

12-10-2012

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Rochester Institute of Technology

Mercy Rule and my Progress Through the Thesis Process

By

Andrew Kuhn

A Thesis/Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Fine Arts in Film and Animation with a Script Writing Emphasis

College of Imaging Arts and Sciences

School of Film and Animation

Rochester Institute of Technology

Rochester, NY

December 10, 2012

Committee Approval:

Date

Howard Lester

Professor, MFA Program Director

Thesis Advisor/Chair

Date

Sam Marks

Committee Member

Date

Peter Kiwitt

Committee Member

Abstract

Mercy Rule and My Progress Through the Thesis Process is a feature-length script and dissertation analyzing, among other things, the challenges during the process, the criticisms voiced after the reading, and the overall experience. *Mercy Rule* is a comedy about a young baseball player named Kevin Jasper who takes up little league coaching after being kicked off his team for fighting. Through coaching Kevin finds joy and comes to grips with his athletic mortality.

In 2010 the story proposal for *Mercy Rule* was a script about two outlaw umpires, an undeveloped idea my brother and I had been discussing during our years of umpiring together. However, ideas develop and change, and my open-mindedness to criticism is one of the factors that helped get *Mercy Rule* to the point it is at today. At times I felt unorganized, and much of the process centered on thinking. Thinking is stressful to me. I prefer to be “doing.” Through the thesis process I learned how to “think” and “do” simultaneously in treatment development. I had never been a proponent of treatments until this project, and found a certain outline to be particularly helpful for me in structuring *Mercy Rule*.

Meticulously going through the script-writing process and learning new tricks along the way helped me grow as a writer. Whether or not the script is funny or has potential to be funny is debatable, but looking at it objectively I see a structurally strong story with demonstrations of my ability to intercut effectively and write engaging dialogue. Although the audience was small, they offered insightful and encouraging feedback, and left me feeling satisfied with the work I put into *Mercy Rule*. I see the script’s completion as a major stepping-stone to a career as a script writer.

Mercy Rule

by
Andy Kuhn

INT. KEVIN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Trophies fill the top of Kevin's dresser, and articles all over his mirror.

One headline reads "Breezeville wins Little League World Series on Arm of Kevin Jasper."

Another headline reads "Jasper and Breezeville High School win States."

IN THE MIRROR

KEVIN JASPER (23) stands in his Medina Muckdogs uniform, tall and slender with a handlebar mustache.

INT. JASPER HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

RANDY JASPER (52) watches TV.

INSERT: ON THE TV

EXT. MUCKDOG STADIUM

CLIFF SANDERS (30), a local news reporter stands with a microphone.

CLIFF
Thanks Wanda...

EXT. YANKEE STADIUM - DAY - MONTHS EARLIER

STEVE FISK (23) hits a home run.

CLIFF (VO)
Coming up in an hour I interview
Yankees' slugger Steve Fisk, who is
back in the area on rehab
assignment.

EXT. CASTIGLIANO CADILLAC LOT - DAY

RICHIE CASTIGLIANO (55), a short, pudgy man sporting a mustache stands among a bunch of cars.

RICHIE
Are you tired of paying too much
for a quality automobile?

Back to Scene.

Richie can still be vaguely heard, but his words are inaudible. Kevin enters, takes a seat with a plate full of tacos and begins eating them.

RANDY

You have to move on, bud. You had a nice run. Find a job... like your brother.

Kevin stands up, leaving his plate on the table next to him.

RANDY (CONT'D)

Rinse your plate.

Kevin exits.

INT. JASPER HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Eileen cleans. Kevin enters.

RANDY (OS)

And shave that stupid mustache, you look like an idiot.

KEVIN

(to Eileen)

Do you want to come to my game tonight?

No answer from Eileen.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Mom...

RANDY (OS)

She's not answering because she doesn't want to go!

EILEEN

Kevin... It's just that Nick's bringing Liz over tonight...

KEVIN

Fuck Nick!

RANDY (OS)

Watch your mouth!

A car horn honks.

INT. TOBY'S MOVING CAR - CONTINUOUS

Toby drives drinking a beer. Kevin rides shotgun.

INSERT: THE BACK SEAT

Twelve empty beer cans.

Back to scene

KEVIN

I would have driven if I knew you'd
be all hammered.

TOBY

Nonsense. It's your big day.

Toby grabs a beer from a cooler in the back seat of his car. He offers it to Kevin. When Kevin turns it down, Toby begins drinking it.

TOBY (CONT'D)

And I feel like a million bucks.

KEVIN

You know, dude, we have to talk
about you possibly having a
drinking problem.

TOBY

We need to talk about you having a
not getting laid problem.

KEVIN

What?

TOBY

When was the last time you got
laid?

KEVIN

Three weeks ago.

TOBY

Who?

KEVIN

Carly Ford.

TOBY

I don't know a Carly Ford.

KEVIN
When was the last time you got
laid, wise guy?

TOBY
Last night. You just got to have a
little swagger, Kevin.

KEVIN
(sarcastically)
Oh yeah, and you're just full of
swagger.

TOBY
I got swagger.

KEVIN
You don't got shit.

The car comes to a stop at a red light.

INTERCUT BETWEEN EXT. STREET CORNER/INT. TOBY'S CAR -
CONTINUOUS

KAYLA (22) stands about twenty feet away on the driver side
of the car.

TOBY
(to Kayla)
Hey baby, you like this car?

KAYLA
Fuck off.

EXT. MUCKDOG STADIUM - NIGHT

Kevin and Toby enter. Toby drags a cooler and drinks a can of
beer. Kevin walks onto the field toward the Muckdogs' dugout.

EXT. MUCKDOG STADIUM - FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Medina Muckdogs and Toledo Suns PLAYERS warm up. Kevin enters
as Cliff Sanders interviews Steve Fisk off to the side.

STEVE
Yo Kevin!

KEVIN
Hey Steve.

STEVE

Come chat.

KEVIN

That's okay man, you have your interview thing going on, and I got to get warmed up.

STEVE

Come on, let's catch up.

CLIFF

(to Steve)

You two know each other?

STEVE

Know each other? We're former rivals.

EXT. MUCKDOG STADIUM - IN THE STANDS - CONTINUOUS

Toby drags his cooler to an open seat, where he cracks another beer. A SECURITY GUARD (34) approaches Toby.

SECURITY GUARD

(to Toby)

Excuse me, sir, no coolers.

Toby offers the Security Guard a beer.

SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)

Are you trying to bribe me?

TOBY

No. Just sharing the wealth. I have plenty. No money, though, if that's what you're looking for.

SECURITY GUARD

Sir this is a family environment.

Toby points to a PASSED OUT FATHER (35) a few rows down. The father holds a beer in his hand.

TOBY

What about that guy?

SECURITY GUARD

That's a stadium beer.

The guy's SON (8) grabs the beer and dumps it on a LADY (54) sitting in front of them.

TOBY
Did you see that?

SECURITY GUARD
Sir, leave the premises now.

TOBY
What's a premise?

SECURITY GUARD
(on his walky-talky)
I'm going to need assistance in Row
G.

Toby chugs the rest of his beer, dropping the can on the ground.

TOBY
Let's start over, I'm Toby.

Toby extends his hand for a shake. The Security Guard doesn't shake it.

TOBY (CONT'D)
Didn't catch your name.

SECURITY GUARD
(into his walky talky)
I have a drunk and unruly fan here
who refuses to leave.

ON THE FIELD

Cliff interviews Kevin and Steve.

CLIFF
So tell me a little bit about this rivalry.

KEVIN
We played against each other in high school.

STEVE
Whoa, Kevin, you're not doing it justice. First we won the Little League World Series together. Those were good times. Then...

KEVIN
(interrupting)
Listen, I have to get warmed up.

Kevin begins to walk away.

CLIFF
(to Steve, re: Kevin)
What's his problem?

STEVE
He's just sore about us bombing him
in sectionals his senior year.

Kevin walks back toward Cliff and Steve.

KEVIN
Shut the fuck up, Steve.

STEVE
You're a natural born loser.

KEVIN
What was that, Steve?

CLIFF
(to Steve)
Yes, would you like to repeat that?

STEVE
(into the microphone)
He's a loser...

Before Steve can finish his sentence Kevin lays him out with a punch.

CLIFF
(to the camera)
Looks like we have a little pregame
pandemonium.

Kevin gets on top of Steve and continues to punch him, then grabs his own shoulder.

IN THE STANDS - CONTINUOUS

Two more SECURITY GUARDS (38, 42) approach Toby.

TOBY
(to Security Guards 2 and
3)
Would you guys like a beer?

Security Guard 2 pepper sprays Toby and Security Guard 3 Tases him. Toby drops to the ground.

ON THE FIELD

Steve's TEAMMATES come to his aid, pulling Kevin off of Steve. The MUCKDOGS run over to assist Kevin, but are fought off by SUZUKI TANAKA (35), a Suns player who is a black belt in several martial arts.

Other Suns players jack Kevin up against the backstop and begin pounding on him.

INT. JASPER HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Randy watches TV with Eileen, NICK JASPER(29), Kevin's brother, and Nick's fiance LIZ (18).

NICK

Pops, I'm telling you, I'm killing on sales this month. Liz, tell them.

LIZ

(to Nick)

Tell them what?

NICK

About this month...

LIZ

Nick's doing very well...

NICK

Killing!

LIZ

Yeah he's killing, I guess.

Randy and Eileen are distracted by the TV.

INSERT: The television.

ON THE TELEVISION

EXT. MUCKDOG STADIUM - CONTINUOUS

Cliff Sanders Reports with the fight going on in the background.

CLIFF

(to the camera)

In my three years as a field reporter I have never seen anything like this.

Back to scene.

RANDY
Are you god damn kidding me?

EILEEN
Oh dear.

NICK
What a loser!

INT. MEDINA COURTHOUSE - DAYS LATER

Kevin stands wearing a sling in front of JUDGE ED WRIGHT(65) with his attorney, DON GORDELLO(56), who is texting on his cell phone. RALPH (51), the DA is present, standing close by the judge.

IN THE COURTROOM STANDS

Toby sits amongst other offenders. The stands are nearly chock full. LONNY (34), is directly next to Toby.

LONNY
This is bullshit.

TOBY
Tell me about it, man. What are you here for?

LONNY
I touched my goat.

TOBY
That's garbage man. You can get in trouble for petting your own goat?

LONNY
This is America.

TOBY
What are they charging you with?

LONNY
Well, it was the way I touched Elroy that's allegedly the problem.

TOBY
How did you touch your goat?

LONNY
Well, I used my penis.

TOBY
You fucked your goat?

 LONNY
I was gentle.

Toby tries to scooch away from Lonny.

 LONNY (CONT'D)
Don't be like that. I'm just like
you.

 TOBY
Hell no you're not.

NEAR THE BENCH

Judge Wright is distracted by Toby and Lonny. He pounds his
hammer.

 JUDGE WRIGHT
Order in the court!
 (to Kevin)
Mr. Jasper, I'm prepared to drop
these assault charges against you
if you're willing to commit to ten
sessions of anger management.

INSERT: Don's phone screen.

Sent text to Mandy reads "What are you wearing?"

Back to Scene.

 KEVIN
I appreciate the concern your
honor, but these sessions may
interfere with my baseball games.

 JUDGE WRIGHT
You know what else would interfere
with your baseball games? Being in
county lockup with Medina's animal
lovers.

 DON
 (still texting, whispering
 to Kevin)
I would do the anger management.

KEVIN
(to Judge Wright)
Sir... I mean, your honor... are
you a baseball fan?

JUDGE WRIGHT
I love Major League baseball. I'm a
Yankees fan.

KEVIN
I'll do the anger management.

Judge Wright pounds his hammer.

JUDGE WRIGHT
Next case, Toby Chambers.

INT. DOCTORS OFFICE - DAY

Kevin sits on the table as DR. MOORE(62) examines X-Rays.

DR. MOORE
Oh, that's not good?

KEVIN
What's not good?

DR. MOORE
That's not good at all.

KEVIN
Doctor, what's not good?

DR. MOORE
When did you say you had rotator
cuff surgery?

KEVIN
Two years ago.

DR. MOORE
Well there is substantial
cartilage damage.

KEVIN
What?

DR. MOORE
Yeah, it's pretty bad.

KEVIN
But what does it mean?

DR. MOORE

Well you should be able to go about every day activities just fine. But as far as pitching goes...

KEVIN

What needs to be done?

DR. MOORE

To get you back into game shape? Expensive surgery. Your insurance won't cover it entirely and there's a long, uncertain road to recovery. Some people have even lost arms.

KEVIN

How much is the surgery?

DR. MOORE

It will be close to ten thousand dollars out of pocket.

INT. PAUL'S OFFICE - DAYS LATER

Kevin sits across from PAUL WELLING (78), the Muckdogs' head coach. Kevin wears a sling.

PAUL

There's no way the team's going to pay for this.

KEVIN

Why the hell not?

PAUL

Because the surgery will cost twice as much as your salary.

KEVIN

So that's it?

PAUL

Look... Get the surgery if you can afford to. But maybe it's time to move on.

INT. JASPER HOUSE LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Randy, Eileen and Kevin sit.

RANDY

Kevin, you don't need the surgery.

KEVIN

Yes I do.

EILEEN

Kevin... maybe this is a sign,
honey.

KEVIN

Maybe it's a test.

INT. KEVIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kevin sits at his computer and looks at his online bank statement.

INSERT: COMPUTER SCREEN

Kevin's Savings account has an available balance of 5,500 dollars.

EXT. JASPER BACK YARD - DAY

Jasper family barbecue. Coolers, hamburgers and hot dogs on the grill with a handful of family and friends. Nick stands with Liz and talks with Randy and Eileen.

NICK

So I say to the guy, "Look...
Jebodaiah... you have twenty
fuckin' grandkids... you're gonna
want more than six of these things
for when those little bastards come
over to your house."

Kevin and Toby enter. Kevin wears a sling.

NICK (CONT'D)

(re: Kevin and Toby)
Hey look, it's the jailbirds!

KEVIN

Nick! What's up, you statutory
rapist, you?!

RANDY

Come on, Kevin! It's his fiance!

EILEEN

Kevin, don't say that.

NICK

Kev, that's not funny, I love this woman.

LIZ

I'm 18, Kevin.

KEVIN

Awesome Liz! You want to run to the convenience store and buy me some cigarettes and lottery tickets?

NICK

Hey... Kev... I'm warning ya pal.

KEVIN

Do something, Nick.

NICK

I'll mush your face into that fucking grill.

EILEEN

You two! Come on!

RANDY

Knock it off you two!

KEVIN

(to Nick)

I wouldn't like that too much, Nick.

NICK

I doubt you would.

KEVIN

I mean I'm not saying I'd do anything about it, but sometimes Molotov Cocktails come flying through windows.

EILEEN

Oh dear lord.

NICK

You don't even know how to make a Molotov cocktail.

KEVIN

I'll make one right now.

RANDY

I am going to kick your ass if you
make a Molotov Cocktail.

KEVIN

I'm not going to light it.

TOBY

If I may interject, here.

(to Nick and Liz)

I did walk in on you two banging a
year ago.

LIZ

We were just talking.

TOBY

You were both naked. There was
penetration.

EILEEN

Can we change the subject, please?

NICK

(to Eileen)

Good idea, Mom.

(to Kevin)

How's the arm?

KEVIN

It will better after I get surgery.

NICK

Holy shit. It's that bad?

KEVIN

I'll need the surgery if I ever
want to pitch again.

NICK

Jesus Christ, give it up, bro.

KEVIN

Shut up, Nick.

NICK

You just need to give it some
healing time, that's all.

Nick pulls out a beanbag brochure and hands it to Kevin.

INSERT: The Brochure

There is a picture of an elaborate beanbag chair with two arm rests. The text on the brochure reads "Double B 2000 Extreme, for a limited time only \$349.99."

Back to scene.

KEVIN

What the hell is this?

NICK

Best model on the market.

KEVIN

I'm not paying three-hundred fifty dollars for one of your shitty beanbag chairs.

TOBY

(to Kevin)

Let me see that.

Toby grabs the brochure from Kevin and begins looking it over.

NICK

(to Kevin)

I'll give it to you for half price. Call it a brotherly rate.

TOBY

Kevin, this thing looks pretty awesome.

KEVIN

(to Nick)

I don't even want one.

NICK

Kev, you'd be crazy not to take that. The Double B 2000 is the most ergonomically sound sitting device ever invented. And I'm losing money at that price.

TOBY

(to Nick)

How much for me?

NICK

(to Toby)

Three seventy five.

TOBY

That seems a little steep.

NICK
 (to Toby)
 You can't put a price on comfort,
 Toby.
 (to Kevin)
 How are you paying for this surgery
 anyway? I know your shitty
 insurance won't cover it.

INT. OUTPATIENT REHAB FACILITY - HALLWAY - DAYS LATER

Kevin and Toby walk together. Kevin dons a sling, Toby chugs
 the remainder of a beer.

TOBY
 I can't believe the judge gave me
 AA.

KEVIN
 Maybe rehab's the best thing for
 you dude.

TOBY
 I was thinking that too.

KEVIN
 Good.

TOBY
 Rehab girls are always on the
 lookout for some D.

Toby tosses his beer into a trash can and turns into a room.
 Kevin continues to walk.

INT. ANGER MANAGEMENT CLASS - MOMENTS LATER

A group of people sit in a crowd, including Kevin, who sits
 next to Richie Castigliano. TIM(34) and QUINCY(67) are close
 by in the stands.

PEGGY(51), a portly, hardened woman stands in front of the
 crowd and facilitates the meeting.

PEGGY
 Now an important part of managing
 our anger is to recognize triggers.
 I know with me it's when my husband
 snores. Does anyone else wish to
 share?

Tim raises his hand.

PEGGY (CONT'D)

Yes, Tim...

TIM

When my neighbor refuses to pick up
his dog's poop off my lawn...

Tim stands up and punches a wall three times, screaming
before sitting back down.

TIM (CONT'D)

Sorry.

Quincy rubs Tim's shoulders.

PEGGY

It's okay Tim. We feel your pain...
Anyone else?

(to Richie)

What about you, Richie?

RICHIE

You're my trigger, Peggy. You know
why? Because you call on me every
day when I'm not raising my hand.

PEGGY

Well I don't like how you never
have anything to offer.

RICHIE

I don't even want to be here!

PEGGY

Then leave!

RICHIE

I can't!

PEGGY

Then shut up!

RICHIE

I will.

Peggy continues, her words inaudible.

RICHIE (CONT'D)

(to Kevin)

Kevin Jasper? Of the 2000 Little
League World series championship
team?

KEVIN

That's me. Aren't you the guy from
the car commercials?

RICHIE

That's right.

Richie shakes Kevin's hand.

RICHIE (CONT'D)

Richie Castigliano.

KEVIN

Nice to meet you. I'm surprised you
know who I am.

RICHIE

I remember all the greats. I
started coaching the year after you
guys took the series.

PEGGY

Excuse me, Richie, but if you don't
keep it down I'm going to have a
talk with your parole officer.

Richie pulls a wad of money from his pocket and makes it rain
on the class. Participants scatter, reaching for the money,
including Kevin.

RICHIE

Class dismissed.

Richie grabs Kevin's arm and takes him into the hallway
before Kevin can grab any cash.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Kevin and Richie take a walk.

KEVIN

That was a lot of money.

RICHIE

I'm not going to lie, Kevin... I'm
rich as hell.

KEVIN

I can see that.

RICHIE

And I love baseball.

KEVIN

I do too.

RICHIE

I know you do... I heard about that whole thing with Steve Fisk.

KEVIN

I know that looked bad...

RICHIE

No, no, no, shit happens in the heat of the moment. I get a little heated too.

KEVIN

I'm glad you understand.

RICHIE

See me, I like a guy with a fire in his pants. And I think you're that kind of guy.

KEVIN

Well, Thanks.

RICHIE

I sponser and coach a little league team... Castigliano Cadillac, you might have heard of us.

KEVIN

I've heard of the dealership.

RICHIE

Well we're having a hell of a season. We're six and one with five games left.

KEVIN

Congratulations.

RICHIE

Anyway, I could use an assistant such as yourself.

KEVIN

Well I'm kind of tied down with the Muckdogs this summer.

RICHIE

Yeah, yeah, yeah, the Muckdogs, what are they paying you?

KEVIN
Enough to survive.

RICHIE
(re: Kevin's arm)
Looks like you're barely surviving.

KEVIN
It happens.

RICHIE
Well I'll give you five hundred
dollars a game, with a 3,500 dollar
bonus when we win the championship.

KEVIN
That's a very generous offer.

Toby runs out into the hallway and vomits into the garbage
can.

RICHIE
(to Kevin, re: Toby)
Jesus Christ, who's this clown?

Kevin shrugs.

LILLY ROSCOE (39) exits the AA room and walks into the
hallway.

TOBY
(to Lilly)
So I'll call you?

LILLY
Don't.
(to Richie)
Hi Richie.

RICHIE
(to Lilly)
Lilly, how ya doing?

LILLY
Getting better, Richie.

RICHIE
One day at a time, Lilly.

Lilly exits. Toby remains hunched over the garbage can.

RICHIE (CONT'D)
(to Kevin, re: Lilly)
That's the mother of one of my
players. Great gal. Great lookin'
gal, too. If I weren't happily
married I'd be doing some dirty
things to her, believe me.

KEVIN
She's very pretty.

RICHIE
Husbands a degenerate gambler. Owes
me five grand.

KEVIN
Oh.

RICHIE
So what do you say?

KEVIN
I guess I'm in.

Richie hands Kevin a business card.

RICHIE
In case you need to get a hold of
me. I dig that mustache, by the
way.

KEVIN
Thanks.

Kevin looks at the business card as Richie walks away.

INSERT: The Card.

The card is black with a Cadillac Logo behind the font, and two baseball bats crossed behind the Cadillac logo. The card reads "Richie Castigliano: Dealership Owner, Team Owner, Coach, Enforcer."

Back to Scene.

Kevin looks at the card. Toby heaves one last mouthful of vomit into the garbage can.

EXT. LITTLE LEAGUE PRACTICE FIELD - DAY

Richie and Kevin, still in a sling, stand in front of the players of Castigliano Cadillac, including CHARLIE NOLAN (12), BRETT ROSCOE (12), EDDIE REYNOLDS (12), RODDY GERARD (11), BRADLEY WARD (12), IAN (11), JAKE (11), JEFF(11), SAM DESMOND(12), MITCHELL (11) and ZACH BRYANT (11). The kids are all talking on one knee.

RICHIE

Hey, listen everyone, shut the fuck up.

The kids do not shut up. Richie pulls out a nine millimeter. The kids shut up.

Richie puts his gun away. Some whispers can be heard. Richie reaches for his gun again. The whispers stop.

RICHIE (CONT'D)

Now, boys, as you know, I demand quality in all walks of life. Whether it be baseball, selling cars, gangster shit, or my lovely family.

(to Charlie)

Right Charlie?

CHARLIE

Right.

RICHIE

(to Kevin)

That's Charlie. He's our ace. Arm of fucking gold on that little shit. Arm of fucking gold.

RODDY

(to Richie, re: Kevin)

Who's this new mother fucker?

RICHIE

Kevin Jasper. This mother fucker is a little league legend.

(to Kevin)

That's Roddy. He's the black kid on the team.

RODDY

And I got the dick to prove it.

RICHIE

(to the team)

Maybe you haven't heard of Kevin Jasper because you were all still in your Daddies' balls during his heyday, but when this man was twelve years old he led Breezeville to a little league world series win.

RODDY

What the fuck is the little league world series?

RICHIE

The most prestigious honor in all of sports. Kevin here is my new assistant coach.

EXT. PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Kevin walks toward his car and comes to Zach, and ANGIE BRYANT (23).

ZACH

Bye Kevin.

KEVIN

Bye Zach. Bye Angie.

Kevin stops.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Zach... Zach Bryant?

ZACH

Yeah.

ANGIE

(to Kevin)

Why don't you leave him alone?

ZACH

Angie I like Kevin.

ANGIE

(to Zach)

Don't.

Angie grabs Zach's hand and the two begin walking toward Angie's car.

KEVIN
I haven't stopped thinking about
you, Angie...

Angie flicks Kevin off in mid stride.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
(to himself)
That was a stupid fucking thing to
say.

EXT. LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD - STANDS - GAMEDAY

PARENTS sit on lawn chairs and in the bleachers. Among the fans are Toby, sporting a cooler with a dragging-handle and wheels, Angie, and Lilly from AA, Brett Roscoe's mother.

ON THE FIELD

Richie hits members of Castigliano Cadillac ground and fly balls.

INT. CASTIGLIANO CADILLAC DUGOUT - MOMENTS LATER

Kevin stands and watches the team warm up. Toby enters, dragging his cooler.

KEVIN
(to Toby)
I'm pretty sure you can't drink
here.

TOBY
Kevin, it's okay.

Toby pulls out a red solo cup from the cooler, pours a beer into it, then tosses his beer can back in his cooler.

TOBY (CONT'D)
I'm playing it safe. No cans, no
littering... no evidence.

KEVIN
Open your cooler.

TOBY
Why?

KEVIN
Because I want to see if there's a
bottle of whiskey in there.

TOBY

What?

EXT. STANDS - MOMENTS LATER

Nick and Liz enter. Nick is carrying two suitcases. Liz is working on an ice cream cone which is melting faster than she can keep up with.

NICK

Okay, so you know the plan right?

LIZ

(struggling with her ice
cream)

Yeah.

NICK

Jesus Christ, you have ice cream
all over your face.

Nick drops the suitcases.

LIZ

It's hot out.

Nick looks through his pockets for a napkin.

NICK

Yeah, I know.

Nick pulls a napkin from his pocket and begins wiping Liz's face. Liz lifts the ice cream cone up to her mouth. Nick slaps the cone out of her hand as he continues wiping Liz's face.

EXT. CLOSER TO THE BACKSTOP - MOMENTS LATER

Lilly sits and talks on her cell phone.

LILLY

(into her cell phone)

How long? An hour? The game's about
to start right now... Is this going
to be like last season?...

INT. DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

Kevin argues with Toby.

KEVIN
 (to Toby)
 Listen man, don't be getting too
 drunk. It's little league.

LILLY (OS)
 (to her husband, into her
 cell phone)
 Can you be there for our son once,
 Frank? Just once. That's all I ask.

EXT. THE STANDS

Lilly is on her cell phone.

LILLY
 Bye.

Lilly hangs up, and catches Kevin and Toby looking at her
 from the dugout.

INT. DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

Kevin and Toby avert their eyes.

TOBY
 (to Kevin, re: Lilly)
 Check it out man. That's the AA
 MILF!

KEVIN
 Toby, I'm warning you, don't fuck
 around...

TOBY
 Absentee father, too.

KEVIN
 She has a kid.

TOBY
 That's half of what makes her a
 MILF.

EXT. STANDS - TOWARD THE OUTFIELD - MOMENTS LATER

CRAIG REYNOLDS (42), Eddie's father sits in a lawn chair with
 Eddie's mother OLIVIA REYNOLDS (40), also in a lawn chair.
 Liz approaches, then starts convulsing on the ground next to
 Craig and Olivia.

OLIVIA
Are you okay, hun?

CRAIG
Are you having a seizure? I know
CPR.

OLIVIA
You do not.

CRAIG
I took that class.

OLIVIA
You left after ten minutes to get
high with JR and never came back.

CRAIG
Oh yeah. He had hash.

NICK (OS)
I'll handle this.

Nick enters and checks Liz's pulse.

OLIVIA
(to Nick)
What is it?

NICK
This young lady is suffering from
extreme discomfort.

Nick opens a suitcase and the Double B 2000 emerges like a
butterfly from a cocoon.

NICK (CONT'D)
Here, sit in this.

Nick grabs Liz's hand and assists her into the bean bag
chair.

LIZ
What is this?

CRAIG
Yeah.

LIZ
It's so comfortable.

NICK
It's the future of spectating.

LIZ
Thank you so much!

Liz begins making out with Nick.

EXT. STANDS - CLOSER TO THE BACKSTOP

Toby drags his cooler over and sits next to Lilly.

TOBY
Hi.

LILLY
What the hell are you doing here?

TOBY
My friend Kevin is the new coach.

Toby waves to Kevin then opens his cooler.

LILLY
Great... Small world.

TOBY
Beer?

LILLY
No... Thank you.

INSERT: THE SCOREBOARD - INNINGS LATER

Reads "Castigliano Cadillac - 12 Brandon's Bowling - 1 in the bottom of the fourth inning."

EXT. THE FIELD - CONTINUOUS

TROY (25), an umpire, walks from behind the plate to mid field.

TROY
(to Everyone)
Mercy Rule!

MOMENTS LATER

Players from each team shake hands.

INT. CASTIGLIANO CADILLAC DUGOUT - MOMENTS LATER

Richie and Kevin stand in front of the team

RICHIE
(to the team)
We're seven and one guys, with four
games left. We win out, we're in
the championship. Simple as that.
Now bring it in!

The team brings it in.

RICHIE (CONT'D)
One...two...three...

WHOLE TEAM
F-S-U!

The team breaks the huddle and walks to their parents.

KEVIN
(to Richie)
F-S-U?

RICHIE
Fuck shit up.

Richie walks away. Zach approaches Kevin.

ZACH
Great game, huh Kevin?

KEVIN
Yeah Zach. It was a nice win.

ZACH
Do you want to come to my birthday
party next Saturday?

KEVIN
Is your sister going to be there?

ZACH
Yeah.

KEVIN
Cause I'm pretty sure your sister
doesn't like me.

ZACH
(yelling to Angie)
Angie!

KEVIN
What are you doing?

ZACH
Come here!

KEVIN
Don't do that.

Angie approaches Zach and Kevin.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Hi Angie. You look delightful
today.

ANGIE
(to Zach)
What is it, bub?

ZACH
Remember how Mom and Dad said I
could invite whoever I wanted to my
birthday party?

ANGIE
Yeah...

ZACH
Well I'm inviting Kevin. And I
don't care what you have to say
about it.

KEVIN
(to Zach)
Careful...

ANGIE
You can invite Kevin. I understand
Zachie. He's on the same level of
maturity as you.

EXT. HOSPITAL PARKING LOT - DAY

Establishing shot. Huge building. Cars pull in and out.

INT. RANDY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Randy drives with Eileen riding shotgun and Kevin in the back
seat. Randy glances into his rearview mirror and sees Kevin.

RANDY
(to Kevin)
Nervous?

KEVIN
Excited.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - AN HOUR LATER

Kevin lays on a mobile hospital bed. Two INTERNS push him down the hallway as Randy and Eileen walk alongside his bed.

Eileen kisses Kevin's forehead.

The interns push Kevin's mobile bed into the surgery room.

INT. SURGERY ROOM

INSERT: CU on a syringe absorbing anasthesia.

Back to scene.

An ANASTEZIOLOGIST shoots a milliliter of liquid into the air, then approaches Kevin. Doctors surround the table.

CU on Kevin. His eyes close as a light shines in his face.

From Kevin's POV we see the bright light blurring the doctors above.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. CARDINAL STADIUM - NIGHT

Kevin stands on the mound for the Cardinals. There is a runner on first base.

INSERT: THE SCOREBOARD, which reads "Cardinals: 1, Yankees: 0 in the bottom of the ninth inning with two outs."

INT. PRESS BOX - CONTINUOUS

INSERT: CU on ANNOUNCER'S MOUTH

ANNOUNCER
No one knew Kevin Jasper a year ago, but today he's a household name, and one out away from a complete game shutout in game seven of the world series.

EXT. THE FIELD

Steve Fisk steps to the plate.

ANNOUNCER (OS)
 But first he needs to get by his
 sibling rival Steve Fisk who is 0
 for three tonight, and due for a
 hit.

Kevin winds up and delivers a pitch. Steve hits the ball deep
 into left field, over the fence.

ANNOUNCER (OS) (CONT'D)
 And that ball is gone, folks.

Steve runs down the first base line still carrying the bat,
 then pulls a Sharpie marker from his sock. Fisk signs the bat
 as he rounds second. After Steve touches home he approaches
 Kevin and hands him the bat.

INSERT: The bat. The text reads "Better luck next year,
 loser. -Steve"

Back to scene.

Kevin runs up behind Steve with the bat and swings it at his
 head.

The frame fills with blinding lights.

DR. GALAGHER (OS)
 Kevin...

INT. SURGURY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

From Kevin's POV we see several surgeons looking down at him,
 including DR. GALAGHER (63), the chief surgeon.

Kevin opens his eyes.

DR. GALAGHER
 You okay, Kevin?

KEVIN
 Did I kill Steve Fisk?

DR. GALAGHER
 No, he kicked your ass about a
 month ago, but he's fine. Batting
 .325 actually.

KEVIN
Good for him.

DR. GALAGHER
Twenty-two home runs, fourteen
stolen bases...

KEVIN
(interrupting)
Great! How'd the surgery go?

DR. GALAGHER
About as well as it could have.

EXT. BRYANT YARD - THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY

Kids are gathered, mostly teammates, for Zach's party. Kevin shows up in a sling and holding a wrapped baseball bat. Zach approaches him.

KEVIN
Happy birthday, Zach.

Angie approaches Kevin and Zach.

ZACH
Thanks Kevin. How'd your surgery go?

KEVIN
Very good, Zach.

ANGIE
Surgery? Sounds serious.

KEVIN
My baseball career depends on it.

Angie laughs.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
What's so funny?

ANGIE
You said career.

ZACH
(re: the bat in Kevin's
hand)
Is that for me?

KEVIN
Sure is.

ZACH
(to Angie)
Can I open it?

ANGIE
No. Mom will be pissed. Go put it
with the other presents.

ZACH
I already know it's a bat.

ANGIE
No shit it's a bat, but let's have
some manners here.

Kevin hands Zach the bat and Zach walks away.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
(to Kevin)
Thanks for coming.

KEVIN
I never miss a party.

ANGIE
That's why you were a lousy
boyfriend.

INT. ANGIE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - MUCH LATER ON

Kevin sits with Angie on her couch.

KEVIN
I was a lousy boyfriend because I
was in love with myself.

ANGIE
You still are.

KEVIN
Are you kidding me? I hate myself
now.

Angie laughs. Kevin leans in and kisses Angie. Angie kisses
back at first, but then pulls away.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
What is it?

ANGIE
I'm sorry, but I can't kiss you
with that mustache.

KEVIN
Seriously?

ANGIE
That thing is hideous.

KEVIN
Okay.

Kevin and Angie sit on the couch in silence.

ANGIE
Okay, now things are weird, so do you mind leaving?

KEVIN
That's a good idea. To be continued?

ANGIE
We'll see.

Kevin exits.

INT. TOBY'S MOVING CAR - DAY

Toby drives and drinks a beer. Kevin rides shotgun, still in a sling.

KEVIN
I can't believe all the 'stache hatred.

TOBY
Look dude, I didn't want to say anything cause I know how much you love it, but that thing is out of control.

KEVIN
Really?

TOBY
At this point it straight up makes me not want to shove my dick in your mouth.

KEVIN
Is that supposed to make me want to shave it?

TOBY
Look just forget it.

KEVIN
Was there ever a point when you
wanted to shove your...

TOBY
(interrupting)
I said forget it! Jesus Christ.

INT. AA MEETING - MINUTES LATER

Toby is sitting in the crowd. He sees Kayla. Toby approaches her.

TOBY
You're the girl from the corner,
right?

KAYLA
You're the creep from the Monte
Carlo...

TOBY
(extending his hand for a
shake)
Toby...

Kayla shakes Toby' hand.

KAYLA
Kayla...

TOBY
So you like to party too, huh?

Kayla laughs.

KAYLA
You're funny.

TOBY
Thanks... I'm actually supposed to
meet someone here, but looks like
she's a no-show. Probably fell off
the tractor... So do you mind if I
sit next to you?

KAYLA
I guess that's cool. My boyfriend
used to come to these things but we
just broke up last week...

Toby takes a seat next to Kayla.

KAYLA (CONT'D)

I'm kind of scared he's going to
show up so I guess it's good to be
sitting with a man...

Lilly enters and takes a seat on the opposite side of the
room.

TOBY

(to Kayla, re: Lilly)
There she is.

Toby stands up and approaches Lilly.

TOBY (CONT'D)

Hey there!

LILLY

There's plenty of seats, Toby.

TOBY

I know!

Toby sits down next to Lilly.

TOBY (CONT'D)

Wow I just keep seeing you all
over.

LILLY

Lucky me.

TOBY

I had a lot of fun with you at the
game.

LILLY

That makes one of us.

TOBY

It makes me happy to see those
little rugrats running around out
there. Brings me back to my
childhood.

LILLY

Then why do you feel the need to be
so drunk?

TOBY

Why aren't you drunk? It's a
sporting event. You're supposed to
be wasted.

LILLY
But I'm an alcoholic.

TOBY
So start acting like one!

INT. ANGER MANAGEMENT MEETING - SIMULTANEOUSLY

Richie sits next to Kevin.

RICHIE
Hell of a group of kids we got,
huh?

KEVIN
Definitely some talent out there.

RICHIE
Especially Charlie. I'm pitching
him again next game.

KEVIN
Shouldn't he rest?

RICHIE
His dad says he's fine.

INT. KEVIN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Kevin looks in the mirror and strokes his mustache then looks to his nightstand.

From his POV we see a FACIAL HAIR TRIMMER.

INT. KEVIN'S BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Kevin enters holding the facial hair trimmer, and closes the door behind him. He takes a long look in the mirror before he turns the trimmer on, lifts it to his face, and begins trimming his mustache.

INSERT: The Sink. Hair falls into it.

INT. CASTIGLIANO CADILLAC DUGOUT - GAMEDAY

Richie stands with several team members. Kevin enters.

RICHIE
(to Kevin)
Where's the 'stache?

KEVIN
It had to go, Richie.

RICHIE
I'm very disappointed in you.

Richie exits the dugout. Nick enters, counting cash.

NICK
(to Kevin)
How's it going, bro?

KEVIN
How many parents have you conned so far this season?

NICK
I have persuaded six people to change their lives.

KEVIN
Change their lives how?

NICK
By purchasing one or more quality beanbag chairs.

KEVIN
It must feel great to be helping so many people, Nick. Really making a difference out there.

NICK
Thanks Kev... Listen, those Double B's are going for four twenty five a piece now, I can still get you a discount but the best I can do is three-hundred....

Richie enters the dugout.

RICHIE
(to Nick)
Who the fuck are you?

NICK
(to Richie, re: Kevin)
I'm his brother...

KEVIN
(to Richie, re: Nick)
I don't know this guy.

RICHIE
(to Nick)
Get the fuck out of here!

Richie pushes Nick out of the dugout.

EXT. THE STANDS - KEVIN'S POV

Toby drags a cooler as he stumbles toward the backstop with Lilly.

INT. DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

Kevin stands watching Toby and Lilly.

KEVIN
God damn it.

EXT. THE STANDS - MOMENTS LATER

Toby and Lilly take a seat in a couple of lawn chairs. Kevin approaches the pair.

KEVIN
(to Toby)
How drunk are you?

TOBY
Not drunk at all.
(re: Lilly)
Ask my sponser.

LILLY
Sober!

EXT. STANDS - CLOSER TO THE OUTFIELD

Nick approaches a SPECTATOR who is sitting in a lawn chair.

NICK
Excuse me, sir, are you satisfied
with that lawn chair?

SPECTATOR
Sure am.

NICK
Well I hate to break it to you, but
you're sitting in a pile of shit.

The spectator stands up and looks down at his chair.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

Angie is standing. Kevin approaches.

ANGIE
Hey, no mustache.

KEVIN
It wasn't just cause of you, a
couple of people made comments.

ANGIE
You made the right choice.

INT. DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

Kevin enters and sits alone.

EXT. ON THE FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Richie hits infield practice to the team. Troy talks with SWIFTY(61), the base umpire.

TROY
I'm calling a huge strike zone this
game, Swifty. Even bigger than last
game.

SWIFTY
Come on, Troy, let's just be fair
this game.

TROY
Fuck that, the Black Keys show
starts at eight. I need at least
five hours of pregame time.

SWIFTY
You don't need that much time.

TROY
These shitheads better be swinging
or I'm dropping my first tab
between innings.

SWIFTY
Troy please don't do that. You're a
terrible ump when you do acid.

TROY
Work with me here, Swifty. What are
the golden rules?

SWIFTY
Troy, come on.

TROY
I want to hear them Swifty.

SWIFTY
When in doubt, call him out.

TROY
And...

SWIFTY
The other one's stupid, I don't
even remember it, something about
calling more strikes.

TROY
The more strikes for me, the faster
we flee.

SWIFTY
That's a shitty saying.

Swifty walks away.

TROY
(to himself)
The more strikes you call, the
faster they fall...

Troy looks at the time on his cellphone.

TROY (CONT'D)
Shit.
(yelling to the coaches)
Can we bring it in for ground
rules, fellas?

MOMENTS LATER

O'Malley's Pub is in the field. Bradley Ward steps up to the
plate. The O'MALLEY'S PITCHER delivers a pitch chest high,
and three inches off the outside corner.

TROY
Strike one!

INT. DUGOUT

Richie stands with Kevin, the team on the bench.

RICHIE
Are you god damn kidding me?

EXT. FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

Eddie Reynolds is at the plate. A pitch comes in, high and inside. Eddie does not swing.

TROY
Two!

MOMENTS LATER

Brett is at the plate. The Pitcher delivers another high-inside pitch, which Brett watches go by.

TROY
Strike three!

Brett walks toward the dugout and O'Malley's exits the field as fans boo.

INT. DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

Richie stands with Kevin.

RICHIE
(re: Troy)
I'm gonna kill this fucking guy!

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Brett walks off the field as Richie walks toward Troy.

RICHIE
Can I ask you a question Troy?

TROY
Anything you want, Richie.

RICHIE
What the hell kind of strike zone
are you calling?

TROY
I'm calling a consistent strike
zone.

RICHIE
Consistently bad!

TROY
(to Richie)
Alright, Richie, back to your
dugout!

RICHIE
What, is this cause I banged your
mom on my prom night?

TROY
That's it, Richie, you're out of
the game!

RICHIE
Fine... I'll see you this week,
clown.

TROY
No, you won't Richie.

RICHIE
And why is that, Troy?

RAFAEL BOLLINGER (41), the coach of O'Malley's walks onto the
field holding an updated rule book and begins looking through
it.

TROY
Cause there's a new rule that says
if you talk about banging my Mom
you're suspended for the entire
season.

RAFAEL
Richie, he's right.
(pointing to the rule in
the book)
It's right here, on page 67.

RICHIE
Let me see that.

Richie grabs the book and reads the rule.

RAFAEL

We put it in there because of that comment you made last season about my sister showing you her titties when you were in eighth grade.

RICHIE

This is bullshit!

Richie throws the rule book to the ground and begins kicking the backstop.

RICHIE (CONT'D)

Bullshit! This is discrimination!

Richie falls to the ground in cardiac arrest.

MINUTES LATER

An ambulance is on the field. Players, coaches, and fans look on as Richie is loaded into the ambulance.

Troy stands with Swifty by home plate.

TROY

He has one hell of a temper.

SWIFTY

He's an angry guy.

TROY

Do we get full pay if we call the game?

SWIFTY

Yeah.

TROY

(yelling to fans, players
coaches)

Game's off, on account of a heart attack.

INT. RICHIE'S HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER ON

Kevin sits next to Richie.

RICHIE

I'm fine, this happens all the time. It's the fucking Viagra, I took two last night.

(MORE)

RICHIE (CONT'D)
Sometimes when I take two they roll
over into the next day, make me all
rowdy.

KEVIN
Oh.

RICHIE
I'll pull right out of this. But
I'm still suspended the rest of the
season. You know what that makes
you? Head coach.

KEVIN
Richie, I don't know if I'm ready
for that.

RICHIE
I'll pay you another thousand
dollars.

KEVIN
I'm in.

RICHIE
I'm counting on you, Kevin. I'm
giving you the keys to a Cadillac.
Don't crash it.

KEVIN
Seriously? You're going to give me
a Cadillac?

RICHIE
No, you idiot, it's a metaphor...

KEVIN
Oh, I get it, like the team's the
Cadillac...

RICHIE
(interrupting)
Yeah, you got it, now get the fuck
out of here.

Kevin opens the door.

RICHIE (CONT'D)
Kevin...

Kevin stops.

RICHIE (CONT'D)
Charlie gets the start next game.

Kevin acknowledges the order, then begins to leave again.

RICHIE (CONT'D)

Kevin...

Kevin stops and turns back around to acknowledge Richie.

RICHIE (CONT'D)

I can get you a couple of those
viagara if you needa bring your A-
Game for some broad.

KEVIN

Well what happens if the girl shuts
me down?

RICHIE

I don't know, jerk off twelve times
and drink a bottle of gin, how the
fuck should I know?

KEVIN

I'm all set, but thanks.

Kevin exits as JEREMY(28), a nurse enters.

RICHIE

How about you, Jeremy? You want to
fuck your girlfriend really good?

JEREMY

I'm gay.

RICHIE

I have a pill that will make you
like pussy.

EXT. LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD STANDS - NEAR THE BACKSTOP - DAY

Toby sits drunk with Lilly.

EXT. STANDS - FURTHER FROM THE BACKSTOP

Nick hands out business cards to spectators.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - LATER ON

INSERT: THE SCOREBOARD, which reads "Castigliano Cadillac - 6
O'Malley's - 4 in the bottom of the sixth inning."

Back to scene

Charlie stands on the mound. There is a runner on first base. Charlie delivers a pitch. The BATTER rips a base hit into the outfield, advancing the runner on first base to third.

EXT. NEAR THE BACKSTOP - CONTINUOUS

MIKE NOLAN (45) leans on the fence.

MIKE
Come on, Charlie, keep it down.

EXT. FIELD - NEAR THE PITCHER'S MOUND

Kevin approaches Charlie.

KEVIN
(to Troy)
Time out.

TROY
Make it quick.

KEVIN
(to Charlie)
Are you okay?

MIKE
(yelling from the crowd)
He's fine.

KEVIN
(to Charlie)
Hey... ignore him, okay? If you're hurt you need to let me know.

CHARLIE
I'm fine.

Mike comes onto the field and to the mound.

MIKE
What's the problem?

KEVIN
(to Mike)
Looks like Charlie's not one hundred percent.

MIKE
Even at eighty percent he's the best in the league.

KEVIN

Mike, You're not supposed to be out here. You're not a coach.

MIKE

If Richie were here he'd keep Charlie in.

KEVIN

(to Charlie)

You sure you're okay?

CHARLIE

Yeah.

Kevin walks back to the dugout, and Mike to the stands.

An O'MALLEY'S BATTER steps to the plate. Charlie delivers a pitch, then grasps his arm. The Batter hits a home run.

O'Malley's players run out to home plate to congratulate the batter after he rounds the bases. Castigliano Cadillac exits the field and goes back to the dugout.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

Mike waits. Charlie approaches.

MIKE

What was that, Charlie?

CHARLIE

I'm sorry.

Kevin exits the dugout.

KEVIN

(to Mike)

Hey! Take it easy!

MIKE

(to Kevin)

This is my son. It's none of your business.

Kevin walks back into the dugout.

INT. DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

Kevin takes a seat on the bench away from the players. Angie approaches Kevin.

ANGIE
(to Kevin)
Do you believe the nerve of that
guy?

Angie sits down next to Kevin.

KEVIN
He's pretty hardcore.

INTERCUT BETWEEN INT. DUGOUT AND EXT. NEAR DUGOUT

ANGIE
He's a big asshole is what he is.
(yelling to Mike)
Hey! He did his best, why don't you
back off you, bully?!

MIKE
Shut up Angie, this doesn't concern
you.

KEVIN
Mike, don't talk to Angie like
that.

MIKE
What are you going to do about it?

KEVIN
I'm just hoping you start being
polite.

EXT. CLOSER TO THE BACKSTOP - CONTINUOUS

Lilly and Toby look on at the argument.

LILLY
(to Mike)
Leave Angie alone!

TOBY
Yeah!

EXT. OUTSIDE THE DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

Mike stands with Charlie

MIKE
Shut up, you drunks.
(to Charlie)
Come on, let's go.

Mike and Charlie exit.

INT. DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

Kevin sits with Angie.

KEVIN
(to Angie)
Poor kid.

ANGIE
Why'd you leave him in?

KEVIN
It's what Richie would have wanted.

ANGIE
Richie isn't God.

KEVIN
No. Richie's Richie.

ANGIE
Thanks for standing up for me, by
the way.

KEVIN
I just think that guy's a dick.

Angie grabs Kevin's hand.

INT. ANGER MANAGEMENT MEETING - DAY

Peggy stands in front of the group. Richie and Kevin sit next to one another. Tim sits in another section.

PEGGY
Today we will be discussing the
physiological effects of rage
attacks. Does anyone have anything
in particular they notice happening
to them before, during, or after a
fit of rage?

Tim raises his hand.

PEGGY (CONT'D)

Tim...

TIM

Well usually when I get really mad my penis shrivels up, but then as soon as I start yelling I get an erection.

PEGGY

Well that's interesting.

TIM

Yeah, it's weird... Then if I get really really mad I get an erection, but it goes between my legs or off to the right...

Tim continues his story, barely audible.

RICHIE

(to Kevin)

I'm not going to lie, Kev, I'm pretty upset about that loss.

KEVIN

I think Charlie's arm is hurt. Bad.

PEGGY

Very unusual, Tim.

(to the class)

Would anyone else like to share? No one?

RICHIE

That arm could win us another championship. But now we're in second. Only a game out of third. We finish third, we don't make the championship!

TIM

The worst part is that as I calm down, my erection gradually goes limp....

KEVIN

Charlie can't go complete games any more.

RICHIE

He better! We need him to.

PEGGY
(to Tim, interrupting)
Oh.
(to the group)
Is there anyone else...

KEVIN
He shouldn't be pitching at all.

TIM
(to Peggy)
Then once I'm limp, I ejaculate.

PEGGY
Oh lord.

RICHIE
Kevin, this year is the toughest
field I've ever seen. We need him.

TIM
Yeah, I know.

KEVIN
There's got to be other guys who
can pitch.

RICHIE
Not like Charlie...

TIM
(to the group)
...There has to be someone else I
can talk to about it. I shouldn't
have even told you all of that.

PEGGY
Tim yeah, that's a good idea, I
think maybe you should bring it up
to your doctor. I think there may
be a lot more than anger going on
there.

TIM
Good call, Peggy.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAYS LATER

INSERT: Scoreboard Reads: "Castigliano Cadillac - 4 Tino's
Bakery - 2." in the top of the third inning.

Back to Scene.

Charlie is pitching. Troy is umping behind the plate, Swifty on the bases, Mitchell is catching and Brett is playing shortstop. There is a RUNNER on third base.

Charlie delivers a pitch that bounces inches in front of the plate, then grabs his arm. The BATTER watches the pitch go by.

TROY
Ball four, take your base.

The ball rolls to the backstop and the runner on third base steals home, scoring before a close play is made.

TROY (CONT'D)
Safe!

EXT. STANDS - NEAR THE BACKSTOP

Mike stands watching the game.

MIKE
(to Charlie, from the crowd)
Come on, bring it up!

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Kevin walks toward the pitcher's mound.

KEVIN
(to Troy)
Time out.

TROY
Time!
(to Kevin)
Make it quick.

KEVIN
Sure thing.
(under his breath)
You fucking douchebag.

Kevin reaches the mound.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
How's your arm, Charlie?

MIKE (OS)
(yelling from the crowd)
He's fine!

KEVIN
(to Brett)
Come here.

Brett jogs to the mound.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Ever pitch before?

BRETT
A little bit. I usually play
infield though.

KEVIN
(to Brett)
Well I've seen you throw the ball
from shortstop. You've got a hell
of an arm.

BRETT
Thanks.

KEVIN
Now you're going to pitch.

BRETT
Okay.

KEVIN
(to Charlie)
You cool with shortstop?

CHARLIE
Sure.

KEVIN
(to Charlie)
Let me know if your arm is
bothering you.

Kevin hands the ball over to Brett.

EXT. NEAR THE BACKSTOP - CONTINUOUS

Mike looks on.

MIKE
(yelling to Kevin)
What are you doing?

EXT. FIELD

Charlie goes to shortstop as Kevin heads back toward the dugout.

KEVIN
(yelling to Mike)
Trying to win a game.

MOMENTS LATER

Brett delivers a pitch to a Tino's BATTER, who swings and misses.

TROY
Strike one!

MOMENTS LATER

Brett delivers a pitch to another Tino's BATTER, who watches it go by.

TROY
Strike two!

MOMENTS LATER

Brett delivers a pitch to another Tino's batter, who swings and misses.

TROY
Strike three!

INNINGS LATER

INSERT: The scoreboard: Reads: "Castigliano Cadillac - 7
Tino's Bakery - 3" at the game's conclusion.

INT. CASTIGLIANO CADILLAC DUGOUT - DAY

Kevin talks to the team.

KEVIN
Great win guys. Nice team effort.
Charlie, you really battled out
there. I'm proud of you. Who else
can pitch?

Eddie and Roddy both raise their hands.

MITCHELL

(to Roddy)

You can't pitch. You throw at people on purpose.

RODDY

I pitch my nuts off, mother fucker!

KEVIN

Roddy, I like your attitude, you get the start next game. Eddie, you'll come in to close. Everyone get some rest.

Kevin begins to exit.

JAKE

Coach Kevin...

KEVIN

Yeah, Jake.

JAKE

Aren't we going to do a team cheer?

RODDY

Man, fuck that shit.

The team disperses and exits the dugout.

EXT. THE STANDS

Angie stands. Zach runs up to her.

ZACH

Angie, we won!

ANGIE

I know, Zachie, that's great!

Kevin approaches Zach and Angie.

KEVIN

(to Angie)

What are you doing today? Want to hang out?

INT. ANGIE'S BEDROOM - HOURS LATER

INSERT: Angie's TV

The Sports Report with KEN STAFFORD (40) is on with highlights of the Yankees' Game.

EXT. YANKEE STADIUM - LAST NIGHT

Steve Fisk is at the plate.

KEN STAFFORD (OS)
And with the game tied in the
bottom of the ninth and two outs,
who's the man you want up?

Steve hits a home run.

KEN STAFFORD (OS) (CONT'D)
Steve Fisk, whose walk-off solo
shot gave the Yankees a big three
to two win over Boston, widening
their division lead to two games
and...

The TV turns off.

Back to scene.

Kevin and Angie sit on her bed. Kevin puts down a remote on the nightstand.

ANGIE
I'm so glad you shaved that
moustache.

Angie leans in to kiss Kevin but there is a KNOCK on her door before their lips meet.

ZACH (OS)
(from outside the room)
Angie...

ANGIE
What is it, Zachie?

ZACH (OS)
Is Kevin in there?

ANGIE
Yes, he is.

Zach enters.

ZACH
(to Kevin)
Want to play catch?

EXT. BRYANT YARD - MINUTES LATER

Kevin plays catch with Zach.

KEVIN
You know what, bud, you've got a
pretty good arm.

ZACH
Thanks.

KEVIN
How come you never play?

ZACH
I don't know. You're the coach now.

KEVIN
That's right.

Kevin looks at the time on his cell phone.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Hey bud, I actually have to get
going now. I have an appointment
for my shoulder.

ZACH
Okay Kevin, thanks for playing ball
with me.

Zach hugs Kevin.

EXT. FRONT DOORWAY - CONTINUOUS

Angie walks out of the house.

EXT. BRYANT YARD

From Angie's POV we see Kevin and Zach hugging.

INT. DR. MOORE'S OFFICE - LATER THAT DAY

Kevin sits on the table as Dr. Moore examines X-Rays.

DR. MOORE
Interesting...

KEVIN
What's interesting, Doctor?

DR. MOORE
Well I've never seen anything quite
like this...

KEVIN
Quite like what?

DR. MOORE
This is unbelievable...

KEVIN
What is unbelievable?

DR. MOORE
You're fully healed.

KEVIN
So I can play?

DR. MOORE
Sure.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - THE NEXT DAY

INSERT: SCOREBOARD Reads "Castigliano Cadillac - 8
Breezeville Diner - 2" at the game's conclusion.

INSERT: Breezeville Little League Bracket

A hand moves Castigliano Cadillac into the Championship Game
slot versus O'Malley's Pub.

EXT. STANDS - DAY

Kevin walks through the stands toward the parking lot,
congratulated by several parents on his walk. Richie is
there, wearing a fake mullett and big aviator sunglasses.

RICHIE
Pssst. Kevin.

Kevin looks over.

KEVIN
Richie?

Richie shushes Kevin.

RICHIE
Nice win bud! Now get that
championship bonus.

KEVIN
You know what else is great news,
Richie? I'm going to be able to
pitch for the Muckdogs this season.

RICHIE
I don't give a fuck.

Troy walks by Kevin and Richie.

TROY
Richie is that you?

RICHIE
No.

Richie walks away. Angie approaches Kevin and hugs him.

ANGIE
I am so proud of you.

INT. ANGIE'S BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Angie and Kevin enter, making out.

KEVIN
Is anyone home?

ANGIE
No.

KEVIN
Where's Zach?

ANGIE
He's sleeping at Brett's.

Kevin and Angie lay down on the bed.

INT. ROSCOE HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Zach, Brett, Eddie, and Roddy all watch a movie. Lilly
stumbles in with Toby.

ZACH
(to Toby)
Aren't you Kevin's friend?

TOBY
Yeah.

RODDY
What the fuck?

LILLY
(to Brett)
I thought you were sleeping at
Zach's tonight?

BRETT
No. Zach's sleeping here. So are
Eddie and Roddy.

Brett's father FRANK ROSCOE(45) enters.

LILLY
Frank, I thought you were out
playing poker.

FRANK
(to Lilly)
I lost.
(re: Toby)
Who's this twirp?

RODDY
Ah, shit.

TOBY
(to Frank)
I'm Sisco Jennings from Rochester
Gas Company, I received word there
was a gas leak here.

RODDY
Ah hell no.

Toby runs out of the house.

EXT. ROSCOE HOUSE - NIGHT

Frank, Lilly, Zach, Roddy, Brett, and Eddie all look on at...

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - NIGHT - THEIR POV

Toby pulls out of the driveway, swerves across the neighbor's
lawn and knocks over a lawn jockey.

RODDY
That's fucked up.

INT. ANGIE'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Kevin gets dressed. Angie wakes up.

ANGIE
Good morning.

KEVIN
Good morning to you, too.

ANGIE
Where are you off to?

KEVIN
Muckdogs practice. I need to talk with Paul in person. He has a cell phone but he doesn't know how to use it because he's old as dirt.

ANGIE
Well good luck.

Kevin kisses Angie.

EXT. MUCKDOGS PRACTICE FIELD - AN HOUR LATER

The team practices with Paul supervising. Kevin enters and approaches Paul.

KEVIN
Hey Paul.

PAUL
Kevin, hey there.

Paul pulls a cell phone from his pocket.

PAUL (CONT'D)
(playing with his cell phone)
I've been trying to get a hold of you on this damn thing but it's acting all screwy.

KEVIN
It's not on, Paul.

INT. PAUL'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Kevin and Paul enter and both take a seat. Paul sets his cell phone down on his desk and plugs it into a charger. The charger is not plugged into an outlet.

KEVIN

I have some great news.

PAUL

What is it?

KEVIN

I'm ready for a comeback.

PAUL

That's great, Kevin. You're starting Thursday.

KEVIN

What time, Thursday?

PAUL

Five Thirty.

KEVIN

Paul I actually can't start Thursday, at six o'clock my little league team is playing in the...

PAUL

Little league? Are you kidding me?

KEVIN

Can I start the game before? Or after?

PAUL

Grady is starting tonight, and we have tomorrow off. And no.

KEVIN

What's up with you, Paul?

PAUL

You're lucky you're still part of this team, Kevin.

KEVIN

What's that supposed to mean?

PAUL

After you got in that fight upper management wanted to cut you. I had to put my own reputation on the line to keep you around.

KEVIN

I'm just asking for a small favor.

PAUL
 You have no idea how many favors
 I've done you, Kevin.

Paul stands up.

PAUL (CONT'D)
 Thursday... Be ready.

Paul exits. Kevin remains sitting. Paul enters again, grabs his cell phone off the desk, and tries to turn it on.

PAUL (CONT'D)
 This doggone thing.

Paul continues to fiddle with the phone. Kevin exits.

INT. KEVIN'S MOVING CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Kevin drives. His phone rings. He looks at his phone.

INSERT: Screen on Kevin's Cell Phone reads "Incoming Call: Angie." Kevin ignores the call.

Back to scene.

Kevin continues driving. He makes a left turn.

EXT. CASTIGLIANO CADILLAC PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Typical Tuesday of business at a car dealership as Kevin's car pulls in.

INT. RICHIE'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Richie is sitting in his luxurious leather chair and talking to Kevin. A 9MM handgun sits within Richie's arm's length on the desk.

RICHIE
 Thursday... like, early afternoon
 Thursday?

KEVIN
 The game's scheduled to start at
 5:30.

RICHIE
 Kevin, the championship is at six.

KEVIN

I know, Richie, I tried to come back a different day but they won't let me... This is my last chance, Richie.

RICHIE

And you're willing to leave that \$3,500 on the table?

KEVIN

Yeah, I am. Cause I love baseball.

RICHIE

Fair enough.

KEVIN

Thanks for understanding, Richie. I'll be at practice tonight to say goodbye.

Kevin begins to exit.

RICHIE

Kevin...

Kevin turns around. Richie reaches into his drawer and pulls out an envelope labeled "Kevin (Championship Bonus)." Richie throws it onto his desk.

Kevin grabs the envelope off the desk, opens it, and looks in.

INSERT: Inside the envelope: \$3500 cash.

KEVIN

Richie, you don't have to...

RICHIE

You deserve it, kid.

Richie pulls out a clip from a drawer and loads it into the glock.

KEVIN

What are you doing?

Richie points the gun at Kevin. Kevin flinches.

RICHIE

Got you again, you little pussy!

KEVIN

Right... the safety's on.

Richie examines the gun.

RICHIE
Actually it wasn't that time.

Richie puts the safety on.

EXT. PRACTICE FIELD - THAT EVENING

Richie, Kevin, and Mike Nolan stand in front of the team.

KEVIN
(to the team)
Guys, it's been a pleasure, and I'm
going to miss all of you very much.
I wish I could be there for you,
but sometimes there's more
important things in life...

Jake raises his hand.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Yeah, Jake.

JAKE
More important things than what?

KEVIN
I don't know where I was going with
that, Jake.
(to the team)
Anyway, best of luck, guys.

The team applauds. Richie shakes Kevin's hand. Kevin begins walking away.

RICHIE
So this is coach Mike. Many of you
probably already know coach Mike.
He's very vocal on the sidelines...

EXT. PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Angie stands next to her car and looks out to the practice field at Kevin, then gets into her car.

EXT. PRACTICE FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Kevin looks toward the lot and sees Angie.

KEVIN

Shit.

Kevin runs toward Angie's Car.

INT./EXT. ANGIE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Angie starts the car as Kevin runs toward it. The windows are open and we can see Kevin.

KEVIN

Angie, wait!

As Kevin closes in on the car Angie locks her doors and rolls up her windows. Kevin reaches the car and begins talking with Angie through the closed window.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Come on, can we just talk? Just come out of the car and talk to me.

Kevin removes his shirt and presses his nipple against the car window.

ANGIE

Oh my God, gross.

EXT. PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Kevin stops screwing around as Angie gets out of her car and approaches him.

ANGIE

Why have you been ignoring my calls?

Some PARENTS watch the confrontation.

KEVIN

Listen, I can explain...

ANGIE

Have you been fucking those Muckdog Groupies?

KEVIN

Hell no, those girls are disgusting!

ANGIE

You'll fuck anything, you pig!

KEVIN
Not the Muckdog Gals.

Zach approaches Kevin and Angie.

ANGIE
Hi Zachie.

KEVIN
(to Zach)
How you doing, bud?

ZACH
Are you two arguing?

KEVIN
(simultaneously with Angie
to Zach)
Yeah.

ANGIE
(simultaneously with Kevin
to Zach)
No, bub.

ZACH
Kevin will you please coach us
tomorrow?

ANGIE
(to Kevin)
What is he talking about?

KEVIN
(to Angie)
That's actually what I was just
about to explain.

ZACH
(to Kevin)
Coach Mike is mean. He made us run
laps just cause Roddy called him a
honky.

ANGIE
Mike Nolan is coaching?

KEVIN
(to Angie)
I'm starting for the Muckdogs
tomorrow.

ANGIE
(to Kevin)
The championship is tomorrow.

KEVIN
Angie, it's my last chance.

ANGIE
You had your last chance years ago.

KEVIN
What the hell does that mean?

ANGIE
Zachie, let's go.

Angie gets into the car.

ZACH
Good luck, Kevin.

KEVIN
Thanks Zach. You too, buddy. Stay
down on those ground balls.

Zach gets into the car and Angie pulls away. Kevin watches
the car.

EXT. MUCKDOG STADIUM - BULLPEN - LATE AFTERNOON

INSERT: A Catcher's glove with a baseball hitting it,
creating a loud popping noise.

Back to Scene.

HECTOR VASQUEZ (20), the Muckdogs Catcher throws the ball
back to Kevin.

HECTOR
(To Kevin, in a Hispanic
accent)
Great pitch, esse!

Kevin takes a seat on a bench in the bullpen.

TOBY (OS)
Hey, bitchnuts.

Kevin turns around.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

Toby stands outside the bullpen with a chainlink fence in between him and Kevin.

INTERCUT BETWEEN EXT. BULLPEN/EXT. OUTSIDE OF BULLPEN

Kevin talks with Toby through the fence.

KEVIN

Shouldn't you be at the
championship wrecking a home?

TOBY

Probably. But some weird shit
happened the other night.

Toby pulls a flask from his pocket, takes a swig, then offers Kevin a shot.

KEVIN

No, Thanks.

TOBY

Alright. Well, give them hell, man.

Toby puts his fist up to the fence. Kevin bumps Toby's fist and Toby walks away. Hector takes a seat next to Kevin.

HECTOR

Hell of a job out there, esse.
You really got your heat back,
homes.

KEVIN

Hector why do you talk like that?
Everyone knows you and your parents
were born in Vermont.

HECTOR

(in a Northeast Accent)
Shit... Well, you know, it's become
a very Hispanically dominated game
over the years...

KEVIN

Yeah, I understand your motivation
dude, but the idea is really
stupid.

HECTOR

What's up with you today?

KEVIN
What do you mean?

HECTOR
Five minutes to game time I figured
you'd be a little more excited.

Kevin looks around.

EXT. MUCKDOG STADIUM - STANDS - KEVIN'S POV

Barren rows, empty bleachers... Maybe thirty people in the whole place, and that includes five security guards and the MUCKDOG GALS, who are now talking with Toby.

EXT. BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

Kevin sits next to Hector. Kevin's cell phone beeps in his gym bag. Kevin pulls his phone from the bag.

INSERT: CU Kevin's Cell Phone.

Incoming text from Angie reads "Good luck."

KEVIN
Did you ever make a decision you
regret, but by the time you come to
your senses it's too late to fix
things?

HECTOR
My Mother used to tell me, "Hector,
It's never too late to right your
wrongs."

Kevin grabs his bag, stands up, and exits.

HECTOR (CONT'D)
Game starts in ten minutes,
homes... I mean, Kevin.

EXT. AREA OUTSIDE THE BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

Kevin walks past Toby and the Muckdog Gals.

TOBY
What the hell, man?

Toby follows Kevin.

EXT. LITTLE LEAGUE STADIUM - STANDS - EVENING

Angie looks out to the field.

EXT. LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Mike speaks in front of the kneeling team.

MIKE

Alright guys, listen up. I'm your
new coach. Should have been all
season.

RODDY

Shit.

MIKE

(to Roddy)
Take a lap, smartass.

RODDY

Ah, hell no.

Roddy starts running.

MIKE

(yelling to Roddy)
Make it two.

EXT. THE OUTFIELD - MOMENTS LATER

Roddy runs toward Kevin and Toby, who have just arrived.

KEVIN

That's enough running, Roddy.

RODDY

Kevin?

EXT. THE STANDS - OUTSIDE THE DUGOUT

Angie stands looking toward the outfield at Kevin. She pulls
a mirror out from her purse, touches up her makeup and fixes
her hair.

EXT. STANDS - NEAR THE BACKSTOP - CONTINUOUS

Lilly sits. Toby approaches.

NICK
 Can't complain.
 (to both of them)
 How those Double B's treating you?

CRAIG
 Nick, it's changed my life.

NICK
 Glad to hear it.

OLIVIA
 My mother wants twelve... You know,
 like you said...grandkids.

NICK
 Damn right.

CRAIG
 (re: Kevin and Mike)
 What's going on?

Nick, Olivia, and other SPECTATORS begin looking out to the field.

EXT. INFIELD - CONTINUOUS

Mike and Kevin argue near the team.

MIKE
 (to Kevin)
 You gave this team up when you
 decided to be selfish and play in
 your little semi-pro game. It's my
 team now.

IAN
 No!

MIKE
 (to Ian)
 You shutup!

KEVIN
 (to Mike)
 Don't talk to these kids like that.

MIKE
 (to Kevin)
 What are you going to do about it?

CHARLIE
 Let Kevin coach, Dad!

EXT. THE STANDS

The Castigliano Cadillac fans heckle Mike.

EXT. INFIELD - CONTINUOUS

Mike looks around.

MIKE

(to Charlie)

You're in big trouble when we get home.

Mike walks off the field as fans cheer.

TEN MINUTES LATER - MIDDLE OF FIRST INNING

Castigliano Cadillac players are in their positions. Charlie is on the pitcher's mound warming up. Mitchell is catching, Troy is umping behind the plate with Swifty on the bases.

Charlie delivers a warm up pitch that lands a foot short of home plate and rolls to the backstop.

INT. CASTIGLIANO CADILLAC DUGOUT

Kevin looks out to the field at Charlie.

EXT. FIELD

Charlie delivers another warm up pitch. This one makes it to the plate but Charlie grabs his arm and winces after his release.

Kevin approaches Charlie.

KEVIN

I need you to be honest with me.
Are you okay?

CHARLIE

I'm fine.

KEVIN

It's okay... Your dad's not here.

Charlie shakes his head "no."

CHARLIE

My Dad's been giving me this stuff called Vicodin before games, but it's not even helping any more.

KEVIN

Listen Charlie, if you play when you're on Vicodin you can hurt yourself really bad and not even realize it.

CHARLIE

But it helps me play through pain.

KEVIN

But that's not how the game's meant to be played. Listen, Charlie... I'm going to have you sit this one out.

CHARLIE

Coach Kevin, no!

KEVIN

It's for your own good.

CHARLIE

Can I play in the field?

KEVIN

You shouldn't even be throwing a ball... Listen, I hurt my shoulder really bad in high school and it never healed right. Fuck this game... the rest of your life is way more important.

Charlie hands Kevin the ball and walks toward the dugout.

Kevin calls Eddie over from first base and Brett over from shortstop. Both players jog to the mound to visit Kevin.

Kevin hands Eddie the ball.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

(to Brett, re: Eddie)

He's going three Innings, you're closing.

(shouting toward the dugout)

Yo Zach...

INT. DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

Zach gets up and runs onto the field.

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Zach runs to the mound.

KEVIN
(to Zach)
You cool with first base?

ZACH
Are you serious?

KEVIN
God damn right I'm serious.

ZACH
Sure.

Kevin runs off the field.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

Eddie Delivers a pitch to a BATTER. The batter swings and misses.

TROY
Strike three!

MOMENTS LATER

Eddie delivers a pitch to another BATTER, right down the middle. The batter watches the pitch go by.

TROY
Strike three!

MOMENTS LATER

A new BATTER hits a ground ball to Brett at shortstop. Brett makes a throw to first that is a bit short. Zach makes a nice play on the ball, stretching to scoop it while keeping his foot on the base.

SWIFTY
Out at first!

INT. THE DUGOUT

Kevin stands with Jake, Jeff, and Charlie sitting behind him on the bench.

KEVIN
Nice play, Zach!

EXT. STANDS

Angie stands.

ANGIE
(telling onto the field)
Way to go, Zachy!

EXT. FIELD - TOP OF SECOND

Brett is up to bat. Roddy is on second, and Bradley on first. Kevin is coaching third base. Brett rips a double driving Roddy and Bradley home.

INSERT: The scoreboard reads "O'Malley's Pub - 2, Castigliano Cadillac - 2 in the middle of the Second Inning."

EXT. FIELD - THE NEXT HALF INNING

There is a RUNNER on third. Roddy makes a diving catch in center field. The runner on third tags up and Roddy makes a throw home to Mitchell. The throw is on time, and Mitchell lays the tag on the runner.

TROY
He's out!

EXT. FIELD - TWO INNINGS LATER

Zach gets a base hit, driving Sam across the plate.

EXT. STANDS

Angie cheers.

EXT. FIELD - MIDDLE OF FOURTH INNING

INSERT: Scoreboard - A hand putting the number "3" in the slot for the top of the fourth inning for Castigliano Cadillac, making the score "Castigliano Cadillac - 3 O'Malley's - 3."

EXT. FIELD - TOP OF THE FIFTH INNING

Roddy is on third base. Bradley is at the plate. Bradley lays down a sacrifice bunt.

The O'Malley's PITCHER looks Roddy back to the base, then throws Bradley out at first base as Roddy takes off for home.

The first baseman throws the ball to the catcher. Roddy slides under the tag.

TROY

Safe!

Roddy gets up and begins dancing.

EXT. FIELD - BOTTOM OF THE FIFTH INNING

Brett delivers a pitch to a BATTER. The batter hits a ground ball to Zach at shortstop. Zach makes a nice throw to Eddie at first base for the third out of the inning.

The team runs off the field.

INT. DUGOUT

The team enters, followed by Angie. Angie hugs and kisses Zach.

ANGIE

(to Zach)

Zachie, you're playing great!

ZACH

Come on, Angie.

ANGIE

Sorry.

Angie begins to exit, but stops at Kevin.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Thanks for coming.

KEVIN

That's what I signed up for.

INSERT: The scoreboard reads "Castigliano Cadillac - 4
O'Malley's - 3 in the middle of the sixth inning with two
outs.

ON THE FIELD - NEXT HALF INNING

Brett is pitching. There are O'Malley's RUNNERS on first and
second base. Brett delivers a pitch which lands short.

TROY

Ball four, take your base.

The BATTER walks to first and the runners advance. Kevin
walks onto the field.

KEVIN

(to Troy)

Time.

TROY

(to the entire field)

Time.

Kevin approaches Brett.

KEVIN

How you feeling?

BRETT

Good.

KEVIN

Bullshit, I can tell you're tired.

Brett hands Kevin the ball.

Kevin looks to Zach at shortstop, and signals for him to come
to the mound. Zach jogs to the mound.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

(to Brett)

Great game, bud. Go play shortstop.

The crowd cheers as Brett runs to shortstop.

EXT. STANDS - NEAR THE DUGOUT

Angie looks on.

ANGIE
What are you doing?

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Kevin and Zach stand together on the mound.

KEVIN
You ready to close this one out?

ZACH
You want me to pitch?

KEVIN
God damn right I do.

Kevin hands Zach the ball and walks toward the dugout.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
(to Zach, in stride)
Just relax and throw strikes.

Zach arms up.

EXT. STANDS - NEAR THE BACKSTOP - CONTINUOUS

Toby sits with Lilly.

TOBY
(yelling onto the field)
Way to go, Brett. Good game!

LILLY
You don't have to do this, you
know...

TOBY
Do what?

LILLY
Act like you care.

TOBY
But I do care.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

Kevin walks toward Angie.

ANGIE
Are you crazy?

KEVIN
He's ready.

EXT. STANDS - NEAR THE BACKSTOP - CONTINUOUS

Frank approaches Lilly and Toby in blue collar work clothes.

LILLY
Frank? You made it...

FRANK
I really did have to work late. But
Craig called me and told me it was
a great game and Brett was
pitching, so I figured I'd show up.

TOBY
Little late, wouldn't you say?

FRANK
(to Toby)
Why don't you get lost, Sisco? Or
whatever your name is.

TOBY
Sisco Jennings.

LILLY
(to Frank)
Do you think just because you show
up for the last inning of Brett's
last game that's going to make
everything better?

FRANK
(to Lilly)
No... But it's a start...

Toby folds up his chair and exits.

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Zach delivers his final warm-up pitch.

TROY
Batter!

A BATTER steps up to the plate.

TROY (CONT'D)
Play Ball!

INT. DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

Kevin stands up against the fence and looks out onto the field.

KEVIN
(yelling to Zach)
Make sure you follow through,
buddy.

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Zach delivers a pitch in the strike zone. The batter watches it go by.

TROY
Strike One!

INT. DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

Kevin stands against the fence. Toby enters.

KEVIN
(yelling onto the field)
Just like that, bud.
(to Toby)
Why aren't you trying to woo Lilly?

TOBY
It's over man. She's back with her
husband.

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Zach delivers a pitch down the middle. The batter swings and misses.

TROY
Strike two!

INT. DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

Kevin watches the game while chatting with Toby.

KEVIN
(to Toby)
Are you surprised?

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Zach delivers a curve-ball. The batter swings and misses.

TROY
Strike three!

EXT. STANDS - NEAR THE DUGOUT

Angie cheers.

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Zach's teammates run in and pick him up on their shoulders.

EXT. STANDS - NEAR THE BACKSTOP

Frank and Lilly chat. Toby approaches.

TOBY
Hey Frank...

Frank turns to acknowledge Toby. Toby extends his hand for a shake. Frank shakes his hand. Toby walks toward the parking lot, dumping the liquor out of his flask as he walks.

INT. DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

Nick enters and approaches Kevin.

NICK
Nice job with those kids, bro.

Nick shakes Kevin's hand.

NICK (CONT'D)
Now if you'll excuse me I have some
money to collect.

Nick exits. Angie enters.

ANGIE
Nice win, Coach Kevin.

Kevin looks out to the stands to see Mike yelling at Charlie.
Kevin exits the dugout.

EXT. STANDS - CONTINUOUS

Mike yells at Charlie. Kevin approaches.

MIKE

You embarrassed me out there,
Charlie. And you embarrassed
yourself.

KEVIN

You're embarrassing yourself right
now, Mike.

Mike looks up to see Kevin.

MIKE

Mind your own business.

Mike spits in Kevin's face. Kevin wipes it off with his
sleeve.

KEVIN

Come on, Mike. Set a better example
than that for your kid.

Mike makes an aggressive move toward Kevin, but suddenly
falls to the ground.

Richie, disguised as a police officer with an authentic
uniform, cap, and huge aviators walks up behind Mike holding
a taser.

Wires run from the taser's barrel fifteen feet to metal
prongs which are stuck in Mike's back.

Richie removes the taser prongs. SPECTATORS look on.

RICHIE

(disguising his voice)
It's okay, folks. I'm officer
Fredrickson of the Breezeville PD.

Richie cuffs Mike's hands behind his back and drags Mike to
his feet.

RICHIE (CONT'D)

(to the crowd)
I'm placing this man under arrest
for saliva assault. It's a felony.

KEVIN

(whispering to Richie)
Richie?

Richie signals for Kevin to be quiet. Mike tries to turn around and catches a glimpse of Richie.

MIKE

(to the crowd)

This man isn't a cop. It's...

Before Mike can finish speaking Richie shoves a sock into his mouth and duct tapes it in.

RICHIE

(to the crowd)

He tried to bite me, folks. Safety first.

(whispering to Kevin, re:
the taser)

I bought this thing last week, my trigger finger's been itchy ever since.

KEVIN

Thanks, Richie.

RICHIE

I got your back. Nice win, kid.

Richie shakes Kevin's hand and begins walking away with Mike.

RICHIE (CONT'D)

You're in big trouble, Mr. Nolan.

EXT. MUCKDOG STADIUM - BULLPEN - DAY - A MONTH LATER

Kevin stands with TAD RILEY (18), a highly touted young Muckdog lefthanded pitcher. Tad delivers a pitch to Hector, a bit outside. Hector throws the ball back to Tad.

KEVIN

(to Tad)

When you begin your windup you're stepping off to the side. It's throwing you're mechanics off. Try stepping straight back.

Tad adjusts his windup and delivers another pitch, this one right down the middle of the plate.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

There you go. Step like that you're going to the pros.

TAD

Thanks, Kev.

EXT. MUCKDOG STADIUM - PARKING LOT - AN HOUR LATER

Kevin walks to his car.

PAUL (OS)
Hey Kevin...

Kevin turns to see Paul.

KEVIN
Hey Paul.

PAUL
Listen, I just want to let you know
that you're doing a heck of a job
with these young guys.

KEVIN
It's a good group of kids.

PAUL
Keep it up and you'll be my
successor.

KEVIN
Thanks Paul, I'm flattered.

PAUL
Seriously Kevin... You better be
ready... I could die any day now.

KEVIN
Come on Paul, don't talk like that.

INT. AA MEETING - DAY

Toby speaks in front of a crowd of recovering alcoholics,
including Lilly and Kayla.

TOBY
One month sober today... And I
couldn't have done it without the
help of my wonderful sponsors,
Kayla and Lilly. Kayla's my
girlfriend now, but Lilly was more
maternal... But like a hot mom... I
actually wanted to sleep with her
for a while... But anyway, that's
not important. What's important is
my sobriety and peace of mind...

INT. KEVIN'S BEDROOM - EARLY EVENING

INSERT: Kevin's Mirror - Kevin's hand adjusts a Breezeville Gazette article between the mirror and its casing with a headline that reads "Castigliano Cadillac wins tenth Championship."

INSERT: the TV. On the TV we see channel 17 news.

INT. CHANNEL 17 NEWSROOM

WANDA WATSON (33) sits at the news desk.

WANDA WATSON

After a great month of July the Yankees have been mathematically eliminated from the playoffs in the wake of recent steroid allegations against Steve Fisk. Fisk tested positive for human growth hormone in a random league test last month, and according to an unnamed source has been using performance enhancing drugs since he entered the league in 2008. Live from Yankee stadium we have Cliff Sanders.

EXT. YANKEE STADIUM - FIELD - DAY

Players leave the field and fans exit the stadium as Cliff Sanders interviews Steve Fisk.

CLIFF

Steve... Where do you go from here?

STEVE

Well it's a tough time. I guess we just have to hope to finish strong and...

CLIFF

(interrupting)

I thought your answer was going to be "A convenience store parking lot to see my roid guy."

STEVE

Those allegations are false, and I resent you being so presumptive...

Back to Scene.

Angie grabs a remote off the nightstand next to Kevin's bed.

STEVE (OS) (CONT'D)
You know, I don't know who the hell
you think you are, but...

Angie turns the TV off.

KEVIN
(to Angie, re: the TV)
Come on!

ANGIE
So when is the wedding?

KEVIN
May.

ANGIE
I can't believe Nick asked you to
be the best man.

KEVIN
Well, Nick doesn't have many
friends.

ANGIE
What should we get them?

KEVIN
I was thinking a blender for Nick,
and some sort of board game for
Liz.

ANGIE
Come back to bed.

Kevin jumps in bed and begins making out with Angie.

EILEEN (OS)
(from outside the room)
Kevin...

Kevin and Angie stop kissing.

KEVIN
Yeah, Mom...

EILEEN (OS)
Is Angie still here?

KEVIN
Yeah Mom, she is.

EILEEN (OS)
Hi Angie.

ANGIE
Hi Eileen.

EILEEN (OS)
Would you two like some tacos?

KEVIN
No, Mom, we're all set, thanks.

EILEEN (OS)
Okay. Well if you change your mind
there's taco makings in the
kitchen. Lots of them.

ANGIE
Thank you, Eileen.

We hear Eileen's footsteps walking away from the door and
down a flight of stairs.

KEVIN
I need my own place.

ANGIE
Might not be a bad idea.

Angie kisses Kevin's neck.

KEVIN
Don't bother.

ANGIE
What?

KEVIN
It's not going to work now.

ANGIE
Oh... Okay...Want some tacos?

KEVIN
I could go for some tacos.

The two get off the bed and begin getting dressed.

FADE OUT.

Mercy Rule

Final Dissertation

“Write what you know” is what many say, and I have been around baseball for the majority of my life. I had spoken of a film about umpires with my brother over our years of umpiring together, but what started as a story about two outlaw umps somehow turned into one of a washed up prospect coming to grips with his athletic mortality. I did not want this to be *Mighty Ducks*, or *For Love Of The Game*. It would be hard for me to sleep at night if I unwittingly ripped off *Remember the Titans*, or even *Hardball*. A sports script would be a challenge, but I like taking on challenges. I wanted to leave my comfort zone of absurd, satirical comedy (although I ended up coming back to it numerous times). At the reading, I stated without the intention of being funny that at some point in the early stages of script development I wanted to make this a more “family friendly” story. The statement was met with more laughter than any joke in the script. Nevertheless, two years ago I decided that my brand of humor and a story essentially about knowing when to call it quits rather than the cliché of “work hard and you’ll win” could potentially combine to make an enjoyable sports tale. The story also derives charm from having a hero who learns to find pleasure in helping others.

I have a strong preference to overwrite. If I overwrite a script, it gives me options. If a subplot is not working, I cut it. If a subplot has potential, I develop it. At one point *Mercy Rule* was 140 pages long. It had a basic, vague structure and a bunch of undeveloped subplots. At that point I had to make decisions based on structure. I had to lose a great deal of what I had worked hard on, and develop what was deemed to have

potential. It was a game of picking and choosing, which is a game one plays when overwriting. I would much rather play a game of picking and choosing than one of fluffing a short script without much substance. I have no problem cutting scenes or lines I previously liked. If it serves the script's structural integrity without sacrificing an entertaining moment, the cut is well worth it. Through my years of schooling I feel I have developed a knack for better knowing what should stay and what should be cut.

This 140-page monster needed *massive* structural development – beyond three-act structure. Something was not right. All three acts ran too long, but I was still unsure of what to keep and what to drop. That is when Sam Marks introduced me to *Save the Cat*, a scriptwriting book by Blake Snyder. I found the book well worth reading and the “Blake Snyder Beat Sheet,” which broke down an “ideal” structure for 110 page comedies to be particularly helpful. The Beat Sheet, or “BS2” contains twelve steps for structure from “opening image” to “closing image,” all giving estimates on how many pages should be devoted to each step. I had never been a fan of outlines, but the BS2 helped change my opinion on them. Although my script ended up being 93 pages, the model was still quite helpful in creating a timing and flow to the structure which kept the script engaging.

A former writing professor of mine said, “Stories don't flow.” I have great respect for that teacher, but am not sure I agree with his statement when it comes to scriptwriting. Each scene needs to advance story or character, and this lean form of writing based on necessity creates a flow free of arbitrary nonsense. I believe that from now on I will always thoughtfully and meticulously outline a script before I jump into it. I realize now that outlining in the beginning saves a great deal of time in the long run, even if my instincts tell me to just start writing.

Whether it is my love for laughter, or my gluttony for humiliation, comedy is my genre of choice. When I write comedy I am taking on two roles: writer and comic. Nothing feels better than hearing boisterous laughter from the audience, but one of the worst feelings I have experienced is the embarrassment caused by dead-silence after a failed joke. There are a few tricky obstacles to overcome when writing comedy, one being humor's subjectivity. What is funny to one person may fall completely flat with another. Nothing is objectively funny. I would rather have something be hilarious to a small group of people than mildly amusing to a wide audience, and I tend not to pander.

However, some things seem to be objectively unfunny, and oftentimes I find those moments arising in my scripts and films. Something that makes me laugh when I envision it does not always translate to being funny on film. Solid performances can greatly enhance comedy, and I feel the performances of my actors at the *Mercy Rule* reading brought the script to life. I try to write scripts that offer opportunities for great performances, but sometimes I fail. Sometimes my projects will please a small audience, and sometimes no one, and that is just something a comedy writer has to deal with: nearly tangible failure. If the film is a comedy and no one laughs, then ten times out of ten it is a bad film.

It is quite helpful to hear something read out loud, in large part because it allows timing to better be evaluated. A good writer can hear it in his or her head to an extent, but until I hear something from actors it is often difficult for me to tell if the dialogue is written correctly. Actors are not only helpful as readers, but I learn a great deal from the questions they ask. An example in relation to *Mercy Rule* is when Mike Nardone, the actor playing Kevin, asked me in rehearsal why Kevin says "I never stopped thinking

about you, Angie.” It got me thinking, and I quickly realized Kevin’s line was an awkward attempt to pay a humorous compliment to Angie, but the idea was concocted when Kevin was caught off guard and the phrase came out before he could think about it. I realized when Mike asked me the question that the line’s meaning would be unclear to an audience. His question inspired me to add a line to the end of the scene, where Kevin says to himself “That was a stupid thing to say.”

Aside from that particular example, I made several adjustments to dialogue in this script based on performances and feedback from actors. All opinions are relevant, especially the opinions of the person playing the role, which is in part why as a director I am a huge advocate of ample rehearsal time. Through writing *Mercy Rule* and directing table readings with actors I have come to learn the extent to which rehearsal can benefit the script before it is even finalized.

I find it advantageous to have an unbiased, diverse cross-section of audience members. Although the audience members were great at the reading of *Mercy Rule*, I still felt at a disadvantage in that the few who were in attendance were friends of mine. I worry that friends give me “courtesy laughs,” so reactions from friends are harder to gauge. Oftentimes what I think is hilarious falls completely flat. Hearing crickets during obvious attempts at humor during my one-quarter film grounded me a bit. However, I built upon the parts that worked and put together a two-quarter film that yielded a much more satisfying audience reaction. Nevertheless, there were still jokes in *American Television* (my two-quarter film) that fell flat, as there are in *Mercy Rule*.

Paul's inability to operate his cell phone in *Mercy Rule* seems to be a bad joke. I did not devote a great deal of time to it, and am glad I chose not to. "Old people struggling with technology" is a played-out stereotype. Harry did an excellent job reading for Paul, but I do not feel the cell phone joke would have gotten many laughs on film. If I were directing the film it may be something I leave in the script because it would not take a great deal of time to shoot it and the moment might be saved with a solid performance, but during production I would keep in mind that the "phone joke" would likely be cut. It is better to have no joke in a scene than a bad joke.

I have always been open-minded and realize that oftentimes someone has a great point. Oftentimes when I employ someone's advice it works out for the best. Successfully writing comedy and film in general involves listening intently to criticism and putting ego aside. I find humor during the times when my own jokes fall flat: it is part of growing as a storyteller and comic. I believe if I appeal to any audience it is a young, edgy one: an audience desensitized by the availability of "obscene" material to my generation. Therefore I am constantly walking a thin line of "funny" and "over the top." It is a tight rope to walk. Malcolm made a great point in his response to my script when he said something along the lines of "You need "normal" to make "unusual" funny." I agree. A levelheaded person is oftentimes a better foil for a quirky person than a second quirky person.

One criticism at the reading was pointed at the gratuitous use foul language by the characters in *Mercy Rule*. I understand there is potentially offensive language in the script, as there is in most of my scripts. I have pondered the reasons for my inclination toward writing foul-mouthed characters and the best conclusion I can come to is that

throughout my life my friends and acquaintances have talked in an abrasive manner. For me foul language and obscene behavior is very real, and I am not bothered by either. I have an affinity for the “unrefined” and “weird” people of the world, and an ongoing challenge for me has been portraying these people as likeable.

I feel I have had a degree of success with comedy and satire while attending RIT, but have faced criticism for shallow, undeveloped, and unlikeable characters. Because of my absurd view of society, which Howard accurately mentioned during the critique, I am often drawn to characters that are misunderstood, or seemingly depraved. In the past I have not given these characters an opportunity for redemption, in large part because I did not feel the need to. I still do not believe a character arc is necessary in a film, but it is certainly helpful if the characters are completely unlikeable at the beginning of the story.

Several audience members made the comment that it seemed I “loved” my characters. I had not thought about it that much, but I thought about it after the comments. For as much of a hopeless failure as Kevin Jasper seemed to be, I wanted to see him come to grips with reality and find a niche that made him happy. Toby started as a good-hearted drunken mess, but sobered up by the end. Richie, as Kevin says in the script, “Richie is Richie.” Howard commented on how Richie is somewhat a reflection of my absurd world-view. I agree, and I do love Richie. I feel I developed a relationship with these characters throughout the thesis process, and cared increasingly about them as the process went on. It was the first time I felt such a strong sense of caring for characters.

One of the strengths of the script mentioned by multiple audience members was the use of intercutting. Intercutting is an effective way to keep an action sequence interesting. The audience does not just want to see what one person is up to. It is far more engaging to cut around the environment in a continuous fashion, following the action without losing touch with the hero. I feel I have a knack for this, and it has become a signature element in my scripts. Christopher Nolan is arguably the master of intercutting, and when watching his films I notice how effectively his strategic intercuts keep the audience engaged. In a sports film intercutting is crucial because without it the “big game” scene is nothing more than a sporting event, so why not just turn on ESPN and watch a four-hour baseball game? The audience also needs to be seamlessly brought through time during a sports game in a film, which is where montages can be put to good use.

My ability to intercut leads me to believe I could have a degree of success in writing action films. I am currently working on a treatment for a story about a charismatic opinion leader who governs a sanctuary city in a dystopian world. The treatment calls for a great deal of action sequences, and I can see efficient intercutting greatly enhancing the buildup of high-stakes tension in the film.

A longing to know more about the kids of Castigliano Cadillac is a concern at least one audience member expressed. I do not want to make this about the kids; I want this to be about Kevin. However, the climax takes place during the championship game, and a great deal of time is devoted to that game in Act III. I hope I did enough intercutting during that sequence between the players, crowd, Kevin, and Toby to keep

the audience engaged, but perhaps I did not. If I ever direct this script I would be interested to see how the championship game sequence plays out on film.

Although I use intercutting extensively, I also enjoy a scene that offers the characters an opportunity for extended interaction. However, this needs to be executed efficiently and performances need to be top-notch. The longest scene in *Mercy Rule* is four pages. The four-page barbecue scene is my favorite in the entire script, and I like how it sounded and timed-out at the reading...but perhaps I am being self-indulgent. I feel the scene establishes a tough, brotherly relationship between Kevin and Nick in a humorous way. “Tough love” is a repeated theme in this story. It is also an inevitability of the sports world.

After Sam mentioned that he thought the character of Nick was a “missed opportunity” in a committee meeting, Howard encouraged me to further develop Nick from the shallow scam-artist he was in earlier versions to a savvier salesman. I feel Nick’s character was received well and portrayed well by Alex Serles at the reading. Mike (Kevin), Curtis (Toby) and Alex showed some great chemistry in that scene, and illustrated its potential.

On the scene level I tend to overwrite conversations. This is helpful as a personal tool, because it enables me to feel out the characters. Even if I do not show a certain part of a conversation in the script’s final draft, I know it happened, and therefore get to know the characters better. Sometimes I will write six or seven pages of dialogue if I am having fun with a scene, knowing I will have to cut much, if not most of it. That four-page

barbecue scene was at one point eight or so pages until I realized how ridiculously long and boring it had become. However, much of it was worth keeping.

For as many times as this story has changed, I have changed with it. I have become a better and more mature writer, and feel more confident and in touch with my style. I do believe I have a future in scriptwriting, and I plan to continue writing forever. I realize *Mercy Rule* will not be my masterpiece. I hope to get better from here, and show drastic improvement on my next script. Completing the thesis process has been an integral step, and has helped teach me what it means to be a writer.

I could not have completed *Mercy Rule* in its current state without the help of my brilliant committee members Peter Kiwitt and Sam Marks, and of course my brilliant chair Howard Lester, who has been a caring mentor to me over the past four years. As was mentioned during the reading, it may have seemed as though I was trying to please all three of them, but I was not. I was doing what I felt was in the best interest of the story, and since Howard, Peter, and Sam all had such helpful advice I employed tips from all three of them. All of the actors involved were unselfish and dedicated, and I am thankful to them for putting on an enjoyable reading (given the material, at least). Of course, without the support of my family none of this would be possible, either.

Despite the script's shortcomings, I am proud of what I have accomplished. It is like Peter said at the reading: "There are two ways to look at scripts: where they are at, and where they came from." All involved parties would agree that this script has been constantly and rapidly progressing. I feel that is in part a reflection of my adaptability.

One cannot reach his or her full potential without taking risks. I am not afraid to take risks, and am constantly learning which risks are more likely to pay off. I hope to one-day work as a scriptwriter, and guarantee from here on I will observe and retain the realities of life, because life is where ideas stem from.