

Junkie Boy

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Dark. Silent. Miles from civilization.

A RACCOON forages through the undergrowth, stops at a tree.

Next to the tree, hidden by the branches...an ELECTRIC FENCE, bordering a large silhouette within.

The Raccoon pulls a MOUSE from the tree roots. Just as it sinks its teeth in...

EEEEEE! An alarm shatters the silence. FLASH! Spotlights atop the fence flood a square perimeter within, the silhouette revealed as...a massive COMPOUND styled like a log cabin...only made of steel.

FOOTSTEPS, lots of them, louder and louder...

The Raccoon scampers off, leaving the dead Mouse.

BOOM! Dozens of AGENTS in military-style gear storm out of the compound, filling the square, each armed with a tranquilizer rifle.

The alarm stops. The AGENTS fidget in the stillness, eyes darting, fingers twitching.

More footsteps - a single pair now - as a tall, muscular MAN in a leather trenchcoat strides out. He stops, listens to the silence, his face blank. Then his lips curl, as if hearing a bad joke.

AGENT (O/S)

Roof!

All guns point in unison at the compound roof. There is nothing there. Trenchcoat Man's narrow into slits.

Then something moves - a black shape, like a SHADOW.

PING! PING! PING! Agents shoot tranq darts, but the Shadow LEAPS - impossibly - across the roof, landing, leaping again - too high, too fast - up onto the roof's peak, where it crouches like a gargoyle. But it's a MAN. A Shadow Man.

PING! Tranq darts head for him, but Shadow Man JUMPS, high over the square, aiming for the fence...but it's too far.

Shadow Man spirals down, onto an AGENT, crushing him. He jumps up, then down, crushing another Agent, another, like a deadly game of leapfrog.

FLASH! A spotlight locks on him. Shadow Man freezes, a deer in headlights. Trenchcoat Man steps forward. Their eyes meet. Trenchcoat Man smiles, DARING HIM to jump again.

Shadow Man does - just as an AGENT pushes forward and shoots ACTUAL BULLETS, hitting the electric fence. BOOM! Sparks fly! Total darkness!

A beat...then backup power kicks in, spotlights switch back on...but Shadow Man has gone, over the fence.

Trenchcoat Man turns. In one smooth move, he grabs the Agent's gun and SHOOTS him in the head. He holds up the gun.

TRENCHCOAT MAN
Trangs. Only trang. The rest of
you got the memo, right?

The Agents nod nervously. Trenchcoat Man pulls out a phone - it has a SUPERHERO COVER - and dials.

TRENCHCOAT MAN (CONT'D)
(into phone)
It's Prescott. Lennon's left the
band. I want him back.

Trenchcoat Man/Prescott snaps his fingers, and the Agents stream back into the compound. He waits, staring into the darkness, his eyes glinting with...envy? He strides inside.

The spotlights die slowly, the compound fading into...

INT. CAMELOTT SUPER STORE - DAY

..the warehouse-sized interior of Camelott, a medieval-themed superstore.

YOUNG MAN (O/S)
(over PA)
...welcome, peasants and princesses
to Camelott, your 'kingdom with the
lott'. That's two T's, and every
American knows that more is better
than less.

Every cliché is ticked - cardboard castle backdrops, wicker shopping carts, and a ye-olde-tavern cafe. All that's missing is a SOUL.

YOUNG MAN (O/S)
(over PA)
We have everything you need for
your quest today...whether you're
after a Prince Charming or a
Spic'n'Span Mop, now on sale in
aisle 11.

At the back is the SERVICE COUNTER, where the Young Man -
TOM, 24 - continues over the PA. His hair is combed (but
still messy), his shirt tucked in (but creased), a smile
(forced) on his face. The kind of guy with good intentions.
Someone with all the ingredients...but no idea how to cook.

TOM (CONT'D)
After all, don't you need things?
Isn't life hard as a privileged,
middle-class WASP? Don't you
deserve to treat yourself to a new
coffee maker...on sale in aisle 3?

Another employee, FELIX, holds a tray of COOKIE SAMPLES
whilst reading a COMIC BOOK, obscuring his face.

TOM (CONT'D)
As always, thank you for shopping
at Camelott, where your wallet
always has a happily ever after.

Tom turns off the PA with a grimace. He watches customers
shuffle around - two EMOs sampling eyeliner, an Overweight
Lady eating all the deli samples, a Shoplifter sliding candy
up his sleeve.

TOM (CONT'D)
Look at them. Sucking the world
dry. No guilt. Consuming.
Destroying. Wearing Crocs.

Felix lowers the comic book, revealing his face - he is
wearing a black EYE PATCH over his left eye.

FELIX
(rolling his eye)
Human condition, Tom. AKA - having
a life.

Tom watches a KID in a SUPERHERO CAPE fly past on a scooter.

TOM
Says the grown man reading a comic
book.

...which is snatched from Felix's hands by RICHIE, an overtanned, slick-haired security guard.

RICHIE
(skimming through comic)
Coming out tonight, Tom? Or you
gonna stay in and read these fag
books?

TOM
Seems more your thing, Richie. Lots
of pictures, not many words.

Felix sniggers.

RICHIE
Something funny, One Eyed Willy?

Richie throws Felix's comic to the floor. Felix gasps.

RICHIE (CONT'D)
(to Tom)
What the fuck, man? Used to be my
best customer. You've changed.

TOM
Well. You know. Promised my mom--

RICHIE
The fuck? Does your mom watch while
you guys swap rimjobs too?

Felix frowns - he has no idea what a rimjob is. Tom sighs.

TOM
(with gravitas)
Richie, sometimes you gotta think
of the bigger picture.

Tom pulls out a PETITION on a clipboard.

RICHIE
Not this hippie shit again, Tom.

TOM
Why am I the only who cares that
Camelott treats the factory guys
like slaves, then marks up the
products by 2000%? And we're
sitting here like cheerleaders for
corporate criminals! Someone has to
stand up to them! And...do...
something...!

Richie is flexing. Felix is dusting off his comic book.
Tom's passion is wasted...until an ELDERLY WOMAN passes by.

TOM (CONT'D)

Ma'am, do you think it's fair for a
company to underpay workers and
then overcharge customers?

ELDERLY WOMAN

You trying to sell me something?

TOM

No. I just want to enlighten--

ELDERLY WOMAN

Enlighten? Ha. What do I care about
your workers? No-one's got a knife
at their throats. That's the
problem today - too many people
waiting for a bleeding heart to
save them. Want my advice, kid?
Save yourself.

Elderly Woman grabs a handful of cookie samples from Felix
and shuffles off. Richie sniggers.

TOM

Well, have a happily ever after...
(mutters)
...you old bag.

MAN (O/S)

Ahem.

It's ALBERTO, Store Manager. A future corporate asshole with
a shiny suit and dead eyes. Tom quickly hides the petition.

ALBERTO

I caught your little PA speech,
Tom. Do you need a revision on the
Camelott announcements policy?

TOM

"Praise products. Promote prices."
(mutters)
"Pander to corporations".

Felix sniggers. Alberto glares at him.

ALBERTO

Felix, you may be physically
handicapped, but that doesn't
exclude you from Camelott's
employee dress code.

Felix sighs, ducks below the counter. He reappears wearing a DIFFERENT eye patch, now bearing the store's CASTLE LOGO.

ALBERTO (CONT'D)
These little things are important.
These things make a difference to
our customer experience. You can
all make a difference.

Tom discreetly rolls his eyes...but Alberto sees.

ALBERTO (CONT'D)
Why else would you apply for the
assistant manager position, Tom?

Felix looks shocked. Tom forces a smile.

TOM
Absolutely.

ALBERTO
Our customers are royalty. Treat
them that way.

With a soulless smile, Alberto glides off.

FELIX
Frickin' Assistant manager? You?!

Tom doesn't know what to say. Richie pats him on the back,
like a wise mentor.

RICHIE
Shitface o'clock, Tom. Don't be
late.

Richie slaps Felix in the groin, and saunters off.

FELIX
(groaning)
I really hope a burglar shoots him.

INT. PRISM NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Tom stands at the bar with his half-drunk beer. Across the
room, Richie is surrounded by WOMEN swooning as he flashes
his badge inside his skintight blazer.

Tom rolls his eyes...then spots a SEXY WOMAN in a red dress
standing nearby, waving to the BARTENDER.

Tom takes a nervous gulp of beer.

TOM
Can I buy you a drink?

Sexy Woman gives him a once-over look, then shrugs.

SEXY WOMAN
(winking at Bartender)
Something strong. And make it red.

Tom stands by awkwardly as the Bartender mixes, then...

TOM
That stuff'll kill you, you know.

SEXY WOMAN
Huh?

TOM
Red drinks. Food coloring.
Chemicals. It's...bad.

SEXY WOMAN
So? Won't matter if I spill it.
(points to her red dress)
See?

The Bartender hands her a BRIGHT RED COCKTAIL. Tom pays.
Sexy Woman forces a smile. She inspects him as she sips.

SEXY WOMAN (CONT'D)
What are you, then, a scientist?

Tom looks down at his beer. A beat...

TOM
Investigative journalist, actually.

SEXY WOMAN
Really?

TOM
I'm undercover right now. Gathering
intel on the, uh, use of toxic
coloring in, um...
(struggling)
..Cosmopolitans.

Sexy Woman suddenly seems more interested.

SEXY WOMAN
Wow. Sounds kinda dangerous. You
must be real brave.

TOM

Well...

SEXY WOMAN

And smart.

Tom laughs awkwardly. Sexy Woman bats her fake eyelashes.

SEXY WOMAN (CONT'D)

You must be really important.

Sexy Woman presses her body against Tom. He's sweating like trapped prey...

TOM

Wait. I'm not...that. I'm not any of those things.

Sexy Woman's smile slides off her face.

TOM (CONT'D)

Sorry, I don't know why I said that. I mean, I did write a college paper about food coloring. An expose, really. Could've helped a lot of people if--

SEXY WOMAN

So...what are you?

TOM

Uh...I currently work in...retail relations.

SEXY WOMAN

Customer service?

TOM

For now, but--

Sexy Woman walks off. Tom sighs, takes a gulp of beer.

He pulls out his cellphone and scrolls a news app. He clicks on an article - *Crystal McCain Crashes at Olympic Trials*. A photo fills his screen - a female GYMNAST on her knees below a balance beam, staring up at a full arena.

Tom stares into the Gymnast's angry, hurt eyes...

RICHIE (O/S)

Tom! What the fuck?

Richie, across the club, beckons from his orgy of now-drunk ladies. Tom holds up his empty beer. Richie shakes his head.

Tom gets the Bartender's attention.

BARTENDER
What can I get ya?

TOM
(to Bartender)
Hammered.

INT. BATHROOM - CLUB - NIGHT

Tom pukes in a cubicle toilet. He is wasted.

TOM
Food coloring. Dumbass.

He looks at his phone - the screen is a blurry mess.

TOM (CONT'D)
Fuck a duck.

Behind him, the cubicle lock unlatches. Tom looks up at a blurry SILHOUETTE above him.

TOM
You look like someone who cares
about the working conditionsss of
Camelott employeeesss...?

Tom passes out.

The Silhouette holds up something - it's long, thin, SHARP.

DREAM SEQUENCE

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Tom stands at the edge of a cliff. A lone telegraph tower rises nearby. Below, a forest stretches to infinity.

Something is behind him - the Shadow Man. Before Tom can turn, Shadow Man pushes him. Tom teeters on the edge...then falls. He screams...but his voice sounds like a CELLPHONE RINGTONE. DING DING-A-LING DING!

END DREAM SEQUENCE

INT. TOM'S BEDROOM - TOM'S HOUSE - DAY

Tom wakes with a gasp. A poster of GANDHI stares down from the ceiling. He recognizes his room, sighs...then notices his cellphone is ringing.

TOM
(groggy, into phone)
Uh-huh?

WOMAN (V.O)
(over phone)
Don't tell me you're still in bed.

It's his Mother JOYCE. Tom squints at his phone - 8:45am.

TOM
Fuck a duck.

JOYCE (V.O)
You know I hate when you say that.
You are still in bed, aren't you?

Tom pulls himself out of bed, immediately clutches his head.

TOM
No, Mom. Can't you just shout at me
from the stairs like normal?

Tom slips on a pile of *Mad* magazines. On top of the pile is a Post-It note: *Clean this rubbish up!*

JOYCE (V.O)
I'm at the airport, Tom. Power
Sellers Seminar. Remember?

INT. BATHROOM - TOM'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Tom opens the cabinet, his gaze falling on a STALE JOINT tucked at the back.

TOM
Right. Florida.

Instead, he noisily tries to open a bottle of PARACETAMOL.

JOYCE (V.O)
Sounds like you have a headache.
Why am I not surprised?

INT. HALLWAY - TOM'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Tom struggles with the Paracetamol bottle. He stops at the hallway table. Above is a row of framed FAMILY PORTRAITS.

JOYCE (V.O)
Your brother is building houses in
third-world countries - do you
think he needs wake-up calls from
his mother?

The first photo - Tom, his mother Joyce, his father WALTER,
and his handsome older brother, ADAM. Smiles all round.

TOM
Tell me, Mom - when was the last
time he called you?

The next photo - Tom, Joyce and Adam. No Walter.

JOYCE (V.O)
What your brother's doing is
important. You know that.

The third photo - ONLY Tom and Joyce. Smiles are forced.

TOM
Uh-huh.

JOYCE (V.O)
Meanwhile, how are you supposed to
get that promotion if you can't
even show up on time?

INT. BATHROOM - TOM'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

TOM
I have every intention of--

JOYCE (V.O)
Oh, Tom. You and your intentions.
If I had a dollar, honestly...

Tom finally pulls off the bottle lid. Pills fly everywhere.

TOM
You'd think you deserve two.

JOYCE (V.O)
What?

TOM
Nothing. Have a safe flight, Mom.
(hangs up)
Miss you already.

Tom picks up the joint, lights it, and takes a long drag. He exhales the smoke with a smile. Then he sees his reflection. He sighs and flushes the joint.

INT. HALLWAY - TOM'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Tom walks down the hallway, passing a full-length MIRROR at the end. He enters his bedroom.

He steps back into the mirror. There is NO REFLECTION. No Tom. Only a pair of BOXER SHORTS - the ones he is wearing - floating in mid-air.

Tom can't process it. He holds up his arms - in the reflection, there are no arms. No head. Nothing.

TOM
Whaaa...?

He steps back. So do the floating boxer shorts. He takes another step...and knocks into the hall table. Something drops and SMASHES.

Tom snaps back to reality - a CERAMIC PLATE, embedded with a child's handprint and the name ADAM, is now in pieces.

Tom gasps, as if this is WORSE than having no reflection.

He tries pick up the pieces...and cuts a finger. He sighs. He looks up, sees his reflection in the mirror. He IS there, in the flesh.

TOM (CONT'D)
Fuck you, Richie Alvarez.

INT. CAMELOTT SUPER STORE - DAY

In the hardware aisle, Tom stares up at a dozen different types of SUPERGLUE. He shrugs and picks one.

INT. CAMELOTT STAFF BREAK ROOM - DAY

Tom stares at the soda options in a vending machine.
His gaze falls on an energy drink with GUARANA.

TOM
Come to Papa.

QUICK SHOTS:

He inserts money, presses the button, grabs the drink, sits at a table, cracks it open, guzzles it down. He closes his eyes.

He can still SEE.

Tom opens his eyes, shuts them again. He can see THROUGH his eyelids, like a periscope 'burrowing' through the skin. He opens his eyes, turns to the staff fridge...and his eyes 'burrow' through the door, revealing the contents inside.

TOM (CONT'D)
Whaaa...?

Tom stumbles to the sink and splashes water in his eyes. His vision 'burrows' through the wall to the men's bathroom next door...and sees Richie with his pants down...wearing a THONG...and taking selfies of his butt in the mirror.

TOM (CONT'D)
Ohhhhh...fuuuccccckkkk--

INT. CAMELOTT SUPER STORE - CONTINUOUS

Tom stumbles into the store, SLAMS into something. He falls down in front of a scruffy LEATHER BACKPACK. His eyes 'burrow' through it - inside is a DVD of *Stick It*, still wrapped in Camelott plastic.

Tom, frantic, bites his hand, REALLY HARD. He opens his eyes slowly - no burrow holes. The world is SOLID once more.

GIRL (O/S)
You mind?

In front of him is a short GIRL in Doc Martens, a huge camouflage parka, and asymetrically-cut hair. Their eyes meet, hers ringed in harsh eyeliner.

TOM
Sorry. Wow. You're...solid.

She raises an eyebrow, amused or offended. Or both.

TOM (CONT'D)
Not fat. At all. I meant...strong.

Her face gives nothing away...but something is FAMILIAR.

TOM (CONT'D)
Sorry. Today's been real fu--
(catching himself)
Can I, uh, help you find something?

Tom can't help looking down at her backpack. She grabs it.

GIRL
Just leaving.

In the TV section, flatscreens blasts a news broadcast. The area is filled with footage of a Gymnast - the same one from Tom's Facebook article - performing a floor routine.

The footage pauses, the Gymnast's intense face now full frame. Words onscreen: *McCain Quits After Trials Disaster*.

NEWSREADER (V.O)
(over TV)
...Crystal McCain's private
training complex in Ravenswood
showed no signs of life today
following the shock announcement of
her retirement...

Tom looks at the TV Gymnast, then back at the Girl. The SAME tiny body. The SAME fiery eyes. It's Crystal McCain.

Crystal's intensity fizzles. She turns for the exit....where Richie stands, flexing his muscles.

TOM
Wait. Don't go that way. Trust me.

Crystal turns back, eyeing him. A faint smile on her lips.

INT. CAMELOTT SUPER STORE - DAY

Tom and Crystal sit alone in the tacky medieval cafe. Tom sips from a water bottle. Crystal sips from a flask.

Tom grins nervously.

Crystal pulls an antique pill box with a dancer painted on the lid. She removes a PINK PILL and pops it in her mouth.

TOM
Not a great idea. Pills and
alcohol.

She freezes, in faux-shock.

TOM (CONT'D)
I mean, shit could happen.

Crystal takes ANOTHER pill with a grin. Tom takes another nervous sip.

CRYSTAL
You don't need to tail me around
the store. I wasn't really gonna
walk out with that stupid DVD.

TOM
Good, 'cause our security guard
thinks he's Brock Lesnar.

CRYSTAL
And you thought I'd need saving.
Aww.

TOM
No, I mean... I don't mean... I
mean... I'm a feminist...
(embarrassed)
You ever had one of those days
where you're not sure if you're
awake or dreaming?

CRYSTAL
I just saw my camel toe displayed
on national TV. So, I'm really
hoping this is a dream.

Tom nearly chokes on his water.

TOM
My friend Felix thinks gymnasts
walk around in spandex all day.

CRYSTAL
He sounds single.

An awkward beat.

TOM
I'm Tom. You're Crystal McCain.

CRYSTAL
The other Crystal McCain. Not the
porn star.

TOM
I know, I saw the TV. You're
like...Wander Woman.

CRYSTAL
'Wander' Woman?

Tom doesn't notice his error. He nods, then winces. Crystal
raises an eyebrow.

TOM
Big night.

Crystal holds out her pill box, full of pink pills.

TOM (CONT'D)
I better stick to aspirin.

CRYSTAL
Hey, they're all natural.
(her eyes daring him)
What, you don't trust me?

TOM
Well. After the day I've had...

Tom takes one, bites it in half, to Crystal's amusement.

TOM (CONT'D)
Mmm. Kinda minty.

Crystal laughs. Tom swallows it with water, puts the other
half in his pocket. Crystal is bewildered - *is he for real?*

CRYSTAL
How'd you know what was in my bag?

MAN (O/S)
Nobody move!!! I got a gun!!!

Tom and Crystal freeze. Tom peers down an aisle...to see a
GUNMAN in a SPIDERMAN MASK at the checkouts, waving a gun at
the terrified checkout staff.

TOM
Fuck a duck.

GUNMAN

All of you, grab a bag and start
filling it with cash! Now!

NERDY CHECKOUT GUY

Paper or plastic?

BANG! The Gunman shoots a bullet into a register. Everyone
screams. The Gunman breathes raspily through the mask.

GUNMAN

See that! I meant to do that!
So...no funny business, OK?!

The gunshot ECHOES in Tom's ears...as if he can hear each
wave of sound as it travels around the store.

CRYSTAL

You OK? Look like you're gonna pass
out.

Tom's vision zooms forwards, backwards, like a camera lens
judging distances.

TOM

I'm...fine.

The Gunman points his gun at the Nerdy Checkout Guy.

GUNMAN

Keep your hands up!

Nerdy Checkout Guy obeys...revealing a urine stain on his
pants.

Dazed, Tom walks out of the cafe.

CRYSTAL

Where are you going?!

Tom walks down an aisle, his vision and hearing twisted.

BANG! The Gunman shoots into the ceiling, smashing a light.
The sound snaps Tom from his trance.

GUNMAN

Less pissing, more packing!

A Teen Checkout Girl begins to sob. The Gunman, now gasping
for air through his mask, shakily points the gun.

GUNMAN (CONT'D)
(gasping)
No crying! Just give me the fucking
money! Or I'm gonna...

Tom's ZOOMING eyes suddenly focus on a spot on the floor, in front of the Gunman.

GUNMAN (CONT'D)
I'm gonna...

Tom begins to run.

RICHIE (O/S)
You're gonna eat it, motherfucker!

Richie charges down another aisle, aiming his gun.

The Gunman aims HIS gun.

Tom shuts his eyes...and PAFF! He DISAPPEARS.

Richie SHOOTs. The bullet streaks towards the Gunman.

Tom REAPPEARS, mid-run, in front the Gunman, knocking him down just as he SHOOTs back.

Richie's bullet shatters the entrance doors behind Gunman...and the Gunman's bullet misses Richie by an inch.

Tom opens his eyes. The Gunman is unconscious. Richie is unharmed. Nerdy Employee Guy now has a stain on the BACK of his pants. Everyone is safe.

Tom is dumbstruck. He looks to the cafe. Crystal has gone.

INT. FELIX'S ROOM - NIGHT

A nerd's paradise - crammed with pre-2000 pop culture artifacts, including a life-size WONDER WOMAN STATUE...and Felix lies in bed, masturbating to it.

FELIX
Ohhh, Diana... Tie me up in your
Lasso of Truth... I've been baaad--

Tom bursts into the room - a sweaty, panting mess.

FELIX
(covering himself)
Frickin' shit! Can't you knock?!

TOM
(babbling, incoherent)
OK some guy just tried to rob
Camelott and I was just sitting
with that gymnast from TV and first
I was there and then I was suddenly
over there right next to the guy
and I knocked into him and he fell
and shot his gun and Richie shot
his gun and then no-one was dead
and everyone was OK and I did it!

Felix stares blankly at Tom.

FELIX
Camelott got robbed?

TOM
I disappeared! I fucking...
teleported. That's what it's
called, right?!

FELIX
(sighs)
Frickin' Richie.

Tom shuts his eyes and concentrates. After a beat, he opens his eyes. Nothing happens. Felix sighs.

TOM
Don't look at me like I'm fucking
crazy! All day this weird shit's
been happening! I woke up, had a
tiny puff, looked in the mirror -
there was nothing there! Then at
lunch, I could see through the wall
into the bathroom! Into! Through a
fucking wall! Then Crystal gives me
a pill and suddenly--

FELIX
Who's Crystal?

Tom suddenly crumples in PAIN, clutching his head.

FELIX (CONT'D)
Hello, McFly. This is why you don't
do drugs anymore. Hold on a sec.

Felix pulls a BOTTLE OF PILLS from his nightstand. He gives two pills and a glass of water to Tom. Tom swallows.

TOM
Something fucking weird's
happening. I did teleport. I was
invisible. I...think.

FELIX
Sure. Just let the pills kick in.

Tom coughs, as if something's stuck in his throat.

TOM
What did I just take?

FELIX
Willow bark. Good for headaches.

TOM
Willow bark?!

FELIX
You know my mom only does herbal
stuff since she had an affair with
that yogi.

Felix shakes the pill bottle. Tom touches his throat.
Something feels WRONG.

SERIES OF FLASHBACKS:

The stale joint. The guarana energy drink. Crystal's herbal
pill.

END FLASHBACK.

TOM
Herbs. Herbs...? Fuck a--

Tom arches up and PUKES...but what erupts from his lips is a
SCORCHING FIREBALL that explodes the Wonder Woman statue.
Felix gapes in horror at what remains - two SMOKING BOOTS.

TOM (CONT'D)
...duck.

Felix's face drops. Tom winces apologetically. Felix
turns...with a grin.

FELIX
Do that again.

EXT. CAMELOTT SUPER STORE - NIGHT

A Security Guard dozes next to the shattered front door.

In the carpark...

Richie pops the boot of his pimped-out Honda Accord. Tom and (a nervous) Felix gasp at the massive horde of DRUGS inside.

Tom looks up at Richie's proud face.

TOM
Got anything herbal?

FELIX
You know, from plants.

RICHIE
(mutters)
Fuckin' hippies.

He begins selecting an assortment into a Camelott bag.

Felix glances uneasily at Tom. Tom shrugs uneasily back.

RICHIE
OK, mushrooms, dope, obvs. Coke.
LSD. And Molly. That's 'Ecstasy',
kiddies.

TOM
No, I said natural. Cocaine--

RICHIE
...comes from the coca plant. LSD
comes from ergot fungus. Ecstasy
comes from sassafras.

FELIX
Shasha-what?

TOM
Wow. Richie. I'm impressed.

RICHIE
(smug smile)
That'll be \$300.

Tom is suddenly NOT impressed. A beat...

TOM
Richie, did I ever tell you how hot
you look in a thong?

Richie's smug smile disappears.

EXT. CAMELOTT LOADING DOCK - NIGHT

Tom holds the ecstasy pill nervously in his fingers.

Felix stands opposite, just as nervous.

Tom closes his eyes, swallows the pill with some water.

A beat. Nothing happens. Felix frowns, disappointed.

Tom opens his eyes. He feels DIFFERENT.

FELIX

You know, I missed *Gladiators*
reruns for this--

Tom LEAPS 20 feet into the air, onto the highest loading shelf. Stunned silence. Tom grins, then launches across the entire loading dock, onto a forklift.

Felix watches, amazed, as Tom bounces all over the dock...until...SLAM! Tom hits a light fixture and plummets onto a giant block of toilet rolls.

FELIX (CONT'D)

Well. That's for showing off.

MONTAGE: TESTING POWERS

A) Tom takes a puff from the joint.

Felix watches Tom's flesh DISAPPEAR before his eyes. Felix gasps...and his growing jealousy is obvious.

B) Tom chews on a mushroom.

CUT TO:

Tom, arms raised, creates a TORNADO, knocking objects off shelves...and blowing Felix into a dumpster full of mannequin parts.

C) Tom snorts the cocaine. Felix hides behind the toilet roll block.

Nothing happens. Tom frowns. He leans against the toilet roll block. ZAP! His hands gives off an electric spark...which sets the toilet roll block on fire...which, as Tom and Felix watch, becomes an INFERNO.

Tom grabs a FIRE EXTINGUISHER and shoots it at the fire, managing to put it out.

Felix, feeling useless, tries to grab the extinguisher. ZAP! Felix's body jerks as if being tasered, and he goes down.

Tom stares at his hands. He turns...right into the GENERATOR behind him. ZAP! The surge EXPLODES the lightbulbs...and the entire store goes black.

TOM
Felix? You OK? You...dead?

INT. PRISM NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

A CLUB MANAGER picks up dirty glasses after another messy night. He peers into a glass - inside is a used tampon.

CLUB MANAGER
One Bloody Mary.
(sighs)
God, my talents are wasted here.

BANG! The locked club doors burst open and a handful of HOODED AGENTS storm in, fully armed.

CLUB MANAGER (CONT'D)
Hey, fetish night is Thursday!

PING! An Agent shoots Club Manager with a tranq dart. The rest of the Agents wait silently as...

PRESCOTT walks in, his trenchcoat swirling, his face sharp as diamond. He scans the room.

PRESCOTT
Find me something.

INT. BATHROOM - CLUB - CONTINUOUS

Agents swarm about the bathroom, oblivious to the filthy post-party conditions.

In a cubicle, an Agent peers at an ITEM on the ground.

AGENT
Sir! Sir!

Prescott strides into the cubicle, forcing the Agent against the wall. Prescott rests a foot on the toilet seat, revealing SUPERHERO SOCKS beneath his suit pants.

He grabs the ITEM and holds it up - a plastic SYRINGE COVER.

AGENT (CONT'D)
It's not conclusive, sir.

Prescott turns with a smile. The Agent is suddenly nervous.

AGENT (CONT'D)
It's a n-nightclub, sir. People
d-do drugs.

PRESCOTT
Where's your imagination, kid?

Prescott snaps his fingers, strides out. The Agents follow.
It's as if they were never there.

INT. FELIX'S CAR - NIGHT

Tom parks Felix's car outside Tom's house. Tom turns to a
still-dazed Felix in the passenger seat.

TOM
You sure you're OK?

FELIX
You tased me, dude...
(Tom looks apologetic)
...and it was frickin' rad!
(serious)
But drugs are still bad. You really
should be dead.

TOM
I know. So why do I feel...fucking
amazing?

FELIX
It's like your body's ignoring the
effects of the drugs.
Re-interpreting them.

Tom nods, not really listening.

FELIX (CONT'D)
OK, first thing - get to one of
those Chinese medicine stores and
buy one of everything--

TOM
You should've seen me today, Felix.
Maybe this is it. My...thing. What
I'm meant to do.

Felix sees sudden RESOLVE on Tom's face...and scoffs.

FELIX
Don't be dumb.

Tom doesn't react, lost in thought.

FELIX (CONT'D)
You don't know the first thing
about this kinda stuff. About...
(rolls eyes)
...being a superhero.

TOM
Like what?

FELIX
Like, your origin. Why it happened,
for starters. Why you.

TOM
Who cares? Maybe it's always been
there? Waiting...

Tom smiles at the thought. Felix doesn't. He folds his arms.

FELIX
What about Camelott? Alberto is
gonna shit himself at the mess--

TOM
Let him. I'm not going back.

FELIX
What about me?

TOM
(chuckling)
Be my Mister X.

FELIX
Professor X. Let's start by getting
your references right--

Tom suddenly winces in pain, clutching his head.

FELIX (CONT'D)
That's a problem too.

TOM
Nurofen isn't herbal. Thank fuck.

Tom grabs the Camelott bag full of Richie's drugs before
Felix can stop him. He gets out of the car.

TOM (CONT'D)
 Sorry about your Wander Woman.

FELIX
 It's 'Wonder' Wo--

Tom has disappeared inside his house.

INT. HALLWAY - TOM'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Tom passes the family photos...stopping at the last one - Adam in a high-school football uniform, smiling smugly.

For the first time, Tom smiles back.

INT. TOM'S BEDROOM - TOM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Tom dumps the bag of drugs on the floor. He swallows four Nurofen with water, strips off his clothes, drops into bed.

INT. FELIX'S ROOM - NIGHT

Felix rummages ANGRILY through a box labeled *Indie comics* - '81-'89.

A comic catches his eye. *The Powers of Cosmo Boyd, Issue #1*. On the cover, a TEENAGE BOY holds a JOINT in his fingers. Behind, a tank of outraged soldiers chases him. The art/font/colors all scream EIGHTIES CAMP.

In a speech bubble, the Teenage Boy says: "*A new drug, a new power! These hippies are on to something!*"

Felix is stunned.

DREAM SEQUENCE:

INT. CAMELOTT SUPER STORE - DAY

Tom stacks cans on a shelf...till he hears a low rumbling. He looks up - a wave of ECSTASY PILLS rushes at him.

He runs, but slips on a SUPERHERO CAPE left on the ground. He looks back, terrified...as pills engulf him, rush into his open mouth, choking him.

PRESENT:

INT. TOM'S BEDROOM - TOM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Tom opens his eyes, and groans - his head still hurts.

A HAND slaps duct tape over his mouth. Before he can scream, TWO HOODED MEN flip him over and zip-tie his wrists.

Hooded Man #1 presses his face close.

HOODED MAN #1
Where's it, kid?

He grabs Tom's hair and yanks him naked to the floor. Before Tom can even think, Hooded Man #1's GUN is in his face.

HOODED MAN #1 (CONT'D)
Go on. Move. Please.

Tom freezes. Behind his back, he feels something soft - his Camelot shirt. His fingers creep into the pocket...

INT. FELIX'S ROOM - NIGHT

Felix flips eagerly through *The Powers of Cosmo Boyd* comic. On one page, Cosmo exclaims: "*Who would have thought my destiny lay in harmless herbs? I can be anything! A hero! A...superhero!*"

Felix grits his teeth, but reads on.

INT. TOM'S BEDROOM - TOM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Hooded Man #1 stands over him, as Hooded Man #2 searches the room.

Tom's fingers grab Crystal's half-bitten PILL in his pocket.

HOODED MAN #2
There's nothing here!
(getting panicked)
I'm not going back to him without it!

Tom's fingers bring Crystal's pill towards his butt...as Hooded Man #1 crouches before him.

HOODED MAN #1
Gonna have to dig deeper. Gonna be messy.

Hooded Man #1 yanks the duct tape off Tom's lips and pushes his gun into Tom's mouth. Tom gags...as he jams Crystal's pill up his butt. RIGHT UP.

HOODED MAN #1 (CONT'D)
Real messy.

Tom grabs the Camelott drug bag behind him, shuts his eyes--
PAFF! He disappears.

EXT. TOM'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Tom reappears on the sidewalk, naked, still zip-tied.
A BLACK CAR sits thirty feet away. Inside is...

INT. BLACK CAR - CONTINUOUS

...Prescott, reading a COMIC BOOK.

INTERCUT BETWEEN STREET AND CAR

Prescott looks up. Their eyes meet. Tom freezes like a deer in Prescott's hypnotic gaze.

Tom shuts his eyes and teleports away. Prescott grins.

INT. FELIX'S ROOM - NIGHT

Felix stares at another *Cosmo Boyd* drawing - a cliff with a lone telegraph tower and a forest below. Beneath the cliff overhang is a glass mansion built into the rock - a LAIR.

PAFF! Tom teleports onto Felix's desk. Felix screams and topples back in his chair.

FELIX
Ahh! Weiner!
(beat, realizing)
Tom. You just...teleported--

TOM
They've got fucking guns! And
rapist masks! Help!

Tom turns, revealing his zip-tied wrists.

FELIX

Who?

TOM

The guys trashing my room!

Felix grabs scissors from a drawer and cuts the zip-tie.

FELIX

Did you call the cops?

Tom looks at his hands - they're shaking.

TOM

Felix...I dunno what to do...

Felix is stumped. He takes the Camelott bag.

FELIX

Just...get dressed. OK?

Tom nods numbly. He pulls out a shirt and pants from Felix's dresser and begins dressing.

Felix empties the drugs from the Camelott bag into a fluro FANNY PACK.

Tom sees his reflection in the mirror - baggy parachute pants and a XENA WARRIOR PRINCESS tee.

TOM

(laughs shakily)

Fuck a duck. Here we go.

He reaches for the fanny pack. Felix holds it away.

FELIX

Uh-uh. Fanny goes where I go.

Tom swipes at the fanny pack. Felix puts it behind his back.

A KNOCK on the bedroom door.

FELIX'S MOM (O/S)

Sweetie? Honey? Are you OK?!

TOM

Fuck! OK! Just...don't get hurt!

Felix hands over the fanny pack. Tom snaps it on his waist.

Felix grabs the *Cosmo Boyd* comic...as the door handle jiggles--

FELIX
Fine, Mom! It's just *Gladiators*!

FELIX'S MOM (O/S)
Again?

Felix puts on a *Back To The Future*-style puffy vest, and carefully slides the *Cosmo Boyd* comic inside the lining.

Tom looks out the window - the street is eerily quiet.

TOM
Think we better go. Now.

Felix nods excitedly. Tom grabs hold of him.

TOM (CONT'D)
Haven't done this with a passenger.
Could end up messy.

FELIX
(suddenly wary)
Should I bring a paper towel?--

PAFF! They teleport.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

PAFF! PAFF! PAFF! Tom and Felix teleport across town, appearing and disappearing, covering a stone's throw distance each time.

They pass a *Welcome to Ravenswood County* sign.

EXT. RAVENSWOOD FITNESS COMPLEX - NIGHT

A sleek warehouse-style compound, with glass entrance doors.

INT. RAVENSWOOD FITNESS COMPLEX - CONTINUOUS

PAFF! Tom and Felix appear in the middle of the shadowy gym, full of apparatus. Felix immediately PUKES.

FELIX
Go on without me. I need to die.

TOM
Serious? It's been literally two minutes!
(as if encouraging a child)

C'mon, don't be like that. You did great for your first time.

FELIX
You're just saying that.

TOM
No, you're a natural--

CRYSTAL (O/S)
You guys gonna clean up the puke before you make out? Or is that something you're into?

Felix SCREAMS. Crystal McCain sits atop a set of uneven bars, perfectly balanced and casual.

TOM
Crystal. Hi. Tom. Remember?

CRYSTAL
Oh. Yeah. My hero.

TOM
Uh, I thought this place closed down.

CRYSTAL
Over my dad's dead body.
(chuckles)
Kidding. He'll never die.

Crystal flips off the top bar, landing lightly next to them.

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)
Might as well work on your glutes, while you're here. They need it.

Felix gasps - a SILHOUETTE stands outside, looking through the glass doors.

TOM
Felix, we gotta go.
(to Crystal)
Sorry about the puke.

Tom grabs Felix and concentrates. They don't teleport. He tries again. Nothing.

FELIX
You're outta juice!

SMASH! Glass shatters at the entrance.

Crystal grabs both of them and pulls them into a dark OFFICE overlooking the gym floor.

INTERCUT BETWEEN GYM AND OFFICE

The Silhouette softly enters the gym. He moves DIFFERENTLY than the Hooded Men. Softer. Almost...playlike.

It's Shadow Man. His torch beam pierces the darkness.

TOM
Those pink pills - you said they're
herbal?

CRYSTAL
(bewildered)
Um, technically. But I'm all out.

TOM
Fuck a duck.

Tom rummages inside his fanny pack. He sees Crystal staring in shock at the assortment of drugs inside.

The torch beam gets closer to the room.

FELIX
Tom...?

TOM
(still rummaging)
Which one?!

The torch beam gets closer, closer.

FELIX
Anything! Just do something!

Tom pulls out a LSD tab in a tiny baggie. As Crystal stares...he licks up the tab.

The torch beam hits them. Tom's eyes meet Shadow Man's. Shadow Man puts something in his mouth.

Tom clenches his fists. He feels...

TOM
That's...something.

A deep breath, then Tom charges out with a...

TOM (CONT'D)
Hhhyyyyyyaaaaa!

FELIX
(embarrassed)
Oh, God.

Tom grabs a WEIGHT BENCH as if it's made of cotton candy, and hurls it across the gym...only to watch in shock as Shadow Man LEAPS out of the way like Spiderman.

TOM
Shit.

FELIX
OK, this is not frickin' fair!

Crystal is stunned as Tom throws a 50-POUND BARBELL at Shadow Man...who easily bounces away.

Crystal drags Felix towards the side exit door.

Tom throws everything he can, but Shadow Man is unfazed. He bounds up onto the uneven bars, his eyes sparkling like a giddy child behind the mask. Then he leaps off the bars... heading straight for Tom...

Tom desperately swings a CLIMBING ROPE, and shuts his eyes.

FLASH! Crystal switches on the gym lights at the side door. Shadow Man is blinded. The knotted end of the rope slams into his stomach, dropping him.

Tom opens his eyes - Shadow Man is a moaning heap. Tom is shocked...and impressed with himself. He steps curiously towards Shadow Man.

A car horn BEEPS! from outside.

Tom thinks twice, turns and runs out the side exit door.

EXT. RAVENSWOOD GYM COMPLEX - CONTINUOUS

A revving metallic MASERATI waits - Felix in back, Crystal in the driver's seat.

Tom jumps in just as he hears a SHOUT - it's Shadow Man at the gym door...but his voice is drowned out as Crystal revs the engine, spins the car and speeds away.

INT. CRYSTAL'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Crystal drives down the highway. Quick glances all round.
Awkward silence.

FELIX
(matter-of-fact)
We're being hunted.

CRYSTAL
I bet. Must be after your fanny
pack of lucky charms.

TOM
Oh. That's a...long story.

Crystal raises an eyebrow. Tom fidgets in the silence.

TOM (CONT'D)
I'm not a junkie.

CRYSTAL
OK.

TOM
I'm serious. I just--

CRYSTAL
You just destroyed my gym like a
Jerry Springer guest on bath salts.

FELIX
Bath salts! Should I add that to
the list?

Crystal raises another eyebrow.

TOM
Hey, you were the one dropping
molly in a discount supermarket.

Crystal bursts out laughing at some private joke. Tom and
Felix exchange a 'WTF' look.

TOM (CONT'D)
This stuff is herbal, OK? Only,
when I take them...shit gets weird.

CRYSTAL
You turn into The Rock.

TOM
Or I turn invisible. Or I shoot
fireballs. Or I see through things.
That's how I saw that DVD in your
bag. And I don't know how or why--

FELIX
Or anything.

Tom's hands begin shaking. Crystal notices. He sits on them.

CRYSTAL
Flower powers? Hardcore.

TOM
Well, people are trying to kill me.

FELIX
And they've got powers too.
Apparently everyone's walking
around with frickin' powers.

Crystal sniggers.

TOM
(to Crystal)
Hey, you saw what happened. What I
did.

Crystal grits her teeth, as if not wanting to admit it.

CRYSTAL
(to Felix)
So. Who're you? The sidekick?

FELIX
(offended)
I'm Felix.

CRYSTAL
Oh. You're Spandex Fetish Guy?

Felix gives Tom a funny look. Tom ignores it.

TOM
Look, thanks for the save. But you
can drop us at a bus stop--

CRYSTAL
You wanna wait for a night bus
while people are trying to kill
you?

TOM
I don't wanna get you involved.

CRYSTAL
In 'what', exactly?--

Tom suddenly groans in pain, clutches his head.

FELIX
Oh, yeah. There's that too.

CRYSTAL
Need a Nurofen?

TOM
(groaning)
Tried that. I just need...

Crystal peers through the windscreen. A SIGN appears ahead:
Harbinger Bar & Grill - 2 miles.

CRYSTAL
Something harder? If you insist.

FELIX
I don't think we should stop.

CRYSTAL
(reading sign)
Oh. They've got arcade games.

FELIX
You're right. Let's stop.

INT. HARBINGER BAR & GRILL - NIGHT

Crystal and Felix enter, carrying a dazed Tom. The place is full of blue-collar REDNECKS and scantily-clad WOMEN. Crystal isn't fazed. Felix is terrified.

Crystal hoists Tom onto a bar stool, waves to a BARTENDER.

FELIX
Don't get him anything red.

CRYSTAL
Why?

FELIX
You don't want a lecture. Trust me.

CRYSTAL
 (to Bartender)
 Two shots of gin, and a juice.

BARTENDER
 And a what?!

CRYSTAL
Juice. Comes from fruit. You know,
 what your daddy used to call you.

Bartender gives Crystal a look, hands over two shots.

FELIX
 Sorry, I don't drink--

Crystal has already swallowed both shots.

Next to Felix, a MANGY WOMAN takes out her false teeth and drags on a cigarette. Horrified, Felix turns away...to see a vintage *Ms Pac Man* ARCADE GAME in the corner. *Jackpot*.

Bartender dumps a juice down. Crystal smiles sweetly at him.

CRYSTAL
 (to Tom)
 OK, down the hatch, Junkie Boy.

Tom lifts his head and takes a sip of the juice.

TOM
 Thanks for the save back at your
 gym. You know, with the lights.

Crystal shrugs. Tom watches her fiddle with a bunch of bar toothpicks.

TOM (CONT'D)
 So. How come you quit gymnastics--

CRYSTAL
 I told you. Camel toes on TV. How's
 the headache?

TOM
 My mom used to give us juice when
 we were sick.

Crystal snaps the toothpicks in half.

CRYSTAL
 Sounds like a real Carol Brady.

She gets up, heads to a BIKER GANG playing pool.

Felix looks up from *Ms Pac Man* to see a REAL woman - TAWNY, a whole lot of lady in very little clothing.

TAWNY
Sexy patch, cutie. What happened?

FELIX
(paralyzed with fear)
L-lost it in a fight.

TAWNY
Just like Jack Sparrow. Mmm. Love a guy with a scar. So fuckin' hot.

She runs her fingers through his hair. Felix is frozen. A shadow falls over him - BUCK, Tawny's boyfriend, a huge man with a LOT of scars.

BUCK
Who the fuck is this Jack Sparrow pipsqueak?

TAWNY
Oh, please don't hurt him, Buck. He just wanted to buy me a little ol' drink.

Tawny steps back with a cruel grin...as Buck looks at Felix like a wolf looking at a raw steak.

Crystal, surrounded by the BIKERS, takes a difficult pool shot - and sinks the ball. BIKER #1 gives her a lecherous look...

...which is interrupted by Felix FLYING through the air and landing on the pool table.

Buck storms after him. Felix grabs a pool ball and throws it...instead hitting a TATTOOED MAN throwing darts...who throws a misguided dart straight into Tawny's breast.

Pin-dropping SILENCE. Tom looks up from his juice.

BUCK
Tawny? Baby?!

TAWNY
My titty got popped!

A beat.

Buck ROARS and dive-tackles Tattooed Man...and the bar erupts into a MASSIVE BRAWL of pent-up redneck aggression. Fists, feet and bottles start flying. Mangy Woman takes a final cigarette drag, crawls onto the bar and jumps into the brawl.

Biker #1 eyes Crystal...and heads towards her.

Tom looks frantically around - no weapon...except Mangy Woman's discarded cigarette. He grabs it and takes a DRAG.

Felix crawls through the carnage, back to *Ms Pac Man*.

Tom blinks hard. He stares at his juice glass. The glass jiggles...then slowly FLOATS up from the bar.

TOM

Sweet.

He turns, surveys the crowd...and gets to work:

SERIES OF QUICK SHOTS:

Two BRAWLERS find their heads suddenly RAMMED together.

A GUY about to smash a beer jug over ANOTHER GUY's head...finds it smashing in his hand, drenching him in beer.

Two fighting WOMEN suddenly find their ratty hair extensions knotting together.

Buck straddles Tattooed Man, aiming a killer blow...when he is magically yanked through the air...slamming into the bar.

Like an orchestra conductor, Tom's telekinesis settles every brawl, subdues every attacker, rescues every victim. And he LOVES IT.

Biker #1 wraps his arms around Crystal, pressing her to his chest. She kicks her leg backwards, over her head, into his face...and dropping him like a stone.

Crystal grins...until his Biker Buddies surround her.

Tom sees Crystal's face - a tiny flicker of fear.

TOM

Hey! You...big...dumbo...guys!

The Bikers turn to see the pool table FLIP ONTO ITS SIDE as Tom telekinetically steamrolls it towards them...

Felix, back at *Ms Pac Man*, is frantically entering his name into the 'Top Scorers list' onscreen...

Crystal jumps, grabs a light fixture, somersaults over the pool table as Tom RAMS it into the Bikers--

And it's over. Silence. Tom is panting, scared, THRILLED. Crystal stares at him. She gets it now - this shit is REAL.

Before Felix can enter the final letter of his name on the 'Top Scorers List', Tom yanks him away.

EXT. MOTEL - NIGHT

A sleazy highway motel in a dying town.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Tom sits on the bed, flipping through the *Cosmo Boyd* comic. Next to him, Felix eats vending machine junk food.

TOM

So what?

FELIX

So it's art imitating life. You're Cosmo Boyd.

TOM

Makes no sense. He gets his powers from drinking Tiger Red soda. Which contained Red-2 food coloring. Which was banned in the seventies for mutating cells into tumors--

FELIX

OK, so it's not 100% fact!
(muttering)
Frickin' nerd.

TOM

(playing nice)
OK, then, how does it end?

FELIX

Don't know. It's only issue #1. The last page is this old wizard guy living under a cliff in a forest, but he's just a silhouette.

Tom flips to the last page. He stares at the image of the forest lair, with a SILHOUETTE in the window.

TOM
Like the guy in the gym--

FELIX
You know what's weird? There's no author, no publisher. Nothing.

TOM
Then where'd you get it?

FELIX
Must've been in that box I found in the dumpster at ComiQuest. Guess it was worth the bedbugs.

Tom grimaces, drops the comic. Felix gasps, delicately puts it on the nightstand. Tom lies down with an exhausted groan.

FELIX (CONT'D)
What about Adam?

TOM
What about Adam?

FELIX
You think your mom's gonna believe you magically acquired super powers after taking drugs again? Puh-lease. Adam, on the other hand...

CRYSTAL (O/S)
Who's Adam?

Crystal exits the bathroom, hair wet, make-up washed off. For the first time, she looks ordinary. Tom tenses - how much did she hear?

FELIX
Tom's brother - he's in the Peace Corps.

TOM
Yeah, he's off saving lives, feeding the five thousand, walking on water....or something. I don't know. He hasn't posted on Instagram in three years.

FELIX
Uh, you're brothers.

ADAM

So you message him. Wait, Instagram doesn't exist in your Gen-X bubble.

CRYSTAL

(to Felix)

You don't Insta?

TOM

Felix doesn't believe in life beyond 1992. He's one of those.

CRYSTAL

That explains *Ms Pac Man*.

FELIX

Yeah, I'm so weird because I think the world was a better place when we had Jim Henson's puppetry genius instead of crappy CGI. When people's attention spans were bigger than five-second videos or 140 characters on their tiny iPhone screens. When the giants of pop culture were like planets in a distant galaxy, to be revered, worshipped from afar...not to be 'liked' on Facebook by 'fans' going through a retro phase. Call me crazy but I think life sounded pretty frickin' good back then. Actually, call me a 'pre-dot-com purist'. Yeah, it's a thing.

Tom and Crystal are stunned by this passionate speech.

CRYSTAL

Are you sure? Have you Googled it?

Felix grunts, grabs the TV remote and flicks channels.

FELIX

Well...Tom still reads *Mad Magazines*.

Crystal raises an eyebrow.

TOM

(embarrassed)

Just for the fold-in puzzle at the end. I like trying to figure it out. I was actually doing a major in investigative journalism--

FELIX
He wrote an article on food
coloring.

TOM
It was an expose. I won an award
and everything.

CRYSTAL
Then what happened? You fell under
the spell of discount retail?

Tom glances at Felix. Felix keeps his gaze locked on the TV.

TOM
Just...wasn't for me--

FELIX
Uh, guys.

Tom and Crystal follow Felix's gaze to the TV - a REPORTER
stands outside a bar as PARAMEDICS rush about.

REPORTER
(on TV)
...outside the Harbinger Bar &
Grill, 20 miles north of
Ravenswood...the scene of a brutal
riot less than an hour ago...

Tom, Crystal and Felix watch, mouths open.

REPORTER (CONT'D)
(on TV)
...eyewitness reports of a young
man storming the bar, causing
thousands of dollars in damage...
and wounding several bystanders in
the process...including one man who
was crushed beneath a flipped pool
table, and is currently in critical
condition in hospital...

INT. BATHROOM - MOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tom drops to his knees and pukes in the toilet.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Crystal and Felix watch on.

REPORTER

(on TV)

The suspect is mid-20s, wearing a *Xena Warrior Princess* shirt, and accompanied by, as one witness described, "a 12-year-old girl who just came from a Hot Topic sale, and a guy dressed as Jack Sparrow".

FELIX

Jack Frickin' Sparrow? That--

CRYSTAL

Bitch.

She hears Tom puking from the bathroom - it's a suddenly sobering sound.

EXT. HARBINGER BAR & GRILL - CONTINUOUS

On scene...as the Reporter wraps up...

REPORTER

All three are currently wanted for questioning by authorities...

...a group of MEN IN SUITS stride by.

INT. HARBINGER BAR & GRILL - CONTINUOUS

The Men in Suits enter to utter mayhem - injured people, broken furniture, paramedics and police.

The Men in Suits part...revealing Prescott. The Men in Suits are obviously agents, 'civilian style'. Prescott scans the scene...then grins.

Buck dozes against a wall, his head bandaged. He opens his eyes, sees a pair of slick black shoes and SUPERHERO SOCKS. He looks up. Prescott is smiling at him.

BUCK

Yeah?

Prescott's gaze falls to Buck's shirt pocket.

PRESCOTT
(to Agent)
Check his pocket.

An Agent does...and pulls out a BAG OF COKE.

BUCK
How the fuck did you...?

PRESCOTT
Let's say I know a junkie when I
see one. Now, you need to tell me
what happened. You really do. OK?

Prescott jiggles the bag, raises an eyebrow. Buck sighs.

BUCK
Alright, man. So maybe I threw the
first punch. But that guy finished
it! The one in the lesbo shirt!

PRESCOTT
Xena. Warrior Princess.
Let's respect the title, please.

BUCK
Whatever, man! He took one look at
the pool table and...

Buck breaks off. Prescott leans in closer, waiting.

BUCK (CONT'D)
He...flipped it. With his mind.

Prescott smiles. He hands the coke bag back to Buck.

PRESCOTT
That's a nasty bump you have. Might
need a bump of this.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Tom, Crystal and Felix lie cramped on the bed. Felix is
asleep between them. Tom and Crystal are both awake.

CRYSTAL
What's it like?

Tom shuts his eyes. He can't speak.

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)
Just thinking about something...and
it happens. Like, shazam. Don't
have to train your whole life.
Don't have to do what you're
told. But...just because you want
to.

(soft)
Must be cool.

TOM
It's a fucking carnival.

Tom turns to the wall. Crystal bites her lip, regretful.

CRYSTAL
It was an accident, Tom.

A beat.

TOM
Four years ago, this cop was
chasing a stolen car through town.
Some piece-of-shit Pinto. Ended up
slamming headfirst into a station
wagon. Turned it into a fucking
accordion. You know what was
inside? Family of four.

Crystal listens, a little disturbed.

TOM (CONT'D)
Just doing his job, right? Acting
before thinking. Good intentions,
all that heroic shit. And he takes
out four people just to catch a
thief. A whole family, gone. Kids.
Over a fucking Pinto.

CRYSTAL
That's not the same thing.

TOM
Why are you here? I know it's your
car, but you're...someone--

CRYSTAL
So are you.

Tom wipes a tear. Crystal has no idea what to do.

TOM
I got kicked out of college.
(beat)
For drugs.

Crystal nods, unsurprised.

TOM (CONT'D)
I wasn't selling. It was just weed.
Nothing hardcore...you know, like
willowbark.

Crystal laughs. Tom tries to smile.

TOM (CONT'D)
Adam had gone off with the Peace
Corps. It was just me and mom.
Every time she looked at me, I saw
it. No matter how hard I tried.
"You're not him. Not even close--"

Crystal kisses Tom on the mouth. He freezes, shocked.

CRYSTAL
What?

Crystal lies back down, stares at the ceiling. So does Tom.

TOM
Thanks for the ride. And the room.
But tomorrow you go home. Please.

CRYSTAL
What about you?

TOM
I'm gonna find my brother.

Tom closes his eyes.

INT. TOM'S BEDROOM - TOM'S HOUSE - DAY

Tom wakes. The Gandhi poster stares back from the ceiling.
He sighs happily...then looks down.

Shadow Man stands before him. His eyes are familiar - the
SAME eyes as Prescott, the man in the black car. Shadow Man
pulls up his mask...and vomits a FIREBALL onto Tom.

In an instant, Tom is engulfed in flames--

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

Tom screams himself awake. He focuses on the motel room. He sighs, relieved.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tom sits on the bed, the motel phone to his ear.

JOYCE (V.O)
(over phone)
Hello?

TOM
(into phone)
Mom? You're OK?

JOYCE (V.O)
Actually, I'm late for a workshop
on 'full disclosure on homicide
properties'. I paid extra for it--

TOM
Do you know where Adam is?

JOYCE (V.O)
Oh, Tom, you know he can't just
pick up a phone and call us. He
could be in the Amazon for all we
know. Wherever he's needed.

Tom nods to himself. A beat.

TOM
Mom, was Dad...good? You know,
before...what happened--

JOYCE (V.O)
What a stupid question, Tom.
(a beat)
Yes. He was. Of course.

Through the window, Tom sees Crystal by the motel pool.

JOYCE (V.O) (CONT'D)
Tom...you're not on drugs again,
are you? The marijuana? Oh, Tom,
haven't you ruined your life
enough--

Tom bursts out laughing - a sudden release.

JOYCE (V.O) (CONT'D)
Tom. What's going on?

TOM
I'm OK. In fact, I'm brand-new.

JOYCE (V.O)
Well, let's hope this new Tom is a
little bit more like his brother--

Tom hangs up.

EXT. POOL - MOTEL - DAY

Crystal, again in her heavy eye make-up, stares at her phone. Her finger hovers over 'Dad' in her contacts list.

She calls...and her phone dies. She chuckles to herself.

At one end of the motel, Crystal sees a SUITED MAN talking into his phone. She turns - at the other end, another SUITED MAN waits. And between them...is Tom's room.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tom skims again through the *Cosmo Boyd* comic, searching for answers. He sighs, frustrated...then stops at the inside back cover - it's a promo cover image for issue #2.

Tom stares, like he's seen a mystery hidden in the picture. He folds the page in, just like a *Mad Magazine* fold-in... and a NEW IMAGE is revealed: a CHEMICAL FORMULA. Tom gasps--

CRYSTAL (O/S)
Tom! Run!

Tom drops the comic, runs to the window...and sees both Suited Men running down the walkway towards him. They are AGENTS, now brandishing GUNS.

Tom backs away as the Agents ram into the door. PING! A bullet goes through the lock. BAM! The door SHATTERS--

EXT. MOTEL CARPARK - CONTINUOUS

Tom dives out the bathroom window, onto gravel. Oww.

Crystal is revving the engine of her car. Tom limps into the car and Crystal puts her foot down.

EXT. MOTEL - CONTINUOUS

Felix walks back from the vending machine, arms full of junk food. He whistles happily.

SCREECH! Crystal's Maserati brakes an inch away. The food goes flying as Felix nearly wets himself.

TOM
Felix! Get in!

Behind the car, Felix sees the Agents chasing. He dives through the open back window... slamming his groin in the process.

Crystal turns onto the road, with Felix screaming until he manages to get fully inside the car.

INT. CRYSTAL'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

FELIX
Tom, do something! Where's Fanny?

TOM
Oh, shit...

FELIX
You left her?!

Tom opens the glovebox and searches inside.

TOM
It's fine! There's gotta be some--

FELIX
(even more distraught)
Where's *Cosmo Boyd*?!

Tom's silence says it all.

FELIX (CONT'D)
That was a collectors' issue!

TOM
Sorry, OK?! Aha!

Tom brings out a white PILL-LIKE OBJECT from the glovebox.

CRYSTAL
That's an M&M.

FELIX

Tom! You're such a...a...rimjob!

TOM

I'm not a fucking superhero, OK?!
I'm not an expert like you!

FELIX

So why do you get the powers?!

CRYSTAL

(looking in mirror)

Hey. They're not following.

Felix sees something through the front windscreen.

FELIX

That's why.

Crystal slams the brakes, kicking up dust. As it clears, it reveals a line of BLACK CARS forming a roadblock 200 feet ahead of them. Twenty armed AGENTS stand in a line.

It's like a rifle butt in the face.

FELIX (CONT'D)

Now I'll never meet Wil Wheaton.

Sun glints off the roadblock cars. Crystal flips down the sun vizor - a tiny baggie of leaves falls down.

CRYSTAL

Oh. That's where I put it.

TOM

What is it?

CRYSTAL

Ayahuasca. Should do the trick.

TOM

So, you've got a stash of
ayahuasca...but I'm the junkie?

FELIX

Just take it!

TOM

How? It's fucking dry leaves!

Felix grabs the baggie, pulls Tom's head back and dumps the leaves into Tom's mouth. Of course, Tom GAGS.

MAN (O/S)
(over loudspeaker)
That's a kinky driving game, Tom.

They all turn and stare out the windscreen. Tom gulps...and swallows the ayahuasca.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

The line of Agents parts...and Prescott steps through, holding a loudspeaker.

PRESCOTT
(over loudspeaker)
But, hey, I don't judge.

INTERCUT BETWEEN CAR AND STREET:

CRYSTAL
Not while wearing that trenchcoat,
Neo.

Felix gasps - the ayahuasca has turned Tom's skin BLUE.

FELIX
Blue skin? Blue frickin' skin?!

Tom groans at his reflection in the rear-view mirror.

PRESCOTT
(over loudspeaker)
Boy, you must be one confused
camper. Lots of questions, huh? I
mean, 24 hours ago, you were just a
normal guy. Now...not so much.

Tom listens...disturbed and intrigued.

PRESCOTT (CONT'D)
(over loudspeaker)
I can answer those questions, Tom.
I know all about the weird shit
happening to you. I can help with
the weird shit.

Tom's eyes meet Prescott's. They seem to burn through him.
Crystal revs the engine.

TOM
Wait!

The WIND blows, stirring up dust. It gets STRONGER, knocking the Agents to their knees. Prescott's words are swept away.

CRYSTAL
Tom, is that you?

Tom shakes his head - he is staring at...

Shadow Man, on top of a general store, as gusts of wind STREAM from his open arms. He claps, creating a HURRICANE that slams into the roadblock. Cars go flying, Prescott and Agents are blown away like rag dolls.

FELIX
That's just showing off.

TOM
(realizing)
He's not one of them...

CRYSTAL
Whatever.

Crystal floors it. The car speeds through clouds of dust and the now-cleared roadblock.

TOM
Stop!

Shadow Man begins to run after them. SUPERFAST.

TOM (CONT'D)
He's not one of them! Stop the car!

Crystal doesn't. Shadow Man gets closer, closer. Tom grabs the handbrake and pulls. The car spins around 180 degrees, kicking up dust, then stops.

Tom, Crystal and Felix wait, panting, as the dust fades... revealing Shadow Man - his 'shadow' is actually a tight leather jumpsuit.

EXT. CRYSTAL'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Tom exits the car. Shadow Man waits - he's holding Tom's fanny pack and Felix's *Cosmo Boyd* comic. Their gaze meets, against the sound of the dying wind.

Shadow Man pulls off his mask...and grins. The same grin from the family photos in Tom's hallway. It's...

ADAM
Nice tan, little bro.

INT. CRYSTAL'S CAR - DAY

As Crystal drives...

Adam sits in back, watching tensely out the rear window. Felix is next to him, staring at him like he's George R. R. Martin. Tom rides shotgun, his skin back to normal. He is NOT a happy camper.

ADAM
Clear.

Adam turns, suddenly relaxed, like a switch flipped. He stares around the car with a grin.

ADAM (CONT'D)
What is this, the Scooby Doo
Tribute Hour?

He laughs. Felix, embarrassed, fiddles with his eye patch.

FELIX
I lost the eye in a fight.

ADAM
Serious? That's sick. You look like
that Jack Sparrow guy.

FELIX
Thanks! I'm Felix, remember?

Adam has no idea. He turns his interest to Crystal.

ADAM
And the *Dawson's Creek* bad girl...?

Before Felix can school them on *Dawson's Creek*--

CRYSTAL
I'm the Uber driver. You must be
the famous brother.

ADAM
I got the looks. Tom got Dad's
extra nipple. Right, T-Bag?

Tom says nothing. Crystal mouths 'T-Bag?' to herself.

ADAM (CONT'D)
No love for your big bro, Tom?
(explaining to them)
So moody, this guy. Always with the
emotions--

TOM
(mutters)
Shut the fuck up.

ADAM
What's up, bro?

Tom turns to Adam slowly, deliberately, PAINFULLY.

TOM
What's up?! Since I woke up
yesterday, I've crash-tackled a
burglar, exploded a statue of
Wander Woman with a fireball
loogie, trashed a store, been
attacked by guys with guns, started
a riot with some drunk-but-innocent
rednecks, and been chased from a
motel by more guys with guns. And
then you show up like you've just
been off at Spring Break all this
time, except you have powers too,
so you obviously know what's going
on, except you're just sitting
there grinning like some dumbass
fucking jock!

Adam stares at him, not getting his point.

TOM (CONT'D)
I put a guy in hospital, Adam! He
might die! That's what's fucking
up, "bro!"

Everyone is stunned. Including Tom.

ADAM
'Wander' Woman?

Tom explodes with rage, lunging for Adam, fists flying.

ADAM (CONT'D)
OK, you're pissed! I get it! If I'd
known you'd activate so soon, I
wouldn't have left to throw off the
trail. Still got a taste for the
ganja, huh?

TOM

Adam. Talk. In fucking English.

ADAM

The club toilet. I injected you.

(sees everyone grimace)

TPX-171. You don't think you just woke up like this, do you?

TOM

(struggling)

I don't...I mean... Why? Where...?

Aren't you building houses for refugees in the Amazon...?

Adam cracks up. He unzips his jacket, revealing an inner VEST with clear pockets of various drugs sewn into the fabric. Felix gasps. Crystal's eyes narrow. Tom is confused.

ADAM

Is that what Mom said? She never had much imagination.

(proudly)

I'm a living weapon. I'm one of a kind.

CRYSTAL

Were one of a kind.

Tom realizes she means HIM. Adam pats him on the shoulder.

ADAM

Welcome to the club, T-Bag.

(beat)

I'm hungry. Who's hungry?

EXT. ROADSIDE HOT DOG STAND - DAY

Tom, Felix and Crystal sit at a roadside table, opposite a cornfield. Adam gobbles down hot dogs and soda like a pig. Next to them, TWO FARMERS eat while they read newspapers.

Tom rubs his head with his fingers. Adam clicks his tongue.

ADAM

Side-effects. Part of the deal, bro. Sorry.

TOM

What deal? What are you, some Justice Avenger CIA agent?

Felix groans at Tom's jumbled superhero reference.

ADAM

Nope. Just a humble employee of a private biotech company who synthesized a revolutionary serum that metabolizes herbal drugs as superhuman abilities. That's all.

TOM

That's all? That's all?! What's going on? Where have you been?

Adam sighs, pulls out a pile of POLAROIDs from inside his vest, spreads them out. He points to one - a 70's-era log mansion in a forest. It's the compound we saw at the start, only BEFORE the fence or steel reinforcements. A simple sign out front says...

FELIX

(whispers)

'Eden'.

The rest of the Polaroids show '70s hippies in lab coats pondering formulas on chalkboards and cooking chemicals in beakers. Scrawled at the bottom of each photo: *Project Flowerpot*.

TOM

Hippies?!

ADAM

Well, it took them like 40 years, but who else is gonna turn LSD into super strength?

TOM

(trying to process)

So you were...the guinea pig?

A sudden CRASH! In a flash, Adam reaches into his suit...but it's just the HOT DOG COOK dropping a pan. Felix is in AWE.

ADAM

Hey, T-Bag. A little appreciation. You don't like the upgrade?

TOM

I don't like being shot at by Men in Black. Maybe your "private biotech company" can help with that?

ADAM
Who do you think the Men in Black
are?

A beat, as they realize...

FELIX
Eden?!

CRYSTAL
The same guys you obliterated with
a tornado?

ADAM
OK. Technically I'm an ex-Edener.
And the TPX-171 I gave you was
technically the last sample of
their precious Project.

CRYSTAL
Wow. Most people just steal a few
pens on their last day.

FELIX
Can't Eden make more of the
superhero juice?

ADAM
Sure. But it might take them
another 40 years. You get why
they're pissed, yeah?

Tom is processing this...with difficulty.

TOM
Wait. You stole it.

ADAM
They owed me.

TOM
OK. But you stabbed me with it.
It's in me now.

Adam's grin freezes.

ADAM
Thought you'd be happy. I'm sensing
you're...not.

Crystal rolls her eyes. Before Tom can reply--

PING! Something flings out of the cornfield across the road. Adam flips the hot dog tray up, and the 'something' STABS into the plastic.

It's a TRANQUILIZER DART.

Felix screams.

PING! Another DART - Adam grabs Felix and uses him as a human shield. Felix goes down.

ADAM

Drop!

CHAOS. Adam flips the table over, shielding them from a hail of TRANQ DARTS from the field.

One of the Farm Workers gets hit, the other runs off. The Cook tries to shut his window, but gets hit too.

Dark shapes - Agents? - move through the tall cornstalks.

TOM

They shot Felix!

ADAM

Tranqs. They don't wanna kill us.

Adam calmly takes an ECHINACEA PILL from his vest. He swallows it casually, no water.

Adam grabs the table's metal legs - his fingers CHANGE, turning gray and hard like the metal, but still flexible.

Adam stands and strolls to the field, arms raised like a pro wrestler, and disappears inside.

CRYSTAL

You thought he was in the Peace Corps?!

A second later, the field ripples with THUDS and SMASHES as Adam's metal fists do their work. Agents go flying up into the air, then down again.

Tom digs into his fanny pack, pulls out a JOINT...but no match. He hesitates, then bites into it.

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)

Jesus, Tom! What...?

Tom coughs, gags, swallows. Crystal watches as Tom slowly turns INVISIBLE, only his clothes left 'floating' in air.

Tom runs to the field, pulling off his clothes. He hesitates at the sounds of THUDDING, WAILING coming from within the cornstalks...then steps inside.

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Swirling, disorienting green. Invisible Tom stumbles, trying to follow footsteps, shouting...but it's everywhere.

An AGENT bursts through the stalks. On a reflex, Tom sticks his leg out and trips him. Before the Agent can recover, Tom grabs his tranq gun and HITS him over the head. The Agent slumps, unconscious.

Tom's nerves morph into CONFIDENCE. He dives into the stalks and sees another AGENT running. He follows him, bobbing, weaving. The Agent looks back, but sees nothing. Tom gets closer, closer...and TACKLES him.

The confused Agent reaches for his dropped tranq gun....but Tom reaches it first, and shoots him. His hands shake with adrenalin...but he likes it...

EXT. ROADSIDE HOT DOG STAND - CONTINUOUS

Crystal watches the field ripple as the fight continues. She looks down at Felix - still knocked out.

Next to them is a dropped newspaper. On the front page she sees...HERSELF. It's her USA team portrait photo, like a smiling mugshot. The headline: *World Champ Suspect in Bar Riot Trio.*

For her, the world stops.

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Tom, full of adrenaline, follows distant shouting. He jumps over a fallen AGENT...then another....another. A trail of lifeless bodies. He slows, growing disturbed. Ahead, the shouting starts to sound like MOANING, PLEADING.

In a clearing, Adam has an AGENT in a headlock.

AGENT

Please, Lennon! Just come back! You know what he'll do to us if you don't! He's fucking crazy--

Adam snaps the Agent's neck. He hears a GASP. He looks up - nothing...until Tom suddenly becomes visible, staring at the dead Agent. Adam knows he SAW it.

ADAM

Hey. Tom.

Tom raises the tranq gun at Adam...

ADAM (CONT'D)

Bro, wait, I'm the--

...and SHOOTs...missing Adam by an inch...and hitting an AGENT sneaking up behind him.

ADAM (CONT'D)

...good guy.

Tom drops the tranq gun, his gaze still on the dead Agent.

TOM

Fuck a duck.

ADAM

Here.

Adam pulls off his jacket and throws it at Tom. Tom attempts to cover his nakedness, his hands shaking.

TOM

You're bleeding.

Adam touches a FRESH CUT on his forehead. As he does, Tom sees OLD SCARS all over Adam's bare arms.

ADAM

(catching Tom looking)

"Fuck a duck." Didn't Dad used to say that? Ha.

He gives Tom a grin that's a little too cheerful.

EXT. FOREST TRAIL - DAY

Crystal's car sits parked in this discreet off-road trail.

EXT. CAMPSITE - CONTINUOUS

Tom, Felix and Crystal sit on rotting logs around a soggy fire pit. VHOOM! Adam vomits a fireball into the pit, lighting it up...and illuminating the unkempt campsite and overgrown wilderness surrounding them.

ADAM

This was the shit, bro! Fishing?
S'mores? Remember??

CRYSTAL

(mutters)

So glad I'm an only child.

ADAM

Hey, remember when that skunk
chased you up a tree? And you got
stuck? And I had to make a harness
to get you down? Remember when you
sunk the canoe...?

Adam stops - Tom is staring into the fire, troubled.

ADAM (CONT'D)

No-one's coming after us, Tom.
Eden's kinda understaffed right
now. We're OK. OK?

TOM

OK. Now what?

ADAM

Now we chill, Miss Moody.

Tom looks at Adam's smirking face.

TOM

Nope. Now you tell me what all this
was for. You say that we're gonna
be a tag-team, like when we were
kids, and you teach me everything
you know, so we can save the whales
and the immigrants and the fucking
battered housewives of Beverly
Hills. Anything. Because then I'd
be OK with you running out after
the funeral and leaving me with Mom
for three fucking years. I'd be OK
with the guy I put in hospital. And
I might be OK with what you did
back in that field--

ADAM

Those guys were bad. Bad things
happen to bad people.

TOM

Not all the time. Dad wasn't.

Adam is taken aback, as if this wasn't part of his plan.
Felix and Crystal glance awkwardly at each other.

ADAM

That's what you want? Really?

Tom sighs, embarrassed.

TOM

I don't know what I want. I
wanna...make Mom happy. I'm only
fucking human.

ADAM

Could've just said, bro. Let's get
started.

Adam unzips his jacket, revealing his drug vest.

TOM

Like, now now? Oh.

CRYSTAL

What about us? We just hang out in
the forest till we get Lyme
Disease?

She is eyeing his drug vest. Adam smirks, waves his hands
over the vest like a game show presenter.

ADAM

Pick a vowel.

Crystal grins. Felix looks terrified.

EXT. CAMPING GROUND - NIGHT

DRUGS 'N' POWERS PARTY MONTAGE:

Tom, Crystal and Felix swallow various drugs. One by one,
their pupils dilate. Now the fun begins...

Tom controls the wind, sending up dead leaves in a tornado
around himself. From nearby, Adam shouts instructions. Tom
pushes himself harder...until leaves fly into his mouth,
gagging him. Adam cracks up.

Crystal dances around the clearing - a lazy, dreamy version of her gymnastics routine.

Felix, in early stages of delirium, waves his hands around like a suddenly-blind person...then remembers his eye patch.

Adam leaps from tree to tree like a monkey, with Tom following, trying to keep up...until a branch snaps. Tom falls, but flips himself over, landing crouched like Spiderman. Adam drops down beside him. He nods in approval. Tom grins back.

Felix and Crystal hold hands and spin in a circle. Crystal lets go and Felix goes flying.

Tom telekinetically churns the lake water, creating liquid spirals shooting into the air. Definitely improving.

Felix stares at Adam's Polaroids - the people are MOVING, TALKING in speech bubbles of gibberish, a LIVE comic book.

Crystal stares up at the sky. The stars fall around her, with streaking rainbow trails.

Tom swirls his hand over the fire pit - the flames follow, shooting into the air like a phoenix. Tom laughs, ecstatic.

Adam watches, the fire flickering in his suddenly COLD EYES. His grin has disappeared.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPING GROUND - NIGHT

Tom, leaning against a log, clutches his throbbing head. On the other side of the fire, Adam stares at the sky.

ADAM

Man. Just like old times, yeah?

TOM

Except for the excruciating headaches.

Tom looks at Felix, who is still staring at Adam's Polaroids. Above, Crystal lounges across a tree branch, smoking a joint. They are both in a blissful haze.

TOM (CONT'D)

And I can't even get high anymore.
Fuckers.

ADAM
What's the big deal?

TOM
You've never had a room-mate who
could score Tom Cruise Purple.

Crystal hears them talking, but it's hazy. She takes her
joint...and BURNS a mark into her wrist.

Tom sees Adam watching him. Maybe judging him.

TOM (CONT'D)
Mom got her real estate license.
You were off...wherever you were.
After what happened with Dad...
People looked at me like I was the
same. Like I might do the same
thing one day. The apple doesn't
fall far from the tree, right?

Crystal burns another mark, overlapping the first.

TOM
(chuckles)
College was just a bunch of rich
kids with trust funds. They weren't
gonna change the world. They
already owned it. So I started
smoking. Just a bit. Then more and
more. It just...felt good.

Adam smiles. Shadows distort his face, like he's someone
else.

ADAM
Sure. You weren't killing anybody.

Crystal burns a final mark into her wrist - five overlapping
dots...in the formation of the Olympic rings.

Tom gets another migraine attack. Adam grins.

ADAM (CONT'D)
There's a way to stop it, you know.
The pain.

Adam walks over to Felix, takes one of the Polaroids and
hands it to Tom - a photo of a BEARDED MAN in a lab coat,
like a skinny Santa Claus.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Professor Lazarus Grey.

TOM
He worked on TPX...whatever it is?

ADAM
He invented it. Which is why
Project Flowerpot was temporarily
fucked when he went off grid in the
eighties and took his formula with
him.

TOM
(getting it)
So he can cure the headaches?

ADAM
Sure. He was a smart guy. Smart
move for us too. Minimize weakness,
maximize potential.
(sees Tom consider this)
Back at the gym, I was pushing you.
And you pushed back. You're a
natural, bro.

Tom grins at this...then stops.

TOM
But he'd be old now. Maybe dead.

Adam hands Tom another Polaroid - a B&W Eden STAFF SHOT from
1978, showing about 10 smiling employees, bell-bottom pants
sticking out from beneath their lab coats.

ADAM
Track and interrogate.
(sees Tom's shock)
Ask questions. Find out who saw him
last. That's all.

A SNAP! from the forest. Tom jumps up. Adam is already on
his feet, scanning the trees. His face is TENSE.

TOM
You said Eden owed you.

ADAM
Did I?

TOM
Well...why'd you leave them?

ADAM
 Shitty cafeteria food.
 (stares into woods)
 Probably just a raccoon.

Tom stares into the darkness. He turns back, sees Adam watching him.

TOM
 What?

ADAM
 Not too late, you know. You can
 still go back to your little store.

TOM
 They'd find me there. They could
 probably find me anywhere.

ADAM
 (nods, apologetic)
 I should've asked first. But you
 always had more in you than people
 thought. I thought this could be
 your chance...to...

Adam shrugs. Tom sees disappointment on his face.

TOM
 Who do we interrogate first?

Adam grins.

FELIX
Her.

Felix, wide-eyed, holds a Polaroid showing Lazarus Grey in a lab, lost in his work. In the background is a DOWDY LADY taking notes, eyes locked on Lazarus. She's ENTRANCED.

FELIX (CONT'D)
 Can't you see? It's in the eyes?
 Like... Catwoman and Batman. Jean
 Grey and Cyclops--

Adam grabs the staff photo, and finds Dowdy Lady in the group - handwritten beneath is her name: 'Eunice Entwistle'.

ADAM
 (reading)
 'Eunice Entwistle'. Can't be too
 many of them in the *Yellow Pages*.
 (to Felix)

Nice work, Fred.

FELIX
(mutters)
'Felix'.

A WHOOSH behind them as Crystal jumps down from the tree.

TOM
You OK, Crystal?

She stares at them - her eyes are red, glassy.

CRYSTAL
(chuckling)
There's my hero. Like clockwork.

She balances on a log like a gymnastic beam, hums a tune softly.

FELIX
Actually, I don't feel too good...

TOM
(to Crystal)
You've had a lot. Just don't want
you hurting yourself.

CRYSTAL
Why are you always thinking of
other people, Tom? This is your
show now.

Tom doesn't know what to say.

FELIX
Ohh. I really do feel sick, guys...

CRYSTAL
Tom'll save you. He'll save the
whole fucking world if it makes his
mommy love him more.

She laughs. Tom sees Adam smirk. Tom is humiliated.

TOM
Did you love your dad more after he
bought you that Ferrari?

She looks at Tom. Beneath her glazed eyes, something BURNS.

CRYSTAL
It's a Maserati, Superboy. And it
only sleeps one. Sweet dreams.

She flicks her used joint at Adam, then walks off, as Tom watches.

ADAM
I like her. And I hate goths.

Felix PUKES.

EXT. DIRT TRAIL - NIGHT

Crystal walks to her car, the road ahead lit by moonlight.

Suddenly, instinctively, Crystal hurdles into a cartwheel, then a series of flawless backflips down the trail. It is effortless, revealing a lifetime of training, dedication.

She finishes in a full-twisting somersault, perfect landing. Then...she lets herself fall to her knees.

CRYSTAL
Oops.

She gets in her car and slams the door.

EXT. DIRT TRAIL - CONTINUOUS

Felix pukes in a grove of trees. He senses something, looks up. Through the trees, a HOODED FACE stares back.

INT. CRYSTAL'S CAR - NIGHT

Crystal pulls out a car cellphone charger from the glovebox. As soon as she plugs it in, her phone rings.

CRYSTAL
(surprised, into phone)
Dad...

CRYSTAL'S DAD (V.O)
(over phone)
Crys! I've been calling all day!
Where are you? You realize how much
training you've missed?

CRYSTAL

I quit, Dad. You were there.

CRYSTAL'S DAD (V.O)

Sweetie, I'm mad too. That wasn't you. You don't fall on a damn B skill. You don't place twelfth. Not after all these years. I mean... where was your head at up there?

(hearing Crystal's silence)

And this...rebel-girl attitude you've picked up...you're only hurting yourself. Your legacy.

CRYSTAL

And your point...?

CRYSTAL'S DAD (V.O)

You're not the only one who's made sacrifices. Those were my years spent too. My money. Because I know what you have in you.

CRYSTAL

I started a riot, Dad. Haven't you seen the news?

CRYSTAL'S DAD (V.O)

Forget that. I'm making a very large donation to a veterans' fund. It'll disappear.

CRYSTAL

(a beat)

That's my dad.

CRYSTAL'S DAD (V.O)

Crys. Wherever you are, get home. Now. Because every day wasted is another sponsor who won't sign a check. Four more years. This is what you're worked for. What you're meant to do. What could possibly be more important?

Crystal glances into the open glovebox...at the NEWSPAPER ARTICLE about her, folded inside.

CRYSTAL

Roadtrips. Campfires.

(laughing)

Bit of the ol' ganja. Don't worry, I'll send you a polaroid.

She turns the phone off, chuckling. From the glovebox, she pulls out several empty LIP GLOSS TUBS, shaped like mini cupcakes. She has an idea.

EXT. CAMPING GROUND - NIGHT

Moonlight on the still lake.

Tom watches Felix sleep peacefully.

The drawstrings of Felix's hoodie TIGHTEN, as if by unseen hands...or telekinesis. Felix wakes, gasping for air. Tom's face, in the firelight, twists into an evil grin.

SNAP! Felix's neck breaks.

Prescott stands across the fire, smiling at Tom.

EXT. CAMPING GROUND - CONTINUOUS

Tom gasps awake from the dream. Felix sleeps nearby. But Adam has GONE.

EXT. CAMPING GROUND - CONTINUOUS

Tom creeps through trees towards a FIERY GLOW...and the sound of GRUNTING. He reaches a grove...to see...

...Adam, before a small fire, shirtless and covered in CUTS and BRUISES from the fight, and old scars. He shakily draws LIQUID from a spoon into a SYRINGE. Heroin.

His forearm is covered in knotty, healed-over TRACK MARKS. Desperately, he stabs the syringe in....and sighs.

His bruises FADE. His forehead gash SEALS UP, leaving behind twisted scar tissue to match the rest. The injection spot KNOTS OVER. He is healed...yet forever damaged.

Adam closes his eyes. The syringe drops to the ground.

EXT. CAMPING GROUND - DAY

Morning. Tom wakes at the fire pit. Adam is staring at him.

ADAM
How'd you sleep, partner?

TOM
(forced smile)
Fine.

Tom sits up. Adam keeps staring, as if he knows something.

TOM (CONT'D)
So. We should get going. Find this
cure thing.

ADAM
Eager beaver.

TOM
Just wanna maximize my potential.
Right?

He gives a reassuring grin. Adam chuckles, turns at Felix, who is sitting on a log, clutching the Polaroids tensely.

ADAM
You heard the man, Fred. On your
feet.

FELIX
(harsh)
It's 'Felix'.

Adam raises an eyebrow. Felix shrinks back.

TOM
You OK, Felix?

FELIX
Just didn't sleep much.

ADAM
Too bad. I slept like a rock.
(walks off, whistling)
Where's our chauffeur?

INT. CRYSTAL'S CAR - DAY

Crystal drives, with Tom shotgun, using a *Yellow Pages* app on Crystal's phone. In back, Felix reads his *Cosmo Boyd* comic. Adam hums...but he scans the surrounding fields tensely.

ADAM
Thank fuck one of you has a phone.

FELIX
 (to Adam, frustrated)
 Can't you just teleport us there?

ADAM
 Teleport? I wish. What do you think
 this is, a comic book?

FELIX
 But...? Tom...?

Tom glances at Adam...then shrugs discreetly at Felix. Felix grits his teeth, but keeps quiet.

TOM
 (to Crystal)
 Hey. About last night--

CRYSTAL
 If you say sorry, then I'll have to
 say sorry. And I'm allergic.

She tosses something over to Tom - it's a BRACELET made from her cupcake lip gloss tubs, strung with elastic. The pink cupcakes have been repainted with nail polish, turning them into GRENADES. *An apology.*

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)
 For your pills. So, throw that
 fanny pack out the window and stop
 embarrassing us.

Tom meets Adam's eyes in the mirror - a hint of surprise.

TOM
 (puts bracelet on his wrist)
 It's cool. Really cool. Thanks.

Crystal shrugs, uncomfortable with the praise.

The sun gets in Tom's eyes. He flips the vizor down...and the newspaper article about Crystal slides out. Tom reads the headline...sees Crystal's photo...

He looks at her. She avoids his eyes...but her hands clench the wheel tightly--

BLEEP! Everyone turns - it's a HIGHWAY COP, lights flashing.

Tom and Crystal exchange a look. Felix begins to sob.

ADAM
It's cool. Pull over.

TOM
But...we can't--

ADAM
Yeah, we can.

TOM (CONT'D)
Adam, the cops ID'd Crystal! They
probably tracked the cellphone--

ADAM
OK. So. What are we gonna do?

Everyone's eyes are suddenly on Tom.

A beat...then he unzips his fanny pack.

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Crystal pulls over.

The Highway Cop stops behind. Silence. He approaches the car, hand on holster.

HIGHWAY COP
Outta the car!

No response. The wind picks up. Highway Cop glances around, then draws his gun and points it at the car.

HIGHWAY COP (CONT'D)
I said, outta the car! Now!--

A swirling WIND VORTEX suddenly surrounds them, rocking the car side to side. Highway Cop, shocked, SHOOTS a bullet that shatters the windshield...before he is whisked into the air and thrown 20 feet away into the field.

The wind dies suddenly, the dust settles.

INTERCUT BETWEEN CAR AND ROAD:

Inside, everyone stares out the shattered back windshield at the lifeless Highway Cop.

ADAM
Not bad.

FELIX
(mid-sob)
Is he...?

Highway Cop stirs. Tom sighs in relief.

Adam rolls his eyes, pulls out a PILL, swallows it.

TOM
Everyone OK?

CRYSTAL
(re: broken windscreen)
My dad's gonna be so pissed.
(beat)
I'm great.

TOM
Adam?

Adam, eyes closed, is whispering to himself.

FELIX
Oh, frickin' shit...look!

Highway Cop crawls towards his dropped GUN.

Above, a distant HAWK CRY echoes.

TOM
Uh...Adam...?

Adam's eyes are still closed.

FELIX
Run him over!

TOM
I'm not killing anyone!

Another hawk cry, CLOSER. Highway Cop reaches his gun...

TOM (CONT'D)
Adam!

Adam opens his eyes...just as an ear-splitting SHRIEK echoes above. Highway Cop looks up...

...and a GIANT HAWK divebombs him, tearing out his eyes, hammering its beak into his skull.

ADAM
We're free to go.

Crystal floors it, leaving the hawk tearing into the Cop.

ADAM
(laughing)
Little piggy lost his peepers.

TOM
Adam?! What the fuck...?!

ADAM
DMT. Controls animals.

TOM
That bird's gonna tear his brains
out!

ADAM
You rather be in jail? How're you
gonna save the world from there?
It's easier this way. Trust me.

Tom looks at Crystal. She is shocked...but relieved. Tom
realizes HE is also relieved.

FELIX
Tom, you're bleeding.

Blood is dripping from Tom's ears. Tom panics, looks at Adam
and sees FEAR in his eyes...then Adam smiles it away.

ADAM
Fuck a duck. Anyone got a napkin?

EXT. EUNICE ENTWISTLE'S HOUSE - DAY

EUNICE ENTWISTLE, older, frailer and dowdier in the flesh,
delicately waters a sad patch of petunias in her garden.

A SHADOW falls over her.

ADAM (O/S)
Mrs Entwistle?

Eunice looks up at Adam and Tom - he has a TAMPON stuck in
his ear. He remembers, quickly yanks it out. Crystal and
Felix, watching from the car on the curb, shake their heads.

EUNICE
Ms, young man. Eunice. Who are you?

ADAM
 I'm Professor Grey's son. He's
 dead. Thought you should know.

Eunice processes this...and faints into the petunia patch.

INT. EUNICE ENTWISTLE'S HOUSE - DAY

Eunice sits on a sofa, trembling. Adam sits across from her, tapping his foot impatiently.

Tom stands by the dusty mantelpiece, fiddling with his grenade bracelet. He sneezes from the dust.

EUNICE
 I always knew he'd be a wonderful
 father.

ADAM
 So wonderful I can't even tell you.
 Unfortunately we lost contact
 before he died, so I'm looking for
 his last known address. To sort out
 his estate.

Eunice sees Tom looking at a framed photo of Lazarus Grey.

EUNICE
 Handsome, isn't he?

TOM
 Yeah. Like a nice old wizard.

EUNICE
 (doubtfully, to Adam)
 I...suppose there's...some
 resemblance.

ADAM
 30 years is a long time, ma'am--

EUNICE
 You think I'd forget my Lazarus?!
 My...wizard. Oh. His mind... Oh.

Adam sighs impatiently. Tom sneezes again.

EUNICE (CONT'D)
That's why I thought they had
gotten rid of him.

TOM
(glancing at Adam)
You mean Eden?

Eunice nods softly.

TOM (CONT'D)
But wasn't the the guru of Project
Flowerpot? TPX...?

EUNICE
How did you know about his potion?

Tom sees Adam tense--

EUNICE (CONT'D)
Oh, what does it matter? His work,
gone. His good intentions, gone.

Tom sits next to Eunice. She sighs painfully.

EUNICE (CONT'D)
He was...too soft, you see. Too
compassionate for war. Seeing those
men maimed, minds destroyed,
children traumatized...he wanted to
help. To heal. That was Project
Flowerpot, his potion. How, I don't
know - I was just a secretary. But
when testing began, there were...
unexpected results. Terrible...

Eunice's hands shake. Tom sees Adam's shocked face - this is
news to him too.

ADAM
Unexpected...?
(Eunice shudders)
Eunice, my father would want you--

EUNICE
Don't you come to me now, telling
me what he wanted! How dare you!
After what I've done!

Eunice hobbles to the mantelpiece, grasps the photo frame.

ADAM

It was you. You gave the samples
back to Eden.

Tom sees Adam's face HARDEN. As if another person has
stepped into his skin.

EUNICE

He sent them to me. Two tiny vials,
with a letter. And...a can of soda.
Strange. I never understood that
part. But he said he'd come back,
so I kept them safe.

(clutches photo to chest)

Every day I waited for him to walk
through that door. Every year.
Where is my wizard? Why won't he
save me? Now I know. I was just a
silly old lady keeping his secrets.

TOM

You never saw him again?

EUNICE

He wanted to save the world.
Perhaps I was just too small--

ADAM

Do you still have the letter?

Eunice, broken from her sorrow, removes the back of the
photo frame and takes out an ENVELOPE. She gives it to Adam
as if she can't bear to look at it...then grabs his hands.

EUNICE

If only I could see him again...

ADAM

And what would you say, Eunice?

EUNICE

"Forgive me. For giving away your
magic. Forgetting what you are."

She caresses Adam's face. Adam smiles and touches her hand.

EUNICE (CONT'D)

There you are. In the eyes. I see
you now...my wizard...

ADAM

Here I am.

Tom is disturbed - this is now a very DIFFERENT Adam.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Tom, I think Eunice needs some tea
to calm her nerves. You mind?

TOM

Oh. Sure.

Tom heads for what he assumes is the kitchen, hearing...

EUNICE (O/S)

Such a good man, you are, Lazarus.
I always knew...

INT. KITCHEN - EUNICE ENTWISTLE'S HOUSE - DAY

Tom opens a cupboard, looking for tea. Hidden at the back is
a retro-looking red SODA CAN - the label reads *Tiger Red*.
The SAME soda that gave Cosmo Boyd his powers in the comic.

Tom is amazed. He takes it delicately, like a rare artifact.
He hesitates, then puts it in his fanny pack.

A soft GAGGING noise comes from the living room...

INT. EUNICE ENTWISTLE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Tom enters the living room...as Eunice floats in the air,
being telekinetically strangled by Adam with her own shawl.

Adam turns to Tom. We have seen slivers of this 'Adam' -
cold, blank, hard. But here he is, in the flesh. His eyes,
like those of a stranger, seem to dare Tom.

ADAM

Got that tea, bro? Eunice is dying
of thirst here.

Something ignites within Tom. He runs at Adam...only to be
telekinetically flipped, crashing into the mantelpiece.

Tom pulls himself up, grabs a pill from his fanny pack,
swallows it.

TOM

Adam, stop! Please!

ADAM

Just be a minute.

TOM
Fucking stop!

Tom vomits a FIREBALL directly at Adam. Adam turns, stares at the fireball...and it stops, held in mid-air.

ADAM
Don't waste your stash.

Eunice drops to the couch, dead.

TOM
Adam... Why...?

ADAM
Told you. Bad things happen to bad people. Like nosy old bitches who can't keep secrets.

A hint of a smile on Adam's lips. He spins Lazarus' letter in his fingers.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Aw, don't be such a bleeding heart.
We've got a wizard to track.
(patting his vest)
Hope I've got enough Morning Glory.

His floating fireball evaporates. Adam walks out.

Tom looks down at the photo of Lazarus Grey, now shattered.

INT. CRYSTAL'S CAR - DAY

As Crystal drives...

Adam, in the back, holds the letter, his eyes closed in concentration. Tom, riding shotgun, watches him like a hawk.

Crystal and Felix definitely feel the tension.

ADAM
Turn off here.

Crystal pulls off the main road onto a side road - dusty plains stretch on both sides. There is nothing alive here.

CRYSTAL
When do I stop?

ADAM
When I tell you to.

Crystal glances at Tom. She sees his fingers discreetly filling each grenade on his bracelet with pills from the fanny pack.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Bro, you gotta try Morning Glory.
It's like...lines...all over...

TOM
Uh-huh.

ADAM
...spiderwebs...everywhere Lazarus
has been...trails...paths...
(chuckling)
...funny, huh...everywhere we've
gone, everything we've done...it's
still here...overlapping again and
again...repeating--
(cuts off, abrupt)
Turn left.

CRYSTAL
But there's no turnoff.

ADAM
Who's tracking a 30-year-old
letter? Me. And I say turn off.

INTERCUT BETWEEN DIRT PLAINS AND CAR

Crystal mutters, turns off onto the dirt plains.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Keep going. Keep going.

Crystal keeps driving - the plains stretch on endlessly.
Out the window, Felix sees a TELEGRAPH TOWER approaching.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Keep going.

They pass the telegraph tower. Felix gasps.

FELIX
Stop!

ADAM
Hey! What did I say?!

FELIX
Stop!

Crystal brakes. The dust clears...

They are inches away from the edge of a cliff.

Tom get out of the car. He hesitantly steps to the edge and looks down at a FOREST below.

CUT TO:

EXT. CLIFF EDGE - TOM'S DREAM SEQUENCE

A telegraph tower on a cliff. A forest below.

Tom falling over the edge. Above, the Shadow Man watching. His face is revealed - it's Adam.

CUT TO:

EXT. CLIFF EDGE - DAY

Tom turns to Felix, confused.

TOM
How'd you know?

Felix holds up the last page of the *Cosmo Boyd* comic, showing the Wizard's Lair - the telegraph pole and cliff edge are nearly identical.

CRYSTAL
So where's this Lazarus dude?

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Adam leads them through the trees beneath the cliff. He is unusually tense, driven, his laid-back 'bro-ness' gone.

Tom follows behind, with Felix and Crystal behind him.

ADAM
Remember when we'd hide in the
woods behind the old house, bro?
When Dad was in one of his moods?
Sometimes all night. Just waiting.

He chuckles - it's forced. Tom keeps a hand on his grenade bracelet, ready.

ADAM (CONT'D)
 You know, power's like a drug.
 Messes you up, if you can't handle
 the high. Gets people hurt. Like
 that family in the station wagon.

Tom flinches. Adam's face isn't visible, but his voice is heavy.

ADAM (CONT'D)
 I mean, what if the apple
 really doesn't fall far from the
 tree? What if you are like Dad?

Adam turns sharply, his gaze pinning Tom. Tom's hand tightens on his bracelet.

ADAM (CONT'D)
 He might as well have put his gun
 to their heads. All four of them.

Tom suddenly sees CONCERN in Adam's eyes. FEAR...for Tom. As if it was always there.

TOM
 (tense)
 I'm not Dad--

FELIX (O/S)
 Holy. Frickin'. Shit.

Felix pushes past, looking up. Above is a GLASS HOUSE built under the cliff edge...just like in the *Cosmo Boyd* comic he is holding open in his hands.

FELIX (CONT'D)
 The Wizard's Lair!

VHOOM! A hidden net suddenly rises. Adam dives away, but Tom, Felix, and Crystal are ensnared and hoisted into the air.

Tom fumbles for a pill from his bracelet...but drops it.

CRYSTAL
 Look!

A white-bearded OLD MAN hobbles through the trees, in a matching hoodie tracksuit, like a hipster wizard. PROFESSOR LAZARUS GREY. He inspects them, cracking a gruff smile.

LAZARUS GREY
Protein for supper. My lucky day.

BOOM! A FIREBALL lands at his feet - it's Adam, a few feet away. Lazarus' surprise fades.

LAZARUS GREY (CONT'D)
Huh. Guess my humor's rusty.

TOM
You're Lazarus Grey, aren't you?

LAZARUS GREY
Who wants to know?

A SHAGGY DOG appears on a rock ledge above, barking.

LAZARUS GREY (CONT'D)
Calm down, Cosmo, boy!

FELIX
"Cosmo, Boy." "Cosmo...Boy...d."
Cosmo Boyd?!

LAZARUS GREY
(startled)
That's a...blast from the past.

He unhooks a hidden rope from a tree...and the net crashes to the floor. Tom, Felix, and Crystal groan.

LAZARUS GREY (CONT'D)
Huh. Should've tested that.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LAZARUS GREY'S HOUSE - DAY

Tom, Felix, Crystal sit in Lazarus' living room - an enormous cavern in the cliffside. Above, wood beams cross the room at odd angles. Carved doorways lead into other rooms, and an oak staircase ascends to a curved balcony overlooking the room. Everything is natural, handcarved...

...except for a wall of glass overlooking the forest, where Lazarus looks out. Adam sits opposite, with a cold glare.

ADAM
The Great and Powerful Wizard of
Eden. Hiding like a mouse.

Lazarus chuckles, grabs a WHISKEY BOTTLE from a drinks cart and takes a long swig.

This man is NO wizard. Not anymore.

LAZARUS GREY
So. What'd you think of my story?

FELIX
Cheesy. Camp. Eighties. I loved it.

TOM
And it's true?

LAZARUS GREY
True enough. A memoir of another time. Back then, it was all so different. It was...magic. So thick you could reach out and run your fingers through it. Everything was easier, but meant more...and good intentions were enough to hold onto it. Not now.
(clearing throat)
But you didn't come here to talk about comics.

Lazarus takes another swig, drops the bottle back on the cart. Among the other (empty) bottles, Tom is shocked to see a can of TIGER RED SODA.

LAZARUS GREY (CONT'D)
(to Adam)
You're their guinea pig, eh?

TOM
We are.

LAZARUS GREY
(turns to Tom)
Two of you? Well. She kept my secret long enough, I suppose.

He crumples into a chair, where Cosmo (the dog) dozes.

TOM
Why didn't you go back for her?

LAZARUS GREY
Silly woman. Why else did I shut myself away in this cave, but to protect her, my work, from Eden and their twisted...
(sighs)
The line of history always overlaps, in the end. Power corrupts--

ADAM

Yeah, we know. You're the good guy helping Vietnam vets or whatever.

LAZARUS GREY

I wanted them to help themselves, boy. That's what Lazarene was for.

Confused faces all around.

LAZARUS GREY (CONT'D)

Lazarene. My Project Flowerpot. My tricky amino acid. My life's work.

ADAM

TPX-171?

Even Adam looks confused now. Lazarus scoffs.

LAZARUS GREY (CONT'D)

Is that what they're calling it?
Bet those lab rats still haven't figured out how it works. Morons.
(sighing)
You two, hold hands.

Confused, Felix and Crystal hold Lazarus' hands, forming a line. Adam rolls his eyes, walks over to the window.

LAZARUS GREY (CONT'D)

Presto! A string of amino acids, children. A protein. At the core of every human function. Limited possibilities. Boring. Tom, up.

Tom, at the end, stands to face the human protein 'string'.

Lazarus grabs one of Felix and Crystal's hands and links them with Tom's, creating a 'web' of arms instead of a single chain. He adds his own hands back in.

LAZARUS GREY (CONT'D)

Tom is Lazarene, my custom-made amino acid. And he has just tricked each of us into bonding with him by mimicking the positive or negative charge that attracts us. The string is now a web. A new combination of amino acids to re-interpret the chemical make-up of herbs as they enter the body.

Lazarus waits eagerly for their reaction...

FELIX
I don't get it.

Lazarus laughs. There is now a TWINKLE in his eyes.

LAZARUS GREY
Easy! Amino acids that would never touch are now linked. Like distant cousins at a wedding...who are now the ones being wed.

CRYSTAL
Ew.

Lazarus claps with the energy of an science teacher who's come out of retirement.

LAZARUS GREY
No, it's...magic. It's...

TOM
Like a *Mad Magazine* fold-in.

LAZARUS GREY
(surprised)
Exactly! An ordinary picture... until you fold it, make it something different. A new protein. One that could regenerate limbs, heal wounds, stabilize chemical imbalances in the brain, turn cellular waste back into fuel. Just think. Injuries. Hunger. Mental illness. All eradicated from the world by a bunch of hippie herbs.

Tom sees what Eunice meant - Lazarus' passion IS his 'magic'. Even Adam has turned to watch the show.

TOM
But something happened. Eunice said.

Lazarus suddenly sighs, and his 'spark' fizzles.

LAZARUS GREY
Oh, there were new proteins. New interpretations. And they woke... something deeper--

A FLOCK OF BIRDS flies past the glass, making them jump. Cosmo BARKS. Adam scans the forest - there is nothing.

Lazarus slumps into his chair, and pats Cosmo.

ADAM

Great story no-one asked for,
Gramps. Let's talk about a cure.

Lazarus is confused. Adam stares back. Tom steps forward.

TOM

For the side-effects--

ADAM

Nope. We came here for the cure. We
want this fucking poison out. For
good.

TOM

Adam...what...?

Adam pulls out a handful of NEW POLAROIDs from his vest -
ones no-one has seen. He shoves them in Lazarus' face.
Lazarus' mouth tightens.

ADAM

See that red stuff? It's blood.
Those body-shaped things? Bodies.
People Eden wanted dead. There's
your precious amino acid at work.

LAZARUS GREY

(sighing)

You think I wanted that? I made
Lazarene to help people. Eden
wanted to turn them into living,
breathing weapons.

FELIX

(awed)

A superjacked army...

LAZARUS GREY

Why else do you think I went
underground with my formula?

CRYSTAL

Then how did Eden get it back?

ADAM

The Wizard broke an old lady's
heart. She sent her revenge back
via UPS.

Lazarus gives him a sad smile.

LAZARUS GREY
I'm not a wizard. Never was.

ADAM
Well, you don't wanna break my
heart either.

TOM
Adam...stop--

ADAM
Shut up, Tom--

TOM
You shut up! You're crazy! You're
just a...a fucking junkie.

Adam turns to Tom, shocked.

TOM (CONT'D)
Yeah. I saw you.

ADAM
Why do you think I'm still alive,
Tom? In one piece? After what I've
done...?
(softer)
Do you wanna end up like me? Like
Dad?

Tom opens his mouth--

ADAM (CONT'D)
Yeah, he was, Tom. A pig in a
uniform who couldn't handle the
power of his little badge. He
killed people--

TOM
You killed Eunice.

Lazarus tenses in shock. Cosmo jumps from Lazarus' lap and
goes to the window.

ADAM
That's what it does! The power...it
twists you up, turns you into
something else...something...wrong.
You're gonna do things...and your
mind's gonna scream at you to
stop...but you can't...

Cosmo BARKS at something outside. Felix goes to comfort him.

LAZARUS GREY
(getting up, angry)
What did you do to Eunice...?

ADAM
I'd be fucking normal if that old
bitch hadn't given your magic back!
And I'm sick of patching myself up!
I'm sick of running! Because they
won't stop, Tom! Prescott will
never stop!

Adam's eyes are wide with FEAR - he is scared of Prescott.

Cosmo keeps BARKING, despite Felix's petting.

Tom shakes his head, trying to shut out the noise, trying to ignore what Adam's saying...

Lazarus grabs Adam--

LAZARUS GREY
What did you do to Eunice?!

Cosmo's barking gets LOUDER...more FRANTIC...

Adam pushes Lazarus back down...

A SHADOW moves at the window...and Crystal is the only one who notices--

Adam grabs Tom and shakes him--

ADAM
You're not special, Tom! You're
just the same--

SMASH! A HOODED AGENT swings through the glass. All of a sudden, there's screaming CHAOS--

Adam reacts instantly, slicing through the Agent's zipline with a glass shard, and kicking him out the window.

A look of fear shoots between Adam and Tom - *this is FUCKING BAD.*

ADAM
Keep him safe!

Adam swallows a pill just as...SMASH! More Agents crash through the glass and advance on Adam.

Felix grabs Cosmo and runs into one of the doorways.

Tom yanks Lazarus up and drags him to the staircase.

LAZARUS GREY
Boy, wait, listen--

TOM
Later!

Crystal jumps onto a wooden beam above...as AGENT #2 shoots at her with his semi-automatic. Crystal leaps from beam to beam, dodging bullets, weaving like a monkey in a zoo...

Agent #2 locks her in target...but ZZZPPPTTT! Adam shocks Agent #2 with his taser hand. Crystal jumps onto the balcony and into an upstairs bedroom.

Tom drags Lazarus up the stairs, narrowly avoiding a TRANQ DART by AGENT #3 at the base of the stairs.

ZZZPPPTTT! Agent #3 is tazered by Adam, hits the floor. Tom turns, sees guilt all over Adam's face. He's fucked up, and he KNOWS IT. It's gone in a split-second as Adam turns and tasers AGENT #4.

He flips the wooden bench to avoid a hail of darts, slams the bench into a recovering Agent #2, then swings it into AGENT #5 just before he shoots.

INT. BEDROOM - LAZARUS GREY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Crystal searches for a weapon - nothing...except a giant GLASS BONG on a nightstand.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LAZARUS GREY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Tom drags Lazarus to the top of the stairs, and pulls out a random pill from his bracelet--

LAZARUS GREY
Boy, just leave me!

TOM
If you think I've come all this way to not save someone, you've done way too many magic mushrooms--

LAZARUS GREY
I'm saving you, boy! You can still get out! Before it gets you! Because it always does! I know, I was the first... should've been the last...

Tom sees guilt in Lazarus's eyes, even DEEPER than Adam's.

LAZARUS GREY (CONT'D)
Everything overlaps...that's how I
wrote it--

BAM! Below, AGENT #3 shoots a BULLET clean through Lazarus' chest. Lazarus' desperate gaze freezes...his fingers pull at Tom's grenade bracelet...and it breaks. Tiny grenades fall, scattering pills everywhere. Lazarus falls down the stairs.

To Tom, the world slows, as if he's underwater. Agent #3 points his gun at him. Tom drops to his knees, as if waiting for the shot.

SNAP! Adam appears behind Agent #3 and breaks his neck.

More Agents swoop through the window. Adam flies at them, smashing, kicking, tasing.

Tom tries to focus. He hears Adam shouting his name...pulling him back from his daze...

AGENT #6 jumps off the wooden beams onto the balcony. He creeps down the hallway...

DING-DING-A-LING! A cellphone rings beyond the bedroom door.

INT. BEDROOM - LAZARUS GREY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Crystal swears, quickly turns off her cellphone.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LAZARUS GREY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Agent #6 grins. He kicks the door in and steps inside...

INT. BEDROOM - LAZARUS GREY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

...as Crystal bounces off the bed and IMPALES Agent #6 in the head with the glass bong.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LAZARUS GREY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Tom scoops up his fallen pills...and swallows ALL OF THEM.

Adam fights off multiple Agents with growing desperation, his body seizing up. He tasers the last Agent...then falls to his knees. He looks up to the top of the stairs...

ADAM

Tom...?

...where Tom convulses with overlapping powers, as if they're attacking his body for dominance...literally OD'ing on superpowers. It's too much...and he topples down the stairs. Adam runs over.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Tom! Can you hear me?

No response. Adam pulls out his WHITE POWDER VIAL - heroin - there's barely any left. He dumps it into Tom's mouth.

He waits...and waits. But it's taking too long--

ADAM (CONT'D)

No, no, no, no! Tom, I'm sorry!--

Tom GASPS back to consciousness.

TOM

Mom...

Adam sighs in relief. He quickly wipes away tears.

ADAM

Oughta beat the shit outta you,
bro.

TOM

Is it over?

Sudden RAPID GUNFIRE! Adam dives on Tom, shielding him.

INT. BEDROOM - LAZARUS GREY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Crystal stares at her hands - covered in Agent #6's blood. She jumps at the sudden gunfire.

INT. HALLWAY - LAZARUS GREY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Felix, hiding in a rock-hewn cupboard, covers Cosmo's ears.

INT. KITCHEN - LAZARUS GREY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Adam drags Tom through to the rudimentary kitchen, behind a large stone bench.

Silence. No-one breathes. Then...

CRUNCH! Footsteps on glass in the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LAZARUS GREY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

A flash of SUPERHERO SOCKS as a Man in black shoes walks around the living room, stepping over dead Agents.

He raises his hands and begins a slow clap - it's Prescott.

INT. BEDROOM - LAZARUS GREY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Crystal hears the clapping as she searches through a drawer. She finds a faded roll of candy, a relic of the seventies. The label reads: *Velamints - with REAL peppermint.*

Crystal's mind races...then she grins.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LAZARUS GREY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

PRESCOTT

I've always loved a nice bullet spray. So much destruction in every squeeze. Close enough to a superpower.

He shoots another hail of bullets.

PRESCOTT (CONT'D)

See? I could do that all day.

INT. KITCHEN - LAZARUS GREY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Tom looks at Adam - his face is pale, his hands shaking.

ADAM

I was a dishwasher, bro.

TOM

Huh?

ADAM

In their cafeteria. That's where I went after the funeral. To work my way up, like a bigshot. Redeem the family. Even thought I was hand-picked for Flowerpot.

(chuckles)

They just needed a monkey for some mystery serum that came in the

mail. They wanted 'things' done.
And I did them. Bad things. And it
got easier...

TOM
Why'd you give it to me?

ADAM
Lazarus was my only chance. I
needed help. Firepower. Brains. You
went to college. You were trying to
make good too, weren't you?
(ashamed)
Didn't mean for you to kill anyone.
I just wanted to be normal again.
And I ended up just like Dad.

Tom looks down...and sees BLOOD leaking from Adam's side...

INT. LIVING ROOM - LAZARUS GREY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Prescott stops at Lazarus' body, nudges it with a foot.

PRESCOTT
Had to take your formula to the
grave, didn't you, Grey? Damn
hippies. You never think long-term.

INT. KITCHEN - LAZARUS GREY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Adam's side is ripped open by Prescott's bullet spray...

TOM
Shit. Adam...

ADAM
We would've been a sick team,
though. Would've made it worth it.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LAZARUS GREY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Prescott spins on his heel, shooting bullets over the house.

INT. KITCHEN - LAZARUS GREY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Tom flinches as bullets whiz by. He turns - Adam has
disappeared...leaving a blood trail back to the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LAZARUS GREY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Prescott shoots off bullets, then freezes - Adam stands in the doorway.

ADAM

I'll come. Just...stop.

Adam shuffles in to face Prescott, who notices the blood.

PRESCOTT

Where's that annoying smirk, Agent Lennon? Real life got you down?

ADAM

Just leave them. Please.

PRESCOTT

They're wanted criminals. Though I've got a soft spot for the little pirate - he offered to wear a tracker, so we'd know exactly where you ended up.

(calling out)

Thanks, Jack Sparrow.

INT. HALLWAY - LAZARUS GREY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Felix shamefully buries his face in Cosmo's fur.

INT. KITCHEN - LAZARUS GREY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Tom hears this...and his anger BUILDS...

INT. LIVING ROOM - LAZARUS GREY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

ADAM

Take me. I'll show you where it is.

PRESCOTT

You really are a dumb jock.

Prescott unloads a hail of bullets into Adam.

INT. KITCHEN - LAZARUS GREY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Tom leaps up, runs from the kitchen...

INT. LIVING ROOM - LAZARUS GREY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

...and sees Adam's body fall in a heap before Prescott.

Prescott points his gun at Tom.

PRESCOTT

Bingo.

Tom looks at him, tears welling in his eyes. Prescott hesitates, then lowers the gun slightly.

Tom kneels quickly next to Adam - he is barely breathing.

TOM

Where's the heroin? Let me heal you...

ADAM

All gone, bro. Ha.

Tom realizes where it went - on HIM. He grabs Adam's hand. Adam coughs, splutters blood across his grinning lips.

ADAM (CONT'D)

You know...some days I got...real jealous. You in that stupid store. I thought...Tom's...got it made...

He stops breathing. His hand goes slack.

PRESCOTT

Aw. My condolences. But he was an HR nightmare. So we let him pass on TPX-171 to his own replacement. Save us the trouble. And I think he made a pretty good choice.

Tom keeps staring at Adam's lifeless body.

PRESCOTT (CONT'D)

(calling out)

Yoo-hoo? You can come out now. Though, I really don't mind hunting you down.

Crystal emerges from the bedroom. Felix slinks into the living room, holding Cosmo.

Tom wipes away tears, and sees Prescott staring at him.

PRESCOTT (CONT'D)

What does it feel like, Tom? God,
all my life I've wondered. Having
something like that inside. Feeling
special. Invincible. Never fearing
a dark alley...or a school
hallway...

(softer)

...a family...a father...who just
doesn't...'get' you.

A flash of pain...then Prescott grins it away.

PRESCOTT (CONT'D)

Well? What's it like?

TOM

You had the serum. You could've
taken it.

(beat)

Maybe you're just a fucking pussy.

Prescott holds his gaze - it is true?

Crystal and Felix stand before him. Prescott snatches the
Cosmo Boyd comic from Felix, then motions him and Crystal to
the window with his gun. Felix GASPS.

PRESCOTT

Scared of heights, Jack?

CRYSTAL

Wait. Can't I say goodbye?

Prescott chuckles, considers, and nods.

Crystal looks at Tom. Her eyes seem to...smile?

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)

From one junkie to another...

She parts her lips...revealing a VELAMINT on her tongue. She
pulls him in and KISSES him deeply.

The Velamint moves from Crystal's mouth to Tom's...and we
ZOOM inside Tom, following the mint down his throat, as it
dissolves instantly into tiny peppermint granules, sliding
through his tissue, into his cells...

...and we see Lazarene at work for the first time - a glinting amino acid in a cell, suddenly activating at the presence of the peppermint. It spins, pulls in other amino acids like a magnet, bridges linking them all together into an intricate, beautiful WEB - a new PROTEIN. And it begins to GLOW.

Prescott, skimming the Cosmo Boyd comic, looks up, amused.

Tom closes his eyes. Crystal reaches back, grasps Felix's hand...and PAFF! They all teleport away.

Prescott's smile freezes. He can't comprehend.

PAFF! Tom reappears, grabs Adam's body, gives Prescott the finger, and teleports away again.

Prescott SCREAMS. Lazarus' liquor bottles shatter instantly.

INT. CRYSTAL'S CAR - DAY

Tom drives over the plains, silent, numb. Crystal, in front, wipes dried blood from her hands. Felix shivers in back.

FELIX

(soft)

They said they'd give me a new eye.
Like the Six-Million-Dollar Man.

Tom doesn't respond.

FELIX (CONT'D)

You don't know what it's like.
Being a freak. Being a nothing.
(tearfully)
Why couldn't it be me? Just once?

TOM

(to Crystal)

Wanna know how Felix lost his eye?

Felix's eye grows wide.

CRYSTAL

Don't, Tom--

TOM

Flashback: graduation, just as everyone cheers and throws up their caps. You know, those tassel caps with the really sharp, pointy ends? And someone was too busy reading

one of his dumb comics to notice
all those caps flying up the air.
But he hears the cheering, so he
looks up...just as those sharp,
pointy things are coming back down.
(laughs cruelly)
Pop! One Jack Sparrow.

FELIX
Stop calling me that! Jack Sparrow
never wore a frickin' eyepatch in
any of the movies!...

He trails off.

TOM
Hmm. Sounds like our pre-dot-com
purist's been streaming.

Felix stares out the window, humiliated. Crystal watches him
from her rear-view mirror.

CRYSTAL
I was never gonna take that
ayahuasca. I don't even do drugs.
Not before the campfire. I'm a
fake. So there. I...
(chuckles)
Being special sucks. Why is
everyone so obsessed with it?
What's wrong with being normal?

Tom doesn't react. She looks at his hardened face.

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)
So sometimes people do things for
themselves. Sometimes we're
selfish. It doesn't make us bad,
not all of us. It's called being
human, Tom--

Tom brakes suddenly.

EXT. PLAINS - CONTINUOUS

Tom exits the car. He snaps on his fanny pack. He pulls
Adam's body from the trunk and drags it across the dust.

Crystal gets out of the car, watches Tom takes out a PILL
and swallow it. Without hesitation, he shoots a FIREBALL and
ignites Adam's body.

From the car, Felix watches as the smoke curls into the sky.

Crystal's phone rings. She looks at it. Her eyes fill with tears. She answers it.

CRYSTAL'S DAD (V.O)
 (over phone)
 Crys?
 (Crystal is silent)
 Jesus, answer me! This is crazy. I
 need to know where you are.

CRYSTAL
 (soft, into phone)
 I fell on purpose, Dad. Don't you
 get it?

CRYSTAL'S DAD (V.O)
 Crys! Are you OK? Where are you?

Crystal watches Tom staring at Adam's burning corpse.

CRYSTAL
 Didn't I do enough for you?

She waits for his response. Nothing. Her tears spill out.

CRYSTAL'S DAD (V.O)
 (with realization)
 Yes, sweetie. And...I'm proud. I've
always been proud of you. Just...
 come home. We'll talk. I'll listen.
Please.

Adam's drug vest dissolves in the fire.

A BLACK CAR is approaching.

CRYSTAL
 (eyeing the car)
 Love you, Dad.

She hangs up...as the car stops fifty feet away...and out
 gets Prescott, holding the *Cosmo Boyd* comic.

PRESCOTT
 Who needs a tracker when I've got a
 Boy Scout making smoke signals?

Tom's eyes stay on the fire. Prescott stares at the horizon.

PRESCOTT (CONT'D)
 All my agents are dead, Tom. What
 am I going to do?

TOM

Take out an ad. I've got a job.

Prescott throws the *Cosmo Boyd* comic on Adam's burning corpse. Felix gasps.

PRESCOTT

Then I'll have to threaten to
dismember your mom. Hey, it worked
on your brother. He became a real
yes-man.

Tom finally meets Prescott's gaze. He takes off his fanny pack. Prescott sighs. He walks over and grabs Tom's arm. Tom wrenches free. Prescott smiles...

...then Tom SWINGS A FIST. Prescott sidesteps, knees Tom in the chest and shoves him down.

PRESCOTT (CONT'D)

Don't be shy, Boy Scout! Show me
those powers! I want to see what
you can do!

Tom rushes Prescott, trying to tackle him...but Prescott flips him, hitting him with a spin-kick before he lands.

CRYSTAL

(rushing at Prescott)

You fucking psycho! Stop!

Prescott pulls out a gun - Crystal freezes. Cosmo barks wildly from inside the car. Felix sobs.

Prescott grabs Tom by the hair, slams him with the gun butt, more frustrated with each blow. He grabs Tom's throat.

PRESCOTT (CONT'D)

You know what people would give to
be you? What I'd give?! To feel
what you feel?! And you're gonna
waste it?!

Tom spits blood at Prescott, who responds with an uppercut. Tom crumples, bloodied, broken, next to Adam's corpse.

PRESCOTT (CONT'D)

I can do this all day, Tom. That's
one thing I've learned in this job:
we are all our fathers' sons.

Tom sees the burning *Cosmo Boyd* comic...

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK SHOT SEQUENCE:

A) Tom and Felix in the motel, reading the *Cosmo Boyd* comic.

TOM
(fading into dialogue)
...gets his powers from drinking
Tiger Red soda...banned in the
seventies...Red-2 food coloring...

B) The can of Tiger Red soda in Eunice's kitchen cupboard.

C) The can of Tiger Red soda on Lazarus' drinks tray.

D) Tom and Lazarus on the stairs in his lair, mid-battle.

LAZARUS GREY
...everything overlaps...that's how
I wrote it--

D) Tom, in the motel, staring at the fold-in puzzle at the back of the comic - the numbers and letters of a CHEMICAL FORMULA...

END FLASHBACK.

CUT TO:

PRESENT...

...as Tom stares at the fold-in puzzle on the comic's burning back page.

He closes his eyes. In his mind, the page folds in, the puzzle is revealed: C20H11N2Na3O10S3. The chemical formula for Red-2 food coloring. And he KNOWS it.

Tom opens his eyes...and reaches for his dropped FANNY PACK.

PRESCOTT
Yes! That's it! Stop being so
fucking useless! Show me!

Tom touches the Tiger Red soda can in the fanny pack...but he pulls out something else, puts it in his mouth - an 8-ball of COCAINE.

Prescott stands over him, his foot poised above Tom's head.

PRESCOTT (CONT'D)

(screams)

So?! Do something! Make me feel it!

Tom closes his eyes. Silence. Nothing but his slowing heartbeat.

TOM

You'll feel it.

Tom opens his eyes...and out shoots his taser power...as BOLTS OF ELECTRICITY, blasting Prescott off his feet... through the air...and smashing him into his car windscreen.

Tom walks to him, ELECTRICITY rippling all over his body, It's not only the drug fueling his power now, exceeding his potential... but also PURE, BURNING RAGE.

Prescott, pinned in the shattered windscreen, sees Tom before him - a being of crackling energy, a LIVING TASER.

Above, LIGHTNING flashes in the sky. Cosmo whimpers.

Prescott's eyes widen, in terror, in horror...in AWE.

Then Tom UNLEASHES - his eyes, his hands, his entire body streaming ELECTRICITY into Prescott. A moment of PURE RELEASE for him. Prescott howls in ecstasy...but it turns to SCREAMS OF PAIN as his flesh starts to bubble and melt.

Felix and Crystal shield their eyes from the blinding light...until...suddenly--

Tom's power fades, like a battery dying...leaving behind Prescott's charred skeleton, flesh evaporated.

Tom looks at his hands, as if waking from a dream. Then...

He SCREAMS in pain, crumples, grabs his head - pain more excruciating than any he's ever felt.

CRYSTAL

Tom!

She runs to him. Felix looks in horror.

Tom sobs, pain and sorrow twisted into one. He tries to focus through his tears...and sees the can of TIGER RED soda in his open fanny pack. He crawls to it...

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)

Tom? Let us help you!

...grabs the Tiger Red soda, cracks it open...and DRINKS.

FELIX
(confused)
Well. Hydration's important.

Tom finishes the can. He goes still.

CRYSTAL
Tom? What's happening?

Tom lifts his head. He takes the Tiger Red can and crushes it slowly in his hand.

TOM
Nothing.

FELIX
The pain's gone?

TOM
Everything. There's
nothing...anymore.

Tom closes his eyes, takes a deep breath. Felix's face falls, disappointed.

FELIX
How...how does it feel?

Tom begins to laugh. He turns. They wait for his answer. Instead, he gives a sad little shrug.

TOM
I wanna see my Mom.

Crystal nods. Tom looks at Felix.

TOM (CONT'D)
(apologetic)
You're not a nothing, you know.

Felix grins, only a little bit embarrassed.

FELIX
Can I drive us back?

Crystal smiles, nods.

TOM
Just don't blink for too long.

Crystal throws the car keys to Felix...and he misses them.

INT. CAMELOTT SUPER STORE - DAY, MONTHS LATER

In the Camelott cafe, a GIRL sits at a table, drawing in a sketch pad. It's a picture of a BOY with super powers...and it's very good.

TOM (O/S)
(over PA)
Welcome, peasants and princesses,
to Camelott, your 'kingdom with the
lott'...

The Girl looks up with a smile - it's Crystal, wearing a polo shirt with *Ravenswood Fitness Center Head Coach* embroadered on the pocket.

INT. CAMELOTT SUPER STORE - CONTINUOUS

As customers shuffle about the store, filling carts...

TOM (O/S)
(over PA)
We have everything you need for
your quest today...but more
importantly, we are now donating
five cents from every dollar to the
Camelott Cares-a-Lott Foundation,
which funds medical assistance and
counselling services for veterans.

Alberto grits his teeth when he hears this, but forces a polite smile at passing customers.

Tom, at the service counter, wears a badge on his uniform: *Assistant Store Manager*. He looks around at the same cheap products, same greedy customers. Nothing's REALLY changed. But Tom's gaze has a spark of ambition, of hope...of MAGIC.

TOM (CONT'D)
(over PA)
I mean, it's not gonna save the
world. But every bit helps. Every
person can be a bit of a hero.
(letting that sink in)
As always, thanks for shopping at
Camelott. We wish your wallet - and
you - a happily ever after.

Tom switches off the PA, a satisfied grin. Next to him, Felix reads a comic. His eye patch is the Superman logo.

FELIX
I almost just puked.

Tom looks to the cafe, meets Crystal's gaze...and they smile.

MAN (O/S)
Nobody move!!! I got a gun!!!

It's a FAMILIAR VOICE. Tom and Crystal freeze.

Tom looks at Felix. Felix looks back. What do they do?

Felix picks up the PA phone...hands it to Tom...

FADE OUT.

TOM (V.O)
(over PA)
Richie Alvarez, to the front of the
store, please? Richie Alvarez...?