

**MAKING EAGLE: A *MOSTLY* TRUE**  
**BOY SCOUT TALE**

**INT. STEVE'S HOUSE -- MORNING**

Steve's parent's are in their bedroom in the middle of an argument.

STEVE'S MOTHER

“... And your son needs a ride to Brother Willis' tomorrow afternoon and you can't take him? – Or you won't take him?”

STEVE'S FATHER

“You know that I work!”

STEVE'S MOTHER

“You usually come home for lunch. Can't you wait a couple of hours and take your son?”

STEVE'S FATHER

“Why can't you?”

STEVE'S MOTHER

“I need to take Andrea to the school.”

STEVE'S FATHER

“So drop her off early. Then take Steve.”

STEVE'S MOTHER

“You never take him to his scouting activities. You never help out with the kids. You're always at work. Even on your days off. When are you going to start supporting your children in their activities or school or anything else?”

STEVE'S FATHER

(Yelling)

“What do you mean? I pay for everything they do. I work my butt off to support those kids!”

STEVE'S MOTHER

“Yes I know, but unless they see you doing something, they won't understand that you

STEVE'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

“care for them. They never see you helping them at all.”

STEVE'S FATHER

“What? Do you want me to quit my job and stay home to take care of them when you can't? – That's asking a lot considering we still need to eat!”

STEVE'S MOTHER

“I know you need to work to support us – Financially. But that doesn't always count. You don't even like it when they have to be somewhere else – even when you're home. You don't like to take them anywhere. These are things that really matter to them.”

STEVE'S FATHER

“Church, scouts, school, sports, whatever! – It takes everyone away from home when I want them here. What about being together?”

STEVE'S MOTHER

“It's not about being together! It's about you!”

There's a silent pause.

STEVE'S FATHER

“I'm sorry you feel that way.”

STEVE'S MOTHER

“Well, you know Steve's getting his Eagle this Sunday. He's worked hard for this for six years. It's important to him that you be at his Court of Honor. You need to show him you care and that you're proud of him. Are you planning to go?”

STEVE'S FATHER

(Expressionless)

“I don't know. If I get off work on time I might be there. But if I'm too tired, it's hard

STEVE'S FATHER (CONT'D)

to say how I'll feel. I hate getting back in that car. I'm in that thing all day."

STEVE'S MOTHER

"That's another thing – you don't even go to church anymore. You're always working. You don't even try to go to church. It's like you're purposely avoiding it. What's wrong with you?"

STEVE'S FATHER

"I can't just leave work any time I feel like it! When they tell me to work I work. When they need me, they need me."

STEVE'S MOTHER

(Crying and yelling)

"That's great, but we need you too!"

STEVE'S FATHER

"Need me? You talk about me *showing* care. You don't even wear a ring."

STEVE'S MOTHER

(Upset and shocked – tearing)

"I can't believe you just said that. That's not fair. You know I lost it years ago. And it hurts me to even think about that."

STEVE'S FATHER

"Yah, well that really shows me a lot of need."

STEVE'S MOTHER

"Well I'm sorry, but we're talking about the kids right now. And what they need! Not our past!"

STEVE'S FATHER

(Upset and yelling)

"You're just going to have to deal with the fact that I need to provide. Church is going to take second or even third place right now! My family comes first and that means my job needs to come before church."

## STEVE'S FATHER (CONT'D)

Steve'll just have to move the date of his Court of Honor or deal with the fact that I can't be at two places at one time!"

## STEVE'S MOTHER

(Very sad)

"Then I guess we just won't be expecting you. They moved up the Court of Honor to this Sunday because his eighteenth birthday is coming up. When he gets back from the campout he'll have to get ready for his Court of Honor and go straight to the church, so you may not see him until after he gets his Eagle."

## STEVE'S FATHER

(Upset)

"Where's the boy right now?"

## STEVE'S MOTHER

(Sad)

"He's at Gabriel's, probably playing video games or something. He'll be back later tonight."

**INT. GABRIEL'S HOUSE – AFTERNOON**

Steve and Gabriel are sitting in the living room enjoying Playstation (or X-Box) together. The living room is very tidy and neat. Gabriel and Steve are sitting on a six-foot "Cuddlebag" situated three feet from the 36" color television monitor. It's an intense game based on their expressions and movements.

## GABRIEL

"So, what exactly are we doing tomorrow? And why's it taking three nights? I should be getting *my* Eagle for the hours I'm putting in to this thing. Is it really gonna take that long?"

## STEVE

"We're restoring some washed-out trail that leads to a something important for the rangers. We have to rebuild stairs or something."

GABRIEL

“Stairs? And we’re not getting paid? I know we’re scouts and all, but isn’t there some kinda law against that stuff?”

STEVE

“I don’t know. I just want my Eagle.”

GABRIEL

“I thought Eagle Scouts were smart. Doing that kinda work for free is pretty dumb if you ask me.”

STEVE

(Louder with game intensity)

“Well, you’re doing it with me. So how dumb are you – you’re not getting anything.

(Laughs)

“At least I’m getting my Eagle, you wiener.”

The two boys get all the more intent on winning the game as they elbow about and fall off the bag. Their feet point to the ceiling s they continue in the conflict. Steve then jumps up victorious.

STEVE

(Laughing)

“Yah! I beat you. I win!”

They set down their controllers and take a seat on the couch in exaggeratedly slouched positions.

GABRIEL

“I wonder what the other guys are up to?”

STEVE

“I don’t know. I guess Brian is with his mom right now buying his new backpack.”

GABRIEL

“He’s always getting new stuff.”

STEVE

“Someday his luck’ll run out.”

**INT. OUTDOOR SPORTING- GOODS STORE – LATE AFTERNOON**

ECU: Brian's wide-open eyes.

As the camera zooms out it is revealed that Brian is overly joyous. His mouth is open wide and he is literally salivating over a brand new backpack, which his mother, a plump and hearty little woman, is retrieving from the shelf. Brian opens his arms to embrace his new pack. His mother is just as happy to see her son so excited. The other people in the store immediately around them look on them with a surprising disgust.

BRIAN

"Can I get a sleeping bag too?"

BRIAN'S MOTHER

(Patting Brian's Head)

"Of course you can, dear."

BRIAN

(Referring to the pack)

I love this thing. The other guys'll be so jealous."

BRIAN'S MOTHER

(With the cheesiest smile)

"Of course they will."

Brian and his mother commence walking toward the sleeping bags. As they do so, they come across Forest and Neal. Forest is carrying a spool of fishing line. Their smiles are devious. They stop to greet each other.

BRIAN

(Smiling from ear to ear)

"Hey guys. Like my new pack?"

FOREST

(Snickering with Neal)

"Mine's better"

BRIAN

(His smile becomes nonexistent)

"But mine's brand new. It's better than all o' yours."

FOREST

(Matter-of-factly)

"No it's not."

Brian looks sadly upon his mom, upset and almost broken-hearted. Neal can't help but giggle aloud at Forest's remark.

BRIAN'S MOTHER

"Ok boys. No more of that.

(Looking to Brian)

"Come on Brian, we'll get you the best pack they carry.

(Looking to Forest and Neal)

"Tell your parents I said 'hi'"

Brian and his mother walk back toward the aisle that carries backpacks. Neal and Forest shrug their shoulders and walk off. As they look back toward Brian, Brian is looking back at them with a satisfied grin about his face. Neal and Forest roll their eyes and walk off happily with the spool of fishing line in Forest's hands. As they walk they continue to converse.

FOREST

"How'd Brother Willis allow a guy like in the troop?"

NEAL

"He has to. It's an LDS troop. And let's face it; he'll do anything for anyone. He probably felt sorry for him."

FOREST

"He should feel sorry for us. We have to put up with him – and on a four-day campout. That's nuts!"

NEAL

(Referring to the fishing line)

"Let's just get this set up for tonight. She's gonna freak."

FOREST

"She'll never know it was us. We'll be gone tomorrow. I just hope Brother Willis'll be ready to go on time. If her brother comes on the campout, she'll probably be there to drop him off."

NEAL

(A bit worried)

“Yah. Brother Willis needs to be ready to leave *right* when we get there.”

**EXT. BROTHER WILLIS' HOUSE – EARLY EVENING**

A car pulls up the drive and parks. The engine shuts off and the door slowly opens.

CU: Out comes a pair of men's feet in grimy work boots, followed by legs in a pair of scuffed-up jeans. He sits there for a moment. Then he slowly places his tired and weary feet onto the cement. He forces his butt off his seat and stands up as he shuts the car door.

Brother Willis is tired as indicated by his eyes. He's dressed in a plaid button-down shirt, which is fully open, revealing a white T-shirt underneath. He carries a small note pad in one hand and a dirty, white hardhat in the other. There's a pencil in his right ear. Ever so worn, he walks up the steps to the front door, slowly opens it and enters his house.

**INT. BROTHER WILLIS' HOUSE – EARLY EVENING: SECONDS LATER**

Brother Willis takes a seat and places his hat and note pad at the side of his reclining chair as he sits down. He leans back [kind of] slouched. He takes a deep breath and lets it out again. His wife takes a peak from the kitchen and lovingly smiles. She walks into the living room. She is very motherly.

SISTER WILLIS

“Hi dear.”

BROTHER WILLIS

(Slowly opens his tired eyes)

“Oh, hey sweetie.”

SISTER WILLIS

“I made some green Jello. Want some green Jello? Huh, Dear? I'll get some for ya.

(She starts back toward the kitchen)

“Green Jello sound good? I'll get the green Jello. Yup, I'll just get the green Jello for you right now. You look so tired.”

Brother Willis closes his eyes once more. Everything grows very dark and quiet. A full sounding snore is heard in the darkness. Then audibly increasing out of nowhere is Sister Willis.

SISTER WILLIS (CONT'D)

“Green Jello, Hun?”



Brother Willis, waking from a sound sleep, opens his tired eyes.

POV: Brother Willis sees a big fat spoon of blurred green Jello at his nose. Directly behind it in the immediate distance is Sister Willis' big fat smiling face. Brother Willis is startled to a straight-up position in his seat as he yells, in effect causing his wife to scream, knocking the spoon into the air. The Jello flies upward. Sister Willis is shocked as she watches the Jello fall.

SISTER WILLIS (CONT'D)

"Not the green Jello!"

Brother Willis covers his head, as Sister Willis attempts to catch the falling Jello with her hands. She catches some of it.

CU: The rest slips through her fingers as she falls forward.

POV: Brother Willis looks up, only to see his wife falling down on him with the Jello in her hands. She drops down onto him, smashing the Jello directly into his face.

They both yell out. The yelling soon turns into laughter as they look lovingly upon each other. There is green Jello all over Brother Willis' face.

SISTER WILLIS (CONT'D)

(Smiling)

"Boy you sure look tasty."

Sister Willis then leans fully in and kisses Brother Willis on his gooie Jello'd lips. After a few minutes, they stop kissing and Sister Willis gets up. Smiling with a kind of shyness and embarrassment, Sister Willis thinks on the campout, which is to take place the following day.

SISTER WILLIS (CONT'D)

"How tired will you be tomorrow after work?"

BROTHER WILLIS

"I'll be fine."

SISTER WILLIS

"You're supposed to leave as soon as you get home from work. And you expect to hike how far again?"

BROTHER WILLIS

"Only a couple o' miles. And I'm getting off early tomorrow. We should be gone by

## BROTHER WILLIS (CONT'D)

three. I worked plenty of overtime this last week to compensate for the time I'll be taking off."

## SISTER WILLIS

"If you're as tired after work tomorrow as you are today it's not going to be very fun. You'd better treat those boys nice."

## BROTHER WILLIS

"Oh, I'll be fine. It'll be a nice peaceful drive and I'll be good to go. It's the boys I'm concerned about. In fact, I need to call Steve in a few hours to see if he's all set and ready for his project. This project should make him Eagle. It's one of the hardest ones I've seen yet."

## INT. STEVE'S HOUSE – EVENING

CU: The telephone rings. A feminine hand reaches for the phone and picks it up. She brings the receiver to her ear.

## STEVE'S MOTHER

"Steve!"

## STEVE

(From somewhere in the house)

"Yah!"

## STEVE'S MOTHER

"Phone's for you!"

Footsteps are heard running to the phone. Steve then approaches the receiver, held in his mother's hand. She doesn't let him have it for a second.

## STEVE'S MOTHER

"Don't run in the house, Steve-o! How many times do I have to tell you?"

## STEVE

(Reaching for the receiver)

"Who is it?"

STEVE'S MOTHER

“Brother Willis.”

Steve takes the phone from his mother's hand and puts the receiver to his ear.

STEVE

“What's up Bro Willis?”

(Brother Willis can be heard on the other end of the receiver.)

BROTHER WILLIS

“Hey Steve – ready for tomorrow?”

STEVE

“As ready as I'll ever be.”

BROTHER WILLIS

“This is the last step before you get Eagle  
You'd better make sure everyone's ready.  
You want things to run as smooth as  
possible, tomorrow. Remember, this is *your*  
baby.”

STEVE

“I know. Everything's set. Don't worry.”

BROTHER WILLIS

“You sure? Did you get a hold of everyone?  
This is a major project. And it's the biggest  
one I've seen yet.”

STEVE

“Come on, trust me? I got a hold of  
everyone. Except for Forest and Neal.  
I think they told me that they're going to  
Laura's tonight. They all like her. – But you  
can count on both of them to be there, late  
like always. I'll catch a ride with one of'm”

BROTHER WILLIS

“I trust you, Steve. I just want to see you  
succeed. You're a great kid and this  
weekend you're taking on a man's project.”

STEVE

“Thanks for the concern. I’ll be fine.  
Everything’s ready to go. Forest and Neal’ll  
give me a call when they get home.  
Whenever that is.”

**EXT. LAURA JACKMAN’S HOUSE – NIGHT**

There’s a paperclip entangled in a window screen. Tied to it is some fishing line. The fishing line is pulled tightly over the front lawn. It’s shimmering in a few places with the light of the moon. A few small giggles are heard as the camera finds it’s way down the fishing line to the source of its pull.

A few heads are then seen in a small ditch in front of the house. Forest is holding tight to the line. Neal is holding a damp cloth. They continue to giggle and laugh almost too loud as they anticipate the results of their prank.

**INT. LAURA JACKMAN’S HOUSE – NIGHT: SECONDS LATER**

Nine girls, ages 12 to 17, are sitting snug in their pajamas in the middle of the living room. They’re watching a scary movie. There are chips, cookies, soda, liquorish, and a small bowl of popcorn spread around the living room floor amidst the girls. The girls have blankets and pillows situated among them ready to curl up to. The girls are intently watching the movie. A few of the girls are cuddling up to each other in anticipation of the intensity of the film.

Laura’s mother walks into the room, smiling brightly, with a big bowl of green Jello.

SISTER JACKMAN

“Girls?”

The girls is startled and screams, in effect.

LAURA

“Mom!”

SISTER JACKMAN

“Oooops. Sorry honey. I just wanted to see  
if anyone cared for some green Jello.”

The girls look queerly upon Sister Jackman and then look to all the refreshments sitting around. The camera sweeps the floor and focuses on all the refreshments.

LAURA

“Are you kidding?”

SISTER JACKMAN

“Oh.”

(Chuckles lightheartedly)

“Right, I guess it is a bit much.”

Sister Jackman then walks over to the popcorn, squats down, grabs a handful of popcorn and shoves it in her face as she walks away. She then enters the kitchen and out of sight.

LAURA

“Ok, that was weird.”

The other girls giggle and return to watching the film – intently.

**EXT. LAURA JACKMAN’S HOUSE – NIGHT: SECONDS LATER**

Forest is still holding tight to the fishing line. Neal hands the damp cloth to Forest. They smile, as they look at each other in a joking fashion. Forest slowly places the cloth onto the taut fishing line.

NEAL

“This is gonna be great.”

FOREST

“Just watch this.”

Forest then squeezes tight to the cloth and pulls downward on the fishing line. There is a lot of friction as he pulls. A small screeching is heard on the line. The vibration travels almost instantaneously up the line to the paperclip. The screen absorbs the vibration through the tautness of the fishing line. The window frame and glass then take on the screeching vibration.

**INT. LAURA’S HOUSE – NIGHT: SECONDS LATER**

As the girls watch the scary movie, they are so engrossed in the story that they can’t take their eyes off the television screen. Soon an odd sound begins to grow. Laura, who looks around the darkness of the room, first notices the sound. The sound begins to intensify. A few other girls opt to look about as well as they also notice the odd sound. Their imagination starts to take control of their fearful minds.

ONE OF THE GIRLS

(Afraid)

“What’s that?”

LAURA

(Afraid)

“I don’t know. I can’t tell where it’s coming from.”

All the girls begin to look around with a distinct look of worry about their faces. The scary music from the climax of the movie sounds in the background.

**EXT. LAURA’S HOUSE – NIGHT: SECONDS LATER**

Laughing is heard as we see the house from the outside. Forest and Neal are both laughing with delight.

**INT. LAURA’S HOUSE – NIGHT: SECONDS LATER**

The girls are huddling closer together. Suddenly the sound reaches a level of volume that not only scares the girls but also irritates them to the point of running out of the house. As soon as the girls gather together outside on the front lawn, they can hear Forest and Neal laughing.

Neal and Forest each take a peak. The girls all run toward them. It’s too dark to tell who the boys are. As the girls cross the lawn toward Forest and Neal, they run into the fishing line and pull the screen right off the frame. The fishing line scares the girls and they halt, screaming. Forest and Neal run off, still holding to the fishing line. They jump into Neal’s car and take off before the girls can see whom they are.

As they drive off, the fishing line gets caught in the car door. The screen door is flying around as it hits the street, following the car. The girls are unsure as to whose car it might be as they watch it drive off.

**INT. NEAL’S SPORTS CAR – NIGHT**

Neal and Forest are laughing hysterically

NEAL

“That was awesome!”

FOREST

“Yah it was!”

NEAL

“We need to stop by Steve’s before I take you home.”

FOREST

“Oh Yah, the project’s tomorrow. – That’s cool.”

**INT. STEVE’S HOUSE -- NIGHT**

Steve is in his room. There is an unusually bright night light on. Steve is in his bed with the covers up to his neck. The blanket is wrapped all the way around his body. He looks over to the closet. The closet door is cracked open too much for Steve to handle. He’s sweating as he stares at the darkness of the open closet. His imagination begins to take over. He can’t take it and he forces his body off the bed still wrapped in his thick blanket. He falls to the floor in the process. The blanket is too tightly wrapped around his body.

STEVE

“Oh, come on!”

He stares at the closet hypnotically as it seems to stare back at him. He finally frees his arms. He reaches for the closet doors but can’t slide it closed from his position. He takes the time to fully free himself. The fear could be seen in his eyes, as the sweat drips from his brow, down his face and to the floor.

STEVE (CONT’D)

“What’s wrong with me?”

Shaking, Steve finally shuts the door and runs to the bed with the blanket still covering his head the moment he lays down there is a loud and sudden knock on the window near his head. It startles him so bad that he screams like a girl and jumps out of his bed, still entangled within the blanket.

STEVE (CONT’D)

“What the heck was that, man?”

The knocking on the window continues. Steve then realizes what the knocking is. He composes himself and opens the blinds. He looks through the window and sees Forest and Neal standing there. He opens the window.

STEVE

“What’s up?”

NEAL

“Was that you, screaming like a girl?  
(Laughs)”

STEVE

“I don’t sound like a girl. Now, what’s up?”

NEAL

“Nothin’, we just came from Laura’s house. The girls are there at some stay over for young woman.”

FOREST

“Yah.”

(Giggling)

“We scared them so bad. It was awesome. They all ran out of the house and were like...”

Forest pantomimes the actions of the girls. Neal laughs in agreement

FOREST (CONT”D)

“It was so funny. They were freakin’ out.”

NEAL

“It was cool. You should’ve been there.”

STEVE

“No, I had to get ready for my Eagle project.”

FOREST

“I don’t mean there with us. With your scream, you would’ve fit in with them perfectly.”

STEVE

“Oh, be quiet. – You guys comin’ tomorrow?”

FOREST

“Tomorrow?”

NEAL

“Yah, we thought it was next week.”

STEVE

“Come on, are you guys comin’ or not? I really need your guys’ help.”

NEAL

“Of course we’ll be there. Come on, who d’ya think we are?”



FOREST

“Yah, we’ll be there.”

STEVE

“So, can one o’ you guys pick me up? My mom’s gotta take my sister to school and my dad’s workin’ like always. Come on, man, I need a ride.”

NEAL

“Yah I’ll getchya.”

STEVE

“Cool, thanks dude.”

NEAL

“Kev’s gonna be with me. His house is on the way here, so I’ll get him and then you. – K?”

STEVE

“Yah, that’s cool. You know what time we have to be there?”

FOREST

“Yah, like seven right?”

STEVE

“No!”

FOREST

“I know. We’re leaving from Brother Willis’ by three, right?”

STEVE

Yah. – Well, I’ll see ya guys tomorrow. I need to go to bed. I’m tired and we’re hikin’ like four miles tomorrow.”

FOREST

“Later, Steve. Don’t worry. I’ll be there for sure.”

STEVE

“Alright. Night, guys. I’m going to bed.”

NEAL

“You do sound like little girl, by the way, maybe you should take care of that.”

STEVE

“Whatever. – See you tomorrow.”

Forest and Neal walk over to Neal’s car and drive off. Unbeknownst to them, the fishing line is still attached to the car. As they drive off the fishing line lengthens out in front of the camera. Once the car is out of view, Laura’s window screen flies by, still attached to the fishing line.

Steve closes the window and the blinds. And he crawls back into bed. He covers himself tight and snug into his blanket like a cocoon. He glances over to the closed closet door and smiles to himself. Then he happens to glance at the other side of the closet to discover that it too is open. He looks disappointed.”

STEVE

“Oh man, what is up with that?”

Steve thinks for a moment and covers his head.

STEVE (CONT”D)

“I need to get over this, man. I *really* need to get over this.”

Steve Stands up still wrapped up in the blanket. He walks to the back door.

**EXT. STEVE’S HOUSE – LATE NIGHT: MINUTES LATER**

The back door opens slowly. Steve is standing in the doorway tall and proud.

STEVE (CONT”D)

“Ok. I can do this. I can do this.”

Steve walks off the back porch and to the lawn. He takes a deep breath.

STEVE (CONT”D)

“Ok. I can do this.”

Steve throws the blanket off. It’s really dark outside. He walks forward and further into the back yard. He’s completely scared and alone.

STEVE (CONT'D)

(Talking to himself)

“Don’t look back. Whatever you do, don’t look back. There’s nothing there, man. There’s nothing behind you. Go all the way. – It’s dark. – No, it’s really dark.

(He stops)

“Why in the heck am I freakin’ out so bad. It’s the same thing as daytime; I just can’t see anything. What’s wrong with the dark? We’ll, the freakin’ Devil lives there.

(He starts walking again)

“I shouldn’t be afraid of anything like that. Just don’t look back. Nothings gonna happen. Keep walkin’. You can do it.”

Suddenly a small sound voices in the darkness directly in front of him. He looks ahead slowly, but nothing’s there.

STEVE (CONT'D)

“What is wrong with me? It’s just the dark. I can’t go on being scared of the dark like this – I’m too old. I’m gonna get over this. I’m gonna love the dark. I’m gonna *LOVE* the dark.

(Takes a quick swallow)

“I’m being watched over. Whatever it takes I’m getting over this dumb fear.”

He hears the same noise, only louder. A dog suddenly startles him, barking at the gate directly in front of him as a cat jumps off the wall. The dog continues to bark at the cat, as Steve jumps from the startling situation.

STEVE (CONT'D)

(Holding his heart)

“It’s only a dog. There’s always a good, non-supernatural type of reason behind any of these noises. There’s nothing to be scared of. I’m gonna get over this stupid thing – tonight.”

**EXT. STEVE'S HOUSE – MORNING**

The sun comes up in to view. The sky is blue. A piece of bird stool is falling from the sky.

CU: The bird stool lengthens out as it falls faster and closer to the ground.

ECU: The blanket is still covering half of Steve's face, as the sun is shining down on him. He opens his eyes as he looks up. The camera zooms out to find Steve still on the back lawn.

POV: Steve is looking up and sees a large bird passing directly over him. Then he catches a glimpse of the stool within feet of his face – blurred. The camera zooms out.

STEVE

“What the...?”

Suddenly it lands right on Steve's forehead. He sits up directly and the stool drips softly down his face.

STEVE (CONT'D)

“Yup! Sounds 'bout right.”

Steve gets up and walks back into the house. The door closes behind him.

**INT. STEVE'S HOUSE – AFTERNOON: SECONDS LATER**

Steve walks over to the kitchen sink to wash the stool from his face. He turns the sink on and dips his hands into the water as it falls from the tap.

All of a sudden Steve's mother walks briskly through the kitchen doorway with His little two-year-old sister in his hands. Steve's mother is covering his sister's mouth with her hand. Steve's little sister looks a bit sick, as she holds back something within her mouth.

STEVE'S MOTHER

(In a really big hurry)

“Steve, watch out. Get out of the way.”

POV: Steve (with bird stool still on his face) turns and sees his mother quickly approaching the sink toward him, rushing with all speed in a mild panic. Steve sees his little sister in her arms. Steve doesn't move. He's confused and doesn't realize what's going on.

STEVE

(Really confused)

“What?”

POV: Steve moves to the right, as does his mother.

POV: Steve moves to the left, as does his mother.

Steve again moves to the right, as does his mother.

STEVE'S MOTHER

(Frustrated and still in a panic)

“Steve! Get out of my way. – Now!”

STEVE

“I’m...”

At that point Steve’s sister could hold it no longer and a spray of vomit begins to breach her lips (We do not see the full spray.) Steve turns to the right to avoid what he can. It’s too late and we see Steve’s sister with the look of relief on her face. Steve’s mother looks at Steve with disgust.

STEVE'S MOTHER

“Yah... ah... oops. Maybe you should take a shower now.”

STEVE

“Ya think?”

Steve walks to the bathroom. His laugh is heard as he walks off.

### INT. STEVE'S HOUSE – AFTERNOON

Steve walks into the living room. He’s showered and changed. Steve’s mother is sitting down on the couch reading her scriptures.

STEVE'S MOTHER

“So, that was fun, huh?”

STEVE

(Chuckling light-heartedly)

“Yah. But the funny thing is a bird crapped on my face just before that.”

STEVE'S MOTHER

“Are you kidding me?”

STEVE

“Nope.”

STEVE'S MOTHER

"I'm so sorry. For now on we'll just let nature take care of itself away from your face. Ok?"

STEVE

"Ah, don't worry. I prayed about it and it's fine."

STEVE'S MOTHER

"What?"

STEVE

"I'm just kidding. Anything like that ever happen to you?"

STEVE'S MOTHER

"Actually. I can't remember. I think once – when your father and I were camping. – In fact, we used to go camping all the time – where you're Eagle project is taking place."

STEVE

"Really?"

STEVE'S MOTHER

"Yah, we'd go at least once a month. If not more."

STEVE

"You and Dad don't do much of anything anymore, do you?"

STEVE'S MOTHER

"No, but we're busy trying to raise all of you guys."

STEVE

"Mom, can I ask you a personal question?"

STEVE'S MOTHER

"Sure."

STEVE

"Well, I can't remember the last time I saw a ring on your finger. Isn't that bad?"

STEVE'S MOTHER

"No, not really. I lost it a long time ago. You were really little."

STEVE

"But you guys are always fighting now. I get scarred."

STEVE'S MOTHER

"Things always work out."

STEVE

"You guys ever pray together. Or pray about it?"

STEVE'S MOTHER

"Yah, we pray. But it's usually about safety and you kids. Stuff like that."

STEVE

"But you guys said that we should pray about everything, all the time "

STEVE'S MOTHER

"I know we should. And I'm sorry we teach you stuff that we don't follow. We'll work on it. – I love you, Steve-o. "

STEVE

"Love ya too, Mom-o."

STEVE'S MOTHER

"Now, are you all packed up and ready to go?"

STEVE

"Yup."

STEVE'S MOTHER

"I have to take Andrea about the time you leave. Is Neal coming for you?"

STEVE

"Yah. – Mom, is Dad coming to the Court of Honor?"

STEVE'S MOTHER

"You know him. He'll probably be working.  
But I'll talk to him. We'll see."

STEVE

(Sad)

"Ok."

STEVE'S MOTHER

"I hope everyone's not going to be waiting  
on you."

STEVE

"They probably will. And I'll bet you  
anything that Brian is the first one there like  
always. I feel sorry for Sister Willis."

#### EXT. BROTHER WILLIS' HOUSE – AFTERNOON

Sister Willis is sitting on the front porch with her feet on the only step. Her elbows are on her knees and her hands are cupped around her chin and cheeks. She is waiting for Brother Willis to get home from work and the scouts for the campout. There's a large puddle in the front of the house on the street.

ECU. Tires come into the camera's view. As the camera zooms out it is revealed that a mini-van is pulling up. The mini-van drives right through the puddle and parks directly in front of the house at the curb.

Both doors open. Brian and his mother step out. Brian has the biggest smile as he looks to Sister Willis.

BRIAN

"I got a new backpack and sleeping bag.  
And it's the best they had, isn't that great!"

SISTER WILLIS

"Yup, that's great."

BRIAN

(Reaching for the back hatch)

"Here, I'll get it out and show you!"

SISTER WILLIS

(Sarcastically)

"Like I said –*great*."



Brian pulls open the back hatch. Just as it opens, his brand new backpack springs out. In slow motion, Brian dramatically reaches forward. His mouth is wide open. As Brian leans forward, his pack hits the puddle and the water splashes outward. The dirty water covers the pack and drenches Brian.

BRIAN'S MOTHER

“Brian.”

Brian's mother runs over to him in a motherly panic. Brian is suddenly cold and reaches down to pick-up his pack. Brian is on the verge of crying. Sister Willis is covering her eyes, half laughing. She reopens them and stands up to look as Brian stands up with his new pack. Brian's mother puts her arms around him in a comforting manner. As soon as she feels the wetness of his clothing through her own she jerks away.

BRIAN'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

“Oh, my! You're soaking wet. – We've got to buy you some new clothes, right now.”

BRIAN

(Almost crying)

“Mom, my new pack, it's all dirty and wet.”

BRIAN'S MOTHER

“I know, dear. I know. I'll run to the store real quick and pick up some new clothes for you, ok dear?”

Brian's mother runs back to the car. Before she gets in she looks over to Sister Willis.

BRIAN'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

“I'll be right back, Sister Willis.”

SISTER WILLIS

(Sarcastically, under her breathe)

“Again, like I said –”

(So she could be heard, with a phony smile)

“— Great.”

(To herself)

“When are the others going to show up?”

Brian's mother drives off in a hurry. Brian is standing alone in the middle of the yard. Sister Willis is sitting on the porch with her head hung low.

## INT. STEVE'S HOUSE – AFTERNOON

Steve is sitting in his living room with his old backpack, sleeping bag, and canteen ready to go. Steve's mother and sister walk into the living room.

STEVE'S MOTHER

"They *are* coming for you, right?"

STEVE

"Yah, they'll be here."

STEVE'S MOTHER

"I hope so, cause we're leaving any minute."

STEVE

"That's ok. They'll be here."

Just then a car pulls up to the front of Steve's house.

STEVE (CONT'D)

"See, they're here."

Steve stands up and walks over to his mother.

STEVE (CONT'D)

"Love you."

STEVE'S MOTHER

"I love you too."

Steve kisses his mother on the cheek. Steve's Mother kisses him on the cheek in return, as they share a hug.

STEVE

"I'll see you later."

STEVE'S MOTHER

"Ok, honey. Have a good trip and be careful."

Steve picks up his stuff and walks out the door.

**EXT. STEVE'S HOUSE – AFTERNOON: SECOND LATER**

As Steve walks to the car, Neal takes off without saying a word.

STEVE

(Yelling)

"Hey!"

The window screen once again follows behind. Steve just stands there for a moment and watches curiously at the screen. Yet, knowing they'll return for him, Steve walks back into the house.

**INT. STEVE'S HOUSE –AFTERNOON: SECONDS LATER**

Steve Sister and Mother look curiously on Steve. Steve sits down on the couch with a big smirk on his face.

STEVE'S SISTER

“Wasn't that Neal? What happened?”

STEVE

“Yah, it was Neal.”

STEVE'S MOTHER

“So, is he coming back for you?”

STEVE

“Yah, you know Neal.”

A few moments later the same car could be heard pulling up in front of the house. Neal honks the horn. Steve says goodbye again, picks up his stuff and walks out once more.

**EXT. STEVE'S HOUSE – AFTERNOON: SECONDS LATER**

Steve emerges from the house. He walks briskly toward the car. Neal pops open the trunk as Steve approaches the car. Steve stuffs in his things inside, as Kevin opens the passenger door. Just as Steve is setting his foot into the car, Kevin smiles mischievously. Neal takes off again. Steve laughs and just watches as the car once again drive off in the same direction, still dragging the screen behind. Knowing they'll go around the block again, he just waits at the curb and stares as they drive out of sight. Not a moment later, Steve notices that they're coming back from the direction that they had just driven off in. But this time they don't stop in front of Steve's house; they just keep driving. There's a big glare on the window and Steve can't see inside.

(Unnoticed by Steve, there is no window screen attached to the car.)

STEVE (CONT'D)

(To himself)

“Oh no you don't!”

Steve takes off on foot, sprinting for the car. The car slows a little for the stop sign, one house down. Steve catches up and slams his hands down on the trunk of the vehicle, slapping it over and over again to get Neal and Kevin's attention.

STEVE (CONT'D)

(Aloud)

“Stop, you guys! – Stop!”

The vehicle slowed further, enough to allow Steve to reach for the front passenger door handle. He takes hold of the handle and starts pulling on it in a psychotic fashion. The door is locked.

STEVE (CONT'D)

“Let me in, you guys! Let me in!”

POV. As Steve looks to the driver, he sees that the driver is not Neal, but a woman who is now deeply afraid. Fearing for her own safety, the woman quickly drives off.

POV. Steve then notices Neal’s car parked at the corner.

Neal and Kevin are watching the whole incident and laughing hysterically. Neal then hits the gas, his wheels peel out, and he drives off once more. Steve just stands there in the intersection and looks at his watch.

STEVE

(Partially laughing)

“I hope Brother Willis isn’t waiting for us.”

### EXT. BROTHER WILLIS’ HOME – AFTERNOON

Sister Willis is sitting on the porch with her head hung low and her ears slightly plugged. Brian is sitting beside her with a thick blanket covering him from behind. He’s over-talking again but we can’t hear what he is saying. Sister Willis looks over to him and hesitantly unplugs her ears. We can then slowly begin to hear what Brian is saying.

BRIAN

(Speed talking)

“My mom’ll probably get me a new one now, so it’s not that bad that it fell in the puddle. I’ll ask my mom to buy me one when I get back from camping it’ll be really dirty anyways. Well, I have to cry and wine and stuff – it’s kind of a little game we’ve played since I was a baby. – But she never liked it. Doesn’t matter, it’s great to have a mom like that...”

Brian’s voice fades out as Sister Willis to look away.

Finally a car pulls up to the front of the house and drives over the puddle. Dan jumps out of the car and drags his pack out from the back seat. His sister, Laura gets out as well, following the backpack. Dan's mother then emerges from the vehicle, looks over to Sister Willis and smiles. Sister Willis, with the biggest look of relief on her face, gets up to greet them. Brian follows her, still talking. We still cannot hear his voice.

DAN

“Hey Sister Willis. What's up?”

SISTER WILLIS

(Politely)

“Hi Daniel.

(Mocking Dan's youthful wording)

“Wassup up wid you, dude?”

DAN

“Cool.”

(Laughs, sarcastically)

“You're real funny.”

Dan then stretches forth his hand and shakes Sister Willis'. Then Dan's sister and mother each shake Sister Willis' hand as well.

DAN

(Directed at Brian)

“Hey, What's up Bri?”

BRIAN

“Not much. I got a new backpack! – But it just got all wet and dirty in the puddle. So I'll just get another one soon. But it's cool, it's cool.”

Sister Willis sees that Dan has taken Brian's focus off of her. She looks over to Dan, while in the process of shaking Dan's mother's hand.

SISTER WILLIS

(Directed at Dan)

“Thanks Dan.”

Dan looks back toward Sister Willis in a curious stupor.

DAN

“Me? Why – What'd I do?”

SISTER WILLIS

“Oh nothing – just thank-you.”

DAN

“Ok.”

BRIAN

“Me and Sister Willis really bonded, man – it was cool.”

Soon three more cars pull up to the house. Gabriel, Chris and Rick each step out of their respective vehicles, pull out their backpacks and each say goodbye to their mothers in their own way and walk over to the house. All the boys walk directly over to Laura who is now sitting alone on the lawn under the tree in front of the house. They all sit down. Dan, followed by Brian, also walk over to the tree and take a seat. Sister Willis and Dan’s Mother walk over to the porch, sit and wait.

Soon, Forest shows up in the same manner. His mother leaves as well, waving goodbye out the window. Forest approaches the other youth, dragging his backpack with him. He doesn’t sit down. He looks over to Laura and smiles. Laura does not smile back.

FOREST

(Directed at everyone)

“What’s up guys?”

EVERYONE BUT LAURA

“What’s up Forest... hey... how’s it goin...”

FOREST

(Directed at Laura)

“Hey Laura.”

LAURA

“Were you at my house last night?”

FOREST

“No! Why d’you see me?”

LAURA

“Well, I thought I did.”

FOREST

“What d’ya mean? I was with Neal the whole time and we went to see Steve.”

LAURA

“Someone came over last night when me and the girls were watching a movie. Whoever it was scared us and then drove away in a hurry. The funny thing is they took our window screen with them.”

BRIAN

“Your window screen?” Why would they do that?”

LAURA

“Yah well, they didn’t know they took it. They had it tied to some string, so when they drove off it went with them.”

FOREST

(Actually surprised and worried)

“Oh, really?”

LAURA

(Sarcastically)

“But you and Neal would never do anything like that.”

EVERYONE BUT FOREST

“Of course not... Never... Not them...”

Just then Neal’s car comes down the street in a blur and pulls up to the house. Laura and the guys are all staring as the car comes to a screeching halt. The sound of a dragging window screen sounds following the car. The window screen slaps the rear of the vehicle and makes a dinging sound. The screen then rebounds off the car and shoots off to the side. It then hits the tree and falls right into Laura’s hands. Laura then looks up at Forest who then looks suspiciously down and away.

LAURA

“So, you were with Neal last night, huh? Was Steve with you too?”

FOREST

“Well, it was actually Steve’s idea. He talked us into it. We couldn’t help it. It sounded so funny. He’s the one who actually did it. We just went with him.”

LAURA

“You lyin’ t’ me?”

FOREST

“I wouldn’t lie. Especially to you.”

LAURA

(In unbelief)

“Yah, and you weren’t at my house last night either. – I’m really believing this.”

FOREST

“Well, it wasn’t my idea, I’m too dumb to think of anything like that.”

Steve, Kevin, and Neal walk up to the group of youth under the tree. Neal sees the window screen in Laura’s hand. Laura and Steve catch each other’s eye and Laura smirks, extending the screen to Steve.

LAURA

“Here – you lost this.”

STEVE

(Worried)

“Thanks. I think.”

Steve reaches out and hesitantly takes hold of the screen. Laura releases it and Steve pulls it to his side.

LAURA

“So, did you guys have fun last night?”

STEVE

“Well, I don’t think I had fun, really.”

LAURA

(Snapping, angrily)

“Yah, whatever Steve.”

STEVE

“What’d I do?”

NEAL

“Yah, what did he do?”



LAURA

“Shut-up.”

Just then Brother Willis pulls up the drive. He steps out of the car. He’s in a cheery mood, but his eyes reveal his true tired, worn-out self. He smiles and waves “hi” to everyone. He walks passed everyone and walks into the house.

SISTER WILLIS

“Oh, he just has to get everything together. I better go help him.”

Sister Willis gets up and walks inside as well. Everyone else just looks at each other and waits. Just then Drew, the assistant scoutmaster, shows up and takes his pack out of the car. He walks over to Dan’s mother and takes a seat next to her on the porch.

DREW

“So, what’s going on here? Where’s Brother Willis?”

DAN’S MOTHER

“We’re just waiting for him to come out. He just got here. He’s just getting his stuff. He looks so worn out. You take care of him.”

DREW

“Will do.”

**INT. BROTHER WILLIS’ HOUSE – AFTERNOON: SECONDS LATER**

Sister Willis walks through the living room and down the hall to her bedroom. Brother Willis is lying on the bed.

SISTER WILLIS

“Oh, dear. You should cancel this trip. They’ll understand. You’re way to tired to drive all the way up there and hike four miles. That’s too dangerous for both you and the boys.”

Brother Willis begins to snore, loudly.

SISTER WILLIS

(Upset)  
“Honey!”

Brother Willis quickly sits up and throws his feet over the side of the bed. He looks around disoriented. He picks up the alarm clock and squints hard as he tries to comprehend what's going on.

BROTHER WILLIS

(Speed talking)

“Am I late for work? I need to get going.”

Brother Willis gets up in a hurry and darts for the closet. Sister Willis is standing there with her hands folded as she quietly watches her husband. He trips and falls at the side of the bed. He comes face to face with his ready backpack and remembers what he was doing. He looks over and sees his wife standing there.

BROTHER WILLIS (CONT'D)

“I'm not going to work right now am I?”

Sister Willis just shakes her head from side to side.

BROTHER WILLIS (CONT'D)

“I need to get ready and get out there.”

SISTER WILLIS

“You can't go like this.”

BROTHER WILLIS

“I'll be fine. It's Steve's Eagle Scout project. He needs this. And I'm not about to let him down.”

SISTER WILLIS

“Well, lets say a quick prayer before you go then.”

BROTHER WILLIS

“Ok, but you say it, please.”

They bow their heads and close their eyes.

SISTER WILLIS

“Our dear Heavenly Father...”

Once again snoring is heard loudly. Sister Willis breaks from the prayer and looks up at him. At the same time Brother Willis startles himself and wakes from his dozing. He stands directly up and looks all around the floor, searching with his eyes.

BROTHER WILLIS

(Really confused – speed talking)

“Where are my work boots?”

SISTER WILLIS

(Really upset)

“You’re not going to work!”

BROTHER WILLIS

“Oh, Yah, we’re praying aren’t we?”

SISTER WILLIS

“Yah. Lets try it again, sleeping beauty.”

They fold their arms again and Sister Willis begins to pray.

### EXT. BROTHER WILLIS’ HOUSE – AFTERNOON

Everyone is still waiting for Brother Willis to get ready. Kevin, Steve, Gabriel, Neal, Forest, Dan, and Rick are playing UNO. Laura is sitting with her mother and Drew on the porch, bored. Brian and Chris are checking out Brian’s new backpack.

Brian’s mother returns with some new clothing. She jumps out of the car and walks over to Brian.

BRIAN’S MOTHER

“Here, Brian, put these on.”

Brian’s mother hands him the new clothing.

BRIAN

“Thanks, mom.”

Brian runs into the house as Brian’s mother walks over to Drew and Dan’s mother and sister.

BRIAN’S MOTHER

“I just bought him some new clothes. He was all wet, so I just bought him new clothes.”

Suddenly Forest wins the UNO game.

FOREST

“I WIN!”

GABRIEL

“Great. I never win. I suck at this game.”

STEVE

“Well, maybe one of these days. But only because I’m probably not in that game.”

FOREST

“Wanna play again?”

THE REST OF THE BOYS

(In unison)

“Sure!”

RICK

“Let’s play ‘Killer UNO’ this time – it’s more fun.”

THE REST OF THE BOYS

“Ok... That sounds cool... Yah, why not... Whatever.”

They commence to play “Killer UNO.”

**INT. BROTHER WILLIS’ HOUSE -- AFTERNOON**

Outside the bathroom door, we can hear grunting noises and heavy breathing. Finally the toilet flushes. Brian sticks his head out the door.

BRIAN

“Anyone?”

SISTER WILLIS

“Yes?”

BRIAN

“Where are you?”

SISTER WILLIS

“What are you still doing here?”

BRIAN

(Confused)

“What do you mean? I just had to put on my new clothes – why?”

SISTER WILLIS

“Everyone just left without you.”

BRIAN

(Shocked)

“What? They’re gone?”

Brian darts out of the bathroom, passed Sister Willis. His pants fall down to the floor and his oversized shirt hangs to his knees. He falls; face down on the floor. His shirt flies over his head. We can see only his covered head, as Sister Willis stands directly behind him with a shocked look on her face. She covers her eyes and looks away.

SISTER WILLIS

(Completely embarrassed)

“I take it your mother forgot to buy you some new underwear?”

Brian quickly gets up and pulls up his pants. He then turns to Sister Willis.

BRIAN

(Whiney)

“I don’t like wet underwear – especially on the hike. I’ll get a rash. I hate rashes. I’m sorry – it’s only natural. At least I didn’t land on my back.”

SISTER WILLIS

“Brian, why were you calling me in the first place?”

BRIAN

“Oh Yah, do you have any matches? The john really stinks right now.”

SISTER WILLIS

“*Great!* – I’ll get you a couple. But you have to spray it too.”

Just as Sister Willis begins to walk toward the kitchen, Brother Willis comes out of his room with his backpack and canteen. Brian sees him.

BRIAN

(Pensively)

“You’re still here?”

Sister Willis turns to Brian. Brother Willis stops in confusion.

SISTER WILLIS

“I was just joking. Everyone’s still here.”

Brother Willis doesn’t say a word as he walks outside. Sister Willis retrieves a lighter and spray. She walks over to Brian, who is patiently waiting.

SISTER WILLIS (CONT’D)

“Here you go. Now, don’t burn us down, ok?”

BRIAN

“Ok, Sister ‘W’”

Brian takes the spray and lighter and walks toward the bathroom. He goes in and closes the door.

Brother Willis then runs back into the house.

SISTER WILLIS

“What’s wrong dear? Decide not to go?”

BROTHER WILLIS

“No, we’re still going.”

Brother Willis approaches the bathroom door.

BROTHER WILLIS (CONT’D)

(Constipated)

“I just need to use the restroom.”

SISTER WILLIS

“No, Brian is...”

BROTHER WILLIS

(Not really paying attention)

“What?”

Brother Willis opens the bathroom door and a sudden burst of flames dart out of the door into Brother Willis’ face, which is immediately shut off.

POV: Brother Willis’ view of Brian with the spray can up to the lighter, holding it in the direction of the door. Brian’s mouth and eyes are wide open, and he’s standing there stiff, unable to move.

POV: Brian’s view of Brother Willis standing in the same position. His eyebrows are singed and his nose and cheeks are black.

POV: Brother Willis and Brian's view of Sister Willis standing at the hallway entrance watching with that same unmistakable look of shock on her face.

BRIAN  
(Quietly in awe)  
"Oooops."

We see all three faces once more with that same shocked look, unchanged

#### EXT. BROTHER WILLIS' HOUSE – AFTERNOON

Everyone is ready to go. Everything is packed away into Brother Willis' Astrovan, Drew's new car, and Neal's sports car. Forest and Kevin ride with Neal. Steve, Gabriel, Dan, and Rick ride with Brother Willis. Chris and Brian ride with Drew. They all get into their respective vehicles. Brian's mother, Sister Willis, and Dan's mother and sister all wave their goodbyes. Soon the cars drive off and out of sight.

#### INT. DREW'S NEW CAR – LATE AFTERNOON

Drew is driving. Chris is in the front passenger seat. Brian is in the rear. Drew and Chris are both looking out the window in an anxious and deeply annoyed frustration. Brian is talking too much again.

BRIAN  
(Speed talking)  
"I can't wait to use it. I love my new backpack. It's so light – except for the stuff I got in it. But it's great for hiking. I can't wait to use it. It's so cool. I'm glad I got rid of my old one. Even though it was only two months old. I love the color of my new one more than my last one. It was pink or something. I felt like a little girl. But my mom said that if I got lost, it'd be easier to find me. This one's green for some reason. She wanted my pack to mix in with the trees. I guess she wants me to be a part of nature or something. I love talking with you guys. But, you gotta admit, it is cool. It's so light. Well, except for the stuff I got in it. Did I tell you my last one was pink or something? I hated that, but my mom said that it was safer and if I ever got lost I could be seen for miles. Yah, my mom loves me. But this time she insisted on a green one. She wants me to mix with nature or

BRIAN (CONT'D)

something. Why else would she choose green? She really wanted my new one to be green..."

CHRIS

"Yah? – Well I like idea behind green one."

BRIAN

"Yah, me too. I think it's so cool. And..."

CHRIS

(Talking over Brian)

"Why didn't I go in Neal's car?"

Drew just keeps on driving. The camera zooms out from the Drew's car and then zooms over to Neal's sports car.

#### INT. NEAL'S SPORTS CAR – LATE AFTERNOON

The camera zooms in on Neal's sports car. Neal is driving. Forest is in the front passenger seat. Kevin is in the rear with the sleeping bags. The music is pretty loud. They have to talk really loud to hear one another.

FOREST

"We still have to hike like four miles."

KEVIN

"You guys see Bro Willis' eyes?"

FOREST

"Yah, he's so worn out."

NEAL

"He just got home from work. You'd be tired too."

KEVIN

"But he's so fit. He could hike like twelve miles if he wanted."

NEAL

"Really?"



KEVIN

“No, but it makes me feel better to believe something like that.”

Forest and Neal just laugh. Kevin then produces a small box of his favorite dry cereal. He opens the box and takes a handful. He pulls it out and thrusts it all into his wide-open mouth. His cheeks puff up. He chews it up and takes a deep swallow. Crumbs fall all over his shirt. Kevin looks up and he sees Forest staring at him.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

“What?”

FOREST

“That’s disgusting.”

KEVIN

“I love dry cereal.”

FOREST

“You don’t have to *LOVE* dry cereal.

KEVIN

“But this has no sugar and the protein is great for hiking. It’ll give me plenty of energy.”

FOREST

“Really?”

KEVIN

“No, but it makes me feel better than the truth.”

(Chuckling)

“Maybe Bro Willis can use some. The sugar will at least wake him up.”

Neal and Forest roll their eyes and shake their heads. Kevin continues to eat. The camera then zooms out from Neal’s sports car and over to Brother Willis’ Astrovan.

### INT. BROTHER WILLIS’ ASTROVAN – LATE AFTERNOON

The camera zooms in on The Astrovan. Brother Willis’ eyes are much redder; he’s also blinking them again and again, trying to stay awake. The rest of the boys are in this van. They’re all talking about miscellaneous things. All of a sudden, Steve’s eyes get bigger. He starts looking around in a small panic. He sits up straight and tall as if to hold back his

fecal matter. He's tightening his sphincter muscle with all of his might. A small dot of sweat forms quietly at the top of his brow. No one is really paying attention to Steve. His face is getting more and more anxious. He looks out the window in search of a restroom. There is nothing around for miles – only trees.

STEVE

(An expression of agony)

“Brother Willis, we're gonna have to stop really soon.”

BROTHER WILLIS

“Why? What's wrong?”

STEVE

“I need to find a bathroom.”

GABRIEL

(Laughing)

“You gotta go that bad?”

STEVE

(Grunting)

“Oh Yah!”

DAN

“I don't think there's a bathroom for another hour, man – you're so not gonna make it.”

(Laughs)

BROTHER WILLIS

“Can you hold a little longer, Steve?”

STEVE

“No! We need to stop right now. I just need to find a spot somewhere --

(Grunting in pain)

“—Anywhere.)

BROTHER WILLIS

“Want me to pull over, right here?”

STEVE

(Panting and grunting)

“Unless you want me goin' in this seat.”

The camera zooms out from the car. Brother Willis stops the van. The other cars pull over behind Brother Willis' van.

BROTHER WILLIS

“Got toilet paper?”

STEVE

(Breathing hard and grunting)

“I don't know. And I really don't care.”

BROTHER WILLIS

“Yah, but I do. Lets open the back and see what we got.”

STEVE

“Fine, but lets hurry -- fast!”

Steve is the first to jump out. He hobbles around to the back of the vehicle. Brother Willis runs around to open the hatch. Steve rummages through the packs for toilet paper.

STEVE (CONT'D)

(Frustrated)

“I can't find any! Doesn't anyone believe in toilet paper?”

Meanwhile all the boys are yelling, laughing, and cheering.

BROTHER WILLIS

“Just use any kind of paper.”

STEVE

“Forget paper. Anything soft'll do.”

BROTHER WILLIS

“Just grab anything and go. I don't want to see you explode in my wife's van! – She'll kill me and then come for you and your family.”

Steve takes a hold of something and pulls it to his stomach. He turns quickly and runs down the hill, deeper into the woods. The boys continue to cheer louder and louder, sticking their heads out the window.”

BROTHER WILLIS

“Find something?”

STEVE

“Socks!”

BROTHER WILLIS

“What?”

The boys were too loud to hear Steve clearly enough. Brother Willis sits back down in the van.

RICK

“Did he find any toilet paper?”

BROTHER WILLIS

“Nope.”

RICK

“What’d he use?”

BROTHER WILLIS

(Lightly chuckling)

“I’m not sure. I think he might have taken his socks”

Everyone just laughs. The boys search around for Steve with their eyes. Drew walks over to the side of the van to speak with Brother Willis.

DREW

“Number two?”

BROTHER WILLIS

(Answering quickly)

“Yup.”

DREW

“”Toilet Paper?”

BROTHER WILLIS

“Nope.”

DREW

“His hands?”

BROTHER WILLIS

(Laughing)

“Socks I think.”

DREW

“Well, I’m going to go wait in the car.”

Drew walks back to his car.

Steve finally gets back to the van and jumps inside. He has a distinct look of relief upon his face.

GABRIEL

“Everything come out all right?”

STEVE

“Dude – that felt so good.”

BROTHER WILLIS

“I heard you used your socks?”

STEVE

“I actua...”

DAN

(Cutting Steve off – laughing in jest)

“You used your freakin’ socks – that’s gotta be better than athletes foot, man.”

STEVE

“You really think I’m that dumb?”

DAN

“If you used your socks? – Yah.”

STEVE

“Well, I didn’t.”

DAN

“Then what’d you use, your hand?”

STEVE

“Nope!

(Laughing)

“I used *your* socks! I think I’m pretty smart.”

Dan sits there dumbfounded. Brother Willis and Drew just lower and shake their heads. The rest of the boys just laugh aloud, with the exception of Dan, who sits there quietly.

**EXT. THE TRAIL HEAD – EVENING**

Everyone unloads their packs. They prepare for the hike, making sure they have everything and put on warmer gear.

Forest and Neal *unnoticeably* walk a little ways off. When they return we can see that their pockets are filled with something. They then wonder around the other packs. They giggle as they kneel down by Brian’s pack and start unloading large rocks from their pockets and stuffing Brian’s pack to weigh it down. Brian is too busy talking and getting his stuff together to notice anything. No one is paying attention to what they’re doing. Brother Willis begins to gather everyone together for the prayer. It’s now dark outside.

BROTHER WILLIS

“Does everyone have a flashlight?”

They all turn on their lights and flash them in Brother Willis’ face.

POV: The flashlights are so blinding that he backs off a little.

He raises his hands to block the light.

BROTHER WILLIS (CONT’D)

“Hey, turn those things off.”

Still backing up, Brother Willis trips over a large rock behind him and falls over backwards. He then jumps up surprisingly fast, a bit upset.

BROTHER WILLIS

“Come on! I’m tired and I just want to get in to sleep.”

All the boys apologize and turn off their lights.

BROTHER WILLIS

“Now, lets say a prayer before heading out.  
– Steve, this is your deal. You pick someone to pray and then lead the way.”

STEVE

(Directed at Gabriel)

“Gabe?”

GABRIEL

“Sure”

STEVE

“Thanks”

Everyone folds their arms and close their eyes. Forest works his way behind Gabriel.

GABRIEL

“Father in Heaven...”

FOREST

(Deep voice – very loud)

“Yes?”

Gabriel jumps away, startled. The rest of the boys laugh, especially Forest. Brother Willis and Drew once again lower and shake their heads.

BROTHER WILLIS

“Alright guys, let’s be a little more reverent during prayer, ok. We need to get going. – Gabe, start the prayer again. Everyone, fold your arms, let’s pray and go already.”

Everyone folds their arms and closes their eyes. Forest and Neal open their eyes and look at each other and silently giggle to themselves with the biggest smiles on their faces.

### EXT. ON THE TRAIL – EVENING

Both Forest and Steve have already walked a ways ahead. It’s clear and slightly windy.

The trail is narrow – about four feet wide. There’s a cliff to one side and a mountainside at the other. Forest is leading the way. Steve walks directly behind Forest. The rest of the troop is about three hundred yards behind, on the other side of a small ravine that separates them. Forest and Steve are hiking uphill and the others are all hiking down hill. Everyone is in single file due to the narrowness of the trail.

POV. Steve sees Forest turn around and face him. Forest is panic-stricken and white in the face. He quickly runs passed Steve.

STEVE

“What’r you doin’?”

Forest keeps running. Steve turns to watch Forest run down the hill. His backpack is shaking from side to side and his canteen is flying around. Realizing that something caused Forest to take off in such a manner, Steve looks ahead.

There are six *giant* dogs running down the hill toward Steve, about one hundred and fifty yards ahead. Dust is flying up in the moonlight just behind them. The dogs are bearing

their teeth and growling. Steve's face loses all its blood and sweat begins to flush down his face, as he begins to run behind Forest. They both run toward the ravine in front of them. Their packs are still on.

STEVE

"Wild dogs!"

FOREST

(Thinking – not verbalizing)

"If I can out run Steve, I can make it. I'm fast enough. I can get away. – so much for the project. I'll make my Eagle in memory of Steve."

STEVE

(Nonverbal)

"My parents are gonna freak."

Brother Willis and Drew run toward the danger. The other boys stay where they are and watch helplessly.

**Dream sequence #1:** Steve has a vision of his parents finding out about his death from the 5 o'clock news, where Steve is lying at the side of the road, dead. He's a bit mangled up (no blood.) The trail is desolate and in the middle of nowhere.

**Dream sequence #2:** Forest is visualizing the same thing -- Steve is dead at the side of the road and Forest is the one getting his Eagle. Steve's picture is up at the chapel with the words: "In Memory OF" written above his photo.

Steve and Forest continue to run down the hill. The dogs are behind and catching up.

FOREST

"I need to get rid of this pack."

Forest then sheds his backpack and continues to run, faster.

STEVE

"That's a good idea."

Steve then sheds his backpack and continues to run, faster.

Steve and Forest finally reach the ravine and commence to run up. Brother Willis and Drew reach the ravine as well.

BROTHER WILLIS

"Keep running!"



DREW

“We’ll hold’em here.”

Brother Willis and Drew then commence to pick up some rocks and throw them at the dogs. One of the rocks hits its mark, as a loud “yelp” is heard. The dogs back off a little. They’re growling and barking ferociously, while baring their sharp teeth.

BROTHER WILLIS AND DREW

“Get out of here... Go away... Shoo...” (Etc.)

Steve and Forest stop running and look back.

FOREST

“If they don’t stop them, we’re next.”

STEVE

“Dang it! I know.”

FOREST

“We need to help them if we’re gonna stand a chance.”

Forest and Steve run down to aid Drew and Brother Willis. They each grab some rocks and start throwing them.

Steve then looks up toward the sky.

STEVE

(Pleading)

“Please help us. Please.”

Suddenly, from around the corner comes a hefty old fellow with a cane. He’s wearing denim pants, a flannel shirt and hiking boots. He has a long bushy white/gray beard. He’s laid-back and carefree.

OLD MAN

“They won’t hurt you!”

DREW

“What the...”

The dogs begin to back off and calm down, as their master approaches.

OLD MAN

“They won’t hurt you!”

BROTHER WILLIS

“Ok, this is weird.”

FOREST

(Directed at the old man)

“What do you mean? They were about to rip us apart!”

OLD MAN

“Oh, they’re a little protective, but they wouldn’t hurt a fly.

(Laughing)

“Their bark is worse than their bite.”

STEVE

(To himself)

“Whatever.”

Everyone passes the dogs and pets them on the way up the trail. The dogs are wagging their tails and licking some of the boys. No one really knows how to react.

BROTHER WILLIS

(Quietly to Drew)

“I really think those dogs would have ripped us apart if he hadn’t shown up.”

STEVE

“Did you guys see their teeth? They were salivating big time. The only time they drool like that is when they’re gonna feed.”

FOREST

“Yah. Have you guys ever heard of Pavlov – The whole saliva thing? They wanted meat, man.”

Everyone just hikes on. Steve and Forest stop look back. All the dogs are running down the trail, but there’s no sign of the old man.

FOREST

“Where’d the old guy go?”

STEVE

“I don’t know, but, dude, that creeps me out.”

Brother Willis then stops, waiting for Steve and Forest.

BROTHER WILLIS

“What are you two talking about?”

FOREST

“The old guy, with the dogs. – He’s gone.”

Brother Willis then looks back to where the old man should be. Steve, Forest, and Brother Willis stare for a while and smile awkwardly.

STEVE

“See, there’s the dogs. And that guy sure isn’t faster than them.”

BROTHER WILLIS

“Well, you never know whose watching out for us. – Just don’t think about it. Come on, let’s catch up to the others.”

#### EXT. ON THE TRAIL – NIGHT

They finally reach the place in which the campsite should be.

BROTHER WILLIS

“Everyone, look for a fire pit – where an official campsite would be. It should be around here somewhere.”

Everyone starts to look around for the campsite. It’s really dark. Everyone searches about in a slightly different area. There are flashlight beams everywhere. Steve is walking around a little further from the rest of the group.

CU. Steve’s upper body and head is shown as he looks around, making sure no one else is around. The sound of urinating is then heard. Steve looks down to where he is urinating and notices something on the ground, as indicated by his facial expression.

STEVE

“What’s this?”

He reaches down and picks it up. He brings it up to view it a little more closely. We cannot see the object. Steve stares pensively for a long while. He looks around, searching with the flashlight. He puts the curious object into his pants pocket, continually looking around the immediate spot in which he is standing. As he examines the area closer he notices that the rocks are all placed in a small circle. A soda can, half burnt, lies within

the ashes of what seems to be a fire pit. Steve quickly turns and shines his light toward the others.

STEVE

(Shouting)

“Hey, Brother Willis!”

BROTHER WILLIS

(Shouting)

“Yah?”

STEVE

(Shouting)

“I think I found the fir pit we’re looking for!”

Steve curiously pulls the item from his pocket once more and stares pensively upon it as everyone begins to converge on the site in which Steve is standing. They all shine their lights around the area. Steve places the item back into his pocket.

BROTHER WILLIS

“Ok. This is it, guys. Set up for camp.”

All the boys selfishly scurry about to find the spot they want most to sleep in.

ALL THE BOYS

“That’s my spot... I’m taking this spot...  
I’m setting up right here... “ (Etc.)

Steve talks while they’re working out their sleeping situations.

STEVE

(To everyone)

“Tomorrow, we’ll be hiking to the trailhead. All the equipment and supplies should be there, but we’ll have to carry everything in to the worksite by hand. The cement bags weigh about eighty pounds each. There’s rebar, water, wood, and some tools. We’re not expected to do a professional job, but we are expected to do our best. It’s going to be hard work. We’re building six steps tomorrow and six the on Saturday.”

DREW

(To everyone)

“Everyone hear that? – Twelve steps all together. So, get your rest. It’s going to be a fun couple of days.

FOREST

“How much we gettin’ paid?”

DREW

“I’ll tell you what – you do a good job tomorrow and Saturday and I’ll let you go home on Sunday. That should be enough”

BROTHER WILLIS

“Ok, everyone get to sleep. It’s supposed to be a hot day tomorrow. You need all the sleep you can get. I know how you boys are. But this time you need the rest.”

Everyone starts to set up his particular site. Steve and Gabriel set their sleeping bags without a tent next to Brother Willis, who is also with out a tent – they are all on the same tarp. Kevin, Neal and Forest all sleep together in the same eight-man tent. Chris and Brian are in a separate tent. Drew sleeps alone in a one-man tent. And Rick and Dan set up without a tent together on a tarp– just up from Steve, Gabriel and Brother Willis.

BRIAN

(Yelling)

“Hey! What’s this crap! There’s like five or six big old rocks in my pack! No wonder my pack was so heavy on the way in!”

All the guys start laughing.

RICK

“Hey me too!”

The other boys start laughing harder.

BROTHER WILLIS

“Ok, whoever’s doing that – no more dirty little pranks like that.”

Brother Willis looks through his pack.

## BROTHER WILLIS (CONT'D)

“Alright, very funny!”

Brother Willis takes out one rock after the other from his pack until he takes out five all together. All the other boys start to laugh once more, even harder.

## DREW

“I’m willing to bet that everyone but Neal and Forest have rocks in their packs.”

All the boys immediately quiet down and sift through their packs. Everyone but Forest and Neal take out several rocks. Forest and Neal just start laughing and taunting everyone in a teasing manner.

**INT. THE EIGHT-MAN TENT – NIGHT**

All the boys are sitting together in a circle. They all have cards in their hands. We can’t see what the cards read.

Neal sits by the door. To the left of Neal (in order) is: Brian, Steve, Gabriel, Chris, Kevin, Dan, Rick, and Forest

## NEAL

“UNO!”

## FOREST

“Don’t let him win!”

## STEVE

“He always wins.”

## RICK

“Only cause he cheats good.”

## DAN

“Alright, already. Whose turn is it?”

## KEVIN

(Directed at Brian)

“Brian!”

## BRIAN

“What, man?”

## KEVIN

“It’s your turn!”

STEVE

“I’m just gonna take my turn and skip you.”

BRIAN

“I’m going!”

Brian places a “Skip” card on the pile.

BRIAN (CONT’D)

“Too late, I skipped you.”

STEVE

“Oh, man! What’d you do that for?”

Steve lowers his head. Brian just laughs.

GABRIEL

“Is it my turn, yet?”

CHRIS

“Yah! Now put something down already?”

GABRIEL

“Be patient, big boy. Be patient”

Gabriel places a “Draw two” card on the pile.

CHRIS

“I’ll just reverse it back to you.”

Chris places a “Reverse” card on top of the pile.

NEAL

“You can’t do that!”

CHRIS

“We did today at Bro Willis’!”

NEAL

“That was ‘Killer UNO’, you dummy.”

CHRIS

“Fine!”

Chris takes back his “Reverse” card from the top of the pile and Chris places a regular “Number” card down.

STEVE  
(Frustrated)  
“Chris!”

Steve picks up Chris’ card throws it back at him.

STEVE (CONT’D)  
“You need to draw two cards. You can’t put anything down. It’s a draw two!”

CHRIS  
“Fine!”

Chris picks up his card where it was thrown and draws two other cards.

**EXT. BROTHER WILLIS’ CAMPSITE -- NIGHT**

Brother Willis and Drew are speaking with each other.

BROTHER WILLIS  
“I knew they wouldn’t go to sleep.”

DREW  
“They’ll learn after they realize how tired they are tomorrow.”

BROTHER WILLIS  
“Well, I’m hitting the sack. Have a goodnight.”

DREW  
“Night.”

Drew walks to his tent.

**INT. THE EIGHT-MAN TENT -- NIGHT**

KEVIN  
“Is it finally my turn?”

CHRIS  
“Just go.”

Kevin then places a regular number card on the pile.



KEVIN

“UNO!”

DAN

“Awe, man! I am never gonna win.”

Dan places a card followed by a quick placement by Rick.

RICK

“Alright Forest, your turn.”

FOREST

“Anybody see what Neal has? I hate making these decisions.”

NEAL

(Teasing and taunting)

“I’m going to win.”

FOREST

“Oh, be quiet. Not if I can help it.”

In slow motion Forest throws his card down. The card lands right on top of the pile – it’s a “wild” card.

FOREST

“Red.”

Everyone looks over to Neal. Neal bows his head and then looks up again. A big smile forms on his face, as he throws his last card onto the pile. It’s a “Wild Draw Four” card.

NEAL

“Told you – I win!”  
(Laughs aloud)

GABRIEL

(Defeated)  
“I’m going to sleep. Goodnight!”

Everyone says the same thing and they all leave to their own sleeping bags.

### **EXT. STEVE AND GABRIEL’S CAMPSITE – LATE NIGHT**

It’s a dark and quiet night in camp. The wind is blowing and whistling in the trees.

Gabriel and Steve are lying on their backs talking and looking up at the stars. Brother Willis is almost asleep at the other side of Steve.

STEVE

“I don’t know what to do.”

GABRIEL

“What can you do?”

STEVE

“I don’t know. I love my parents. But I think they’ve just grown apart.”

GABRIEL

“Well, if you ever need anything just let me know, bro.”

STEVE

“Thanks, Gabe.”

Suddenly, through the darkness, from the direction of the trail is a faint rattling sound, followed by a scuffling noise in an odd rhythm. Soon a deep moaning is heard. The sound is approaching. Soon it becomes something to worry about. Steve and Gabriel are afraid.

STEVE

(Whispering aloud)

“Brother Willis, Brother Willis!”

GABRIEL

(Whispering aloud)

“Brother Willis, wake up!”

It soon gets close enough to see. Steve and Gabriel peak over their sleeping bags and see the image of a man getting closer, pounding a weird rattle against his chest. He’s walking toward them with a noticeable limp, moaning. He doesn’t hesitate, in the least, to approach whomever is closest (Brother Willis.)

Steve and Gabriel become all the more fearful as they attempt to awaken Brother Willis from a deep sleep. This strange man is now within thirty feet of the campsite. Brother Willis slowly wakes up.

BROTHER WILLIS

(Incoherent)

“What? Where are my work boots? I’m gonna be late! I’m...”

BROTHER WILLIS (CONT'D)

(Looking toward the unknown man)

“Who’s that?”

GABRIEL

“I don’t know, but it doesn’t feel right.”

STEVE

“Yah. I don’t think he’s normal.”

BROTHER WILLIS

(Quickly coming to)

“There’re all kinds of people up here. It could be crazy derelict.”

The moaning gets much louder, as does the rattling. The man begins to move faster as if to attack. He raises his hand with the rattle in it. We can see, in the shadow of the trees that his face is distorted. He has a long, thin nose and his head is too big for his body. – It’s a ‘Nixon’ mask.

Brother Willis jumps from a lying-down position to a standing position in one quick motion. We can see that his adrenaline is pumping, as is Steve’s and Gabriel’s.

BROTHER WILLIS (CONT'D)

(Yelling at the man)

“Get out of here!”

Steve and Gabriel witness as Brother Willis and the unknown man come face to face. Brother Willis pulls back his fist as if to throw a wicked blow.

STEVE

“I think the spirit just went under the covers.”

GABRIEL

“Well, we’ve always been taught to follow the spirit.”

Steve and Gabriel then cover their heads with their own sleeping bags and tense up, bracing for the two men to fall on them.

Brother Willis then begins to take a swing at the man. As Brother Willis’ fist approaches him, the man trips on a rock and falls in front of Brother Willis. Brother Willis squats to follow through with his swing. But the man falls at Brother Willis’ feet, before he could connect. Just as the man lands at Brother Willis’ feet, Brother Willis notices that he’s

wearing a mask. There's a muffled laugh. Brother Willis then recognizes the mask and the laugh.

BROTHER WILLIS

“Neal, is that you?”

The laughing continues, followed by an echoing laugh from Forest and Kevin, who are watching the whole thing through their tent window. Neal takes off the mask and keeps laughing.

BROTHER WILLIS (CONT'D)

“You butt-head!”

Brother Willis then slaps Neal in the back of the head pretty hard.

NEAL

“Ouch! That hurt!”

BROTHER WILLIS

“You're lucky I didn't slug you when I went to swing!”

Brother Willis helps Neal up. He then looks over to Steve and Gabriel, who are coming out from hiding under their covers.

BROTHER WILLIS (CONT'D)

“What were you two doing?”

STEVE

“Following the spirit. – He went under the covers. – Pray about it”

BROTHER WILLIS

“Steve you're one of the strongest guys here and you're hiding under your witto bwanky? What are you thinking?”

STEVE

“I didn't want you guys to land on me.”

GABRIEL

(Changing the subject)

“Neal! You scared the crap out of me!”

NEAL

“Then it worked.”

FOREST

(Laughing aloud with Kevin)

“That was great!”

BROTHER WILLIS

“Neal, you could’ve been seriously hurt!  
You need to think before doing something  
stupid like that again.”

NEAL

“I’m sorry.”

BROTHER WILLIS

“No you’re not!”

NEAL

“I know, but it sounds good.”

BROTHER WILLIS

“Just get to sleep. We have a lot to do  
tomorrow. And we may not finish until it’s  
dark.”

Everyone finally goes to sleep.

### EXT. THE TRAILHEAD – MORNING

There’s a large blue plastic tarp covering all the cement bags. There are three wheel barrels and a bunch of tools in a couple of buckets, which include: mallets, sledgehammers, shovels, rags, hoes, tools for smoothing cement, and more. There’s wood (for framing the cement) leaning against the buckets of tools. Two bundles of three-foot long rebar are lying next to the cement bags.

BRIAN

“Are we taking *all* this all stuff down? How far?”

STEVE

“I think it’s only about a half-mile.”

BRIAN

“I thought scouting was supposed to be fun, man.”

BROTHER WILLIS

“Well, let’s get this thing started.”

STEVE

(Directed at everyone)

“Once we get six steps finished and covered we’re done for the day. The faster we get done, the faster we can play.”

GABRIEL

(Quickly speaking up)

“I call a wheel barrel

Gabriel darts for a wheel barrel and starts taking it down.

STEVE

“Wait a minute, Gabe.”

GABE

“What?”

STEVE

“If you’re taking a wheel barrel, please take one or two bags of cement with you.”

GABRIEL

“What? Why?”

STEVE

(Directed at everyone)

“We have to get all this stuff down to the work site. Once we do that, we don’t need to run anything down tomorrow. – So, let’s get it done. Come on guys, let’s go! Please!”

Everyone starts loading up the wheel barrels and taking everything to the worksite. Time just passes by as the work finally commences.

### EXT. THE WORK SITE – LATE MORNING

It’s a few hours later and all the tools and material are finally unloaded. Gabriel is walking down the trail empty handed. Everyone is already tired and sweaty. There is one wheel barrel missing.

STEVE

“Hey Gabe, you leave a wheel barrel up there?”

Gabriel stops.

GABRIEL

“Yah, why? We need it for something else?”

STEVE

“Yah we need it. e have to mix the cement in something.”

GABRIEL

“Right now?”

STEVE

“Come help the others. I’ll run up real fast and grab it.”

GABRIEL

“I’ll just go with you.”

STEVE

“That’s cool.”

Steve and Gabriel walk up the trail together while everyone else starts digging into the weathered trail under Drew and Brother Willis’ careful watch.

#### EXT. TRAILHEAD – LATE MORNING

Gabriel and Steve arrive at the trailhead and retrieve the wheel barrel. Steve takes hold of it and starts back. Gabriel follows close behind.

GABRIEL

“So, is it really that bad with your parents?”

STEVE

“I don’t know. They never really talk about it.”

GABRIEL

“It’s kinda sad – I mean, even in the church people take the easy way out, which turns out to be the hard way anyways.”

STEVE

“Everyone else does it why shouldn’t they.  
No one wants to try anymore. They’d rather  
break it off and find someone new.

GABRIEL

“Well that’s the thing – It’s all a choice.”

STEVE

“My mom and dad don’t even pray together.  
And it’s not that they don’t want to, it just  
doesn’t come natural anymore.”

GABRIEL

“So, when do you think...?”

STEVE

(cutting Gabriel off)

“I think they want to wait until after my  
Court of Honor. I don’t think they want to  
ruin my moment. – But I have an idea that  
just might work, if they pray. I’ve been  
praying a lot. But this idea won’t work  
unless they try. I talked to my mom about  
praying – it might work.

(To himself)

“It might work.”

Steve’s pace starts to pick up with the pull of gravity on the wheel barrel. Gabriel starts to jog behind him.

GABRIEL

“Hey speedy, slow down there. – Woe boy!”

STEVE

“Come on, we need to get back.”

Steve begins to run down the trail and slowly loses control. The wheel barrel then hits a rock and bumps upward and off the trail.

GABRIEL

“Steve, let go of it!”

In one quick motion the wheel barrel rolls over, taking Steve with it down the side of the hill. He looks like a rag doll as he flips over and under it several times.



GABRIEL (CONT'D)

(Shocked)

“Steve!”

It all finally comes to an abrupt stop against a tree. Steve lies there motionless. Gabriel runs as fast as he is able, down the steep hillside.

CU: Dust and dirt fly up at Gabriel’s feet.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

(Frantic)

“Steve! I’m coming!”

Gabriel finally arrives at the wheel barrel. He squats down in a deep sweat and breathing hard. Steve is still lying there motionless

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

“Steve. Can you here me?”

Still, no sound or movement.

POV: Steve is in the darkness of the wheel barrel, some light is present through the cracks between the ground and the rim of the over turned wheel barrel.

Gabriel leans over in an attempt to move the wheel barrel off of Steve. Suddenly a light moaning audibly hints at Steve’s condition.

GABRIEL (CONT')

“Steve?”

The softness of the moan turns into a muffled laugh that eventually becomes uncontrollable. Together, Steve and Gabriel lift the wheel barrel off. They can finally see each other and sit up.

STEVE

“*MAN!* That was awesome!” Whoa!”

GABRIEL

“*YOU MORON!* I was scarred. I thought you were out cold. And I didn’t want to carry you up the hill.

(Chuckling)

“You moron.”

STEVE

“That’s ‘Mormon’ to you, buddy.”

GABRIEL

(Laughing)

“Come on, let’s get back to the guys. I can’t wait to tell them what I saw. Dude that mean lookin’. Wish I had a camera.”

**EXT. WORKSITE – EARLY AFTERNOON**

The third step is finished. Everyone is tired, as shown by their filthiness – but more especially by each individual expression, as they take a quick break. The sun is beating down hard. Brother Willis, Steve, Forest, and Neal are sitting around together in the shade, drinking water.

FOREST

“So, Brother Willis, did you ever pull any pranks when you were younger?”

NEAL

“What are you talking about? Brother Willis was never younger.”

(Laughs)

FOREST

“Oh Yah, sorry. I mean, *if* you were younger?”

BROTHER WILLIS

“Me? Prank? – And yes, once upon a time I was even younger than you guys.”

STEVE

“So, you haven’t answered the question.”

FOREST

“Yah, have you ever pranked anyone?”

BROTHER WILLIS

“Of course I did. But I guess I did *technically* break the law a few times. Which, by the way, gives you no right to do the same”

NEAL

“So, what’d you do?”

BROTHER WILLIS

“Hold on! – Well, my buddies and I used to throw soap into the city fountain...”

(Laughs)

NEAL

“That’s it. That’s your big law breaking experience? We can do better than that.”

BROTHER WILLIS

“You gonna let me finish?”

NEAL

“Oh, sorry.”

BROTHER WILLIS

“Well, the soap would create such huge suds that the bubbles would run out into the grass,

(Laughs)

“and down the street. The city finally got so sick of it that they put a guard out.”

STEVE

“So was that it? You couldn’t do it anymore?”

The boys are all into the story by this time.

BROTHER WILLIS

“That’s the thing. At that point we wanted to do it so bad that one of the guys found these soap pellets. We drove by the fountain and threw them as hard as we could. – Different kinda drive by than you guys are used to hearing about. – Anyways, the guard just stood there in shock. It was so funny.

(Laughing really hard)

“Imagine all these little pellets hitting him in the face! It was great...”

At this point all the guys are laughing their heads off, including Brother Willis.

## BROTHER WILLIS (CONT'D)

“The... The best part is that the soap pellets went into the fountain anyway and they all bubbled up – even bigger than before. The guard started running around frantically trying to pick up all the bubbles. It was so funny to watch!”

## FOREST

“Did you do that a lot?”

## BROTHER WILLIS

“We did it a few times and got tired of it. After a while, the city was finally able to get rid of the guard. – So we did it one more time just to frustrate them. We were brats back then! And they never did find out who it was.”

Everyone just continues to laugh.

## FOREST

(Laughing)

“That’s great.”

## BROTHER WILLIS

“I better not find out that you guys do anything like that. I’ll never trust you again.”

## NEAL

“Brother Willis, your secret is safe with us.”

## BROTHER WILLIS

“Whatever. – Well, let’s get back to work and finish this thing. There’s only three steps left.

(Directed at everyone)

Come on you guys. Lets get going.

Everyone gets up from their brief rest to recommence their laborious work.

**EXT. WORKSITE – EARLY EVENING**

The sun is going down and the day is much cooler.

The sixth step is now finished. Everyone is warn out and ready to get back to camp.

DREW

“Good work you guys.  
 (Motioning to the dry cement)  
 Let’s get that cement under a tarp and keep  
 it dry.”

Dan, Brian, and Kevin all help to place a tarp over the cement. The rest of the guys clean up the site and put everything away.

BROTHER WILLIS

“Alright, let’s get back to camp. And this  
 time make sure you get enough sleep.”

They all have a noticeable look of relief as they drag their tired feet back to camp.

### EXT. CAMPSITE – EVENING

CU: A slice of apple is flying through the night air. The exposed moistness is glimmering to what appears to be the moonlight. The apple slice lands on the ground in the middle of the woods. There’s a fishing line tied around the apple slice. The camera follows the line slowly, all the way to a hand holding it.

As the camera zooms out we find that Forest is holding on to the fishing line. All the boys are behind Forest at a small distance. We then find that it is not the moonlight shining off the apple slice, but the boys’ flashlights. In the darkness of the woods, about seven feet from the apple slice there appears to be six or seven pairs of eyes glowing to the brightness of the flashlights.

Forest begins to pull on the fishing line, slowly. All the boys are very quiet, yet anxious, as seen upon their faces.

FOREST

(Whispering gently)  
 “Come on, little guy. Come on.”

DAN

(Perplexed)  
 “Little guy? What are you a girl?”

CHRIS

“SH-SH!”

Soon a tiny raccoon emerges from the bushes. It sniffs around the apple slice. Eventually several others emerge as well. They are all babies. Forest pulls slowly on the fishing line, drawing the raccoons closer.

BRIAN

(Whispering)

“Check it out, man. That’s too cool.”

CHRIS

(Watching intently)

“SH-SH!”

RICK

(Whispering)

“They’re so little.”

CHRIS

(Watching intently – whispering)

“SH-SH! Quiet already! We don’t want to scare them off!”

DAN

“So, where’s the mother?”

CHRIS

(Watching intently)

“SH-SH!”

RICK

“Yah, aren’t they like protective?”

CHRIS

(Watching intently)

“SH-SH!”

All the boys start looking around more intently.

KEVIN

“Let’s throw another piece out there.”

CHRIS

(Watching intently)

“SH-SH-SH-SH-SH-SH-SH-SH-SH!”

Suddenly, from behind, a large hand grabs Chris’ shoulders.

BROTHER WILLIS

“Hey.”

Brother Willis’ hand startles Chris so bad that Chris screams out, scaring the raccoons back into the woods.

THE REST OF THE BOYS  
“SH-SH-SH-SH-SH-SH-SH-SH!”

FOREST  
“Awe man! Chris, you scared them off.”

BROTHER WILLIS  
“Scared what off? What are you guys up to?”

BRIAN  
“There’s raccoons. We’re fishing them out with apples. It’s pretty cool.”

BROTHER WILLIS  
“Ok, that’s enough for the rest of our stay. Raccoons carry diseases. If they bite, you can get rabies. They may not look cute and all, but they can be vicious.”

RICK  
“But they were all babies.”

BROTHER WILLIS  
“That’s even worse. Wherever the baby is mommy is close by. Protective mothers are the worst kind of any animal. Now I don’t want you guys doing that anymore. You need to get to sleep. We’re getting up early tomorrow.”

All the boys go to their respective sleeping sites, talking amongst themselves.

**INT. EIGHT MAN TENT – LATE EVENING**

KEVIN  
“I WIN!”

All the boys are once again in a circle playing UNO. There’s a dim electric lantern hanging from the center of the tent.

GABRIEL  
“I think everyone has won at least once but me. I must suck!”

FOREST  
(Matter of factly)  
“Yah.”

STEVE  
“Let’s play one more.”

FOREST  
“That’s cool.”

Forest begins to deal out the cards.

KEVIN  
“Hey Neal, pass me an apple.”

Neal tosses an apple to Kevin who takes a large bite out of the center. Steve looks surprised and frustrated. He stares at Kevin.

STEVE  
“You guys got food in here?”

NEAL  
“Yah. So.”

STEVE  
“You need to put the food in a bear bag!  
We’re in the middle of the woods and there  
are bears, you know.”

KEVIN  
“Whatever. I’ve never seen a bear on any of  
these campouts. Shoot, I’ve never seen bear  
tracks or turd or anything like that. We’ll be  
fine. Let’s just play already.”

A subtle noise is then heard without the tent.

DAN  
“Wait – what was that?”

RICK  
“What was what?”

DAN  
“Quiet! Just listen.”



A moment later the same subtle noise is heard closer yet.

BRIAN

“Ok, *that* was something.”

NEAL

“Shut off the light. I think bears are attracted to light.”

Kevin quickly shuts off the light. The scene gets all the more intense for the boys.

GABRIEL

“No! You dummies. Light will keep bears away.”

The sound is heard again. The boys become more fearful. The mood turns suddenly serious.

BRIAN

“I’m scared. What d’we do?”

RICK

(Panicking at a whisper)

“Brother Willis! – Drew!”

Chris’ chubby face crinkles up in exaggeration of his frustration with the noise, as he readies himself to shush Rick.

CHRIS

“SH-SH!”

All of a sudden there’s a small almost insignificant scratch on the side of the tent.

DAN

“Did you guys hear that?”

KEVIN

“Ok. Now I’m freakin’ out.”

FOREST

“Yah, I think it’s trying to get in.”

NEAL

(Laughing bewildered)

“We’re gonna be attacked by a bear – A real freakin’ bear.”

GABRIEL

(Angry – little more than a whisper)  
“So, why in the heck are you laughing?”

NEAL

“I don’t know how to react. And I was just thinking.”

STEVE

“Thinking about what?”

NEAL

“Nothing. It’s just that I’m glad I’m not Kevin right now.”

KEVIN

“Me? Why me?”

STEVE

“Yah, why Kev?”

NEAL

(Laughing)

“He’s the only one in here with food. Which means he’s the only one that smells like food.”

Everyone starts to move away from Kevin. Kevin looks around at everyone and starts to cry. He quickly throws the apple to the floor, where it rolls over to the tent door. It is then noticed that the tent door is slightly open.

CU: The apple sits at the tent door as something dark pokes through the bottom, for a split second. All the boys see it.

KEVIN

(Crying)

“I don’t want it to eat me. I don’t want it to eat me!”

A light growl is then heard, followed by several more scratches at the tent door. It all gets noticeably louder, like there are more out there.

DAN

(Worried)

“There’s like ten bears out there.”

CHRIS

“I don’t think those are bears.”

KEVIN

“What?”

CHRIS

“It sounds like...”

A large raccoon then forces its head through the small opening at the bottom of the tent door.

CHRIS

“Like a raccoon!”

Chris, Steve, Neal, and Gabriel dart for the tent door to push the raccoon out. The raccoon fights to get in, shoving its head in with force.

NEAL

(Grunting and fighting)

“I think this is the mother that Brother Willis was talking about.”

STEVE

(Grunting and fighting)

“Don’t let it bite you.”

GABRIEL

“Got anymore food in here?”

KEVIN

“Some chips.”

The raccoon is growling and fighting to get in. Kevin, Brian, Dan, Rick, and Forest are sitting as far as they can from the confrontation.

GABRIEL

“Throw the chips out the window.”

Kevin quickly unzips the window and tries throwing the chips through. Unfortunately the bag hits the corners of the window and all the chips come flying back in.

KEVIN

(Half-laughing)

“Oooops! – Oh, man!”

The chips are everywhere inside the tent, scattered, spreading the smell.

STEVE

(Facing the fight)

“What happened? Are they out?”

KEVIN

There out alright.”

STEVE

(Facing the fight)

“Good. Now maybe they’ll back off a little, once they get a whiff.”

KEVIN

“Well, there out of the bag anyway. And all over the floor – inside the tent.”

GABRIEL

(Facing the fight)

“Inside the tent?”

STEVE

(Facing the fight))

“Pick’em up and get’em out of here!”

Not only is the mother trying to get in, but several other big heads. Meanwhile Kevin and Forest are scurrying about to get all the chips out the window.

NEAL

(Yelling)

“Crap! How many mother’s does one baby have?”

CHRIS

“Is that a joke? – I don’t know, how many?”

NEAL

“Shut up!”

Kevin and Forest finally get all the chips out the window, and Neal finally forces the main raccoon out with the sole of his foot. Chris then zips the tent down all the way.

Fade to black with the zipping of the tent door.

INT. STEVE'S HOUSE – LATE EVENING

Fade in. Steve's mother and father are in their bedroom talking

STEVE'S MOTHER

“So what's going on with us?”

STEVE'S FATHER

“I don't know?”

STEVE'S MOTHER

“I just don't feel like we've been working out lately. And I don't know what to do. You're always too busy working to discuss anything with me. You never want to talk or pray with me.”

STEVE'S FATHER

“It's not that I don't want to. I'm too tired all the time and I just want to relax when I get home. And when I do get home I'm too irritated by the kids not doing their chores. I can't think enough to pray or talk to anyone.”

STEVE'S MOTHER

“But you don't even try.”

STEVE'S FATHER

“I want to. But...”

STEVE'S MOTHER

“If you want to, that's all you need. I'm tired at the end of the day too. Being a mother is a lot of work, especially with seven kids.”

STEVE'S FATHER

“I don't doubt that you work hard.”

STEVE'S MOTHER

“Well, you have to understand that it's tiring for me to raise these kids and have time for you too. But I try. But there's one thing missing – You!”

STEVE'S FATHER

“And I can't promise you anything.”

STEVE'S MOTHER

“I need you to be at Steve's Court of Honor. I can't be the only parent anymore. If you're not there, I don't know if I can do this anymore.”

STEVE'S FATHER

“I love my boy. I do. But that's all I can give right now. My time is needed at work. Just don't expect me this time. Things will get better. I promise”

STEVE'S MOTHER

“Well, if you don't show for his Court of Honor, I can't promise you things *will* get better.”

They just sit in silence for a moment and everything fades to black.

### INT. EIGHT MAN TENT – EARLY MORNING

Fade in. All nine boys are fast asleep on the tent floor huddling together. There are only a few sleeping bags in the tent. The UNO cards are everywhere.

CU: Steve's eyes open wide.

A noise can be heard outside the tent. The noise sounds just like before, with the raccoons.

STEVE

(Whispering loud)

“Hey guys. Guys.”

The rest of the boys begin to open their eyes.

STEVE

“I think I hear something outside, again.”

All the boys are exhausted.

NEAL

No, not again. I'm just going to lie here and let them take me.”

The shuffling of feet is heard outside. The boys quickly huddle up in fear.”

DREW

“You boys alright in there?”

The boys sigh in relief.

NEAL

“Yah, we’re fine. Why?”

DREW

“Well, the reason I’m asking is because of your tent.”

FOREST

“What d’you mean?”

BROTHER WILLIS

“Take a look.”

The boys walk out of the tent. They’re all tired as look to the tent. We see that all the boys’ faces are shocked. The camera turns to the tent. The tent is ripped in many places, especially around the door. There are shreds of cloth hanging from the bottom of the tent and lying in the dirt. The bag of chips is shredded and a few chips are lying in the dirt.

Brian, Dan, and Chris and Rick walk over to their packs for various reasons.

DREW

“Fun night?”

GABRIEL

(Sarcastically)

“Yah, real fun.”

STEVE

“Kevin and Neal thought it would be a good idea to keep food in their tent.”

BROTHER WILLIS

“You guys know that you need to hang your food. What were you thinking?”

Suddenly Brian screams like a girl.

BROTHER WILLIS

“What now?”

(Looking up with his hands  
extended)

“Will it never end?”

BRIAN

“Brother Willis!”

Brother Willis along with everyone else walks over to see what’s wrong with Brian.

BROTHER WILLIS

“What now, Brian?”

BRIAN

(Panicking)

“There’s a bunch of maggots or something  
squirming around in my pack. It’s a new  
pack. They shredded my new socks too!”

Brother Willis takes a look, followed by Drew and then the rest of the boys. The boys all just laugh.

BROTHER WILLIS

“I think they’re baby mice or rats. The  
mother must have chosen your pack last  
night with the raccoons out and all.”

We then see a small made up nest filled with about seven hairless tiny field mice curled up and squirming about inside Brian’s pack.

NEAL

(Laughing)

“Nice pack, but I think mines better.”

BRIAN

“Shut up.”

BROTHER WILLIS

“Yah, well sorry about the new pack.

(Directed at everyone)

Ok, time to get started. Get your stuff ready.  
And take plenty of water. We need to get up  
to the trail and finish the job. Just six more  
steps and we’re done.”



Everyone scurries about looking for whatever it is they need to take along for the hike. Soon they're ready and off to the trail.

**EXT. THE WORKSITE – LATE AFTERNOON**

They're finishing up the twelfth and final step of the project and everyone is dirty, sweaty, and worn out.

STEVE

“Alright! We – are – done!”

DREW

(To Steve)

“Make sure everyone cleans up before we go back to camp.”

STEVE

“Yah.”

(Directed at everyone)

“We need to make sure this place is clean before we go, guys. Pick up any trash and take the tools and stuff back to the trailhead on our way out. Then we can play some UNO!”

Dan is sitting at the twelfth step, pounding on some rebar.

DAN

“I just want to finish this last step, K?”

STEVE

“That's cool.”

KEVIN

“Yah, me too.”

NEAL

“I wanna help.”

Both Neal and Kevin run up to help Dan.

FOREST

“Not without me!”

RICK

“Hey wait up.”

Forest and Rick follow Kevin and Neal

STEVE

“What are you guys doing?” We’ve got enough people up there with just Dan!”

GABRIEL

“No, I think they can use a few more of us.”

Gabriel followed by Chris and Brian then joins the others. Nothing is getting done by way of cleaning up.

STEVE

“Come on guys. You can’t all get out of cleaning up. That step’s done. Come on! Let’s hurry and finish.”

BROTHER WILLIS

“What’s going on?”

STEVE

“Everyone’s ditching out on cleaning up!”

We see Brother Willis, Drew and Steve looking toward the guys at the top step.

BROTHER WILLIS

“Well, I’d better go supervise then.”

DREW

“Yah, that sounds about right.”

Brother Willis and Drew run up to the boys, leaving Steve standing alone in the middle of the worksite amidst the wheel barrels and cement. Steve begins to clean up on his own.

BROTHER WILLIS

“Steve! Come here and help us out.”

STEVE

“I wanna finish cleaning this mess up. It’s gonna take forever, since you all left!”

Steve continue to clean up the worksite on his own.

DREW

“Steve! Get your butt up here!”

STEVE  
 (To himself)  
 “Fine. Whatever.”

Steve walks up to the guys. They all separate themselves from each other momentarily, standing about six feet behind him in a half circle. Brother Willis standing in front of Steve as he approaches. Dan stands directly behind Brother Willis. Once There’s a small cooler by Drew’s feet.

STEVE  
 (Frustrated)  
 “What now?”

BROTHER WILLIS  
 “Just this.”

Brother Willis moves out of the way. Dan stands there with a small, round, six-inch cake with 18 candles lit in its’ center. The ‘Life Scout’ symbol adorns the top of the cake.

BROTHER WILLIS  
 “Well, we know that your birthday isn’t for another couple of weeks. But we wanted this to be just from us, on one of our world-famous campouts. Well, ‘ward-famous’ anyway. – Happy birthday Steve.”

All they guys agree and in their own way wish him a sincere happy birthday.

STEVE  
 “Thanks!”

GABRIEL  
 “Sorry it’s only a Life Scout cake. But you’re not Eagle yet.”

STEVE  
 “Whatever. I’m done, man. I - am - *DONE!*”

KEVIN  
 (Joking sincerely)  
 “Anyway, Steve, we wrapped up Laura for you. She’s at your house and She’s in nothing but a...”

DAN  
 “Hey! Hey!”

Dan slugs Kevin in the arm really hard. Kevin yells out in pain.

DAN (CONT'D)

“She’s my sister. I don’t wanna here that!”

Starting with Neal, all the guys sing “Happy Birthday” to Steve, who then blows out the candles. However, all the candles just relight. Everyone laughs. In unison, everyone says happy birthday to Steve.

### INT. EIGHT MAN TENT – EVENING

Everyone but Steve is sitting in a circle, playing UNO once more.

BROTHER WILLIS

“Where’s Steve?”

GABRIEL

“Oh, he went off by himself somewhere.”

FOREST

“For what?”

GABRIEL

“I don’t know. It’s personal or something.”

BROTHER WILLIS

“Well, let’s start the game. Steve can join us when he’s done.”

### EXT. JUST OUTSIDE THE CAMPSITE – EVENING

Steve is standing by himself, facing away from the campsite toward the darkness of the trail. The wind is blowing in the trees with an eerie whistle. The night is clear and the moon is bright enough to see without a flashlight.

STEVE

(Aloud to himself)

“What am doing here by myself in the Dark. Just because I’m surrounded by nature doesn’t change the fact that the Devil lives in the dark.”

Steve begins to walk forward, one small step at a time.

STEVE (CONT'D)

(Aloud to himself)

“Don’t look back. Don’t look back. There’s nothing there. I can’t be afraid to pray. I’m doing something righteous. I shouldn’t be scarred. I’ll be eighteen in a few weeks.”

Steve continues on, becoming noticeably braver. He soon comes to spot in which he feels he can pray. He knees down and closes his eyes. He hears a twig snap directly behind him and quickly looks up. He takes a deep swallow and turns around.

STEVE (CONT'D)

“Whose there – anyone there? Come on; don’t play around. – Neal? – Forest?”

Steve just stands there, listening in the silence of the darkness. His heart pounds audibly and heavy. He takes a few deep breaths.

STEVE (CONT'D)

“Man, my mind plays tricks on me when I’m scared. – Don’t be scared, it’s fine. Camp isn’t far.”

He closes his eyes once more. Suddenly something big and fury passes within ten feet behind Steve. Steve looks up again.

STEVE (CONT'D)

(In thought)

“I can’t do this here. What if someone comes up the trail? I don’t want to be praying when somebody walk by.”

Steve stands up and looks around for a good spot on the trail. He can’t seem to find one. He looks to the woods.

STEVE (CONT'D)

(In thought)

“I can’t go in there. It’s *really* dark in there. Things live there. But I need to do this. I need to. – All right, I’m goin’ in... Cover me goose!”

Steve begins to walk into the woods, away from the trail. He walks a fair ways out. All of a sudden his foot gets sucked deep in an unseen mud bog. He tries to pull his foot free, but instead pulls his foot out of his shoe. His foot (sock still on) then lands in the mud.

STEVE (CONT'D)

“Awe, man! – Freakin’ aye!”

Frantically, Steve searches through the mud immediately in front of him to find his shoe. Once he finds it, he pulls with everything he has, grunting aloud. He finally pulls his shoe free and puts it on his muddy foot (still in the sock.)

Steve walks on without thinking about the dark anymore and finds a good place. He looks around and he gets down upon his knees, bows his head and closes his eyes. The wind continues to blow through the trees.

Quickly fade to black.

**INT. STEVE’S HOUSE – EVENING**

Fade in: CU: Steve’s mother’s eyes are closed.

The camera zooms out to find Steve’s mother at her bedside kneeling down and bowing her head.

STEVE’S MOTHER

(Speaking slowly)

“Dear Heavenly Father, I come before thee  
this night...”

Quickly fade to black.

**EXT. SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE THE CAMPSITE – EVENING**

Fade in: Steve is kneeling down and bowing his head with his eyes closed.

STEVE

(Speaking slowly)

“And I ask thee humbly to – please...”

Something really big and furry walks by again, within a few feet of Steve. Steve doesn’t notice.

STEVE (CONT'D)

(Speaking slowly)

“...Please – help and bless my parents...”

Quickly fade to black

**INT. STEVE'S FATHER'S COMPANY CAR – EVENING**

Fade in: Steve's father's head is bowed, his eyes are closed, and his hands are grasping the steering wheel tight.

STEVE'S FATHER

(Speaking slowly)

“...I ask this humbly, in the name of Jesus Christ – Amen.”

Fade to black: a tear comes to Steve's father's eye.

**EXT. SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE THE CAMPSITE – EVENING**

Fade in: Steve gets up from kneeling down and starts back for the campsite. As he walks along he notices, in the light of the moon, glimmering in the mud, is a set of fresh footprints. They appear to be bear tracks. Steve cautiously looks up and all around. He then runs as fast as he can back to camp.

**INT. THE EIGHT MAN TENT – EVENING**

The guys are all sitting around in a circle, playing UNO. Neal throws down a card.

NEAL

“UNO!”

KEVIN

“*NO!* I saw that. You put down like three cards with that one. Come on, pick'm up and take two more cards for cheating!”

All the guys laugh. Neal takes back his cards and picks up two more.

GABRIEL

“Is that how you've been winning all these games? – Cheater!”

Everyone looks at Gabriel with subtlety, making fun.

BROTHER WILLIS

“Hah! I win.”

Brother Willis throws his last card on the pile and smiles with a victorious grin. The other boys all say their “awe's”. One by one, each boy pulls out some UNO cards from underneath their legs and from their sleeves and pockets. Gabriel looks astonished and speechless. All the boys then begin to leave the tent.

GABRIEL

“Everyone cheated? – Brother Willis, I woulda won so many times!

(Yelling with a partial laugh)

“*CHEATER’S!*”

Brother Willis then looks at Gabriel and puts several cards down from under his thighs. He smiles and laughs.

BROTHER WILLIS

“Gabriel The only way to beat these guys is to cheat. It’s part of the game. And I just happen to be the best at it.

(Yelling)

“And I beat’m all!”

(Taunting laugh)

#### EXT. THE CAMPSITE – EVENING

Steve arrives back at camp, winded from running.

STEVE

(Yelling)

“There’s a bear! – A bear!”

Brother Willis, Drew, and a few of the boys, including Forest walk curiously over to Steve.

DREW

“Steve, slow down. Slow down. Did you see it? Is it coming this way?

STEVE

(Out of breath)

“I don’t know, but it’s close.”

FOREST

(Shouting out to everyone else.)

“Steve just saw a bear!

BROTHER WILLIS

“So, you saw it?”

FOREST

(To Steve)

“Cool, was it big? Was it a grizzly?”



STEVE

(Still out of breath)

“I don’t know.”

BROTHER WILLIS

“So you saw it?”

STEVE

“Not yet! I just came back to get my camera. There’s some fresh prints about a hundred yards out that way.

(Pointing)

“They’re huge!”

DREW

“So you didn’t *see* the bear.”

STEVE

“I’da been so mad. I want a picture.”

Kevin

“That’s a good idea. I’m gettin’ my camera too.”

Steve runs off to get his camera from his pack. All the boys run off to get their cameras as well. Drew and Brother Willis are left standing there alone.

DREW

“So, what do you think?”

BROTHER WILLIS

“I don’t know.”

DREW

“Think we ought to have a talk with them?”

BROTHER WILLIS

“Let’s just not let them leave camp right now.”

Brian then runs over to Brother Willis and Drew.

BRIAN

“Brother Willis, my backpack’s gone. I can’t find it anywhere. My new backpack.”

DREW

“That pack’s been through more than all the rest of your packs put together. I’d keep this one, if I ever got it back.”

BRIAN

“Ya think one of the other guys took it?”

DREW

“Probably.”

Brother Willis walks over to the center of the campsite.

BROTHER WILLIS

(Stern)

“Everyone, come here right now!”

All the boys slowly gather around Brother Willis. They all happily have their cameras in hands. Except for Brian, who has a sad look on his face.

FOREST

“What’s up, Brother Willis? We need to go if we want a picture of it.”

BROTHER WILLIS

(Very serious)

“Brian’s pack is missing. Now, I know some of you like to pull pranks. More specifically, I know that Neal and Forest do. So – If any of you...

(Looking straight at Neal, Forest, and Kevin)

“And I’m talking to all you boys. If any of you’ve done anything with Brian’s pack I need it back right now.”

A long silent pause takes place.

BROTHER WILLIS

“Forest?”

FOREST

“I wouldn’t touch his pack if it meant my life.”

BROTHER WILLIS

“Well it might.”

(Looking to Neal)

“Neal?”

NEAL

“I learned my lesson on Friday.”

BROTHER WILLIS

“Ok, anyone else?”

All the boys confirm that they took no part in it.

BROTHER WILLIS (CONT'D)

All right then, I don't want any of you leaving camp tonight without taking either Drew or myself. If there is a bear out there and it just happened to do something with Brian's poor mistreated little backpack, we need to stay in a group. A bear will more than likely, not go where humans are making a lot of noise. And with all of you together here in camp, we won't have a problem making it. And there's enough light here to keep any bears away – except for taking Brian's pack, which is weird. I want you to make sure that all the food is stored in bear bags and nowhere else. You got it?

No one answers

BROTHER WILLIS (CONT'D)

(Louder)

“Got it?”

All the boys sadly confirm that they'll do as he says.

BROTHER WILLIS (CONT'D)

“Go make sure that all the food's properly stored.”

No one moves or responds.

DREW

“Go! Get it done.”

All the boys sadly walk about getting their food put away.

**EXT. THE CAMPSITE – EARLY MORNING**

CU: Brian, Chris, and Rick’s faces are expressing excitement as they walk back into camp from an early morning search for Brian’s pack. As the camera zooms out Brian is dragging a beaten backpack behind him.

The other boys gather around.

DAN

(Excitedly)

“Awe man! Where’d you find it?”

BRIAN

“About thirty or forty yards out that way.”

(Pointing)

KEVIN

“That’s too cool. Look at it.”

CU: We see the pack and there are a couple of holes, tears and scratches on the pack. It’s dirty and beaten.

STEVE

“Well, so much for your new pack.”

BRIAN

“I’m keepin’ this one. Look at it. It was attacked by a freakin’ bear! Isn’t that cool?”

FOREST

(Surprised)

“Actually – Yah.”

Brian’s face is glowing as he shows off his pack to everyone, including Brother Willis and Drew.

BROTHER WILLIS

“So, you found your pack, huh?”

BRIAN

“Yah, isn’t it cool?”

BROTHER WILLIS AND DREW  
(Simultaneously and Surprised)  
“Actually – Yah.”

BROTHER WILLIS  
(Calling out)  
“Everybody eat your breakfast and wash up.  
We’ll have sacrament in about an hour.”

**EXT. THE CAMPSITE – MORNING**

It’s very quiet. The day is perfect and clear. Dan is passing a plate with pieces of bread on it. Kevin takes a piece and eats it. Gabriel takes one and eats it. Steve takes one, eats it, and then closes his eyes.

Fade to black.

**INT. THE WARD BUILDING – MORNING**

Fade in: Steve’s mother takes a piece of bread from the tray and eats it. She then closes her eyes.

Fade to black.

**EXT. THE CAMPSITE – MORNING**

Fade in: Steve takes hold of the community cup of blessed water and takes a sip. He then passes it to Neal and closes his eyes.

Fade to black

**INT. THE WARD BUILDING – MORNING**

Fade in: Over the shoulder: Steve’s father is looking through the glass, facing the chapel. We do not see his face. The priests cover the water with the white cloth. Steve’s father’s legs and feet are only seen from behind walking away after the sacrament. Steve’s mother then apprehensively turns to look at the glass by which he was standing and, of course, there is no one there.

Fade to black

**EXT. ON THE TRAIL – LATE MORNING**

Everyone is singing “100 Bottles of *root* beer on the wall.” Their voices fade into the background, continuously singing as Gabriel and Steve talk.

GABRIEL

“You nervous about your parents?”

STEVE

“I guess I should be, but I’m not.”

GABRIEL

“You’re not nervous about your parents?”

STEVE

“Not really. But that doesn’t mean it’s gonna work out the way I want it to.”

GABRIEL

“Well, I hope it works out. I don’t know what I’d do if it happened to me.”

STEVE

“I thought that too. But everyone goes through hard times, right?”

GABRIEL

“Yah.”

STEVE

“Hard times test people’s faith and stuff. What matters is what you do with the hard times. I don’t want to give up. Heavenly Father knows what’s gonna happen. But how do I learn if we can’t experience it to the end? We all pray then do what feels right and hope the spirit’s guiding. That’s what faith is, right?”

GABRIEL

“Yah.”

STEVE

“Things’ll work out. I know they will. But, I gotta do whatever I can to help. And the only thing I can do is pray. The rest is between the Heavenly Father and my Mom and Dad.”

GABRIEL

“So, basically you *are* nervous about your parents.”

STEVE

“Yup.”

GABRIEL

“That’s all you had to say. I’ve already been to church today, buddy.”

Gabriel pats Steve on the back and they both join in on the song as it vocalizes more fully.

### INT. STEVE’S HOUSE – EARLY EVENING

Steve walks in the front door. He throws his pack down on the couch.

STEVE

“Mom! – Mom?”

STEVE’S MOTHER

(From somewhere in the house)

“Y-e-e-e-s?”

STEVE

“Where are you?”

STEVE’S MOTHER

“Oh – Steve-o! Is that you?”

Steve’s mother comes out of the hallway and into the living room.

STEVE’S MOTHER

“You’re home. – How was the campout?”

They share a hug and a kiss.

STEVE

“It was fun. But, man, what didn’t happen!”

STEVE’S MOTHER

“Well, you’d better get ready for your Court of Honor. We can talk about it later. Right now we need to get ready. You guys always cut it so close. –You smell like a three-day-old campout. Hurry, go take a shower and I’ll make you something to eat.”

STEVE

“Is Dad coming?”

STEVE’S MOTHER

“I don’t think so, Steve-o. I’m sorry. You know your father, he has to work.”

STEVE

(Upset)

“Yah, I knew it.”

STEVE’S MOTHER

“You never know though, he could be there. For now concentrate on getting ready, Ok?”

STEVE

“K.”

Steve slouches to the bathroom.

### EXT. THE WARD BUILDING – EVENING

Steve’s parent’s van pulls into the parking lot. They find a place to park. Steve, his mother, Andrea (19), and another sister (16) get out of the van. Steve’s mother is in a dress. His sisters are dressed in everyday clothing. Steve’s mother and sisters are carrying some boxes and bags. They all walk slowly to the doors, where Steve opens them. All of the woman walk in first, followed by Steve, dressed in his nicely pressed Boy Scout uniform.

### INT. THE WARD BUILDING – EVENING: SECONDS LATER

Steve, his mother, and his sisters walk into the gym. There are a few people standing around. They set the boxes and bags down on a table by the wall. Steve’s sisters wander off for a moment. Steve’s Stake President and Bishop walk over to shake his hand and congratulate him.



Brother Willis and his wife soon walk through the doors and walk up to Steve, who is surrounded by his mother, the Stake President, the Bishop and a few other people. There is an exaggerated web of hand shaking.

BROTHER WILLIS

“Steve, you’d better get in the chapel. You need to be up behind the pulpit.”

STEVE’S MOTHER

“Go on honey. We’ll set everything up in here.”

Everyone walks into the chapel, except for Steve’s mother and sisters, who begin to set up the pictures, cake, awards for display, refreshments, drinks, etc. on tables in the gym. Sister Willis walks back to the gym with two other ladies.

SISTER WILLIS

“What can we help you with? We’re all yours.”

STEVE’S MOTHER

(Smiling)

“Oh, thank you so much.”

#### INT. THE WARD BUILDING – EVENING: 20 MINUTES LATER

Steve is sitting on the stand, behind the pulpit. There’s hymnal music playing softly. Steve’s mother, followed by her daughters and Sister Willis walk in and sit together. The chapel is filled. The speakers and presenters, including Gabriel, Neal, Forest, and Brother Willis have taken their seats on the stand. Brother Willis is sitting next to Steve. Brother Willis then stands up, the music stops, and the ceremony then begins.

BROTHER WILLIS

(Very tired)

“I’d like to thank everyone for coming out this evening. We’ll begin with the hymn, which is prostrated on your... *por-gams*...

His eyes look up word in thought as to what he just said. A few giggles sound through the congregation. Brother Willis just shakes it off and continues.

BROTHER WILLIS (CONT’D)

“followed by a invocation by our very own Ricky...”

Steve looks to the bench where there's an empty seat his next to his mother (for his father.) Steve's mother shrugs her shoulders. Steve looks back to Brother Willis who has finished speaking. Brother Willis sits down and the opening hymn begins.

**EXT. THE WARD BUILDING: OUTSIDE – EVENING**

Steve's father's company car screeches up to the building and stops. One of the front tires is on the sidewalk curb. He gets out and runs to the front doors. He's wearing a shirt and tie.

**INT. THE WARD BUILDING: CHAPEL – EVENING**

The hymn is coming to a close. Steve's Father quietly walks in. Steve's eyes light up and the biggest smile overcomes his expressionless face. Steve's Father takes the seat next to his wife. But they show no affection. The hymn concludes and Rick approaches the pulpit. He bows his head and closes his eyes.

RICK

“Heavenly Father, Thank you that Steve finally got his Eagle before it was too late in two weeks, cause he'll be eighteen. – But you already know that. Hope he can speak good enough so we all stay awake. Bless the refreshments that they'll good and that they taste good too...

(Awkward pause)

“And please, let there be enough for seconds...”

Rick's voice fades out as Steve sits silently closing his eyes. Steve can hear a faint snoring coming from Brother Willis.

STEVE

(Whispering)

“Brother Willis? Brother Willis!”

Brother Willis continues to snore.

RICK

(Aloud)

“...AMEN!”

Rick takes his seat and no one approaches the pulpit. It's completely silent for several long and awkward seconds.

STEVE  
 (Whispering)  
 “Brother Willis! Brother Willis!”

The congregation just sits patiently. Then a very loud and sudden snore is heard from Brother Willis throughout the chapel. Steve nudges Brother Willis slightly.

STEVE  
 (Whispering)  
 “Brother Willis!”  
 (Aloud)  
 “Keith!”

Brother Willis quickly opens his eyes and gets up, very incoherently.

BROTHER WILLIS  
 “What? Where are my work boots? I’m...”

Brother Willis stops and looks out into the congregation. Everyone is staring at him. His face turns a bright shade of red. He smiles in humiliation. He looks over to his wife. Her hands are covering her face and her head is hung low. Steve’s mother smiles, gracefully. Then Steve’s father begins to laugh. Steve’s mother then pinches him on the leg and quickly quiets him down.

Brother Willis once again approaches the pulpit.

BROTHER WILLIS (CONT’D)  
 (Nervously clearing his throat)  
 “Ah, sorry ‘bout that. – Anyone looking for a job? Apparently mine’ll be open once my *beautiful* wife kills me.”

Brother Willis starts laughing. The mood is soon turned and everyone can then laugh, Except for Steve’s father, whose mood had been ruined by the pinch. He sits there expressionless.

Fade to black.

Fade in: Steve is awarded his Eagle, as Brother Willis presents it to him.

Fade to black.

Fade in: Steve’s parents are standing next to him. His mother receives her mother’s pin. Steve’s father then pins it on her dress.

Fade to black

Fade in: Steve's father proudly receives his father's pin, as Steve's mother Pins it on his tie.

Fade to black.

**EXT. THE WARD BUILDING: THE GYM – EVENING**

Everyone has now congregated for refreshments in the gym, where the presentations are now displayed. Forest and Neal walk up to Steve from behind and scare him. Neal places a hand on Steve's shoulder, firmly.

NEAL  
(Quick and loud)  
“HEY!”

Steve quickly turns about, screaming like a little girl. Forest and Neal laugh aloud. Everyone else just looks queerly upon Steve.

STEVE  
(briefly upset)  
“Why do you guys always do that?”

NEAL  
“Cause it's funny.”  
(Laughs)

FOREST  
“No, really, we just want to congratulate you before we go.”

NEAL  
“Yah, we're takin' off. We'll call you tomorrow. Congratulations, bro.”

FOREST  
“Yah, congrts.”

STEVE  
“That's cool. See ya guys.”

FOREST AND NEAL  
“Later.”

Forest and Neal quickly walk off, right as Steve's mother walks up to him with a proud smile. She hugs him tight.

STEVE'S MOTHER

"I'm so proud of you."

STEVE

"Thanks, Mom."

STEVE'S MOTHER

"You get any cake?"

STEVE

"Not yet."

STEVE'S MOTHER

"You'd better hurry, it's almost all gone."

STEVE

"I will. – Mom?"

STEVE'S MOTHER

"Yah?"

STEVE

"How's things with you and Dad?"

STEVE'S MOTHER

"I'm really not sure, right now."

STEVE

"Did you both pray at all?"

STEVE'S MOTHER

"I did. – I just don't know how to feel. – We shouldn't be talking like this in here. It's your night. Enjoy yourself. – And go have some cake."

STEVE

"Did Dad pray?"

STEVE'S MOTHER

(Trying to hold back a few tears)

"I don't know, Steve. – Please, not here."

Steve looks into his mother's eyes as he places his hand into his right pocket.

STEVE

“Mom, if it is yours, I hope it’s a good enough answer to at least your prayer.”

STEVE’S MOTHER

“What do you mean?”

Steve pulls his hand out of his pocket, with a closed fist. He takes his mother by the left hand and places something into the palm of her hand. He closes her hand around it. Steve half smiles with a tear rolling down his cheek.

Steve’s mother takes a deep swallow. Her eyes become wider. She knows what is in her hand, but doesn’t want to look, for fear of broken hope. She finally looks down.

POV. Steve’s mother opens her hand. It’s her long lost wedding ring and it’s a bit dirty.

Steve’s mother is completely silent as she stares at the ring. She can no longer hold her tears, as she begins to cry silently, but uncontrollably. Steve too begins to cry in the same fashion.

STEVE

“Is it yours? – You told me you used camp there. I found the ring looking for the campsite.

Steve’s eyes become a little wider, as he stops crying. Steve’s mother notices and pauses from her crying.

STEVE’S MOTHER

“What’s wrong?”

STEVE

“Well, after I found it, I – I didn’t wash it.  
(Overly anxious)  
It’s really dirty, here let me go wash it off.”

Steve reaches for the ring.

STEVE’S MOTHER

“No, it’s Ok. – I need to show this to your Father.”

Steve quickly grabs it anyway.

STEVE  
(Super anxious)  
“NO! – Believe me, it’s much better clean.”

Steve then runs to the bathroom and washes it off. While Steve’s mother stands there alone, She ponders on the ring and begins to tear once more. Steve’s father notices and walks over to her.

STEVE’S FATHER  
“What’s wrong?”

STEVE’S MOTHER  
(Sniffing)  
“We need to talk.”

STEVE’S FATHER  
“What? Here?” – Let’s do this later.”

STEVE’S MOTHER  
“Did you pray?”

Steve’s father is momentarily silent, as he scratches his head.

STEVE’S FATHER  
“Yah.”

Just then Steve runs back with the ring. He hands the ring to his mother.

STEVE  
(Looking at his mother)  
“I better let you guys talk.”

STEVE’S MOTHER  
“No, you’re staying right here.”

STEVE’S FATHER  
“Well let’s go talk in the car.”

STEVE’S MOTHER  
“No, we have to talk right now. – Did you know that Steve just got back from a campout where we used to camp all the time.”

STEVE’S FATHER  
“Really?”

STEVE'S MOTHER

"If you really prayed like you said you did. – Here, take this."

Steve's mother hands the ring to Steve's father.

STEVE

"I found it camping. Turns out, it was the wrong site. We were supposed to be at the other side of the stream, somewhere."

Steve's father looks at the ring. He immediately begins to tear. Steve's mother begins to softly cry. Steve's Father tries to speak, but he can't – without crying. He holds back from speaking.

STEVE'S MOTHER

(Crying)

"It's the answer to our prayers. – Can you feel that? It's the spirit. And we need to do better."

Steve's father bows his head, crying and nodding in the affirmative.

STEVE'S FATHER

(Half-whisper still unable to speak)

"I know."

(A long, silent pause)

"I know."

Steve begins to cry once more. Gabriel walks over and puts a loving arm around him.

GABRIEL

(Whispering)

"Looks like it might work out after all."

Steve then smiles and nods. Steve's Father lips and hands are quivering as he talks his wife by the waste and pulls her close. They hug for a long time, crying. Everyone in the gym smiles and a few of the ladies begin to cry. Steve's parents continue to hug.

STEVE'S FATHER

(To Steve's mother)

"I do love you. I'm sorry for everything."

Fade to black, as they walk out of the building.

*THE END!*



*POST-CREDIT SCENE**EXT. STEVE'S PARENT'S VAN – NIGHT*

Fade in: Steve, his sister and their parents are driving back home. They see some flashing police lights near the city's fountain. There are suds everywhere. The van passes the police and the fountain. Steve looks back as they pass and sees Forest and Neal sitting on the curb looking up at the officers. They are in tears. The suds reach their butts as they sit, and flow into the street.

Steve's family drives off, and happily so.

*EXT. BROTHER WILLIS' ASTROVAN – NIGHT*

Brother Willis and his wife sees what Steve's family just saw. He sinks into his seat as low as he can, while driving by, embarrassed.

Fade to black.