

BLACK SKIES & ORANGE SUN

by

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2005 Third Place

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FADE IN:

EXT. THE STREET - NIGHT (DREAM)

Under the lights of the stars and streetlights, the kids of the neighborhood are playing hide and seek.

A little eight year-old, skinny boy with short hair named JEFFREY starts counting to ten.

The kids scatter.

A little seven year-old girl named JANETTE takes the hand of a little boy named JABEZ and pulls him behind a tree.

Jabez can't hold back his giggles.

 YOUNG JANETTE
 Shut up, he'll hear us.

Jabez keeps giggling.

 YOUNG JANETTE (CONT'D)
 (giggling)
 Jabez! Shut up! Shut up!

 YOUNG JEFFREY (O.S.)
 Ten! Ready or not!

Janette makes a "shush" sign.

Little Jeffrey looks around for any stragglers.

Jabez giggles again.

Jeffrey quickly turns toward their direction.

Jabez holds back his giggling. Jeffrey continues looking at their direction.

Jabez lets a giggle slip and Jeffrey charges at them.

 YOUNG JEFFREY
 I saw you, Janette!

Laughing, little Janette and Jabez start running away.

 YOUNG JEFFREY (O.S.)
 Hey! I saw you! I saw you!

Jabez and Janette run to Janette's porch and take a seat on the stairs.

They laugh some more.

Out of nowhere, Janette points at the dark sky.

YOUNG JANETTE

See that one? That one's called
bear paw.

YOUNG JABEZ

Which one?

YOUNG JANETTE

That one, the one that looks like a
bear paw.

They laugh at the stupid joke.

They look at each other for awhile, then Janette kisses Jabez on the cheek.

INT. JABEZ'S ROOM - MORNING

A pretty plain bedroom. Nothing unusual but nothing unique. Just a desk, a chair, a bed and a TV. The only thing distinctive is a couple of movie posters on the wall.

A *Raging Bull* poster hangs directly over the bed, while a *Bride of Frankenstein* and a *Thelma and Louise* poster hang on opposite sides of the bed. A small poster of a movie called *Bobbie's Girl* is posted on door.

Sleeping on the bed is eighteen year-old JABEZ WOELLY.

He is of average height, skinny and kind of pale.

The alarm clock goes off and Jabez wakes up. He turns off the alarm and heads over to his bedroom bathroom.

INT. JABEZ'S ROOM - BATHROOM - MORNING

Jabez washes his face. He then looks at himself in the mirror.

INT. JABEZ'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Jabez searches the refrigerator for breakfast. It's empty. He closes it and looks at the magnetic pin-up pad to find his "Need to pick up more groceries. --Mom" note left untouched.

INT. ART CLASSROOM - DAY

The class is decorated like a bright rainbow, with Van Goghs and DaVincis pinned up.

In the front of the class is MS. PAULI. She is the forty-something, kind and still a bit attractive art teacher.

MS. PAULI

Alright, settle, settle. Now we're gonna start on one of my favorite lessons: Abstract. You might run into pessimists who say it's just a bunch of pictures and shapes all crunched in together. Janette, shush.

She makes a "shush" sign towards a grown-up version of Janette. Janette is short and curvy.

MS. PAULI (CONT'D)

But it's more, it's a lot more. Abstract is a way to put yourself in the painting. So here's the rundown. I'm gonna give you three days to make one *objet de art*. You're gonna work on it here and if you want to, at home. On the fourth day we'll present them. Good? Good. Right now take out some paper and sketch out some ideas you might paint. So go ahead, sketch.

The class takes out their paper.

Jabez sighs, puts down his pencil and looks in Janette's direction.

EXT. SCHOOL TRACK - DAY

Jabez and the rest of the students are lined up, listening to COACH GAMBENA. He is a bald, past-his-prime gym teacher who's also the basketball coach.

COACH GAMBENA

Okay kids, let's start. We don't have much time. We got three-footers for the men and two and a half for the girls. We ready? Good.

The first person in line runs toward the hurdles and makes the jump.

COACH GAMBENA

Good, good. That's how you do it.
C'mon, keep it going.

The second person, a chick, runs for the two-footer and makes it.

As the people take turns and the line gets shorter, Jabez stands next to a grown-up version of Jeffrey.

JEFFREY

It's chemistry and I sit next to this gangster guy, but he's cool, y'know? He's a bright motherfucker. So yesterday, we had a test and he's like, "Hook it up."

A runner gets snagged on a hurdle and face plants. Jeffrey winces.

JEFFREY (CONT'D)

Oooh. So being the nice guy I am, I let my paper slide. And today, we get the tests back. The bastard got a C. So he's like, "Hey dog, I want you to know that I appreciate that shit." So he sticks his hand out and I shake it. But he doesn't shake my hand. He slips a nickel in my hand.

JABEZ

Weed?

JEFFREY

Yeah, marijuana nickel.

JABEZ

For free?

JEFFREY

Yeah.

JABEZ

What'd you do with it?

JEFFREY

Well at first, I was just looking at it. I was shocked. That kind of shit never happened to me before.

JABEZ

Well, what happened?

JEFFREY

The teacher was walking by and--

COACH GAMBENA

--Jeffrey, hurry up!

JEFFREY

Alright, alright.

Jeffrey steps up to the starting line. He gets ready.

He runs at the three-footer and makes it.

COACH GAMBENA

Good, that's good. Jabez, you're up.

Jabez looks at the hurdle.

COACH GAMBENA (CONT'D)

Jabez, what's wrong?

JABEZ

Nothing.

COACH GAMBENA

Then hurry up.

Jabez gets ready at the starting line.

He speeds towards the hurdle, but stops right in front of it.

COACH GAMBENA

What's wrong?

JABEZ

I didn't get a good start.

Jabez heads back towards the starting line.

JEFFREY

C'mon, man, run like you fuckin' stole something.

Jabez dashes for the hurdle, but again he doesn't think he can make it.

COACH GAMBENA

We don't have all day!

JABEZ

I just need to warm up a little.

COACH GAMBENA

Then just jump the two-footer.

All the girls giggle.

COACH GAMBENA (CONT'D)

Hurry up!

JABEZ

I can make the jump, just give me a couple of seconds.

COACH GAMBENA

Kid, I don't care how high you can jump in a couple of seconds. We need to move on. So I'm telling you, jump the two-footer!

Jabez walks over to the starting line. Jabez runs at the two-footer, jumps and nicks the hurdle, but he makes it.

INT. ENGLISH CLASSROOM - DAY

While the teacher drones on about commas, the kids look as bored as hell. MR. SNIDER is a small, timid-looking man.

MR. SNIDER

See the thing about commas and what I've noticed students get incorrect, is that feel as if they can just drop commas wherever they want. But you can't. You can't. Just like the period, the comma has rules that apply to it. If you look at the board, you'll notice...

Sitting next to Jabez is ALBERT. He is a short, stocky kid. They don't hate each other, but they aren't best friends.

Someone taps Albert's shoulder and hands him a piece of paper.

Albert gives a quiet laugh and hands it to Jabez.

It's an insulting caricature of Jabez.

Jabez turns to look back. Two rows back, GONZALO and SAM wave. Gonzalo is a big kid with a big mouth. Sam is a fat kid with an afro.

Jabez turns back around and crumbles the paper. Moments later a crumbled paper sacks Jabez in the back of the head.

Everyone gives a quiet laugh.

"We Never Change" by Coldplay plays for the rest of the...

MONTAGE - THE REST OF JABEZ'S DAY

INT. LUNCH HALL - DAY (MONTAGE)

Jabez eats at a table off in a corner alone.

INT. A CLASSROOM - DAY (MONTAGE)

Jabez, bored as hell, sits through the rest of his classes.

EXT. SCHOOL ENTRANCE - AFTERNOON (MONTAGE)

He walks among the crowd to go home.

INT. JABEZ'S ROOM - NIGHT (MONTAGE)

Jabez eats ravioli while watching "Girl, Interrupted." After that, he crawls into bed and closes his eyes.

END MONTAGE

INT. JABEZ'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

At the kitchen table sits MOTHER, a forty year-old, stern-looking business woman.

She stares at her newspaper while she drinks her coffee.

Jabez walks in and searches the refrigerator, totally ignoring his mother.

MOTHER

Hey you.

Jabez continues searching through the fridge.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Had a good night's sleep?

JABEZ

I guess so.

MOTHER

How long did you get to sleep?

JABEZ

What?

MOTHER

How much sleep did you get?

JABEZ

(looks up from the fridge)
Why?

MOTHER

Well, it says in the paper that a child should get at least eight hours of sleep to grow up healthy. I wanna make sure my boy's strong.

JABEZ

(returns back to the fridge)
No, I did not get eight hours.

MOTHER

Well you should look into that.

Mother takes a long sip of coffee.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

You want a ride to school?

JABEZ

No.

MOTHER

Why not? It's no hassle. I don't have to be in 'till nine.

JABEZ

I don't want a ride.

MOTHER

You like the exercise?

JABEZ

(annoyed)
Yes Mom, I like the exercise.

MOTHER

....Okay.
(stands up and heads for the door)
I think there are still some breakfast Hot Pocket things left.
Bye.

She waits for a reply. Jabez takes out the Hot Pockets.

MOTHER (CONT'D)
Well, bye then.

She leaves.

INT. ENGLISH CLASSROOM - DAY

The class works on their stupid worksheets while the teacher fills out paper work at his desk.

Sam throws a crumbled paper at Jabez's head. The class gives a quiet laugh.

JABEZ
(to Albert)
Who was that?

ALBERT
Sam.

Jabez turns around to look at Sam just as another ball comes and sacks him in the face.

The class laughs a little louder.

ALBERT
You gonna let him do that to you?

Jabez just stares at him.

ALBERT
Do something.

JABEZ
What am I supposed to do?

ALBERT
Throw something back.

JABEZ
Throw what back?

ALBERT
Paper, retard.

JABEZ
I can't.

ALBERT
Why not?

JABEZ

The teacher will see me.

Albert looks at the teacher.

ALBERT

He's not even looking.

Jabez looks at the teacher.

ALBERT

You don't wanna do it?

JABEZ

No.

ALBERT

Why not?

JABEZ

It's stupid, throwing paper balls.
It's so dumb. If I threw it, it
means I'm just as dumb as them.

ALBERT

You're not afraid, are you?

JABEZ

No.

ALBERT

Well, then do it then. Don't be a
pussy. You know why he's doing it
to you? Cause he knows you're too
afraid to throw something back.

JABEZ

I'm not afraid.

ALBERT

Then do it.

Jabez crumbles up a paper.

Jabez turns around and Sam gives him a "I dare you" kinda
look.

Jabez throws it and misses. Mr. Snider notices it.

MR. SNIDER

Jabez, sit up here. In front.

Jabez packs his stuff while Albert, Gonzalo and Sam laugh. He
takes a seat in the front.

Jabez looks around his new environment. He notices the girl next to him: AMELIE.

Jabez gives her a look similar as a tourist would to the Statue of Liberty.

She turns toward him.

AMELIE

Hello.

JABEZ

Umm...hi.

INT. JABEZ'S ROOM - NIGHT

Half awake, Jabez is watching "Taxi Driver" on his bed.

The next house over has a window adjacent to Jabez's window.

Faint laughter is heard from out the window. Jabez stands up and peers out the window.

Gonzalo and Janette are laughing in her room.

Jabez watches intently. Gonzalo puts his arm around her waist.

Jabez gets more agitated.

Janette pushes Gonzalo on a chair. She turns on the radio and starts dancing for him.

Jabez turns off his TV and quickly returns to the striptease.

JABEZ'S P.O.V

With her back to us, Janette takes her shirt off. She dances on top of him and then she turns around to shake her ass on Gonzalo's face. While dancing, Janette looks directly at us.

JABEZ

(quickly ducking)

Shit.

Moments pass.

Jabez is breathing hard from all the excitement. He listens very carefully for any yells or screams from Janette.

After awhile, Jabez slowly peeps his head out.

JABEZ'S P.O.V

Janette is still dancing away. Gonzalo picks her up and they walk towards her bed, out of frame.

Jabez sighs, turns his TV back on and lies down on his bed.

INT. JABEZ'S ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK) (DREAM)

A young Jabez is at work painting a birthday card.

He takes his time, making sure to stay in the lines.

Done with the paint, Jabez takes out a pen and scribbles something down on the inside.

When he's done, he walks over to the house next door.

EXT. JANETTE'S HOUSE - DAY (FLASHBACK) (DREAM)

The young Jabez rings the door bell.

Janette's father answers the door.

JANETTE'S DAD

Yes?

YOUNG JABEZ

Is Janette there?

JANETTE'S DAD

Hold on.

He closes the door. Moments pass. Jabez practices what to say.

The door opens this time, except Janette stands in the doorway.

YOUNG JANETTE

Hey.

YOUNG JABEZ

Hey.

Pause. Jabez looks at her shoes.

YOUNG JANETTE

So what's up?

YOUNG JABEZ

Well,... nothing really.

YOUNG JANETTE
So why'd you come over for?

YOUNG JABEZ
No reason.

Pause. Jabez fidgets around.

YOUNG JANETTE
You wanna play or something?

YOUNG JABEZ
No.

Pause. They just look at each other. Janette looks confused.

YOUNG JANETTE
Then why'd you call me over?

YOUNG JABEZ
I don't know.

Pause. Janette looks at the doorway.

YOUNG JANETTE
Okay... well, I'm gonna go back
inside, so...

She walks back into her house and closes the door.

YOUNG JABEZ
(slapping his head)
Dang-it. Idiot.

Jabez knocks the door again.

Janette answers the door this time.

YOUNG JABEZ
Jeffrey told me it was your
birthday... so I made you a card.

YOUNG JANETTE
Where is it?

YOUNG JABEZ
Here. I just found out, so I made
it in like a minute, so it's not
that pretty.

YOUNG JANETTE
Where is it?

Jabez hands it over.

Janette looks it over, then she gives him a hug. Jabez smiles like he's on cloud nine.

INT. JABEZ'S HOUSE-KITCHEN-MORNING (REALITY)

Mother is sitting at the table reading the paper. She looks excited when she notices Jabez is coming.

Jabez enters.

MOTHER
Hey you. Did you get eight hours?

JABEZ
No.

MOTHER
What time did you fall asleep?

JABEZ
I don't know.

MOTHER
How can you not know?

JABEZ
Well, I don't look at the clock
right before I go to sleep.

Pause.

JABEZ
What are you still doing here?

MOTHER
I'm gonna give you a ride.

JABEZ
I don't want a ride.

MOTHER
C'mon Jabez, I'm here, you're here,
might as well give you a ride.

EXT. JABEZ'S HOUSE - MORNING

Jabez walks out of the house and into the driveway. Jabez opens the passenger side of Mother's car and climbs in.

INT. MOTHER'S CAR - DRIVEWAY - MORNING

Jabez looks uncomfortable in his mothers car cause it's so rare that he's been in there. Jabez opens the glove compartment, looks around, then closes it.

Jabez screws around with the seat belts.

He rolls down the window.

Gonzalo's car pulls up onto the driveway next door.

JABEZ (P.O.V)

Jabez stares at the shiny car. It's one of those remade classic cars.

Jabez looks at Gonzalo while he honks the horn.

Janette gets out of her house walks down her driveway and gets in the car. Gonzalo notices Jabez waiting in his mom's car, so he gives Jabez a not-so-friendly wave.

Janette laughs.

The car drives off.

Jabez stares after them for a while.

He is startled as Mother taps the window of the passenger side.

Jabez reaches over and unlocks the door.

Mother enters.

INT. MOTHER'S CAR - DRIVING TO SCHOOL - MORNING

The radio is playing "Won't You Let Me Love You" by Gerald McCauley.

MOTHER

It's nice out.

Jabez just stares out the window.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

It's gonna be hazy in the afternoon.

Jabez looks at her, then turns back to the window.

MOTHER (CONT'D)
So, what are you gonna do today?

JABEZ
At school?

MOTHER
Yeah.

JABEZ
I don't know.

MOTHER
You don't know?

JABEZ
No Mother, I don't know. If I knew what we were gonna do, I wouldn't go to school.

Pause.

MOTHER
So what do you think you're gonna do today?

Jabez just gives his mom a look.

Pause.

MOTHER (CONT'D)
We don't talk anymore.

JABEZ
We don't need to talk.

MOTHER
They say to develop a good parent-son relationship, you have to talk to each other at least an hour a day.

JABEZ
Who's "they?"

MOTHER
The paper.

JABEZ
You should stop reading the papers.

Pause. They ride silently the rest of the way to school.

The car pulls over to the school curb.

JABEZ
Before I forget, I need paint.

MOTHER
What kind of paint?

JABEZ
Black kind.

MOTHER
You know I'm too busy, lazybones.

JABEZ
I don't have money.

Mother fishes out a ten dollar bill from her purse and hands it to him.

MOTHER
(hands him another ten)
Here. Might as well get dinner.

JABEZ
You're gonna be working late?

MOTHER
Yeah. Have a good day.

She waits for a reply.

JABEZ
Okay.

He walks toward the school.

INT. ART CLASSROOM - DAY

The class is at work while Ms. Pauli is passing around graded work.

Ms. Pauli hands Jabez a poster board.

MS. PAULI
Good work.

She leaves and Jabez looks at his painting.

Someone taps his shoulder. Jabez turns around to see that Amelie is sitting behind him.

AMELIE
Hi, umm, would you mind if I saw
you're painting?

JABEZ
(handing it over)
Uhh, no.

Amelie takes and studies it.

AMELIE
Wow, it's pretty good. I like your
use of color.

JABEZ
Uhh... thanks.

Jabez is surprised at how open to talking she is.

AMELIE
Seriously, I like how it just flows
together.

Jabez watches her study the painting.

AMELIE (CONT'D)
(pointing to the sheet of
paper in the middle)
What's all this crap in the middle?

JABEZ
That's a poem. This is poetic art.
You gotta stick a poem in it.

AMELIE
I see.

Pause.

AMELIE (CONT'D)
Y'know, this sounds a bit familiar.

JABEZ
It should. I ripped it off a song.

AMELIE
What song?

JABEZ
A Greenday song.

AMELIE
That's where.

JABEZ

I'm lucky she hasn't heard it.

AMELIE

I'm surprised she hasn't. It's a pretty popular song.

Pause. They look at each other for a while.

JABEZ

Can I ask you something?

AMELIE

You just did. But being the nice person I am, I'll let you ask another one.

JABEZ

I don't want to sound pushy or rude but why is it I've never seen you before?

AMELIE

I just moved here.

JABEZ

Oh.

AMELIE

My name is Amelie. Your name is Jabez, right?

JABEZ

Yeah, my name is Jabez.

Amelie sticks out her hand.

Jabez looks a bit apprehensive for a moment, but he shakes her hand.

AMELIE

So... you have a very interesting name. Is it Indian?

JABEZ

No.

AMELIE

Italian?

JABEZ

No, I think it's Hebrew.

AMELIE

Ahh... Hebrew. Are you Jewish?

JABEZ

No.

AMELIE

You have a Jewish name but you're not Jewish?

JABEZ

Your name doesn't have to mean anything about your religion. Why, are you French?

AMELIE

Good point.

INT. GYM - DAY

While everyone is around playing, Jabez sits on the bleachers.

Jabez is toying with an ant on a seat. He pokes at it, watches it run away, then pokes it again.

Jabez pins down the ant. He lets it struggle under his finger.

JEFFREY

What are you doing?

Jabez looks up at him and lets his finger go.

JABEZ

Nothing.

The ant scuttles away.

JEFFREY

That's good, c'mon, lets play basketball.

JABEZ

Nah, I'm cool.

JEFFREY

Come on, we need another guy.

Jabez looks at the group of boys looking at him. Gonzalo and Sam are there.

JABEZ

I don't feel like it.

JEFFREY

Why don't you wanna play? C'mon, man. Like the old days.

JABEZ

I don't feel like it.

JEFFREY

So what? A lot of people do a lot of things they don't want to.

Pause.

JEFFREY (CONT'D)

Every day when we play, all you do is sit here and daydream. I'm starting to worry about you. I don't want to see you turning out like one of those weird guys you find at *Star Trek* conventions.

JABEZ

I hate *Star Trek*.

JEFFREY

(laughing)

That doesn't matter, c'mon, lets go.

Jeffrey pulls Jabez up and puts his arm around him while they walk towards the boys.

JEFFREY

See? You need to hang around people more, it helps build your social skills.

They reach the boys.

GONZALO

Finally, lets play.

Jeffrey pulls Jabez over to a group of boys.

JEFFREY

Meet the team, Jabez. It's me, you, Sam, Tim and Brian.

BRIAN

(holding his hand out)

What's up, Dude.

Again Jabez hesitates, but shakes his hand.

GONZALO
(passes the ball to Jabez)
You, shoot for takeout newbie.

Jabez walks over to the free throw line.

He dribbles the ball a little, it's obvious he's a little nervous. He gets ready, he shoots and it's in.

The boys "Ooh" with surprise.

JEFFREY
That's right. That's how you do that.

Jeffrey takes the ball to the half court line. He passes it to Tim. Tim dribbles a bit and tries to get past his blocker, but he can't, he gets stuck. He passes it back to Jeffrey.

Jeffrey jukes past his guard and goes for a shot.

He misses and Brian gets the rebound. Brian gets a point with the lay up.

JEFFREY
Losers take out.

An opponent takes the ball to half court line and passes it to one of his teammates.

JEFFREY
Stick him Jabez, stick him.

Jabez rushes over to cover him.

The boy easily breaks through Jabez and lays it up for a point.

JABEZ
Dammit.

JEFFREY
That's alright. Just stay closer next time.

Tim, at the half court point, passes it to Sam. Sam goes for a longshot, but bricks it.

Jeffrey gets the rebound. He hot potatoes it to Jabez. Jabez goes for a shot, but Gonzalo blocks it.

Gonzalo lays it up for a point.

SAM
(to Jabez)
Come on man.

Brian takes the ball to the half court and passes it to Jabez.

Jabez goes for the three pointer and makes it.

TIM
Oh, this guy's a shooter.

GONZALO
Fuck! Who's stickin' him?

Gonzalo starts this round by passing it to a teammate. He passes it back to Gonzalo.

Gonzalo goes for long shot, but misses.

Jeffrey gets the rebound and passes it towards Jabez.

Gonzalo runs straight into Jabez trying to get the ball. Gonzalo gets the interception and Jabez almost falls over. Gonzalo scores.

At the half court, Tim passes it to Jeffrey. Gonzalo sticks him close and manages a steal. Gonzalo shoots and misses. Brian gets the rebound and passes it to Jabez.

Jabez looks around. No one is open.

JEFFREY
Shoot!

Jabez goes for the shot.

Gonzalo swipes it down before Jabez even lets it go.

The ball cracks Jabez in the face.

And the crowd goes "ooh."

JEFFREY
(to Jabez)
You okay, Dude?

JABEZ
Yeah.

GONZALO
It was an accident, man.

SAM

Since that was obviously a foul, we
take out.

Sam wakes over to the half court point and passes it to
Jeffrey.

Jeffrey lays it up, but misses. Gonzalo picks up the ball,
tries a three pointer and misses.

Sam gets it and gives it to Jeffrey.

Jeffrey passes it to Jabez.

Jabez is about to shoot, but Gonzalo tugs at it. Jabez won't
let it go.

They have a rough pull-and-tug for the ball. All Gonzalo's
teammates jump in.

Jabez's face is getting hit with all the hands in the air.

Frustrated with how long this is taking, Gonzalo elbows Jabez
in the face.

Jabez falls down hard while Gonzalo makes a three pointer.

JEFFREY

What the fuck are you doing?! We're
not playing for the fuckin'
championship!

GONZALO

It was an accident, man.

INT. LUNCH HALL - DAY

Jabez is sitting off to a corner watching Janette and her
boyfriend, Gonzalo.

They're holding hands. They look so happy.

Jabez looks so agitated. He is barely touching his food.

Jabez continues watching them.

Every time they smile Jabez gets more and more antsy.

Janette and Gonzalo kiss. Jabez is mad as Hades. The plastic
spoon in his hand is bending like foil.

INT. GYM - DAY (FANTASY)

JABEZ'S P.O.V:

GONZALO
(laughing)
It was an accident man.

INT. LUNCH HALL - DAY (REALITY)

Jabez continues staring at them like a kid watching a porno for the first time.

Jeffrey takes a seat next to him.

JEFFREY
S'up, Dude. Still day dreaming?

Jabez looks at him.

JEFFREY (CONT'D)
Your nose okay?

JABEZ
Yeah.

JEFFREY
You sure? You can get out of school if it still hurts.

JABEZ
I'm fine.

Pause.

JEFFREY
I didn't know you could still shoot.

JABEZ
Yeah.

JEFFREY
I guess shooting is one of those things you don't forget, huh?

JABEZ
Guess so.

Jeffrey laughs.

JEFFREY
Those were the days.

Pause.

JEFFREY (CONT'D)

I was thinking to myself, wouldn't it be great if those days never ended? Stay there forever. Like that Rod Stewart song "Forever Young."

JABEZ

That'd be cool.

JEFFREY

Then we'd've never known how shitty life is.

JABEZ

(looking at Janette)

That'd be great.

Pause.

JEFFREY

So why the hell are you eating here alone? It's creepy.

JABEZ

I like it here.

JEFFREY

You scared of people?

JABEZ

Why would I want to be with those idiots?

JEFFREY

Seriously, man, you need to get out there more, meet more people. Talk to more people.

JABEZ

It's different for you. They don't hate you.

JEFFREY

They wouldn't hate you if you just tried to seem sociable.

Pause. Jabez looks at the crowd.

JABEZ

Fuck 'em.

Jeffrey laughs.

JEFFREY

You changed so much, man.

Pause. Jabez and Jeffrey stare at the crowd.

JABEZ

Y'know what I was thinking about?

JEFFREY

What?

JABEZ

A car. I think I should get a car.

JEFFREY

Why? You never seemed interested in cars before.

JABEZ

(looking at Janette)
I think I need one.

JEFFREY

Did you pass Drivers Ed?

JABEZ

Yeah.

JEFFREY

So what's stopping yay

JABEZ

Well, I can't pull a car out of my ass.

JEFFREY

I could get you one. My uncle runs a junk yard, so he gets a bunch of cars.

JABEZ

Yeah, but I don't want a hunk a junk.

JEFFREY

See, many people have that misconception. My uncle told me that. He says that at least sixty percent of the cars he gets are fine and dandy.

JABEZ

Then why would he get them in the first place?

JEFFREY

Cause they look old. Plain and simple. People are too lazy to check things nowadays. Looks old, just throw it to the junk yard. But a car's a car right? I mean, I don't think you need a "Greased Lighting" yet.

JABEZ

So how much do you think it'll cost?

JEFFREY

How much you got?

JABEZ

I should have about three hundred.

JEFFREY

Whirred you get all that?

JABEZ

I have nothing to do with my allowance.

JEFFREY

Yeah, but three hundred? Your mom must give you a lot of money. Well I think I can get you a deal.

JABEZ

What about paperwork? Would I need any of that?

JEFFREY

I don't think so. My uncle's not Joe Casino.

JABEZ

Isn't that kind of illegal?

JEFFREY

Everything is kinda illegal if you look hard enough.

JABEZ

Cool. When do you think you can set up the deal?

JEFFREY

I don't know. I'll ask him.

Jeffrey stands up.

JABEZ

Where are you going?

JEFFREY

The beach.

JABEZ

You're skipping class?

JEFFREY

Yeah.

JABEZ

Why?

JEFFREY

I don't know, I don't feel like going.

JABEZ

What's so important about the beach?

JEFFREY

Well, why don't you come? We can go surfing.

JABEZ

Naw.

JEFFREY

See, that's exactly what I mean.
Later.

INT. PHARMACY - ART AISLE - DAY

Jabez walks along the art aisle and looks around the shelves. A girl his age is also in the aisle. They notice each other and she gives him a smile. Jabez looks down and quickly picks out a small can of black of paint.

He splits.

INT. PHARMACY - MOVIE DEPARTMENT - DAY

Jabez walks along the previously used shelf and picks out a videocassette copy of *Willard* with a four ninety-nine sticker on it.

INT. STRAIGHT FROM THE BORDER TACOS - DAY

The taco joint looks just like those American-run businesses that try to look Mexican. Jabez is behind a customer.

EXT. JANETTE'S HOUSE -NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

A young Jabez and Janette lay on her lawn under the stars.

YOUNG JANETTE
Y'know what would be cool? A house
in Italy.

YOUNG JABEZ
(laughing)
You don't speak Italy.

YOUNG JANETTE
I know I don't. That's why I said
it would be cool, dummy.

Jabez laughs some more.

YOUNG JANETTE (CONT'D)
I was thinking... Do you want to go
to Italy with me?

YOUNG JABEZ
(laughing)
My bed time's in an hour.

YOUNG JANETTE
Stop joking around. I'm serious.

YOUNG JABEZ
Alright, what?

YOUNG JANETTE
You want to go to Italy with me
when we get older?

YOUNG JABEZ
Okay.

YOUNG JANETTE
You promise?

YOUNG JABEZ
I promise.

YOUNG JANETTE
You better not forget about me when
you become rich.

YOUNG JABEZ
 (laughing)
 Don't worry, I won't forget you.

YOUNG JANETTE
 I'm serious. Don't forget me when
 we grow up.

YOUNG JABEZ
 Don't worry, I won't ever forget
 you. I promise that, too.

Janette looks at him.

YOUNG JANETTE
 Best friends forever?

Jabez looks at her.

YOUNG JABEZ
 Forever, Janette.

INT. STRAIGHT FROM THE BORDER TACOS - DAY (PRESENT)

Jabez steps up to the register. Behind it is Janette with her
 name tag on.

Janette is short but not that short. She has a really good
 figure, but a lot of acne. Right now she looks kinda stupid
 with a sombrero on.

JANETTE
 Buenos Dias. Welcome to Straight
 From the Border Tacos, where we
 jump fences for your taco. What can
 I get you?

JABEZ
 I'll have a Through the Fence
 special.

Janette press a couple of buttons on the register.

JANETTE
 Anything else?

JABEZ
 No.

JANETTE
 For here or to go?

JABEZ

Here.

Janette presses some more buttons.

JANETTE

That'll be seven-fifty.

Jabez goes through his pockets and gives her a ten dollar bill.

JANETTE

Your change is two-fifty, your number is four-twenty. Muchos gracias for coming to the Straight From the Border Tacos.

She hands him his change and a cup.

Jabez walks over to the soda fountain and fills his cup with soda.

He starts walking towards a booth, then he changes his mind and walks back to the register.

JABEZ

Umm... do you have a bathroom?

JANETTE

Yes, we do.

JABEZ

I need to use it.

JANETTE

Go ahead. I don't care.

JABEZ

It says you need a key.

JANETTE

Someone's probably in there with the key.

JABEZ

No, I just checked. No one's in there.

JANETTE

Well, I don't know then.

JABEZ

I just need the key.

JANETTE

And I already told you, I don't know where it is.

JABEZ

Can you look please?

JANETTE

No, because it's not here. Now you can wait for the guy to come out or you can go out in the alley and pee with the bums. I really don't care. Just fuck off.

Jabez walks back to a booth, he's a bit teary-eyed.

INT. JABEZ'S ROOM - NIGHT

In the dark, Jabez watches a movie while eating his tacos.

INT. ART CLASSROOM - DAY

MS. PAULI

Okay kids, I have a headache so just work on your paintings for the rest of the period.

Amelie turns around towards Jabez.

AMELIE

So how are you gonna make your painting?

JABEZ

(confused)
...By painting.

AMELIE

No, I mean what are you gonna paint?

JABEZ

Oh, well, I'm not sure. Something.

Pause. Jabez looks at her.

JABEZ (CONT'D)

What are you gonna do yours on?

AMELIE

I don't know either. But I know that I'm gonna try to do that crazy color blur you did on your other painting.

JABEZ
(hiding his smile)
It wasn't that cool.

Pause. Jabez looks around to see if Janette is looking.

AMELIE
You gonna work on your painting
today?

JABEZ
Uh,... No, I don't feel like it.

AMELIE
Good, me neither. You want to play
a game?

JABEZ
What kind of game?

AMELIE
A good getting to know you game.

Jabez is still a little baffled.

AMELIE (CONT'D)
See, over the years I picked up
these questions. You answer them
truthfully and I'll know exactly
what kind of person you are. You
wanna play?

JABEZ
I don't know about that.

AMELIE
C'mon, I'll play with you.

JABEZ
You're a very inquisitive girl,
aren't you?

AMELIE
To question is to think. Never stop
thinking. So let's play. How old
are you?

JABEZ
I'm eighteen.

AMELIE
Me too. What's your favorite color?

JABEZ

Blue.

AMELIE

My favorite color is... Wow, I can't even remember my favorite color! I gotta lay off the glue!

She laughs and Jabez forces a laugh.

AMELIE (CONT'D)

So any way, where's your favorite place?

JABEZ

I don't have a favorite place.

AMELIE

Everyone has a favorite place. Disneyland? Texas?

JABEZ

I never left this town.

AMELIE

No way. You're kidding right? You gotta be kidding.

JABEZ

No.

AMELIE

Wow. You should really look into that.

JABEZ

Traveling?

AMELIE

Yeah, traveling is awesome. So far, I've been to three different states in three years. It's great. Everyone should travel someday.

Pause

AMELIE (CONT'D)

When I lived in Washington, my friends and I had this idea to travel to San Francisco and then to Maine right after graduation. And here's the coolest part: the plan was not to make a plan.

Jabez checks if Janette is looking again.

JABEZ

What do you mean by that?

AMELIE

Y'know how people pack their clothes and map out their route and everything? None of that. Just get your backpack, some money and head out. Sounds like a movie, huh?

JABEZ

That's pretty dangerous.

AMELIE

Well, I like challenges.

JABEZ

That's gonna be a lot more than a challenge.

Pause.

AMELIE

Look at me getting off topic. So half empty or full?

JABEZ

The glass is half empty.

AMELIE

What do you want to be when you grow up?

JABEZ

I have no idea. You?

AMELIE

I want to be an artist.

JABEZ

What kind of artist?

AMELIE

I don't know, I'm into all kinds of art. Painting I like, pottery, poetry, I like them all. All art. I'll be an all art artist. You okay?

JABEZ

Yeah, why?

AMELIE

You keep looking over there. What's so cool about over there?

JABEZ

Nothing.

AMELIE

You like her?

JABEZ

No.

AMELIE

You sure?

JABEZ

Yeah, I don't.

AMELIE

You could do better.

JABEZ

I don't like her.

AMELIE

Okay, I'll believe you. You're a type of person I can believe.

JABEZ

How do you know that?

AMELIE

The game.

JABEZ

I thought we weren't done yet?

AMELIE

Well, it works quick. What's your dream?

JABEZ

Umm... I have a dream. I just don't know what it is yet.

AMELIE

That sounded really cool. I should write that down.

Jabez laughs a little.

AMELIE (CONT'D)

Y'know in all the time I've known you, that's the first time I've seen you smile.

JABEZ

We met like, a day ago.

AMELIE

So it's about time. What's your favorite movie?

JABEZ

Okay...umm, The "King of Comedy."

AMELIE

With Steve Harvey?

JABEZ

No, the one with DeNiro.

AMELIE

So "Have you ever loved somebody so, so much that you cried?"

JABEZ

These questions are getting a little too personal, aren't they?

AMELIE

That's the point. It's the little personal details that make anything interesting. So you don't want to answer the question?

Jabez shakes his head.

AMELIE

That's cool, I like the mysterious as well.

JABEZ

So you're inquisitive, but you also appreciate the mysterious?

AMELIE

Now, that's a good question.

INT. ENGLISH CLASSROOM - DAY

Jabez walks in the room. He can see that Gonzalo, Sam and Albert are watching him.

Jabez takes his seat next to Amelie.

AMELIE
Hey you.

JABEZ
Hey.

AMELIE
What class did you just have?

JABEZ
P.E.

AMELIE
Oh. Now another day of exciting lectures about commas. I gotta tell you, I kinda don't like this class.

JABEZ
No one does.

AMELIE
Did I tell you about my desk mate in French?

Jabez shakes his head.

AMELIE (CONT'D)
Well, I sit next to this weird little chick. Out of nowhere she starts talking about her cult and stuff. It was pretty creepy. They suck each other's blood.

Jabez notices that Gonzalo, Sam and Albert are still looking.

JABEZ
I got one of those too. I have a chemistry class and I sit next to gangster. But I'm cool with him. So one day we have a test and he asks for help.

AMELIE
Did you?

JABEZ
Yeah, I did. And he gets a C. So after, he's pretty thankful and out of nowhere he hands me pouch of weed.

AMELIE
What did you say?

JABEZ
Well, I didn't say anything. I was surprised, that kind of thing never happened to me before.

AMELIE
What happened next?

JABEZ
Well,... I forgot. This happened a couple days ago.

AMELIE
What did you do with the weed?

Pause. Jabez is clearly thinking.

JABEZ
Do you do drugs?

AMELIE
No.

JABEZ
Me too. So I just gave it to my cousin. He's into that crap.

AMELIE
Who's your cousin?

JABEZ
(looking at Albert)
That guy.

AMELIE
That's a crazy story. That really happened to you?

JABEZ
Sure did.

INT. JABEZ'S ROOM - MORNING

Jabez wakes up.

INT. JABEZ'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Mother is at the table reading the paper while Jabez enters.

Jabez walks over to the fridge, takes some eggs and starts cooking them on the stove top.

JABEZ

I don't need a ride.

MOTHER

I don't start work till nine. I'm here, you're here, might as well drop you off.

JABEZ

Want some eggs?

MOTHER

No thank you.

Pause.

JABEZ

I still don't want a ride.

Pause.

MOTHER

Albert's trying out for basketball.

JABEZ

Okay.

MOTHER

Your uncle's telling everyone.

JABEZ

I don't care.

Pause.

MOTHER

Are you trying out for anything?

JABEZ

No.

MOTHER

Nothing?

JABEZ

No.

MOTHER

Do you want to try out for basketball?

JABEZ

No, I don't wanna try out for basketball. Please, stop bothering me.

MOTHER

Colleges look for people with sports. Girls will like you better.

JABEZ

I don't care.

MOTHER

I'm just trying to help you.

JABEZ

You can help me by shutting up.

Mother holds back her agitation.

MOTHER

I'm just asking.

JABEZ

Fine. I'm just saying, let's drop it.

MOTHER

Just trying to be a good mother, encouraging you. You can't even appreciate it.

JABEZ

Well, stop trying to be what you aren't.

Pause.

MOTHER

You calling me a bad mother?

JABEZ

No one needs to call you a bad mother.

MOTHER

How dare you? How dare you call me a bad mother? I have done nothing but fight, bleed and sweat for you. I'll slap the shit out of you, if you ever do that again.

(stands up from the chair)

Fine, don't join a sport.

(MORE)

MOTHER (cont'd)
(walks to the door and
opens it)
But I'll be damned if I become the
mother of a failure.

Mother leaves and slams the door.

Jabez just stares at his eggs.

INT. COACH GAMBENA'S OFFICE - DAY

Coach is sitting behind his desk.

Jabez enters.

COACH GAMBENA
Can I help you with something?

JABEZ
Yeah, I was wondering if you were
still holding tryouts for
basketball.

COACH GAMBENA
Yeah, we're still holding tryouts
for basketball. Why, you know
someone who wants to play?

JABEZ
Yeah, me. That's why I'm asking
you.

COACH GAMBENA
You?
(gives Jabez a
condescending look)
You sure?

JABEZ
Yeah.

COACH GAMBENA
See, right now I'm supposed to tell
you that everyone should be given a
chance and all that crap. But let's
do it differently. I wanna ask you
a question, do you think you'd be a
good investment? If I let you join
the team, will you help us win?
C'mon, let's get realistic. If you
try out, I'm not trying to be mean,
but you probably couldn't make it
anyway.

Jabez gives him a look, then he walks out of the office.

INT. ART CLASSROOM - DAY

The class is busy with their free draw.

AMELIE
So how was your day so far?

JABEZ
Pretty bad.

AMELIE
What happened?

JABEZ
Hard to explain.

AMELIE
That's one of my favorite songs.

JABEZ
What?

AMELIE
Nothing.

Pause. They continue drawing.

AMELIE (CONT'D)
Hey, I met your cousin today. He
seems like a nice guy.

JABEZ
You believed it?

AMELIE
Believed what?

JABEZ
His act.

AMELIE
What are you talking about?

JABEZ
My cousin is a lying, manipulative
bastard.

AMELIE
You sound crazy.

JABEZ

Trust me. You should stay away from him.

MS. PAULI

Okay class, presenting time! Now I don't want any criticism. Anyone ridicules, I can guarantee you a trip to the dean's. Okay, let's begin. Nancy, you first.

Nancy steps up to the front with her painting and starts talking.

AMELIE

(whispering)

Where's your painting?

JABEZ

(whispering)

In my backpack.

AMELIE

(whispering)

Let me see it.

Jabez quietly gets his painting from his backpack.

AMELIE

(whispering)

Wow, it's dark.

JABEZ

(whispering)

Thanks.

AMELIE

(whispering)

You finished this at your house?

JABEZ

(whispering)

Yeah.

AMELIE

(whispering)

It must've taken you forever.

JABEZ

(whispering)

I got nothing else to do.

MS. PAULI
Thank you, Nancy. It's your turn
Jabez.

Jabez takes his painting and goes to the front of the class.

JABEZ
This is my painting. I don't have a
title.

MS. PAULI
Okay, so what's in it?

JABEZ
It kinda looks like a black sky and
an orange sun.

MS. PAULI
Okay, so what do you think it's
trying to say?

JABEZ
I don't think it's saying anything.

MS. PAULI
Art is a reflection of you. You
incorporate yourself in your art.

JABEZ
Well, it doesn't mean anything.

MS. PAULI
Are you sure? I'm pretty sure it
means something.

JABEZ
It doesn't.

MS. PAULI
Let's pretend you're an art
connoisseur and you saw that
painting. What would you say?

JABEZ
I'd say it was dark.

MS. PAULI
Why is it dark?

JABEZ
I guess it's supposed to be sad.

MS. PAULI
So the black skies mean sorrow?

JABEZ

Yeah, I guess.

MS. PAULI

What about the sun? What could that be?

JABEZ

Uhh...

MS. PAULI

What was that?

JABEZ

I don't know.

MS. PAULI

What about chance? Hope? Life?

JABEZ

No.

MS. PAULI

No? Why is that?

JABEZ

Because the clouds will cover it up anyways.

MS. PAULI

I see. Thank you, Jabez.

Jabez takes his seat.

MS. PAULI

Crystal.

Crystal moves to the front of the class.

AMELIE

(whispering)

So where do you hang out at lunch?

JABEZ

(whispering)

Why?

AMELIE

(whispering)

Well, I don't know many people yet. So I was wondering if I could hang out with you?

JABEZ

(whispering)

Actually, my friends, they're not very social. They're very shy. I don't think they'd be comfortable with you around.

AMELIE

(whispering)

Oh, that's cool.

The bell rings and the kids start leaving.

Ms. Pauli walks over to Jabez.

MS. PAULI

Jabez, I'm really impressed with your painting. I'm putting together an art show in the penthouse. Would you be interested in letting us use it?

JABEZ

Okay.

MS. PAULI

Really? That's great. Let me get you a flyer.

She searches her desk for a flyer.

MS. PAULI

Here you go.

(hands it to him)

Tell your parents, it'll be fun.

EXT. LUNCH HALL - DAY

Jabez is sitting alone, eating. He looks at the birds, rips a piece of bread, and feeds it to them.

Out of nowhere an empty water bottle sacks Jabez in the head.

On the other side of the hall, Gonzalo and his crew start laughing.

Jabez picks up his tray and moves to a table further away.

Amelie takes a seat next to him.

AMELIE

So where's your buddies?

Jabez is slightly surprised she popped out of nowhere.

JABEZ

They went to this comic book club thing. I'm not really into that stuff.

Amelie looks at Gonzalo and his crew.

AMELIE

You don't like them, do you?

JABEZ

No. How'd you figure that?

AMELIE

I notice things. So what did they do? Kill your dog?

JABEZ

No.

AMELIE

Maybe if you tried to talk to them...

JABEZ

Why would I want to do that? They're idiots, mean idiots. What is this to you? Why do you care about this?

AMELIE

You're a good guy. You just don't have things in your favor.

Pause. They look at each other intensely.

JABEZ

Well, it's true. Look at them. They think they're happy. They go on and on stupidly bantering about shit. Fuck them, I hate them. They think they're cool, embarrassing people and messing with them.

AMELIE

Do they mess with you?

JABEZ

A little. Just 'cause I try not to talk to them, they think it's intimidation.

AMELIE

Are you intimidated?

JABEZ

..... No.

AMELIE

Are you intimidated by me?

JABEZ

Should I be?

AMELIE

No.

JABEZ

Well, no then.

Pause.

AMELIE

So, guess what movie opened this weekend?

JABEZ

I don't know.

AMELIE

C'mon, just guess.

JABEZ

There's no way I can guess what movie you're talking about. Y'know how many movies open every weekend?

AMELIE

C'mon, just guess.

JABEZ

Okay, that new Clint Eastwood movie?

AMELIE

No, not Harry. The new Travolta movie.

JABEZ

Oh.

AMELIE

So you wanna take me?

JABEZ

Go together?

AMELIE

No, I was planning to go alone I just need your permission. Of course together. Why, you don't wanna go with me?

JABEZ

No, no, no, that'd be great.

AMELIE

So you wanna go?

JABEZ

Yeah, but I don't like going to theaters.

AMELIE

How can you not like going to theaters?

JABEZ

Can't we just download it from the internet?

AMELIE

See, it's shit like that, that ruins the movie business.

JABEZ

Since when do you care about the movie business.

AMELIE

Well, I kinda wanna be an actress.

JABEZ

I thought you wanted to be an artist.

AMELIE

I changed my mind.

JABEZ

That was like a day ago. You changed your mind about your career path that fast?

AMELIE

I think fast. So how about it?

JABEZ

Okay, fine.

Amelie takes a napkin and starts writing her address on it.

AMELIE

Pick me up at seven-thirty at this address tomorrow.

JABEZ

I can go on one condition.

AMELIE

What is that?

JABEZ

That I pay.

AMELIE

Great. I was just about to ask you if I could borrow some money.

They laugh.

INT. JABEZ'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Jabez is watching a movie on his bed.

Off screen, the phone rings.

Jabez walks down to the hall adjacent to his room.

JABEZ

Hello?.. Right now?.. Yeah, I got the money, but... alright... okay.

Jabez hangs up.

EXT. MONSTER JOE'S TRUCK AND TOW - AFTERNOON

Jabez and Jeffrey stand in front of a really shabby-looking car. It's rusted nearly everywhere and dirt is all over it.

The car was probably made during the seventies.

JABEZ

What the hell is that?

JEFFREY

That's the car man.

JABEZ

That's the car?

JEFFREY

Yup.

JABEZ

You sure that there's nothing else left?

JEFFREY

I know that it looks like shit, but it handles like a dream.

JABEZ

I don't know. How'd he even get it? The thing should be in a museum.

JEFFREY

Hey man, I went out of my way to hook this deal up. You need to show more gratitude.

JABEZ

I asked for a car, I didn't ask for a fuckin' sandwagon.

JEFFREY

Dude all you got to do is rinse it off with water and then it's like new.

JABEZ

How much?

JEFFREY

Three hundred exactly.

JABEZ

There's no snakes or any fuckin' creatures in it, is there?

JEFFREY

Creatures? It's not a fuckin' jungle. And besides, we can't open the trunk.

JABEZ

Oh, great. I could be driving with a fucking body in it and everything.

JEFFREY

Do you want it or not?

Jabez looks at it for a long time.

JEFFREY

See, it's a classic. They don't make 'em like that anymore.

Pause.

JABEZ
You're saying that with a little
washing, it'll look cool?

JEFFREY
Yeah man. Like one of those
classics.

JABEZ
Alright. I'll take it.

EXT. JABEZ'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Jabez is busy scrubbing his lemon. Some of the rust is coming off.

He starts scrubbing the back. Jabez stops and takes a long look at the trunk.

He tries to open it but it won't budge. Jabez walks to the garage and comes back with a crowbar.

Jabez jams the crowbar in and starts tugging.

It's almost opening.

Jabez drops the crowbar when he notices Gonzalo's car pull up on Janette's driveway. Janette gets out and the car drives off.

Janette walks to her front door.

Jabez and Janette look at each other.

JANETTE
That you're car?

JABEZ
(proudly)
Yeah.

JANETTE
It's a piece of shit.

She goes inside.

Jabez just stares. He's too surprised at what just happened.

JABEZ
(walking away)
Piece of shit.

INT. JABEZ'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Jabez finishes washing his face. He steps back and flexes his arms. He looks a little disappointed. He drops down and does ten push-ups.

Back on his feet, he flexes his arm. It seems to have more of a bulge, so he grins.

INT. JABEZ'S ROOM - NIGHT

Lying on his bed, Jabez turns off his TV and flicks a switch on his radio.

"Who Makes You Feel" by Dido instantly fills the room.

Jabez closes his eyes, unzips his pants and sticks his hand in there. He begins masturbating.

INT. ART CLASSROOM - DAY (FANTASY)

Jabez and Amelie are alone in the classroom.

They talk inaudibly.

INT. JABEZ'S ROOM - NIGHT (REALITY)

Jabez has a slow and steady rhythm. He pulls out a dirty shirt and uses it to cover the blast.

INT. ART CLASSROOM - DAY (FANTASY)

Amelie and Jabez are alone in the art classroom.

They stare at each other for a moment. Then they start making out. Amelie gets on top of Jabez.

INT. JABEZ'S ROOM - NIGHT (REALITY)

Jabez is really going at it. He has a really fast motion going while he moans.

INT. ART CLASSROOM - DAY (FANTASY)

They're really going at it. She takes off her shirt and his. She opens his pants and grabs it.

INT. JABEZ'S ROOM - NIGHT (REALITY)

Jabez moans one last time and blows. He stays still for a moment. Jabez wipes the jizz off and throws the shirt to the other side of the room. He zips up his pants and goes to sleep.

INT. JABEZ'S HOUSE - MORNING

Jabez is eating cereal alone. Mother enters. She begins to make coffee.

MOTHER
Where'd you get it?

JABEZ
Monster Joe's.

Pause.

JABEZ (CONT'D)
You're not mad?

MOTHER
Of course I'm mad, Jabez. It's a car. You bought a car!

JABEZ
It's my money.

MOTHER
I gave you the money.

Pause.

MOTHER (CONT'D)
A car, Jabez. This is big.

JABEZ
It's not that big.

MOTHER
You went behind my back and bought a car.

JABEZ
I didn't go behind your back.

MOTHER
You bought it without my consent.

JABEZ
So what? It's my money.

MOTHER
Had you asked me, I would have gladly got you one. Hell I could've got you a good car. Did you even research the car?

JABEZ

It's a car, Mom, not a project. It drives.

MOTHER

It could've been in an accident or stolen-

JABEZ

-Look at it, Mom. Does it look like someone stole that?

MOTHER

Fine. Do what you want.

She picks up her coffee.

JABEZ

What time you getting out?

MOTHER

Six.

JABEZ

Good, you can give me a ride.

MOTHER

Where?

JABEZ

(standing up and putting his bowl in the sink)

The theater.

MOTHER

Why don't you use your new car.

JABEZ

It probably doesn't work.

INT. AMELIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A modest household. Neat and orderly except for a couple of unpacked boxes around.

JOY

Have a seat. Amelie'll be down in a jiffy.

Jabez takes a seat.

JOY

Would you like some lemonade or something Jabez?

JABEZ

No thank you.

A baby is heard crying in another room.

JOY

I better go check on that. Relax
Jabez, relax. Make yourself at
home.

She leaves.

Amelie's father FULLER, enters.

Fuller is stocky and really tall. He looks like one tough
apple.

FULLER

(surprised)

Who the hell are you?

JABEZ

I'm-

FULLER

-I know damn well who you are!
You're the neighborhood vandal,
huh? You can do whatever you want
huh?! You think you can just walk
in my house and put up your feet-

JABEZ

-No, no, no. I'm-

Jabez is shaking in his boots.

FULLER

Oh, so you came here to rob us?!
You see a new neighbor, you see
they have an Acura, you assume they
are loaded. Listen, Buddy, you
picked the wrong fuckin' house! I
don't look like much, but I studied
karate for a year. Honey, go get my
shotgun!!

JABEZ

No please, I'm just here for -

FULLER

I said where's my fuckin' shotgun!!

Fuller picks up a lamp. He gets it ready to strike. He swings
and stops just short of Jabez's head.

FULLER

Gotcha!

Fuller falls on the couch next to Jabez, crying with laughter.

FULLER

(laughing)

Oh my God, I'm so sorry. But it was so good!

Fuller regains his composure after a couple of minutes.

FULLER

(holding out his hand)

Hi Jabez, I'm Amelie's father, Fuller.

Jabez shakes his hand.

FULLER

Oh, man. I'm sorry. Did I scare you?

JABEZ

...Kinda.

FULLER

It was pretty good though, huh?

JABEZ

Yeah, I guess.

Jabez looks very nervous. The joke's still rattling him.

FULLER

Amelie'll be down in a couple of minutes. You know girls, they spend forever in the bathroom. You want some lemonade?

JABEZ

No, thank you.

FULLER

You sure? It's no bother, really. We got lots of lemonade and lots of lemons. The previous owner planted a lemon tree in the yard. It's amazing, shits out like three baskets a day. It's a good thing I love my lemonade.

Pause.

FULLER
So Jabez, you gonna go to college?

JABEZ
Maybe, I'm not sure.

FULLER
Grades okay and everything?

JABEZ
Yeah.

FULLER
Y'know what I always wanted to be
when I was a kid? A stand-up comic.
You into stand-up comedy?

JABEZ
No, not really.

FULLER
You should look into that. It's a
nice hobby. I still follow it a
little, y'know some of that Jay
Mohr stuff. Hey you want to hear a
joke I just wrote?

JABEZ
Sure.

FULLER
Okay, so I recently got a Discover
card, but I recently discovered
that I can't pay for it.

Fuller waits for a laugh. Jabez fakes one.

FULLER
I just wrote that, can you believe
it?

Amelie and Joy enter.

AMELIE
You ready?

JABEZ
Yeah.

FULLER
Wait, wait, wait, let him hear this
joke I got.

AMELIE

Dad, he doesn't want to hear your joke.

FULLER

I'll have you know, we had a very spirited conversation. And he liked my new joke, didn't you, Jabez?

JABEZ

Umm.....yeah.

FULLER

See?

AMELIE

Mom!

JOY

Honey, maybe you should let them go.

FULLER

No, we were having a conversation. How about we let him decide? You want to hear another joke?

They wait for his response.

JABEZ

I'm okay with another joke.

FULLER

Awesome. Okay, so one day I was sitting at the bus stop...

INT. THE THEATER - NIGHT

The theater is packed to the brim with teenagers doing stupid skateboard tricks and drugs.

In fact the line to get tickets is probably the smallest group in the theater.

AMELIE

How often do you come here?

JABEZ

Not often.

AMELIE

Well, do you know where the bathroom is?

JABEZ

No.

AMELIE

Well, can you wait here then? It'll only take a second. I promise.

JABEZ

It's okay.

She leaves.

Jabez takes a look around. He looks over at the kids at the counter, the kids at the arcades, the kids at the entrance and the kids that are hanging around Gonzalo and his crew.

They see him too and decide to come over.

GONZALO

What the hell, the fuck are you doing here?

JANETTE

What other reason would he have for going to the movies?

The kids laugh.

GONZALO

I don't know. I didn't think he liked movies.

JANETTE

You don't have to like movies to go to the theater.

GONZALO

I'm just saying.

Pause.

GONZALO

So what movie are you gonna see?

JABEZ

The new Travolta movie.

GONZALO

Oh, the Travolta movie. You like Travolta?

JABEZ

Yeah, he's pretty good.

GONZALO
He's your favorite actor?

JABEZ
Yeah.

GONZALO
So, I guess you like Travolta a lot. You like him a lot?

Jabez catches on. The kids snicker.

GONZALO
It's okay, I'm not gonna make fun of you. It's the twenty-first century. That kind of stuff is totally legal.

JANETTE
(laughing)
You're so mean.

GONZALO
I'm just saying. They totally legalize it now. I'm just kidding... only in San Francisco.

The kids laugh again.

Jabez starts to tear up.

ALBERT
You should leave him alone, before he starts crying.

GONZALO
I was just playing, Dude. Don't cry.

JABEZ
I'm not crying.

GONZALO
Oh, man. I was just playing with you.

By now Gonzalo's posse have formed a circle around Jabez.

Gonzalo gives Jabez a push. Jabez flies to the guy on the other side, then gives Jabez another push.

SAM
He's like a fuckin' pinball!

JABEZ
Stop it! Stop it!

Jabez tries to hold his ground after each push, but the guys are just too strong.

ALBERT
Alright, alright. Lay off him now.

They keep playing pinball. Jabez is now teary-eyed.

JABEZ
I said fucking stop!

Jabez gets tripped. Someone pours popcorn on him.

GONZALO
(laughing)
Sorry, Dude. You know we're just playing with you.

He puts his hand on Jabez's shoulder. Jabez pushes his hand off and slugs Gonzalo one on the face.

The crowd gawks. Gonzalo shoves Jabez, sending him crashing into a moviegoer.

GONZALO
The hell's the matter with you?!

Gonzalo takes a soda and cracks Jabez in the head with it.

GONZALO (CONT'D)
Fuckin' faggot.

Crying, Jabez wipes off the soda and splits.

INT. JABEZ'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jabez enters crying and flips out.

He jumps around, punches the wall, slaps his head.

Jabez stands right in front of the wall. He begins slamming his head into it.

JABEZ
(crying and slamming)
Stupid, stupid, idiot, stupid,
fuck, fuck, you fuckers!

He begins slamming his head much faster and harder.

JABEZ (CONT'D)
 Fuck! You fuck! You fuck! You fuck!
 Why! Why! How! Could! You! Be!
 That! Fucking! Stupid!

Jabez sinks into the corner and cries.

INT. ENGLISH CLASSROOM - DAY

AMELIE
 So I heard what happened.

Jabez stares at his pen.

AMELIE (CONT'D)
 I'm really sorry about that.

JABEZ
 How'd you find out?

AMELIE
 They told me.

Pause.

AMELIE (CONT'D)
 They also told me that they're
 sorry about it.

Jabez scoffs.

AMELIE (CONT'D)
 Seriously, they're sorry.

JABEZ
 They're assholes. Fuck them.

AMELIE
 Don't say that. That's mean.

JABEZ
 That's mean? They're mean. They're
 the mean ones. You heard what they
 did to me.

AMELIE
 But they're sorry. They told me
 that they got a little too high and
 they got too out of hand.

JABEZ
 Why do you care so much about them?

AMELIE

I care about everyone. I care about you.

Pause. They're both looking at their pens now.

AMELIE (CONT'D)

What are you doing after school today?

EXT. PARK - AFTERNOON

The sun is about to set in this empty, yet beautiful park.

Amelie and Jabez are sitting on the bench waiting for the fountains to turn on.

AMELIE

What I like about this park is that no one seems to come here. It's so lone and cool. These fountains should be the fuckin' eighth world wonder, they're so cool.

JABEZ

You like being alone?

AMELIE

Alone here. It's awesome here. You need to appreciate this kinda stuff, otherwise you'll be too focused on how shitty everything is. Shh, here it comes.

It starts to get darker cause the sun is setting.

The fountains start blasting water upwards.

AMELIE

Isn't that cool? You appreciating yet?

JABEZ

I could see how you could like it.

AMELIE

I knew you would.

They watch the fountains for a moment.

AMELIE (CONT'D)

You know Janette?

JABEZ

Yeah, I know her. How do you know her?

AMELIE

I have more classes than just art and English. She said Gonzalo's throwing a party.

JABEZ

How do you know?

AMELIE

She told me yesterday. Wanna go with me?

JABEZ

I'm gonna have to say no.

AMELIE

Why don't you want to go with me?

JABEZ

It's not that. I don't want to go to a Janette party.

AMELIE

Why? You don't like her?

JABEZ

We've had run-ins in the past.

AMELIE

Well, so what?

JABEZ

So I don't want to go.

AMELIE

You don't want to go because?

JABEZ

It's more complicated than that.

AMELIE

Well, tell me. I love stories.

JABEZ

Okay. When we were kids, we were best friends. Jabez and Janette. Every day we'd be together. Before school, during school and after school. It was just her and me.

(MORE)

JABEZ (cont'd)

She always used to tell me to study and get rich, so one day we'd move to Paris and have two kids. But we got older and she began to realize what the social ladder was and she didn't want to be seen with someone so low on the ladder. Cause let's face it, watching movies don't get you popular.

AMELIE

That's a real sad story.

Pause.

They stare at the fountains some more.

AMELIE

Did you like her?

JABEZ

She was my best friend.

AMELIE

No, I mean like like.

JABEZ

..Yeah. If I had to chose, out of anyone, she's probably the only person I loved.

AMELIE

But that happened like a long time ago, right? She probably let it go. You should let it go.

They watch the sun again.

AMELIE

Besides, going to this party will get you past your social anxiety disorder.

JABEZ

I don't have social anxiety disorder.

AMELIE

Then go with me. C'mon, I don't want to go alone. They want you to come.

JABEZ

What do you mean they?

AMELIE

They said they were sorry and that we should stop by.

JABEZ

Now I'm definitely not going.

AMELIE

They already apologized and everything.

JABEZ

No.

AMELIE

Are you worried about us getting there? My parents can give us a ride.

JABEZ

I have a car y'know.

AMELIE

Really?

JABEZ

Yeah.

AMELIE

Then why the fuck are we here at the park?

EXT. JABEZ'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Jabez and Amelie are standing in front of the car.

AMELIE

Wow this is awesome!

Jabez is incredibly surprised by her reaction.

JABEZ

What? You like it?

AMELIE

Yeah man, this thing's a classic. Just clean it up.

JABEZ
 (smiling)
 Yeah, that's why I got it.

They stare at each other for awhile.

INT. JABEZ'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Amelie and Jabez enter. Jabez takes a seat on the bed.

Amelie takes a look around.

AMELIE
 You like *The Bride of Frankenstein*?

JABEZ
 Yeah.

Amelie takes a seat on the bed. An awkward silence.

AMELIE
 I think James Whales is way better
 than Todd Browning, don't you
 think?

Another awkward silence.

AMELIE (CONT'D)
 You ever hear of something called
 depression?

JABEZ
 I've heard of it. Why? You think I
 have depression?

AMELIE
 Just a thought.

JABEZ
 I'm not crazy.

AMELIE
 I didn't say you were. I asked if
 you had depression.

Pause. They look at each other.

JABEZ
 Maybe. I do get depressed
 sometimes.

Pause.

JABEZ (CONT'D)

A year ago, I used to be thinking about suicide. So I guess I had it.

AMELIE

Why were you gonna do suicide?

JABEZ

I was tired of this. All this shit I have to put up with. My mom, Gonzalo and everything.

AMELIE

What's wrong with your mom?

JABEZ

She's one of those moms that try desperately to be good mothers. But everyone knows that she'd trade me in for her business.

AMELIE

So why didn't you do it?

JABEZ

I don't know.

Pause.

JABEZ (CONT'D)

I guess. Just like a lot of other things, I was just too scared.

Pause.

AMELIE

I'm glad you didn't do it.

They stare at each other for a moment. They finally kiss.

AMELIE

So you wanna go?

JABEZ

Why do you want to go so bad?

AMELIE

I think we should mingle with other couples.

JABEZ

Other couples?

AMELIE

Well, this right here makes it official, doesn't it?

Jabez laughs.

JABEZ

You really want to go?

AMELIE

Yeah, we need to go out more, meet more people.

JABEZ

I'll go for you.

AMELIE

Jabez, you big teddy bear.

Amelie kisses Jabez on the cheek again.

JABEZ

When is this party?

AMELIE

Tuesday, tomorrow. When can you pick me up?

JABEZ

What's a good time?

AMELIE

Seven.

EXT. JABEZ'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - MORNING

Jabez finishes scrubbing the rest of the rust off.

He stands back looking at his shiny car. Jabez goes inside the house and comes out with a black cat bobble head.

He places the bobble head on the dash board and stands back to look at it.

He's not happy with the positioning of it. He places it on another spot.

He stands back and looks at it. He's happy with it.

Jabez looks at the back of the car.

CUT TO:

Jabez looks at the trunk.

CUT TO:

Jabez is prying open the trunk with a crowbar. It pops open.

Jabez drops the crowbar and searches the trunk. He finds one paper bag.

He sticks his hand in and pulls out a pouch of cocaine.

Jabez is certainly surprised.

Jabez walks over to the garbage can and throws in the pouch. He reaches in the paper bag and pulls out a revolver.

Jabez drops it in too. He looks at the gun for quite a while.

He pulls it out and checks if it has any bullets in it.

It's fully loaded.

Jabez closes it and puts it back in the bag.

INT. JABEZ'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Jabez is lying on his bed while checking out his new treasure.

He cocks and uncocks it again and again.

He puts it in his pocket and plays quick draw with it. After a while he points it toward himself and looks down the barrel.

The phone RINGS.

Jabez gets startled. He puts the treasure in the bag and sticks the bag in the closet.

He walks down the hall adjacent to his room and answers the phone.

JABEZ (O.S.)
Hello?... Okay... Okay... I'm gonna
go right now... Alright... Bye.

Jabez reappears in the room.

He stands in front of the mirror.

He stares at himself for a long time.

JABEZ

They're nothing. They're trash.
They can't do anything to you.
Cause you're strong. If they mess
with you, you hurt someone.

He stares at himself more.

JABEZ (CONT'D)

They're jealous. They're jealous
that you're going with Amelie.
They're just jealous. So don't let
them bother you. So don't give them
that satisfaction. You're tough.

He walks out.

EXT. GONZALO'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jabez and Amelie walk out of the car to Gonzalo's patio.

Amelie rings the doorbell.

They wait a while.

AMELIE

I love what they did with the
hedges.

Jabez laughs, just like he did in the old days.

Amelie rings the doorbell again.

AMELIE

Remember, stay cool. It's okay.

The door swings open. Janette is standing in the doorway.

JANETTE

Hey Am.

AMELIE

Hey Janette. I brought a friend
with me.

She points to Jabez.

JANETTE

Oh... Jabez.

AMELIE

Yeah, well he had nothing to do, so
I dragged him along.

JANETTE
... Well, come on in.

Amelie and Jabez enter.

INT. GONZALO'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The house has even more kids in it than the theater.

Amelie and Jabez take a seat on the sofa.

JABEZ
What now?

AMELIE
Right now we relax and wait for the music. Oh yeah, you have to dance with me.

JABEZ
I don't like dancing.

AMELIE
Nope, you have to. Hey there's your cousin. Albert!

Albert turns and heads toward them.

JABEZ
(to himself)
Fuck.

ALBERT
Hey Amelie, Jabez.

AMELIE
So how's the party so far?

ALBERT
Pretty cool. We had a little "Fight Club" thing going. Did I tell you guys that I made the basketball team?

AMELIE
That's cool.

Jabez gives a sad look.

ALBERT
Yeah, I know. Are you into sports?

AMELIE
No, not really.

Jabez gives an up-lifted look.

AMELIE
I'm gonna go get a soda.

She leaves.

Albert takes her seat.

ALBERT
I gotta tell you, good work cuz. I
don't know if you hypnotized her or
something, I don't know.

JABEZ
Thanks.

"Hella Good" by No Doubt starts playing.

Amelie is over on the other side of the room. Gonzalo walks up to her. They talk for a little while. They take the dance floor and start dancing.

ALBERT
Damn, she's hot.

Jabez watches her dance with him. He watches Gonzalo's hands on her hips and the way he's smiling.

After a while, Gonzalo walks back to the sofa. Amelie walks over to the bathroom.

Gonzalo, still a little sore, notices Jabez is here.

GONZALO
The fuck are you doing here Jabez?
This is a straight party okay? None
of your homosexual hanky-panky
shit.

Jabez looks at Albert.

JABEZ
How about you shut the fuck up?

CROWD
Oooooohhhh...

GONZALO

Oh, Jabez grew some balls. Maybe now he won't cheap-shot me. Motherfucker clipped me in the jaw a couple of days ago. I should fuckin' kill you for that.

Jabez looks at the crowd.

JABEZ

I said shut-up.

GONZALO

Can you believe this faggot? He tells me to shut-up. Fuck you. You can't do shit. C'mon, try something.

Jabez looks at Gonzalo and realizes there's no way he'll be able to take him on.

Jabez gets a little teary-eyed.

GONZALO

Yeah, that's what I thought.

Gonzalo slaps Jabez.

And the crowd goes wild.

Jabez tears up.

GONZALO

(laughing)

You fucking fudgepacker.

Gonzalo slaps him again.

SAM

The fuck's a fudgepacker?

Jabez tries to slug him, but Gonzalo's ready.

Gonzalo dodges it, holds Jabez arms behind him and plants him on the floor.

GONZALO

C'mon, you little bitch.

Gonzalo holds him down on the floor. Jabez slips off Gonzalo and cracks him on the face.

Gonzalo, not really hurt, cracks Jabez on the face. Jabez starts bleeding and crying.

GONZALO
C'mon, you little bitch! C'mon!!

Gonzalo stands up and starts kicking him.

ALBERT
Alright, now that's not even funny
anymore. That's just fucked up.

Gonzalo crouches down and picks out a lighter.

He flicks it on and holds it close to Jabez.

GONZALO
You see this fire? It's like me.
You fuck with me you get burned.

Gonzalo stands up and puts the lighter away.

Sam and Gonzalo pick him up and literally throw him outside.

The door slams shut.

Jabez sobs loudly. He starts breathing very loudly and starts yelling. He grabs a rake and breaks it in half.

Jabez climbs a tree to get to the second story of the house. He opens the window and slips in.

INT. GONZALO'S ROOM -NIGHT

Jabez climbs in and hears Gonzalo and Amelie's voices.

GONZALO (O.S.)
Yeah, you're a real good dancer.

AMELIE (O.S.)
Yeah, well. That's how I get my
exercise. Do you know where Jabez
is?

GONZALO (O.S.)
I gotta tell you, you look so
fuckin hot right now...

AMELIE (O.S.)
Umm,.. Thank you.

We hear a struggle.

AMELIE (O.S.)
Get off me!! Get off!

Jabez listens.

Amelie is yelling while Gonzalo is trying to stick his hand down her pants.

AMELIE (O.S.)
Help! Get off!!

They're coming in the room. Jabez runs into the closet.

Gonzalo pulls Amelie in.

She slaps Gonzalo, but he forces her down.

AMELIE
Help! Help!

Gonzalo slaps her.

Jabez is very mad now. You can tell by his breathing.

Gonzalo takes off his shirt.

Amelie tries to fight back.

Someone enters the room.

It's Janette.

JANETTE
What are you doing?

Gonzalo bounces off her.

GONZALO
It's not what it looks like.

Amelie runs out the room.

JANETTE
The fuck were you doing?! You
fucker!

GONZALO
It wasn't what it looked like!

JANETTE
Then what the hell else could it've
been, you fuck! You fucking fuck!

She tosses him a ring and slams the door.

Gonzalo sighs and lays on the bed.

Jabez is boiling red now.

Gonzalo stands up and goes through the drawers.

He finally notices the closet is more ajar than usual.

He comes closer to see.

Jabez hops out and stabs Gonzalo with the broken end of the rake.

Jabez yells, grabs a lamp and smashes it on Gonzalo's head.

"Fun For Me" by Moloko starts playing. It plays for the rest of the

MONTAGE - KILLING AND DANCING

-- Jabez smacks Gonzalo four times on the head.

-- The people below have no idea what's going on. They keep on dancing.

-- Gonzalo is on the floor. He's a bloody mess. Jabez winds up for another shot.

-- The people below just keep on dancing. They're having a great time.

-- Jabez drops the lamp. Gonzalo is nothing but a bloody, lifeless pulp.

-- Jabez opens the window and takes off.

END MONTAGE

INT. ART CLASSROOM - DAY

The class is quiet while doing their free-draw. Amelie is not there, so Jabez is staring at his pencil.

He looks more jovial than usual.

The phone rings and Ms. Pauli answers it. She listens for a while, then hangs it up.

MS. PAULI

Janette, report to the main office.

Jabez looks up.

INT. ENGLISH CLASSROOM - DAY

The class is yet again working on a stupid worksheet.

Jabez looks around the class. Amelie, Janette and of course, Gonzalo, aren't here.

Jabez smiles as he looks at Gonzalo's empty seat.

The phone RINGS.

Mr. Snider answers it. After a while, he hangs it up.

MR. SNIDER
Jabez, main office.

INT. MAIN OFFICE - SPARE ROOM - DAY

Jabez sits alone in the middle of the empty office. He looks quite calm. Nothing can ruin this day.

Two police men enter.

With inaudible dialogue they talk to Jabez and put cuffs on him. They lift him up and take him out of the room.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTEROGATION ROOM - DAY

Jabez is sitting alone in an empty room.

He looks at the clock. It's obvious that he's been here for a while.

The door opens.

Tall and lean, DETECTIVE MOORE enters.

Jabez squints at his badge.

DETECTIVE MOORE
Hello Jabez. My name is Moore. I
work at the Department. How are you
today?

JABEZ
Okay.

DETECTIVE MOORE
That's good to hear. Did you guys
have lunch yet?

JABEZ

No.

DETECTIVE MOORE

Would you like something to eat? I can get you a sandwich or something.

JABEZ

I'm okay.

DETECTIVE MOORE

So Jabez Woelly, that's an interesting name. It's Hebrew isn't it?

JABEZ

Yeah.

DETECTIVE MOORE

My first name is Jonathan. It means God Given. What does yours mean?

JABEZ

I forgot.

DETECTIVE MOORE

That's okay. So Jabez, you mind if I ask you some questions?

JABEZ

Not at all. Can I ask you a question first?

DETECTIVE MOORE

Sure.

JABEZ

Where's my mom?

DETECTIVE MOORE

She's right outside Jabez.

DETECTIVE MOORE

So anyway, could you tell me everything you did yesterday?

JABEZ

(unusually calm)

I woke up. I went to first period. After approximately sixty-eight minutes, I went to second period-

DETECTIVE MOORE
-What did you after school?

JABEZ
I went to a party.

DETECTIVE MOORE
(sarcastically)
Really?

JABEZ
(sarcastically)
Yeah, it was great!

Jabez is so high right now on testosterone and euphoria.

Detective Moore gives him a long, hard look.

JABEZ
I don't really understand. Why
exactly am I here?

DETECTIVE MOORE
You know anyone named Gonzalo
Martinez?

JABEZ
Yes, I do.

DETECTIVE MOORE
He got murdered.

JABEZ
Oh.

Detective Moore gives him another long hard look.

DETECTIVE MOORE
So you got anything to tell me?

JABEZ
What do you want me to say?

DETECTIVE MOORE
Anything. Information. Did you see
anything happen to him? Did you
talk to him during the party?
Anything like that?

JABEZ
No.

DETECTIVE MOORE
No?

JABEZ

No.

DETECTIVE MOORE

Y'know what you are? You're a prime suspect. Y'know what that means? That means trouble. That means a lot of trouble for you if you keep giving me these smart-ass answers.

Jabez now gives him a look.

DETECTIVE MOORE (CONT'D)

Now, what happened at the party?

JABEZ

Nothing.

Detective Moore pulls out a legal pad.

DETECTIVE MOORE

It's reported that somewhere between eight and nine that you and Gonzalo had a fight.

JABEZ

An argument.

DETECTIVE MOORE

Then your girlfriend almost got raped by the bastard.

Pause.

DETECTIVE MOORE

That's two for two. Two very big motives for you. That puts you in a special club. You and the ex-girlfriend and the girl he tried to rape.

Pause.

Detective Moore looks directly at the glass window.

DETECTIVE MOORE (CONT'D)

Max.

A policeman enters.

DETECTIVE MOORE

It's pretty obvious you ain't gonna give us shit. You're too smart.

(MORE)

DETECTIVE MOORE (cont'd)
Will you be willing to take a
polygraph test?

JABEZ
A lie-detector test? Yeah.

DETECTIVE MOORE
What about fingerprinting? You okay
with that?

Jabez turns pale.

JABEZ
Yeah.

DETECTIVE MOORE
Max, get his prints. The team's
trying to pull up a set of prints
off a bloody lamp. Amazing the
things they can do.

Max opens up a ink set and presses Jabez's fingers on it.

DETECTIVE MOORE
I really hope you're not lying to
me.

INT. MOTHER'S CAR - DRIVING HOME - DAY

MOTHER
(mad)
I can't believe what they did to
you.

JABEZ
It's okay.

MOTHER
No, it's not okay. You have any
idea what this can do to your
record?

JABEZ
They're not gonna put it on my
record.

MOTHER
Colleges may find that and then-

JABEZ
-They're not gonna put it on my
record.

Pause. They ride silently the rest of the way.

INT. MOTHER'S CAR - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Mother pulls up the hand brake. They sit there for a while.

MOTHER

Jabez, I know that you don't really like me... but if you ever need to talk about-

JABEZ

-You think I did it?

MOTHER

(holds Jabez's shoulder)
No. I could never think that. You're my baby. You could never do anything like that.

Pause.

JABEZ

Thanks, Ma.

MOTHER

(kinda teary-eyed)
Think nothing of it.

INT. LUNCH HALL - DAY

Jabez is eating alone again. Amelie takes a seat next to him.

JABEZ

Where were you in the morning?

AMELIE

Around.

Pause.

AMELIE

So what did the cops say to you?

JABEZ

They asked me about Gonzalo and the party. They told me some things about you.

AMELIE

Yeah, they thought I might have killed him.

Pause.

AMELIE (CONT'D)
Y'know it's pretty weird when
someone thinks you killed someone.

Pause.

AMELIE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry about forcing you to go
to the party.

JABEZ
It's okay.

AMELIE
If I knew what an asshole he was I
wouldn't have danced with him.

Pause.

AMELIE
Hey, Jabez. Can I ask you
something?

JABEZ
Yeah.

AMELIE
You didn't have anything to do with
it, did you?

JABEZ
You think I did?

AMELIE
I don't know. That's why I'm asking
you.

JABEZ
If there was a possibility that I
killed him, why are you still
talking to me?

AMELIE
I like the mysterious, remember?

JABEZ
I got kicked out, literally.

AMELIE
Okay, I believe you.

Pause.

AMELIE

I really am sorry about forcing you to go to the party.

JABEZ

It's all cool.

They look at each other.

AMELIE

Wanna go to the park today?

JABEZ

Yeah.

AMELIE

Cool.

She kisses him - a real kiss.

Happiest he's been in a while, Jabez puts his arm around Amelie while they finish lunch.

INT. JABEZ'S ROOM - MORNING

Jabez wakes up.

INT. JABEZ'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Mother already went to work. Jabez goes to the cabinet and pulls out some Pop-Tarts.

INT. GYM - MORNING

The kids are playing basketball or jumping rope or something.

Jabez and Jeffrey are sitting on the bleachers.

JABEZ

I'm glad you made it to class.

JEFFREY

Yeah, I think I'll be coming now.

JABEZ

Why?

JEFFREY

I don't know, it seems like a good idea. So what about you? How's things with you?

JABEZ

Things are great. I'm kinda in this thing with a girl.

JEFFREY

Is that that thing you told me about? Damn, Jabez turned pimp.

They laugh.

JEFFREY

Did you kiss her yet?

JABEZ

Yeah, we made out at the park yesterday.

JEFFREY

That's great man. I always thought you were gay.

They laugh.

JABEZ

Can I ask you something?

JEFFREY

Yeah.

JABEZ

You've always given me good advice. I'm kinda in a dilemma.

JEFFREY

Go for broke man.

JABEZ

Well, let's say I did something very, very bad. But it felt good. It was the best experience I ever had. But it was very bad. And the thing is, everything just seems to get better. I feel better, I'm in a great thing with this girl, like I told you.

JEFFREY

Did you get your girl pregnant? Cause I can't help you out there. I don't know what you heard, but I swear I didn't touch her.

JABEZ
No, that's not it.

JEFFREY
Well, I'm a big believer in doing
whatever makes you happy.

JABEZ
You think I should be able to do it
again if I want to?

JEFFREY
Sure.

JABEZ
Thanks for the advice.

INT. JABEZ'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Janette is tied to a chair in the middle of the room. She's
pretty nervous. She tries to break the binds.

Jabez enters and takes a seat on the bed.

JABEZ
Hey you.

JANETTE
What the fuck is going on here!?

JABEZ
The intervention. Our last meet.

JANETTE
I don't know if this is some kinda
of joke or something, but get me
the fuck out of here!

Jabez just stares at her.

JANETTE
Jabez, you're really scaring me.
Untie me now.

Jabez just stares at her some more.

JANETTE
Hey, you fuckin' faggot, I'm
talking to you!

Jabez pulls a match out of his pocket.

JABEZ

See this fire? I'm just like it.
You fuck with me and you get
burned.

Jabez starts laughing.

JABEZ (CONT'D)

Isn't that so stupid? I can't
believe he actually said that to
me.

Quickly, Jabez gets up and slugs her one on the face.

Janette starts crying.

JANETTE

You killed Gonzalo.

JABEZ

Yes, I did.

Pause.

JABEZ (CONT'D)

So I heard you got interrogated by
the cops. What'd you tell them?

JANETTE

What do you mean?

JABEZ

You know what I mean. Do they think
I did it?

Janette continues crying.

JABEZ (CONT'D)

Answer me when I am speaking to
you.

Janette continues crying.

JABEZ (CONT'D)

You are being rude to me. Right
now, you are being rude to me. It's
not a good idea to be rude to me.
At least not now. Answer.

JANETTE

What do you want me to say?

JABEZ

Do you think that they think I did it.

JANETTE

How should I know?

JABEZ

You're a girl. Girls can sense those kind of things.

JANETTE

I don't know.

JABEZ

'course you don't know. You're an idiot.

Pause.

JANETTE

You gonna kill me?

JABEZ

Yeah, I'm gonna kill you.

JANETTE

My family has lots of money. You let me go, I can get like, ten thousand dollars.

JABEZ

I don't want your money.

JANETTE

Then what the fuck you want from me?

JABEZ

It's more personal.

JANETTE

What are you talking about?

JABEZ

It's more of a satisfaction.

JANETTE

Oh, it's that. I should've known that's what you wanted. You sick freak.

JABEZ

What are you talking about?

JANETTE
You look the type.

JABEZ
What type?

JANETTE
The sexual fiend type. You're so desperate to touch a girl you resort to rape.

JABEZ
(laughing)
You think I plan to rape you?

JANETTE
If I let you, will you let me go?

JABEZ
Let me what? Deflower you?

JANETTE
The fuck you think we've been talking about?

JABEZ
A girl's virginity is like a blessing. A gift from God.

JANETTE
Life is also a gift. Right now it's the only thing I care about. I got too much to live for to just let you fuck it up. I got into USC.

JABEZ
Wow, the University of Southern California. That's quite an accomplishment.

JANETTE
I know, so how about it?

JABEZ
No, I'm not into that. I don't need to rape anyone and if I did, it wouldn't be you. Besides, dumb shit, if you let me, it wouldn't be rape anymore.

JANETTE
Then what the fuck do you want from me?

JABEZ

It's not really what I want from you, it's more of what I'm gonna do because of you.

JANETTE

What the fuck did I do to you?

JABEZ

You know damn well what you did! You abandoned me, you left me. And wherever we met, all you did was flaunt your popularity to me.

JANETTE

I don't know what you're talking about.

JABEZ

I've seen you. I see how you think you're better than me. Just cause you got a lot of friends. That's what Gonzalo thought. He thought he could take her away from me. Fuck him. He wasn't so great. The only thing that idiot could do was play football.

(pause)

Y'know when I killed Gonzalo, it was amazing. It was kinda like a trance. When the blood hit the floor, the walls and me, it just shot me through the roof. Here was Jabez Woelly killing Gonzalo. Not a lot of people can say that-

JANETTE

No one would, you sick fuck!

JABEZ

It's very much the joy parents have when they have a baby. It's not so much the baby itself, just the accomplishment of finishing something and doing it right. I mean there's no wrong way of killing someone, either they're dead or they're not.

JANETTE

You're insane, you know that? You got some problems.

JABEZ

Yeah, I thought about that. But I don't think I am. When I was killing Gonzalo, I thought I was. But I think if you ask whether or not you're crazy then you aren't.

Jabez gets up, takes a pair of scissors from his desk and takes his seat back on the bed.

JABEZ

So, before we reach the climax. I want to ask you something. Why did you do it to me?

JANETTE

Jabez, I don't know what you're talking about.

JABEZ

All the shit you put me through, all the jokes and embarrassment, you fuckin' dumbshit.

JANETTE

That's it? Jokes? This is all about jokes? You killed Gonzalo because of fuckin' jokes?!

JABEZ

They weren't just jokes, okay? I never did anything to you guys. I never hurt you.

JANETTE

And we never hurt you. We were just kidding.

JABEZ

No, you know what you did.

JANETTE

But I never did anything to you. It was Gonzalo and Sam!

JABEZ

But you laughed! You laughed. You did nothing but laugh at me!

JANETTE

Okay, maybe it was a little mean, but it's not worth this, we were just playing.

JABEZ

Playing?! You were playing?! You call all the shit you did to me playing?!

JANETTE

Fine, it was mean. But does that justify what you're doing?!

JABEZ

If you don't shut up, I'll stick these scissors up your throat! Shut the fuck up!

Pause.

JABEZ (CONT'D)

Now, you did a lot of shit to me. They were mean, cruel and undeserved. All I ever did was try to be nice. You said a minute ago you were playing. Well I'm gonna play now.

JANETTE

I'm sorry! I'm sorry!

JABEZ

It's too late now. What you did counts. Everything you did counts. I'm just getting even.

JANETTE

(stuttering)

No, no, no Jabez. We can be... We can be friends again. Like the old days... Me and you...

JABEZ

Everyone wants to be your friend when you gain some sort of power, right?

JANETTE

Please! Let me go, please! I won't tell the cops about this and-

JABEZ

You just won't shut up, will you?

JANETTE

If you do it, the cops will catch you for sure.

Jabez looks at her.

JANETTE (CONT'D)
Yeah, so if you let me go, we can
forget all about this.

Pause.

JABEZ
Fuck it, besides I've been looking
forward to this for a while now.

Jabez gets the scissors in the stab position and Janette
starts screaming.

Just before the he stabs her, the phone rings.

JABEZ (CONT'D)
Fuck.

Jabez places the scissors on the bed, takes out a sock and
gags Janette with it.

Jabez exits the room and picks up the phone across the hall.

JABEZ(O.S)
Hello ... Hello Ms. Pauli yeah, I
know... Yup... Sunday... I'm positive...
Okay... Bye.

Janette's so desperate to reach the scissors, but she can't.

She hops around with the chair trying to get it.

Jabez hangs up and enters the room.

Jabez turns on the radio. "Stuck in the Middle With You" by
Stealer's Wheel fills the room.

Jabez listens for a moment, then quickly changes the station.

JABEZ (CONT'D)
I don't think that song fits the
moment.

The new song playing is "My Immortal" by Evanescence.

JABEZ (CONT'D)
You know that old saying where your
life flashes before your eyes?
Well, do ya?

Pause.

JABEZ (CONT'D)
Just shake or nod your head.

Crying like crazy, Janette shakes her head.

JABEZ (CONT'D)
That sucks.

Jabez sits down and looks really serious.

JABEZ (CONT'D)
I remember when we were kids, you
said we'd move to Italy. Remember?

Pause.

JABEZ (CONT'D)
What happened to you? Was it me?
You changed because you didn't want
to like me? No, I know the real
reason: You're a bad person. You're
bad people. I'll have no regrets
killing you.

Janette gives muffled cries.

Jabez stands up and stabs her four times in the chest. The
gag falls off as the chair tips over.

Janette lays on the floor and Jabez tears-up. He drops to his
knees and starts crying.

Janette with her last breath:

JANETTE
I'm sorry.

She closes her eyes and dies.

Jabez crawls over and puts his arms around the corpse.

JABEZ
I'm sorry.

The song dies out.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. JABEZ'S HOUSE - MORNING

Jabez is awake lying on his bed. He's playing with his gun.
Janette's body is in the corner.

The alarm RINGS.

Jabez reaches over and turns it off.

He stands up and walks over to the bathroom ignoring Janette's body.

INT. SCHOOL PENTHOUSE - DAY

Ms. Pauli has dressed the penthouse to look like every other art exhibit you'd find in LA.

Parents, children and art-lovers fill the room.

Jabez stands by his painting, thanking people who compliment him.

On the other side of the room, Detective Moore and a squad of cops enter.

MS. PAULI
What's going on?

DETECTIVE MOORE
We're looking for Jabez Woelly,
Miss.

MS. PAULI
Why?

DETECTIVE MOORE
We just got the results of the
figureprint tests and he's our man.

Being the nice person she is, she tries one last time to help Jabez.

MS. PAULI
What makes you think he's here?

DETECTIVE MOORE
We saw your flyer and his calendar
says it too. Look, we know he's
here. Now get out of the way.

Jabez splits.

INT HALL - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Jabez runs down the stairs, through the halls and out the exit.

INT. JABEZ'S ROOM - DAY

Frantically, Jabez gets all his money from his jar and packs some clothes in his backpack.

Jabez goes through his closet. He pulls out the shoebox.

He takes the gun from inside the box.

INT. AMELIE'S ROOM - DAY

Amelie is watching "The Postman Always Rings Twice" on TV. A sound comes from her window.

Amelie looks over and opens it. Jabez climbs in.

AMELIE

What the hell? What are you doing?

JABEZ

Amelie, I need you to listen and listen good.

AMELIE

Wait, wait, chill. You okay? You're out of breath.

JABEZ

You like me, right?

AMELIE

Yeah.

JABEZ

You like me a lot?

AMELIE

Yeah.

JABEZ

Let's go away together, me and you.

AMELIE

What are you talking about?

JABEZ

Remember how you said we should travel? How about me and you travel right now?

AMELIE

Wait, wait, hold your horses.

JABEZ
Amelie, we don't have a lot of
time!

AMELIE
What are you talking about?

JABEZ
Can you keep a secret?

AMELIE
Yeah.

Jabez puts his hands on her shoulders.

JABEZ
Remember when Gonzalo died? I did
it. But it was an accident.

AMELIE
Oh my God.

JABEZ
And now the cops are after me, so
we have to go now!

AMELIE
You killed Gonzalo?

JABEZ
It was an accident. I didn't mean
to.

AMELIE
How could you accidently kill some
one?

JABEZ
It's a long story. Amelie, listen
to me. We can go away-

AMELIE
Go away?

JABEZ
-together. Me and you. It'll be
like the park, please.

AMELIE
Like the park? What are you talking
about?

JABEZ
Please, please.

AMELIE

I don't what you're talking about.

JABEZ

Okay, I killed Gonzalo and Janette. The cops are after me, so I came up with this great idea. Since I never got to travel yet, let's go travel around and stuff, me and you.

AMELIE

Are you serious?

JABEZ

'course I'm serious!

AMELIE

Jabez, you pop out of the blue and tell me all this and you expect me just to leave?

JABEZ

Yes! That's exactly what I want! Amelie, trust me. This is the only way we can be happy.

AMELIE

What?

JABEZ

Please, please, me and you.

AMELIE

I'll think about it.

Jabez shakes her.

JABEZ

No! Now! We have to go now!

AMELIE

Don't yell at me like that!

JABEZ

Then shut the fuck up and get your stuff!

Fuller and Joy appear.

FULLER

What's happening?

JABEZ

I just need to talk to Amelie for a while.

AMELIE

I don't want to talk to you!

FULLER

Maybe you should go, Jabez.

JABEZ

I need to talk to you, just let me talk to you.

AMELIE

Dad, get him out!

Fuller puts his hands on Jabez's shoulders.

FULLER

She doesn't want to talk.

JABEZ

Please, just a couple of seconds!

FULLER

Get the hell out of here! I'm not letting you talk to her! Now get out before I call the cops!

Jabez pulls out his gun and shoots Fuller in the head.

JOY

Oh my God!!

JABEZ

I just need to talk to her! Let me fuckin' talk to her!

JOY

What the hell is wrong with you?!

She walks toward him. Jabez caps her too.

Amelie, shaking with fear, drops to a corner.

JABEZ

Please, let's just talk.

AMELIE

(crying)

How could you! You fuckin' freak!

JABEZ

If I didn't take care of them, they
wouldn't let us talk.

AMELIE

(crying)

I hate you! I wish I never met you!

JABEZ

Amelie, I did this for you.

AMELIE

(crying)

Fuck you! Fuck you, you fuckin'
freak! I hate you!

Jabez gets teary-eyed.

AMELIE

(crying)

Oh god, I hate you!

Jabez shoots her in the stomach. She falls back and gasps for
air. Jabez walks over to her

JABEZ

I thought you were different. I
thought you were special. But I was
wrong. You're just like them. Just
like my mom and cousin. Well fuck
you, then. I don't need anyone.

Jabez shoots her in the face.

Jabez looks at the corpse that used to be Amelie.

Jabez looks around at all the bodies and notices Amelie's
little brother.

JABEZ

I'm not the bad guy.

Jabez shoots himself in the head. His body falls on the
floor.

"Dust in the Wind" by Kansas starts playing.

The baby starts to cry.

FADE OUT.

THE END