

DAD SCHOOL

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. HANDBALL COURT - DAY

KEN GRAHAM (36) and his wife LAUREN (36) stand in the middle of the court with their marriage counselor, EMILY (50's) who holds up a tennis ball with hearts printed on it.

Ken wears well-pressed shorts and polo shirt. A walking Brooks Brothers ad.

Lauren, hair in a messy bun, gym attire of sweats and a loose fitting T-shirt.

Both hold rackets.

KEN
This is silly.

LAUREN
You would think that.

EMILY
Sometimes physical activity allows for expression of feelings, a chance to work things out to save a marriage. Express your differences as you hit the ball and when you return the serve.

KEN
What if I miss hitting the ball?

EMILY
Go get it.

KEN
What if I--

EMILY
Let's go.

Emily forces a plastic smile and runs to the side.

Lauren and Ken smack the ball with their rackets against the wall while speaking.

LAUREN
Everything with you has to be perfect.

SMACK

Ken swings and misses the return badly. He scampers to get to the ball, then serves. This is not his thing.

KEN
I want things to be the best it can be. What's the problem?

BANG against the wall.

IN THE HALLWAY

CHARLENE and EARL (30s), African-American fitness instructors dressed in Atlanta Gym polos, watch and do running commentary.

EARL
Another divorcing couple?

CHARLENE
Um-hmm. The shrink says this can help. A last resort.

EARL
Yeah, murder usually is.

CROSS CUT SEQUENCE

BACK TO THE COURT

LAUREN
You never listen.

KEN
Listen? You hide your feelings.

CHARLENE
Damn, that's usually the guy's problem.

EARL
Yeah, my old lady hits me with that all the time. Says I'm insensitive.

CHARLENE
You? No way.

EARL
Damn straight. I cry over SpongeBob.

BANG

KEN
You're too lax with our son.

BANG

LAUREN
You won't let our son be a kid.

CHARLENE
You know the marriage is over when
they go you know where.

LAUREN
You plan out sex. It's like making
love to a robot.

EARL/CHARLENE
(gasping)
She went there.

KEN
Planning intercourse based on
biorhythms and optimal positions to
give us the best pleasure. What's
the big deal?

LAUREN
Pleasure? From you? Ha!

CHARLENE
Tell him, girl.

EMILY
Perhaps we need to--

LAUREN
Everything and everyone can't be
perfect, Ken.

As they argue, Emily enters the

HALLWAY

CHARLENE
Tea?

EMILY
Heineken.

INT. ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT/KEN'S OFFICE - DAY

SUPER: ONE YEAR LATER

Ken sits in his office holding up legal papers marked: FINAL
DIVORCE.

Ken sits at his laptop watching a DVD entitled: "How to Win Back Your Ex-Wife". On his desk is the companion book with the same title.

An Asian woman seated in the lotus position pops on the screen dressed in a dashiki, the RELATIONSHIP GURU (age=eternal). NEW WAVE MUSIC plays and lit candles abound.

RELATIONSHIP GURU (ON SCREEN)
Welcome to another chapter of the
Relationship Guru.

A TINY CHIME MAN, a midget Buddha with belly and loose clothing, shakes chimes in the background for a MYSTICAL SOUND.

RELATIONSHIP GURU (ON SCREEN) (CONT'D)
First, you must breathe in and blow
out the bad vibes to win back your
ex. This is step one. Take a deep--

KEN
I can breathe, okay? Next.

He zips the DVD forward just in time for the CHIMES to ring out, annoyingly loud.

RELATIONSHIP GURU (ON SCREEN)
Though you are desperate, you must
not seem desperate.

TINY CHIME MAN
No, no, no. Not desperate.

LOUD CHIME

RELATIONSHIP GURU (ON SCREEN)
Avoid her at all costs. For one
month, no contact, nothing, nada.

KEN
I live in her garage apartment. Too
late.

He zips the DVD forward again and stops at a Powerpoint slide: "How to Win Back Your Spouse When You Have A Child".

KEN (CONT'D)
Now you're talking.

LOUD CHIME

Ken rolls his eyes.

RELATIONSHIP GURU (ON SCREEN)

If you have a child, be engaged with your son or daughter. Participate in something that you and your child can do together. Be yourself and openly and honestly show your love and affection for your offspring.

KEN

No problem there.

RELATIONSHIP GURU (V.O.)

If she has a boyfriend, showing you are a good father will bring that jive turkey down to size.

TINY CHIME MAN

Down to size, yo!

LOUD CHIME

KEN

Whoever he is, he's going down.

DARREN STARNES (45), the gruff, no nonsense company CFO, passes by Ken's office, sees what Ken's doing and darts in.

DARREN

Hope you're not goofing off on company time.

Ken freezes the DVD.

KEN

I won't do it again.

DARREN

Since your divorce, you seem distracted.

KEN

It's been tough.

DARREN

You're a great accountant, but as a manager you've been lacking. Got a performance review coming up soon and I'm not sure it will be positive.

KEN

I'll make sure it is, sir.

Darren storms out.

LOUD CHIME as the DVD unfreezes.

EXT. GRAHAM HOME/FRONT YARD - DAY

Lauren, now Ken's ex-wife, picks up the mail. Ken arrives to get his mail.

KEN
Anything for me?

LAUREN
Us. Reunion reminder. Twenty years since we graduated Martin Van Buren High.

KEN/LAUREN
Yay, Van Buries.

LAUREN
Should be fun.

KEN
Reunions are silly.

Ken points to the skateboard on the front porch.

KEN (CONT'D)
I saw our son riding around like a maniac on that skateboard the other day. Why'd you let him have that?

LAUREN
He saved up for it. He wears a helmet.

KEN
Helmets break.

LAUREN
He's a kid.

KEN
He's our son.

Lauren rolls her eyes.

LAUREN
Jimmy's looking forward to the camping trip. You gonna make it this time?

KEN
Of course.

INT. ACCOUNTING OFFICE/KEN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Ken sits behind his desk. A plaque on his desk reading: DIGIT NUMBER ONE.

Ken and a CLEANING WOMAN nod and smile at one another like old friends that are familiar with this late night routine.

A fellow accountant, CLARA (38), stands near Ken's desk. She's sort of the mother hen of the accountants.

Ken reads several reports, shaking his head.

KEN
It's not quite right.

CLARA
It's fine. Any corrections, we can adjust in the supplemental report.

KEN
You're right, thanks.

Clara leaves.

Ken grabs his coat and leaves the office.

Then, he returns with a sigh, and shuts his door.

Ken picks up his cellphone.

INT. GRAHAM HOME/KITCHEN - DAY

Ken's son, JIMMY GRAHAM (11), paces the kitchen on a cellphone. Perfect haircut. Wearing his omnipresent baseball cap on backwards.

JIMMY
Dad, you promised.

PHONE SEQUENCE

KEN
I know. I gotta do this, Jim. I'll make it up to you. Love you.

JIMMY
Love you, too.

Lauren enters the room, grasps what's happening and asks for the phone.

Jimmy mopes out of the room.

LAUREN (ON THE PHONE)
Do not tell me you did it again.

KEN
Work emergency.

LAUREN
Your emergency.

KEN
Don't start with me, Lauren.
I gotta go.

Ken hangs up and gets to work.

Lauren growls.

INT. ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT/CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

A sign on the wall: ACCOUNTING - WHERE EVERYBODY COUNTS

Ken's accountants, dressed professionally, a Nerds-R-Us gathering, gawk at a poster board presentation marked "The Joys of Accounting".

Ken stands beside the display beaming with pride.

MARTIN MITCHELL MORTENSON (28) at Ken's side. When sycophant was invented, Martin got in line twice.

MARTIN
This. Is. Amazing.

KEN
I'm presenting it to my son's
class.

The presentation is filled with black and white charts, graphs, writing so small even the fine print has fine print.

MARTIN
You should show him your number
skills.

ACCOUNTANT ADAM

Yes. What's one million, two-hundred forty-one thousand, nine-hundred seventy five and seventeen cents plus--

ACCOUNTANT BERNICE

Six-hundred eight-one thousand three hundred and ninety-two cents.

KEN

(without hesitation)

One-million, nine-hundred twenty-three thousand, two-seventy-six.

All lean forward with held breath.

KEN (CONT'D)

And nine cents.

They sigh with relief and APPLAUD.

KEN (CONT'D)

Thought I'd miss the nine cents, didn't ya? Ye of little faith.

CLARA

I never doubted you had the nine cents, Ken.

MARTIN

It's like he was sent from heaven above.

Martin and Clara sigh in unison.

Martin nudges Ken to talk to Clara, but reads from another card.

KEN

Here's my favorite. What's an accountant's motto?

INT. LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Ken, dressed in suit and tie, reads from his note card.

KEN

Be audit you can be.

Ken cackles and looks out at the empty classroom.

KEN (CONT'D)
That one gets me every time.

He struts with confidence as he entertains the desks.

Ken straightens his tie, rethinks, then takes it off.

KEN (CONT'D)
Keep it loose, dude.

He neatly folds his tie, grabs a file folder and places the tie inside.

BELL RINGS

KERFUZZLE OF CHILDREN filling the halls.

Jimmy enters the classroom with his buddies. His smile flips to a frown with a sudden stop at the door.

JIMMY
What are you doing here?

KEN
They let you wear hats at this school?

JIMMY
Yes.

KEN
Well, if you're going to wear it, wear it with the brim forward not weird like that.

JIMMY
Dad, why are you here? I asked you not to do this.

KEN
My day to teach your buddies about my job. I missed last week, but your teacher said I can go before the next speaker today. Doing it for you, bud.

The classroom fills.

Jimmy walks up to Ken and whispers.

JIMMY
You don't need to do this for me, dad.

Ken waves to Lauren with an ever-present Nikon camera hanging around her neck. She is not a happy camper.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
Geez. Mom, too.

Jimmy drags himself to his chair deeply embarrassed.

LAUREN
(to Ken)
I got your text about a presentation?

KEN
I want you to see this. This presentation will be on fire.

INT. LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Ken finishes his presentation. The kids are comatose.

Jimmy sinks into his chair during the polite applause led by TEACHER ELAINE.

TEACHER ELAINE
Well, thank you Mr. Graham. Any questions?

One kid, TEDDY, startles awake.

TEACHER ELAINE (CONT'D)
Teddy, you have a question?

TEDDY
NO!

Teddy violently shakes his head "no".

TEACHER ELAINE
Okay. Our next speaker should be here soon.

She looks at her watch with worry.

SCREAMS from the hall.

Jimmy gets up and leads Ken into the

HALLWAY

Ken looks down the hallway and sees NICK GRAYSON (32), stud-muffin extraordinaire.

Perfect teeth that sparkle, every strand of his gorgeous hair in place, square jaw and super fit. Fat cells would see his body and run.

KEN
Who is that?

JIMMY
Nick Grayson. The Falcons all-pro
quarterback. Mom's boyfriend.

Ken swallows hard.

INT. LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Nick stands before the class. Lauren snaps a few pictures.

Ken sits in the back frowning.

The class is mesmerized.

TEACHER ELAINE
Thanks for coming, Mr. Grayson.
What do you want to tell the kids?

The teacher turns on a fan which hits Nick's hair making it flow in the wind.

Teacher Elaine fans herself and drops into her chair.

NICK
I'm an all-pro quarterback. Any
questions?

Hands jut up.

BOY STUDENT
How'd you get all those muscles?

NICK
I started lifting weights when I
was your age.

GIRL STUDENT
That pass in the championship game
was awesome. How'd you do that?

NICK
Let me bring up my number one fan
and show you. Come on up, Jimmy.

Jimmy flashes a broad smile and struts to the front of the classroom like a conquering hero. Nods from his bros and smiles from the girls.

NICK (CONT'D)
Jimmy, you're my number one receiver, okay? So, the play went like this.

Nick and Jimmy demonstrate the play.

Ken rips up the note card with his favorite joke and slumps in his chair.

EXT. ATLANTA PARK RUNNING TRACK - DAY

Running trail in a lush green park.

Lauren jogs on a sunny day.

Ken hops out of the woods startling Lauren. He's in business attire.

Lauren freaks, then punches Ken on the shoulder.

LAUREN
Jesus. Ken.

KEN
You're dating Rick Grayson?

LAUREN
Nick Grayson.

KEN
Whatever. Did you cheat on me?

LAUREN
No. Jimmy wrote a letter to him, being he's his idol. Nick responded. We met. Here we are. We've been dating for awhile.

KEN
Jimmy never mentioned you were dating him.

LAUREN
I kept it quiet, made sure we're a good fit. It would hurt Jimmy too much to date his idol, then drop him.

KEN
I never saw him around the house.

LAUREN
I wasn't going to bring him home
with our eleven-year old son there.
Until now.

She starts running.

Ken tries to keep up.

KEN
Now?

LAUREN
He's moving in. He sold his house
and he's not buying a new one.

KEN
He can buy any house he wants.
Why's he moving in with you?

LAUREN
That's none of your business.
Nick's moving in, so I'm changing
the locks.

KEN
I need to get in.

LAUREN
You just need the laundry room. You
can get in there through the
garage.

KEN
What if there's a fire? A nasty
fall? Zombie attack?

LAUREN
I'll take my chances, zombies and
all. Nick and I want some privacy.

KEN
Privacy?

Lauren picks up the pace.

Ken runs to catch up, but cannot.

Despite running, an elderly couple speed walk past Ken.

He stops to catch his breath and waves to the couple as they zip by.

EXT. GRAHAM HOME - DAY

Ken sits in his car parked out of sight and watches Lauren, Jimmy and Nick move boxes into the house.

Nick wraps his arm around Jimmy's shoulder, they smile at one another, and enter the house.

Ken seethes.

EXT. GRAHAM HOME/BACKYARD - DAY

Large backyard, pristine lawn, patio and barbecue grill. Suburbia on parade.

Jimmy and Nick play football. Tons of laughter.

INT. KEN'S GARAGE APARTMENT - DAY

Sparsely furnished with mix and match furniture. A dorm like atmosphere in an above the garage apartment.

Ken hears LAUGHTER outside and peeks out of his tiny window to see Nick playing catch with Jimmy.

Ken grabs his cellphone and pulls up a Home App.

DRIVEWAY

Lauren drives into the driveway in time to see the guys playing.

She steps out of the car and flashes the loving mother smile at her guys.

KEN'S APARTMENT

Ken pushes a button on his smartphone and the backyard sprinkler system kicks in drenching only Nick.

Ken grins with delight as Nick scoots inside.

DRIVEWAY

Lauren looks toward the garage window and scowls.

APARTMENT

Ken ducks to avoid being seen and chortles with devilish delight.

INT. GRAHAM HOME/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A quaint, middle-class living room. Well-furnished and coordinated with care.

Clocks read midnight.

Lauren and Nick on the couch. Him on his laptop, her reading a book.

NICK
Jimmy's at a sleepover. Maybe we
can do something fun.

Lauren closes her book.

INT. KEN'S GARAGE APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ken, in T-shirt and shorts, reads a book on a beanbag chair.

The room shakes with lamps and objects moving about.

LAUGHTER from the house.

Ken shakes his head and returns to his book.

The SHAKING AND LAUGHTER grows.

Ken slams his book shut and seethes. He tries to jump up, but the beanbag chair tackles him.

Rock and roll, but no luck as he sinks deeper into the chair. Finally, he slides out like a snake, then hops to his feet.

INT. GRAHAM HOME BASEMENT/LAUNDRY ROOM - NIGHT

Ken drops a pile of laundry into the washing machine and starts the cycle.

He taps the dryer and seethes as the LAUGHTER builds.

Ken pulls a few clothes out of the washing machine, dripping wet, and hurls them into the dryer, doubling the sound. He hums loudly.

The laughter and shaking stop.

Lauren zips into the room scowling, a virtual reality headset dangling around her neck.

LAUREN
It's after midnight.

KEN
I guess I like to pursue clean
activities at night.

Lauren rolls her eyes.

KEN (CONT'D)
Our eleven-year-old son's in that
house.

LAUREN
He's away for the night. We were
playing a virtual reality video
game.

KEN
Oh, please.

Nick slides in on his socks. Fully dressed, holding a video controller and virtual reality headset still in place.

He bumps into a wall and plays the game as he speaks.

NICK
Yeah, it's awesome. Wanna join us?

Lauren glares at Ken.

LAUREN
No, he has some cleaning up to do.

NICK
Hah. I just took out your tanks.

LAUREN
What?

Nick runs into the house laughing.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
This isn't working for me, Ken.
Chill, okay?

Nick laughs hysterically forcing Lauren to run inside.

Ken snarls as the dryer BUZZES being done.

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Small glen in a secluded wooden area.

Ken and Jimmy on a camping trip. Both stare into the fire during an awkward silence for a time.

KEN
How's baseball going?

JIMMY
I'm hitting four-hundred.

KEN
Baseball amazes me. You fail sixty percent of the time and you're considered good. In accounting, I have to be perfect or I'm gone. Great batting average for the old man, huh?

Jimmy stares into the fire. Ken sighs and stares as well.

KEN (CONT'D)
Your mom said I embarrassed you with my presentation. Was it really that bad?

Jimmy hesitates.

KEN (CONT'D)
Go on, son.

KEN (CONT'D)
No one got the jokes. The graphs and stuff were boring. And everyone hated the--

KEN (CONT'D)
Okay, I get it.

JIMMY
You try so hard to be cool. You're not cool, dad.

KEN
I'm kinda cool.

Jimmy glares.

KEN (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. Forgive me? Please?

JIMMY
Yeah.

KEN
Thanks.

JIMMY
Can I ask you something?

KEN
You just did.

JIMMY
Dad.

KEN
Fire away.
(points to the fire)
No pun intended.

JIMMY
There's these two girls in school I
like. Super hot. We play around
with each other and stuff.

KEN
And stuff?

JIMMY
Yeah. But, there's this other girl
a grade ahead of me that's a
knockout. She smiles at me when we
pass in the halls. Should I go for
the older girl or stick it out with
the other two?

Ken is frozen speechless, then

KEN
Hey, wanna make some s'mores?

Ken runs to the tent and pulls out a box marked: S'MORES KIT.

JIMMY
A s'mores kit?

KEN
It's got everything.

JIMMY
Not now, dad.

KEN
Chocolate, marshmallows--

JIMMY

No.

KEN

Even sticks.

Jimmy jumps to his feet.

JIMMY

Dad, I no. I don't want to do this now.

KEN

But, I bought a s'mores kit.

Ken walks toward Jimmy, trips over a tent rope and spills the contents on the ground.

They stare at the kit dumped on the ground, then at each other.

Jimmy runs into the tent leaving Ken alone and frustrated.

EXT. LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

Start of the day crowd of kids, teachers, parents and cars.

Jimmy steps out of Ken's parked car.

Ken hops out of the car and moves in for a hug.

Jimmy darts into the school with a gaggle of friends, innocently eluding his father's embrace.

KEN

Have a great day, son.

GEORGINA SLATER (28) walks up to Ken. A workout queen with a whistle around her neck. She speaks loudly and pressured as if giving a pep talk.

GEORGINA

So, you're Jimmy's dad. Coach Slater, P.E. Teacher.

She blows her whistle, chuckles, and shakes hands.

GEORGINA (CONT'D)

The official jewelry of my trade. Your boy's the best athlete in the school. Must get it from a great athlete like you.

KEN

Well--

GEORGINA

He brags about you to his buddies all the time. You doing Sports Day with him?

KEN

Sports Day?

Georgina hands him a flyer about Sports Day.

GEORGINA

Best day of the year.

Georgina demonstrates each event all around Ken, her ADHD on full display.

GEORGINA (CONT'D)

Basketball shots. Football throws. Baseball catch. Relay race. It's great.

Ken stares at the flyer.

GEORGINA (CONT'D)

Great bonding event. Made me into the woman I am today. Did Sports Day with my dad every year.

She places her hand over her heart with nostalgic pride and wipes a tear.

GEORGINA (CONT'D)

Hope you can make it. I know he wants to do it, but he said you might be out of town given you travel a lot.

KEN

He said I travel a lot?

GEORGINA

It'd mean the world to your boy.

She sees mischief across the way and blows her WHISTLE.

GEORGINA (CONT'D)

Illegal use of hands, Mister. Nice to finally meet you, Nick.

KEN

Nick?

Georgina rushes off blowing her WHISTLE along the way.

Ken stares at the flyer.

INT. ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT/KEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Ken puts down the Sports Day flyer.

Martin grabs Ken's hands and admires them as if the crown jewels.

MARTIN

Are you nuts? Your accounting fingers should be insured by Lloyds of London. You break a knuckle, jam a finger, rip off a fingernail, your career is over.

KEN

It's not that bad.

MARTIN

Finished.

KEN

It'll be--

MARTIN

Dead as a doornail. Kaput. Down and-

KEN

I get it.

MARTIN

-out.

KEN

It's with my son.

MARTIN

Bring the little lad in here. See what his old man hath wrought. The best accounting department in the city. The State. In the whole corporate universe. You're an accounting superstar.

KEN

I wish you were my son.

MARTIN

Me, too.

Martin sighs and marches off with pride.

Ken looks at his hands and remembers.

BEGIN FLASHBACK: BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

Bright, sunny day on the baseball diamond. A Little League game.

YOUNG KEN (8), scrawny, bespectacled and in a baseball uniform with "Graham" written on the back. He looks at his glove, then into the stands where his MOM and DAD cheer and wave.

Young Ken nods to his parents, then hears the CRACK of a bat.

He runs under the ball, gulps hard with fear, the ball draws near -- and he drops it.

Young Ken scrambles to find the ball, then throws to the infield far off the mark.

The winning runs score and the OPPOSING TEAM celebrates.

Young Ken sulks toward the dugout and two OPPOSING PLAYERS yank down his pants and mock him.

The Opposing Team and some in the stands laugh at Ken.

Young Ken looks into the stands where his parents are mortified. He's crushed and runs off in tears.

RETURN TO SCENE

Ken snaps himself out of the nightmare.

KEN

No way.

INT. SHOPPING MALL - DAY

Nick stands before a huge placard on a stage. The sign reading: STAND AGAINST CHILDHOOD CANCER.

Photographers, including Lauren, snap pictures.

Jimmy stands nearby, wearing Nick's football jersey, admiring the scene. Nick struts up to Jimmy and they hi-five.

MALL PHOTOGRAPHER

Hey, how about a picture of you two under the sign.

NICK
Let's do it.

Nick and Jimmy pose for a picture and several photographers take the shot.

INT. ESPRESSO YOURSELF CAFE - DAY

Lauren sits in the back of the small, quiet café.

Ken storms in and drops a newspaper on the table, shocking Lauren.

LAUREN
Do you have to be early all the time?

Ken pushes the paper toward her, then sits opposite her.

The newspaper has a picture of Nick and Jimmy at the shopping mall event. The caption reading: PRO PLAYER AND SON STAND AGAINST CANCER.

KEN
And son?

LAUREN
I contacted them to retract it.

KEN
A retraction buried on page ninety days later.

LAUREN
I didn't write that, okay? I'm sorry.

KEN
Why did you want to meet here?

LAUREN
I have some news I wanted to tell you away from the house. You have to promise to keep it a secret.

KEN
What is it?

Lauren hesitates, then speaks.

LAUREN
Nick's working out a deal to sign with the Seattle Seahawks.

KEN
(hopeful)
Then he'll be far away?

LAUREN
Me and Jimmy are moving with him.

KEN
Jimmy's friends are here. His life
is here. He should choose.

LAUREN
Jimmy's okay with moving with us.

KEN
He's a kid. Why should he choose?

LAUREN
Ken.

KEN
We agreed to joint custody.

LAUREN
You can see him anytime. The entire
summer. Holidays.

KEN
I'm fighting this.

LAUREN
And put Jimmy through a court
battle? We said we wouldn't do
that.

KEN
No one said they'd be moving across
the country.

LAUREN
I'm sorry. I've got no choice.

KEN
Yes, you do.

Lauren looks away.

Ken storms out, then spins back to her.

KEN (CONT'D)
He's my son, Lauren. I need to be
with my son.

EXT. GRAHAM HOME/DRIVEWAY - DAY

Ken arrives from work and sees Jimmy doing football drills by himself.

Ken smiles at his boy with fatherly joy.

Nick clears his throat behind him.

NICK
Don't blow this deal for me. You can't tell anyone what Lauren told you.

KEN
Tell people you took my kid from me? No thanks.

NICK
I didn't plan to take anyone away from anyone, Ken. It happened. Just fell in love with your ex and her kid.

KEN
My kid.

Nick looks away and Ken glares at him.

JIMMY (O.S.)
Hey, Nick. I wanna work on that pass you showed me.

NICK
I'll be right there, bud.

Nick scoots off to join Jimmy, then turns back to Ken.

NICK (CONT'D)
Hey, that sprinkler thing was a nice touch. Touché.

KEN
Sprinkler thing?

NICK
Don't do it again.

Nick joins Jimmy.

Ken watches his boy play with his hero, totally helpless.

INT. KEN'S GARAGE APARTMENT - DAY

Ken sits at a table thumbing through pictures of him with his dad, the same man from the flashback.

Father and son dressed in matching white dress shirts, black ties, and black horn-rimmed glasses. Picture after picture of matching father and son outfits. Hawaiian shirts together, matching sweaters, matching pajamas, two peas in a pod.

Ken opens a shoebox and finds first place ribbons and certificates from math contests as a child. He holds up a few first-place ribbons and certificates.

Ken looks up at a framed picture of him and Jimmy together during happier times.

He slams the ribbons down on the table.

KEN

Game on.

INT. ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT/KEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Ken drops a tall stack of books about sports on his desk.

Martin arrives and sees the books and the Sports Day flyer. He shrieks with horror.

MARTIN

No.

KEN

I need to win back my family. I start with winning my kid from that freak-a-zoid.

Martin takes a deep breath and stands tall.

MARTIN

Then it's my solemn duty to help you.

KEN

It really isn't.

MARTIN

The least I can do for you, Chief.

(saluting)

Martin Mitchell Mortenson reporting for duty, sir. We'll beat Nick.

(snickers)

Ha. Beat? Nick? Get it?

Ken nods he gets it, unfortunately.

MARTIN (CONT'D)
I will be your Jimmy.

Martin snaps to attention and salutes.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Bright sun shines on a pristine green field.

ROCKY-LIKE THEME MUSIC

Ken and Martin race onto the field. Headbands, wrist bands, knee pads, spanking new athletic shoes and shiny white socks. Talcum powder on Martin's nose.

Ken wears a special T-shirt saying: #1 DAD

Martin wears a special T-shirt saying: Jimmy 2

The back of their shirts say: FOR JIMMY!

They run like conquering heroes, then jump to chest bump. They miss and fall to the ground. Martin's mouthguard drops out in the process.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Ken holds a football while Martin reads clumsily from a book.

MARTIN
Mastering good football throwing
technique will make your forward
passes go farther, be more
accurate, and easier to catch.

KEN
Jimmy would like that.

MARTIN
These tips will help you deliver a
perfect spiral.

Ken tries to follow Martin's instructions, but it's all Greek.

MARTIN (CONT'D)
Grip the football with your ring
and little finger, crossing the
laces. Do not palm the ball.

KEN
Then how can I hold it?

MARTIN
It says "do not palm the ball."

Ken grabs the book, reads and tries again.

He can't get his hand around the ball.

MARTIN (CONT'D)
Maybe you should try running with
it first. I'll try to tackle you.

Martin takes a Sumo wrestler position and sneers.

Ken runs with the ball, tries to fake Martin out, but
Martin's surprisingly agile. Who knew?

Ken fumbles the ball.

MARTIN (CONT'D)
Fumble!

Martin dives for the ball, but Ken casually picks it up.

Martin growls, lunges for the ball, and grabs it.

Ken drags the growling Martin across the grass like a dog
latched onto a bone.

WHISTLE.

The guys spin around.

GEORGINA
What in Sam Hill are you doing,
Nick?

MARTIN
Nick?

KEN
I'm not Nick. That's my ex-wife's
jock boyfriend. I'm his non-jock
father, Ken.

MARTIN
But, an amazing accountant.

WHISTLE.

GEORGINA
I see. My bad.

KEN
I'm doing Sports Day.

GEORGINA
(hand-over-heart)
Best day of the year.

Ken imitates Georgina's hand-to-heart reverence.
Martin, although clueless, copies the hand-to-heart.

MARTIN
Permission to breathe, sir.

GEORGINA
At ease.

Martin is too terrified to relax.

GEORGINA (CONT'D)
At ease!

Martin gasps for air.

Ken grabs the book.

WHISTLE

Ken drops the book.

GEORGINA (CONT'D)
Who reads a book to learn sports?

MARTIN
But, they've got some great
pictures here.

Martin reaches for the book.

WHISTLE

Martin drops the book.

GEORGINA
We don't need no stinking book.
Report here tomorrow at oh-eight--
hundred hours for training.

KEN
Training?

GEORGINA
You want to win it for the Gipper?

MARTIN
His name is Jimmy.

Georgina glares at Martin.

Martin shrinks with fear.

GEORGINA
Meet me here tomorrow morning.

KEN
Why are you helping me?

GEORGINA
Some people at the school think
Sports Day is silly, useless, dumb.
Some say the parents aren't up to
the task, scared weenies who can't
compete.

MARTIN
We are not scared.

Ken glares at Martin.

GEORGINA
If a non-jock like you does well, I
could get the whole school, the
city, the universe back in shape
and ready to take on the world. No
longer soft, mushy, weak, wastes of
space. A wuss like you competing
can motivate hundreds like you.

KEN
(sarcastic)
Glad I could help.

GEORGINA
Oh-eight-hundred. Be here or be
square.

KEN
Do you watch a lot of black-and--
white sports movies?

GEORGINA
Daily. Twice on Sunday.

She does a sharp about face and marches away.

Ken reaches for the book.

WHISTLE

Ken drops the book.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Ken sprints out, overdressed once again.

Martin jogs out in his Jimmy 2 jersey holding pom-poms.

MARTIN

For Jimmy, for Jimmy. Yay.

Georgina struts up.

GEORGINA

Here come your coaches.

Ken and Martin turn and see the coaches. All under fifteen-- years-old, strutting in like warriors prepped for war.

KEN

Kids?

MARTIN

Plow over'em.

Martin GROWLS and sneers.

SPORTS TRAINING MONTAGE:

A) Ken stands with ZACK (12) demonstrating how to throw a football. Ken takes the ball, reaches back to throw and the ball falls clumsily behind him. Another throw, the ball drops out of his hands. Zack shakes his head. Martin cheers.

B) Ken catches the football from Zack. Success. Then Ken shakes out his hand in pain like catching a brick. Martin cheers.

C) Ken watches XAVIER (13) foot dribble a soccer ball. Ken tries to do the same, but trips over the ball and falls flat on his face. Xavier shakes his head. Martin cheers.

D) The kids chase Martin off the field. All cheer.

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

Ken and YOLANDA (14) stand with Georgina who holds a basketball. Yolanda is short, very short.

GEORGINA
Basketball. Yolanda's a pro.

KEN
Aren't you a little short for this?

Yolanda dribbles lightning fast around Ken, then shoots a jump shot. All net.

YOLANDA
You should be so short.

Ken nods apologies.

Yolanda tosses Ken the ball, making him wince.

Ken throws up a shot. Air ball.

YOLANDA (CONT'D)
Throw it harder.

Ken shoots a brick that rockets back to him, dropping Ken hard to the ground.

Yolanda stands over Ken and shakes her head.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

A typical high school diamond. Neat, but far from perfect.

Georgina and the coaches watch from the sidelines.

On the mound is WILL (15).

WILL
Playing catch. Dad one-oh-one.

KEN
I don't think I can do this.

GEORGINA
It's a major event on Sports Day.

Ken, wearing a glove, takes an easy throw and drops it.

Another throw, another drop.

Will strolls up to Ken and holds up a baseball.

WILL
Keep your eyes on the stitches.
Don't worry about catching it.
(MORE)

WILL (CONT'D)
Just follow the stitches into your
glove.

Will heads back to the mound.

KEN
(sotto)
Follow the stitches into the glove.
It can't be that easy.

Will throws another pitch.

Ken misses entirely and the ball hits his forehead.

Ken hits the ground and the ball rolls away with the imprint
of the stitches on his brow.

INT. GRAHAM HOME/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Lauren and Nick make dinner. Nick hugs and kisses her.

Jimmy RUNS DOWNSTAIRS and enters the living room away from
the kitchen.

LAUREN
Nick. Not now.

Nick backs off and looks outside to see Ken heading to his
apartment.

NICK
Why is he living here?

LAUREN
Ken's a good father. He loves Jimmy
and deserves to see him. You of all
people should know that.

NICK
What happens when we move away?

Lauren tosses the salad.

Nick moves in to hug her, but Lauren politely stops him.

Jimmy enters the kitchen and sees Lauren push Nick away.

JIMMY
What's for dinner?

LAUREN
Lasagna. Your favorite.

JIMMY
That's what we had for dinner
before you and dad--

LAUREN
No bad news this time. Sit.

They all sit.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
Any news from you?

JIMMY
I got an eighty-five on my math
test.

LAUREN
Hey, hey. Go Superstar.

Jimmy and Lauren do a stylized, hi-five routine that Nick
watches as an outcast.

NICK
Cool. Next time, one-hundred.

LAUREN
He almost failed math last year.
Eighty-five is a major deal.

JIMMY
(to Nick)
I got a baseball game Friday.
Wanna come?

NICK
Sure. When I was your age, I was a
pitcher. Best athlete always plays
pitcher, not something lame like
left field. What position do you
play, sport?

JIMMY
Left field.

Oops.

NICK
Being a starter is great. Good for
you.

All dig into their meal for awhile.

JIMMY
I got math homework tonight I can't
figure out.

LAUREN
Never was good in math. Nick?

NICK
Only math I mastered was one, two,
three hike.

Nick chuckles.

LAUREN
Your dad's great at math. Go up and
ask him after dinner.

Nick glares at Lauren who shrugs back at him.

INT. KEN'S GARAGE APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jimmy stands with Ken, who holds the math test.

KEN
Fantastic, champ. Proud of you.

JIMMY
Thanks.

Hi-five.

KEN
It could be better.

JIMMY
Fifteen percent better.

EXT. GRAHAM HOME/DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Nick wanders into the driveway and looks up at the window to
Ken's apartment and sees the light on.

INT. OUTSIDE KEN'S GARAGE APARTMENT/FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Nick sneaks up the stairs and sees Ken and Jimmy working on
his math homework through the crack in the door.

INSIDE KEN'S APARTMENT

JIMMY
So it's twelve point two?

KEN
You got it.

Ken hugs his boy tight.

OUTSIDE KEN'S APARTMENT

Nick thinks.

EXT. LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

Nick leans against his 2018 Red Ferrari Convertible in front of the school.

Jimmy and his buddies SEAN and MIGUEL, both 11, stop short and drop their jaws upon seeing Nick and his Ferrari.

The guys rush to

THE FERRARI

SEAN
Is that a Ferrari 430?

NICK
You know it. Just bought it.

Jimmy beams with pride.

NICK (CONT'D)
(to Jimmy)
Got a surprise for you, my man.

INT. ATLANTA FALCONS WEIGHT ROOM - DAY

A professional football training facility overflowing with state-of-the-art equipment.

Nick and Jimmy stroll in and the boy's eyes pop open. Jimmy gawks at the jock wonderland.

Professional players gather and trade high-fives and handshakes with Jimmy.

INT. ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT/KEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Ken works at his computer.

CELLPHONE BUZZ

Ken picks up the phone with a smile.

KEN
Hey, Champ. What's up?

ON HIS PHONE - FACETIME

JIMMY
Guess where I am?

Nick and the Players crowd the screen and wave. Nick with a smirk plastered on his face beside Jimmy.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Lauren, with her Nikon, and Nick walk down a quiet street, taking in the sunshine while holding hands.

Jimmy walks ahead of them.

Lauren pulls up her camera and takes a photo.

Lauren and Jimmy look at the picture in the viewfinder and marvel.

JIMMY
Wow. Great shot, Mom.

Nick looks at the shot and shrugs.

Lauren and Jimmy appear disappointed.

NICK
Hey, take a picture of me and Jimmy.

Nick and Jimmy stand arm-in-arm and Lauren takes a picture before a statue.

Nick and Jimmy ape the statue in funny poses and Lauren takes several shots.

NICK (CONT'D)
Let's get one with all three of us.

Nick waves over a FEMALE STRANGER to take a picture. She does so, then realizes.

FEMALE STRANGER
Oh, my God. Do you know who you are?

A crowd of ADMIRERS gather.

FEMALE ADMIRER JUNE
Nick Grayson?

FEMALE ADMIRER KELLY
You are the most gorgeous thing on
the planet Earth.

FEMALE ADMIRER JUNE
(to Kelly)
If he were my husband, I'd never
get outta bed.

The Ladies chortle.

FEMALE ADMIRER LANA
My little boy just adores you.

NICK
Love to meet the little guy some
time.

FEMALE ADMIRER LANA
You can, he's right here.

Lana pulls out a tiny dog from her purse.

FEMALE ADMIRER LANA (CONT'D)
Look, baby. It's your hero.

The dog couldn't care less.

FEMALE ADMIRER LANA (CONT'D)
See. He is crazy about his Nick
Grayson.

The crowd grows.

Nick signs autographs and takes selfies as Lauren and Jimmy
are pushed away by the admirers.

Nick signs an autograph on a woman's arm with a Sharpie he
pulls out of his pocket.

Jimmy and Lauren watch the scene with long faces.

EXT. MOUNTAIN PEAK - DAY

Lauren leads Nick along a hiking trail to a vista overlooking
a valley. Stunning blue sky and breathtaking view.

Lauren takes a few pictures while Nick sits on a rock and
enjoys it all.

She sits next to him.

LAUREN
My favorite spot. Peaceful. Quiet.

NICK
And away from crowds of fans?

LAUREN
Do you enjoy all that attention?

NICK
Sometimes. When we win, I'm the
hero. We lose, I'm the bum. Part of
the game.

LAUREN
But, it is a game.

NICK
You'll get used to all the
attention.

Lauren picks up her camera, walks away and snaps more
pictures. Nick joins her.

LAUREN
When you retire from football, then
what?

NICK
I'll figure that out when the time
comes. Go with the flow.

LAUREN
Ken always had to have a plan.

NICK
Is that why you left him?

LAUREN
Having a plan doesn't mean it's a
good one.

She snaps another picture.

NICK
You love this, don't you?

LAUREN
Nature never asks for anything,
never demands an answer, just
exists in all its beauty.

Another picture.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
What happened with your ex?

Nick lowers the camera and hugs her.

NICK
Do we really need to talk about
this now?

They kiss.

INT. EAST BAPTIST CHURCH/PARISH HALL - DAY

Several CHILDREN and ADULTS of all ages and cultures sit at tables eating spaghetti dinners with great camaraderie.

A banner hangs on a wall saying: WELCOME FOSTER HOMES.

Peeling paint. Lights broken or flickering. Bars on the windows, some windows broken and taped shut.

Lauren and Jimmy enter looking surprised.

Nick comes out of the kitchen wearing a messy apron and carrying a huge vat of marinara sauce. He puts the vat on the food table, sees Lauren and Jimmy, and jogs to them.

NICK
Thanks for coming.

LAUREN
Here's your phone.

NICK
Can't believe I left the house
without it. It's my right arm.

JIMMY
Yeah, your left is for throwing.

NICK
You know it, bud.

Lauren and Jimmy take in the surroundings.

LAUREN
What is this?

NICK
I volunteer here. Been doing it for
years. Giving back to foster home
kids like me.

JIMMY
Foster home?

LAUREN
Nick's parents died when he was--?

NICK
Thirteen. In and out of foster
homes after that. I was too old to
get adopted, so I was in a lot of
places. Fitting that I'm the only
starting southpaw in the league,
huh? Being the odd guy is my life.

HELPER JOE
Hey, Nick. Need ya on the line.

NICK
Duty calls.

JIMMY
Can I help?

Nick looks toward Lauren.

LAUREN
Can I take some pictures?

NICK
I don't think they'd mind.

Nick leads Jimmy to the table where all fist bump and give
Jimmy an apron.

SERVICE SEQUENCE

A) Nick and Jimmy pass out food to the patrons. They smile at
each other. Lauren snaps a picture.

B) Nick, Lauren and Jimmy sit at the table and eat. Well--
wishers ask for autographs and Nick obliges, barely touching
his food.

C) Jimmy eats cake and gets frosting on his nose. Nick wipes
some frosting off, then smears it on Jimmy's face. Jimmy
smears some on Nick's face and they roughhouse with glee.
Lauren takes a picture.

END OF SEQUENCE

INT. GRAHAM HOME/JIMMY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Eleven-year-old boy's room filled with superhero posters, sports memorabilia, and dirty clothes abound.

Several posters of Nick Grayson adorn the walls.

Nick carries Jimmy, asleep in his arms, into his room and places him in bed.

Lauren looks on with a warm smile from the doorway.

Nick places the covers over Jimmy, strokes his hair and heads for the door.

JIMMY

Hey, Nick.

Nick spins around.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

That was awesome.

NICK

You were awesome. 'Night, little man.

JIMMY

'Night, big daddy.

Nick smiles with deep satisfaction, then leaves with Lauren as he closes the door.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Georgina and the Kid Instructors surround Ken.

Martin stands nearby, shaking with fear.

GEORGINA

Sports Day in three weeks and you're not cutting it. Your football passes putrid, running reeks, dribbles drab, baseball--

KEN

Bad.

GEORGINA

Beastly.

Georgina drones on as she circles Ken.

The coaches nod agreement as she speaks.

Xavier hums "When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again."

Martin cowers.

GEORGINA (CONT'D)

Worst of all, you don't have the killer instinct. You lack the heart of a lion, the stamina of a stallion, the wings of an eagle. When the time comes and blood is drawn, you'll shrink like a violet and give up because it's darkest with no dawn. Before the sun will come out tomorrow, bet your bottom dollar that tomorrow will not be a better day.

KEN

Well, I got a full heart and I'm clear I can win.

Martin puts his arm around Ken with defiance.

Zack leans over to Ken.

ZACK

It's clear eyes, full hearts, can't lose.

KEN

That, too.

Georgina looks Ken in the eye.

GEORGINA

Time to bring in reinforcements. My daddy.

The Kids shriek in horror.

YOLANDA

Coach Slater.

ZACK

The Emasculator.

Martin shrieks.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

COACH GEORGE PATTON SLATER (64), ex-Marine Drill Sergeant stands before Ken and Georgina. Slater is a carbon copy of his daughter's forced coach-speak.

COACH SLATER
What's the problem here, daughter?

GEORGINA
Ken here wants to do Sports Day--

GEORGINA AND COACH SLATER
(hand-to-heart)
Best day of the year.

GEORGINA
--with his boy in three weeks. At this rate, not happening, sir. He's a mess. Not ready. Flunking out.

COACH SLATER
You dare to embarrass my little girl, Kenbo?

KEN
Ken.

COACH SLATER
Defame the tradition of Sports Day? Who do you think you are, Brutus Iscariot?

Ken does a double take, then pushes on.

KEN
It's not that bad.

COACH SLATER
Yes, it is. And you don't even see it. You're soft. Look at that gut.

Ken could never be called fat, yet he tucks his tummy in.

COACH SLATER (CONT'D)
Gotta get you into shape. This has to be an everyday, every hour project. Running, crunches, jumping jacks, burpees.

Ken belches and laughs.

KEN
You said burpees.

Georgina and Slater glare, so not amused.

COACH SLATER
Get those legs pumping and that gut
jumping. This is about your
manhood, Kenbo. Are you a man or
marsupial?

KEN
Don't you mean mouse?

Georgina and Coach Slater blow their whistles.

COACH SLATER
Move it! Move, move, move!

Ken runs with Coach Slater and Georgina at his side.

INT. ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT/KEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Ken labors over several reports.

COACH SLATER (O.S.)
So this is your domain, Kenbo? Done
good for yourself.

Ken looks over the top of his report in shock to find Slater
and Martin standing there. Martin holds a gym bag.

KEN
What are you doing here?

COACH SLATER
If you want to compete with Nick
Grayson, you need to work twenty--
four-seven.

KEN
I thought you were kidding.

COACH SLATER
I never kid.

MARTIN
I got your gym bag.

KEN
No, no. I've got quarterly reports
due soon. I can't--

MARTIN
I'll cover for you, Chief. Trust
me, I can do it.

COACH SLATER
Great gym across the street, good facilities, can join for thirty days for ten bucks. Damn good deal.

KEN
Fine. I'll join --

Martin pulls out a membership card and hands it to Ken with a big smile.

MARTIN
My treat.

COACH SLATER
Let's do this, Kenbo. A better you awaits.

Coach Slater leads him out of the office. Martin moves behind Ken's desk.

KEN
Darren will kill me if I take time off from here.

MARTIN
I'll take care of it, Chief.

KEN
Make sure you balance the numbers on the McMillan report and --

Ken is whisked out the door.

Martin sinks into the chair and spins around with glee.

INT. GYM - DAY

Well-appointed gym, matted stretching area with mirrors.

Ken does elaborate yoga stretching exercises on the mat with Slater. He struggles with the poses.

Slater is loose and nimble with a grim look on his face like a Zen axe murderer.

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

Ken and Georgina shoot baskets. She gives Ken a few pointers.

EXT. CITY PARK - DAY

Ken dressed in rolled up sleeves on his dress shirt and tie. He works with Zack on his football throws.

INT. ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT/KEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Martin sits at Ken's desk, tons of files piled high. Martin sees Darren approaching and drops to his knees and crawls out of the office unseen by Darren.

Darren arrives.

He looks and appears frustrated that Ken isn't there.

Martin appears behind him.

MARTIN
Hey, Darren.

DARREN
Martin, have you seen Ken lately?
He's not returning my calls.

MARTIN
Well, he's been super busy. He
needed to take a walk, you know,
clear his head.

Clara darts in.

CLARA
Yeah, wow. He's here early and
leaves late. He deserves a break.

DARREN
Tell him to call me ASAP.

MARTIN/CLARA
Will do.

Darren leaves.

Martin and Clara sigh with relief.

INT. ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT/KEN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

A deserted office except for the cleaning crew.

Ken sits at his desk in workout clothes reviewing files and working on his computer.

INT. GRAHAM HOME/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Nick walks up to a bookshelf and clears out the family photos that include Ken.

He puts up several framed photos of him with Lauren and Jimmy and nods with great satisfaction.

Lauren enters and takes it in with a polite smile.

EXT. CHAIN GROCERY STORE/PARKING LOT - DAY

Lauren arrives at her car to load the groceries in the trunk. She hears the CLICKS and ROLLS of a digital camera.

Lauren looks around and finds a PHOTOGRAPHER snapping pictures from his car. REPORTER #1 runs up to her.

REPORTER #1
You're Nick Grayson's girlfriend,
right?

Lauren stares at him.

The Reporter flashes press credentials.

REPORTER #1 (CONT'D)
Reporter from Gridiron Sports
Weekly. There's been talk of Nick
Grayson seeking a deal with
Seattle. Is that true?

CAMERA SNAP AND WHIRL

Lauren charges the Photographer.

LAUREN
Stop that.

The Photographer puts the camera down.

REPORTER #1
Off the record, what can you tell
me?

LAUREN
On the record, go away.

Lauren hops into her car and backs up nearly hitting the media people.

INT. KEN AND LAUREN'S HOME/KITCHEN - DAY

Lauren drops grocery bags on the counter with a THUD. She shakes herself to calm down.

She scoots to the refrigerator, pulls out a bottle of white wine, pours herself a glass and drinks.

A picture taped on the refrigerator covered by other items catches her eye. A tiny, old picture of her with Ken. Broad smiles, a blissful couple.

She takes the picture off the door and stares at it for a time.

EXT. KEN AND LAUREN'S HOME/BACKYARD - DAY

Lauren enters the backyard and heads toward the garage.

She overhears Ken's LAUGHTER.

KEN (O.S.)
Wow, that's great. You're really
good at this.

GEORGINA (O.S.)
My specialty.

Georgina hugs Ken from behind cracking his back and spine.

Lauren turns the corner and finds Georgina hugging Ken, both dressed for a workout.

KEN
Lauren.

LAUREN
Hi.

All look at one another in frozen silence.

KEN
This is Georgina.

Georgina juts out her hand for a firm handshake.

GEORGINA
Howdy?

LAUREN
You're the school gym teacher,
right?

GEORGINA
Yes, indeedee. You're Jimmy's mom.
Ken here is gonna do your boy
proud.

LAUREN
Oh?

GEORGINA
He's working hard to--

KEN
Lose weight. Georgina is working me
hard to do that. Got a high school
reunion coming up you know.

Ken wraps his arm around Georgina.

KEN (CONT'D)
She is an amazing woman.

GEORGINA
Ken here is pretty amazing, too.

She gives him an affected, over the top punch on the chin.

LAUREN
I'll leave you two alone.

Lauren leaves.

Georgina snickers.

GEORGINA
Trying to get you ex back, make her
jealous?

KEN
Guilty.

GEORGINA
Competitive spirit. I like that.
Let's hit the trail.

They start jogging.

MONTAGE - MOS

A.) Ken, huffing and puffing, does burpees with Coach Slater.

B.) Ken works with Xavier on soccer and is getting better.

C.) Yolanda and Ken shoot hoops. He makes a few. They share hi-fives, with Yolanda jumping high to do it.

D.) Ken and Zack work on football throws. Ken's getting the hang of it.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

Slater holds up a baseball before Ken.

Ken stares at the baseball with fear.

COACH SLATER
Can't let this defeat you, son.
It's the best way to show him
you're ready.

Ken takes the baseball and nods to Slater.

Will walks with a baseball glove for Ken's throw.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

Ken, dressed for exercise like a normal person, wearing a baseball glove, stands with all the coaches, Georgina, Coach Slater and Martin.

Lauren and Jimmy arrive, perplexed.

LAUREN
What's going on?

KEN
I've been training to do Sports Day
with you. These are my coaches.

JIMMY
Coaches?

Coach Slater blows his WHISTLE and the coaches salute. Martin, in his Son #2 jersey, finally gets it and also salutes.

COACH SLATER
Kenbo's been a real trooper.

Jimmy looks at Lauren to intervene.

LAUREN
Jimmy's doing Sports Day with Nick.

KEN
 (to Jimmy)
 I want us to do it.

Jimmy is speechless.

KEN (CONT'D)
 I'll prove I'm up to it. Throw me a
 hot one.

Ken throws Jimmy a baseball and jogs onto the field.

JIMMY
 Dad, you don't have to do this.

KEN
 Let'er rip.

Jimmy shakes his head no, but Ken urges him on.

GEORGINA
 Go ahead. Your dad's no Tom Brady,
 in fact, he's no quarterback at
 all. Weak arm and--

COACH SLATER
 Not now, daughter. Go ahead, son.
 Don't hold back.

SIDELINES

MARTIN
 Please catch it, please catch it,
 please, please, please.

Yolanda jabs Martin to cool it.

Martin covers his mouth, but keeps mumbling.

Will points to the stitches of the baseball.

ON THE FIELD

KEN
 Follow the stitches, follow the
 stitches, follow the stitches.

Jimmy shakes his head, then preps to throw.

Lauren holds her breath and closes her eyes.

Jimmy throws the ball high in the air.

Ken follows the ball and swallows hard.

The baseball travels in slow motion as Ken focuses on the stitches.

The ball falls into his glove.

All freeze with stunned silence.

MARTIN

Yay!

CELEBRATION

Jimmy and Lauren flash huge grins.

JIMMY

Dad!

Jimmy leads the charge to his father and hugs him tight.

All surround father and son and jump for joy.

INT. SPICY MEATBALL EMPORIUM - DAY

Quaint, twelve table restaurant. Red checkered table cloths and Chianti candle holders. Your local neighborhood Italian restaurant.

Ken, Jimmy, Lauren, Slater, Georgina, Martin and all the coaches share laughs over pizza and soda.

Lauren's CELLPHONE RINGS. She looks at the Caller ID, then steps

ACROSS THE ROOM

LAUREN

(on the phone)

Hey.

INT. GRAHAM HOME/KITCHEN - DAY

Nick on his cellphone, looking at his watch.

NICK

Where are you guys?

INTERCUT PHONE SEQUENCE

LAUREN

Change of plans, sorry.

NICK
What are you talking about? I gotta
do this gig, it's a team promotion.

LAUREN
Then you do it. You don't need us.

NICK
Yes, I do.

Lauren looks at Ken and Jimmy, happy together as father and son.

LAUREN
Not tonight. I'll explain later.

NICK
What?

Lauren hangs up.

Nick stares at his cellphone, totally confused.

Lauren turns to the table and sees her son grinning wide.

Ken and Lauren smile warmly at one another from across the room.

EXT. GRAHAM HOUSE - NIGHT

Ken, Lauren and Jimmy pull into the driveway.

JIMMY
That catch was awesome.

KEN
Yeah, can't wait to do that at
Sports Day, bud.

Jimmy hugs Ken, looks at Lauren for help, then runs inside.

LAUREN
You trained for Sports Day.
I can't believe you did that.

KEN
For my son.

LAUREN
Jimmy told his friends Nick's doing
Sports Day.

KEN
Then tell Nick he's not.

LAUREN
I can't.

KEN
Why not?

LAUREN
I can't let Jimmy down.

KEN
Sometimes you have to say no,
Lauren.

LAUREN
I can.

KEN
Yeah, to our marriage.

LAUREN
Let's not do this. If you want to
do Sports Day with Jimmy, ask him
yourself.

KEN
I will.

LAUREN
Keep your voice down. I don't want
Jimmy to hear us fighting again.

KEN
He's not made of glass, Lauren.

INT. SKYDIVING CENTER - DAY

High tech, shiny locale.

Jimmy is suited up and in the skydiving chamber, floating
high in air with a wide grin.

Ken looks on, enjoying his son's pleasure.

EXT. PARK WALKING TRAIL - NIGHT

Ken and Jimmy walk along a lake promenade, sipping
milkshakes.

JIMMY
That was epic.

KEN
A dream come true, huh?

JIMMY
Yeah.

KEN
Dreams are worth fighting for.

JIMMY
This is about Sports Day, isn't it?
You're trying to bribe me to do it.

KEN
I wouldn't say bribe.

JIMMY
Dad, I'm eleven. I'm not a kid.

KEN
Busted.

JIMMY
I told my friends Nick'll be there.

KEN
He can be there, we do the events.

JIMMY
Mom's gonna marry him. We're gonna
be a family now. She said I gotta
do the day with him.

KEN
I worked hard to do this.

JIMMY
(defensive)
Well, nobody asked you to. Why'd
you go through all that trouble?

KEN
I don't consider being with you
trouble.

They back away from one another.

JIMMY
Talk to mom, then. I gotta go.

Jimmy runs inside.

KEN
Goodnight--

DOOR CLOSES

KEN (CONT'D)
--son.

INT. ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT/KEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Ken sits in his office watching his "Winning Back Your Ex" DVD and holding the book.

The Relationship Guru and Chime Man return.

RELATIONSHIP GURU (ON SCREEN)
Text your ex. Tell her you want to meet about your child. For example, compliment her on her great taste to help you find the perfect birthday gift. Meet. Talk. Reconnect. Rekindle.

CHIME MAN
Relate.

LOUD CHIME

Martin rushes in with several reports. Ken freezes the DVD.

MARTIN
I found these great stats to use.

Clara passes by the office and sees the book in Ken's hands. She shakes her head and enters the office.

CLARA
Are you still reading that book?

KEN
I'm winning my family back.

CLARA
By reading a book?

MARTIN
And these cool stats. See.

Martin pulls out his stats.

CLARA
Can we talk?

MARTIN

Sure.

CLARA

Alone.

Martin gets it and hustles out.

CLARA (CONT'D)

This hasn't worked so far.

KEN

Gotta work harder. They're moving to Seattle, I gotta act fast. I've lost Lauren and Jimmy to that steroid freak-a-zoid. If I at least get on her good side, she'll let me do Sports Day with Jimmy. I get my kid back. Push Nick Grayson further out of the picture. Less Nick, I get a chance to win my wife back. Perfect.

Clara throws the book in the trash.

KEN (CONT'D)

I paid fifty bucks for that book.

CLARA

Should have bought flowers.

KEN

What's up with women and flowers? Flowers die.

CLARA

They keep relationships alive.

Ken retrieves the book.

KEN

I got this figured out. Lauren and I will be back together for our high school reunion. Nick's days are numbered.

Darren marches in. Ken places the book upside down on his desk. Clara leaves.

DARREN

Where have you been?

KEN
Working and taking walks about the building during breaks. Keeps my mind sharp.

DARREN
I hope so. The IRS wants to give us a visit.

KEN
Fine. Standard procedure. They do that all the time. Our books are impeccable.

DARREN
Good. Never like to mess with the Feds.

KEN
I know.

Darren rushes out.

Ken gets back to work on a report.

EXT. CITY PARK - DAY

Serene area filled with colorful flowers and lush greenery.

Lauren takes photos.

CELLPHONE PING

She looks at the text.

ON SCREEN: Jimmy's birthday soon. Need help with gift. Can we talk?

Lauren sighs, then texts back

ON SCREEN: OK.

EXT. GRAHAM HOME/GARAGE - NIGHT

Lauren drives up to the garage and sees a table set for two with flowers, sushi and candles.

She steps out of the car and strolls to the garage set-up.

Ken enters with a bottle of wine.

LAUREN
What is this?

KEN
You said yes to talking about
Jimmy's present, so let's talk.

LAUREN
Over wine and sushi?

KEN
No reason for it to be dull and
boring.

LAUREN
(looking at the wine)
Our wedding chardonnay?

KEN
Your favorite.

Ken offers her a seat.

Lauren is suspicious, but slides into her chair.

She admires the flowers and grins wide.

Ken shakes his head amazed that flowers work, then pours the
wine.

KEN (CONT'D)
Bon Appétit.

They dine.

INT. GRAHAM HOME/GARAGE - NIGHT

Remnants of the sushi dinner on the table. Garage partially
lit by the moon.

LAUREN
This was nice. We never talked
about Jimmy's present.

KEN
More important things to discuss.

Ken jumps up from the table and rolls a chalkboard into the
garage.

He spins the board around revealing colorful lists, charts
and graphs.

KEN (CONT'D)
Facts don't lie.

Lauren inches up to the board as Ken rambles on.

Ken points to the data.

KEN (CONT'D)
Statistics show that rebound
relationships fail ninety-point--
three percent of the time.

He moves to another graph.

KEN (CONT'D)
One Michigan university study
showed that men who are six inches
or more taller than their spouse
tend to divorce within five years.

Another graph.

KEN (CONT'D)
The success rate of professional
athlete marriages is only forty--
four percent.

LAUREN
(sarcastic)
What poll?

KEN
Sports Illustrated, not peer--
reviewed, but it seemed credible.

Ken reads from a note card.

KEN (CONT'D)
Rebound relationships tend to be A:
an unhealthy distraction from
reality. B: Generated by the fear
of being alone.

LAUREN
Fear.

KEN
Yes. C: Just replace one problem
for another. D: Are about masking
pain. And E--

LAUREN
E-nough. I'm not masking, replacing
or rebounding anything.

KEN
Not according to research.

LAUREN
Well my research says that this is
ridiculous.

KEN
Methinks thou dost protest too
much.

LAUREN
Can you say something that's not
from a book?

KEN
Actually journals.

Lauren screams and marches into the house leaving Ken
frustrated.

INT. ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT/KEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Martin works at Ken's computer. Piles of reports and folders
on the desk in a completed box.

Martin sees Darren headed his way. He dives under the desk to
hide.

Darren enters, sighs, and turns to leave.

Martin coughs.

DARREN
Ken?

Martin pulls out his phone, drops it, and fumbles with it to
open the voice recorder.

Darren moves toward the desk. Martin plays the recording.

KEN (V.O.)
Hey, Darren. I dropped my contact
somewhere.

DARREN
I'm good at finding those things.

The tape keeps running non-stop.

KEN (V.O.)
No, don't move closer. Might step
on it.

Darren stops.

KEN (V.O.)
I'll find it. Getting the
financials done, so all is --

Martin's phone RINGS.

Martin scrambles to turn the phone off.

Phone keeps RINGING.

DARREN
You want to get that?

Finally, stops ringing.

Martin starts to play the message again, but hits the music
button and plays MAMBO NUMBER FIVE instead.

Darren moves around the desk and finds Martin.

MARTIN
Great song.

EXT. CITY PARK - DAY

Ken works on his football throws with Zack. He throws a solid
forward pass.

DARREN (O.S.)
Nice throw.

KEN
Thanks.
(spinning around)
Darren.

INT. DARREN'S OFFICE - DAY

A large office filled with a conference table, motivation
signs and a huge cherry-wood desk perfect for the CFO of a
large company.

Darren and Ken march into the room.

DARREN
You're training to defeat a pro
athlete? That's insane.

KEN
I'm winning my family back.

DARREN

Your signature is on these reports.

KEN

And I stand by that signature. All that's been given to you is accurate. I stayed late every night to check everything. The team did a phenomenal job.

DARREN

I got quarterlies due in a week. The big boys are coming in town and it has to be perfect.

KEN

I just need a little more training.

DARREN

You can train on the weekend.

KEN

I need more time than that. Plus, my coaches have homework on the weekends and one's in driver's ed and--

DARREN

What are you talking about?

Ken starts to talk, Darren raises his hand.

DARREN (CONT'D)

I don't wanna know. Be here at work or you're fired, period.

KEN

You're asking me to choose between my job and my family.

DARREN

Period.

INT. ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT/KEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Ken sits at his desk with Clara across from him.

Ken looks at a financial report, then closes the folder.

Both nod to one another and smile.

Ken lifts the high school reunion invitation from his desk and holds it up.

KEN

Guess I'm free that weekend after all.

INT. MARTIN VAN BUREN HIGH SCHOOL/GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

The high school gym ingrained in all of our minds. Basketball nets raised into the rafters. Wooden bleachers tucked away.

Banners hang indicating the Class of 1998 Reunion. Pictures of clunky computers, Nokia cellphones, N'SYNC posters, and hideous yearbook pictures.

Two-hundred Alumni and their significant others fill the room.

Ken enters and walks up to the name-tag table with a smile.

He picks up his name-tag and ALUMNI ANNA screams.

ANNA

Oh, my God. Kenny Graham. How are you?

KEN

Hey, uh--
(sees the nametag)
Anna.

Anna and Ken hug.

STEVO (O.S.)

Nerdo.

KEN

Geez, not--

Ken turns around and finds STEVO, a balding grossly overweight man.

KEN (CONT'D)

Stevo?

STEVO

How ya doing, Nerdo?

Ken drops his jaw.

STEVO (CONT'D)

Yeah, I know. Not the star athlete anymore. Gained a few pounds. Mostly water weight.

KEN
Did you swallow an ocean?

All laugh.

STEVO
Still the nerdo with the dumb dad
jokes.

KEN
Yeah, I'm the dad alright.

ANNA
Your wife's over there.

Ken looks across the room and sees Lauren hobnobbing with several Alumni.

KEN
She's not my wife. We divorced last
year.

STEVO
You're kidding.

ANNA
You guys were the perfect couple.

ACROSS THE ROOM

Lauren sees Ken and hides behind ALUMNI ADAM.

ALUMNI ADAM
How many kids do you and Ken have
now?

LAUREN
One, but we're no longer married.

ALUMNI BRETT
No way. You guys were perfect
together.

Lauren sees Ken walking her way.

LAUREN
(shaking her glass)
Need a refill.

Lauren scoots away.

Ken is intercepted by two Alumni friends.

ALUMNI BRETT
I heard you and Lauren split up.

ALUMNI BRIE
No. You two were perfect.

ALUMNI BRETT
Perfect.

PERFECT COUPLE MONTAGE

Ken and Lauren avoid each other while mingling with classmates over time. Downing drinks along the way.

ALUMNI CHARLENE
(to Lauren)
Shame, you were perfect.

ALUMNI DAVID
(to Ken)
Get out. You guys were the perfect together.

ALUMNI ELLIE
(to Lauren)
Perfection.

ALUMNI FRED
(to Ken)
The perfect couple.

END OF SEQUENCE

EXT. MARTIN VAN BUREN HIGH SCHOOL/TRACK - NIGHT

Oval track behind the gym lit by the full moon.

Lauren runs out and SCREAMS.

Ken comes around the corner, surprising her.

LAUREN
Oh, great. You. Perfect.

KEN
The word of the night. How you and I were--

LAUREN
--the perfect couple.

KEN
Where's the football star?

LAUREN
He had obligations to the team
sponsors.

KEN
What sponsors? He's going off to
Seattle.

LAUREN
Keep it down. That's a secret.

KEN
What if I ran in there now and
announced to the world your little
secret? Maybe the deal collapses.
Maybe you won't leave town?

Ken heads for the gym. Lauren rushes to stop him.

LAUREN
Don't you dare. Why are you doing
this?

KEN
To see my son more days than the
fingers on my hand.

LAUREN
Go ahead. I'm too tired and drunk
to stop you.

Ken heads inside, then spins around.

KEN
I can't.

LAUREN
Thank you.

Ken rushes up to her.

KEN
We are the perfect couple. Why
aren't we here, now, as husband and
wife?

LAUREN
Jesus, not now.

KEN
Why not now? Please.

LAUREN
I told you, you wouldn't listen.

KEN
I'm listening now.

Lauren takes a deep breath.

LAUREN
You were married to some idyllic picture of relationships and fatherhood. You always made decisions for me and I let you. I could tolerate it with me, but when you stifled Jimmy, I couldn't take it anymore. Do this, Jimmy. Don't do that. You can do better, son. You never let him be a kid.

KEN
I made decisions because you never could choose anything, always passing the buck to me. Undermined me. And I didn't stifle anyone. I did what I thought was best for Jimmy.

LAUREN
Best for Jimmy or best for you?

KEN
That's not fair, Lauren. You know what that boy means to me. Why didn't you tell me any of this before we drifted apart?

They notice people looking at them through windows, making them walk away.

LAUREN
I'm not the best communicator. Pictures are my thing, not words.

KEN
That's why I made decisions for you. Your weakness was my strength. Perfect.

LAUREN
Nothing's perfect.

KEN
No kidding.

Ken picks up a rock and hurls it far across the track. The long throw gets Lauren's attention.

LAUREN
You trained for Sports Day. I still
can't believe you did that.

KEN
Trained with Coach Slater, the
Emasculator.

LAUREN
The Emasculator?

KEN
Yep, and the woman you saw,
Georgina, is his super hyper
daughter. She's like a squirrel on
cocaine.

Lauren laughs.

KEN (CONT'D)
I miss that laugh. Can you answer
one question?

She nods.

KEN (CONT'D)
What do you see in him? His looks?
Money? Fame?

LAUREN
Hate the fame part. Money, no.
Looks, well--

KEN
I get it. That's the reason?

LAUREN
He's great with Jimmy. Those two
fit hand-in-glove. It's amazing.

KEN
Is he marrying you or Jimmy?

LAUREN
How a person treats my son is very
important to me.

Ken sighs.

KEN
And I was married to perfection at
work. I finally see that. Not
having a job, should take care of
that.

LAUREN
What are you talking about?

KEN
Boss gave me an ultimatum.
Basically choosing between my job
and my son. So, I quit.

LAUREN
What's your new job?

KEN
I dunno.

LAUREN
What's you plan?

He shrugs.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
You quit your job? With no plan, no
other job, nothing?

KEN
Yeah.

LAUREN
You must be totally freaked.

KEN
Completely.

Lauren takes it all in, totally amazed.

KEN (CONT'D)
This is my last chance to connect
with Jimmy. Tell Nick he can be
there, but you want me to do the
events. Please. Let me do Sports
Day with my son.

INT. GRAHAM HOME/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lauren stands before Nick.

NICK
We said I would do Sports Day.

LAUREN
Ken deserves this day with Jimmy.

NICK
Fine.

Nick storms off in a huff.

LAUREN

What is with you guys? Why are you and Ken fighting each other? This isn't a game and Jimmy's not some trophy you walk off with.

NICK

Competition is in my blood. It's gotten me a great, lucrative career.

LAUREN

And off the field?

Nick turns away, deeply hurt.

Lauren walks up to him.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

That came out badly. Sorry. Jimmy loves his father and you're his idol. Over time, he'll grow to love you, but in a different way than Ken.

NICK

Do you still love Ken?

LAUREN

Yes.

Nick's drops his jaw.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

And I'm not going back to him. I love you. And I'm marrying you. There's plenty of room for both you and Ken in my life and Jimmy's. Why are you fighting a battle you don't need to fight?

INT. GRAHAM HOME/JIMMY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jimmy plays a video game hard and heavy.

Lauren KNOCKS on his door.

LAUREN

Can we talk?

Jimmy pauses the game.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
Could you turn that off for now?

JIMMY
Serious stuff?

LAUREN
Serious stuff.

Jimmy turns everything off.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
I want you to do Sports Day with
your dad.

JIMMY
I told all my friends.

LAUREN
Nick will be there, I promise.

JIMMY
Is that what you want me to do?

Lauren takes a deep breath, then nods.

LAUREN
Yes. I do.

EXT. LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL/SPORTS FIELDS - DAY

Sports Day has arrived.

Banners and balloons adorn the field. Spectators in the stands. Twelve teams warm-up on the field.

Ken and Jimmy run out to CHEERS from Lauren, Coach Slater, and Ken's coaches.

Martin and the Accountants fill a row in the stands. The Female accountants dressed in T-shirts with dollar signs on them. The Male Accountants are bare-chested, painted green with dollar signs on their chests.

Martin waves pom-poms and the Accountants do the wave.

MARTIN
Yay, Jimmy! Yay, Kenbo!

Georgina marches onto the field wearing medals and ribbons down to her hip.

GEORGINA

Welcome one and all. These are the medals and ribbons won during my Sports Day years.

COACH SLATER

(tearing up)

So proud.

GEORGINA

Ever since the days when Gylon sacked Nymphaeum, Drusus led the Roman legions to victory, Washington cornered Cornwallis and General George Patton swept through Germany, warriors have tackled great challenges and won great victories to better humankind. Such will be the victors of Sports Day, the--

GEORGINA/EVERYONE

Best Day of the Year

MARTIN

Hoo-ah.

ALL CHEER.

GEORGINA

This day is about keeping Americans free to pursue the American dream. To keep us from going soft, weak, incapable of doing anything to defend our country because we've become a bunch of fat, lazy--

Coach Slater coughs and does the throat slash for Georgina to move on.

GEORGINA (CONT'D)

This year we have a famous participant: the Falcons all-pro quarterback, Nick Grayson.

Nick jogs onto the field to APPLAUSE and CHEERS.

Martin sneers and hisses. Ken glares at Nick.

GEORGINA (CONT'D)

Nick, thanks for joining us.

NICK
Glad to be here for all my friends
and family.

Nick turns toward Lauren, who looks away. He then nods to Jimmy who forces an awkward smile.

GEORGINA
Nick Grayson will compete with one
lucky boy chosen from the foster
home population.

NICK
Bring out the little guy.

Georgina points to SAMMY (13), all six-foot-four of him, slightly taller than Nick. A behemoth of a teenager.

All gawk at the "little" guy.

NICK (CONT'D)
(to Sammy)
How old are you?

SAMMY
Thirteen.

Jaws drop.

SAMMY (CONT'D)
I know I'm small for my age.

NICK
That wasn't my thought.

ALL CHEER.

Martin goes into full cheerleader mode with somersaults and back flips that wow everyone.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Several tire stations set-up for the football toss.

GEORGINA
First event, football throws. Each
team member throws through a tire
for thirty seconds. Each successful
throw gets two points. May the best
team win.

APPLAUSE

Several teams go first, Ken and Jimmy talk on the
SIDELINES

KEN
This is his strong suit, so we
gotta kick ass on this one.

JIMMY
Did you say ass?

Jimmy giggles, Ken glares back.

KEN
This isn't funny, Jim. Focus. I
learned this tip about throwing a
solid pass. Put your fingers here,
line it up with the laces, and--

JIMMY
I know how to throw a football,
dad.

KEN
Like a pro quarterback? Huh? Gotta
beat him at his own game. Focus,
okay?

JIMMY
(mumble)
Okay?

KEN
Okay?

JIMMY
Okay!

Nick and Sammy get to the tire stations and alternate their
throws. Both do very well.

Ken and Jimmy step up. Ken succeeds with his throw. Jimmy
steps up.

KEN
Focus, son.

Jimmy takes a deep breath and throws, missing the mark.

KEN (CONT'D)
I thought you knew how to do this.
Nick is killing us.

Ken steps up and makes his throw.

KEN (CONT'D)
You can do it, son.

Jimmy stares at Ken, freaked by his attitude. He goes up to the station, takes a belabored breath, then makes his throw.

KEN (CONT'D)
Yes. There ya go.

Ken steps up to the station.

Jimmy looks up into the stands at Lauren, both with worried looks.

Ken misses his throw and stomps the ground hard with frustration.

Nick stares at Ken with worry etched on his face.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD/TRACK - DAY

Contestants wait on the track surrounding the football field.

Onlookers watch from the nearby stands.

Scoreboard shows Nick/Sammy in first place and Ken/Jimmy tied for fifth.

GEORGINA
Relay race around the track, four laps, pass the baton twice each time to your partner. Faster the time, the more the points.

ALL ACCOUNTANTS
Yay, track. Yay, track.

MARTIN
Yay, track. Don't break your back.
Uh-huh, uh-huh.

Martin does jive dance moves and Georgina joins him.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD/TRACK - DAY

Ken warms up for track with an elaborate, over the top stretch routine.

KEN
You should warm-up, too.

Jimmy looks around, deeply embarrassed.

JIMMY
I'm good.

TRACK SEQUENCE

A) Relay race: Sammy begins the race against Jimmy and others.

B) Jimmy drops the baton just before handing it off to Ken. Ken starts his run, but shouts back for all to hear.

KEN
C'mon, Jimmy. Get it together.

Jimmy clenches his jaw and seethes.

C) Ken runs hard behind Nick. Ken strains and struggles to get even with Nick.

NICK
Ken, you're pushing yourself too hard.

KEN
Nice try. No way. I've got you beat.

Nick slows his pace to allow Ken to pass him.

Ken arrives at the finish line and collapses.

Martin, on the sidelines, freaks with worry.

Jimmy rushes to his father.

JIMMY
Dad, are you okay?

Ken struggles to his feet and looks at the scoreboard showing Ken/Jimmy are fourth, Nick/Sammy first.

KEN
When we get to first, I will be.

JIMMY
We don't need to do this.

KEN
Don't wimp out on me, son. I've trained too hard. We're gonna beat them all.

Ken limps off and meets Lauren at the

WATER TABLE

LAUREN

Ken, stop this. You're gonna hurt yourself.

KEN

No. He may have won you and my kid, but today, he's going down. Today, I'm gonna win.

Ken slams his water cup into the trash and marches off.

EXT. BASEBALL DIAMOND - DAY

Georgina stands on the mound barking out instructions.

GEORGINA

Baseball. Partners play catch for thirty seconds, each catch gets a point. Miss a catch, your round is over.

SIDELINES

KEN

(to Jimmy)

Remember, eyes on the stitches. We got this.

Jimmy rolls his eyes.

BASEBALL SEQUENCE

A) Nick and Sammy do the baseball competition. They compete for several tosses, then Sammy misses a catch; round over. Sammy is heartbroken. Nick walks up to him, gives him a hug and comforts him.

B) Baseball tosses where Ken and Jimmy are the final pair, but they keep on going to thunderous APPLAUSE.

Ken takes in the applause, looking away from the ball, and misses the catch. Ken kicks the dirt and mumbles to himself.

Ken and Jimmy look at the scoreboard where they are now in third place.

JIMMY

We were the best pair. You did great.

KEN

Don't patronize me, son. I let you down. We could've had more points to get a big lead.

Ken storms off.

Jimmy sighs near tears.

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

Several outdoor basketball half-courts.

Participants, all armed with basketballs, listen.

GEORGINA

Basketball. Each team member gets thirty seconds to score as many points as possible. Go.

A) Jimmy and Ken compete on one court, Nick and Sammy on a nearby court. Nick and Sammy do well, but Jimmy smokes all of them, never missing a shot. Ken glares at Nick with a smug smile. Nick smiles wide over Jimmy's success.

B) Scoreboard: Ken/Jimmy and Nick/Sammy are tied for first place.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

All teams stand on the sidelines with Georgina on the field. She points to the scoreboard.

GEORGINA

Amazing Sports Day. First tie I've ever seen.

APPLAUSE

GEORGINA (CONT'D)

Playoff time. Each team gets to pick their favorite activity to make it fair. Highest score wins. Gentlemen, pick your sport.

SIDELINES

Ken and Jimmy confer.

JIMMY

We got this.

KEN
Right. Football.

JIMMY
No. I crushed basketball.

KEN
We're beating the great Nick
Grayson at his own game.

JIMMY
Dad.

GEORGINA
What's your sport, men?

KEN/NICK
Football.

Jimmy is apoplectic with frustration.

Nick scrunches his brow in shock at the choice.

GEORGINA
Okay. Since you both chose
football, sudden death. Each team
trades turns. Each team member
rotates. One team member must pass
the football through the tire or
game over. After each successful
round, you step back five yards. A
team fail to make a throw by either
team member, the other team wins.

COACH SLATER
Captains, come up for the coin
toss.

Ken and Nick walk up to Georgina.

NICK
What are you doing? Jimmy killed it
in basketball.

KEN
I'm beating you at your own game.

Lauren looks on nervously.

Slater, Kid Coaches and Accountants cheer Ken and Jimmy on.

Martin drops to his knees and prays.

The teams line-up.

Ken throws. Success.

Nick throws. Piece of cake.

Jimmy and Sammy line up five yards back.

Jimmy and Sammy make their throws.

Five yards back.

Nick makes his throw.

Ken throws. The ball hits the tire and bounces away. A near miss, but a miss. It's all up to Jimmy.

Ken grabs Jimmy by the shoulders and stares eye-to-eye.

KEN (CONT'D)

Focus. You have got to do this. You know what this means to mean.

JIMMY

Yeah, I think I do.

Jimmy steps up, hesitates and takes in everyone. He looks at Lauren, Nick, then back to Ken.

Ken stares with a stern, near angry look.

Jimmy takes the football and throws a pass far short. An intentional miss. Jimmy runs to the parking lot.

Sammy celebrates with a fist bump to Nick.

Nick stares at Jimmy the whole time with deep worry.

Ken watches his son run by with shock, then realization of what just happened.

UNDER THE BLEACHERS

Ken catches up with Jimmy.

Lauren arrives and overhears.

KEN

You threw the game.

JIMMY

I crushed basketball and you pick football? You needed to beat him that bad? This was all about you. It's always about you.

Jimmy's words stun Ken as he watches his son stomp off in tears.

Ken swallows hard, he's crushed. He sees Lauren, shake her head and runs after Jimmy.

ON THE FIELD

REPORTER #2 and CAMERA PERSON corral Nick.

REPORTER #2
Nick, can you confirm the rumors?
Are you signing with the Seahawks?

NICK
Yes. Next year I'll be in Seattle.

UNDER THE BLEACHERS

Ken drops his head and sighs.

INT. BULL'S-EYE BAR AND GRILL - NIGHT

Ken drowns his sorrows at a dive bar with whiskey neat.

Nick enters to a chorus of BOOS.

IRATE FAN
Traitor.

Ken joins in the JEERS.

Nick ignores everyone and charges up to Ken, then backs away from his whiskey breath.

KEN
You stole my wife and kid.

NICK
I didn't steal anything. I love
Lauren and Jimmy.

KEN
So do I.

Ken drops money on the bar and preps to leave.

Nick grabs Ken's car keys and drops them into his pocket.

KEN (CONT'D)
Hey.

NICK
You're not going anywhere.

KEN
What do you care?

NICK
If anything happened to you, we'd be devastated, Lauren, Jimmy and me.

Ken backs away in shock.

NICK (CONT'D)
I need to show you something.

EXT. LAVISH COLONIAL HOME - NIGHT

IN THE CAR

Ken, still slightly drunk, and Nick sit in the shadows of a suburban street. Large, expensive homes abound.

KEN
What is this?

NICK
That's my house.

KEN
Is this one of those multiple wives things?

NICK
My ex lives there with my two daughters. Eleven and fourteen, I think.

KEN
You think?

NICK
My wife and I divorced seven years ago. We don't talk. She gets the checks, I get lawyer calls if I forget.

KEN
You know a good accountant could set-up an automatic pay account. All you need to do is--

NICK

I won this town an NFL
championship. I do one great thing
for myself with this big contract
and I get booed out of a bar. Only
one thing lasts forever in this
world, if you do it right.

Nick stares at Ken.

NICK (CONT'D)

Jimmy's a great kid. You're his
dad, nothin's ever gonna change
that. He loves you.

(flashes his Super Bowl
ring)

This damn thing means nothing
without my kids.

Nick stares at the house.

NICK (CONT'D)

Lauren and Jimmy gave me a second
chance to do it right. To be a good
husband and a great dad, like you.

Ken drops his jaw.

NICK (CONT'D)

But, I'm no better than number two
with Jimmy. You're the winner, Ken.
Not me.

Ken takes it all in.

INT. KEN'S GARAGE APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ken stumbles in and sits down.

He picks up a photo of him with Lauren and Jimmy during
happier times, and runs his fingers over the picture of
Jimmy.

Ken walks to a file box and pulls out accounting ledgers.

INT. GRAHAM HOME/JIMMY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jimmy tosses a baseball, playing catch with himself.

KNOCK ON THE DOOR

KEN (O.S.)
Jimmy.

JIMMY
Go away.

KEN (O.S.)
Can we talk, please?

Jimmy sighs and answers the door.

Ken barely steps in while Jimmy sits far away on his bed.

KEN (CONT'D)
I screwed up. I'm sorry.

JIMMY
Why don't you ever listen to me?
Why do you think you know
everything?

KEN
I'm the dad, I'm supposed to know
everything.

JIMMY
Well, you don't.

KEN
That, I do know.

Ken sits beside Jimmy on the bed. Jimmy spins away from him and avoids eye contact.

INSIDE THE HOUSE

Lauren sits in the den, laying out photos. Her CELLPHONE RINGS.

LAUREN
Ken? Hello?

KEN (ON THE PHONE)
My dad was amazing. I always wanted
to be like him.

Lauren listens.

BACK TO THE BEDROOM

KEN (CONT'D)
I wanted to be perfect, just like
him. Be a great dad to the most
important person in my world.

Jimmy spins around to Ken.

JIMMY
(pointing to the ledgers)
What's that?

KEN
Statistics. About you.

JIMMY
About me?

Ken opens a ledger with numbers, graphs and charts.

KEN
Your baseball stats. Batting
average over time. ERA when
pitching. Stats against certain
pitchers you faced.

Jimmy takes the ledger.

JIMMY
How? You didn't come to any games.
You hate watching baseball.

KEN
Miguel's dad gave me the box
scores. I translated it all into
numbers.

Jimmy flips through the ledger.

KEN (CONT'D)
When hitting, you destroyed that
Talbert kid. But, that Robinson boy
has your number. You keep swinging
on the first pitch. Maybe you
should wait him out, work the count
better.

JIMMY
Why didn't you tell me about this?

KEN
I was going to give them to you,
then the divorce happened and
things got crazy.

Lauren listens in.

KEN (ON THE PHONE) (CONT'D)
I've never gotten over the divorce,
but your mom was right.
(MORE)

KEN (ON THE PHONE) (CONT'D)
Our marriage was about me and
perfection, not about her or about
you. And I let my job keep us all
apart. I'm so sorry.

BACK TO JIMMY'S ROOM

KEN (CONT'D)
Numbers are how I won your mom. She
was the most beautiful girl in
school. All the guys wanted to date
her.

JIMMY
Mom was a fox, huh?

KEN
Yep. She needed math tutoring, I
was a tutor. Her name was on the
sign-up sheet and I scratched the
guy who was scheduled to tutor her
off and wrote my name in. Others
tried to date her, but I won out.

Lauren smiles over the story.

KEN (ON THE PHONE) (CONT'D)
I was dating the prettiest girl in
Martin Van Buren High.

JIMMY (ON THE PHONE)
Go, dad.

Jimmy smiles a mile wide and they fist bump.

KEN
Send your box scores to me and I
can still do your stats.

JIMMY
Cool.

KEN
Nick's a good guy. He'll be a great
step-dad and a great quarterback of
the Seabirds.

JIMMY
Seahawks.

KEN
Seahawks. Yay, Seahawks.

JIMMY
Not sure I can get used to saying
that.

KEN
You can still root for things back
East.

They look at each other, then hug.

JIMMY
We can do FaceTime.

KEN
I got a question about that.
(pulls out his phone)
I hate this.

JIMMY
What?

KEN
My phone has a mind of its own. It
made a call to--

EXT. GRAHAM HOME/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ken arrives to find Lauren holding her cellphone.

LAUREN
So that's why you and another tutor
showed up that day.

KEN
Would you have preferred Adam
Greeley or me?

LAUREN
Adam's braces were kinda cute.

They laugh.

KEN
That laugh is magical.

LAUREN
You believe Nick's a good man?

KEN
I do. Not perfect, but who is? You
know about him and his family?

LAUREN

I do.

KEN

Second chances are great things.

Both nod and smile.

HAMMERING OUTSIDE

FRONT LAWN

A REALTOR pounds a "For Sale" sign on the front lawn.

LIVING ROOM

KEN (CONT'D)

Don't waste time, do they?

LAUREN

No, they don't. Four viewings tomorrow alone. I'm splitting the sale with you.

KEN

Thank you.

LAUREN

Nick's agent can help you find a new place.

KEN

I found a place to stay. Even got a roommate.

LAUREN

Who?

KEN

Martin.

They snicker.

KEN (CONT'D)

Is it okay to hug ex-wives?

LAUREN

No. But it's okay to hug your son's mother.

They hug tight.

INT. MARTIN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Nicely furnished two-bedroom. Nothing fancy, but nice.

Ken is back to his Relationship Guru DVD on his laptop.

ON THE SCREEN

RELATIONSHIP GURU

So, after all you've tried.
Sometimes, it just does not work
out.

GONG from the TINY CHIME MAN.

RELATIONSHIP GURU (CONT'D)

Take solace in the fact you fought
the good fight. However, you can
purchase my taped series and book
entitled "How to Go On After You
Crashed and Burned with Your Ex".
Book and DVD for only thirty-nine,
ninety-five. It includes a free
dart board to throw darts at the
picture of your ex with sound
effects.

CHIME

Clara and Martin enter the apartment.

KEN

Clara.

CLARA

Thought you could use a few friends
today.

KEN

She goes to settlement in an hour.

All stand in their gloom and doom, then Martin gets a second
wind.

MARTIN

No. No. You are not a quitter. When
the time comes and blood is drawn,
you are a fighter. It's never dark
before your dawn. You still love
Lauren, you should fight for her.
Let's go.

Martin salutes and rushes out of the apartment.

Ken grabs his jacket and heads for the front door, stops, then turns to Clara.

KEN
A penny for your thoughts?

CLARA
Money well spent.

EXT. KEN AND LAUREN'S HOME/DRIVEWAY - DAY

Ken zips his car into the driveway at break neck speed. He jumps out of the car, a man on a mission.

He pounds on the front door where Jimmy answers.

JIMMY
Dad?

KEN
I need to see Nick.

Ken enters

THE HOUSE

Nick enters from the kitchen.

NICK
Ken?

KEN
We need to talk. Mono-e-mono.

JIMMY
Dad.

Both nod for Jimmy to leave the room. Jimmy hesitates.

KEN
It's okay, son. I promise.

Jimmy slips out of the room, but listens nearby.

KEN (CONT'D)
Is Lauren here?

NICK
No.

KEN
Good, even if it is about her.

NICK
Ken, I didn't try to steal your
wife or Jimmy.

KEN
I know. You love them. If anyone is
to marry my ex and be a stepfather
to my kid, that needs to be a part
of the deal.

NICK
I'll try my hardest to be a good
husband.

KEN
And dad?

NICK
Step-dad.

Ken nods agreement.

KEN
I was a jerk during Sports Day. I'm
sorry.

NICK
If I were in your shoes and had
such a great kid, I'd probably do
the same.

KEN
Can I ask a favor?

NICK
Name it.

KEN
If I can get a job in Seattle--

NICK
It'd be great. I'd really like
that.

KEN
Thank you. Both of our kids deserve
their dad.

Ken's words get Nick's attention, his eyes widen with
understanding.

Jimmy runs in and hugs Ken tight.

Nick flashes a melancholy smile.

EXT. NICK'S FAMILY HOME - DAY

Nick rings the doorbell of his ex-wife's house.

NICK'S EX-WIFE answers the door. They look at one another for a time, then she invites him in.

EXT. KEN AND LAUREN'S HOME/DRIVEWAY - DAY

Ken brings down several moving boxes and places them in the driveway.

Lauren arrives, opens a box and pulls out a few things.

KEN
What are you doing?

LAUREN
You mixed dish towels with pencils?

Lauren starts to pull out other things and Ken stops her.

KEN
What is this?

Jimmy arrives with a baseball and two gloves. He tosses one glove to Ken.

JIMMY
Gotcha a glove.

KEN
Why?

JIMMY
To play catch. Out here.

The Realtor arrives and pulls up the For Sale sign.

LAUREN
Nick bought the house and half the sale still goes to you. He's living here now.

KEN
Living here?

LAUREN
He'll spend the season out in Seattle and make this his home during the offseason. He can be here and spend more time with his family. Catch-up on lost time.

KEN

And you?

LAUREN

I'll be here or there, not certain.
But, either way--

JIMMY

I'm staying here in Atlanta with
either mom or you.

The news sets in and Ken smiles.

LAUREN

By the way, Nick said the Falcons
need a new accountant. Says the job
is yours, if you want it.

Jimmy throws the glove to Ken.

JIMMY

Let's go.

Ken and Jimmy run into the backyard and play catch.

Lauren looks on as the guys play catch at sunset.

EXT. HOUSE FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Ken knocks on the door of a modest brownstone.

Clara answers with a bright smile. Ken pulls out flowers for
her. They snicker, then she invites Ken inside.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

Ken, Clara, Lauren and Nick watch Jimmy's baseball game with
their baseball caps on backwards.

On the mound is a kid with "Robinson" stitched on his
uniform.

Jimmy at bat. Scoreboard shows the count three and two.

Jimmy smashes a home run and rounds the bases as Ken, Clara,
Lauren and Nick cheer.

A KID BASEBALL PLAYER hits a foul ball into the stands.

Ken catches the ball with his bare hands. An amazing catch.
Ken beams with shocked delight.

Everyone, especially Lauren, Nick and Jimmy, CHEER AND
APPLAUD.

FADE OUT.

CREDITS