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EXT. WOODS - MORNING

ALEX GREENSPAN, an 11 year old, lanky, pale boy with two protruding front teeth is walking through the woods with a bulging backpack full of books. He is walking along a small creek in the woods and stops every so often to peer into the water. On one occasion, he crouches down from on top of a fallen tree to look at the minnows swimming about. Alex speaks with a lisp to them.

ALEX

Good morning boys and girls.

Alex sticks his finger into the stream and the fish swim to it and nibble at his finger.

ALEX(cont.)

Hungry? Here's some of my
pop tart for ya.

Alex brushes off the sprinkles from the top of his breakfast into the stream and the fish eat it.

ALEX (cont.)

Well, I'm off to the *other*
school now. See ya!

Alex walks further down the trail and comes upon some birds feeding on some berries that are laying on the ground.

ALEX(cont.)

Mmm, berries.

Alex walks toward the birds, joins the flock and starts to pick up berries one by one. The birds pay no attention to him and appear comfortable in the presence of a human. One of the birds brings a large berry over to Alex.

ALEX

Thanks, how is everyone doing?
Like my new shirt? Isn't it
neat?

Some of the birds chirp back to him as subtitles read,
"Good, how are you this morning, Alex, nice shirt!"

ALEX

I'm fine, thank you.

Alex picks up some more berries and carries them in his hand while he eats them one by one.

ALEX

That's enough for now. See
ya tomorrow.

A few of the birds chirp back to him as the subtitles read, "Bye."

Alex continues eating his berries and walking up the path. As he sees his school in the distance through the trees he sighs loudly and walks closer.

EXT. BUCKS COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL - MORNING

GROUPS OF KIDS are scattered across the schoolyard waiting for the bell to ring. TROY ARNOLD, a 12 year old, tall, handsome boy with slicked back hair, baggy clothes and light up sneakers is standing with friends. DREW JACKSON is a dwarfed boy with a shaved head, baggy clothes and a baseball cap barely on his head. ZACK WEST is a medium sized boy with a large gap between his two front teeth. The three peer snidely at Alex.

DREW

Yo, there's Greenspan. You
gonna go mess with him?

Troy punches Drew in the arm.

TROY

Shut up, of course I am.

Troy walks over to Alex with a strut.

TROY

Yo, Greensmack, s'up?

Alex looks at Troy with surprise in his face.

ALEX

Troy, you've never talked to me this long without socking me or kicking me.

TROY

Since it's Lent, I decided to give up beating on you.

ALEX

(in disbelief)

Really? Gee, thanks, Troy...
I guess.

Alex eats a berry, turns to walk away and realizes something so he turns back.

ALEX (cont.)

What are you talking about?
Wait, it's not Lent, Troy.

TROY

Oh no? Well then...

Troy smacks Alex's hand so his berries splatter onto his face and dribble down. Alex quickly juts his feet back so he doesn't get any on his, white shirt.

TROY

Never mind.

Observing the events are Alex's friends. ERIK FRANKEL is a short, pudgy boy with a crew cut and wearing a pair of corduroy pants with a flannel shirt. SCOTT JACOBSON is a tall, pasty white, thin boy with white tube socks that are pulled up to the top of his thighs. The two shake their heads in a pitiful manner.

Troy turns and appears to have forgotten something and walks back over to Alex who is brushing off his face.

TROY

Ya know what? I'm not even Catholic!

Troy takes Alex's shirt and pulls it up over his head and walks away. Alex is left with a bluish-red silhouette of

his face on his shirt and walks over towards his friends still shaking their heads.

Troy walks back to his gang who are laughing hysterically. They both put up their hands to give him a high five, but he walks right past the two.

SCOTT

(speaking like a sports broadcaster)

Oh, time and time again, Troy
"The Bully" Arnold whips the
lowly Alex "Animal Boy"
Greenspan in a match of good
versus stupid. Let's talk to
the loser, again. Animal Boy,
what would you say caused yet
another defeat at the hands of
the mighty "Bully?"

ALEX

Well, Scott "Super Socks"
Jacobson, I thought I had
him this time, but ya know...

Scott slaps Alex on the shoulder for the remark and Erik laughs. Then they all laugh together over the situation.

ERIK

Seriously, Alex, when are
you going to stand up to
him? It's been 6 years now
and even other kids who
are bigger losers than you
throw at least one punch back.
It may not land, but at least
it's a shot.

ALEX

You guys say this all the time
so how come you two don't ever
try to punch him. You get picked
on too.

Scott and Erik laugh

ERIK

You know that you get picked on
more than anyone.

SCOTT

In the world.

Scott and Erik snicker. Alex ponders for a second and
agrees.

ALEX

True.

Troy and his gang are talking with AMBER BATTON, a knockout
blonde, with long lashes, deep blue oceanic colored eyes
and quite a mature body for a 12-year-old girl.

ZACK

Are you really gonna do it
to him Amber? I mean, for real?

TROY

Of course she will, she said
she would, now lay off her.

AMBER

Of course. You know how much
he wants me, right? That makes
it all the more fun.

Amber walks over toward Alex who has his back turned but
his friends see her approach and get excited.

ERIK

(frantic)

Alex, Alex, hurry, Amber is
coming behind you. Be cool
stay calm, ok, ok, ok?

ALEX

It's too early for more jokes
guys, alright?

Amber steps up right behind Alex and slowly blows into his
ear, but he mistakes it for an itch and scratches his ear
frantically.

AMBER

Alleexx. Hey, what's up?

Alex's eyes blow up wide open with fear and excitement as his jaw drops and he makes small grunts and groans in an attempt to form words. Amber puts her hands over Alex's eyes and he quivers with delight.

AMBER

Guess who?

ALEX

(stuttering)

Ummm, Aammmbber?

AMBER

Don't be scared, Alex. I'm not going to hurt you.

Amber turns Alex's head around to her face.

AMBER (cont.)

Or am I?

Amber giggles.

AMBER (cont.)

I just wanted to say hi and tell you that what Troy did to you was like so mean. I don't know why you put up with him.

SCOTT & ERIK

Told ya!

AMBER

Like, I like boys who are all manly and stand up for themselves and stuff.

ALEX

Oh really?

Amber steps in front of Alex and puts her arms behind her back, tilts her head to the left and nods cutely.

AMBER

Mmm hmm.

Amber walks away but as she does she brushes her well-developed chest against Alex's arm.

AMBER(cont.)

Oh, Excuse me! Bye boys.

Amber walks away. Alex gulps and starts to hyperventilate. Scott grabs a paper bag from a stack in Alex's backpack.

Erik looks at Amber's behind as she walks.

ERIK

Wow, that ass could churn
butter.

Alex tries to catch his breath as Erik and Scott console him.

Throughout the entire episode, MARK GLASER, watches from his dark office marked "Uncle Speedy : Princi 'pal' " with a distraught look. Mark is neatly dressed in his blue leisure suit, yellow canary tie and slicked back gray hair sipping his steaming mug.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

The school bell rings and the empty hall fills quickly with students who rush to their lockers, shuffle books and brown bags around, exchange greetings and scramble from classroom to classroom to cafeteria to classroom to lockers and leave out the door from where they entered.

A silhouette of a JANITOR mopping a floor can be seen at the end of the hall. Mark Glaser is walking about in the front of the hall.

INT. CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

Alex is sitting in a classroom, reading a book about going on safari in Africa. He looks around the classroom and jumps to his feet and realizes that his class is over and he gets up to go to his locker. As he approaches it, he

notices white goo oozing out of the vent holes. When he opens it, whipped and shaving cream pour out onto his feet and the floor. After a few seconds, a piece of paper flows out along with the creams.

ALEX
Real classy, Troy.

Alex picks up the paper and brushes off the mess to read it.

ALEX (cont.)
"Happy Lent, dumbass."

Alex gathers his cream-soaked books, brushes them off and removes them from their plastic wrappers and places them in his schoolbag and walks out of the building.

EXT. WOODS - AFTERNOON

Alex is walking along the path through the woods and stops briefly at the spot where the minnows and peeks in. He then goes to pick some berries from the tree. Some birds are hanging around near the berries and chirp at him as he walks over. The subtitles read, "What happened to you?"

Alex points to his shirt.

ALEX
Oh this? It's nothing, just
had another run in with Troy.

Alex thinks to himself for a bit as he chews on some berries. He then hurries off along the path.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - EVENING

A stained Alex walks up to his front door at 32 Furrow Street. He goes through the door and runs up the steps. His grandmother, DORIS GREENSPAN, an elderly woman with silver hair and wearing a nice tan business suit stops him as he is halfway up.

DORIS

Alex, how was your day?
Did everything...

Alex turns around.

DORIS (cont.)

(shocked)

What happened to your shirt?
It looks like your wearing
the Shroud of Turin after
someone puked up the face of
Jesus on it!

ALEX

Grandma, it'll wash out, don't
worry about it, I'll just use
some bleach and it's fine.

DORIS

How in the world did it get
that way?

ALEX

Well, it was...

DORIS

Don't even tell me it was
Troy Arnold. Just *don't* tell
me it was that monster.

ALEX

(sarcastically)

Ok, it wasn't Troy Arnold, it
was some guy who, uh, came to
School and was doing magic tricks
and he said one of tricks was that
he could vomit famous silhouettes
and of course I was the volunteer
and he threw up the image of
Jesus from the Shroud of Turin,

(enraged)

Of course it was Troy Arnold!
Every day I come home with a
scrape or a bruise and you ask
where it came from and it's
always Troy Arnold!

Doris nods her head in sympathy and reaches out her arms for Alex to give him a hug as he rambles on and eventually cries.

DORIS

Honey, come now, it's ok.
Stop these water works.
Now, listen, go out and enjoy
yourself until I call you
for dinner, ok?

ALEX

But I have a lot of homework
to do, grandma. I have exams
next week, I have to start
studying for them.

Doris takes his backpack and shirt from him and gives him a new shirt from the laundry pile sitting on the steps.

DORIS

Listen, Alex, I want you to go
across the street to Erik's
house and ask him to come out
and play and you kids do some
normal kid things, like
getting all muddy, eating worms,
you know, all sorts of little
boy things. Now go.

Alex looks at her and wipes the last tears from his eyes.

ALEX

Thanks, grandma. Bye.

Alex rushes out the door. Doris puts his things in the corner and walks off into the kitchen.

EXT. FURROW STREET, BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA - EVENING

Alex walks across the street to 39 Furrow Street where a sign reads "The Finkels" above the door. As he walks up the steps, Erik rushes out and almost knocks over Alex.

ERIK

Hey, Alex, come on, I'm
goin' to Scott's to play
Play Station, ok?

ALEX

Cool.

ERIK

So what took you so long
to get home?

ALEX

Troy left me a little surprise
in my locker again.

ERIK

Oh, dog shit? Cat puke?

ALEX

Whipped and shaving cream.

ERIK

(nonchalantly)

Oh ok. Need anymore book
covers?

ALEX

Nah, I got plenty from
last time, thanks.

The two arrive at Scott's door at 33 Furrow Street and ring
the bell. Scott answers.

SCOTT

Hey guys, I rented Twisted
Metal 9.

Erik and Alex nod and the three walk into the house.

INT. SCOTT'S HOUSE - EVENING

The three boys walk down the steps into the basement where
there is an entertainment center with big screen
television, computer, stereo, pool table and wet bar in the
corner.

ERIK

I love your house, Scott.
This place is awesome!

SCOTT

I got first game.

ERIK

So do I!

ALEX

Aww, man, I guess I got
winner.

SCOTT

Don't worry, this'll be
quick!

ERIK

Yeah, whatever.

Erik grabs a handful of pretzels from a bowl on the table
and stuffs them all in his mouth.

ALEX

Hey, Scott, can I check
my email on your computer
while I wait?

SCOTT

Yeah sure. But no porn,
my dad has it locked up so
only he can do it, ok?

Scott and Erik get out the controllers and begin to play.
Alex sits at the computer and turns it on and clicks a few
times.

ALEX

(speaking with the computer)
"Welcome. You've got mail."

Scott and Erik continue to play their game.

SCOTT

Take that, bitch!

ERIK

Oh yeah? Not this time.

The two make shooting noises at each other while they play the game. Alex's email list appears on the screen.

ALEX

(to himself)

Discovery Channel, Animal Planet, Rainforest Zone, Whales R Cool, Dolphins Rules, hmm, who's this, there's no address, just an email. "Great Minds for Great Revenge."

SCOTT

Anything good, Alex?

ALEX

Sorta, shh shh.

Alex reads the email.

ALEX(cont.)

(to himself)

"Many of the greatest minds of the past few centuries have faced consequences for their beliefs, feelings and actions." Hmm, who sent this to me? "Being intellectually superior can be tough, but as you'll see you can put your great mind to use against your persecutors."

As Alex reads on the two others grow louder. Suddenly the computer screen goes black.

ALEX

Crap, what was that?

Shocked, Alex looks over and sees that Scott and Erik have knocked the surge protector plug out of the wall. Scott realizes what he has done and appears proud.

SCOTT

That was cool.

ALEX

No it wasn't dumbass, I was
in the middle of reading
something!

Erik walks over to Alex with his mouth full of pretzels and spits pieces as he speaks.

ERIK

Oh yeah? What was it?

Scott interrupts.

SCOTT

C'mon, Alex, you're up next
in our battle car galactica,
you wanna be the girl on the
motorcycle?

ALEX

No.

Alex looks back over at the computer screen with a puzzled look on his face and turns back around to the boys.

ALEX(cont.)

I wanna be the eighteen-
wheeler and run over all
your asses with it.

Alex gets up, sits in front of the television, grabs a controller and begins to play the game.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - EVENING

Alex walks up the path to his house and crouches down in the middle of it to pet a small black and white cat.

ALEX

Hey, you. Ya like that?

The cat purrs with delight. Alex opens the door to his house and the cat darts into the house, scampers all around

the living room and rushes into the kitchen. Alex laughs and shuts the door.

DORIS(O.S.)

(yelling)

Alex! How many times have I told you that this place is not a zoo! Isn't it enough with all of your little frogs and fish and birds floating around my house? And now you bring in that darn cat?

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Alex walks into the kitchen doorway and sees the cat doing laps around the room and giggles. Alex crouches down and calls the cat over to him and he picks it up and cradles it.

ALEX

Sorry, grandma, but you know how this cat likes you.

DORIS

Yes, sure I do, but not in this house I don't!

The front door is heard closing.

HAROLD(O.S.)

Hey, Alex, you have a letter here.

Alex runs into the living room to greet him. HAROLD is a tall, full man, not fat. He is dressed in a checkered golf shirt and cap carrying a bag of golf clubs over his shoulder.

ALEX

From Mom and Dad?

Alex rushes into the living room to greet him.

HAROLD

Nope. It's from the gas
company. You owe them
137 dollars.

Alex giggles.

ALEX

Oh, stop, grandpa!

HAROLD

And 65 cents.

ALEX

Lemme see, lemme see.

Alex reaches and grabs for the letter and Harold pulls them
away from him.

HAROLD

Oh, wait a second, I think
you forgot something.

ALEX

(exaggerated)
Please!

HAROLD

Nope, that's not it.

ALEX

Oh, ok.

Alex gives Harold a big hug.

HAROLD

Still not it.

ALEX

Hmm, oh yeah!

Alex gives Harold another big hug and a kiss on the cheek.

HAROLD

Nope.

ALEX
Then what is it?

HAROLD
How about a check for
137 dollars.

Alex grabs the letter and runs up the stairs.

ALEX
Yes!

HAROLD
(yelling up the stairs)
And 65 cents!

DORIS(O.S.)
Alex, supper'll be ready in
a few minutes, so be ready.

Harold walks into the kitchen and hugs Doris.

DORIS
Hello, hon, how was golf?

HAROLD
Great, shot an 80 today
and I beat that damn
Steve Tompkins finally.

Harold puts his bag in the closet and sits down at the
table.

DORIS
That's wonderful!

Doris grabs Harold's head and hugs it. Harold looks over
and sees the stained shirt hanging over the laundry room
door.

HAROLD
(angrily)
Well, that didn't take him
long to slop up that new
shirt, now did it?

DORIS

Oh, Harold, go easy on him this time, it's been another one of those days for Alex at school.

HAROLD

(disgusted)

Not more problems with that little bastard, Troy, is it?

Doris nods her head sadly.

DORIS

Uh huh.

HAROLD

That boy needs to learn to stand up for himself. It's about time I teach him how to take care of himself and make sure that he won't get bullied any more.

Harold gets up out of his chair vehemently and throws punches to the air. Doris comes over quickly to quell him.

DORIS

Oh, no, not now. You are not teaching my little grandson how to fight! He will get expelled from school and his parents would never let us near him again!

Doris pulls out a chair and sits next to him.

DORIS(cont.)

He's a good kid, you know that and so do I. Please, let's not get him into any trouble, alright, dear?

Doris gives Harold a kiss on the cheek.

INT. ALEX'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Alex is sitting Indian style on his bed that is shaped like a giant, tropical leaf. His walls are neatly covered in posters that have an array of animals on them. He has a large book shelf that spreads over one full wall of his room and a pile of cardboard boxes on the other side that have "Alex" written on the sides. On top of his boxes are a computer, telephone and lamp. He has a large birdcage in one corner and a fish aquarium in the other corner.

Alex is reading to himself aloud.

ALEX

"Can't wait to see you again! Uncle Jack and Aunt Janet say hello. Uncle Charlie is doing fine, his therapy will last only a few more months and we'll be home before you know it. Be good for grandma and grandpa! See you soon, kid-o!.

DORIS(O.S.)

Alex, it's suppertime!

Alex rushes out of the room into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Alex walks into the kitchen, grabs a can of Pepsi from the refrigerator and sits down at the table.

HAROLD

(ominously)

Well, Alex, how was school today.

Alex turns red and stutters.

ALEX

I-it was o-o-ok, I guess.

DORIS

Harold!

HAROLD

No, Doris, I just want
to talk to Alex here.

DORIS

Oh, dear.

Doris shakes her head in disgust and puts the plates on the
table.

HAROLD

I notice that your once
white shirt, now looks like
someone threw up the Mona Lisa
all over it.

DORIS

(whispers)

Jesus on the Shroud of
Turin, dear.

HAROLD

Never mind that.

Harold begins to eat his food.

ALEX

Well, you know, Troy
Arnold is a lot bigger than
me and he's so mean to
everyone, not just me!

HAROLD

Alex, Alex, don't start.
Listen to me, you need
to learn how to stand up
for yourself, know what I
mean?

ALEX

Yeah, I know, but I can't
get in trouble at school
by fighting and getting...

HAROLD

I never said anything about fighting, Alex! Use that big brain of yours, I'm sure you'll come up with something.

Doris, surprised at the way the conversation has turned out sits at the table.

DORIS

He's right, Alex. You're such a bright boy, I'm sure you'll think of a way to take care of things without fighting.

Alex takes a bite of his food.

ALEX

(with his mouth full)
I guess so.

INT. ALEX'S ROOM - NIGHT

Alex is laying in his bed, staring at the constellation posters on his ceiling. His eyes are droopy and they open and close frequently. Finally he falls asleep.

INT. ALEX'S ROOM (DREAM) - NIGHT

Alex dreams of the constellations and thinks about what his grandpa said to him earlier about the interesting email he started to read. All of these images spin around his head in the form of a tornado. In his head he dreams that he, his friends and Troy's gang are constellations who battle things out in the night's sky. A BROADCASTER is heard.

BROADCASTER(V.O.)

We now take you to the Big Sky Bowl where we have our constellations battle it out to determine who will rule the world.

He, the Leo (lion), and his friends, Scott the Pisces (fish) and Erik the Aries (ram) fought Troy, the Taurus

(bull), Drew, the Cancer (crab) and Zack the Scorpio (scorpion). During his dream the real Alex laughs as he pits the crab against the fish, the ram against the scorpion and the lion against the bull. The fish flips the crab upside down. The ram flips up the scorpion with his horns and kicks him and he shatters into pieces. Finally, the lion and the bull are left in the ring to fight.

After defeating the crab, the fish knocks out the broadcaster with a slap of his fin and becomes the announcer.

SCOTT

(speaking as a sports broadcaster)

And again, we have the battle
of two titans, the lion and the
bull. It's a tremendous match.
Oh, the bull takes an early lead
on the lion, but what's this, the
lion is making a comeback.

The sleeping Alex smiles. Back in his dream, the lion is grabbing the bull's horns and swinging him around.

SCOTT

Ladies and gentlemen, he's
about to finish him off for
good.

The lion throws the bull into the sun.

SCOTT

Yes, he's done it, the lion
has finally beaten the bull!

INT. CLASSROOMS - DAY

While a TEACHER instructs the class, Alex, with a large grin on his face, is taking notes feverishly. The bell rings and the students empty into the hallway.

Alex sees Troy coming from the opposite direction who spots Alex. He sees Troy wind up as to punch him, but Alex looks him straight in the face and smiles at him. Troy, with a perplexed look on his face keeps walking away from Alex with his fist cocked. Troy eventually lets his fist fly and

he hits a SHORT BOY and appears not to realize it as he keeps walking and staring back.

As Alex goes from class to class, he writes more and more anxiously. A closer look reveals that he is not taking notes, but appears to be devising a plan of some sort. His notes contain diagrams of crafted contraptions and objects, drawings of Troy, his gang and Erik and Scott.

EXT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

Alex walks hurriedly over to a table where Scott and Erik are sitting.

SCOTT

Why do you look so happy?

ERIK

Yeah, did you just see
Amber or something?

ALEX

Even better.

Scott and Erik look shocked.

ALEX(cont.)

You know how you guys are
always telling me to get
back at Troy for beating
me up and stuff?

Scott grabs Alex's notebook and flips through it.

ERIK

What's all this stuff?

Erik sees a drawing of a ram that looks like him.

ERIK(cont.)

Hey that looks like me
but with big horns!

Scott slides over to see the picture.

SCOTT

And there's me, in a
fish outfit! Alex, what the
hell is this?

Alex snatches the book back up from them.

ALEX

I was trying to tell you
that this is how I'm gonna
get back at Troy.

SCOTT

What are you gonna do, show
them pictures of Erik and
me dressed up like animals
and make them laugh to death?

ALEX

No, I'm going to do what
Albert Einstein and
Thomas Edison did to the
people who made fun of them.

ERIK

And what's that?

Alex opens to the first page of his notebook, and holds it
up to them. The page is titled at the top as "Geek Week."

Scott and Erik look puzzled.

ALEX(cont.)

I'm not gonna go into it
all here, cause I don't want
anyone to find out, but
we'll play jokes and pranks
on Troy and his gang so they
get laughed at.

ERIK

Pranks? What kind? Like when
Troy puts poop in your
shoes at gym?

ALEX

If you guys don't care then
forget about it.

SCOTT

No, so what is it Alex?

Alex closes the notebook and admits.

ALEX

Well, yeah, pranks like
that.

ERIK

How childish!

SCOTT

I like it.

ERIK

So do I!

Mark Glaser walks into the cafeteria and the Alex hides the
book in his schoolbag.

ALEX

After school, we gotta
meet in the lab and talk.

Troy is walking towards the table where the three are
sitting and he has his eyes locked on Alex.

ERIK

Alex, here comes Troy!

Alex looks over in his direction.

ALEX

So.

TROY

Yo, Greendork, I forgot to
give you something this
morning.

Troy raises his fist and Alex smiles. Mark walks up behind Troy and grabs his cocked fist. Troy has a shocked look on his face.

MARK
Problem, Troy?

TROY
Umm, no Uncle Speedy.

MARK
Good, then, we'll see you
later, Troy.

Troy walks off and sneers back at the three boys.

SCOTT
(speaking as a broadcaster)
Again, Uncle Speedy thwarts
the efforts of the rat, Troy.

MARK
How we doing today, boys?

ALEX
(slyly)
Good, real good.

MARK
Alex, we can't meet this
afternoon to do your research.
I have to pick up my wife from
work, her car broke down.

Alex's face lights up.

ALEX
Oh that's a shame, but I can
stay by myself and work
alone, right?

MARK
Sure you can, just don't
stay too late, ok?

ALEX

Oh we, I mean, I won't.
Don't worry, Uncle Speedy.
Can Scott and Erik help me
out after school?

MARK

Sure, be careful, bye boys.

Mark walks away and the boys finish eating as the bell rings. Alex has a devilish grin on his face.

INT. CHEMISTRY LABORATORY - AFTERNOON

The three boys are huddled together at a table in the laboratory. The boys are by the window chattering away. Mark Glaser is seen walking past the open doorway in the hall and peeks into the open room without the boys seeing or hearing him. Mark overhears their conversation and appears concerned.

ERIK

So we're finally gonna
get that jerk, Troy.

ALEX

Yeah, we sure are, and it
starts right now.

The boys look out the window at the baseball field and watch the team practice and focus particularly on Troy.

SCOTT

We better hurry, practice
is almost over.

ALEX

Yeah, go.

Mark quickly steps into a classroom to avoid the boys. He subsequently follows them cautiously down the hall after they leave the room.

INT. HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

The boys walk down the hallway chattering lowly. Mark creeps out of the classroom and follows them down the hallway. The boys walk into the locker room. Mark follows cautiously.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - AFTERNOON

The three boys snoop around the benches and lockers until they find the locker that says "Arnold."

ERIK

This is his, that's it!

SCOTT

Yeah, and it's open too!

ALEX

Perfect.

SCOTT

Who goes first?

ERIK

I wanna go first.

ALEX

Alright, go ahead.

Erik smiles and opens the locker. Inside is a pair of sneakers and the complete set of clothes that he was wearing throughout the day, including his boxers. Erik picks up the red and blue striped pair of boxers and lays them on the bench behind him.

SCOTT

Make sure you keep a
look out the window.

The boys peek out the window and see that the team is still practicing.

ERIK

Here you go, Troy!

Erik takes a flask out from under his shirt and pours it out onto the boxers slowly. As the liquid touches the cloth, it disintegrates immediately leaving large holes in the cloth.

ALEX
That's so cool.

SCOTT
My turn, my turn!

Alex grabs Troy's hat out of the locker.

ERIK
He loves that hat!

ALEX
I know, that's the point.

Scott is given the flask from Erik and he pours it onto the top of his hat slowly. A hole forms and begins to grow outward from the center of the hat.

SCOTT
And...there.

As he finishes pouring, Scott turns the hat and peeks through the hole at Alex and laughs.

ALEX
Nice work!

Alex grabs the flask of liquid from Scott and holds one of the sneakers up from the locker.

ALEX(cont.)
Jackpot!

Alex pours the liquid into the shoe. The three boys watch closely as lots of smoke and noise erupt from the shoe.

ALEX
It must be the rubber and
leather reacting. Cool.

As the boys continue to watch the shoe, Mark walks into the locker room quietly and comes up right behind the boys.

MARK

Yeah, very cool.

The shoe is dropped on the floor as the three boys gasp for air and turn around to see their principal and chatter with fear.

MARK(cont.)

Doing some research on shoes, Mr. Greenspan and associates?

Alex begins to hyperventilate as Scott tries to explain to Mark.

SCOTT

Well, Uncle Speedy, umm...

Erik tries to help out.

ERIK

You see, we were, uhh...

Mark folds his arms.

MARK

Put everything away and come to my office immediately, alright?

The three boys nod quickly in fear.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

The three boys are sitting on a couch that is facing a large leather chair that seats Mark. He is facing sideways, looking at a painting of a colorful mountainous landscape.

MARK

Boys, first let me say that I should have never let you stay here alone. I blame myself for that. What you decided to do to Troy's belongings is very fair to do to him after

the way he has treated all three of you, but it is still disgraceful and cruel. What I want to tell you is this and I know that I can trust you to keep this between you three and me.

The three boys look up curiously.

MARK(cont.)

I overheard your plans for your "Geek Week" as you call it.

The three drops their heads quickly again.

MARK(cont.)

And I have to say that I think it's a great idea!

The boys bring their heads up and have the look of surprise, confusion and excitement in their faces.

MARK(cont.)

Not to say that I condone you three pouring sulfuric acid on Troy's clothes, but the idea behind it is a good one. One that I wished I had done when I was younger.

ERIK

So does this mean we're not in trouble, Uncle Speedy?

MARK

No, boys you're not in trouble. I understand what you're going through and if you need any help with anything, I'm here for you.

ALEX

Help?

MARK

Yes, help, but first off I cannot help you in any more pranks that have to do with sulfuric acid. Now, shaving cream is one thing, but acid is another!

The three boys giggle at Mark.

ERIK

But it was cool, right?

Mark turns around to face the boys with a stern look on his face. He then quickly turns it into a smile.

MARK

Yeah, it was!

The three boys smile with delight.

MARK(cont.)

But, listen, there is one thing, we must keep all of this between us four only and that is very important.

ERIK

Why is that, Uncle Speedy?

MARK

You boys know that Troy's parents give a lot of money to this school to put in these new things like the gym and the baseball field and so on.

SCOTT

You mean "The House that Troy's Parent's Built?"

The three laugh. Mark joins in on the laughter, but not as heartily.

MARK

Yes, that. And if they find out that I am helping you pull pranks on their son..

ALEX

They'll take their money back, right?

MARK

Exactly. So you boys understand this?

The three nod affirmatively.

ERIK

So how come you're gonna help us, Uncle Speedy?

MARK

Well, let's just say that I was in the exact same situation you guys were in when I was about your age but I never did anything about it and it's good to teach bullies their lessons.

The three boys smile happily.

MARK

So what are your plans exactly?

Alex smiles widely and pulls out his notebook from the backpack and hands it to Uncle Speedy.