

WIN WIN

SCREENPLAY BY

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EXT. WATCHUNG RESERVATION - DAWN.

It's a bitter cold January morning. The woods are quiet. Desolate. In the far off distance a man is jogging. He banks around the end of a small pond and runs right at us. This is MIKE FLAHERTY, FORTY-TWO. He is running hard. Or at least as hard as he can.

Suddenly TWO JOGGERS blow past him.

INT. HOUSE, BEDROOM - SAME.

A HOME MADE STAIN GLASS ANGEL hangs on a window. It falls to the ground.

ABBY FLAHERTY, SIX-YEARS OLD, stirs and gets out of her bed out. She picks up the Bird and inspects it. It's broken.

ABBY

Shit.

INT. HOUSE, BEDROOM - LATER.

JACKIE FLAHERTY, THIRTY-SEVEN is still sleeping. Abby walks into the room. Jackie opens her eyes.

ABBY

(Whispers)

Mommy, can we play croquet today?

Jackie lifts Abby onto the bed.

ABBY (CONT'D)

Where's Daddy?

JACKIE

He's running.

ABBY

From what?

Jackie smiles.

INT. MIKE AND JACKIE'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - LATER.

STELLA, TWO YEARS OLD is standing up in her crib crying. Mike comes in and picks her up.

MIKE

OK. OK. Hi there.

INT. MIKE AND JACKIE'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - LATER.

Jackie prepares some food. She knocks a glass over into the sink and it breaks.

JACKIE

Shit.

She looks over at Abby who is immersed in her coloring. Then she sets the food down in front of Stella who is sitting in a high chair. Mike enters wearing a suit and tie.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

How was the run?

MIKE

Good. It was good.

JACKIE

Abby, finish your cereal.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

(To Mike)

I'm very impressed with you keeping it up.

Mike shrugs and takes a yogurt from the refrigerator.

ABBY

I don't like it.

JACKIE

You do too, so stop drawing and eat.

MIKE

What brand is this?

ABBY

Daddy, look. It's your team.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

They're all the same.

Mike looks at the drawing. It looks nothing like a team.

MIKE

That's my team? That's great, honey. Are they winning?

ABBY

Yeah.

JACKIE

Maybe you should show the team.

CONTINUED:

Abby knocks over a glass of water. It spills onto the drawing.

ABBY
Shit.

JACKIE
Honey, you can't use that word.
It's a bad word.

Off Mike's look.

JACKIE (CONT'D)
What? Don't look at me.

MIKE
Uh huh. Bye sweetie.

He kisses Abby.

ABBY
Bye daddy.

MIKE
Bye.

JACKIE
Hey. You OK?

MIKE
Yeah.

JACKIE
You sure?

MIKE
Yeah. I'm good. Why?

JACKIE
Just checking.

MIKE
OK. Bye guy's.

ABBY
Can I have more juice?

Mike leaves. Jackie is not convinced.

JACKIE
Just a minute.

EXT. MIKE AND JACKIE'S HOUSE - LATER.

Mike walks outside toward his car. He opens the car door.

JACKIE

Mike?

Mike turns. Jackie is standing at the door.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Did you call Fenn about the tree?

PAUL

No. I will today.

JACKIE

Please do. I don't want it coming down on the house.

Mike looks at a VERY DEAD TREE in the side yard.

MIKE

Yeah. You're right. I will.

JACKIE

Mike?

MIKE

Yeah?

JACKIE

I love you.

MIKE

I love you too, sweetie. Bye.

Jackie shuts the door. Mike looks up at the tree.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Shit.

INT. DUNKIN' DONUTS - LATER.

Mike pays for his coffee and bagel and starts to leave. He nods to a group of FIVE OLD MEN who wave him over. He tries to keep moving but they continue to engage him. Finally he joins the table. The group shares a laugh.

EXT. MIKE'S OFFICE - LATER.

Mike's car pulls into a driveway of an OLD HOUSE that has been converted into TWO OFFICES.

A SIGN on the lawn reads: "MICHAEL S. FLAHERTY, COUNSELOR AT LAW" and "STEPHEN VIGMAN, CPA"

EXT. MIKE'S OFFICE, PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS.

Mike parks his car as a WORKMAN walks up from the basement of the house and gets into his VAN and pulls away.

Mike gets out of his car and walks toward the back door carrying his briefcase. He stops at the basement steps.

MIKE

Vig?

VOICE

Down here.

Mike walks down the stairs.

INT. MIKE'S OFFICE, BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS.

It's an old, musty basement filled with endless shelves of files.

MIKE

What's up, Vig?

VIGMAN

Donna's out sick and can't find anything without her. It sucks.

STEPHEN VIGMAN, FIFTY, emerges carrying some files.

MIKE

Who was that guy?

VIGMAN

Oh, that sucks more. He's the plumber. I called him to look at that piece of crap of boiler.

Vigman points to an ANCIENT HOT WATER BOILER.

MIKE

Why?

CONTINUED:

VIGMAN

That clanking is driving me nuts.
Can't you hear it down in your
office?

MIKE

Yeah. I just figured it's old.

VIGMAN

Well it is but he took one look at
it and said we should replace it
before it blows.

MIKE

What?! We just had it fixed three
months ago.

VIGMAN

Yeah, he said that job was crap.
The guy did crap work. Can you
believe that? That little scumbag!

MIKE

Jesus.

VIGMAN

All they care about is
getting paid. Makes me sick.
No one wants to do the work
anymore.

MIKE

How much to fix it, Vig? Did he
say?

VIGMAN

Six grand to replace everything.

MIKE

Holy shit.

VIGMAN

Tell me about it. I gotta be
honest, Mike, it's not a good time
for me. My business is off and my
step son wants to get Lasik.

MIKE

Really? Isn't he too young?

VIGMAN

I don't really care at this point.
If it makes him happy, he can have
it. I get nothing from that kid.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

VIGMAN (CONT'D)

Nothing. He has an unnatural attachment to his father.

MIKE

Right. So what do you want to do?

VIGMAN

Well I was thinking we could leave it for now and just cover the file cabinets in plastic to be safe. How about you?

MIKE

Yeah. I guess I'm good with that.

CLANK. CLANK. CLANK. The boiler barks. They both jump.

VIGMAN

Let's get out of here before it blows. I'll pick some up plastic before practice.

They both hurry back up the stairs.

INT. MIKE'S OFFICE - LATER

Mike walks into his office. SHELLY, the receptionist, is at her computer working. She's mid-20s and pure Jersey.

MIKE

Hey Shelly, How you doing?

SHELLY

I'm a little hung over and my boyfriend's a moron.

MIKE

Oh. Sorry to hear that.

SHELLY

How'd the team do last night?

MIKE

We lost.

SHELLY

Bummer. Your noon canceled so you just have a 10:30 and 3pm.

MIKE

OK. Anything else?

CONTINUED:

SHELLY

The toilet isn't flushing again.
Should I just call someone this
time?

MIKE

No. I'll take a look at it. Who do
I have at ten-thirty?

SHELLY

(Apologetically)
Frank.

MIKE

Great.

INT. MIKE'S OFFICE - LATER.

Mike is sitting with FRANK, an elderly man, jotting notes.

MIKE

And you think your son stole it?

FRANK

Yeah. I know he did.

MIKE

Why would he steal your cat, Frank?

FRANK

He's jealous of her. Very jealous.

INT. MIKE'S OFFICE - LATER

Mike is on his phone as he cleans his keyboard.

MIKE

I understand but that's my fee for
that particular service. Uh huh.
Right. Well maybe I can adjust that
a little bit.

INT. MIKE'S OFFICE - LATER

Mike is eating lunch at his desk. He hears a noise and looks
out the back window and see's Vigman pulling a LARGE ROLL OF
PLASTIC TARP out of the trunk of his car.

INT. MIKE'S OFFICE, BATHROOM - LATER

Mike, on his knees, plunges the broken toilet.

INT. MIKE'S OFFICE - LATER

Mike is sitting with LEO POPLAR, 82 and his HOME HEALTH AID, JOLIE, FORTY-FIVE and AFRICAN AMERICAN.

MIKE

Well Leo, remember you got lost and the police had to help you a few times. That's why we brought Jolie into help you, right?

LEO

So now what happens?

MIKE

Well if that Judge deems you incapacitated then you will need a guardian. And if we can't find your daughter then the state...

LEO

She can't find herself.

MIKE

OK but if we can't find her then the State will have to become your guardian.

LEO

Who's the state?

MIKE

You know...the state...of New Jersey.

LEO

That's crazy. I don't need New Jersey's help. I got Jolie now. And there's no funny business between us so you know.

MIKE

Right. I'm sure there's not. Let's just first see if we can find your daughter and then we'll go from there.

INT. SHELLY'S OFFICE.

SHELLY flips through some DOCUMENTS. The boiler sounds off. CLANK CLANK CLANK. She jumps. She picks up the documents and walks into Mike's office setting the documents down.

SHELLY
Am I still hung over or is that
noise getting louder?

MIKE
You're probably still hung over.
What's that?

SHELLY
Leo's financial statements. He's
loaded, huh?

MIKE
Yes, he is. You find his daughter?

SHELLY
No. That lady is gone and doesn't
want to be found.

MIKE
Crap.

Mike takes the STATEMENTS and puts them in LEO'S FILE.

SHELLY
Can't the state just leave him in
his home? That's what the guy
wants.

MIKE
They could but they never will.
It's too much work. They'll
probably move him into Oak Knoll.
Hand me one of their brochures?

Shelly grabs an OAK KNOLL BROCHURE from a stack.

SHELLY
But he has Jolie now. She can
handle it.

MIKE
No, she can't. His guardian still
has to make every single decision.
It's the difference between a baby
sitter and a parent.

CONTINUED:

She hands it to Mike who takes it and paper clips in on the inside of Leo's file.

SHELLY

I wish I could do it. I could use an extra 1,500 bucks a month.

MIKE

\$1,500. Is that what it is?

SHELLY

Yeah. It's in his file.
(Answering the phone)
Mike Flaherty's office.

Mike opens Leo's file.

INT. NEW PROVIDENCE HIGHSCHOOL GYM, THE PIT - LATER.

Mike and Vigman are coaching wrestling practice at the public highschool. They are in the small, dingy back gym just off the main gymnasium. This is a no-frills program.

The team of 12 WRESTLERS are doing a spinning drill. Vigman holds up a singlet.

VIGMAN

Whose singlet is this? What did I say about leaving them around?

A WRESTLER runs over and Vig flings it at him.

EXT. WATCHUNG RESERVATION - EARLY MORNING.

Mike and TERRY DELFINO are running. Terry is the same age as Mike but dressed in a better gear. They are both breathing hard.

TERRY

How's the team doing?

MIKE

Not good.

TERRY

What the hell happened? We used to be good.

MIKE

Yeah, well we're not anymore.

CONTINUED:

TERRY
Can we walk for a bit?

MIKE
Yeah.

They both stop. Terry is completely winded.

TERRY
That sucked. You're running good,
buddy. Kicking my ass.

Terry's blackberry beeps. He takes it out and reads it.

MIKE
Yeah. I've been getting out here a
bit more often.

TERRY
You gotta be kidding me.

MIKE
What?

TERRY
Lori's texting me at seven in the
morning to ask me if I want an
antique sewing table that we bought
together.

MIKE
Do you?

TERRY
No. I want my fucking house back!

MIKE
Is she still with that guy?

TERRY
You mean my contractor? The guy I
hired? Yeah, she is. I can just
picture that little scumbag walking
around my house wearing his tool
belt. Here.

He hands Mike his blackberry.

TERRY (CONT'D)
Take a picture for me.

Terry pulls down his pants and moons Mike.

CONTINUED:

TERRY
Take it!

MIKE
Jesus, Ter!

TERRY (CONT'D)
Hurry! It's cold.

Mike takes the picture. Terry takes the blackberry back.

MIKE
Don't send it.

TERRY
Too late. I hate her.

They start to walk.

MIKE
Maybe you should move back into the city? Get a new job. Shake it up a bit.

TERRY
Nah. Finley called me. He's starting up a new fund out here in May so I'm gonna wait for that.

MIKE
That guy's starting another fund?

TERRY
Yeah. He's an animal. He prints money. Come on, let's finish strong.

Terry starts to run. Mike follows. After about thirty feet, Mike pulls up. He's breathing is labored.

MIKE
Hold up!

TERRY
What?

MIKE
Just...hold up.

Mike is really breathing hard now. He's making some funny noises.

TERRY
You alright?

Mike just holds up a hand. He can't really speak.

CONTINUED:

TERRY (CONT'D) MIKE
Mike, what the fuck? What's (Barely audible)
wrong? Yeah. Fine. I just...

He drops to a knee. He's not alright.

TERRY (CONT'D)
Holy fuck! Mike? Hang on pal.

Terry takes out his black berry but immediately fumbles it into the wet mud.

TERRY (CONT'D)
Fuck! Fuck!

He grabs it and shakes it out but it's dead.

TERRY (CONT'D)
You gotta be kidding me. Shit.

Mike is still wheezing. Terry turns his attention.

TERRY (CONT'D)
Is it your heart, buddy? Are you
having a heart attack?

MIKE
No! I'm not having a heart attack!
I just...can't breathe...

TERRY
That could be a heart attack, Mike.
You should lie down.

Terry tries to help him but it's only seems to annoy Mike.

MIKE TERRY
Get off me! Just lie down.

MIKE
No! It's wet. I don't want to lie
down.

TERRY
Who cares? You might be dying. Are
you cold? Do you feel cold?

MIKE
Yeah. I'm lying on the ground.

TERRY
Look into my eyes, Mike. Look into
my eyes.

CONTINUED:

They are now engaged in a weird wrestling match.

WOMAN (O.S.)
Are you alright?

Terry looks to see TWO FORTY YEAR OLD WOMEN in jogging gear staring at them.

EXT. PARKING LOT - LATER

An ambulance pulls away revealing Mike and Terry sitting in the open back of Terry's LEXUS SUV.

TERRY
OK dude, how long has that been happening?

MIKE
Couple of months. The doctor says it's stress.

TERRY
Seriously? Did he prescribe anything for you?

MIKE
Yeah. Jogging. Why the hell you think I'm doing this?

TERRY
Jesus. That scared the shit out of me. What are you so stressed about, Mike?

MIKE
(Sheepish)
I don't know. Work. Money. Everything.

TERRY
Is it that bad?

MIKE
Yeah. It is. I don't know how much longer I can keep my practice going.

TERRY
Really? Holy shit, Mike! What're you gonna do?

CONTINUED:

MIKE

I have no frickin' idea. I've been trying everything.

TERRY

Have you told Jackie?

MIKE

Not yet. I don't want to freak her out.

TERRY

Good call. So we just need a new strategy, that's all. What about that Judge that's always throwing work your way? Can't she help you out?

MIKE

Judge Lee, yeah. If it wasn't for her I'd probably be out of business already. I just need more.

TERRY

Is there anything else you can do for money?

MIKE

What the hell am I gonna do? Bartend? I'm a lawyer, Ter. I practice law.

MIKE (CONT'D)

And it's not like I'm some scumbag. I help old people for Christ sake. No offense but your pal, Finley doesn't give a crap about anything but making money.

TERRY

I know.

TERRY

Yeah. But that's why he makes it.

MIKE

No shit, Ter. Thanks for the update.

INT. MIKE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The office is dark aside from Mike's desk light. Shelly is gone. Mike's blackberry rings.

CONTINUED:

MIKE

Hi, honey. I'm still at the office.
Yeah. I came back after practice,
I'll be home in a bit.

(Checking his blackberry)

Oh, hey, let me go, Jack. I've been
waiting for this call. Bye.

Mike hangs up the phone and answers his blackberry.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Hey Tom. Thanks for getting back to
me. I'm good. I'm good. Yeah, I was
just following up to see if you had
any overflow. It's been a slow
month on this end and I was...

Mike listens. The news from Dunleavy isn't good.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Oh. OK. No, yeah of course. I
appreciate that. Thanks, Tom. Bye.

Mike hangs up the phone and sits at his desk. After a moment,
he slams his hand on the desk. And then something catches his
eye. It's LEO POPLAR'S FILE. He opens the file and see's the
PAMPHLET FOR OAK KNOLL. He flips through the file and lands
on a particular page and a particular line item.

Monthly Commission: \$1,508.00.

EXT. UNION COUNTY COURT HOUSE - DAY

Mike walks with Leo Poplar up the steps of the courthouse.

INT. UNION COUNTY COURT HOUSE , SECURITY DESK - LATER.

Leo walks through the metal detector. Mike watches him and
then walks through himself but something beeps. The guards
stops Mike. Leo starts to wander away.

MIKE

Hey, Leo. Leo hold on!
(to the Guard)
Can you stop him, please?

INT. UNION COUNTY COURT HOUSE, COURTROOM - LATER.

It's a very drab, no frills courtroom. JUDGE LEE is seated on
the bench looking over some documents.

CONTINUED:

Mike is sitting next Leo. Seated at the next table is STU THATCHER, ATTORNEY FOR THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC GUARDIAN. Mike is tapping his pen.

JUDGE LEE

Any word from his daughter? Mr. Flaherty?

MIKE

Oh..no, Your Honor. I have the two certified letters returned unclaimed. And there is no phone number for her. We can't find her.

JUDGE LEE

And she is the only living family, is that correct?

MIKE

Yes, your Honor, she is. But Mr. Poplar hasn't seen her for over twenty years.

LEO

Who?

MIKE

Your daughter.

LEO

She's late? She's probably at the store buying some crap or something.

MIKE

OK.

Mike turns back to the Judge and shrugs.

JUDGE LEE

OK, then as, Mr. Poplar has been deemed incapacitated by this court, I'm appointing the Office of Public Guardian to serve as the guardian for his person and property. Do you have the order for me to sign, Mr. Thatcher?

THATCHER

Yes, I do, Your Honor.

JUDGE LEE

Then please approach.

CONTINUED:

Thatcher stands and takes out the order. Mike's wheels are spinning. He seizes his moment.

MIKE
Your Honor, if it pleases the
Court.

JUDGE LEE
Yes, Mr. Flaherty?

MIKE
I would be willing to serve as Mr.
Poplar's guardian.

THATCHER
(Stopping.)
Really?

MIKE
Yeah.

THATCHER
How long have you known him? Two
weeks?

Mike is suddenly put on the spot.

MIKE
More like five.

THATCHER
Really? And now you want to be his
guardian?

Mike looks at Leo and the Judge.

MIKE
May I approach, your honor?

JUDGE LEE
Council approach.

Mike collects himself and approaches.

JUDGE LEE (CONT'D)
What's going on Mike?

MIKE
Well Judge, I think I'd be a better
candidate than the state in this
case.

CONTINUED:

THATCHER

Really?

MIKE

Yeah, and stop saying really, it's annoying.

THE STENOGRAPHER raises in eyebrow.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Your Honor, I live in the same town as Mr. Poplar...

THATCHER

Proximity hardly qualifies him as a guardian, Your Honor.

MIKE (CONT'D)

And, as his lawyer, I feel like I'm in a better position to execute what my client wants.

THATCHER

Your Honor, Mr. Flaherty is Mr. Poplar's court appointed attorney...

JUDGE LEE

I know, Stu, I appointed him.

THATCHER

Yeah, well that hardly qualifies him to be Leo's Guardian. What's the motivation here?

Thatcher is turning up the heat. He obviously wants Poplar. Mike is starting to feel it.

JUDGE LEE

Mike?

Mike looks back at Leo who is trying to unscrew the cap on his water bottle, completely uninterested in the proceedings. He makes a decision.

MIKE

Your Honor, Leo told me he wants to live at home. He has the money to do that and I want to make sure that happens. If the State can do that then fine.

THATCHER

Counsel knows we can't do that, your Honor.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

THATCHER (CONT'D)

We're spread too thin for that kind of individual attention. But they have an excellent elder care facility in Mr. Poplar's town. We'll put him there.

MIKE

Mr. Poplar wants to live at home.

JUDGE MALONE

(To Mike)

You can do that, Mike?

MIKE

Yes, I can.

(To Thatcher)

Really.

Leo is putting papers in his briefcase. Mike sits down next to him.

LEO

Did we win?

MIKE

Yeah. I think so.

LEO

Good.

EXT. LEO POPLAR'S HOUSE - DAY.

Mike walks toward his car carrying AN OLD TV SET. He puts it into the back of his car which is packed with ITEMS from Leo's house.

INT. MIKE'S CAR - LATER.

Mike and Leo are driving.

LEO

Are we going to the park?

MIKE

No. We're not, Leo. I'm gonna help you get settled into a new place to live right here in town.

LEO

I don't need a new place. I have a house. I'm not fancy that way.

CONTINUED:

MIKE

I know. But I need you to stay in this new place for a while. It's nice. You'll like it.

LEO

Is that what the judge said?

MIKE

Yeah, that's what he said.

Leo considers the news and looks out the window.

LEO

Ah shit.

EXT. OAK KNOLL SENIOR LIVING - DAY.

Mike and Leo arrive at Oak Knoll.

INT. OAK KNOLL SENIOR LIVING, PRIVATE ROOM - LATER.

It is a nice place. Mike sits on a small couch filling out paperwork as a FEMALE STAFF MEMBER helps to prepare Leo's room.

EXT. QUICK CHECK - DUSK.

Mike pulls up and walks into the Convenience Store. He buys cigarettes and walks outside. He walks outside, around the corner and then behind the store. He lights a cigarette and then throws the pack into the dumpster. He stands there smoking.

INT. OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH- MORNING.

AN ENORMOUS CRUCIFIX hangs over the alter. A COLLECTION BASKET is passed from person to person. Abby deposits TWO DOLLARS into the basket and looks up at Mike. He smiles.

EXT. OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH - LATER.

Jackie and Stella are waiting in the parking lot. Mike is lagging behind carrying Abby and chatting with some OLDER PARISHIONER'S. He's charming and he's working it. He finally catches up with Jackie and they walk toward the car.

CONTINUED:

JACKIE

Let's go, Mr. Mayor. It's cold and I need to pick up some bagels for your mom's.

MIKE

OK. OK. I just have to make one stop first.

JACKIE

Where?

MIKE

I have to swing by a client's house and shut off the water.

JACKIE

Why?

MIKE

Because it's freezing and I don't want his pipes to burst.

JACKIE

No, I mean why are you doing it?

MIKE

(casually)

What? Oh, because I'm his guardian.

JACKIE

What? Since when?

MIKE

Just last week.

ABBY

Mommy, I want a bagel.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

That's a big deal, Mike. Were you even gonna tell me?

MIKE

It's not a big deal. And yes, I was gonna tell you.

JACKIE

JACKIE (CONT'D)

You don't have time to be taking care of some old man.

CONTINUED:

MIKE

Jack, he's in Oak Knoll. They do everything. I just have to check in on him from time to time.

JACKIE

And who pays for that?

MIKE

He does. It comes out of his estate and he can afford it. Trust me.

JACKIE

I don't get it. You've never done it before.

MIKE

No I haven't.

JACKIE

So why are you doing it now?

MIKE

It's just...the right thing to do, alright. We couldn't find his daughter and I'm just trying to help the guy. It's really not a big deal.

JACKIE

Well, it sounds like a big deal. And you should have told me.

ABBY

What's a big deal?

JACKIE

Ask your daddy, sweetie. Maybe he'll tell you.

ABBY

Daddy, what's a big deal?

INT. MIKE'S CAR - LATER

Mike pulls up to Leo's house. It's a small house in a working class section of town. A TEENAGER is sitting on the front stoop.

JACKIE

Is that his house?

CONTINUED:

MIKE

Yeah.

JACKIE

(Re: the Young Man)

Who's that?

MIKE

No idea.

Mike gets out of the car.

EXT. LEO POPLAR'S HOUSE - LATER

Mike walks up the front walk. The YOUNG MAN is listening to his Ipod and smoking a cigarette. Mike approaches and waves. The YOUNG MAN removes his headphones. He has a BRUISE on his left eye.

MIKE

How you doing? Can I help you?

YOUNG MAN

No.

MIKE

Are you looking for Mr. Poplar?

YOUNG MAN

Yeah.

MIKE

Well, he doesn't live here anymore.

YOUNG MAN

Where does he live?

MIKE

You mind telling me why you're looking for him first?

The Young Man sizes Mike up. Then...

YOUNG MAN

He's my Grandfather. I came to live with him.

Mike is momentarily stunned by the news. Then he looks back at the car where Jackie gives him a "What's going on?" look. Uh oh.

INT. MIKE'S CAR - LATER

Mike is driving. The Young Man is in the back seat next to Abby and Stella.

JACKIE
So do you live around here, Kyle?

KYLE
No. Ohio.

Jackie looks at Mike who tries to avoid her piercing gaze.

JACKIE
Ohio? And where are your parents?

KYLE
It's just my mother and me. She's back in Columbus. She couldn't come.

JACKIE
So how did you get here?

KYLE
Bus.

JACKIE
Really? All by yourself?

KYLE
Yeah.

JACKIE
Wow.

ABBY
That sounds like a big deal.

Jackie looks at Mike. From the mouths of babes.

INT. OAK KNOLL SENIOR LIVING, HALLWAY - LATER

Mike knocks on Leo's door. After a moment, Leo opens it.

MIKE
Hey, Leo, you have a visitor.

LEO
Who? Him?

CONTINUED:

MIKE

Yeah.

KYLE

Hi.

LEO

Come on in. I'll turn off the TV.

INT. OAK KNOLL SENIOR LIVING, LEO'S ROOM - SAME.

Leo turns off the TV and then turns and looks at Kyle. He doesn't recognize him.

MIKE

This is Kyle Timmons, Leo. He's your grandson. He came from Ohio to see you.

LEO

I don't have a Grandson.

KYLE

Yeah, you do. We just never met.

LEO

Are you bringing me home?

Kyle looks to Mike, unsure of what to say.

MIKE

Kyle's just here for a visit, Leo.

LEO

Oh. You want to watch TV?

KYLE

OK.

Leo turns on the TV and sits down. Kyle joins him.

MIKE

OK. So I'll come back to pick you up in an hour. You OK?

KYLE

Yeah.

MIKE

You alright, Leo?
(Leo doesn't respond)
OK, see you in a bit.

CONTINUED:

Mike leaves.

INT. GINA FLAHERTY'S HOUSE - LATER.

The house is smaller than Mike's house. GINA, MIKE'S MOTHER, and Jackie clean up after breakfast. Mike sits with Abby at the kitchen table.

GINA
So did you call his mother?

JACKIE
No. Not yet. Oh and he was smoking too. He's sixteen!

GINA
He's probably on drugs.

JACKIE
I know.

GINA
What are you going to do with him?

MIKE
We're going to send him back is what we're going to do.

GINA
Well I hope so. You have your hands full over there. And now taking care of that old man too. That sounds like a lot, Mike.

JACKIE
Thank you, Gina. I agree. He somehow forgot to tell me about it.

MIKE
I told you.

JACKIE
Not until I asked.

GINA
His daughter should be taking care of him. Not you. You have me to worry about.

MIKE
I don't have to worry about him. He's at Oak Knoll.

CONTINUED:

ABBY
Daddy? Can we play croquet today?

GINA
The whole thing just sounds crazy.

JACKIE
It is crazy. It's crazy.

ABBY
(To Mike)
Who's crazy?

MIKE
Me.

EXT. OAK KNOLL SENIOR LIVING - LATER

Mike and Kyle exit the building and walk toward the parking lot.

MIKE
How did the visit go?

KYLE
OK. He fell asleep watching TV. So he lives there now?

MIKE
Yeah. Your grandfather is in the early stages of dementia, Kyle. So sometimes he does things and says things that don't make sense.

KYLE
Are you a friend of his or something?

MIKE
I'm his guardian.

KYLE
What's that mean?

MIKE
It means I make sure he's well taken care of.

KYLE
That's cool.

Kyle lights a cigarette.

INT. MIKE'S AND JACKIE'S HOUSE, BASEMENT - NIGHT.

Kyle's is fiddling with KID'S KEYBOARD. Jackie walks downstairs.

JACKIE
Everything alright?

KYLE
Yeah.

JACKIE
Did you reach your mom?

KYLE
Yeah. I told her I was coming home.

JACKIE
Did she want to talk to me or anything?

KYLE
No.

JACKIE
Well, I'm sorry you can't stay longer but maybe you can come back with your mom and visit again.

KYLE
Yeah. If I want to smoke should I go outside?

JACKIE
You shouldn't be smoking.

KYLE
I know. But if I do.

Jackie decides not to engage.

JACKIE
Yeah. You should go outside.

KYLE
OK. Good night, Jackie.

JACKIE
Good night, Kyle.

Jackie nods and leaves.

INT. MIKE AND JACKIE'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - SAME.

Mike is leaning against the counter eating ice cream. Jackie emerges from the stairs, shuts basement door behind her and slides a dead bolt locking it.

MIKE
What are you doing?

JACKIE
We have kids, Mike. I'm not taking any chances with Eminem down there.

MIKE
There's not even a bathroom down there.

Jackie thinks about this and then unlocks the door in a huff and walks up stairs.

INT. OAK KNOLL SENIOR LIVING, DINING ROOM - DAY.

Mike and Kyle are sitting with Leo who is eating breakfast.

LEO
Hey Mike, could you talk to them about getting Coco Puffs? I like that kind.

MIKE
Sure thing, Leo.

LEO
(To Kyle)
Mike's a stand up guy. You need cereal then talk to him.

Kyle and Mike smile. Mike checks his watch.

MIKE
We should go, Kyle.

KYLE
OK. Bye Leo.

LEO
Are you going to work?

KYLE
No. I'm going home.

CONTINUED:

LEO
Well, don't take any shit from any
of those guys.

Kyle smiles. He doesn't always understand this guy but he
likes him.

KYLE
I won't.

He leaves.

EXT. BUS STATION - LATER.

Mike and Kyle are waiting for the bus. Mike pulls out his
wallet.

MIKE
Here's fifty bucks in case you need
it.

Mike counts his cash.

KYLE
I have money.

MIKE
Actually it's only forty-three but
take it. You never know.

KYLE
I have enough money. But thanks.

The bus pulls up.

MIKE
Well, good luck, Kyle.

KYLE
Yeah. You too, Mike.

Kyle gets on the bus. Mike watches it pull away.

INT. MIKE'S AND JACKIE'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - NIGHT.

Mike and Jackie are sleeping. The phone rings and Mike
answers the phone.

MIKE
Hello? Yes, it is. Yes. OK.

CONTINUED:

Jackie sits up and turns on the light.

MIKE (CONT'D)
OK. Thanks. I'll be right down.

He hangs up the phone.

JACKIE
What?

MIKE
It was the police. They have Kyle.

JACKIE
What? Why?

MIKE
Breaking and entering.

Mike gets up.

JACKIE
What?

EXT. POLICE STATION - LATER.

Mike and Kyle walk out of the New Providence Police Station.

MIKE
So what happened?

KYLE
I decided not to go home.

MIKE
And then you decided you'd break
into your Grandfather's house?

KYLE
You mind if I have a quick smoke?

MIKE
Yeah, I do. Get in the car.

INT. MIKE'S CAR - SAME.

Kyle fastens his seat belt.

MIKE
So you want to tell me what
happened?

CONTINUED:

KYLE

Not really.

MIKE

Yeah. Well good luck with that,
pal.

Kyle looks at Mike.

MIKE (CONT'D)

You'll see.

INT. MIKE AND JACKIE'S HOUSE - LATER.

Jackie is waiting. Kyle is on the hot seat. Mike is watching.

JACKIE

Kyle?

Kyle can barely look at her.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

We can't help you if you don't tell
us what's going on. Is there a
reason you don't want to go home?

Kyle remains silent.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

What happened to your eye, Kyle?

Kyle shifts. Avoiding.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Kyle. You can trust us.

Kyle looks up at them. Trust is obviously an issue.

KYLE

I can't live there anymore.

JACKIE

With your Mom? Did she do that to
your eye?

KYLE

No. She's not even there. She's in
a clinic or hospital or whatever.
I'm living with Craig.

JACKIE

Who's Craig?

CONTINUED:

KYLE

Her boyfriend, I guess, but he's an asshole.

JACKIE

Does she even know you're here?

KYLE

My mom? She doesn't care about me.

JACKIE

How do you know? She's probably worried sick and just doesn't know how to reach you.

Kyle reaches into his pocket and takes out his cell phone.

KYLE

She could've called, right?

The sincerity of his question is heartbreaking and Jackie is cut to the quick. She looks at Mike. Brutal.

EXT. MIKE AND JACKIE'S HOUSE - LATER.

Kyle is sitting on the back steps and smoking a cigarette.

INT. MIKE'S AND JACKIE'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - LATER.

Mike is sitting up in bed. His wheels are spinning.

JACKIE (O.S.)

We don't have a choice now.

MIKE

So what are we gonna do? Adopt him?

Jackie walks into the room putting on face moisturizer.

JACKIE

No. But I'm not sending him back until I talk to his mother. She better freaking call me back.

MIKE

Honey, I know it's tough but we're not in a position to take care of another kid right now.

She gets in the bed.

CONTINUED:

JACKIE

I don't care. I'm not sending him back there, Mike. I can't. And for the record, I'm not very happy about it either!

MIKE

Then we don't have to do this.

JACKIE

Yes, we do, Mike! We do. It makes me so angry and so damn sad to see that poor kid in that kind of situation. He's just a kid.

Jackie starts to break. Mike buckles.

MIKE

I know. I know. You're right.

JACKIE

I just want to go to Ohio and...beat the crap out of his mom.

MIKE

Come on.

JACKIE

I do. I want to beat the crap out of her and her stupid boyfriend.

MIKE

OK.

JACKIE

I'm serious.

MIKE

I know. I'm just not sure that beating the crap out of everybody is the best solution.

JACKIE

Well it feels like it. I'm leaving her another message.

Jackie picks up her phone and dials.

MIKE

Now?

JACKIE

Yes. Now. Shush!

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY.

Terry is sitting in his parked car, talking on his cell.

TERRY (O.S.)
So get rid of him again.

INT. TERRY'S CAR - SAME.

Terry watches as a PICK UP TRUCK pulls into a beautiful country house.

MIKE (O.S.)
I can't. Not until we figure what's going on back there.

TERRY
Have you talked to his mother?

MIKE
No. Not yet. Jack's left her about thirty messages.

A STRAPPING CONTRACTOR wearing a TOOL BELT gets out and walks into the house.

TERRY
Mother fucker. He's wearing his tool belt.

MIKE (O.S.)
What? Who?

TERRY
No. Sorry dude, I was distracted.

MIKE (O.S.)
Where are you? Are you watching Lori's house again?

Terry quickly pulls out.

TERRY
It's my fucking house and no. I'm just driving. Where's the kid now?

INT. MIKE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS.

Mike is sitting at his desk.

CONTINUED:

MIKE

He's sitting in my waiting room.
Jackie made me take him with me.

TERRY (O.S.)

Alright, listen pal, this is not
the time to long that stock, you
know what I mean?

MIKE

No. What does that mean?

TERRY

It means you shouldn't be taking
care of another kid. Especially a
convict.

MIKE

(On phone)
Yeah, well...

Shelly pops her head in.

SHELLY

I found her.

Mike spins in his chair.

MIKE

Let me call you back.

TERRY (O.S.)

Fine. But get rid of the convict,
Mike!

Mike hangs up.

SHELLY

She's in a drug treatment program
in Columbus. She has five weeks to
go.

MIKE

Jesus. Can I talk to her?

SHELLY

They said she would call you.

Mike shakes his head. Nothing is easy here.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

He's kind of a sweet kid but what's
up with hair?

CONTINUED:

MIKE

Who knows?

A knock on the door.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Yeah.

Kyle opens it.

KYLE

Can I go visit Leo?

Mike looks to Shelly who just shrugs.

MIKE

Uh...yeah...OK. You know where it is?

KYLE

Yeah. Just down the street.

MIKE

OK, yeah. Just stay there and I'll pick you up at about three.

KYLE

OK.

Kyle shuts the door. Mike looks at Shelly.

SHELLY

That's some crazy hair, I'm just saying.

INT. NEW PROVIDENCE HIGHSCHOOL GYM, THE PIT - LATER.

Kyle is sitting in the corner watching. Mike is standing and watching. He doesn't like what he sees.

MIKE

Hey, Rew, what are you doing?
Coach, can you get on Pill.

VIGMAN

Get up, Rew.

REW gets up and Vigman gets down on the other wrestler, PILL.

CONTINUED:

MIKE

Everyone watch because none of you are doing it right. You want to put your chest into his side.

Vig does it but he's a bit off.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Just slide back a bit, Vig. A bit more. Yeah. Right there. Then you give him your full weight. Go ahead Vig.

Vig does. Pill starts to buckle. Vig is big.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Then you ride the crotch and break him down with a cross-face.

Vigman grabs Pill under the crotch, applies a stiff cross-face and then drives him hard to the mat. Another Wrestler, STEMLER chimes in. Stemler is wearing a STAR WARS t-shirt.

STEMLER

Oh man, how'd that feel, Pill? We'll just call you "pancake"!

Stemler's a bit off.

PILL

Shut up, Chewbaka.

STEMLER

Yeah, right. More like the "Secret Apprentice".

FEENEY

What are you, ten years old, Stemler?

Mike loses it.

MIKE

Hey! We're trying to teach you guys something and you're all just goofing off. Shut up!

VIG

Quiet!

MIKE

Last time I checked we haven't won a match! Right coach?!

CONTINUED:

VIG
It's embarrassing, guys.

MIKE
It's embarrassing. But you're all acting like you don't care! Well, I'm not getting paid enough to just jerk around here.
(gestures to Vig)
I don't know about you?

VIG
I'm not getting paid enough.

MIKE
I care about what I do and so should you!

VIG
I care!

MIKE
So does coach Vig, and so should you! Run em, Coach. I can't look at them anymore!

VIG
Let's go ladies!

Mike storms out past Kyle who watches him go.

INT. MIKE AND JACKIE'S HOUSE, DINING ROOM - LATER.

Mike, Jackie, Abby and Kyle are eating dinner together. Abby is coloring. Mike watches Kyle as he finishes his big glass of milk.

JACKIE
Here, have some more corn.

She gives him the bowl of corn.

JACKIE (CONT'D)
I'll get you some more milk too.

Kyle finishes off the corn. Jackie gets up for the milk.

JACKIE (CONT'D)
Did you call Fenn about the tree, Mike?

CONTINUED:

MIKE

Uh...yeah I did but Terry said he'd help and I think we can...

JACKIE

Mike. Don't start. You two are not cutting down that tree. Just call Fenn.

Stella starts to cry on the BABY MONITOR.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

I'm going to give her some Tylenol.

And Jackie is gone.

ABBY

(to Kyle)

Do you want to play croquet?

KYLE

Now?

ABBY

When it's warm.

KYLE

Yeah, maybe.

Mike gets up and begins to load the dishwasher.

ABBY

Daddy, can I watch TV?

MIKE

Uh...yeah but just for a half hour.

Abby leaves. Kyle turns to Mike.

KYLE

Hey Mike, you think I could practice with you guys tomorrow?

MIKE

Yeah, if you want. Sure. And by the way, what I did in there today, yelling like that. I don't usually do that.

KYLE

You were right, they deserved it.

INT. NEW PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL, BACK GYM - DAY.

Mike and Kyle are walking into the gym.

KYLE

I don't have wrestling shoes.

MIKE

Don't worry about it. You ever wrestle before?

KYLE

Yeah.

Vigman is already running the team through a drill.

VIGMAN

Get that ankle. Get that ankle!
Time!

MIKE

Hey Vig. Alright, guys, listen up!
Kyle's going to be working out with
us for a little while.

STEMLER

(Loudly)
What's up Kyle!

The team laughs. Kyle just nods to Stemler.

VIGMAN

Carlos, you and Jimmy rotate him
in.

Kyle nods and walks over to Carlos and Jimmy.

VIGMAN (CONT'D)

OK. Let's go. Ten seconds to get an
ankle. Then we switch it up. Ready?
Wrestle!

Jimmy sits against the wall and Mike blows his whistle again
the wrestlers all go at each other. Mike watches Kyle.

He moves well. Fluidly. Carlos keeps trying to grab Kyle's
ankle but Kyle easily defends against it. Mike checks his
watch. Then blows his whistle.

MIKE

Time. Switch. And...wrestle!

CONTINUED:

Mike blows his whistle again and Kyle goes on the offensive. He gives Carlos a quick head fake and before Carlos knows what's happened, Kyle has grabbed his ankle and tripped him down to the mat.

Carlos looks shocked. Kyle pops back up but stays focused on Carlos. Mike looks to Vigman who raises an eyebrow, impressed. One thing is certain, Kyle can wrestle.

EXT. NEW PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT - NIGHT.

Kyle and Mike are walking toward the car.

MIKE
You have fun?

KYLE
Yeah.

MIKE
When's the last time you wrestled?

KYLE
A couple years ago.

MIKE
Why'd you stop?

KYLE
Just felt like it.

Kyle just shrugs and Mike let's it go. They arrive at Mike's car and Mike talks to Kyle over the roof.

MIKE
So let me ask you something, Kyle.
How good are you?

Kyle just looks at Mike, almost blank.

KYLE
I'm pretty good.

INT. MIKE AND JACKIE'S HOUSE, MIKE'S OFFICE NOOK - LATER.

Mike is looking at his computer screen.

MIKE
Holy shit.

INT. TERRY'S CONDO - LATER.

Mike runs inside. It's a sparsely furnished bachelor pad with all the toys.

MIKE (O.S.)
You check out that link I sent you?

TERRY (O.S.)
Yeah. Kyle Timmons. That's the kid?

MIKE (O.S.)
Yeah. That's the kid!

TERRY
Holy shit!

MIKE
I know, right? Can you believe that?!

Terry is in the den at his computer, reading excitedly.

TERRY
Holy shit! He was thirty-five and one as a freshman!

MIKE
I know. He finished second at the states. In Ohio!

Mike walks into the kitchen and grabs a beer.

TERRY
This kid had seventeen pins. He's a killer.

MIKE
I know. It's nuts. And he quit after his freshman year.

TERRY
Why?

MIKE
I don't know. He doesn't talk much. He's kind of a weird kid. Why can't I have one kid like that on my team? Just one.

CONTINUED:

TERRY

What're you talking about? You do.
You have him. You can take this kid
to the states, Mike.

MIKE

He's not on the team, Ter. He's not
even a student. He's been here for
three days.

TERRY

So what? Enroll him!

MIKE

I'm not enrolling him. He's just
here until we reach his mother and
figure this out.

TERRY

So he's gotta do something, right?
Let him wrestle. Look at this way,
you're helping out the old man and
this kid's a little bonus for doing
the right thing.

MIKE

I'm not just helping out the old
man, Ter. It's not like it's
charity work. I'm getting paid for
it.

TERRY

No. Shit, everyone gets paid, but
think about it, Mike. What are the
chances that this kid ends up on
your door step and he can wrestle
like that? It's a sign, pal.

This lands with Mike. Terry sits down at his computer.

TERRY (CONT'D)

Check this out. There's a video
link of him wrestling in some
tournament.

Terry presses play. It's grainy and amateur but good enough.
Mike looks on.

TERRY (CONT'D)

Look at that kid.

Mike gets sucked in.

CONTINUED:

MIKE

Wow. He's gonna throw him. Look,
he's setting him up. He's setting
him up!

Mike and Terry explode. They high five and hug.

INT. MIKE AND JACKIE'S HOUSE, FOYER - MORNING.

Kyle is standing, waiting. Jackie walks out with her purse.

JACKIE

Here's five dollars for lunch. I
have no idea what it costs but let
me know when you find out.

KYLE

I have money.

JACKIE

Good for you. Save it. Now take
this, it's too early to argue.

Kyle takes it. Mike arrives.

MIKE

OK. Let's go, pal.

JACKIE

Bye Jackie.

Kyle leaves. Mike kisses Jackie.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Hey, you sure we should do this?

MIKE

Why not? Whether he's here for two
more days or two weeks it gives him
something to do all day. Unless you
want him hanging out here?

JACKIE

OK. Go.

INT. NEW PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL, MAIN OFFICE - DAY.

Mike and Kyle are waiting. After a moment, STEVE DELUCA, THE
PRINCIPAL, emerges from his office and greets them. They all
walk into his office.

INT. MIKE'S OFFICE - DAY.

Mike is working at his desk. Shelly opens the door.

SHELLY

Hey Mike, we got a check from Leo Poplar's trust for \$1,500 but it's made out to you and not the firm.

MIKE

Right. I'll take that.

Mike gets up and takes the check.

SHELLY

Shouldn't I deposit it in the business account?

MIKE

No. It's not a legal fee. It's a personal fee.

SHELLY

For what?

He puts on his coat.

MIKE

Oh, I ended up taking on Leo's guardianship.

SHELLY

(Surprised)
Really?

MIKE

Yeah, I thought I mentioned that to you.

SHELLY

No, you definitely didn't mention that.

MIKE

Yeah, well, it just played out that way. I have to get going.

He turns off his computer.

SHELLY

Well can we put some of that in the business account so they don't take our copier back?

CONTINUED:

MIKE

Uh..not this time. Next month.
Promise.

He grabs his briefcase and leaves.

SHELLY

We need our copier, Mike.

MIKE

I know. Bye Shelly.

CLANK. CLANK. CLANK.

SHELLY

And that noise is getting louder.
I'm not hung over today!

EXT. BANK - LATER.

Mike walks out of the bank and dials his cell phone.

MIKE

Hey honey. I'm good. Could you do
me a favor and drop that health
insurance check in the mail? I just
forgot to mail it. Yeah, it's on my
desk. Thanks. I'll call you later.

INT. NEW PROVIDENCE HIGHSCHOOL, LOCKER ROOM - LATER.

Terry is walking through the locker room. A few WRESTLERS and
BASKETBALL PLAYERS are getting dressed.

TERRY

What's up Fella's? Hitting the
showers, huh?
(to himself)
That sounded weird.

INT. NEW PROVIDENCE HIGHSCHOOL, COACHES OFFICE - SAME.

Mike and Vigman are in their office looking over a board.

TERRY

Oh yeah!

MIKE

Hey.

CONTINUED:

TERRY
What's up? Hey Vig.

VIGMAN
Hi Terry.

MIKE
What are you doing here?

TERRY
What do you think? I have to see
this kid.

VIGMAN
He's incredible. Just incredible.
And he's good to wrestle.

TERRY
Great. So what's next?

Terry pulls up a stool.

MIKE
We're trying to figure out where he
can wrestle?

TERRY
Where ever the hell he wants,
right?

MIKE
No. Not right.

Kyle knocks at the door.

MIKE (CONT'D)
Hey Kyle. Come on in. How was
school?

KYLE
OK.

MIKE
This is my friend Terry.

Terry, pops up, a bit too excitedly.

TERRY
Hey man! Nice to meet you! Really
nice to meet you. Welcome.

KYLE
Thanks.

CONTINUED:

Mike tries to cover.

MIKE
How the shoe's fit?

KYLE
Good.

MIKE
So let me ask you something, Kyle.
You think you might want to wrestle
in a match?

KYLE
OK.

MIKE
Great. We have a match on Saturday.
What do you wrestle?

KYLE
One-nineteen.

TERRY
Excellent. Done.

KYLE
Is anyone there now?

MIKE
Yeah. Jimmy Reed. But I think he
might be better off at 125.

KYLE
Don't you think we should wrestle
off?

MIKE/TERRY/VIG
Yeah.

INT. NEW PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL, THE PIT - LATER.

KYLE's tying his NEW WRESTLING SHOES. The rest of the team is
sitting around the mat.

VIGMAN
Alright, let's go guys. Wrestle
off.

MIKE
Vig, you keep time?

CONTINUED:

Mike holds up a stop watch.

VIGMAN

Yeah.

TERRY

I'll do it.

Terry grabs the watch from Mike.

TERRY (CONT'D)

You don't mind, do you?

VIGMAN

No. Go ahead.

Mike gives Terry a look. Vig minds. Kyle and JIMMY REED shake hands. And set themselves on their marks.

VIGMAN (CONT'D)

Ready? And...wrestle.

Vigman blows his whistle and the room erupts in cheering. Most of it for Jimmy Reed except for Stemler who is rooting for Kyle.

Jimmy and Kyle lock arms but Kyle pushes him away. Jimmy locks again but Kyle pushes him away again. Jimmy comes in hard this time and Kyle uses his momentum to quickly throw him to the ground.

Jimmy tries to scramble to his knees but Kyle is all over him. He quickly locks Jimmy in a cradle and rocks him onto his back. It looks easy. Vigman calls the pin. The room is quiet...except for Terry.

TERRY

Wow!

Mike shoots Terry a look. Kyle helps Jimmy off the mat.

KYLE

Good match.

JIMMY

Didn't feel good.

Vigman turns to Mike and Terry.

VIGMAN

I don't think we can teach him anything.

INT. DIMAIO'S PIZZERIA - LATER.

Mike, Terry, Kyle, Jackie and the kids are eating pizza.

TERRY

I don't know why we didn't quit.
Just the smell of that room brought
back the memories. I hated it, it
was like a form of self-abuse.

KYLE

Were you guys that bad?

TERRY

Mike was average. I sucked. Sorry
Abby.

ABBY

It's OK.

Mike checks his watch.

MIKE

I gotta stop by the office and deal
with the computer. Should I...?

JACKIE

No, I'll take him.

TERRY

We both should have quit. Then we
could have joined the ski club and
gotten busy with Allison Shepard on
the overnights.

MIKE

Hey! Yo!

JACKIE

Terry!

ABBY

Who was busy?

JACKIE

Your Uncle Terry is just silly.

TERRY

Sorry Abby. Getting busy is bad.

Kyle cracks up. Terry catches his eye.

INT. MIKE'S OFFICE - LATER.

Terry is sitting in Mike's office. A bottle of scotch and two glasses on the desk.

KYLE
Hey, how do you think we'd do
against Kyle? Now?

MIKE (O.S.)
He'd kill us. Both of us. Together.

TERRY
Yeah, you're right. The kid has man
strength, dude.

Mike emerges from under the desk.

MIKE
Man strength?

TERRY
Yeah. You know. Not kid strength.
Man strength.

MIKE
Yeah...I wouldn't say that around
the locker room.

TERRY
What the hell are you doing anyway?

MIKE
Trying to figure out what's wrong
with my fricking back-up system.

TERRY
Just call your IT guy?

MIKE
I don't have an IT guy. IT guys
cost money.

TERRY
OK. I'm just gonna say what's on my
mind. I want to be an assistant
coach too.

MIKE
Seriously?

CONTINUED:

TERRY

Yeah. Why not? I'm value added.
Especially compared to Vig.

MIKE

How are you value added?

TERRY

Well first of all I'm fun. No
denying that. And secondly, unlike
Vig, I actually used to wrestle.

MIKE

Yeah, but Ter, you sucked.

TERRY

That doesn't matter, your team
sucks. Plus I even look more like a
coach than Vig.

MIKE

Yeah, that's not really value
added.

TERRY

Look, Mike, I'm serious here. I
need some distraction in my life
right now. All I do is sit in my
condo and think about Lori and that
guy having sex in the jacuzzi I
paid for. It's fucking unhealthy.
I've been really kind of going
crazy. Really.

Mike looks at his friend. He can tell he's serious.

MIKE

We start at 3:30pm. Don't be late.

TERRY

My brother! I will not let you
down. To the team.

Terry raises his glass. Mike toasts.

TERRY (CONT'D)

Hey, what should I wear to
practice?

MIKE

Just a singlet.

CONTINUED:

TERRY

Really?

MIKE

Yeah, so we can see your man strength.

TERRY

Good one, Coach! See, it's already fun.

INT. MIKE AND JACKIE'S HOUSE, BASEMENT - NIGHT.

Jackie is hanging laundry. She hears a phone ringing from the laundry room. She peeks around the corner and sees that Kyle is not there. She crosses to his phone and picks it up. It reads "Mom". She answers it.

JACKIE

Hello? Hello, this Jackie Flaherty.
Kyle is staying with us. Hello?
(She closes the phone)
I'm gonna kill that lady.

She sets the phone down and turns. Kyle is standing on the stairs. His hair is wet and he's carrying his towel.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Oh. Hi. I heard your phone ringing and...

KYLE

You answered it?

JACKIE

Yeah, well, I saw it was your Mom and we've been waiting to hear from her.

KYLE

What'd she say?

JACKIE

She didn't say anything. She hung up. Have you talked to her?

KYLE

No. Can you not answer my phone anymore?

JACKIE

Yeah. OK. I can do that. I'm sorry.

CONTINUED:

Jackie heads back to laundry room. She stops at the stairs.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Oh. Here's a bucket. You shouldn't be smoking but if you do could you put the cigarettes in here.

KYLE

I quit now that I'm wrestling

JACKIE

Oh. Good. OK.

She leaves. Kyle walks over the couch and picks up his phone.

INT. MIKE AND JACKIE'S HOUSE - EARLY MORNING.

Mike and Jackie are sleeping. A sound from downstairs. Then a door opens and shut. Mike sits up and listens.

JACKIE

Is that Abby?

MIKE

If it is, she just ran away.

INT. MIKE AND JACKIE'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS.

Mike walks into the kitchen. Kyle is drinking water.

MIKE

Were you outside?

KYLE

Yeah. I went for a run.

MIKE

It's pretty early. You do this every morning?

KYLE

In season, yeah. I like to get my run in early and then drill some moves for an hour before school.

MIKE

Oh. Wow.

KYLE

Yeah...so I'm gonna do it. See you.

CONTINUED:

Kyle walks downstairs.

INT. MIKE'S AND JACKIE'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - LATER.

Mike climbs back into bed. Jackie barely moves.

MIKE
It was Kyle.

JACKIE
What's he doing?

MIKE
Working out.

JACKIE
Is he gonna do it every morning?

MIKE
In season. Yeah.

Beat.

JACKIE
I hate you.

MIKE
I know.

INT. NEW PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL, LOCKER ROOM - DAY.

Kyle takes off his shirt and stands on the scale wearing only his underwear. He's lean and muscular. He has a TATOO on his right arm and PAIR OF WINGS TATOO on his shoulder blades.

VIGMAN
Jesus! Look at those tats.

TERRY
This kid is just fricking cool.

REF
Timmons. One nineteen. Good.

INT. NEW PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL, MAIN GYM - LATER.

The New Providence team jogs out to the mat. There are maybe twenty people there. A PUNK ROCK SONG is playing.

CONTINUED:

TERRY

This song sucks.

VIGMAN

Rew picked it. He's an odd one.

TERRY

Hey Vig, which kid is yours anyway?

VIGMAN

None of them. He quit.

TERRY

Really? You're son quit?

VIGMAN

My step son and yes. Don't get me started, I thought becoming a coach might be a nice way for us to bond. He said it wasn't fierce and he quit.

TERRY

Harsh. So why you still doing it?

MIKE

Vig is leading by example. Winners never quit.

VIGMAN

That's right, even if it sucks. This team is just depressing sometimes.

Terry sits next to Mike.

VIGMAN (CONT'D)

That's where I sit, Ter.

TERRY

Sorry buddy. I got to be near, Mike. It's good luck.

VIGMAN

Say's who?

MIKE

Guys. I don't think we should fight about our seats in front of the kids.

INT. NEW PROVIDENCE HIGHSCHOOL, MAIN GYM - LATER.

The Pioneers are getting beat. Carlos is wrestling and putting up a good fight but time is running out and he's down by three points. He tries a desperate takedown but it backfires and the other wrestler picks up another two points. The buzzer sounds. Match over.

The team gets up to greet Carlos. Kyle strips off his sweats and buckles up his head gear. He walks up to Mike for a pep talk.

MIKE
OK. You ready?

KYLE
Yeah.

MIKE
This kid is good. So just...you know...be ready out there.

Terry gives Vigman a look. "Be ready?"

KYLE
Can you give me a slap?

MIKE
What?

KYLE
Give me a slap. Across the face.
Like your waking me up.

MIKE
Uh, OK.

Mike cuffs Kyle on the side of the head gear.

KYLE
Can you do it harder?

Mike slaps him hard. And Kyle sprints to the mat and takes his stance.

The Ref blows the whistle and the wrestlers circle each other. The OTHER WRESTLER is clearly on the offensive.

TERRY
Come on, Kyle. Take this punk out.

CONTINUED:

MIKE

(Under his breath)

Ter! Cut the shit! You're a coach.
You're not sitting in the stands.

TERRY

Sorry. I'm just excited. You know
me.

The Other Wrestler shoots a single and takes Kyle down. Two
points.

TERRY (CONT'D)

What's he doing?

VIGMAN

Losing.

MIKE

It's his first match. Give him a
break.

The Other Wrestler is relentless. Kyle keeps trying to get up
and the kid keeps breaking him down. Kyle stands up and Other
Wrestler slams him to the mat. Kyle is getting beat up.

The two Wrestlers go out of bounds and the Ref stops the
action. Kyle gets up and Mike checks in with him.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Hey! You OK?

KYLE

(slight smile)

Yeah.

Kyle gets into the bottom position.

VIGMAN

Did he smile?

MIKE

Yeah. I think he did.

TERRY

Good. That's good, right?

The Ref blows the whistle and Kyle explodes to his feet,
kicking a leg back between the Other Wrestler's legs. He
lower's his body, reaches behind him and whips the Other
Wrestler to the mat.

CONTINUED:

He drops down and puts him a double arm bar and runs the Other Wrestler right up over his own shoulders. The Ref drops to the mat and calls the pin. Match over. The Team jumps up and cheers.

TERRY (CONT'D)
(to Vigman)
See. I'm good luck.

VIGMAN
That's got nothing to do with luck.

Kyle shakes the other wrestler's hands and the Ref raises his hand in victory. Kyle crosses to the opposing coaches and shakes their hands. Then he runs to back to his bench. Mike greets him with a handshake.

MIKE
How'd that feel? Pretty good?

KYLE
Yeah, pretty good.

Mike smiles and Kyle sits down. The next wrestler, Jimmy steps up to Mike.

MIKE
You ready?

JIMMY
Yeah. Can you slap me too, Coach?

Mike laughs. And then he slaps him.

INT. MIKE AND JACKIE'S HOUSE, DEN - NIGHT.

Mike, Kyle and Abby are watching TV. Jackie walks in putting on her coat.

JACKIE
I'm going to the market. I'll be back in a bit.

KYLE
Can I go with you?

JACKIE
Uh...yeah OK.

Kyle gets up to get his coat. Jackie looks at Mike who just shrugs.

CONTINUED:

ABBY

I want to go with Kyle.

MIKE

No, honey. It's almost bed time.

INT. GROCERY STORE - LATER.

Jackie is shopping. Kyle catches up to her. He is carrying two BOXES OF CEREAL. He doesn't put them in the basket.

JACKIE

Coco Puffs. Is that your brand?

KYLE

It's for Leo.

JACKIE

Nice. Drop it in, it's on me. Go ahead.

(Kyle does)

How's he doing?

KYLE

He's doing OK. He can say some pretty funny things. Yesterday he told me I was fired.

JACKIE

Fired? For what?

KYLE

I don't know. He just fired me.

JACKIE

I think I have to meet this Leo.

KYLE

Yeah. He's a pretty funny dude.

JACKIE

You have any home work?

KYLE

A little but I already did it.

JACKIE

Impressive. You ever think about going to college?

CONTINUED:

KYLE

Yeah but just to wrestle. My old coach thought I could get a scholarship.

JACKIE

Yeah, I hear you're pretty good. So why'd you quit?

Kyle just shrugs.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

You don't have to tell me. It's alright.

They keep walking. Jackie grabs a box of tacos from the shelf.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Do you like tacos?

KYLE

Yeah.

JACKIE

Me, too. I make a mean taco.

INT. NEW PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL, THE PIT - LATER.

The team is jogging in circles around the mat. Mike, Vigman, and Terry, stand in the middle of the circle talking.

VIGMAN

Let's go! Circle up!

MIKE

Alright. I want to spend this week working on bottom position. Did you all see Kyle the other day? He exploded up. Kyle, show the guys what you did.

Kyle is caught off guard. He hesitates

KYLE

It's kind of my own thing.

MIKE

So can you share it with us?

CONTINUED:

KYLE

Well, it's not a move or anything, I just tell myself that the guy on top is going to take my head and shove it under water and kill me. And if I don't want to die on the bottom, I just gotta do what ever the fuck it takes to get out.

This kid is intense. His words really land with Mike.

VIGMAN

OK. So the move is called "whatever the fuck it takes." Let's go. Let's work on it. Come on. "Whatever the fuck it takes."

Vigman claps and the wrestlers start to move.

INT. OAK KNOLL SENIOR LIVING, COMMUNAL ROOM - DAY.

Kyle sitting in the communal room at a table with Leo. Kyle is doing homework. Leo is staring out the window. Court TV is playing in the background.

LEO

You're mother didn't want to come?

KYLE

No.

LEO

She's a tough kid that one. She tell you bad things about me?

KYLE

Yeah. But I never believe her anyway.

LEO

You should, she's your mother. Respect that.

(Pointng to the TV)

Can you turn that down? I hate that judge. I wouldn't be in this place if it wasn't for her.

KYLE

But this place is pretty nice.

CONTINUED:

LEO

It's not my damn house! I paid for that house. Damn Judge. Turn it off!

KYLE

You want to take a walk outside, Leo?

LEO

Yeah. Let's go to my park.

KYLE

Your park, huh?

LEO

Yeah. My park.

EXT. MIKE AND JACKIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT.

Mike and Kyle get out of the car and unload a couple of small mats from the backseat.

MIKE

You bring the tape?

KYLE

Yeah. It's in my bag.

Mike grabs his briefcase from the trunk.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Hey, Mike, can I ask you something?

MIKE

Yeah. Of course. What?

KYLE

Leo told me that some Judge made him move into that place. Is that true or is he just making that up?

Mike wasn't expecting this.

MIKE

No. That's true, pal.

KYLE

Why?

CONTINUED:

MIKE

Well because they can take good care of him there, Kyle.

Mike's phone rings.

KYLE

But he wants to live at home.

MIKE

I know, pal. Hang on a minute.

(Into cell phone)

Hello? Yes. This is him.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Oh. Can you hang for a moment?

(to Kyle)

Hey, I have to take this. I'll be right in, OK? We can talk in a minute.

Kyle walks inside. Mike watches him go, already regretting the lie. He exhales...

MIKE (CONT'D)

(Into phone)

Hi. Sorry to keep you waiting.

Yeah. How are you doing?

INT. MIKE AND JACKIE'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - LATER.

Jackie at the sink. Stella is eating. Mike is sitting at the table with a beer.

JACKIE

What? She doesn't even know us!

MIKE

Yeah, well I think she heard that I'm a lawyer and I have a family and that was good enough.

JACKIE

For how long?

MIKE

Another month, I guess, until she gets out of rehab. She said that Craig guy took off. She sounded pretty shaky.

CONTINUED:

JACKIE
I can't believe this lady.

Jackie joins Mike at the table.

MIKE
Yeah. I know. Where is he anyway?

JACKIE
In the basement with Abby.
(beat)
This is crazy.

MIKE
Yes, it is. So what do we do?

JACKIE
We let him stay. I don't know, do we even have a choice?

MIKE
I guess we don't.

EXT. NEW JERSEY COUNTRY SIDE - DAY

A school bus drives through the New Jersey Farm country.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - DAY

Kyle is sitting on the bus listening to his Ipod. Stemler is sitting next to him.

STEMLER
You nervous?

KYLE
No.

STEMLER
I am.

KYLE
You're not wrestling.

STEMLER
I know. I'm just nervous a lot.

KYLE
You ever think about wrestling in a match?

CONTINUED:

STEMLER

Yeah. I'm just waiting for the green light from Coach. But I'm glad I'm not wrestling today. These guys are ranked fourth in the state. And you're wrestling Kenny Randall. He's undefeated. He is tough! Really tough.

KYLE

Thanks for letting me know.

Vigman stands up at the front of the bus.

VIGMAN

Hey! Cut the chatter! You should all be playing the "what if" game. What if he shoots a single leg? What if he controls my wrists?

STEMLER

What if we all get pinned like last year?

VIGMAN

Shut up, Stemler! Or I'll throw you off the bus myself!

Vigman sits back down next to Terry.

TERRY

Did they really pin all of you?

VIGMAN

Just about. It's gonna be a fucking bloodbath.

INT. MILBURN HIGH SCHOOL - LATER

Multiple Pins. It's a bloodbath. Jackie, Abby and Stella are in the stands and they look depressed. Kyle's next up.

MIKE

OK. This is Kenny Randall. He's very good.

KYLE

Yeah, I heard.

MIKE

But you have an advantage here, he has no idea who you are, right?

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

MIKE (CONT'D)

So he's gonna be overconfident. You take advantage of that and when you get your shot, put him away.

Kyle nods and Mike slaps him across the face and Kyle sprints to his place on the mat and gets ready. Mike turns to the team.

MIKE (CONT'D)

See how he runs out there? I want that kind of intensity from all of you.

ABBY

Why did Daddy hit Kyle?

JACKIE

I don't know, honey.

The Ref blows the whistle and the match starts. As Mike predicted KENNY RANDALL tries to end the match quickly with a throw but Kyle is too strong and too good. Kyle counters and throws Kenny to his back. Before anyone can blink, Kyle pins him. Mike, Terry, and Vigman explode off their chairs.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Yeah!

TERRY

Holy shit!

VIGMAN

He just pinned Kenny Randall. Are you kidding me?!

Kenny Randall looks shocked. He throws off his head gear and gets up. The MILBURN COACHES look equally shocked. The Ref raises Kyle's hands. Kyle runs over to shake the Milburn Coaches hand and then he runs back to his bench and is greeted by Mike.

KYLE

He know's who I am now.

Mike smiles as the team greets him.

INT. MIKE AND JACKIE'S HOUSE, DEN - LATER.

Jackie and Stella are sitting on the ground. Kyle walks in.

KYLE

Hi, can I watch TV in here?

CONTINUED:

JACKIE

Yeah but I want to show you something. Stella, who's that?

STELLA

Ky.

Kyle laughs.

JACKIE

She started saying it at the match today.

KYLE

That's cool.

JACKIE

OK. So I have to ask, those tatoo's must have hurt, right?

KYLE

Not really.

JACKIE

Don't lie to me. Look.

Jackie lifts her pant leg. She has a small tatoo on her ankle.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

I got it on Spring Break. Hurt like hell.

KYLE

What's it say?

JACKIE

JB. Jon Bon Jovi. I'm a fan. You got a problem with that?

KYLE

No I do not.

JACKIE

That was fun today. You're good. I'm glad you started wrestling again.

KYLE

Yeah. Me too.

CONTINUED:

JACKIE
No quitting this time, you got
that?

KYLE
Can I tell you something?

JACKIE
Of course.

KYLE
I didn't quit my old team. I got
thrown off.

JACKIE
Why?

KYLE
I stole a car.

JACKIE
What? You're don't even drive.

KYLE
Yeah. That was part of the problem.

JACKIE
Who's car did you steal?

KYLE
A teacher's.

JACKIE
Oh my God.

KYLE
It was really stupid.

JACKIE
Yeah. It was stupid. You could have
killed yourself.

KYLE
Yeah. Everything just got messed up
after that.

JACKIE
Yeah, well we all do stupid things.
But the best part is that you got a
another chance and now you're
kicking butt.

CONTINUED:

KYLE

I guess.

JACKIE

It's true. And you know who would agree with me?

KYLE

Mike?

Jackie lifts her leg.

JACKIE

Nope. JBJ.

Jackie lifts her leg exposing her tatoo. Kyle smiles.

INT. NEW PROVIDENCE HIGHSCHOOL, MAIN GYM - DAY.

The Pioneers race out onto the mat to do warm-ups before a home match. They are fired up. There are more fans in the stands. Terry and Vig bob their head to the music.

Kyle looks up at Jackie, Shelly and kids who are also rocking out in the stands.

EXT. PARK - DAY.

Kyle and Jackie walk through a park with Leo.

INT. NEW PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL, HALLWAY - DAY.

The wrestling team sprints through the empty hallways.

INT. STEMLER'S HOUSE - DAY.

Kyle and Stemler are battling it out on the Wii. Stemler is wearing a helmet.

INT. MIKE'S AND JACKIE'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - MORNING.

Mike pours himself some coffee. Jackie is feeding the kids.

The basement door opens and Kyle walks out followed by Feeney, Jimmy, Carlos, and Stemler. They are all sweating profusely. Mike is about to sip his coffee when Terry walks out. He nods and follows the gang.

EXT. MIKE'S AND JACKIE'S HOUSE - DAY.

Terry and Kyle stand side by side holding onto two ropes. Mike is cutting down the dead tree with a chain saw. Jackie Abby watch from the front porch. Mike finishes cutting and Terry and Kyle pull the tree over. Success. Mike lifts his arms in triumph.

INT. NEW PROVIDENCE HIGHSCHOOL, COACHES OFFICE - DAY.

Mike, Vigman and Terry are preparing for the match.

VIGMAN

They don't have anyone at
heavyweight.

MIKE

Really? Korsic will be happy. Tell
him now so he doesn't puke.

TERRY

Why does he puke? He's a
heavyweight. He doesn't have to
lose weight.

VIGMAN

Nerves.

TERRY

Sweet Lord. This is a team for the
ages.

Kyle knocks on the door. Stemler is with him.

MIKE

What's up, guys?

KYLE

Stemler wants to wrestle today.

MIKE

You do?

STEMLER

Yeah, Coach. I'm pretty sure I'm
ready. Right?

KYLE

Right.

MIKE

Where you gonna wrestle?

CONTINUED:

KYLE

He could wrestle 119. I could bump up and get a pin at 125 and Jimmy goes 130. Then we're only giving up one weight class and we got a shot.

Vig and Terry look at Mike.

MIKE

Huh. Vig?

VIG

Yeah. He's right. It's possible.

TERRY

Have you ever wrestled in a match before Stemler?

STEMLER

No, I have not.

KYLE

You're just waiting for the green light, right?

STEMLER

Right. I think now is my time. I can feel the force.

The three coaches all look at each other.

INT. NEW PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL, LOCKER ROOM - LATER.

Terry holds up a CUP OF STICKS with weight classes written on them. The BERKLEY HEIGHTS COACH selects a stick and reads the weight.

BH COACH

One twenty-five.

Vigman reads off the roster.

VIGMAN

We start at 125 pounds. Depasquale and Timmons. We'll finish at 119 pounds. Tomlinson and Stemler.

STEMLER (O.S.)

I'm ready Coach.

The Coaches all turn to see Stemler already wearing his singlet and headgear.

CONTINUED:

STEMLER (CONT'D)

Show time.

VIGMAN

Thanks for the update Stemler.

TERRY

We're dead.

MIKE

No. It's gonna be fine.

INT. NEW PROVIDENCE HIGHSCHOOL, MAIN GYM - LATER.

The SCORE BOARD reads 33- 31. The 112 pound weight class is wrestling.

MIKE

Hook the arm! Carlos, hook the arm!

Carlos does and holds on for the win. The team cheers. Mike turns to Vigman and Terry.

MIKE (CONT'D)

How we doing?

VIGMAN

With that win, we're up by five. If Stemler doesn't get pinned, we win.

TERRY

That's a huge fucking "if".

STEMLER (O.S.)

I can hear you, Coach.

They all turn. Stemler is standing right there. He looks petrified.

VIGMAN

Good job, Ter.

TERRY

Sorry, Stemler. You're a champ.

MIKE

Come here, Stemler.

Mike takes Stemler by the shoulders.

CONTINUED:

MIKE (CONT'D)

You've been practicing for a long time. You're ready for this. You hear me?

Stemler nods.

MIKE (CONT'D)

If you get in trouble out there, you just listen to me. I'm right here, OK?

Stemler nods again. Too scared to respond.

MIKE (CONT'D)

OK. You are not going to get pinned! You hear me! No way!

STEMLER

(Barely audible)

No way. No way.

MIKE

Good. Now I'm going to slap you. Ready?

STEMLER

Yeah but not so hard.

Mike gives him an odd half-slap and Stemler runs out to the mat and takes his place at the line. The team cheers.

But then the other WRESTLER runs out. He is wearing a BLACK PROTECTIVE FACE MASK. Stemler spins away from the line and looks pleading at Mike.

STEMLER (CONT'D)

Holy shit! It's Darth Vader! Are you kidding me? No way!

He does look like Darth Vader. But in a singlet.

MIKE/TERRY/VIGMAN

Don't worry. It's just a mask. You are ready! Get on that line. Now!

KYLE

Hey, Stemler. Come here.

Stemler walks over.

CONTINUED:

KYLE (CONT'D)

If he's Darth Vader then you're the
Secret Apprentice. You got this.

Stemler buys it.

STEMLER

Yeah. You're right.

Stemler returns to the line slightly more confident. The Ref
blows the whistle and the match starts. Stemler is
immediately taken down. Terry looks at his feet.

TERRY

I can't watch.

LATER -

It's late in third period. Stemler is losing 13-0. Stemler
is flat on his belly and he's getting mauled. The Ref calls
him for stalling. One point. 14-0. Thirty seconds to go.

MIKE

Keep moving, Stemler. Keep working!

VIGMAN

(Reading score card)
Oh shit. Oh shit!

TERRY

What?

VIGMAN

He's one point away from a tech
fall and we'd lose on criteria.

MIKE

Shit. Really?

TERRY

What the hell does that mean?

VIGMAN

If he falls behind by fifteen
points it's a technical fall. They
get five team points. If that
happens the score would be tied but
we'd lose the match on criteria.

TERRY

Seriously?

CONTINUED:

MIKE

Fuck this!

Mike drops to the mat.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Stemler! Stemler!!

Stemler looks over. His eyes are wild.

MIKE (CONT'D)

You need to get up! He's trying to drown you! He wants you dead. But you are not going to die on the bottom! Do you hear me? Do you?!

Stemler manages a nod, albeit a terrified one.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Good! Now just do the move we worked on in practice.

Off Stemler's confused look.

MIKE (CONT'D)

"Whatever the fuck it takes!"

Stemler almost manages a smile and then he hits "the move". It's not pretty but somehow he manages to get up and out. The team goes nuts. One point for Stemler. 15-1.

The Other kid frantically tries to take him down but Stemler holds him off dancing wildly around the mat. The buzzer sounds. The team goes nuts.

The Ref raises the other wrestler's hand in victory but it's Stemler who celebrates as if he just won the states. He runs off the mat and into the arms of his teammates.

INT. NEW PROVIDENCE HIGHSCHOOL, HALLWAY - LATER.

Mike and Kyle walk through the empty hallway.

MIKE

Hey, I'm proud of what you did today. That win meant a lot to the guys.

KYLE

Cool. It was good coaching with Stemler.

CONTINUED:

Mike laughs. Then he just looks at Kyle.

MIKE

Let me ask you something. What's it like? Being as good as you are? What's it feel like?

KYLE

I don't know. I guess it just feels like I'm in control. Of everything. You know what I mean?

MIKE

Yeah, I do. Must be nice.

KYLE

It is.

INT. UNION HIGHSCHOOL - DAY

The DISTRICT TOURNAMENT. Kyle is ahead in points going into the second period. He chooses the top position. The Ref blows the whistle and the OTHER WRESTLER sits out and Kyle simply sucks him onto his back. It almost looks too easy.

VIGMAN

That's it.

MIKE

Yeah.

TERRY

District champ, baby.

VIGMAN

Pure fucking poetry.

The Ref slaps the mat and it's over.

INT. OAK KNOLL SENIOR LIVING - DAY.

Kyle walks into Leo's room.

KYLE

Hey, Leo. Guess who won the Districts?

LEO

Who?

CONTINUED:

KYLE

Me. And Mike said he got a call
from a college scout about me.

LEO

Oh.

VOICE (O.S.)

Hi baby.

A THIRTY-EIGHT YEAR OLD WOMAN standing in the door way. This
is CINDY TIMMONS. Kyle's mother.

KYLE

What are you doing here?

CINDY

I came to get you, honey. And to
see Grandpa. I missed you so much.
Can I have a hug, baby?

Kyle looks at Leo who just shrugs. Finally, he walks toward
her but then veers away and runs from the room.

LEO

Where's he going?

CINDY

Oh, he's just had to go somewhere,
Dad. Do you want some juice?

INT. MIKE AND JACKIE'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT.

Mike is watching Stella who is playing on the ground. Jackie
comes up from the basement.

MIKE

How is he?

JACKIE

He's upset. I don't blame him. It's
weird that she just shows up like
that.

(Checking her watch)

And of course she's late, the
druggie.

MIKE

Honey. Can you stop, please?

JACKIE

You're gonna talk to her, right?

CONTINUED:

MIKE

Yeah. I am. If you don't punch her first.

Car lights in the window. Mike looks out the window.

Mike (CONT'D)

It's a cab. It's her.

JACKIE

It's not my fault if I punch her.

MIKE

Yeah, it is. That will be your fault.

Jackie picks up Stella. The door bell rings. Mike answers it. Cindy is standing there. She looks nervous.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Hi. I'm Mike Flaherty. Come in, please.

Cindy

Hi.

MIKE

And this is my wife, Jackie and my daughter, Stella.

CINDY

Hi.

JACKIE

Hi, Cindy. Nice to meet you.

CINDY

She's very cute.

JACKIE

Thanks. Abby, our six year old, is downstairs with Kyle.

CINDY

Oh. OK.

Awkward pause.

JACKIE

Do you want to sit down?

CINDY

Thanks. This is a very nice house.

CONTINUED:

JACKIE
Thank you very much.

MIKE
Can I get you a drink or something?

Jackie shoots Mike a look. A drink?

MIKE (CONT'D)
Water or soda or anything?

CINDY
No. No thanks. I'm fine.

MIKE
Right. OK. So I'll go get Kyle.

Mike starts to go but Cindy doesn't quite seem ready.

CINDY
How's he doing?

MIKE
Oh, he's doing really well. He's going to the high school here and he's wrestling on the team actually.

CINDY
Really? That's good. He loves wrestling so much.

JACKIE
He's a really sweet kid. Our girls love him.

CINDY
That's nice.

Cindy starts to tremble.

CINDY (CONT'D)
I am so sorry about this...it's just been such a difficult time...

Jackie and Mike share a look. Then Jackie caves and slides over next to her.

JACKIE
Oh hey...these things happen, Cindy. And we've loved having him.

CONTINUED:

Mike rolls his eyes. So much for beating the crap out of her.
Abby walks upstairs.

MIKE
Hi, honey. This is Abby.

CINDY
Hi Abby.

ABBY
Hi.

MIKE
Abby, can you go get Kyle for us?

ABBY
He left.

MIKE
He left? What do you mean?

ABBY
He left out the window.

INT. MIKE'S CAR - NIGHT.

Mike and Cindy are driving.

MIKE
I'm really sorry about this.

CINDY
That's okay. Thanks.

MIKE
You know Kyle's doing really well with wrestling here, Cindy. The regions are this weekend and if he wins there then he goes to the states.

CINDY
That's great.

MIKE
Yeah. It is and it could be really good for him. It might even mean a scholarship. Anyway, I was wondering if you could stay here for another three weeks until that's all over.

CONTINUED:

Cindy thinks about it.

CINDY

I'd like to but don't think I can afford to stay in the hotel for that long. Do you think we could stay in my dad's house?

This is not what Mike wanted but he's stuck.

MIKE

Uhh...yeah. We could probably make that work.

CINDY

Then, yeah, I could stay.

MIKE

OK. Good. That's great.

Mike's phone rings.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Hey.

TERRY (O.S.)

Hey. Kyle's here.

MIKE

Really?
(To Cindy)
We found him.

INT. TERRY'S CONDO - SAME.

Terry looks into the other room. Kyle is playing on the Wii.

TERRY

Yeah. We're playing Wii Golf. I'm destroying him. Dude, this kid really hates his mother.

INT. MIKE'S CAR - SAME.

Mike is driving.

MIKE

Yeah, OK.

CONTINUED:

TERRY (O.S.)

I mean like more then I hate my ex wife.

MIKE

Great, Ter. Thanks. Bye.

(Mike hangs up)

He went to my friend's house. We can go get him.

CINDY

Maybe I'll just go back to the hotel. It might just be too much for him tonight. I can see him tomorrow.

MIKE

You sure?

CINDY

Yeah. I think maybe that's better. I know how Kyle can be.

MIKE

OK. I'll drop you off.

Mike keeps driving.

INT. MIKE'S NEIGHBORHOOD - EARLY MORNING.

Mike and Kyle are jogging. Kyle's mood is dark.

KYLE

So when wrestling's over I have to go?

MIKE

I'm afraid so, pal. She's staying so you can finish the season. That's pretty nice of her.

They arrive back at Mike's house. Mike is really winded.

MIKE (CONT'D)

I told her you'd go see her today, Kyle.

KYLE

Where?

CONTINUED:

MIKE

Where ever you want. She could come here or we could go see her at Leo's house. She moving in this morning.

Kyle thinks.

KYLE

I'll go see her at Leo's before practice. But I want to go alone.

MIKE

(Hesitant)

Yeah, that's OK but Kyle but you have to promise me...

KYLE

Don't worry, Mike. I'll go.

Mike turns and spots his OLD NEIGHBOR watching him.

OLD NEIGHBOR

Hi Mike.

MIKE

Hi Betty. How's the foot?

BETTY

Better.

INT. MIKE'S OFFICE, BATHROOM - DAY.

Mike is attempting to plunge the toilet. Shelly approaches him.

SHELLY

Mike? Cindy's here.

MIKE

Really? Did she say why?

SHELLY

No. But she's here with an attorney.

Mike gets up and opens the door to his office. Eleanor and Cindy stand to greet him.

MIKE

Hi Cindy. Hi, I'm Mike Flaherty.

CONTINUED:

Cindy nods.

ELEANOR
Hi, I'm Eleanor Cohen.

MIKE
Please come in.

He leads them into his office.

MIKE (CONT'D)
I wasn't aware that Cindy was
represented by council.

ELEANOR
She retained me last week to help
sort out her father's situation.

MIKE
Last week? I thought she just
arrived two days ago.
(Mike sits)
How long have you been here?

ELEANOR
She wanted a little time to settle
in and spend some time with her
father.

MIKE
So how can I help?

ELEANOR
Cindy has decided that she wants a
more active role in her father's
care.

MIKE
What kind of a role is that?

CINDY
I want to take care of him.

MIKE
Really? So you want to move here?

ELEANOR
No. Cindy would like to bring her
father back to Columbus.

CINDY
That's where my support network is
now. It's home.

CONTINUED:

MIKE

Well I'm not sure that's what Leo wants.

CINDY

I already talked to him about it. He seem to like the idea.

MIKE

I understand that, Cindy. But you haven't seen Leo in a long time and he's battling dementia now so it puts me in a tough position here.

ELEANOR

She is the presumed Guardian, Mr Flaherty.

MIKE

I understand that.

ELEANOR

And we do hope to avoid litigation.

MIKE

So do I and I'm sure we can. Now, I'm sorry, but I actually have to go see a client so we'll have to set up another time to discuss this.

CINDY

Kyle's still coming to see me today, right?

MIKE

Yeah. Of course. After school.

ELEANOR

I'll have my office call. Come on Cindy.

CINDY

Thanks Mike.

Mike nods and Eleanor and Cindy leave. Mike watches them go. CLANK. CLANK. CLANK.

EXT. QUICK CHECK - LATER.

Mike walks out of the Convenience Store, around the corner and behind the store. He lights a cigarette.

CONTINUED:

TERRY (V.O.)
I don't get it. Is it that bad?

EXT. NEW PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL - LATER.

Mike and Terry are standing outside talking.

MIKE
Yeah, it's that bad.

TERRY
Just take her to court, you'll kill her.

MIKE
I can't.

TERRY
Why not? She's a freaking mess.
You're a pillar of the community,
Mike.

MIKE
I just can't go back in front of
Judge Lee, it won't look good,
trust me.

TERRY
So maybe you'll get a different
judge.

MIKE
She's the only Judge who handles
these cases and if I look bad in
front of her right now, I'm
screwed. I'll have to close my
fricking doors.

TERRY
Then dump it. Give her Poplar. It
sucks but you've got your practice
to worry about, right?

MIKE
Yeah, I do.

TERRY
Incoming, dude.

Mike turns. Kyle approaches.

CONTINUED:

MIKE

Hey, pal.

KYLE

Do you know she wants to take Leo back to Ohio?

MIKE

Yeah. She just told me today.

KYLE

You're not gonna let her do that are you?

MIKE

I don't know Kyle. It's complicated.

KYLE

What's complicated about it? She doesn't give a shit about Leo. They hate each other. You can't let her take him.

MIKE

OK. OK. Look, just go get ready for practice and I'll deal with it.

KYLE

Fine but I told her I'm staying with you guys until we leave.

Kyle leaves. Terry just looks at Mike.

TERRY

Wow. What's your play?

MIKE

I have no idea. I have no freaking idea!

TERRY

She's looking for a payout, dude. Just buy her stake and give her an exit.

MIKE

What the hell does that mean?

TERRY

Just give her some of Leo's money and send her home. He's not gonna miss it. He's in happy land.

CONTINUED:

MIKE

No, I can't do that. She's not even in his...

Mike stops. A flash of inspiration.

MIKE (CONT'D)

That's right. She's not and she doesn't and that's my play.

TERRY

What's your play?

Mike takes out his phone and dials.

MIKE

Don't worry about it. I just need to make a call. Can you get practice started?

TERRY

Really? You want me to slap your face? Get you psyched up for the call?

MIKE

No. I really don't.

EXT. BUSINESS CENTER - DAY.

Mike walks into the brick and glass tower.

MIKE (O.S.)

Look, we're all concerned with what's best for Leo so I'm hoping we can settle this in an amicable way.

INT. ELEANOR COHEN'S OFFICE - SAME.

Mike is sitting down with Eleanor and Cindy.

ELEANOR

So do we.

MIKE

Good, well, I thought I'd start by laying all the cards on the table, so maybe you can understand why I'm hesitating in turning Leo over to Cindy.

CONTINUED:

ELEANOR

OK.

MIKE

Cindy, your father disinherited you from his will. Completely. And I'm afraid that can't change now that he's been declared incapacitated.

CINDY

(to Eleanor)

Is that true?

ELEANOR

We'll have to see a copy of the will, Mike.

MIKE

Yeah. I actually brought you a copy.

Mike reaches into his briefcase and puts the A COPY OF THE WILL on Eleanor's desk.

CINDY

Who did he leave it too? Did he leave it to Kyle?!

MIKE

No.

CINDY

Then who? You?

MIKE

No. He left everything to the municipal parks system. He wanted the town park dedicated in his name.

CINDY

That scumbag! He never cared about anyone but himself and his fucking money. Did you know about this?

ELEANOR

Cindy please!

CINDY

Please what?

CONTINUED:

ELEANOR
(Annoyed to Mike)
I'd like to discuss this with my
client, Mr. Flaherty.

CINDY
What's to discuss? I'm not taking
care of him if I'm not getting
anything for it.

ELEANOR
Cindy, please.
(to Mike)
We're finished here.

MIKE
OK.

Mike gets up and walks out. A smile creeps across his face.

INT. UNION HIGH SCHOOL, GYM - DAY.

Jackie, Gina and the kids settle into the bleachers. A LARGE
BANNER reads NORTHEAST REGIONAL TOURNAMENT.

INT. UNION HIGH SCHOOL, HALLWAY - DAY.

Mike and Terry walking down the hallway eating SNICKER BARS.

TERRY
Brass balls, buddy. Brass balls.

MIKE
Yeah. And she's gone back to the
motel.

TERRY
That's good.

MIKE
Yes, it is. Yeah, I think it
worked.

TERRY
It totally worked. They opened
their kimono and you made them eat
the trade.

MIKE
I don't what know what your talking
about half the time.

CONTINUED:

TERRY
Really?

MIKE
Yeah. Really.

INT. UNION HIGHSCHOOL, BACK GYM - LATER.

Kyle is warming up. Vigman is watching. Mike and Terry enter.

MIKE
It's time, Coach.
(to Kyle)
You ready?

Kyle just walks out of the warm-up room.

VIGMAN
He's ready.

TERRY
Yeah, he is.

INT. UNION HIGHSCHOOL GYM - LATER.

The four men walk into the huge gym. It's packed. Kyle is completely focused.

VIGMAN
Wow. This is big time. I bet there are scouts here.

TERRY
Definitely. And wait till we get to the states! Atlantic City here we come, baby.

VIGMAN
Atlantic City. Fierce.

Mike smiles but then his smile fades. Cindy Timmons is standing against the wall. She steps forward and Kyle sees her

CINDY
Good luck, baby.

Kyle keeps his head down and keeps walking. Mike looks shocked but also keeps walking.

INT. UNION HIGH SCHOOL, GYM - LATER.

Mike and Kyle are face to face.

MIKE

Listen to me. One more win and we are going to the states. That's what counts. That's all that matters. You hear me?

Kyle nods. Mike can tell that he's half listening.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Hey! Kyle. Stay in this, OK. This is your place. You are in control, remember! You control it. Now go get him. Finish this!

Mike slaps him. And Kyle races to the mat.

The wrestlers slap hands and THE REF blows the whistle. Kyle immediately shoots in for a double leg. The Other Wrestler tries to sprawl but Kyle is in too deep. Kyle lifts him high and dumps him hard to the mat. The audience reacts and the Ref stops the action. The other wrestler bravely pops up but he is obviously stung.

REF

Warning. Red. One point.

MIKE

Kyle! Hey! Control! Control!

Kyle looks at Mike and nods but his eyes are wild. The Ref blows the whistle and Kyle and the Other Wrestler lock up. They dance a bit and finally the Other Wrestler tries to wrap Kyle up. Kyle back pedals and then literally throws the Other Wrestler off the mat. The Ref has seen enough. He quickly issues Kyle his second warning and disqualifies him from the match. It's over.

The Other Wrestler pops up and runs at Kyle. Kyle responds. The Coaches all intervene. It's a melee.

INT. UNION HIGH SCHOOL, LOCKER ROOM - DAY.

Kyle is sitting on the bench, perfectly still. Mike walks in and sits down next to him.

MIKE

How you doing?

CONTINUED:

Kyle stares at the floor.

KYLE
I'm sorry.

MIKE
Hey, it's alright.

Mike puts his arm on his shoulder and Kyle starts to cry.
Mike squeezes him.

KYLE
I don't want to go with her. I
don't.

MIKE
OK, pal. OK.

EXT. UNION HIGH SCHOOL, PARKING LOT - LATER.

Mike, Terry and Kyle walk out of the school. The entire family is waiting for them. Jackie gives Kyle a big hug. Abby takes his hand. They all get into their car. Mike is just about to get in but then he sees Cindy standing by her car watching. He shuts his door and crosses to her.

MIKE
Why are you here?

CINDY
I wanted to see my son wrestle.

MIKE
Yeah, well your son had a pretty
good chance to do something special
in there. Maybe even change his
life and that's gone now. I hope
you're happy.

CINDY
That's not my fault.

MIKE
It isn't? Why do you think he lost
his shit in there, huh?! What do
you want, lady?

CINDY
I want my father.

CONTINUED:

MIKE

It didn't sound like that the other day. It sounded like you hated the guy.

CINDY

You have no idea what my father used to be like. No idea! He wasn't like he is now! He treated me like shit and he was all I had!

MIKE

So now you want to return the favor? Is that it?!

CINDY

I want that commission! That should be mine!

MIKE

And that's why you're doing all this? For fifteen hundred dollars a month?

CINDY

Isn't that why you did it?

This stops Mike in his tracks.

MIKE

Alright, I'll tell you what. You want the commission? You can have it. And you don't even have to take Leo. I'll take care of him for free and I'll send you the check every month. On one condition.

CINDY

What's that?

MIKE

You leave Kyle here. With us. Until he finishes high school.

CINDY

I'm his mother. He belongs with me.

MIKE

Are you sure he feels that way?

CONTINUED:

CINDY

Don't tell me what my son feels!
He's coming with me and there isn't
anything you can do about that.

MIKE

Then you can't have that
commission.

CINDY

We'll see about that.

MIKE

Yeah, we will.

Mike turns and walks away.

CINDY

I want to see my son!

MIKE

Then call him! You have his number!

INT. MIKE AND JACKIE'S HOUSE, BACK PORCH - DUSK.

Mike sits on the back porch nursing a beer. Terry stands in
the yard facing away from him.

TERRY

We were right there, Mike. Right
fucking there. And now we have
nothing. Nothing!

Terry screams. It's a primal scream. Mike just looks at him.

MIKE

You OK?

TERRY

No.

Terry drinks. Mike watches him. Jackie pops out from the
kitchen.

JACKIE

Mike, your mom's here and dinner's
almost ready. Have you seen Kyle?

MIKE

He's not in the basement?

CONTINUED:

JACKIE

No.

TERRY

I'll track him down.

MIKE

Thanks, Terry.

TERRY

(to Jackie)

What a day, huh?

JACKIE

Yeah, right.

Terry goes inside. Jackie sits next to Mike.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

You OK?

Mike shrugs.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

What are we gonna do, Mike?

MIKE

There's nothing to do. I can't stop her. She's gonna leave and she's gonna take Kyle and Leo with her.

JACKIE

And you don't think you'd beat her in court?

MIKE

No. I don't.

JACKIE

Why? It's so obvious she's just wants him for the money.

Mike turns to Jackie. He wants to tell her but just can't.

MIKE

I just can't win this one, Jackie. Trust me.

Jackie misinterprets Mike's guilt for pain. She backs off.

JACKIE

I do.

INT. CINDY'S MOTEL ROOM - LATER.

Cindy is smoking next to the open window. She is nervous. A knock on the door. She throws the cigarette out the window and closes it. She checks herself in the mirror and opens the door. Kyle is standing there.

CINDY

Kyle, honey, come in. I'm so glad you came.

She steps back and he enters.

CINDY (CONT'D)

Have a seat, honey. Do you want a soda or something?

He sits on one bed.

KYLE

No. What do you want?

She sits on the other facing him.

CINDY

I just wanted to say how sorry I was about the match and if I did anything to cause it then I will never forgive myself. I know how much wrestling means to you, baby.

KYLE

Is that why you called me. Just to tell me that?

CINDY

No. I also wanted to say that I'll do whatever you think is best for Leo. I promise.

KYLE

Then leave him here. Where he is.

CINDY

OK. I will. If that's what you want. But I have to be honest, I'm not sure that's what Leo wants.

KYLE

What do you mean?

CINDY

Here. Read this.

CONTINUED:

She hands him a piece of paper.

KYLE
What is it?

CINDY
It's the court transcript from when
Leo was in court. My lawyer got it.
Read the parts in yellow. See what
it says.

Kyle reluctantly reads it.

KYLE
This isn't real. The Judge told Leo
he had to live there.

CINDY
No, honey. This is official from
the court. It's what Mike said.

Kyle reads it again.

CINDY (CONT'D)
He gets paid for being Leo's
guardian, Kyle. And then he just
put him in that place so he didn't
have to worry about him.

Kyle stares at the page.

CINDY (CONT'D)
Leo belongs with us, Kyle.

KYLE
Why?

Cindy is caught of guard by the question.

CINDY
Why what?

KYLE
Why does he belong with us?

Cindy judges her son's look and speaks from the heart.

CINDY
Because we deserve that money,
Kyle. Not some lawyer. You're a big
boy. You can understand that.

CONTINUED:

Kyle looks at the page on more time and then suddenly, without warning, pounces on his mother pinning her to the bed. She screams. He gets in her face.

KYLE
Shut up! Shut up!

She finally quiets. Terrified.

KYLE (CONT'D)
Listen to me! I don't care about this. It's all bullshit. Leave Leo alone. He belongs here. Do you hear me? Do you?

Cindy can only cry and nod. Kyle grabs the paper and runs out the door.

INT. MIKE'S HOUSE - LATER.

Mike paces around talking on the phone.

MIKE
OK. Thanks, Karen. I appreciate it. Bye.

Jackie walks into the room.

JACKIE
Anything?

MIKE
He's not at Stemler's.

JACKIE
This is crazy, where could he be?

MIKE
I don't know, he's upset, maybe he went for a walk.

JACKIE
Well we should take a drive, your mom can stay with the kids.

His phone rings. Jackie stops.

MIKE
Hello. Yes, this is him. What?

INT. OAK KNOLL SENIOR LIVING, RECEPTION - LATER.

A STAFF MEMBER is at the desk.

STAFF MEMBER
Sir, stay calm, we'll find him.

MIKE
Stay calm? You've lost my ward!

JACKIE
Mike! Calm down.

MIKE
Calm down?!

TERRY
We are gonna sue you guys,
silly. He's a lawyer!

The Staff Member picks up the phone.

STAFF MEMBER
Look, he's definitely not on the
premises. A lot of the time they
just try to go home. We're about to
go there.

Mike and Jackie share a look and leave. Terry turns to some
residents who are looking on.

TERRY
Hey folks, listen up! Watch out for
each other.

MIKE (O.S.)
Terry!

EXT. LEO POPLAR'S HOUSE - LATER.

Mike's car pulls up. They all get out and run up to the
house.

TERRY
There's a light on.

JACKIE
It's got to be him. Do have the
key?

MIKE
No. I didn't bring it with me.

They arrive at the front door. Mike tries the knob. It's
locked.

CONTINUED:

MIKE (CONT'D)

Shit.

Mike goes to edge of the porch, climbs up onto the railing and looks into the side window. Leo is sitting in a chair watching TV.

MIKE (CONT'D)

There he is!

JACKIE

What's he doing?

MIKE

Watching TV.

TERRY

What's he watching?

JACKIE

Who cares?

MIKE

Leo? Hey Leo?

Mike knocks on the window. Leo doesn't register it.

MIKE (CONT'D)

He's not responding. Ring the bell.

Jackie does. Leo still doesn't respond.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Nothing. Fuck.

TERRY

This is freaking spooky.

Mike climbs down back onto the porch.

TERRY (CONT'D)

Should we break in?

MIKE

I have a key back at the office. I could go get it.

JACKIE

Is he OK?

MIKE

He seems it. He's just sitting there.

CONTINUED:

Suddenly the door opens. Leo is standing there.

LEO
Hi.

MIKE/TERRY/JACKIE
Hi./Hey.

LEO
Come on in.

Leo walks away. They all follow him.

TERRY
OK. That is very creepy.

INT. LEO POPLAR'S HOUSE - SAME.

They walk into the house following Leo into the living room. He sits back in his chair and start watching TV again.

MIKE
You OK, Leo?

Leo just watches TV.

MIKE (CONT'D)
How did you get here, pal?

Mike stoops over and tries to connect with Leo.

MIKE (CONT'D)
(gently)
Did you walk here, Leo?

Leo turns and looks at them as if he is about to speak. The all wait for his reply and then...

KYLE (O.S.)
I brought him here.

They all jump.

JACKIE
Kyle? MIKE
You took Leo?

KYLE (CONT'D)
Yeah.

CONTINUED:

MIKE

Have you lost your mind?! We've
been worried sick about him!

JACKIE

About both of you!

KYLE

You don't have to worry about us.

Kyle walks out of the room.

TERRY

OK. That's super spooky. Just
saying.

INT. LEO POPLAR'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS.

Kyle walks into the kitchen, he turns off a pot of boiling
water and strains some pasta.

MIKE

Kyle, What the hell are you doing?

KYLE

(Very calmly)
Making spaghetti.

MIKE

Have you lost your mind?

KYLE

No.

JACKIE

Kyle, why did you do this? Please
just tell us. Leo needs to be in a
home.

KYLE

This is where he belongs.

JACKIE

Kyle he needs to be at Oak Knoll.

MIKE

Kyle, we talked about this.

KYLE

Yeah. We did! Listen to this.

Kyle takes a piece of paper out of his pocket.

CONTINUED:

KYLE (CONT'D)

(Reading)

Mike Flaherty: Mr. Poplar wants to live at home. Judge Lee: You can do that Mike? Mike Flaherty: Yes, I can. Really.

JACKIE

What is that?

Jackie takes it and looks at it.

KYLE

It's from the court.

JACKIE

Where did you get this?

KYLE

From my mother.

(to Mike)

It's true isn't, Mike?

JACKIE

Mike?

Mike can't answer. Kyle's seen enough.

KYLE

You're just like her.

He runs out. They all give chase.

EXT. LEO POPLAR'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS.

Mike runs outside and see's Kyle crossing the lawn. He quickly catches up to him. Terry and Jackie follow close behind.

MIKE

Hey. Hey, Kyle.

Kyle keeps walking.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Hey can you hold on a second?

KYLE

Leave me alone!

MIKE

Kyle please.

CONTINUED:

Mike grabs Kyle one more time. Kyle rips his arm away and tries to push Mike back.

KYLE
Don't touch me!

Mike deflects Kyle and Kyle spills to the ground.

TERRY
Oh shit.

Kyle gets up and starts to circle Mike. Mike has no choice but reciprocate.

MIKE
Would you let me explain?!

KYLE
Explain what? How you lied to me?
How you lied to Leo?

Kyle head pumps. Mike takes the bait and jumps back.

MIKE
Kyle wait...

TERRY
Watch the head fake!

MIKE
Kyle I don't want to wrestle you.

JACKIE
Kyle, stop for a minute.

TERRY
Keep your hands out, Mike.
Hands out.

JACKIE
Terry, stop it!

TERRY
I'm just trying to help.

JACKIE
You're not helping.

Kyle head fakes again but this time he's in. Before Mike knows what hits him, he's on his back.

MIKE
Ow!

TERRY
Oh shit.

JACKIE (CONT'D)
Mike, stop it!

Kyle is all over Mike. Mike's trying to fight back but it's useless and even kind of pathetic.

CONTINUED:

MIKE
I'm trying to stop it!

TERRY
Sit out Mike! Sit out!

JACKIE
Shut up, Terry!

MIKE
Kyle, stop it!

Mike gets up to hands and knees but Kyle drives him hard to the ground.

MIKE (CONT'D)
Ow! Shit!

TERRY
Ouch! He's getting killed.

JACKIE
Would you stop coaching and break that up!

Terry rushes in and tries to pull Kyle off but he's lost it. Finally, he wraps his arms around Kyle and pulls him off. Kyle spins free and fronts Terry. Terry immediately puts up his hands.

TERRY
I'm the ref. I'm just the ref!

Kyle turns and runs off.

JACKIE
Kyle! Stop! Please!

He doesn't stop. Jackie turns to Mike.

JACKIE (CONT'D)
Is that true, Mike?

MIKE
Yeah, it is.

Mike gets up.

JACKIE
So why'd you move him if he wanted to stay here.

MIKE
Because it would have been too much work to leave him here. I couldn't have done it.

JACKIE
Then you shouldn't have taken him.

CONTINUED:

MIKE
I had to, alright?

JACKIE
Why?!

MIKE
Because I needed the money! We
needed the money.

JACKIE
You moved an old man out of his
house to make money? Have you lost
your freaking mind?

MIKE
No! I just didn't think it would
get this complicated.

JACKIE
Really? Or you just didn't think
you'd get caught?

This stops Mike in his tracks. He can't answer. Jackie turns
and walks away.

MIKE
Jack! Jack, where are you going?

JACKIE
Home!

She walks away.

137 INT. STEMLER HOUSE, BASEMENT - SAME.

137

Stemler is sleeping on one couch. Kyle on the other. Kyle's
cell phone rings. He wakes up and checks it. He answers it.

KYLE
Hello. Hello. Mom?

She's not there. He hangs up. Kyle starts to put on his
shoes.

STEMLER
Did your mom just crank call you?

KYLE
No.

CONTINUED:

STEMLER

So you and Coach Mike get in a fight because you lost?

KYLE

No. We got in a fight because he's an asshole.

STEMLER

Really?

KYLE

Yeah, really, Stem.

STEMLER

Well I'm sure he'll make it up to you, bro. You're the best wrestler he's ever had. I mean he's always been cool to me and I suck.

This comment lands with Kyle.

INT. OAK KNOLL SENIOR LIVING - MORNING.

Mike is sleeping on a love seat. He wakes up. Leo is sitting there watching him.

MIKE

Hey Leo.

LEO

Hi.

MIKE

I fell asleep. I'm sorry.

LEO

Sorry for what?

That's a big question. Mike cuts to the chase.

MIKE

You want to go home?

LEO

Yeah.

INT. MIKE AND JACKIE'S HOUSE - LATER.

Jackie is sitting with Stella and a cup of coffee. The front door opens and closes. Mike walks into the kitchen.

CONTINUED:

JACKIE

Hi.

MIKE

Hi. Is he here?

JACKIE

No. He slept at Stemler's. How about you?

MIKE

Oak Knoll.

(Beat)

You're right, that's not who I am.

JACKIE

So what are you going to do?

MIKE

I have to go court.

JACKIE

You can't. You told the Judge you were keeping Leo at home.

MIKE

I know.

JACKIE

So then tell her you changed your mind. No one can question that.

MIKE

I can't, Jack.

JACKIE

Why not?

MIKE

Because it's not true.

JACKIE

Well I'm glad your done lying now, just in time to lose your practice. That's how we survive, Mike. Your family. You ever think of that?

MIKE

Yeah. All the time.

Jackie quickly crosses to the sink. She starts to clean. She breaks something.

CONTINUED:

JACKIE

Shit.

She braces herself against the sink and exhales. Mike just watches her.

MIKE

I'm sorry, Jack. I really am.

JACKIE

I know.

A noise from the basement. Mike heads down the stairs.

INT. MIKE AND JACKIE'S HOUSE, BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS.

Jackie and Mike walk downstairs. Kyle is angrily gathering his stuff and putting it in his back pack.

JACKIE

Hey Kyle. How'd you get down here?

KYLE

The window.

JACKIE

Are you hungry? I was gonna make some pancakes.

KYLE

No. I'm leaving. I just came to get my shit.

They share a look and walk over to Kyle.

MIKE

Kyle, listen, I just wanted to say I'm sorry...

KYLE

I know, Mike, you're sorry. Everyone's always sorry.

MIKE

I moved Leo back home, Kyle. And I'm gonna fight to keep him there.

KYLE

It's too late. You'll lose. My mother's gonna take him.

CONTINUED:

MIKE

Maybe but I'm still gonna try.

KYLE

So what?! You want me to forgive you now? Is that it, Mike?!

MIKE

No. I just want you to give me another chance. That's all I'm asking.

Mike's sincerity is undeniable. Kyle looks to Jackie. They connect. Kyle shakes his head, turns around, and then throws his bag.

KYLE

This is bullshit!

Mike looks at Jackie.

MIKE

Hey, Kyle, listen -

KYLE

I want to be alone.

MIKE

What?

KYLE

(Without looking at them)
I JUST WANT TO BE DOWN HERE ALONE!

MIKE

OK. All right. Yeah.

Jackie and Mike turn and start to walk upstairs but Jackie stops.

JACKIE

Kyle, I just wanna say - we love you.

Kyle keeps his back turned to them as they continue up the stairs.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER.

Tight on the Baby Monitor. We hear Stella crying and Jackie talking to Abby.

CONTINUED:

JACKIE (O.S.)
Abby, just pick a shirt and put it
on. Please.

Mike is sitting alone at the kitchen table drinking a cup of coffee. The remnants of a pancake breakfast are on the table. There is one clean plate where Kyle usually sits.

After a moment, Kyle comes up from the basement and sits down at the table without saying anything.

He just looks at Mike. Then he serves himself a few pancakes. Mike passes him the bottle of syrup. He takes it and puts some on his pancakes.

He eats. Mike watches.

EXT. UNION COUNTY COURT HOUSE - DAYS LATER.

The group is walking up the front steps of the court house. Terry joins.

TERRY
Hi guys.

MIKE
What are you doing here?

TERRY
Dude, I'm your assistant coach. And
just notice who isn't here.

Mike smiles.

TERRY (CONT'D)
Stephen Vigman.

MIKE
Yeah, I got it.

Terry puts his arm on his friend's shoulder.

INT. UNION COUNTY COURT HOUSE - LATER.

The whole gang is walking toward to the courtroom.

ELEANOR
Mike?

Mike turns. Eleanor approaches.

CONTINUED:

MIKE

Hi Eleanor.

ELEANOR

Can I talk to you?

MIKE

Sure.

Mike and Eleanor step to the side. She looks at Mike.

ELEANOR

You know the transcript alone is
enough to hang you.

MIKE

Yeah, well, we'll see what happens.

Eleanor just looks at him, Judge and Jury. Mike blinks.

ELEANOR

Shame on you counselor.

MIKE

Is that it?

ELEANOR

No. My client would like to talk to
you.

Mike and Eleanor walk over to Cindy. She is barely holding it
together.

MIKE

Hi Cindy.

CINDY

Hi. Is your deal still available?

Mike tries to conceal his shock.

MIKE

What about Kyle?

Cindy and Eleanor share a look.

CINDY

He can stay.

MIKE

Then yes. It is.

CONTINUED:

CINDY
And you'll send me the checks?

MIKE
Every month.

CINDY
You take good care of him.

MIKE
We will.

Cindy nods.

CINDY
I want to say goodbye.

Mike turns and waves Kyle over.

Kyle look to Jackie who gives him the OK. He walks over as Mike steps away. He just looks at his mother. She gently touches his face. He doesn't move.

Everyone looks on as Cindy says a few words to Kyle, hugs him hard and then quickly turns and walks away. Kyle watches her go.

EXT. MIKE AND JACKIE'S HOUSE - EARLY EVENING.

A croquet ball hits a stick.

ABBY (O.S.)
Your turn.

Abby, Kyle, and Stemler are playing on the front lawn.

STEMLER
I know. Don't rush me.

Stemler hits a shot and the ball goes into the garden.

STEMLER (CONT'D)
This mallet is crap! You see that?

Mike pulls up and gets out of his car, wearing a suit and carrying his briefcase.

MIKE
Hi guys!

ABBY
Hi, Daddy. I'm winning.

INT. MIKE AND JACKIE'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - LATER.

Mike takes off his suit and throws it on the bed. He puts on a casual button down blue shirt.

He takes a hard look himself in the mirror, almost as if he's steeling himself for something.

Mike smiles.

INT. BAR - NIGHT.

Terry walks in and crosses to the bar. He sits down.

TERRY
Can I get a banana daiquiri,
please?

The Bartender turns. It's Mike.

MIKE
Sure.

Mike opens a beer and sets it down in front of Terry.

MIKE (CONT'D)
You want an umbrella with that?

TERRY
Nah. I'm good. But keep these
coming.

Mike checks a ticket and prepares two drinks.

TERRY (CONT'D)
So how you doing, pal?

MIKE
Me? I'm pretty good.

We hold on Mike as he continues to work.

BLACK OUT.