

BOOM!

EXT. TYBEE BEACH - NIGHT

A black night with far off lightning. At the edge of the ocean, NATHAN WAGNER, 23, stands naked. His white ass shines as brightly as the moon.

YOUNG NATHAN (V.O.)
Hell is a sad place.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

SUPER: 1992. Anchorage, Alaska.

A middle-class living room. Chairs are a bit ratty, but comfortable. The walls are bare and, in places, simply sheet rock -- a never-ending remodel. YOUNG NATHAN -- 6, blond, brown-eyed and wearing his Sunday best -- plays with McDonald's Happy Meal toys on the cement floor.

YOUNG NATHAN
'Cause you only get bologna sandwiches to eat, and you have to sleep in soggy sleeping bags, while monkeys tickle your feet.

His brother, YOUNG SETH -- 8, pudgy cheeks accented with dimples -- reads a book atop a recliner. His church clothes are laid out on the couch, but he's still in his underwear.

YOUNG NATHAN (CONT'D)
But I'm not scared of hell, because I'm gonna get baptized like Anna and David. Seth, are you going to get baptized too?

YOUNG SETH
I want to, but --

YOUNG NATHAN
But what?

Young Seth takes a suspicious look around. Sure they're alone, he continues.

YOUNG SETH
What if you walked to the front during the invitation song --

BEGIN FANTASY SEQUENCE:

INT. ANCHORAGE CHURCH OF CHRIST - AUDITORIUM - DAY

Young Nathan walks to the front. The CONGREGATION encourages him forward as they SING.

INT. BAPTISTRY - SAME

Young Nathan looks tiny in an adult-sized terry cloth robe.

YOUNG SETH (V.O.)
 -- and you're in the robe. But
 before church started that day --

INT. AUDITORIUM - EARLIER

Empty. Suddenly, a group of BLACK SKI MASK MEN with semi-automatic weapons bursts through the door.

YOUNG SETH (V.O.)
 -- some bad guys put a bomb
 underneath the communion table.

SHINK! Gloved hands seal a bomb to the bottom of the communion table.

INT. BAPTISTRY - LATER

Young Nathan raises his foot over the water.

YOUNG SETH (V.O.)
 And right before you're about to
 step in --

END FANTASY SEQUENCE

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

Young Seth slaps his hands together.

YOUNG SETH
 -- boom! It explodes and you die.

YOUNG NATHAN
 It'd be O.K., because you'd fall in
 the water and God would save you.

YOUNG SETH
 God's not gonna let you into heaven
 if you just fall in.

MOM -- 36, short, blond hair and flipped bangs -- enters, searching for her purse.

MOM

Seth, please get your clothes on.
Have y'all seen my good purse?

Her sons shake their heads, and she continues her search elsewhere. Young Seth picks up his slacks.

YOUNG SETH

Falling in doesn't matter anyway,
because the bomb killed you before
you even knew it happened.

INT. ANCHORAGE CHURCH OF CHRIST - AUDITORIUM - DAY

Young Nathan opens his eyes, too nervous to keep them shut while the PREACHER prays. His family sits next to him, in their usual Sunday morning order: Mom and POP -- 38, a gruff exterior betrayed by an unruly cowlick -- YOUNG DAVID -- 10, -- tapping foot and car salesman grin -- and YOUNG ANNA -- 12, a mini-Mom sans bangs.

PREACHER

In his name, amen.

The congregation opens their eyes -- except for Young Seth, who is sleeping. Young Nathan slowly scoots to the end of the pew, because he knows the preacher's next line:

PREACHER (CONT'D)

If anyone is in need -- whether it
be to join us in brotherhood, or to
call upon the congregation for
support -- please come forward as
we stand and sing.

Mom thumps Young Seth in the ear, who jerks awake and stands. His parents distracted, Young Nathan heads to the front of the auditorium -- almost running. The Preacher holds out his hand to greet the boy.

PREACHER (CONT'D)

Hello, young man, what --

YOUNG NATHAN

I need you to baptize me.

At the WAGNER PEW, Pop sees Nathan talking to the preacher -- slapping his hands together as he retells Young Seth's frightening scenario.

MOM
Is that Nathan?

Pop quickly makes his way to the FRONT PEW.

POP
Nathan, what are you doing?

NATHAN
Mr. Smith is going to baptize me.

Pop and the Preacher exchange a condescending glance and step away together. After a short conversation Young Nathan can't hear over the INVITATION SONG, they return.

PREACHER
We're excited you want to be a part of God's family, but your father and I think you need to study more and come back when you're older.

YOUNG NATHAN
But what about the bad guys?

POP
Nathan, that was just some silly story your brother came up with.

YOUNG NATHAN
It's not silly! You said I have to get baptized to go to heaven.

POP
Nathan, that's true, but you -- do you know what redemption means?

Young Nathan can't answer. His salvation thwarted, he slumps down in the pew.

INT. CHILI'S - SAVANNAH, GA - PRESENT DAY

SUPER: Now. Savannah, Georgia.

Nathan -- 24, now with thick-rimmed glasses and a bad attitude -- stands behind the bar at the Chili's in the airport, a server's hell. Once again he's slumped down, but this time, examining an invitation:

"Mr. and Mrs. Jim Wagner invite you to join them in celebrating the union between David Wagner and Sarah Stokes at the Anchorage Church of Christ . . ."

His GENERAL MANAGER (GM) -- a pot-bellied good-old-boy from South Carolina -- walks past. Nathan stands up straight and puts the invitation in his apron. Three BUSINESSMEN with southeastern accents plop onto bar stools.

NATHAN

Hi, how are you gentlemen doing today?

BUSINESSMAN #1

Be a lot better if we got some booze into us before our flight.

NATHAN

Sure. I love being belligerent when I travel. What would you like?

BUSINESSMAN #2

Miller Lite.

BUSINESSMAN #3

Bud Light.

BUSINESSMAN #1

You got any peach margaritas?

INT. CHILI'S - LATER

Nathan sets down a peach margarita in a sugar-rimmed goblet.

BUSINESSMAN #1

Can I get this in a man glass?

NATHAN

Should I put a mustache on it?

BUSINESSMAN #1

You might like to drink out of a glass like this, but I'll pass.

NATHAN

It's a peach margarita.

BUSINESSMAN #1

For a man.

NATHAN

O.K. While I'm fetching your man glass, would you like an appetizer?

BUSINESSMAN #2

I'll take some coconut shrimp.

NATHAN
Great. I'll get that --

BUSINESSMAN #1
Hey now, we haven't ordered ours.

NATHAN
Oh, I assumed y'all were sharing.

BUSINESSMAN #1
Share an appetizer? I didn't realize this was the gay Chili's.

NATHAN
The only way sharing an appetizer could be gay is if your buddy's dick was in your mouth between bites.

BUSINESSMAN #1
What did you say to me?

NATHAN
I said it'd only be gay if a dick was in your mouth.

GM (O.S.)
Nathan! That is unacceptable.

REVEAL The GM standing at the end of the bar.

NATHAN
Fuck.

GM
(To Businessmen)
I apologize for my bartender's --

BUSINESSMAN #1
You know what? It's fine. Your faggot bartender's pro'ly just angry, 'cause we didn't ask for his phone number.

His buddies sip their beer, embarrassed by the confrontation.

GM
Nathan, would you wait for me in the office?

NATHAN
Howard, I'd love to.
(To Businessman #1)
(MORE)

NATHAN (CONT'D)

And this is completely unsolicited advice, but if you want a "man glass," don't order a drink with a rim job.

Nathan points to the goblet's sugar rim, and Businessman #1 turns bright red.

INT. DIVE BAR - NIGHT

Projected images of saints, apostles, and Jesus himself in pin-up poses flash on the wall behind NATHAN'S BAND, an eclectic group composed of post-high-school band nerds. A SOUTH ASIAN WOMAN plays the marimba. Two FLANNELED BROS play brass. The DRUMMER and an AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN on basse keep tempo. Nathan plays guitar and sings. They finish to WEAK APPLAUSE from the abysmal turnout.

NATHAN

(Over Mic)

Thank you. We are Metallic Queef, and we'll be back after a long smoke break. If you want merch --

FATIMA -- the marimba player -- holds up a t-shirt with a metallic flower screen-printed over their band name.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

-- come see the lovely Fatima at the edge of the stage.

Two men sit at the bar: a mid-twenties HIPSTER and a BALD MAN. Nathan walks right past the young hipster to the older bald man, JACK CONNELLY, 42. He's handsome, fit, and has a Gene Kelly, young-at-heart twinkle in his eyes.

JACK

Nice set. Think you could have offended a few more Christians?

NATHAN

Any good Christian could stand to laugh at themselves.

Jack plants a kiss on the edge of Nathan's mouth, causing him to blush with embarrassment.

JACK

How was your day?

Nathan smiles mischievously.

EXT. DIVE BAR - SAME

Nathan paces and smokes. Jack listens.

NATHAN
And then I got fired.

JACK
I'm shocked.

NATHAN
I'm not going back.

JACK
I don't think they'd take you.

NATHAN
Whatever. We have gigs booked
through next month, and I have my
savings -- until I find another
crappy job.

JACK
(Re: Nathan's cigarette)
Keep smoking those things and all
you'll have are the crappy jobs.
(Pause)
Was it worth it?

NATHAN
Totally.

JACK
Then why are you pacing like a meth
addict?

NATHAN
Because my brother is getting
married next month. In Alaska.

JACK
Sarah Palin's Alaska?

NATHAN
No, the Last Frontier. And I was
wondering if you'd like to go with
me. As my date.

JACK
Aw, shucks.

NATHAN
You don't have to say yes. It's a
wedding. It's meeting my family.

JACK
You've met mine.

NATHAN
Yeah, by accident.

JACK
Thanksgiving dinner is not an
accident.

NATHAN
Dude, I've got a big-ass family.

INSERT: A shitty printed-out PICTURE of Mom, Pop, DAVID, a very pregnant ANNA, TONY -- Anna's Hispanic husband -- MORGAN -- Anna's daughter -- SETH (arms crossed over his chest) -- LIZ, ISAAC -- Seth's fiancée and her sixteen-year-old son -- and Nathan.

NATHAN (V.O.)
I haven't seen any of them since my
parent's thirtieth wedding
anniversary.

BACK TO SCENE

JACK
Would we be staying in an igloo?

NATHAN
It's August, so no. At my brother's
house. His fiancée moved out so
there'd be more room -- and to keep
up appearances for my parents.

JACK
They're staying at the house too?

NATHAN
No. Hell no. My sister said they
booked an extended stay at the La
Quinta. They're just super
religious --

INSERT: Mom and Pop in an austere CHURCH MEMBER PHOTO.

NATHAN (V.O.)
-- and completely against pre-
marital fucking.

BACK TO SCENE

JACK
Baptists?

NATHAN

No.

JACK

Pentecostal?

NATHAN

Nope. Church of Christ. Which is kind of like Baptist, except --

INSERT: A PICTURE of a CONGREGATION SINGING A CAPELLA.

NATHAN (V.O.)

-- there are absolutely no musical instruments allowed in the church.

INSERT: A TWEEN praying earnestly.

NATHAN (V.O.)

You can't accept Jesus into your heart like an after dinner mint. Or get a Catholic pool boy spritz.

INSERT: A CRYING BABY in a Catholic baptism ceremony.

BACK TO SCENE

NATHAN

No, you gotta get dunked.

JACK

Your parents aren't gonna be happy with me coming along, are they?

NATHAN

No. I haven't spoken to them since I came out.

JACK

At all?

NATHAN

They told me "God was watching me," and that was it.

JACK

How long ago was that?

NATHAN

About a year.

JACK

Why didn't you tell me any of this?

NATHAN

Because now there's chance you will actually meet them.

JACK

Is your brother cool with me coming?

NATHAN

He wants me to sing at his wedding, so I used you as a bargaining chip.

(Pause)

But it's going to be fine. I really am excited to see everyone. Even my stupid parents. And to go back to Anchorage. I haven't lived there in -- fifteen years, but nowhere else feels like home.

As Jack contemplates, Nathan's expectant expression makes declining impossible.

JACK

O.K. I'll go.

Nathan jumps into his arms with excitement. Pulls back.

NATHAN

You're sure? Like really sure?

JACK

Totally.

Nathan is unexpectedly frightened by Jack's conviction, but he hides his fear behind another embrace.

EXT. ANCHORAGE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - NIGHT

GRANOLA TRAVELERS mill about, and Nathan and Jack cross the airport's threshold into ALASKA. Even at night, the sun glows bright. Nathan slips on red-framed sunglasses.

JACK

This is what ten o'clock looks like here?

NATHAN

All summer long.

A dented Ford truck approaches. Nathan peeks over his shades. It's DAVID -- 28, patchy beard, beer belly, and Texan drawl.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
 Holy. Shit. Come here, ya ugly
 redneck.

He opens the door and hugs David, who is distracted. He's looking for Nathan's Plus One. Jack holds out his hand.

JACK
 Hi, I'm Jack. It's nice to meet
 you.

DAVID
 (A grunt)
 David.

They pump twice.

DAVID (CONT'D)
 Throw your shit in the back.

Jack lifts his bag, but Nathan stops him.

NATHAN
 Last chance to back out.

Jack takes Nathan's luggage and throws it into the truck bed. As they climb into the cab, a BLACK SKI MASK MAN drags a metallic briefcase across the lobby.

INT. DAVID AND SARAH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

David leads Nathan and Jack with their luggage into a modest home overrun with man clutter: strewn clothes, dirty dishes, toys, and an untethered trash bag full of beer cans.

A toilet FLUSHES. SETH -- now 26 -- enters. He looks very different from his younger self and the anniversary photo. His hair is surfer long, he's heavier, and there's something strange about his left hand.

NATHAN
 Hey, Seth. You got fat.

SETH
 Nice bangs, you hipster fuck.

NATHAN
 Look at you.

Nathan hugs Seth.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
 When'd you get in?

SETH

A few days ago with Anna and Mom
and Pop.

NATHAN

This is Jack.

Jack and Seth pump twice.

SETH

Made two promises to myself after
the Army. To grow my hair as long
as I can and eat whatever I want.

JACK

How long were you in for?

SETH

Just short of five years. Two in
Iraq.

JACK

Right on. Thanks for your service.

Seth nods appreciatively.

JACK (CONT'D)

What'd you do over there?

DAVID

He was in the bomb squad.

SETH

(Correcting)
EOD Tech.

JACK

No shit. How was that?

INSERT: A picture of Seth in Iraq. His back to the camera, he
watches an EXPLOSION. He wears body armor but without the
pants. Another bare, white ass.

BACK TO SCENE

SETH

It had its moments.

JACK

Still got all your fingers?

Seth holds up his left hand -- half of both his index finger
and thumb are gone, and his palm is kissed with scar tissue.
Jack's grin evaporates.

SETH

Yep.

NATHAN

He used to make pipe bombs and blow them up in the backyard. But not in a Columbine way. More like a Bill Nye kind of way.

JACK

In your backyard?

SETH

It was a big backyard.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - SAME

David shows Jack and Nathan their sleeping accommodations. Little touches of David and his fiancée are scattered around the room: A picture of David, SARAH, and GEORGE on the nightstand, Sarah's jewelry box on the dresser, and David's rifle case poking from underneath the bed.

DAVID

We're giving y'all our room. But Pop wants --

NATHAN

Pop knows Jack came?

DAVID

I told him.

NATHAN

What about Mom?

DAVID

She knows. Pop wants y'all to sleep in separate rooms because the kids'll be here.

NATHAN

What?

DAVID

Same thing goes for Seth and Liz. So if they come by, Jack is sleeping on the couch.

Nathan unzips his Dopp kit. Magnum condoms spill out.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Come on, man!

NATHAN

What?

DAVID

Since Sarah moved out, and I can't make sweet love to her, there will be no, uh, Booty Magic in this house until the wedding.

NATHAN

(Mouths to Jack)

"Booty Magic?"

DAVID

If I can't sleep with my future wife, you can't either.

NATHAN

I don't want to sleep with your future wife.

DAVID

All right, jackass.
(A whisper)
And really, dude? Magnums?

NATHAN

(Putting them away)

They're not for me.

David turns bright red, shakes his head, and leaves.

JACK

You planned that, didn't you?

NATHAN

No, I swear.

JACK

Uh-huh.

Jack takes his own Dopp kit into the master bathroom. Nathan's cellphone RINGS: Anna. He exhales, dreading the call, and answers.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

David and Seth gulp beer in recliners across the room from Jack, who sits alone on the couch.

JACK

Thanks for letting us stay in your bedroom. It's very generous.

DAVID
No problem, man.

David eyeballs the beer bottle resting in Jack's lap.

SETH
This your first time in Alaska?

JACK
Yeah, I'm excited to see it.
Nathan's been talkin' it up a lot.
He said y'all moved away in '97?

SETH
Yep. To West Texas.

JACK
Cold to hot.
(To David)
So what brought you back up here?

DAVID
The Marine Corps.

JACK
Duelling branches, huh?

DAVID
Yeah, somethin' like that.

David cannot stop staring at Jack's phallic bottle.

SETH
What else has Nathan been telling
you?

JACK
Well --

SETH
Anything about Anna's ex-husband?

INSERT: A wedding picture of a pregnant ANNA and her EX-HUSBAND -- a nondescript white guy whose face is colored over with BLACK MAGIC MARKER.

BACK TO SCENE

JACK
Only that he was abusive, and she
left.

Seth ruminates, clenching his scarred hand.

SETH

My one regret is not murdering the son of a bitch after what he did.

David nods, finally focusing on the conversation.

JACK

Sure.

SETH

I only bring it up, 'cause if you hurt Nathan, no one will be able to identify your body.

Jack looks to David, back to Seth.

JACK

Understood.

Hanging up his phone, Nathan enters and sits next to Jack.

NATHAN

Anna said the buffet at the strip club has mozzarella sticks and mayonnaise shrimp.

DAVID

They didn't go to no damn strip club.

NATHAN

Are we going to a strip club?

DAVID

No.

NATHAN

(To Seth)

Are we?

DAVID

No! Only pair of boobs I'm seein' are Sarah's -- when she puts 'em in my face for the rest of our lives.

Seth gets up for another beer.

NATHAN

Ugh. Boobs. What's so great about boobs?

SETH

Uh. They're boobs!

NATHAN

(To David)

When is your bachelorette party?

DAVID

Bachelor party, punk ass. It's after the rehearsal dinner.

SETH (O.S.)

So we're nice and hungover for the wedding.

GEORGE -- a five-year-old of Korean descent -- wanders in.

DAVID

Hey. You're supposed to be asleep.

GEORGE

I tried, Davey. But Morgan made me sleep on the floor.

DAVID

Try harder.

NATHAN

Davey, huh? Is this Sarah's son?

DAVID

Yep. That's George.

GEORGE

(To Nathan)

What's your name?

NATHAN

Nathan. I'm Davey's brother.

GEORGE

How old are you?

NATHAN

Twenty-four.

GEORGE

(To Jack)

You're old.

DAVID

All right, Skippy. Go back to sleep.

David ushers George down the hallway.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - LATER

Jack, wearing fancy French briefs, turns down the bed spread. The door opens.

JACK
I thought you weren't tired.

It's David -- tipsy and nervous.

JACK (CONT'D)
Oh.

DAVID
Sorry 'bout George. He likes to
tease and play his question game.

JACK
I wasn't offended.

David looks around the room at his own belongings -- anywhere but at Jack's semi-nudity. Finally, he works up the nerve.

DAVID
Now, I guess you know that
Nathan's, uh, sexual preference is
a problem for my parents, and
sometimes -- he's a little shit.

JACK
When he's provoked.

DAVID
I don't know what's going to
happen, but -- take care of my baby
brother, O.K.?

JACK
O.K.

EXT. PORCH - SAME

Seth and Nathan smoke. David joins them with a fresh beer.

DAVID
(To Nathan)
Give me a cigarette.

NATHAN
You don't smoke.

DAVID
I do when I drink.

SETH

So all the time. You smoke all the time.

David punches Seth on the arm, a brother's retaliation. Nathan hands him a cigarette. David lights it.

DAVID

Nathan, how many nursing homes did you volunteer at before you met your boyfriend?

NATHAN

Fuck you. He's not that old. And he's not my boyfriend.

DAVID

What?

SETH

Then why did I give him my murder speech?

NATHAN

What murder speech?

DAVID

Why'd you fuckin' bring him?

NATHAN

Alaska's badass, and I wanted to give him a chance to see it.

Doubtful silence.

SETH

But he does get coffee at McDonald's for fifty cents, right?

NATHAN

(Putting out cigarette)

Yeah, so we have plenty of money for rubbers and gerbils. I'm going to bed, assholes.

Nathan goes into the house.

DAVID

What do you think?

SETH

That's his fuckin' boyfriend.

DAVID

What do you think they -- do together?

SETH

Probably anal and lots of blowjobs.

DAVID

Sick, man. I don't see how he can wanna do that with another guy.

SETH

He just asked us what was so great about boobs. The way I see it, either you get boobs. Or you don't.

DAVID

Why did he have to bring him?

SETH

He oughta be able to bring anybody he wants.

DAVID

Not when he's hijacking my wedding for his gay drama.

SETH

I'm not saying it isn't going to be awkward, because it is.

DAVID

Fuck yeah, it's gonna be awkward! When I told Mom and Pop, they --

David trails off, stares into the house.

SETH

Don't worry, man. Whatever happens, me and Anna will handle it.

DAVID

I hope so. I don't want him to ruin this for Sarah.

They take long, contemplative drags from their cigarettes.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

The SOUND of a CRYING BABY.

Nathan opens his eyes. The baby cries again. He wiggles out from under Jack's arm.

INT. GEORGE'S ROOM - SAME

Nathan finds VIOLET -- a year old with rich, brown skin -- sitting up in George's Spider-Man themed bed next to a LUMP. He scoops her into his arms.

NATHAN

Hello, Violet. I'm your uncle
Nathan. I've waited a long time to
meet you.

Violet cries again. He checks her diaper.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Oh, poor baby. You're all wet.

George emerges from a nest of blankets and pillows on the floor. He's wide awake and ready to --

GEORGE

Mama says I can watch my show when
the grown-ups are asleep.

NATHAN

(Laughs)
Should we wake Morgan?

He looks at the lump on the bed. A tuft of cornsilk hair pokes from beneath the blanket.

GEORGE

(Grave whisper)
No! She's not happy in the morning.

The lump doesn't move.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

Nathan changes Violet's diaper, and George starts Netflix. The Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers theme song PLAYS from the TV. He runs around swinging a NERF sword at everything -- which soon becomes Seth, who sleeps on the couch. SMACK! Seth opens his eyes.

GEORGE

Can I call you Jason?

SETH

No.

GEORGE

What happened to your fingers?

SETH

I cut 'em off with a NERF sword.

George drops the sword. Seth takes his blanket and goes into George's room. The episode begins, and George plops down on a recliner, front row. Nathan finishes changing Violet by blowing a raspberry on her tummy.

MORGAN, 7, enters. Towheaded, fair-skinned and freckled, she's adorable even when she's cranky.

NATHAN

Hey, sleepyhead!

Morgan hugs him despite his obnoxious greeting. She approaches the recliner, and without a word, George moves.

MORGAN

I don't want to watch this.

GEORGE

Uncle Nathan said I could, and you slept on my bed last night!

Morgan smirks upon her claimed throne.

NATHAN

Be nice and let George have his chair back.

She doesn't move, challenging Nathan's authority.

MORGAN

Why aren't you getting married?

NATHAN

What?

MORGAN

Uncle David and Uncle Seth are getting married. Why aren't you?

Nathan is tongue-tied. George also awaits a response.

NATHAN

Your mom didn't tell you anything about that?

MORGAN

She said it's because you're a waiter.

NATHAN

Well, I'm not, because I got fired.

The front door opens. It's ANNA -- 30, blond, short, and the most baby-faced of the siblings -- and SARAH -- 31, a tough outdoorswoman of Korean descent with a girly-girl finish. Immediately, Violet runs to --

VIOLET

Mama!

ANNA

Letta!

Anna picks her up and nuzzles her neck.

SARAH

(To Nathan)

You're here!

She hugs him. So does Anna. Sarah scrutinizes the gross layer of dude film -- focusing on the untethered trash bag of blue Keystone cans and bottles, now spilling on the kitchen floor.

SARAH (CONT'D)

What happened to my house?

ANNA

Are Seth and David even awake yet?

NATHAN

No, we had a few beers last night.

SARAH

David told me he would have the kids ready.

Jack enters, wearing dress pants and a white undershirt.

JACK

Mornin'.

SARAH

Good morning, I'm Sarah.

He shakes her hand. Sarah has no reproach, but Anna eyes Jack up and down.

JACK

Jack.

He holds out his hand to Anna. She smiles and shakes.

ANNA

Anna.

NATHAN
(To Jack)
This is Morgan and Violet.

JACK
Nice to meet you, ladies.

Morgan looks back and forth from Nathan to Jack, until --

MORGAN
Are you a waiter too?

Anna blushes.

JACK
No, I'm a police officer.

GEORGE
(Re: Jack's bald head)
Did you get a bad haircut? 'Cause I
got a bad haircut once.

JACK
We probably had the same barber.

GEORGE
It was Mommy.

SARAH
(To Jack)
Sorry.
(To George)
Go brush your teeth while I pick
out some clothes for you.

Sarah goes down the hall, and Jack goes into the kitchen.

ANNA
Come on Morgan, time to get ready.

Morgan stays in the chair, staring at the TV.

ANNA (CONT'D)
Morgan. Now.

MORGAN
I never get to watch *Power Rangers*.

ANNA
You don't even like this show.

MORGAN
You don't know me!

She stomps down the hallway.

ANNA

If she were home, she'd slam her door and play the Tragic Kingdom album as loud as possible.

(Off his look)

She found it in my Goodwill pile.

NATHAN

I don't have a girlfriend because I'm a waiter?

Now Anna is tongue-tied. A WAIL emanates from down the hallway. Seth enters, once again, dragging his blanket.

SETH

Morgan bit George.

He plops back down on the couch and covers his ears.

ANNA

Good grief.

She follows the sound of George's CRIES.

INT. DAVID'S TRUCK - DAY

David and Seth up front and Nathan and Jack in the back. Seth turns on the radio. An old cassette PLAYS from its last point: a home recording of a church devotional song.

SETH

Damn kids.

Seth goes to eject the tape.

JACK

Wait, what is this?

DAVID

When we were little, Mom and Pop used to record us singing church songs on their bed.

JACK

Nathan never told me that.

SETH

Then Mom dug an old tape out to show the girls, and they fucking love it. They bring it everywhere and sing along and shit.

JACK
Even the little one?

SETH
She just makes noises, but yeah,
even the little one.

JACK
How cool.

SETH
Not when you have a hangover.

JACK
(To Nathan)
You're on here?

NATHAN
That's me.

An angelic, pre-pubescent voice SINGS from the speakers.

JACK
That's you?

DAVID
Yep. That's him.

The tape plays, and Jack listens to a Nathan he doesn't know.

INT. ANCHORAGE CHURCH OF CHRIST - DAY

David and Seth ahead of them, Nathan and Jack enter the FOYER. Nathan scans the CROWD for his parents, but instead, he sees a Black Ski Mask Man mingling unobtrusively in the center of the room.

He turns to Jack, who is preoccupied with the church member board: member photos underneath elder and deacon pictures.

NATHAN
Y'all don't have a member board at
the Catholic church?

JACK
No. We use Facebook.

Anna -- carrying Violet -- approaches. Morgan trails behind, still red-faced from her encounter with George.

ANNA
(To Morgan)
Go ahead. Ask him.

MORGAN
 (To Nathan)
 Can I sit next to you?

NATHAN
 If you promise not to bite me.

MORGAN
 I bit him because he called me a
 stinky girl.

NATHAN
 Then I guess he deserved it.

ANNA
 No, he didn't. It's not O.K. to
 bite anyone.

As they enter the AUDITORIUM, Nathan and Morgan exchange a sly look of agreement, and there -- sitting fourth pew from the front -- Mom and Pop wait for the service to begin.

The SOUND of the CONGREGATION SINGING.

INT. AUDITORIUM - LATER

The Wagners have assembled in the pew next to Mom and Pop. Right to left: Pop, Mom, Sarah, George -- cradling his bitten arm -- David, Seth, Morgan, Nathan, Jack, Anna, and Violet. Like Nathan said, it's a big-ass family -- and it's still missing three members.

They all sing along with the congregation, each taking a different part of the harmony -- except Seth, who mumbles the bass part. Their collected voices are far superior to the rest of the congregation.

Nathan looks down the long row of family members to his parents. They stare forward, singing devoutly. Mom's voice has a practiced vibrato, and Pop's is strong, but sweet and scratchy like a coronet. They look old, burdened. The song ends, and an ELDER -- recognizable from the member board -- takes the podium.

ELDER
 Good morning and welcome to the
 Anchorage Church of Christ. Before
 I begin the morning announcements,
 I'd like to say we are blessed to
 have the entire Wagner family here
 today. Including one spouse, I see.

Heads turn to look at the end of the Wagner pew: Anna, Violet, and Jack. Anna looks from Violet -- with her dark, Hispanic complexion -- to Jack -- with his Irish/German heritage. Anna and Jack laugh to themselves.

Nathan catches Mom and Pop looking, but they avoid his glance and turn back to the Elder.

ELDER (CONT'D)

And a soon-to-be-spouse, because they're joining us to celebrate David Wagner and Sarah Stoke's wedding ceremony on Tuesday at 4 p.m. Here in the auditorium where they met twenty-odd years ago.

The congregation APPLAUDS.

ELDER (CONT'D)

We're lucky to have them for any reason. For those who don't remember Jim and Jenny, the Wagners are a wonderful, righteous family.

The Wagners smile like the fuckin' Kennedys.

EXT. CHURCH - SAME

With the service over, the congregation has spilled out into the front lawn. Nathan smokes behind a church van, nervous and detached from the Norman Rockwell tableau before him:

Anna tosses Violet into the air playfully, and Seth holds out a lady bug for Morgan to touch. Jack and Sarah watch David and George practice WWE Wrestling moves on the lawn.

JACK

You and David met when you were kids?

SARAH

Yeah. He was six. I was eight, and he threw a cup of red Kool-Aid on me at the first Sunday potluck.

David holds George up high and fake body slams him. Nathan joins Anna and Violet, keeping his eye on the church entrance. The lady bug flies away, and Morgan chases it.

SARAH (CONT'D)

How did you and Nathan meet?

JACK

I kept getting called to his apartment for noise complaints, 'cause his band practice annoyed the neighbors.

SARAH

Did you give him a ticket?

JACK

Do you think we'd be dating if I did? No, he told me he'd keep it down if I gave him my phone number.

SARAH

Did he?

JACK

No.

SARAH

(Loudly, to Nathan)

Of course not. He's a Wagner boy.

SETH

So how long you been seein' each other?

Seth stares at Nathan as he asks, provoking him.

JACK

I'd say about a year now?

Nathan ignores them. Anna catches him glancing at the entrance again. She leans in.

ANNA

Have you talked to them yet?

NATHAN

No.

A quiet aside Morgan overhears.

INT. CHURCH BATHROOM - SAME

Nathan primps at the mirror. He smooths his tie, hair, pants. Better, but -- he re-tucks his shirt. Now he's presentable.

INT. CHURCH HALLWAY - SAME

Nathan enters the hallway, reassured -- until he sees Pop walking straight toward the bathroom door. He panics. Calms. Initiates first contact.

NATHAN

Hey, Pop.

Pop continues to the bathroom without a word. Morgan bounds toward Nathan from the other end of the hall.

MORGAN

Did you see Pop?

NATHAN

Yeah.

MORGAN

And Gran?

NATHAN

No. Not yet.

MORGAN

I know where she is!

NATHAN

Morgan, I --

Her freckled face makes declining impossible.

INT. AUDITORIUM - SAME

Nathan behind her, Morgan points to the Wagner pew, where Mom talks to an OLDER WOMAN.

MORGAN

See. I told you.

His niece pulls him down the aisle. Nathan stares ahead at Mom's back. Her long, blond hair. Her pleated dress.

Black Ski Mask Men jog past him and Morgan in two rows.

The older woman looks at Nathan and Morgan. Mom turns. She catches sight of Nathan, pretends he's not there, and continues talking to the woman.

Behind Mom, the Masked Men place a bomb at the communion table, like plumbers under the sink.

MORGAN (CONT'D)
Gran, it's Uncle Nathan!

Mom reluctantly faces Nathan. He puts his hand on her shoulder, and before she can stop him, he hugs her. She hugs back, but it's perfunctory and flat.

The Black Ski Mask Men jog past them out of the auditorium.

Nathan lets his mother go and walks away.

MORGAN (CONT'D)
Stop! You're going too fast!

Morgan grabs his hand, and Nathan leads this time.

EXT. CHURCH - SAME

Nathan pulls his niece back onto the front lawn. He's in a shell-shocked daze and can't hear anything over a RINGING SOUND in his ears. He lets go of Morgan's hand and heads straight for Seth.

NATHAN
I need to get the fuck out of here.

Nathan keeps his focus on Seth, ignoring Jack, Sarah, and his siblings' ping-pong of non-verbal communication.

SETH
Then let's go.

INT. AUDITORIUM - SAME

Mom sits alone at her pew. Her face is obscured by her thick hair. A pair of black Justin boots appear at her feet. She looks up at Pop -- the owner of the boots. She's been crying.

MOM
Jim, I couldn't do it.

Pop sits down next to her.

POP
I know.

She puts her head on his shoulder. Anna approaches, unsure.

ANNA
Are y'all comin' to the house for lunch?

POP
I don't think so.

MOM
Of course we will.

Mom takes Pop's hand.

MOM (CONT'D)
(To Pop)
We have to try.

His hand is a dead fish in hers.

INT. DAVID'S TRUCK - DAY

Seth drives. Nathan stares out the front passenger window. Jack sits in the back. Tense silence. Then --

JACK
Nathan, what happened?

No answer. Jack puts his hand on Nathan's back, but Nathan shakes it off. Seth turns on the radio. The cassette BLARES the younger Wagner family's singing voices.

Nathan rips the cassette from the player and throws it at the dashboard. It bounces back and hits him in the face.

NATHAN
Goddamn it!

Seth tries to hold back his laughter, but can't.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
It's not funny.

Seth laughs harder. Jack joins in, and Nathan returns his gaze to the window, as Seth takes the airport exit.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
You're taking me to the airport?

EXT. ANCHORAGE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - SAME

David's truck stops in front of TONY, LIZ, and ISAAC.

Tony -- Anna's husband -- is 25, Hispanic, and wears the shirt and demeanor of a high school softball coach. Liz -- Seth's fiancée -- 34, young Sissy Spacek pretty and current Debbie Reynolds raunchy. Isaac -- Liz's son -- is your average, awkward sixteen-year-old in the body of a large man.

Tony and Isaac load luggage into the truck bed. Liz runs to the driver's side and kisses Seth through the open window.

LIZ

Baby, I missed you.

Tony and Isaac squeeze into the back with Jack -- quickly introducing themselves in a manly monosyllabic fashion. Liz takes a drag from Seth's cigarette.

LIZ (CONT'D)

The flight was a nightmare. First --

A car behind them HONKS. Liz flips them off.

LIZ (CONT'D)

Stop honking! You're in Alaska!

SETH

We should go.

Liz hops in front next to Nathan, and Seth drives away.

LIZ

Do you like my hair?

NATHAN

Yeah, did you just get it cut?

LIZ

Uh-huh. I was watching a *Law & Order: SVU* marathon, and there was this really cute hairdo on one of the rape victims, so Isaac found a screen cap online, and I took it to my hairdresser.

NATHAN

I fuckin' love you.

INT. SARAH'S HONDA CR-V - SAME

Sarah drives. Anna is in the passenger seat. Morgan and George are strapped in the back on either side of Violet in her car seat. They follow Pop's rental car down the street.

SARAH

Did they say what happened?

ANNA

No.

SARAH
Is Nathan coming for lunch?

In the back seat, Morgan tries to discern the meaning of their conversation.

ANNA
I assume so, but --

GEORGE
(To Anna)
What's your name?

ANNA
Anna.

GEORGE
How old are you?

ANNA
Thirty.

GEORGE
What's your favorite color?

MORGAN
(To George)
Why are you so annoying?

ANNA
Morgan. Stop it. Be nice.
(To George)
My favorite color is blue.
(Pause)
Oh no.

SARAH
What?

ANNA
Did anybody throw away that trash bag full of beer cans?

SARAH
I don't think so. I'll make David do it when we get there.

ANNA
No. They have to be gone before my parents get there, or they will definitely leave.

SARAH

What? Do they know there's going to be beer and wine at the reception?

She doesn't want to tattle on her brother, but --

ANNA

David hasn't told them yet.

INT. MOM AND POP'S RENTAL CAR - SAME

Mom and Pop in the front, David in the back. They watch Sarah's CR-V zoom past them jerk to a halt at the end of the cul-de-sac.

MOM

Morgan probably needs to use the bathroom.

INT. SARAH AND DAVID'S HOUSE - SAME

Anna bursts through the door. She grabs for the trash bag but it's not big enough for the amount of cans. A good portion scatter across the floor.

ANNA

Are you freakin' kidding me?

VOICES approach from outside. She opens the cabinet under the sink and stuffs what she can inside. Moves to the next cabinet until all the cans are hidden.

She takes a breath and waits for the door to open. But it doesn't.

EXT. DAVID AND SARAH'S HOUSE - SAME

Anna comes outside. All fourteen family members have arrived at once. Violet calls to Anna from Tony's arms.

VIOLET

Look, mama! Papi-papi!

Anna goes to her husband, kisses him. Violet joins in.

ANNA

(To Tony)

I'm so glad you're here.

Nathan and Jack stand by David's truck in the driveway, and Mom and Pop are rooted by their rental car at the curb.

A series of greeting occur, making the space between them a lawn cluttered with love. Morgan hugs her stepdad gently around the waist.

DAVID
(To Tony)
Cuñado!

David pulls him into a hug.

GEORGE
(To Tony)
What's your name?

George continues his question game with Tony in the background. Seth unloads suitcases from the truck bed. Sarah hugs Isaac, then Liz.

SARAH

Hey! Your hair looks great. How was the flight?

LIZ
The plane caught on fire.

SARAH
No!

ANNA
What happened?

LIZ
It was a goddamn bird, and I would feel sorry for it, but from the look of the engine, I think it was a buzzard.

ANNA
That's awful.

LIZ
Yeah, I started crying when we saw them bring out the big metallic fire blanket.

Jack cannot bear watching Nathan shoot furtive glances at his parents through the crowd. He crosses the lawn.

JACK
Hi. Nice to meet you. I'm Jack.

Jack holds his out his hand to Nathan's parents. Mom looks to Pop, as to how to respond. Pop simply doesn't.

Jack keeps his hand out, waiting. Noticing the interaction, Anna, David, and Seth pause their conversations.

LIZ

(To Sarah)

And I thought my nicotine patch wasn't working, so I put another one on. And then, of course, they both started working, so I puked in the little paper bag.

SARAH

You didn't take the first one off?

LIZ

The plane was on fire!

SARAH

Wait, you're quitting smoking?

George finishes his question game with Tony.

LIZ

(To Sarah)

Fuck no.

Everyone hears Liz. Morgan even giggles.

POP

Morgan.

Morgan stops laughing. Liz is suddenly aware of the silence around her, Mom and Pop, and volume of her vulgarity. She gives an awkward wave to the parents.

LIZ

Hi!

MOM

Hi.

Once again, Jack insists on the handshake. Everyone watching them, Pop begrudgingly shakes. Mom too.

The SOUND of a CAR DOOR SLAMMING.

INT. RENTAL CAR - SAME

Pop drives. Mom holds her hands in her lap, looking out the window at the passing neighborhood houses. She turns to Pop, whose only focus is the road ahead.

EXT. DAVID AND SARAH'S HOUSE - SAME

From the lawn, the entire family watches Mom and Pop's rental car turn down the street -- except David, who stares angrily at the back of Nathan's head.

MORGAN
Aren't they hungry?

ANNA
We're all hungry. Let's help Aunt Sarah get the food ready.

Her daughter doesn't budge.

TONY
Come on. I'll help too.

Morgan acquiesces, following Anna, Tony, and Violet inside.

LIZ
(To Seth)
Your parents hate me.

SETH
No they don't, babe.

NATHAN
Yeah, it's not you.

JACK
I sure as hell was gonna make him shake my hand.

LIZ
Oh. That's why that was so weird.
(Pause)
That's fucked up.

Seth watches Jack put his hand on his brother's back. Nathan smiles gratefully at Jack. That better be his boyfriend.

DAVID
At least now we can drink.

The screen door SLAMS behind Sarah as she goes inside.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

KSHHH-AHHH! David, blissfully drunk, opens a beer and hands it to Isaac. Seth opens his own.

DAVID
Keep it down, in case your mom
isn't cool with it.

Liz enters.

LIZ
No, she is not cool with it.

She takes the beer from Isaac, and takes a big sip.

LIZ (CONT'D)
(To Isaac)
No beer.

She exits. David picks up his glass of amber liquid -- next to a bottle of Evan Williams on the counter -- and dumps it into a red Solo cup.

DAVID
Here's your iced tea, Skippy.

ISAAC
(Skippy?)
Thanks.

Isaac looks at Seth -- who shrugs -- and sips, coughing a little from its strength. The brother's laugh. Sarah enters, carrying dirty cups to the sink. She watches David mix another whiskey and ice.

SARAH
When were you going to tell your
parents about the reception?

David stops pouring.

DAVID
What do you mean?

Sensing tension, Seth and Isaac book it to the backyard through the LIVING ROOM -- where Morgan and George play the Wii, content in killing each other on screen.

EXT. BACKYARD - SAME

Anna and Tony drink beer and snuggle on one side of an empty fire pit. Jack and Nathan sit on the other side next to Liz. Everyone's had at least three beers.

ANNA
Seth told Mom they were tomatoes.

TONY

Did she believe him?

ANNA

No. He had this elaborate hydroponic set-up in his closet. Mom's not stupid. But she'd never seen pot in real life, so she printed out the marijuana encyclopedia page and held it up to the plants every day until it matched.

LIZ

Then what did she do?

NATHAN

Pulled 'em up and hucked 'em into the river.

TONY

My dad would kick my ass for that.

JACK

My dad would've had me arrested.

NATHAN

Pop almost did. But Seth ended up getting away with it.

LIZ

I never got into pot. Drug dealers don't treat sixteen-year-old girls the same way they treat sixteen-year-old boys. I'd always have to smoke primo with them -- which is weed with crack sprinkled on it.

ANNA

Oh my word.

NATHAN

Have you tried regular pot?

LIZ

Yeah, but honestly, I prefer it with the crack, and I have a government job, so I don't do that anymore.

Seth and Isaac join them. Her son in front of her, she guiltily changes the subject.

LIZ (CONT'D)
(To Nathan)
How is Savannah?

NATHAN
Good. Doin' gigs with my bands. And
I recently got fired from Chili's.

SETH
How much do you have to suck to get
fired from Chili's?

ISAAC
You're in a band?

NATHAN
Yep. Metallic Queef.

TONY
Really?

NATHAN
Yeah.

ISAAC
Awesome.

LIZ
No, that sounds painful.

Isaac sips while Liz isn't watching. Anna's cellphone
VIBRATES in her lap. A TEXT MESSAGE from Pop: "Your room
number is 201." Nathan looks into his beer bottle. Empty.

NATHAN
Anybody else need another beer?

TONY
I'll take one.

Anna shows Tony the text message.

TONY (CONT'D)
Nevermind. I gotta drive.

NATHAN
Drive where?

ANNA
Mom and Pop got us a hotel room.

Awkward silence. Seth stands up.

SETH
We need a fire.

He walks to the garden shed.

 ANNA
Seth, do not use gas.

He comes backs with an armful of wood and a gas can.

 ANNA (CONT'D)
Seth. No.

Everyone gets out of their canvas chairs and scoots them back -- except Nathan, who slips away with everyone distracted.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

Nathan enters as the fire FLARES behind him.

 SARAH (O.S.)
This is not what this house is
supposed to look like.

 DAVID (O.S.)
It's because everybody's here.

 SARAH (O.S.)
David, you promised me --

 DAVID (O.S.)
I promised I wouldn't get carried
away, and I haven't.

Nathan looks at the kids. Morgan and George are absorbed in the video game.

 NATHAN
 (Loudly)
Hey guys, whatcha playin'?
 (No answer)
Oh. Cool. I love that game.

INT. KITCHEN - SAME

Sarah and David stare at each other. Red in the face.

 MORGAN (O.S.)
Stop talking so loud. I'm trying to
concentrate.

David takes his drink and goes. Sarah goes back to cleaning the dishes. Nathan enters, pours himself a glass of whiskey.

NATHAN

He can't drink it if it's gone.

SARAH

He doesn't drink like this when it's just us.

They hear the back door open and close.

MORGAN (O.S.)

Get out of the way! I can't see!

JACK (O.S.)

Oh, sorry. Sorry.

Jack enters.

JACK (CONT'D)

(To Nathan)

I think I'm going to read a little bit before bed and keep away from that fire.

SARAH

What fire?

NATHAN

Seth made a fire. It's O.K.

Jack kisses Nathan's head.

JACK

(To Sarah)

Have a good night.

He exits. Nathan is embarrassed again by Jack's affection.

SARAH

I like him.

(Pause)

How are you doing?

NATHAN

We're all still alive, so I guess I'm fine.

SARAH

I can't wait 'til this is over, so I can stop playing "pretend virgin" and have my life back.

NATHAN
I stopped pretending and look how
that turned out.

SARAH
Did your parents speak to you?

NATHAN
No.
(Pause)
Don't cry.

SARAH
I know. I just -- I want you to
know you're welcome here, I'm glad
you came. And I hope you still want
to sing at my wedding.

NATHAN
It'd be kind of shitty if I backed
out now.

Sarah laughs, wipes her eyes.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
Don't worry about me. You're the
one marrying my dumbass brother.

SARAH
I really miss sleeping next to your
dumbass brother.
(Pause)
Does my makeup look O.K.?

It doesn't.

NATHAN
You're church ready.

The back door opens and closes.

ANNA (O.S.)
Morgan, get your shoes on.

MORGAN (O.S.)
Why?

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

Nathan and Sarah move to the open threshold between the
kitchen and the living room. Morgan hasn't gotten up. Anna
avoids Nathan's gaze.

ANNA

Because we're staying with Gran and Pop tonight.

MORGAN

But I'm almost to the third volcano!

ANNA

Look at me. Go get your shoes on.

MORGAN

But Momma!
(Looks back to screen)
You just made my guy die!

Morgan slams the controller down on the ground.

ANNA

Pick it up, and tell Aunt Sarah that you're sorry.

MORGAN

No!

ANNA

Morgan!

Morgan picks up the controller and sets it in her chair.

MORGAN

(To Sarah)
I'm sorry.

SARAH

It's O.K. But be careful next time, because we only have two controllers, all right?

Morgan runs out of the room, slamming George's bedroom door behind her. Anna rolls her eyes.

INT. GEORGE'S ROOM - SAME

Nathan enters. Morgan fumbles with her shoes on the bed.

NATHAN

You need some help?

MORGAN

No! I just -- hate shoes!

Morgan begins to cry. Nathan sits down in front of her.

NATHAN
What's wrong?

MORGAN
Mama. Hates. Me. I should runaway
and die!

NATHAN
Your mom doesn't hate you.

He helps her with the shoes.

MORGAN
Then why does she always yell at
me?

NATHAN
Morgan. Your mom loves you very
much. She even told me that you're
her favorite.

MORGAN
No, she didn't.

NATHAN
Yes, she did.

MORGAN
When?

NATHAN
(Duh)
Just now. In the backyard.

MORGAN
Oh.

NATHAN
Sometimes it's hard being a mom
just like it's hard being a little
girl.

MORGAN
I'm not a little girl.

NATHAN
Fine. A big girl. She loves you. I
know it.

Morgan wipes her eyes.

MORGAN
Are you coming to see the bears
with us tomorrow?
(MORE)

MORGAN (CONT'D)

Uncle Seth said that we have to be careful so they don't eat us.

NATHAN

I'll go wherever you are.

He hugs her. Anna enters.

ANNA

Morgan. Come on. We're waiting.

Morgan looks at Nathan, skeptical again, and runs out.

NATHAN

When you see Mom and Pop, tell 'em to go fuck themselves.

ANNA

Nathan, I'm leaving. I can't talk about this right now.

NATHAN

'Cause then you'd have to talk about how shitty our parents are.

She steps into the room, keeping her voice down.

ANNA

They are not.

NATHAN

Yes, they are.

ANNA

If they are such terrible parents, then tell me how awful it was when they moved you across the country to study "musical performance."

NATHAN

Go ahead and take their side all the way to your fucking hotel room.

ANNA

I am not taking a side. I'm --

NATHAN

Then why didn't you tell Morgan why I don't have a girlfriend?

ANNA

Because she asked me in front of Mom and Pop, and I didn't know what to say.

NATHAN

You took a side.

ANNA

I'm trying enjoy my brother's freakin' wedding. That's why we're here. Which you would know if you didn't make everything about you all the time.

NATHAN

I don't!

ANNA

Oh, of course not, you just had to come out to Mom and Pop the same week that Violet was born, because you're so selfless.

NATHAN

Sorry I ruined the birth of your child.

ANNA

Fine. Then don't ruin your brother's wedding. Hang out with everyone else and have a good time. Do you know the last time we all got together like this?

NATHAN

When you got here, and you first saw Mom and Pop, did they look at you like they knew you? Did they say, "Hello, I'm glad to see you?"

ANNA

Everything you're feeling, they're feeling too.

NATHAN

I doubt it.

ANNA

Nathan, they're scared of you.

NATHAN

What?

ANNA

None of us ever know what you're going to say. Or do.

NATHAN
This is not my fault, Anna.

ANNA
I know.
(Pause)
You're not the only one to
disappoint them.

MORGAN (O.S.)
Mama! Come on!

ANNA
Dude, I gotta go. I'm sorry this is
happening, but we all knew it
would. Please, don't choose to be a
jerk about it.

She leaves. Nathan is surrounded by Spider-Man blankets,
Power Rangers toys, and illustrated children's books.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - SAME

Nathan enters. On the bed, Jack looks up from his book.

JACK
Did you know that sled dogs have to
run sixty to a hundred miles a day?

NATHAN
No.

JACK
Or that they have to change their
booties every hour? They can also
get so aggressive they kill sick
dogs in the pack.

Nathan sits down, his back to Jack.

NATHAN
I didn't know any of that.
(Pause)
Do you think I'm a jerk?

Jack scoots close to him, puts his arms around him.

JACK
They'll come around.

NATHAN
No, they won't.

JACK
You don't deserve this.

NATHAN
I don't know what I deserve.
(Pause)
Are you ever mad that God made you bald?

JACK
Maybe you are a jerk.

NATHAN
No, I'm serious. Do you have phantom pains? Or write it letters?
(As if Maggie Smith)
"Dear Hair, I stayed in a hotel last night. There was a shampoo bottle in the shower, and I dreamt of you."

JACK
"Dear Hair, I miss our summers in France together."

NATHAN
(Normal)
Dear Hair, today I cried because I saw a braid.

JACK
You might be sleepin' on the couch tonight.

NATHAN
You said one too.

Jack goes for a kiss. Nathan dodges. He goes in again. Another dodge. They horse around, and Jack pins Nathan down, kissing him hard on the mouth.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
(Muffled)
No Booty Magic!

DAVID (O.S.)
(Coughs)
Ahem.

David is in the doorway, drunker than before.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Can I talk to you for a second?

INT. BATHROOM - SAME

Nathan stands in front of the shower. David makes sure no one is in the hallway, shuts the door.

NATHAN

There wasn't any penetration.

DAVID

That's not what I want to talk about. Tomorrow everybody was gonna ride out to the conservation center.

NATHAN

Yeah, Morgan said something.

DAVID

Now, I warned you about putting me in the middle.

NATHAN

What are you talking about? Nobody put you in the middle of anything.

DAVID

Pop doesn't want to see his little boy with a man.

NATHAN

I am a man.

(Off his look)

Men don't have secret bathroom meetings!

DAVID

They do in their own house! He's not even your boyfriend.

NATHAN

You don't know anything.

DAVID

I know I told you it was your responsibility to make sure everything went smoothly. And I think it'd be a good idea if y'all didn't go with us tomorrow.

Nathan cannot argue with the resolve in David voice.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Nathan wakes up alone in David and Sarah's bed.

INT./EXT. HOUSE - SAME

He checks the LIVING ROOM. No one. The KITCHEN. Clean, but no one. He checks every room in the house. The BACKYARD. No one. A car HONKS from the driveway.

INT. PORCH

Still in his underwear, Nathan opens the front door. Jack stands next to a PT Cruiser -- rental tags hanging from the rearview mirror.

JACK

Wanna go on an adventure?

NATHAN

In that?

And with a smile, the weight of everything slips off.

BEGIN ADVENTURE MONTAGE

INTERCUT AERIAL VIEW of the PT Cruiser putting along the GLENN HIGHWAY/TURNAGAIN ARM as needed:

EXT. THUNDERBIRD FALLS - SAME

They hike the trail to the falls, throw off their shoes, roll up their pants, and wade into the rushing EKLUTNA RIVER.

EXT. SARAH PALIN'S HOME - SAME

They take PICTURES in front of Sarah Palin's famous fence and a sign that says, "Private: Keep Out."

EXT. BEGICH-BOGGS VISITORS CENTER - SAME

They walk down the long, glass tunnel out to the viewing binoculars, where they try to spot Portage Glacier.

END ADVENTURE MONTAGE

EXT./INT. CHURCH PARKING LOT/PT CRUISER - DAY

The PT Cruiser parks. Jack and Nathan stare at the foreboding church.

JACK

We don't have to go in. We can do whatever you like.

Nathan grabs the door handle.

NATHAN

But all my friends are here -- Mary, Joseph, and the little one.

JACK

I thought he died.

INT. RENTAL CAR - SAME

Mom and Pop watch Nathan and Jack cross the parking lot. Nathan carries a musician's foot pedal and a coil of XLR wires. Pop has his hand on Mom's leg -- a signal to wait.

EXT. CHURCH PARKING LOT - SAME

Liz smokes near the entrance. Nathan and Jack approach, both relaxed and tension-free.

NATHAN

What's up, lady?

LIZ

(Pissed)

Isaac's hungover, because your douchebag brother gave him whiskey last night.

NATHAN

Which douchebag brother?

LIZ

Which one do you think?

NATHAN

They were probably working in tandem.

LIZ

Well, I am not happy about it.

INT. RENTAL CAR - SAME

Liz puts out her cigarette and follows Jack and Nathan. Mom gives Pop a resentful look and opens her car door.

INT. CHURCH AUDITORIUM - SAME

Sarah's BRIDESMAIDS -- girly-girls wearing North Face jackets and ratty tennis shoes -- decorate with silver bows, blue tulle, and white ribbon. Sarah stands at the back, clearly stressed out. Nathan and Jack enter.

NATHAN

(Re: equipment)

Where do you want it?

SARAH

Down front. I'll get my brother to hook it up. The church's sound system is a little old.

(Re: Decorations)

What do you think?

NATHAN

You sure David's worth this much pretty?

SARAH

No.

(Laughs)

I already had to yell at him today.

NATHAN

Because of Isaac?

SARAH

No. He forgot to rent the bouncy house for the reception, so George is probably going to cry.

(Pause)

What happened to Isaac? You know what? No. I don't want to know.

(Pause)

Just don't let him do anything stupid tonight. My dad's not going to give me away to a groom with a black eye.

NATHAN

I promise.

RACHEL, a bridesmaid, points to the communion table. A black jacket hangs across its corner.

RACHEL
What about this?

SARAH
Down by the microphone. And put
some flowers on it or something.

Nathan watches the bridesmaids carry the communion table to
the spot where he'll be singing.

INT. KITCHEN - SAME

SPLASH! A fryer basket full of cubed and battered halibut
chunks plunges into hot oil.

JACK
That's Halibut?

DAVID
Yep.

Jack watches closely as David explains the cooking process to
Nathan. Anna is in the background, making potato salad.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Leave 'em in long enough to tan.
But you don't want 'em as brown as
Violet.

David looks to Anna for her reaction to his joke. She keeps
cutting potatoes.

ANNA
Just give him the apron.

David holds out the apron. Nathan reaches for it, but David
pulls back. He laughs and gives it to his little brother.

NATHAN
Punk.

DAVID
I'll tell you when we're startin'
the run-through.

NATHAN
You know, I think it'd be better if
I stay in here. I already know when
I'm supposed to do my thing, so --

DAVID
Oh. O.K.

David nods appreciatively and exits. George and Morgan run in, playing tag.

DAVID (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Hey! Don't run in the church building.

The kids halt.

ANNA
There is hot grease in here that could hurt you. Go outside.

MORGAN
Papi-papi said we needed a grown-up to watch us outside.

ANNA
Then find a grown-up.

They look at Nathan.

NATHAN
Sorry, I gotta fry some Halibut.

Morgan looks down, hurt.

GEORGE
Will you take us, Uncle Jack?

Jack smiles.

JACK
Sure. I'll take you.

George follows Jack out. Morgan stays.

ANNA
Morgan --

MORGAN
Uncle Nathan, why didn't you go see the bears with us?

NATHAN
Morgan, I wanted to go, but -- I needed to get a few things together for the wedding.

MORGAN
But you said you'd go.

NATHAN
I know. Can you forgive me?

MORGAN

No. I don't like liars.

Morgan doesn't wait for a response. She leaves -- just as Mom enters. Nathan turns his back, focusing on the halibut. Mom bravely tries to break the ice.

MOM

What are y'all makin' in here?

ANNA

Potato salad.

Nathan pretends his mother isn't there. She takes a bowl of blueberry topping from the counter and leaves.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Nathan.

INT. FOYER - SAME

Just outside the kitchen, Mom stands with her back to the wall. Pop catches her eye from across the room. She disregards him and continues to the DESSERT TABLE. Pop begins walking toward the KITCHEN.

INT. KITCHEN - SAME

Anna and Nathan continue.

NATHAN

What? I'm not your fucking kid to boss around. I'm staying in here, keeping my distance, and not sucking a fat cock in front of them -- so leave me alone.

Anna doesn't have any words of wisdom or anger, so she settles for humor.

ANNA

It'd be really dangerous around the hot grease.

INT. FOYER - SAME

Pop stands right outside the kitchen door, listening.

NATHAN (O.S.)

I might do it though. David put a Booty Magic ban on the house, and I haven't gotten any since -- last Tuesday.

ANNA (O.S.)

Huh. Tony and I got down to business in the shower this morning. There is no booty ban at the La Quinta.

NATHAN (O.S.)

I hate you.

As Anna laughs, their father has had enough. Abandoning his intention of entering the kitchen, he walks to the BACK DOOR.

EXT. CHURCH PATIO - SAME

From the open door, Pop watches Jack shake the hand of a pot-bellied West Texan. This is UNCLE BOONE, who has taken a break from smoking brisket with Tony -- holding Violet -- to introduce himself to Jack.

UNCLE BOONE

Uncle Boone. Nice to meet you. I'm Jenny's brother. How do you know Nathan?

JACK

I'm --

POP

He's a coworker of Nathan's.

Jack begins to speak, but is interrupted by George, tugging on his wind breaker.

GEORGE

Show us your brain again, Uncle Jack!

MORGAN

Yeah, Uncle Jack! Do it!

Jack gets down on his knee and smooshes the top of his head together, so it looks like a brain.

MORGAN (CONT'D)

Gross!

GEORGE

Awesome!

Everyone laughs except Pop. He fixates on Jack, anger rising.

POP (V.O.)

Lord, please bless this food for
the nourishment of our bodies. In
your name, Amen.

INT. FOYER - LATER

FAMILY MEMBERS, GROOMSMEN, and the bridesmaids fill their plates down the buffet line: fried halibut, potato salad, coleslaw, brisket, yeast rolls, and some sort of pudding mixture at the end.

Sarah and David sit with SARAH'S PARENTS and Mom and Pop at a table in the center of the room. Nathan sits at a table with Jack, Anna, Tony, Violet, Seth, Isaac, and Liz -- who has her eyes on David.

LIZ

I just spent two hours putting
ribbons on programs for your
brother, and he still hasn't said
shit to me, much less an apology.

SETH

Isaac's fine.

Isaac gets up for seconds.

LIZ

No, he's not. He was car sick for
the first half of the day, and I
didn't bring Isaac four thousand
miles -- on a vacation I paid for
with my one good credit card -- to
be stuck in the bathroom.

She's notices looks from other tables and slumps back in her chair. Everyone but Nathan turns their gazes to their plates.

NATHAN

(To Jack)

You want any of this?

JACK

You don't want?

NATHAN

Nah, I'm gonna get dessert.

Nathan takes the long way around the room to the dessert table -- where an American Flag cheesecake awaits. He hacks out the first piece. Takes a bite. Puts it back on the table. Never mind.

INT. AUDITORIUM - SAME

THUD. The heavy wooden door closes behind Nathan. The decorations are finished, and now the communion table is covered in an array of flowers, sprouting like fireworks.

He approaches carefully, as if a wrong move will trigger an explosion. He stops at the front pew and sits down.

THUD. Nathan turns. It's Pop.

NATHAN

Not hungry, either?

He sits down next to his son.

POP

You've pulled a lot of stunts in your life, but this one makes me sick to my stomach.

NATHAN

I bet Mom has some Pepto-Bismol in her purse.

POP

Do you think this is funny?

NATHAN

No, sir.

POP

You broke Mom's heart, Nathan. No matter what you did, she's always been your cheerleader. Even when you are undeniably wrong.

Nathan picks at his jeans.

POP (CONT'D)

We gave you everything you asked for. Maybe that was the problem.

NATHAN

No. I've always known we'd be here. No matter what you did.

POP

You keep that man away from my grandchildren.

NATHAN

His name is Jack.

POP

I don't care what his name is. He may have tricked you into building your kingdom with a bunch of --

NATHAN

Pop, he didn't tricked me. He's a good man. Much better than I am.

POP

I know what kind of man he is.

NATHAN

No, you don't. He's --

Pop stands.

POP

Nathan, I don't want to hear it!
It's wrong and you know it!

Nathan stares ahead at the flowers on the communion table.

INT. FOYER - SAME

Flushed and angry, Pop sits down between David and Mom. Upon reading Pop's flustered state, Sarah nudges David. He turns. Nathan's chair is empty.

INT. BAPTISTRY - SAME

David climbs the stairs to the baptistry to find Nathan sitting at the edge of the pool. It's deeper and slightly longer, but still --

NATHAN

It's a bathtub.

Nathan begins to laugh. Harder and harder, until --

NATHAN (CONT'D)

A fucking bathtub.

David sits down, and Nathan cries into his shoulder.

INT. HUMPEY'S - NIGHT

A WAITRESS hands out beers from a server tray.

WAITRESS
Miller Lite, Bud Light, Corona,
Rolling Rock --

The booth is full of the MARINES and GROOMSMEN from the rehearsal dinner, all versions of average-Joe masculinity. Jack seems to fit in, but Nathan slightly sticks out.

The waitress hands out all the beers, revealing --

WAITRESS (CONT'D)
-- a Black Velvet.

David raises his hand.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)
And Ketel One martini.

Nathan raises his hand.

SETH
Really, dude?

NATHAN
This is all vodka. David's the one
with the lady drink.

A few of David's buddies chuckle.

DAVID
You ever seen a lady drink nine of
'em?
(Holds out his glass)
Come here with your lady drink.

Nathan lifts his glass. Clink. The waitress returns with a tray full of shots.

WAITRESS
And here are the Jameson shots.

She puts one in front of Jack.

JACK
Oh, I'm the DD.

SETH
Then pass it to the groom.

DAVID
She already gave me three!

Three full shots sit in front of him.

SETH
And you better drink 'em all.

Nathan takes the shot from Jack. Downs it.

SETH (CONT'D)
Hey!

NATHAN
(Holds up his own)
Let's do this.

The other men follow suit.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
To good ol' David.

The shot glasses THUD on the table simultaneously.

INT. HUMPEY'S - LATER

Nathan, now drunk, is at the jukebox playing obscure one-hit wonders. Jack joins him, puts his hand in the small of Nathan's back.

JACK
Whatcha playin'?

Instead of his usual shrug-off, it's a violent twitch. He almost falls down.

NATHAN
Good Lord. Sorry.

JACK
Are you, O.K.?

NATHAN
Fine. Totally fine.

He holds out his cellphone to Jack.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
Here. Text Sarah and tell her
everything's totally fine.

Rejected, Jack takes the phone, and Nathan stumbles toward the door. Tony arrives as Nathan passes the party table.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
(To Tony)
Cuñado! Where you been?

TONY

I stayed back to help your dad with the dishes.

NATHAN

He licked and you dried?

SETH

(To David)

You sure you don't want to go to a strip club? Because we can.

DAVID

No!

NATHAN

Come on, David. The last time I saw vagina was when I was clawin' my way out of Mom's.

A slight pause. Then laughter from everyone but Tony and his brothers.

DAVID

You're fuckin' gross.

Nathan takes a shot from the table and downs it.

EXT. HUMPEY'S - LATER

Nathan pukes into a potted plant. Seth leans against the wall, lighting a cigarette.

SETH

You should have had your boyfriend do this, so he could hold back your stupid bangs.

NATHAN

My bangs -- aren't -- stupid.
(Pukes)
And he's not -- my boyfriend.

Tony joins them.

TONY

Good night, little brothers.

SETH

Where are you going? Where's your beer?

TONY

I already drank it. I'm headed back to the hotel. I don't want to get in too late and wake up Letta.

SETH

Oh, come on. Don't be smug. Have another beer.

NATHAN

You leave him alone. He's nice.

TONY

Get David home safely, all right?

Tony salutes them and leaves. Nathan pukes again.

NATHAN

He really is nice. He's so nice to Anna. I'm happy for her. She found a nice guy. Good for her.

SETH

He's almost as nice as your boyfriend.

NATHAN

He is not my fucking boyfriend!

SETH

Bullshit. You bring someone to your brother's wedding, he's your boyfriend. And if he's not, then you're a dick.

NATHAN

Then I'm a dick. Because -- he can't be my boyfriend.

SETH

Does he know that?

Nathan sweeps his stupid bangs to the side and stumbles back into the bar without answering.

INT. BATHROOM - SAME

Nathan washes his face in the sink. Lifts his head. In the mirror where his face should be: a BLACK SKI MASK MAN.

Jack puts his hand on Nathan's shoulder. Nathan jumps.

NATHAN
Jesus fucking Christ.

He looks back in the mirror. Regular Nathan face.

JACK
Are you sure you're O.K.?

NATHAN
I'm drunk.

JACK
Well, David's worse than you. I
think it's time to take him home.

Jack steadies Nathan and leads him out of the bathroom.

INT. PT CRUISER - NIGHT

Jack is driving. David, although in the front passenger seat, is backseat drunk. Nathan, having puked out most of his alcohol, is calmer. Seth sings along with the radio. Now that he's not mumbling, he sounds pretty good. Jack turns it down.

SETH
Hey! Turn it back up!

JACK
I don't know how to get back to the
house from here.

SETH
Oh. I don't know either.

NATHAN
David, how do you get back to the
house?

David mumbles something unintelligible.

SETH
Yeehaw, motherfuckers! Let's keep
ridin' the Alaska highway!

NATHAN
Where the fuck is that?

SETH
Everywhere!
(Pause)
Who are you texting?

NATHAN

Sarah.

SETH

You're a spy!

NATHAN

No, I'm not! I'm getting directions!

Seth grabs for the phone.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

God, stop, fucker!

Seth wrestles for the phone.

JACK

Hey! Stop! We need to get him home.

(To David)

Right or left at this light?

David mumbles. The light approaches.

NATHAN

David. Which way do we go? David.

SETH

Stop yelling!

NATHAN

I'm not yelling!

The light turns red. Jack has to brake fast. The car's occupants slam forward and back. David looks right. Looks left. Projectile vomits on the dash.

JACK

Goddamn it!

But David's not done.

NATHAN

Out the window! Out the window!

David turns to the window, but it's closed, so he pukes on -- not through -- it. He opens the door to puke on the street, but mostly it goes into the door pocket.

SETH

(So drunk)

Ah, ya bitch! You're pukin' like a fuckin' faggot!

David mumbles something through another eruption.

NATHAN
What did you say?

SETH
(Hiccups)
Fuck it! Puke all you want, 'cause
you're getting married tomorrow!

NATHAN
What did you just say?

SETH
Oh, the faggot thing? I didn't mean
it as an insult to you.

NATHAN
Then why did you say it?

SETH
Because it's an insult to him!

NATHAN
Your fat face is an insult to us
all!

SETH
Fuck you! I earned this fat face!
Maybe you wouldn't be so offended
if you didn't do faggoty shit like
bring some guy you won't even call
your boyfriend to your brother's
wedding!

Nathan is quiet, but suddenly sober. David closes the door.
Jack grips the steering wheel.

JACK
Right. Or left.

DAVID
Left.

Jack turns left.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Jack parks, turns off the engine, and goes inside, leaving
his door open behind him. Nathan stares after him, through
the puke-covered interior. David stumbles out of the car.

SETH
I think Jack is pissed.

NATHAN
No shit.

WHAM! David trips and falls on the lawn.

INT. BATHROOM - SAME

David sits on the toilet. Nathan takes a look at his face.

NATHAN
Just grass stains. You're fine. Let
me help you --

Nathan tries to lift up David's shirt. David shrugs him off.

DAVID
(Coherent mumble)
I got it.

NATHAN
All right, go for it.

Nathan leaves him.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - SAME

Nathan enters. Jack sits on the bed, facing away.

JACK
We're not going to get the deposit
back on the car.
(Turns)
Nathan, do you want me here?

NATHAN
Seth is just drunk.

JACK
You didn't answer me. Why did you
bring me?

NATHAN
Because -- I had to know what
they'd do.

JACK
I wish you had've told me that
sooner.

Jack reaches for his suitcase.

NATHAN
Don't do that. Please.

JACK
Why not?

NATHAN
Well, the ticket price -- for one.

Jack shakes his head and unzips the bag.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
Please, stop. I can't explain it to you.

JACK
Let me guess, you brought me to wind me up and set me loose on your parents.

NATHAN
No. That's not it. I can't explain it, because you wouldn't understand. You're family's a bunch of lukewarm Catholics who don't know scripture from communion wine. It's not so easy for me.
(Off his look)
Jack, I am so sorry. That came out completely wrong.

JACK
You're as judgemental as they are.

A loud BOOM! comes from the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM - SAME

Nathan opens the door. David has fallen out of the shower, onto the floor -- his giant Texas back tattoo showing.

NATHAN
Are you O.K.?

David tries to get up, but he can't. Liz comes to the door.

LIZ
Is that Seth?

NATHAN
No, but can you help me?

LIZ
I'm not helping him. He did this to himself.

NATHAN
(A lie)
I was the one who gave Isaac booze.

LIZ
You?

NATHAN
Yes. Now will you help me?

Liz reluctantly helps Nathan put David back into the shower.

DAVID
(Mumbling)
I'm getting married tomorrow, and I didn't go to the strip club, because I love Sarah.

NATHAN
I know you do.

Now lifted off the floor, it's clear that something is wrong with David's face. His right cheek is swollen and bleeding through a patch of broken skin.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
Oh, no. No.

DAVID
And George. I love George too.
Goddamn it, I'm --

David falls into a sitting position and pukes down his chest. It's viscous, red, and scary. Liz dry heaves. Seth enters.

SETH
What the fuck are you guys doing?

Liz dry heaves again. She closes the shower curtain.

SETH (CONT'D)
Oh, man.
(Laughs)
This is classic.

Nathan punches Seth square in the eye. Seth doesn't flinch.

SETH (CONT'D)
You hit like a bitch.

Nathan throws his body against Seth.

INT. GEORGE'S BEDROOM - SAME

They topple into George's room, setting off random light-up toys. Isaac stirs in George's bed.

ISAAC
(Half asleep)
What the shit?

Seth wrestles for dominance, but can't get Nathan off of him. He rams his scarred hand into Nathan's crotch and lifts him.

NATHAN
Get your nubs out of me!

Nathan kicks Seth in the chest, and Seth falls back into a bookcase, causing a pile of TOYS to fall on him.

Isaac, now fully awake, watches from a relatively safe position at the back corner of the bed.

Seth grabs Nathan and knocks his head against the wall. Nathan topples to the ground. Seizing the opportunity, Seth sits on him. Nathan makes a few futile swings, and Seth laughs, as if it's a game. Jack enters.

JACK
Get off of him.

Seth gets off.

NATHAN
(To Seth)
I fucking hate you. You do whatever you want, say whatever you want, and nobody cares. Nobody!

The toys stop WHIRRING.

SETH
Is this because you're not a groomsman?

NATHAN
Eat a dick!

Nathan lunges again, and Jack hold him back. Liz enters.

LIZ
Nobody's eating any dicks in here.
(To Seth)
(MORE)

LIZ (CONT'D)

What is wrong with you? You do not act like this at home. This is not the kind of example I want to set for Isaac.

(To Isaac)

Do not tell your father about this.

(To Seth)

Get up. We're taking David to hospital. Now.

SETH

O.K.

He follows Liz like a scolded puppy.

JACK

Are you O.K.?

NATHAN

Yeah.

JACK

Good.

Jack goes back into the master bedroom, and Nathan goes into the bathroom to help his brother out of the tub.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - NIGHT

David lies asleep in a hospital bed, an ice pack on his face and a saline IV in his arm. Nathan sit on one side of the bed, Seth on the other. The DOCTOR finally arrives.

DOCTOR

Looks like his blood alcohol level was .38.

SETH

Holy shit! That's a new record!

NATHAN

(To Seth)

Shut the fuck up.

(To Doctor)

Is that why he was puking up blood?

DOCTOR

That wasn't blood. Did he eat any -- berries recently?

NATHAN

That stupid cheesecake.

DOCTOR

He'll be fine once he finishes that bag of saline.

NATHAN

What about his face? He's getting married tomorrow. Well, today.

DOCTOR

I'm not promising anything, but most of the swelling should go down. Make sure he keeps the ice pack on it through the night.

NATHAN

Thank you.

The doctor leaves.

SETH

(Calling after him)

Thank you.

Liz enters with an armful of snacks from the vending machine.

LIZ

It's not a burger, but it'll help soak some of that booze up.

She plops them into David's lap.

NATHAN

Thanks, but I'm not hungry.

EXT. EMERGENCY ROOM - SAME

Nathan sits alone, smoking. Seth approaches cautiously.

SETH

Do you still hate me?

NATHAN

Yes. No.

SETH

I'm sorry about Jack.

NATHAN

It's not all your fault.

(Pause)

Do you think David's getting married tomorrow?

SETH

I don't know.

(Pause)

What did Pop say to you?

NATHAN

I don't want to talk about it.

SETH

Maybe you should.

Silence.

SETH (CONT'D)

Was it as bad when you came out to them?

NATHAN

Coming out was one of the least dramatic things I've ever done. Nobody cried or disintegrated. They just hung up and that was it.

SETH

(Shakes head)

Over the phone.

NATHAN

I just wanted to get it over with, you know? The whole time I thought it would be this important step in my life. Like once it happened, the secrets of the universe would reveal themselves to me or some shit. But it was nothing.

(Pause)

So I went to the beach and ate a bunch of mushrooms.

SETH

(Laughs)

Yeah?

NATHAN

Yeah.

SETH

And how did that go?

NATHAN

I talked to God.

Nathan waits for mockery, instead:

SETH
What did he say?

NATHAN
Nothing.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

EXT. TYBEE BEACH - NIGHT

Nathan is, as we saw before, stark naked and otherworldly high. It begins to rain, and he steps into the vast, dark ocean.

The waves WOOSH, and the lightning CRACKLES. The rain gets increasingly stronger, bouncing off the water -- which is now a thick, black oil. He plunges. All the way under.

BLACK. We hear the sway of the waves and the far-off thunder muffled under the ocean.

Above the water, the lighting and thunder rage. SPLASH! The sea births Nathan. He swims back to shallow water, but it's difficult. He stands up, the oil dripping down his face like a mask. A wave knocks him down, and he reaches to catch himself.

His hand hits the water, and the impact causes the splashing water to glow with BIOLUMINESCENT PLANKTON. They extinguish.

He drags his arm across the oily water, and the dinoflagellates glow brighter and bluer than before. He scoops them into his hand, and the glowing water separates into embers and runs down his palm. They extinguish.

CRACK! The lightning briefly illuminates a large, ominous FIGURE above the ocean, twenty-feet away.

The storm continues, but Nathan is transfixed on the invisible figure. He slowly raises his arms in praise.

BACK TO SCENE

SETH
What did you say?

NATHAN
I thanked him for my shitty life.

SETH
That's cool, man.

NATHAN

I -- There was a beach. It was raining, and I was on drugs. Of course I got a religious boner.

SETH

That doesn't mean it wasn't real.

NATHAN

The only time God feels real to me is when I sing. But he always goes away the moment I stop. Sometimes I wish I could pretend that he was there all the time, just so they'd talk to me again like a person. But I can't believe in a God who would be such an asshole to me.

SETH

God's not being an asshole. Mom and Pop are.

NATHAN

They're being assholes because of God.

SETH

Then don't believe, man.

NATHAN

But -- I want to. I do. How can I not believe in a God who created a man like Jack?

SETH

Believe, don't believe, I don't care. But don't push Jack away because you're scared.

NATHAN

I'm not --

SETH

Yes. You are.

(Long pause)

Mom and Pop may have raised you to hate yourself and that's a shitty thing to do. But they certainly did not raise any of us to be a fucking pussy. So take some goddamn responsibility and stop being one.

The brothers sit in silence. Then:

NATHAN
Have you ever done mushrooms?

SETH
Once.

NATHAN
Did you also talk to God?

SETH
No.

NATHAN
What happened?

SETH
I jerked off to a Justin Timberlake
video.

NATHAN
Wait, what?

SETH
It got real weird.

NATHAN
Like, which video?

SETH
I don't wanna talk about it.

Seth gets up and walks inside.

NATHAN
Like N'SYNC, or his solo work?

SETH
(From lobby)
Shut up!

INT. GEORGE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Seth and Nathan put David to bed. Nathan kisses him on the forehead and puts an ice pack over his eye. Seth turns out the light.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - SAME

Jack lies in bed, his back to him. Nathan looks for Jack's suitcase -- still unpacked. He strips into his underwear and slips under the covers. Jack doesn't move.

Nathan inches closer and slides his hand up Jack's back -- only to be swatted away.

NATHAN

I'm sorry about what I said and didn't say -- and for really being a flat-out jerk. I want you to know that I brought you, because I love you.

(Pause)

Are you still awake?

JACK

Most people apologize in the morning. Not when the other person is trying to sleep.

Jack scoots to the edge of the bed, as far as he can away from Nathan.

INT. GEORGE'S BEDROOM - DAY

David wakes, cuddled in the bed with Isaac, his limbs hanging over the sides, and the ice pack forgotten on the floor.

INT. BATHROOM - SAME

David turns on the light and looks in the mirror at his bruised, swollen face. A smudged note from George on the glass: "I luv u Davey." He begins to cry and sits on the toilet to make a phone call.

SARAH (V.O.)

Hello?

DAVID

Sarah -- I fucked up.

(Pause)

I fucked up.

SARAH (V.O.)

How bad is it?

David's emotions, now coming out when he's sober, render him speechless.

SARAH (V.O.)

Send me a picture.

INT. SALON - SAME

Sarah -- hair in curlers -- looks at a PICTURE MESSAGE of David's face. She wipes tears from her eyes.

SARAH

David, this is it. This is the last time. No more. Or you will never see me again.

DAVID (V.O.)

I know. I know.

SARAH

No, you don't know. Or this wouldn't have happened.

(Pause)

My old make-up bag is under the sink. It might have something in it.

DAVID (V.O.)

I love you.

SARAH

I love you too.

She hangs up.

INT. MASTER BATHROOM - SAME

A razor drags across a shaving cream covered head. Jack is in the shower, shaving before a tiny mirror. Suddenly, he's not alone in the shower. Jack's eyes follow Nathan in the mirror - until he disappears from sight.

Jack continues shaving, and Nathan reappears, his hands lathered with body wash. He rubs them on Jack's back.

JACK

Come on now. I'm shaving.

NATHAN

I could do that for you.

JACK

What? Why would you want to do that?

NATHAN

I was trying to show you that --

JACK

I got it. And no. Why is everyone so obsessed with my head?

NATHAN

They're jokes. I didn't realize you were this insecure about it.

JACK

I'm not insecure about it. I love my bald head. If you're not constantly teasing me about it, your nephew wants to ask me about it. Is being bald against your religion too?

NATHAN

"When the last hair falls, the first stone is cast."

Jack laughs, charmed by humor. Nathan lathers Jack's back again, and Jack continues shaving.

INT. KITCHEN - SAME

Nathan and Jack enter, both in their wedding clothes.

David -- in his Dress Blues and a makeshift trash bag bib -- sits at the kitchen table, while Liz puts concealer over the bruise on his left cheek. Neither one of them is excited about this arrangement, but there's no anger in their feelings, only sweet resignation.

LIZ

(To Nathan and Jack)

Good morning.

Seth enters from the front door. He sets a bottle of Febreze on the table. THROUGH THE WINDOW, the PT Cruiser's doors are open, air drying its interior.

SETH

All clean.

NATHAN

What did Sarah say?

David smiles, tears forming.

LIZ

Hey. Don't cry. Your base will run.

She dabs a makeup sponge around the corner of his eye.

INT. CHURCH AUDITORIUM - DAY

Nathan sits between Anna and Jack. Tony and Violet sit on the other side.

ANNA
Does he look O.K.?

NATHAN
About as good as he's going to.
(Pause)
Do Mom and Pop know?

ANNA
Yes.

NATHAN
What else did Liz say about last night?

ANNA
Enough that I scored some Xanax from Sarah's brother.
(Pause)
He gave me two.

She holds it out to him. He takes it.

Sarah's brother JESSE escorts his KOREAN GRANDMOTHER down the aisle, beginning a traditional ceremony.

The Groomsmen escort Sarah's mother. Seth escorts Mom -- with Pop trailing behind her. Then comes George -- the ring bearer -- and Morgan -- the flower girl.

Finally, here comes the Bride, escorted by her father. Everyone stands and watches her pass.

She reaches David, and the concealer is streaked with his tears. Sarah wipes them away, smudging makeup.

SARAH
(Whisper)
Don't screw this up.

Pop stands at the microphone.

POP
Would y'all please bow with me as I pray?
(Bows)
Dear Lord, we are here, in your house of worship, to celebrate the marriage between a man and woman.
(MORE)

POP (CONT'D)

The only union accepted in your
eyes, oh Lord.

Nathan lowers his head, places his hands in his lap. Jack
puts his hand over Nathan's, keeping it there, hiding him.

POP (CONT'D)

Please help them put you first, so
that you might keep their marriage
safe and unmolested from the
outside world.

(Chokes up)

Bless them and honor their
household as they continue to
follow you. In Jesus' name, amen.

Pop sits down. Silence. Anna nudges Nathan.

ANNA

(Whispers)

Nathan.

He takes a breath, trying to release his fears.

Nathan walks to the microphone, avoiding everyone's gaze by
looking only at the communion table.

From the back of the auditorium, he looks like another BLACK
SKI MASK MAN.

He taps the foot pedal once. It sustains a note sung by an
angelic, prepubescent voice. He taps again. Another sustained
note. Tap. Another.

He SINGS a secular love song over samples from the old
cassette tape -- a synthesis. There's no other word for it
but glorious. He finishes, and sits down. Anna, eyes full of
tears, hugs him.

Uncle Boone steps forward.

UNCLE BOONE

Hello everybody, in case y'all
don't know me, I'm David's Uncle
Boone on his mother's side. David
was kind enough to ask me to help
him get hitched. And if ya can't
tell by now, I'm from West Texas.

(To David)

That's where me and your Mom grew
up until Jenny married this yahoo --

(Points to Pop)

-- who drug her all the way to the
great state of Alaska.

(MORE)

UNCLE BOONE (CONT'D)

And boy, am I glad he did. I don't know if I'd a been able to see just how beautiful God's earth can be.

(Pause)

Now, y'all ready to get married?

David and Sarah nod.

UNCLE BOONE (CONT'D)

Well that's not very --

DAVID

We're ready.

UNCLE BOONE

All right then. Let's get you married.

Uncle Boone continues the ceremony. As it proceeds, Nathan can't hold his emotions back. Neither can Anna. Nor Seth. Nor Mom. A release.

UNCLE BOONE (CONT'D)

You may kiss your bride.

David lifts the veil. They kiss and the audience CLAPS.

UNCLE BOONE (CONT'D)

Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you Mr. and Mrs. Wagner.

With no fear or doubt, the newlyweds walk through the MARINE WEDDING LINE, a sturdy tunnel of man and sword.

INT. AUDITORIUM - LATER

Photography equipment overtakes the communion table. Jack and Nathan sit in the middle pew, watching:

SNAP! A PHOTOGRAPHER takes a PICTURE of David and Sarah, happily married.

SNAP! David, Sarah, and the wedding party.

SNAP! David and Sarah with their parents.

Sarah rubs in some of David's makeup.

SARAH

What's next?

PHOTOGRAPHER

The whole family.

DAVID
(Calling out)
Come on, everybody. If you're a
Wagner or a Stokes, get up here.

Nathan walks to the front, alone.

PHOTOGRAPHER
(To Pop)
Move to your left.

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D)
(To Nathan)
Fill in, right there.

He points to the empty spot next to Pop.

SARAH
Nathan, where's Jack?

Nathan points to Jack, still sitting in the pew.

DAVID
(Calls out)
Jack! Come on!

Without fanfare, Jack joins Nathan, and they move in next to Pop. SNAP! Everyone together, for better or worse.

EXT. RECEPTION HALL - NIGHT

Mom and Pop's rental car parks in the lot.

INT. RENTAL CAR - SAME

Pop grips the steering wheel with conviction.

MOM
Are you coming in?

He answers with a look. Mom exhales.

POP
I always tried to teach them right
from wrong, and none of them have
listened. Not one.

Mom unbuckles her seatbelt.

MOM
Well. I'm going inside.

She gets out of the car, and Pop drives away.

INT. RECEPTION HALL - NIGHT

Mom enters, her shawl sagging down to her waist. The bar -- directly to her right -- is the first thing she sees, causing her to contemplate how much farther she'll venture.

TINK! TINK! TINK! At the wedding party table, Seth taps a fork on his glass.

SETH

If everybody could quiet down, I'd like to make a toast.

David and Sarah, a few seats down, put their forks down and clasp their champagne glasses in preparation.

SETH (CONT'D)

I could stand up here and recount plenty of stories about me and David gettin' into some shenanigan or another when we were younger. But I don't want to talk about David. I want to talk about Sarah.

(To Sarah)

I gotta tell you, you deserve so much better than him.

The crowd LAUGHS awkwardly -- Liz the loudest. David is not happy with this speech so far. Sarah nudges him playfully with her elbow.

SETH (CONT'D)

But I'm glad you love my brother enough to know when to put up with him. And when to put him in his place.

(Looks at Liz)

It's a beautiful thing when you choose to love someone unconditionally.

(Holds up his glass)

To Sarah.

David holds his glass high, but instead of drinking, he puts his forehead on Sarah's. Eskimo kisses. The DJ PLAYS.

Across the room, Nathan finishes his drink. The music too loud, he mimes drinking to Tony, Anna, and Jack. Do they want another? Tony nods. Anna and Jack decline. Nathan heads to the bar.

NATHAN
 (To bartender)
 A Miller Lite and a Bud Light,
 please.

He notices Mom -- still at the entrance, lost in thought.

MOM
 He left without me.

When Nathan realizes she's talking to him --

NATHAN
 I think we can find you a ride
 home.

Morgan comes out of the nearby bathroom. Mom pulls her shawl
 up over her shoulders.

MOM
 We'll see.

She passes him into the reception. The BARTENDER hands Nathan
 the beers.

MORGAN
 Pop says beer is bad.

NATHAN
 It doesn't have to be.
 (Pause)
 Are you still mad at me?

MORGAN
 Are you still a liar?

NATHAN
 No.

MORGAN
 Good.

NATHAN
 Does that make you want to dance
 with me?

INT. RECEPTION HALL - LATER

Anna, a little high on Xanax and beer, dances with Nathan to
 a MOTOWN JAM. Morgan sways, bobs her head, and plays with her
 dress alongside them.

Nathan winks at Jack on the sidelines. Jack winks back and meets him on the floor. They dance. It's not sexy or provocative, but silly and fun -- as if choreographed by Soul Train.

Morgan pulls on Nathan's sleeve. Jack and Nathan stop dancing. She motions him for him to bend down.

MORGAN

(In his ear)

Why are you dancing with your friend?

NATHAN

Because he's my boyfriend.

MORGAN

What?

NATHAN

We're dating. Like Liz and Seth.

Morgan looks from Nathan to Jack. Thinks. Holds out her hands. One to Jack. One to Nathan.

MORGAN

Can you swing me?

Jack and Nathan take her hands and swing. Jealous, George rushes onto the dance floor, waiting for his turn.

SNAP! A Photographer takes a picture.

Anna smiles at Nathan from across the wooden floor.

The song ends. Jack and Nathan put down George, as the DJ changes to a slow song. The kids wander off, leaving Jack and Nathan alone on the dance floor. Other COUPLES come up to dance, including Anna and Tony and Sarah and David.

Seth, Liz, and Isaac watch from chairs on their table.

SETH

I'm not promising you more than rocking in place, but would ya, uh, like to dance with me?

LIZ

Isaac, watch my purse.

Isaac nods. Seth holds out his scarred hand and Liz takes it.

Behind them, Morgan carries spoils from the dessert table to the back of the room. She squeezes into Mom's lap.

MOM
 You're getting too big to sit in my
 lap. Make sure you eat over the
 table.

Morgan takes a bite of a chocolate chip cookie and chews slowly, thinking. She swallows.

MORGAN
 Gran?

MOM
 Uh-huh.

MORGAN
 Where did Pop go?

MOM
 He went back to the hotel.

MORGAN
 Why?

Mom watches her children dance with their lovers.

MOM
 He doesn't like to dance.

EXT. RECEPTION HALL - NIGHT

The friends and family are gathered in two lines on their side of the door. Morgan, Nathan, and Isaac join at the end.

LIZ
 (Eyeing Morgan)
 How did you decorate it?

MORGAN
 We drew squashed lady bugs on the
 windows of Uncle David's truck!

LIZ
 Squashed lady bugs?

MORGAN
 And some with long noses.

Seth pulls up in the truck, and sure enough there are male and female genitalia drawn on the windows that, in a child's eye, could be interpreted as squashed lady bugs -- some with long noses. Liz laughs.

David and Sarah approach the beginning of the lines. Violet, resting in Anna's arms, is the first to throw her handful of forget-me-nots. The crowd follows suit, and David and Sarah run through to the truck.

As they drive away, George picks flowers off the ground and chases after them -- one last throw. Their headlights shine on Pop. He's across the parking lot watching from a distance.

EXT. WALMART - DAY

CLOSE ON Jack's cellphone as he takes a picture of the ROMANTIC ALASKAN SKYLINE: Tall pine trees, grand, snow-capped mountains, and a rich, blue sky. SNAP!

Nathan looks at the skyline without the lens.

JACK

And it's just the Walmart parking lot.

They enter the store.

INT. WALMART - SAME

A string of novelty moose poop bags hang from a display.

NATHAN

Look. Golden moose poop. Wanna make a crown?

JACK

Definitely not.

(Pause)

Isn't that your parents?

NATHAN

(Looks)

No. It's not.

JACK

I'm pretty sure it is.

Across the store, Mom peruses an aisle, while Pop walks behind her dutifully.

NATHAN

That isn't them.

He walks the other way.

INT. WALMART - LATER

At the tourist aisle: Jack holds an Alaska Grown t-shirt.

JACK
One for you?

NATHAN
David sent me one two Christmases ago. I'm lookin' for a keychain.
(Picks one up)
How about this one? It's got diamonds on it.

He holds it up for Jack to see, but Jack is looking down at the end of the aisle. Mom and Pop stare back at them from behind a half-empty shopping cart.

Mom looks to Pop, begging for him to speak. Instead, he walks away. Without even thinking, Nathan goes after Pop.

Mom and Jack are left alone. Mom shifts in her eye-lash yarn-wrapped sandals. Jack opens his mouth to speak.

INT. MAIN AISLE - SAME

Nathan searches for Pop. Down this aisle, down that one. Nothing. And then, up ahead:

Pop ducks into an aisle near the Pharmacy. Nathan speeds up, ready for the confrontation. He turns down the aisle.

REVEAL Pop faking interest in row upon row of feminine hygiene products.

Nathan falters. Pop is as scared as he is.

NATHAN
I'm -- I --

Nathan approaches his father -- close and face to face.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
I will never stop trying to share my life with you.

Nathan hugs his father.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
(Whispers in his ear)
I love you.

They hold the embrace, acknowledging each other as men.

INT. TOURIST CRAP AISLE - SAME

Nathan approaches, and Mom is alone, her back to him.

Suddenly, Jack comes back from the other side of the aisle with another Alaska Grown t-shirt.

JACK
Here it is.

MOM
Thank you.

Jack sees Nathan.

JACK
(You O.K.?)
Hey.

NATHAN
(Yeah, you?)
Hey.

Jack nods.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
Did you get everything?

JACK
Yessir.

NATHAN
Well, we've got to take Seth and
Liz to the airport, and catch our
plane, so --

Nathan hugs her quickly, not giving her a choice. Mom hugs back, squeezing the breath out of him.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
I love you.

She says something inaudible. It's thick and muffled in Nathan's shoulder.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
Goodbye.

Nathan walks, not looking back. He keeps walking past the registers, theft detectors, the sliding glass doors, and --

EXT. WALMART - SAME

-- into the PARKING LOT. The mountains tower above him.

NATHAN

Thank you, you son of a bitch.

And God says nothing.

EXT. WALMART - LATER

Jack stops a short distance behind Nathan, letting the poor guy have his moment.

Nathan turns around. With no fear or doubt, he kisses Jack, and it's pretty passionate for the Walmart parking lot. Nathan pulls back, eyes full of sincerity.

NATHAN

Dear Hair, the hot oil treatments
aren't the same without you.

Nathan laughs like it's the funniest thing he's ever said.

JACK

I'm glad you think you're funny.
You ready to go home?

NATHAN

Yeah.

Jack gives him another peck, and they cross the parking lot toward home. An abandoned, tattered BLACK SKI MASK rests on the pavement behind them.