

CONTENDER #495

Script is intended for reading and evaluation only by the person or entity with whom it was shared and the material contained in this script is considered confidential information. Copying this property or distributing this property to anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited. By opening this document, you agree to not use or disclose or cause to be disclosed, intentionally or through negligence or by failure to act directly or indirectly, verbally or otherwise, publish, disseminate, disclose or cause to be published, disseminated, or disclosed any confidential information to any person, firm, or entity whatsoever. You further agree not to use any material contained in this script for any purpose whatsoever. Any such use may constitute a material and unlawful violation of the intellectual property rights of others.

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - FRONT LAWN - DAY

The CAMERA TRACKS through the bustle of teen life...

BEN (V.O.)
Teen movies always made me think high school was going to be, like, this pivotal meaningful time in my life. Like there'd be crazy pool parties, epic pranks, maybe I'd kiss my crush on the boardwalk...you know, stuff like that. High school stuff. But then I got here and...it just blows. And Torres High? *Really* blows.

WESLEY (18), an annoying jock, snatches a TIDE POD from BLAKE (18), another annoying jock.

WESLEY
Fuck yeah I'll eat it! How much?

BEN (V.O.)
Which totally *sucks!* Like, Ferris Bueller, or whoever wrote that, should be sued for false advertising.

The camera settles on a BRONZE STATUE of a man.

BEN (V.O.) (cont'd)
Probably the only person who'd disagree was John F. Torres himself.

The statue CROSS-FADES into JOHN TORRES, a short man with a huge smile, teaching, coaching, etc.

BEN (V.O.) (cont'd)
From 1946 to 1978, he was a chemistry teacher, football coach, adviser, and eventually principal. He directed musicals, published yearbooks, started the ESL program, and championed wheelchair access. He devoted his life to this turd mound.

INT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - GYM - FLASHBACK

Torres leads a pep rally...

TORRES
Good luck graduating seniors! Reach for the stars!

...then clutches his chest and DIES.

BEN (V.O.)
Literally. He died at a pep rally.

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - FRONT LAWN - FLASHBACK

His smiling DEAD FACE cross-fades back to the statue. A PLAQUE on the statue's pedestal reads "REACH FOR THE STARS!"

BEN (V.O.)
To honor him, they re-named the school and erected a statue, which was quickly defaced...

CLOSE-UP: Someone spray paints over various letters, leaving just A-S-S.

BEN (V.O.) (cont'd)
...again...

PULL OUT TO REVEAL: an afro-wig is also glued to the statue's head. "CLASS OF 79" is painted on the chest.

BEN (V.O.) (cont'd)
...and again...

ANGLE ON: an afro-wig is glued to the statue's crotch with a DILDO protruding out. "Class of 81" written on the shaft.

BEN (V.O.) (cont'd)
The desecration one-upsmanship went to a new level in 91, when the seniors managed to move the statue into the 3rd floor faculty bathroom.

INT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - FACULTY BATHROOM - DAY

The statue is positioned so that it looks as though it is peering into a bathroom stall. MRS. FUJI (55) enters into the bathroom stall it is peering into....

BEN (V.O.)
Legend has it that Mrs. Fuji, took an entire shit before she noticed.

Mrs. Fuji reaches for toilet paper but instead grabs a DILDO protruding through a hole in the wall. She SCREAMS.

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - ROOF - DAY

The statue is on the roof, cut off at the BUST. The bust is positioned to look like Torres is fellating himself. A DILDO protrudes from the now-classic crotch afro-wig. Just below him on the outside wall is painted "TORRES BLOWS!"

BEN (V.O.)
2001 made him slurp his own peen.

Two FIREFIGHTERS climb up a ladder to the roof.

INT. BANK - DAY

A bewildered BANK EMPLOYEE leads a COP to the back...

BEN (V.O.)
And then there's last year...

The statue is buried among THOUSANDS OF DILDOS AND AFRO WIGS inside the LOCKED BANK VAULT.

BEN (V.O.) (cont'd)
No one knows how they pulled it off.
I mean...just thinking about the time
put into doing something so dumb.
It's staggering. People are like
dying in the Mideast and stuff...

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - FRONT LAWN - DAY

Back to present day.

Wesley barfs on the statue plaque while Blake laughs.

BEN (17), our know-it-all, nerd-hipster narrator, steps over the puke and heads toward the parking lot.

BEN
Point being, what high school
actually turned out to be was a place
filled with juvenile idiots with
backwards priorities. Which is why
college...is going to be awesome.
Like, *The Graduate* and stuff.

The camera follows him as he walks with his A.P. BUDDIES:
ARASH (17), naive, FRANK (18), follower, and GWEN (18), wry.

GWEN

Isn't *The Graduate* about a depressed guy after college *graduation*?

BEN

You know what I mean.

FRANK

Is anyone planning a prank this year?

BEN

No way. To top last year we'd have to put the statue in orbit or something, which isn't happening with these losers.

Ben glares at EDDIE (18), an underachieving skate rat, humping a tree while his buddies crack up.

ARASH

Ugh, *last year's* senior class was so cool. How'd we get so shafted?

Ben reaches his car and opens the door.

BEN

I'll see you all tomorrow. May you have sweet dreams of finally leaving this smegma pit forever.

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

A messy desk piled with AP textbooks, SAT prep books, and college guides sits beneath a cork-board covered with awards and certificates: National Honors Society, Key Club, Eagle Scout, a track trophy, and an acceptance letter to Berkeley. The walls are covered with posters: *8 1/2*, *Pulp Fiction*...

BEN'S MOM (49), a hurricane of a woman, barges into the room, opening blinds/being a menace. Ben tosses in his bed.

BEN'S MOM

C'mon, last day of school, let's go, let's go!

BEN

Hallelujah...

Ben's Mom leaves. Ben immediately checks Snapchat.

ARASH
(video snap)
Last day biiiitch!

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - SHOWER - LATER

Ben showers. Suddenly, the water goes cold. Ben jumps to the side, tearing off the curtain and falling out of the tub.

BEN
Shit! Cold! Ah! Dammit Michael!

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

Ben's brother MICHAEL (15), straight-laced, slurps cereal and watches TEEN TITANS GO! Ben enters, drying his ears.

BEN
You can't take 30 minute showers in the morning. Other people live here.

MICHAEL
Get up earlier.

Ben smacks Michael on the back of the head.

MICHAEL (cont'd)
Mom!

BEN
Don't be a narc. I raised you better.

Ben ransacks the pantry, stuffing snacks into his backpack. Ben's Mom enters in GYM ATTIRE.

BEN'S MOM
Why so much yelling? Can't we have one day without yelling?

BEN
Says the loudest woman ever.

BEN'S MOM
Ha. Ha. You know I saw Frank's mom at Trader Joe's and *she* said it's not too late to buy a yearbook.

BEN
I don't particularly want to remember most of my classmates. Besides, everyone's on Instagram.

BEN'S MOM

I just think it's a nice thing to have. *You're gonna miss all this.*

BEN

I'm going to miss waking up at 7:30 everyday to go to my government mandated educational horror show with a bunch of Neanderthals whose names I mostly don't even know?

BEN'S MOM

Yes.

Ben laughs, demonstratively. He gets up and kisses his mom.

BEN

I love you. Never stop being corny.

INT. BEN'S HONDA CIVIC - DRIVING TO SCHOOL - LATER

Ben drives Michael and checks Snapchat, distractedly. The speakers pound CAR SEAT HEADREST.

BEN

...I'm glad you've got all these new baseball friends, but don't let them corrupt your taste, you know? I don't want to come back for FALL BREAK with you quoting DUDE PERFECT videos and engaging in casual homophobia. Oh! And you better be valedictorian, we've got a tradition to uphold--

MICHAEL

Can you get off your phone?!
Distracted driving is more dangerous than drunk driving.

BEN

Not if you're good at it.

Ben glances up and swerves violently, barely missing a cat.

BEN (cont'd)

What? *I didn't hit it!*

Michael snatches Ben's phone. It buzzes.

MICHAEL

Frank wants to know if you still wanna go to Pete's party tonight?

BEN
It's gonna be all rich kids and
athletes. Send him a shrug emoji.

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

They enter into the PARKING LOT and park. Michael spots a friend and hops out.

MICHAEL
Victor! Pound it! Noggin!

Ben sighs and heads toward the entrance, eyes on his phone.

Eddie begins skateboarding next to Ben. Eddie stares at Ben creepily. It's somewhat menacing/somewhat just being a dick.

BEN
(re: Eddie)
Um...can I help you?

EDDIE
Hey, aren't you the vale-*dick*-torian?

Eddie laughs at this. He's stoned.

BEN
(humoring him)
Ah...I see what you did there.

EDDIE
Got a pencil? I need it for finals.

BEN
Sorry, only got a pen.

EDDIE
Give it. C'mon, don't be a bitch.

Sigh. Ben reaches into his backpack and produces a SHARPIE.

EDDIE (cont'd)
Tight. Thanks. (sotto voce) Biiiiitch.

Eddie takes the pen and skates over to his skate buddies. They're all laughing as if something funny happened.

CRUNCH! Behind them, a YELLOW BEETLE driven by a SOPHOMORE GIRL has smashed into a parked MERCEDES BENZ.

EDDIE (cont'd)
Oh shit! Is that a frickin' *sophomore*?

We follow Ben as he passes the Dr. Torres Statue into...

INT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Frank, standing by his locker, nods at Ben, and displays two lipstick kisses inside the cover of his yearbook.

FRANK
Dude, *Blair Avalon* and *Lauren Wilsman*
signed my yearbook! So hot...

ANGLE ON: BLAIR (18), an image-obsessed-prep, sitting at a table with stacks of yearbooks and her frenemy, LAUREN (18).

BLAIR
Well hello...

Blair refers to list of names and photos in her lap.

BLAIR (cont'd)
...*Diego Bloom!*

DIEGO (15), an underclassmen sucker, melts.

DIEGO
You know my name?

LAUREN
Of course! Here's your pre-ordered
yearbook. Pre-signed by the committee.

REVEAL: the inside cover has both their signatures and two lipstick kisses. Diego takes the yearbook and exits.

BLAIR
Ew he smelled like chips and Goodwill.

LAUREN
Eight hours until we're done with
these bargain bin dorks forever.

Lauren spritzes Blair with perfume over her shoulder.

BEN
Trust me, you don't wanna peak in
high school. You bought a yearbook?

FRANK
My mom made me.

Ben and Frank continue past a REC ROOM blasting CARDI B.

INSIDE, RUTH (18), an intense-alpha, leads the STEP TEAM in a routine. Ben stares, smitten. Ruth briefly moves in slow-mo. Ben gulps. Then ZADIE (15), flubs a move.

RUTH
No, stop! Stop! I swear to God I'm about to go *Whiplash* on you, Zadie.

ZADIE
I was waiting for Tina to stop--

RUTH
Don't worry about Tina, worry about yourself!

Ruth notices Ben and Frank watching.

RUTH (cont'd)
Can I help you?

Ben and Frank scurry away into...

INT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - AP ENGLISH - CONTINUOUS

Ben and Frank finds their seats next to Arash and Gwen.

FRANK
You know, I bet Ruth'll be at Pete's party. She hangs with that crowd...

GWEN
We talking about Ben's totally obvious crush on Ruth Moore?

BEN
What? Shut up. I don't even *know* her.

PRINCIPAL SANDERS (O.S.)
(via INTERCOM)
Good morning Tigers! If you haven't gotten a yearbook yet, we still have plenty for sale. Pretty much all of them actually...why wouldn't you want a yearbook? I don't get it. Oh well. Have a good last day.

MRS. ELKINS (65), closes the door and walks to the front.

MRS. ELKINS
Since we already took the final, today's a free period. I'm going to put on *Breakfast Club*...

BEN

Ugh, the *lamest* of high school films.

She puts in a well-worn DVD and dims the lights.

TV (O.S.)

Saturday, March 24th, Shermer High
School, Shermer, Illinois.
60062. Dear Mr. Vernon...

BREAKFAST CLUB continues in the background.

GWEN

Does anyone have some Tylenol? I just
started the period from hell...

ARASH

Ew, gross.

Gwen shoots Arash a DEATH STARE.

GWEN

What's gross Arash? That I menstruate
5-7 days every month of my adult life
so that the whole fucking human race
can continue?

Arash shuts up and looks down.

ARASH

I don't think I understand periods.

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - GYM - AFTERNOON

The tail end of a SENIOR SLIDESHOW plays while the GLEE
CLUB, fronted by LAWRENCE (18), a showy-theater-kid, sing
"See You Again". The SENIORS sits in the bleachers, over it.

BEN

Most of these pictures are of Blair
and Lauren and their friends.

FRANK

(enamored)

Who cares...Oh, that picture is from
their girl's trip to Puerto Vallarta!

ELSEWHERE, we find Eddie sitting with his stoner buds.

EDDIE

Dang dude, this is fucking tight.
There's no music. It's just *voices*.

Slideshow ends. Blair enters with a cordless mic.

BLAIR
Give it up for the Class of 2018!

Only Lauren claps.

BLAIR (cont'd)
Now the moment *everyone's* waiting
for...the results from yesterday's
senior superlatives voting!

Ben rolls his eyes. Blair pulls out a card and reads.

BLAIR (cont'd)
Most athletic goes to...Wesley Harden
and Ruth Moore!

Wesley salutes. Ruth doesn't react.

BLAIR (cont'd)
Most likely to succeed...Gwen Singh
and Ben Harris!

Ben cowers in embarrassment. Arash elbows him.

ARASH
They meant to say BIGGEST SMARTASS.

BLAIR
Class clown...Annie Truman...

The TIGER MASCOT (i.e. Annie) does the Charleston.

BLAIR (cont'd)
...and Eddie Quill!

Eddie stands and tries to start a chant. No takers.

EDDIE
Ed-die! Ed-die! Ed-die!

BLAIR
Most Likely to be a *Superstar*...
Lawrence Richmann! Just Lawrence.

Lawrence does an over-the-top theatrical bow.

BLAIR (cont'd)
And...finally...*most popular*...

BEN
What happened to most attractive?

GWEN

Uh, it reinforces patriarchal ideas
of beauty on a bunch of teens? Jesus,
are you guys, like, Republicans?

Blair takes a deep breath and reads the card. She smiles.

BLAIR

Cory Mitchell! Awww!

CORY (18), a boyish wheelchair-bound kid, blows kisses.
Blair looks at the card. It says *Lauren Wilsman*. Beat.

BLAIR (cont'd)

...and...*Blair Avalon*!

Blair does a hop clap and shoves the card in her pocket.

BLAIR (cont'd)

Now give it up for...the Tigerettes!

She returns to the bleachers to her squad. Ruth and the STEP
TEAM march out with intense coordination. Cardi B kicks in.
They start their routine.

EDDIE

(mind-blown)

Dude, now it's just *hands and feet*!

Ben stares. Arash nudges him. Ben elbows him back. The Step
Team finishes with a flourish and hits a pose in sync,
except for Zadie, who keeps going, not realizing where they
are in the routine.

RUTH

Zadie! Lock! *Lock*. ARGH!

Zadie awkwardly stops. Ruth storms off. The seniors jeer.
Some throw trash onto the court. Ben scoffs.

BEN

Immature dicks.

Principal Sanders enters.

PRINCIPAL SANDERS

Give it up for the...hey, stop it!
They worked very hard on that!
GODDAMMIT CAN YOU STOP BEING
SHITHEADS FOR TWO SECONDS! I swear to
God in my 20 years in education you
are the worst class I've ever had.

(MORE)

PRINCIPAL SANDERS (cont'd)
What's the matter with you kids,
glued to your phones, you're supposed
to form lasting--

FIRE ALARM SOUNDS. Students stand to evacuate the gym.

PRINCIPAL SANDERS (cont'd)
Good prank. Real original. I'll
figure out who pulled it!

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - SOCCER FIELD - LATER

The fire alarm drones. Students meander and sign yearbooks. Frank and Arash play FORTNITE on their phones. Ben people-watches. Gwen lies spread-eagle, clutching her midsection.

BEN
Literally who are half these people?

GWEN
Who knows? But they'll be clogging up
your Facebook feed with baby pics and
vacations in a couple years.

The fire alarm stops. People file toward the building.

INT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - AP PHYSICS - LATER

The class takes a test. Ben raises his hand.

MR. JOYCE
Yes Ben?

BEN
So...is the essay required? Cause I'm
not sure what "*Write a letter to your
future self responding to the
question: What did you learn in high
school?*" has to do with *PHYSICS*.

MR. JOYCE
It's a fun thing I have my students
do. I mail it to you in ten years.

BEN
Does it affect our *grade*? Wouldn't it
make more sense to grade the physics
parts separately, and give the essay
as an optional assignment for anyone
who wants to reflect?

Mr. Joyce sighs with annoyance. Ben is clearly a brilliant student but...*God, what a prick.*

MR. JOYCE
Sure. Fine. The essay is optional.

Ben smiles and drop his test at the front of class.

BEN
Cool! I'm done.

OVERLAPPING VOICES
Me too. / Finished. / Done!

The entire class drops off their essay-less tests.

MR. JOYCE
Have a good future, I guess.

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Eddie sprints down the hall banging on doors.

TEACHER VOICE (O.S.)
Class is not dismissed! Hey!

EDDIE
HERE WE GOOOO! 5! 4! 3! 2!

BELL RINGS. Students pour out. Chaos. Wesley and some bros overturn a trash can, laughing. Blair and Lauren strut.

We find Ben, Snapchatting as he jogs toward the parking lot.

BEN
(into phone)
See you never Torres High!

EXT. PARTY PETE'S HOUSE - LATER

Ben, Arash, Frank, and Gwen warily approach the front door.

BEN
You sure you guys want to go to this?

GWEN
We finally find out where a party is
and now you wanna back out?

FRANK
There's always Lawrence's thing...

INT. LAWRENCE'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

Lawrence leads a bunch of drama kids in a game of mafia.

LAWRENCE
...when the townsfolk awoke...Devri
WAS DEAD!

DEVRI (18) performs an overly dramatic death with glee.

EXT. PARTY PETE'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

BEN
Theater kids weird me out.

FRANK
Totally. Plus, Blair and Lauren won't
be *there*. Or Ruth...

Frank winks at Ben. Wesley opens the door.

WESLEY
(to the party inside)
Did somebody order a bunch of nerds?!

BEN
That's *super funny* Wes, can't wait
for your Netflix special--

Wesley shuts the door on them. Beat. Ben jiggles the handle.

BEN (cont'd)
It's unlocked, that means go in right?

Arash shrugs. They enter.

INT. PARTY PETE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The party is smaller and more awkward than you'd expect. As in, it's an ACTUAL high school party. Some drinking. Some chatting. A few people glance their way.

BEN
It feels like they're going to ask to
see our backstage passes.

ARASH
This is a good turn out.

GWEN

How would you know? This is the first party you've ever been to.

ARASH

No way. My cousin takes me to parties all the time.

FRANK

Is that the cousin you took to prom?

ARASH

Just cause we're both Pakistani doesn't mean we're cousins, pretty racist Frank--

PARTY PETE (17), the host, walks by with BLUE JELLO SHOTS.

PARTY PETE

YO! Who wants Jello shots??

Arash eagerly takes a Jello shot.

ARASH

That's SO good. Can I grab another?

Arash chases after Pete. Ben, Gwen, and Frank continue into the party, past Blair, Lauren, Wesley and some DUDES.

BLAIR

Jesus loves sex. I mean, he *invented* sex for married couples. Studies have shown that the woman's *va-jay* contorts to her husband's penis, it feels *better*. That's why I'm waiting.

FRANK

Totally. That's super cool.

Frank attempts to join the circle.

WESLEY

Babe, lemme show you something...

Wesley leads Blair upstairs. The circle disperses. Leaving Frank alone.

Ben and Gwen enter the kitchen. Ben grabs a beer from the fridge, opens it, sips, grimaces, and tries to act natural. Gwen continues out to the pool patio.

GWEN

I think I'm gonna lie in a pool chair. My uterus is exploding.

Ben wanders the party, alone with a beer. He sips and watches. Living room. Dining room. Ruth is there alone. Ben pause, takes a deep breath, and approaches.

BEN

That was a cool, uh, routine today.

RUTH

Yeah, you don't have to pretend.

BEN

I mean, *you* were good. I'm Ben.

Ben extends his hand. Ruth looks at him, like "No shit."

RUTH

I know. We had chem together.

BEN

But we never, like, *talked*. I didn't think you'd remember me...

RUTH

How could I forget the guy who messed up the grading curve?

BEN

I didn't mean to! I was the only one who took advantage of the extra credit. I actually hated that class.

RUTH

(teasing)

Seemed like you *loved* it. Your arm is probably still sore from raising it so much.

BEN

Oh, well that's just how I stay buff.

Ben flexes. He is NOT buff. Ruth laughs.

BEN (cont'd)

(turning on the charm)

Whoa! That got like *too* big a laugh.

RUTH

I'm sorry...

This makes her laugh more. They both do. Ben sips his beer and tries to play it cool.

BEN

Um, so, uh...what are you--where are you headed next year?

RUTH

Stanford.

Ben chokes a little on his beer.

BEN

Whoa, really? I mean, I didn't get into Stanford. Not that it was my top choice or anything. Berkeley was. Which is where I'm going. I know it's not a competition. But still, Stanford? Like, *Stanford* Stanford?

RUTH

Is there a different one?

BEN

No! But wow, that's *great*. Congrats!

RUTH

Yeah, my first workout with the track team is next week actually.

BEN

Ohhh, you're on *athletic scholarship*. Duh. Okay. That makes sense.

Ruth immediately chills.

RUTH

Huh? *What* makes sense?

BEN

(backpedaling)

Oh, I just meant I was surprised that you had gotten into Stanford, because it's surprising for *anyone*. But it was for sports, which is less surprising, because you're *very good*! I meant it as a *compliment*.

RUTH

(ice cold)

Sure. Have a great summer.

Ruth walks away. Ben stares. FUCK.

BEN
Ben you idiot.

PARTY PETE (O.S.)
Shh! Everyone shut up! Come here!

Ben approaches a small group (including Frank and Arash) gathering around a BABY MONITOR.

BEN
What's going on?

FRANK
Blair and Wesley are in Pete's baby sister's room...

The tiny speaker projects SOUNDS OF A CLUMSY TEEN HOOKUP.

WESLEY (O.S.)
So what can we do?

BLAIR (O.S.)
I'm a Christian, Wesley. I'm saving myself for my husband.

Everyone in the kitchen BOOS!

BLAIR (O.S.) (cont'd)
We can do it in the butt though...

Everyone in the kitchen YAYS! Hi-fives. This is awesome!
Lauren enters and shuts off the monitor. She's pissed.
Everyone shuts up.

LAUREN
You assholes! That's...*illegal*!
(to Ben, Frank, and Arash)
The fuck are you nerds looking at?

Lauren runs upstairs. Arash throws up BLUE VOMIT.

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Ben enters into his room. He collapses on his bed, completely ignoring Michael playing *Fortnite* in his room.

BEN
That was horrible. Cool kids are the worst. Beer is also the worst.

MICHAEL
Do you want bread? I hear bread soaks
up the alcohol.

BEN
No, I'm just gonna sleep forever...

He closes his eyes...

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Ben's Mom barges into Ben's room. Ben tosses in his bed...

BEN'S MOM
Ben, five minutes to 8! C'mon, last
day of school, let's go, let's go.

BEN
What are you doing? Let me sleep...

BEN'S MOM
C'mon, don't make Michael late.

BEN
Late for what?

BEN'S MOM
Very funny, Benjamin Harris.

Ben's Mom opens the windows and leaves. Ben sits up.

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

Michael slurps cereal and watches TEEN TITANS GO! Ben enters, he's still in PAJAMAS. Ben's Mom enters.

BEN'S MOM
I saw Frank's mom at Trader Joe's--
Why aren't you dressed?

BEN
Are you guys messing with me?

MICHAEL
How are we messing with you?

Beat. Nobody says anything.

BEN
You guys are doing like a *Groundhog Day* thing, right?

BEN'S MOM
(not seriously)
Why? Is the day repeating for you?

Ben checks his phone.

BEN
It says it's Friday.

MICHAEL
Dang, you have one of those fancy
phones that says what day it is?!

Ben's Mom and Michael laugh. High five. Beat. Ben stares.

BEN
What's going on?

BEN'S MOM
What's going on is, it's your last
day of school, so try and enjoy it.

EXT. BEN'S HONDA CIVIC - DRIVING TO SCHOOL - SAME TIME

Ben drives while frantically thumbing through his phone.

BEN
All the featured snaps are from
yesterday...Reddit...*same*...

MICHAEL
Can you get off your phone! Studies
show that distracted driving--

BEN
Michael something weird is going on!

Ben looks up and swerves to nearly miss a stray cat. Michael
snatches Ben's phone.

BEN (cont'd)
Frank's going to text me...

No phone buzz.

MICHAEL
Nope. Guess, the day isn't repeating,
it's just the last day of school.

BEN
I'm so confused.

They enter the parking lot. Ben parks. Michael hops out.

MICHAEL (O.S.)
Victor! Pound it! Noggin!

Ben heads toward the entrance. Eddie skates next to him.

EDDIE
Yo Valedick, what's Déjà vu? Cuz I
think I got it hella bad.

BEN
What did you say?

Ben grabs Eddie and pushes him off his skateboard.

EDDIE
I'm fucking tripping, it feels like--

BEN
Like this day already happened??

EDDIE
Yeah man! I ate an edible cause I
thought it was Saturday, you know?
But then my grandma came into my room
and started yelling at me to go to
school and I was like...wait, what?

BEN
Yes! *Your* day is repeating too?

EDDIE
Shit, the yellow car!

On cue...CRUNCH!

INT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Ben enters the lobby. Lauren is sitting at the yearbook table alone. She is panicked and on the phone. Ben stares.

LAUREN
(to the phone)
Blair I'm *freaking*! Where are you?

INT. BLAIR'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Blair sits on her bed, still in pajamas.

BLAIR

In bed. I'm so embarrassed. Thank God
I never have to see those people ever
again...

We INTERCUT between scenes for the following conversation:

LAUREN

Wait, *you don't know?* Friday's
repeating! It's like yesterday never
happened or whatever!

Blair looks at her phone calendar. She thinks. Beat.

BLAIR

What?

LAUREN

Yeah, it's really freaky.

BLAIR

Oh my goodness...Jesus is giving me a
do-over! I'm still a butt virgin!

LAUREN

What? What do you mean?

BLAIR

Don't you see? That's why the day is
repeating, cause Jesus wanted me to
have my anal virginity back...

LAUREN

I mean, I *guess* that's a possibility.

BACK IN THE HALLWAY, Frank runs up to Ben in a panic.

FRANK

Ben! I'm losing it! *WE JUST DID THIS!*

BEN

Wait, *you too?* What is going on?

Ruth (in sweats) walks by Ben and Frank.

RUTH

Why is everyone here on a Saturday?

BEN

Why are *you* here?

RUTH

What? You think I'm not even smart enough to pick up the P.A. on my own?

Ruth gives Ben a dirty look. Zadie runs up to her.

ZADIE

There you are! The team's been waiting in the Rec Room for an hour.

Zadie drags a confused Ruth away.

BEN

I never said you weren't smart! Ruth!

PRINCIPAL SANDERS (O.S.)

(via INTERCOM)

Good morning Tigers! If you haven't gotten a yearbook yet, we still have plenty for sale. Pretty much all of them actually...why wouldn't you want a yearbook? I don't get it. Oh well. Have a good last day.

INT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - AP ENGLISH - LATER

Ben sits in class with his AP BUDDIES. Frank cradles his head and rocks back and forth.

BEN

I think it's our *entire senior class*.

ARASH

How do you know?

BEN

(to entire class)

Hey, how many people in this class are reliving the same day?

ANGLE ON: the rest of the class raising their hands, freaked out, except for GARY (15), a Ralph Wiggum-esque boy genius.

BEN (cont'd)

Everyone except for *Gary the Weirdo*, the only underclassman in AP English.

GARY

I lived in Malaysia for 4 years!

Mrs. Elkins enters.

MRS. ELKINS
 Since we already took the final,
 today's a free period. I'm going to
 put on *Breakfast Club*...

She puts in the tape and dims the lights. *Breakfast Club*
 continues in the background.

ARASH
 I bet it's revenge from Principal
 Sanders cause he hates us. Like a
 reverse senior prank!

BEN
 So the whole school and our parents
 and the internet are all in on this
 together, for just our SENIOR CLASS?

GWEN
 (horrificed)
 No...I'm starting my period *again*...

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - GYM - AFTERNOON

Most of the seniors are here. Senior slideshow plays. No one
 is paying attention. Lawrence and the Glee Club are killing
 "See You Again". It ends. Principal Sanders enters on mic.

PRINCIPAL SANDERS
 Has anyone seen Blair? She's supposed
 to present the superlatives...

PARTY PETE
 In-The-Butt-Blair! In-The-Butt-Blair!

No one joins. Everyone is preoccupied. Pete sits, miffed.

PARTY PETE (cont'd)
 Just trying to lighten the mood...

PRINCIPAL SANDERS
 Lauren, can you announce?

Principal Sanders hands Lauren the results card and the mic.

LAUREN
 (reading hurriedly)
 Athletic. Wesley and Ruth. Most
 likely to succeed. Gwen Singh and Ben
 Harris. Class clown, Annie and Eddie.
 Superstar, Lawrence. Popular...guys
 it's exactly the same as--

Lauren sees the card reads "Lauren Wilsman".

LAUREN (cont'd)
What-- THAT *BITCH*! That *f-ing* BITCH!

She drops the mic and runs off stage.

PRINCIPAL SANDERS
HEY! LANGUAGE!

LATER, the Step Team finishes their routine. No one pays attention. Zadie fucks up the ending again.

RUTH
YOU'RE KILLING ME ZADIE!

The FIRE ALARM rings.

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - SOCCER FIELD - LATER

Underclassmen mill about. The seniors all freak out in their respective cliques. Ben and the AP kids conspire.

GWEN
This sucks. We were finally free.
What are we gonna do?

ARASH
What *can* we do??

BEN
I dunno, but we're the smart kids. We can figure it out.

INT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - AP PHYSICS - LATER

They enter the classroom. Mr. Joyce distributes tests.

MR. JOYCE
Alright everyone, pencils out. You have 45 minutes--

BEN
Mr. Joyce, we need to talk to you.

MR. JOYCE
The senior class is reliving the same day? I've heard. Fun bit.

BEN

It's true! I already know this test ends with a dumb reflection essay.

Mr. Joyce pauses, interest piqued.

MR. JOYCE

Hm...maybe you *are* in a loop...

ARASH

Is there a scientific explanation?

He pulls out a sheet of paper, cogs turning.

MR. JOYCE

Picture space time as a field that extends in all directions. This sheet of paper represents *this day*.

BEN

Okay...

MR. JOYCE

Now, if space time were to become distorted, due to proximity to a black hole perhaps, it could curve...

Mr. Joyce begins rolling the paper into a tube.

MR. JOYCE (cont'd)

...creating a loop of sorts. And I suppose, a passing solar flare could, in theory, *focus* the distortion, hyper-localizing the experience of looping time to *this senior class*...

FRANK

That makes so much sense...

The students gawk. Mr. Joyce smacks Frank with the tube.

MR. JOYCE

No it doesn't! I just rattled off a bunch of pseudo-science garbage! Go take your test.

The students return to their desks, disappointed.

MR. JOYCE (cont'd)

By the way, I'm a 27-year-old *high school physics teacher*. Why would I be able to explain a damn time loop? Watching too much *Stranger Things*.

Ben rapidly finishes the test and places it on the podium.

BEN
I'm still not doing the essay.

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - EVENING

Frank, Arash, and Gwen sit on the bed with POPCORN. Ben googles "Groundhog Day streaming free".

BEN
Seriously how have you guys never seen this? I'm honestly embarrassed for you.

ARASH
All these sites look sketchy.

GWEN
Oh my God just rent it, it's not like money matters right now.

FRANK
(uneasy)
I mean, the day *might* not loop again. Right? Right guys?

Ben clicks on a link. *Groundhog Day* plays. Ben takes notes.

BEN
Everyone really focus, okay?

LATER, Frank's asleep. *Groundhog Day* end credits roll.

GWEN
Wait, so God just wanted Bill Murray and Andy McDowell to bang?

BEN
I mean, there's more to it than *that*.

ARASH
And the loop re-starts when he goes to sleep?

BEN
Yeah. Or at 6 AM.

GWEN
But there's 223 people going through our loop.

ARASH
Yeah, like, what happens if I fall
asleep and you guys wake me up, would
I re-start or how does it work?

BEN
(re: Frank)
Let's find out. Wake him up...

Arash puts his butt on Frank's face. Farts. Frank wakes up.

FRANK
What the fuck, dick!?

BEN
Loop didn't close. Huh, maybe we need
to watch it again for clues.

ARASH
Or...

LATER, Arash plays FORTNITE. Ben and Gwen watch. Frank
sleeps on the floor. Ben looks at his iPhone.

ARASH (cont'd)
Only 4 more kills, holy shit guys.
I've never won a BATTLE ROYAL.

GWEN
Shoot him! END HIM!

Arash does. 3 MORE KILLS.

BEN
3 more! This is amazing!

2 MORE KILLS. He's soooo close.

GWEN
GO ARASH! YOU GOT THIS!

ARASH
OH MY GOD! ONE KILL TO GO! I'M GOING
TO BE A LEGEND--

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Ben's Mom, barges in, opening blinds and being a menace...

BEN'S MOM
Ben, five minutes to 8! C'mon, last
day of school, let's go, let's go.

Ben rises quickly. He's pissed. Punches the pillow. Ben's Mom leaves. Ben immediately pulls up Snapchat and records with a BUNNY FILTER.

BEN
Emergency *SENIORS ONLY* meeting during
first period. Spread the word.

INT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - MORNING

Seniors file into the THEATER. A sign reads SENIORS ONLY. Party Pete acts as a bouncer, checking names off the yearbook. He looks from Arash to a YEARBOOK PHOTO of Arash.

PARTY PETE
Hmmm...you don't look like this
senior picture. *Waaay* more acne.

ARASH
My parents paid for the GLAMOUR
FILTER. C'mon, I was at your party!

Pete snickers and steps aside. Arash enters. Blair and Lauren approach, mid-argument.

LAUREN
No! You're a bitch! You're out of the
private insta group!

BLAIR
That day never technically happened!

PARTY PETE
(playing dumb)
Hmm...names?

LAUREN
Lauren and In-The-Butt Blair.

BLAIR
Oh, fuck you.

Blair barges in. Lauren follows. Ben approaches.

PARTY PETE
That's everyone. You're up smarty.

Principal Sanders tries to enter.

PRINCIPAL SANDERS
What the heck is going on here?

PARTY PETE
 Sorry Principal Sanders, space-time
 is all fucked and we gotta pow wow.

Pete shoves Principal Sanders outside the theater and sticks
 a broomstick through the door handles. Ben takes the stage.

BEN
 Hey everyone. Here's the deal: we're
 in a time loop. It's like *Groundhog*
Day, except with all the seniors, and
 the day resets at 3:32 AM.

The crowd just stares at him. Blake leans over to Wesley.

BLAKE
 (whispering)
 Bro what's *Groundhog Day*?

WESLEY
 (whispering)
 It's like an old boring *Happy Death*
Day rip-off I think. I read the Wiki.

BEN
 First question: any leads on how this
 happened?

Eddie stands up.

EDDIE
 Shit. So, couple days ago, I bumped
 into this WIZARD and totally like,
 fucked up this magic clock he had.

Beat. Everyone is stunned.

BEN
 Are you serious?

EDDIE
 FUCK NO! I didn't meet no time
 wizard! That's fucking crazy! Haha,
 shit, Valedick, you're *gulliver*.

LAWRENCE
 Maybe we're stuck in weird purgatory
 like Act Three of *Our Town*!

LAUREN
 I hear it's because Blair took it up
 the butt and lost her anal-virginity.

BLAIR
JESUS GAVE IT BACK TO ME!

People snicker.

BEN
So...it looks like we don't have any *actual* leads. But in *Groundhog Day*, Phil breaks the loop by finally being a good person. So I say: let's cut to the chase and be good people *tomorrow*. Give to charity. Save lives. Stop watching porn.

Eddie glances up from scrolling through a PORN SUB-REDDIT.

RUTH
Really? *That's* your big smart plan?

BEN
Yeah...is there a problem?

RUTH
It's just a very basic analysis of *Groundhog Day*. You're viewing the film through your *own* hermeneutical lens of what "good" is and ignoring the broader philosophical questions posed by 223 *unique* Phil Connors caught in the same loop. But what do I know? I'm just an athlete.

Ruth's eye narrow. The mood is tense.

BEN
Okay...what's *your* plan?

RUTH
Mind my own business.

BEN
Great, we'll definitely try that after we try mine. Which will only work if *everyone* does it.

RUTH
Oh I'll do it. But only to prove to you that it won't work.

BEN
Thanks for being a team player.
Alright everyone, best behavior
tomorrow! Trust me, if we do it right
we can end this.

INT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - LOBBY

Seniors exit the theater and walk straight out of school.

PRINCIPAL SANDERS
Wait! Where's everyone going? The day
just started! HEY!

Arash jogs up to Ben.

ARASH
Dude, what was that about with Ruth?

BEN
Who cares about Ruth. Not me that's
for sure. After tomorrow I'll never
have to think about Ruth again.

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Ben's Mom, barges in. Ben perks awake.

BEN'S MOM
Ben, five minutes--

BEN
Good morning, Mother! I'm so thankful
to be awake and here. Can I do
anything for you this morning? Is
there anything you need?

Ben's Mom is taken aback. She opens the windows.

BEN'S MOM
Just get ready for school.

Ben's Mom exits, spooked, and types, "*teens morning
ecstasy??*" into Google.

INT. BEN'S HONDA CIVIC - DRIVING TO SCHOOL - SAME TIME

Ben drives slowly and carefully, hands on 10 and 2.

BEN

Michael, I'd like you to know that you're under no pressure to be valedictorian. Your trajectory is your choice, and if you choose to bring shame on us, that's okay too.

Ben breaks gently, slowly coming to a halt.

MICHAEL

Okayyy...why are we stopped?

The cat walks across the road. Ben puts out a bowl of milk.

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Ben gets out of his car and heads toward school.

BEN

Be well dear brother!

MICHAEL

Victor! Pound it! Noggin!

BEN

Dude perfect! *Nice!*

Ben gives Michael a double thumbs up and we follow him. Eddie, wearing a TIE, skates alongside Ben.

EDDIE

Yo Ben, check it, I haven't jerked it today *and* I brought my own pen.

CRUNCH! The Yellow Beetle still hits the parked Mercedes. The seniors freeze, like "Did we fuck up?"

BEN

That's a sophomore so we should be okay, right?

EDDIE

Yeah.

INT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Lauren wears a bikini and sits at the yearbook table. A sign reads FREE YEARBOOKS!

LAUREN

Free yearbooks!

Lauren chucks yearbooks to passersby. One clocks Frank.

FRANK
Hey, what the--

Lauren blows a kiss.

FRANK (cont'd)
THANKS! I'm obsessed with you for
your body AND mind!

Ben continues down the hall, passing by the Rec Room, which
is blasting THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND. The team struggles to do
the routine. Ruth pauses the music.

RUTH
Really great. I'm so proud of all you.

ZADIE
But we messed up a bunch. The routine
doesn't go with this song.

Ruth hugs Zadie.

RUTH
Who cares about the routine? As long
as we love one another, right?

Ruth spots Ben peaking from the hallway and gives him a look
like, *keep walking*.

PRINCIPAL SANDERS (O.S.)
(via INTERCOM)
If you haven't gotten a yearbook yet,
we still have plenty for sale...

Ben continues on his way to...

INT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - AP ENGLISH- SAME TIME

Ben walks up to Mrs. Elkins' desk and leaves a THANK YOU
CARD. It's already cluttered with 9 STARBUCKS COFFEES and a
PILE OF APPLES, PRESENTS, and a PUMPKIN. Mrs. Elkins enters.

MRS. ELKINS
Since we already-- oh my...a pumpkin!

BEN
Thank you Mrs. Elkins, for making us
read Elie Wiesel. You were right, the
HOLOCAUST was bad and profound.

FRANK
Also, thanks a bunch for never
molesting us.

MRS. ELKINS
(touched)
You're welcome, Frank.

Arash pulls out BOX OF TAMPONS and MIDOL.

ARASH
Got something for you Gwen.

GWEN
Gee, thanks Arash.

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - GYM - LUNCH

The school sits. Blair announces the superlatives.

BLAIR
Most academic, most athletic,
coolest, class clown, and most
popular...all go to Cory!

The seniors give a huge cheer and standing ovation to Cory,
who sits in his wheelchair un-amused.

PARTY PETE
GET IT HOT WHEELS!

CORY
You guys know I'm just like a normal
guy right? This is patronizing...

BLAIR
And most popular *girl* goes to...
Lauren Wilsman! That's right, I,
Blair, lied about the SUPERLATIVE
RESULTS...

Gasps from the audience.

BLAIR (cont'd)
...and I'm sorry. I did it because
I'm *insecure*. I love you, Lauren, I
never appreciated how amazing of a
person you are, I realize it now.
Friends are important. Girl power.

Blair cries. She runs into the arms of Lauren. They
reconcile. Ruth and the STEP TEAM march onto the court.

RUTH
Thanks Tigers. We dedicate today's
performance to Jon Benet Ramsey. And
when Zadie messes up in the end, I'm
not mad! We're all human!

Step Team looks at her like, *uh what?* Ruth launches in.

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - SOCCER FIELD - LATER

Seniors pass around YEARBOOKS. A few sing KUMBAYA in the background. Blair and Lauren walk over to Lawrence.

BLAIR
Will you sign our yearbooks?

LAWRENCE
Only if you sign mine.

They swap YEARBOOKS.

LAWRENCE (cont'd)
May Jesus Christ bless you.

BLAIR
And let him forgive you for being
super gay.

LAWRENCE
As long as he forgives himself. You've
seen *Jesus Christ Superstar*, right?

They force smiles as they walk away.

INT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - LOBBY - SAME TIME

As seniors exit they drop off canned food, cold hard cash, Nintendo Switches, etc. in an overflowing box by the door labeled "DONATIONS FOR ORPHANAGES".

PRINCIPAL SANDERS
Where is there an orphanage?

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - SAME TIME

Ben walks by Blake and Wesley at a table with a sign, "EAT VEGAN, *NOT TIDE PODS*". They preach to some underclassmen.

WESLEY

You see bro, quinoa is a *complete protein* and tide pods are *poison*.

Ben gives a thumbs up.

BEN

Good stuff boys! Smart advice.

Frank, Arash, and Gwen wash cars. Ben joins them.

INT. PARTY PETE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

We PAN ACROSS various teens "doing good". There's a lot of positive commenting on Facebook posts and liking every Instagram pic. On the couch, Gwen speaks into her phone.

GWEN

(into phone)

I'm a volunteer with the suicide hotline. You have so much to live for. For instance, have you listened to Lil' Pump's new track?

NEARBY, Ben reads a Ta-Nahesi Coates' spread in the Atlantic, nodding with a furrowed brow.

BEN

I am reading, not skimming...

Lauren packs up a CARE PACKAGE of candy and gossip mags.

LAUREN

Care package ready to go. Any luck?

Blair scours google on a laptop nearby.

BLAIR

Hmm, I can't find Malala's address. Maybe send it to the Nobel Committee in Sweden and they'll get it to her?

Pete enters with a tray of RAW KALE.

PARTY PETE

Who wants raw kale!

IN THE BACKYARD, Arash films Frank with his iPhone. Frank dumps a bucket of ice water over his head.

FRANK
Woo! Wow that's cold. I officially challenge Bill Murray, Tom Cruise, and my buddy, Ben. It's never too late for the #icebucketchallenge!

INT. HOMELESS SHELTER - NIGHT

Lawrence and the theater kids enter, wearing costumes from *Rent*. Lawrence (as Mark) blows a pitch pipe.

ALL
(singing)
Five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes / How do you measure, measure a year?

HOMELESS MAN (50), whispers to a HOMELESS WOMAN (45).

HOMELESS MAN
Do they think we all have AIDs?

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Ben's Mom barges in.

BEN'S MOM
Ben, five minutes to 8! C'mon, last day of school, let's go, let's go.

Ben wakes up and starts punching his pillow!

BEN
FUCKING SHIT FUCK! (then) I MEAN I LOVE YOU MOM! I'M SO THANKFUL FOR ALL YOU DO! PRAISE JESUS! AND ALLAH!

Ben's Mom, a little startled, exits and immediately types, "teen morning meth?" into google.

EXT. RANDOM STREET - MORNING

The cat wanders beside the road. Ben's car zooms by. A large open bag of CAT FOOD lands by the cat.

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - MORNING

Ben parks and hops out and hands Michael a wad of cash!

BEN
I love you brother! Here's \$100 just
for being you big guy!

MICHAEL
(terrified)
What's going on??

A CHAIR smashes through the school window. A THEATER COUPLE
ferociously makes out on a bench in their underwear.

BEN
No no no...

Ben runs inside.

INT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Pandemonium. Seniors graffiti the walls and tear the school
apart. Underclassmen cower in fear.

PRINCIPAL SANDERS
I'M EXPELLING ALL OF YOU! NO ONE IS
GRADUATING!

BEN
Everyone CHILL! We only tried to be
good for *one day*! It'll take some
practice DAMMIT-- I mean *DARN* it!

Ruth walks by and smirks.

RUTH
Told you it wouldn't work.

Ben watches the chaos, at a loss. Blair and Lauren wrestle.

BLAIR
I thought you forgave me!

LAUREN
Fuck no! That was just for the "do
good" day you two-timing bitch!

Lauren shaves Blair's hair off with a BUZZER. Frank watches.

ARASH
Frank, everyone can see your boner.

FRANK
(hiding it)
Nuh-uh...

EDDIE (O.S.)
(via INTERCOM)
Yo, everybody! Fuck high school, fuck
everything! UNLIMITED LIVES BITCH!

The Principal runs into his office. We hear a commotion.

PRINCIPAL SANDERS (O.S.)
(via INTERCOM)
Gimme that you little shit--

INT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - AP ENGLISH - CONTINUOUS

Arash, Frank, and Ben sit. Gwen lies on the floor with a heating pad. They're the only ones in class.

BEN
It's not fair.

ARASH
What?

BEN
I come to class and get good grades
for four years, I'm not stoned all
the time. Why am *I* in this loop?

GWEN
Only *you* shouldn't be in this loop?

BEN
All of us. We don't need to learn
some cosmic lesson, we're AP kids.
We're *already* good! It's all the
losers that are rioting that need to
learn something!

A WHOLE RAW CHICKEN crashes through the window.

WESLEY
Little help!

Arash chucks it back to him. Mrs. Elkins enters, wild-eyed.

MRS. ELKINS
Our worst fears are upon us! The
children have gone mad!

Mrs. Elkins reaches into her desk, pulls out a BASEBALL BAT
and a TASER, and returns outside.

MRS. ELKINS (O.S.)
VALHALLA!

Beat. They stare.

GWEN
That was just...in her desk?

ARASH
Ben's right, why are we sitting here being goody-goods? Let's go topple a bus or something!

BEN
That wasn't my point. I still want to figure out how to get out of here--

FRANK
Totally. So do I, but toppling a bus sounds pretty awesome right now...

GWEN
Add my vote to team bus-topple.

BEN
I know it *sounds* fun, but if we get too comfortable here BOOM. It's a 5000 loops from now, existential misery has kicked in and we're driving off a cliff with a groundhog.

ARASH
So?! We'll deal with the existential misery and suicide later.

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT

"Wake Up" by LIL XAN plays over the following. Frank, Gwen, Arash try to push over a bus with a bunch of other seniors. Ben stands to the side, arms crossed.

BEN
I don't condone this!

The bus falls on its side. Everyone cheers. It's bedlam.

INT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY

Ben, Arash, Gwen, and Frank drive GO-KARTS down the hallway, dressed as MARIO KART characters and throwing turtles.

BEN
I'M ONLY HERE TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE'S
BEING SAFE!

EXT. BANK - DAY

An ALARM blares. An EXPLOSION opens a hole in a wall leading to the alley. Ben, Arash, Frank, and Gwen, wearing NIXON MASKS, step through with SACKS OF MONEY.

They hop into a VAN, take off their masks, and peel out.

BEN
I KNOW IT LOOKS LIKE I'M HAVING FUN,
BUT ACTUALLY-- OH SHIT COPS! GUN IT!

INT. JAIL CELL - NIGHT

Music fades. Ben, Arash, Frank, and Gwen sit in a jail cell.

BEN
Guy, this is accomplishing nothing.
Tomorrow we *have* to get back to work
and figure out a way out of this.

ARASH
Why? What's the rush? I'm *years* away
from existential misery TBH.

BEN
So we can go to college! So *real life*
can start! Did you guys forget about
a little thing called THE FUTURE?

FRANK
No...but are you *sure* the loop is
something to "figure out"?

BEN
Of course! (then) Guys, what's
happening here? We're the smart kids!
Solving stuff is what we *do*!

GWEN
...or we could keep having fun?

Beat.

BEN
Fine. Do what you want. I'll figure
out a plan on my own.

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Ben's Mom barges into Ben's room. Ben tosses in his bed...

BEN'S MOM

Ben, five minutes to 8! C'mon, last day of school, let's go, let's go.

Ben gets up, depressed. He looks over at his acceptance letter to Berkeley. *Will he ever go?* Probably. Keep reading.

EXT. BEN'S HONDA CIVIC - DRIVING TO SCHOOL - SAME TIME

Ben drives while reading A BRIEF HISTORY OF TIME.

MICHAEL

Can you stop reading!? Studies show that distracted driving--

THUMP THUMP!

MICHAEL (cont'd)

Holy shit! Was that a cat!?

Ben casually swerves through a crowded intersection by memory while continuing to read.

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - MORNING

Ben parks and hops out. Michael barfs out the window. Ben heads toward the school, still reading. Eddie ollies OVER the parked Mercedes and skids to a halt in front of Ben.

EDDIE

Wuddup valedictorian!

BEN

Whoa, you've gotten a lot better.

EDDIE

Lots of free time!

BEN

So why are you at school? I assumed the seniors just ditch now.

EDDIE

Not everyone. Drama kids use the theater. Step Team is still going...

BEN
How about you?

EDDIE
Grandma won't let me ditch. I tried once and she hired a bounty hunter.

BEN
Need a pencil?

EDDIE
Nah. I'm just going to piss on the SCANTRON and see what happens.

Eddie starts skating away but then Ben calls to him...

BEN
Have you ever just passed the final?

EDDIE
Hell no.

BEN
(an epiphany)
Wait. That's it!

EDDIE
Yo heads up--

The Yellow Beetle SLAMS into Ben.

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Ben catches up to Eddie in the parking lot.

BEN
I forgot about the Beetle.

EDDIE
Your vigil was tight. Bunch of sad people. You were saying?

BEN
Listen, the reason the DO GOOD day didn't break the loop is everyone has their *own* lesson to learn. Phil Connors didn't just DO GOOD, he went from selfish to selfless. The universe is looping to help each of us self-actualize in *our own way*.

Eddie stares, not following any of that.

EDDIE

Sorry, can you start over? I'm super high right now.

BEN

Exactly! *You're a pothead fuck-up that needs to learn to apply himself.*

EDDIE

Whoa, that's messed homie!

BEN

Sorry, I could have phrased that better. But my point is, I think us getting out of here hinges on you acing that test.

EDDIE

Whoa, for real? That's it?

BEN

Well, that's a part of it. *Every* senior has to learn their personal lesson. 223 simultaneous denouements!

EDDIE

Ahh. (beat) I dunno what that means.

BEN

Don't worry about it. You just start applying yourself. And I'll start doing research...

Ben jogs away. Eddie stares.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - AFTERNOON

Frank, Arash, and Gwen sit with Ben.

ARASH

I don't know Ben...I'm not sure people are going to be as receptive as you think.

BEN

It'll be *helpful*. I get to know all the seniors, work out a nice character arc for everyone, they do it, we get out of here. Frank, you get it, right?

FRANK
(hesitant)
Yeah, yeah, totally...

GWEN
Frank's just saying that because he
doesn't know how to say no to you.

BEN
Exactly, Frank's arc will probably
involve learning to stand up for
himself. Like, he'll tell someone off
who really deserves it or something.

FRANK
Ooh can it be Arash?

BEN
I don't think so. I see Arash as
having more a classic coming of age.
Like, I dunno, maybe he and Gwen will
finally hookup.

Arash and Gwen start laughing.

ARASH
Dude, she's on her period.

Gwen SLAPS Arash. HARD.

GWEN
That's why that's funny to you!?

BEN
Maybe that could be part of it, you
know? Arash has been really naive
about periods, and Gwen you have
trouble being vulnerable. It works
out nicely if you think about it.

GWEN
YOU THINK THE COSMIC TIME LOOP IS
TEACHING ARASH TO HAVE PERIOD SEX?

ARASH
That's a thing?

Gwen hits Arash again.

BEN
Okay, well I'm just riffing here. But
you get the gist right?
(MORE)

BEN (cont'd)
That's why I need help doing
research. 223 people is a lot...

GWEN
You're on your own for this one.

BEN
Unbelievable. Fine. But don't come
begging for a share of the glory when
I save the day.

Ben leaves.

FRANK
(calling after him)
You sure you don't want to learn a
bunch of languages with us? We're
gonna use the loop to become mega-
geniuses.

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Wesley and Blake, flip a GIANT TIRE around the parking lot.
A group of fellow jocks BARBECUE by them and drink BEER.

WESLEY
Dude, we've been doing three-a-days
for months! Tell me I'm not bulking!

BLAKE
I'm telling you bro! That's not how
the time loop works! It preserves
memories, not physical changes!

WESLEY
Are the synapses in our brains not
physical in nature? How does the loop
distinguish between muscle gain,
which seems not to be possible, and
the mastering of skill, which *is*?

Ben walks up with a moleskin notebook and pen.

BEN
Hey guys, I know we've never really
hung out, but I'm working on a plan
to break the loop and I'd love to get
to know you better...

BLAKE
You lift?

INT. PARTY PETE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

In a quick SUPER CUT, Party Pete enters with various drugs.

PARTY PETE

Who wants to try acid! / Who wants to
try crack! / WHO WANTS TO TRY TIDE
PODS, FENTANYL, AND STEEL WOOL! OUR
BRAINS RESET IN THE MORNING!

Ben, holding his notebook and pen, taps Party Pete on the
shoulder. Pete turns, crazed.

BEN

Hey Pete, you wanna hang out some
time? I want to know what makes you
tick my man.

PARTY PETE

I'M AN ENERGY TIGER! BOW TO ME!

INT. ELLEN TV STUDIO - DAY

Lauren and Summer sit across from ELLEN DEGENERES.

ELLEN

So how'd you do it? Predicting all
those world events is quite a trick.

LAUREN

Haha, it's no trick Ellen. We really
are magic.

BLAIR

We used to be frenemies. I actually
tampered with senior superlative
voting because I was so jealous.

LAUREN

And I secretly thought I was better
than Blair, because she lost her anal
virginity at a party.

BLAIR

But that was years ago. Now we're
friends again. *Magic friends* who are
looking for IG brand partnerships.

Ellen is having a hard time following.

ELLEN
Well okay! After the break we'll hear more from the latest viral sensation: the *Time Divas*.

LATER, AFTER THE TAPING, Ben waits for them in the wings.

BEN
Hey! I know we never really hung out back in high school, but I loved you on *The View*, *The Today Show*, *Oprah*, and less so *Fox and Friends* but still...can I buy you a kombucha?

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - ROOF - DAY

LEO, a pierced senior, does an incredible interpretive drum solo on the roof along to Principal Sanders announcements.

PRINCIPAL SANDERS (O.S.)
(via INTERCOM)
Good morning Tigers. If you haven't gotten a yearbook yet, we still have plenty for sale.

Ba-da-BANG! Boppity-boppity-CRASH! Ben leans into his ear.

BEN
Hey! I'm Ben!

INT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - BLACK BOX THEATER - DAY

SUPER CUT of Lawrence handing out scripts.

LAWRENCE
Fame! / King Lear in pig latin! / Oxford Dictionary the musical!

CUT TO: Lawrence the a crew of theater kids in robes. Full stage lighting.

ROBED CHORUS
(singing)
...and Zyzzyva, a genus of South African weevils found on palm trees!

Ben claps and waits for the cast in the wings.

BEN
Bravo! Is there a wrap party? I'd love to get to know the cast.

INT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - LUNCHROOM - DAY

TIME-LAPSE of BECCA (17), a shy loner, eating alone. She remains basically still as crazy shit goes on behind and around her. A SWORD FIGHT, the THRILLER DANCE, a RAVE.

BEN (O.S.)
Becca, right?

Time-lapse ends. Ben sits beside her. Becca looks nervous.

BEN
I'm using a loop to try to get to know all the seniors better.

Becca relaxes.

BECCA
Oh...that's nice. People usually sit beside me to make fun of me.

BEN
Geez, that's awful. (then) Now tell me about these erotic manga comics you seem to be tracing and adding your face too...

Becca lights up.

INT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - ALGEBRA 2 - DAY

Eddie SLICES the scantron and desk in half with a chainsaw. MR. HOUGHTON (68), sits at his desk, shocked and angered...

MR. HOUGHTON
EDDIE!

CUT TO: Eddie stuffs his scantron into a bong and smokes it.

MR. HOUGHTON (cont'd)
EDDIE!

CUT TO: Eddie dumps a CAN OF PAINT onto the scantron.

MR. HOUGHTON (cont'd)
EDDIE!

EDDIE
Relax Mr. H. We're stuck in a time loop and we've already been to this class like 1000 times.

MR. HOUGHTON

What?

EDDIE

We know everything about you, man. We know that you ate CORN FLAKES this morning, your dog's name is Fife and he's been feeling sick and we know that you got an STD from a hooker on 8th Avenue in New York when you were on a field trip in the 10th grade!

The class laughs. Mr. Houghton is dumbfounded.

MR. HOUGHTON

It was--

The seniors (most of the class) finishes Mr. Houghton's sentence with him and toss CONFETTI.

EVERYONE

THE ELEVENTH GRADE!

TABITHA stands in the back wearing a BEDAZZLED SHIRT that says, 'IT WAS THE ELEVENTH GRADE' - MR. HOUGHTON". Ben stands beside her.

BEN

So Tabitha...can you walk me through your artistic process?

INT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - GYM - DAY

SUPER CUT of Zadie messing up the Step Team routine and Ruth losing her shit, over and over and over.

RUTH

SHIT! / FUCK! / DAMMIT! / ZADIE!

In the background of each shot something crazy is going on. The Mascot runs by on fire. Some kids play POLO on horseback. Paramedics give CPR to a PASSED OUT KID.

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - FRONT ENTRANCE

Ben sits beside Hot Cory and takes notes.

BEN

You grew up in Canada? No kidding!

HOT CORY
Yeah, until I was 10. Wait, what are you writing down?

BEN
Notes. The pages erase in the morning writing helps me remember better.

HOT CORY
Oh...cool!

A terrified MAN IN TWEED bursts through the side entrance, Ruth is in hot pursuit.

RUTH
If you're such a good hypnotherapist then WHY DID ZADIE STILL FUCK UP THE ENDING?? I want my money back!

She chases him to his car. Ben stares at Ruth and sighs.

INT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - AP ENGLISH - MORNING

Mrs. Elkins reads while *Breakfast Club* plays. Frank, Arash, and Gwen sit at a BLOOMBERG TERMINAL. Ben pokes his head in with his notebook.

FRANK
(in Mandarin)
Annnnd...SELL! SELL! SELL!

Arash and Gwen rapidly click.

GWEN
(in Mandarin)
Goodbye housing market! What a rush!

Gwen snorts crushed Midol off her desk.

BEN
Hey guys...

ARASH
Not a good time Ben, Buffet's about to make his play and this time we won't be caught on our heels.

BEN

I know you guys have gotten really into learning languages and macro-economics but I think I'm done with my research and want some feedback on these arcs I've developed. I've written them all down in here.

FRANK

Can you leave us a note?

Gwen, Frank, and Arash type rapidly. Ben, annoyed, leaves.

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - FRONT LAWN - DAY

Ben sits against the Torres statue jotting in his notebook.

BEN

Frank...check...Gwen...check...
Ruth...hmmm...

Ben thumbs through the pages. IN THE PARKING LOT, the jocks grill and play LONG DISTANCE CORNHOLE. They're sinking shots from like 50 yards. Blake and Wesley wave to Ben.

BLAKE

Sup Ben!

Lawrence and his theater clique dance by in glitter sequins in impressive coordination.

THEATER KIDS

(in unison)

Hey Ben!

Eddie and a New Orleans-style marching band of seniors exit the school playing "When the Saints Go Marching In". Tabitha leads, holding a banner reading "It Was The Eleventh Grade!"

EDDIE

("Oh went the saints")

E-le-venth Graaade! Eleventh grade!

TABITHA

Hey Ben! Join us!

BEN

Next time Tabitha! Doing some work.

EDDIE

Ben, heads up, the chase is about to go down right where you're sitting.

BEN

The chase?

On cue, Principal Sanders and a RENT-A-COP (32) round the corner and give chase in a GOLF CART.

PRINCIPAL SANDERS

(from a megaphone)

Eddie, do not run! I called the *actual* police!

RENT-A-COP

Actual police? That hurts...

The parade disperses, running right past Ben. Ben jumps up to avoid the golf cart careening by. Eddie slinks in between cars as the golf cart chases him.

Suddenly, the golf cart SMASHES into a CAR. Principal Sanders flies out of the cart, and through the car's windshield. His leg bends BACKWARDS. Ben stands.

PRINCIPAL SANDERS

AGH! MY LEG! CALL AN AMBULANCE!

RUTH (O.S.)

No no no! My car! SHOOOOT!

Ruth runs up to the destruction. Ben follows.

PRINCIPAL SANDERS (O.S.)

Oh my god oh my god...

Ruth and Ben ignore the pleads of Principal Sanders.

BEN

Won't the car be fine tomorrow?

RUTH

I meet with a trainer at the Y during my free fifth period. In 15 minutes.

BEN

(bewildered)

And you...want to go?

RUTH

I don't want the day I slack off on training to be the day this loop suddenly ends! I gotta justify my scholarship when I hit college!

PRINCIPAL SANDERS (O.S.)
THE PAIN! OH GOD THE PAIN!

EDDIE (O.S.)
Relax Principal, we're in a time loop
and reality is an illusion and shit.

BEN
Um...you want a ride?

Ruth thinks.

RUTH
Yeah okay.

They walk towards Ben's car.

Becca exits the school and sees Ben's notebook on the ground
by the statue. She picks it up.

INT. BEN'S HONDA CIVIC - LATER

Ben drives. Ruth messes with the radio.

BEN
I'm sorry this just blows my mind.
You still follow your original
schedule? *Every day?*

RUTH
Not exact. I'm always improving.
Writing better essays. Doing a
cleaner step routine. Whenever this
loop ends I want it to be on a day I
tried my best.

BEN
That sounds...exhausting.

RUTH
Perfection is its own reward.

BEN
Ha, tell that to Zadie.

Ruth laughs and gives Ben a playful smack.

RUTH
Oh that's cold. Low blow. That's the
one thing I can't figure out.

BEN
Let me know if you want me to sit in.
I'm a real step ringer. Great at
stomping, clapping, all of it.

RUTH
I would pay to see that...

They both chuckle. Ben smiles. Beat.

BEN
You know what? You deserve a fun day.
I'm kidnapping you...

Ben pulls a U-turn. Ruth punches him in the face.

SMASH CUT:

CLOSE-UP: Ben's Honda stuck in a ditch.

Ruth gingerly inspects Ben's BLACK EYE outside the car.

RUTH
Oh my God I'm so sorry.

BEN
Did you *need* to punch me?

RUTH
It was reflex! You said you were
KIDNAPPING me!

BEN
Yeah! Like in a cute way! I was going
to take you to a roller-rink or
something.

Beat. An Uber rolls up.

UBER DRIVER
Ben?

BEN
Yeah, uh, she needs to go to the Y.

RUTH
You called an Uber for me?

Ruth looks at Ben, honestly touched. Ben shrugs. Beat.

RUTH (cont'd)
You're making it really hard to
support my Ben's-a-dick-theory...

INT. ROLLER RINK - AFTERNOON

Ben and Ruth skate in a nearly empty rink. Around and around. Ruth is good at it. Ben not so much. Jams play.

BEN

Yeah you were totally right about that "do good" day. Dumb idea. But now I'm working on a plan that's totally gonna work. It's huge though. Complicated. Lots of moving parts. But it's almost ready...

RUTH

And you say *I'm* stuck in a loop.

BEN

Were you listening? I haven't done the same thing once. I'm developing an ingenious escape plan!

RUTH

To prove to everyone you're the smartest guy in the room. Just like before this whole mess started.

BEN

I'm not trying to prove *anything*.

RUTH

Sure, and populars aren't still trying to be popular, the slackers aren't still slacking, AP kids aren't still out-achieving each other. The loop didn't change *anything*. High school's always been loops. Only now our ruts are even deeper.

Ben considers this. Damn, she makes a good point.

BEN

We're hanging out. That's new.

RUTH

Probably the most novel thing you've done this whole time. (then) Or me.

BEN

Wanna keep the streak alive?

EXT. ROLLER RINK - LATER

Ben and Ruth skate out the door, laughing. A ROLLER RINK MANAGER chases them.

ROLLER RINK MANAGER
Hey! My skates! *Those are vintage!*

EXT. OCEAN BOARDWALK - NIGHT

Ben and Ruth skate down the boardwalk. They come to a stop by a pier, lit by the moon. It's beautiful.

RUTH
Wow...

BEN
Now *this* is a day I'd repeat. Minus the black eye.

RUTH
Psh, you love it. It looks manly.

They chuckle. Beat. Ben looks at Ruth and gulps.

BEN
Hey, so...you're like, really pretty? And also really cool...And you, like, try hard, which is super cool...I already said cool...and you're smart...I..um...what I'm trying to--

RUTH
Ben?

BEN
Mm-hm?

RUTH
Like always, you're overthinking this.

Beat. Ben kisses her.

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - ROOF

CLOSE UP: Handwritten note reads: "BECCA MICHAELS: ANIME LOSER, MOUSY, FORGETTABLE --> lead fun flash mob at senior assembly? Makeover from Blair and Lauren? "

REVEAL: Becca is holding Ben's notebook. She's been crying.

ANGLE ON a full page. It's just a list of names of seniors, each one followed by Ben's hurtful notes: "TOO COCKY, TOO SHY, TRIES TOO HARD, LAZY, STINKS, DOUCHEY, STUCK UP, etc."

She pulls up snapchat and takes a photo. Over the image she writes "What Ben Harris *really* thinks of you..."

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ben and Ruth make out on his bed.

BEN
I can't believe this is happening.
I've had a crush on you for a while,
since *at least* CHEM class...

RUTH
You wanna grab a...*you know?*

BEN
Hm? (understanding) Oh! Uh...yeah...
um...lemme...

Ben nervously looks in his drawer. He pulls out an UN-OPENED box of condoms. He clumsily unwraps the plastic.

RUTH
Is this your first?

BEN
No. I mean, *technically*, no. But--
okay yes. But I've done other stuff.

RUTH
How are you a virgin in a world world
where time and consequences don't
exist? The theater kids have
bacchanalia-themed orgies.

BEN
Ugh, why'd I tell you?

RUTH
Don't worry, I'll be gentle.

ANGLE ON: Ben's phone buzzes over and over on his nightstand as they hookup in the background. 452 unread texts and an ongoing barrage of social media notifications...

FADE TO:

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Ben sleeps. Ruth snuggles up behind him. He stirs, looks at Ruth, then looks at his clock. *It's 6:15 AM!*

BEN

Holy shit...it worked. It's *tomorrow*.

RUTH

Mmmm...nope, still Friday. Sorry.

BEN

But...*you're* here.

RUTH

We got cut off last night by the loop resetting. So I snuck back in through the window this morning.

BEN

But I don't wake up until 7:55.

RUTH

I wake up at 5:30 every day.

BEN

Whoa, really?

RUTH

You think *everyone's* day starts when yours does? You're lucky I'm kinda attracted to big egos.

BEN

I thought it was over...

RUTH

Wait...what did you mean when you said "it worked". What worked?

Ben pauses. He comes clean.

BEN

Okay listen. This isn't a big deal and it doesn't change anything. But I kinda thought us getting together might break the loop...

RUTH

Why?

BEN

When we kissed I suddenly realized what a nice resolution it would be... you let your guard down, I come of age...It's like you're MY Andie McDowell or whatever.

Ruth recoils.

RUTH

Oh God, was that all pre-planned?

BEN

No! NO. It just occurred to me while it was happening...

Ruth gets out of bed and grabs her things.

RUTH

Do you do *anything* without ulterior motives? Everything's like, where can I put this on my resume?

BEN

I'm pretty sure I can't put hooking up with Ruth Moore on my resume.

RUTH

You're such a dick. For your info, this loop doesn't revolve around *you* getting some! 223 of us are stuck in this bullshit *together*. You're not the protagonist of this story!

Ruth climbs out the window, gets in her car, and drives off.

BEN

Ruth! RUTH!

After a beat, he walks out of his room in his boxers, and down the hall to his mom's room. He bangs on the door.

BEN (cont'd)

MOM! IT'S AN HOUR AND FORTY-FIVE MINUTES TO 8! C'MON! LAST DAY OF SCHOOL! LET'S GO! LET'S GO!

Ben's Mom pokes her head out, groggy and confused.

BEN'S MOM

What the heck, Ben?

BEN
Exactly. See how you like it.

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Ben turns into the parking lot. Michael holds Ben's phone.

BEN
You sure there's no texts from my crew? Why is no one hitting me back?

MICHAEL
Uh, cuz you suck?

Ben parks and hops out. Michael spots a friend and hops out.

MICHAEL (cont'd)
Victor! Pound it! Noggin!

REVEAL: *All of the seniors* stand in a silent mass in front of the main entrance. Ben stops.

BEN
Whoa, what's going on? We doing like an all senior flash mob?

Becca sheepishly steps to the front of the crowd holding Ben's notebook. She looks back to Gwen, who gives her a nod.

BECCA
I found your notebook Ben. And I showed everyone.

Ben goes white.

BECCA (cont'd)
This isn't it, by the way, because the day resets and the real one vanished. So I swung by CVS this morning and bought a replica for effect. I thought you were my friend.

BEN
Okay, it seems like there's been a misunderstanding.

Blake steps up.

BLAKE
No misunderstanding. You wrote some really fucked up shit, bro.

WESLEY

Didn't you learn anything from Lindsay Lohan in Mean Girls? People read shit, Ben. They always do.

BEN

I was trying to help everyone!

Each of the following people step forward as they speak...

BLAIR

By writing, Blair Avalon is a shallow not very smart Jesus freak who's destined to be an alcoholic?

LAWRENCE

Or that I'm a self-obsessed elitist with no real personality other than being gay?

VERONICA, a girl we've never seen before, steps forward.

VERONICA

And I'm an easily forgettable person who no one ever remembers because I have nothing interesting to say.

BEN

No one was supposed to read that! And besides, my plan was to help everyone *fix* all those things! Frank, can you please explain to these people.

FRANK

Why, because I'm a pathetic sidekick with no opinions of his own? Here's an opinion: you're a fucking asshole and I haven't been anything resembling your sidekick in like a thousand loops. You would know that if you actually hung out with us instead of spending your time tracking people down to insult them.

Ben looks to Arash and Gwen, who is near tears.

ARASH

That was fucked up to write about Gwen's home stuff, that stuff's personal. Everybody read that.

BEN

Gwen...I...

Gwen tears up and buries her face in Arash's shoulder.

GWEN
Ugh, fucking hormones.

EDDIE
We've decided you can't come to school anymore, dude.

PARTY PETE
You're banished. For life.

Ben looks around. *Are they serious?*

BEN
I'm banished from high school?? Is this supposed to be some kind of punishment? Cause it totally isn't.

Silence. Ben stands there.

BEN (cont'd)
You can't banish someone who doesn't even want to be here in the first place! I hereby banish MYSELF!
GOODBYE! SEE YOU NEVER, *LOSERS*.

Ben storms off. Beat.

EDDIE
(to Tabitha)
Who was that girl Ben was talking about that no one remembers?

Veronica overhears this.

VERONICA
My name is *Veronica* you stupid bottom feeding stoner!

Veronica smacks Eddie on the back of the head.

EDDIE
Yoooo, chill chick.

LAWRENCE
Don't call her a *chick*! That's super misogynistic.

BLAIR
Ben was right, you are elitist. I'm so sick of this offended PC crap.

TABITHA

Yeah, well we're sick of you dumb jocks spreading out over the parking lot like you own the place like, what was it..."a bunch of brainless apes".

BLAKE

Whoa, strong words from a "social parasite who needs to shower more".

EDDIE

Don't talk to her like that bro!

Eddie gets in Blake's face.

BLAKE

Or what? You know, Ben was right about you remedial stoner fucks--

Eddie throws a punch. The jocks swarm. Stoners and theater kids come to Eddie's defense. AP kids try to break up the fight. Too late. The *entire senior class* starts brawling.

INT. TORRES HIGH - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Ben walks down an empty hallway.

VOICE (O.S.)

Benjamin...

Ben turns to see *John Torres*.

BEN

What the...? *Torres*?

JOHN TORRES

What happened to you? You used to be such an exemplary student. A good friend. A role model to your peers.

BEN

That Ben is gone. And it's your dumb school's fault.

JOHN TORRES

A great darkness is coming. Torres High needs you.

BEN

Torres High *blows*. You're the only one who didn't think that.

JOHN TORRES
You all have such potential! *REACH
FOR THE STARS!*

BEN
You cursed us didn't you? For
vandalizing your statue all those
years. Pretty petty if you ask me.

JOHN TORRES
Curse? Benjamin...

BEN
Wait. You're dead. Am I dreaming?

TORRES STATUE
Why don't you ask your DUCK LEGS?

Ben looks down and sees he has the legs of a duck.

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ben lurches awake. He catches his breath.

BEN
I'm done with high school.

INT. AIRPORT - MOMENTS LATER

Ben approaches a help desk.

BEN
What's the fastest way to the Bay?

AIRLINE EMPLOYEE
Haha, outside of chartering a private
jet? Delta has a nonstop leaving at--

BEN
One private jet please.

Ben slaps a credit card on the table.

EXT. BERKELEY CAMPUS - LATE MORNING

Ben steps out of an airport cab. He looks in awe at the
students bustling about and heads down SPROUL PLAZA.

Student groups man small folding tables. Other students hand
out fliers and hold clipboards looking for signatures.

BEN

Wow...

FRAT BRO (O.S.)

Gallon challenge bitch! Chug chug!

A FRAT BRO films a FRAT BRO FRIEND chugging a gallon of milk.

FRAT BRO

You got this! Hold it down!

The guy chugging milk hurls while his friend laughs. Ben frowns, shakes it off, and walks deeper into campus.

INT. DWINELLE HALL - CONTINUOUS

Ben smiles and takes in the lecture hall. He sniffs the air. He eagerly gets out a sharpened pencil and new notebook. A few people near him snicker. Most of the other students doze or scroll through Facebook. PROFESSOR FABE enters.

PROFESSOR FABE

Today we're rounding out the course by talking about John Hughes and his role in the construction of the American high school myth.

The professor dims the lights and plays *Breakfast Club*.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Saturday, March 24th...

Ben slumps in his chair.

INT. FRATERNITY PARTY - NIGHT

Ben sips on a beer and walks around the party aimlessly. He stands on the outside of a circle of friends.

BEN

(shouting over music)

Hey, I'm Ben! I'm basically immortal.
It's pretty cool. I'm pretty cool...

No response. They subtly turn their backs. Ben looks around.

LATER, he sits on a couch alone, beside a MAKING OUT COUPLE. He pulls up Snapchat on his phone and takes a selfie video.

BEN (cont'd)

WOO! COLLEGE!

He sits for a beat.

EXT. BERKELEY CAMPUS - LATER

Ben sits on a bench. Alone. He eyes a group of PIERCED STONERS smoking on a blanket by their skateboards...

BEN

No...

...then some MEGA-NERDS practicing medieval sword techniques...some POPULAR GIRLS taking selfies....

BEN (cont'd)

Nuh-uh...

...a CRINGE-Y IMPROV GROUP climbing all over each other in front of a small crowd...

BEN (cont'd)

Eh...

Finally, he notices DOUG (22), a friendly hipster with a cigarette behind his ear, playing "Tide Is High" on a guitar nearby. Ben approaches.

BEN

(re: the music)

Is that...that's Blondie right?

DOUG

Yeah a lot of people think that. They covered it from this Jamaican band called the Paragons...

Doug turns back around with a hint of hipster condescension.

EXT. BERKELEY CAMPUS - ANOTHER DAY

Ben, with a cigarette behind his ear and dressed a bit like Doug, approaches Doug again.

BEN

Oh man, Paragons right?

DOUG

Yeah man, I'm just getting into them.

BEN
Yeah, what's cool is that when you listen to the Paragons you can totally hear American Motown's influence on Dancehall...

Behind lights his cigarette and takes a cool puff.

DOUG
For sure. You play?

BEN
Would you like me more if I did?

EXT. BERKELEY CAMPUS - ANOTHER DAY

Ben crushes it on guitar. Doug claps.

DOUG
You're great, dude wow.

Ben hands back the guitar. An awkward beat as Doug packs up his guitar and starts to leave.

BEN
Hey you wanna hang out?

DOUG
Sure, find me on Instagram.

BEN
I meant. Now. *Today*.

DOUG
No can do. I fly home after my final this afternoon.

BEN
Please, I'll do anything. I take a private jet every morning just to be here. I already learned guitar. I can roll perfect cigarettes. I've seen literally every *movie*. And got a sleeve tattoo! Like 300 times! What's it gonna take to get you to move that flight?

Ben reveals a huge sleeve tattoo. Doug pauses and backs away. This is weird.

BEN (cont'd)
And I'm not hitting on you or trying
to scam you, I'm not a weirdo, I'm
just...I...

Ben starts to tear up, choking back tears.

BEN (cont'd)
I'm really lonely, Doug...

DOUG
Hey man, it's okay. You're alright.
Hey. We've got really good counselors
at this school, maybe they can talk--

SMASH CUT:

EXT. EAST BAY MANSION ROOF - EVENING

Ben sits with TINA (21), MELVIN (21), LACY (21), and Doug,
all cool hipster types. They sip beers, and smoke hand-
rolled cigarettes on a lavish roof overlooking the Bay.
"Dancing in the Moonlight" by THIN LIZZY plays.

DOUG
I bet it's Russia. Who else would
have the resources to ground every
flight in the U.S.?

BEN
Maybe the universe just wanted us all
to hang out. My favorite poet once
said: heard melodies are sweet, but
those unheard are sweeter...

TINA
You like Keats too? Dude it's like
you're inside my brain!

Without looking, Ben reaches to his left and lights a
lighter, just as Doug pulls out a cigarette.

DOUG
Oh! Thanks...So do you like, own this
mansion?

BEN
Nah, just know the entrance code.

LACY
I'd like to propose a toast. To
getting out of this shithole.

Everyone raises their beers.

MELVIN

Only two semesters until freedom.

BEN

What do you mean?

DOUG

No more classes. No more frat boys or econ nerds. Living in a big city in your 20s. *That's* when life starts.

Ben stares in disbelief...then rocks backward off the roof.

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Ben lies in bed, staring at the ceiling in a deep depression. Ben's Mom pokes her head in.

BEN'S MOM

You okay hun? Want me to take your temperature again?

BEN

It's the same. All of it. Forever.

BEN'S MOM

That *is* how body temperature works...

BEN

No. Life. People. Nothing gets better. It's all the same. Loneliness all the way down.

Ben's Mom enters and sits on his bed.

BEN'S MOM

Aw, I know graduating can be a little sad and scary, but you'll still have your friends, moving away doesn't change that.

BEN

Friends? They hate me.

BEN'S MOM

Since when?

BEN

Technically *today*. It's a long story.

BEN'S MOM

Well, whatever it is, I guarantee it's not worth it. Nothing in high school is as big of a deal as it feels at the time.

BEN

Then why has it been nothing but misery?

BEN'S MOM

Oh stop being so dramatic. You had a great four years, you're smiling in every picture in your yearbook...

Beat. Ben props himself up on his elbows.

BEN

When did you look at my yearbook?

BEN'S MOM

Okay...so I know you said you didn't want one, but I gave Michael money to pick one up. I was going to surprise you with it in the morning.

Ben's Mom trots out of the room.

BEN

Really? Do you do this every day? How did I not know that?

Ben's Mom returns with a YEARBOOK.

BEN'S MOM

Sorry I already looked at it. I couldn't resist.

She hands him the book. Ben looks at it.

BEN

I've...never actually looked at this.

BEN'S MOM

Well, duh...you could only pick them up today.

Ben opens it like an ancient sacred text. He stares in awe, slowly flipping through the pages as memories flood back.

- Lauren and Blair blow kisses in the parking lot. Eddie and Party Pete photobomb them in the background.

- The A.P. CHEM class strikes a silly pose in lab-coats. Ruth is looking at Ben.

- Becca, Tabitha, and Lawrence laugh and paint the set for a theater production.

- Hot Cory and Wesley flex in gym class.

- Ben, Gwen, Arash, and Frank goof off at lunch. Frank's mouth is FULL of fries. The others crack up.

Ben looks up. Nostalgic. Confused. Then...understanding.

EXT. SMALL SUBURBAN HOME - EVENING

Ben stands outside a window with a guitar. He clears his throat and begins to play "Tide is High".

BEN
(singing)
I'm an asshole! And you're my best
friends! And I'm sorry for what I
did! I wanna loop with youuuu. I
wanna looooooop with youuuuu!

Gwen opens the front door.

GWEN
When did your nerdy ass learn guitar?

Frank and Arash poke their heads out.

ARASH
And why didn't you invest in singing
lessons?

Ben smiles.

BEN
Hey guys. Long time no see. I'm
really sorry I wrote those things.
You're my best friends and I totally
took it for granted. Can I please be
un-banished and go back to being *your*
nerdy unattractive sidekick?

Frank gives him a hug.

FRANK
Missed you bud.

GWEN
Let's take this love fest inside.
Were you followed?

She yanks him inside.

INT. SMALL SUBURBAN HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Ben, Frank, Arash, and Gwen sit around Gwen's living room.
Frank's arm is in a sling. Arash has crutches.

GWEN
We need to re-calibrate our strategy
for tomorrow.

Gwen rolls out a map of the high school grounds and places
chess pieces in various places.

ARASH
We got routed today on the
battlefield. How are you with a
slingshot?

BEN
Whoa, battlefield? What are you
talking about? And why's everyone
injured?

GWEN
The war has intensified. The jocks
have learned how to break into shop
class and build a trebuchet before
school starts, our new strategy is
we're going to take back the math and
science wing.

BEN
Whoa, back up, what war?

ARASH
Geez, you have been gone awhile. *The
War of the Cliques*. Kinda like
Israel/Palestine but older and more
entrenched.

FRANK
Your notebook, or The Omega Document,
as it's now called, sowed the seeds
of division that have only deepened
over the years. Territory was
divided. Alliances formed.

(MORE)

FRANK (cont'd)

Our current flare up started when the M.U.N. kids requested passage through JOCK territory, aka the parking lot, to get to DEL TACO before the POPULARS order all the CRINKLE CUT FRIES.

ARASH

Negotiations stalled out when the M.U.N. kids signed a free trade policy with the STONERS.

BEN

Which isn't good?

GWEN

Obviously. The JOCKS have an existing alliance with the PILL HEADS who are sworn enemies of the STONERS and ESL kids. On top of that, a schism developed between the BAND GEEKS and TECH THEATER GEEKS over who controls the loading exit in the arts wing, a popular unsupervised port of entry, opening up a power vacuum that the ANIME LONERS are trying to fill. It is in this tinderbox that the unthinkable happened: Crystal made out with Lamar.

BEN

And that's...bad?

FRANK

Given the historical context...worse than the assassination of Franz Ferdinand. An absolute powder keg.

BEN

Guys. C'mon. I'm sure you're blowing this way out of proportion. Nothing in high school is as big of a deal as it seems at the--

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

CLOSE UP: Tabitha's face is painted like Braveheart.

TABITHA

WE WILL SPILL THE BLOOD OF OUR ENEMIES! DESTROY ALL LETTERMANS!

REVEAL: She leads a battalion of battle clad high schoolers. A few BATTLE FLAGS read "IT WAS THE ELEVENTH GRADE!". BAND GEEKS drum in the front. A troupe of slackers holding skateboards and pipes follow behind.

SLACKERS
DESTROY ALL LETTERMANS!

Ben (horrified) watches from behind a car beside Gwen, Frank, and Arash (sporting headbands and slingshots).

ARASH
Remember, after the initial charge we sneak around the side and try to infiltrate the arts wing.

EDDIE
Brothers and sisters tonight we feast
on SUGAR MOUNTAIN! ONLY THE MASTER
SOCIAL CIRCLE SHALL REMAIN!

A WAR HORN BLARES. Another battalion led by Blake and Wesley rounds the corner of the school rolling a WOODEN TREBUCHET, which uses the Yellow Beetle as a counterweight.

BLAKE
CHARGE!

The cliques charge toward each other and COLLIDE right near the statue. It's chaos. Like high school *Braveheart*.

A GOTH walks out into the fray holding a BOOMBOX above his head and smashes it into the head of a WATER POLO PLAYER.

Eddie charges at a JOCK TRENCH (football gear/punching bags) using his skateboard as a shield. Arrows thwack into it.

The THEATER KIDS dance fight and throw GLITTER BOMBS.

Ben watches in horror.

BEN
I CAUSED THIS?

GWEN
Pretty much. But look on the bright side: now they hate each other way more than they hate you...

A PREP swings a LACROSSE STICK at a HIPSTER.

BEN
We have to stop this.

ARASH

Ben, it can't be stopped. Our differences are too great.

BEN

Differences!? We're all just a bunch of dumb high school kids.

ARASH

Name one thing we can all agree on.

Ben watches the battle with dismay. It moves in SLOW MOTION. It's dramatic and intense. Finally, his eyes settle on the *Torres Statue*, jutting up from the middle of the mayhem, glistening in the sun. A sign.

BEN

Alright I will.

Ben darts away and enters the school.

GWEN

Ben? Where's he going...

LATER, Ben (wearing a backpack) exits the school and runs into the chaos. A TREBUCHET launches a BARRAGE OF YEARBOOKS. Ben dodges at they thud to the ground.

Ben climbs the TORRES STATUE pedestal, pulls out an AIR-HORN from the backpack, and blows it. The fighting halts.

BEN

CLASS OF 2018! It's me, Ben Harris!
That asshole who started all this!

Whispers of "Ben" reverberate. Ruth, completely ignoring the war, jogs on the track far away from the battlefield. She stops and watches.

EDDIE

Oh my God, it's him. He's back.

VOICE (O.S.)

YOU DON'T BELONG HERE!

BEN

I know, and I'll leave but I just wanted to say something. We've been divided for so long that we've all forgotten how alike we actually are. After all, there's one thing I guarantee we all can agree on...

Ben pulls out a SUCTION CUP DILDO from his backpack and PLONKS(!) it onto the head of the Torres Statue.

BEN (cont'd)
TORRES HIGH *BLOWS*.

Some kids laugh. Some whistle. A few look around, confused.

VOICE (O.S.)
You got *that* right!

FRANK
(to Arash)
Looks like he found that dildo in
Mrs. Elkins secret drawer...

BEN
And I used to think that high school
blowing was a *bad thing*.

BLAKE
Duh bro, things that blow SUCK!

BEN
You would think! But it blows for
EVERYONE. Doesn't matter if you're a
nerd or a stoner or whatever Ted is.

TED (18), wearing a green body suit and top hat waves.

BEN (cont'd)
And the fact that we get to experience
high school's blow-ocity *together* is
the reason it should RULE.

Murmurs. Ben glances at Ruth, who watches in the distance.

BEN (cont'd)
A wise woman once told me that I'm
not the protagonist of this story.
And she was right. Don't you see?
We're not stuck in *Groundhog Day*, a
movie about *one* man being trapped in
existential hell. We're in friggin'
Breakfast Club! An *ensemble* film.

Ruth smirks.

BEN (cont'd)
 And I've been stuck in the first act,
 only seeing everyone for their flaws.
 But, like, did you know that Becca
 makes sick EDM tracks and has an
 awesome soundcloud? Why couldn't I
 have focused on *that*?

Becca blushes and smiles.

BEN (cont'd)
 Or that Eddie's a GREAT cook? Or
 Lauren makes quilts guys!

Eddie thumbs through the yearbook. He points to a COLLAGE.

EDDIE
 Look at this, remember the SENIOR
 PICNIC at the beach? Who fell into
 the water with their clothes on? Man
 I haven't looked at this forever...

Other seniors walk up to peruse the yearbook. Lawrence sees
 a photo of him and Becca holding paintbrushes.

LAWRENCE
 Oh man, Becca, I forgot we painted
 the Music Man set until 3am.

BLAKE
 Dude, when did I have sideburns?!

TABITHA
 This day was fun.

Tabitha points to a FRENCH CLUB PHOTO in a PATISSERIE.

LAUREN
 Qui, qui! When the FRENCH CLUB went
 to that patisserie in Hollywood, you
 let me have your éclair...

Everyone is passing around the YEARBOOK. Ben brings it home.

BEN
 Point is, loop or no loop, fighting
 is such a terrible use of *today*.
 We're stuck in this *space time*
detention together. And it can SUCK
 because it BLOWS...or ROCK because it
 BLOWS. And I, for one, much prefer
 ROCK to SUCK!

Beat. THE CROWD GOES FUCKING NUTS.

TABITHA
(chanting)
TORRES BLOWS! TORRES BLOWS!

EVERYONE joins the chant as the joyous mob coalesces around the Torres Statue. They knock it over and carry it over their heads out of the parking lot.

EXT. PARTY PETE'S HOUSE - POOL PATIO - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: The Torres statue, on the roof, with the classic afro wig and dildo.

TILT DOWN to the party. All the seniors are there. People jump in the pool and goof off.

Eddie and Wesley sign a peace treaty and shake hands.

EDDIE
The peace treaty is signed bitches!

WESLEY
May it last a thousand years!

CHEERS. Ben holds a solo cup and approaches Ruth.

BEN
Hey.

RUTH
Hey.

BEN
You know the wise woman I mentioned in my big speech? That was you.

RUTH
Yeah I picked up on that.

BEN
I'm sorry. For everything. I wish we could start over and I could be less of a dick.

RUTH
It's okay. There's always tomorrow.

Ruth smiles. Ben smiles. She leans in like she's going to kiss him...then pushes him in the pool and laughs.

BEN
I deserve that.

Arash and Frank swim up to Ben. Gwen sits on the edge of the pool cradling her midsection.

ARASH
So this is it, huh? We're just stuck
in this loop forever?

BEN
I think so. Guess our high school
movie has one of those artsy non-
resolutions...

FRANK
I can picture it. That sappy Green
Day song would play as we fade out.
It'd be awesome.

Gwen plays GOOD RIDDANCE by Green Day on her phone.

GWEN
Could be a lot worse.

They all smile and take in the scene.

BEN
(re: statue)
At least senior class finally got its
shit together and did a Torres PRANK.

ARASH
Yeah...but last year's was so much
better.

BEN
Sure, but to top them we'd have to
pull off something impossible. And WE
only have a day.

FRANK
It would take an crazy amount of
planning. And teamwork. And *time*.

GWEN
I mean, we *do* have 223 immortal
friends with infinite time on their
hands...

Beat. They look at each other. Then Ben PAUSES the music.

BEN
Yeah, our movie's not over.

Ben whistles LOUD. Everyone goes quiet and looks at Ben.

BEN (cont'd)
ANYONE GOT PLANS FOR THE NEXT FEW
DECADES?

HELPLESSNESS BLUES by the Fleet Foxes plays over the following sequence...

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - FRONT LAWN - EARLY MORNING

The Torres Statue stands in the silent, still-dark, early morning.

Then...a crew of dark figures rush in wearing welding masks. They use PLASMA CUTTERS to cut down the five huge flagpoles in front of the school.

The moment they hit the ground, a waiting crew of seniors picks them up and jogs away with them.

Someone cuts the base of the Torres statue but stops just short of knocking it over.

They jump into a waiting van and peel out.

EXT. WALMART / COSTCO / HOME DEPOT / BEVMO - EARLY MORNING

In a FOUR WAY SPLIT SCREEN we see scores of trucks and vans pull up to various Costcos, Walmarts, Home Depots, and Bevmos. They wear headlamps, pick the front locks, and pour inside.

EXT. RON'S 24-HOUR SEX EMPORIUM - EARLY MORNING

Eddie walks out with a HEAVY DUFFLE BAG, smiling.

EDDIE
Thanks Ron! See you tomorrow.

EXT. HUGE WAREHOUSE COMPLEX - EARLY MORNING

Gwen, Arash, Frank, and Ben attach a nozzle between a MASSIVE TANK labeled LIQUID OXYGEN and a TANKER TRUCK.

They stand in silence, enjoying the cool morning air.

GWEN
This is always my favorite part...

FRANK
Me too. Up early, full of hope,
before we've been arrested or
exploded or let down...

GWEN
Oh, I just meant I enjoy the few
extra hours before my period hits.

INT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - AUTO SHOP - EARLY MORNING

A crew of jocks cut and hammer large metal sheets. Sparks fly everywhere.

EXT. FIRE STATION - EARLY MORNING

A group of stoners and drama kids sneak away from two parked firetrucks holding two BULKY FIRE PUMPS.

EXT. PARTY PETE'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - EARLY MORNING

Fifty or so seniors dump sugar, potassium nitrate, and iron oxide into dozens of large pots heating over propane stoves.

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD - SUNRISE

Seniors run and drive in from all sides, dumping supplies into piles hidden behind the bleachers. HUGE PVC pipes, massive tanks, tubes, valves, buckets of chemicals, immense amounts of duct tape, thousands of bottles of rum, etc.

LAWRENCE
Alright it's 6:32, the janitor is
about to arrive. See you at school!

Everyone scatters.

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Ben sneaks in through his bedroom window and jumps in bed. Ben's Mom barges into the room...

BEN'S MOM
C'mon, last day of school, let's go,
let's go!

Ben smiles and sits up.

BEN (V.O.)
Dear Future Ben, What did I learn in
high school? Well, a lot of stuff. It
feels like I've been here forever...

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Michael watches TV. Ben's Mom puts away dishes. Ben watches them, taking in the moment.

BEN (V.O.)
Sure, I could say I've learned to
appreciate the present...

INT. BEN'S HONDA CIVIC - LATER

Ben drives. Michael sits in the passenger seat.

BEN (V.O.)
...and the importance of kindness and
being a good person...

Ben stops the car, picks up the cat, and returns to the car. He gives Michael the cat.

BEN
Do you mind? His name is Ferris.

INT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Ben parks. He takes back the cat and hops out. Michael does too, he's just a little confused.

VICTOR (O.S.)
Mikey! Pound it! Noggin!

Ben heads toward the entrance. Eddie skates next to him and places a bowl of milk in front of the white Mercedes. Ben puts the cat down. He starts drinking the milk.

BEN (V.O.)
And of course the value of not
judging books by their covers and all
that.

BEN
How you feelin'?

EDDIE
Same as the last few thousand
attempts. *FRIGGIN PSYCHED BRO!*

They fist bump walk toward the school.

Behind them the YELLOW BEETLE swerves to avoid hitting the cat. It screeches to a halt on the front lawn, barely bumping into the TORRES STATUE. The Statue topples onto a waiting TARP.

INT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Ben enters the lobby. Lauren and Blair sit at the yearbook table. Ben slaps down some money and Lauren chucks him a yearbook, which he catches mid-stride.

BEN (V.O.)
Those are definitely all good things
to learn, but...

INT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - AP ENGLISH - LATER

Ben looks at his friends around the room.

BEN (V.O.)
...the most important lesson of high
school took me the longest to
discover: how to be part of an
ensemble cast.

Mrs. Elkins puts in the tape and dims the lights.

TV (O.S.)
Saturday, March 24th...

GWEN
She's asleep. Let's move.

Mrs. Elkins nods off and they all slip out of class.

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD - MORNING

Ben, Frank, Arash, Gwen, and a slew of other seniors dart out of the school and behind the bleachers as others sneak back into school.

BEN (V.O.)
Because what is life but one big long
detention on Earth with a bunch of
misfits and weirdos?

As they pass they exchange welding torches, drills, power tools, etc. Ben and co join the frantic construction.

A crew of seniors pack each of the hollow flagpoles with a sludgy mixture (sugar/potassium nitrate/iron oxide FYI).

Another crew wires two TESLA BATTERIES to the FIRE PUMPS and attaches them to a series of tubes and pipes running to MASSIVE LIQUID OXYGEN TANK and to a another MASSIVE TANK that is being slowly filled with hundreds of bottles of Bacardi 151 rum, bottle by bottle, via a funnel.

INT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - AP ENGLISH - MOMENTS LATER

Ben and co sneak back into class and sit. The BELL RINGS. Mrs. Elkins wakes.

MRS. ELKINS
Have a good summer.

They all stand and leave again.

GARY
Seniors are *weird*.

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - GYM - AFTERNOON

The STEP TEAM does their routine, CROSS CUT WITH...

Tabitha drives a CRANE into the parking lot and onto the football field. The crane lifts a HUGE MYSTERY OBJECT and carries it toward the FOOTBALL UPRIGHTS.

BEN (V.O.)
You can choose to spend your time
alone, complaining about the
situation...or you can drop the ego
and become part of something bigger
than yourself.

BACK IN THE GYM...Zadie botches the ending per usual, except Ruth botches it in perfect synchronicity with her, making her mistake look purposeful. The seniors all cheer!

INT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Michael's friend Victor sneaks up to the fire alarm. Michael films on his phone as Victor reaches for the alarm...

VICTOR
Fire alarm pranks! Pound it! Nogg--

Blake steps around the corner and drills Victor with a football.

BLAKE
Not today boys. Need everyone *inside*.

Michael and Victor flee.

INT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - AP PHYSICS - LATER

Ben finishes writing his essay.

BEN (V.O.)
Does that answer your question?
Sincerely yours, Ben Harris.

INT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - LATER

Eddie bursts out of a classroom and runs down the hall, banging on doors.

EDDIE
HERE WE GOOOO! 10! 9! 8! 7! 6!

Other seniors burst out of various doors and join him. We find Lawrence, Blair, Lauren, Ruth, Pete, Blake, Wesley, Cory, etc. in the growing crowd.

EVERYONE
5! 4! 3! 2!

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - SAME TIME

The SCHOOL BELL RINGS on the side of the building. A spark flies. We follow a WIRE running from its backside all the way to the football field...

BEN (V.O.)

P.S. I also learned how to wire a Tesla battery to a fire pump to feed liquid oxygen and Bacardi 151 into a DIY combustion chamber made in shop class to launch a homemade rocket with a 300 pound payload into orbit over the course of a single morning.

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD - SAME TIME

REVEAL: A MOTHERFUCKING 50-FOOT-TALL D.I.Y. ROCKET stands attached to the football uprights.

The main fuselage is made of the liquid oxygen tank and a tank of Bacardi 151 stacked vertically. Five flagpoles have been re-purposed as solid-state booster engines. Tesla batteries and fire pumps, entangled in a mess of wires and tubes, feed propellant into the welded rocket engine.

It's janky and incredibly impressive.

A spark plug ignites beneath the main engine. Flames EXPLODE out of it. The flagpole boosters ignite right after.

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - FRONT ENTRANCE - SAME TIME

Students pour out of the front entrance. The rocket roars skyward. Pretty much everyone who's not a senior pulls out their iPhones and begins recording.

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - SAME TIME

Seniors sit on the hoods of their car performing various tasks, some just watching.

Becca types something into her iPhone.

BECCA

Initiating gravity turn...

Cory types something into his laptop.

CORY

Ejecting solid boosters...

EXT. STRATOSPHERE - SAME TIME

The flagpole boosters detach, falling back to earth. The main engine keeps roaring.

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - SAME TIME

Eddie and Ben sit on the hood of Ben's car. Eddie stares at his iPhone. Various dials display ALTITUDE, SPEED, etc.

EDDIE

Dude...DUDE...we're looking *good*...

BEN

Don't get your hopes up. We've been here before.

EDDIE

C'mon baby. C'mon...go...GO!!!

Gwen monitors a "projected orbit" diagram on her laptop. The rocket's projected trajectory lands in Africa...then India...then...expands to a circle around the globe.

LAWRENCE

(from next car over)

And main engine is *spent*.

GWEN

Holy shit...we're in orbit.

Silence. No one moves. Eddie, in shock, pulls out a device with a red button. He presses.

EXT. SPACE - SAME TIME

The spring-loaded nose of the rocket pops open like a jack-in-the-box and ejects the Torres Statue and a FEW DOZEN DILDOS (hey, it's high school).

"CLASS OF 2019 REACHES FOR THE STARS" is spray painted across the statue's chest.

HELPLESSNESS BLUES FADES...

EXT. TORRES HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - SAME TIME

The seniors erupt in celebration. Horns honk. People scream and dance and kiss and hug.

Blair and Frank make out! Arash and Gwen make out! Blake and the TIGER MASCOT make out! Lawrence and Hot Cory make out!

Eddie and Ben high five.

EDDIE
YES! CLASS OF 2019 SON! What are we
doing next?? Curing cancer in a day?
Kidnapping the president? I'm hyped!

BEN
Haha, well, how about we take
tomorrow off to think it over.

A circle of seniors forms around Tabitha, who break-dances
in an "It was the eleventh grade!" t-shirt.

CIRCLE OF SENIORS
(chanting)
ELEVENTH GRADE! ELEVENTH GRADE!

Eddie runs over and joins in.

Ruth taps Ben on the shoulder. He turns, smiles, and puts
out his hand for her to shake. Ruth ignores it and plants a
huge kiss on him.

Party Pete jumps onto the roof of a car.

PARTY PETE
YOU KNOW WHERE THE PARTY'S AT!!

FADE TO:

INT. SOMEWHERE - MORNING

CLOSE UP: Ben sleeps. Rustling. Whispers. His eyes open.

REVEAL: He's on a *couch inside Party Pete's house*. Morning
light covers a sea of sleeping seniors strewn across Pete's
completely trashed house. Ben sits up groggily and takes in
the scene. A few seniors are awake. Arash and Blair chat
over coffee in the kitchen. Pete cooks bacon. It's one of
those sleepy post-party mornings...

BEN
The fuck...? It's...

Ruth sits beside him in shock and hands him a mug of coffee.

RUTH
Yup. *Saturday*.

They both sip coffee in silence, attempting to process, too hungover and confused to celebrate. Arash notices Ben is awake, and gives him a little cheers and bewildered shrug from the kitchen. Ben thinks. It hits him...

BEN

Torres. You sonofabitch.

RUTH

Huh?

BEN

All those statue pranks weren't about disrespect. It's class *pride*. Your last chance to do something stupid together...the exact kind of thing Torres would have *loved*.

RUTH

(understanding)

And we finally topped last year...

PARTY PETE (O.S.)

OH SHIIIIIT.

Pete enters the living room, looking at his phone in horror.

PARTY PETE

I completely forgot my parents get back this morning. I stopped worrying about it decades ago. They're heading back from the airport NOW!

RUTH

You're parents have been *out of town* this whole time?

PARTY PETE

Yeah. I really miss them. (then) OH GOD THE HOUSE IS TRASHED THEY'RE GONNA KILL ME--

BEN

Whoa, easy...calm down. *We got this.*

Ben and Ruth look at each other and nod. Ruth stands.

RUTH

EVERYBODY UP! IT'S SATURDAY MORNING! PROCESS LATER! RIGHT NOW *WE CLEAN!* PETE'S PARENTS ARE EN ROUTE FROM THE AIRPORT! ALL HANDS ON DECK! GO GO GO!

Everyone jumps up, rubs their eyes, and looks around in shock. Beat. They ALL leap into action.

Ben takes a call.

BEN
(into phone)
Hey man I'm kinda busy right now.

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Michael eats cereal and talks on the phone. We INTERCUT between the two locations for the conversation.

MICHAEL
Dude! Everyone's talking about that rocket! Apparently the FBI's looking into it. They think it's foreign intervention. But c'mon, did the seniors hire SpaceX or something??

BEN
No idea. I'm as surprised as you are.

MICHAEL
How is my class supposed to top that next year?? Victor thinks we should try to get the statue back to Earth, but I told him it's impossible.

Ben grins.

BEN
I have a feeling you'll figure it out. I gotta run. Be home soon.

Ben hangs up and joins the frantic clean up. Ruth jogs by with a bucket and cleaning gloves. Gwen and Arash scrub the floor.

ARASH
Sure beats your period, huh?

Gwen stops scrubbing and stares.

GWEN
Do you think periods last a day?

ARASH
Uhh...no?

Pete weaves through the madness with a tray of bacon.

PARTY PETE
Who wants bacon?

The home is busy with activity as the 223 seniors clean as a team. The ensemble mops and spackles and paints and carries furniture and picks up trash as we...

FADE TO BLACK