

SAM & RACHEL
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SAM & RACHEL

FADE IN:

EXT. DAVIS HOME - MORNING

The Davis home is a middle-class home located in a typical suburban California neighborhood. It is a breezy Autumn morning. Orange leaves scatter the ground.

INT. DAVIS KITCHEN - MORNING

KAREN DAVIS, mid 30s, is cooking breakfast. Sitting at the kitchen table are VANESSA DAVIS, 14 years old, JEREMY DAVIS, 4 years old, and JONATHAN DAVIS, late 30s. Jonathan is reading a newspaper.

Karen turns around from the stove to place a tray of scrambled eggs on the table. She notices that someone is missing from the table.

KAREN

Where's Sam?

Vanessa and Jeremy shrug. Jonathan puts down the newspaper and also notices that Sam is missing. He gets up from the table.

JONATHAN

He's probably still in his room.
I'll go get him.

Jonathan leaves the kitchen and walks upstairs.

INT. SAM'S BEDROOM - MORNING

SAM DAVIS, 7 years old, is sitting on his bed, fully dressed. His room is small but cozy. Stuffed animals and toy cars are scattered throughout the room. Jonathan knocks on Sam's door twice and then enters the room. He sees Sam sitting on the bed and sits down next to him.

JONATHAN

Hey, Sammy, what are you still doing up here? You don't wanna be late for your first day of 2nd grade, do ya'?

Sam looks up at Jonathan.

SAM

I'm sick.

Jonathan puts his hand on Sam's forehead as if to check his temperature.

JONATHAN

Well, you don't feel warm.

Jonathan examines Sam's pupils and looks inside his mouth.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

You look fine to me.

SAM

(more assertive)

I'm sick.

JONATHAN

Are you sure you aren't just nervous?

Sam shrugs.

JONATHAN

What's the matter? Aren't you excited to make a bunch of new friends?

SAM

What if no one likes me?

JONATHAN

Well of course they'll like ya', Sammy, you're a likeable guy! And even if they don't, who cares? I'll always like ya'. What do the other kids have that you haven't got?

Sam's eyes widen.

SAM

Well all the other kids have DinoMorph trading cards! I'm probably the only kid in school who doesn't even have one card!

JONATHAN

(laughs)

Sam, trading cards aren't what make people like you.

Sam puts his head down, discouraged.

SAM

The other kids and me don't get along. I don't fit in with them. They didn't like me in 1st grade either.

Jonathan places his hand on Sam's shoulder.

JONATHAN

Listen to me, Sammy. Sometimes we don't fit in very well with other people. But that doesn't mean there's anything wrong with you. And remember, you'll always fit in with this family. We all love you.

Sam smiles a little. Jonathan lifts Sam off the bed and has him stand up.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

Now, who's ready for their first day of 2nd grade?

Sam raises his hand.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

Alright!

Jonathan playfully rubs Sam's head.

EXT. FOGHORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - MORNING

Sam's elementary school building. The recess bell rings.

INT. FOGHORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - MORNING

The 2nd grade classroom is full of about 20 kids, all around Sam's age. All the students are getting up from their desks and exiting the class for recess. It seems like every student is walking and talking with a friend.

We see Sam getting up from his desk looking at his classmates exit the classroom in groups. No one is talking to Sam.

EXT. FOGHORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - MORNING

Sam is sitting at a lunch table by himself. JIMMY, KYLE, and EDDIE, Sam's classmates, are sitting at the table next to him, playing with their DinoMorph trading cards.

Sam is using scissors to cut notebook paper into card-size pieces. He takes out his markers and begins drawing DinoMorph figures on the paper cards. Sam looks over his shoulder at Jimmy, Kyle, and Eddie's cards in order to copy the images onto his paper. Kyle sees Sam looking at the cards.

KYLE
(bully tone)
Hey, whatcha' looking at, Kid?

Sam quickly turns around, afraid.

EDDIE
Hey, he was talking to ya'!

JIMMY
Yeah, what's wrong with ya'? Aren't
ya' gonna answer the guy?

Sam remains still, his back facing the three boys. He is frightened and stiff. Kyle, Jimmy, and Eddie get up and walk over to Sam's table. Sam tries to cover up what he was drawing. Jimmy pushes Sam's arms away to reveal Sam's amateur DinoMorph cards. Kyle, Jimmy, and Eddie start laughing.

KYLE
(laughing)
What the heck is this?

JIMMY
(laughing)
It looks like he was trying to make
his own DinoMorph cards!

EDDIE
(laughing)
What a loser!

The bell rings, signaling all the students to return to class. Kyle grabs Sam's amateur cards and throws them on the ground. Kyle, Jimmy, and Eddie walk back to class, laughing the whole way. Sam, trying to hold back tears, picks up his cards from the ground.

INT. SAM'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Sam is face down in his pillow, crying. Karen is sitting on his bed trying to comfort him. Jonathan, just arriving home from work, enters and signals Karen to leave the room. Karen leaves and Jonathan sits on Sam's bed.

JONATHAN
Sammy, what happened?

Sam turns around so he is facing Jonathan. Sam's eyes are red and puffy.

SAM
(crying)
I had the worst day ever!

JONATHAN
Tell me about it.

SAM
(crying)
The other kids made fun of me
because I didn't have any DinoMorph
cards! I tried to make my own but
that just made everything worse!

Sam continues to cry into his pillow. Jonathan places his hand on Sam's shoulder.

SAM (CONT'D)
No one likes me!

JONATHAN
Hey now, that's not true! I happen
to like you very much. You're the
best son anyone could ask for. And
I'm sorry I couldn't buy you any
DinoMorph cards, Sammy.

Sam's crying calms down a bit.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
I love you, Sammy. If you ever need
someone to talk to, I'll always be
here for you.

Sam's crying stops. Jonathan leaves the room.

INT. DAVIS HOME - HALLWAY - EVENING

Jonathan has just exited Sam's room. He walks down the hallway and is greeted by Karen. Karen removes his jacket. Jonathan removes his tie and hands it to Karen.

KAREN
Is he doing any better?

JONATHAN
He's having some trouble making
friends. But he's a good kid,
Karen. He really is.

Karen smiles as if agreeing with Jonathan.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
Dinner ready yet?

KAREN
Almost. You go lie down and rest.
You must be exhausted from work.

INT. DAVIS KITCHEN - EVENING

Jonathan, Vanessa, Sam, and Jeremy are sitting at the table. Karen is taking a roast chicken out of the oven. She places the chicken in the center of the table. Everyone "ooh"s and "ahh"s.

JONATHAN
Looks great, honey.

VANESSA
Yeah, Mom, it looks awesome.

KAREN
Thank you. Thank Grandma Paula for
the recipe.

Jonathan begins slicing the chicken. He places a slice on Jeremy's plate.

VANESSA
Hey Daddy, guess what?

JONATHAN
What, Vanessa?

VANESSA
I'm gonna try out for the
volleyball team next week.

JONATHAN
Really? Hey Sam, you interested in
volleyball?

Vanessa appears upset that Jonathan ignored her and talked to Sam.

SAM
Not really.

JONATHAN
Well what kind of sports do you
like?

SAM
I guess baseball.

JONATHAN
Are you any good?

SAM
I don't know, I've never tried.

JONATHAN
Yeah? How about you meet me at the
park tomorrow after school? I'll
teach you how to swing a bat.

SAM
(excited)
Really? Cool!

Jonathan laughs proudly.

VANESSA
I might even try running for class
President.

JONATHAN
That's nice, Vanessa. So meet me by
the swings after school, alright,
Sammy?

SAM
Got it.

Vanessa appears to be upset while Sam is excited for playing
baseball with Jonathan.

KAREN
You say you're running for Class
President, Vanessa?

Vanessa is surprised that Karen is talking to her.

VANESSA
Yeah!

KAREN
(to Sam)
You think you might wanna run for
some office when you're older, Sam?

Sam shrugs. Vanessa appears disappointed.

INT. DAVIS HOME - MORNING

Karen is in the kitchen cooking breakfast. Jonathan is sitting at the kitchen table reading a newspaper. Sam runs down the stairs with his backpack on. Sam stops at the kitchen for a quick gulp of orange juice.

JONATHAN

(to Sam)

You better hurry up or you'll be late for school.

SAM

Yeah, I know. Are we still on for today?

JONATHAN

Of course! Wouldn't miss it for the world. The swings after school alright, Sammy?

SAM

Alright. Bye Daddy. Bye Mommy.

Sam exits the kitchen and leaves the house.

INT. FOGHORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

Sam is sitting in his desk staring at the clock. The clock reads "2:59." Sam impatiently taps his pencil on his desk.

SAM

(to himself) C'mon. C'mon.

The clock strikes "3:00" and the school bell rings. Sam quickly gets up and exits the classroom.

EXT. BARTFORD PARK - AFTERNOON

Sam is standing next to a swing set, holding a baseball bat and baseball. The park is packed with kids playing and their parents watching them.

EXT. BARTFORD PARK - LATER

There are less people in the park than the previous scene. Sam has put down the bat and baseball. He sits motionless on the swing. He looks tired and bored waiting for Jonathan.

EXT. BARTFORD PARK - EVENING

The park is completely empty except for Sam. Sam is sitting on the swing, hunched over because he has been there so long. He gets up and scans the park one last time for Jonathan. Sam sees no sign of Jonathan. He picks up the bat and baseball and begins walking out of the park.

INT. DAVIS HOME - EVENING

Karen is washing dishes in the kitchen. Jeremy and Vanessa are in the living room watching TV. Sam enters the house and bangs the door angrily.

KAREN

Hi, honey. How was the park?

Sam ignores her. He drops the baseball and bat to the floor and begins stomping up the stairs.

KAREN

Sam, what's the matter? Where's your father?

Sam stops halfway up the stairs and turns around to face Karen.

SAM

(angry)
He never showed up!

KAREN

What?

The phone rings. Sam continues up the stairs while Karen answers the telephone.

KAREN

(on the phone)
Hello?
(beat)
Yes, Jonathan Davis is my husband.

Karen's eyes bulge and she cannot speak. Her face turns white and she drops the phone in shock. Vanessa, Jeremy, and Sam all turn and look at Karen, wondering what news she had just received.

EXT. FOUNTAIN BLVD. & CROSS STREET INTERSECTION - EVENING

There are 2 cars completely destroyed in the middle of the intersection. There is an ambulance, a fire truck, and police cars near by.

Karen is distraught as she staggers toward the scene of the accident. She walks toward Jonathan's wrecked car with her eyes wide and a hand over her mouth.

Karen looks into the front seat and sees a pack of brand new Dinomorph cards. She reaches for them but an officer stops her.

OFFICER

I'm sorry Ma'am, you can't be here.

KAREN

(crying)

My husband-- this is my husband's car! I need to get something--

OFFICER

Ma'am, I'm going to have to ask you to leave. You can't touch anything here.

KAREN

(hysterical)

Please! Just let me get the damn cards for my son!

OFFICER

Ma'am, you have to leave.

Two more officers come over and grab a hold of Karen who is now struggling to escape their grip.

KAREN

(crying)

Let go of me! He's my husband! He's my husband!

Karen cries uncontrollably. She breaks free from the officer's grip and grabs the Dinomorph cards.

EXT. HARPER VILLAGE MORTUARY - AFTERNOON

It is a gloomy day at the mortuary. Jonathan Davis lies dead in a coffin in the middle of a cemetery field. Sam stands with his grieving family. He is holding the new pack of DinoMorph cards.

INT. DAVIS HOME - AFTERNOON

All the guests of the funeral have gathered at the Davis home.

Karen is walking through the different rooms in the house to greet the guests. She enters the kitchen, where she finds Vanessa.

KAREN

Vanessa, where are your brothers?

VANESSA

Jeremy's in the bathroom and I haven't seen Sam since we got here from the funeral.

Karen has a "Hmmm, that's odd" look on her face.

EXT. DAVIS BACKYARD - AFTERNOON

The Davis backyard is small but large enough to contain a swing set with two swings attached to it. Sam is swinging next to a girl, RACHEL, who looks about the same age as him. Rachel has bright red hair and colorful clothing.

SAM

So what's your name again?

RACHEL

Rachel. And you're Sam, right?

SAM

Yeah.

Sam and Rachel smile at each other.

INT. DAVIS HOME - AFTERNOON

Karen is in the kitchen, which has a door that leads to the backyard. Karen looks out the window and sees Sam swinging by himself in the backyard. She exits the kitchen and enters the backyard, walking toward Sam. She sits down on the swing next to Sam and Sam becomes alarmed.

SAM

What are you doing?! Get off Rachel!

KAREN

What?

SAM
You're sitting on my friend!

Karen gets up off the swing and examines the swing seat.

KAREN
Umm, honey there isn't anyone or anything on this swing.

SAM
Not anymore! Not after you stole the swing from her!

KAREN
From who?

SAM
Rachel.

Sam gives up on trying to explain.

SAM (CONT'D)
Never mind.

KAREN
Do you want to talk, honey?

Sam shakes his head "no."

KAREN (CONT'D)
That's okay, honey. In your own time.

Karen walks back toward the house. Before she reaches the door, she turns back and looks at Sam with concern. Karen enters the house.

EXT. DAVIS BACKYARD - AFTERNOON

Rachel can be seen swinging next to Sam again.

RACHEL
Was that your mom?

SAM
Yeah.

RACHEL
Why weren't you talking to her?

SAM
I don't really feel like talking to anyone.

RACHEL
Sometimes I get that way too.

Sam smiles at Rachel.

EXT. FOGHORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - AFTERNOON

Sam and Rachel are sitting on a lunch bench playing with Sam's DinoMorph cards. Sam puts down a T-Rex card.

SAM
Beat that!

RACHEL
Arrg! You win again! You suck!

Sam and Rachel laugh.

Kyle, Jimmy, and Eddie walk by Sam, who is sitting by himself on a lunch bench and laughing. They look at him weirdly.

EDDIE
What the heck is he laughing at?

KYLE
(to Sam)
Hey kid, you can't play DinoMorphs with one person! It's a 2 or more players game.

Sam ignores Kyle and keeps laughing.

JIMMY
Hey this kid is crazy! He's laughing at nothing!

Sam calms down from laughing and looks at Kyle.

SAM
For your information, I AM playing with another person.

KYLE
Who?

SAM
Her name's Rachel and she doesn't like you very much.

Kyle, Jimmy, and Eddie look at each other strangely.

KYLE
(laughing)
Jimmy was right! You are nuts!

Kyle, Jimmy, and Eddie walk away laughing. Rachel appears after they leave.

RACHEL
Gosh, those guys are jerks.

SAM
Ehh, who cares about them?

EXT. BARTFORD PARK - AFTERNOON

Rachel is holding a bat in swinging position as Sam stands a few feet away from her with the baseball.

SAM
You ready?

RACHEL
Yeah!

SAM
You sure?

RACHEL
Just throw the ball already!

Sam throws the ball and Rachel hits it very far.

RACHEL
Yes!!

SAM
Dang!!

Sam is looking up and moving his head as if tracing the path of the baseball in the air. A woman and her child are sitting down looking at Sam. They have weird looks on their faces because Sam is by himself and the ball that he threw is not in the air, but still on the ground where he threw it.

INT. DAVIS HOME - AFTERNOON

It is a Saturday afternoon and Karen, Vanessa, and Jeremy are packing furniture into boxes.

INT. SAM'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

The walls in Sam's room are bare and the room itself is quite empty. A few boxes of clothes are lying around. Sam sits on the floor with Rachel, drawing with markers on construction paper.

Sam looks over at what Rachel is drawing: A picture of a colorful house on a large grassy field with big flowers all over the land.

SAM

Wow. You're a good artist.

RACHEL

Thanks.

SAM

What are ya' drawing?

RACHEL

My house. You should come over some time. It's really fun.

SAM

It sure looks like a lot of fun!

Karen sticks her head through Sam's door. She sees Sam on the floor, drawing by himself.

KAREN

You ready, Sam? The moving truck is here.

EXT. DAVIS APARTMENT - EVENING

The new Davis apartment is small and run-down in a bad neighborhood.

INT. DAVIS APARTMENT - EVENING

The inside of the apartment is small and cramped. Karen, Vanessa, Jeremy, and Sam are unpacking things in the living room. Karen looks around.

KAREN

Well it's getting late. Let's finish tomorrow morning.

Karen and Vanessa walk into their room. Sam and Jeremy walk into their room.

INT. KAREN & VANESSA'S ROOM - EVENING

Karen and Vanessa are on either side of the bed, fixing the pillows.

VANESSA

Mom, can I have money for tomorrow?
I need to buy my volleyball
uniform.

KAREN

Oh, I don't think I have any cash,
Vanessa. Go ask your fath--

Karen stops and realizes that Jonathan is no longer alive.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Will they accept a check?

Vanessa nods "yes."

VANESSA

(concerned)
Are you okay, Mom?

KAREN

(unsure)
I'm fine, dear. I'll go tuck your
brothers in.

Karen exits the room.

INT. SAM & JEREMY'S ROOM - EVENING

The tiny room has a bunk bed in it. Jeremy is laying down on the top bunk and Sam is on the bottom bunk. Karen enters the room. Karen reaches for Jeremy's blanket and tucks him in.

KAREN

Good night, Jeremy.

Karen bends down to tuck Sam in. Sam is sitting up in the bed, frowning.

KAREN

What's the matter, honey?

SAM

I want my own room. I don't want to
share with Jeremy.

KAREN

Sam, we can't afford a place big enough for everyone to have their own rooms.

SAM

I hate this place. I want to go back to our old house. I want things to go back to the way they used to be.

Karen says nothing but looks sad. She continues to tuck Sam in. Sam stops her.

SAM

I want Daddy to tuck me in... Not you.

Karen is shocked by what Sam has said. She looks at him with wide eyes.

KAREN

Sam...

Karen is at a loss for words. Holding back tears, she gets up and leaves the room.

INT. DAVIS APARTMENT - HALLWAY - EVENING

Karen exits Sam and Jeremy's room and shuts the door. She leans against the door and cries softly to herself.

INT. SAM & JEREMY'S ROOM - EVENING

Rachel is at Sam's bedside.

RACHEL

This place is so small! A lot smaller than I thought it would be!

SAM

Tell me about it.

RACHEL

And you don't even have a backyard or a swing set or anything!

SAM

Don't remind me!

RACHEL

Are you even sleepy?

SAM

No.

RACHEL

You wanna have some fun?

SAM

Sure. But what are we gonna do?
It's late and everyone's asleep.

Rachel smiles.

RACHEL

Exactly.

SAM

What do you mean?

RACHEL

On the way here, we passed by a
park with swings and everything.

SAM

How far is it?

RACHEL

Not too far... Well, not really.

Sam thinks about it for a while.

SAM

Why not?

Sam gets out of bed and puts his shoes on. Sam and Rachel tiptoe out of the room.

INT. DAVIS APARTMENT - EVENING

Sam and Rachel tiptoe out the front door.

EXT. ALANDALE CITY - EVENING

It is late at night. Sam and Rachel are running on the sidewalks, laughing.

EXT. ALANDALE CITY PARK - EVENING

The park is dimly lit by one streetlight. Sam and Rachel are swinging on a swing set, laughing.

INT. DAVIS APARTMENT - EVENING

Karen is crying on the phone. Vanessa and Jeremy are sitting on the couch, half asleep. Karen sees Sam enter the front door and she becomes relieved.

KAREN
(on the phone)
Oh, thank God! Never mind, officer.
He's here.

Karen hangs up the phone and grabs Sam to hug him. Sam remains stiff as she hugs him.

KAREN (CONT'D)
Sam! Don't you ever do that again!
Where were you?!

SAM
(annoyed)
I was just out swinging!

KAREN
Swinging? At this hour? Do you know
how dangerous it is to be out this
late by yourself?

SAM
Relax! I wasn't by myself!

KAREN
Who were you with?

SAM
Rachel.

Sam walks to his room and shuts the door.

VANESSA
Who's Rachel?

There is a look of recognition on Karen's face but she says nothing.

INT. DAVIS APARTMENT - KITCHEN - MORNING

Karen is cooking pancakes on the stove. Vanessa is sitting at the kitchen table.

VANESSA
So how long is Sam gonna be
grounded?

KAREN

For what?

VANESSA

For sneaking out last night. It's gotta be 2 weeks, minimum.

KAREN

I don't know yet. I'll think about it.

VANESSA

What's there to think about? He snuck out! I say you ground him for the whole month!

KAREN

(irritated)

Vanessa, you're not the parent! Stop telling me what to do! I'm Sam's mother and I will decide what to do. Maybe I won't even ground him at all.

VANESSA

(mumbles to herself)

That's not what Dad would have done.

KAREN

(angry)

What?

VANESSA

Nothing.

Karen dismisses what Vanessa said and goes back to cooking the pancakes.

KAREN

(yelling)

Sam! Jeremy! Time for breakfast!

Sam and Jeremy walk into the kitchen.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Grab yourself a plate, boys.

Sam and Jeremy walk over to the dishwasher. Jeremy takes a plate and sits down. Sam takes two plates and sits down. Karen turns around and sees that Sam has an extra plate.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Oh, that's sweet of you, honey, but I've already eaten.

SAM

Huh? Oh, no, it's not for you. It's for Rachel.

VANESSA

Rachel? The girl you were swinging with last night?

SAM

Yeah.

Vanessa looks at Karen: "What the heck?"

KAREN

(smiling)

Rachel? The girl you were swinging with after the funeral? And yesterday?

SAM

Yeah.

VANESSA

(lost)

Wait a minute, who the heck is Rachel?

Karen tugs on Vanessa's shirt and brings her to the other side of the kitchen.

KAREN

(whispering)

Rachel is Sam's imaginary friend. Play along, it's cute.

VANESSA

(yelling)

Cute?! It's creepy!

Karen gives a stern look to Vanessa. Vanessa sighs and sits back down.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

So this Rachel girl is your friend, eh?

SAM

Yeah. She's my friend.

Vanessa is weirded out.

KAREN
 (smiling, playing along)
 Is Rachel hungry?

SAM
 Very. And me too.

KAREN
 Which pancake do you want?

Karen holds out the tray of pancakes for Sam to see. Sam points to a pancake and Karen places it onto his plate.

KAREN (CONT'D)
 And for Rachel?

Sam looks over at the empty chair to his left.

SAM
 (talking to chair)
 Which one do you want?
 (talking to Karen)
 She wants that one.

Sam points to a pancake. Karen places that pancake on the extra plate.

KAREN
 (smiling)
 I hope Rachel likes my cooking.

Vanessa rolls her eyes. They begin eating.

INT. DAVIS APARTMENT - KITCHEN - MORNING

Sam is eating his pancakes next to Rachel, who is also eating the pancake.

RACHEL
 This is really yummy, Sam. Tell your Mom I really like her pancakes.

SAM
 (to Karen)
 Mommy, Rachel says she really likes your cooking.

Karen smiles.

KAREN
 Oh, wonderful! Tell her I said 'thank you!'

SAM
(to Karen)
Tell her yourself. She's sitting
right next to me.

Karen is a bit weirded-out. Rachel is no longer seen sitting
next to Sam.

KAREN
Oh, okay.
(looking at empty chair)
Thank you, Rachel. I'm glad you
enjoy the pancakes.

VANESSA
(mean, looking at empty
chair)
Hey, Rachel, pass the butter.
(looking at Sam)
Oh, wait. She isn't real.

KAREN
Vanessa!

VANESSA
Well, she isn't! Do you really
believe there's a girl sitting in
that chair eating a pancake?

KAREN
Vanessa, please.

Vanessa calms down and there is a moment of silence as
everyone eats. Rachel can be seen next to Sam again.

RACHEL
Tell Vanessa I like her pajamas.

SAM
(to Vanessa)
Vanessa, Rachel says she really
likes your pajamas.

Vanessa slams her hands on the table and gets up.

VANESSA
(annoyed)
That's it!

Vanessa starts to walk out of the kitchen.

KAREN
Vanessa, where are you going?

VANESSA
 (annoyed)
 I've suddenly lost my appetite.

Vanessa walks past the empty chair and knocks it over.
 Vanessa leaves the kitchen. Karen looks at Sam.

KAREN
 Don't mind your sister, honey. You
 and Rachel keep on eating.

Karen picks the chair back up and follows after Vanessa.

INT. KAREN & VANESSA'S ROOM - MORNING

Vanessa stands in the room with her arms folded. She is
 angry. Karen walks in and closes the door behind her.

KAREN
 Vanessa, come back to the kitchen
 and finish breakfast.

VANESSA
 (angry)
 How can you let him talk to thin
 air like that? It's weird!

KAREN
 No it's not, Vanessa. He's seven.
 It's completely normal.

VANESSA
 I was seven once too and I never
 had an imaginary friend.

KAREN
 Vanessa, Sam is having trouble
 dealing with your father not being
 here anymore! If Rachel makes him
 feel better, I'm all for it!

Vanessa remains quiet, still angry.

KAREN (CONT'D)
 Let him do whatever will get him
 through this.
 (beat)
 Please.

INT. DAVIS APARTMENT - KITCHEN - MORNING

Sam, Rachel, and Jeremy are still eating at the table.

RACHEL
Vanessa doesn't like me, huh?

SAM
No, she's just cranky cause it's so early.

RACHEL
Maybe I should go?

SAM
No! Don't leave! Vanessa's just not a morning person. She likes you a lot, honest!

Rachel smiles.

RACHEL
Okay.

Rachel gets up out of the chair.

SAM
(panicked)
Where are you going?!

RACHEL
(laughing)
Relax! I'm just getting us cups for juice!

Rachel gets two cups and comes back to the table.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Don't worry, Sam. I'm not going anywhere.

SAM
Promise?

RACHEL
Promise.

Sam picks up the pitcher of orange juice and pours it into the cup.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RETRO BREW - AFTERNOON (10 YEARS LATER)

A 17 year old Sam is pouring coffee into a paper cup. He is wearing a Retro Brew employee apron, hat, and a name tag that reads "Sam."

SAM
Medium Java Blend?

CUSTOMER
That's me! Thank you.

Sam hands the coffee to the customer.

SAM
Have a good day, Ma'am.

The customer walks out. Sam looks at his watch. After seeing the time, he removes his hat and apron and clocks out. GINA, Sam's 25 year-old boss, is at the sink washing dirty blenders.

SAM
Later, Gina!

GINA
Bye Sam. See ya' tomorrow.

EXT. RETRO BREW - AFTERNOON

Sam walks up to his car, unlocks the door, and gets in. The car drives off.

EXT. DAVIS HOME - AFTERNOON

The new Davis home is larger than their first home. Sam's car pulls into the driveway. Sam gets out of the car and walks toward the front door.

INT. DAVIS HOME - AFTERNOON

An older looking Karen is sitting on the couch, talking on the phone, and taking notes in a note pad.

KAREN
(on the phone)
So that's egg rolls, sushi, and
chow mein for twenty guests?
Perfect.

Sam walks in.

KAREN (CONT'D)
 (on the phone)
 Alright then. Thank you so much.
 Bye.

Karen hangs up the phone.

KAREN (CONT'D)
 Hi, Honey. How was work?

SAM
 It was alright. Who were you
 talking to?

KAREN
 Mrs. Stevens. She's having an Asian
 themed party next week.

SAM
 Oh.

KAREN
 Could you tidy up the bathroom for
 me, please? I'm so busy with
 customers right now, and I want the
 bathroom to be clean before Vanessa
 and Ryan come tonight.

Karen's cell phone rings.

SAM
 Can Jeremy do it? I have a lot of
 homework.

Karen ignores Sam and answers her cell phone.

KAREN
 (on the phone)
 Karen's Catering?
 (beat)
 Yes.
 (beat)
 Three weeks from now?

Karen continues her phone conversation as Sam leaves the
 room.

EXT. DAVIS BACKYARD - AFTERNOON

The Davis backyard is large with a rusty swing set. Sam exits
 the house and enters the backyard. There are stairs that lead
 up to the room above the garage. Sam walks up the stairs.

At the top of the stairs, Sam reaches a door with a novelty sign that says 'KEEP OUT.' Sam opens the door and walks in.

INT. SAM'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Sam's room is large enough to be considered a small apartment. Sam walks in and flicks on the light. He flops down on the couch and turns on the TV with a remote control. He channel surfs and finds nothing interesting.

Sam gets up and walks over to his little refrigerator. He opens the refrigerator and grabs two cans of soda. He walks over to his closet door and searches his pockets for a key. He uses the key to unlock the closet door. He opens the door.

INT. SAM'S CLOSET - AFTERNOON

Sam's closet is a large walk-in closet that has been converted into a bedroom for a little girl. The walls are pink and the room is full of toys and stuffed animals.

Rachel is sitting on the floor coloring a picture with crayons. She has not aged and looks exactly the same. Sam is standing in the doorway.

SAM
Thirsty?

RACHEL
Yeah.

Sam hands the can of soda over to Rachel. Rachel opens the can and takes a sip.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Thanks.

SAM
No problem. What are you drawing?

Rachel holds up her drawing: a banner that reads "WELCOME BACK VANESSA!" in childish writing.

RACHEL
It's for when Vanessa visits tonight. Do you like it?

SAM
Yeah.

There is a knock heard on Sam's door. Sam looks back at the door and then at Rachel.

SAM (CONT'D)
That's probably my Mom. Hold on.

Sam closes the closet door and locks it. He walks over to the bedroom door and opens it a crack. He peeks through the crack.

EXT. DAVIS HOME - SAM'S DOOR - AFTERNOON

Sam's eye can be seen peeking at Karen through a crack in the door.

SAM
Yes?

KAREN
I thought I told you to clean the bathroom?

SAM
I said I have a lot of homework.

Karen looks at Sam as if he is acting funny.

KAREN
Well as long as I'm up here, why don't you give me some of your dirty laundry so I can do everything in one load?

Karen tries to enter Sam's room but Sam pushes up against the door so she cannot.

SAM
No! I'll do my own laundry, thanks.

KAREN
I don't mind, really. Just let me get some clothes from your closet and...

SAM
I said no! Please, I have a lot of homework to do.

Karen sighs and leaves. Sam shuts and locks the door.

INT. DAVIS HOME - EVENING

Sam and Jeremy are standing near Karen as she opens the front door to reveal a 24 year old Vanessa and her 25 year old fiance, RYAN MORRIS. Vanessa and Ryan enter the house, greeting the family. Ryan is holding a large box.

Ryan and Karen hug.

KAREN

Ryan!

RYAN (CONT'D)

(to Karen)

It's so good to see you!

(to Jeremy)

Hey, man! Long time, no see!

Ryan and Jeremy high-five each other.

JEREMY

I know, dude! How's it going?

RYAN

I'm good, I'm good.

(to Sam, awkwardly)

Hi, Sam.

Sam awkwardly waves back.

KAREN

What's in that big box?

VANESSA

Oh, it's just stuff for the wedding. We have some more in the trunk.

KAREN

Oh. Well now that the two of you are finally here, we can eat dinner. I made roast beef.

VANESSA

Good, 'cause we're starving!

INT. DAVIS HOME - DINING ROOM - EVENING

Karen, Sam, Jeremy, Vanessa and Ryan are all seated at the dining table. They are nearly done eating their dinner.

RYAN

That was amazing, Mrs. Davis.

KAREN
(flattered)
Why, thank you, Ryan.

VANESSA
Mom's cooking wasn't always this great. But when she started the catering business it was like, wham! Instant gourmet cook!

KAREN
Not exactly "instant."

RYAN
(to Karen)
So what's on the menu for the wedding?

VANESSA
(to Ryan, sarcastically)
Oh, so you're just marrying me for my Mom's cooking?

Vanessa, Karen, and Ryan chuckle.

Karen gets up and starts collecting the plates.

KAREN
Let me just get these plates out of the way.

VANESSA
I'll help you, Mom.

Vanessa gets up and collects plates. Karen walks out of the dining room and into the kitchen. Vanessa comes to Sam and sticks out her hand for Sam's plate. Sam doesn't give it to her.

SAM
Oh, umm, I'm not done yet.

Vanessa looks at his plate. There is no more food on it.

VANESSA
What are you talking about? There's no food on your plate.

Sam takes some more roast beef from the serving plate and places it on his plate.

SAM
I'm still hungry.

Vanessa gives Sam a suspicious look. She collects all the other plates and goes into the kitchen.

SAM
 (to Jeremy and Ryan)
 Excuse me, please. I have a lot of homework.

Sam gets up and quickly leaves the dining room with the plate of roast beef. Karen enters the dining room holding a large strawberry pie.

KAREN
 (smiling)
 Time for dessert!
 (beat)
 Where'd Sam go?

INT. SAM'S ROOM - EVENING

Sam opens the door and enters the room with the plate of roast beef. He walks over to the closet and unlocks the door.

INT. SAM'S CLOSET - EVENING

Rachel is playing jacks on the floor.

SAM
 I got dinner for ya'.

Rachel ignores Sam and continues playing jacks. She appears to be upset.

SAM (CONT'D)
 What's the matter?

RACHEL
 (upset)
 Why couldn't I see Vanessa and Ryan tonight?

Sam does not know what to say.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
 I miss her just as much as you do!
 It's not fair!

SAM
 I'm sorry, Rachel! I really am! I brought you some dinner.

RACHEL
What is it tonight?

SAM
Roast beef.

Rachel makes a disgusted face.

RACHEL
Yuck. Couldn't your Mom make
Spaghetti-O's or something?

SAM
(laughing)
Eww, how could anybody want
Spaghetti-O's over roast beef?

RACHEL
Hey guess what? I'm up to fivesees
in Jacks!

SAM
Really? Dang, I could never get
past threesees.

RACHEL
You wanna play?

SAM
Naw, I got a lot of homework today.
I should probably get started on
it.

Rachel makes a sad puppy face.

RACHEL
Please? For me?

Sam thinks about it.

SAM
Why not?

RACHEL
Yay!

Sam sits down on the floor next to Rachel and plays Jacks
with her.

FADE OUT

Sam's point of view: Fade in from black. Blurry at first but then clears up. We see the closet ceiling as if we were laying down on the floor.

INT. SAM'S CLOSET - MORNING

Rachel is hovering over and shaking Sam, who is asleep on the closet floor.

RACHEL

Sam! It's almost eight O' clock!
You're gonna be late for school!

Sam wakes up and looks at his watch. He jumps up.

SAM

Oh shoot! Thanks for waking me up!

Sam grabs his backpack and runs out the door, locking it from the other side.

INT. ALANDALE CITY HIGH SCHOOL - MR. VINCE'S CLASS - MORNING

English teacher, Mr. Vince, early 50's, is lecturing to a class of thirty students all about Sam's age.

MR. VINCE

For the next four weeks, we will be
studying sonnets by William
Shakespeare. Shakespeare is one of
the--

Sam runs into the room out of breath, interrupting Mr. Vince's lecture.

SAM

(catching his breath)
Sorry I'm late, Mr. Vince. There
was a lot of traffic this morning.

MR. VINCE

(annoyed)
Take your seat, Sam.

Sam walks to his seat and sits down.

MR. VINCE (CONT'D)

Now. All of you were supposed to write a one page biography on William Shakespeare last night for homework. Take it out now, I'm collecting it.

Mr. Vince walks down the rows to collect the homework. Sam has a shocked expression on his face. He puts his hands on his head.

SAM

(to himself)

I completely forgot!

Mr. Vince walks up to Sam and sticks his hand out. Sam looks at him with guilt.

MR. VINCE

Your homework, Sam.

SAM

I completely forgot! I'll do it tonight, I promise!

MR. VINCE

Sam, this is the third time this week that you've missed an assignment.

SAM

I know, I know, and I'm really sorry. I've just been really busy lately.

Mr. Vince shakes his head disapprovingly and walks away.

INT. MR. VINCE'S CLASS - MORNING

Sam is sitting at his desk taking a quiz. He looks really unsure and lost. He looks around at everyone and notices that they seem to be having no problem.

INT. MR. VINCE'S CLASS - LATER

Sam is sitting in his desk. Mr. Vince is passing back the quizzes with the grades on them. He reaches Sam and hands him his quiz. There is an 'F' on the paper.

MR. VINCE

That's the fourth quiz you've failed, Sam. I suggest you start taking this class seriously.

Sam looks upset but not surprised that he failed the quiz. MELINDA ADAMS, 17 years old, is sitting behind Sam and taps him on the back. Sam turns around.

MELINDA

Hey, what'd you get?

Sam holds up his paper.

MELINDA (CONT'D)

Ouch.

SAM

What did you get?

Melinda holds up her paper to reveal an 'A'.

SAM (CONT'D)

Heh, no surprise there.

Melinda blushes.

SAM (CONT'D)

I hate this class. I don't understand any of the material. And Mr. Vince is a jerk.

MELINDA

(laughing)

Oh come on, he's not that mean. Maybe he'd be a lot nicer to you if you actually showed up on time and did your work!

SAM

Yeah, I guess.

MELINDA

So what are you doing today?

SAM

I have work. Why?

MELINDA

I was just asking.

(beat)

(MORE)

MELINDA (cont'd)

Oh, and, there's this new restaurant that opened across the mall. I was just wondering if maybe you wanted to go check it out.

Sam becomes very nervous.

SAM

Huh? Oh, uhh, yeah, ummm it sounds great and all, but even if I wanted to, I couldn't. You know, work and everything.

MELINDA

Oh yeah, I totally understand. How about some other time?

The bell rings. Sam looks very relieved.

SAM

I gotta go! Bye!

Sam quickly gets up and leaves.

INT. RETRO BREW - AFTERNOON

Gina is helping a customer at the front counter. Sam walks in while putting on his apron. Sam joins Gina behind the counter.

GINA

Hey Sam, so how was your day?

SAM

It was alright I guess. The weirdest thing happened in my English class, though.

GINA

What?

SAM

I think this girl, Melinda, asked me out.

GINA

(laughing)
You think?

SAM

Well she said she wanted me to go with her to check out some new restaurant that just opened.

GINA
Yeah, Sam. She was definitely asking you out. Did you say yes?

SAM
No. I got scared and ran.

GINA
(laughing)
What? Well do you like her?

SAM
I guess.

GINA
Do you think she's cute?

SAM
I guess.

GINA
Then what's the problem? Haven't you ever been on a date before?

Sam becomes nervous.

SAM
Yeah, of course.
(beat)
Plenty.

GINA
Well if you like this Melinda girl, you should definitely go out with her!

SAM
Really?

GINA
Really. Go ask her out tomorrow.

SAM
(thinking about it)
Maybe I will.

INT. DAVIS HOME - AFTERNOON

Vanessa is sitting with Karen in the living room. There are plans and sketches for the wedding all over the coffee table. Sam walks in through the front door.

VANESSA

Hi Sam. How was your day?

SAM

It was fine, I guess. I had a quiz
in English.

KAREN

Oh yeah? How'd that go?

SAM

(hesitant)
I, uhh, got an 'A.'

KAREN

Wonderful, honey! I'm so proud of
you.

Sam smiles and exits the room.

INT. SAM'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Sam enters the room. He walks up to his mirror and looks at
himself.

SAM

(talking to the mirror)
Hey Melinda.
(more serious)
Hi Melinda.
(trying to be suave)
Yo Melinda, what's up?

Through the mirror, we can see Sam's closet door is open and
Rachel walks out. Rachel looks at Sam funny.

RACHEL

(laughing)
What are you doing?

Sam is embarrassed and moves away from the mirror.

SAM

Nothing.

RACHEL

Oh come on. You can tell your best
friend, can't ya'?

SAM

Well.
(beat)
If you promise not to laugh!

RACHEL
I promise.

SAM
I'm thinking about asking this girl
out.

RACHEL
Ask her out? What do you mean?

SAM
Like on a date.

RACHEL
You? Date? Eeewww!

Rachel starts laughing.

SAM
You promised!

RACHEL
You've never been on a date before!

SAM
I know. So what do you think?
Should I ask her out?

RACHEL
If you want.
(beat)
Hey! Can I go with you on your
date?

SAM
Why?

RACHEL
In case you get nervous or
something. I can help you out!

SAM
Rachel, you're seven. I don't think
you'll be able to help me out.

Rachel becomes upset. She pouts and turns her back to Sam.

SAM (CONT'D)
Oh, come on. I'm sorry. I didn't
mean to say it like that.

RACHEL
(upset)
It's not that.

SAM

Then what is it?

RACHEL

You never play with me anymore! You always keep me locked up in your room like I embarrass you or something. You don't want me to go on the date with you because you're ashamed of me, huh?

SAM

No, that's not it!

RACHEL

Yeah, sure. What happened to the days when we would go everywhere together? We never do that anymore.

SAM

Well, you know what happened! Kids at school started making fun of me! And my mom said she'd force me to see a doctor if I didn't stop talking to you.

RACHEL

But we're best friends!

SAM

I know and I'm sorry. But look at it this way: If I always keep you in my room, nobody can say or do anything to take you away from me. I'm doing this because I love having you around.

Rachel appears less angry.

RACHEL

But I still wanna go with you on your date.

SAM

Rachel--

RACHEL

Please!? I promise I won't get in the way or anything! Please! I just wanna get out of this room for one night!

SAM

(sigh)

How about this. If Melinda says
"yes" to going out with me, I'll
let you go on the date.

RACHEL

Yay!

INT. MR. VINCE'S CLASS - MORNING

Sam is sitting in his desk. Melinda is sitting behind him.
Sam turns around to face Melinda.

SAM

Hey.

MELINDA

Hey. What's up?

SAM

(nervous)

Umm, I was wondering if you still
wanted to check out that new
restaurant?

MELINDA

Yeah, definitely!

SAM

Are you busy tonight?

MELINDA

No. Can you pick me up around
seven?

SAM

(relieved that she said
yes)

Yeah.

The bell rings.

SAM

Well, I'll see you tonight.

Sam gets up and walks out of the room. Melinda's friend,
ASHLEY, walks up to her.

ASHLEY

(shocked)

Melinda, did I just see you
flirting with Sam?

MELINDA
He asked me out.

ASHLEY
Ew! And you said yes?

MELINDA
Yeah.

ASHLEY
But Sam's like the biggest loser in school! Isn't he like failing every class and doesn't he have like 30 hours of detention? Why him?

MELINDA
So what if he's not doing so great in school? All he needs is a little encouragement and I'm sure he could do better.

Ashley gives Melinda a weird look.

INT. SAM'S ROOM - EVENING

Rachel is sitting on Sam's bed, waiting impatiently. Sam is changing in the bathroom.

RACHEL
Are you ready yet?

SAM (O.S.)
Almost.

Sam walks out of the bathroom wearing a bright yellow suit jacket and neon green pants. He spins for Rachel.

SAM
What do you think?

RACHEL
(laughing)
You look like a clown!

SAM
(disappointed)
Really?

RACHEL
Yes. Really.

Rachel gets up and goes into Sam's closet. She comes out with a polo shirt and jeans and hands it to Sam.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Try this.

INT. SAM'S ROOM - EVENING

Sam comes out of the bathroom wearing the clothes that Rachel picked out for him. Rachel smiles.

RACHEL
Much better!

SAM
Thanks.

INT. DAVIS HOME - EVENING

Karen and Vanessa are going over plans for the wedding in the living room. Sam walks in, wearing a backpack, and heads straight for the front door.

KAREN
You look nice, honey. Are you going anywhere special tonight?

SAM
(hesitant)
Uhh, yeah, I sort of have a date.

KAREN
(surprised)
A date? Wow! Who's the lucky girl?

SAM
Just someone from my English class.

Sam heads out the door.

KAREN
(to Vanessa)
Sam's quite the Ladies Man. He's been going on lots of dates lately.

VANESSA
(surprised)
Really? What happened to Sam's girlfriend?

KAREN
Girlfriend?

VANESSA

Yeah, he e-mailed me a couple of months ago just to say hi. He said he had a girlfriend and everything.

KAREN

Well, he never mentioned anything to me. Anyway, so where did you want to have Aunt Josie sit?

INT. SAM'S CAR - EVENING

Sam is driving and Rachel is in the front seat.

RACHEL

Are you nervous?

SAM

A little.

RACHEL

Don't be. It'll be fun! Now remember, open the door for her when you get to the restaurant. Oh, and pull her chair out for her.

SAM

Right. Door. Chair. Got it. I don't know what I would have done without you! But remember, once Melinda's in the car, not a word!

RACHEL

(a little upset)
Yeah, yeah, yeah.

The song "Somebody To Love" by Jefferson Airplane is playing on the radio. Sam turns up the volume so that it is blasting. Sam and Rachel both sing the lyrics at the top of their lungs. They are smiling, laughing, and having fun.

SAM AND RACHEL

"Don't you want somebody to love?!
Don't you need somebody to love?!"

Sam stops at a red light, next to an old woman in her car.

INT. OLD WOMAN'S CAR - EVENING

The loud music from Sam's car catches the woman's attention. She looks over at Sam.

He is singing at the top of his lungs by himself, occasionally looking over and smiling at the empty passenger seat. The light turns green and both cars drive off.

EXT. MELINDA'S HOUSE - EVENING

Sam's car stops in front of Melinda's house.

INT. SAM'S CAR - EVENING

Sam is sitting in the driver's seat and looks very nervous. Rachel is now in the backseat.

RACHEL
Go on. You can do it.

Sam takes a deep breath and gets out of the car.

EXT. MELINDA'S HOUSE - EVENING

Sam walks up to Melinda's front door and rings the door bell. Melinda opens the door.

MELINDA
(smiling)
Hey. You look nice.

SAM
(nervous)
Uhhh, thanks. You do too.

MELINDA
Thanks.

Sam and Melinda walk toward Sam's car. Sam sees Rachel in the car's window. Rachel is signaling Sam to open the car door for Melinda.

SAM
Oh yeah.

Sam walks up to the passenger seat and opens the door.

MELINDA
Thank you.

Melinda gets in the car. Sam winks at Rachel in the backseat. Rachel gives a thumbs up.

EXT. ROMERO'S RESTAURANT - EVENING

A small restaurant. Sam's car is parked in the parking lot.

INT. ROMERO'S RESTAURANT - EVENING

Sam and Melinda are sitting at a small table. The restaurant is dimly lit and full of people.

MELINDA

So this is a nice little restaurant, don't you think?

SAM

Yeah. It's real cozy.

Awkward silence. Sam and Melinda look around trying to find things to talk about.

MELINDA

So have you started on your college applications yet?

SAM

Huh? Oh, umm, yeah, of course.

MELINDA

Where'd you apply to? I applied to USC, UCLA, and a couple of other schools. I'm really hoping for USC though.

SAM

Ummm, yeah, I applied to the same schools.

MELINDA

Really?

(trying to be delicate)

Do you think you can get in with the grades you have?

SAM

(embarrassed)

Uhhh....

MELINDA

I'm sorry. I shouldn't have said that. But, hey. I think you're a really smart guy, Sam. Even if you do slack off a lot.

SAM
(laughs)
Thanks.

Rachel pops up from behind Melinda. Rachel is making funny faces behind Melinda's back so that only Sam can see her. Sam quickly looks away so that he does not laugh. Melinda notices this.

MELINDA
Is something wrong?

SAM
(looking away)
No, nothing's wrong.

MELINDA
Is there something on my face or something?

Sam looks at Melinda and can see Rachel behind her, still making funny faces and laughing. Sam looks away again.

SAM
No. There's nothing on your face.

MELINDA
Well I'm gonna go to the bathroom just to make sure. I'll be right back.

Melinda gets up and walks away. Rachel sits in Melinda's seat and laughs.

RACHEL
(laughing)
Wasn't that funny?

SAM
(angry)
No, it wasn't, Rachel! What are you doing? You promised to stay out of the way!

RACHEL
(upset)
Geez, are you mad at me now? I thought I was your best friend? How can you be mad at your best friend? I was just trying to have some fun!

SAM
Rachel, please! Don't do anything silly tonight.

Rachel takes a sip of Melinda's water and spits it back into the cup. Rachel laughs.

SAM (CONT'D)
(angry)
Rachel!

RACHEL
(laughing)
Don't tell her I did that!

Sam can see Melinda coming back from the bathroom.

SAM
She's coming back. Get out of her seat!

RACHEL
(upset)
Fine, Mr. Bossy!

Rachel gets out of the seat. Melinda comes back to the table and sits down.

MELINDA
Sorry about that.

SAM
That's fine.

MELINDA
So, I know we've known each other for a few years but I don't really know you. What do you like to do for fun?

SAM
Uhh, you know, the usual stuff. Go out and have fun with my friends.

MELINDA
Ah, you must be a Libra, huh?

SAM
How'd you know?

MELINDA
I'm really into horoscopes. And all that spiritual New Age stuff. It's pretty interesting.

SAM
(intrigued)
Really?

MELINDA

Yeah. I used to think believing in spirits or the unseen was stupid. But now I really believe that they exist and we should respect them. I mean, just because you can't see them doesn't mean they're not there, right?

SAM

Right.

Melinda nods. Sam sees Rachel behind Melinda again, still making funny faces. Sam looks angry.

MELINDA

Is something wrong?

SAM

(frustrated)

No.

MELINDA

You can tell me. I won't judge you or anything.

Sam looks at Melinda with hope.

SAM

Really?

MELINDA

Yeah. I notice that you don't really fit in with anyone at school, Sam. And I don't know why because I think you're such a great guy. You can talk to me... About anything.

Sam is happily surprised.

MELINDA (CONT'D)

So what's on your mind?

SAM

Well... If you really want to know.

MELINDA

I do.

SAM

(takes deep breath)

Did you ever have to hide something from everyone?

MELINDA

Sure. Everyone hides things.

SAM

Yeah. Well you see, I have a best friend. Her name's Rachel. We've been best friends since I was seven.

MELINDA

Sounds great. So what's the problem?

SAM

I have to hide her from my family... And everyone else.

MELINDA

(laughs)
Hah, why?

SAM

Because if I don't, they'll just try to take her away from me.

MELINDA

What do you mean?

SAM

They don't want me talking to her. They say it isn't good for me.

MELINDA

Well what's wrong with her?

SAM

Nothing! She's completely normal. Do you want to meet her?

MELINDA

Sure, why not?

SAM

(sigh of relief)
I can't believe I'm gonna introduce you to her. I haven't done that in a long time. I feel so comfortable around you, Melinda! I feel like you're the first person who actually understands me.

MELINDA
 (smiles)
 Good. Don't worry, Sam. You can trust me.

Sam smiles. He turns his head to the side.

SAM
 Rachel! Get out here. I wanna introduce you to Melinda!

MELINDA
 (confused)
 She's here? Now?

SAM
 Yeah.

INT. ROMERO'S RESTAURANT - EVENING

Melinda's back is facing the camera. Rachel appears, standing next to Sam.

SAM
 Melinda, this is Rachel. Rachel, this is Melinda.

INT. ROMERO'S RESTAURANT - EVENING

Sam's back is facing the camera. Rachel is not seen.

MELINDA
 (confused)
 What? Sam, there's no one there.

INT. ROMERO'S RESTAURANT - EVENING

Melinda's back is facing the camera. Rachel stands next to Sam.

SAM
 She's here, Melinda. She's here. You just have to try harder. Try harder and you'll see her.

Rachel waves "hi."

SAM (CONT'D)
 She's waving "hi" to you right now.

INT. ROMERO'S RESTAURANT - EVENING

Sam's back is facing the camera.

MELINDA
(laughing)
You're joking, right?

INT. ROMERO'S RESTAURANT - EVENING

Melinda's back is facing the camera. Rachel is standing next to Sam. Sam looks disappointed.

SAM
No, I'm not joking. Just try harder. You have to believe if you want to see her. Just believe.

RACHEL
(upset)
She doesn't believe you, Sam! I don't think this girl is right for you. She can't even accept the fact that I'm your best friend!

SAM
Be quiet, Rachel.

RACHEL
She's jealous, that's what! Jealous of our friendship!

SAM
(frustrated)
Rachel, shut up!

INT. ROMERO'S RESTAURANT - EVENING

Sam's back is facing the camera. He is yelling at thin air to his left.

SAM (CONT'D)
Shut up, Rachel! You don't know what you're talking about! Melinda understands us! She does!

MELINDA
(freaked out)
Ummm, Sam, I think I want to go home now.

SAM

But we haven't even ordered our food yet!

(looks to his left)

No Rachel, I don't think you're being funny! You better stop this right now, Rachel! Shut up!

MELINDA

Sam! I'm leaving!

Melinda gets up and walks away.

EXT. ROMERO'S RESTAURANT - EVENING

Melinda is walking quickly out of the restaurant, a little frightened. Sam is running after her.

SAM

Melinda, wait! Please! Let me drive you home!

Melinda keeps walking.

SAM (CONT'D)

Please, Melinda. Just let me drive you home. I don't want you to walk home this late. Please.

MELINDA

Okay, fine. But I want you to take me straight home, alright?

SAM

Sure, whatever you want.

They walk toward Sam's car. Sam opens the door for Melinda and she gets in.

INT. SAM'S CAR - EVENING

Sam is in the driver's seat, Melinda is in the passenger seat, and Rachel is in the backseat. Melinda looks a little frightened. Sam starts the car and begins driving.

SAM

I'm really sorry about Rachel, Melinda. She was being way out of line.

Sam turns his head to face Rachel in the back seat.

SAM (CONT'D)
(angry)
Isn't that right, Rachel?

MELINDA
(scared)
Sam, please stop it. You're scaring me.

SAM
I'm sorry. I'm really sorry. Rachel should apologize too.

Sam turns his head to face Rachel.

SAM (CONT'D)
Isn't that right, Rachel? Don't you think you should apologize?

Rachel has her arms folded and her chin up in the air. She refuses to apologize.

SAM (CONT'D)
(angry)
Rachel! You apologize to Melinda right now!!

Sam's car swerves out of its lane and nearly hits another car. The other car honks its horn.

MELINDA
Sam! Watch out!

Sam hears the horn and focuses back on driving. Melinda is nervous and out of breath from the near accident.

SAM
Sorry.

MELINDA
(almost crying)
Sam, let me out of the car now!
Please! Stop the car! I want to get out!

SAM
(confused)
But why? I didn't even hit the other car! And we're almost at your house. Just a few more minutes.

EXT. MELINDA'S HOUSE - EVENING

Sam's car stops in front of the house. Melinda quickly gets out of the car and runs to her house, frightened.

INT. SAM'S CAR

Sam sits angry in the driver's seat. Rachel happily hops into the passenger seat.

RACHEL
That was fun!

SAM
(angry)
What are you talking about? That was a disaster!

RACHEL
Well I had fun.

Sam says nothing but is obviously angry.

INT. DAVIS HOME - EVENING

Karen and Jeremy are sitting on the couch, watching TV. Sam walks in. He looks upset.

KAREN
Hi, honey! How'd the date go?

Sam quickly changes his expression from upset to happy.

SAM
It went great! We might go out again next week!

KAREN
Wonderful, dear! I'd like to meet her someday.

SAM
Yeah, sure. Someday.

Sam walks away.

INT. SAM'S ROOM - EVENING

Sam enters his room, Rachel following behind him.

RACHEL
What's up with you?

SAM
You ruined my date with Melinda!

RACHEL
I ruined your date?

SAM
Yes!! I should have never brought
you along!

RACHEL
(upset)
What's that supposed to mean? Is
that any way to talk to your best
friend?

Rachel begins tearing up. Sam sees this and calms down.

SAM
(regretful)
I'm-- I'm sorry. Please, don't cry.

RACHEL
(crying)
I just wanted to have fun! You
never take me anywhere anymore! You
always lock me up in here like I'm
some kind of prisoner!

Sam feels really bad now that he has made Rachel cry. He
kneels down and hugs her.

SAM
I'm so sorry, Rachel. I'll make it
up to you. I promise. I'll do
anything. You name it, you got it.

RACHEL
Promise?

SAM
I swear. What do you want?

RACHEL
Give me a while to think about it.

INT. RETRO BREW - MORNING

Gina is at the front counter. Sam walks in and joins her
behind the counter.

GINA
Hey, did you ask that girl out?

SAM
Yeah, I did.

GINA
And?

SAM
We went out. It was cool. We really
get along. I think we're going out
again next week.

GINA
Awesome! I knew she'd say yes.

Sam smiles shyly.

INT. DAVIS KITCHEN - MORNING

Karen is cooking a lot of food in the kitchen. Vanessa is sitting on the kitchen table going over plans for her wedding. The door bell rings.

KAREN
Oh, Vanessa, can you get that? It's
probably Mrs. Stevens to pick up
her order.

Vanessa gets up and leaves the kitchen.

INT. DAVIS HOME - MORNING

Vanessa walks up to the front door and opens it. Behind the door is Melinda's father, FRED ADAMS, early 50's.

VANESSA
Can I help you?

FRED
(upset)
Yeah, hi, I'm Melinda's father. Is
Sam's mother around?

VANESSA
Umm, yeah. Let me go get her. Come
in.

Fred enters the house as Vanessa leaves the living room. A few moments later, Vanessa returns with Karen.

KAREN
(to Fred)
Hi, I'm Sam's mother.

FRED
Hi, I'm Fred Adams, Melinda's
father.

KAREN
How can I help you, Mr. Adams?

FRED
My daughter came home crying last
night.

KAREN
(surprised)
Crying?

FRED
Yes. She was crying and terrified
out of her mind.

KAREN
Sam didn't tell me anything about
her crying. What happened?

FRED
She said something about Sam almost
getting into a car accident cause
he kept talking to a girl that
wasn't there.

Karen and Vanessa's faces turn white.

KAREN
(beat)
Oh?

FRED
She said he called her "Rachel" or
something.

VANESSA
Rachel?

FRED
Yeah. Anyway, your kid almost
killed my kid in a car accident. I
don't want Sam seeing Melinda
anymore, alright?

KAREN
Yes. Yes, of course.

Fred exits the house. There is a moment of silence as Karen and Vanessa look at each other in shock.

VANESSA
Rachel's back...?!

Karen begins tearing up and is at a loss for words.

EXT. DAVIS BACKYARD - MORNING

Vanessa marches angrily to Sam's bedroom door and swings it open. Karen follows behind her.

INT. SAM'S ROOM - MORNING

Vanessa and Karen enter Sam's room and look around. Karen rifles through some papers and finds a hidden pile of college applications laying on Sam's desk. She picks them up.

KAREN
Look, Sam's college applications.
He said he mailed them out weeks
ago.

She roots further through everything and finds some report cards. Karen picks them up and is shocked to find many 'F' grades.

KAREN (CONT'D)
He told me he was getting straight
'A's.

Vanessa walks toward Sam's closet and finds that it's locked. With intensity in her eyes, she kicks the locked closet door open and finds all of Rachel's things inside.

VANESSA
(shocked, horrified)
Mom, look.

Karen walks over to where Vanessa is and looks inside the closet. Karen starts crying. She puts her hands over her face.

KAREN
(crying)
No! No! No!

VANESSA
(horrified)
He's been keeping Rachel around for
all this time!

KAREN

(crying)

No! It can't be true! It can't be!

VANESSA

I thought you told me he let go of Rachel years ago!

KAREN

(crying)

I thought so too! He stopped setting a place for her at the table! He stopped talking to her in public! I was so sure he had finally let go of her! And now this! It can't be!

Vanessa embraces Karen to comfort her.

INT. DAVIS HOME - AFTERNOON

Karen and Vanessa are sitting on the couch with serious expressions on their faces. Ryan walks in and sits next to Vanessa. He turns on the TV with a remote control. Vanessa looks at her watch.

VANESSA

(to Ryan)

Honey, can you watch TV in the guest room? I kind of want to talk to my Mom.

RYAN

Oh, okay. No problem.

Ryan turns off the TV. He gets up and walks away.

VANESSA

(to Karen)

Ryan doesn't have to know about this.

(Beat) Karen nods. A few moments later, Sam walks through the front door. Vanessa gets up.

VANESSA

Sam. Sit down. We need to talk.

Sam is confused and sits down on a chair.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Melinda's father came by today.

SAM
 (nervous)
 Oh? What for?

VANESSA
 We know that you brought Rachel
 with you, Sam.

Sam is in shock and doesn't know what to say.

VANESSA
 (angry)
 You lied to Mom, Sam. You lied to
 all of us! You told us you let go
 of Rachel!

SAM
 I-- I don't know what to say.

KAREN
 We want you to see a psychiatrist,
 Sam.

Sam is about to cry but holds back the tears.

SAM
 But--

VANESSA
 Sam, you need to see a
 psychiatrist. No "buts."

Sam begins crying.

SAM
 (crying)
 You guys think I'm crazy.

KAREN
 No we don't, honey.

VANESSA
 (mumbles)
 Speak for yourself.

KAREN
 We just want to help you, Sam. Will
 you let us take you to see a
 psychiatrist?

Sam nods his head "yes" while crying. He gets up and walks
 out.

INT. SAM'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Sam enters his room and leans against the door, crying softly. He sinks to the ground. Rachel comes out of the closet and walks over to Sam.

RACHEL

What's the matter, Sam? Why are you crying?

SAM

Oh, it's nothing, Rachel. I just don't feel well.

RACHEL

Your Mom and Vanessa came in earlier. I guess they were looking for you but you weren't here.

Sam wipes his tears and forces himself to stop crying.

SAM

Yeah, I know.

RACHEL

Hey guess what? I finally know what you can do to make it up to me.

SAM

Oh, good. Whatever it is, I promise I'll make it happen.

RACHEL

I wanna be a flower girl in Vanessa's wedding!

Sam looks uneasy.

SAM

(hesitant)

Uhh, sure.

RACHEL

Really?

SAM

Yeah. Sure, you can be a flower girl.

Rachel is so happy that she hugs Sam tightly. Sam's face shows that he is really unsure about fulfilling Rachel's wish.

INT. MR. VINCE'S CLASS - MORNING

The bell has not rung yet so the students are just socializing inside the classroom. Sam walks in and sits down in his desk. He notices all the other students pointing and whispering. Sam is confused. The bell rings and everyone sits down and is quiet.

MR. VINCE

Okay everyone, open your books to page--

Mr. Vince is interrupted by Melinda walking into the room. She hands Mr. Vince a sheet of paper. Mr. Vince reads the paper.

MR. VINCE (CONT'D)

Checking out of my class, Melinda?

MELINDA

Yes, Sir.

MR. VINCE

Do you hate my class that much?

MELINDA

No, Sir. I'm checking out of the class for... Other reasons.

Melinda looks at Sam. All the other students loudly mumble.

MR. VINCE

Alright then. Good luck in your new English class.

Mr. Vince signs the paper and hands it back to Melinda.

MELINDA

Thank you.

Melinda takes the paper and leaves the class.

INT. MR. VINCE'S CLASS - LATER

The bell rings and all the students get up to leave the class.

MR. VINCE

Sam, could you stay after class, please?

All the students leave so it is just Sam and Mr. Vince in the room. Sam walks up to Mr. Vince's desk.

SAM

Yes? Did I do something wrong?

MR. VINCE

Sam, I don't know if you've noticed, but every student on campus is talking about you.

SAM

(devastated and embarrassed)

Really? Why?

MR. VINCE

There are rumors going around that you hear voices in your head and you tried to kill Melinda Adams or something. Now, this isn't my job to do this or anything, but if you need to talk to anyone, I'm available and we have counselors at the school.

Sam turns pale, embarrassed and about to cry. Then quickly he switches gear, forcing himself to laugh and show defiance.

SAM

Voices in my head? That's ridiculous, Mr. Vince! It's not true, I swear.

MR. VINCE

I'm just trying to help, Sam. I'm worried about you.

Mr. Vince places his hand on Sam's shoulder and Sam quickly jumps back.

SAM

There's nothing to worry about!
I'll be fine, thanks.

Sam quickly leaves the room.

INT. ALANDALE CITY HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - MORNING

Sam walks through the hallway and sees almost every other student staring, pointing, whispering, and laughing at him. Sam begins to tear up. He is so distracted by the other students that he does not look where he is going and bumps into another student.

STUDENT

Hey, watch where you're going, you maniac! What? You too busy talking to imaginary friends to look where you're going?

Everyone in the hallway laughs. A student walking the other way purposely bumps into Sam so that Sam drops his backpack and all of its contents fall out. Sam gets on his knees to pick everything up. Everyone is still laughing.

One of Sam's hi-liters rolls to Jeremy's foot. Sam recognizes the shoe and looks up at Jeremy, who is standing beside a friend. Jeremy looks at Sam, embarrassed and ashamed of him. Jeremy walks away quickly. Sam tears up even more. He leaves his stuff, gets up, and runs out of the school.

EXT. STREETS - MORNING

Sam's car is speeding down a street. Sam can be seen in the driver's seat, crying.

EXT. ALANDALE CITY PARK - MORNING

Sam's car stops in front of the empty park. He gets out and staggers to the swing set. He starts swinging while crying.

EXT. ALANDALE CITY PARK - AFTERNOON

Sam is still swinging in the same spot but has calmed down since the morning. He looks at his watch and gets up. He gets into his car and drives off.

INT. DAVIS HOME - AFTERNOON

Karen stands in front of the mirror in the living room, fixing her make-up. Sam walks in through the front door.

KAREN

Hi, honey. How was school?

SAM

Fine.

KAREN

You ready to go?

Sam nods his head.

EXT. ALANDALE CITY HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON

A large hospital building.

INT. ALANDALE CITY HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON

Karen and Sam sit in the waiting room. Sam is fidgety and nervous. Karen places her hand on Sam's shoulder.

KAREN

Will you calm down? You'll do fine.

Sam calms down and looks much more relaxed.

INT. DR. BOWMAN'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Sam enters the room. DR. BOWMAN, early 60's, is sitting down.

DR. BOWMAN

It's Sam, right?

Sam nods.

DR. BOWMAN (CONT'D)

Sit down, sit down, Sam.

Sam sits down. Dr. Bowman sticks out his arm to shake Sam's hand.

DR. BOWMAN

I'm Dr. Bowman. It's nice to meet you.

SAM

Uh, yeah. Same here.

DR. BOWMAN

So, Sam. Tell me about yourself.

SAM

Ummm, I don't really know what to say.

DR. BOWMAN

Well, say anything! For example, my name is Robert Bowman and I enjoy fishing and "I Love Lucy" reruns.

SAM

Oh, okay. Uh, my name's Sam Davis. I like to, uhh, swing?

DR. BOWMAN

Swing? Very interesting. I've had many patients who practice swapping sex partners.

SAM

No, not that kind of swing. I meant like on a swing set.

DR. BOWMAN

Ahh, now I see. What else?

SAM

I don't really know what else to say.

Dr. Bowman reads the sheet of paper in front of him.

DR. BOWMAN

How about Rachel? Tell me about Rachel.

SAM

Well, umm. Rachel is my best friend. She's been my best friend ever since I was seven years old. We know each other inside out.

DR. BOWMAN

Can you see Rachel?

SAM

Yes. But no one else can.

DR. BOWMAN

Why is that?

SAM

I don't know? I guess if you want to see her you have to really believe that she's there. And she really is there! It's just that no one's willing to try hard enough to see her.

INT. DR. BOWMAN'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Karen is now in the room and sitting next to Sam.

DR. BOWMAN

I had fun talking to Sam. He's a great patient.

Sam smiles.

DR. BOWMAN (CONT'D)
Sam is suffering from a kind of delusional disorder. I'm going to prescribe Seroquel. It's an anti-psychotic drug. Take it twice daily. It's a very powerful drug, so we'll have to monitor him closely.

Dr. Bowman writes the prescription and hands it to Karen.

KAREN
Thank you, Doctor.

DR. BOWMAN
See you soon, Sam.

INT. SAM'S CAR - AFTERNOON

Sam is driving and Karen is in the passenger seat.

KAREN
So what do you think of Dr. Bowman?

SAM
I was surprised. He was really easy to talk to.

KAREN
Good. Remember. Seroquel twice daily.

SAM
Yeah, I know.

Karen looks at Sam and smiles.

KAREN
Even though you've lied to me for a long time, Sam, I'm really proud of you. You're finally taking the first step to recovery.

Sam smiles back at Karen.

INT. DAVIS HOME - AFTERNOON

Jeremy is sitting in the living room watching TV. Karen and Sam walk in. Sam immediately goes to his room.

KAREN
Jeremy, where's Vanessa?

JEREMY
In the backyard with Ryan.

Karen walks to the backyard.

EXT. DAVIS BACKYARD - AFTERNOON

Vanessa and Ryan are in the backyard going over final seating plans for the wedding. Karen walks up to them.

KAREN
(to Vanessa)
Guess what? Me and Sam just came back from the doctor and things are looking pretty hopeful!

Vanessa gets very angry by what Karen has just said because Ryan is there.

RYAN
The doctor? Is everything okay?

VANESSA
Yeah, everything's fine. Sam's just seeing a psychiatrist.

RYAN
A psychiatrist? For what?

VANESSA
Oh, he's just kind of stressed out from school and work. He'll be fine, really. Could you get me a glass of water from the kitchen please? With ice?

RYAN
Sure.

Ryan walks toward the house and enters the kitchen.

VANESSA
(angry)
Mother! Could you be a little more careful when discussing Sam in front of Ryan?

KAREN
I'm sorry. I was just so excited.

VANESSA

What happened?

KAREN

Sam and Dr. Bowman seemed to really hit it off. Sam's actually looking forward to seeing him again! Isn't that great? He's on his way to recovery!

VANESSA

(cynical)

That's wonderful.

KAREN

Well, it is wonderful! Don't you think so?

VANESSA

(upset)

Look, Mom. I want Sam to get better just as much as you do but this should have happened a LONG time ago.

(sarcastic)

And of course he has to start recovering four days before my wedding day.

KAREN

Vanessa, it's not like Sam is trying to inconvenience you. He's finally starting to get better. Let's be happy for him.

VANESSA

(upset)

Be happy for *him*? My wedding day is this week and all you can think about is being happy for Sam? You always do this! You *and* Dad always played favorites!

Karen is shocked and doesn't know what to say. Ryan comes back into the backyard with a glass of water. Vanessa's face quickly changes from angry to happy. Ryan gives her the water.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

(smiling)

Thank you, darling!

RYAN

You're welcome.

Vanessa and Ryan continue discussing the wedding plans as Karen walks back into the house.

INT. SAM'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Sam is sitting on his bed reading the Seroquel label. Rachel walks out of the closet and Sam quickly hides the bottle of pills.

RACHEL
What was that?

SAM
Candy.

RACHEL
Ooh, can I have some?

SAM
No! This is my candy. Sorry.

RACHEL
Where have you been?

SAM
The doctor.

RACHEL
For what?

SAM
Uh, I've been feeling kind of sick lately.

RACHEL
Oh. You wanna play jacks? I got up to sixties today!

SAM
Uhh, why don't you play and I'll watch.

RACHEL
Okay.

Rachel sits on the floor and begins playing jacks. Sam watches her as he slowly opens the bottle of Seroquel and pops a pill.

INT. SAM'S CAR - MORNING

Sam is driving himself and Jeremy to school. There is awkward silence between the two of them.

JEREMY

Can you just drop me off here?

SAM

Why? We're still two blocks from school.

JEREMY

(assertive)

Just stop the car here, okay?

Sam stops the car.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

You don't have to drive me home. I get rides with my friend, Victor, now.

Jeremy gets out with his backpack. Sam sits in the driver's seat motionless and sad. He knows that Jeremy is ashamed of him. Sam makes a U-turn.

EXT. ALANDALE CITY PARK - MORNING

Sam is swinging on the swing set. He takes out the Seroquel bottle from his pocket and pops a pill.

INT. SAM'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Sam is sitting on his couch watching TV. Rachel come out of the closet and sits next to him.

RACHEL

Watcha' watching?

Sam doesn't respond.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Hello? Anybody home?

Rachel waves her hand in front of Sam's face.

SAM

Huh? Oh. What do you want?

RACHEL

What are you watching?

SAM
I don't know. Some cop show.

RACHEL
Wanna see something?

Sam doesn't respond. Rachel runs to the closet and comes out holding a colorful dress that is about her size.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
It's my flower girl dress for
Vanessa's wedding! Do you like it?

Sam doesn't respond.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
SAM!

Sam looks at Rachel.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Do you like it?

SAM
Uh, yeah. Real nice.

Sam takes out the bottle of Seroquel and pops a pill.

RACHEL
Can I have some candy?

SAM
What? No. It's not for you.

Sam places the Seroquel bottle on the table. Rachel stares at the bottle suspiciously.

EXT. ALANDALE CITY PARK - MORNING

Sam is swinging on the swing set and looking at his watch.

INT. MR. VINCE'S CLASS - MORNING

Mr. Vince is sitting at his desk taking roll. He sees the name 'Sam Davis' on the roll sheet and looks up at Sam's empty desk. He marks Sam as 'absent.'

INT. RETRO BREW - AFTERNOON

Gina is by herself behind the front desk. There is a long line of customers, some frustrated because the service is taking so long. Gina looks at her watch and then out the front door, expecting Sam to walk in.

GINA
(to herself)
Sam, where the hell are you?

INT. SAM'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Sam walks into his room. Rachel follows behind him.

RACHEL
Hey Sam! I drew a really neat picture today! You wanna see?

Sam ignores her the whole time. Rachel stops trying to get his attention and just stands there looking sad and confused.

INT. DAVIS HOME - EVENING

Karen, Vanessa, Ryan, and Jeremy are all in the living room putting together flower arrangements in assembly line style. They are all smiling and laughing together. Sam is there too but seems to be out of it.

Rachel is in front of Sam, waving her arms to get his attention. Sam ignores her.

INT. DR. BOWMAN'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Sam is sitting in a chair talking to Dr. Bowman.

SAM
I think the medicine is really working! I used to talk to Rachel every single day. Yesterday, I barely said a word to her!

DR. BOWMAN
Good. You're on the right track. How's school and work going?

SAM
Great. Everything's going good.

EXT. ALANDALE CITY PARK - MORNING

Sam is swinging on the swing set. He reaches in his pocket for the Seroquel bottle but cannot find it. He searches the other pocket but it is not there.

INT. DAVIS KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Karen is cooking food in the kitchen. Sam enters the house and goes through the kitchen to get to the backyard.

KAREN

Hey, Sam. How was school?

SAM

Good.

KAREN

Don't you have work today?

SAM

Umm, Gina gave me the day off.

KAREN

Oh, that was nice of her.

Sam goes to the backyard.

EXT. DAVIS BACKYARD - AFTERNOON

The backyard is already set up for the wedding. The seats and decorations are all up and arranged. Vanessa and Ryan are placing the flower arrangements. Sam walks up to them.

SAM

Hey, you guys haven't seen my bottle of Seroquel anywhere, have you?

RYAN

Seroquel?

VANESSA

(nervous)

It's his headache medicine. Sam gets really bad headaches.

(to Sam)

No, Sam. We haven't seen your headache medicine anywhere, sorry.

Vanessa quickly gets Ryan's attention back on decorating. Sam walks up to his room.

INT. SAM'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Rachel is standing in front of the mirror, wearing the colorful flower girl dress. Sam sees her and walks up to her.

SAM

Rachel, where's my candy?

RACHEL

Do you like how the dress looks on me, Sam?

SAM

Rachel, I'm serious. Where did you put my candy?

RACHEL

I'm so excited for the wedding tomorrow. I can't wait 'til everyone sees me walk down the aisle.

SAM

Rachel, stop it! Tell me where you hid it!

Rachel looks up at Sam with big, innocent eyes.

RACHEL

(innocently)

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

INT. SAM'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Sam is searching his room like crazy looking for the bottle of Seroquel. He is turning over tables and knocking things over.

SAM

Where the hell did you put it, Rachel?!

RACHEL

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

Sam punches the wall and falls to his knees in tears out of frustration. He has his face in his hands. Rachel walks over to him and places her hand on his shoulder.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
 It's okay, Sam. It's just candy,
 right?

Sam looks at her angrily. He knows that she knows it is
 medicine.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
 It probably didn't taste that good
 anyway.

SAM
 (mumbles)
 You knew.

RACHEL
 I knew what?

SAM
 You knew that it was medicine!

RACHEL
 All I know is that whatever it was,
 it was making you ignore me! And
 anything that makes you ignore your
 best friend can't be good!

Sam begins crying even harder.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
 Sam, I'm your best friend in the
 whole world. I know what's best for
 you.

Sam nods his head while crying, agreeing with Rachel. Rachel
 embraces Sam.

INT. DAVIS KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Vanessa walks into the kitchen and grabs a bottle of water.
 She starts drinking the water when Karen enters the kitchen.

KAREN
 Vanessa, I just had the greatest
 idea!

VANESSA
 What is it?

KAREN
 Have you thought about who's going
 to walk you down the aisle?

VANESSA
I'm walking alone. Dad's gone.

KAREN
(excited)
Why not have Sam walk you down the aisle?

VANESSA
(angry)
What?! Are you crazy?

KAREN
Oh come on, Vanessa. Don't you love your brother?

VANESSA
Sure I do, but why the hell should he walk me down the aisle? He isn't Dad!

KAREN
Your father isn't alive anymore. Sam's the oldest man of the family so it's the proper thing to do! And it would mean so much to him, Vanessa. It really would!

VANESSA
(angry)
Hello?! Isn't this *my* wedding? I think I should be able to decide who I want to walk down the aisle with!

Karen's face becomes serious.

KAREN
Vanessa. He's your brother. He's family.

INT. SAM'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Sam is still embracing Rachel.

There is a knock on Sam's door. Sam panics. He picks up Rachel and tosses her into the closet. Sam wipes his face and clears his throat.

SAM
Come in.

Vanessa enters Sam's room.

VANESSA

Hey Sam. Can I talk to you for a second?

SAM

Sure. What's up?

Vanessa tries hard to fake a smile.

VANESSA

As you know, Dad's not here anymore and I have no one to walk me down the aisle tomorrow. So... I was wondering if you would do it?

SAM

(happily surprised)
Really?

VANESSA

Yes. Really.

SAM

You mean it? You really want me to?

VANESSA

(unconvincing)
Yeah. I really want you to.

SAM

I'd be honored to! Thanks!

Sam embraces Vanessa. Vanessa exits the room. Rachel comes out of the closet.

RACHEL

What'd you throw me in there for?

SAM

Sorry about that. I just got really good news. Vanessa wants me to walk her down the aisle tomorrow!

RACHEL

Cool! Then we can both be a part of the wedding!

SAM

(unsure)
Uh, yeah. Right.

Sam gets on his knees to be eye level with Rachel.

SAM (CONT'D)

Listen, Rachel. If I let you be a flower girl tomorrow, you have to promise me that you'll give me back my candy.

RACHEL

Fine. But if I do, you have to promise not to eat any of it anymore.

Sam thinks about it while looking into Rachel's bright, innocent eyes.

SAM

Deal.

EXT. DAVIS HOME - MORNING

It is the morning of Vanessa and Ryan's wedding day. There are several cars parked outside of the house.

EXT. DAVIS BACKYARD - MORNING

The backyard is decorated with white streamers and roses. There are about seventy guests sitting in formal wear. Ryan stands up on the podium with the pastor.

INT. DAVIS KITCHEN - MORNING

Vanessa is very stressed out, wearing a wedding dress. She is behind a line of little flower girls and a ring bearer. Karen is with Vanessa, doing final touch ups on her hair.

VANESSA

(stressed out)

Does my hair look okay?

KAREN

Yes, dear.

VANESSA

(stressed out)

Just *okay*??

KAREN

It looks beautiful, honey!

VANESSA

Where the hell is Sam? We're about to start!

Sam runs in from behind. He looks tired like he didn't sleep the night before.

SAM
I'm here! I'm here!

VANESSA
Oh, thank God.

Rachel is next to Sam, wearing her colorful dress. Sam signals her to join the other flower girls and she does. The wedding music begins to play and one by one, each flower girl walks down the isle.

The last flower girl has walked and Rachel is next in line but TEDDY, the ring bearer, goes ahead of her.

RACHEL
(angry)
Hey! It's my turn!

Rachel looks at Sam, devastated.

SAM
(to Teddy)
No, Teddy. No. No! No Teddy, it's not your turn!!

Vanessa looks at Sam like he is crazy.

VANESSA
(angry)
What the hell are you doing? It is his turn!

Sam runs after Teddy and stops him.

SAM
No Teddy, stop!

Teddy struggles free from Sam's grip and continues walking. Sam begins to freak out.

SAM (CONT'D)
Teddy! Stop, Teddy! It's not your freaking turn! It's Rachel's turn for God's sake!

Sam chases Teddy around the backyard. The audience is confused and mumbling to each other. Vanessa is in total shock. Her eyes are bulged and she is staring blankly, straight ahead.

VANESSA
 (in shock)
 Rachel?

Sam finally grabs Teddy and forces him back to the kitchen where Vanessa is. Vanessa sees Sam and becomes outraged.

SAM
 (to Vanessa)
 I'm sorry, Vanessa. He went out of
 turn!

Vanessa lifts up her hand and smacks Sam hard across the cheek. The smack was so hard that Sam nearly falls back. He looks up at Vanessa with teary eyes, holding the cheek that she smacked.

VANESSA
 (infuriated)
 What the hell is the matter with
 you?!?!!

She smacks him again.

VANESSA (CONT'D)
 (infuriated)
 Rachel isn't real, you psychotic
 FREAK!! You've ruined my wedding!!
 I'm NEVER forgiving you for this,
 Sam. NEVER!!

While this is happening, Rachel is walking down the aisle while throwing flower petals on the ground.

Sam begins crying. He runs up to his room. Rachel follows after him. The crowd is buzzing with what just happened.

INT. SAM'S ROOM - MORNING

Sam is having a breakdown. He trashes his room out of frustration. He drops to his knees in the middle of the room and begins bawling. Rachel comes over and embraces him.

SAM
 (crying)
 She hit me! She actually hit me,
 Rachel! And she-- she called me a,
 a fr-- freak!

Sam cries harder as he says the word "freak."

RACHEL
Shhh, it's okay, Sammy. Calm down,
calm down. I'm here. I'll always be
here for you.

SAM
(crying)
You've always been there for me,
Rachel! Even when I ignored you,
you were there for me! I'm so
sorry, Rachel!

Rachel embraces Sam tighter.

RACHEL
It's okay, Sammy. It's okay.

INT. DAVIS KITCHEN - MORNING

Vanessa is crying on Karen's shoulder.

KAREN
Oh, what should we do? Should I
tell everyone to go home?

VANESSA
(crying and angry)
Hell no!! This damn wedding is
still on!

Karen walks out to the backyard while Vanessa quickly fixes
her makeup.

EXT. DAVIS BACKYARD - MORNING

All the guests are mumbling about what just happened. Karen
goes up on the stage and talks into a microphone.

KAREN
(smiling)
Hi everybody. Sorry about the
delay. It seems that somebody was
playing a little practical joke on
us.

Some of the guests laugh, thinking Sam's behavior was a joke.

KAREN (CONT'D)
Anyway, the wedding WILL continue
shortly. Thank you.

Karen calmly walks back to the kitchen.

INT. DAVIS KITCHEN - MORNING

Vanessa looks good as new as Karen enters the kitchen.

KAREN

I told everyone that the wedding
was still on. What about Sam?

Vanessa becomes very upset at what Karen's mention of Sam.

VANESSA

(angry)

Can you please focus on me for
once! It's my damn wedding day! Who
cares where Sam is!!?

Karen bows her head as if she is sorry. The wedding march
plays and Vanessa walks down the aisle by herself.

INT. SAM'S ROOM - MORNING

Sam is laying on his belly playing jacks with Rachel on the
floor. They are both laughing and having fun.

RACHEL

Even though we couldn't stay for
the whole wedding, I'm still happy
I got to walk down the aisle.

SAM

Good. You did a great job.

RACHEL

I would have never been able to
walk if you hadn't have stopped
Teddy. Thanks.

SAM

(smiles)

You're welcome.

RACHEL

Oh, yeah.

Rachel takes out the bottle of Seroquel from her pocket and
hands it to Sam.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Part of the deal, remember?

Sam looks at the bottle and thinks.

SAM
I remember.

Sam gets up and walks to the bathroom. Rachel follows him.

INT. SAM'S BATHROOM - MORNING

Sam lifts the lid on the toilet.

SAM (CONT'D)
If eating this candy takes you away
from me, I don't want it anymore!

He takes the cap off the Seroquel bottle and pours all of the pills into the toilet. He flushes the toilet. Rachel smiles at him and then embraces him.

EXT. DAVIS BACKYARD - MORNING

Vanessa and Ryan are facing each other on the stage. The pastor is speaking behind them.

VANESSA
(to Ryan)
I do.

Vanessa and Ryan kiss and the guests clap and cheer.

INT. SAM'S ROOM - MORNING

Sam and Rachel are drawing pictures on the floor. Sam looks at what Rachel is drawing.

SAM
What are you drawing?

Rachel holds up her drawing of a colorful little house on a field with a swing set next to it.

RACHEL
It's my house. Do you like it?

SAM
Yeah, it's really nice.

RACHEL
You should see it in person. It's
the funnest place ever!

SAM
It sure looks like a lot of fun.

EXT. DAVIS BACKYARD - AFTERNOON

It is now the wedding reception. All the guests are eating and conversing. Karen walks up to Sam's door. She knocks.

INT. SAM'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Sam is on the floor playing checkers with Rachel. He hears a knock on the door.

SAM
Who is it?

EXT. DAVIS BACKYARD - AFTERNOON

Karen is outside of Sam's door.

KAREN
Sam, there's food. Come out and eat.
(beat)
I'm not mad at you, honey. Just come out and eat, okay?

INT. SAM'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Sam is still playing checkers with Rachel.

SAM
I'm not hungry.

EXT. DAVIS BACKYARD - AFTERNOON

Karen looks down, disappointed. She goes back to the wedding reception.

INT. DAVIS HOME - EVENING

Vanessa, Ryan, and Karen are saying goodbye to the last guests leaving the house. Ryan looks at his watch.

RYAN
The cab will be here soon. I'll go get our stuff.

Ryan leaves the living room. Karen hugs Vanessa.

KAREN
 Congratulations, sweetheart. The
 wedding was beautiful.

VANESSA
 What the hell? What was so
 beautiful about Sam running around
 like a madman?

Karen says nothing.

VANESSA (CONT'D)
 Where is he anyway?

KAREN
 He's been in his room ever since
 this morning. What do you want me
 to do?

VANESSA
 (angry)
 This is for you to deal with,
 Mother! I am about to go on a
 fabulous honeymoon with my new
 husband and the last thing I want
 to do is worry about a solution for
 poor Sam!

Karen begins to cry softly.

VANESSA (CONT'D)
 What the heck are you crying for?

KAREN
 (crying)
 I'm sorry. I just feel so guilty. I
 feel like this whole thing is my
 fault.

VANESSA
 What are you talking about?

KAREN
 (crying)
 Every now and then I would come by
 Sam's room and think I heard him
 talking to Rachel. I would always
 dismiss it. I would tell myself
 that I was just hearing things. And
 then a few months ago I saw him
 swinging on the swing set and it
 looked like he was with Rachel. But
 I didn't say anything.

VANESSA

(angry)

What the hell? You saw him talking to Rachel and you didn't do anything?!

KAREN

(crying)

I thought it was all in my head! I thought I was just being paranoid! I'm sorry!

VANESSA

Too little, too late, Mother.

Ryan comes back holding two suitcases.

RYAN

Is everything alright?

KAREN

(wiping tears)

Oh, I'm fine, Ryan. I'm just so happy for you two.

RYAN

Is this about Sam? Was he really playing a practical joke? Cause I didn't think it was very funny.

VANESSA

Neither did I.

KAREN

Listen, Ryan. Sam's been taking anti-psychotic medication for the past few days. It must have been some kind of side effect or something.

RYAN

(to Vanessa)

Is this true?

Vanessa nods, ashamed.

RYAN (CONT'D)

(to Karen)

Well tell Sam that I hope he feels better soon.

A car horn is heard from the outside.

RYAN (CONT'D)
That's our cab!

Ryan hugs Karen goodbye.

KAREN
Goodbye Ryan! Have a good time.

Ryan walks out the door and Vanessa hugs Karen.

VANESSA
(to Karen)
We'll be back in two weeks to pick
up our stuff.
(assertive)
Do something about Sam *before* we
get back, please.
(smiling)
Bye, Mom!

Vanessa walks out the door. Karen starts cleaning up around the living room area. She hears a noise in the kitchen. She walks to the kitchen.

INT. DAVIS KITCHEN - EVENING

Sam is sticking his head in the refrigerator. Rachel is next to him.

RACHEL
Get something sweet!

SAM
It doesn't matter what it is. As
long as it's edible. I'm starving!

RACHEL
Me too!

Karen enters the kitchen and sees Sam.

KAREN
Sam?

Sam is startled and jumps up. Rachel is gone.

SAM
(startled)
Mom!

KAREN
Are you hungry, Sam? There's plenty
of food left over.

SAM
Uhh, yeah. Thanks.

Karen begins unwrapping the trays of food for Sam.

KAREN (CONT'D)
Vanessa and Ryan just left for the airport. They'll be back in a few days.

Moments of silence.

SAM
Mom, I'm... Really really sorry about what happened.

KAREN
Sam, I know you didn't mean to disrupt the wedding the way you did.

SAM
I really didn't! Is Vanessa mad?

KAREN
A little. What happened, Sam? You were taking your medicine and doing great the last few days!

SAM
I-- I ran out of medicine yesterday. I guess that's why I was having trouble not talking to Rachel.

KAREN
Why didn't you tell me?

SAM
You guys were so busy with the wedding and everything!

KAREN
Well, first thing after you come home from work tomorrow we're seeing Dr. Bowman to get you some more medicine.

SAM
Okay.

INT. SAM'S ROOM - EVENING

Sam is sitting on his bed. Rachel is sitting on the floor next to him.

RACHEL
Shouldn't you be sleeping? You have school and work tomorrow.

SAM
I'm not going to school or work tomorrow.

RACHEL
Why not?

SAM
They just don't understand.

RACHEL
Do you really think it's a good idea to skip school and work? I think you should go.

Sam snaps and becomes angry.

SAM
(angry)
Don't tell me what to do! You're a little girl, for God's sake!

Rachel is surprised and frightened. Sam calms down.

SAM (CONT'D)
Sorry. I'm going to the park tomorrow. You wanna come?

RACHEL
(excited)
You mean it? Really?

SAM
Yeah. I feel bad for never taking you anywhere. We'll have some fun tomorrow.

EXT. ALANDALE CITY PARK - AFTERNOON

Sam and Rachel are swinging on the swing set, laughing and having a great time. A woman walks by and, from her point of view, she sees Sam swinging and laughing by himself. Sam looks at his watch.

SAM

Oh, shoot. We gotta go.

Sam and Rachel the car and drive off.

EXT. DAVIS HOME - AFTERNOON

Sam's car parks outside the house. Sam and Rachel get out of the car and walk toward the house.

INT. SAM'S ROOM

Sam and Rachel enter the room. Sam grabs a jacket and proceeds to exit the room.

RACHEL

Where are you going?

SAM

Umm, the Doctor. I'm still not feeling too well.

RACHEL

Oh, okay. Be back soon! You owe me a game of chess.

SAM

I will.

Sam exits his room.

INT. ALANDALE CITY HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON

Sam is sitting by himself in the waiting room. He taps his foot out of boredom.

INT. DR. BOWMAN'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Dr. Bowman is speaking with Karen.

KAREN

The medicine was working for a while but then he ran out. I guess after a day or two of not taking any medicine, Rachel came back to him and well... Ruined the wedding.

DR. BOWMAN

Ran out of medicine, huh? That bottle should have lasted him three weeks.

KAREN

Well that's what Sam told me.

DR. BOWMAN

Okay. Thank you, Mrs. Davis. I'll talk to Sam now.

INT. DR. BOWMAN'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

DR. BOWMAN

Your mom tells me that you need some more Seroquel. She said you ran out.

SAM

Ummm, yeah.

DR. BOWMAN

Did you take two a day like I told you to?

SAM

Yeah. Every day.

DR. BOWMAN

Well if you only took two pills a day, you shouldn't have run out so fast.

SAM

(nervous)

Well, I, uh, lost some of the pills. Some of them rolled out of the bottle by accident.

DR. BOWMAN

(not convinced)

I see. Well, I'll write you another prescription but be more careful this time, okay?

SAM

Okay. Thanks.

DR. BOWMAN

So tell me about your sister's wedding. How'd it go?

SAM
 Alright, I guess.

DR. BOWMAN
 Your mom mentioned something about Rachel interrupting the ceremony? Why don't you tell me about that.

SAM
 Oh yeah, that. It was no big deal, really. I guess Rachel showed up again because I ran out of medicine.

INT. DAVIS HOME - EVENING

Sam and Karen just got home from the hospital. They enter the house, tired. Sam tries to go straight to his room but Karen stops him.

KAREN
 Sam, have you taken your medicine yet?

SAM
 No, but I will.

KAREN
 Take it now, Sam.

SAM
 I will, don't worry.

Sam tries to walk away but Karen grabs his arm.

KAREN
 I want to see you take it.

Sam rolls his eyes and puts a Seroquel pill in his mouth. Karen hands him a glass of water and Sam drinks it.

KAREN (CONT'D)
 (smiling)
 Good boy.

Sam runs off to his room.

INT. SAM'S ROOM - EVENING

Sam was hiding the pill under his tongue the whole time. Once he enters his room, he spits the pill out into the trash can. Rachel comes out of the closet.

RACHEL
It's about time! Now for that chess
game.

INT. DAVIS KITCHEN - MORNING

Sam opens his mouth and Karen puts a Seroquel pill inside.

INT. SAM'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Sam spits the pill into the trash can.

EXT. ALANDALE CITY PARK - AFTERNOON

Sam and Rachel are swinging on the swing set.

INT. MR. VINCE'S CLASS - MORNING

Mr. Vince marks another 'absent' for Sam. We see that Sam has several 'absent' marks on Mr. Vince's roll sheet.

INT. MR. VINCE'S CLASS - AFTERNOON

Students are exiting the class because the final bell has rung. Mr. Vince takes out his roll sheet and finds Sam's name. He picks up a phone and looks at Sam's home phone number on the roll sheet. Mr. Vince dials the number.

INT. DAVIS HOME - AFTERNOON

Karen is washing the dishes in the kitchen. The phone rings. She walks over to the phone and picks it up.

KAREN
(on the phone)
Hello?

EXT. ALANDALE CITY PARK - AFTERNOON

Sam and Rachel are still swinging and laughing on the swings.

INT. DAVIS HOME - AFTERNOON

Karen hangs up the phone. She looks pale and confused. She opens her address book and finds Retro Brew's phone number. She picks up the phone and dials it.

KAREN
(on the phone)
Hi, can I speak to Sam?
(beat)
Oh, he isn't there?

EXT. ALANDALE CITY PARK - AFTERNOON

Sam and Rachel are still on the swings.

INT. DAVIS HOME - AFTERNOON

Karen hangs up the phone, her face even whiter than before.

EXT. DAVIS BACKYARD - AFTERNOON

Karen walks up to Sam's room and goes inside.

INT. SAM'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Karen walks over to Sam's desk and finds the bottle of Seroquel. She looks down at the trash can. She gets on her knees to get a better view of the trash. She picks up the trash can and finds the several Seroquel pills that Sam had spit out. Karen put her head in her hands and begins to cry.

EXT. DAVIS HOME - AFTERNOON

Sam's car parks in front of the house. Sam and Rachel get out of the car, laughing.

INT. DAVIS HOME - AFTERNOON

Karen is sitting motionless on the couch. She looks upset. Sam and Rachel enter the front door, laughing.

KAREN
Sam.

Sam becomes startled, he was not expecting to see Karen there. Rachel hides behind Sam's legs.

SAM
(startled)
Mom! You scared me.

KAREN
 (serious)
 Where have you been?

SAM
 Work. Why?

Karen makes a face as if she feels pain.

KAREN
 (stern)
 Your teacher called today, Sam. And I talked to your boss, Gina. Why haven't you been to school or work for so long? Where have you been?

Sam doesn't know what to say.

KAREN (CONT'D)
 And I found this in your room.

Karen lifts up the trash can with all of the Seroquel pills in it.

KAREN (CONT'D)
 You've been spitting your medicine out! How could you, Sam?

Sam is still silent. Karen starts to cry.

KAREN (CONT'D)
 (crying)
 You lied to me, Sam! You lied to me about everything! Your grades, your college applications, work, school! And now you're even lying about taking your medicine? How do you expect to get any better, Sam? You want to get better, don't you?

Sam has an outburst.

SAM
 (yelling)
 Of course I want to get better! You think I like being made fun of in school? You think I enjoy having my brother and sister be ashamed of me?

KAREN
 Then you have to make an effort to get better, Sam!
 (MORE)

KAREN (cont'd)

And spitting the medicine into the trash can isn't going to help!! How do you expect to get rid of Rachel if you don't do what Dr. Bowman says?

Rachel hears this and is shocked.

RACHEL

(angry, to Sam)

What?! So that's what's been going on, huh?! You're trying to get rid of me, Sam? How could you?! I'm your best friend!

KAREN

(yelling)

How could you lie to me all this time, Sam? You were on the right path to recovery, Sam! Why did you have to go and ruin it?!

RACHEL

(yelling)

Some friend you are! I can't believe you, Sam! I can't believe you were trying to get rid of me!!

Both Rachel and Karen are yelling at Sam at the same time. All the noise in Sam's head confuses and frustrates him. He puts his hands over his ears and screams. Both Rachel and Karen stop talking. Sam sprints out the door.

EXT. DAVIS HOME - AFTERNOON

Sam runs to his car and gets in. He drives off as fast as he can.

EXT. THE STREETS - AFTERNOON

Sam's car is driving recklessly down the road.

EXT. ALANDALE CITY PARK - AFTERNOON

Sam's car parks in front of the swing set. He gets out of the car while holding two six-packs of beer and walks toward the swings. He sits down on a swing while popping open a can of beer.

EXT. ALANDALE CITY PARK - EVENING

Sam is still swinging on the swing. There are empty beer cans scattered around Sam. Sam takes one last chug of the beer and falls out of the swing and into the sand. Sam starts laughing hysterically. A squirrel walks by and looks at Sam.

SAM

(to the squirrel)

What the hell are you looking at?
Why don't you go off with you
little squirrel friends?

The squirrel doesn't move.

SAM

Oh, I see. No friends, huh? Well
that's alright. Who needs friends?
Who needs anybody! I'm perfectly
fine on my own!!

(beat)

Damn it, I'm talking to a
squirrel!!

Sam sees Karen's car from a distance. Karen is looking for Sam but cannot see him from where she is.

SAM

Oh crap.

Sam quickly gets up and staggers to his car. He drives off.

EXT. ROAD - EVENING

Sam's car is swerving in and out of its lane. It is obvious by the way he is driving that he is drunk.

INT. SAM'S CAR - EVENING

Sam starts to cry as he is driving. He checks behind him to make sure Karen is not following him. Rachel suddenly appears in the passenger seat.

RACHEL

(scared)

Sam, slow down! You're going too
fast!

SAM

(drunk)

How the hell did you get here?

RACHEL
Sam, please! Slow down, this is
dangerous!

SAM
Dangerous? This isn't dangerous.

Sam purposely swerves out of his lane and almost hits another
car. Rachel screams.

SAM (CONT'D)
(laughing)
Now that was dangerous.

RACHEL
(crying)
Sam, this isn't like you! Please,
stop the car and we can talk! We
can go to my house! Everything will
be better at my house! We'll talk
there!

SAM
(angry)
I don't feel like talking.

RACHEL
(crying)
I'm sorry I yelled at you! I'm
sorry for everything, I really am!

SAM
(angry)
You know what, Rachel? This is all
your fault! If you would have just
left me alone years ago, I would be
fine now!!

RACHEL
(crying)
I'm sorry! I'm sorry!

SAM
(angry)
You're sorry?! I'm sorry I didn't
let you go any sooner! You're
nothing but trouble! I hate you!

RACHEL
(crying)
How can you say that? I'm your best
friend!

SAM
(angry)
Fuck you!!

EXT. THE ROAD - EVENING

Sam's car swerves out of its lane and crashes into another car.

Go to black.

FADE IN:

Sam's car and the car he crashed into are totally wrecked. Rachel is sitting on the sidewalk, crying.

EXT. ALANDALE CITY HOSPITAL - MORNING

Karen sits in the hallway, pale and tired. Dr. Bowman comes out of the room and walks toward Karen. Karen gets up.

KAREN
Is he okay?!

DR. BOWMAN
He's stable now.

KAREN
When can I take him home?

Dr. Bowman puts his hand on Karen's shoulder.

DR. BOWMAN
(serious)
Sam's going to be here for a while.

Karen begins to cry.

INT. ALANDALE CITY HOSPITAL - ROOM 357 - MORNING

Sam is sitting on a hospital bed. His eyes are wide open and he has a blank expression on his face. He cracks a slight smile as the camera zooms into his right eye.

FADE TO:

EXT. RACHEL'S HOUSE - DAY

SLOW MOTION: Rachel is running happily to her house, holding the hand of a seven year old Sam. Her house is cartoonish and wildly colorful. Giant flowers are in bloom everywhere around the house. The sky is pink and filled with cotton candy clouds. It is a whimsical fantasy-land.

Rachel and Sam are both laughing (although we don't hear them because it is in slow motion) as they run toward the house. They stop at the front door. Rachel opens it to reveal Jonathan, Sam's father, behind the door. Jonathan is smiling at Sam and Sam is overcome with happiness and excitement.

Jonathan and Sam embrace as Rachel watches them, smiling. They all walk over to the swing set next to the house. Jonathan lifts Sam up and places him on the swing. Rachel gets on a swing also. Jonathan begins pushing Sam and Rachel on the swings.

All three of them are smiling, laughing, and having a great time.

FADE OUT.

THE END