

EVERYONE IS HAVING FUN BUT YOU

by

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April 30, 2009

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FADE IN:

INT. VENDING MACHINE FACTORY - DAY

The spanning factory floor is filled with vending machines of various shapes, sizes, and states of assembly. Most are empty, though a few are filled with candy and frozen burritos. A few workers are moving machines around, applying decals, and putting on the finishing touches.

PHIN SAGE, 36, wearing a black-on-white suit, brandishes a smile. As he speaks toward the camera. He is leading a tour of the factory. Enthusiasm fills his words. He is very proud.

PHIN

This is where the vending machines go through final assembly. They are getting dressed up to be sent out into the world.

The camera pulls back to reveal that Phin is talking to an apathetic class of THIRD GRADERS and their teacher, MRS. SULLIVAN.

PHIN (CONT'D)

Some go to offices, some to waiting rooms, and some even go to schools... just like you guys. You see, these machines are like my children. I send them out into the world and they bring back money.

MIKEY, 8, raises his hand.

MIKEY

Mr. Sage!

PHIN

Just call me Phin.

Mikey shakes his head "no." Phin gives him a puzzled look.

MIKEY

Moms and dads make the money, not the kids.

PHIN

That's not always true. Take welfare families, for example. More kids means more welfare money.

Mrs. Sullivan flashes Phin a disapproving glare. SHELLY, 8 and three-quarters, chimes in.

SHELLY
Like Travis!

We see TRAVIS, smiling, wearing two different shoes.

MRS. SULLIVAN
No, Shelly. Travis's dad is on
unemployment. That's completely
different.

Another student, JASON, hyperactive, 8, raises his hand, but
doesn't wait to be called on before blurting out...

JASON
Hey, Mr. Sage, where's all the candy?

PHIN
We don't actually fill them with candy
until they are setup at a location.
These ones are just filled with tasty
snacks for the factory employees.

All of the children make disappointed grunts and groans.
Shelly's eye light up. She points.

SHELLY
Look! An Oompa Loompa!

Phin turns to see a factory worker, HENRY, short, with a bad tan
and a lot of tattoos. Phin suddenly rubs the bridge of his nose
as if he has been struck with a sharp pain in his head. He
continues on.

PHIN
No. That's just Henry. Please be
nice, he's going through a divorce.

A stressed-out looking WENDLE, 7, spurts out...

WENDLE
Is it because his kids are bad?

PHIN
What? No... no.

SHELLY
Why did you invent vending machines?

PHIN
Well, I didn't actually invent vending
machines, but I did revolutionize them
with this refrigerated model...

Phin looks over to see Jason on his knees reaching up the mouth
of the vending machine trying to grab a frozen burrito from the
bottom row.

PHIN (CONT'D)
Hey! Stop that!

Jason frowns and slowly pulls his hand out of the machine.

PHIN (CONT'D)
How would you like it if someone put
their hand up you and took your
burritos?

Jason starts to tear up.

MRS. SULLIVAN
Mr. Sage!

JASON
(to Mrs. Sullivan)
You said this field-trip would be fun!

Phin blinks hard a few times, trying to focus. Something is off.

PHIN
Sorry... I'm sorry, kids. My head just
really started killing me. It's okay.
He wouldn't have been able to reach
the burritos, anyway.

MIKEY
I bet I could, Mr. Sage!

Phin rubs his left eye.

PHIN
Sorry, but the machines are designed
so you can't just reach in and grab
things.

Ignoring Phin, Mikey pulls out a pencil and runs to the machine. He drops to his knees and starts digging around in the machine's opening with the pencil.

JASON
Hey! That's not fair! I get another
try!

PHIN
Whoa, hey! This isn't a competition!

Jason dives back down at the machine's opening, squeezing next to Mikey, shoving both of his tiny arms up toward the burritos. Things are getting out of control with both boys digging around in the machine. The kids are having a blast, but Phin starts to panic.

Phin heads toward the kids at the machine, but he starts staggering and slurring his speech.

PHIN (CONT'D)
 No pencils! That's cheating...
 pencils... are for standardized
 tests...

MRS. SULLIVAN
 Mr. Sage?

Phin's words start to trail off as he reaches the machine. Jason and Mikey yank their arms out and take cover behind Mrs. Sullivan as Phin collapses against the window of the machine, sliding down it to the floor.

MRS. SULLIVAN (CONT'D)
 Mr. Sage! Are you okay?

Mrs. Sullivan kneels to help him as some of the kids scream.

As his eyes start to close, Phin can see Mikey back with his pencil in the vending machine. Phin tries to reach for him, but he is too weak. He closes his eyes, slipping into unconsciousness.

FADE OUT.

TITLE: EVERYONE IS HAVING FUN BUT YOU

The titles appear over a series of 80's era photos depicting two YOUNG BOYS in various competitions - races, climbing, wrestling, measuring how tall they are, comparing captured fish, hunting Easter eggs, etc...

OVER BLACK

Electricity can be heard humming, followed by a loud pop. It sounds like a giant camera flash is charging, then firing.

FADE IN:

Phin opens his eyes to see a wall of baby blue. He looks down to see that he is wearing a paper gown, and his feet are hanging out of an MRI tube. Phin closes his eyes.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - EVENING

Phin is sitting in front of DR. ECHOLLS. A lighted wall behind Dr. Echolls is covered with CT scans of Phin's brain.

Dr. Echolls is talking to Phin but we can't hear anything. Dr. Echolls keeps pointing to a small dark area on one of the scans as he talks. Phin is simply nodding along.

FADE OUT.

INT. PHIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The door unlocks and Phin enters, leaving his keys in the door.

Phin's apartment is expensive but cold. It is filled with minimalist designer furniture and has an amazing view. A few vending machines and some trophies shaped like snack foods are the only items that give it life.

Phin makes a bee-line for the...

INT. PHIN'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Phin stares in the mirror. He feels the right side of his head, looking for a lump of any sort. Matting his hair down, Phin tries to compare the left and right sides of his head.

Phin grabs an electric razor and shaves off a patch of hair just above and behind his right ear. He examines the area, applying pressure to it. Nothing. He tries to brush his remaining hair over the patch.

INT. PHIN'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Phin walks past two vending machines that contain snacks and candy to arrive at one filled with miniature bottles of alcohol. Phin grabs two quarters out of a bowl filled with change sitting near the machines. He buys himself a small bottle of vodka.

Phin takes the bottle and plops down on his couch. He quickly downs the vodka and reaches for the phone. Phin dials some numbers from memory, and puts his ear to the phone.

PHIN

(faking happiness)

Hey Sarah's voicemail, this is Phin Sage. I know it's been a while and we really only went on those couple of non-date dates, but I just got some news and I was hoping I could talk... You know, it's not that big of a deal. I hope all's well.

Phin hangs up the phone. He dials a new number.

PHIN (CONT'D)

Hey Dan, it's Phin.

(beat)

Yeah, I know, but I've gotta tell you something important.

(beat)

No, I'm not firing you.

(beat)

No. Dan, I told you before, that wasn't a pass. I was just asking if you wanted lunch.

(beat)

Yes, I realize that now.

(getting frustrated)

Dan, listen. Are you sitting down?

(beat)

No, you can stand. That's fine.

(blurting out)

Dan, I have a brain tumor. I've only got a few weeks.

(beat)

Yeah, me too.

(beat)

No, you're the first one.

(beat)

No, a brain tumor is worse than prostate cancer.

(beat)

I'm sure.

(beat)

No, I'm not coming in tomorrow. I was hoping you could tell them.

(beat)

Yeah, I'll put all the details in an email.

(beat)

Yeah, fine, I'll just CC everyone.

(beat)

You're welcome.

(beat)

You have a good night, too, Dan.

Phin hangs up the phone and cradles his head in his hands.

Phin gets up and goes back to the alcohol vending machine. He puts a few quarters in and pushes the buttons. The vending machine goes through the actions, but the alcohol gets stuck on the coil and doesn't drop.

Phin picks up a gumball machine that is next to the vending machine and slams it through the glass, showering gum and glass everywhere. He pulls out the bottle that he tried to buy.

INT. PHIN'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

Phin is sitting on the couch amongst a dozen empty mini-bottles. He reaches up and feels his shaved patch of scalp, then picks up the phone and dials. We can vaguely hear a voice talking loudly on the other end of the phone.

PHIN

Terry?

(beat)

Yeah.

(beat)

Yeah, I know.

(beat)

Terry- just listen for a second.

(Terry stops talking)

I have... I have to come home this weekend. Tell Dad.

(beat)

I don't need his help. Just tell him.

Phin hangs up the phone. His eyes turn red and well with tears as he curls up and lays down on the couch.

FADE OUT.

EXT. SAGE HOUSE - DAY

Sitting solitary on a large plot of land is a weathered, yet oddly bright baby-blue two-story house with white trim, a white porch and an un-maintained yard. The house has clearly seen quite a few years, though it is still in respectable shape. It feels like the east-coast. Though the Atlantic cannot be seen, it can't be too far.

A taxi pulls up and Phin steps out. He surveys his childhood home and cracks a genuine smile for the first time. As he walks to the house, he looks at his old basketball hoop above the garage. He runs his hand over the bushes lining the walkway to the front door.

INT. SAGE HOUSE - DAY

Phin slowly opens the front door, dragging his expensive-looking suitcase inside.

PHIN

Hello? Dad?

Not seeing anyone, Phin heads into the living room.

The house is very open with the kitchen attached to the living room.

Knickknacks fill the space, giving the impression that the owner had a great deal of money in the early 80's, but has not since been able to afford updating. A drink cart, leather couch, techno-futuristic lamps and clock, an Apple II, etc. Amongst all of this are a few sheep collectibles. Glass sheep, porcelain sheep, a sheep pin cushion, and a sheep pillow on the couch.

HANK SAGE, 60, is sitting in an old recliner, wearing a smoking jacket, smoking a Sherlock Holmes-esque pipe. Though past his prime, it is clear that Hank was handsome in his day. He still has all of his hair, though it is silver. He resembles Phin.

HANK

Phineas! Don't you know how to knock?

Hank doesn't stand. He just puffs his pipe.

Before Phin can answer, TERRY SAGE, 34, comes down from upstairs. Terry doesn't quite look like he fits with the other two. Though younger than Phin, he is a few pounds heavier, a few inches shorter and a few hairs shy on top. He hugs Phin.

TERRY

Hey Phin!

PHIN

Hey Ter.

TERRY

Did you bring me anything?

Phin hesitates. He then reaches into a pocket on his suitcase. He pulls out a blue and white striped scarf. He tosses it to Terry. Terry smiles and starts wrapping it around his neck.

TERRY (CONT'D)

Thanks.

PHIN

I brought something for you, too, Dad.

HANK

You didn't answer my question.

PHIN

Why would I have to knock?

HANK

Why wouldn't you? Who knows what you could have walked in on me doing in the privacy of my own home.

Phin thinks about it for a second, but forces himself to stop.

PHIN
Sorry, Dad. It's good to see you.
How've you been?

HANK
What are you doing here?

PHIN
Oh, a cab just dropped me off.

TERRY
A cab? I thought you'd take a limo.

PHIN
It was just from the airport--

HANK
You really should have called ahead.

PHIN
I told Terry last night that I was
coming.

TERRY
(to Hank)
And I told you.

HANK
Well I figured you weren't serious.

Phin's smile has faded, but he is forcing himself not to get angry.

PHIN
Well then, surprise, I guess.

Phin moves in to give Hank a hug. At that very moment, instead of standing up, Hank leans back in his recliner to pull another pipe out of an end-table drawer. Phin pulls back from the failed hug.

Hank holds the pipe, offering it to Terry. Terry reaches for the pipe, but Hank pulls it back.

HANK
What about your smoking jacket?

TERRY
It smells like smoke.

HANK
That's what it's for. It absorbs the
smoke!

Hank takes a puff and looks to Phin, asking as if he already knows the answer...

HANK (CONT'D)
You don't smoke, do you?

PHIN
No.

HANK
Of course not.

There is an awkward standoff-ish silence. Terry, looking uncomfortable, breaks it.

TERRY
So Phin, you seeing anyone?

PHIN
No, not at the moment.

HANK
Really? Prospects?

PHIN
Not really.

HANK
You know, Terry proposed once.

TERRY
Twice, actually, Dad.

HANK
We don't count the second one.

Terry shamefully nods.

HANK (CONT'D)
Same girl. Still, Terry's putting himself out there. You have to place bets if you want to beat the house.

PHIN
I'm not trying to beat anything.

Hank stands up to examine Phin.

HANK
Get yourself out of the snack business. That will only get you girthy women and future diabetics. And maybe if you'd just fix yourself up a bit.

Hank looks Phin up and down. He notices the missing patch of hair on Phin's head.

HANK (CONT'D)

What on earth happened to your hair?

Phin pauses for a second as he prepares to answer.

TERRY

Fantastic Sam's?

HANK

Can't you afford more than an eight dollar haircut?

TERRY

They aren't as fantastic as advertised.

PHIN

No, it wasn't Sam's. Dad, Terry, I need to tell-

HANK

Phineas, let me stop you for a moment. I think we are old enough where you don't have to call me dad anymore.

PHIN

What?

HANK

You can just call me by my name.

PHIN

You want me to call you Hank?

HANK

Actually you can call me by my last name. Sage.

PHIN

That is our last name!

HANK

Well, it was mine first.

PHIN

I am not going to call you Sage.

HANK

Don't be so stubborn. You were lucky. I lived my whole life with a bland name. I gave you a unique name. Phineas.

PHIN

You just let Terry call you Dad.

HANK

Terry knows my pain. Your mother named him.

TERRY

I can call you Sage.

HANK

No, it's not necessary.

(to Phin)

So, you had something you wanted to tell us?

PHIN

No, it's not important anymore.

HANK

Then it looks like you wasted your money on a plane ticket and a cab ride.

TERRY

Good thing you didn't take a limo.

Phin sighs and marches to the door, leaving his bag behind.

TERRY (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

PHIN

I'll be back later.

EXT. RURAL ROAD - DAY

Phin slowly walks down the side of the road toward a small town in the distance. He watches a car drive by and suddenly...

PHIN (V.O.)

Dad, can I have some money for dance tickets tomorrow?

INT. BUICK - FLASHBACK - DAY

Phin, 15, sits in the back seat while Hank drives. Terry, 13, is riding shotgun.

TERRY

Yeah, me too.

Hank hands each of them a couple dollars.

TERRY (CONT'D)

This is only enough for one ticket.

PHIN

What if we want to bring dates?

Hank snatches the money from Phin's hand and gives it to Terry. Terry is momentarily pleased.

HANK

Go buy two tickets and bring them back to me. Bring me pictures of your dates tomorrow, and the one with the cutest girl gets both tickets.

PHIN

But Dad!

HANK

This is how the world works, boys.

EXT. SMALL TOWN - PRESENT - DAY

Phin is walking into main street of a small town.

INT. DINER - DAY

Phin enters the diner and takes a seat at the bar. BETH, the waitress, walks up and smiles. She is 35 with short blonde hair and is attractive despite the fact that she looks a bit tired.

PHIN

Do you have any green tea...
(reading her name tag)
Beth?

She smiles and shakes her head.

PHIN (CONT'D)

Caramel mocha?

BETH

Sorry. I can pour some Ovaltine in a cup of coffee, if you want.

Phin thinks for a second.

PHIN

Yeah, okay.

As Beth walks away to get the Ovaltine, a PATRON is heard.

PATRON

Sugar, please.

BETH

Aren't you sweet enough already?

PATRON
 (very seriously)
 It's not for me. It's for the cereal.

This comment catches Phin's ear. He looks over at the patron.

BETH
 I know, Simon, I'm just... here's that
 sugar.

PATRON
 Thank you.

Recognition sweeps Phin's face.

PHIN
 Literal?

The patron looks at Phin. He is SIMON "LITERAL" WALKER, 36,
 neatly kept hair and clothes. He looks confused.

PHIN (CONT'D)
 Literal, it's Phin.

LITERAL
 Phineas Q. Sage?

PHIN
 Yeah.

LITERAL
 Wow. I haven't seen you in 8 years, 5
 months.

PHIN
 Um, alright.

LITERAL
 How have you been?

PHIN
 Oh, you know.

LITERAL
 No, I don't.

PHIN
 (chuckling)
 It's had its ups and downs. Lately,
 more downs.

LITERAL
 Why?

PHIN

I'm sure you remember that my dad and brother can be real dicks.

LITERAL

I remember they were pirates one Halloween.

Phin has no response. He ignores the comment.

PHIN

I flew into town because I had something to tell them, and they wouldn't let me get a word out.

(beat)

You know what the first thing my dad did when I came back?

LITERAL

Said hi?

PHIN

He started comparing me to Terry, just like when we were kids. You'd think he'd be over all this competitive shit.

LITERAL

Who won?

PHIN

I don't know.. Terry.. But that's not the point.

LITERAL

What's the point?

Phin thinks about the question.

PHIN

I... I don't know.

Beth drops off the Ovaltine-coffee with a smile. Phin watches her walk away.

PHIN (CONT'D)

Is that Beth Andrews?

LITERAL

Yes.

PHIN

Damn. I thought she got the hell out of dodge.

LITERAL

I believe she actually drives a Ford.

Phin gives literal a blank look.

EXT. SAGE HOUSE - EVENING

Literal pulls up outside the Sage House as Phin sits in the passenger seat, reading a pamphlet.

PHIN

You've got Asperger's syndrome?

LITERAL

That's what they tell me.

PHIN

We always thought you were just very serious.

LITERAL

I am.

Phin smiles, hops out of the car and waves to Literal.

INT. SAGE HOUSE - EVENING

Phin silently walks into the house. He looks into the dining room and see the empty table. Suddenly...

INT. SAGE HOUSE - FLASHBACK - NIGHT

Phin, 12, sits at the dinner table with Hank, 36, and Terry, 10. They are finishing eating dinner, but there are only two cupcakes left for dessert.

While the boys are still finishing their dinner, Hank eats his last bite then takes one of the cupcakes and shoves it in his mouth.

The two boys notice that there is only one cupcake left and begin frantically finishing their meals. Phin finishes first and reaches for the cupcake. Terry notices and stops eating even though his plate isn't clear. He also grabs for the cupcake.

HANK

(mouth full of cupcake)

Wait!

PHIN

But Terry didn't finish!

TERRY
We can split it!

Hank takes a swig of milk.

HANK
No, there are no splits in life.
We'll have to think of a fair way to
settle this.
(thinking)
Are you boys too full for a butter-
knife fight?

They nod.

HANK (CONT'D)
Hmm... Terry, list your friends.

TERRY
John, Rick, Ned, Paul... uhh... Andy,
Jessica...

HANK
Six. Phin?

PHIN
Matt, Paul-

TERRY
I already called him!

PHIN
He's my friend too!

HANK
Keep focused.

PHIN
Ken, Ike, Ralph, Tommy... and Literal.
That's seven!

Phin grabs for the cupcake. Hank slaps his hand away.

HANK
Literal? The retarded kid? He doesn't
count.

PHIN
He's not retarded, he's just really
serious.

HANK
Still, he's actually more of a
negative point. I think that boy is
actually stopping you from getting
more friends. So, that's five to six.

Terry snatches the cupcake and shoves it in his mouth.

RETURN TO:

INT. SAGE HOUSE - PRESENT - NIGHT

Hank notices Phin from the couch before he turns back to watching TV. He is watching Hollywood Squares, smoking his pipe.

HANK

I knew you'd be back.

PHIN

I told you I would.

HANK

Well, I would have known anyway.

PHIN

Where's Terry? Did he go home?

HANK

Home? He lives here.

PHIN

What happened to his house?

HANK

Bank took it.

PHIN

Then where is he?

HANK

Playing with his dog down the street. When he moved in I told him he'd have to have it put to sleep because he couldn't bring it with him. Instead he just hid it in an abandoned barn about a mile down. He doesn't know that I know.

(beat)

So, what did you want to tell us?

PHIN

We should wait for Terry.

HANK

He could be gone for a while.

Phin takes a seat next to Hank.

PHIN

Fine, but can you pay attention to me
for a second?

HANK

I am paying attention.

PHIN

No, you're not.

HANK

Huh?

PHIN

See.

HANK

Okay, I'm paying attention now.

Hank turns from the TV to look at Phin.

PHIN

Dad, I was at work yesterday and I got
dizzy and had a black out.

Hank's eyes have strayed back to the TV.

PHIN (CONT'D)

Dad, pay attention! I passed out. Hit
the floor.

HANK

And now you're back on your feet. Cut
to the chase.

PHIN

I didn't come all this way to tell you
I fell down.

Hank is beginning to feel the seriousness of this conversation.
He tries to mask his concern.

Suddenly Terry bursts in the front door, out of breath, his
black shirt covered in dog fur.

TERRY

Hey, guys.

Hank clears his throat.

HANK

Terry!

Hank seems relieved by Terry showing up to break the tension.

HANK (CONT'D)
Where have you been?

TERRY
Oh, just out for a jog.

HANK
That's it?

TERRY
That's all.

Hank looks down to see a bulge in Terry's pocket.

HANK
What's that?

Terry pulls out a chewed-up tennis ball.

TERRY
Oh, found it outside. Thought I'd
pick it up in case someone lost it.
You guys watching the squares?

HANK
Circle just picked Whoopi for the win.

Terry sits down on the other side of Phin. Phin is now in the middle of the two men watching TV. Phin is frustrated.

PHIN
Terry, Dad...

TERRY
Hold on.

Phin can't take it anymore. He blurts it out.

PHIN
I've got a brain tumor. I'm going to
die.

Terry snaps his gaze over to Phin. He is shocked.

TERRY
What?

PHIN
Diagnosed yesterday.

Hank is still watching the TV, though he's looking more toward the ground than at the actual screen. He can't bring himself to look at Phin. There is a long pause.

TERRY
Are they going to fix you?

PHIN

They can't.

(turning to Hank)

Do you have **anything** to say, Dad?

HANK

You're being dramatic. Always were.

PHIN

Did you not just hear what I told Terry? It's inoperable. I've got a few weeks, tops.

HANK

You're not going to die. You've got enough money to buy whatever it is you need to get it fixed. Not like these poor people.

(nodding to the TV)

When your next meal is riding on Louie Anderson's ability to answer a question about the renaissance, then you can start to worry.

PHIN

I should have expected this.

TERRY

Sage, you should probably turn the TV off.

HANK

For this hypochondriac?

Terry, starting to tear up, takes the remote and turns off the TV.

PHIN

I'm dying, Dad. I wish I could throw money at it, but it won't help anything. You know as well as I do that sometimes people just can't be fixed.

That remark seems to sting Hank a bit.

HANK

So then... what are you going to do with your money?

PHIN

My money? Aren't you even sad?

HANK

I am. It's just a bad week. I mean, I was already sad from when Princess Diana died.

PHIN

That wasn't this week.

HANK

It was the anniversary, and they kept playing that candle song. You just can't expect me to be sad for an entire week. I just need some time. I can be sad next week or so.

TERRY

He has been pretty sad this week.

PHIN

Don't defend him.

(to Hank)

You want to know what I am doing with my money? I'm dying and you're looking for a hand-out?

Hank points to the remote control.

HANK

Could you hand me that?

PHIN

No! And you're not getting any of my money.

HANK

So what are you going to do with it? Give it to orphans or cripples or something?

TERRY

Or crippled orphans?

PHIN

Yeah. I think I will. What do you think of that, Dad?

HANK

Terry, hand me the remote.

Terry does, and Hank starts flipping channels.

PHIN

Is that it? No money, no conversation?

Hank doesn't respond.

PHIN (CONT'D)

I've always had to compete with Terry or the TV for your attention. I have to compete with a dead princess for your grief! Now you want to know what I'm doing with my money? You want me to just hand it over to you???

Phin, outraged, jumps up and reaches for something to throw. It's a stack of paper napkins on an end-table. He attempts to throw them across the room. Instead of flying, they softly float to the ground, not going any farther than a few pathetic feet, further frustrating Phin.

Hank smirks, still staring at the TV. Phin takes a deep breath, slightly defeated.

Phin now has Hank's attention.

HANK

You're right, Phineas. We should compete for the money. Me versus Terry.

PHIN

What? Are you even listening to me?

HANK

Yes. Life is a competition and death should be, too. It will be like when you boys were kids.

TERRY

Except me versus Sage?

PHIN

Stop calling him that. I just told you, you're not getting the money.

HANK

Fuck the orphans. We're family, Phineas. Everything you have is because of me. I paid for your education, and all of those expensive hyper-color shirts you used to buy as a kid. I supported you for 16 and a half years.

PHIN

And I repaid you by paying off your mortgage. All I wanted was a few minutes of attention, or something. I don't even know what I was expecting.

TERRY

You don't have to do this. We could just split the money.

HANK

How would that teach you boys anything?

TERRY

I'm fine with 70, 30.

HANK

80, 20.

Terry considers.

HANK (CONT'D)

Fine, then let the games begin!

PHIN

This is absurd.

Terry looks back and forth between Phin and Hank, not knowing what to do. Hank narrows his eyes at Terry. Terry's expression quickly changes to a competitive scowl.

TERRY

When do we start?

HANK

We just did. I'm in the lead for coming up with the idea.

TERRY

Damn.

PHIN

You guys do whatever you want. You are both fucking insane.

Hank watches as Phin leaves the room and heads up the stairs.

PHIN (CONT'D)

I'm staying in my old room.

HANK

(to Terry)

I get credit for that.

PHIN (O.S.)

No.

HANK

I kept it clean!

INT. SAGE HOUSE - PHIN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Phin looks around his room. It's filthy, littered with artifacts of childhood, still mostly intact from when he occupied it. A dresser, a few pictures, ceramic art projects. An old-school arcade hockey game table with plastic players, clear dome and digital scoreboard straddles the bed. The layer of dust shows that it hasn't been used in a while.

Phin pokes through some boxes stored in the room. Legos, Christmas lights, a gumball machine, a large 80's style camcorder... A SPIDER!

Phin jumps back then kicks the box, smashing the spider. As he kicks the box, it jingles with glass hitting glass.

Phin looks in the box to see a nativity set. He pulls out a small sheep figurine.

HANK (V.O.)

Phineas, I've already told you.
You're too big to be the baby Jesus.

EXT. TOWN PARK - EVENING - FLASHBACK

It is snowy outside and Hank is dressed in robes and a fake beard. He is Joseph in a nativity scene. He is holding bundled up baby Terry. Terry is the baby Jesus. Phineas, 4, sits in a sheep costume, arms curled. They are surrounded by life-sized cardboard biblical figures and farm animals.

HANK

Terry is the perfect size
(frowning at Phin)
and still without sin.

PHIN

Why can't I be a wise-man?

HANK

I think you answered that question
when you didn't know what myrrh was.

PHIN

I'm cold. Can I have my jacket?

HANK

Sheep don't wear jackets. They also
stand on all fours.

Phin leans over and stands on his hands and knees.

HANK (CONT'D)

Don't look so sad. We're having fun.

Hank smiles and winks at an attractive woman walking past.

RETURN TO:

INT. SAGE HOUSE - PHIN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Phin sits on the exposed foot of the bed and holds his head as if he has a splitting headache. He nods to himself, pops a few aspirin, then crawls under the hockey table to lay on the bed. Only Phin's feet are sticking out.

Phin's cell phone rings, startling him. He jumps a bit and bangs his head on the underside of the hockey table.

Phin wriggles out from under the table and answers his phone.

PHIN

Hello?

INT. LITERAL'S HOUSE - TELEPHONE - INTERCUT - NIGHT

Literal's house is very bland. White walls and green carpet. One picture of himself hangs on the wall.

LITERAL

Who is this?

PHIN

You called me.

LITERAL

Yes. Who is this?

PHIN

Phin.

LITERAL

Phin who?

PHIN

Phin Sage.

LITERAL

Thank you. I just needed to confirm.

PHIN

Literal?

LITERAL

Yes.

PHIN

What are you doing?

LITERAL

I just needed to confirm the phone number you gave me before I entered it into my records.

PHIN

Oh.

(beat)

Hey, can you come pick me up?

Literal nods.

PHIN (CONT'D)

Hello?

Literal nods again.

PHIN (CONT'D)

Literal?

INT. DINER - NIGHT

Phin and Literal sit in a booth, finishing up dinner.

PHIN

You tell your father you have a brain tumor and you'd expect a little reaction.

LITERAL

At least you have a father.

PHIN

(mournfully)

Did something happen to your dad?

LITERAL

No.

PHIN

Oh.

LITERAL

He just died.

Literal goes back to eating.

PHIN

Oh, I'm sorry.

LITERAL

Did you kill him?

PHIN

No.

LITERAL

Then why did you apologize?

Beth, the waitress, walks up, interrupting the awkward moment.

BETH

Can I get you boys any dessert or coffee tonight?

PHIN

I'm okay, thanks.

LITERAL

No.

Beth leaves.

PHIN

I'm thinking of going on a field-trip this week. Wanna go?

LITERAL

Yes.

Phin smiles and nods. Literal stands up.

LITERAL (CONT'D)

I'll return.

Phin nods and Literal walks away.

INT. DINER - NIGHT

Phin is still sitting at the booth by himself. The table has been cleared.

Beth brings over a cup of coffee and sets it in front of Phin.

BETH

I put some Ovaltine in it.

PHIN

Thanks.

BETH

Where'd Simon go?

PHIN

Literal? I don't know. He said he'd be back.

BETH

He says that every time before he leaves.

PHIN

Oh.

BETH

He was your ride, wasn't he?

PHIN

It's okay, I'll just get a cab.

BETH

Cabs don't just troll the streets around here. You far off?

Phin shrugs.

BETH (CONT'D)

Come sit at the counter for a bit and I'll give you a ride after my shift.

PHIN

It's okay, I'll manage.

BETH

Suit yourself.

Beth starts to walk away.

PHIN

Wait. Actually, I kinda need that ride. I was just saying no to be polite. I thought you'd insist.

BETH

Oh. Okay.

Phin gets up and moves to the counter, taking his coffee with him. Beth brings him a slice of pie.

INT. BETH'S CAR - NIGHT

Beth is driving a beat up 80's Ford Mustang. It was the hottest thing on the road... in the 80's. Phin is in the back seat. The front passenger seat has no cushion, just springs. It's too damaged for him to use.

PHIN

Just take a left up there. So, how long have you lived around here?

Beth chuckles, looking at Phin in her rear-view mirror.

BETH

You know damn well who I am.

PHIN

Why do you say that?

BETH

Cause everyone in school knew who I was, Phin Sage.

Phin smiles, caught off guard.

PHIN

You know who I am?

Beth smiles.

BETH

You were going to ask me to a dance.

PHIN

Did you steal my diary or something?

BETH

It's a small town. Your brother told Jenny McCoy that your dad wouldn't give you money for tickets because he didn't think I was pretty enough.

Phin is now thoroughly embarrassed.

PHIN

Yeah... I'm... I'm really sorry about that.

BETH

It's alright. Gave me an eating disorder for a few years, though.

PHIN

Seriously?

BETH

No.

(beat)

Well, actually, kinda. It's okay though. Your dad makes a pass at me every time he comes into the diner now. Always trying to fix me up with your brother.

PHIN

If it helps, they've messed me up pretty bad, too.

BETH

(nodding)

It helps a little.

Beth pulls up to...

EXT. SAGE HOUSE - NIGHT

PHIN
Thanks for the ride, and sorry.

BETH
You're not like them, are you?

PHIN
I try my best... but I have my weak moments.

Phin gets out and heads toward the house as Beth drives away.

INT. SAGE HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Phin is going into his room when Terry sticks his head out into the hallway.

TERRY
Pst.

Phin walks over to Terry.

PHIN
What?

TERRY
Where'd you go?

PHIN
To get some food. What does it matter?

TERRY
Did you bring me anything?

Phin reaches in his pocket and pulls out a few after-dinner mints. He gives them to Terry. Terry immediately starts unwrapping and eating them.

PHIN
Good night.

TERRY
Wait. Don't be too hard on Dad. Do you remember back when Princess Diana really died?

PHIN
Yeah, Dad called me. Still, I'm his son. She was just some public figure.

TERRY

He called you because everyone got so wrapped up that no one remembered that it was the same day that mom died.

Phin pauses for a second.

PHIN

I was barely old enough to remember mom, let alone the day she died.

TERRY

Still.

PHIN

It was like the apocalypse when you had that melanoma scare.

TERRY

That was a false alarm.

PHIN

Exactly.

Phin walks away from Terry.

TERRY

Phin.

Phin stops and looks back.

TERRY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry you're dying. I really am.
(whispering)
I cried while you were gone.

PHIN

Thanks.

Terry nods and Phin goes into his room.

FADE OUT.

INT. SAGE HOUSE - PHIN'S ROOM - DAY

Something takes up Phin's entire field of vision. It is like the inside of the MRI machine, but it is making different sounds. Clicking noises, mixed with some shuffling. It is the bottom of the hockey table.

Phin pulls his head out from under the hockey table to see that Hank and Terry are playing it. Phin rubs the sleep from his eyes.

PHIN
What time is it?

TERRY
Six.

PHIN
Why are you playing hockey over my
bed?

Hank smashes the controls into the game with a loud crack.

HANK
Round one of the competition. Excuse
us for the intrusion on your life, but
I thought this could be something fun
we could do as a family. The teams
and the ref. The movies and Ebert.

TERRY
The wheel and fortune.

Phin flashes Terry a puzzled look.

HANK
No... (to Phin) but you get the idea.

PHIN
I don't want any part of your stupid
competition.

Phin starts to get up.

HANK
No, stay there. We need a ref.

PHIN
The players are plastic.

HANK
Just for a minute. Time's almost out.

Hank shoots the puck near the goal but it doesn't go in. Hank
lifts his end of the table, tilting the puck in Terry's goal
just as the buzzer goes off.

HANK (CONT'D)
A hat-trick! I win.

PHIN
You can't tilt the table.

TERRY
You can't?

HANK
You don't know our rules. And You
didn't want any part of this.

PHIN
Then why did you make me ref?

HANK
(to Terry)
You'd have lost, anyway.

Hank stretches his arms triumphantly.

HANK (CONT'D)
Chalk one up for me.

PHIN
Who is keeping score?

TERRY
He is.

PHIN
So I assume he's winning?

Terry looks to Hank. Hank looks guilty.

HANK
It's not my fault. I'm just really
good.
(to Terry)
I'll race you down stairs!

Terry nods and starts to run for the door as Hank reaches for a ceramic dinosaur on one of Phin's shelves. It looks as though it was an art project from the 3rd grade.

Hank proceeds to slam the dinosaur at Terry's feet, shattering it, covering the floor with sharp ceramic shards. Hank bursts out the door toward the stairs.

Terry frantically tries to dance through the shards, wincing as he steps on a few on his way out the door.

INT. SAGE HOUSE - DAY

Phin is in the kitchen at the stove cooking up some scrambled eggs and some Eggo waffles cook in the toaster. Hank and Terry sit, waiting at the table.

HANK
I think we should play another round
of hockey later.

TERRY
You always win.

HANK
Then some practice will do you good.

PHIN
Dad, I want you to stop. It's
ridiculous.

Hank acts as if he couldn't even hear Phin.

PHIN (CONT'D)
Dad, I'm talking to you.

Still no response.

PHIN (CONT'D)
Hank!

Nothing. Phin sighs.

PHIN (CONT'D)
(sighing)
I'm not going to call you Sage.

Hank glares at Phin. Phin drops a plate full of Eggos and eggs
on the table.

HANK
Glad to see you are trying to earn
your keep. Did you make some for
yourself?

PHIN
No.

Phin exits the kitchen.

TERRY
Do you want to play hockey for fun?

HANK
It's not fun when you keep losing.

Hank takes a big bite of Eggo.

INT. DINER - DAY

Phin takes a seat at the bar. Beth is working at the counter.
She catches Phin staring at her. He tries to glance away, but
she's already on her way over. She's holding a cup of coffee

BETH

You must really like Ovaltine and coffee.

PHIN

Or really hate it back home. You know, one or the other.

BETH

Or both.

Beth gives a little extra smile with that comment. Phin pauses for a moment, building up some courage.

PHIN

I was thinking, if you aren't busy after your shift, I'm going on a field-trip with Literal tonight--

BETH

Field trip?

PHIN

...Yeah. I don't know... being back in town sort of reminded me of a few things I never really got to do. I don't have much else to do... and I'd love to hear what you've been up to since high school.

BETH

Went away to college, my dad got sick, I came back here to take care of him. I became a waitress here because it fit my hours while I crammed in some community college when I could. My dad passed, and I got the house. Now you're all caught up.

PHIN

Maybe we could talk about what lies ahead?

Beth gives a sad laugh. Beth walks off to pour some coffee for some other patrons.

Phin, stunned, takes a sip of his coffee. Beth walks back.

BETH

It's not really as bad as it sounds. Not all the time, anyway.

PHIN

Still, you definitely need a field trip.

Beth smiles.

EXT. SAGE HOUSE - DAY

Phin is driving up to the house in Hank's car.

Hank and Terry are standing outside of the house in matching track suits, complete with sweatbands. Hank is in green and Terry is in blue. They are both stretching.

Phin parks the car and hops out.

HANK
You stole my car.

PHIN
Borrowed.

Phin walks over to the two men, looking them up and down.

PHIN (CONT'D)
You guys look... prepared. What for?

Terry kicks a leg into the air.

HANK
Triathlon. First event.

Terry nods, confidently.

TERRY
It's a staring contest.

Terry takes a hit of Gatorade.

TERRY (CONT'D)
Can you moderate?

PHIN
No.

TERRY
(pleading eyes)
Please? If you don't, Sage will.

Terry stares at Phin until he caves.

PHIN
Fine.

HANK
The object is to not smile, laugh, or
wince. No talking, no touching.
Blinking is allowed, but only for a
normal amount of time.

PHIN

Okay. What are the other two events?

HANK

Privileged information. Let's get this show on the road.

Hank and Terry wiggle their faces a bit, then face each other, nose to nose.

PHIN

Alright... 1. 2. 3?

Hank immediately spits in Terry's face. Terry yells and recoils.

HANK

I win.

PHIN

You said no touching!

HANK

I didn't touch him.

PHIN

Terry wins by default.

HANK

That's not fair! Terry, you know I obeyed the rules.

TERRY

(unsure of what to say)
I guess it wasn't specifically outlined, but the implications...

PHIN

Terry, you won. Don't back down.

HANK

Hey, you said you didn't want any part of this competition. I win.

Hank throws Phin a shit-eating grin. Phin isn't amused.

PHIN

Terry won.

Dropping his grin, Hank glares at Terry while sliding two fingers across his own throat.

PHIN (CONT'D)

Dad!

HANK

What?

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP: OPERATION BOARD GAME

The operating tool is removing the charlie horse from the knee. It clicks against the side-wall, but the buzzer doesn't buzz.

INT. SAGE HOUSE - DAY

Sitting on the living room floor, Terry holds the operating tool as Hank and Phin watch. Terry pulls his hand back.

TERRY

I hit the side.

HANK

Then that's game.

PHIN

The buzzer didn't go off.

HANK

You heard him, he hit it.

PHIN

Why'd you tell him? It didn't buzz.

TERRY

To be fair.

PHIN

Do you really think he would have been "fair"?

HANK

Yes.

PHIN

I asked Terry.

Terry glances at Hank.

TERRY

Probably.

A grin sweeps Hank's face. Phin huffs in frustration.

HANK

You're taking this too seriously, Phineas. Everyone is having fun but you.

PHIN

How is Terry having fun? You spit in his face.

TERRY

Most of it just went in my mouth.

PHIN

That doesn't matter.

HANK

The next event is basketball.

PHIN

No, you're not picking this one.

HANK

You said you came home to remember your childhood...

PHIN

No I didn't.

Hank continues talking right over Phin.

HANK

...and I used to let you kids play basketball all the time.

PHIN

You let Terry **play** basketball. You made me try to run around with my ankles tied together.

HANK

You were taller and faster. You needed to be handicapped.

PHIN

We were kids, playing a game.

HANK

The game of life. Terry--

Hank motions as if throwing a fade away shot, then points his fingers at his own eyes, then to Terry, signaling that he's got his eyes set on him. Hank then leaves.

Terry can see that Phin is frustrated behind measure. Terry walks up next to him.

TERRY

(sympathetically)

He's just wants us to have some fun. You know he's always been like this, Phin.

Phin, too angry to respond, nods at Terry then leaves.

INT. SAGE HOUSE - HANK'S BEDROOM - DAY

The only items on the walls are a few scattered ribbons and trophies for track, archery, golf, shot-put. On the dresser there is a framed photo of a beautiful woman. It's Hank's wife. She is 6 months pregnant and standing with a toddler. Hank isn't in the photo. On the walls are a few similar photos. None with Hank.

Hank is starting to take his sweatbands off when a loud THUMP is heard. It sounds like a body falling. Hank finishes slowly hanging up his sweatbands and strolls into...

INT. SAGE HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - DAY

Hank is still walking at a regular pace toward Phin's room.

INT. SAGE HOUSE - PHIN'S ROOM - DAY

Hank bursts through the door, pretending as if he had ran. He sees Phin using the bed to lift himself off the ground.

HANK

What the hell happened?

PHIN

Just lost my balance. Got a little dizzy, that's all. I'm going to borrow your car.

HANK

Like hell you are. You can't even walk straight. That car is a classic.

PHIN

Well, I already have the keys, so if you want to stop me, you're going to have to call the police.

Phin walks right past Hank. Hank doesn't try to stop him.

HANK

I'm taking credit for every mile on that odometer.

PHIN

You broke the odometer trying to roll it back.

HANK

Well, shit.

INT. SAND MUSEUM - DAY

Phin, Literal, and Beth walk through a small museum decorated with display cases filled with sand. Above the cases are pictures of various beaches, deserts and shorelines. Children and teachers move from exhibit to exhibit.

Literal looks fascinated, Beth looks confused, and Phin looks disappointed. Literal bounces from exhibit to exhibit, getting farther away.

PHIN

Not quite as magical as I had imagined.

BETH

You never came here for school?

PHIN

My dad wouldn't sign the field-trip consent form. Told me I could get some horrible disease from the sands of Asia.

BETH

(nodding seriously)
One kid did.

PHIN

Really?

BETH

No.

Phin smiles.

PHIN

He let my brother go a year later. Said Terry was more resilient. I know this place is boring, but I needed to see it.

BETH

I understand. Things always seem better when you miss out on them.

Phin looks at some of the sand. One of the bigger cases is open. He reaches in and runs his fingers through the sand.

BETH (CONT'D)

So, what has kept you so busy all these years that you couldn't come back and visit the museum?

PHIN

Are you prepared to be impressed?

Beth nods, excitedly.

PHIN (CONT'D)
Vending machines. Designing, creating,
stocking, selling. The works.

BETH
So you sell giant candy dispensing
robots?

PHIN
I guess that's one way to look at it.

BETH
So, with the fast paced life of
vending, what brings you back to town?

Phin pauses for a minute, looking around the room.

PHIN
Would it be too awkward if I just
didn't answer that?

BETH
Yeah.

PHIN
Well... you know... I'm just trying
not to forget the family completely.

BETH
I didn't think you were very close
from the way you were talking about
them.

PHIN
We're not. That's why I had to get
out of the house. When I got back they
started this insane competition thing.

BETH
On a team?

PHIN
Against each other.

BETH
For your love?

PHIN
What? No.

Phin chuckles at the thought.

BETH
Then what are they competing for?

PHIN

Uhhh... A vending machine. I made the mistake of mentioning that I had an extra one laying around... and they decided it should be theirs.

Beth nods patronizingly.

BETH

Well, don't let them push you around. Besides, I could use a vending machine. Maybe you should just give it to me.

PHIN

Where's the fun in just giving it away?

Beth smiles. Phin thinks about what he's just said.

Literal walks back up to Phin and Beth. He is rubbing his eye.

LITERAL

I've got sand in my eye. I'm ready to leave.

PHIN

Do you need a ride home?

Literal shakes his head and walks out of the museum. Phin shrugs, and goes back to looking at sand.

PHIN (CONT'D)

Well then. Is there anywhere else to eat in this town other than your work?

BETH

Not really.

PHIN

Then what do you eat?

INT. BETH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

It is clear that Beth is living in her father's old house. It is decorated for a much older person, but there are colorful flairs of youth contrasting most of the dated and worn decor.

Beth and Phin are eating microwave dinners. Phin takes a bite of chicken nugget and smiles.

PHIN

Mhmmm. Real chicken is so overrated.

Beth nods.

PHIN (CONT'D)
So when do I get more than just the
Beth Cliff Notes?

Beth pauses for a second.

BETH
What do you want to know?

PHIN
I don't know... so where... where is
Mr. Beth?

BETH
New York.

PHIN
Oh...

BETH
Well, Ex-Mr. Beth. Beth was engaged,
but Mr. Beth said he didn't want to
wait around for Beth's dad to die.

PHIN
Oh. Sorry.

BETH
It was a long time ago... Besides,
things are going really well with
Terry, now.

PHIN
What?

Beth laughs and grabs the brownie on her tray and takes a bite.

PHIN (CONT'D)
(sarcastically)
Oh, ha-ha.

BETH
I bet you wish you didn't eat your
dessert first, now.

Beth eats her last bite of brownie.

PHIN
I used it to cleanse my pallet. I
have no regrets. Besides, I found a
fortune cookie in your kitchen.

Phin, indeed, pulls out a fortune cookie.

BETH
Hey!

Phin cracks it open, puts the cookie in his mouth and hold the paper in front of him. As he reads, he looks distressed.

BETH (CONT'D)

What's it say?

PHIN

"Help, I'm trapped in some Chinese guy's basement."

BETH

No it doesn't.

PHIN

And my lucky number is 72.

BETH

Now I know you're lying. No one's lucky number is 72.

Beth dives at Phin trying to grab the fortune out of his hands. As Phin pulls away, Beth falls on top of him. They laugh as she struggles to wrestle the paper from his grip. Beth manages to take the fortune.

As Beth retreats to the other end of the couch with the fortune, Phin pounces on her. Before Phin can grab the fortune back, Beth shoves it in her mouth and smiles at Phin. Phin pauses.

PHIN

I thought you wanted to read it.

Beth's smile fades away. She spits out the fortune.

BETH

I thought you'd kiss me.

PHIN

Oh.

Phin nods, then awkwardly moves in for a kiss. Beth watches curiously as Phin closes his eyes too soon and tries to maneuver his lips toward hers. She smiles and meets him halfway.

They start to kiss slowly at first, but it becomes more passionate. As things start to heat up, Beth runs one of her hands through Phin's hair. As her hand passes over the patch that Phin had shaved off, Phin pulls away.

Beth thinks he pulled away to start taking clothes off. She quickly starts tugging at his shirt, but he isn't lifting his arms.

BETH

What's wrong?

PHIN

I just don't usually move this fast.
Maybe we could just take it a little
slower?

BETH

You're blowing through town and you
want to take things slow?

PHIN

You know I'm leaving, and you want to
"take things" at all?

BETH

Then why'd you even ask me to the sand
museum?

PHIN

Because... you know, I'm not really
sure. I should go. Can you give me a
ride back to my house?

BETH

You drove here.

PHIN

I know, I'm just feeling a little
light headed.

BETH

Yeah, sure.

PHIN

Sorry.

EXT. SAGE HOUSE - NIGHT

The lights are still on inside the house as Beth pulls up to
drop Phin off.

Phin pushes up the broken front seat and leans forward.

PHIN

Thanks for the ride, and dinner.

Terry peers out the living room window, unnoticed.

Beth smiles and moves in to give Phin a quick kiss on the cheek.
Phin awkwardly tries to kiss back with a bit too much emphasis.
Beth smiles.

BETH

I can do the slow thing.

Phin nods and gets out of the car.

INT. SAGE HOUSE - NIGHT

Phin walks into the house. Before he can even close the door he hears Hank from the living room.

HANK

Did you fuck Terry's girlfriend in my car?

Phin comes around the corner to see Hank sitting on the couch, still in his track suit.

PHIN

Terry's girlfriend?

HANK

The waitress. Is my car at her house while you try to air out the smell of sex?

PHIN

No. And Terry isn't dating Beth.

HANK

Well he had dibs on her before you strolled back into town.

PHIN

I'm going to bed.

HANK

She doesn't want a dead guy, and Terry's gonna be alive for a while, probably.

Phin starts to walk up the stairs.

HANK (CONT'D)

And where is my car?

PHIN

(snidely)

Don't worry, Dad. We can get it tomorrow. We'll make a game of it.

INT. SAGE HOUSE - DAY

Holding a notebook, Phin descends the stairs after just waking up. He can hear chatter coming from inside the kitchen.

Phin enters the kitchen to see Hank and Terry sitting at the table. Terry looks slightly depressed.

PHIN

How long have you been up?

TERRY

Sage just got up. I've been up for about an hour.

PHIN

(nodding approvingly)
An hour earlier?

Phin opens up his notebook and takes a few quick notes.

HANK

What the hell was that?

PHIN

Nothing. I just thought I'd help keep track of things.

HANK

It's okay, I've got it handled.

Phin shrugs, then writes something down in his notebook. Hank glares.

HANK (CONT'D)

Fine. Whatever. It's nice that you're finally acting like part of the family. And I'm still winning. Mark that down.

PHIN

Don't worry, I've made notes.
(patronizingly)
Would you like some eggs?

HANK

Yeah, fine.

Phin goes to the stove and starts making some scrambled eggs.

HANK (CONT'D)

So when are you going to get my car?

Phin shrugs and smiles. He puts a piece of toast on both Terry and Hank's plates. Terry picks up his toast and starts eating it.

PHIN

You don't want your toast?

HANK

No, I don't want my toast.

Terry has just finished his toast.

TERRY

Can I have it?

Terry grabs the toast off of Hank's plate.

PHIN

Good.

Phin opens up his notebook and makes a few marks.

HANK

Wait. I want the toast.

Hank tries to snatch it back from Terry, but Terry recoils. Phin pulls Hank back into his chair.

PHIN

Let's just have some eggs.

Phin grabs the frying pan and puts an equal amount of eggs on each plate. Both Terry and Hank slowly start eating as Phin starts cooking some more eggs.

As Terry and Hank lock eyes, they both begin to eat faster and faster until they are shovelling the eggs into their mouths.

PHIN (CONT'D)

How about some coffee?

Phin pours each of the men cups of black coffee, straight from the stove.

Hank finishes the eggs first and pours the coffee into his mouth. He immediately spits out a mixture of steam, eggs, and coffee.

HANK

Ahhhhh Fuck!

PHIN

Are you okay?

HANK

Do I sound okay? I burned my damn mouth on that shit.

PHIN

That's not good.

Phin opens up his notebook and takes down a few notes.

HANK

Hey, I finished first.

PHIN

Not from what I see.

Phin looks at the table to see coffee and eggs everywhere. Terry is slowly drinking his coffee.

PHIN (CONT'D)

And would you look at that. My shoe is untied.

Hank immediately drops to his knees and ties Phin's shoe.

PHIN (CONT'D)

Thanks.

HANK

Mark it down.

PHIN

You think tying my shoe is a contest? Come on. Literal is picking you up out front. I've got something planned for picking up the car.

EXT. SAGE HOUSE - DAY

Literal is sitting in his car with Terry in the back and Hank riding up front. Phin is outside the car, leaning in Hank's window.

PHIN

Literal, do you remember everything I told you?

LITERAL

Not everything. I don't remember a lot of what you said in the 80s.

PHIN

How about what I told you to do with Hank and Terry this morning?

LITERAL

Yeah, I remember that.

Phin nods. Hank looks really confused.

PHIN

Literal is going to drop you both half a mile from where Dad's car is parked. The keys are in the glove box. This is a race home.

HANK

And what are you going to be doing while we are riding the short bus around town?

PHIN

Preparing for later. Have fun.

LITERAL
I'm not sure I will.

PHIN
You don't have to.

LITERAL
Okay.

PHIN
Now off you go.

Literal instantly starts driving away, neglecting that Phin still has his head in the window. The door frame hits Phin in the head as Literal drives off.

INT. LITERAL'S CAR - DAY

Hank is staring directly at Literal as he drives the car.

HANK
Do you know where my car is?

LITERAL
Yes.

HANK
Then let's go.

Literal looks confused.

HANK (CONT'D)
Take me to the car.

LITERAL
That's not what I was told to do.

HANK
What if I called the cops and told them you were assisting a car thief?

LITERAL
They would ask your name and location.

TERRY
It's part of the game, Sage.

HANK
Terry, you're helping me find that car, then I am taking it. This isn't a game.

TERRY
So we'll go back together call it a tie?

HANK

No. You're walking home, just in case it's still a game.

EXT. SAGE HOUSE - DAY

Phin is sitting on the front porch when Hank's car comes flying up in a cloud of smoke. Phin jumps to his feet. The car is headed at him like a bat out of hell. Terry is driving.

Suddenly the car's tires lock and it skids to a stop right in front of the house. Terry bails out of the car, falls in the dirt, stumbles to his feet and scrambles to Phin.

TERRY

Is he here?

PHIN

No. You won.

Terry smiles, then keeps running right past Phin and into the house. The door can be heard locking.

Through the cloud of dust still left by Terry, Literal drives up. He is alone in the car.

LITERAL

Hey, Phin.

PHIN

Where's my dad?

LITERAL

In my trunk.

PHIN

What? Is he okay?

LITERAL

No. He's very angry.

Phin walks over to the trunk, listening carefully. He can't hear anything at first. Phin knocks on the trunk.

HANK (O.S.)

Open this fucking trunk or I am going to punch you in the back of the neck! Is that **literal** enough for you? I will give you scoliosis!

Phin pops the trunk open. Hank squints in the light, but as soon as he recognizes Phin, he tumbles out of the trunk and into the dirt.

HANK (CONT'D)
I'm here! I won!

Terry sticks his head out from an open window on the second floor of the house.

TERRY
No you didn't!

HANK
You fucking cheater!

Hank runs at the door of the house, but it's locked.

PHIN
What happened?

HANK
He stole my car and that
bastard-

TERRY
Sage tried to cheat but I ran-

PHIN (CONT'D)
Wait! Literal, tell me what happened.

LITERAL
It started when you asked me...

CUT TO:

EXT. SAGE HOUSE - FLASHBACK - DAY

We see Phin leaning in Literal's car just hours ago. We see Phin talking, but it's Literal's voice coming out as Literal re-enacts the story.

PHIN
(Literal V.O.)
Literal, do you remember everything I
told you?

RETURN TO:

EXT. SAGE HOUSE - DAY

PHIN
No. What happened when you dropped
them off?

LITERAL
Oh. When we got to the destination,
Mr. Sage called out...

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWN STREET - FLASHBACK - DAY

Literal parks the car. Hank points to something out in the distance. It is the car parked outside of Beth's house. We see Hank talking but, again, it is Literal's voice.

HANK
(Literal V.O.)
Hey Dad, there's the car!

RETURN TO:

EXT. SAGE HOUSE - DAY

PHIN
Wait. You said Mr. Sage.

Literal points up at Terry still hanging out of the window.

LITERAL
Yeah, Mr. Sage.

PHIN
(pointing to Hank)
Then what do you call him?

LITERAL
Mr. Sage.

PHIN
Call them by their first names.

LITERAL
Okay.

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. TOWN STREET - FLASHBACK - DAY

Again, we see Hank and Terry talking, but Literal's voice is coming out. Terry is now pointing at the car down the street.

TERRY
(Literal V.O.)
Hey Dad, there's the car!

HANK
(Literal V.O.)
What are you waiting for? Pull up closer.

LITERAL
(Literal V.O. himself)
Phin told me to drop you both here.

HANK
 (Literal V.O.)
 Fine.

Hank looks back at Terry, but Terry is already bolting out of the car. Just as the door slams shut...

LITERAL (V.O.)
 Slam!

Hank jumps out of the car but Terry is in a full sprint. Hank clearly isn't going to catch him. Hank jumps back in the car.

LITERAL (CONT'D)
 (Literal V.O.)
 Get out of the car.

HANK
 (Literal V.O.)
 Drive, Aaron Spelling.

RETURN TO:

EXT. SAGE HOUSE - DAY

HANK
 I called you Helen Keller, not Aaron Spelling.

LITERAL
 Oh, sorry.

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. TOWN STREET - FLASHBACK - DAY

HANK
 (Literal V.O.)
 Helen Keller!

LITERAL
 (Literal V.O.)
 Phin told me--

HANK
 (Literal V.O.)
 I am not getting out, so you are either going to drive me to that car or you are going to have to fuck **and** kidnap me.

RETURN TO:

EXT. SAGE HOUSE - DAY

LITERAL

And I'm not homosexual so I just kidnapped him.

HANK

Fuck-ING! **ING!**

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. TOWN STREET - FLASHBACK - DAY

Literal pulls a stun-gun out from under his seat, and shocks Hank. Hank convulses, then goes limp.

Literal gets out of the car, opens Hank's door, and drags him around to the trunk.

RETURN TO:

EXT. SAGE HOUSE - DAY

PHIN

Well, it looks like Terry won that part of the contest then.

HANK

That's not fair. I was kidnapped by Special Ed, here!

Phin ignores Hank's plea.

PHIN

Literal, did either of them say or do anything that seemed cruel or rude?

Literal thinks for a second.

QUICK FLASHES:

INT. LITERAL'S CAR - FLASHBACK - DAY

Quick cuts of Literal's car when Hank, Terry, and Literal are all still in it.

HANK

(Literal V.O.)

Turn on the radio, Retard.

Flash.

HANK (CONT'D)
 (Literal V.O.)
 Can't you drive faster, fucker?

Flash.

HANK (CONT'D)
 (Literal V.O.)
 Don't go this way!

Hank grabs the steering wheel and yanks it to the side.

TERRY
 (Literal V.O.)
 Ahhhhhhhh!

Flash.

HANK
 (Literal V.O.)
 I don't like your haircut.

Flash.

HANK (CONT'D)
 (Literal V.O.)
 Can I have some gum?

RETURN TO:

EXT. SAGE HOUSE - DAY

PHIN
 Asking for gum isn't mean, Literal.

LITERAL
 It's my gum.

Phin looks over at Hank. Hank blows a bubble. Phin takes out his notebook and takes some notes.

HANK
 I don't need your money as bad as you think.

PHIN
 Fine. I'll just give it to Terry then. He'll probably let you live with him.

Hank glares up at a grinning Terry, then back to Phin. Hank looks disgusted by the thought of living under Terry's rule. Phin smiles

PHIN (CONT'D)
 Literal, you can go home. Thanks for
 the help.

Literal doesn't say anything. He just gets in his car and
 drives away.

PHIN (CONT'D)
 Terry, unlock the door.

TERRY
 No.

A dirt clod hits Terry on the side of the head. Terry looks
 down to see Hank dusting off his hands.

TERRY (CONT'D)
 Phin!

Phin looks at Hank, disapprovingly at first. He then takes out
 his notebook.

PHIN
 Nice shot.

As Terry brushes the dirt from his hair, a car horn blares.
 Phin turns to see Beth driving toward him. Phin looks a bit
 panicked as he runs toward her car, attempting to make her stop
 as far from his family as possible. She slows to a stop.

BETH
 Hey, was that Simon?

PHIN
 Yeah.

BETH
 Did he take you to get your car?

PHIN
 Uh, sort of. Why are you here?

BETH
 I saw someone driving your car away
 from my house like a bat out of hell.
 I thought I'd come by and make sure it
 found its way home.

Phin nods and points to the car.

PHIN
 And as you can see, it did. Sorry you
 had to drive out here just for that.

Phin glances back at Hank and Terry as they stare at Beth. Beth
 waves. They both wave back.

PHIN (CONT'D)
You wanna get some lunch or something?

BETH
I've got work in an hour.

PHIN
That's plenty of time. Just wait here
while I go grab my wallet.

Beth nods. Phin walks very briskly toward the front door.

PHIN (CONT'D)
Terry, unlock the door.

Terry doesn't move.

PHIN (CONT'D)
Now, Terry.

Terry sinks back inside the window to go unlock the door.

As Phin waits at the door, Hank starts to walk out to Beth's car. Just as Phin is about to go stop Hank, the door unlocks. Phin hesitates for a moment, then shoves Terry out of the way as he runs into the house.

INT. SAGE HOUSE - PHIN'S ROOM - DAY

Phin checks the night-stand in his room. No wallet. He shuffles through the unmade bed in his room. No wallet. He looks under the bed. No wallet.

Phin runs out of his room and down the hall into...

INT. SAGE HOUSE - HANK'S BEDROOM - DAY

As Phin enters the room, he pauses for a minute, noticing the pictures of his mother. He suddenly notices a wallet sitting on Sage's dresser. Phin opens it to see his ID. This is Phin's wallet. Phin checks the wallet. Everything seems to be in order, except there is no cash.

PHIN
Dammit.

Phin looks out the window to see that Hank is talking to Beth, while Terry is standing at an awkward distance away from the car; just close enough to observe but not close enough to interact. Phin can't see Beth's expression from this angle.

EXT. SAGE HOUSE - DAY

Phin bursts out the front door. He locks eyes with Beth. She's still smiling. A load is taken off Phin's shoulders as he briskly jogs over to her car. Hank is mid-sentence.

HANK

...it's just better hygienically. We learned that by the time Terry came around. Phineas's was such a bitch to clean.

PHIN

What is your problem?

Phin is already scratching in his notebook by the time Hank realizes he's there.

HANK

Why are you doing that?

PHIN

Because you are telling girls about my foreskin again.

HANK

I was talking about diapers. Cloth versus disposable.

Phin stops. Embarrassment sweeps his face as he looks at Beth.

BETH

He was telling me about your foreskin.

Hank snaps at Beth for ratting him out.

HANK

That information was for your benefit.

Phin starts writing in the notebook again.

PHIN

...And for lying.

HANK

(to Beth)

You want the truth? There is a man about a hundred feet away over there. A circumcised man. He is not ashamed of his family and he loves you.

TERRY

(quietly)

He'd like to get to know her better before committing to the word 'love'.

Hank ignores Terry.

HANK

...And he won't be dead in a month.

BETH

What?

HANK

You want proof? Terry, tell her your cholesterol level.

TERRY

220.

HANK

Really? Well, it's a little high, but that's still only in the low-to-moderate risk range.

Beth isn't paying attention to Hank and Terry anymore.

BETH

Why did he say Terry won't be dead.

PHIN

He's just playing the odds.

HANK

And don't think you're getting Phineas's money.

Hank then realizes Beth and Phin aren't even paying attention to him. They are staring at each other.

BETH

Don't fucking joke around. What did he mean?

HANK

You didn't tell her?

PHIN

Dad!

Beth stares at Phin, waiting for an explanation.

BETH

What does that mean?

PHIN

I was going to tell you. Really.

BETH
 Tell me what?
 (beat)
 What?

PHIN
 They say I'm not doing so hot these
 days.

BETH
 How so?

Phin's awkward frown behind a forced smile tells her he isn't
 joking. Beth looks increasingly worried.

PHIN
 I've got this thing... in my head... a
 growth.

Beth starts tearing up.

BETH
 Like cancer?

PHIN
 Yeah, something like that.

BETH
 So.. So what does that mean? You're
 going to have to do chemo?

PHIN
 It's... it's past that.

BETH
 So are you going...

Phin reaches up and wipes his nose. It's bleeding. Phin looks
 at the blood on his hand.

PHIN
 (re: the bloody nose)
 It's just dry out.
 (beat)
 Get out of the car for a second.

Phin looks back at Hank and Terry watching.

PHIN (CONT'D)
 Actually, let's go somewhere.

Beth chokes out her words.

BETH
 Not right now.

Beth drives off in a cloud of dust. Phin stands across from Hank, dirt caking in the blood under his nose.

HANK

You really should have told her.

Phin sniffs some of the blood back into his nose. He is starting to tear up. He is clearly quite hurt by this. Without saying anything. He starts to head back to the house.

TERRY

You can talk to her.

HANK

Phineas. I'm sorry.

Phin turns around puzzled.

PHIN

You've never said 'sorry' to me before. Ever.

A beat as Hank tries to recall a counter-example, but can't.

HANK

I'm sorry you became unreasonably attached to that girl in such a short amount of time.

Phin sighs.

PHIN

(under his breath)
So close.

Phin walks into the house but leaves the front door ajar.

HANK

Phineas, just forget her. She's not that pretty sober, anyway.

INT. SAGE HOUSE - DAY

Phin sits on the couch. He is holding a throw-pillow shaped like a sheep to his nose. One side is covered in blood. Hank and Terry creep through the doorway.

Terry runs into the kitchen to grab a towel.

HANK

That was your mother's.

PHIN

She wouldn't have cared.

HANK
You barely knew her.

Phin glares at Hank.

Terry tries to give the towel to Phin. Phin shakes his head.

HANK (CONT'D)
Take the towel.

PHIN
I want to use the sheep.

HANK
Why?

PHIN
Because I do.

Hank pauses, then grabs for the sheep. Phin jumps to his feet to grab it back, but Hank pulls it away.

PHIN (CONT'D)
You know, you say these things... you aren't even in any of the pictures with her in your room.

HANK
Who did you think took those?

Phin is silent for a moment.

TERRY
Sears...

Phin finally just grabs the towel from Terry.

HANK
(to Terry)
Thank you.

PHIN
Fine! Here's your chance Dad. I am going to give you one shot at this. If you tell me why you've favored Terry all these years, why you've treated me like this, I'll just give you each half of the money. End of the competition.

Hank just stares at Phin. Terry watches intently.

PHIN (CONT'D)
Just tell me. Tell the three of us.

HANK
(slowly)
I want all of the money.

PHIN
Fuck it. Fine. You get everything.
I'll buy the answer from you. Just
tell me.

Hank stands, silent, staring at Phin's bloody nose.

PHIN (CONT'D)
Then just admit it. Admit that you
favored him. That's all. You don't
even need to tell me why. Maybe you
don't know why.

Hank looks over at Terry, then back to Phin.

HANK
I could lie and you wouldn't know.

Phin recoils his fist, still holding the bloody nose towel,
ready to punch Hank. He stops himself from punching Hank.

In his frustration he hurls the bloody rag against the wall,
leaving a blood spot.

PHIN
The games go on.

Phin turns around and walks into the kitchen. Hank and Terry
both stand where they were.

PHIN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I wouldn't want to be the last one
through this doorway.

Terry slowly starts walking for the door, then Hank cautiously
follows. As Terry reaches the door, he stops. He lets Hank go
in before him.

In the kitchen, Phin places two pots of water on the stove, then
takes out his notebook.

PHIN (CONT'D)
How many steps would you say you took
to get in here?

HANK
I don't know.

PHIN
Well you might want to keep an eye on
that from now on.

TERRY

Is it better to take more or less?

PHIN

Let's just think of it like golf.

Terry stares blankly, obviously not knowing how golf is scored.

PHIN (CONT'D)

Less.

Terry nods.

Phin sticks his finger in each pot to feel the water. He then nods at the pots while looking at Hank and Terry.

Hank and Terry roll up their sleeves and place their hands into the pots of water as they heat up. Both men clench their teeth.

CUT TO:

QUICK CUTS OF:

-- Hank and Terry frantically typing letters on typewriters. Hank looks to be in pain.

-- Hank, looking sad, is standing in his room as Phin and Terry watch him, slowly takes a discus trophy from his wall. He smashes it on the ground.

-- Hank and Terry sit confused at opposite sides of a chess board. Terry moves a knight straight forward. Hank responds by moving a pawn backwards. Neither knows how to play.

-- Terry and Hank still have their hands in the water. It is starting to heat up and their faces show the pain.

-- Terry and Hank give each other Indian burns.

-- Terry is in his room as Hank and Phin watch him pull his goldfish from its fishbowl and reluctantly eat it.

-- Hank and Terry walk around the house taking huge strides as Phin relaxes on the couch.

-- Hank comes in from outside carrying a ridiculous amount of firewood.

-- The men have their hands in the water, clenched into fists as it steams.

-- Terry walks in huge strides across the upstairs hallway. He is carrying the TV from his room upstairs. He can barely see over it as he heads toward the stairs.

-- Terry and Hank watch each other as they try to clip their fingernails shorter than the other person. Their nails begin to bleed.

-- Hank and Terry bang away on the typewriters as Hank shotguns arthritis medicine.

-- The men have their hands in the water. It is at a simmer. Terry yanks his hand out with a primal yell. Hank pulls his out immediately after. He elbows the toaster and it falls off the counter, hitting the ground.

-- Terry, trying to descend multiple steps at a time with the TV, He looks very unstable.

INT. SAGE HOUSE - NIGHT

Phin is looking through the kitchen cabinets for a snack.

PHIN

Terry, hurry it up with that TV. It's almost time for Wheel. You don't want me to mark you down.

Something catches his eye on the counter. It is a mortgage bill on the counter. He picks it up and starts to examine it. Suddenly there is a loud crash.

Phin drops the bill and runs out of the kitchen. Phin gasps as he finds Terry laying at the bottom of the stairs. Cut and bruised, Terry lays in broken TV rubble. Phin drops down to help Terry up.

PHIN (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

Terry is taking big gasping breaths.

TERRY

Yeah. I think so.

PHIN

You're breathing oddly.

TERRY

(in one quick breath.)
I'm trying to take as few breaths as possible.

PHIN

Just breath normally. You're not on the clock.

Terry's breathing returns to normal. Terry looks at the broken TV all around him.

TERRY

Am I going to get marked down for dropping the TV?

PHIN

No. Of course not. I'm really sorry. It's my fault.

TERRY

I want you to be fair. Mark me down for falling.

PHIN

Terry, the competition doesn't matter.

TERRY

Yes it does.

With a few cringes of pain, Terry lifts himself to his feet, and limps out the front door, taking elongated strides all the way.

Phin starts to clean up the TV rubble.

INT. LITERAL'S CAR - NIGHT

Literal is driving Phin down a dark road.

PHIN

It's just up on the left.

Phin points at an abandoned-looking barn but Literal drives right past it.

PHIN (CONT'D)

Didn't you see it?

LITERAL

Yes, it was very old.

PHIN

Just let me out here.

Literal pulls over.

PHIN (CONT'D)

Wait until I get back.

Phin hops out of the car.

EXT. RUN-DOWN BARN - NIGHT

The barn is empty and worn, but solidly standing. There is a small light coming from inside. Phin walks up to the front door.

INT. RUN-DOWN BARN - NIGHT

The door creaks as Phin enters. The place is clean and humbly maintained. There is a light coming from the end of the hall. The light goes off. Some shuffling is heard. Phin heads down the hall.

PHIN

Terry?

There is a loud rattling noise and the light comes back on. Phin rounds the corner. Terry is standing with a flashlight in his hand. At his feet is a dead black lab with a tennis ball in its mouth.

TERRY

Phin! I was just out here walking and I... I found this dead dog. It was just dead when I got here. I've never seen it before in my life.

Phin looks around to see a bed and bowls with food and water.

PHIN

So I guess we better bury it then.

TERRY

No, I think we should just leave it here. The raccoons and stuff can eat it. We shouldn't upset nature's balance.

Terry starts walking toward the door, guiding Phin along with him. Suddenly the dog gets up and starts to follow.

Terry, thinking quickly, fakes being scared and starts to run from the dog. Phin stays put and starts petting the dog.

TERRY (CONT'D)

Phin, come on. That thing could be rabid.

PHIN

I know about the dog, Terry.

Terry gives up the act and walks back to the dog.

TERRY

Could you not tell Sage?

PHIN

He's the one that told me about it.

TERRY

Oh. Could you still not tell him. I don't want him to know I know he knows. I like the dynamic we have going as-is.

PHIN

Yeah, sure.
(petting the dog)
What's its name?

TERRY

Terri.

PHIN

You named him after yourself?

TERRY

She. Terri with an 'I'. I thought the name would make Sage not want to put her to sleep.

Phin chuckles at the fact that Terry thought that plan would actually work.

The flashlight goes out. Terry pumps the flashlight up and down in the air, and it turns back on. Phin looks puzzled.

TERRY (CONT'D)

No batteries. I just shake it.
(beat)
So, did I lose more points for walking out?

PHIN

No-- Terry, it was my fault you fell down the stairs. I've pushed this thing too far. You're going to win.

TERRY

(ecstatic)
Yeah? I have that many more points than Sage? I thought he was putting up a pretty good fight--

PHIN

No. You don't have any points, Terry.

TERRY

Then how am I winning?

PHIN

There are no points. There isn't even a contest. You don't have to try so hard. I just want to get back at dad.

Terry looks heart-broken.

TERRY

No. You can't do that.

PHIN

Don't you stand up for Dad, Ter. He made up this whole stupid thing to hold it over me and embarrass you.

TERRY

I want to keep playing. I want to win.

PHIN

Terry...

Terri the dog looks at Phin.

TERRY

I need to beat him. Beat him fair. You need to keep judging the competition.

PHIN

I can't give him my money. He doesn't deserve that chance. After everything he put me through when we were kids.

TERRY

Yeah, he always made you lose, but I never felt like I won. He always helped me, whether I wanted it or not.

The flashlight goes out. Terry's emotion gets the best of him.

TERRY (CONT'D)

Fuck!

Terry throws the flashlight against the wall. It shakes on.

PHIN

I haven't actually been keeping track. I just hold the notebook to scare Dad.

TERRY

Just start with me dropping the TV. You can't just let me win.

Phin is reluctant.

PHIN

Then he's in the lead.

Terry nods just before the flashlight goes off.

TERRY

Can you help me find the light?

In the dark, the men can be heard shuffling around. One of them accidentally kicks the dog. It yips.

TERRY (CONT'D)

Bad Terri!

PHIN

I'll see you back home.

Phin can be heard walking out.

INT. DINER - NIGHT

Phin slowly wanders up to the bar. He sits down and looks for Beth. She comes out of the kitchen holding plates, not as cheery as usual.

She glances over at Phin, making eye contact just long enough so that there is no doubt that she saw him. She looks away and keeps walking, delivering the food to customers.

Phin buries his forehead in his palm, resting his elbow on the counter. Out of the corner of his eye, he notices a glass of orange juice. He lifts his head to see Beth.

BETH

I'm sorry I just left. I kinda panicked. Familiar territory, ya know?

PHIN

I should have told you. I just didn't want you to look at me like I was expired milk.

Phin cracks a smile. Beth softens up.

BETH

I'll get you some egg-whites.

Beth walks toward the kitchen. Phin grabs his orange juice.

PHIN

No Ovaltine-mocha and pie?

BETH

This is better for you.

Phin looks as though he is about to argue, but lets it go.

PHIN

So... I'm thinking of hitting up the water tower tonight.

BETH

Are you gonna get drunk and skinny dip?

PHIN

That's what they did? So everyone used to go drunken night swimming and I'm the one dying young?

BETH

Not funny.

PHIN

I never got to go because my dad wouldn't let me.

BETH

You weren't supposed to ask permission to go to the water tower. You'd say you were going to the library.

PHIN

Oh. You feel like doing some reading tonight?

BETH

We should get towels.

Beth half smiles and goes into the kitchen.

Phin looks out the diner window to see Literal waiting by the car for him. He gives Literal the 'thumbs up.' Literal looks up into the sky. After seeing nothing, Literal looks back to Phin and shrugs. Phin waves Literal away. Literal nods and gets in his car, and drives off.

INT. SAGE HOUSE - DAY

Phin bolts through the doorway as Hank calls out from living room.

HANK (O.S.)

You could have killed your brother.

Phin walks into the living room, now carrying two towels, to see Hank sitting with Terry in front of the living room TV, smoking his pipe.

PHIN

Well, I didn't, and I apologized.

TERRY
Yeah. I'm fine.

HANK
And you made him break the upstairs
TV.

PHIN
It looks like you're getting along
okay without it.

HANK
What if it had been a plasma TV? Did
you think about that?

PHIN
Then he probably wouldn't have dropped
it.

Hank has no retort. Terry shrugs. Phin is heading for the door.

HANK
Where are you going?

PHIN
Out. With Beth.

HANK
Take your brother with you.

PHIN
What?

HANK
Take Terry with you. He's bored.

PHIN
But Dad!

HANK
You won't even notice him.

Terry looks up at Phin with puppy-dog eyes.

EXT. WATER TOWER - NIGHT

Beth's car comes tearing up a dirt road, kicking dust everywhere, all the windows down, stereo blaring Bryan Adams - Summer of '69.

EXT. WATER TOWER - MOMENTS LATER

Phin, Beth and Terry are all sitting on a wooden walkway around the tower with their legs dangling off the edge. The tower is covered with the graffiti from a lifetime of teenage abuse.

Phin is sitting between Beth and Terry as they all drink beer (Natty Light), smoke cigarettes and look out over the reservoir. With them, they have a couple electric lanterns, a can of spray paint, and a boom-box, now playing Bryan Adams - Heaven.

PHIN

So this is what everyone did?

BETH

It's more exciting when you're too young to be smoking and drinking.

Phin nods.

TERRY

There were people making out and skinny dipping and stuff, too.

Terry stares at Phin and Beth like that was their cue to start making out or ripping off their clothes. There is an awkward silence before Terry goes back to his beer.

PHIN

Do we have another tape?

TERRY

Bryan Adams was all I could find.

Phin nods, determined to have an awesome time anyway.

PHIN

Whatever. I'm gonna paint something. What do people usually paint?

BETH

(shrugging)
Go Sailors. Suck balls. Ben hearts Jackie. You know, the go-to's.

TERRY

You should draw something. Something bad-ass.

Phin thinks about it for a second, staring at the tower.

Phin starts to paint something. Beth and Terry both stare at it, puzzled.

TERRY (CONT'D)

Is that supposed to be you?

PHIN
Yeah. It's me singing into a
microphone. I'm rocking out.

TERRY
(reserved)
Oh...

Phin scoffs, then looks to Beth.

PHIN
Is it that bad?

BETH
It looks like you are holding a penis
to your face.

Sure enough, it does.

PHIN
What? No.

Terry's silence shows he agrees.

Phin grabs another beer and sighs. He walks up to the tower and
paints something below the picture.

PHIN (CONT'D)
There. Better?

Phin has painted "phin (heart)s rock", all lowercase.

PHIN (CONT'D)
See, I heart rock.

BETH
Yeah, I guess it makes more sense now.

TERRY
Now people will know that's supposed
to be you.

Phin knows Terry is right. He glares at him.

PHIN
Let's go swimming.

BETH
Wait... skinny dipping?

Phin looks over at Terry.

PHIN
Underwear.

Beth seems hesitant. Phin pleases with his eyes.

BETH

Alright. But we need to shotgun a beer first.

Phin grabs a beer, takes off his shoes, then climbs down the water tower ladder. Beth follows, but Terry stays sitting.

PHIN

Terry?

TERRY

I can't.

PHIN

Don't be chicken.

TERRY

No. I can't. I don't have a suit.

PHIN

We're going in our underwear.

TERRY

I know. I'm... I'm going commando.

PHIN

What? Why?

Beth is trying to hold in her laughter.

TERRY

I just always have.

PHIN

Really?

Terry nods.

PHIN (CONT'D)

But that... that's not socially acceptable.

Terry shrugs. Nothing he can do about it now.

BETH

Phin.

Phin turns to see that Beth is already in her underwear, smiling. Phin is frozen as his eyes go wide. She is stunning.

PHIN

Alright Terry, you watch the stuff.

Phin starts clumsily ripping off his clothes as he chases Beth toward the water, both pounding their beers.

She hesitates at the edge of the water as Phin runs past her, throwing his can and jumping in. She follows. It's freezing.

BETH

Fuck!

Phin swims a bit, then treads water as he waits for Beth.

BETH (CONT'D)

Not too far.

PHIN

Come on. I can almost touch.

Beth swims out. They can't see Terry and the tower anymore.

BETH

Phin Sage, are you trying to get me alone?

PHIN

Of course not. I thought I might...

Phin rolls his eyes back as if being coy. Beth smiles. It appears that Phin is trying to make a move, but he doesn't say anything. Beth's smile fades. Something doesn't look right.

Phin suddenly slips underwater.

BETH

Phin?

(silence)

Phin!

Beth dives underwater for a moment, but comes back up without Phin.

Beth sees Terry running into the water, throwing his clothes off behind him. He swims out as fast as he can.

BETH (CONT'D)

Terry! I can't find him.

Terry dives underwater. He's down there for a while.

Suddenly Terry burst through the surface, but it appears to be just Terry. Terry then pulls up his arms, pulling Phin above the surface.

Terry and Beth kick their way back to the shore, dragging Phin with them. As Terry climbs out, we can see he is bare-ass naked.

As they pull Phin onto the shore, he starts coughing out water. Terry lays Phin out on his back, facing the sky, then falls face-down next to Phin, exhausted.

Beth leans over Phin, wiping the water off of his face. Phin opens his eyes and looks up at her.

BETH (CONT'D)
Phin! Oh my God! Are you okay?

PHIN
(coughing)
Yeah, I'm good. What happened?

BETH
Terry saved you.

PHIN
Oh God... is he naked?

Beth doesn't say anything, but her silence tells Phin everything he needs to know. He rolls over to face Terry.

PHIN (CONT'D)
Thanks, Ter.

TERRY
No prob. I think I got sand in my butt.

Terry looks back up at the tower.

TERRY (CONT'D)
From here it looks like it says Phin hearts cock.

The lower-case "r" does indeed look like a "c".

...But Phin ignores Terry as he notices Beth walking back to her pile of clothes. Phin sits up.

PHIN
Beth, you okay?

BETH
(meekly)
Yeah, I'm fine. Just cold.

Phin walks over to her.

PHIN
I'm okay, really. Actually, it was kinda fun.

BETH
Yeah, well you scared the hell out of me. I wouldn't call that fun.

PHIN

Yeah. I guess not. But at least you got to see Terry naked.

Beth smiles.

PHIN (CONT'D)

I'm gonna go fix what I wrote on the tower.

BETH

Can we just go?

PHIN

But it says I love cock.

Phin smiles at Beth. She looks up at the tower and can't help but smile.

BETH

I think it's funny.

PHIN

Alright.

Beth wraps her arm around Phin's waist.

PHIN (CONT'D)

Can I make it up to you tomorrow?

INT. BETH'S CAR - NIGHT

It is the next night and Phin is in the backseat as Beth drives.

PHIN

Turn left up there.

BETH

Where are we going?

EXT. HIGHSCHOOL - NIGHT

Phin leads Beth across the dark campus, past lockers and classrooms.

BETH

Why are we at the high school?

PHIN

Remember how I said I was trying to make up for a few things I missed out on?

Phin pushes open the door to the cafeteria.

INT. HIGHSCHOOL CAFETERIA - NIGHT

The Cafeteria is dark except for a glowing disco ball hanging in the middle of the room, making the tables and walls sparkle. Beth is shocked.

Draped over a chair is a tacky blue tuxedo jacket. Phin slips it on before clipping on a bow-tie that he pulls from his pocket.

Phin also has a matching blue corsage that he places on Beth's wrist.

PHIN

We both missed the dance because of my Dad.

BETH

I didn't miss any dances.

PHIN

Oh...

BETH

But they did kinda suck. How did you do all of this?

PHIN

My friend AJ.

Phin waves. Beth sees a small man dressed in coveralls walk over from the corner of the cafeteria. This is AJ, 70. She reaches out her hand to shake.

AJ

AJ. I'm the janitor.

BETH

Beth. I'm the date for the dance. What does AJ stand for?

AJ

Alcoholic Jay.

Beth laughs. AJ doesn't. Beth's laugh fades awkwardly.

BETH

Oh. Well, thank you for setting this all up.

AJ nods and walks back over to his corner. He presses play on a boom-box. "Hold Me Now" by the Thompson Twins plays. Phin grabs Beth by the hand and starts to dance with her. They can see AJ drinking from a bottle of whiskey. He has two more bottles sitting near by. Beth looks at the whiskey then at Phin.

PHIN

I gave him a few bucks to set this up.
He bought the booze himself.

BETH

Does he need to stare at us?

PHIN

That was part of the deal. Just
ignore him.

BETH

Are you sure you're okay to be
dancing?

PHIN

I'll survive.

Phin pulls Beth in closer. She closes her eyes as they dance
around in circles.

AJ

(under his breath)
Cop a feel.

EXT. HIGHSCHOOL - NIGHT

As they leave the dance, Phin puts his coat around Beth's
shoulders. He also, very deliberately, leaves his arm around
her.

BETH

Smooth operator.

As Phin smiles at Beth, he hears a clinking sound. He looks
over to see one kid trying to reach up into a vending machine
and take candy off the bottom row as another kid shakes the
machine.

Phin immediately pulls his arm off of Beth and runs over to
them. He starts waving his hands and making odd "shoo"ing
noises with his mouth, as if chasing away dogs.

The kids run off.

BETH (CONT'D)

Easy. They're kids, not dogs.

PHIN

They were trying to steal from that
vending machine.

BETH

It was just a candy bar.

PHIN

What if they'd had a coat hanger?
Imagine what they would have taken
then.

BETH

Is that what the pro's use?

PHIN

Yes!

Beth laughs. Phin realizes that he is being a bit crazy.

PHIN (CONT'D)

I probably shouldn't call the police?

Beth walks up and puts her arms around Phin's waist.

BETH

You don't want to be a narc on the
night of the dance.

Phin smiles. They walk away from the vending machines.

BETH (CONT'D)

That was very "old man" of you.

PHIN

I know.

INT. BETH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Beth leads Phin through the door. Beth takes off her coat and
throws it on the couch. Phin sits down next to the coat as Beth
walks into the kitchen.

BETH (O.S.)

Phin.

PHIN

Yeah?

Phin starts to get up.

BETH (O.S.)

No. Stay there.

PHIN

What?

BETH (O.S.)

It's easier not to look at you.

Phin looks over to see if she is watching him. She isn't.

BETH (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I need to know what's going to happen
to you.

PHIN
I'm going to die.

BETH (O.S.)
No. Before that. What's going to
happen.

PHIN
Oh.
(long beat)
They say I could start having
seizures... blackouts, vision
problems... headaches... other things.

BETH (O.S.)
The bloody nose?

PHIN
My blood pressure is up. Can't tell
if it's the tumor or just the stress
of it all.

BETH
Which symptoms have you had already?

Phin pauses for a moment, not answering the question.

PHIN
Well, my vision is fine.
(jokingly)
You're still a cute blonde, right?

Beth laughs. She slowly emerges from the kitchen and sits next
to Phin.

BETH
What about you? Like, the way you act?

PHIN
There's a chance I could get brain
damage as the tumor grows. Anything
from a slight personality change to
barely being able to work the door at
Wal-Mart.

Phin's answer clearly worries Beth.

BETH
So this is why you took me to the sand
museum and the do-over dance?

Phin shrugs.

PHIN

And the water tower. Things I wanted to do. Exciting, huh?

BETH

That's it? Not exactly dreaming big.

PHIN

Well, I did kinda want to build a giant vending machine. You know, really big. The Voltron of vending.

(Phin chuckles)

What would you do?

BETH

I don't know.

Phin mimics handing Beth a phone.

PHIN

Come on, Make-a-Wish Foundation is on the line. If you don't answer, they're gonna call lupus girl.

BETH

Can I wish to be cured?

PHIN

That'd be nice, wouldn't it?

BETH

Sorry... I was just joking.

PHIN

So am I. Now tell me.

BETH

You'll think it's stupid.

PHIN

Maybe. Just tell me.

BETH

I want to go to the San Diego Zoo. I want to see the baby pandas.

PHIN

You don't have to be dying to do that. You could fly out this weekend.

BETH

You could. I have to work, and I don't exactly have the frequent flyer miles.

PHIN

Let me get you a ticket.

Beth suddenly stops joking around.

BETH

Phin. Don't do this. I need to get some sleep. I have the morning shift tomorrow.

Phin nods. Beth stands up.

BETH (CONT'D)

Where were you when I could have actually used a ticket out of this place?

PHIN

Selling snacks and waiting.

BETH

Waiting for what?

Phin shrugs. Beth smiles.

BETH (CONT'D)

You can take my bed if you want.

PHIN

I'm fine on the couch.

Beth nods and walks down the hall to her room.

PHIN (CONT'D)

Don't wait until you're dying.

Beth can be heard sighing.

INT. BETH'S HOUSE - DAY

Beth wakes up on the couch, in Phin's arms. They are both dressed just as they were last night. She sees the sun seeping in through the blinds.

She shakes Phin, trying to wake him up.

BETH

Phin. Phin.

Phin doesn't wake up. She gets louder and shakes a bit harder.

BETH (CONT'D)

Phin!

Her eyes swell as she starts to panic.

BETH (CONT'D)

PHIN!

Phin slowly wakes up, yawning and stretching.

PHIN

Huh?

Beth stands up quickly, wipes her nose and tries to hide how worried she had become in that moment.

BETH

We need to get up. I've got work.

PHIN

Call in sick.

BETH

(irritated)

No. I can't.

Beth gets up and heads into her bedroom.

PHIN

You're not going to get an award for perfect attendance.

BETH (O.S.)

But it does affect my paycheck.

PHIN

I'll pay you to stay here.

Beth comes out of her room. Tears stream down her cheeks.

BETH

Can you please leave?

PHIN

What's the matter?

BETH

Could you just go?

PHIN

What happened?

BETH

I don't even have time or money to go to the damn zoo and you think I'm going to stay here and watch you die all day.

PHIN

I'm not dying today.

BETH

Then when are you dying? Next week?
Next month?

PHIN

Beth.

BETH

I don't want to see you anymore.

PHIN

Just wait a minute.

Beth does her best to subdue her emotions.

BETH

Please, Phineas.

PHIN

Don't call me that.

BETH

You can't do this to me. Just leave
now.

Phin slams the door on his way out. Beth's legs give out as she falls on the couch, face in hands.

EXT. SAGE HOUSE - DAY

Phin is walking down the long dirty path toward the house. Under his nose is residue of a poor attempt to clean a bloody nose.

INT. SAGE HOUSE - DAY

Phin slouches through the doorway as Hank calls out from living room.

HANK (O.S.)

Your brother said he saved you.

Phin walks into the living room to see Hank sitting in front of the living room TV, smoking his pipe.

PHIN

Yeah, he did.

HANK

He doesn't get credit for that because I wasn't even there. I didn't get a fair shot at saving you.

PHIN

I didn't even think about that.

Hank pauses for a beat as he tries to chose his words.

HANK

Phineas, Terry can't get that money. He needs to have the chance to make it on his own. If he has all of that given to him, he'll never have to do anything for himself. You deserved it, he doesn't.

PHIN

And maybe if he had the money, he could move out and leave you here by yourself? Then again, I didn't have any money when I left, did I?

HANK

Fine. I'll tell you why I favor Terry.

Phin stares at Hank, furrowing his brow waiting to see what Hank has come up with.

HANK (CONT'D)

When you were born your head was so large that your mother had to have a C-section. They cut her stomach open and pulled you out.

Hank pauses for a moment, lowering his head.

HANK (CONT'D)

Her stomach was never the same. I guess some part of me never forgave you for mangling that gorgeous body. It was as flat as a runway before you.

PHIN

Terry was the C-section.

Hank thinks for a second.

HANK

Hmm. You still gave her stretch marks like you wouldn't believe.

Phin forces a laugh, masking his anger and sadness.

PHIN

I don't know what I was expecting... You didn't even pay off the mortgage with the money I gave you. I found the bill.

HANK

I bought this house for your mother.
I'm going to pay it off.

PHIN

Then what did you do with the cashiers
check?

HANK

In a drawer somewhere.

Phin storms off into the kitchen. Hank sighs and goes back to watching the TV.

Suddenly there is a large crash in the kitchen.

Hank sits up and looks back into the kitchen to see Phin on the ground. There is a bit of blood on the edge of the counter where he hit his head while falling. The phone is off the hook.

INT. SAGE HOUSE - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Hank is sitting on the kitchen floor holding up Phin's head. Hank's eyes are misty, and Phin hasn't woken up yet.

Two EMTs in their early 20's rush in with a stretcher. They load Phin onto it. One EMT turns to Hank.

EMT

You can ride in the ambulance.

Hank looks down at Phin.

HANK

Is he going to be okay?

EMT

I don't know.

HANK

I'll follow in my car.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

An ambulance, sirens blaring, races down the street, Hank's car following.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY

Phin is rushed through the halls on the gurney.

INT. HOSPITAL - MRI ROOM - DAY

Phin is laying in the machine as it hums away, scanning his head.

INT. HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - DAY

Hank is sitting in the waiting room reading Highlights magazine. A male NURSE in blue scrubs enters the waiting room.

NURSE

Hank Sage?

Hank stands up. The nurse motions for Hank to come over to him. The nurse appears very somber.

HANK

Yes?

NURSE

Mr. Sage, your son... wanted me to tell you he's going to take a cab home.

Hank looks taken aback at first, but then smiles.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

A DOCTOR, 60, wearing a white coat, sits across from Phin. A scan of Phin's brain is on a computer screen. It is a very similar situation to when Phin initially learned of the tumor.

Phin is very pale and has bags under his eyes.

DOCTOR

Your intracranial pressure is extremely high.

PHIN

And?

DOCTOR

I've spoken with your physician. I'm sorry, Mr. Sage, but we both agree... you don't have much time left. We'd like you to stay at the hospital so we can monitor you.

Phin silently nods, then slowly looks around the room, taking it all in. He stands up, shakes the doctor's hand, then leaves.

EXT. SAGE HOUSE - EVENING

The cab pulls up to the front of the house with Phin inside.

INT. SAGE HOUSE - DAY

Phin walks in the door with his bag, looking to see if Terry or Hank are in the living room. They aren't there. Phin ascends the stairs to his room.

INT. SAGE HOUSE - PHIN'S ROOM - DAY

Phin, looking worse than ever, enters to find Hank in his room, rummaging through his stuff.

Hank is startled and defensive, expecting a fight.

HANK
I was cleaning.

PHIN
Yeah.

Phin doesn't seem to have the energy to fight.

HANK
What did the doctors say?

PHIN
(sarcastically)
I'm cured.

HANK
That's not funny, Phineas. Did they run anymore tests?

PHIN
Yeah.

HANK
And?

PHIN
They'll get back to me in a few days.

Phin starts to take his coat off. He looks exhausted. He takes out his wallet and sets it on the hockey game along with his watch.

HANK
So how is our contest going? You haven't had your notebook out in a while.

PHIN

I'm keeping track in my head now.

HANK

Do you think that's the most reliable place to store information at the moment?

PHIN

I'll write it down later. Where's Terry?

Hank nods toward the window. Phin peers out to see Terry training. He is jogging in place while tossing a medicine ball in the air. He seems to have fully recovered from his fall.

PHIN (CONT'D)

Where did he get that medicine ball?

Hank shrugs.

Phin climbs under the hockey table and lays in bed.

PHIN (CONT'D)

Wake me up in an hour.

HANK

It's the middle of the day.

PHIN

And I need some sleep.

HANK

You just said you felt fine.

PHIN

(perplexed)

No I didn't. Actually, I feel like dying right now, so can you just leave me alone for one hour?

Hank opens his mouth to respond, but comes up empty. Phin's comment has landed heavy with him. Phin closes his eyes and rubs his eyelids as Hank leaves.

Through the window in Phin's room we see Hank storm out to Terry, take his medicine ball and try to throw it in anger. It doesn't go very far. Hank marches back into the house as Terry stands looking confused.

Phin sighs in pain off camera.

Hank can be heard ascending the stairs.

Phin's door creaks open. Hank walks over to a wall clock, pulls it off of the wall, then sets the time forward an hour.

Hank peers under the table to see Phin asleep. He slams the bedroom door.

HANK
Hour's up.

Phin jolts up and hits his head on the hockey table.

PHIN
Fuck! What?

HANK
You wanted me to wake you up in an hour. I just want to get this over with.

PHIN
I need a few more minutes then.

HANK
You said an hour.

PHIN
I know what I said.

HANK
This isn't a rest home.

PHIN
This isn't even a home.

HANK
Well, you could use some exercise.

Hank shoves the hockey table away from the bed, uncovering Phin.

Phin slowly sits up and rises out of bed as Hank is already walking out the door and...

INT. SAGE HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - DAY

...down the stairs first. Phin follows, gripping the banister as he descends. Hank watches from the bottom of the stairs, offering no help.

Before Phin reaches the bottom Hank is already headed out back.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Hank and Terry stand waiting as Phin slowly exits the back door.

Phin sighs, rubbing his temples. His head clearly aches.

TERRY
How you feeling?

PHIN
Fantastic.

Terry nods.

TERRY
So what's next?

Before Phin can answer, Hank chimes in...

HANK
We're chopping down those trees.

Hank points off across an empty field. There are a few trees about a quarter of a mile away.

PHIN
No. We're not going out there.

Hank ignores Phin and asks Terry...

HANK
Saw or axe?

PHIN
This isn't your contest anymore.

Hank ignores Phin and points over to the side of the house. There is a saw and an axe leaning against the house.

Terry looks over at the tools, then over at Phin. Phin is shaking his head. Terry looks over to see Hank producing a very similar glare, but nodding. Phin and Hank look very odd nodding and shaking together at Terry.

Terry thinks for a beat.

TERRY
Axe.

HANK
Good choice.

Hank hands the axe to Terry and he picks up the saw for himself. He starts walking toward the trees. Terry starts to walk, but notices Phin isn't following.

TERRY
(to Phin)
Come on. I think I can win this one.

Phin sees that Terry is genuinely excited.

PHIN
Fine, give me a hand.

Terry starts to walk back to help Phin.

HANK
No.

Both Terry and Phin look to Hank.

HANK (CONT'D)
Don't help him.

PHIN
What?

HANK
He doesn't need your help. He can do this.

Terry looks back at Phin, evaluating the situation.

After a beat of Terry not helping, Phin starts to walk. He is walking a bit crooked and almost loses his balance. Terry runs to catch him, but...

HANK (CONT'D)
No! Do not help him. He's not as bad as he seems.

Terry stops.

PHIN
Then how bad am I, Dad?

Beat.

HANK
I've seen people a lot worse off than you. We get the Discovery Channel.

Phin looks furious. He tries to walk toward Hank, but he is still having trouble.

PHIN
Give me a hand.

Terry walks to help him.

HANK
I said do not help him.

Terry considers for a moment then stops. Phin glares at Terry then back at Hank.

Phin stops and takes a deep breath.

PHIN

Dad. You're in the lead.

Hank and Terry are both stunned. Phin turns to Terry.

PHIN (CONT'D)

As horrible of a person he is, it's worse that you can't stand up to him.

Phin turns and stumbles toward the house. Terry runs over to try and help him.

HANK

Don't help him.

PHIN

Do not help me.

Terry stops. Hank takes a deep breath.

PHIN (CONT'D)

I'm fine.

Phin braces himself against the house and takes a deep breath.

INT. SAGE HOUSE - NIGHT

Hank sits in the kitchen with Terry. Hank is drinking coffee. They don't say anything for a moment. Then...

TERRY

Is that decaf?

Hank stands up and walks out and sits in the living room. Hank sets down his coffee and pours himself a glass of scotch. He takes out his pipe and lights it.

He calls back to Terry, still in the kitchen.

HANK

Terry, that dog you had, what was its name?

Terry is suddenly alert.

TERRY

Oh, I.. I don't remember.

Hank takes a drink.

HANK

Oh. Do you think I was wrong to want to put it to sleep?

TERRY

Yes.

HANK

What if it had actually been dying?
Would I still have been wrong?

Terry now stops to consider the situation.

TERRY

Dying of what?

HANK

I don't know... doggy plague?

TERRY

How bad is it?

HANK

It's plague. It can barely piss on
the things it used to like to piss on.

Terry thinks for a second.

TERRY

I guess I'd want her put to sleep
then. I wouldn't want to catch the
plague from her.

HANK

(frustrated)

No. You can't catch dog plague.
We're just talking about the dog.
Would you put it out of its misery?

A look of horror sweeps Terry's face.

TERRY

Is there something you're trying to
say to me?

HANK

(defensive)

No. Of course not.

TERRY

Sage?

HANK

It's nothing. I don't know. I was
just asking.

Terry slowly gets up from his chair. We can hear him shuffling
through drawers. Terry emerges in the hallway holding a tennis
ball and shaking his flashlight. He looks very distressed.

TERRY

I.. I'm just going.. I'm gonna take a
quick walk.

Terry runs out the door.

Hank takes another drink, turns on the TV and sits for a moment. We can't see what's on TV. Hank gets up without turning off the TV and walks into the kitchen and unplugs the toaster.

INT. SAGE HOUSE - PHIN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Phin is laying under the hockey table, back over his bed once again. Hank enters.

HANK

Phin.

PHIN

I don't want to talk to you.

HANK

You put the table back.

PHIN

Got used to it.

HANK

Ah.

(beat)

You're getting worse.

PHIN

(sarcastically)

Really?

HANK

Did you mean what you said today?

PHIN

That you're in the lead?

HANK

No, not that.

PHIN

Then what?

HANK

Never mind.

(beat)

You want some food? You should go downstairs and eat.

PHIN

Not right now.

HANK
I'm not bringing you food up here.
You'll make a mess.

PHIN
Probably.

Hank obviously didn't get the reaction he was hoping for.

HANK
Terry wouldn't make a mess. He's very
clean.

PHIN
It's next to godliness.

HANK
I can't believe you're giving up,
Phineas.

Phin slides out from under the table.

PHIN
This isn't giving up. This is being
beaten. Sometimes we just lose.

Hank thinks about this. It hits him hard.

Phin sits up.

HANK
Where are you going?

PHIN
You're right. I should get something
to eat while I can actually see
straight for a moment.

Hank looks panicked for a second. He blocks the door as Phin
stands up.

HANK
No. I'll get you something.

Phin looks confused.

PHIN
No.

Phin pushes past Hank out into...

INT. SAGE HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

HANK
Phineas, just wait.

Hank steps into the hallway and grabs Phin by the shoulder just before he gets to the stairs.

PHIN
What are you doing?

HANK
Nothing.

Phin looks down at the stairs to see there is a piece of wire tied at shin level across the top step. It is a trip wire.

Phin is baffled.

PHIN
Is that wire?

HANK
Oh yeah. Watch out for that.

Phin looks further down the stairs to see something very odd at the bottom. The floor is covered with baking trays filled with water. A plugged in toaster rests carefully balanced on the edges of the pans in the very center.

Phin is stunned.

HANK (CONT'D)
Son...

PHIN
(oddly calm)
Were you going to kill me?

HANK
No, of course not.

PHIN
I was going to trip over this wire,
fall down the stairs and land in that
toaster bath.

HANK
I think Terry just left that stuff
down there. I guess he's not as clean
as I thought.

PHIN
You knew you were winning and figured
why not end the game while you were
ahead. It's classic Dad.

HANK
That's ridiculous. Phineas...

PHIN

These are your last words to me? You could at least tell me the truth.

Hank pauses for a long time, contemplating whether he should tell the truth or not.

HANK

I couldn't see you like this. I didn't want you to see yourself like this.

Phin looks around the walls. There are clean patches on the walls where frames have recently been removed.

PHIN

Is that where all the mirrors went?

Hank nods.

PHIN (CONT'D)

Why didn't you just shoot me then? Why all of this?

HANK

I thought it would be exciting. A hell of a way to go.

Phin just stares. Hank gets very serious.

HANK (CONT'D)

It had to look like an accident... for the police.

Phin can barely speak as he tears up. Hank is also fighting tears.

PHIN

For everything you've done... Everything you've put me through...

Phin can't finish. He walks over to the top of the stairs. He places his shin against the trip wire.

HANK

Phineas, stop!

Phin pushes forward against the wire, preparing to tumble down the stairs. The wire snaps.

HANK (CONT'D)

Thank God.

Hank walks over to grab Phin.

PHIN
Stay there!

Phin walks down the stairs to the water and toaster. Phin supports himself on the bannister the whole way down. He carefully steps into the water.

HANK
Phineas. You can't--
(thinking)
You need to change your notes. Terry should be in the lead now.

PHIN
I want you to have the money. You *really* deserve it, Dad. Besides, you know what they say about money.

HANK
They who?

PHIN
'They' they. Never mind.

Phin kicks the toaster into the water.

Phin starts shaking violently.

Hank shields his face and yells.

Phin slowly stops shaking as he realizes he isn't actually being electrocuted.

Hank looks up at Phin.

HANK
Phineas? But you were being electrocuted.

Phin shrugs.

PHIN
The toaster is broken.

Hank nods with realization.

HANK
I forgot about that...
(beat)
But I must have known subconsciously!

Phin doesn't say anything. He turns to head out the door. As he turns he sees the TV in the living room is on. Home Alone is on TV. He looks around at Hank's trap.

PHIN
 You're unbelievable.
 (beat)
 I'm not coming back.

HANK
 I know.

Phin opens the door. His shoulder hits the frame as he leaves. Just as Phin slams the door behind him Hank yells...

HANK (CONT'D)
 I was wrong. I...

It isn't clear if Phin heard or not.

Terry can be heard coming in the back door.

TERRY (O.C.)
 Hey Sage, I don't think there is such
 a thing as doggy plague.

INT. LITERAL'S CAR - NIGHT

Literal drives as Phin sits in silence.

EXT. RUN-DOWN BARN - NIGHT

Literal pulls up to the barn. He waits for Phin to get out.

PHIN
 Can you stay for a while?

LITERAL
 I can.

PHIN
 Will you?

LITERAL
 Okay.

PHIN
 Do you have a flashlight or anything?

INT. RUN-DOWN BARN - NIGHT

The room is dimly lit by a glowstick and a small battery powered TV on mute and turned to a snowy station. Phin is sitting with his back against a wall as Literal plays with Terri the dog. Every time the dog barks, Literal looks a bit confused. The two of them running around is clearly getting to Phin.

PHIN

Sit.

Both Terri and Literal sit down.

LITERAL

Does it smell like carbon monoxide in here to you?

PHIN

I don't smell anything.

LITERAL

Carbon monoxide doesn't have any scent.

Phin is puzzled, but shrugs it off.

PHIN

Literal, I need to tell you something. I'm going to die.

LITERAL

I know.

PHIN

Really? How?

LITERAL

I thought it was pretty obvious.

Literal looks Phin up and down.

LITERAL (CONT'D)

Is that why you wanted me here? Am I going to have to bury your body?

PHIN

What? No. I'm not going to die right now... But soon. I have a brain tumor.

LITERAL

Oh. Does it hurt?

PHIN

Sometimes.

LITERAL

When?

PHIN

I don't know.

LITERAL

Does it hurt now?

PHIN
Yeah, a little.

LITERAL
You should probably do something about
it.

PHIN
My dad tried to.

LITERAL
That was nice of him.

This hits Phin hard. He forces out a strained laugh through a knot in his throat.

Literal puts his arm around Phin. He puts his fingers up to Phin's neck to check his pulse.

PHIN
I guess.
(beat)
You want to sleep here tonight?

LITERAL
It's cold.

PHIN
You can have the dog.

Literal talks to the dog...

LITERAL
You're mine now. I'm going to name
you Water.

PHIN
No, I meant you could sleep with the
dog to keep you warm.

LITERAL
Oh. Okay.

PHIN
And that's a bad name.

LITERAL
Not really.

Phin reaches over and turns off the TV. He lies against the wall as Literal and Terri try to share Terri's dog bed.

There is a long pause after everyone is settled down.

PHIN
He tried to kill me. My dad.

LITERAL
Did it work?

PHIN
No.

LITERAL
Did he want it to?

Phin thinks about it for a second.

PHIN
I don't think so.

LITERAL
Hmm, I wonder why he did it then.

Literal closes his eyes to go off to sleep. Phin lies awake.

INT. RUN-DOWN BARN - DAY

Terri and Literal are curled up tightly together. Phin taps Terri's dog food bowl to wake them up.

Phin still looks sickly, but his energy seems to be higher.

PHIN
Come on. I don't want to go out
sitting in a barn.

QUICK CUTS OF:

-- Literal and Phin, both smiling, at a miniature-golf course.

-- Phin behind the wheel of Literal's car, doing donuts in a parking lot.

-- Phin and Literal each lighting a handful of sparklers.

-- Phin and Literal sharing a mountain-sized sundae.

-- Phin misses a shot at mini-golf. The smiles start to fade.

-- Phin starts to spin out of control in Literal's car. He slams into a bunch of shopping carts.

-- Phin uses the sparklers to light a Molotov cocktail that he throws at a statue of Atlas holding a giant golf ball on his back instead of the earth.

-- Phin and Literal sit in front of an almost-empty bowl of melted ice-cream, both looking incredibly ill.

EXT. ICE CREAM PARLOR - DAY

Phin and Literal sit on the curb outside both looking dissatisfied and sick.

PHIN

Is there *anything* else to do?

Literal shakes his head. He looks too sick to talk.

PHIN (CONT'D)

I hate this place.

Literal pukes in the gutter.

Phin stands up and walks down the street toward a liquor store.

EXT. TOWN STREET - DAY - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Phin is stumbling down the street with Literal. Literal smacks his lips, as if his mouth tastes bad. Phin now has the neck of a bottle of scotch sticking out of a brown paper grocery bag. He takes a long drink.

As they walk, they reach the side of Beth's diner. Phin leans flat against the diner, as if being sneaky.

PHIN

(loudly whispering)

Do you think Beth is working today?

LITERAL

Yes.

Phin peeks around the corner and into the diner window. He sees Beth taking orders. His eyes start to well up.

Phin blinks hard then pulls back from the window and looks down the street. He spots Beth's car at the end of the block. He takes a swig.

Phin makes his way to Beth's car. He picks up a small piece of rock from the ground and starts to scratch the side of her car. The scratch doesn't stand out much on the already weathered car.

Literal stares, unaffected, sucking on a mint.

PHIN

My dad keyed my first car.

Phin sighs.

PHIN (CONT'D)

Said it was to keep me modest.

Phin sighs. He can't believe what he's just done.

Phin starts to scratch the car again. This time he is scrawling "SORRY" next to the scratch. As Phin starts into the second "R", he puts more weight on his hand supporting him against the car. He starts to blink hard. His teeth clench.

Phin falls to the curb, leaving a long trail scratch down the side of the car for the second "R".

Literal drops down to lift up Phin's head.

LITERAL

Do you need to go to the hospital?

PHIN

I need to go home.

Literal helps Phin to his feet. While supporting Phin on his shoulder, Literal picks up the rock and finishes Phin's scrawl on the car. Literal finishes it so it reads, "SORRY!"

PHIN (CONT'D)

No, no exclamation point. I meant it more with an ellipsis.

Literal licks his thumb and tries to rub off the punctuation.

PHIN (CONT'D)

It doesn't matter.

Phin lifts himself off Literal's shoulder to stand on his own.

PHIN (CONT'D)

I need to get some things first.

INT. WALMART - DAY

Phin is at the counter ringing up a few things. A clean blue and white striped button down shirt, a jacket, and some black pants, hair bleach, and some concealer makeup.

INT. LITERAL'S CAR - EVENING

Phin is already in his new clothes. In the vanity mirror he is applying the makeup under his eyes, covering the bags.

PHIN

Literal, please don't contradict anything I say today.

Literal nods.

INT. SAGE HOUSE - EVENING

Phin, looking clean and healthy in his new clothes, enters the house through the front door. Literal follows. Terry is in the kitchen trying to fix the toaster with a fork. He turns around to see Phin. Terry is surprised.

TERRY

Phin! I thought you were gone.

PHIN

Where's Dad?

TERRY

He's been locked up in his room since you left. He said you got mad, said neither of us was winning anything, broke the toaster, and left to go die at sea.

PHIN

Something like that.

(beat)

I need to tell you both something.

HANK (O.S.)

Phineas?

Hank descends the stairs and walks into the kitchen.

HANK (CONT'D)

Are you here to tell Terry what I did?

PHIN

No. I need to talk to you both.

HANK

Then let's have it. We both deserve it.

PHIN

I spent the night in a hospital last night. A new doctor ran some tests.

Phin takes a deep breath and forces a smile.

PHIN (CONT'D)

I'm not dying. They were wrong. I just have a rare calcium buildup near my brain. It looks like a tumor, but it's easily treatable with medication. I've already started taking it.

Terry and Hank are both stunned. Literal looks as if he is about to contradict what Phin has just said, but he stops. Phin looks over at Literal.

LITERAL

I agree.

Phin looks a little puzzled. Literal smiles and nods at Phin.

HANK

Are you sure? Maybe you should get a second opinion.

PHIN

I'm fine, Dad. This once, can you just be happy for me?

Hank smiles. He nods.

Terry stands up and gives Phin a hug.

TERRY

That's great news.

HANK

Is the treatment expensive?

PHIN

Yeah, it's expensive.

HANK

Good. I knew you could buy your way out of this.

Hank reaches out his hand to shake Phin's. Phin hesitates for a moment then shakes Hank's hand.

TERRY

Do you guys want to go play a round of hockey to celebrate?

HANK

No, not now. I've gotta run out for a second.

PHIN

Where do you have to go?

HANK

Just out for a minute.

PHIN

Can't it wait?

HANK

What does it matter? You've got all the time in the world now.

PHIN

Dad.

HANK
I'll be right back.

Hank rushes out the front door.

PHIN
Can you believe him?

LITERAL
Yes.

Literal smiles and nods at Phin.

TERRY
He probably went to get some champagne
or something, so we can celebrate.
Let's go play some hockey.

PHIN
What's with you and the hockey?

Terry shrugs. Phin smiles and nods.

PHIN (CONT'D)
Yeah, I guess it's been a while.

INT. SAGE HOUSE - PHIN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Literal is watching as Terry and Phin try to maneuver the little plastic athletes around the table. Phin misses the puck a lot. Phin supports himself on the table with his free hand.

TERRY
So how long are you going to stay
around now that you're better?

PHIN
Not too long.

Terry is a little hurt by Phin's answer.

TERRY
But you'll come back more often?

PHIN
We'll see.

Terry scores.

LITERAL
Gooooaaaal.

TERRY
Triple-deke. Every time.

Phin shrugs it off and drops the puck back at center ice.

TERRY (CONT'D)
I'm sorry I didn't help you yesterday.

PHIN
I know.

TERRY
Good.
(beat)
This is fun.

PHIN
Yeah, it is.

The front door is heard creaking open then slamming shut.

The bedroom door opens and Hank enters smiling.

HANK
Who's winning?

PHIN
We're not keeping score.

Hank looks at the electronic score-board. Terry is winning 5-0

HANK
What's he doing?

TERRY
Ref.

LITERAL
(pointing to a plastic
player)
Icing!

Hank nods patronizingly.

HANK
Boys, can I talk to Phin alone for a
second?

Terry and Literal both walk out of the room and into the hallway. From outside Phin hears...

LITERAL (O.S.)
Hi, Beth.

Phin's expression goes blank.

HANK
I'm sorry I tried to kill you, Son. I
really did have second thoughts.
(MORE)

HANK (CONT'D)

Now I know that the second thoughts
are usually the right thoughts.

PHIN

What did you tell her?

HANK

Well, I was gonna let you tell her
yourself, but she wouldn't come over.

PHIN

She knows?

HANK

She couldn't be happier.

Phin looks devastated.

HANK (CONT'D)

What's the matter?

PHIN

Nothing. It's just... this was a nice
thing to do, Dad.

He pats Phin on the shoulder and walks out. Phin slowly follows
him into...

INT. SAGE HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Phin enters the hallway to see Beth waiting for him. She is
smiling through tears.

BETH

Phin...

PHIN

(quietly)

It's good to see you, Beth.

She slowly walks over and wraps her arms around him.

PHIN (CONT'D)

Let's go for a walk.

Beth lets go. Her smiles fades a bit as she nods.

EXT. RURAL ROAD - NIGHT

Phin has his arm around Beth as they walk slowly. Phin is both
supporting himself and being romantic. Phin shakes Terry's
flashlight with his free hand.

PHIN
I'm still a bit wobbly.

BETH
How long until you're better?

PHIN
They didn't say.

BETH
Soon, though?

PHIN
Yeah.

Phin stumbles suddenly. Beth hooks her arm through his.

BETH
So you'll head home, then.

PHIN
Yeah, I guess so.

BETH
Yeah.

PHIN
I'll come back and visit.

BETH
Sure.

Beth looks a bit sad.

They arrive at Terry's barn.

INT. RUN-DOWN BARN - NIGHT

Everything is dark except for Phin's flashlight.

BETH
Where are we?

Phin's flashlight goes dim. In the dark we can hear Terri the dog running toward them. Beth screams and grabs onto Phin.

PHIN
It's okay.

Beth cautiously calms down.

BETH
Can you turn the light on?

PHIN

You weren't supposed to see this until
after I was gone.

BETH

What?

Phin shakes the flashlight and it turns on. Terri is standing in front of them except she looks different. She has been bleached white over most of her body. She now has the markings of a small panda bear.

BETH (CONT'D)

Oh! She's a little panda!

Beth kneels down to pet her. Terri runs over and starts licking Beth.

PHIN

Turns out real pandas are hard to get.

Beth is still playing with Terri, barely listening to what Phin is saying. She gives the dog a tight hug.

BETH

I can't believe you got me a dog and
made it look like a panda! I love it!

PHIN

You can't keep the dog. It's my
brothers, but...

BETH

Oh. It's still sweet of you.

Beth walks over to Phin and they sit down against a wall.

PHIN

Beth...

Beth looks up at Phin.

PHIN (CONT'D)

Beth, I'm sorry... again.

BETH

What?

PHIN

You weren't supposed to be a part of
this.

BETH

Part of what?

Phin can't answer. She can see something is very wrong.

BETH (CONT'D)

Phin?

Phin swallows deeply and forces himself to be strong.

PHIN

I'm still dying, Beth. Soon.

Beth is shocked.

BETH

Y..you said you were going to visit.

PHIN

I won't be visiting. I'm sorry.

BETH

The doctors said--

Beth stops herself.

PHIN

I'm not better. I lied to my dad and my brother. I needed to be there, at home, without everything hanging over my head.

Beth starts crying. Phin tries to hold her. She allows him for a second but then pushes him away.

BETH

You can't do this to people.

PHIN

You were never supposed to find out.

Beth shouts through tears...

BETH

But I did!

PHIN

I'm so sorry.

Beth pounds Phin in the chest with her fist. He stumbles back and slides down the wall.

Beth slowly sits down on the ground next to Phin.

BETH

I'm sorry. I just can't watch you die. I can't.

PHIN

You don't have to.

They sit huddled together in the dark. The flashlight goes off.

The darkness is broken with the door to the barn opening and Beth's silhouette seen leaving. Phin is still sitting.

INT. SAGE HOUSE - LATER THAT NIGHT

Phin slowly opens the front door and comes inside. His new shirt is dirty and his eyes look tired.

Hank, Terry and Literal are all waiting for him in the living room. Phin avoids eye contact.

HANK

Phineas, are you okay?

PHIN

Yeah, just got caught up in some dust winds.

TERRY

Where's Beth?

PHIN

She had to go back to work.

Phin wipes his eye. Hank notices the makeup under his eye smear onto Phin's sleeve, but he doesn't say anything.

PHIN (CONT'D)

Can I stay here tonight?

LITERAL

Yes.

Hank flashes Literal a confused glance, but turns back to Phin and nods.

HANK

Yeah, of course... just don't make a mess.

Hank eyes Phin, hoping for a reaction, but Phin just nods.

PHIN

Good night, guys.

TERRY

See you tomorrow.

Phin gives Terry a weak, but genuine smile, then heads upstairs.

INT. SAGE HOUSE - PHIN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Phin is playing with the old camcorder. Hank opens the door. Startled a bit, Phin sets the camcorder down.

HANK
Can I come in?

PHIN
Sure.

Hank fiddles with a few items sitting around. A pen, a stapler. As Phin stares waiting, Hank sets them down.

HANK
I just wanted to say I'm happy you're going to make it, Phineas.

PHIN
Is that all?

HANK
Yeah.

Phin nods and Hank reaches for the door knob.

HANK (CONT'D)
And even if you weren't going to make it... I'd still be proud of you. You gave it a good fight.

Hank lets go of the doorknob and gives Phin a hug. At first Hank awkwardly only puts one arm around Phin, patting his back. Hank then puts the other around Phin, no longer patting.

PHIN
Thanks.

HANK
You know, I wasn't ready to be a father when I had you. I was just a kid.

Hank is having a hard time speaking. He lets go of Phin.

Hank looks apologetic but doesn't say anything. He just shrugs.

PHIN
Yeah.

HANK
Good night.

PHIN
Good night.

INT. SAGE HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Hank closes Phin's door and stands outside for a moment.

From inside the room Hank faintly hears...

PHIN (O.S.)
Hi, everyone... Well, I guess its more
of a goodbye.

Hank doesn't listen. He rubs his face and walks away from the door.

INT. SAGE HOUSE - NIGHT

Hank is sitting on his recliner in the living room with a glass of scotch. The glow of the TV lights the room.

Suddenly the front door creaks open. Hank glances over to see Beth walk in. Her cheeks are covered in tears. She doesn't say anything. She just closes the door and walks upstairs.

Hank goes back to watching TV.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. SAGE HOUSE - PHIN'S ROOM - DAY

Hank walks into the room. The room is now clean and organized. Phin is still under the hockey table.

Hank pulls the table back to reveal Phin laying peacefully underneath. Beth is holding him, crying. They are still in their clothes from the day before.

Hank sees a VHS tape on the dresser with the word "WILL" handwritten on it.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

Literal, Terry, Hank, Beth, an elderly PRIEST, and a dozen or so others, including AJ, all dressed in black, stand around a coffin being laid into the ground. Terry is wearing his blue and white scarf. Hank is holding a picture of Phin's mother.

The hole in the ground is much wider than the coffin.

PRIEST

The mourners shall be comforted... The hungry shall be filled... The merciful shall obtain mercy... The pure of heart shall see God... And the meek shall inherit the earth.

AJ takes out a flask, takes a drink, then pours some on the ground.

The coffin is lowered. Hank looks to the priest.

HANK

Is that from the bible?

PRIEST

Yes.

HANK

Of course.

Hank lowers his head for another moment, then nods to cue the lowering of the hockey table into the grave, over the coffin.

INT. RECEPTION HALL - DAY

The people from the funeral mingle with drinks in their hands. The room is lined with vending machines filled with appetizers. There are buckets of quarters next to each machine.

INT. RECEPTION HALL - EVENING

Everyone has left except for Literal, Terry, Beth, and Hank (still holding the picture of Phin's mother). They all stand holding drinks. A LAWYER, 45, dressed in a black suit, wheels a TV into the room. He pulls out a cassette and puts it into the slot of a VCR sitting below the TV.

LAWYER

This is Phineas Q. Sage's last living will. Are we ready?

Hank nods. The lawyer pushes the tape completely into the slot.

It begins to play.

On the TV is Phin sitting in his room. The camera doesn't cut away from the TV.

PHIN

Hi, everyone... Well, I guess it's more of a goodbye.

(MORE)

PHIN (CONT'D)

By now you all probably hate me for what I've done, but in all fairness most of you have done some horrible things, too. Dad, remember when you broke Terry's arm teaching him how to arm wrestle? And Terry, I know you still feel bad about drowning that family of moles. You meant well. Now those things don't matter anymore and I hope that someday this won't matter, either. I didn't want to die with you all feeling sorry for me. I just wanted one good day.

Phin looks away from the camera for a second before starting back up.

PHIN (CONT'D)

I guess it's on to the contest. I am splitting the money, 90-10. Terry, you get 90%, but you don't have full access to it until 15 years from now. I'm sorry Terry, I just can't give you everything so easily. You need to make your own way. You would never have to do that if I laid it all out for you. The time constraint will be broken if this brain tumor thing happens to run in the family. Knock on wood.

Phin knocks on the hockey table. It isn't wood.

PHIN (CONT'D)

I am going to start you on the right path, though. The barn you go to is now yours. I am not giving it to you, either. You earned it. According to state law, you've been squatting there long enough so that it is now legally yours. I've filed the paperwork and had it setup for electricity and plumbing.

Phin pauses for a moment, composing himself.

PHIN (CONT'D)

Dad, you get 10%. It's more than enough for you to get by, but you didn't win the competition. Even though you lost, I'm proud of you. You gave it a good fight.

Phin takes in a deep breath and releases it.

PHIN (CONT'D)

Literal, I want you to have all of my literal stuff. Any non-liquid assets go to you. My clothes, my cars, my apartment. If it meant enough to me to keep it around, it's now yours. Finally, I've purchased the diner in Terry's name and I'm having it converted to an entirely automated restaurant. Like a giant vending machine, but it needs you to manage it, Terry. And if Beth shows up to the funeral, could you tell her that while this is putting her out of a job, it wasn't meant to be cruel. Think of it more as a gentle shove in a new direction. There is a position waiting for her at my company. She'll have to move to Los Angeles, but it's there if she wants it. Also, tell her she should teach kids how to take the candy off of the bottom row. It's just candy.

(long beat)

If she doesn't show up for the funeral... please don't tell me the next time you see me. I guess that's it.

Phin has a quick flash of a headache and gets distracted for a moment, forgetting to turn off the camcorder. Phin starts cleaning up his room.

As we here the shuffling of Phin on tape we see shots of the town...

- The Sage home glowing in the sun.
- The water tower, still painted to look like "phin hearts cock".
- Terry's barn being fitted with lights.
- The charred remains of atlas holding the golf ball.
- Beth's diner, outside. Workers are going in and out.
- Inside of the diner, machines are being fitted with conveyer belts running back to the kitchen from each of the tables.

We finally cut back to the reception hall to see everyone still staring straight forward at the video, watery-eyed. Terry is trying to force a smile, Beth is trying her best to hold back the tears, Literal is staring blankly, and Hank is sitting cross-legged on the ground with the picture in his lap.

The video is still running. It's just Phin cleaning up his room.

Literal turns to Beth.

LITERAL
Will you come visit me at my new
apartment?

Beth is too choked up to talk. She hugs Literal.

Terry sits down next to Hank.

HANK
Do you know why I always favored you?

TERRY
Because you were competing with Phin
through me?

HANK
Oh. I guess that makes sense.

Hank looks at the picture.

HANK (CONT'D)
Your mother loved him more than
anything.

TERRY
Sage--

HANK
Dad.

TERRY
Dad, I need to tell you something.
Terri is still alive.

HANK
I know you are, son.

TERRY
No, my dog Terri.

HANK
I knew that, too.

TERRY
I don't want you to put her to sleep.

HANK
I won't.

Terry puts his arm around Hank.

Phin notices the camera is still recording. He looks back into the camera again. Everyone watches.

PHIN

Also, I have one last request. I'd like to be cremated.

There is a knock on Phin's door.

Phin looks back, then turns the camera off. The TV goes black.

Everyone keeps staring at the TV in awkward silence.

HANK

It's okay. We'll burn an effigy.

FADE OUT.

THE END.