

CAN'T BUY ME LOVE

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APOLLO FILMS
6071 Bristol Parkway
Culver City, Ca 90230

FADE IN

1 EXT. SUBURBIA - AFTERNOON

1

From high above we can feel the peace and serenity of this upper middle class neighborhood. The swimming pools, the manicured lawns. We now notice a dot, moving methodically, making continuous right hand turns and changing this particular lawn from dark to light green. As we continue to pan down to the moving dot, serenity is replaced with the sound of a throbbing motor.

2 EXT. MANCINI FRONT YARD - SAME TIME

2

POV of someone watching RONALD MILLER riding his power mower and changing the contour of suburbia. Ronald, a 17 year old with untapped potential to be attractive, acknowledges his admirer and proceeds to put on a show as he deftly cuts his mower around a forgotten baseball glove, narrowly corners some automatic sprinklers and does a fancy zig-zag around some hedges.

Ronald finishes and stops his mower to the cheering of his admirer. Ronald smiles and bows to his one person audience, an eight year old BOY, who is polishing off a box of Almost Home fudge cookies.

The sweaty and disheveled looking Ronald hustles to the front door of the house, waving off an offer of a cookie. There is a definite zip to his gait as he is feeling good. Ronald rings the doorbell and smiles as he looks back to see the Boy petting his mower.

3 EXT. MANCINI PORCH - AFTERNOON

3

The door of the house is opened by MRS. MANCINI, a very attractive and hip forty year old.

MRS. MANCINI
(handing Ronald cash)
Exquisite job Ronald...

Ronald nods as he tries to look into the house.

MRS. MANCINI
Now you can spend your hard earned
summer money on something
wonderful for your senior year.
Like a car or a scooter.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

RONALD

Actually I was going to purchase a 30 megabyte hard disc to complement my system. It has a five millisecond access time...

Ronald stops short when he realizes Mrs. Mancini could care less about his computer. Ronald hands her some change from a huge cash roll.

MRS. MANCINI

That's real interesting Ronald. I know my Cindy is looking forward to her senior year. The football games, the parties, the prom.

RONALD

I can't wait. Thanks.

Ronald waves as he goes back to his mower, where the Boy offers him another cookie. Ronald pulls out a portable rake and begins to clean up grass clippings. His attention is suddenly attracted by the screech of a fire-red Mustang convertible pulling into the Mancini driveway. Music blares from the car.

Out of the car bops CINDY MANCINI, a knockout 17 year old and her two very attractive friends, PATTY KILLEN and BARBARA GRANT. The girls are dressed to kill as they pull boxes and hangers of newly bought clothing from the car. The Boy sees the girls, is turned off, and leaves in a huff. Ronald ditches the rake and pretends like he's working on the motor. Ronald watches them, thinks they are looking at him and waves. The girls don't respond.

The girls talk in a 'rap' form as they walk to the front door.

BARBARA

We're number one, we're so cool.

PATTY

Mess with us, you'd be the fool.

CINDY

We got the teams, we got the class.

PATTY/BARBARA

On or off the field will kick your ass.

The Girls break out laughing.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (2)

Ronald tenses as they are about to pass within a few feet of him. Ronald attempts a weak hello as they pass him, but it goes unacknowledged. Ronald takes a step closer to try again and this time he stumbles into his mower, tripping a switch that blows grass clippings directly into his face. The girls catch this blunder out of the corner of their eyes and giggle as they reach the front porch.

4 INT. MANCINI FOYER - SAME TIME

Mrs. Mancini studies the many packages as she opens the door for the girls. Patty and Barbara go past.

MRS. MANCINI
My credit card please.

Cindy hands her six credit cards. Mrs. Mancini was only expecting one.

MRS. MANCINI
I thought I told you only the
Bloomindales's card.

CINDY
(kisses her mom)
But school starts on Tuesday.

Mrs. Mancini can only shake her head. Mrs. Mancini looks out the opened door at Ronald, who is brushing grass off his body.

MRS. MANCINI
Responsibility Cindy. Look at
Ronald, he's such a conscientious
young businessman.

Cindy gives Ronald a serious look.

CINDY
(shaking her head)
Get real ma...

Mrs. Mancini shuts the door.

TITLE IS SHOWN ON THE FRONT DOOR. CONTINUE CREDITS OVER:

5 EXT. SUBURBAN STREETS - LATER

We see Ronald make the long slow ride home on his power mower. An ELDERLY COUPLE jog past him as do two KIDS on bicycles.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

Ronald approaches a light which turns red just as he gets to the crossing. A souped-up convertible loaded with attractive, cool, fun loving HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS pulls up alongside Ronald. They point in his direction and laugh.

Ronald is embarrassed and tries to look the other way. He spies the light, still red! It seems eternal. Ronald, trying to act occupied fidgets with the controls. He accidentally hits the wrong switch which hurls a load of grass clippings into the convertible. The girls shriek as they are covered with grass. The light turns green. They speed off calling him a 'GEEK' AND giving him the finger. Ronald sadly shakes his head as his mower slowly crawls across the intersection.

CREDITS END

6 EXT. MILLER HOUSE - LATER THAT AFTERNOON

6

Ronald closes his lawnmower shed and enters his nice suburban home.

7 INT. MILLER KITCHEN - SAME TIME

7

Ronald rumbles into the kitchen and studies a list of chores as he opens the fridge for some milk. He sees 6 chores for him and 1 for Chuckie. Ronald squints and checks the list again as CHUCKIE, his ultra-cool twelve year old brother, enters with some BUDDIES.

CHUCKIE

Oh lieutenant of lawns, master of mulching, pharaoh of fertilizer...what's current.

RONALD

Why do I have all the chores again?

CHUCKIE

Hey dude, that's the way the big lady wants it. As a mother she's entitled to make such critical domestic decisions.

RONALD

You're up to something Chuck.

CHUCKIE

Me...Me...a family member?

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

RONALD

I'll do this stuff later.
Kenneth's meeting me at the high
school.

CHUCKIE

Wow! You guys gonna reserve seats
for calculus?

RONALD

(exiting)
Funny.

Chuckie's Buddies study the chore list.

BUDDY

Your mom is a great humanitarian.

CHUCKIE

You serious? My mom would ground
me til I passed puberty. It's all
in the wrist, my man.

Chuckie demonstrates how he's mastered his mother's handwriting
by adding another chore to Ronald's list; "DISMANTLE THE
TREEHOUSE". The Buddies laugh and high five.

8 INT. CINDY'S ROOM - LATER

Patty and Barbara dance to another 'rap' version of a high
school cheer. We pan the room to see several poster size
pictures of Cindy and a handsome football player. Cindy checks
out her new clothing.

The phone rings. Patty dives for it. She slams the phone and
screams.

PATTY

Channel five. Quick. Bobby's
on.

Barbara puts on the tube. Cindy drops her clothing on the bed
and focuses on the TV.

ON TV

An ANNOUNCER is introducing star athlete, BOBBY HILTON. Cindy
is excited.

ANNOUNCER (on t.v.)

So Bobby, what's that one special
thing you miss about the old
hometown?

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

The handsome Bobby thinks for a moment. The girls are all excited. They lean forward in anticipation.

BOBBY (on t.v.)
You don't mind if I get a little personal?

PATTY
I can't believe it, Cindy's name on TV.

BOBBY (on t.v.)
What I miss the most is something that really made me feel good after a long practice...

BARBARA
(to Cindy)
You're so lucky.

Cindy shhshs them quiet.

BOBBY (on t.v.)
I really miss the hydro massage machine in the old high school gym.

Bobby smiles and exits the shot. The Announcer closes out. The girls, especially Cindy, are disappointed. She looks at a picture of her and Bobby. The girls look towards Cindy.

CINDY
(feigning nonchalance)
It's no felony. I mean, like, he's under a lot of pressure trying to keep his mind on football. We'd better go, we're late for practice.

9 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - LATER

Ronald rides his bike on to the high school grounds and pedals beneath the football stadium bleachers. Handsome FOOTBALL PLAYERS practice on the field as cute CHEERLEADERS including Cindy, Patty and Barbara practice on the sidelines.

Ronald is directly across from the Cheerleaders. We get the feeling this is a ritual for him. He is the outsider watching, unseen, the 'cool kids' laughing and enjoying themselves.

10 INT. SCHOOL

Ronald walks the clean, shiny and empty hallways that in only a few days will be jammed with students returning from summer vacation.

11 INT. BIOLOGY LAB

Ronald enters a room which faces out to the football bleachers. KENNETH WURMAN, a less attractive and nerdier version of Ronald intently assembles a skeleton.

RONALD

Hey Kenneth.

KENNETH

(without looking)

One millisecond Ronald.

Ronald goes to the window and stares out at Cindy and the 'cools'. Kenneth finishes and walks over to the mesmerized Ronald.

KENNETH

Buy your hard disk system yet?

(no response)

You'd better accelerate. A \$1000 for that hardware is grand larceny.

Kenneth waves his hand in front of Ronald's eyes. Ronald snaps out of his trance.

KENNETH

A little nervous about the capital outlay?

RONALD

No. It's not the disk. I've just done a lot of thinking about that.

Ronald points in the direction of the 'cools' sitting in the bleachers. Kenneth looks out the window.

KENNETH

The field could use some water, their irrigation system...

RONALD

(incredulous)

Irrigation?! I'm talking about that, the cool clique.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

1:

KENNETH

Why would you be thinking about them. They're certainly not conscious of us.

RONALD

That's my point. Wouldn't it be fun to party with those guys our senior year? Go to the games.

KENNETH

We do go to the football games.

RONALD

We sit in the visiting section Kenneth, at our own school.

(Ronald softens his tone)

This is supposed to be our big year. The prom, parties, homecoming. Memories!

KENNETH

I don't comprehend. We've got plenty of memories. The video parlor, computer club, our card games on Saturday nights.

RONALD

Cards! Cards are for inmates in prison, not seniors in high school.

Ronald realizes his tone has hurt Kenneth.

RONALD

Sorry Kenneth. We do have a lot of great memories. But, wouldn't you want to be a part of their clique? We were all friends in elementary...

KENNETH

That's because we were all forced to be together. But junior high, forget it! That's where the jocks became the jocks, the cheerleaders became the cheerleaders and we became us.

RONALD

(still enthusiastic)

You wouldn't want to hang with them?

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (2)

11

KENNETH

Why? You've been hanging on Cindy Mancini's lawn for five years, and she doesn't even know if you have a pulse.

Ronald's enthusiasm fades as he sits down. He looks out the window at Cindy.

KENNETH

You have a crush on Cindy, most living organisms do. But she's out of our league. She's out of everyone's league. They want us about as much as they want physics...in summer school.

RONALD

What's wrong with summer school physics?

KENNETH

That's my point.

12 EXT. BLEACHERS - LATER

1

Cindy sits with Patty and Barbara. Other Cheerleaders in the B.G. Cindy sees someone approaching.

CINDY

The sleaze master himself.

QUINT KUNCOWSKI enters the frame. He is a nasty looking football player. Quint pounds his hands and snaps his fingers.

QUINT

Lovely ladies.

(looks at Cindy)

Miss Mancini. Lookin' good, like I knew you would.

The girls are about to gag, especially Cindy. Two other football players, handsome RICKY LIST, and the well built, attractive JOHN RICHMOND enter. Stomach muscles rippling from their football midriffs.

RICKY

(high fives Big John)

J.R. Beautiful block. All state this year. No question.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

BIG JOHN
Quin-ton. My main hombre. Party
at my place tomorrow.

QUINT
I'm there.

Quint, Big John and Ricky look down the bleachers at four
younger looking JUNIOR VARSITY CHEERLEADERS.

QUINT
(to John/Ricky)
Um...ummm. New recruits. Being
a senior's a beautiful thing.
I can taste it now.

Quint starts to strut over to the giggling Girls. Cindy and
her crowd watch him. They shake their heads in disgust as they
head for the showers.

CINDY
Those kids better watch their
mini-pads.

Patty and Barbara crack-up.

13 INT. BIOLOGY LAB - LATER

13

POV Kenneth watching Quint hit on the girls. Ronald is busy
thumbing through two yearbooks.

KENNETH
See. It' hopeless. The jocks
even have a monopoly on the
incoming freshmen.

RONALD
Explain this.

We see a candid shot from last year's yearbook of a nerded out
guy with two HOT BABES hanging all over him.

KENNETH
Last year's yearbook. Victor
Grimaldi, so what?

Ronald quickly flips the pages of the yearbook from two years
ago to the COMPUTER CLUB picture. Wall to wall GEEKS. Ronald
points.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

RONALD

So what? How do you explain the ultimate bookworm geek associating with last year's homecoming queens. Look at this guy. He's pathetic. He makes us look like Miami Vice.

Kenneth takes off his glasses and squints at the picture. He moves Ronald's finger.

KENNETH

That's me. He's over there.

Ronald thumbs back to the picture of Victor and the Hot Babes in the other yearbook.

RONALD

(points to Babes)

Sorry Kenneth...I just don't understand how Grimaldi leveraged these. On a one to ten scale they're fourteens.

KENNETH

There's no logical explanation. It's an inexplicable phenomena kind of like the Bermuda Triangle. An occurrence like Victor only happens once every... forty or fifty years.

(Kenneth rises)

I have to leave. Remember, cards at Lewis' tomorrow night. Your turn to bring the brew.

Ronald nods as Kenneth exits. Ronald yells out.

RONALD

There's a logical explanation for everything.

14 INT. GIRLS LOCKER ROOM - LATER

Cindy, Patty and Barbara. Gathering clothes, gym bags. Patty holds up a pair of pants. Other Cheerleaders in the B.G.

PATTY

These pants fit me like a layer of skin.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

BARBARA

And John would like that skin wrapped around his...

CINDY

It's not fair to talk sex when my Bobby is 2000 miles away.

BARBARA

C'mon Cind, you could have your pick of any guy in school.

CINDY

I'd rather have my pick of any rack at ~~Bloomington's~~ NEIMAN-MARCUS

PATTY

Just raid your mom, she's the best dressed lady in town.

CINDY

And risk death, or worse, grounding. I don't get my mom. She has Gucci, and every other designer, locked in her cedar closet and won't let me wear any of them. So when I try to make up for it by spreading some plastic at the mall, she does a full on freak.

BARBARA

Parents sure can get brutal when it comes to Visa or Mastercard.

The girls all nod in agreement.

15 INT. COMPUTER ROOM - LATER

Ronald studies the picture of Victor and the Babes.

RONALD

Time for a logical explanation.
O.K. Victor Grimaldi and Mary Hancox.

[**We see the following on a computer screen intercut with Ronald's reactions**]

Ronald looks around to make sure no one is there. Coast is clear. Ronald types a code into the computer. We see Mary Hancox's name then her junior year grades.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

Ronald then types ALGEBRA to get her specific grades and we see 68,56,31,45 and 97!! on her final. Ronald then does the same for her CHEMISTRY grades and sees 55, 70, 0, 68 and 98 on the final. Ronald is shocked, she ended up with B'S in both classes, thanks to her finals.

Ronald then types another code to get seating charts for both these classes. Mary Hancox is seated next to Victor Grimaldi in each class. Ronald quickly punches up Victor's final exams below Mary's final exams. They are identical 97-97 and 98-98!

Ronald smiles from ear to ear as he studies the computer screen.

RONALD

He saved her from failing. She
owed him her life! Now who's life
am I going to save?

Ronald punches a code and the computer spits out paper filled with his classmates names and grades. Ronald rubs his hands together. He shuffles through the wad of paper. He thinks he's figured it out. He sees nothing on one sheet and flips to another list. He stops.

RONALD

Ah ha. Barbara Grant. B, B, A,
B. Shoot.

Ronald hits a key. More paper comes out. Nothing. More paper.

RONALD

Cindy Mancini. Numero uno. Let's
see.

(he studies her grades)
B, B, A, A. No way! The beauty
with brains. Now that's an
inexplicable phenomna.

Ronald is getting frustrated. He hits another key. Paper flies out of the printer. He tries to stop it. He can't. He's covered with paper. The printer stops.

RONALD

There's got to be one girl on the
edge of failure.

He randomly looks at a page. Jackpot!

RONALD

D, F, D. Oh my god. F-. Bambi
LeBrock!! Bambi LeBrock?
Popularity here I come. I am
totally in.

(more)

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (2)

15

RONALD (Cont'd)
 (he looks back at paper)
 Phys. ed. A, A, A! She must be
 a gymnast. Yea!

Ronald dashes out of the computer room.

16 INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYM - LATER

16

Ronald enters the gym. He sees a bevy of attractive, well-toned GYMNASTS. He's excited. He approaches a WOMAN GYM TEACHER.

RONALD
 Excuse me. Which one is Bambi
 LeBrock?

The Woman Gym teacher points in the opposite direction of the Gymnasts. Ronnie looks. BAMBI LEBROCK is the 200 pound heavyweight on the Girl's Wrestling team. She flips a 250 pound MALE WRESTLER and pins him. She's an animal. Ronald's smile fades.

17 EXT. STREET - LATE AFTERNOON

17

Ronald rides home on his bicycle. He's depressed. He stops at a red light. Up pulls a Black Ferrari with a scrawny WEASLY looking driver. Ultimate geek. A gorgeous AMAZON blonde brick is in the passenger seat fondling the Weasel. Ronald is amazed at this combination. Total mismatch. The Weasel looks at Ronald on his bike and smiles as he speeds through the green light. Ronald cheers up.

Ronald watches the Ferrari cruise.

18 EXT. MILLER DRIVEWAY - LATER

18

Pull back to show DAVID MILLER, Ronald's father, washing a very conservative, bland station wagon that has "TILE WORLD" loudly painted on the sides. David 'grooves' to the 60's tune "HANG ON SLOOPY". David stops singing. Acknowledges Ronald.

RONALD
 Looks, ah...clean Dad.

DAVID
 (cheerful)
 Remember. Anytime you want to
 borrow this little beauty for a
 night on the town. Just ask.

Pull back to reveal Ronald leaning on his bicycle. Shaking his head. He's depressed.

19 INT. MANCINI HOUSE - NIGHT

Cindy opens the front door to reveal VINCENT CARBONI. A slimy, yet good looking, 45 year old hunk of loud, cheap, jewelry and mucho chest hair.

VINCENT

Wow. Your mom was right. Beauty runs in this family and I mean it runs fast.

Cindy looks ready to gag. Vincent primps his greasy hair in the mirror. Mrs. Mancini enters, dressed to the nines.

MRS. MANCINI

You met my little baby?

VINCENT

Baby? I thought she was your twin sister.

Mrs. Mancini giggles. Cindy is ready to barf.

MRS. MANCINI

I'll be home late.

Vincent goes to shake Cindy's hand. She unsuccessfully tries to pull back. Vincent winks at her as he exits. Mrs. Mancini stops at the door, out of Vincent's earshot.

MRS. MANCINI

Isn't he great.

CINDY

Yeah. If you need your car lubed.

Mrs. Mancini shakes her head and exits.

20 INT. CINDY'S ROOM - LATER

Cindy is shaking her head as she enters her room. She puts some pieces of an outfit up to her body. She is not pleased with what she sees in the mirror. Cindy gets an idea and puts the outfit back on her bed.

Cindy slowly and cautiously moves down a dimly lit hallway. The feeling is eerie and quiet in the dim light. Cindy stops, looks around, then enters a dark room. She approaches another door, turns the knob, then backs off...maybe she should not enter. Cindy takes a deep breath, opens the door and turns on the light. It's her mother's cedar closet!

A devious smile forms on her face when she pulls an exquisite white suede jacket from an ornate garment bag.

21 INT. MILLER DINING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

21

Ronald is at the dinner table studying his computer disk brochure. DAVID and JUDY MILLER, his parents, eat. Chuckie stands. "WINDY" plays in the background. David hums along.

JUDY

Ronald. Not at the dinner table please.

Ronald puts the brochure down.

DAVID

(too Ronald)
Have enough money?

RONALD

(proudly)
\$1300 dollars. I mowed 286.4 miles of grass this summer. That's \$4.54 a mile.

CHUCKIE

The Ronald Miller story; My life on a mower.

Ronald gives Chuckie a look.

JUDY

You're buying the, whatever, tomorrow?

RONALD

On sale at the mall for \$1000. I'm depositing the remainder in the bank Monday at 7.5% compounded daily.

DAVID

I'm proud of you Ron. You worked, you earned, you saved...

CHUCKIE

You ask. How about a twenty big Dave? Gotta purchase some necessities.

David smiles. Tousles Chuckie's' hair and hands him a twenty. Ronald mouthes "Big Dave".

DAVID

what's up?

CHUCKIE

Pizza party at Julie's. Pre school jam session.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

DAVID
(too Ronald)
How bout you, any parties?

RONALD
Yes. The Saturday night card
game.

CHUCKIE
Woooo! Cards with the tards.

RONALD
Real funny Chuck.

CHUCKIE
I'm only kiddin', how could you
beat a night of cards, chips, dips
and dorks.

22 INT. GAME ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

22

A green felt table covered with a card game. Ronald, Kenneth and two ultra-nerds ALBERT and LESTER play. The table is littered with pretzels sticks, Cheetos, dip and root beers. Lester smokes the pretzel stick like it was a cigar. The cards have pictures of scantily clad women on them.

ALBERT
Lester, kindly be decent enough
to wipe your oily appendages after
consuming the potato chips. My
ladies are slipping out of my
hands.

LESTER
Look who's talking lamo, your the
genius who got the dip on the
chips, the poker chips!!

KENNETH
C'mon you two, just play the game.

Ronald's daydreaming.

ALBERT
Kenneth's right. Let's relax and
enjoy. It's Saturday night an
we've got nude cards, chips and
icy cold brews. This is the life.

Albert swigs on a frosty can of root beer. Lester toasts him between puffs of his pretzel stick cigar. Kenneth smiles.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

KENNETH
(to Ronald)
Your deal.

No response.

KENNETH
Ronald. You O.K?

RONALD
(shakes awake)
Let's do something different.

Silence. Shocked looks from the boys.

KENNETH
What do you mean?

The boys look nervous. Something new?

RONALD
We've been playing poker for two
years. Let's play another game.

The boys breath a sigh of relief. Ronald looks at the guys.

RONALD
Hearts.

23 INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The front door is opened to reveal Cindy, dressed to kill, in her mom's white jacket. A lively 'cool crowd' party is in progress. Patty and Barbara greet Cindy. The girls are infatuated with the jacket. Patty pets the suede. Cindy is nonchalant.

CINDY
It's no biggie. Bobby sent it
to me from Texas. You know they
have fine leathers there.

PATTY
Really. It's like Rome, Texas,
and Paris when it comes to quality
leathers.

24 INT. PARTY - LATER

The party cranks. Ricky makes eye contact with a cute Sophomore (a J.V. cheerleader from before). Smoke, laughter, music.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

Quint pours some cheap red wine into a goblet as he holds court with some GIRLS on the porch.

QUINT

Did I tell any of you girls about my many scholarship offers?

The Girls all nod 'yes' in unison.

25 INT. BATHROOM - LATER

25

A crowded, smoke filled bathroom. Five girls are cramped into it. Patty and Barbara check out make-up and hair. IRIS, a sexy little bombshell and two younger looking SOPHOMORE GIRLS, one of which was the Cute Sophomore Ricky was just eyeing. Iris has on an extremely revealing tank top. She looks in the mirror.

IRIS

You don't think this shows too much?

Major understatement. Her nipples stick out.

PATTY

Not if the person looking at it is blind.

BARBARA

Or brain dead.

Iris is pleased with their responses.

CUTE SOPHOMORE

(to Soph. #2)

When a guy gets off. You know, that gook, can it hurt you?

Sophomore #2 looks confused. Patty jumps in.

PATTY

Hurt you? Taste that stuff and you may go totally insane, or develop scales around your navel.

The Cute Sophomore look scared. Barbara winks at Patty.

BARBARA

Yea. The way to avoid contact is to keep your finger behind the guys ear. When you feel his gland twitch, it means he's about to flood.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

The Sophomores reach behind their ears and grimace.

SOPHOMORE #2
Behind the ear?

BARBARA
Yeah. It's the sperm gland.

The two Sophomore's understand. Iris just rolls her eyes.

CUTE SOPHOMORE
Thanks.

The Sophs exit. Patty and Barbara crack up.

26 INT. PARTY - SAME TIME

20

Quint holds court with another group of Girls on the porch. He holds out his wine goblet. Cindy talks with some Girls directly behind Quint.

QUINT
I've discovered some amusing
little red wines down at the 7
11 recently. When you become a
senior you'll understand what I'm
talking about.

Quint's girls seems impressed.

27 EXT. DRIVEWAY OF PARTY HOUSE - LATER

2

A small sports car sits in the driveway of the party house. We enter the car to see Ricky leaning back in the front seat. Ricky is squirming. He can't get comfortable. We see a hand placed behind his ear. We hear a GIRL'S voice offstage.

GIRL (O.S.)
Is this right?

RICKY
Almost there. Don't talk. Don't
breathe. Don't stop.

The Girl's hand behind his ear makes it tough to move. Ricky tries to remove her hand, but it shoots right back, like a hammer, banging his head. Ricky lets out a shriek of pain as he jolts forward. His leg jars a mini-fire extinguisher on the lower dash.

CUTE SOPHOMORE (O.S)
I don't feel the twitch.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

RICKY

What?

Ricky is squirming around as he tries to remove the Girls hand again. No luck as she puts it right back, smacking him. He hits the fire extinguisher. It goes off, spraying foam everywhere. The Girl screeches.

RICKY

Not yet. Shit...

Too late. The foam is still coming.

CUTE SOPHOMORE (O.S.)

Wow! All this and your gland didn't even twitch!

RICKY

It almost did, damn it!

Ricky pounds his dash.

28 INT. HOUSE - SAME TIME

Big John comes onto the porch and Quint high fives him. The problem is, that Quint happens to be holding a goblet of red wine in his hand. The high five causes the red wine to splatter onto Cindy's white suede jacket causing a huge stain. Silence. Cindy is mortified.

QUINT

Sorry babe. Don't worry it's only red wine. Just rub some salt on it. It'll come right out.

Cindy is speechless. She tries to remain composed as she leaves.

QUINT

I mean it's not like I ruined it.

29 INT. BATHROOM - LATER

Cindy alone in the bathroom. The jacket is ruined.

CINDY

I'm now a member of the homeless.

30 INT. HOUSE - SAME TIME

Ricky and Sophomore #2 enter the party. She has foam all over her hair. Big John sees the girl pass by. Notes the foam. Ricky rubs his ear.

JOHN

Hand-job?

(Ricky shakes his head
'no')

Blow job?

(Ricky shakes his head
'no')

RICKY

Ear-job.

Ricky keeps walking. John looks confused.

31 INT. MALL - DAY

The front of the Computers R' U window display. Ronald stares directly at the disk from the brochure. It rests below the "Back to School Once in a Lifetime Sale - \$1000!!!!" sign. Ronald pulls out a fat roll of cash.

Just as Ronald is about to enter the computer store he sees a reflection of Cindy run by. Ronald turns, not to be seen. He follows her as she enters Le Leather Boutique carrying a bag. Through the window he sees Cindy show the clerk a jacket with a weird red design on it. Cindy actions are animated. She looks upset. Ronald edges closer to hear her.

32 INT. LE LEATHER BOUTIQUE - SAME TIME

Cindy and an effeminate CLERK.

CINDY

You have to realize, I'm through, washed up at seventeen. Nuclear fallout would be less painful than letting my mother see this jacket.

CLERK

I relate to your dilemma miss, I really do, but our policy is no exchanges, (takes a whiff) especially after a garment has been marinated in Ripple.

Ronald edges closer. He's all ears.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

CINDY

O.K...alright. I have a compromise. I'll work here. You name it, I'll do it. Sweep floors, load trucks, haul pelts, slaughter baby seals. All you have to do is give me a replacement jacket as an advance.

CLERK

(exasperated)

Listen honey. I'll repeat your alternatives one last time. You can keep your jacket and dye the rest of it cranberry or purchase a new one.

The Clerk points to an identical jacket on the rack as he walks to the back of the store.

33 INT. MALL - SAME TIME

33

Ronald looks at the price, \$1000. He then looks across the mall at his disk for \$1000. Ronald looks at the desperate Cindy, then at his roll of cash.

34 INT. LE LEATHER BOUTIQUE - SAME TIME

34

Cindy has her head in her hands. She hears a knocking. She looks out the store window. From Cindy's POV we see Ronald holding a huge fan of cash. 'Risky Business' smile.

35 INT. LE LEATHER BOUTIQUE - A FEW MINUTES LATER

35

The Clerk on his ladder reaching for the jacket. We follow him to the counter. Ronald stands with Cindy at the counter.

CLERK

That'll be a thousand dollars.

RONALD

(to Cindy)

We have a deal?

CINDY

Are you high?

RONALD

No. All you have to do is pretend to go out with me for three weeks.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

CINDY

Just being with me will not make you popular.

RONNIE

I got a thousand dollars that says it will. I'm completely serious.

CINDY

Wrong, you're completely delirious.

RONALD

(nonchalant)

Alright, have it your way.

(to Clerk)

I believe we've decided against purchasing the jacket.

Ronald turns and starts to slowly exit the store. Cindy is a ball of confusion. She looks at the ruined jacket, then the new jacket.

CINDY

Donald!!

Ronald stops in his tracks. He smiles.

36 EXT. SCHOOL - MORNING

36

A quiet, secluded entrance to school. We and focus on a wristwatch. Ronald nervously looks at his watch. Cindy enters the frame, dressed to kill.

CINDY

Cool out Donald, I told you 8:05, didn't I?

We now get the full view of Ronald. He's dressed up. He looks very conservative. Oxford shirt. Khaki pants. Uncool. He takes a deep breath. He's tense.

CINDY

Relax. It's only school.

RONALD

(nervously)

This is not my average opening day. I'm about to walk the cool hallway. That's always been for the jocks and your friends. I usually go the long route around the metal shop.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

CINDY

Ease up. I'm the one that's going to have to hold a press conference when we're seen together.

Ronald nods in agreement.

CINDY

O.K. Let's get this deal straight one more time. We only pretend to hang. No holding hands, no kissing and I get lunch hour off.

RONALD

I need more return on my investment. I mowed 284 miles for this.

CINDY

Alright. One lunch.

RONALD

There are five days in a school week.

CINDY

O.K. Two lunches.

RONALD

Two lunches. And the pep rally on Friday.

CINDY

Four lunches. That's it.

RONALD

Deal. But the most important thing: This is our sworn secret for life, or longer. Promise?

CINDY

Promise. How bad could it be Donald. It's only one week.

RONALD

Three weeks.

Cindy smiles. She thought she got away with one. She sizes up Ronald's attire. She winces.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: (2)

CINDY

If I'm going to do this for even one day, you have to do something about your style. I mean like, it's nonexistent.

Cindy goes to work on Ronald. She un-tucks his shirt bottoms. Takes a solitary pen out of his shirt pocket. Cindy sizes him up. One more touch. Cindy rips the sleeves off his shirt. Cindy hands the shocked Ronald his shirt sleeves.

CINDY

Big improvement. We're ready.

RONALD

One last thing Cindy. It's Ronald...not Donald.

CINDY

(nods)

Let's do it.

37 INT. HALLWAY - MORNING

The 'cool' hallway. Stylishly dressed, attractive TEENAGERS. This is the domain of the high school Elite. We pan to the end of the hall to see Cindy and Ronald. Everything looks bigger and sounds louder to Ronald.

MUSIC UP

The 'new' couple begins to walk the hall. Heads are turning. The noise volume decreases rapidly. Shock registers on faces. John and Ricky are stunned as they whisper to each other.

JOHN

That's that wussy Miller. I don't get it.

RICKY

It must be for a charity. Like GEEK-AID.

Cindy smiles and says hello to friends who just blankly stare back at her. Ronald, unsure of himself, just nods and smiles. Patty and Barbara are disbelieving.

BARBARA

I think that's Ronald Miller.

PATTY

No way. It must be a transfer.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

BARBARA
Wrong. And I think I'm puking.

Cindy and Ronald approach the two girls.

CINDY
Hi Pats...Barb.

The two girls are speechless, mouths agape.

CINDY
You know Ronnie?

RONNIE!! Ronald smiles. He loves the cooler version of his name. Nice touch. The girls continue to stare.

RONNIE
Hi.

BARBARA
Sure. We know Ronnie.

PATTY
Yea. I think. Didn't you used to cut our lawn?

RONNIE
(perks up)
Oh yea. You have some of the nicest hedges in town. And those rhododendrons are...

Cindy's heard enough of Ronnie putting his foot in his mouth.

CINDY
(tugs Ronnie's shirt)
We've got to move on. See you guys in home ec.

Ronnie politely smiles. The girls return the gesture. The girls watch Cindy and Ronnie walk off.

PATTY
I like his shirt.

Barbara nods in agreement.

38 INT. BIOLOGY CLASS - LATER

Anatomy diagrams. Microscopes. A level one class inhabited with geeks including Albert and Lester. Kenneth sits next to Ronnie. The BIOLOGY TEACHER speaks.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

BIOLOGY TEACHER

Any interesting experiments this summer?

Lester jumps up.

LESTER

I grew spores and fungi in my parents' refrigerator.

Ronnie whispers to Kenneth.

RONNIE

Now he's homeless.

KENNETH

And I ate at his house twice.

Ronnie laughs.

KENNETH

You didn't meet me in the metal shop hall?

RONNIE

Sorry. I forgot. You know, the first day and all.

KENNETH

(gives Ronnie a long look)

You look different. Where'd you get that weird outfit?

RONNIE

Um...it's a designer's original.

Kenneth mouths "designer's original".

KENNETH

Got your hard disk interfaced yet?

RONNIE

Well. I didn't actually buy it yet. A thousand is a lot to part with.

KENNETH

What else would you possibly spend it on?

Before Ronnie can answer.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: (2)

38

BIOLOGY TEACHER

Mr. Miller. You seem talkative
this morning. Why don't you
recite the bones of the
appendicular skeleton.

(Ronnie stands)

All sixty-four.

Ronnie swallows hard.

39 INT. CLASSROOM - SAME TIME

39

A pair of huge hands trying to separate an egg white from it's
yolk. Pull back to reveal John with the egg. He is making a
cake in Home Ec. with Patty, Barbara, Cindy and Ricky. They
all perform various baking functions. John separates the egg
white and swallows the egg yolk. He lets out an audible burp.

PATTY

You pig!

Barbara looks at Patty and John, then Ricky.

BARBARA

Well. If you guys are all wimping
out. I'll get to the main issue
here.

(addresses Cindy)

What were you doing with Donald,
Ronnie... whatever his name,
Miller?

CINDY

We're friends.

JOHN

Since when? The guy is like Joe
Zero.

CINDY

If it's any of your business he's
become a new friend.

PATTY

Friends?

RICKY

The guy drives a lawnmower around
town. What do you do for fun,
spread fertilizer?

John high fives Ricky.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

CINDY

You came up with that incredible rank all by yourself? I'm impressed.

RICKY

What about Bobby?

JOHN

We're just trying to get some answers.

CINDY

Boy. Take a look at my forehead. You see a sign that says information?

Patty, Barbara and Ricky ooh! aah! John is shut down.

40 INT. CAFETERIA - LATER THAT DAY

40

Crowded, noisy. We follow a student, zig-zagging through the long line, cutting in, nudging people aside. It's Quint demonstrating his prowess as the "school bully".

We see Kenneth sitting at the geek table, craning his neck, probably looking for Ronnie. He now sees Ronnie carrying his and Cindy's trays. For the first time the general student body is seeing Cindy and Ronnie. They are attracting gawks, stares and pointed fingers. Ronnie puts the trays side-by-side on the 'cool' table.

CINDY

(embarrassed)

Having lunch was part of our deal, but I didn't think it meant we had to sit at the same table.

RONNIE

(holding her chair)

I thought it would be more believable if we sat together.

CINDY

(sits)

I guess you're right. Plus you did treat.

Quint approaches the table. Looks at Ronnie, taking a seat beside Cindy. Quint leans over. Face-to-face with Ronnie.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

QUINT

Aren't you in the wrong section?
Losers are to the left.

Ronnie's intimidated and starts to rise. Cindy looks at Quint.

CINDY

Then I guess you'll be making a
right.

Quint looks confused.

CINDY

That's the asshole section.

Quint gives her a look and storms off. Ronnie breathes a sigh
of relief.

RONNIE

Thanks.

Cindy's crowd emerges from the kitchen with their trays. They
see Ronnie at their table and stop. This causes a gridlock of
kids and lunch trays. The 'cools' don't know where to sit.

BARBARA

You need a map John? We've been
sitting at that table for three
years.

JOHN

Look. That wimpus Miller is
parked in our zone.

PATTY

Lighten up John. How bad could
he be?

RICKY

He is with Cindy.

They all nod in agreement, then head towards 'their' table.
No one sits next to Ronnie. There is some brief, uncomfortable
silence.

CINDY

You all know Ronnie?

JOHN

Sure. We were in fifth grade
together. But I haven't seen you
since.

A few laughs at this put-down of Ronnie. Some more silence.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: (2)

RONNIE

I read in the paper that you and Ricky will probably be all county, maybe even all state this season.

JOHN

You go to the games?

RONNIE

Every one.

RICKY

I've never seen you there.

PATTY

I have. You sit in the visiting section.

The kids look at Ronnie.

CINDY

He sits there to raz the other team. Psychological warfare.

RONNIE

Yea. I've, ah, almost had my butt kicked three times.

An eerie silence. They don't know what to make of Ronnie.

CINDY

Know that's school spirit. Risking your life for the team.

The kids half-heartedly agree. Ronnie gives Cindy an appreciative nod.

The nerd table. Lester spots Ronnie and points for Kenneth and Albert. Albert is amazed, Kenneth frowns.

LESTER

Ronald's in no man's land, and he's still alive. What's he doing Ken?

KENNETH

(has no clue)

He's helping them with homework.

ALBERT

The first morning of school, homework?

Good point. Kenneth looks confused and concerned.

41 INT. PIZZA PARLOR - THAT AFTERNOON 41

Ronnie sits in a booth with Cindy.

RONNIE

Thanks for bringing me here. I'm dying.

CINDY

Why didn't you eat lunch?

RONNIE

I guess I'm nervous around those guys.

Ricky, John and Quint enter the pizza parlor just as a pizza is placed on Ronnie's table. The guys barely acknowledge Ronnie and Cindy as they and sit at another booth.

CINDY

Here's your chance. Invite them to join us.

RONNIE

(to the guys)

C'mon over.

(no response)

The pizza's on me.

Ronnie smiles and prepares to make room as the three boys approach. They get to the booth, each take two pieces and go back to their booth.

Not what Ronnie expected nor meant. He looks down at the pizza dish. It's empty.

42 EXT. MILLER HOUSE - LATER THAT AFTERNOON 42

The front door opens. Out blares that sixties classic "2525" by Zager and Evans. David bops to it. Kenneth is at the door.

KENNETH

Hi Mr. Miller. Ronald home?

DAVID

Now this is a classic. He's around back Kenneth.

43 EXT. MILLER YARD - LATER 4

A hammer bangs down on a piece of wood. Ronnie is dismantling his treehouse. Ronnie throws some wood into a wheelbarrow below. He notices Kenneth watching him. Ronnie smiles.

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

KENNETH
I missed you at lunch.

RONNIE
Sorry Ken. I was helping some
people with their homework.

The B.S. registers with Kenneth. He picks up a wood scrap from
the wheelbarrow.

KENNETH
Need some help?

RONNIE
It's not safe.

KENNETH
Never was. I remember when Quint
fell out and broke his arm.

RONALD
He couldn't play little league
that year.

Ronnie drops a piece of wood. Kenneth puts it on the
wheelbarrow.

RONNIE
We took him to the hospital in
that wheelbarrow. He cried the
whole way.

KENNETH
We should've left him here.

The two friends laugh. Kenneth smiles, still assured of his
friendship.

Chuckie and his Buddies hide behind the lawnmower shed watching.
They crack-up.

44 INT. MILLER DEN - NIGHT

44

David plays the stereo. Vintage 60's Herb Alpert and the
Tijuana Brass. Chuckie enters with Judy.

CHUCKIE
I'm tellin' you ma, something is
definitely off. It's like the
dude's trying to be normal.

DAVID
Who's trying to be normal?

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

CHUCKIE
I was talkin' to ma, dad.

Ronnie walks into the room, dressed offbeat, Melrose rag.
Chuckie nudges Judy to check Ronnie out.

DAVID
Different outfit Ron.

RONNIE
Thanks dad.

JUDY
How's the new computer?

RONNIE
(hesitates)
I...uh, decided to wait for the
big Columbus Day sale.

JUDY
Columbus Day?

DAVID
Where you off to?

RONNIE
I'm going to a party at John
Richmond's house with Cindy
Mancini.

Silence. Judy looks at David. Chuckie's amazed.

CHUCKIE
Cindy Mancini? Senior, captain
of the cheerleaders? The greatest
looking girl in the history of
this county?

RONNIE
(nonchalant)
That's her. Well, I gotta bolt.
Night.

Judy and David mouth 'bolt'.

CHUCKIE
Something stinks in suburbia.

45 EXT. MANCINI HOUSE - LATER THAT NIGHT

Ronnie rings the door bell. He waits.

The door opens. It's Mrs. Mancini.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

MRS. MANCINI

Sorry Ronald. The grass doesn't need cutting.

RONNIE

Oh no ma'am. It's not about your lawn. I'm here to take out Cindy.

MRS. MANCINI

(startled)

You're here for my Cindy?

Just then Cindy pecks her mom on the cheek says good-bye and closes the door. They walk towards the driveway.

Chuckie is in a bush observing Ronnie and Cindy. He's stunned.

RONNIE

I didn't get a chance to say goodbye to...

CINDY

(uptight)

She'll get over it.

Cindy looks around.

RONNIE

Something wrong?

CINDY

I'm usually picked me up in some sort of mechanized type of transportation.

RONNIE

It's only a few blocks. It's a nice night.

Cindy is pissed as she walks to her car.

CINDY

We're not going on a nature walk. Get in.

Cindy gets in her car. Ronnie gets in his side. She blasts back in reverse. Stops.

CINDY

(angry)

I can't believe I let you negotiate a Saturday night. We had lunch all week.

(more)

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED: (2)

45

CINDY (Cont'd)

We stood near each other in the hallway. I took you for pizza. I even waved to you at the game today.

(Cindy looks away)

I can't do this for two more weeks!

RONNIE

Bobby didn't call.

CINDY

(disappointed)

I don't think that's any of your business.

RONNIE

He'll call. He's busy being a big time college football star. But, I'm sure he's thinking about you all the time.

CINDY

(looks back at Ronnie)

Sorry for jumping on your back.

RONNIE

Sorry?! I'm the one that forgot my dad's car. It's just that I haven't had many dates in the last 16 or 17 years.

CINDY

(smiling)

You're a crack-up.

Cindy laughs and speeds off.

46 EXT. STREET

41

Chuckie on his bike following the car. He pedals furiously to keep up.

47 INT. LESTER'S HOUSE - LATER THAT NIGHT

41

Albert, Lester and Kenneth playing three man Trivia.

ALBERT

What's a two word phrase for late and inconsiderate?

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

LESTER

(raising his hand)
Ooh! Ooh! I got it! Ronald
Miller.

KENNETH

Hysterical. He said he'd be here.
Give him some time.

LESTER

He's probably having a late lunch
with Cindy.

Albert and Lester crack up. Kenneth does not.

ALBERT

The least he could have done is
drop off the dip and chips. A
cold brew is just not the same.

Albert guzzles a can of root beer.

48 INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - LATER

A belch. A beer can is crumpled. Pull back to reveal John trashing the can. Iris hangs all over John. She wears a most revealing outfit. They are in the middle of a rousing victory party populated by the elite. Cindy talks with some GIRLS. Ronnie stands next to her, a little lost.

49 EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE

Chuckie clandestinely peers into the party through an open window.

50 INT. JOHN'S HOUSE

John is at the refreshment area. Ronnie approaches. Iris hangs on John.

RONNIE

Great game John.

JOHN

Thanks. You came with Cindy?

Ronnie nods 'yes'. John notices Ronnie is empty handed.

JOHN

Think you can handle a brew?

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED:

50

RONNIE
Sure. You've got A & W?

John and Iris laugh. Maybe with him.

JOHN
You're funny guy.
(John thinks)
No, we got B & C.
(hands Ronnie a 16oz.
beer can)
Bud and Coors.

Ronnie doesn't know what to do with the beer, so he sips it.
John backs away from Iris. He whispers to Ronnie.

JOHN
I gotta let a gremlin outta my
ass. And I mean baaaad...

51 EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE

51

John backs up to the window. He cuts a monstrous fart. It hits
Chuckie directly in the face. Chuckie gasps for air as he falls
backwards into the bushes.

52 INT. LESTER'S HOUSE - LATER

52

Kenneth and Lester take apart a computer on the card table.
Albert reads a porno magazine.

LESTER
How could Ronald possibly have
more fun than this?

53 INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - LATER

53

John's hand on Iris' butt. Pan to reveal Iris' hand inside the
back of John's pants. The party goes strong. Ronnie talks with
some Jocks.

Cindy approaches Ronnie. Puts her arm on his shoulder.

CINDY
People are starting to buy this.

Ronnie nods and smiles.

Patty and Barbara stand with some other CUTE GIRLS. They watch
Cindy and Ronnie.

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED:

BARBARA

Cindy sure is keeping a mystery
on her and Ronnie.

CUTE GIRL

She's playing it smart. I
wouldn't want to lose him. He's
definitely hot.

PATTY

Like he went from totally geek
to totally chic.

The girls all nod in agreement as they admire Ronnie, who now
swigs his beer with some gusto.

54 INT. BIOLOGY CLASS - MORNING

Kenneth and all the other students take notes. Ronnie is
sleeping, books unopened. Kenneth notes this. The bell rings.
Ronnie awakes.

KENNETH

Good morning. How was your
weekend?

RONALD

Great. How 'bout you?

The two walk towards the exit of the class.

KENNETH

Fine. If you don't mind getting
stood up.

RONNIE

(realizing)
I'm sorry. I completely forgot.

KENNETH

I'm sure you did.

RONNIE

I said I was sorry. Can we please
terminate this.

Kenneth is hurt. Ronnie knows it.

RONNIE

Let's do something this weekend.
Just me and you.

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED:

5

KENNETH
Friday night?

RONNIE
No can do.

KENNETH
Saturday night?

RONNIE
I was thinking more like Sunday
afternoon.

KENNETH
(disappointed)
Great.
(sarcastic)
Let's do lunch.

RONNIE
Can't wait. Gotta go.

Ronnie takes off, leaving an injured Kenneth. Kenneth's hurt is compounded when he sees Ronnie join up with Big John and Ricky down the hall.

55 EXT. CINDY'S HOUSE - LATER THAT AFTERNOON

5

Ronnie washing a car. Pull back to reveal it's Cindy's car. He's working. Cindy relaxes on the grass next to her driveway, drinking a lemonade.

CINDY
When I offered you a ride home
it wasn't to get you to wash my
car.

RONNIE
I don't mind. Actually I kind
of like it.

CINDY
You're a hard worker. You always
seem to be doing something.
Work's not really my thing.

RONNIE
Cheerleading is hard work. You
do it well.

(CONTINUED)

CINDY

I guess. But I don't really do much else, except shop and hangout.

RONNIE

Why not? You could do anything you want. Anything you put your mind or heart into.

Cindy gets up. She offers Ronnie her lemonade.

CINDY

I'll be right back.

Ronnie smiles at her gesture. He drinks as he sprays the car, then starts drying it. He's hot and sweaty. He stops to take his shirt off.

Cindy runs out the front door and approaches Ronnie with a clutter of papers. She hands the papers to Ronnie. She stands there as he thumbs through them. Ronnie stops on one page and reads.

RONNIE

You're braided into my thoughts.
You're bound within my soul. When we're apart you're still there for me to hold.

Ronnie puts the papers down on the car. He's impressed.

RONNIE

It's really nice. I didn't know you wrote poetry.

CINDY

No one knows.

RONNIE

Even Bobby.

Cindy nods 'no'.

RONNIE

Thanks for sharing these with me.

CINDY

You'll keep it between us?
Promise.

RONNIE

Promise. But you should be proud of it. You're talented.

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED: (2)

The mood is too serious. Cindy grabs the hose.

CINDY
And you're drenched.

Cindy changes the mood by hosing Ronnie. Ronnie retaliates by hitting her with a soaking sponge. They battle on, then fall to the ground wrestling, laughing.

56 INT. MALL - MORNING

Cindy and Ronnie walk. Ronnie holds a 'hip' shirt up to his body. He also carries another bag of clothing.

RONNIE
You really like it?

CINDY
It'll help, but you're still missing one essential.

They stop in front of an Eyeglass store window. Cindy points to a cool set of shades (Wayfarers, Vuarnet, etc.).

57 INT. EYEGLASS STORE

They enter the store. Cindy puts them on Ronnie.

RONNIE
They're \$79 dollars!

CINDY
Relax. It's on me.

Ronald is impressed. Cindy takes his sunglasses and grabs an identical looking pair from the bargain rack.

CINDY
\$4.95 and you can't tell the difference.

58 EXT. STREET - LATE AFTERNOON

Ronnie, wearing his new shirt, driving a very stylishly attired Cindy, in her car, thru town at night.

CINDY
I can't believe you won't tell me. Debbie's party? (no answer)
Bumper cars?

(CONTINUED)

RONNIE

Nope. Since it's our last night. I thought we could check out one of my favorite places.

CINDY

Ah...Hah! The gondola ride thru the tunnel of love. C'mon Ron, we outlawed that kind of stuff.

Ronnie smiles as he pulls alongside a huge wall. The middle of no where.

RONNIE

We're here.

CINDY

(looks outside)

Where's here?

Ronnie gets out and opens Cindy's door.

CINDY

I'm not getting out of the car til you tell me where we are.

RONNIE

Just follow me. You'll love it.

Ronnie walks to the wall. Cindy reluctantly follows. Ronnie starts to scale the wall. Cindy is shocked.

CINDY

Ronnie!

Ronnie stops at the top of the wall.

CINDY

I'm supposed to climb over this wall?

RONNIE

You can do it.

CINDY

You're nuts. I don't scale walls on dates.

RONNIE

We've gone to a lot of your places. And they were great. This is one of my favorites. It'll be fun. Trust me.

Ronnie disappears over the wall. Cindy looks around and climbs.

59 EXT. AIRPLANE GRAVEYARD - LATER

Cindy lands on her two feet. She turns. Her jaw drops in amazement. We see her POV. Carcasses of vintage airplanes and helicopters stretch for miles. It's eerie.

CINDY

Wo. I've heard about this place.
The airplane junkyard.

RONNIE

Airplane graveyard.
(they walk past planes)
I come here by myself sometimes.
I can feel the engines roaring.
Hear the guns firing...this is
history.

Cindy nods in agreement and awe as she touches a broken wing.

60 EXT. PLANE WING - DUSK

A large b-52 wing. The sun is going down. Red sky. Cindy and Ronald sit on the wing leaning against the cockpit. They are very comfortable. They look out on the mass of planes.

RONNIE

There's something real important
we need to discuss.

Cindy leans closer to Ronnie.

CINDY

I was kind of hoping you'd bring
this up.

RONNIE

I'm too new at this. We'll have
to rely on your experience.

Cindy moves closer. She's ready for love.

CINDY

Let's just do it. I mean like
naturally, no planning.

Cindy is puckered up and ready for the big kiss.

RONNIE

How should we do our official
break-up on Monday?

Cindy is caught off guard. She straightens up and becomes defensive.

(CONTINUED)

60 CONTINUED:

6

CINDY

That's exactly what I was thinking about, us ending our fake relationship. I don't know who believed it, but whoever did, is looney tunes. You and me going out.

RONNIE

Yeah. It does kinda seem unrealistic. You're the expert, how do we break up? A big fight?

CINDY

Unnecessary. A simple dignified ceremony is the best way to protect your rep.

RONNIE

Me with a reputation. Wo!

Cindy now sits upright and rigid. Ronald has no idea she was interested.

61 EXT. SCHOOL - MORNING

6

The grassy front of the school grounds. The 'cools' mill about. Cindy sits on the steps as Ronald approaches. Ronald is smiling, but Cindy is playing her role.

CINDY

We need to talk. Now.

RONNIE

Great. What's up?

Cindy stands as kids are honing in. Ronnie is still oblivious.

CINDY

I think it's time for us to call it quits.

Cindy winks at Ronnie. He now clicks in on cue, dropping his book bag for effect. Raises his voice.

RONNIE

You're callin' it quits. I'm callin' it history, as in ancient.

Cindy is surprised with Ronnie's tone. All watch. Oohs and aahs from the spectators. Ronnie is getting animated, overdoing it.

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED:

61

CINDY

(softly)

Wait a second. We have an arrangement.

RONNIE

Wrong. I'm dropping you like a bad habit. You we're the one draped all over me like a cheap suit for three weeks. So I'm dumping you, chump.

Cindy is shocked at how far this has gone.

RONNIE

Well?

(Ronnie tries to cue her)

What have you got to say?

Cindy is speechless. She shakes her head and punches Ronnie in the face. The stunned Ronnie rocks backwards. Cindy storms off. Quint approaches Ronnie and proudly pats him on the back.

QUINT

The Ron-ster! You are one bad ass dude.

Barbara and Patty.

BARBARA

Poor Cindy. It's awful the way Ronnie annihilated her.

PATTY

I don't know what she saw in him. He's such a, a... heartbreaker.

BARBARA

Yea. That's it.

Barbara and Patty look longingly at Ronnie.

62 EXT. CINDY'S DRIVEWAY - THAT AFTERNOON

Cindy pulls her car in. Ronnie is there. He has a bandage on his face. He carries his book knapsack.

RONNIE

(cheerful)

That was a great act this morning. That punch was so real.

(more)

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED:

RONNIE (Cont'd)

We're talking an Oscar nomination, for sure.

CINDY

I guess we gave 'em a good show.

RONNIE

I couldn't have done it without you. What an excellent three weeks. The parties, the games. Your friends really took to me, because of you.

CINDY

Ron, it was like a job. You bailed me and I pretended that I liked you. I was only honoring our contract.

RONNIE

Well, it worked. Popularity sure beats being treated like a social leper.

CINDY

Popularity is a job, not a privilege. It's work and worries. Work to stay in and worries not to lose it. Remember, the jacket? Me trying to impress people.

RONNIE

I thought your popularity was on automatic pilot?

CINDY

I wish.

Cindy starts for her house. Ronnie stops her. He pulls a beautiful leather bound notebook out of his knapsack and hands it to Cindy. She doesn't know what it is.

RONNIE

It's to keep your poetry in.

CINDY

(she's touched)

Thanks. Ron, whatever happens with the popularity, stay yourself. Don't change to please them.

Cindy walks off. Ronnie watches her. He yells out.

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED: (2)

62

RONNIE
Me change? Not a chance.

63 INT. HALLWAY - MORNING

63

The beginning of the bustling 'cool' hallway. Ronnie pauses to observe. He is dressed and moussed to kill. He even wears his new shades. "Mr. Ultimate Bitchin'". He begins to strut, not walk, the hall. It parts like the Red Sea for him. He's high fiving jocks, charming babes. He's obnoxious. Ronnie stops at Barbara and Patty. Tilts his shades.

RONNIE
Ladies. Lookin' fine this a.m.

BARBARA
(gushes)
Thanks Ronnie. Lookin' rather
tasty yourself.

Cindy is feet behind at her locker. She winces at Ron's wet head.

PATTY
I love your hair. It's so, so...
saturated.

RONNIE
Nothing major, just a little
mousse.

CINDY
(to herself)
Yeah. 42 gallons.

BARBARA
(to Ronnie)
You're taking me to Friendly's
Saturday night.

Patty shoots Barbara a look to kill. Cindy is about to gag. Ronnie is caught off guard.

RONNIE
Saturday, ahh...sure babe. I
believe I've got that evening
liberated.

BARBARA
Wonderful.

Ronnie smiles and struts off. Cindy turns her back as he walks past. Stay with Patty and Barbara.

(CONTINUED)

63 CONTINUED:

63

PATTY
(pissed)
I was going to ask him out.

BARBARA
Relax, it's only September.

Cindy can't believe her ears.

64 INT. CLASS - LATER

64

Biology. The class watches a Sex Ed. film. Ronnie sits behind Kenneth. He has on the sunglasses. Kenneth talks to Ronnie.

KENNETH
Thanks friend. I haven't seen
nor heard from you in three weeks.
I know you went out with Cindy.
But I shouldn't have to be
bio-degradable now that you're
Mr. Cool.

(Kenneth looks up front,
then back at Ronnie)
I'm not a mutant Ron. I realize
I may be obsolete in your new
world. But I'm not dead.

Kenneth waits for a response.

KENNETH
I'm just asking for some respect.

Kenneth lifts Ronnie's glasses. Ronnie is sound asleep.

65 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

65

Cardboard. Pull back to reveal the cardboard covering the "Tile-world" insignias on the station wagon. Ronnie is driving Barbara in his father's conservative five door car. We hear some news on the "AM only" radio, as Barbara fiddles with the radio.

BARBARA
Got any tapes?

Ronnie hands her two tapes. She puts one on. It's a weak 60's song.

BARBARA
Your dad sell aluminum siding?

(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED:

65

RONNIE

No. He's vice-president of
Tile-World. Why?

BARBARA

This car sort of reminds me of
my grandad's.

Ronnie nods. Barbara changes the tape, but gets more 60's
music.

BARBARA

When I said tapes. I was
referring to something post
paleozoic era.

RONNIE

(excited)

You studied anthropology?

Barbara shoots him a puzzled look. Ronnie shrugs. Guess not.

66 INT. VIDEO PARLOR - LATER THAT NIGHT

66

Kenneth, Albert and Lester play video games in the parlor across
the street from Friendly's. They are the only people over age
twelve in the parlor.

ALBERT

This is fun for a Saturday night.

A couple of TEN YEAR OLDS run by, bumping Lester.

67 INT. STATION WAGON

67

The back. Chuckie is wrapped in a blanket. Spying. Listening
to Ronnie and Barbara. A 60's tune on the cassette player.

RONNIE (O.S.)

Why did you ask me out?

BARBARA (O.S.)

Because you went out with Cindy.

RONNIE (O.S.)

(under his breath)

How sincere.

BARBARA (O.S.)

What?

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED:

67

RONNIE (O.S.)
I said how sensational.

BARBARA (O.S.)
For sure. I figure if Cindy would
date you, why shouldn't I?

RONNIE
(sarcastically)
Can't argue with that logic.

BARBARA
Who could?

Chuckie rolls his eyes. He submerges under the blanket.

68 EXT. FRIENDLY'S

68

It is loaded with cool cars, popular kids, blasting car stereos.
Ronnie approaches in the wagon.

69 INT. VIDEO PARLOR - LATER

69

Kenneth, Albert and Lester spot Ronnie's slow moving car from
the arcade.

ALBERT
Hey, there's Ronald in his dad's
car.

LESTER
God I love station wagons. I can
fit my whole computer into the
back of my dad's Citation.

KENNETH
You may like it, but once the
cools see that car, they'll
remember who he is. He'll stick
out like an IBM at an Apple
convention.

The nerds crack up at the computer jargon joke. Kenneth smiles.

KENNETH
Reschedule the card game boys.

70 EXT. FRIENDLY'S

Ronnie pulls into a space in the lot. His car looks out of place in the cool lot. Big John, Ricky, Patty and other COOLS approach the car as Ronnie and Barbara get out. Cindy observes from a distance. She is with a HANDSOME COLLEGE GUY.

RONNIE

Yo dudes!

Silence. The kids stare at Ronnie's car like it was from outer space. Big John touches it.

JOHN

Interesting mode of transport.
Kinda like plain wrap.

RONNIE

Well, I, ah...

RICKY

You dirty dog! Don't be shifty with the boys. This car is hectic dude. The primitive tunes put the lady in the mood and you put the two of you into this spacious boudoir, complete with plush blanket. Strategic my man, very strategic.

RONNIE

Well, I was going to get a buffed out Corvette, but I...

JOHN

But what? This is not a car. It's an unleaded love machine. Can make some sweet sweat back there, huh, Barb?

BARBARA

No complaints outta me.

Ronnie gives Barbara a look. Other jocks now admire the car. Cindy is disbelieving.

71 INT. VIDEO PARLOR

Kenneth, Albert and Lester watch Ronnie.

LESTER

Those jocks have great taste.

(CONTINUED)

71 CONTINUED:

71

KENNETH

Shut up Lester.
 (looks at Ronnie)
 I just don't get it.

ALBERT

I guess we're looking for a new
 fourth.

72 EXT. FRIENDLY'S LOT

72

Chuckie peers from under his blanket out the opened back window.
 Ronnie and Barbara walk across the lot. Patty approaches. She
 hugs and kisses Barbara.

PATTY

Hi honey.

BARBARA

Hi Pats. You two keep my place.
 I've got to hit the ladies room.

Barbara leaves, allowing Patty to corner Ronnie.

John and Ricky stand by the back of Ronnie's station wagon.

JOHN

Feels like Godzilla's trying to
 crawl outta my crevice.

Ricky and a few of the Jocks abruptly back away from John and
 the station wagon. John backs up to the opened car window.

73 INT. STATION WAGON

73

Chuckie's smile sours. His POV is John's ass. Here it comes.
 Boooooom!! Chuckie melts into the blanket.

74 EXT. FRIENDLY'S

74

Patty holds Ronnie's arm in the parking lot.

PATTY

You're taking me to the Fall
 Fallout dance in two weeks.

RONNIE

I am?

(CONTINUED)

74 CONTINUED:

PATTY

Yep.

RONNIE

But what about Barbara, I thought she was your best friend.

PATTY

She is.

RONNIE

(unsure)

Ahh...sure babe, no problem.

Patty kisses his cheek and whispers in his ear.

PATTY

I bet your the sexiest dancer in school.

RONNIE

You won that wager. I got moves that defy the laws of gravity.

Patty grabs his butt as she walks away smiling. Ronnie talks to himself.

RONNIE

Dancing? Moves? I gotta big mouth. Shit...

75 INT. BOY'S LOCKER ROOM - AFTERNOON

FOOTBALL PLAYERS mill about in various stages of uniform undress. Ricky and John have their shirts and pads off. Mucho sweat. Ronnie is wrapped in a towel, with swimming goggles on his forehead. He's wet.

RICKY

You're on a roll big guy. First Cindy, now Barbara. She choke your chicken?

RONNIE

No. We went for fish.

JOHN

C'mon Ronster. Cut the comedy. Did she grease your rod?

RONNIE

I don't think Barb takes auto shop.

(CONTINUED)

75 CONTINUED:

75

RICKY

Let's get factual dude. Did you get laid, down, over, fucked?

RONNIE

No. We didn't go the distance. All she wanted to do was kiss.

JOHN

Sure. And we're supposed to purchase that.

76 INT. GIRLS LOCKER ROOM

76

Patty and Barbara with some other Cheerleaders. They are in various stages and styles of underwear.

PATTY

(to Barbara)

How was he?

BARBARA

Wouldn't you like to know.

PATTY

I will.

The girls all ooh! and aah!

Cindy, on the other side of the lockers, can't believe her ears.

77 INT. BOYS LOCKER ROOM - LATER

7

Ricky and John wrapped in towels. Ronnie dries off.

JOHN

You're telling us you and Barbara only swapped spit.

RONNIE

Hey, it was an off night for me. How about you guys?

JOHN

Me? I was gettin' over like a hurdler. But old Ricky's been dating his left hand this semester.

RICKY

And Iris counts?

(CONTINUED)

77 CONTINUED:

77

JOHN

She counted to twice last night.

RICKY

At least the Ron-ster gets it from girls that we can't get it from.

Ronnie raises his head proudly.

RONNIE

Well, we had our fun.

Ricky and John pat Ronnie on the back as they head for the showers.

RICKY

You devil.

The boys walk off. Ronnie talks to himself.

RONNIE

Devil? I haven't even experienced breasts yet.

78 INT. MILLER DEN - NIGHT

78

The 60's classic "INCENSE AND PEPPERMINTS" wails as David tries to fix the TV set. No luck. He turns the volume down as Chuckie and Judy enter.

CHUCKIE

I'm talkin' football players, cheerleaders, local socialites. He doesn't even associate with the geeks anymore.

DAVID

I see nothing wrong with your brother making new friends. He's allowed to have fun.

CHUCKIE

He is? Anyway I was talkin' to ma, dad. The dude is bordering on weirdness.

JUDY

Chuckie has a point honey. I haven't seen a book since school opened.

DAVID

I remember my senior year. And I guarantee, as we speak, my son is doing something worthwhile.

79 INT. JOHN'S HOUSE

A beer can pops open. Pull back to reveal Ronnie, who has two tall boys. Ronnie is tipsy. He offers a can to John.

JOHN

No way. Gotta a football game tomorrow.

Ronnie drinks and offers the other can to Ricky.

JOHN

Not cool Ron. To much drinkin' isn't happening.

Ronnie looks surprised as he chugs. He's wobbly, about to loose it. Ronnie sits. John hands Ronnie a Hefty bag.

JOHN

If you're going to toss, put your head in the bag.

Ronnie proceeds to drunkenly crawl into the bag. It covers practically his whole body, from the head down.

RICKY

Hey bag man, you are going out with us the night before Halloween? A little harmless fun. Egg a couple of houses.

The bag moves.

RONNIE

(within the bag)

Let's throw omelettes.

The bag rolls over and plops onto the floor.

80 INT. RONNIE'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Ronnie groggily turns in bed as the light shines in his window. He still has on the clothes from the night before. His head is pounding. He faces his clock. 12:22. Oh shit! He races out of his room to the den. The TV is busted. He looks at the clock. 12:23. A panicked Ronnie dashes into the kitchen to find Chuckie watching wrestling on a 13" color portable.

RONNIE

(out of breath)

Hey Chuck, how 'bout letting me watch your box for a few minutes. The big one is nuked.

CHUCKIE

No way, brewsky breath.

(CONTINUED)

80 CONTINUED:

RONNIE

I just need to see the end of
American Bandstand.

CHUCKIE

(mocking laugh)

I'm not giving up Bhudda Berkowitz
and the Human Waste versus the
Slime Twins so you can watch a
bunch of California burnouts.

RONNIE

I'm begging Chuck.

CHUCKIE

O.K. What we have here is
something I learned in school.
The law of supply and demand.
I'll supply you the TV, and I
demand 2 bucks.

RONNIE

Wrong. That's not how that
economic theory works.

CHUCKIE

Give me a break. I learned it
in junior high, not Harvard.

Ronnie looks at the clock. 12:26!!! Ronnie's pissed.

RONNIE

(moving towards Chuck)

Let me give you the theory of
relativity dwarf. If you don't
put on Bandstand now, I'll have
one less relative.

Chuckie get's the hint, quickly moves around the channels until
he's finds some dancing. Must be Bandstand. Chuckie leaves.

Ronnie watches two contemporarily dressed black youths do a
weird, herky-jerky, spastic dance to some strange music. Ronnie
is confused. He talks to himself.

RONNIE

Must be a spotlight dance... some
ultra-new wave music.

Ronnie proceeds to slowly imitate the dancers. He looks strange
doing these spastic moves around the kitchen.

Chuckie watches through a crack in the door. Mesmerized.

(CONTINUED)

80 CONTINUED: (2)

8

Ronnie's spastically bouncing around. We hear a noise O.S. The garage door. Parents home. Ronnie hears this, does one last move and runs out of the kitchen.

Chuckie re-enters, still shaking his head. He is about to change the channel when the dance ends and a black man dressed in native African garb comes on screen.

CHUCKIE

That ain't Dick Clark!

AFRICAN HOST

(on TV screen)

I would like to thank our two exchange students from Lower Swahili, Charles Kebanga and Sunday Ubuke for performing today's cultural segment. The African Anteatr Ritual.

Credits roll. "PBS African Cultural Hour". Chuckie cracks up.

81 INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYM - LATER THAT NIGHT

A typical high school dance. A LIVE BAND. Kids basically doing the same arm swaying type dancing. TEACHERS chaperon the activity. Ronnie struts in with Patty hanging all over him. He has on his sunglasses in the dark room. Ronnie studies the dancing. Ronnie high fives Ricky, who is now with the tight little bombshell, Iris. John is with Barbara.

Cindy is with another handsome COLLEGE GUY. The College Guy puts arm around Cindy, she removes it.

The Band cranks. Loud music. Partying.

82 INT. LESTER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Quiet. Dull. Kenneth introduces Ronnie's replacement.

KENNETH

This is Donald.

We now see DONALD. He's a seventeen year old ultra-nerd.

Albert and Lester stare.

LESTER

You play poker?

DONALD

What?

83 INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYM - LATER

83

A frustrated Patty tries to grab Ronnie. He backs off.

PATTY
C'mon Ronnie, let's get out there.

RONNIE
(nervous)
One minute babe, I don't quite
affiliate with this tune.

Ronnie subtlety tries to rehearse his moves. He's unsure.

Two teacher chaperones observe the action. The matronly MRS.
HAGMER and the weasly MR. WEBBLY.

MRS. HAGMER
What a wonderful group of young
adults we have this year.

Mr. Webbly nods his approval.

84 EXT. DANCE - LATER

84

Kenneth tries to get the reluctant Albert, Lester and Donald
to enter the dance.

ALBERT
(to Kenneth)
It was your idea, you treat.

The geeks peer into the dance. From their POV they see the sexy
Iris walk by. Albert and Lester rush for their wallets.

85 INT. BOY'S BATHROOM - LATER

85

Ronnie practicing his moves alone in the bathroom. He stops
as Mr. Webbly enters.

MR. WEBBLY
Hello Ronald, just checking the
bathrooms.

RONNIE
Good, cause I heard one of them
ran away last week.

Mr. Webbly does not find Ronnie's tone amusing.

MR. WEBBLY
Haven't seen you at any computer
or debating club meetings.

(CONTINUED)

85 CONTINUED:

RONNIE

That makes sense. I didn't join them this term.

MR. WEBBLY

We have a new disk system. I'm sure you'd find it interesting.

Ronnie is uncomfortable with Webbly. He's starts to leave.

RONNIE

Sounds thrilling. I gotta get back to my girl.

Ronnie leaves. The Mr. Webbly shakes his head.

86 INT. DANCE - LATER

Kenneth, Albert, Lester and Donald stand in an obscure corner of the dance. They are barely visible, camouflaged behind hanging streamers and party decorations. They all wear Ronald Miller trademark sunglasses in the flip-down attachment version.

ALBERT

We passed up cards for this?

LESTER

We're ruining our eyesight.

KENNETH

I think the glasses are neat.

LESTER

If you're in the Secret Service.

KENNETH

Stop complaining. It's time we got out and socialized.

ALBERT

No one knows we're here.

Lester brushes aside some streamers affording a view of the funloving, partying students.

LESTER

(disappointed)

Almost no one. Da da dum-dum.

Quint and another huge GENERIC JOCK have seen the four geeks and approach.

(CONTINUED)

86 CONTINUED:

QUINT
It's a nerd herd!

The four nerds politely smile, hoping the Jocks will leave them.

QUINT
You wusses are going to give nerds
a bad name wearing these.

The two Jocks relieve the boys of their sunglass attachments. The Jocks leave laughing, throwing the glasses in the trash. The nerds make sure the Jocks aren't coming back.

ALBERT
(takes a deep breath)
Now that the humiliation is out
of the way, let's mingle.

Kenneth nods and the nerds exit the cloud of decorations. Another JOCK walks by and the nerds back-up into hiding again.

87 INT. DANCE - LATER

Ronnie delivers Patty a cup of punch. She's frustrated.

PATTY
I'm becoming a punchaholic. This
is a dance Ronnie.

RONNIE
Then let's dance!

Ronnie swallows hard, grabs Patty by the hand and storms onto the dance floor during a lull in the music. Ronnie is determined. A powerful rocker cranks up. Ronnie closes his eyes and fully goes for it. He does the AFRICAN ANTEATER RITUAL!

QUICK REACTIONS TO RONNIE'S DANCING:

- 1) Patty stops dancing and looks at Ronnie. She's shocked
- 2) Two FRESHMEN GIRLS dancing, stop and gawk at Ronnie.

FRESHMAN #1
What a spazowski!

FRESHMAN #2
He must be in special ed.

- 3) Cindy can't believe her eyes. She stops dancing.

(CONTINUED)

87 CONTINUED:

87

4) Mrs. Hagmer is shocked.

MRS. HAGMER
Shouldn't we do something?

Mr. Webbly just smiles. He knows better.

The Band is shocked.

5) Kenneth, Albert, Lester and Donald perplexed. In unison.

KEN/LES/AL/DON
The African Anteater Ritual?

6) John and Barbara have stopped dancing as has Ricky and Iris. The whole place watches Ronnie, who dances away, eyes closed, oblivious to the scene he's caused.

JOHN
Shit Ricky, if Ronnie's doing it.
It must be a new dance.

RICKY
It's weird, but he's cool.

IRIS
He sure is. Let's go for it.

John, Barbara, Ricky and Iris start doing the spastic dance.

CUT BACKS:

1) The Freshmen girls decide to do it.

FRESHMAN #2
I thought it was a spaz dance?

FRESHMAN #1
(yells over noise)
I said jazz dance.

The Freshmen really go for it. All the kids now do it.

2) Mrs. Hagmer has to be restrained by Mr. Webbly.

MRS. HAGMER
What an immoral group of young
rowdies we have this year.

3) Cindy exits the dance floor. Her College Guy date follows. They are the only two to leave the dance floor.

4) A stunned Kenneth, Albert, Lester and Donald.

(CONTINUED)

87 CONTINUED: (2)

ALBERT
I don't comprehend it.

LESTER
I don't believe it.

KENNETH
He can't do anything wrong.

The four nerds head for the exit. Their spirits are down.

DONALD
(upbeat)
Thanks guys. This was a lot of
fun.

Ronnie opens his eyes. He sees everyone doing his dance. He smiles and starts dancing again, with even more gusto.

88 EXT. FRIENDLY'S PARKING LOT - LATER THAT NIGHT

The lot is filled with the high school elite. The vast majority of cars are conservative family four door types. In place of blaring music are a bunch of 60's tunes. The bad ones. Several COOLS hover around Ronnie and Patty, who lean on Ronnie's car.

RICKY
That dance was intense.

JOHN
I almost sprained an ankle.

IRIS
Where did you get those hot moves
from?

RONNIE
I got some friends in exotic
places.

PATTY
Rio?

IRIS
Paris?

RONNIE
No. Really exotic...Hollywood.

(CONTINUED)

88 CONTINUED:

The crowd of listeners is very impressed. A few oohs and aahs. Iris is giving Ronnie some sensual looks, even as she has her arm around Ricky, and Patty has her arms around Ronnie.

BARBARA
What's it called?

RONNIE
(bumbling)
Ummm...it's called faking.

RICKY
It musta replaced breaking.

All the kids nod in agreement. Ronnie disengages himself from Patty, does a quick African move and heads across the lot to Friendly's. Cindy exits with one ice cream cone.

RONNIE
Yo! Cind babe.

CINDY
(irritated)
The name is Cindy. Don't ever call me babe.

RONNIE
I just wanted to say hello.

CINDY
Then just say it.

RONNIE
Hey, get tranquil. I'm only trying to be friendly.

CINDY
Be friendly with your flock.

RONNIE
I owe all my friends to you.

CINDY
I don't want credit for this. They're are making fools of themselves. I've seen zombies with more individuality.

Cindy turns and begins to walk away.

RONNIE
Where you going?

(CONTINUED)

88 CONTINUED: (2)

88

CINDY
 (stops)
 It's dripping, Donald.

Ronnie just shrugs. Cindy walks away. Ronnie watches her offer the cone to the College Guy, who hands it back with a glare. She licks off the drips. Now he takes it from her.

89 INT. RONNIE'S CAR - LATER THAT NIGHT

89

Ronnie and Patty sit in the big front seat of his family wagon. Far apart. They are parked. A slow 60's tune moods it up.

PATTY
 You're awful far away.

RONNIE
 Sorry.

Ronnie moves an inch closer. Still far apart. Patty unbuttons her top button.

PATTY
 You into long distance relationships?

RONNIE
 No.

Patty starts to unbutton her shirt. Ronnie utters some nervous sounds as he moves another inch closer.

PATTY
 Then why don't you reach out and touch someone.

Patty snaps her bra open. Two, count 'em, two large breasts pop out. Ronnie squirms away from Patty. He leans against the far window.

PATTY
 Have you ever seen two like these?

RONNIE
 (stuttering)
 Well. My parents do have cable.

Patty laughs and moves closer to Ronnie. He's new to this stuff.

PATTY
 Aren't you going to caress me?

(CONTINUED)

89 CONTINUED:

89

Ronnie is frozen. Patty puts on the sensual tones. Leans.

PATTY

I want you to feel me. Explore me...

Patty grabs Ronnie's hand and places it on her breast. He finds courage.

RONNIE

Well, it is Columbus day.

Patty puzrs a giggle. Ronnie's body follows his hand. They kiss as he continues to fondle her breasts with one hand. His other hand goes down to her belt buckle. She grabs the wandering hand and places it on her other breast. Ronnie shrugs, then grins, as he goes back to kissing. They disappear from view.

90 EXT. STATION WAGON - SAME TIME

9

Outside, looking in. We can barely see them entangled.

RONNIE (O.S.)

Thank you Lee Iacocca...

91 INT. RONNIE'S ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

9

A light under the covers in the pitch black room. We go under the covers to reveal a flashlight on a calendar.

RONNIE (O.S.)

Seventeen years, three months and five days. That's a long time to wait for some tit.

Blackout...

92 EXT. MILLER HOUSE - DUSK

9

Ronnie exits his front door where Chuckie and David are hooking up a hose by the porch. Ronnie has on dark clothes.

DAVID

No mischief. You hear. That includes eggs, tomatoes, toilet rolls, ringing doorbells...

RONNIE

Have a little faith dad.

We hear a horn honking O.S. Ronnie waves goodbye.

93 EXT. CINDY'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

91

Cindy, Patty and Barbara exit, passing ROCK, a 45 year-old "lounge-lizard", complete with white suit and enough jewelry to choke Mr. T.

PATTY
Funny costume!

CINDY
What costume? That's his wardrobe.

They walk to Cindy's car. They stop. The car windows have been soaped!

PATTY
They still do Mischief Night.
Real mature.

CINDY
I wonder if all the guys are being jerks tonight.

94 INT. VAN - LATER

9

John drives. Ricky and John are dressed in black, with black faces. Ricky shows Ronnie an assortment of projectiles.

RICKY
We got ripe red, plump tomatoes,
farm fresh eggs...

RONNIE
Any hash browns?

RICKY
And the piece' de resistance.
(Ricky pulls out a foul
smelling and looking
plastic bag)
The shit bomb!

RONNIE
(holds nose)
Humanoid feces?

RICKY
No. Doggy doo. But it's just
as efficient.

Ricky hands Ronnie shoe polish.

(CONTINUED)

94 CONTINUED:

94

RONNIE
 (puts on black face)
 Whose house we doin'?

JOHN
 A classic. It's a tradition.
 We've nailed the same house four
 straight years. They're total
 geeks. We out strategize 'em
 every time. It's fun.

Ricky examines Ronnie's make-up.

95 EXT. HOUSE - SAME TIME

94

A NERDY MAN addresses two boys. We only see the two boys from
 the back. The SMALLER BOY wears an army uniform and helmet.
 He's into it.

NERDY MAN
 (to Smaller Boy)
 This year we get those vandals.
 I'll patrol the back. Junior,
 in the bushes with the hose.

SMALLER BOY
 (salutes)
 Water cannon sir.

NERDY MAN
 (to Bigger Boy)
 And most important son is your
 mission. Drop that net on any
 punk that goes near our front
 door. I'm going to personally
 deliver one of these vandals to
 the police.

The camera now reveals the bigger boy. Kenneth!

96 EXT. STREET - LATER

94

The van is slowing. The lights are turned off as it moves.
 The van stops.

97 INT. VAN - SAME TIME

John points.

JOHN
 There's the target.

(CONTINUED)

97 CONTINUED:

97

Ronnie looks. He recognizes it. Kenneth's house. He's stuck now.

RONNIE
 (to himself)
 Oh shit...
 (to Ricky and John)
 I know a better house.

JOHN
 This is our senior year. Our last mission.

RICKY
 Tradition. Let's go.

Ricky opens the van door and pulls Ronnie out with him. John exits the front.

98 EXT. STREET - SAME TIME

98

Cindy, Patty and Barbara in Cindy's car.

BARBARA
 (to Patty)
 Pretty greedy not sharing Ronnie.
 You've had him two weeks.

CINDY
 You mean she attacked him for two weeks.

PATTY
 Wo. First of all you still have Bobby. Secondly, if I recall, you dumped Ronnie. That made him public property.

CINDY
 Real romantic. He sounds like a restroom. I just didn't think my best friends would be scraping and clawing to go out with him.

BARBARA
 Why not? He's cute, sweet...

PATTY
 Good...

They both shoot Patty a look.

(CONTINUED)

98 CONTINUED:

PATTY
(cooly)
A lady never talks.

CINDY
Next time I see one I'll remember
that.

99 EXT. HOUSE - LATER.

Ricky, John and Ronnie huddle in the neighbor's bushes dividing up the bombs.

RICKY
Piece of cake. We divert 'em on
each flank and you shit bomb the
front door. Simple.

Before Ronnie can protest, they're off into the darkness.
Leaving him the shit bomb.

100 EXT. WURMAN HOUSE - SAME TIME

MR. WURMAN walks the back porch with flashlight. LITTLE WURMAN is in the bushes with a hose and Kenneth holds a rope, hidden behind a big vase on the front porch.

Ricky is poised behind a tree with tomatoes. John is at the other side of the house with eggs ready.

Ricky throws a tomato. It knocks the flashlight out of Mr. Wurman's hand. Mr. Wurman falls. Little Wurman hears this, drops the hose and heads towards the back porch. John showers him with eggs. All hell has broken loose. Ricky yells to Ronnie.

RICKY
Do it. Now!!!

Ronnie hesitates. Ricky yells again. We hear John yell. Ronnie takes a deep breath and runs to the front door and throws the shit bomb. Direct hit. As he turns to escape a net falls over his head. He's trapped and struggling. Kenneth flips on the flood lights. Ricky and John take off for safety.

KENNETH
(yelling)
I got one of them!

Mr. Wurman and Little Wurman are tangled in the hose.

(CONTINUED)

100 CONTINUED:

10

MR. WURMAN
Hold the little bastard!!

Kenneth approaches the struggling prisoner. He now recognizes Ronnie. Kenneth is shocked. Ronnie's trembling.

MR. WURMAN
(off stage)
I'm coming!!

The two former best friends stare at each other. BEAT...BEAT... Kenneth lifts the net allowing Ronnie to escape into the darkness just as his Father and Brother arrive, late.

KENNETH
There must of been a hole in the net.

MR. WURMAN
(frustrated)
We'll get them next year.

KENNETH
I don't think so.

101 INT. CINDY'S CAR - SAME TIME

10

The girls drive by a running Ricky and John. Ronnie brings up the rear.

102 EXT. WURMAN HOUSE - MORNING

10

Ronnie knocks on the window adjacent to the front door. Waits. No answer. He leaves. We now see the door. It has a "WET PAINT" sign on it.

We see a curtain move in Kenneth's house. Kenneth looks out at Ronnie walking away.

103 INT. MANCINI HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

10

Cindy and Mrs. Mancini begin to clear the the dining room table of their sparse 'Thanksgiving' supper.

MRS. MANCINI
Seeing Brent tonight?

(CONTINUED)

103 CONTINUED:

101

CINDY
 (not too thrilled)
 Yea. A movie.
 (Cindy picks up the
 turkey)
 How about you?

MRS. MANCINI
 I'm going out with Rock.

CINDY
 Again? Don't you deserve better
 mom?

Mrs. Mancini half nods in agreement as Cindy exits with the turkey.

104 INT. MILLER HOUSE - NIGHT

10

'Thanksgiving' supper in the Miller dining room. David finishes slicing some turkey. Chuckie is demonstrating a mini-guillotine chopping off the head off a doll dressed as a 18th Century French nobleman. No one, especially Ronnie, can eat while this demonstration is occurring. It's gross.

CHUCKIE
 This is going to lock me an A in
 French class. Down comes dad's
 schick blade and off with this
 booger's head.

Chuckie demonstrates. The doll's head rolls onto the table.

DAVID
 Interesting work Chuck.

CHUCKIE
 I love show n' tell.

RONNIE
 Looks more like show n' smell to
 me.

Chuckie glares at Ronnie, then evilly smiles as he pulls an envelope from beneath the table.

CHUCKIE
 Smell this sibling.

DAVID
 Do I detect a report card?

Chuckie proudly hands David his card, then eyes Ronnie.

(CONTINUED)

104 CONTINUED:

104

CHUCKIE
Let's see yours Ron.

Chuckie releases the guillotine again. The heads rolls to Ronnie's plate.

RONNIE
I didn't get mine yet.

CHUCKIE
You're the only one from kindergarten to college who didn't.

DAVID
You didn't get yours?

RONNIE
(pissed)
Let me repeat. I did not get my report card!

DAVID
Relax. There's no need to raise your voice.

Ronnie lowers his head and eats his turkey.

105 EXT. MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT

105

Cindy approaches a movie theater with the another handsome college guy, BRENT. Brent doesn't even hold the door open for her and it almost hits Cindy in the face.

106 INT. MOVIE THEATER

106

They stop in the lobby at the refreshment area. Brent throws some loose bills to Cindy. A few fall to the floor.

BRENT
Chili dog, some nachos, extra peppers, medium popcorn and a large orange. Very little ice.

Brent walks to the Men's Room entrance. Cindy picks the dollar bills off the floor. She's pissed.

107 INT. MILLER HOUSE - LATER

107

David reads Chuckie's grades.

(CONTINUED)

107 CONTINUED:

107

DAVID
1A, 3B's, 2C's. Bravo!

JUDY
(proudly)
Big improvement Chuckie.

RONNIE
Big deal. 3B's, 2C's? I've been
getting straight A's since birth.

CHUCKIE
So.

RONNIE
(pissed)
So? So you're all questioning
the whereabouts of my report card.
Real fair.

JUDY
Aren't you overreacting?

CHUCKIE
Yea. It's only parental concern
bro.

RONNIE
(points at Chuckie)
Here's the primate example.
You're raising a doll chopping
homicidal maniac. And what do
you do every time you see him?
You give him money. Great!

DAVID
I think we've heard enough! Now
you can apologize to your mother
and brother.

Ronnie gets up and leaves. David is about to follow until Judy
waves him down.

CHUCKIE
Chilling!

DAVID
Shut up!

CHUCKIE
I was talkin' to ma, dad.

JUDY
Shut up Chuck!

108 INT. THEATER LOBBY - LATER

108

Brent exits the bathroom. Cindy stands there loaded down with two trays. He offers no assistance.

BRENT
I thought I said extra peppers.

CINDY
(too herself)
How thoughtless of me.

BRENT
I don't want to miss the beginning.

Brent enters the theater, leaving the loaded down Cindy to fend for herself. She stands there. Brent comes back out.

BRENT
You coming or not?

CINDY
Not!

Cindy dumps the entire tray on Brent and storms out of the lobby.

109 INT. RONNIE'S ROOM

10

We see a report card. 1C, 3D's, 1F, 1 Incomplete. Pull back to reveal Ronnie looking at his report card. He shakes his head in disgust and falls onto his bed. A knock on the door. Ronnie quickly rolls over onto his report card. David enters. He sees Ronnie squirming on his stomach. The report card itches.

RONNIE
Just have an itch on my stomach.

DAVID
Scratching might help.

Ronnie stops squirming.

RONNIE
I know why you're here. And I'll apologize to mom and Chuck. Sorry I got so hyper.

DAVID
(disappointed)
There goes that speech.

(CONTINUED)

109 CONTINUED:

10

RONNIE

Sorry dad. Go ahead and make the speech.

DAVID

Lighten up on Chuck. Remember, this is a family. We stick with each other. What's ours is yours. O.K?

They smile at each other as David turns to leave.

RONNIE

O.K. ... Dad?

David stops. Looks back.

RONNIE

Can you spot me a twenty?

David drops a twenty on Ronnie's desk as he exits. Ronnie smiles and talks to himself.

RONNIE

Sure beats mowin' lawns.

110 INT. MANCINI HOUSE - NIGHT

11

Cindy enters. Stops as she sees her mom.

CINDY

What are you doing home?

MRS. MANCINI

You were right. I do deserve better.

Cindy smiles. Hugs her mom.

CINDY

That makes two of us.

They separate. Mrs. Mancini holds Cindy's shoulders.

MRS. MANCINI

How about a late movie?

CINDY

It's a date.

They laugh. Arm and arm they exit.

111 INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

111

Kenneth exits class with Ronnie in hot pursuit.

RONNIE

C'mon Ken. It's been long enough.
Let me explain. Talk to me.

Kenneth won't even look at Ronnie. Ronnie follows him until he sees John and Ricky come around the corner. Ronnie now pretends he is yelling at someone.

RONNIE

Have it your way psycho, but you ain't invited.

RICKY

Invited to what, where and when?

RONNIE

All you dudes are invited to my house New Year's day to scope the bowl games. My mom's investing in two six foot subs and she makes the best homemade chocolate cake this side of Ms. Sara Lee.

JOHN

Book us a couch.

They high five as they walk down the hallway. They stop.

RICKY

Somebody wants your ass.

Ricky and John oooh and aaaah.

RONNIE

Who?

Ronnie looks confused.

RICKY

A damsel in distress. A wench in waiting.

JOHN

A nymph in need.

Ricky and John rush off. Ronnie's still confused.

RONNIE

What?

(CONTINUED)

111 CONTINUED:

11

Ronnie turns. Iris leans on her locker staring seductively at him. [NOTE: The lockers are decorated in the Christmas spirit]. Iris has him in her sights. Ronnie stares at Iris. A tap on his shoulder startles Ronnie. He turns to see a smiling Cindy.

CINDY

(upbeat)

Hi. Long time no talk.

RONNIE

Yeah. I've been kinda of busy.

CINDY

I thought you and I could check out the graveyard library again.

Cindy is only kidding, being nice. Ronnie doesn't appreciate the humor.

RONNIE

You're not under contractual obligation to me anymore. Remember.

CINDY

I know. I just thought that maybe we could spend some time together.

RONNIE

Why?

Quint approaches his locker. Ronnie sees him, Cindy doesn't. He's within hearing range.

CINDY

Because I like being with you.

RONNIE

What? You ignored the Donald Miller dork for 17 years.

(looks at Quint, raises his voice)

Now that I'm the Ron-ster you suddenly want to be with me again.

CINDY

I don't understand.

RONNIE

I do. You want to ride the Ronnie Miller express.

(CONTINUED)

111 CONTINUED: (2)

11.

CINDY

(hurt)

I don't want to ride the Ronnie Miller anything.

Quint gives Ronnie a 'raised' fist of approval as he leaves. Ronnie then looks at Iris, who is smiling at him.

RONNIE

Looks like you're the only one.

Cindy looks at Iris sensually pouting towards Ronnie.

CINDY

Big challenge. She's given more rides than Greyhound.

RONNIE

At least her ticket won't cost me a thousand bucks.

Cindy is hurt beyond repair. She looks at Ronnie, shakes her head and storms off. Ronnie feels some instant remorse. Takes a few steps towards the fleeing Cindy, but is blocked by Iris. Ronnie manages a smile for the sex kitten.

112 EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

11

Cars jammed in the driveway, on the street. Quint pulls up on a motorcycle. He rides his bike up the sidewalk and onto the porch. Parks. Pulls a bottle of wine from his bike pouch and opens the door. Quint pounds his fists as he snaps his fingers.

QUINT

Quin-ton is in. Let the fun begin.

Quint is totally ignored by the reveling party goers.

113 INT. HOUSE

11

The big New Year's Eve party is on full blast. All the 'cools' are here. Strictly A list. Drinking, mingling, hats, noisemakers. John and Ricky bump into each other. John's date is the Cute Sophomore who learned where the sperm gland is. John's date is out of earshot.

JOHN

She's pretty hot.

RICKY

If you're into Q-tips.

(CONTINUED)

113 CONTINUED:

113

JOHN

What?

RICKY

Be careful. This one's heavily
into ears.

John looks confused as he grabs the Sophomore Girl and walks
away.

The punch bowl. Cindy's soaking it up. She's tipsy. Barbara
enters with a jug of pink punch. Cindy has on the infamous
white jacket.

CINDY

Powerful punch Barb.

BARBARA

I didn't pour the punch in yet.
That's straight 112 proof.

Doesn't faze Cindy. She drinks more. Barbara pets the jacket.

BARBARA

The ultra-intense jacket.

CINDY

Yea. My mom said I could wear
it.

BARBARA

No way.

CINDY

I just asked and she said yes.

BARBARA

(amazed)

Progressive concept.

Quint has the attention of a very ATTRACTIVE GIRL.

QUINT

Being a senior adds sophistication
to your character. I've learned
to appreciate the finer things
in life.

The Attractive Girl appears impressed.

(CONTINUED)

113 CONTINUED: (2)

QUINT

I even travel with my own wine.
You never know the quality you
may encounter at a social
function.

Quint twists the top off cheap bottle of wine.

ATTRACTIVE GIRL

Very classy.

QUINT

Yea. I'm into class. It's my new
thing.

Quint chugs the wine. The girls rolls her eyes. She knows
better.

ATTRACTIVE GIRL

How impressive. Must be an
import.

QUINT

Of course. New York State.
Plattsburgh, I believe.

ATTRACTIVE GIRL

Excuse me Mr. Quintessential, but
I have to blow dry my face.

An insulted Quint turns to chase the departing girl and grabs
some nearby JOCK.

QUINT

Who was that uppity babe?

JOCK

A brand new transfer from Chicago.

QUINT

(happy again)

Makes sense. I haven't lost it!
I need a local. Yo babe...

A CUTE GIRL approaches Quint. She's excited, but not bright.

CUTE GIRL

Ricky and John told me you're a
gourmet.

QUINT

No shit? How about some of my
personal stock? Rare vintage.

The Cute Girl chugs the wine. Quint is smiling again. He's
in!

114 INT. HOUSE - LATER

114

Hear the party noise O.S. Cindy wobbles down a dim, empty hallway, drink in hand. The girl is wasted. She opens a door. A sneaker flies past her head. She closes the door. Cindy tries another door. It's locked. Cindy opens a third door and enters a dimly lit room. She hears voices and approaches another door, cracked opened. She stops a few feet from the slightly opened door.

115 INT. BATHROOM

115

The dim beam of light entering the bathroom reveals Ronnie and Iris. Ronnie sits on the closed toilet. Iris leans against the shower door. They are clothed.

IRIS

I like being near you. The hottest guy in school.

RONNIE

You're with me because I'm a bigshot. The way the football players are during the season.

IRIS

I only go out with dignitaries and high school heads of state.

Ronnie grins as he leans towards Iris. He puts his hand on her leg.

Cindy watches.

IRIS

You mean a lot to me. I want to know that you'll respect me in the morning.

RONNIE

(sensually)

Babe...you're braided into my thoughts. You're bound within my soul.

Ronnie pulls her panties down from under her skirt as she undoes his shirt.

Cindy's face is contorted with hurt and anger. She can't stop watching.

Ronnie goes for the close.

(CONTINUED)

115 CONTINUED:

11'

RONNIE

When we're apart, you're still
there for me to hold.

Iris swoons. She takes off her shirt. Leans Ronnie back and she wraps herself around him.

Cindy freaks, silently. She leaves. Stumbling out of the room.

116 INT. HOUSE - LATER

11

The living room is alive with activity. Jocks play 'Bobbing for Beer' (dunking your head in a tub of water to lift a beer, by the plastic six-pack wrapper, with your teeth) with John, his Sophomore date, the Generic Jock and Quint. Ronnie and Iris approach, hand in hand. Tight. In lust.

QUINT

11:27. T minus 33 minutes!

Ronnie squeezes Iris.

RONNIE

This is the only way to fly. True friends and a loyal lady.

John raises a beer.

JOHN

I'll drink to that. This sure beats watchin' Dick Clark watchin' a bunch of people watch a ball drop.

RONNIE

Or worse. Being stuck in a car at midnight. That's the complete loser situation.

They all nod in agreement. Iris raises a beer.

IRIS

A toast to the Ron-ster!

JOHN

Our main man.

The group heartily toasts a beaming Ronnie.

RONNIE

May next year kick this year's ass!!

117 EXT. HOUSE - PORCH

11

A hand knocks on the front door. Pull back from the hand to see the back of a jacket. University of Texas Football. The front door opens. It's Ricky. Ricky's POV. BOBBY HILTON. Cindy's boyfriend. Good looking, big. Bobby enters. They shake.

RICKY

Damn Bobby! What the hell are you doin' here?

BOBBY

I just got off the plane from Texas. Haven't even unpacked yet.

RICKY

I saw the touchdown on TV. Some serious moves dude.

BOBBY

Thanks man. You seen Cindy?

Bobby looks into the main room. Bobby sees Ronnie as the center of attention. He is approached by Quint and the Generic Jock.

QUINT

The man. The myth. What's happenin' star?

Quint hugs Bobby as the Generic Jock pats Bobby on the back.

BOBBY

(looks at Ronnie)
Quin-TON. Who's Iris' victim?

QUINT

You got it backwards buddy. He's victimizing her. Ronnie Miller's nailed every babe in school.

Bobby thinks for a second.

BOBBY

Ronnie Miller! He's 180'd! He couldn't get nailed in wood shop.

RICKY

Well, he's reached legendary status around these parts.

BOBBY

Need I remind you boys. You ain't a legend til you've scored the captain of the cheerleaders.

(CONTINUED)

117 CONTINUED:

117

Ricky, Quint and the Generic Jock all give each other a look. No one knows what to say. Bobby looks at his friends suspiciously.

BOBBY

Not possible. No fuckin' way.

Ricky, Quint and the Generic Jock stare at their feet. Bobby grabs Quint.

BOBBY

C'mon Quint. Don't think of holdin' out on me.

Quint reluctantly nods 'yes'. Bobby moves past the guys. He spots Cindy, grabs her arm and drags her into the kitchen past Patty and Barbara.

Patty and Barbara stand at the kitchen door.

PATTY

Cindy and Bobby's relationship.
It's so totally together.

Barbara nods in agreement.

John successfully bobs a beer. He pops the top and gives it to Ronnie.

Inaudible screaming can be heard from the kitchen. Some of the partiers pick up on it.

Cindy and Bobby burst out of the kitchen. Cindy trails Bobby, red faced. Bobby nearly knocks over Patty and Barbara, who were trying to listen in at the door.

CINDY

We we're only faking.

BOBBY

Bullshit!

CINDY

It was an act. He paid me.

BOBBY

Then you're a fucking prostitute!

The young revelers quiet down. Bobby turns and leaves. Cindy turns to face Ronnie. Topsy and upset she yells.

CINDY

You!!

(CONTINUED)

117 CONTINUED: (2)

115

The party is silent, except for the stereo. Cindy throws her drink. It hits the turntable, the music stops. It's now quieter than an E.F. Hutton commercial. Cindy looks directly at Ronnie. Iris hangs on him.

CINDY

It's all because of you and your fuckin' deal. Even Bobby thinks we really went out. Ha!!

Cindy is a combination of laughter and crying.

CINDY

(looks around the room)
You all believed we were a couple. What a joke! He paid me \$1000 to pretend I liked him. He bought me off. To buy you.

Kids are starting to back away from the stunned Ronnie. Even Iris releases her grip.

CINDY

He knew you'd worship him if we went out. He was sick of being a nobody.

Barbara tries to calm Cindy, but is brushed aside.

CINDY

Ha-ha. The cars. That stupid dance. What a bunch of followers. At least I got paid. He used us...

A wobbly Cindy almost falls. Patty and Barbara grab her and exit for the kitchen. Some of the stunned and silent 'cools' begin to leave the room. Others just move away from Ronnie. Ricky and John linger.

RONNIE

Ricky...John...

Ricky and John reluctantly turn their backs. Ronnie's eyes are red. He's in shock. It's deathly quiet. He stands alone in the middle of the room. All backs are turned on him. Ronnie talks to anybody who will listen. No one does.

RONNIE

Yo. Guys. There's some major communications problem here.
(more)

(CONTINUED)

117 CONTINUED: (3)

117

RONNIE (Cont'd)

Guys?

(no acknowledgement)

Well, I ah, we'll clear it up tomorrow. Everything's cool.

Ronnie backs out of the room. Shunned.

Ronnie bumps into Iris, who is trying to hide behind a baker's rack in the foyer. Ronnie looks at the fidgety Iris.

IRIS

I don't know you.

RONNIE

You sure knew me earlier.

IRIS

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

Iris leaves before Ronnie can utter a word. He turns and looks at the backs that were turned on him. He then opens the door and exits into the cold night air. Alone. Ronnie hears the music crank back up in the house.

118 EXT. STREET - LATER

11

Kenneth, Albert, Lester and Donald in a car, stopped at a red light.

ALBERT

I can't believe we're not watching Dick Clark.

KENNETH

At least we got out. We can see all the parties going on.

LESTER

That we weren't invited to.

ALBERT

11:49 and we're in an Olds 98.

DONALD

Gosh. This is fun.

Kenneth shoots Donald a look. He then looks out the window.

(CONTINUED)

118 CONTINUED:

118

KENNETH
 (pointing)
 It's better than walking around
 alone. Like that poor loser.

The four nerds all nod in agreement. The light turns green and the Olds takes off.

The loser walking alone. It's Ronald.

119 EXT. MILLER HOUSE - LATER

119

Ronald sees the lights and warmth of his home. Ronald approaches the picture window. Ronald peeks in to see Chuckie's pre-teen New Year's eve party. A dozen TWELVE YEAR OLDS have noisemakers, music, soda, chips. Ronald has his face pressed against the glass. He hears inside.

A couple does the African Anteater Ritual.

120 INT. MILLER HOUSE

120

Inside the house. Ronald's POV.

PRE-TEEN GIRL
 (to Chuckie)
 Your brother really invent this
 dance?

CHUCKIE
 (proudly)
 Sure did. The man is king! He's
 the prince of parties. Ronnie
 knows all, does all, invents all.
 (the pre-teens are
 impressed)
 He's at three parties with ten
 girls as we speak. He probably
 won't even be home tonight.

The Pre-teens are all very impressed.

121 EXT. MILLER HOUSE

121

Ronnie shivering on the porch. He realizes he can't go in the house. He stares at the pre-teens jumping up and down. It must be the New Year. Ronnie walks to the side of his house. He hears fireworks and horns honking in the distance.

(CONTINUED)

121 CONTINUED:

121

Ronnie approaches a shed and enters it. It's his lawnmower shed. He grabs a burlap bag and wraps himself in it, lying on a bed of grass and leaves. What a way to greet the new year...alone. A teardrop falls down his cheek.

FADE TO BLACK

122 INT. MILLER KITCHEN - MORNING

122

Judy is putting the icing on a chocolate cake. Chuckie organizes soda and chips. David unloads two six foot sub sandwiches.

JUDY

You sure we shouldn't call someone. It's 11:30.

CHUCKIE

I'm telling you ma, Ronnie...

David and Judy give each other a look and mouth "Ronnie". It's the first time Chuckie has called him Ronnie.

CHUCKIE

Is lying in some warm place with his arms wrapped around some warm...

O.S. the front door slams. David, Judy, and Chuckie exit to the foyer.

There stands a disheveled and haggard Ronnie. Ronnie has grass and leaves on his rumpled clothing.

DAVID

(mischievously)
Big night, huh?

Ronnie nods.

JUDY

Wash up. Your buddies will be here any minute.

Ronnie doesn't look too sure as he heads up the stairs.

DAVID

That's my boy!

CHUCKIE

Our boy!

- 123 INT. RONNIE'S ROOM - LATER 120
 Ronnie is wrapped in a towel. His hair is wet. Ronnie's on the phone with his black book open. He's frantic.
- RONNIE
 He's got to be home. It's New Year's day. Where the heck would he be?
 (beat)
 Studying? He hasn't studied in four years.
- 124 INT. RICKY'S KITCHEN 12
 Ricky is in his underwear waving instructions to his MOTHER.
- 125 INT. MILLER LIVING ROOM - LATER 12
 Judy, David and a depressed Chuckie watch TV. The food is untouched.
- 126 INT. RONNIE'S ROOM 12
 A frustrated Ronnie still on the phone.
- 127 INT. JOHN'S HOUSE 12
 John is in his bathrobe coaching his MOTHER, who has her hand covering the mouthpiece.
- JOHN'S MOTHER
 I can't tell him you moved.
- JOHN
 Good point. Tell him I died.
- 128 INT. RONNIE'S ROOM - LATER 12
 Ronnie slams the phone. He's frazzled. He gets an idea and picks up the phone.
- 129 INT. KENNETH'S HOUSE. 17
 The phone rings. Kenneth, Lester, Albert, Donald and the Wurmans watch the games. A tasty spread of subs, chips, sodas, and chocolate cake adds to the fun. The phone rings again. Kenneth answers it.

(CONTINUED)

129 CONTINUED:

129

KENNETH

(sounds like a
recording)

You have dialed a number that is
no longer in service. Please
check your directory and don't
call again.

130 INT. RONNIE'S ROOM

130

Ronnie hangs up the phone. Rejected and dejected. He falls
on his bed.

131 INT. CINDY'S ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

131

Mrs. Mancini enters, her hand over a phone mouthpiece. Cindy
lays on her bed staring at the ceiling.

MRS. MANCINI

Patty again.

CINDY

I still don't feel like talking
to anybody.

MRS. MANCINI

O.K. I'll add her to the list
with Ricky, Barbara, John, Iris
and Bobby.

132 INT. MILLER LIVING ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

132

A depressed Chuckie clears the untouched soda cans. David is
freezer wrapping the two huge, untouched subs. Judy stares at
the chocolate cake.

133 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

133

Ronnie looks up at the entrance of his high school. He summons
his strength and enters at the tail end of the morning rush.

134 INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - LATER

134

Ronnie feels strange looks as he walks the halls, or is it his
imagination?

Ronnie stops. He faces the 'cool' hallway. As he begins to
traverse the hall, the music and laughter fade. As he prepares
to say hello to each cluster of kids, they turn their backs.

(CONTINUED)

134 CONTINUED:

13

John and Ricky pretend they are getting books. Iris rushes off to class. Patty and Barbara turn. Cindy turns, but continues to watch Ronnie as he passes out of the hall.

Somehow Ronnie has kept his head up. He hears the music, laughter and noise crank up once he's exited the hall.

Ronnie approaches his locker. He stops as he sees \$1000 in Monopoly money glued to his locker. He hears some kids O.S. laughing. Ronnie removes the play money from his locker.

135 INT. CAFETERIA - LATER

13

Lunch time. Ronald exits the kitchen with a milk and a lunch bag. As he makes his way down the aisle of tables the cafeteria quiets down. He looks at the 'cool' table and keeps walking.

Ronnie passes Kenneth and the nerd table. Ronald finally stops at a table located in oblivion. It is occupied by a motley crew of MISFITS. When Ronald sits, the Misfits get up and move.

A jam packed cafeteria and Ronald is the only one to sit at a table alone.

The 'cool' table. They sneak glances towards Ronald as they eat.

RICKY

He's in Siberia.

JOHN

Even the mutants won't sit near him.

BARBARA

You know. I knew he was scammin' us all along.

All nod in agreement with Barbara. Cindy, studying at the end of the 'cool' table, overhears.

PATTY

Like he went from totally chic to totally geek.

The 'cools' all nod in agreement again.

Quint takes brownies from Ricky and John. He kneads them.

The Geek squad, Kenneth, Albert, Lester and Donald eating lunch.

LESTER

He's been banished.

(CONTINUED)

ALBERT

He should have known that our kind doesn't mix with their kind. Even for a thousand bucks.

KENNETH

Our kind, their kind. It's all B.S. He may be a leper now, but he had the fast lane for four months.

LESTER

Good point. \$250 a month for those cheerleaders is not an unwise investment.

ALBERT

But Ronald will be living the down side risk for the next six months.

They all nod in agreement.

Quint nonchalantly tosses a brownie over his shoulder.

Ronald unwraps a sub sandwich for lunch. A brownie molded to look like a piece of shit smashes onto Ronald's table. He manages to ignore the next one too.

BAMBI LEBROCK, (captain of the Girls Wrestling Team), stares down at Ronald. She wears a GIRLS WRESTLING shirt. Ronald looks up.

BAMBI LEBROCK

Didn't you take economics. You could of had me for \$49.95!!!

Bambi LeBrock laughs and walks off. More laughter in the background. Ronald tries to remain composed, but the laughter is too much as he gets up and briskly exits the cafeteria.

All the kids, including Cindy and Kenneth, watch Ronald leave.

136 INT. MOVIE THEATER LOBBY - NIGHT

136

Chuckie, David and Judy carry sodas, tubs of popcorn.

CHUCKIE

I can't believe he's turning down a free movie.

DAVID

He hasn't gone out since New Year's.

(CONTINUED)

136 CONTINUED:

136

JUDY

Studies come first when you're
a senior.

CHUCKIE

It's like the old Ronald's
returned from the dead. Woooo.

Chuckie hums the Twilight Zone theme.

137 INT. CLASSROOM - MORNING

137

Biology class. Kenneth observes Ronnie studiously taking notes
and paying absolute attention. He's into it.

BIOLOGY TEACHER (O.S.)

The quiz will cover every muscle.
From the levator scapulae to the
spinalis thoracis.

Kenneth looks outside. His POV; A girls gym class. He spots
Cindy Barbara and Patty. He stares at them until the bell
rings.

138 INT. SCHOOL - LATER

138

A long empty hallway. Ronald enters. Cindy enters from the
other end. They see each other. Ronald tenses, slows. Cindy
looks down, slows. They are getting closer. Cindy looks up.
Closer still. Ronald looks down. Closer. Twenty feet apart.
RING! The bell sounds. A massive classroom exodus fills the
hall. The wave carries Cindy and Ronald past each other.
Ronald looks back at Cindy.

139 EXT. MILLER HOUSE - NIGHT

139

The house is dark, except for one window.

140 INT. RONALD'S ROOM

140

He's in his room studying with various textbooks scattered
about. He puts down his chemistry book, rubs his eyes. He's
tired. Ronald picks another book off his nightstand. It is
his high school yearbook. He opens to a dog-eared page. He
stares at a half page picture of Cindy Mancini in a cheerleader
pose. The tired Ronald takes off his glasses and lays his head
down, on top of the picture of Cindy. He rolls over and reaches
for the phone.

141 INT. MANCINI HOUSE - NIGHT 141

Cindy is signaling Mrs. Mancini to say she's not home.

MRS. MANCINI

I'll tell her you called again.

142 INT. RONALD'S ROOM 142

A disappointed and frustrated Ronald hangs up the phone.

143 INT. MANCINI HOUSE 143

Mrs. Mancini and Cindy in their kitchen.

MRS. MANCINI

First he's a geek. Then you spend a lot of time with him. Now he's a geek again and you won't talk to him. I don't even know what a geek is?

CINDY

At the present time a geek is Ronald Miller.

MRS. MANCINI

Who says?

CINDY

Society.

Cindy starts to exit. She stops.

MRS. MANCINI

Is society always right?

Cindy shrugs and leaves.

144 EXT. STREET - NIGHT 14

Ronald slouches in his father's car as he cruises past Friendly's on a busy Saturday night. The 'cools' pack the parking lot. Ricky, John and other jocks wear school baseball uniforms. Ronald gets stuck at a red light directly in front of the lot. He slouches out of sight.

145 EXT. FRIENDLY'S LOT 14

Cindy stands with Barbara and Patty. They recognize Ronald's car. However, they see no driver. smiles.

(CONTINUED)

145 CONTINUED:

145

BARBARA
It's the nerdmobile.

PATTY
On automatic pilot! What a
wierdo. Like we're not supposed
to know he's spying on us in his
spazmobile.

CINDY
I could of sworn that some girls
I know got very comfortable in
that spazmobile.

This gets to Patty and Barbara, who suddenly divert their
attention elsewhere. Cindy watches the driverless car go
through the green light. The faintest of smiles on her face.

146 INT. VIDEO PARLOR - LATER

146

Kenneth plays a video game. He notices Ronald's reflection in
the video glass. Uncomfortable silence.

RONALD
I thought that we could talk.

Silence. Kenneth continues to play.

RONALD
At least you could acknowledge
my existence. You don't think
this is easy for me.

KENNETH
(turns)
It was easy for me to lose my best
friend? You walked all over me.
I was your friend and I did it
for free, no strings. No payoff.

RONALD
I know I was the total asshole
to you and thousands of others.
But it's you that I want to
straighten this out with.

KENNETH
You shit on my house!

Kenneth turns back to his video game. Ronald turns and slowly
walks out of the parlor. Kenneth watches him out of the corner
of his eye.

147 INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

147

Ronald following someone thru the semi-crowded hallways. He is no longer chastised by his fellow schoolmates. Now he is merely ignored.

A determined Ronald keeps up with his prey thru the maze of students and hallways. We now realize he is tracking Cindy. He seems to be waiting for her to be alone or isolated. Cindy now picks up on Ronald and makes the tracking more difficult. She approaches a Girls Room and enters. Ronald stops, frustrated.

Ronald waits. The bell rings and a few GIRLS rush out of the bathroom. No Cindy. Ronald looks both ways. The coast is clear. He goes in.

148 INT. GIRLS BATHROOM

148

Ronald surveys the room. He spots one pair of feet in a stall. He addresses the stall.

RONALD

I'm truly sorry about having to come in here. But I really wanted to talk to you. I can't do it in public and I can't ever get you at home.

RONALD

I realize what a jerk I became. All I ever did was think about you. Always dreaming of being part of your life. Then I got that stupid idea and let it turn me into something I'm not.

The toilet flushes. Ronald jumps back. The stall opens. It's the big Mrs. Hagmer. She's fuming.

MRS. HAGMER

You sure did, sicko pervert!

Ronnie is stunned. He tries to run for it, but Mrs. Hagmer gets a hold of his ear and drags him from the Girls Room.

MRS. HAGMER

I remember you. From the dance. You morally depraved psycho.

RONALD

Ooowww!!

Ronald is dragged from the room.

(CONTINUED)

148 CONTINUED:

148

The stalls. A pair of feet come into view. The stall door opens. It's Cindy. She releases the slightest of laughs. A mere titter of pity for Ronald's bad luck.

149 EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - AFTERNOON

149

Chuckie and his Buddies approach. Chuckie stops them. Their POV; Cindy is in the store looking at magazines.

CHUCKIE

You boys wait here. I got to check this chick out.

BUDDY

You know her?

CHUCKIE

She's practically my sister-in-law.

The Buddies are impressed. Chuckie bops into the store.

150 INT. CONVENIENCE STORE

150

Cindy peruses a Cosmo at the magazine rack. Chuckie approaches. He picks up a 'Soldier of Fortune' magazine. Edges closer to Cindy. He looks over his shoulder. His Buddies have their faces pressed against the glass.

CHUCKIE

You nuked my brother.

CINDY

What?

CHUCKIE

You took him from geek status to king status, to no status.

CINDY

Chuckie Miller?

Chuckie nods proudly. Cindy reaches into her pocket. Hands him a quarter.

CINDY

Here. Buy some baseball cards and act your age.

Cindy walks out. Leaving a stunned Chuckie.

151 EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE

151

Chuckie's Buddies stand at attention as Cindy storms by.

RONALD'S ROOM - NIGHT

He lays on his bed staring blankly at the walls. He's surrounded by books. Chuckie enters.

CHUCKIE

I need to borrow your essay on capital punishment. I'm building a mini-electric chair for show n' tell. I'm going to fry a Barbie doll.

Ronald isn't phased by Chuck. As Chuckie reaches for a stack of notebooks he sees the opened, dog-eared yearbook. He sees Cindy's picture. Chuckie grabs a notebook.

Ronald sits up.

RONALD

Chuck. This is the lowest thing I may ever do. But I need to ask for your....advice.

CHUCKIE

Moi?

RONALD

Suppose you wanted to talk to somebody who didn't want to talk to you. How would you get their undivided attention?

CHUCKIE

Are we excluding felonies?

(Ron nods 'yes')

You have to get 'em trapped in a situation where they have to talk to you...In other words, get 'em hospitalized.

RONNIE

(confused)

Thanks Chuck. That was real informative.

Chuckie is about to exit. He stops.

CHUCKIE

Good luck. And Ron, we all know about the payoff thing.

Ronald sits upright.

(CONTINUED)

151 CONTINUED:

151

RONALD
 Mom and dad?
 (Chuckie nods 'yes')
 Thanks for not bringing it up.

CHUCKIE
 I just did.

They smile at each other as Chuckie exits the room.

152 EXT. MANCINI HOUSE - SUNRISE

152

The early morning mist leaves a layer of dew on the suburban landscape. The only noises are birds chirping, a rabbit hopping on the lawn. Total tranquility....

IS SHATTERED BY ROAR OF A POUNDING MOTOR!! The birds fly away, the rabbit runs from this ear shattering noise. It is Ronald Miller mowing the Mancini lawn!

153 INT. CINDY'S ROOM

153

Cindy is awakened. She looks at the clock, 5:58 am! Cindy looks out the window and sees Ronald on the mower.

154 EXT. MANCINI HOUSE - LATER

154

Ronald is having a ball as he zig-zags the Mancini lawn. Cindy approaches him, wearing sweats. She's not pleased. Ronald waves hello. Cindy signals him to cut the engine.

CINDY
 My mom was calling the police until I told her you had a chemical imbalance and were seeking psychiatric help.

RONNIE
 You think I'm nuts?

CINDY
 No. Just deranged. I want an explanation and I want it now.

RONALD
 I just wanted to talk to you. Alone.

CINDY
 Ever think of school or the telephone.

(CONTINUED)

154 CONTINUED:

154

RONALD

Every time I tried you on the phone you were either washing your hair, taking a bath or out of the country. I tried school and got a month of detention.

Cindy manages to hold back a smile.

CINDY

I heard about the girls room thing. You seem to spend a lot of your time in bathrooms.

Ronald understands her reference.

RONALD

Just hear me out. Please.

Cindy folds her arms and lets Ronald proceed.

RONALD

I was so pissed at you New Year's Eve. But now I realize you did me a favor. I was becoming so 'cool' that I became a jerk. I lied to my parents, stopped caring about school. I even shit on my only true friend's house.

Cindy reacts to this.

RONALD

Popularity created a monster. Me...I want to thank you for what you did. Bringing me back to reality. Because reality is what I do best.

Cindy shuffles her feet. She is beginning to feel for his situation.

CINDY

I'm not proud of what happened. I helped you change.

RONALD

All I wanted was to be close to you. Then when I finally got there it wasn't me anymore.
(pauses)

Cindy... I was hoping that you and I could sort this out. The real me and the real you.

(CONTINUED)

154 CONTINUED: (2)

154

CINDY
Not at six in the morning.

RONALD
I'll come back at eleven.

Cindy shuffles her feet. Ronnie hangs in anticipation.

CINDY
I'll be washing my hair...out of
the country.

Cindy turns and walks away. Ronald is accepting of defeat. He goes to start the motor. Stops. Better not. He takes a deep breath and starts to push the mower.

155 INT. CINDY'S ROOM - LATER

155

She peeks out her window at Ronald pushing his mower. It's a sad sight. Cindy then looks down at the leather bound poetry book that Ronald gave her. She picks up the book and a pen. Cindy sits down on her bed.

156 INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

156

Jammed at lunchtime. Quint walks by a table of little Sophomores boys. He spots a nice homemade sandwich about to enter a Sophomore's mouth. Quint snatches it. The Sophomore bites his hand.

We pan to see the 'cools' sitting in their area. The nerds sit in their place. Every table is crowded and alive, except one; Ronald sits alone. Eating another sub sandwich. Mr. Webby and Mrs. Hagmer monitor the activity.

Ronald looks up to see Kenneth sitting with Patty in the 'cool' section. He's both surprised and impressed.

Cool area. Kenneth and Patty. A math book opened on the table.

KENNETH
The important thing is to get all
the fractions to their lowest
denominator. Then you can work
the variables.

Patty tries it.

PATTY
Is that right?

(CONTINUED)

156 CONTINUED:

156

KENNETH

Good job. One more.

Quint sits down with Ricky and John. The boys have their baseball gloves and bats on the table. They see Kenneth and Patty, but from their POV they can't see he's tutoring.

QUINT

Nerd alert. It's in our quadrant.

RICKY

Kenneth Wurman with Patty, no way!

JOHN

The chump has nerve entering the wimp-free zone.

QUINT

This is bullshit. Kenneth Worm-man is tryin' to pull a Ronald McDonald Miller on us. He's probably trying to pay her off.

Quint gets up. Ricky and John try to wave him back down.

RICKY

Relax dude. He's harmless.

QUINT

Fuck no! I'm sendin' him back to the minor leagues.

Quint approaches Kenneth. He and Patty have closed their books.

PATTY

Thanks. I'd still be lost without your help.

KENNETH

No problem. Just take your time and follow the steps.

Kenneth gets up and turns to see the Quint towering over him.

QUINT

What the hell you think you're doin' over here weasoid.

KENNETH

(nervous, shaking)

I was just helping her with some math.

(CONTINUED)

156 CONTINUED: (2)

156

Most of the students have now spotted the confrontation.

QUINT
Bullshit! You're pulling a Ronald
Miller scam.

KENNETH
(confused, scared)
What?

Patty is too intimidated to intervene.

Cindy looks at John and Ricky to do something. They want no part of this.

Ronald has been watching this scene play out.

Albert, Lester and Donald would like to crawl under their table.

ALBERT
I told him to stay out of their
section.

LESTER
It's our school too.

ALBERT
Tell that to Rambo over there.

LESTER
Point well taken.

Mr. Webbly and Mrs. Hagmer are moving towards the trouble spot.

Ronald puts his sandwich down and gets up.

Quint holds Kenneth by the shirt.

QUINT
I'm gonna send you back to
geeksville in a milk carton.

Quint picks Kenneth up by the shirt. Cindy looks to Ricky and John.

CINDY
Do something.

Quint and Kenneth see Ronald approach. The place is silent. All are watching. Quint lets Kenneth down, but continues to hold his shirt.

QUINT
Return of the living dread!

(CONTINUED)

RONALD
Why don't you lay off. He's not hurting anyone.

QUINT
Go back to where you belong hosehead.

Ronald picks a baseball bat off of Ricky and John's table.

Mr. Webbly stops Mrs. Hagmer from interfering.

RONALD
Take your hand off Kenneth or I'll break your arm. Your pitching arm.

QUINT
Don't make me laugh twerp.

RONALD
Let go...
(Quint doesn't let go)
Now!

Ronald smashes the bat on the table, sending food flying.

Quint releases Kenneth. He takes Ronnie seriously.

RONALD
You had a broken arm once before. Remember? You fell out of our treehouse.

Quint eases.

RONALD
Kenneth picked you up and we carried you twelve blocks to the hospital.

KENNETH
Yea. You were crying all the way.

Ronnie shoots Kenneth a look. Don't blow this. Quint remembers.

RONALD
We were all friends then. Good friends. Remember? Now you want to end his life because he's talking to Patty on 'your' side of the cafeteria. It's stupid.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

156

Silence as they all listen to Ronald.

RONALD

I know. Cause that's where I wanted to be, your side, with your crowd. But I messed up. I tried to buy in.

(looks at Kenneth)

But Kenneth, he isn't buying anybody. He's just talking, making friends.

Quint is wilting. Ronald drops the bat.

RONALD

Cools. Nerds. Your side, my side. It's total bullshit.

(Ronald calms)

It's tough enough being yourself. I oughta know.

Ronald's said enough. He walks out of the cafeteria, the crowd of students making a path for him. He's made an impression on all. From Iris to Albert, from Cindy to the Matronly Teacher.

Quint looks down at Kenneth. He extends his hand. They shake.

John claps.

Albert and Lester clap.

The whole cafeteria is clapping for Kenneth and Quint. And, indirectly, Ronnie.

Cindy does not clap. She observes the ovation Ronald has caused.

157 INT. MILLER KITCHEN - DAY

157

We see a report card. Straight A's. Pull back to see Ronald's name on it. A proud David magnets it to the fridge door. A phone RINGS.

158 INT. RONALD'S ROOM

158

Chuckie and Ronald watch wrestling on Chuckie's portable TV. They are eating sub sandwiches! We see the computer disk on his desk. He got it!

(CONTINUED)

158 CONTINUED:

158

CHUCKIE

See that guy, the Cranium Crusher.
He weighs over 500 hundred pounds.
And that guy, Grubby Sleaznik,
he's never bathed or showered his
whole life.

Ronald doesn't buy that. But he shows interest.

RONALD

What's that thing with the mask?

Judy sticks her head in the door. She addresses Ronald.

JUDY

Mrs. Mancini wants you to cut her
lawn. At a reasonable hour.

CHUCKIE

You can't expect a future Harvard
man to cut grass. I'll do it.

Ronald stops Chuckie. He gets up.

159 EXT. MANCINI LAWN - DAY

159

Ronald is mowing away. He occasionally looks at the house.
No sign of Cindy.

A convertible holding Patty, Barbara and three good looking
COLLEGE GUYS pulls into the Mancini driveway. Looks like a
triple date. They honk the horn.

Cindy comes out of her front door. Mrs. Mancini stops her on
the porch and hands Cindy some money.

Ronald watches Cindy walk towards him. He stops. Cindy smiles
and hands him the money. Ronald accepts it with a nod and a
smile.

Ronald continues cutting the lawn as he watches Cindy get in
the car. Patty and Barbara give him a token wave. He sees the
car take off. Ronald cuts around a long hedge. Ronald finishes
the last strip of grass and heads home on his mower.

Ronald exits the Mancini driveway and turns around a bunch of
trees. There stands Cindy, blocking his path. Ronald stops
his mower.

They look at each other. They smile at each other.

Cindy gets on the mower and wraps her arms around Ronald. They
ride off into the sunset.....xxxxxx.

THE END