

HOMEcomings

Written by

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Based on True Events

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1 EXT. DELIVERY VAN - NIGHT 1

A white delivery van, lights off, is parked on the street. The lights of a passing car reveal the silhouette of TWO PEOPLE sitting inside.

2 INT. DELIVERY VAN - NIGHT 2

JERRY VALDEZ, 17, khakis, sport coat and a tie - smooth operator - sits in the driver's seat.

REGGIE CAMAYA, 17, lanky frame, buzz cut, oversized glasses, an ill-fitting suit - sits in the passenger seat.

Jerry admires the picture of a MAN in a Suit on the cover of *Time Magazine*. A title reads, "Could This be Our Next President?" Reggie smiles at Jerry.

REGGIE

Before you know it, he'll be coming to you, Jerry.

The silence is broken by LESLIE MORGAN, 17, sunglasses, scarf, black nylons, dark glasses - could be a French New Wave femme. She sits on a stool in the back of the van.

LESLIE

So we going to do this or what?

Jerry smiles, turns to Reggie and nods his head - Jerry leads Reggie out of the van.

3 EXT. CALIFORNIA CLUB DRIVEWAY - NIGHT 3

Expensive cars roll up to a red carpet. Spotlights shine into the sky. DIGNITARIES & CELEBRITIES crowd the carpet. SWARMS of PHOTOGRAPHERS fill the air with popping flashes.

Jerry and Reggie stand at the edge of the crowd. Jerry smiles as out of a Lincoln Towncar emerges SENATOR MARK GARCIA, 40s, a pin stripe suit with a smile that could rob a nun of her virginity. He's the man on the cover of *Time*.

SECURITY holds the photographers back.

REGGIE

He looks shorter in person.

Jerry turns to the camera, and smiles. The lights and sound fade, people freeze, Jerry walks onto the red carpet and speaks to us, the audience:

JERRY

The Senator doesn't realize it yet,
but tonight, he and I have an
appointment with destiny to change
the world. There's a plan:

IN THE FOLLOWING IMAGES JERRY STAYS 17.

IMAGE: Jerry on a podium next to Senator Garcia in a high
school football stadium - during half-time.

JERRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

The Senator hosts our Homecoming.

JERRY WALKS THROUGH A TREE LINED HARVARD.

JERRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

He writes me a letter of
recommendation to his alma mater,
Harvard.

JERRY DEBATES STUDENTS IN A CLASSROOM.

JERRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Then, Yale Law.

JERRY ADDRESSES A COURTROOM.

JERRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I defend civil liberties for a few
years.

JERRY STANDS AT A LECTERN AND SPEAKS TO A CROWD THAT WAVE
"VOTE FOR JERRY" SIGNS.

JERRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Local politics.

IMAGE: Jerry walks up the steps of congress.

JERRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Followed by a stint in Congress,
then the Senate.

IMAGE: Jerry with his hand over the Bible in front of the
supreme court.

JERRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And then, two terms in the White
House. And just like that, we
change the world. It's really not
that complicated when you look at
it.

4 EXT. CALIFORNIA CLUB DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

4

Jerry approaches a check-in table as the world returns to life and the lights come back on.

JERRY (V.O.)

We just gotta make our way in.

Reggie spots a DIVORCEE, 45, and WIDOW, 65 - surgically preserved beauties - taking name badges from the check-in table. He nudges Jerry and points in their direction.

JERRY

Watch me take down these jungle cats.

The ladies stare confusedly at a seating chart. Jerry straps on his biggest smile as he steps in behind them.

JERRY (CONT'D)

I think they're designed to make you feel lost.

Divorcee turns to see Jerry and her cougar fangs glimmer.

DIVORCEE

And you're going to rescue us?

JERRY

(looking at their map)
 Lets see, maybe these beautiful young ladies are next to us.

Jerry and Reggie accompany the ladies into:

5 INT. CALIFORNIA CLUB LOBBY - NIGHT

5

Jerry winks at Reggie. Told you so.

VOICE (O.S.)

Excuse me.

Jerry and Reggie turn to see SECURITY COWBOY, 30s, a step above mall security, but acts like he's Secret Service.

SECURITY COWBOY

You have badges?

Jerry looks at Reggie then the ladies, offended.

JERRY

Of course these ladies have badges.

Security Cowboy steps right into Jerry's face.

SECURITY COWBOY
Let's see it pretty boy.

Jerry digs through his pockets. It's here somewhere.

JERRY
(to the ladies)
We'll catch up with you. I must
have dropped mine.

As the ladies walk away, Security Cowboy shoves Jerry and Reggie back onto:

6 EXT. CALIFORNIA CLUB DRIVEWAY - NIGHT 6

Reggie and Jerry walk away from the entrance.

REGGIE
Did you?

JERRY
Yup.

Jerry holds up the Cougar's badge.

7 INT. DELIVERY VAN - NIGHT 7

Leslie examines the badge. Next to her is a laptop and scanner/printer on a short table.

REGGIE
You think you can do it?

Leslie smirks at Reggie.

LESLIE
(to Jerry)
You want Jerry or Gerardo?

LATER

Out the printer emerge two badges. Jerry and Reggie put them into holders around their neck.

REGGIE
Beautiful.

JERRY
Let's go.

8 INT. CALIFORNIA CLUB LOBBY - NIGHT

8

Jerry and Reggie stand with badges hanging from their necks, scoping the scene.

REGGIE
How about this one?

SILVER FOX, 60s, white hair and beard, well tailored suit, looking around for a lady to take home - passes by.

JERRY
Perfect.

Jerry approaches Silver Fox.

JERRY (CONT'D)
(nervous)
Excuse me, but do you get these seating charts?

The Man looks at Jerry, then Reggie.

SILVER FOX
You're first event, fellas?

Jerry and Reggie nod their heads.

SILVER FOX (CONT'D)
Come on, I'll show you. I been doing these for decades. I think you could do quite well here son.

Jerry and Reggie get up to Security Cowboy.

SECURITY COWBOY
Badges.

Jerry, Reggie and Silver Fox show their badges.

SECURITY COWBOY (CONT'D)
Can I see your IDs?

SILVER FOX
That necessary?

SECURITY COWBOY
(staring at Jerry)
We've suffered a few security breaches this evening.

Jerry and Reggie both show IDs that match their badge. The Security Cowboy nods his head to let them in.

Silver Fox puts his ID away and looks up - Jerry and Reggie are lost in the crowd.

Security Cowboy approaches the check-in table and scans a list.

9

INT. CALIFORNIA CLUB BALLROOM - NIGHT

9

Jerry's face lights up as they enter a whole other universe - they take in the dark mahogany walls and classic paintings.

JERRY

Take it in Reggie. This is the kind of place where President's hash out arms deals, settle wars, and start affairs with movie stars and I bag my big fish.

At the other end of the ballroom, on the stage, is Senator Mark Garcia. Reggie hands Jerry the *Time Magazine*.

REGGIE

Think brown and green, Jerry.

JERRY

(to Reggie)

Keep your eyes out for Cowboy.

AT THE HEAD TABLE

The Senator jots down notes in a pad. Into his view comes an inside page of *Time Magazine*.

JERRY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Could you sign this?

The Senator looks up at Jerry.

JERRY (CONT'D)

I go to El Pueblo. I'm the Student Body President.

The Senator nods, smiles.

SENATOR MARK GARCIA

I was too. What's your name, son?

JERRY

Jerry, Jerry Valdez.

The Senator shakes his head as he smiles. He looks out onto the floor of the ballroom with concern.

Jerry turns to see that it's Security Cowboy shoving Reggie and leading TWO COPS towards the stage.

SENATOR MARK GARCIA

You've sent me 25 letters and just about driven my assistant Margaret nuts.

JERRY

I have an idea whose time has come.

SENATOR MARK GARCIA

Looks like you have about 15 seconds.

Jerry turns the page of the magazine and an insert falls into the Senator's lap that shows brown and white hands holding a mound of dirt with a sprouting seedling on it.

JERRY

You're running for Governor. It's just a matter of when to announce.

The Senator looks suspiciously at Jerry. How did Jerry know?

JERRY (CONT'D)

Even though you come from humble roots, and you've done so much for your community, you don't want to be the Latino candidate. I get that.

The Senator smiles as he shakes his head.

JERRY (CONT'D)

What if you returned to where you're from and do the whitest thing possible? Get a bunch of Latino kids to promote an environmental movement.

Jerry takes the insert and holds it up for the Senator.

SENATOR GARCIA

(motioning to the insert)
Who runs this club?

JERRY

I'll run the campaign. You announce it along with your candidacy for Governor at our Homecoming half-time.

SECURITY COWBOY (O.S.)
 Alright, Pretty Boy.

The Senator stares long and hard at Jerry. He's about to open his mouth.

JERRY
 Brown and green is Garcia's color
 for governor.

The Senator stares at Jerry. Thinks. He turns to Security Cowboy.

SENATOR MARK GARCIA
 Is there a problem? This young man
 is with me.

The Senator turns to Jerry with a big smile on his face.

SENATOR MARK GARCIA (CONT'D)
 You got guts kid. A little
 reckless, but sometimes we need
 that. I won't announce my candidacy
 or do this Green and Brown,
 whatever, as clever as it is, but
 I'll come to your Homecoming. And,
 I'll one up you. I'll host a dinner
 before the Homecoming game with you
 and ten people you want to invite.

Jerry walks away. The Senator turns to his AIDE.

SENATOR MARK GARCIA (CONT'D)
 Green and brown, you see, that's
 good.

10 EXT. CALIFORNIA CLUB DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

10

Jerry and Reggie walk out with the Security Cowboy just behind them. Jerry waves.

JERRY
 Thank you officer for such a
 marvelous evening.

Reggie rolls his eyes.

REGGIE
 Did he bite?

JERRY
 No green and brown, but he's going
 to MC Homecoming.

REGGIE

Sweet.

FADE TO BLACK.

CREDITS

11 INT. CAMPUS HALLWAY - OUTSIDE STUDENT COUNCIL CLASSROOM - DAY

On a wood door with a glazed window, a very official sign reads, "Student Council Offices...ASB President, Jerry Valdez."

Reggie opens the door to enter while he speaks into a cell phone.

12 INT. STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM - DAY 12

Inside, STUDENTS move about making posters, some clustered in meetings, others hanging out - a beehive of directed student activity. Reggie approaches a back office.

REGGIE (INTO PHONE)

We meet with Martinez in 20 minutes. Where are you?

13 JERRY'S DESK - DAY 13

Reggie walks in to see Leslie in front of an iMac - a poster on the screen with brown and white hands holding a mound of dirt with a sprouting seedling on it. Reggie sees it and smiles.

REGGIE

(to Leslie)

Green and brown. Jerry's gonna love it!

14 INT. VALDEZ DINING ROOM - DAY 14

Jerry passes the kitchen carrying his backpack and his cell phone to his ear.

JERRY (INTO PHONE)

I'm 5 minutes away.

JOSEPHINA VALDEZ, 40s, beautiful and dutiful mother, shoves a breakfast burrito and lunch bag into Jerry's reluctant arms.

Jerry grabs the food and kisses her goodbye. GERARDO VALDEZ, 40s - Jerry's dad - eats as he waves Jerry goodbye.

15 EXT. JERRY'S HOUSE - DAY 15

A McMansion in a sea of middle class homes.

Jerry loads his stuff into the back of a delivery van and then slams the sliding door to reveal on the side of the van, "The Tortilla King of Oxnard." A picture of Gerardo Valdez wearing a cape and crown.

CUT TO:

16 INT. PRIUS - DAY 16

In the passenger seat is MAGGIE Mortenson, 17, modern hippie chic with Che hat and hemp bag. NPR's "Morning Edition" plays in the background.

Driving is KATHLEEN Mortenson, 50s, long silver hair, silver and turquoise necklace, long tunic like black dress.

KATHLEEN

You going to make this work, honey?

Maggie nods as she looks out at El Pueblo High School.

KATHLEEN (CONT'D)

I know it's hard to start at a new school your Senior year. How you deal with this change can be a defining moment as you cross into becoming an adult.

MAGGIE

Doesn't look so bad.

KATHLEEN

And if they serve Coke in the cafeteria, it's not a big deal, right?

MAGGIE

Corporations poisoning children, not a big deal, check.

KATHLEEN

You can do a lot more to fight the injustices of the world with a college degree. Look at me.

Maggie gives her mom a side glance and a look of disbelief.

MAGGIE

As long as I ignore them for now,
kind of turning the other cheek.

KATHLEEN

Sometimes I feel like it's my
fault. You promise to stick to the
books?

MAGGIE

Books, college, ignorance, turn a
blind eye, no civil disobedience. I
promise.

17 EXT. PRIUS - DAY 17

Maggie closes the door and rolls her eyes.

CUT TO:

18 EXT. BACK ALLEY PARKING LOT - DAY 18

The Tortilla King Van barrels down the alley towards us. We
see three parking spaces - maintenance, Principal Martinez,
and Jerry Valdez. Jerry pulls into his spot.

As he gets out, ROB ROBERTS, a beefy jock in a lettermen's
jacket spots Jerry.

ROB

Jerry!

JERRY

What's up man? That was a
ridiculous pass in the 4th quarter.
You gonna get us that league
championship?

ROB

You going to get us a Homecoming?

JERRY

It's money in the bank.

They pound hands, man hug.

ROB

You coming to my party in two
weeks? Soraya will be there.

Jerry smiles.

JERRY
Wouldn't miss it for the world.

Rob nods and Jerry rushes on:

19 EXT. EL PUEBLO HIGH HALL - DAY 19

Maggie walks through the hall looking down at her schedule of classes. She looks up at a sign, "Room's 2002-2005a this way."

MAGGIE
But where's 2005b?

Ahead of her, TWO STUDENTS walk past. Like a sixth sense, she turns to notice as they dump plastic bottles in the trash.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
(to herself)
Come on people...

Maggie looks into the trash can and takes the bottles out and puts them into a green recycling bin. She notices a sign, "Nature First Club meeting today."

She writes down the room number.

20 EXT. EL PUEBLO HIGH - HALL - DAY 20

As Jerry walks, a JERRY PROTEGE, dressed just like Jerry, emerges from a classroom holding up a driver's license that he hands to Jerry.

Jerry looks at it and smiles.

JERRY
You did it. You're legal man. I'm gonna need you to drive me around now.

JERRY PROTEGE
Thanks Jerry, I couldn't of done it without you.

JERRY
It was all you, Kid.

The Jerry Protege looks on proudly as Jerry continues. The Jerry Protege turns to notice THREE FRIENDS staring out the classroom window admiring him.

21 INT. STUDENT COUNCIL CLASSROOM - DAY

21

Jerry walks in, the room is a buzz. Reggie hands Jerry a newspaper.

REGGIE

The Senator's poll numbers are through the roof. And his book is still on the best seller's list.

JERRY

And we nabbed 'em for Homecoming.

Leslie holds up the poster she's been working on. The caption reads - "A Coalition That Will Save Us."

LESLIE

What do you think Jerry?

Jerry admires it.

LESLIE (CONT'D)

Beautiful.

Reggie looks at his watch.

REGGIE

We better hurry. Martinez won't wait.

The three head for the door when in walks MINA SANGORI, 17, school reporter, thorn in Jerry's foot since the 4th grade.

Jerry rolls his eyes and rushes past as she holds up a digital audio recorder to Jerry.

MINA

So nobody thinks you can get us a Homecoming this year, Jerry? And what about your campaign promise to curb the lunch lines? Nothing's changed. Your administration has offered the same old nothing.

Jerry keeps walking and Reggie pushes back the recorder.

REGGIE

The president has no comment at this time. We're late for a meeting with Principal Martinez.

MINA

You can't silence the people, Reggie. Jerk.

22 EXT. ADMINISTRATION OFFICE - DAY

22

As Jerry, Leslie and Reggie turn the corner, they come face to face with SORAYA REYES, cheerleader, every high school boy's dream, and her merry gang of CHEERLEADERS.

SORAYA

Hey.

JERRY

Hey.

The gang of Cheerleaders keeps on walking. Leslie and Reggie hang by the admin building door.

SORAYA

Did you get my message?

JERRY

I know, I'm sorry. The beginning of the year's been so busy.

SORAYA

Still trying to get us a Homecoming, huh?

JERRY

Just so you can be queen.

SORAYA

That's sweet.

JERRY

Look, I'll call you when things calm down.

Jerry and Soraya stare at each other for an awkward moment.

SORAYA

I know, Jerry. Bye.

Soraya catches up with her crew. Jerry turns back to look at Soraya and almost smashes into Reggie.

REGGIE

Gotta stay focussed.

LESLIE

Keep our eyes on the prize.

JERRY

Look at me, focussed.

Jerry opens the door for his crew, as they walk in, he looks back towards Soraya wistfully, then ducks into the building.

23 INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

23

PRINCIPAL MARTINEZ, 40s, grey speckled beard, portly, short sleeves, paisley tie and a Supercuts hairdo, looks down at his desk ignoring the awkwardly quiet Jerry, Reggie and Leslie.

From behind Martinez, we see that he is staring at a maintenance order.

Jerry opens his mouth, but Martinez holds up his finger. He mouths out the last sentence of what he is reading, signs it and then, deliberately, looks up - with a smile.

PRINCIPAL MARTINEZ

Jerry, my final decision on Homecoming is no. Never, not again, not a chance, it's over. In Spanish...No.

JERRY

Rudy.

Principal Martinez glares at Jerry. Leslie and Reggie squirm.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Principal Martinez. Who selects the Superintendent of our fantastic school district?

Martinez turns to Reggie with a look of, "Where's this going?"

PRINCIPAL MARTINEZ

The School Board?

JERRY

Exactly. And what do school board members want more than anything else?

PRINCIPAL MARTINEZ

Good schools?

JERRY

Personal political advancement? The school board is a stepping stone for bigger things.

Principal Martinez nods his head.

PRINCIPAL MARTINEZ
Why should that matter to me?

JERRY
You've obviously outgrown this position. You're ready for the big time. The superintendent post opens next year.

PRINCIPAL MARTINEZ
So what does this have to do with anything, Jerry? I'm busy.

JERRY
Senator Mark Garcia.

PRINCIPAL MARTINEZ
That con man?

JERRY
There's talk of him running for President one day.

PRINCIPAL MARTINEZ
You can't trust that guy.

JERRY
I had dinner with **that guy**. And told him about you.

PRINCIPAL MARTINEZ
You talked about me?

JERRY
He's agreed to announce his gubernatorial candidacy, here...at Homecoming.

PRINCIPAL MARTINEZ
The Homecoming that's been cancelled for two years.

Jerry nods. Principal Martinez shakes his head.

JERRY
I'm talking about the Homecoming where at a special dinner, the school board gets a private audience with the Senator and his hosts, **you** and I.

Martinez stares at Jerry. He looks over at Leslie and Reggie. Jerry is all smiles.

PRINCIPAL MARTINEZ
You talked to the Senator?

JERRY
Over a steak dinner. He's quite the charmer.

PRINCIPAL MARTINEZ
My budget is strapped, Jerry.

JERRY
There's a little money tucked away in the Nature First Club. I think they're down to six members.

REGGIE
And they just show up for the free pizza at their lunch meetings.

Principal Martinez takes in a deep breath.

PRINCIPAL MARTINEZ
What about all that talk about his staffer? What if it's true?

JERRY
If you need an answer for that. Well then, maybe this superintendent gig isn't for you.

Reggie and Leslie wince at this. Jerry is still all smiles.

PRINCIPAL MARTINEZ
You get Mrs. Cooper to play along and I'll put you on the school board's agenda.

24 INT. MRS. COOPERS CLASSROOM - DAY

24

Maggie walks into the classroom. On the white board is written, "Nature First Club." SIX STUDENTS huddle around Pizza boxes. Mina sits in the corner fiddling with her phone.

Maggie works her way to a seat in the back as:

MRS. COOPER, 50s, afraid of her own shadow and buttoned up, stands in front of the class.

MRS. COOPER

OK everybody, settle down. As you all know, we, we, we still don't have a, a president, and need someone to coordinate our field trips.

Just then, in walks Jerry. Mrs. Cooper nervously primps as she walks towards Jerry. He whispers into her ear.

Maggie looks on with curiosity at the exchange.

Mrs. Cooper looks surprised, then turns to the class.

MRS. COOPER (CONT'D)

Our funding has been cut.

Maggie looks around the room, students instinctively pile pizza onto their plates.

JERRY

(to the class)

We're getting Homecoming back.

Students smile. Maggie's eyes find Mina and they share a look of suspicion.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Senator Mark Garcia will be the master of ceremonies.

Maggie reluctantly raises her hand. Jerry points at her.

MAGGIE

May I ask who decided this?

JERRY

Principal Martinez.

MAGGIE

Just like that, he eliminated the Nature First Club?

JERRY

You can still meet.

MAGGIE

But he just took all the funding.

JERRY

No. I mean, not yet. The school board still has to vote on it.

MAGGIE
So it's not final?

JERRY
No.

MAGGIE
But you just said it was decided.

JERRY
No I didn't. I said we were getting
Homecoming back.

MAGGIE
And neglected to tell us the school
board was still voting on it.

JERRY
No, that's not.

MAGGIE
You just assumed we all wanted
Homecoming.

JERRY
No.

MAGGIE
Can any of us go to this school
board meeting?

JERRY
Sure. Reggie, Leslie and I will be
there speaking on behalf of the
students.

MAGGIE
On behalf of the students.

JERRY
Yes, what's your name?

MAGGIE
Oh, I'm so sorry. How rude of me.
Maggie Mortenson. And I was just
getting my stuff together. It's not
a big deal.
(to herself)
Look away Maggie.

JERRY
The school board is an open forum
and anyone is welcome. Even new
students.

Maggie looks up. Is he taunting her?

JERRY (CONT'D)
Maybe we'll see you there.

Jerry walks out of the class and his crew follows. Mina smirks and looks towards Maggie.

25 EXT. CAMPUS HALL - DAY

25

As Jerry walks, Leslie and Reggie look concerned.

LESLIE
Who was that?

JERRY
Who?

LESLIE
Who? That girl? That Maggie.

REGGIE
I better check her out.

JERRY
Why?

LESLIE
She stumped you.

JERRY
Stumped me, what are you talking about? Look, we're fine. You think some new kid is going to show up to a board meeting. Students don't go to those meetings. Quit worrying. We got the Senator.

Jerry walks ahead of them.

26 INT. MRS. COOPERS CLASSROOM - DAY

26

The Six Students walk out with piles of pizza leaving Maggie with Mina. Mrs. Cooper reads her newspaper.

MINA
You going to the Board Meeting?

MAGGIE
Not interested.

MINA

Probably better. Jerry runs this place.

MAGGIE

Does he now?

MINA

He's like a little Senator Mark Garcia. He's probably already talked to the board about it.

MAGGIE

He just kind of walked in here as if it was already decided.

MINA

He's pretty full of himself.

Maggie keeps walking.

MAGGIE

Yeah.

MINA

It's probably better. Why put up a fight? It's not a big deal.

Maggie stops.

MAGGIE

I see what you're doing.

MINA

What?

Maggie gives her a look, "Oh please."

MINA (CONT'D)

I've never seen anyone stand up to him and actually stump him.

MAGGIE

You haven't?

MINA

I've tried.

MAGGIE

I'm kind of not supposed to really do anything but school, and...

MINA

And let that guy run this place
like he's some South American
dictator. Turn a blind eye, that's
cool.

Maggie sighs, looks outside. Then she looks back at Mina.

MAGGIE

I hate these beauty pageants. They
just objectify women.

MINA

We should be putting more into our
environmental club, not less.

MAGGIE

I mean, who is he to tell us we
can't keep our funding.

Mina produces a business card she hands Maggie.

MINA

My name is Mina Sangoria. You're
new huh?

Maggie shakes her hand.

MAGGIE

Maggie Mortenson.

27

INT. PRIUS - DAY

27

Maggie and Kathleen sit in the car.

KATHLEEN

So, how did it go?

MAGGIE

Great.

KATHLEEN

Really?

MAGGIE

I'm meeting some girls at the mall
tonight.

KATHLEEN

(like Maggie's speaking
another language)
The mall?

MAGGIE
I'm turning a new leaf, mom.

KATHLEEN
That's wonderful.

Maggie looks down in her hands at Mina's business card. "Mina Sangori, Investigative Reporter."

28 INT. TORTILLA KING OFFICE - DAY

28

Jerry stares straight at us, mustering all the charm he can.

JERRY
--Homecoming is about coming back to where you came from. That's why the Senator's returning. It's about remembering who you were when your dreams were fresh and new. It's about coming home to what you dreamed of that maybe life has shaken out of you. And well, El Pueblo needs a Homecoming right now.

We reveal that Jerry has been presenting this speech to his father Gerardo. Gerardo sits on a large leather executive chair in front of a sprawling desk.

Gerardo scratches his mustache and slowly shakes his head.

GERARDO
No...no, that's, that's not it.

Jerry sits down in front of the desk and scribbles on a yellow pad of paper. Jerry nods.

JERRY
Yeah, I know. I didn't think so.

GERARDO
I could see that. Your hesitation.

JERRY
Really?

Gerardo stands and approaches Jerry as he makes his point.

GERARDO

Jerry, when I walk into a grocery store, and I notice that my tortillas are in the back of the aisle, hidden from view, how do you think I get them to push me up to the front.

JERRY

Give them a discount?

GERARDO

I walk in there, I look them straight in the eye, and I tell them 'Tortilla King Tortillas are the best in the market. Best flavor, most nutritious, made from the freshest ingredients, from a recipe handed to me by my *abuelita*.
(snaps his fingers)
The best tortilla out there.'

JERRY

Does it work?

GERARDO

This world has a lot of uncertainty. When you walk in to a room and you give them, even if it's just about this tortilla, some sincere certainty, people will buy it. They want it. Everybody craves certainty. And, it doesn't hurt that my tortillas are the best.

Jerry nods.

GERARDO (CONT'D)

What's this Homecoming thing really about to you?

29 EXT. SCHOOL BOARD - NIGHT

29

Jerry and Reggie stand outside the building.

JERRY

Listen buddy. You got to stop worrying about that girl. I can handle some little newbie.

REGGIE

I know, but...

We see DOLORES LOPEZ, 25, professional with the stride of a woman going places, the aide from the California Club, exit from her car.

REGGIE (CONT'D)
--that's her.

JERRY
From the Senator's office?

REGGIE
(whispering as they
approach her)
She's 25, graduated Cum Laude from
Berkley in three years, went to
Yale Law, been at the job 3 months,
she's single and feels this job is
beneath her.

Jerry turns to Reggie.

JERRY
(smiling)
Good work buddy.

REGGIE
Just doing my job.
(turning to Dolores)
Dolores, hello, I'm Reggie Camaya,
this is Jerry Valdez.

DOLORES
Jerry, nice to finally meet you.

Dolores smiles eagerly at Jerry.

30

INT. SCHOOL BOARD MEETING CHAMBERS - NIGHT

30

Exhausted looking BOARD MEMBERS look down at the Lectern.

Jerry, fresh eyed, in a suit, beams back. He turns to the audience front row and smiles at Reggie who sits next to Dolores.

JERRY
Dreams. You have them, I have them.
For your children. For yourself.
Dreams. Some of them small, like 'I
hope there's no traffic on the way
home.' Or big, like serving on this
board, fighting to provide good
schools so that we may give our
students a fighting chance at life.
(MORE)

JERRY (CONT'D)

Schools that make us proud. Alumni that we can boast about. Imagine this. A young man. His parents labor, day in and day out in the fields picking strawberries. He, an ambitious intelligent student dreams of a better life. He works hard while he's at El Pueblo. Proudly wears a Vaquero jersey on the gridiron. He finds himself at Harvard University. Yale Law. The United States Senate. This man, Senator Mark Garcia. A man poised to become our next governor. The very first Latino President of the United States of America. This man. A dreamer. But more importantly, an El Pueblo Alum, has shared with me that it is his dream to join us as master of ceremonies at this year's Homecoming and host a dinner with you, our distinguished school board. And so I ask you. Do we want to deny this man his dream?

The entire room erupts with applause. Jerry smiles and the board members look back at Jerry, intrigued.

Board Member Gonzalez looks at his fellow board members nodding his head and then looks down at Jerry who walks back to his seat.

BOARD MEMBER GONZALEZ

Well Jerry, you've made a convincing suggestion. This board will take Homecoming up for a vote in two weeks.

The gavel drops. As Jerry smiles at Dolores who smiles back, we hear the click-clack of high-heeled shoes from the back of the room.

Maggie taps the microphone on the lectern, a screech of feedback as she speaks.

BOARD MEMBER GONZALEZ (CONT'D)

Can we help you young lady?

MAGGIE

Yes, I'm simply here to ask the question, why have we cancelled Homecoming?

Maggie turns to face Jerry, smiles, "You thought I wouldn't."

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Dreams are important, so long as we
can distinguish between a dream and
an illusion.

Maggie smiles at Mina who hits a switch and turns to watch a
screen come down.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

That we'd be considering a
Homecoming over the Nature First
Program field trips is an insult to
every student at El Pueblo.

Mina turns off the house lights and Maggie fires up a digital
projector. Maggie clicks on a laptop and an image flashes
onto the screen.

REGGIE

(whispering to Jerry)
She's good.

JERRY

What the hell is this?

REGGIE

That's a swift boat attack.

Dolores looks mystified at the screen and then to Jerry.

ON THE SCREEN

The image of a HOMECOMING QUEEN as she walks up to the stage
in the gym is seen.

MAGGIE (O.S.)

I figure we'd take a look at what
Homecoming has done to El Pueblo's
women in the last three years
BEFORE the "festivities" were so
intelligently cancelled.

31 FLASHBACK: INT. EL PUEBLO HIGH GYM - DAY

31

The Homecoming Queen makes her way to a stage and bows her
head as she is about to be crowned.

MAGGIE (V.O.)

Homecoming tragedy number three.
Three years ago. The Homecoming
Senior Princess has a suspicion...

The HOMECOMING PRINCESS rushes from the court seating and close lines the Queen. The two fall to the ground in their beautiful gowns. As TEACHERS and other STUDENTS try to break them up, they fall into the stew of cat fighting.

MAGGIE (V.O.)
 -- that the Queen has been messing
 with her man. Things get ugly.

CUT BACK TO:

32 INT. SCHOOL BOARD CHAMBERS - NIGHT 32

Everyone in the room stares at the image of the fighting court. Jerry looks to his team and smiles.

JERRY
 (mouths)
 Bring it.

MAGGIE
 By forcing women to compete in
 beauty pageants, they are forced to
 see each other as objects. And to
 relate to each other as such.

Maggie clicks on the laptop and looks up to the screen.

SCREEN

An image of a PORTLY DRILL TEAM GIRL as she tosses a baton into the air while she marches in front of a float.

33 FLASHBACK: EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY 33

The Portly Drill Team Girl looks up to catch her baton but realizes she has overthrown it. She marches out of formation and heads back towards her baton.

But she doesn't see the float which is being pulled on a flatbed by a pickup truck. She is all smiles. She loves what she does.

MAGGIE (V.O.)
 Tragedy number two. One of our star
 drill teamers is attacked by an
 erratic float. Lucky for us, and
 her, she only suffers a mild bruise
 to her self-esteem.

The float bumps wildly in the air as it rolls over the girl. The float collapses since it is not designed for off-roading.

The Portly Drill Team Girl stands up with her baton in her hand. She smiles. Her white uniform has a tire track mark across her abdomen.

CUT BACK TO:

34 INT. SCHOOL BOARD CHAMBERS - DAY 34

Beads of sweat build up on Reggie's forehead. Jerry looks unimpressed as Maggie looks at Reggie than straight at Jerry.

MAGGIE

Women are out there getting hurt
because of this Homecoming.

Maggie looks back up to the screen.

SCREEN

The image of a CARNY who uses a flare to light fireworks. He smiles to reveal half his teeth are missing.

35 FLASHBACK: EXT. EL PUEBLO HIGH STADIUM - NIGHT 35

The HOMECOMING QUEEN laughs, smiles as she is crowned. She looks into the audience as we hear the pop of fireworks and see the bright green reflection of the fireworks on her face.

MAGGIE (V.O.)

Homecoming tragedy number one. A
drunk pyrotechnics guy decides his
Carrie moment of revenge has
arrived.

The Carny pyrotechnics guy tosses down a beer. His face goes mad as the fireworks shoot up in front of him. He knocks over the fireworks launcher and points it at the crowd.

The smiling Homecoming Queen's face turns to shock. Her hair is on fire. Mobs of people rush from the football stands as fireworks smash into the stands.

MAGGIE (V.O.)

The queen is almost killed.
Luckily, it's a mild burn. Thank
god she had lots of hair.
Apparently, the fireworks guy never
went to his homecoming dance.

CUT BACK TO:

36 INT. SCHOOL BOARD CHAMBERS - NIGHT

36

The lights come on and everyone squints their eyes.

MAGGIE

This last event only underscores the tragedy of Homecoming. It makes people feel left out, not included. They are like outsiders. The Nature First Program is all about inclusion and education. And if I remember correctly I'm not at the football Homecoming office, this is...

Maggie looks up at the wall in the meeting room where a sign reads, "Oxnard School District...An Education of Excellence."

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

A place of educational excellence.

Maggie walks away from the lectern. Jerry rolls his eyes and yawns.

Board Member Gonzalez covers the microphone with her hand as she conferences with the other Board Members. She pulls her hand from the microphone as she nods.

BOARD MEMBER GONZALEZ

Thank you Ms. Mortenson and Mr. Valdez - those were two very spirited presentations. We'll take this up for a vote when we reconvene in two weeks. In the mean time, perhaps the two of you can come up with some sort of a, compromise that you can present to the board. Think about it.

37 EXT. SCHOOL BOARD OFFICES PARKING LOT - NIGHT

37

Dolores scrolls through her Blackberry as she rushes towards her car. The building doors swing open as Jerry rushes out with Reggie in tow.

JERRY

Dolores.

Dolores turns to Jerry as she puts the phone to her ear.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Dolores, please.

Dolores looks at Jerry, then at Reggie.

JERRY (CONT'D)
Just hear us out.

DOLORES (INTO PHONE)
Look, I'll call you back.
(hanging up the phone)
What was that, Jerry?

JERRY
Just little road bump.

DOLORES
You call a drill teamer run over by
a float, a road bump?

JERRY
I wouldn't say that. But, I'm going
to work it out.

DOLORES
The Senator is pure gold right now.
He doesn't need this.

JERRY
Give me one week.

DOLORES
It's my job to protect the Senator.

JERRY
It's your job to promote him.

DOLORES
Give me one good reason.

JERRY
Come to our rally next week. That
girl will be chanting for
Homecoming. And you'll have
witnessed what I do.

Dolores stares at Jerry. Thinks.

DOLORES
The Senator spoke highly of you.
OK. But she'd better embarrass
herself with enthusiasm.

Jerry smiles.

JERRY
We'll feel sorry for her.

38 INT. PRIUS - NIGHT

38

Mina fidgets in her seat.

MINA

I can't believe it. You got him.
And he didn't even see it coming.

MAGGIE

You see that?

MINA

What?

MAGGIE

That lady, Dolores, from the
Senator's office. She's our ticket.
We scare her, this things over.

Maggie turns to Mina and smiles. Mina smiles back and looks out the window.

MINA

You're good. Why'd you say you
moved to Oxnard?

MAGGIE

(turning away from Mina)
My mom's job.

Mina smiles as Maggie turns the Prius on.

39 EXT. SCHOOL BOARD PARKING LOT - NIGHT

39

As Jerry stands in front of Leslie and Reggie, something catches his eye in the reflection of a truck's side mirror.

REGGIE

So now what boy wonder?

In the mirror, Jerry sees Maggie and Mina sitting in the Prius.

JERRY

Holy crap.

REGGIE

I know, we're screwed.

JERRY

No, don't turn around, but Maggie
and Mina are staring at us from
that Prius.

Reggie's eyes wander.

JERRY (CONT'D)
Keep looking at me. She knows about Dolores.

Behind Jerry and crew in the distance and in the dark sit Maggie and Mina. The quietly creepy Prius pulls away, without making a sound.

Jerry turns as the car disappears into the dark.

JERRY (CONT'D)
(admiring)
She's good.

LESLIE
What the hell Jerry, what do we do now?

Jerry thinks. Thinks. And is suddenly inspired by an idea.

JERRY
Now it gets dangerous.

REGGIE
Jerry. You can't. You promised.

Jerry nods.

JERRY
But she's too smart to be convinced by conventional methods.

Jerry points at his face.

REGGIE
I've heard that before.

JERRY
This isn't Soraya.

LESLIE
What are you guys talking about?

Reggie sighs and looks down.

REGGIE
Jerry's pretty genes.

Leslie looks confused.

JERRY

A little romance, emotion. It's the only way this girl will come onto our side.

REGGIE

But if you go to the dark side, I am not rescuing you?

JERRY

Come on. She's not even half attractive.

40 INT. MR. LUCAS'S SCIENCE LAB CLASSROOM - DAY

40

Jerry wipes down the chalkboard. The classroom is empty.

MR. LUCAS, 30s, the high school physics teacher who's too smart, too clever, and too handsome to be at this job, emerges from the back room. He organizes several large paper bags on his lab table.

MR. LUCAS

I don't know Jerry. This gets into some weird ethical issues. I mean, she is cute, but.

JERRY

This is the only way. Isn't it like part of the brotherhood of men to help each other get chicks.

MR. LUCAS

In my day, and it's not like it was that long ago, we just asked a girl out.

JERRY

But it's not that easy.

MR. LUCAS

No. It is.

JERRY

She thinks I'm like the devil or something. And she doesn't even know me.

MR. LUCAS

Not the honest, saint that you *really* are.

Jerry shrugs.

JERRY

I just know that if I get her one-on-one, it'll change everything. She'll see the real me.

MR. LUCAS

In my experience, women usually don't like it when you try to manipulate things. And in the end, they usually find out. Facebook killed it. Just ask my ex-wife.

JERRY

So if you choose the right restaurant, with the right lighting, play the right music in the car, say the right things, take her to the perfect romantic movie, and get lost in the right place...say in front of a water fountain where an Andean Band is playing music. You're going to tell me that's not manipulation. Should I just take a girl to a poorly lit McDonald's, tell her about my Internet porn problem, and not say anything interesting so she can see, the real me?

The bell rings and Mr. Lucas looks at the clock.

MR. LUCAS

(sighing)

We'll see.

41 INT. MR. LUCAS'S SCIENCE LAB CLASSROOM - LATER

41

Leslie walks in as a trickle of STUDENTS fill the room.

The bell rings. Jerry sits next to Reggie in the front row and stares at Mr. Lucas as he holds up a model car.

MR. LUCAS

Can anyone tell me what this is?

REGGIE

Mina's car for her imaginary prom date.

The class chuckles. Mr. Lucas smiles. Mina, who sits in the back row with Maggie glares at Reggie.

MR. LUCAS

With the items in this bag you will all be paired up and competing to see who can build the farthest traveling, self-propelled vehicle. So here's the partners list.

Mr. Lucas passes out a list. Loud chatter as students take the list and move closer with their partners. Reggie and Leslie are together.

At the back of the room, Maggie and Mina get the list. They read, "Jerry and Maggie," they look to each other in shock.

MAGGIE

Jerry wouldn't be behind this. Could he?

MINA

I told you, South American dictator. That guy from Venezuela doesn't have anything on Jerry.

MAGGIE

But why?

MINA

He thinks he's a charmer.

MAGGIE

Huh?

MINA

I bet you he thinks he can charm you out of fighting against Homecoming.

MAGGIE

No.

JERRY (V.O.)

Looks like we're partners.

Maggie turns to see Jerry is at her desk.

MAGGIE

This can't be a coincidence.

JERRY

I agree. It must be fate.

MAGGIE

If you ask me, it sounds more like a curse.

JERRY

Don't be so hard on your company.
I'm sure I'll manage.

MAGGIE

Oh, my company isn't hard. Just not
sure I can handle your used car
salesman charm.

JERRY

Used car salesman? You don't even
know me.

MAGGIE

I know enough.

JERRY

You always this pleasant?

MAGGIE

Only with you.

Jerry smiles, takes in a deep breath.

JERRY

Why don't we meet at my house...

MAGGIE

--yeah said the chicken hawk to the
chicken. How bout the library, 7:30
p.m.?

JERRY

OK.

Jerry walks away. Maggie winks at Mina.

42

INT. STUDENT NEWSPAPER ROOM - DAY

42

Maggie sits as Mina paces.

MINA

No matter what happens, you can't
let him take you to his place.

MAGGIE

Oh my god, what do you think I am?

MINA

I'm telling you. He charmed Soraya
Reyes.

MAGGIE
Who's Soraya?

MINA
Only the hottest girl on campus.

MAGGIE
Don't worry Mina, I can handle
Jerry.

MINA
Well then at least promise me
you'll check in every hour until
you meet me at the library.

Maggie gives her a look of exasperation and then:

MAGGIE
OK, sure.

43

INT. JERRY'S OFFICE - DAY

43

Reggie and Leslie sit at the conference table, Jerry paces
around them.

REGGIE
Going to the library is no good.

LESLIE
If Mina is there, she will salt
your game.

JERRY
I know, I know, I know.

The door opens, and into the office walks the Jerry Protege
from earlier. He hands Jerry a file. Reggie looks curiously
at the Jerry Protege.

JERRY (CONT'D)
Thank you.

JERRY PROTEGE
Not a problem. I also heard some
random stuff...she likes Cafe con
leche, she hates people who say
they like the book more than the
movie, and she doesn't know how to
ride a bike.

JERRY
Hmm...OK, anything is useful right
now.

As the Jerry Protege walks out, Reggie nods at the Jerry Protege and then grabs the file.

REGGIE
That kids good. Maggie's file.

But as Reggie goes through the file, it's empty.

REGGIE (CONT'D)
There's nothing here. Nothing.

Leslie grabs out the single item in the file - a note card.

LESLIE
There's an emergency card with her address.

43 JERRY That's all I need. 43

44 INT. MORTENSON KITCHEN - NIGHT 44

Maggie washes dishes while Kathleen wraps the leftovers from dinner. There is a quiet tension.

KATHLEEN
So, how was the mall last night?

MAGGIE
Great. It was fun. We got Cinnabons, they even had a bookstore.

KATHLEEN
I'm so happy you're trying to make it all work...

Kathleen gets choked up.

MAGGIE
Mom.

KATHLEEN
I know this move has been hard on all of us.

MAGGIE
Come on.

Kathleen wipes away a tear.

KATHLEEN

I know this move is going to give you a whole new chance on life.

MAGGIE

It's going to be fine, mom. You have nothing to worry about.

The doorbell rings and Maggie and Kathleen look at each other with startled expressions. The clock reads 7:00 p.m.

45 INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - DAY

45

Maggie opens the door and Jerry stands there.

MAGGIE

(whispering yelling)
What are you doing here?

JERRY

Was on my way home, thought I'd give you a ride.

MAGGIE

I said we'd meet there. And how do you know where I live?

Kathleen opens the door further and looks at Jerry then at Maggie. Kathleen smiles, impressed with Maggie's choice in boys.

JERRY

Kathleen Mortenson?

KATHLEEN

Why yes?

MAGGIE

OK mom. I've got to go.

JERRY

If I had known, I'd have brought my copy of your book to sign.

KATHLEEN

What's your name son?

JERRY

Jerry Valdez.

Jerry and Kathleen shake hands.

KATHLEEN
Come in Jerry.

MAGGIE
We really have a lot to do.

KATHLEEN
Is it so bad that I meet the boys
my daughter is going out with?

MAGGIE
Mom. We're working on a school
project. Please, like.

KATHLEEN
Come on in Jerry and have some
leftover pie, we just finished with
dinner.

As Kathleen leads the way.

MAGGIE
(to Jerry)
What's the idea about her book. Who
told you?

JERRY
I've read it.

MAGGIE
Yeah right. I'm on to you.

46 INT. MORTENSON LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

46

Kathleen leads Jerry to the living room. Paul Mortenson
nurses a soft drink and watches TV.

KATHLEEN
We just love having guests over.
This is Paul, my husband.
(to Paul)
Paul, this is Jerry.

Holding up his glass.

PAUL
(without looking up)
Jerry.

KATHLEEN
He's had a long day.

PAUL
 You always know about my day,
 honey.

Silence. Jerry breaks it.

JERRY
 It's so wonderful that someone of
 your stature would end up here, in
 Oxnard. I've read your book twice.

PAUL
 (staring at the TV)
 Watch out for the riots.

KATHLEEN
 (ignoring Paul)
 Really? Sometimes you wonder if
 kids even read anymore.

MAGGIE
 Mom, Jerry probably doesn't have
 time. He's really busy.

JERRY
 No, this is great. Maggie and I
 didn't get off to a good start and
 I'm hoping that we can put that in
 the past.

This catches Paul's attention. He looks at Maggie then
 Kathleen. Maggie turns her eyes down.

KATHLEEN
 Oh, what happened?

Jerry looks to Maggie for a clue.

MAGGIE
 I wanted to work with someone else
 on this project. It's no big deal.

PAUL
 So, were you at the mall last
 night, Jerry?

JERRY
 The mall?

Maggie blurts out again.

MAGGIE
 Does anybody want something to
 drink?

Jerry turns to Maggie.

JERRY
I'm kind a tired. You have like a
Coke or something?

PAUL
Hah!

Paul sits down and turns to his TV. He holds up his cup.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Get him one of mine that I keep in
the garage.

KATHLEEN
Paul. That's outrageous. How could
you?

PAUL
I love Coke. I always have and if I
want to indulge, no one can stop
me. Jerry, go ahead.

Jerry looks at Paul in shock.

KATHLEEN
You always have to be so mean and
rude. I mean why...

Kathleen and Paul continue arguing as Maggie walks up to
Jerry.

MAGGIE
(to Jerry)
Can we go now?

Jerry and Maggie stand up.

JERRY
Well it was nice meeting you.

Kathleen turns to Jerry.

KATHLEEN
Oh yes, you'll have to come and
visit us again.

Jerry follows Maggie out the door.

47 INT. TORTILLA KING VAN - NIGHT - TRAVELING

47

They both stare straight ahead silently.

JERRY
(breaking the silence)
I didn't mean to offend.

MAGGIE
That was so embarrassing.

Maggie wants to hide from Jerry.

JERRY
It's OK, Maggie.

MAGGIE
But my mom and dad.

JERRY
Everybody's parents are
embarrassing.

MAGGIE
But mine get so crazy.

JERRY
My dad dresses up in a crown and
cape and plasters his picture all
over town on billboards and trucks.

Maggie considers that. Then she turns to Jerry. She smiles.

MAGGIE
You're right. Thanks.

The van comes to a stop. Maggie looks around.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
What are we doing?

JERRY
I have to get my notebook with my
designs. Come inside.

MAGGIE
We told Mina we'd be there by 7:30.

JERRY
I do need to get some caffeine and
my mom makes wicked cafe con leche.

MAGGIE
I love cafe con *leche*. OK, but we
better hurry.

48 EXT. JERRY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

48

As Jerry and Maggie approach the door, Jerry stops and turns to Maggie.

JERRY

I know we have a lot going on right now, outside this project.

MAGGIE

Mr. Lucas.

JERRY

He's kind of clueless.

MAGGIE

He probably doesn't know about Homecoming.

JERRY

Your presentation to the board was brilliant. I feel like given your sophistication, we can separate this project from Homecoming and be totally mature and professional about it.

Maggie is genuinely surprised.

MAGGIE

I agree Jerry. I don't intend to back down from Homecoming.

JERRY

I'd be disappointed if you did.

Maggie smiles. They shake hands.

49 INT. JERRY'S WORKROOM - NIGHT

49

Jerry opens the door and Maggie follows him in. He hits a light switch and the lights come on revealing the room.

JERRY

Sugar?

MAGGIE

Sure.

Jerry leaves Maggie alone in the room. She walks up to a wall of fame - trophies, plaques, certificates and banners.

She walks over to a large table where she sees an intricate Homecoming float model. Then looks up on the wall to see various float and Homecoming stage diagrams.

50 INT. VALDEZ KITCHEN - DAY 50

Josephina sits at the breakfast bar reading a magazine.

JOSHEPINE

The cafe is ready if you want it,
Mijo. I thought you hated it.

JERRY

I just had the urge.

Jerry stares at his watch.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Oh, let me see if my friend wants
some.

Jerry stares at his watch and stands in the kitchen. He just stands there killing time.

JOSHEPINE

What are you doing?

JERRY

Oh, nothing. Could you bring us the
coffee in like 15 minutes. Please
mommy.

Josephine shakes her head as she looks at Jerry.

JOSHEPINE

OK.

Jerry kisses his mom.

51 INT. JERRY'S WORKROOM - DAY 51

Maggie walks towards a massive book shelf. She's intrigued by various titles and pulls out one - "Movements and Activists" by Kathleen Mortenson." The book is dog eared.

Maggie eagerly pulls out several other books and movies - she's intrigued.

Jerry returns to the room. Maggie shoves the books and movies she was admiring back onto the bookshelf.

JERRY

My mom's gonna bring the coffee
when it's ready. Why don't you sit
down?

MAGGIE

(motioning to the room)
I'll stand. I feel like this room
has secret trap doors.

JERRY

Nothing you couldn't find your way
out of.

MAGGIE

This where you charm all the
ladies?

Jerry walks over to a drawer and takes out a diagram.

JERRY

Other than Leslie, you're the first
girl in here.

MAGGIE

You're so full of it.

Jerry sits down and slides a diagram on the table in front of
him.

JERRY

So here's what I was thinking.

Without sitting, Maggie scribbles an idea on Jerry's diagram.
Jerry pops up to protest.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Hey. I worked on that for hours.

Jerry looks at what she has drawn.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Huh, that's not a bad.

MAGGIE

Not bad?

JERRY

No, that's not what I meant.

MAGGIE

Yes, you meant, not bad for a girl.

JERRY

No, that's not what I said.

MAGGIE

But it's what you meant.

JERRY

Why are you always twisting what I say?

MAGGIE

I'm forcing you to be honest.

JERRY

But I'm not lying.

MAGGIE

In Jerry speak. But here in the United States of Maggie, we speak the truth.

JERRY

As you see it.

MAGGIE

This going according to your plan?

JERRY

What? Working with you is the last part of any plan I'd ever have. Believe me.

MAGGIE

(hurt)

Why? I'm great to work with.

JERRY

Yeah, you're a real charmer. I've never had so much fun.

MAGGIE

Because I'm not some stupid bimbo.

JERRY

Yeah, you're a loud, obnoxious bimbo.

Maggie picks up the physics bag and stands up.

MAGGIE

Why don't you just let me get the heck out of here and finish this damn thing on my own.

(MORE)

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
 We're not kidding anyone. Your
 mom's probably not even here.

Just then, into the room walks Josephina with a tray of
 coffees and Maggie slams into her - *cafe con leche* and cups
 fly everywhere.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
 (calming herself)
 Mrs. Valdez. I, I'm so sorry.

JOSEPHINA
 You should be more careful.

Jerry rushes over and they clean up the mess.

Mrs. Valdez walks out of the room, she rolls her eyes looking
 towards Jerry.

JERRY
 OK. Why don't you tell me your
 plan, and then we'll go.

MAGGIE
 Sure.

Maggie walks up to the white board and draws something. Jerry
 nods.

MONTAGE

Jerry erases part of the drawing, then adds to it. Josephine
 brings in more *Cafe Con Leche*.

Maggie bumps Jerry away aggressively and draws something
 else. Jerry nods.

The toy cart comes together. The clock moves on.

Jerry explains something forcibly. Maggie reluctantly agrees.
 Jerry goes to the model. He adds something to it. The two
 argue.

INSERT: On the couch, in Maggie's purse, her cell phone
 silently buzzes with "Mina" on the screen.

CUT TO:

52 INT. JERRY'S WORKROOM - CONTINUOUS

52

On the work table is a magnificent cart. The clock reads 3:00
 am. Maggie stares at it from the couch then looks at her cell
 phone.

MAGGIE

What am I going to tell, Mina?

Jerry approaches with two waters.

JERRY

That you spent the night with me.

MAGGIE

(looking at the water)

You're real considerate for a self-centered jerk.

JERRY

It's my mom's fault.

MAGGIE

Being a jerk?

JERRY

No, I'm self-made in that department.

MAGGIE

Then you should be proud, you've done a marvelous job of it.

Jerry laughs.

JERRY

So what's your story Maggie, how does someone as smart as you end up here your senior year?

MAGGIE

My mom got the job at state.

JERRY

She left the University of Washington to come to state. Yeah, and you got nothing to hide, sure.

MAGGIE

I don't. Why do you have to be so damn nosy and stick your head in other people's business. We have nothing to hide. God, why can't anyone believe she wanted that job at state.

JERRY

I was talking about hiding your Homecoming strategy.

MAGGIE

Oh, I'm sorry.

(beat)

Sometimes I get a little overly excited.

JERRY

A little.

MAGGIE

I'm just very ambitious. I, I don't want a normal life. I see something wrong, and I want to change the world.

A sparkle in Jerry's eye.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

But sometimes it gets me into trouble. You see...well...back at home I...

JERRY

--I'm the same way.

The two are now very close to each other.

MAGGIE

Yeah right. You just want what's good for, Jerry.

JERRY

When Reggie and I were in forth grade, a fifth grader stole his money at the beginning of the year. I decided to run for student council vice-president. I told Reggie if we were in charge, no kid would get his money stolen or picked on. My campaign was 'Give me your vote, keep the lunch money.' After my big speech, the kid who'd stolen Reggie's money gave it back to him in the playground in front of everybody. My words and leadership made a difference. I helped my friend, I set a new tone on campus, and I felt hooked. Hooked to making a difference, changing the world. It's hard because you can also just start to like the attention of being a leader.

A sparkle in Maggie's eye.

JERRY (CONT'D)
 But that's not my intention.
 Watching Reggie, even though he was
 only nine, get his dignity back.
 That was it.

MAGGIE
 (unconvincing)
 I think you're lying.

Jerry shakes his head. Maggie looks deep into Jerry's eyes.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
 I just can't trust you Jerry.

Jerry nods. Smiles.

JERRY
 That's OK. Maybe I should take you
 home.

53 INT. TORTILLA KING VAN - NIGHT 53

Jerry stops in front of Maggie's house. As Maggie steps out:

JERRY
 I'm glad we did this.

MAGGIE
 Me too.

Maggie smiles nervously.

54 EXT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - PORCH - NIGHT 54

Maggie stops at the porch and turns around to look down the street. She catches Jerry's eyes as he looks at her through the rearview mirror.

55 INT. TORTILLA KING VAN - NIGHT 55

Jerry sees Maggie in the rearview mirror as she walks up to her door. He sees her turn to look towards the van. She smiles.

JERRY
 Gotcha.

56 EXT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT 56

Maggie stands by the door as the van turns a corner. She smiles proudly to herself.

MAGGIE
I got you Jerry Valdez.

57 INT. EL PUEBLO HIGH GYM - DAY 57

We pan across the Gym floor to see rows of deformed carts. The camera stops at a cart that is still moving towards us.

From above, we see that the cart outdistances all of the other carts.

Everyone stares quietly as the cart keeps moving. When it stops, Jerry and Maggie break the library-like silence with screeches of joy. They jump up and down and then hug. Mr. Lucas smiles.

Mina holds a cart that looks like a melted lump of cheese and frowns.

As Jerry holds Maggie in a hug he looks over her shoulder and winks at Leslie and Reggie. Maggie does the same over Jerry's shoulder towards Mina.

58 INT. STUDENT COUNCIL CLASSROOM - DAY 58

Jerry rolls the physics cart on his desk and smiles proudly. Into the room walk Reggie and Leslie.

JERRY
Told you guys.

REGGIE
I don't know, Jerry.

LESLIE
She's hard to read.

JERRY
What are you talking about? Were you at the same gym? She was eating it up.

Reggie and Leslie aren't buying it.

JERRY (CONT'D)
Come on, show me the plans.

Leslie lays out intricate float plans.

REGGIE

You're gonna love the designs
Leslie came up with. The stage for
the game is incredible.

LESLIE

Yeah Jerry, could we work at your
place tonight. My aunt is coming
over to watch Modern Family with
her bratty kids.

JERRY

Oh, tonight? Yeah. I have plans.

Leslie steps closer to Jerry, like smelling his breath for
alcohol.

LESLIE

Really?

REGGIE

Don't lose sight of the goal here,
Jerry.

JERRY

Guys. When has that ever happened?

Reggie and Leslie share a knowing look.

JERRY (CONT'D)

This is not like Soraya. I don't
even see her as a girl. Look, we'll
meet tomorrow night. We have plenty
of time. I've got her, I just need
her to sign on the dotted line and
show up at the rally for Dolores.

Jerry leaves the room. Leslie and Reggie look at each other
with concern.

59

EXT. EL PUEBLO HIGH QUAD - DAY

59

Mina and Maggie sit in front of a table with a sign that
reads, "Cancel Homecoming...Save the Environment."

MINA

So have you found out when Dolores
is coming around?

MAGGIE

No.

MINA

You've spent a lot of time with Jerry not to have that valuable information.

MAGGIE

We're going out tonight. Don't worry. I'm on it.

MINA

And this time you promise to text me every hour.

MAGGIE

Oh Mina, what could possibly happen.

Mina smirks.

60

INT. TORTILLA KING RESTAURANT - NIGHT

60

Maggie laughs hysterically. She sits in front of Jerry.

MAGGIE

I can't believe you did that?

JERRY

It was all Reggie's plan. He always acts like it's me who pushes it, but he's the schemer with all the great ideas. I love that guy.

Maggie looks up at Jerry, their eyes lock. There's a buzzing in her purse and she takes out her phone. The screen reads, "Mina."

MAGGIE

(to Jerry)

My mom.

JERRY

Does she know you're out with "The Man."

MAGGIE

She actually really liked you.

JERRY

Woman often do.

MAGGIE

God, you're so full of yourself.
That how you intend to get that
lady from the Senator's office on
your side.

JERRY

Which lady?

MAGGIE

The one at the board meeting?

JERRY

Oh yeah, her.

MAGGIE

You're going to charm her?

JERRY

She's not the one that needs
charming.

Jerry stares at Maggie intensely.

MAGGIE

Then you're screwed.

They both bust out laughing. The moment is broken as
Josephina approaches with a massive plate of nachos. She puts
them on the table.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Oh let me help.

JOSHEPINA

(getting nervous)
It's OK.

Josephina walks away.

MAGGIE

Your mom hates me.

JERRY

Not really.

MAGGIE

What is this?

JERRY

You mean the party nachos? My mom
only makes them to celebrate with
friends and family. And I didn't
even ask for them.

Maggie takes a nacho.

MAGGIE

So you invited my friends? Where are they.

JERRY

Ha funny.

Jerry takes a nacho loaded with cheese and holds it up.

JERRY (CONT'D)

A toast.

Maggie follows suit and loads up a nacho to hold it up for a toast.

JERRY (CONT'D)

A toast to a joint Homecoming/Nature First program. A homecoming that celebrates female achievement and brings about environmental awareness.

MAGGIE

What?

JERRY

Maggie. I am rarely ever impressed and you, impress me. I think we should approach the board with a joint Homecoming/Nature First Program.

Jerry puts down his nacho.

JERRY (CONT'D)

It's an easy sell. It's what I've been wanting to tell you about the Senator.

MAGGIE

That he's a scum bag.

JERRY

Your opinion on his moral character is noted. But, if you come with me to meet with Dolores from the Senator's office, you'll see what I'm talking about. We all win.

MAGGIE

You want me to meet with Dolores?

Maggie studies Jerry. On the seat next to her, her cell phone vibrates with Mina on the screen. Maggie looks at it then looks up at Jerry.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Let me think about it.

61 INT. MRS. COOPERS CLASSROOM - DAY

61

STUDENTS draw banners on butcher paper in the background. Mina and Maggie organize flyers at a table.

MINA

So?

MAGGIE

So what?

MINA

How was your meeting at taco king headquarters?

MAGGIE

It was OK. It's not like I have a crush on him or anything.

MINA

I didn't say you had a crush on him. Do you?

MAGGIE

I don't. That's what I said.

MINA

OK. That's what you said. You don't have a crush on Jerry. Did you find out about Dolores?

MAGGIE

No, just some vague stuff about changing Homecoming. But no, he didn't answer any of my questions.

MINA

Nothing?

MAGGIE

It was kind of boring actually.

MINA

Jerry, boring? Now I know you're lying.

(MORE)

MINA (CONT'D)

A very credible source told me that Jerry convinced Mr. Lucas to pair you up on the physics cart project. Something about 'guys helping guys.'

Maggie shakes her head.

MAGGIE

Who tells you these things?

MINA

A good reporter protects her sources.

MAGGIE

Now who's lying.

MINA

Don't trust Jerry.

MAGGIE

Look, Jerry and I have agreed to separating our hanging out and all of this Homecoming stuff. We're being very professional and mature about it.

MINA

Sure. Professional and mature.

66

EXT. HIKING TRAIL - DAY

66

Maggie walks up a tree-lined trail. We reveal Jerry up ahead, leading her.

They stop at the edge of the cliff. Down below is a gorgeous view of the ocean and the city lit by the setting sun.

MAGGIE

This is stunning.

JERRY

Some developer wanted to build houses here. Could you believe that?

They sit down on a bench and look out. Maggie is moved.

MAGGIE

What happened?

JERRY
 Activists, politicians working
 together, stopped it.

Maggie smiles.

MAGGIE
 I give up.

JERRY
 Maggie, Dolores from the Senator's
 office is going to be at the rally
 tomorrow. She's coming to see one
 thing.

Maggie nods.

MAGGIE
 I can't promise I'll be chanting
 for the Vaqueros. But I'll be
 there.

Jerry takes a jewelry case out of his pocket.

JERRY
 Here.

MAGGIE
 What.

She opens it. It's a yin yang necklace.

JERRY
 Yin, yang, you know.

MAGGIE
 I know...that's sweet.

Maggie smiles and gazes into Jerry's eyes. And for the first
 time, his eyes dart away from hers nervously. He swallows
 hard, dries his palms on his pants. They're about to kiss.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
 I just have. Well, it's really
 silly. I shouldn't.

JERRY
 What is it?

MAGGIE
 It's this real stupid thing I
 heard. I mean, I'm almost
 embarrassed to even ask.

JERRY

Go ahead.

MAGGIE

Did you have Lucas partner us so
you could get me to do Homecoming.

Jerry looks insulted, hurt.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

I know. It was stupid.

JERRY

At first, I thought it was terrible
that Lucas put us together. But, I
think, well, I think he's a lot
smarter than we give him credit
for.

MAGGIE

So you didn't?

Jerry gently shakes his head.

JERRY

I'd never do something like that.

Maggie smiles. She leans her head on his shoulder. Jerry
leans his head on hers.

Jerry reaches out and holds her hand, she doesn't pull away.
Jerry closes his eyes.

67

INT. MR. LUCAS'S SCIENCE LAB CLASSROOM - DAY

67

The bell rings loudly and the students bolt out of their
seats and towards the door. Reggie packs his bags. Jerry
stands at the front lab table as Maggie passes.

MAGGIE

Bye Jerry.

JERRY

Bye.

Maggie walks out followed by Mina. Mr. Lucas watches the
interaction.

MR. LUCAS

Bye Jerry?

Maggie pokes her head back in through the door.

MAGGIE
 Lets meet in your office after
 school to talk about Dolores and
 the rally. Okay.

JERRY
 Perfect.

Jerry smiles from ear to ear. Mr. Lucas mock gags himself.

MR. LUCAS
 Maggie at a rally?

REGGIE
 Yeah, the rally in Jerry's pants.
 See ya Jer, Mr. Lucas.

Reggie taps Jerry on the shoulder and walks out.

JERRY
 I guess she got to see the real me.

68 EXT. EL PUEBLO HIGH HALL - DAY

68

Maggie and Mina march down the hall.

MINA
 Uh!! I can't stand him.

MAGGIE
 Who?

MINA
 Who? That fake, Jerry. He's such a
 scoundrel.

MAGGIE
 Really Mina, you just have to get
 to know him. I really think...

Maggie looks through her bag. She slaps her forehead.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
 --ah, my binder. Wait here.

Maggie rushes back towards Mr. Lucas's classroom. She has the
 biggest, silliest grin on her face.

69 INT. MR. LUCAS'S SCIENCE LAB CLASSROOM - DAY

69

Jerry wipes down the board.

JERRY

I told you. Sometimes you just sort of have to nudge at things.

MR. LUCAS

I don't know if setting you up with Maggie as a partner is a nudge. Sounds like a shove.

JERRY

A shove a nudge. It's all working out magically.

Mr. Lucas nods his head. Maybe Jerry's right.

MR. LUCAS

I love your certainty Jerry. I'm glad I could help the cause.

JERRY

See. Everybody wins.

70 EXT. MR. LUCAS'S SCIENCE LAB CLASSROOM - DAY 70

Maggie stands just outside the door. A look of fragile pain sweeps across her face. But an iron curtain of composure quickly hides that. She turns from the door and walks away.

71 INT. MR. LUCAS'S SCIENCE LAB CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS 71

Jerry loads his books into his bag.

MR. LUCAS

Ah man, you're in trouble.

Jerry turns around.

JERRY

What?

MR. LUCAS

You like her.

JERRY

No. I mean, we've agreed to do a joint presentation at the board.

MR. LUCAS

You and Maggie?

Jerry nods his head, smiling.

MR. LUCAS (CONT'D)
 I know when a man is walking off
 the plank. And what we have here is
 a man diving in with the sharks.

Jerry smiles.

72 EXT. EL PUEBLO HIGH HALL - DAY

72

Maggie catches up to Mina. By now, Maggie is all game-face.

MINA
 Where's the binder?

MAGGIE
 Oh, it was in my bag. So Dolores
 will be at the rally, tomorrow.

MINA
 Tomorrow? What are we going to do?
 When were you going to tell me?

MAGGIE
 I'm telling you now.

MINA
 Crap. We have to do something huge.

MAGGIE
 Tell me every last detail you know
 about Soraya and Jerry.

Mina smiles. This is her speciality.

73 INT. DANCE ROOM - DAY

73

Soraya's pom poms lay on the floor. Maggie, Mina and Soraya
 sit on metal chairs around a table. The room is dark, like an
 AA room from Fight Club.

SORAYA
 I don't want to hurt, Jerry. He
 never did nothing to me.

MAGGIE
 Do you remember your first date?

SORAYA
 Yeah. So?

MAGGIE
 What'd you do?

SORAYA

It wasn't supposed to be a date. He was helping me with Math.

MINA

You're multiplication tables.

SORAYA

Funny. We were on our way to the library when his dad called with two extra tickets to a fund-raising dinner. It was so much fun. After that we just started hanging out. I, I, never thought I'd like a guy like Jerry.

MAGGIE

And you think that was a coincidence, the dinner?

SORAYA

We were helping his dad.

MAGGIE

Nothing with Jerry is a coincidence.

Maggie pushes a flier across the table to Soraya. It's a picture of Soraya with a caption, "Vote for Jerry. He's our guy." Soraya smiles.

SORAYA

That's so cute huh?

MAGGIE

Jerry ran for student body president just weeks after you started dating.

SORAYA

He's an ambitious guy. That's why my mom likes him.

MAGGIE

And you helped him with his campaign?

SORAYA

He was my boyfriend.

Maggie pushes across another flier with a picture of the cheerleaders holding up their pompoms in the shape of a J.

MAGGIE

And you got your friends to help?

SORAYA

He was my boyfriend. We made those at my mom's house. We did it on her bed.

Soraya chokes up.

MINA

Did it?

MAGGIE

(frantic)

Did what?

SORAYA

He was my boyfriend.

MAGGIE

You didn't.

SORAYA

I did.

Soraya's eyes tear up.

MAGGIE

And you took him to all the football parties that he'd never been to before.

SORAYA

The guys loved Jerry. It's not like that.

Maggie pushes a picture across the table. It's from a portrait vending machine. It's of Maggie and Jerry. Soraya tenses.

SORAYA (CONT'D)

What's that?

MAGGIE

I was Jerry's next project.

Maggie pushes another snapshot of Jerry and Maggie. It's the picture a couple takes of themselves with the hand holding up the camera in view on the picture.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Did Jerry put up a fight when you broke up with him?

SORAYA

No. I kind of wish he did, but he's always so busy. He's ambitious I told you. That's a good thing.

MAGGIE

Jerry tried to charm me because I wanted to cancel Homecoming. But he's done nothing but lie and manipulate me. We have to teach him a lesson.

Maggie pushes the necklace Jerry gave her across the table. Soraya just stares at it. She looks up at Maggie, defeated. Soraya pulls down her collar to reveal the same necklace.

SORAYA

What do you want me to do?

Maggie looks at Mina with deadly determination on her face.

74

INT. STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM - DAY

74

Jerry's face is all smiles as he looks at us:

JERRY

So basically, Dolores will show up for a meeting with me and Martinez, then she goes to the rally and after the rally Maggie and I sit down with her to discuss our environmental awareness ideas.

We reveal that Jerry is talking to Leslie, Reggie AND Maggie.

JERRY (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

Reggie has a stern face.

REGGIE

I don't know, Jerry.

LESLIE

Yeah, I mean, can we trust.

JERRY

Come on, Maggie is on board. Right Maggie.

MAGGIE

Of course, Jerry.

REGGIE
 (to Maggie)
 But what about, Mina.

MAGGIE
 I think she's seen the light.
 Believe me.

JERRY
 Perfect, so we're all set for
 tomorrow.

Maggie gets up and walks out.

REGGIE
 Something's not right, Jerry.

JERRY
 Did you see her. I mean, the girl
 is clearly eating everything up I
 say.

LESLIE
 I'm not sure if she's the eater.

JERRY
 Trust me. This thing is on. Lets go
 have some nachos.

Jerry leads them out of the office.

75

INT. PRINCIPAL MARTINEZ'S OFFICE - DAY

75

Elaborate Homecoming models are on a table. We pull back to
 reveal Martinez and Dolores admiring the plans. Leslie and
 Reggie are all smiles.

JERRY
 And when the Senator walks out, the
 balloons drop, providing a great
 image for the evenings nightly
 news.

DOLORES
 Wow Jerry. The Senator is going to
 love this.

PRINCIPAL MARTINEZ
 I gotta hand it to you kids. This
 is something else.

Jerry looks at his watch.

JERRY

And just in time for our rally.

DOLORES

Are things looking good with our board meeting friend?

Jerry is all smiles.

JERRY

Of course. You'll get a chance to meet with my latest collaborator. A huge fan of Homecoming.

Dolores smiles.

DOLORES

Embarrassingly supportive?

JERRY

You'll blush.

DOLORES

Just like the Senator.

Dolores walks out of the room and Martinez pulls Jerry aside.

PRINCIPAL MARTINEZ

So we're good with this Maggie girl that was at the board meeting because I don't want to look bad in front of the Senator's people.

JERRY

You can sleep well Mr. Martinez.

76

INT. EL PUEBLO HIGH GYM - DAY

76

The DRILL TEAM marches off the stage and Jerry makes his way to the microphone.

Jerry smiles at Maggie who sits in the front row. Maggie smiles back. Jerry walks to the lectern.

JERRY

And now, your freshmen year homecoming princess.

From the front row emerges Soraya who approaches the lectern. Jerry turns to look at Maggie and notices as she nods to Soraya. And just then, Jerry knows he's been had.

SORAYA

(stilted reading)

Vaqueros. I come here before you,
not as your Freshmen Homecoming
princess but as a concerned
student.

Jerry forces a smile as he looks over at Dolores.

SORAYA (CONT'D)

Times they are a changing and I
think El Pueblo must change too.
Homecoming is a hypocrisy that
objectifies and demeans women.

STUDENT

(yells from the distance)
Vaqueros don't want Homecoming!

Most of the students look around in surprise and detachment
as a few dozen GIRLS stand and chant.

CHANTING STUDENTS

We-don't-want-no-Homecoming, TAKE
IT BACK. TAKE IT BACK.

The Girls stomp on the bleachers as they continue chanting.

Jerry turns to the crowd and then to Martinez, what to do?

Suddenly, from the crowd emerges a disk that crashes into
Jerry's face. And then, hundreds of these disks fly from the
audience. They are extra large, Tortilla King Tortillas.

They smash into the drill team who flees the scene. They
smash into Martinez. They smash into Dolores.

Maggie looks around in shock. Mina smiles.

MAGGIE

(to Mina)

What's going on?

Jerry takes the one that crashes into his face. It reads
"Homecoming" crossed out. Jerry looks up towards Maggie in
disgust.

Tortillas fall from the sky as Principal Martinez dashes for
the microphone. Students begin to push and shove their way
towards the doors.

PRINCIPAL MARTINEZ

Alright, lets calm down!

Jerry turns to see Dolores dash out the side-door. Jerry fights through a sea of students to get to the door.

Martinez's DEANS push back the students, but the Students push back and spill out the door. Martinez rushes towards the door holding the microphone and trips over the tangled cord and smashes down onto the gym floor.

He bangs his palm on the floor in anger.

77

EXT. EL PUEBLO HIGH GYM - PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

77

Dolores bolts for her car amidst the chaos of running students. As she approaches her car:

JERRY (O.S.)

Dolores.

DOLORES

No Jerry.

JERRY

But wait.

DOLORES

I'm not going to hear it.

JERRY

Just listen.

DOLORES

Jerry. The Senators career is so much bigger than your little Homecoming.

Dolores gets in her car and is about to close the door when Jerry holds it open. They're both startled by his boldness. Dolores looks scared.

DOLORES (CONT'D)

You little sweet talker better have something good to say.

JERRY

You want this as much as I do.

DOLORES

You're such a kid.

JERRY

Right now you're heading back to your office to listen to grannys complain about loud music and bathroom toilets at national parks that are too high. You went to a prestigious college and all the boys give you is a rep job at a field office where you get to listen to old people and ME. This thing happens, and you're the point person for his gubernatorial candidacy announcement. Sometimes, you've got to risk it all for your chance.

Dolores looks over Jerry, he's cut right down to the core of her.

DOLORES

You have until tomorrow morning to shock me with something or else I'll tell him everything.

Dolores slams her door shut. Jerry takes in a deep breath as he turns around.

Limping towards him is Martinez who points an acusatory finger at Jerry.

PRINCIPAL MARTINEZ

Valdez, in my office now!

78 INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

78

Principal Martinez sits at the head of the conference table in his office. Maggie, Mina and Soraya sit on one side and Jerry and Reggie sit on the other. Leslie stands behind staring at everyone. All eyes are on Maggie.

PRINCIPAL MARTINEZ

We can do this the hard way or you can tell us who organized this?

Principal Martinez holds up a tortilla.

All eyes stay on Maggie who keeps her eyes down. Mina fights back tears.

PRINCIPAL MARTINEZ (CONT'D)

Look kids, I'm not saying you can't voice your opinion here, but that unruly behavior is unacceptable.

REGGIE

Well...What, what about Jerry's feelings? You see what they wrote on here.

One tortilla reads, "Go Away Tortilla Boy."

MINA

This isn't about Jerry. It's about canceling Homecoming and keeping the Nature First club going.

REGGIE

After what you just did?

SORAYA

I did it. I'm responsible. I...

REGGIE

Please Soraya. You're a cheerleader.

SORAYA

So.

REGGIE

You're like the leader of objectified women. Why would you suddenly be against Homecoming? Your just pissed cause Jerry dumped you.

SORAYA

I dumped him.

Jerry stares at Maggie amidst the yelling. Maggie looks up for a second. Her face catches the hurt and anger in Jerry's face.

PRINCIPAL MARTINEZ

Fine, I'll call Soraya's dad. She's suspended for a week.

Everyone in the room is suddenly shocked.

PRINCIPAL MARTINEZ (CONT'D)

Yup, and that goes on your permanent record. Any more shenanigans and heads will roll. I want to see you succeed, but not at the cost of the school. I'm talking expulsion kids.

Everyone stares at each other in shock.

79 INT. MRS. COOPER'S CLASSROOM - DAY

79

Maggie slumps into a chair - she peers into her backpack at the Yin & Yang necklace Jerry gave her.

MINA

What's wrong with you, we beat him, we won, did you see Dolores walk out of there.

MAGGIE

Yeah, we beat him.

MINA

Then what's your problem?

MAGGIE

Nothing. I guess I'm just tired.

MINA

We should get ready for the board meeting.

MAGGIE

Yeah...

Maggie picks up her bag and walks out of the room.

80 INT. STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM - DAY

80

Jerry paces. Leslie and Reggie nervously stare at him.

JERRY

How could I not have seen this?

REGGIE

Without knowing who she is, my hands are tied, Jerry.

JERRY

I know.

REGGIE

I mean, who is she?

Reggie pops open a Coke. He sips it.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

If I had a budget. I could do some real research.

Jerry looks at the Coke.

JERRY

That's it.

REGGIE

Seriously?

JERRY

Why hadn't I thought of it before.

REGGIE

You willing to go all the way?

JERRY

I know my dad would have my back.

REGGIE

Now we're talking. Daddy Warbucks baby.

JERRY

Her house is the same floorplan as ours before the remodel. I broke into that house a million times.

REGGIE

You what?

LESLIE

What are you guys talking about?

REGGIE

Hiring a PI in Portland to get us her real name.

JERRY

Sneaking into her house. Who said anything about a PI?

REGGIE

Breaking in?

JERRY

It's research.

LESLIE

And it's a crime.

JERRY

When I was at her house, and I asked for a Coke, they freaked. Something went down back in Oregon, that's why they're here. We go into that house, we find the dirt and sink her.

LESLIE

Are you nuts? Do you even hear what you're saying?

REGGIE

Yeah Jerry. That's kind of extreme, even for you.

JERRY

We have no choice Leslie.

LESLIE

We drop it. Go home. Party's over.

JERRY

Are you serious?

LESLIE

Yes.

JERRY

You've never had what it takes Leslie. To take it all the way.

LESLIE

No Jerry.

JERRY

Hide behind Jerry.

LESLIE

Jerry.

JERRY

Let Jerry take the heat.

LESLIE

Stop.

JERRY

Face it. You'd just be hanging with the stoners and burnouts if it wasn't for me.

REGGIE

Dude.

LESLIE

Go to hell Jerry.

Leslie walks out. Reggie looks at Jerry bug-eyed.

JERRY

Are you in?

REGGIE
 (voice cracking)
 You know me. I'm always in.

JERRY
 We go tomorrow morning before
 Physics.

FADE TO BLACK.

81 EXT. HILLTOP ABOVE OXNARD - MORNING 81

The sun cracks over the horizon of the City of Oxnard. In the distance, we can hear a rooster crow.

82 INT. KATHLEEN AND PAUL'S ROOM - DAY 82

Maggie walks into her mother's bedroom. Kathleen lies under the covers.

MAGGIE
 Mom, what are you doing? I have to
 be at school in ten minutes.

KATHLEEN
 I have the worst cold. I'm
 canceling all my classes. Can't you
 walk?

MAGGIE
 Mom!

83 EXT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - DAY 83

Maggie rushes out the door. She gets into her mother's Prius and drives away.

84 EXT. REGGIE'S HOUSE - DAY 84

Jerry drives up to Reggie's house driving his father's car. Reggie gets in the car.

85 INT. GERARDO'S BMW 750 - DAY 85

Jerry looks nervously over at Reggie.

REGGIE
 How'd you get the car?

JERRY
Don't ask. You ready?

Reggie nods his head.

86 INT. MORTENSON STAIRWAY - DAY 86

Kathleen walks up the stairs with a bowl of cereal. Her nose is red, and her eyes are puffy.

87 INT. GERARDO'S BMW 750 - DAY 87

Jerry and Reggie park under a tree across the street from Maggie's. They look towards the house.

JERRY
Both cars are gone.

REGGIE
Yeah.

Reggie doesn't move from his seat.

JERRY
We'll be in and out in ten minutes.

Jerry doesn't move either.

REGGIE
(panicking)
I should've asked someone to get us the physics homework. What was I thinking?

Jerry takes in a deep breath, nods his head, and puts on white monogrammed El Pueblo High cotton gloves.

JERRY
Why don't you wait in the car? We could use a lookout.

REGGIE
Yeah, good idea.

88 EXT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - DAY 88

Jerry gets out of the car and looks around. He stares long and hard at the Mortenson home. He takes in a deep breath. Yup, he's got to do this.

He's about to cross the street when he's startled by the slam of the car door. He looks back at the BMW.

REGGIE

Why should you have all the fun?

Jerry smiles.

They approach the side gate and Reggie reaches over to open it. As they pass into the backyard, the door slams shut.

89 INT. KATHLEEN AND PAUL'S ROOM - DAY 89

Kathleen lies in bed and perks her head up at the sound of the gate. She looks out her window without getting up from bed. Must be the neighbor. She digs in for a scoop of cereal and turns on her TV with a remote.

90 EXT. MORTENSON BACKYARD - DAY 90

Jerry approaches the windows. He feels around the screens.

JERRY

When these get corroded they don't shut all the way. These are new.

Reggie looks on. Jerry walks to a glass sliding door.

JERRY (CONT'D)

It's locked.

Reggie looks around.

REGGIE

I guess we tried.

Jerry shakes his head. He leans on the sliding glass door and pushes it up and then in. The sliding glass door is open.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Dude.

JERRY

I know.

They walk inside.

91 INT. MORTENSON KITCHEN- DAY 91

Reggie opens the fridge, finds that it's empty.

REGGIE
 (whispering)
 Man, nothing. These people are
 definitely hiding something.

JERRY
 (whispering)
 Come on...upstairs.

They tiptoe up the stairs.

92

INT. MAGGIE'S ROOM - DAY

92

The room is immaculate. Loads of books on shelves. Jerry stands in the doorway for a moment and admires the order of the room, variety of books, and awards on walls.

This could be the female version of Jerry's room and Jerry is in awe. He admires the wall of awards, the stacks of books - he pulls out a title, shakes his head.

Jerry sits at Maggie's desk. He opens cabinets, looks through her notebooks. Jerry looks in the trash, finds the necklace he gave her. He takes it out, stares at it, and puts it in his pocket.

Maggie's cat jumps onto the desk startling Jerry.

JERRY
 Hey there.

Reggie looks at a bookshelf covered with ribbons, certificates, and trophies. His eyes land on a scrapbook. He opens it to see pages of newspaper clippings.

Back at the desk, Jerry takes off his gloves and thumbs through a scrapbook. He sees "Jerry" written about a hundred times with lots of hearts. He turns the page and sees his name scratched out with black ink.

REGGIE (O.S.)
 Jerry!

Reggie rushes towards Jerry knocking over a lamp. It slams to the ground.

93

INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - KATHLEEN AND PAUL'S ROOM - DAY

93

Kathleen has heard this. She lowers the volume on the TV. Looks towards her door.

KATHLEEN
Maggie! Is that you?

94 INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - MAGGIE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS 94

Jerry and Reggie look at each other, terrified.

JERRY
What the?

REGGIE
What the?

Jerry and Reggie dive under the bed.

Kathleen walks into Maggie's room. She notices the lamp on the floor.

Next to the lamp is the cat, who stares at Jerry and Reggie who hide under the bed. From where she stands, Kathleen can't see Jerry and Reggie.

Kathleen props up the lamp. She picks up the cat and walks out of the room.

As Kathleen's bedroom door closes, Jerry and Reggie bolt from under the bed.

On Maggie's desk, are Jerry's gloves.

95 EXT. GERARDO'S BMW 750 - DAY 95

Jerry and Reggie dive into the car. Jerry floors the accelerator, and they peel out.

CUT TO:

96 INT. STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM - DAY 96

We hear the clicking sound of an old-school film projector. Jerry looks at us. Next to him is the scrapbook Reggie found. Inside are black and white clippings.

JERRY
Turns out Mortenson was Maggie's
adopted name. Her real name was
Maria Margarita Cruz.

Jerry turns his attention to the projector screen where we see black and white news reel footage that will play throughout this montage.

97 EXT. LAKE VIEW HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - DAY 97

Maggie moderates a discussion with NAOMI KLEIN. In the audience are SIX STUDENTS.

Onto the stage walks an irritated COACH MCCARTHY - sweat pants, cap, polo shirt, clip board, and whistle around his neck. He slams a Coke Brand water on the table.

Maggie defiantly stands up.

JERRY (V.O.)

Because Coke sponsored the athletic program, every campus event had to serve Coke products. Even Maggie's panel with Naomi Klein. But Maggie refused.

98 EXT. LAKE VIEW HIGH SCHOOL QUAD - DAY 98

Maggie and a FRIEND hand out clipboards with petitions on them as students pass.

JERRY (V.O.)

She got signatures.

99 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - BOARD ROOM - NIGHT 99

Maggie, dressed in a suit skirt, speaks passionately at a lectern.

JERRY (V.O.)

Approached the school board.

Coach McCarthy sits upset in the audience behind Maggie.

100 EXT. LAKE VIEW HIGH SCHOOL - STADIUM - DAY 100

A band plays on a make-shift stage, Maggie stands off to the side and looks nervously at the growing audience.

JERRY

Maggie organized an non-school-approved protest rally on a Saturday without a single parent finding out. The band's name was the Disciples of Rebellion. The band's most recent video had gone viral...3 million hits.

In the audience are about 1000 kids.

JERRY (CONT'D)

What Maggie didn't know, was that
the bands most recent viral song
was "High School Riot."

FENCE INTO SCHOOL: HUNDREDS of KIDS, push, jump, slam open
the gate into the school.

OUTSIDE A CLASSROOM: A trash can slams into a window. Glass
rains down.

QUAD: STUDENTS run through the quad tipping over trash cans
and smashing windows.

LATER

101 EXT. LAKE VIEW HIGH SCHOOL - QUAD - DAY 101

POLICE and PARAMEDICS roam the quad, STUDENTS lay on gurneys.

103 JERRY (V.O.) 103
The cops broke up the party. It was
a full fledged riot.

Maggie is led off campus by a cop in cuffs.

JERRY (V.O.)
Maggie was arrested...

102 INT. LAKE VIEW HIGH SCHOOL - PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY 102

Maggie sits with her head down.

JERRY (V.O.)
--and suspended.

103 INT. MAGGIE'S SEATTLE HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY 103

Kathleen and Paul host a cocktail party with a few ADULT
FRIENDS. Their neighbor, CARL, stands up from a chair near
the living room window and walks to the other side of the
room.

Within moments a beer bottle slams through the window,
covering the chair Carl sat in with glass.

Carl looks at Paul in shock. Paul slams down his hand as he
picks up the bottle that flew in through the window and
landed on the chair where Carl sat.

JERRY (V.O.)

Maggie's protest gave Coke such a bad wrap they pulled their funding from the school district's athletic program.

104 EXT. MAGGIE'S SEATTLE HOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY 104

Paul rushes towards the street where he sees a convertible loaded with JOCKS peel away. The Jocks jeer at Paul.

JERRY (V.O.)

Maggie had just made hundreds of jock enemies.

Paul looks to Kathleen who is at the front door.

JERRY (V.O.)

Paul realized they had to leave town for the safety of his family.

105 INT. LAKE VIEW RECORDS ROOM - DAY 105

Paul walks into the room loaded with file cabinets. He suspiciously looks around and takes out a file.

JERRY (V.O.)

Paul cleared Maggie's file of any information regarding her suspension or the incident with the athletics department. He wanted her to have a fresh start at El Pueblo.

106 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY 106

We're back in the classroom with Jerry. He sits staring at the projector screen. The newsreel footage comes to an end and we hear the flap of film hitting the projector as the reel continues to spin.

Jerry turns to us.

JERRY

And this is why she ended up at my school. My senior year. It's very clear that someone took out these details from her file. When Martinez finds out, she is going down.

107 INT. TORTILLA KING RESTAURANT - NIGHT

107

Reggie sits at a booth staring at the scrapbook. Jerry approaches with two sodas and a manic look on his face.

JERRY

Just wait till I unload this on Martinez.

REGGIE

I don't know, Jerry.

Jerry looks up, shocked.

JERRY

What?

REGGIE

Why'd she have a different name?

JERRY

I can't believe I didn't make the connection. She told me. Paul's not her birth father, although he raised her.

REGGIE

How did Martinez not have her record?

JERRY

Paul worked at her old school. He must of altered the file. I, I wouldn't be surprised if Maggie isn't her real name. Or she's not really a blonde. I mean, what can you believe from this girl? What's wrong?

REGGIE

You heard what Martinez said.

JERRY

Yes I did. Heads will roll.

REGGIE

No, I mean. He said this will go on your permanent record. Can you imagine what this will do to **her** future?

JERRY

If I don't call Dolores with a real plan, our dreams our future is over.

REGGIE

Your dreams, Jerry. This has become about **your** dreams.

JERRY

Reggie, how close are we buddy? How much have we been talking about this? And you did it.

Reggie shakes his head.

REGGIE

This isn't what I signed up for. I'm not going to ruin someone's life.

JERRY

Reggie, baby. We're there man. You're minutes from crossing the finish line.

Reggie stands up. Jerry looks away, his mania twisting into anger.

REGGIE

Say it.

JERRY

No.

REGGIE

Tell me what's on your mind, Jerry. I can see something crawling out of your mouth.

JERRY

The only reason you ever hang out with me.

REGGIE

Say it.

JERRY

I'm asking you to go along with me on this, Reggie.

Reggie shakes his head.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Ever since we were kids you always tagged along with my plans, my dreams to change the world, because you never had the guts to follow your own dreams.

REGGIE

That's so wrong Jerry. Yes, I've never had your natural ease with being a leader. But I didn't follow you out of fear, I followed you because you used to inspire me.

Reggie walks out the door. Jerry lets that sting for a while.

FADE TO:

108 EXT. EL PUEBLO HIGH - DAY 108

The sun comes up and the school is covered in a quiet, foggy morning dew. Only a trash truck is heard in the distance.

109 EXT. MR. LUCAS'S SCIENCE LAB CLASSROOM - DAY 109

Jerry walks towards class and suddenly realizes he's face to face with Maggie.

MAGGIE

We missed you in class yesterday.

JERRY

I had to take care of some business. I know all about you and your botched rally in Portland.

Maggie stares long and hard at Jerry.

MAGGIE

You're just as crooked as the Senator.

JERRY

The senator's a hero.

MAGGIE

Open your eyes.

JERRY

If you don't come with me to the Senator's office, full of enthusiasm for Homecoming, I'll let Martinez and the board know just what happened up there. I'm sure they'll be curious to know why it's not in your file.

MAGGIE

How do you know what's in my file?

JERRY

Martinez doesn't like to be lied to.

MAGGIE

Funny, neither do I.

JERRY

You give me an answer by the end of class or I go straight to Martinez.

The bell rings and Jerry and Maggie walk into class.

110

INT. MR. LUCAS'S SCIENCE LAB CLASSROOM - DAY

110

Mr. Lucas sits at his desk in front of the room, he looks up. The entire class sits eerily quiet and focussed on him. Not an ounce of side chatter or rustling.

Jerry, Reggie and Leslie sit at their table - silent.

In the back of the room is Maggie and Mina - silent.

MR. LUCAS

Combustion. What does it take for something to...blow up?

As Mr. Lucas turns to write on the whiteboard. From the PA speaker:

VOICE (V.O.)

Excuse the interruption Mr. Lucas, but could you please send Maggie Mortenson to the front office.

Mr. Lucas turns to face the classroom.

MR. LUCAS

Maggie.

Maggie walks to the front of the room, she passes Jerry and crew, and out the door.

MR. LUCAS (CONT'D)

Hmm... You need fuel and a spark.
That spark can be fire, heat, even
just...

VOICE (V.O.)

Sorry about this Mr. Lucas, but can
you send Jerry Valdez to the front
office.

Jerry looks at Reggie, who looks down and away from Jerry.

MR. LUCAS

Well, Jerry.

JERRY

Pressure. The third thing you're
going to say is pressure.

MR. LUCAS

Oh yes, pressure.

111 EXT. EL PUEBLO HIGH HALL - DAY 111

Jerry walks through the empty halls. Everything seems a little too quiet. As he approaches the administration building, he sees, out on the curb, a Police Squad Car. Jerry smiles.

112 INT. ADMINISTRATION OFFICE - DAY 112

As Jerry walks through the office, all eyes look away from him. We've never seen anyone in this office so focussed on getting work done. Jerry looks around, now, very suspicious.

113 INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY 113

Kathleen and Paul sit in front of Martinez's desk. Behind Martinez we see a BULKY POLICE OFFICER. Martinez stares at Jerry as he walks in. On the desk, is Jerry's white monogrammed glove.

Jerry's face goes pale. Martinez holds up the glove.

MARTINEZ

Jerry, does this glove belong to
you?

Jerry looks at the cop, then at Maggie.

JERRY

I don't know.

MARTINEZ

The Mortenson's claim that Maggie's scrapbook with clippings from her old school was missing, and that they found this along with a knocked over lamp in Maggie's bedroom.

Jerry slowly shakes his head.

MARTINEZ (CONT'D)

Officer Smith here will be taking you in for questioning.

Jerry turns to us:

JERRY

Didn't matter what I'd found at her house and that I could have sunk Maggie..

Jerry is interrupted as a hand cuff lands on his wrist. Martinez looks in the direction Jerry was looking at us:

MARTINEZ

Who were you talking to?

The passing bell rings loudly.

114 EXT. EL PUEBLO HIGH HALL - DAY

114

STUDENTS pour out into the quad and halls. The administration door flings open, Jerry walks out, hands cuffed behind his back, the Bulky Police Officer pushing him through campus.

JERRY (V.O.)

It made it worse because Maggie's mom was in the house.

EVERYONE stares. Reggie and Leslie appear from around a corner to witness this, shocked, they turn away. Maggie frowns, Mina smirks.

Rob Robertson, the Jock we saw earlier, stares at Jerry.

ROB

There goes our Homecoming.

The Jerry Protege stands in front of his friends.

JERRY PROTEGE
This can't be.

JERRY (V.O.)
I guess I got what I deserved.
Probation and five days suspension.
Lucky for me, Martinez liked me, I
could of been expelled. And I
didn't rat out Reggie.

As Maggie walks out in the quad towards the entrance she bumps into Reggie and Leslie. They quietly stare at each other.

MAGGIE
I'm sorry it got this bad.

LESLIE
(unconvincing)
I don't care.

REGGIE
(even more unconvincing)
Yeah, whatever.

They see Jerry being patted down in cuffs in front of the cop car. Leslie's face goes pale.

LESLIE
(weepy)
Is Jerry really going to jail?

MAGGIE
I don't think my parents will press
charges.
(to Reggie)
We should talk.

Leslie looks away. Reggie nods.

Maggie joins her parents who are waiting for her at the school entrance.

115 INT. PRIUS - DAY

115

Maggie sits quietly in the back seat. Paul and Kathleen up front. The car pulls ahead.

KATHLEEN
I really feel like this is all my
fault. I'm sorry, Maggie.

Maggie looks out the window as their car passes:

116 EXT. EL PUEBLO HIGH PARKING LOT - DAY 116

The Bulky Police Officer pushes Jerry into the squad car. Just as Jerry's about to enter, he looks up and makes eye contact with Maggie in the Prius.

The police car door is slammed shut. Jerry glares angrily through the window at Maggie.

FADE TO BLACK.

117 INT. TORTILLA KING RESTAURANT - NIGHT 117

The saddest Mariachi song plays in the background, the restaurant is empty, closed for the night.

Jerry, in an apron, and wearing rubber gloves pushes a mop bucket across the floor. Gerardo emerges from the kitchen. He approaches Jerry and looks sadly at the mop.

Gerardo holds his hand out. Jerry knows what this is, he digs into his pockets and hands the van keys to Gerardo.

GERARDO

You can use this.

Jerry looks up. Gerardo leans a rusty girl's ten-speed bike on the wall.

GERADO

It's your mom's.

JERRY

Dad.

Gerardo shoots Jerry a look, and Jerry looks down.

GERADO

After you lock up, don't forget to turn on the alarm.

As Gerardo approaches the door, he looks back at Jerry, and frowns at the sight of his son.

After Jerry notices his father leave, he sits at a booth and picks up his cell phone from the table and dials a number.

REGGIE (V.O.)

Yo, this is Reggie. Leave a message.

JERRY

Reggie, it's me. You're gonna have to pick up some time buddy. Talk to me man...please.

As Jerry puts the phone down, the door slams behind him. Jerry jumps up from his seat.

JERRY (CONT'D)

I was just checking messages dad.

He turns to see that it's Maggie. He grips the mop defensively.

She approaches the table and puts down a manila folder.

MAGGIE

I got your homework. There's a physics project from Mr. Lucas, if you need a partner.

Jerry looks in the folder, skims a handout.

JERRY

Combustion. Two teens with a record. Not sure they'd allow it.

MAGGIE

I can understand why you broke into my house.

JERRY

You can?

MAGGIE

You thought I duped you.

JERRY

I completely trusted you. I invited Dolores from the Senator's office. You knew what was at stake.

Maggie nods.

MAGGIE

I'm not that evil.

JERRY

Then why'd you do it. We had a great plan.

MAGGIE

I overheard you with Lucas.

JERRY

When?

MAGGIE

When he said he didn't think
partnering us was a nudge.

JERRY

Oh.

MAGGIE

I bought all your bullshit.

JERRY

It wasn't bull. Most of it.

MAGGIE

You know our problem Jerry. We're
way too much alike.

JERRY

Yeah, we'd probably end up blowing
up the school.

MAGGIE

Somebody could get hurt.

JERRY

Really badly.

MAGGIE

It's not worth the risk.

Jerry nods as Maggie walks out.

DISSOLVE TO:

118 EXT. TORTILLA KING RESTAURANT - NIGHT 118

Jerry turns the lights off inside the restaurant. He
struggles to push the girl's ten-speed bike out the front
door tripping on himself. Once outside, he locks the door.

119 EXT. STREET - NIGHT 119

Jerry rides along. The chain rubs loudly on the crank. And
for the first time, we realize, he's just a kid.

121 INT. JERRY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 121

Jerry tosses and turns in bed, then turns to the camera.

JERRY
How could this happen? I'm ruined.

122 INT. CHURCH - DAY

122

Jerry walks down the aisle of a lonely ornate church. A PRIEST lights candles up front. We hear MUSIC from an organ in the background.

Jerry kneels down in front of a pew.

Jerry looks up to a cross, closes his eyes as he prays.

BOOMING ECHO VOICE (V.O.)
What are you looking for my son?

Jerry looks up to the ceiling.

JERRY
God?

GERADO (O.S.)
Move over.

Jerry looks over to see it's his dad. Jerry makes room for Gerardo who kneels next to him. There is silence. Jerry looks over to his father, trying to read him.

JERRY
I really messed up huh?

Gerardo nods.

JERRY (CONT'D)
I can't believe it, I've lost everything.

Gerardo frowns.

JERRY (CONT'D)
Maggie ruined everything.

Gerardo turns to his son with a stern face.

GERARDO
Maggie has nothing to do with it.
Get up. Praying won't get you anywhere.

Jerry looks worried as he follows his dad out of the church.

123 EXT. CHURCH - DAY

123

Jerry sits in front of a statue of an angel, Gerardo paces back and forth.

GERARDO

You're lucky, Jerry. You have every advantage a young man could hope for. You can do anything with your life.

JERRY

And now I've thrown it away.

GERARDO

You're smart, you can talk yourself out of any jam, I've provided you with everything...a car, the room you work in...hell, you even got your mother's good looks. Believe me, she wasn't an easy catch.

JERRY

It's all been wasted.

GERARDO

Listen to you. It's like I'm standing in front of a stranger. Quit this whining.

JERRY

Dad, I had a good run. But, this, that's it. If I don't get the Senator and get a letter of recommendation and go to Harvard, I mean, my whole plan. It's over.

Gerardo shakes his head and sits down. He studies Jerry.

GERARDO

I guess you never saw it, but before I was the Tortilla King, before you were even born, I had a small *taqueria* on C street.

JERRY

You did? What was it called?

GERARDO

El Taquito.

Jerry smirks.

JERRY
The little taco?

Gerardo gives Jerry a dirty look.

GERADO
Yeah, well, the little taco failed. I went bankrupt. And your mother was pregnant with you. I lost our little house and had to move into a garage. I took a job at the factory in the day and one at a restaurant during the night. I decided I was just a worker. My ideas of a big business were just a dream.

JERRY
Wow dad, I never knew it got that bad. But you made it.

GERADO
Guess who convinced me I was better than that.

JERRY
Mom.

Gerardo nods, his eyes welling up.

GERADO
Mijo, no matter how bad it gets, you can never give up on your dreams.

124 EXT. STREET - DAY 124

Jerry rides his bike for dear life, the wind in his face.

Up ahead, we see:

125 EXT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - DAY 125

Jerry hops off his bike and rushes to the front door. He rings the doorbell and bangs the door. He looks in through the window, but there is no one.

126 EXT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - BACK YARD - DAY 126

Jerry opens the back gate and rushes into the backyard. Through the sliding glass door, he sees Maggie. She looks really sad, Jerry stares at her for a quiet moment.

He knocks on the sliding glass door. Maggie looks up startled. She leaps from her seat.

MAGGIE

Jerry, you trying to get arrested.

Jerry motions for the front door.

JERRY

Let me in.

MAGGIE

You crazy?

JERRY

Maggie, please.

Maggie gives in to the fire in Jerry's eyes.

MAGGIE

(angry)

Meet me out front.

127

EXT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - DAY

127

Jerry stands at the door as Maggie reluctantly opens it.

MAGGIE

My mom is on her way home from work.

JERRY

I think you were wrong Maggie.

MAGGIE

Oh my god, alright, fine, I was wrong, jeeze, let go of that pride.

JERRY

I think we should be together.

Maggie stops in her tracks. Stares at Jerry. Jerry tries to ease the moment, not ready to feel the full emotion of what he feels for her.

JERRY (CONT'D)

I mean, we should, we should go to the board meeting together.

MAGGIE

You said it yourself. Someone would get hurt. We'd blow up the school.

JERRY
Then lets blow it up.

Maggie feels that.

MAGGIE
That's not even funny.

JERRY
Together, we could do anything.
Don't you see it.

MAGGIE
Jerry, you stared straight into my
face and you lied to me.

JERRY
A flying tortilla almost took out
the Senator's aide.

MAGGIE
You broke into my house.

Jerry shakes his head.

JERRY
Because of you, I went to jail.

By now, they're both pretty aroused and shaking from anger,
lust and a bunch of other stuff they don't understand.

Maggie turns from Jerry's stare to look onto the driveway.
Jerry follows her look to see Kathleen arriving in her Prius.

KATHLEEN
Jerry, do you want us to press
charges. Maggie, I told you.

MAGGIE
But mom.

Kathleen walks onto the porch and into the house.

KATHLEEN (O.S.)
Paul! Are you here? Come down now.

JERRY
Come to Rob's party tonight. I'll
be there with Leslie and Reggie, I
hope.

Maggie shakes her head.

JERRY (CONT'D)

We'll be good together, I promise.

Paul walks out with bed head, followed by Kathleen.

PAUL

Enough Jerry, party's over.

Maggie stares at Jerry as he walks away.

128 EXT. STREET - DAY 128

Jerry rides his bike, a smile slowly creeps onto his face.

129 EXT. LIQUOR STORE - DAY 129

Jerry leans his bike against a wall.

130 INT. LIQUOR STORE - DAY 130

We see aisle after aisle of booze. Jerry stops at the wall of candy. He picks up a Rocky Road chocolate bar. He digs through a jar of beef jerky. Then he takes a bag of Funyuns and picks up a packet of Tapatio sauce and a lemon.

He walks up to the counter with a load of junk food.

131 EXT. REGGIE'S HOUSE - DAY 131

Jerry rides his bike holding a grocery store bag. He comes to a stop and lets the bike drop on the lawn. He walks around the side of the house to a pipe that runs up the house.

He hits the pipe with a distinct pattern.

132 INT. REGGIE'S BEDROOM - DAY 132

Reggie is hunched over a book and looks up at the sight of a sink in his bathroom. He hears the distinct tapping again. He looks out the window and does a reluctant half-wave at Jerry.

133 EXT. REGGIE'S HOUSE - DAY 133

Reggie awkwardly walks out his front door. As he approaches Jerry, Jerry hands Reggie the bag of Funyuns. Reggie nods his head.

Jerry squirts the lemon in the bag followed by the Tapatio sauce. Reggie shakes the bag.

Reggie looks in the bag and takes out a lemon and Tapatio sauce soaked Funyun.

REGGIE
What is a Funyun anyways?

Reggie puts it in his mouth, chews. Jerry shakes his head.

JERRY
One of life's mysteries.

Jerry takes out the beef jerky. Reggie looks at it then at Jerry.

REGGIE
Is it super spicy?

Reggie takes the jerky.

REGGIE (CONT'D)
You know she only likes super spicy.

Reggie sees that it's the right kind. He nods his head.

REGGIE (CONT'D)
Thanks for not ratting me out.

JERRY
Never.

Reggie sees the bike on the lawn.

REGGIE
What's that?

JERRY
My dad's idea of punishment.

134 EXT. LESLIE'S HOUSE - DAY

134

Jerry and Reggie sit on their bikes. Leslie walks out stern-faced. Jerry holds up the Jerky. She takes it, peels it, bites into it.

As Leslie chews her jerky, her eyes well up. She hugs Jerry.

LESLIE
Oh Jerry.

JERRY
I'm such a jerk.

Leslie pulls away from the hug and smiles as she clears away a tear and bites into her Jerky. Reggie offers her a Funyun.

LESLIE
What's a Funyun anyways?

135 EXT. PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

135

Jerry, Reggie and Leslie - on their bikes - stop in front of a McMansion. Loud music and TEENS are heard from the house.

LESLIE
What are we doing here?

REGGIE
Yeah, I kind of need to talk to you, Jerry.

JERRY
I invited Maggie to meet me here.

LESLIE
What?

JERRY
I'm going to convince her to go to the board meeting with me.

REGGIE
You sure?

JERRY
And to tell her I like her.

REGGIE
You like her or you like, like her.

JERRY
The second.

REGGIE
I knew it! I told you this would happen.

Leslie examines Jerry.

LESLIE
I thought you did. At first I didn't like her, but the two of you are perfect for each other.

REGGIE
Let me talk to you first man.

LESLIE
Come on Reggie. Lets help Jerry get
Maggie.

Jerry leads Reggie and Leslie into:

136 INT. PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

136

Jerry, Leslie and Reggie work their way into the kitchen. There are a few dozen KIDS standing about talking, drinking and laughing. As they enter, a jolly Rob sees them and rushes Jerry.

ROB
Jerry! You made it.

He gives Jerry a bear-hug.

ROB (CONT'D)
How was prison?

JERRY
I never even made it to a holding
cell.

ROB
You even brought Reggie.

Rob gives Reggie a bear hug too.

ROB (CONT'D)
I love this guy!

JERRY
You seen Maggie around?

ROB
None of that here, Jerry.

JERRY
Nah Rob, we're trying to make up.

Rob nods.

ROB
She is kind of hot. I haven't seen
her.

Jerry's phone rings. He looks down at it, and is surprised by what he reads.

JERRY

Dude, where can I take this.

ROB

My room. You know where it's at.

Jerry runs out of the kitchen and up the stairs.

137 EXT. PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

137

Maggie and Mina sit in the Prius and stare at the house.

MINA

I'm not going in there.

MAGGIE

Come on Mina.

MINA

You fell for him. I knew it.

MAGGIE

You don't get it. I'm trying to make amends here.

MINA

Whatever. You can't trust, Jerry.

They both get out of the car.

138 INT. PARTY HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

138

Jerry paces in Rob's bedroom.

JERRY

Dolores?

DOLORES (V.O.)

It's not too late is it?

Jerry looks at his watch.

JERRY

Of course not, it's Friday night.

DOLORES (V.O.)

Jerry, I'll cut right to it. The Senator, well, the Senator is going to need his friends now more than ever.

JERRY

Why?

DOLORES (V.O.)

I'll tell you later. He wants you to join him this Thursday for dinner at the California Club.

JERRY

What time?

DOLORES

Seven.

JERRY

That's the night of our school board meeting.

DOLORES (V.O.)

Jerry, this is bigger than anything you'll find at your board meeting.

Jerry looks out the window. Sees Maggie's Prius with no one in it parked on the street.

DOLORES (V.O.)

He keeps talking about brown and green. Do you know what that's about?

JERRY

Yeah.

DOLORES (V.O.)

So you in?

JERRY

I'll make it work.

DOLORES (V.O.)

He seems to think he's found a kindred spirit in you.

JERRY

I'll see you Thursday.

Jerry hangs up the phone and shoots his fist in the air. He looks up in the mirror.

JERRY (CONT'D)

I am Jerry Valdez, and I'm running for President of the United States of America.

139 INT. PARTY HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

139

Maggie and Mina awkwardly walk into the room and see Reggie and Leslie.

MAGGIE
Hey. You seen Jerry?

REGGIE
He's upstairs.

MAGGIE
(to Reggie)
Did you tell him.

Reggie shakes his head.

LESLIE
Tell him what.

REGGIE
I've been trying, but he just never
listens.

140 INT. PARTY HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

140

Jerry walks out of the bedroom and as he closes the door he looks up and sees, standing before him, under an insanely flattering recessed light, Soraya.

She holds a red cup and drunkenly sways back and forth. A spaghetti strap from her dress falls to the side of her shoulder.

SORAYA
Hi Jerry.

She wraps her arms around him. Jerry holds up his arms trying to avoid a hug.

JERRY
Hey.

SORAYA
You hate me, don't you?

JERRY
I don't hate you.

SORAYA
I was so mean to you.

JERRY

No. You.

SORAYA

She tricked me. I didn't want to do it.

JERRY

Come on Soraya. I'm over it.

SORAYA

Oh Jerry, I messed up.

Soraya nuzzles Jerry.

MINA (O.S.)

Hello, Jerry.

Jerry and Soraya look down the stairs and see Mina, Reggie, Leslie and Maggie. Maggie stares at Jerry's feet, fighting not to make eye contact.

MINA (CONT'D)

We interrupting?

Jerry pushes Soraya away, but she clings to his arm.

JERRY

Oh, hey.

MAGGIE

Jerry, we were all talking and well, we're going to the board meeting. You were right.

JERRY

That's wonderful.

MAGGIE

There's something you should know.

REGGIE

I've been trying to tell you.

JERRY

What?

REGGIE

Maggie's going to ask the board to appoint her as student body president.

MINA

Martinez confirmed that you're impeached.

JERRY

He said I was suspended.

Mina joyously shakes her head.

MINA

Nope. Impeached. He told us today.

MAGGIE

One of us had to take the job.

JERRY

(to Reggie)

Were you going to say anything?

REGGIE

I've been trying.

Jerry shakes his head.

JERRY

Well, that's cool. I got this dinner with the Senator that night anyways, and Soraya and I are going.

Soraya turns to Jerry.

SORAYA

A party. Yay.

And she plants a big one on Jerry's cheek. Maggie takes that in.

LESLIE

Alright Jerry, we're going to go then.

Leslie, Mina, and Reggie turn and walk towards the front door. Maggie walks up a step towards Jerry and holds onto the railing.

MAGGIE

You were right about us, Jerry.

Maggie turns and follows the others out the door.

SORAYA

What a weirdo.

Soraya hugs Jerry and kisses him on the cheek. Jerry keeps looking out the door as he and Soraya walk down the stairs.

INT. PARTY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A dozen or so KIDS dance to music as Jerry and Soraya enter to see on the muted TV, Senator Garcia leaving a hotel. Cameras flash as he tries to cover his face. Jerry is shocked by the image.

Jerry fumbles for remote controls on the coffee table, and kills the music and turns up the TV.

ROB

Dude, isn't that the guy that was coming to school?

A PARTY KID stands up.

PARTY KID

Turn up the music. Who cares?!!

Jerry turns up the sound on the TV.

TV REPORTER

Allegations have just surfaced that Senator Mark Garcia inappropriately used funds to pay a staffer with whom he was romantically involved. Although rumors had been circulating for months, the staffer has finally come out.

Jerry stares at the screen. Soraya turns up the music and grabs Jerry's arm.

SORAYA

Come on Jerry. Lets dance!

Jerry stands alone in the crowded room with just his thoughts.

141 INT. LINCOLN TOWNCAR - DAY

141

Jerry dressed in a suit, and Soraya in a cocktail dress sit in the back seat. From the front seat, Dolores hands Jerry a lanyard with a plastic pass attached to it. Jerry puts the lanyard around his neck and stares at the pass. It reads, "Guest...Jerry Valdez."

Jerry looks up to Soraya.

JERRY

Oh my god, Leslie totally could of done this.

Soraya turns to Jerry.

SORAYA

What?

JERRY

Nothing.

SORAYA

Who we sitting next to?

142 EXT. CALIFORNIA CLUB - DAY

142

The car pulls up to the California Club with Jerry looking out the window, the photographers reflecting on the window. Jerry forces a smile.

As the door opens onto the red carpet, the bulbs flash. Jerry is a spitting image of Senator Garcia. Soraya walks out joining Jerry.

Jerry stares at us - like Deja Vu - everything he's ever wanted. Right?

143 EXT. STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM - DAY

143

Maggie leads Reggie, Leslie and Mina into the office. The four talk animatedly. Leslie puts diagrams up on the board.

Reggie closes the door on us. On the door, Jerry's name has been covered by a sign that reads, "Maggie Mortenson, Acting Student Body President."

144 INT. CALIFORNIA CLUB LOBBY - DAY

144

Jerry scans the GUESTS in expensive suits and fashionable cocktail dresses. His gaze lands on a mirror where he sees himself next to Soraya. He is one of THEM now.

They continue walking and Soraya tightens her grip on Jerry's shoulder.

SORAYA

Oh my god, oh my god...it's Leonardo DiCaprio.

The superstar is hidden behind a crowd of people at the other end of the lobby.

Dolores smirks.

145 INT. SCHOOL BOARD MEETING CHAMBERS - DAY 145

The room is lit by dull fluorescent lights. Desks are stacked against the corner as PARENTS and TEACHERS with bad haircuts trickle in. A PARENT puts down a box of doughnuts next to an industrial sized large coffee pot.

A JANITOR lines up rows of folding chairs. A dry erase board that says, "Today's Assignment," is pushed back into a corner.

146 INT. CALIFORNIA CLUB BALLROOM - NIGHT 146

The Senator leads Jerry into a quiet alcove away from the party. The Senator admires Soraya who stands surrounded by male guests.

SENATOR GARCIA

She's a looker and charming. Good move.

JERRY

She's nice.

A WAITER hands them waters. The Senator studies Jerry, then smiles.

SENATOR GARCIA

God Jerry. It seems like just yesterday I was standing where you're at. I was so ambitious and the world was opening up to me.

JERRY

It wasn't that long ago.

SENATOR GARCIA

It feels that way.

The Senator considers the room then turns to Jerry.

SENATOR GARCIA (CONT'D)

Jerry, I want you to run that Brown and Green coalition you were talking about. It will be task force from my office.

Jerry gulps his drink.

SENATOR GARCIA (CONT'D)
It's time to take a seat at the big
boys table.

JERRY
Thank you. I feel ready. I don't
know if you know, but I, well, I
had some issues at school.

SENATOR GARCIA
Some trouble with your Homecoming?
I know every sordid detail. Why do
you think I want you for this?

JERRY
Because of my superb leadership
skills.

SENATOR GARCIA
That goes without saying. But, but
also because I feel like you are
someone that can understand me.

JERRY
Of course.

SENATOR GARCIA
I was disqualified from my ASB
position too. Didn't get as much
press as you, but I was stripped of
the presidency.

JERRY
What did you learn from that?

SENATOR GARCIA
I learned everything I needed to
know about politics in that
situation. It's made me who I am
today. A survivor, like you.

JERRY
And that's why you called me?

SENATOR GARCIA
I have the President of Harvard's
cell phone number here.
(holding up his phone)
You do this right, and I can set up
an interview.

JERRY

I don't know what to say.

SENATOR GARCIA

Tell me you'll do it. You'll sign on.

JERRY

Yeah. There's just.

SENATOR GARCIA

I know it can be a little daunting. But you just have to do it. Don't let the doubt settle in.

JERRY

But I have a question?

SENATOR GARCIA

Shoot.

JERRY

Are the allegations from that woman? Are they true?

The Senator is surprised by that question.

SENATOR GARCIA

Political theater. It'll all blow over. You'll see.

JERRY

But, are the allegations true?

SENATOR GARCIA

Does that matter?

JERRY

I just want to know.

SENATOR GARCIA

Jerry, if you need an answer for that question, then this game isn't for you.

Jerry ponders, looks into the crowd of politicians. He then puts his drink down and extends his hand to the Senator.

JERRY

Thank you Mr. Garcia. I'm really honored that you thought of me. But, I have a meeting to go to.

The Senator looks towards Jerry with curiosity as Jerry walks away.

147 INT. CALIFORNIA CLUB LOBBY - DAY 147

Jerry approaches Soraya who is surrounded by MEN. Soraya loves the attention.

SORAYA

Hey Jerry.

Jerry forces a smile.

JERRY

I think I'm going to leave.

SORAYA

What? Why? I'm having so much fun.

Jerry takes in a deep breath.

SORAYA (CONT'D)

You're going to Maggie at the board meeting.

Jerry nods. Soraya takes this in.

SORAYA (CONT'D)

Jerry, you two belong together. You should go.

Soraya's eyes well up and she hugs Jerry.

JERRY

You going to be all right?

SORAYA

(smiling)

Dolores can take me home.

148 EXT. CALIFORNIA CLUB - DAY 148

Jerry walks down the steps of the California Club. He is dwarfed by the size of the building behind him. He rips the lanyard off his neck and tosses it into a trash can.

149 INT. SCHOOL BOARD MEETING CHAMBERS - NIGHT 149

Standing room only. Board Members make their way to the front table. Reggie, Leslie, Mina and Maggie sit in the front row.

Jerry walks in and PEOPLE turn - a quiet murmur fills the room. Principal Martinez looks on suspiciously.

BOARD MEMBER GONZALEZ

Our first order of business includes the Homecoming at El Pueblo High. If we can have our speakers.

Maggie stands up to approach the lectern, but she sees Jerry walking down the aisle and she stops.

BOARD MEMBER GONZALEZ (CONT'D)

Mr. Vadez, this is quite unconventional given your current enrollment status.

JERRY

I'm not here as a student of El Pueblo but a concerned citizen of our beloved city.

The board members look to each other and nod their heads.

BOARD MEMBER GONZALEZ

Ok, Mr. Valdez, if Ms. Mortenson consents you may speak.

Maggie nods her head and sits down.

JERRY

It was just two weeks ago that I was hear discussing dreams. Funny how much can happen in two weeks. What happens when our dreams come crashing down on us - when we fail? Just imagine a student. Ambitious. This student is an activist, an organizer, tries to make a difference at her school, but out of a lapse of judgement, this student is arrested, and all her plans come to nothing. The dream is dead. What does this student need? Dreams?

Jerry turns to the board meeting audience.

JERRY (CONT'D)

A second chance.

(at Maggie)

I know I could use one.

(turning back to the board)

(MORE)

JERRY (CONT'D)

Homecoming could use a second chance. But I'm not here to tell you why Homecoming should get a second chance. I am sure that my peers, Reggie, Leslie, Mina...

Mina looks up surprised.

JERRY (CONT'D)

--and Maggie will provide a stellar presentation. I'm here to endorse Maggie Mortenson's candidacy to replace me as Student Body President. I've learned a lot of things from working with Maggie these past two weeks. She is a passionate leader, intelligent, a great communicator, persuasive. She cares about others, holds strong ideals, and she fights for them, even at great personal expense. All of these are qualities that we could use in our student body president. I only wish I could of been that person. Maybe someday I still can, a boy can dream can't he?

Jerry walks away from the lectern.

150 EXT. SCHOOL BOARD BUILDING - NIGHT

150

Jerry unlocks his bike.

MAGGIE (V.O.)

Jerry!

Jerry looks up. Maggie rushes to him.

JERRY

What are you doing out here?

MAGGIE

What happened to your meeting with the Senator?

JERRY

You were right about him.

MAGGIE

And Soraya?

JERRY
She's never been the one for me.

MAGGIE
Did you mean what you said inside?

Jerry nods.

JERRY
I left out one other thing I
learned.

MAGGIE
What?

JERRY
That you're the one for me.

MAGGIE
I think I knew that.

Maggie smiles.

JERRY
After you kick butt in there...do
you want to go to Homecoming with
me? In a non-professional manner.

Maggie nods.

MAGGIE
I'd like that.

JERRY
Good luck in there.

Maggie rushes back in. Jerry hops on his bike, a smile from
ear to ear.

DISSOLVE TO:

151 EXT. EL PUEBLO HIGH STADIUM - NIGHT

151

Jerry and Maggie stare at each other as they walk along the
field sharing an ice cream. In the background is a packed
stadium. The scoreboard reads - half-time.

As they walk, the stadium lights turn off.

JERRY (V.O.)
Maggie and I could be explosive
together.

We hear the low rumble of fireworks in the distance and then loud pops along with the sight of flashes of color.

Jerry and Maggie's faces are silhouetted by flashes.

JERRY (V.O.)

But it was a risk I was willing to take.

A stream of fireworks shoots into the air as Jerry and Maggie kiss.

FADE TO BLACK.