DIVIDE & CONQUER

Pilot

Written by

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Ultra-Super-Revised Network Draft
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ACT I

FADE IN:

CLOSE ON: AN IPHONE, HELD IN A MAN'S HAND

PICTURES: The first is a close up of EVAN BALL, 42, in a self portrait. As he talks, the hand swipes the still pictures along, supporting the narration:

EVAN (V.O.)
My name is Evan Ball. I daydreamed a lot as a kid. Today, I'm a patent attorney.

We see some photos of Evan working in a fairly messy office, suit and loosened tie, coffee, forced smile...

EVAN (V.O.)
Really, I'm a dad and a husband. This is my wife, Charlotte.

We see CHARLOTTE MILLER BALL, beautiful but well worn.

EVAN (V.O.)
When I met her, she was getting her Masters in Psychology on her way to being a therapist.

A young HAPPY SMILING Charlotte, followed by A QUICK succession of pictures of her more and more pregnant, then a BABY, then her looking gradually more frazzled, then pregnant again, trying not to be photographed, then another BABY, then more frazzled. Then a BLUR of passing photos...

EVAN (V.O.)
But then we had Ben. And then we had Kyle, and then we had Zelda, and then we had another baby... Uh... Augie.

We end on a picture of the three kids: Ben, 15, Kyle 11, Zelda 6, standing in front of Evan and Charlotte, who is obscured except for the Baby (Augie) strapped to her chest.

As the finger swipes through several attempts to take this picture...

EVAN (V.O.)
It's a lot of kids, but that was the plan. As much as four well timed bottles of wine and the vague notion that it will all work out can be called a plan.

We swipe again, to a GOOGLE MAP SATELLITE view of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, then closer views,

EVAN (V.O.)
This is the big city where we live.
It's a nice neighborhood.

We move closer on:

EXT. SOUTH PASADENA RESIDENTIAL - MORNING

DESCEND from ABOVE onto the quaint street, then a quaint house, packed in next to other quaint houses, LA style, as...

EVAN (V.O.)
It's got malls, parks, Bar-B-Q's.
Pretty typical America, I guess.

ANOTHER FATHER, (JED BURROWS) bearded, glasses, 40's, and his pretty DAUGHTER, 11, in her school uniform exit the neighbors' house, headed for the Volvo in the driveway. They speak French, with subtitles...

BURROWS
(in French)
Vous devez vous rappeler que la vie est courte. Chaque moment est un instant sur la scène.

[You must remember that life is short. Every moment, you are on stage.]

DAUGHTER (SAMANTHA)
Oui, Papa.

BURROWS
Le monde ne cesse jamais juger vous vous devez donc toujours être impressionnant.

["The world never stops judging you, so you must always be impressive."]

DAUGHTER
Oui, Pa---
(startled)
Oh {beep}! What the {beep}?!

A young boy rises out from where he was passed out in their bushes. Meet KYLE BALL, the manic energy of a sharp nearly-11-year old, in undies and a T-shirt. He makes his way next door to a nice Pasadena four-bedroom Craftsman-- The Burrows's French is replaced by his normal American accent.

BURROWS
What the hell are you doing?!

The best defense is a strong offense...

KYLE
Why are you yelling at me?

BURROWS
Don't answer a question with a question. Why were you sleeping in our bushes, Kyle?

KYLE
I don't know, Mr. Burrows. Why were you talking in French?

Kyle takes an extra key from under a pot...

BURROWS
I want an explanation.

KYLE
My dad says it's because you're insecure.

The father watches Kyle shut his front door behind him.

BURROWS
Balls...

DAUGHTER
(embarrassed)
Can we just go, please?

EVAN (V.O.)
My son Kyle sleepwalks. In a different time, I'm pretty sure he would have been burned at the stake. Our pediatrician says it's just some of the crazy-ass shizzola that comes with growing up. Her words, not mine.

As with all our transitions, the picture iPhone-slides to:

INT. BALL KITCHEN - MORNING

BEN BALL, a big kid, probably an outside linebacker in college, but now 13, wearing over-the-ear headphones, as always, watches a laptop at the kitchen table. His 6 year old sister, ZELDA, eats cereal, plays an iPhone at the other end. Evan, enters dressed for work, starts making his breakfast.

BEN'S POV - HIS COMPUTER SCREEN AND THE KITCHEN BEHIND

We SEE and HEAR Ben's laptop screen. When Evan is far away by the sink, Ben's screen shows an (actual) YouTube Video of a fat kid wiping out on his bike. It's the usual Youtube level of entertainment. Ben loves it.

As Evan steps closer to go to the fridge, Ben quickly TOGGLES the screen to an ON-LINE HEALTH COURSE:

A balding, middle-aged expert, DR. BAZ narrates stock-footage of teenagers talking to each other, playing sports - generic, and a little 90's.

DR. BAZ
Because puberty, or adolescence, is a time of radical change...

Evan walks away again and Ben toggles back to the freakishly stupid YouTube video mid-scream. Evan comes over again. Ben toggles back.

DR. BAZ (CONT'D)
Boys become men, girls become women. But as terrifying and confusing as it can be, rest assured, you are not alone.

Ben glances (CAMERA TILTS) up to Evan: We <u>can not hear</u> Evan, but his LIPS MOVE, clearly talking to Ben. As Ben finally takes off his headphones we hear--

EVAN
--Do you have a plan for finishing this on-line health course? Just saying, if you get it done quickly, you'll have the whole summer to enjoy yourself.

BEN
Uh huh.

EVAN
Uh huh what?

BEN
Uh-huh, I heard you. Can you open this?

He hands his father a banana. Evan stares at him...

EVAN
You want me to peel your banana?

BEN
What?

EVAN
You *can* peel it yourself, right?

BEN
Yeah, but when I peel it, the end gets all smushy. You do it better.

A stand-off....

EVAN (V.O.)
Am I the only one who thinks parenting has changed?

INT. DOWNTON ABBEY LORD'S DRESSING ROOM

Just like the scene where Lord Downton is being dressed by his butler. Here, Ben is the Lord, and Evan, the butler, with big English accents.

BEN
Tell me, Ball, what made you choose a life of service?

EVAN
Can't say I remember ever choosing it, m'lord. Just the natural state of things.

BEN
We each play our part in a scheme whose design is beyond our control.

EVAN
Yes, sir. Our lot's our lot.

BEN
Yes, good man, and the quicker we are to make peace with it, the better we all are. And the bloody Krouts don't win the war!

EVAN
Here's to that!

They both grab nearby Champagne glasses.

BEN/EVAN
(toasting)
Banana!

BACK TO SCENE:

Kyle enters with the paper, gets his breakfast...

KYLE
Morning.

EVAN
Morning. What were you doing outside?

KYLE
Getting you and Mom the paper.

Kyle is the good liar of the family.

EVAN
Ready for the first day of summer?

KYLE
(resentful)
Sure. I have a *piano lesson*.

Charlotte, still in her PJ's, walks in.

CHARLOTTE
Are you complaining?

They look at her. Been a long night.

EVAN
Bring it. Your grandpa's in the hospital and Augie was breast feeding all night.

CHARLOTTE
He fell asleep on my arm. Watch this:

She grabs her left arm with her right hand and smacks it against a cabinet, hard.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
I can't feel anything.

KYLE
Can I try?

EVAN
What's your day like?

CHARLOTTE
Auggie has a check-up, but someone has to watch him while I'm at Kyle's lesson.
(MORE)

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
Veronica said she'll be able to watch them for an hour, so I'm driving Zel and the baby over there. You need to get the boys a snack when you get home and take them to soccer.
(re: arm)
Ohhhh. Tingles. It's coming back...
(then)
Kyle, you have a recital at Mrs. Burdit's in two days. You have a lot of work to do.

KYLE
Why are you so afraid of Mrs. Burdit? You always tell me to stand up to bullies.

EVAN
Your piano teacher's not a bully. She's a control freak with a little bit of OCD.

CHARLOTTE
No internet until after your recital. The internet's too big a distraction for you, Ky.

KYLE
That's three days!

EVAN
I changed the password to the wi-fi.

Kyle shuts the fridge hard.

CHARLOTTE
Kyle David if your huffing and puffing wakes up the baby--

KYLE
(whispers, exiting)
I can't even get mad in my own house without having to whisper! What kind of life is this?

Kyle exits. Ben starts to leave...

EVAN
Where are you going?

BEN
The park.

CHARLOTTE
And you have a plan for Health?

BEN
I'll make a plan.

CHARLOTTE
When?

BEN
I dunno. I'll make a plan to make a plan, and...yeah...

Ben is out the back door.

EVAN
See. He's being kind of ironic. That's a good sign.

CHARLOTTE
Because it's the ironic guys who *manage* the frozen yogurt stores.
(then)
This summer is just gonna be three more months of nagging and threatening and begging the boys to get stuff done.

EVAN
Hey, it could be worse. Tom from work just finalized his divorce. Now he's only gonna get to see his kids on the weekends.

CHARLOTTE
(without irony)
That sounds so great.
(then)
Zelly, I'm getting dressed then we'll load up the baby and take you to school.

Charlotte exits. Zelda looks up from her game-

ZELDA
What's ironic?

EVAN
Nothing. I barely understand it.

ZELDA
C'mon. Tell me.

EVAN
I can't. It's one of those words you can't really explain.

ZELDA
Like "boner?" That's what Ben said about boner.

EVAN
Yep. Exactly like boner.

EVAN (V.O.)
The crazy thing abut kids, is somehow, they turn into people....

We FINGER-SWIPE to:

EXT. CITY PARK - DAY

Green, good-smelling expanse, in spite of our urban setting. Ben crouches in a line of trees at the edge of the field. JOSH MULLIGAN, scan the field behind enemy lines...

EVAN (V.O.)
But no one tells you when or how that's gonna happen.

JOSH
Ask me what time it is.

RANDY
It's eleven thirty, dumbass.

JOSH
Nope. It's eight minutes past midnight. If you take the ninety-one days of summer and divide them into a single twenty-four hour day, then we are only eight minutes into summer.

We hear some phones beep. They all check their phones...

BEN
They got Bruno, they got Walker.

JOSH
Jeez, they just got Augart too.

RANDY
Augart's a load.

JOSH
But when he gets up to speed he's like a train.

RANDY
Like a train made out of fat.

JOSH
What's the plan Ben?

Ben is the unspoken leader of this little tribe...

BEN
The only way we survive is to stick together.

RANDY
The point of Zombie Infection is to be the last man standing. Sooner or later we're gonna have to turn on each other. You get that right?

Their phones beep again--

JOSH
They got Evie.

RANDY
Ben can beat Evie.

JOSH
I dunno. She's hitting her growth spurt early.
(off their looks)
She sat next to me on the bus and always wore jeans. Spring Break, you couldn't see her ankles. Last day of school, you could. It's the growth hormones they put in milk. Girls are maturing more quickly. She'll get her period soon, if she hasn't already.

RANDY
I will crush your skull with a rock if you do not stop talking about that.

JOSH
Fear of science leads to the collapse of civilization.

RANDY
I heard scientists found rings around your anus.

Their phones beep again. They check. Bad news.

BEN
Shut up! We're the last ones left. We gotta split up.

RANDY AND JOSH take off out of the cover of the trees. Ben stays hidden, watching his buddies run off...

JOSH
Use the secret signal if there's trouble. "Bee-doo! Bee-doo!"

RANDY
No, don't do that.

Behind Ben, EVIE (rhymes with Stevie) HARPER, 13, boyish-cute, but on the verge of beautiful, stealthily comes out of the trees, steps up right behind Ben, watches him a moment. Strangely intimate.

EVIE
This game used to be so fun.

He freezes, she leans in close, but still no contact...

EVIE (CONT'D)
I don't see the challenge anymore.

Ben inches back from Evie...

BEN
You want a challenge, then catch me.

Ben takes off. We stay with him as he races away as fast as he can. He looks back--

EVIE never chased him. She's walking away. OFF BEN: What just happened? Then we hear Josh: "Bee-doo! Bee-doo!" The secret signal! A large boy, AUGUART PLOWS OVER a still contemplative BEN.

A cool, jockish dude with a football, TED, 15, leans in over Ben.

TED
Hey. We're using this field for a game now. You gotta go somewhere else.

BEN
(still recovering)
Um. We always use this field. Maybe we can figure out a way to share it.

TED
We're using the whole field. If you want to play tag or whatever, use the hill. We got the field.

Ted walks off.

JOSH
It’s not tag. It’s a network-enabled post-apoctaliptic simulation. Jackass!

Josh flips him off. Ted looks back and Josh drops his hand.

RANDY
Well negotiated, boys.

Ben watches Ted go back to a group of older boys and girls that now includes Evie. She giggles at something Ted says. Off Ben--

END ACT I

ACT II

INT. BALL KITCHEN - NIGHT

The whole family sits around the table eating quickly. Charlotte wears the baby in a sling.

EVAN
My work was interesting today. I had a meeting with a company that wants to patent a new kind of underwater adhesive.
(nuthin')
You could glue stuff together underwater.

A pearl amongst swine.

CHARLOTTE
Grandpa may be getting out of the hospital sooner than they thought.

EVAN
They had enough of him, huh?
(then)
That'll be funnier when he's home safe.

Kyle finishes, stands with his plate to leave, still chewing-

CHARLOTTE
Sit down, Kyle.

KYLE
Why?

EVAN
Because we're having dinner as a family. And you have a quarter pound of meatloaf in your mouth.

He sits again, annoyed, still chewing--

KYLE
(impossible to understand)
Sure, why not? It's not like I have anything good to do.

EVAN CHARLOTTE
What? What?

KYLE (CONT'D)
I said--

EVAN
Just chew. Slowly. Like this--

Evan and Charlotte demonstrate. Kyle swallows.

KYLE
Is there any part of my life you guys don't want to control?

CHARLOTTE
Were you at the park all day, Ben?

No response. Just eating.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
Ben?

BEN
What? I said yes.

CHARLOTTE
No, you didn't, Sweetie.

EVAN
Maybe in your head you did. But you didn't actually say the word.
(no response)
Ben?

BEN
What? I said "I did."

Evan turns to **REVEAL DR. BAZ,** next to him (for a line).

DR. BAZ
Adolescent boys, by nature, often become self-absorbed and alienated from their parents with little concern for the world around them.

Dr. Baz smiles, a little self-conscious that he has been asked for a cameo... ***(He's gone in the next shot).***

CHARLOTTE
Auggie smiled toda--

Ben grabs the nearly empty catsup bottle and begins banging it on the table, violently trying to coax the last 1/2 oz of catsup out. Kyle ignores it, Charlotte and Evan watch, half curious, half in disbelief... Finally--

CHARLOTTE/EVAN
Okay, okay, enough, Ben!/stopppppppp!

INT. KYLE'S BEDROOM - LATER

Kyle sits in bed with an Ipad. ANGLE: IPAD: he tries a couple passwords. Gets rejected. Evan enters--

EVAN
What are you doing with my iPad?

KYLE
Nothing. Without the internet it's like some kind of wooden Amish toy.

EVAN
Kyle, just practice the piano for a few days you'll get the internet back.

KYLE
I don't get it. Do you really think I'm gonna grow up to be a professional piano-ist or something?

EVAN
Pianist.

KYLE
(Did he just say "peenist"?)
What?

EVAN
I had to do my job for a long time before I got to the part I liked. Sometimes we have to do things we don't like to do before we get to the good part.

KYLE
That is so stupid.

EVAN
The girls next door practice all the time.

KYLE
(knowing)
You want me to be like *them*? *Really*?

EVAN
No. Maybe just a little. A little like them.
(then)
We gave you an opportunity, Kyle. I promise you'll be thanking me when you are putting it on your college applications.

KYLE
So I'm just doing it so I can get into college so I can get a job doing something I don't like for a long time, so I can have kids and make them do the same thing?

The kid makes an interesting point...

EVAN
No. You're... you're doing it to be a better person!

KYLE
The internet makes me a better person!

INT. BALL KITCHEN - LATER

Charlotte loads the dishwasher. Evan joins her, they're a good team...

EVAN
I got the baby and Zelda down.

CHARLOTTE
My mom asked if I could spend the night tomorrow and help her get dad settled back home. I told her I didn't think I could--

EVAN
No. You should. She needs you.

CHARLOTTE
It's just one night. I'll take Zelda and the baby.
(then)
Did Ben do any Health Class today?

EVAN
A little.

CHARLOTTE
You watch. He's gonna wait til the last minute. He's gonna waste this summer and then he's gonna waste his life.

EVAN
Summertime used to mean you did nothing, you got bored and hot. Kids never do nothing anymore.

CHARLOTTE
The boys need a schedule.

EVAN
But what if all this stuff we do for them is gonna make it harder when they get out in the real world?

CHARLOTTE
Is this about the banana?

EVAN
Yes! Our parents didn't spend all their time helping with homework or driving us to soccer or *peeling our fruit!* They drank martinis and smoked cigarettes. Everybody's over-parenting. What if we tried <u>under-parenting</u> for a change.

CHARLOTTE
(laughs)
You're not here. You don't know what it's like.

EVAN
I'm here every day.

CHARLOTTE
You go to work every day.

EVAN
Why do you say "work" like that?

CHARLOTTE
What?

EVAN
It's always a little bit in quotes. "You go to "work" every day." A deaf person might think you're saying "You 'play golf' every day."

CHARLOTTE
Maybe you're guilty.

EVAN
Guilty of paying the bills?

WE PULL BACK and we are--

INT. INTIMATE SCREENING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The argument continues as we find Evan and Charlotte in comfy chairs watching this on a big flat screen TV. They are pleasantly detached from the heat of the argument.

EVAN WATCHING
(enthusiastic)
Boom. See what I did there?

CHARLOTTE WATCHING
I don't need to watch the rest. We have this argument all the time.

She pauses the video...

EVAN WATCHING
When did we start competing to have the harder life?

CHARLOTTE WATCHING
I don't know. But it's exhausting.

EVAN WATCHING
Why can't we just support each other?

CHARLOTTE WATCHING
It would be nice to be able to admit I had a great day without feeling guilty.

EVAN WATCHING
I feel the same way!

CHARLOTTE WATCHING
Of course you do. This room is in your imagination, idiot.

Evan sighs...

EVAN WATCHING
You wanna have sex?

CHARLOTTE WATCHING
(shrugs)
I guess.

EVAN WATCHING
Really? It's my imagination and that's how you're gonna be?

EXT. BALL HOUSE - NEXT MORNING

Birds chirp.

INT. BALL KITCHEN

Charlotte packs for the trip. Evan eats breakfast standing.

CHARLOTTE
Is Kyle still in bed?

EVAN
I haven't seen him.

Ben enters, almost makes it out the back door...

CHARLOTTE
Ben.

BEN
I know. Health class. I'll do it later.

Charlotte starts to speak. Evan steps in--

EVAN
Okay. Do it later.
(carefully)
We're going to give you a little freedom Ben, and let you be responsible for your own time.

BEN
Is this a trap?

EVAN
Nope. We're not going to hound you to get things done anymore, because *we*...
(looks to Charlotte)
...believe you can do this on your own.

It's obvious Charlotte is not convinced.

BEN
Okay.

He leaves. Charlotte walks out of the room, annoyed.

EVAN
(calls)
Kyle! Get up.

INT. BALL BATHROOM

FIND Kyle, asleep in the bathtub after another sleepwalk. His eyes flutter open, he gets his bearings.

EXT. BALL HOUSE - DAY

Charlotte's in the minivan with Zelda and the baby in back. Evan, dressed for work says goodbye.

EVAN
Tell your mom and dad "Hi". Bye, Zel, take care of your little brother. I'll see you tomorrow.

CHARLOTTE
Don't forget Kyle has to practice all his songs. And please don't let Ben waste the whole day.

EVAN
He won't. And if he does, maybe he'll learn something from it.

CHARLOTTE
I don't like your "freedom" experiment.

EVAN
It's our experiment.

CHARLOTTE
It's your stupid idea.
(then)
I better go.

She starts off. Then--

EVAN
Hey Char!

She stops. He walks back to her window--

EVAN (CONT'D)
You would tell me if you were leaving me now, right?

CHARLOTTE
Probably.

EVAN
Great. Bye. Say hi to your mom.

She drives off.

END ACT II

ACT III

EXT. JOSH MULLIGAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Old three story Victorian.

INT. MULLIGAN ATTIC

3rd floor of a big old Victorian. A teenager hangout. Old pool table, Pachinko game, stereo speakers as big as mini fridges, a few open laptops. Open windows give the only relief to the first heat wave of June. SEAN MULLIGAN, 21, Josh's mustachioed older brother is playing pool with AVI, 20 both home from college for the summer.

SEAN
Why aren't you losers at the park?

BEN
Some douche-ball player and his friends kicked us off.

AVI
It's man-up time. Want me to hack his Facebook page?

SEAN
(to Ben and Josh)
I remember the summer of my thirteenth year. It's gonna happen soon if it hasn't already.

BEN
What?

SEAN
You know in Star Wars, when Darth Vader gets his helmet put on for the first time.

JOSH
Minute 111 of episode 2.

AVI
Nope. It's like, much earlier.

JOSH
You gonna step up, Avi? Cause it's *in my cloud, bitch*.

Josh pulls out his phone.

SEAN
Do you want to hear about the sex helmet or not?
(then)
What happened to Vader is exactly what's going to happen to you boys soon. You're just throwing dirt bombs or chasing puppies or whatever it is you nutsacks do, and then one day soon, you wake up...
(makes pneumatic drill sound)
And the helmet's on your head.

AVI
Truth that.

BEN
No "th" Av. Just "true." True dat.

SEAN
So now, *everything* you see in the world, you see through the heads-up display of sex. *And that's it.* You can never, ever take it off for the rest of your life.

AVI
Sex helmet!

SEAN
From that moment on, until the day you die, the helmet will scan the world around you for tight t-shirts, short shorts, bare midrifs--

AVI
Freckled shoulders, smooth elbows, big toes....

Sean glances over... wtf?

SEAN
Your world will never be the same again. Just like Vader.

JOSH
At minute 111.

SEAN
Enjoy your summer.

<u>INT. EVAN'S OFFICE</u>

Evan sits at his desk. His iPhone rings - it's a VIDEO CHAT:

EVAN
Hello.

Charlotte is panicked.

CHARLOTTE
I have Kyle's sheet music in my purse!

EVAN
What?

CHARLOTTE
He needs it for the recital! I was going to make a copy of it because he always loses it--

EVAN
Wait. Calm down. Can't we get another one?

CHARLOTTE
Mrs. Burditt uses a special paper. She'll know.

EVAN
Seriously? The music's the same. Who cares what kind of paper it's on?

CHARLOTTE
You tell her that.

EVAN
(a moment)
You want to meet half way?

INT. KYLE'S BEDROOM - DAY

He lays in bed, dressed, staring at the ceiling, paralyzed with boredom. We HEAR A CELLO being practiced next door. Scales. Kyle's head barely twitches to the rhythm...

KYLE
(to himself)
I think I'm dying.

Then the cello stops, he hears...

SAMANTHA (O.S.)
(in French)
Papa, may I go on "You Tube" to watch Yo Yo Ma play the Goldberg Variations, please.

BURROWS
Oui.

Kyle has sat up at “You Tube.” He looks out his open window at Bourough’s house, a mere few feet away.

KYLE
La unprotected Wi-fi.

EXT. HILL NEXT TO THE FIELD - DAY

Our guys sit under a tree up on the hill overlooking the field. The Football guys are taking a break, sunning themselves and talking with some girls.

RANDY
They're not even playing.

BEN
We can't let this happen. What would we be doing right now if they weren't here?

JOSH
My body clock says we'd be playing Ultimate.

BEN
Then let's do it.

RANDY
(no.)
Sure.

BEN
I don't want to spend the summer in Josh’s brother’s man cave playing Modern Warfare. It's literally like spending the summer in a buttcrack.

JOSH
Literally? Do you really mean my attic is the space between two but-tocks?

RANDY
"butt-toks?" It's buttucks, idiot.

BEN
I’m going.

Ben heads down. They watch him go. Randy groans.

INT. KYLE'S BEDROOM

Kyle leans out his open window, holding the iPad. Then WAY out.

ANGLE - iPAD: We see "La Rive Gauche" on the wifi list. For a brief moment it says "connected". He almost falls, pulls back in. "Disconnected." Frustrated, he looks across the 4 foot divide at the vines anchored on a LATTICE on the side of Burrows' house.

Determined, he holds the Ipad in his mouth and climbs up on the window sill.

KYLE
Yolo.

He leaps across the divide, clinging on to the lattice, buried in the vines.

KYLE (CONT'D)
Crap.

EXT. FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

Ted sees Josh, Randy and Ben playing frisbee, starts over.

TED
Dude, take a walk. We're still using the field.

Josh pauses their game, turning around, seeing him approach.

BEN
Just keep playing. It's our field too.

RANDY
This is so stupid.

They toss it back and forth. Then Ben sees EVIE. She's dressed in short jean cut-offs and a sleveless T. She's hanging with some other girls by the football players.

BEN'S POV - EVIE

His view of Evie is suddenly overlaid with an IRON MAN style HEADS UP DISPLAY. Like a brand new billion dollar war plane turning on for the first time. It zooms in on her.

ANGLE - BEN

He wears a shiny Darth Vader-like helmet. *We hear his Darth Vader-like breathing...*

BACK TO SCENE

Back to normal.

BEN
Evie!

Evie turns, staring at him, curious, *as Ted gets closer...* Ben draws back and lets the frisbee sail towards Evie. But it NAILS Ted in the mouth instead. An accident, but Ted drops. Everybody sees. It's bad.

RANDY
We're gonna get so fu-barred.

EXT. MOTEL - DAY

Evan pulls in his sedan, parks next to Charlotte in a '98 town car. They both get out.

EVAN
How's it going? Your dad know you're using his car?

CHARLOTTE
It's like driving around in a chain smoker's mouth.
(then)
Mom's watching the baby. Zelda's been catching butterflies out back all morning. Is Veronica watching the boys?

EVAN
She was busy. I called Avery across the street. She's gonna come over and make them dinner and take 'em to soccer if I'm not home in time.

CHARLOTTE
That whole family rubs me the wrong way. Didn't Perfect Avery just graduate from Vassar?

EVAN
I guess she couldn't find a job so she's moved back home.
(off Charlotte's small smile)
What's the German word for enjoying someone else's failure?

CHARLOTTE
Asshole?

They giggle together.

EVAN
I love you.

She smiles.

EVAN (CONT'D)
This parenting thing is hard.

CHARLOTTE
I love the kids so much when they're not standing right next to me.
(then)
I used to be the easy going one, remember? I went with the flow, I was whimsical and goofy like Drew Barrymore in 50 first dates.

EVAN
That was Alicia Silverstone, no it wasn't, you're right. Go on.

CHARLOTTE
Now I go to sleep making lists and schedules and multitasking. Do you know how much I hate being good at multitasking? I would kill to have one thought at a time.

EVAN
It is pretty awesome.
(then)
I never wanted this much responsibility. I used to have a car payment and a beer money jar. I used to have a sexy edge, ambition. I used to not be able to change a diaper in the dark.

A moment, then--

CHARLOTTE
But the kids are so great.

EVAN
I love them. And you know what? I don't even care if they go to college or are successful. I just want them to be happy.

CHARLOTTE
Did you just look around to make sure no one heard you?

EVAN
Maybe.

CHARLOTTE
You know, the boys are getting older. They have friends, lives of their own. Maybe our most important job as parents--

EVAN
Love and support?

CHARLOTTE
Oh. I was gonna say “not [fuck] them up.” But that’s good too.

Charlotte gets out the sheet music, he takes it.

CHARLOTTE (CONT’D)
Don’t forget this.

EVAN
Mrs. Burdit will be happy.

They kiss good bye.

CHARLOTTE
Bye.

They kiss again. It lasts twice as long as it should.

EVAN
Where the hell are we?

CHARLOTTE
I know. Strange place for a motel.

They pause... Look at each other... hmmmm...

EXT. SIDE OF BURROWS’ HOUSE -DAY

With the iPad still in his mouth, Kyle inches his way up the over-gown lattice till he gets to the roof, but the overhang prevents him from climbing any further.

He starts climbing over to a window, but as he gets there, the WINDOW OPENS: A cute, untucked preppily dressed GUY, 23, with Harry Potter glasses, British accent, CLIMBS OUT.

A beautiful girl, AVERY BURROWS, 23, leans out to kiss him goodbye.

GUY
I’ll call you, luv.

AVERY
Bye Simon.

The Guy notices KYLE, clinging to the lattice by her window:

GUY
(casual)
Hi.

KYLE
(casual, into bushes)
Hey.

The guy climbs down, Avery pokes her head out to see who he was talking to. Kyle sighs.

INT. AVERY'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Kyle sits on a pink bed, pulling out some stuffed animals as the fierce, beautiful sisters interrogate him.

KYLE
I am telling you, I was talking a nap and when I woke up, I was outside your window.

AVERY
Sleepwalking?

SAMANTHA
Bullshit.

AVERY
Are you spying on us, you little pervert? You got sex on the brain?

KYLE
Sex? No. I was trying to use your wifi.

AVERY
So you climbed our house?

KYLE
No, I jumped.
(off their looks)
The idea came into my head and I acted on it. That's how I roll.

SAMANTHA
You're screwed. You get that right?

The SISTERS now SPEAK to each other in <u>fast-paced FRENCH</u>. KYLE watches them like a ping pong match. Subtitle:

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
He's lying. That whole family is untrustworthy lunatics.

AVERY
That's just what Father says.

SAMANTHA
Right, so therefore you don't agree. Why are you so intent on hurting papa?

AVERY
Can we please keep our attention on the plight of this boy?

SAMANTHA
I say we tell Papa he was masturbating. Let Fate handle it from there.

AVERY
Papa will surely kill him.

SAMANTHA
(a fact of life)
Oui.

KYLE
Hey, BTW, who was the Harry Potter dude climbing out your window?

AVERY
Merde.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

All Ted's buddies and Evie surround Ted who clutches his mouth, spitting, choking back tears. Ben steps up--

BEN
Are you okay? I didn't mean it. I was just whipping it to Evie. Maybe we should call someone's parents.

Ted's buddy, ELIAS, bends nearby to pick something up.

ELIAS
Dude. You just spit out some teeth.

Everyone reacts. Randy THROWS UP on the grass.

TED
(missing teeth)
I'm gonna kill you.

A beat. He's genuinely hard to understand...

RANDY
I'm sorry. *What*?

Evie steps up--

EVIE
Stop it, Ted. Ben didn't mean it.
He's a good guy.

She puts her hand on Ben's shoulder. Ben looks at it, a thrill-ride of feelings. Ted lunges, tackling Ben. Evie screams. Ben and Ted wrestle on the ground--

RANDY
Get him, Ben. Stand your ground!

Ben manages to get up. He takes off running.

RANDY (CONT'D)
Or run.

Ted chases Ben across the field. The others yell. Ben gives it everything. So does Ted. They circle the field. Randy, Josh and Evie watch alongside some of the FOOTBALL JOCKS.

EVIE
Stop! You guys!
(they snicker)
You would think this was funny.

She moves off, leaving Randy and Josh with the Jocks...

RANDY
It is kinda funny...

ELIAS
What's funny is your boy is faster than our best running back. He's literally flying!

JOSH
Literally?

ELIAS
What?

RANDY
Nothing.
(to Josh)
Nothing.

In the distance, Ted stops, out of breath, as Ben continues off down the street.

EXT. BALL HOUSE - LATER

Evan pulls into his driveway. He steps out, approaches the front door, HEARS PIANO SCALES begin from inside. Smiles.

INT. BALL LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Evan enters. Ben's watching his laptop, earphones on.

EVAN
I'm home. Hello? I'M HOME!
(Ben sees him)
What'cha doin?

BEN
Health class.

They stare at each other a moment, Ben is poker faced.

BEN (CONT'D)
You wanna see?

EVAN
Don't need to. I believe you.
(then)
How was your afternoon? You do anything exciting?

BEN
We just... The field... and, yeah...

Ben starts to put on his headphones. Kyle enters, casual--

KYLE
Hey dad.

EVAN
So, I was doing some thinking on the ride home...

Ben's hand drops from his ear. It's gonna be a speech...

EVAN (CONT'D)
Ever since you were little, your mom and I have worried about how you guys would all turn out. We spend a lot of time worrying about the future...

Ben doesn't look worried.

EVAN (CONT'D)
But *you* don't need to. Not all the time, at least. Just, I dunno, be kids. Life gets hard enough when you get older, might as well enjoy it while it's fun and easy, right?

Ben and Kyle stare back at Evan--

POP TO:

TEN SECOND SPLIT SCREEN MONTAGE

A dramatic crescendo. Ben on the left, KYLE on the right.

LEFT (BEN)

-Evie in the woods looking beautiful, Evie drinking from a pint-milk container, Evie's ankles under too-short pants, Evie tossing back her hair across the field, Ted spitting out his bloody teeth, POV of being chased by crazed Ted with heavy breathing--

RIGHT (KYLE)

A WIDE SHOT of the two neighboring houses from across the street. Nothing happens. Then Evan's car pulls in the driveway as, above, Kyle leaps back from the Burrows house to his room, scrambles back in his window. Dad gets out, oblivious, smiles. A beat. We hear Piano scales begin.

BACK TO CLOSE-UPS

They look at Evan. He has no idea--

BEN
Uh-huh...

KYLE
Sounds like a plan.

Ben starts laughing hard, points at his screen.

BEN
This kid just bit it so bad.

Evan nods. Smiles.

EVAN
It's gonna be a great summer.

KYLE
Oui, papa.

END ACT THREE

TAG

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Ben and Kyle enter. Evan and Charlotte drink Martinis.

KYLE
What are those?

EVAN
Martinis.

CHARLOTTE
This is something we do, now.

BEN
Can I have one?

EVAN
No. Because this is part of *our* life.

CHARLOTTE
Did you know we had lives? No, you didn't, but we do. Because we're adults, and we can do whatever we want.

Evan puts a small cigar in his mouth.

BEN
Is that a cigarette?!

EVAN
It's actually called a cigaril--

KYLE
What are you doing!? Don't you know that will kill you?! Are you trying to kill yourself.

Zelda enters, sees, does a body-snatcher point and scream:

ZELDA
Cigarette!

BEN
What a dumbass thing to do!

Evan weakly spits the cigarette out onto the floor.

KYLE
Idiot.

END OF SHOW *