

Julie Calcanerous:
The World's Most Extraordinary
and Exemplary Baby-Sitter

by

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1

A TIGHT, MAJESTIC SHOT OF THE MOON. THE CAMERA SLOWLY ORBITS AROUND ITS SURFACE REVEALING A DARK, DEEP, CRATER.

TWELVE-YEAR-OLD (V.O.)

The Moon's diameter is 2,140 miles. Although this is only a quarter of Earth's diameter, it is, nonetheless, a pretty big rock.

A RED LIGHT BLINKS FROM THE DARK CRATER, AS IF FROM A CONTROL TOWER.

TWELVE-YEAR-OLD (V.O.)

The surface of the moon is scarred by millions of impact craters, caused by asteroids, comets, and meteorites. Only 2% of them have ever been explored by man.

THE CAMERA BEGINS SLOWLY PANNING AWAY FROM THE CRATER.

TWELVE-YEAR-OLD (V.O.)

Julie Calcankorous once told me that she built a control tower in a medium sized crater named Aristarchus. She uses it to signal herself of the most exciting and dire of baby-sitting jobs. I told her that sounded ridiculous. She told me it only sounded ridiculous because I ate ridiculous pills for breakfast.

THE SHOT CONTINUES TO PAN AWAY FROM THE MOON. THE RED LIGHT STILL BLINKING IN THE CRATER.

TWELVE-YEAR-OLD (V.O.)

Julie Calcankorous says that impossible and amazing things happen every day.

**A RED BEAM OF LIGHT SHOOTS OUT FROM THE CRATER AND ZOOM!
WE'RE RACING TOWARD PLANET EARTH.**

WE GET CLOSER TO EARTH, AND THEN CLOSER TO THE U.S. AND CLOSER UNTIL...

2

EXT. RESIDENTIAL BLOCK - DAY

2

A beat-up 71' Volkswagon Bug drives down a calm road.

3 INT. VOLKSWAGON BUG - CONTINUOUS

3

From the back seat we see the driver, A YOUNG WOMAN, multiple earrings, funky pig tails, black hair.

The interior is decorated with retro/tacky/cool-looking trinkets, (action figures on the dash, leopard skin seats, trinkets hanging from rear view mirror).

The car comes to an abrupt stop. A bright, shimmering red beam of light is focused directly on a window of a Middle School.

The woman grabs her ratty backpack from the back seat, takes out a notebook.

She opens the notebook, which is completely full of dense hand writing and doodles in no particular direction or order. She stops on a page close to the end, where a two-inch corner is left blank. There is an arrow pointing to the blank corner that reads: **Only use in the most extraordinary and dire of moments.**

She takes out a pen and in the corner writes: "Julie Calcanerous: 571-276-0843."

The Woman rips off the corner and crumples it into a tiny ball. She then takes a sipping straw out of her pocket, puts the crumpled-up ball in the straw and takes aim at the shimmering window.

A TIGHT SHOT OF HER NOSE, INHALING.

FOOF! The crumpled paper flies through the air, going toward the shimmering window...

4 INT. SCHOOL - DAY

4

JACOB, an awkward yet pleasant-looking seventh-grader sits very bored in class.

Out of nowhere he gets hit in the head with a crumpled-up paper ball.

FREEZE FRAME ON PAPER BALL HITTING JACOB.

LEGEND: ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA. WILLIAMSBURG MIDDLESCHOOL.
OCTOBER 5, 1996. 9:17 A.M. SECOND PERIOD.

OUT OF FREEZE FRAME.

He looks around to see who did it. No one is even awake.

MR. PLEATS
Excuse me...what did I say about
talking?

Jacob turns around, he puts the paper ball in his pocket.

JACOB
(a bit confused)
You said there was no talking. I
wasn't talking.

Mr. Pleats stares long and hard.

MR. PLEATS
Is that right?

Continues to stare until...

MR. PLEATS
1912...Who was president...who
wanted to beeeee president?
Anyone?

5 INT. HALL - LATER

5

Jacob leaves class, he is immediately met by TIM, his goofy
best friend.

TIM
How was Pleats today?

JACOB
Crazy, he skipped ahead ten
chapters without telling anyone.

TIM
Love that guy. What a dynamo.
Hey, did you ask out Kelly yet?

JACOB
No, I'm waiting 'til lunch.

TIM
You said that yesterday! Ask her
out now!

JACOB
Why?

TIM
The dance is this weekend. It's
the only dating opportunity you're
gonna have for six months.
(MORE)

TIM (cont'd)
Fall dance and spring dance, that's
it for us.

JACOB
How do I know she likes me again?

TIM
Three independent sources all told
me she thinks you're cute. Two of
them girls.

JACOB
Really?

TIM
I'm sure she's by the caf, let's
just go...

As Tim and Jacob turn a corner they see KELLY, pretty and
slightly out of Jacob's league, making out with GRAHAM, a
tall gangly oaf.

JACOB
Three independent sources huh?

The two stop kissing. Kelly waves at Jacob.

KELLY
Jacob! Hey.

JACOB
Hey.

Kelly and Graham walk hand-in-hand over to Tim and Jacob.

KELLY
Are you guys goin' to the dance
this weekend?

TIM
Oh yeah.

JACOB
Eh...probably not.

GRAHAM
Why not? That's so stupid.

Graham punches Jacob in the arm.

JACOB
Um...I just don't feel like going.

GRAHAM

Yeah right. You don't have a date.

Graham punches him again.

JACOB

What are you doing?

GRAHAM

I'm just joshin' around, that's what guys do, they josh around. God.

KELLY

You should totally come, even if you don't have a date. It'll be fun.

GRAHAM

Seriously!

JACOB

(to Tim in a whisper)
Who is he yelling?

KELLY

I gotta go, talk to you later.

Kelly walks down the hall. Graham, in an attempt to walk 'cool,' stumbles over his own feet, but maintains his composure before actually falling. He kicks a locker.

TIM

There's plenty of time buddy.

6 EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - AFTERNOON

6

Walking home from school.

TIM

What about Amanda? She'd go with you.

JACOB

She looks like a horse.

TIM

A very kissable horse though.

Jacob stares at Tim.

TIM

What?

JACOB
Why should I care if she's
kissable?

TIM
No reason.

JACOB
(lying)
I kissed like ten girls at camp
last summer. I told you that.

TIM
I know. It's cool.

Jacob and Tim arrives at Tim's home.

TIM
Hey, call me later tonight if you
want to play Sega. I just got
Sonic and Knuckles.

JACOB
I don't think so, I got a ton of
math homework.

TIM
Dude, you can be Sonic or Knuckles!
It's amazing.

JACOB
I know...maybe I'll finish it
early.

TIM
Whatever. Just call me if you're
bored.

JACOB
Alright.

Tim heads in to his house as Jacob continues to walk home.

7

INT. JACOB'S HOUSE - DAY

7

Jacob enters the house. Jacob's mother, LUCILLE, walks around like a madwoman doing ten things at once. She is dressed for an elegant evening. Jacob's father, FRANK, sits in the living room smoking a pipe, reading the newspaper. He has a nice suit on as well.

LUCILLE

Jacob, great, you're home. How was your day? There's microwavable Hot Pockets in the fridge if you or Van get hungry.

JACOB

Where are you going?

LUCILLE

Didn't I tell you? Your father and I are going to a dinner party at the Felts. I thought I told you about this.

JACOB

I don't think you...

LUCILLE

Just warm it up in the microwave. I wish I could hear about your day but your father and I are running late and someone can't seem to stop reading the newspaper or help my find my car keys!

FRANK

(to himself)

It's not my job to find your car keys. I already have a job. I don't need two.

LUCILLE

Why don't you go downstairs and get your brother while I call the baby-sitter?

JACOB

Are you serious?! I don't need a baby-sitter.

LUCILLE

Jacob, you're just not old enough yet, I'm putting my foot down...

FRANK

(to himself)

Yes, always putting that foot down. Foot down on me, foot down on...on...

LUCILLE

Please be a dear and get your
brother. If you want to talk about
it later we can.

Jacob sighs and throws his backpack on the kitchen counter.
The little balled-up piece of paper that hit Jacob in the
head falls out, and then, on it's own, slowly begins rolling
toward the kitchen phone.

Once the ball reaches the kitchen phone, it miraculously
unfolds itself right next to the phone.

Lucille picks up the phone and notices the unfolded piece of
paper.

LUCILLE

(to herself)

Julie Cal-can-er...Frank, have we
ever used a Julie Calcerous before?

FRANK

(muttering)

Julie...Julie
Alber...Albertross...or was it
Jamima?

LUCILLE

Frank, would you take that damn
pipe out of your mouth, I can't
understand a word you're saying.

FRANK

(muttering)

Take the pipe out...you'd like that
wouldn't you...

Lucille sighs and dials.

8

INT. BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

8

Jacob goes downstairs to find VAN, his five-year-old brother,
burying his head in the cushions of the couch like an
ostrich.

JACOB

Come on Buddy, we have a baby-
sitter coming.

Van lifts his head from couch oblivion.

VAN

I know!

JACOB

You do?

VAN

Yes! No. (Thinking) I didn't know. I just wanted to pretend like I did.

They stare at each other.

JACOB

Okay.

Van sticks his head in the couch cushions.

9

INT. FRONT DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

9

Frank stands by the front door, as Lucille yells from upstairs.

Van and Jacob stand at attention.

LUCILLE (O.C.)

Now I want you boys to be on your best behavior. No rough-housing, no giving Julie a hard time.

JACOB

Julie?

Van shrugs, then starts licking the wall. Jacob slaps him.

VAN

Ow! No punching Van.

JACOB

Don't lick the wall, that's disgusting.

LUCILLE (O.C.)

Jacob, please don't punch your brother. It's actions like this that make us want to hire baby-sitters.

Jacob glares.

FRANK

(to himself)

Actions like this. A test, a test is what he needs...

LUCILLE

Frank, would you stop muttering and
help me find the keys?

Frank sighs and trudges upstairs.

FRANK

(muttering)

I don't mutter...you mutter...

Footsteps are heard approaching the front door.

The door bell rings.

LUCILLE (O.C.)

Could you please get that? We're
busy.

Van approaches the front door when...

**THE DOOR SWINGS OPEN. LOUD CLASSICAL MUSIC BLASTS OUT OF
NOWHERE.**

**A pool of red and purple light floods the room, silhouetting
a beautiful/hip female figure.**

Van and Jacob stand awe-struck.

LUCILLE (O.C.)

Is that Julie?

The lights and music immediately disappear revealing, JULIE
CALCANKEROUS, MID 20's. Julie wears combat boots, stylish
ripped jeans, a trashy leather jacket, and a t-shirt that
says "I'll get you Gadget!"

Van and Jacob still remain motionless as Frank and Lucille
trot down the stairs.

LUCILLE

Julie, thank you so much for coming
on such short notice. We hope to
be back at 11, no later than 11:30.
Put Van to bed around 8:30 and
Jacob can stay up 'til 9:30.
There's tons of food in the fridge,
feel free to take what you want.
Do you have any questions?

JULIE

Tip-top Mrs. Klein.

LUCILLE

Well if you have any problems,
don't hesitate to call, our contact
sheet is on the kitchen counter by
the phone. Boys, kisses.

Van and Jacob still don't move as their mom gives them two
big kisses on the cheek. Frank and Lucille leave.

Julie stands at the front door in a Peter Pan pose, staring
at the frozen boys.

JULIE

What's the matter, never seen a
giant wash of light underscored by
Beethoven?

JACOB

What was that?

JULIE

Boys. Incredible and impossible
things happen every day. If you're
going to survive under my care
tonight, you'd better get pretty
used to that idea.

Julie walks past the boys and straight to the fridge.

JACOB

Who are you?

JULIE

Julie. Calcankeros.

JACOB

Cal...what?

JULIE

I know, I know weird name. Well
here it is spelled phonetically.

Julie hands him her business card, with "Calcankeros"
spelled phonetically. "CAL - KANK - ER - US"

JULIE

And this is actually a shortened
version. By birth, my name is
Julie Elizabeth
CalamineCankersoreEsterhouseLiebern
otAsaurus. How is that possible?

(MORE)

JULIE (cont'd)
 Well, My Grandfather was named
 CalamineEsterhouse while my
 Grandmother was named
 CankersoreLiebernot. Now my
 Grandmother...

Julie takes out a Yoo-Hoo with a picture of her on the bottle
 and shuts the fridge.

JULIE
 Was very strong willed, and refused
 to take may father's name. My
 father was very traditional, and
 demanded she take it. So they came
 up with a compromise...

JACOB
 Where did you get that Yoo-Hoo? We
 don't have that in our house.

JULIE
 ...to mush the names together and
 put "Asaurus" at the end because
 then it would sound like a
 dinosaur. And they both agreed
 that was funny. Now, you ask, how
 could a woman like myself turn my
 back on such an amazing name?

JACOB
 I asked you about the Yoo-Hoo?

JULIE
 Well, the field of professional
 slash amazing baby-sitters is hard.
 And if I was really going to make
 it, I had to have a name that fit
 on a business card. Hence, Julie
 Calcankorous.

JACOB
 I don't believe you.

JULIE
 It's true. It was featured in the
 PBS Frontline special
 "Extraordinary American Names."

Julie turns on the TV.

ON TV: A documentary is shown about amazing names. Various
 Old Pictures are shown as a Ken Burns-like narrator speaks.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Which is how the
SmellyMcStinkyPantises got their
name. And now we turn to another
unusual name,
"CalamineCankersoreEsterhouseLieber
notAsaurus," a story of a husband
and wife who refused to change
their names, so they came up with a
new one.

Julie turns the TV off. Jacob is dumbfounded.

JULIE

Why don't people watch PBS anymore?

JACOB

How did you do that?

JULIE

What's really gonna bother you is
not the How...but the Why?

Jacob looks very confused.

JACOB

The Why?

JULIE

I'm kidding, I was just trying to
sound deep. Woo.

Julie sits up on the kitchen table.

JULIE

So I only got a couple of rules
guys. 1. You can question my
rules...but never in an emergency.
2. Only half an hour of TV a night.
3. Van, go to sleep when your
parents said...Jacob, get good at
pretending to be asleep when your
parents come home at night because
9:30 is a ridiculous bed time for a
twelve-year-old. 4. Be. Open.
Minded. Under my watchful eye we
may experience strange, gross,
disgusting, wonderful, thrilling
things. All I ask is that you not
question every little thing that
happens tonight, otherwise...it's
going to get very repetitive. Any
questions?

Jacob raises his hand.

JULIE

Jacob.

JACOB

How did you do that thing with the TV?

JULIE

Dude! That's rule number 4. Come on.

Julie walks out of the kitchen and to the downstairs living room.

Jacob and Van follow.

10

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

10

Julie walks over to the farthest wall and does a handstand.

JULIE

So...dinner? What do you guys think?

JACOB

I don't...

VAN

Macaroni and cheese.

JULIE

Mmmm...I could see that? Little Mac, little cheese. Jacob?

JACOB

I guess.

JULIE

What about a veggie?

VAN

I hate veggies!

JULIE

Hmmm...nope, gotta have at least one. Broccoli?

VAN

No!

JULIE
Carrots?

VAN
No!

JULIE
Lettuce?

VAN
No!

JULIE
Ice cream flavored lettuce?

VAN
N---What's that?

Julie flips to her feet so that she's standing right side up.

JULIE
You've never had ice cream lettuce?

Van shakes his head.

JULIE
Oh--boy. We'll we're just gonna
have to go to the store.

VAN
Cool, ice cream.

JULIE
Not ice cream...ice cream flavored
lettuce. Lettuce that looks,
feels, and has all the nutritional
values of lettuce...but tastes
exactly like ice cream.

VAN
(wide eyed)
Wow.

JACOB
Don't be an idiot, there's no such
thing as lettuce ice cream.

JULIE
Ooooh...well there's no such thing
as you.

JACOB
Good one.

JULIE
Seriously, look at this...

Julie picks up a nearby phone book and flips rapidly at superhuman speed to a section in the middle.

JULIE
See...you're not even in the phone book.

JACOB
I'm twelve. How could I be in the phone book?

Beat.

JULIE
Touche, Jacob. Touche.

Beat.

JULIE
I have an ad, wanna see it?

Julie flips ridiculously quickly to another section where a full-color ad WITH BLINKING LIGHTS appears with a picture of Julie.

It reads: **Julie Calcanerous: the World's Most Extraordinary and Exemplary Baby-sitter.**

Jacob is taken aback by how such an ad could be possible.

Jacob reads the smaller print at the corner of the page.

It reads: **Failure to call Julie within twenty seconds will cause this page to spontaneously combust.**

JACOB
What?

THE BOOK CATCHES ON FIRE!

Julie closes the book and stomps on it like a madwoman.

JULIE
I never should've order the fire package.

Jacob is about to say something, Julie stops him.

JULIE
I know. How? How? HOW? Just
hold onto that thought for a sec,
okay?

Julie dramatically turns to the front door.

JULIE
To the Juliemobile!

CUT TO:

11 INT. VOLKSWAGON BUG - MOMENTS LATER

11

JULIE
So how do you like the car?

JACOB
I'm surprised it works.

JULIE
(British mockery)
Mwa-mwa-mwa---brrrr...Van?

VAN
Um...I like it.

JULIE
Yeah?

VAN
Yeah!

JULIE
Gotta say, I'm likin' the Van vibe
right now.

JACOB
That's because he's five. You say
anything in an excited tone and he
agrees.

VAN
No I don't!

JACOB
Hey, Van! PURPLE ELEPHANT ROLLER
COASTER TRON! YEAH!!!

VAN
YEAH!!!

JACOB

See.

Julie squints.

12 EXT. HUGE GROCERY STORE - EVENING

12

Julie's VW BUG pulls into the only open spot in the parking lot.

JULIE

Perfect Spot! Julie strikes again!
Everyone out.

Everyone gets out.

13 INT. HUGE GROCERY STORE - CONTINUOUS

13

Julie pushes Van in a grocery cart.

JULIE

So let me guess, you're bitter
because you think you should be
allowed to watch over Van while
your parents are gone.

JACOB

I'm twelve years old. I'm more
responsible than they are most of
the time.

JULIE

Yeah, but they are your parents
and...it's not the end of the
world. Look, in a few months you
will have proven yourself a worthy
baby-sitter and you'll be done with
the likes of me forever. Right?

Jacob nods his head.

JULIE

So try and make the best of it for
now. I promise not to be a pain in
the arse and breath down your neck
if you promise to...just chill out
a little. Okay?

Jacob nods.

JULIE

Hey, I could be crazy and old and make you watch...black and white movies. I mean, how much would that suck?

VAN

BOOOO!

JULIE

My thoughts exactly.

They turn the corner and begin heading down the produce section.

JULIE

Lettuce section!

VAN

Lettuce section!

Julie starts digging through the lettuce.

JULIE

They always hide it in the way back.

VAN

Get it Julie!

JACOB

Buddy, I don't want you to be disappointed when it's just lettuce. I think she's just pretending.

VAN

Why?

JACOB

I don't know, I think...

JULIE

Got it!

Julie pulls out a package of lettuce that reads: **CHOCOLATE FLAVORED LETTUCE---LESS CARBS!**

Julie, Van, and Jacob wait in the express line as an old man waits for TOMMY, 25, the eccentric yet cute checkout guy, to scan his two items.

Tommy holds a jar of mayonnaise in his hands.

TOMMY

One jar O' Mayonnaise. Light. 18
grams of fat per serving. 25
percent of your recommended diet.
35 carbs per serving...Would you
like me to continue to read the
nutritional information?

OLD MAN

No, just scan it through.

TOMMY

Are you sure? Perhaps you'd like
me to read the ingredients.

OLD MAN

No, just scan it through, thank
you.

Tommy spins the scanner around his finger a number of times,
and scans the mayo. He picks up a can of soup.

TOMMY

Mmmmm...Clam Chowder. Love Clam
Chowder. You know why?

The old man reaches for his wallet, ignoring Tommy.

TOMMY

It's soooooo CHEAP!

Tommy scans the can of soup at least thirty times before the
Old man can get his wallet out.

OLD MAN

How much do I owe you?

Tommy turns the monitor around so that he can see the total.

It reads: \$154.32

OLD MAN

What?!?

TOMMY

What? That's how much it costs,
right?

Tommy looks at the monitor and does a very fake triple take.

TOMMY

I'm sorry I must have scanned it in
too many times, let me try again.

Julie, Van, and even Jacob chuckle quietly at Tommy's
shenanigans.

Tommy clears the price, quickly scans the two items in.

TOMMY

That will be four dollars and
twooooo cents.

The man pays and quickly leaves.

TOMMY

Gentleman. Me' Lady. How can I
help you?

JULIE

We were wondering if you could give
us your detailed analysis on the
current controversy over the World
Bank? Is it a necessity for
economic growth or a plague of the
third world?

Tommy is taken aback by someone actually trying the mess with
him.

JULIE

No, wait. I think if you could
just scan our groceries that would
be great.

TOMMY

I can do that.

JULIE

And only once on the mac and cheese
please.

Tommy scans in the lettuce, the mac 'n cheese, but holds off
when he gets to the mustard.

TOMMY

Here's the deal with the mustard.
Technically, I'm not allowed to
scan this for you unless you...give
me your phone number.

JULIE

Not a chance.

TOMMY
Name.

JULIE
Nope.

TOMMY
Promise to wave if you see me
walking down the sidewalk.

JULIE
Maybe, but not likely.

TOMMY
Well...what are you going to do? I
guess I'll just scan your mustar...

Tommy grabs Julie's hand and scans it. All of Julie's stats
appear on the screen.

TOMMY
Woah-hoe! Julie Calcankeros,
height: 5'6, eyes: green,
weight:...

JULIE
Don't you dare? Take that
information off your computer right
now or I will be forced to inflict
the four fingered poke of pain.

Tommy glares.

TOMMY
You don't know the four fingered
poke of pain...

Julie holds up her hand in a bizarre, poke ready position.

TOMMY
Alright, I'll delete it if...I can
call you later.

Julie puts her hand down.

JULIE
One call, three months from
now...for one minute.

Beat.

TOMMY
Deal.

Tommy deletes the information on the screen, scans the mustard and puts it in a bag for them.

TOMMY
Gentlemen, Juuuulie. Have a
wonderful day.

15 INT. VOLKSWAGON BUG - LATER

15

Julie, Jacob, and Van drive back home.

JACOB
Are you gonna call him?

JULIE
Nope.

VAN
OOOoooo.

JULIE
There is no 'oooing' in the
Juliemobile, it upsets the yellow
troll.

Julie strokes the hair of a yellow troll doll, who's glued to the front dash.

JACOB
God, you're weird.

16 INT. JACOB'S HOUSE - LATER

16

Jacob, Van, and Julie sit around the table eating a bowl of plain lettuce. Van is almost done with his bowl.

JULIE
What do you think?

Jacob suspiciously takes a bit.

JACOB
It...tastes like chocolate ice
cream. I don't know how you did it
but it...tastes exactly like
chocolate ice cream.

JULIE
Then stop thinkin' so hard and eat.

Van finishes his bowl.

VAN
More please!

Julie serves Van another serving.

17 INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

17

Jacob is hard at work, studying math problems. Julie comes down from upstairs.

JULIE
Two bedtime stories and one funny
song with his stuffed donkey and
that little guy is down for the
count! God, I'm good.

Jacob looks at Julie skeptically, then continues writing.

JULIE
So whatchya doin'? History?
Science? English?

Jacob continues working.

JULIE
Health?

Jacob shows his work, with numbers, addition signs, fractions, etc.

JACOB
I'm gonna give you one more guess.

JULIE
Math...(scared)MATH! EGGH!

Julie gets up shakes out the heebie-geebies.

JACOB
What are you doing?

JULIE
Sorry, me and math...we don't get
along.

JACOB
Yeah, well neither do we. But
unfortunately...I don't have a
choice.

Jacob goes back to studying. Julie looks at the problems, takes a deep breath.

JULIE

Well, look. It's not the end of the world if you're not good at math. Just do the best you can, get a tutor if necessary, and realize it's not the "end all, end all." You know? Your struggles with math are but a moment in time.

Jacob nods, this is somewhat comforting.

JULIE

I mean. What do you even want to do when you grow up anyway?

JACOB

I don't know.

JULIE

Not at all?

JACOB

No.

JULIE

Not even like a whim? Like...maybe a doctor, astronaut, ambassador to Ecuador?

JACOB

I wanted to be a professional basketball player but when I got to middle school I realized that...I'm kind of short.

JULIE

No...noooo, come on, you're not short, those guys are just huge! But you wouldn't want to be that tall anyway, they have trouble with doorways and kitchen utensils. Tell you what, you and I, we're gonna figure this out.

JACOB

We don't have to...

JULIE

Shhhhh...

Julie turns to the top of the stairs where Van is standing.

VAN

Julie...

Jacob and Julie look to the top of the stairs where Van, in full-length space pajamas, holds a stuffed donkey, frightened.

VAN

There's a monster under my bed.

JACOB

I'm pretty sure there's not a...

JULIE

How do you know?

VAN

It was making gurgling sounds

JULIE

Like a "gaorelleissss"

VAN

Yeah.

JACOB

Julie, stop it. There's no monster...

VAN

And it had purple tentacles...

JULIE

(dead serious)

Like an Octopus.

Van nods. Julie stands up.

JULIE

Every friggin' house! He always finds me. Come on guys!

Julie marches out the door, followed by Van and a reluctant Jacob.

18

EXT. JACOB'S DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

18

Julies legs stick out from under her VW Bug.

JACOB

Julie, you're just scaring him.
Stop it.

19 EXT. UNDERNEATH THE VW BUG - CONTINUOUS 19

Attached to the bottom of the car is a long object wrapped in newspaper. Julie detaches the object.

20 EXT. JACOB'S DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS 20

Julie comes out from under the car with the long bulky object.

JULIE

Guys, what you're about to see can not be revealed to anyone. This is a Class Five, Light-Weight Photon Blaster. Only the top five generals in the US special forces know that this even exists.

JACOB

Then how did you get it?

JULIE

I baby-sit one of the generals' two-year-old from time to time.

Julie unwraps the newspaper revealing...

FOUR PIECES OF A PURPLE, FAKE-LOOKING, PLASTIC GUN.

JACOB

This looks like something Nerf would make.

Julie quickly assembles the gun.

JULIE

I know. You'd never expect it. Genius.

Julie stands up and cocks the gun.

JULIE

Let's go.

21 INT. JACOB'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER 21

Jacob, Van, and Julie stand at the entrance of Van's room.

JULIE

(whispering)

Now.

(MORE)

JULIE (cont'd)
No matter what happens, you have to
agree to let me handle this, and
not get in the way, even if it
looks like I'm getting taken in...

JACOB
Why are you whispering?!

Julie puts her hand over his mouth.

JULIE
(whispering)
Now is not the time for this. Van,
do you agree?

Van nods.

JULIE
Clog your nose, it's gonna get
smelly.

Julie creaks open the door ever so slightly. We see...

VAN'S BEDROOM. Calm. A little too calm.

Julie opens the door a little more.

JULIE
GARAARLLLLSSSSS!

JACOB
This is possibly the dumbest thing
I've...

FROM UNDER THE BED, A LOUD, SCARY SOUND FILLS THE ROOM.

JACOB
How did...

JULIE
ARRR! SSSSS! SSSSS! ARRRR!

Nothing.

THEN A HUGE SCREAM!

JACOB
What was that?

JULIE
He's pissed.

JACOB
Why?

JULIE

I told him he put on weight.

THREE LARGE TENTACLES LASH OUT FROM UNDER THE BED.

Julie shoots a tentacle with her photon gun, which emits a ball of blue and white light.

The tentacle retreats. The two other tentacles begin flailing like crazy.

JULIE

This is gonna get messy! Get out!

Julie pushes Van and Jacob out the door. The door slams shut.

Van and Jacob watch in horror as they hear a barrage of battle sounds.

After about fifteen seconds, the sounds stop. Van and Jacob look at one another.

VAN

Think we should open it?

Jacob goes to open the door when...

IT SWINGS OPEN.

Jacob and Van gasp to see: Julie, victorious, covered in slime, soot, and dirt. Her gun is smoking.

JULIE

(out of breath)

I think...I think I got him.

JUST THEN A TENTACLE GRABS JULIE'S ANKLE AND PULLS HER UNDER THE BED.

The door slams shut, and three distinct blaster shots are heard.

The door swings open. Julie stands again.

JULIE

(out of breath)

Okay...he's really gone this time.
You can sleep soundly buddy.

VAN

Thanks Julie!

Jacob looks at the ruins of Van's room.

JACOB
Mom and Dad are gonna be pissed.

JULIE
Why?

Julie looks at the room.

JULIE
Oh, yeah. Don't worry, we got five minutes. That's more than enough time for The McGuillicutty Bros.

JACOB
McGuillicutty?

JULIE
They're my cleanin' men. They're cleanin' maniacs.

Julie checks her watch.

JULIE
Ooh. Better get a move on.

Julie dials her cell phone and waits for a response.

JULIE
McGuillicutty! It's Julie. Look, I need your patented emergency two-minute clean up. Ohh-ohh-ohh.

She hangs up the phone.

JULIE
Alright guys. Get to bed, parents are a-comin'!

22 INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

22

Jacob washes his face while Van brushes his teeth.

VAN
Julie's so cool!

JACOB
To be honest, I'm a little worried what happened to us tonight, buddy. I think she put something in our food.

Beat.

VAN
Um...I just like her.

JACOB
Let's just wait and see what the
random drug tests come up with.

The door bell rings. Julie opens it from off camera.

JULIE
Thank you guys so much, upstairs,
farthest room on your right.

Five burly Irish men with a ton of equipment run past the
bathroom chanting "oh-oh-oh" as they go by.

VAN
Where did they come from?

JACOB
Van, I am done guessing tonight.

23 INT. JACOB'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

23

Jacob and Van wait outside while a horde of cleaning sounds
come from Van's room. The doors swing open and the five
burly Irish run out of the room chanting.

Julie waits by the front door and gives them all kisses on
the cheek as they go by.

JULIE
Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.
Thank you.

Van and Jacob slowly walk into Van's room. Their jaws drop.

THE ROOM IS AS CLEAN AS IT HAS EVER BEEN.

Julie runs up behind them.

JULIE
Come on! Your parents are coming.
Get in bed.

24 INT. FRANK'S CAR - NIGHT

24

Frank drives Lucille home.

LUCILLE

Well I just think he's too young.
One more year, and he'll be old
enough.

FRANK

(muttering)

Sure. Sure. And next year he'll
still be too young...

LUCILLE

Excuse me? What was that, Frank?

FRANK

Hmmm...No. Nothing.

25 INT. VAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

25

Julie kisses Van on the cheek and hands him his stuffed
donkey.

VAN

Night Julie.

JULIE

Night Van.

VAN

Will you come back next time we
need a sitter?

JULIE

I'll do my best.

26 EXT. JACOB'S STREET - NIGHT

26

Frank's car drives down the road as the McGuillicutty's
cleaning truck zooms by.

27 INT. FRANK'S CAR - NIGHT

27

LUCILLE

Well, I think that truck is going
just a little too fast for a
residential neighborhood.

Beat.

LUCILLE

Don't you think, Frank?

FRANK
(muttering)
I don't really care, no.

28 INT. JACOB'S ROOM - NIGHT

28

Jacob hops into bed. Julie shuts off the light.

JULIE
Thanks for being such a trooper
tonight, Jacob.

JACOB
Julie, seriously, what's going on
here? I'm kind of freaking out.

JULIE
Jacob, as you get older, people are
going to tell you that you can't
have an imagination or have fun.
That is all I tried to do tonight.

This does not comfort Jacob.

JULIE
Try not to worry about it too much.
I promise tomorrow will be normal.
Okay?

Jacob nods uncomfortably. And closes his eyes.

29 INT. JACOB'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

29

The front door opens. Frank and Lucille walk in and find...
Julie, sitting on a couch, reading *The Economist*.

JULIE
Oh, you're home.

30 INT. JACOB'S ROOM - NIGHT

30

Jacob tries to sleep as he hears the conversation of Julie
and his mother.

LUCILLE (O.C.)
Did they get to bed alright?

JULIE (O.C.)
They were both out like a light.

LUCILLE (O.C.)
They've been so tired lately. What
with school and all.

JULIE (O.C.)
Of course.

LUCILLE (O.C.)
So can we call on you again?

Jacob's eyes pop wide open.

JULIE (O.C.)
Absolutely. We had a wonderful
time.

Jacob looks very worried as we...

FADE TO BLACK

LEGEND: 4 MONTHS LATER

31

INT. SCHOOL - DAY

31

Jacob sits in Mr. Pleats' class. Still very bored. Outside
the window it is now winter.

Jacob gets hit in the ear with a rolled-up paper ball. He
turns around, expecting to find no one, but instead finds...

GRAHAM, holding a straw and laughing. He lifts his hand to
give someone a high five, but he has no friends.

MR. PLEATS
Mr...Klein.

Jacob turns around.

JACOB
Yes.

Mr. Pleats looks at Jacob.

Jacob looks back at Mr. Pleats.

MR. PLEATS
Can you tell me how the Battle of
Bull Run is similar to my wife
filing for divorce?

Jacob looks around, everyone is too used to the insanity to
care.

JACOB
No...I can't.

Mr. Pleats throws a piece of chalk out the window.

MR. PLEATS
And that is why, Jacob...you will
receive...a B.

Beat.

MR. PLEATS
B-!

Mr. Pleats sits at his desk. No one says anything.

32 INT. HALL - DAY

32

Bell rings. Jacob files out of the classroom. He is
immediately met by Tim.

TIM
What are you doing tonight?

JACOB
Nothin'. Why?

TIM
Check it out.

Tim takes out an unlabeled tape.

JACOB
What's that?

TIM
Three words my friend: The.
English. Patient.

33 INT. LUNCH - DAY

33

Jacob and Tim are in the middle of eating their brown bag
lunches.

JACOB
I'm pretty sure it's like
a...really boring drama.

TIM

Dude, I'm tellin' you. My uncle who works in the movies saw it and sent it to me. I heard there's tons of nakedness. Tons.

JACOB

With who?

TIM

Kristin Scott something...I don't know. But it's like...female Nuditivity Man! Come on!

JACOB

Alright, alright. I'll come over like seven.

Tim slowly puts the unlabeled tape away in his backpack.

TIM

You won't regret it dude. Seriously.

Jacob nods, the two continue to eat.

JACOB

Have you ever heard of chocolate flavored lettuce?

Tim stares at him blankly.

TIM

What?

JACOB

Chocolate flavored lettuce. I think they sell it at Safeway. Tastes like chocolate but has all the nutritional values of lettuce.

TIM

No. That sounds made-up. Where did you hear about that?

JACOB

I...saw it on the news I think.

The two continue to eat in silence.

TIM

Are you okay?

JACOB
Yeah...I was just...never mind.
See ya tonight okay.

Jacob gets up to leave.

TIM
(unsure)
Okay.

34 EXT. SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

34

Everyone heads to their respective buses as school gets out.
Jacob picks up a public phone, inserts a quarter, and dials.

JACOB
Mom, its Jacob.

35 EXT/INT. SCHOOL/JACOB'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

35

LUCILLE
Jacob, I have some terrible news.
Your great Aunt Ester died.

Beat.

JACOB
Have I met her?

LUCILLE
Once I believe, at your cousin
Fred's wedding. You were five, I
think. Frank, how old was Jacob at
Fred's wedding?

Beat.

FRANK (O.C.)
He was at least...no wait, Jacob's
never been to a wedding. A
wedding...?

LUCILLE
At any rate, Your second Aunt Ester
was very kind to me growing up so
your father and I are going to go
up to Connecticut for the funeral
this weekend.

JACOB
Where am I staying?

LUCILLE
What was that Frank?

FRANK (O.C.)
We have to gooooo....

LUCILLE
I know, Frank. Thank you for the helpful update. Jacob, just stay at school, I arranged for Julie to pick you up and watch over you and Van for the weekend.

Jacob's eyes widen.

JACOB
She's...for the whole weekend.

LUCILLE
Yes Jacob, Van just demanded. What Frank?

JACOB
Mom, no. You have to listen to me. She's crazy, she put something in our food. She made us hallucinate.

LUCILLE
(not listening)
Uh huh. Yes of course Frank. Jacob, we're late for our train, we'll call from Connecticut. Love you, pumpkin.

Lucille hangs up the phone.

JACOB
No! No!

Jacob slams the phone into the receiver.

36

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL FRONT HALL - LATER

36

Jacob waits on a bench for Julie to arrive.

JACOB
Julie - freaking - Calcankurous.

Jacob gets up and walks over to a bulletin board. In the middle there is a sign up sheet for the spring musical, *West Side Story*.

KELLY (O.C.)
Are you trying out?

Jacob turns around and sees Kelly, bundled up for the long walk home.

JACOB
Um, maybe...I haven't decided yet.

KELLY
You totally should, *West Side Story* is my favorite musical.

JACOB
I'm sure you'll get a good part.

KELLY
I don't know. They usually don't give leads to sixth graders. Hey let's try out next to each other. That way we can coach each other if we get nervous.

Kelly signs him up next to her.

JACOB
Okay. Cool.

The two stare at each other for a moment.

KELLY
Well, I got to get going. Bye, Jacob.

JACOB
Bye.

Jacob watches her leave, and leans against the bulletin board. He looks at the sign-up sheet again when...

JULIE APPEARS IN FRAME OUT OF NOWHERE.

JULIE
Oooo. Jacob has a girlfriend.

Jacob jumps.

JACOB
Bah. Get away from me. How did you trick my parents into hiring you?

JULIE

Well...they called me out of the blue and asked me to take care of you guys over the weekend, and I accepted. Pretty sneaky huh?

JACOB

Yeah right. Did you shoot them with your impossible ray gun or give them crazy mind-control vegetables?

Beat.

JULIE

Nooooo. They just called me. I'm a damn good baby sitter.

Julie looks at the sign-up sheet for the play.

JULIE

Auditionin' for a play. Cooooool.

JACOB

I don't know. I probably won't do it.

JULIE

You should, what have you got to lose?

JACOB

Dignity, self-esteem...

JULIE

All totally overrated. Believe me. Do it.

JACOB

What do you care?

JULIE

You're one of my kids. I deeply and honestly care about all the children and young adults I sit for. I want you to succeed.

JACOB

In what?

JULIE

Life, love...whatever. But come on, we got to pick up your brother from preschool.

37

EXT. VOLKSWAGON BUG - LATER

37

Julie and Jacob drive down the road.

JULIE

So what's the deal with this girl?
Is she single, do you have any
classes with her?

JACOB

No. I don't want to talk about it.

JULIE

No, what? She's not single.

JACOB

No...I think she's single. I heard
she broke up with her boyfriend.
But...

JULIE

So you gotta try out for this play,
dude. This could be your ticket to
three months of having to spend a
lot of time with her.

JACOB

But I can't act.

JULIE

How do you know? You've never
tried. Plus this is middle school,
no one expects you to be very good.

JACOB

I don't like auditioning okay! I
had a really embarrassing situation
in third grade and I never want to
do it again.

Beat. Julie obviously hit a nerve.

JULIE

What happened?

JACOB

I don't want to talk about it.

JULIE

What happened what happened what
happened.

JACOB

I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT.

Beat. They drive in silence.

JULIE
WHAT HAAAAAAAPPPPEEEENNED?

JACOB
I peed my pants okay? I tried out
for the school play in third grade
and I...yeah.

JULIE
That's it? Man, kids pee their
pants all the time. Big deal. I
wet myself like ten times in
elementary school.

JACOB
Good for you. For me, it was
traumatic.

JULIE
Well, I doubt you'd do it again.

JACOB
I know. I don't think I would
either. It's just...I know I'd get
nervous. I know I'd screw up.

38 EXT. PRESCHOOL PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS 38

The VW bug quickly pulls into an open space right in front of
the preschool.

39 INT. VOLKSWAGON BUG - CONTINUOUS 39

Julie unbuckles her seat belt.

JULIE
We're gonna figure this out, you
and I. How do you feel about
taking the subway?

Jacob looks confused.

JACOB
It's fine I guess.

Julie nods, then gets out of the car.

40 EXT. PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY

40

Julie approaches the gate where Van is immersed in a hullabaloo of preschoolers.

Van notices Julie.

VAN

Julie!

Van runs over toward Julie.

JULIE

Van!

Julie hops the fence.

JULIE

What are you guys playing?

ANNOYING FIVE-YEAR-OLD

Tag! Why do you care?

JULIE

Because you little booger, I am the
TAG CHAMPION!

Julie tags the annoying five-year-old.

JULIE

Tag! You're it.

Everyone starts running, overjoyed that someone Julie's age would play tag with them.

41 INT. VOLKSWAGON BUG - LATER

41

Julie, Van and Jacob riding to Jacob's house.

VAN

Julie, you were so good at tag.

JULIE

You think...I don't know, toward
the middle there I was kind of
lagging...

VAN

You were awesome!

Julie smiles, very proud of herself.

JACOB

Yeah, it was pretty amazing
watching a grown woman out run five-
year-olds.

JULIE

(sarcastic mockery)

Oooh, I'm Jacob. I don't like
having fun, I like standing and
brooding about how I wish I was
older.

JACOB

I don't wish I was older.

JULIE

Aaahh, you sure about that?

Jacob looks out the window in defiance.

42

INT. JACOB'S HOUSE - NIGHT

42

Jacob sitting the next to Van, watching TV.

The phone rings, Jacob answers it.

JACOB

Klein residence.

INT. JACOB'S HOUSE/TIM'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

TIM

Ja-Co. It's Tim.

JACOB

Hey man, what's up?

TIM

Um...heard you signed up for the
play next to Kelly McDonald.

JACOB

Who told you that?

TIM

I've got my sources. I just wanted
to say, good move, man. If you play
your cards right you'll be suckin'
face in no time.

JACOB
Why do you care so much about me
sucking face?

TIM
Look, I didn't want to say
anything, but...

EXT. JACOB'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Julie kneels outside the house with high tech "spy listening" equipment. She adjusts a knob.

TIM (V.O.)
We're already halfway through our
seventh grade year. I don't want
you to be in that weird group of
kids who haven't kissed a girl by
the time they get to highschool.

JACOB (V.O.)
But we're in only seventh grade?

INT. JACOB'S HOUSE/TIM'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

TIM
I'm just lookin' out for you. See
this play as opportunity. You get
me?

JACOB
Yeah. Hey wanna hang out tomorrow?

TIM
Sure. Give me a call. Later

JACOB
Bye.

Jacob hangs up the phone.

EXT. JACOB'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Julie turns off listening equipment and packs it up in a black "covert" case.

She takes the case and puts it in the trunk of her car. A couple of neighbors are standing in front of the house with worried looks on their faces.

JULIE
(to the neighbors)
Oh! You must of thought...no, no,
no. I'm casing the house for a
robbery I'm doing next week.

The neighbors eyes widen. Julie locks the trunk.

JULIE
I'm a baby-sitter! Hello?
Standard issue nanny spy equipment.
You can get it at Radioshack.

Julie walks into the house.

JULIE
This neighborhood is so nosey!

INT. JACOB'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jacob and Van continue to watch TV. Van buries his head in the couch cushions.

JACOB
You doin' that ostrich thing again?

VAN
Yeah.

Julie trots downstairs and dramatically turns off the TV.

JACOB
Hey!

JULIE
Bed Time. We got a huge day ahead
of us tomorrow, we're gonna have to
get up early.

JACOB
On a Saturday?

JULIE
YES. For you, Jacob.

JACOB
For me? What are you talking
about.

JULIE
You're just gonna have to wait
until tomorrow, I've got too many
calls to make.

JACOB
But I'm not tired.

Julie throws a newspaper at him.

JULIE
Here, read this.

JACOB
The newspaper? The newspaper's so boring.

Julie takes a dramatic beat.

JULIE
Boring? It's...what are you talking about?!? You think *this is boring*?!?

JACOB
Yeah?

Julie opens to the Front page.

JULIE
On the Senate floor yesterday a senator from Kansas was so enraged he threw his shoe, sending an intern to the emergency room.

THE PICTURE ON THE FRONT PAGE INEXPLICABLY COMES TO LIFE.

Senator Mckeely (Kan. - D) begins yelling on the Senate floor.

MCKEELY
If this is what our country has come to, then I'm moving to Cuba.

Mckeely throws his shoe, it hits an intern in the head.

Julie flips through to the international section.

JULIE
In Haiti, one of the biggest hurricanes ever to hit the coast line destroyed over a hundred homes. Miraculously, no one was seriously hurt.

THE PICTURE COMES TO LIFE. A HORRIBLE HURRICANE RIPS THROUGH A HOUSE. A STRANDED MAN IS CLINGING TO A TREE FOR DEAR LIFE.

STRANDED MAN

I don't know about you, but I'm pretty sure this is going to seriously hurt.

The stranded man lets go of the tree and flies through the air.

Julie flips through to the sports section.

IT COMES TO LIFE. Cal Ripken runs around the baseball field giving everyone high fives.

JULIE

Cal Ripken broke Joe Louis's record for consecutive games played by a single player. Coincidentally, he also broke the record for high fives given during a seventh inning.

Julie picks up the newspaper.

JULIE

The Economy's soaring, the president is in Russia, thirty people got married, forty eight died, people are looking for love, comics, heart warming stories from Africa, protests, the crossword puzzle! And you're telling me the newspaper is boring.

Jacob meekly shrugs.

JULIE

Well, try actually reading man. Jeez!

Julie trots upstairs.

JULIE (O.C.)

Bed time! Come on guys!

43

INT. JACOB'S ROOM - NIGHT

43

Jacob lies in bed, clothes on, above his covers.

JULIE (O.C.)

Night, Van.

VAN (O.C.)

Night, Julie!

Julie closes Van's door and enters Jacobs.

JACOB
You can make me go to bed but you
can't make me sleep.

JULIE
I know. Here, go nuts.

Julie throws Jacob a newspaper.

JACOB
I don't have to read this either.

JULIE
I know you don't haaavvvve to...

Julie leaves. Jacob rolls to his side defiantly.

Then he rolls on his back. Then to his other side. Then
softens up his pillow. He's bored.

Finally he picks up the newspaper.

44 EXT. JACOB'S ROOM - NIGHT

44

Julie holds a small mirror up to Jacob's door, very covert,
army-like, to see that Jacob is, in fact, reading. She
smiles.

JULIE
Sweet dreams.

Fade out.

45 INT. JACOB'S ROOM - MORNING

45

Jacob sleeps peacefully until...

BARRRR!

An airhorn rudely wakes Jacob up. Julie stands at the
doorway.

JULIE
Rock and roll Jacob, we gotta be
out the door in fifteen! Let's
move.

Jacob angrily gets up.

46

EXT. JACOB'S HOUSE - MORNING

46

Jacob stands groggily next to Van as they watch Julie maniacally looking through her car searching for stuff. Every time she finds something she checks it off.

VAN

What's Julie looking for?

JACOB

Her sanity, which she will never, ever find.

Beat.

VAN

What?

JACOB

I can't wait til we're older and we can have conversations you actually understand.

Van stares blankly at Jacob.

VAN

What?

Jacob rolls his eyes.

JULIE

Okay, we got everything, let's go.

47

INT. VOLKSWAGON BUG - NIGHT

47

Julie drives quickly and Jacob and Van sit in the back, confused.

JACOB

Why are we in such a hurry?

JULIE

We have to catch the N/R while it's still going express.

JACOB

The what?

JULIE

It's a line on the subway.

JACOB
The nearest metro stop is in the
other direction.

JULIE
Oh, not the Metro, my young
Padawan...the Subway.

Van looks at Jacob. Jacob shrugs.

48 EXT. HIGHSCHOOL BASEBALL FIELD - DAY 48

Julie parks her VW Bug and gets out. Jacob and Van follow.

JULIE
You guys have everything you need?

VAN
Yep.

JACOB
I think so. Where are we going?

49 INT. BASEBALL DUG-OUT - CONTINUOUS 49

Julie feels around the wall of the dug-out.

JULIE
I can't remember which one.

JACOB
You know you look like a crazy
person? If the baseball team were
practicing, they'd all be la...

Julie pushes one section of the wall and it slides open,
revealing...

A dark staircase guarded by a New York Turnstile.

JULIE
Applauding me because I'm beautiful
and perfect? I know. Here.

She hands Van and Jacob a NY Metro card. Julie closes
Jacob's mouth, which was hanging open in shock.

JULIE
There we go.

Julie swipes her Metrocard and heads down. Jacob and Van
cautiously follow.

50

INT. UNDERGROUND SUBWAY STOP - CONTINUOUS

50

Julie, Jacob and Van enter the mysterious Subway stop.

JACOB

How did you know about this?

JULIE

I baby-sit a family in Manhattan on Tuesdays. The commute was just getting to be too much so I asked the MTA to make a secret underground station for me.

JACOB

And they did that just for...wait Manhattan?

JULIE

Oops...cat's out of the bag. We're going to New York. WOOOO!

VAN

Wooo!

JACOB

Whatever, there's not a...

Julie notices bright lights coming from the far tunnel.

JULIE

Yikes, alright guys take a seat, it's an intense entrance.

The shrieking sounds of a Subway car arriving rumble through the air.

Jacob takes a seat next to Julie and Van.

The sounds get louder and louder until...

WOOOOOSH HHH

A subway car races through the station at such a fast pace it pins Jacob, Julie and Van to the back wall of the station.

The subway car abruptly stops on a dime.

Jacob, Julie and Van unintentionally lean forward.

The doors open.

Julie gets up.

JULIE

Let's go.

Jacob and Van woosily follow Julie into the subway car.

51 INT. SUBWAY CAR - CONTINUOUS 51

Julie, Van and Jacob take a seat.

JULIE

Might want to hold on to something
for the first bit.

Jacob clings to a subway poll. Van holds on to a side rail.

52 INT. UNDERGROUND SUBWAY STOP - CONTINUOUS 52

WOOSHSHHH!

The subway car leaves at rollercoaster-like speed.

53 INT. SUBWAY CAR - LATER 53

The car, now traveling at normal speed, is about half-full now.

JACOB

That was incredible. We got from
Arlington to New York in fifteen
minutes. How do more people not
know about this?

JULIE

The MTA and I like to keep it a
secret. AMTRAK would be mighty mad
if they found out.

Jacob looks outside the window. The train is leaving the
34th St. stop.

JACOB

Why are we here again?

JULIE

Well you want...VAN NO!

Van, who's mouth is inches away from touching the dirty
subway seat.

JULIE

Never...ever under any circumstance
touch anything in the subway seat
with your mouth. I know you're
weird and like to do that, but it
could kill you here.

Van, wide eyed, backs away from chewing the seat.

JACOB

She's probably right about that
one, buddy.

The train stops.

JULIE

This is us, come on!

Julie gets up. Van and Jacob follow.

54 INT. 42ND ST. SUBWAY STATION - DAY

54

Jacob and Van follow Julie through a horde of busy New
Yorkers.

JULIE

Well Jacob, you want to impress
this girl by getting into your
school play, and the only way to
get good at auditioning for plays
is to do it a million times so...

55 EXT. TIME SQUARE - DAY

55

Julie, soon followed by Van and Jacob, leaves the subway
station.

JULIE

What better place to audition a
million times than New York City!
I LOVE YOU NEW YORK!

Various honks and cheers go Julie's way.

JULIE

YEAH! Alright, we got a 10:30 at
the Shubert Theater.

JACOB

What? I don't want to...

JULIE

Look, The first couple times are gonna be really bad, then it'll get a little better...then it'll be good...then a bad fluke, and you'll doubt yourself as an actor and, then good again...and then you'll be so jaded you won't care if you get the part or not...and that's when you get cast.

Jacob is unsure.

JULIE

Come on, what's the worst that could happen?

56

INT. SHUBERT THEATER - DAY

56

Jacob stands waiting as Cliff, a 12-year-old Broadway star in-the-making finishes up his rendition of "The Music of the Night" from *The Phantom of the Opera*.

CLIFF

(incredibly dramatic)

Come we must return - those two fools who run my theater will be missing you.

Jacob is very intimidated.

The three panelists seem unimpressed by Cliff's tour de force rendition.

MIDDLE PANELIST

Part of me wants to hug you for giving a really great effort, and the other part wants to strangle you for wasting my god damn time.
NEXT!

Cliff storms off in a diva huff. Jacob nervously approaches, his hands trembling as he gives his sheet music to the pianist.

MIDDLE PANELIST

We're on a schedule here.

Jacob hurries to center stage, stands straight, smiles awkwardly.