middle of the room. Brown is standing in front of the door.

LEXI

Can you get out of my way?

Brown's eyes are red. She has been crying.

DEAN BROWN

Lex how can you not go! You got the acceptance and you are going to take it!

LEXI

No mom. I'm not. It's not for me.

DEAN BROWN

So then what's for you? This?

Brown pulls a baggie of weed out from her pocket.

DEAN BROWN (CONT'D)

I found this in your dresser when I was putting away clothes.

Silence.

CAR HORN HONKS TWICE.

LEXI

Don't wait up.

Lexi pushed past Brown and leaves.

Brown walks to the window and watches Lexi leave the house and hop in Gabe's car, with the whole crew waiting.

FLACKBACK END.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

The first song in the play has ended, and all the kids rush off stage while stage crew kids rush on. Some of these kids are from the special ed. class and their wearing the rainbow glasses.

Miranda and DJ are on the stage, helping lift the props up. Gabe is standing behind the curtains smiling at them.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - AUDITORIUM - LATER

The last song scene in the play is coming to an end. The girl playing MARIA, in the play speaks.

She is holding a gun up, pointing it around at both the groups of white boys and Hispanic boys.

MARIA

How many can I kill Chino, and
still have one bullet left for me?

She looks down at her love, Tony, laying on the ground, dead.

Beat.

Police light start shining onto the stage. She drops the gun, throws her hands up, and falls to her knees.

She wails as the boys around her watch.

Gabe looks around at the preppy backstage managers standing next to him. They are all bawling.

GABE

Sure, cry when the white boy dies.

They look at him, snarling.

Cops walk into the scene, they look at the two gangs of boys. Maria gets up, and walks off stage.

A few cries are heard from the audience.

Beat.

Everyone in the audience gives a standing ovation. The curtains close.

GABE (CONT'D)

(To himself)

That was trash but at least we were
trash together.

The actors line up behind the curtain, holding hands.

Everyone is holding each others hands: the Hispanics in Hollister, populars, and the students with disabilities.

In front of the curtain the band kids, orchestra kids, and vape kids are all holding hands.

The curtains slide open.

The audience CHEERS even louder. All the kids, mixed together, look around at each other, happy and laughing.

Everyone in unison, bows together and runs off stage.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - HALLWAY - LATER

The show has ended and all the kids and their parents are crowded in the hallway behind the auditorium.

Gabe is hugging Miranda.

GABE

Thank you for helping out. I don't know what we would have done without you.

MIRANDA

Eh-it-w-w-would pr-probably still be a sh-sh-sh-shit show.

They laugh with each other. Miranda walks back into the crowd of kids, Evvie swings her arm around Miranda and pulls her in.

Gabe looks at everyone together, proud.

Beat.

He turns to leave and starts walking away. Kevin stops him quickly, running up and grabbing Gabe's shoulder.

KEVIN

Hey man.

GABE

Hey!

Beat.

KEVIN

Ya know I don't really all that into theatre, but, this was cool.

He "friendly" punches Gabe in the arm.

GABE

Was that a punch?

Kevin stands awkwardly.

GABE (CONT'D)

HUG ME BROTHA!

Kevin hesitates.

GABE (CONT'D)
 You need to buckle up and harness
 yourself into your masculinity
 chachi.

Kevin slowly raises his arms.

GABE (CONT'D)
 Ah yes I feel it, generational
 change.

Kevin goes in for a side hug.

GABE (CONT'D)
 What is this? The Christian side
 hug? HUG ME LIKE YOU MEAN IT DAMN
 IT! PELVIS TO PELVIS!

Kevin swallows his pride and they go in for a big, dramatic
 hug.

A quiet little "gaaayyy" comes from the crowd of kids, and
 Gabe and Kevin separate. The two clear their throats and nod
 at each other.

KEVIN
 See ya at school.

INT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY ATTIC - THAT NIGHT

Gabe walks into his room, just getting back from the show.
 Elaine and Marshal poke their heads in.

ELAINE
 Hi darling how was the show?

Gabe plops down on the couch, exhausted.

GABE
 I'd rather eat ass than help out
 with another production.

His parents look at each other and smile.

GABE (CONT'D)
 Teens smell like chicken noodle
 soup that's been left out.

MARSHAL
 Okay kiddo, we'll let you sleep.

They leave Gabe's room.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - PHYSICS CLASS

Dennis is standing at the front of the class as usual and all the kids are in their seat.

MR. DENNIS

For the next week we'll be doing review in class to get ready for the final.

The kids groan.

MR. DENNIS (CONT'D)

Flint Michigan still doesn't have clean water shut up.

The class falls silent.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - SPANISH CLASS - LATER

Marin is sitting criss cross on top of her table, smiling at the kids.

MS. MARIN

FINALS NEXT WEEK! DEBEMOS PREPARAR!

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - LIT CLASS - LATER

Mrs. Martling is wearing her usual leather outfit, and standing strong with her hands on her hips in front of the class.

MRS. MARTLING

Take out your review packets.

She slaps the desk next to her with a meter stick, making everyone jump.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - PHYSICS CLASS - DAY

All the kids are kickin' back at their desks, talking loudly to one another.

Dennis is hanging out at the front of the class behind his table, reading a newspaper.

Gabe is looking around, with a folder and notebook in front of him, ready to study.

He clears his throat.

GABE
Mr. Dennis!

Speaking over the noise is hard, and Dennis keeps reading.

Gabe stands up and walks over to Mr. Dennis. He looks at the newspaper.

GABE (CONT'D)
They still make those?

Dennis tilts the paper down and looks at Gabe.

MR. DENNIS
(Sarcastically)
No, you're imagining it.

Beat.

GABE
So old.

Dennis scowls.

MR. DENNIS
They are very useful.

GABE
Yeah for wiping my ass.

Silence.

GABE (CONT'D)
Are we gonna study, orrrr?

Dennis ignores him and puts his newspaper back up in front of his face.

Beat. Gabe turns around and looks at the class full of ape-like kids being loud.

GABE (CONT'D)
BROS!

Everyone stops talking and looks at Gabe.

GABE (CONT'D)
We gotta study. Here, I'll kick it off. Let's get us on a roll.

Gabe rips a piece of paper from his notebook and starts folding it. Everyone looks on.

When he's done folding it, he holds it up, revealing the classic triangle paper football.

Choir music plays and a heavenly light shines around the paper football.

GABE (CONT'D)

We'll hit it around the room, when you get it, you have to answer the next question on the review tests in the text book.

Everyone looks around at each other, unsure of whether to participate or not.

GABE (CONT'D)

I'll start.

Dennis watches him.

Gabe sets up the football on Dennis' table. He angles it and take a moment to prepare.

He FLICKS it across the room and it hits a gangling GIRL who looks like the princess from "Brave," the Disney movie. It lightly bounces off her head.

She goes flying back, her hair and limbs flailing. She knocks over chairs and desks and lands on the floor.

Silence.

Everyone looks down at the girl who seems to be unconscious on the floor.

Gabe looks unimpressed.

GABE (CONT'D)

Goddamn it Merida, always playing the victim.

Dennis looks at Gabe.

Pause.

Dennis huffs, and then reluctantly gets up out of his chair, puts his newspaper down, and picks up the text book.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - SPANISH CLASS - DAY

Marin is wearing her big toothy smiles and all the kids are standing in 2 lines going down the middle of the classroom.

Cards are taped to the board in a grid.

MS. MARIN

Turn a card around and say what it is out loud in Spanish. If you get it right, you get a point. The team with the most points wins 5 extra points on their final!

Gabe is standing the middle of a line. The kids starts. Gabe is bouncing, bending his knees a little like he's prepping for a wrestling match.

Words like "Cocina," "Ventana" and "Camisa" are coming from the students as the line moves up and Gabe gets to the front of the line.

Gabe pauses, then approaches the board. He grabs a card in the top left corner and pulls it down. He flips it over and looks at the picture.

It's a picture of the back of a man's body.

Beat.

GABE

Scoliosisito.

Marin looks confused.

MS. MARIN

What?

Gabe flips the card over to show her the picture.

MS. MARIN (CONT'D)

That's a back Gabe. Espalda.

GABE

It's a little bent though, no?

She sighs.

MS. MARIN

Try again, one more.

He pulls down another card. It's a picture of a woman's mouth, smiling.

Pause.

GABE

Gingivinito.

Marin looks exhausted. She waves her hand for him to show her the card. He turns it around.

MS. MARIN
BOCA GABE! LA BOCA!

The other kids in his line groan.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - LIT CLASS - DAY

Martling is pacing the classroom, her heels clacking on the floor with each step.

All the students are sitting quietly at their desks with papers in front of them.

Martling is stroking her meter stick.

MRS. MARTLING
You will read this passage and
analyze it.

Beat. She SLAPS the stick down on a students desk. He jumps.

MRS. MARTLING (CONT'D)
Read the first paragraph.

He only lets out a small sound, starting to read, but she interrupts him.

MRS. MARTLING (CONT'D)
Too slow.

She slaps another desk. The girl adjusts her glasses.

MRS. MARTLING (CONT'D)
Never mind.

She slowly walks over to Gabe and nods at him. He looks down at the paper in front of him.

GABE
Master, tell me, what's this city?
And he to me: "It is because you
try to penetrate from far into
these shadows that you have formed
such faulty images."

Martling raises her hand.

MRS. MARTLING
Which layer of hell are we in?

The class is silent.

MRS. MARTLING (CONT'D)
Can anyone guess?

GABE
Dante can't tell where he is or
what he's looking at in this level
of hell.

She points her meter stick at Gabe and nods at him.

GABE (CONT'D)
So I would assume the layer that's
associated with deceit. Layer 8.
Fraud.

Martling cracks a smiles and folds her arms.

MRS. MARTLING
It seems as though you're the only
one who read. Can you explain this
layer of hell to the class.

He looks around.

GABE
Sure.

Gabe stands up.

GABE (CONT'D)
So this book, is like, about hell
and stuff.

He holds up the book Dante's inferno.

GABE (CONT'D)
And it's like all full of peeps
that opsied in their lives and are
now damned and stuff.

Everyone squints at him.

GABE (CONT'D)
And their is like this whole onion
of hell. Different layers are for
different sins.

The class is quiet. Someone coughs.

GABE (CONT'D)
There is stuff like lust and greed,
bla ba bla.

(MORE)

GABE (CONT'D)

This one is Fraud and there is a flying monster and souls boolin down in different pits.

Pause.

GABE (CONT'D)

But if you ask me, my favorite layer is lust, wink wink, nudge nudge.

No one laughs.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - DEAN BROWN'S OFFICE - EVENING

Brown is sitting in her office, printing papers out. She grabs them from the tray and scribbles on it.

WRITING "GABE NORSTEIN" ON THE NAME LINE.

INT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY ATTIC - DAY

"Smoke on the Water" screeches from speakers.

GABE COMBING OUT HIS BIG JEW FRO.

WRAPPING A NARUTO HEADBAND AROUND HIS FOREHEAD.

SOAKING A COTTON BALL WITH WITCH HAZEL AND DABBING IT ON HIS FACE.

PUTTING ON A RIP AND DIP TEA SHIRT WITH A PICTURE OF A CAT FLIPPING THE BIRD IN THE SHIRT POCKET.

Gabe walks forward towards his doors to leave. He abruptly trips and falls.

The music screeches to a stop.

GABE

SHHHIIET!

He looks down at his feet and sees a small electronic toy. He squints, looking at it intensely.

GABE (CONT'D)

I just ate shit for a tamagatchi?

He awkwardly wobbles to a stand, his fat giggling as he struggles to get back up.

He huffs, smooths out his shirt, and leaves.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - SPANISH CLASS - DAY

Gabe is sitting with his legs crossed in a dainty fashion, with both his hands folded over each other and rested on his knee, like a princess.

Marin is standing at the front of the class holding a little stack of papers.

She looks over at Gabe, judging him. She walks around the classroom, going down each isle of desks, placing packets in front of everyone.

She gets to Gabe, looks at him while smiling wide, and swats the papers at his knees.

MS. MARIN

Stop sitting like that. It's creepy.

Gabe readjusts his posture. Marin places a packet in front of him and continues on.

MS. MARIN (CONT'D)

OKAY! FLIP THE TEST OVER!

Gabe turns his test over and SLAMS it down.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - PHYSICS CLASS - DAY

SLAM.

Gabe is looking down at his final test. He write his name down and looks at the first question.

Beat.

A students starts speaking softly. It distracts Gabe and he looks over to his right to look at the noisy kid.

GABE

(To himself)
Noisy bitch.

The basic looking kid is still mumbling to himself.

NOISY BITCH

(To himself)
Humana. Numah numah. Anamanawama.

Gabe blows in the direction of the noisy kid, trying not to draw Dennis' attention.

He blows harder, moving the kids hair a little.

GABE
(Whispering)
Feel my wind.

The kid looks over at him, annoyed.

NOISY BITCH
What?

GABE
Shhhhh.

The kid looks back at his test, ignoring Gabe.

Beat.

He mumbles again.

NOISY BITCH
(To himself)
Humanaaaa. Mamaroomaplooplpooop.

Gabe snaps. He takes a rubber band from his pencil case and FLINGS it at the kid, hitting him in the arm.

NOISY BITCH (CONT'D)
(Quietly)
Ouch! Why? Bro stop.

GABE
Mumble one more time and I fling it
at your pencil dick.

The kid looks shocked.

NOISY BITCH
I beg your pardon?

GABE
I fling it right at the most
sensitive part.

NOISY BITCH
(Begging)
No please.

GABE
Right on the tip. Maybe at your
cashew sized ballsack.

Beat.

He boy nods at him, understanding.

GABE (CONT'D)
 And who the fuck says beg your
 pardon? This isn't Victorian
 England, stop watching vampire
 diaries.

They go back to looking at their tests.

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH - LIT CLASS - DAY

Gabe is sitting in his class, his test packet in front of him. He's half way through the packet, so it's folded over in the middle.

Martling is scratching her long red nails along her desk. Her legs are crosses, resting on top of her desk.

Gabe leans back in his chair, rolls his neck, and cracks his knuckled.

Martling gets up and walks over to Gabe.

MRS. MARTLING
 (Domineering)
 We doing well Gabe?

He looks at her up and down in slow motion, "Sexual Healing" playing.

His eyes fixate on her hips.

GABE
 (Whispering)
 Touch my nipples.

The music screeches to a stop.

MRS. MARTLING
 What?

She looks concerned.

GABE
 What?

They share an uncomfortable silence.

MRS. MARTLING
 All good?

GABE

Yeah yeah.

INT. ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY ATTIC - EVENING

Gabe is walking around his room, picking up trash. Elaine and Marshal poke their heads into the room.

ELAINE

Hello love, what are you doing?

Gabe looks up at them.

GABE

Just cleaning up.

His parents look at each other, smiling.

MARSHAL

You haven't cleaned since you were
17.

Gabe pauses.

GABE

Well I don't want to be know as the
kid who lives in a stoner dungeon
anymore.

He continues to clean. Elaine looks weepy and proud.

ELAINE

And the ceremony?

GABE

It's on Wednesday-

A raccoon LEAPS out from under a pile of trash and goes for Gabe's face. It SQUEEKS as it attacks.

Marshal and Elaine move back a little.

Gabe tears the Raccoon off his face and throws it down on the ground and wrestles it.

The Raccoon, with his little legs, taps out.

ELAINE

Take him outside, will you darling?

Gabe is panting.

GABE

He has fought valiantly. I have
bigger plans for him.

Beat.

Gabe squints, and sniffs the rodent.

GABE (CONT'D)

He smells spicy.

Marshal GASPS.

INT. COLLEGE GYM - DAY

Families and friends are packed tightly on the bleachers in a massive college gymnasium. Ricketty plastic chairs are set up in perfect rows on the floor, leaving a walkway down the middle.

4 massive lines of high school kids in their red robes and caps funnel out into the gym. Everyone onlooking is fanning themselves and sweating more than they should be proud of.

Gabe is in the middle of a line, in his robe and cap holding a tiny spray bottle fan to his face. Kevin is standing in front of him and a random girl is behind him. He turns to the girl standing behind him.

GABE

My under titties are dripping
sweat.

She cringes.

GABE (CONT'D)

Not even my armpits...just right
here.

He unzips his gown and shows the two sweat spots on his button up shirt.

INT. COLLEGE GYM - MOMENTS LATER

All the graduating kids are sitting down in their seats.

Beat.

PRINCIPLE ERIN walks onto the stage set up in front of the chairs.

Gabe stares at Erin in awe. He turns to Kevin.

GABE
She's real?

Kevin looks around, then leans in closer to Gabe.

KEVIN
Some people thought she was a myth.
We call her the groundhog. She only
pops out of her hole maybe once a
year.

They lean back into their seats and listen.

ERIN
Class of 2018! Congratulations!
You've made it. These years have
prepared you for the years to come-

GABE
Gaaaasssss.

Everyone sitting in the row in front of Gabe, looks back at him.

Gabe looks around the sea of family and friends. He spots his parents, waving at him from the middle of the bleachers. Elaine is crying and Marshal is smiling, holding his hands to his chest.

Gabe keeps looking around. He, unexpectedly, sees Abraham in the crowd. They look at each other, maintaining the same blank expression until, finally Abraham breaks the tension and smiles slightly, nodding at Gabe.

INT. COLLEGE GYM - LATER

Everyone in the crowd is groaning and sweating profusely. The kids are lined up to walk across the stage to receive their diplomas while little freshman band kinds play lame, off key music.

The line is moving up and Gabe is getting closer to the stage. Erin is announcing names one by one.

ERIN
Quasi Noles.

Beat.

ERIN (CONT'D)
Miles Nonly.

Beat.

ERIN (CONT'D)
Gabe Norstien.

Gabe sighs, relieved. He steps on the first step, of the three, to get to the stage.

His long gown gets caught on the edge of the collapsible stairs and he falls forward, hard, and belly flops the stage.

GABE
GOD!

Gabe hobbles up, in pain. He fixes his robe and walks forward to take his diploma. He RIPS it out of Erin's hand and walks past all the admin representatives waiting to shake his hand, holding his pinky up at them.

They all look confused and offended.

GABE (CONT'D)
It's the Chinese finger for FUCK
YOU!

He goes to walk off the other side of the stage when Dean Brown interrupts.

DEAN BROWN
WAIT!

She is standing behind all the chairs, at the back of the gym. She holds up, and waves a paper.

DEAN BROWN (CONT'D)
The deal was Gabe, that you had to
pass all your classes to graduate.

Gabe walks back to the middle of the stage and speaks into the microphone at the podium.

GABE
And I did WOOP WOOP! By the way you
look fantastic, your bun is extra
tight today. Follicles everywhere
are shook.

Brown walks down towards the stage, her face contorted with anger.

DEAN BROWN
I have your final score right here
for your lit class Gabe. You failed
with flying colors.

She laughs demonically. Mrs. Martling is standing next to the stage, looking confused, with a group of other teachers, including Marin, and Dennis.

DEAN BROWN (CONT'D)

It's an F!

She turns the paper to show everyone the big red F written on the front. Everyone GASPS. Brown climbs onto the stage rather than taking the few stars available on literally either side.

GABE

And the Oscar nominee chosen for best production goes to...

She stands up, her face sweaty. She SNATCHES the diploma out of Gabe's hand.

DEAN BROWN

You're done Gabe. No more tries.
You can't graduate.

Marshal, Elaine, and Abraham all look surprised and confused in the audience.

Beat.

Martling steps onto the stage and approaches Brown. She holds her hand out.

MRS. MARTLING

Let me see that.

DEAN BROWN

NO! Everyone needs to stop defending him! He's a delinquent kid with no intellect!

Martling takes her belt off her leather pants and SLAPS it against the podium.

MRS. MARTLING

I said...let me see it.

Brown cowers, dropping the diploma and handing the paper over to Martling and stepping away. Martling stands in front of the podium and takes a look at the paper.

MRS. MARTLING (CONT'D)

Well Brenda if you knew anything about my class or about Gabe, you'd know that he actually reads everything.

She winks at Gabe.

MRS. MARTLING (CONT'D)
So what you're showing me here does
not at all align with the original
test that Gabe handed in.

Martling puts her belt back on and walks over to brown, leans
in, and whispers intimidatingly.

MRS. MARTLING (CONT'D)
And it's missing the essay portion.
Mess with my students again Brenda,
I dare you.

Brown rushes off the stage and Marin extends her foot out and
TRIPS brown.

DEAN BROWN
THAT WAS HIS TEST THAT WAS HIS
SCORE!

She grimaces at Gabe.

DEAN BROWN (CONT'D)
IF MY DAUGHTER FAILS THEN YOU FAIL
GABRIEL!

GABE
You're daughter? Ew god why? You
spawned?

DEAN BROWN
LEX WAS PERFECT! MY PERFECT GIRL!
IT'S YOUR FAULT!

Beat.

GABE
Lexi?! She's your kid? You're
kidding.

Brown is breathing heavily.

GABE (CONT'D)
You think I got her into drugs.

Pause.

GABE (CONT'D)
Brenda she's the one who got me to
start smoking.

Silence. Brown's expression freezes. Her eyes water. Her face contorts back into anger.

DEAN BROWN

NO! I KNOW IT WAS YOU! IT HAS TO BE
YOU!

She gets up and looks around, disheveled. All the kids waiting in line, everyone from the different social groups now mixed together, scowl at her and walk towards her all at once.

DEAN BROWN (CONT'D)

Get away from me!

A high heel shoe goes flying towards Brown and WACKS her in the head.

GIRL

The distance from me to you,
divided by the time it takes my
shoe to travel through air, equals
WHOOPASS!

Dennis throws his fist in the air, proud.

MR. DENNIS

THOSE ARE MY KIDS!

Gabe WHISTLES loudly and the raccoon runs into the room and chases Brown.

Brown looks around, horrified, and then runs out. Everyone CHEERS, Martling picks Gabe's diploma up from the floor and gives it back to him.

He smiles, and waves at his parents. Abraham is smiling and clapping.

Gabe approaches the podium and speaks into the microphone.

GABE

That reminds me. I finished the
self portrait paper. I want to
share a little bit of it.

He looks over at Martling. He clears his throat.

GABE (CONT'D)

I look old. That's because I am for
a high school kid. I've been
through my senior year a few times,
but hey three times a charm.

Beat.

GABE (CONT'D)

17 and standing outside of the kitchen. My mother is on the phone when Brenda Brown. She's telling my mother that I'll never amount to anything.

Marshal and Elaine embrace each other.

GABE (CONT'D)

18, second go around and sitting at home after having walked across a different rickety stage in an equally sweaty gym. I thought I was done.

All the other students hold each other's hands.

GABE (CONT'D)

And the many years between then and now have been a drunken, high haze. Drowning in shame and garbage, surrounded by people I thought made sense to be around.

Beat.

GABE (CONT'D)

I never noticed that I was good at things. Fixing things; cars, ceilings, friendships. You're only obstacle is yourself and these years do not define you at all. The free years after do.

The crowd erupts.

Martling looks at Marin.

MRS. MARTLING

Did he not know you can get a GED online?

EXT. COLLEGE BUILDING - LATER

All of the graduates are standing outside, during golden hour, surrounded by their family members.

All the red gowns are reflecting the light. Gabe is standing with his parents.

MARSHAL

How about we go out for dinner
tonight?

Elaine smiles.

ELAINE

That sounds wonderful. Gabe? What
do you think?

GABE

Works for me.

Abraham is standing outside the crowd, looking at Gabe. Gabe
notices.

GABE (CONT'D)

Give me a sec I'll be right back.

Gabe walks approaches Abraham. They stand in front of each
other in silence for a beat.

GABE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

Abraham nods.

ABRAHAM

Yeah you should be.

GABE

I know.

Beat.

ABRAHAM

That was badass.

GABE

I fuckin know!

They smile at each other.

ABRAHAM

So what next?

GABE

I'm gonna slide my nuts across my
ex boss' face and then find a
better job.

ABRAHAM

Good good.

GABE

And you?

ABRAHAM

I'm still going to the private school.

GABE

What next? You gonna join an a capella club?

ABRAHAM

I'm an excellent tenor.

They laugh.

GABE

Alright man. I'll hit you up.

ABRAHAM

Sounds good.

They hug.

INT. CAR DEALERSHIP - WORKSHOP - DAY

SUPER: 1 YEAR LATER

Gabe is sitting next to a volks wagen car, fixing something under the hood A man in a suit comes in, the BOSS.

NEW BOSS

How's it going Gabe?

Gabe looks up.

GABE

All good bossie boy, almost done.

NEW BOSS

Sounds good. So listen, I'll meet you are your office after your done. Some kid applied for an internship here to help out in the shop.

GABE

Give him the job.

NEW BOSS

You don't want to see his application first?

GABE
Well does he have a criminal
history?

NEW BOSS
No but-

GABE
What a shame, give him the job
anyway.

New boss looks confused.

NEW BOSS
Okay then.

He slaps the door frame and leaves.

Gabe closes the hood and turns the car on, it ROARS alive.

END.