

Senior Year

Written by

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INT. RUBY SUE'S ROOM - MORNING

Three outfits laid out on a bed: shoulder pads, bright colors, crazy patterns. All very 90s.

RUBY SUE CONWAY (17) twirls her hair as she ponders which one to wear. Flawless skin, perfect body, piercing eyes - she's every boy's dream.

RUBY SUE
(to herself)
First Day. Senior year. Most important decision of your life.

MOM CONWAY (O.S.)
Ruby Sue! Breakfast is ready!

RUBY SUE
I heard you the first time! What the fuck!?

She cranks up the volume on her radio - Third Eye Blind's *Semi-charmed life* drowns out her mother's retort.

ON SCREEN CHYRON: 1997

She reaches for the most dated outfit of the three.

EXT. RUBY SUE'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

A red convertible screeches to a halt. Ruby's best friend BRIE and her boyfriend CAM are chilling in the back seat.

Behind the wheel, Ruby's boyfriend: BLAINE BARNES (17), star quarterback. Square jaw, chin dimple, Top Gun attitude. He rocks sideburns like a young Luke Perry.

Ruby Sue hops over the door and gets busy making out with Blaine right away. He floors it, mid face suck.

BRIE AND CAM
Woooo! Seniors!

Brie and Cam raise their arms in victory. The car speeds away as Third Eye Blind plays us out.

INT. HARDING HIGH - HALLWAY - MORNING

A locker door slams. Reveal: Ruby Sue and Brie.

RUBY SUE
This is our year, Brie.

BRIE
Totally. So fresh.

As they stroll down the hallway...

RUBY SUE
It's just like we dreamed it. Me as
prom queen. You as my friend.
Nothing's gonna get in our way.

They turn the corner and see...

The new girl, TIFFANY BAXTER (17): big hair, big breasts,
prom queen dreams *and* she's talking to Blaine. Her
flirtatious, over the top laughter finds its way to...

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
What. The. Slut!?

BRIE
Remember Tiffany Baxter from cheer
camp? She moved into our district.
No big.

RUBY SUE
No big?! Seriously? They look
pretty fucking big to me.

BRIE
Yeah, her tits grew like two full
cup sizes, but whatever. Big tits
are like... so last year. Guys like
eyebrows now.

RUBY SUE
Yeah? When's the last time a guy
tried to feel up your eyebrows?

Leaving Brie without an answer, she marches toward Tiffany.

BRIE
Don't even sweat it, Ruby.

RUBY SUE
I'm not even sweating it! As if...
(abruptly)
Hey Blaine!

TIFFANY
Hey, Ruby Sue!

Pretending that she just now notices Tiffany...

RUBY SUE
Oh hi. Who are you?

TIFFANY
Really? Cheer camp. Every summer
for the last five years...

RUBY SUE
Rachel?

TIFFANY
Tiffany.

RUBY SUE
But you look like a Rachel. You
should think about that. Names are
important.

(off Tiffany's look)
Can you excuse me for a second
while I talk to my boyfriend?

She positions herself between Tiffany and Blaine.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
We need to talk about what we're
wearing to prom this year! Have you
thought about it?

BLAINE
It's the first day of school, Ruby.

He looks past Ruby, making eye contact with Tiffany.

BLAINE (CONT'D)
I mean... a lot can happen between
now and then.

RUBY SUE
I know! I'm just saying. I want us
to look good in our crowns.

BLAINE
Seriously, Ruby? Is that all you
think about?

The bell rings. As the hallway clears...

BLAINE (CONT'D)
I gotta go to history or math or
something.

RUBY SUE
You're starting quarterback, you
don't have to go to class!

Ruby Sue, left alone in the hallway, checks her look in the reflection of a trophy case.

Push through the reflection, revealing: photos of prom kings and queens from years gone by.

INT. HARDING HIGH - CHEMISTRY CLASS

Students funnel into class. SETH NOVACELIK (17) stares at Ruby Sue from across the room. Black t-shirt, black jeans, very metal. His best attempt at not being awkward.

He puts his books down next to his best friend, ODIE (17).

ODIE

Seth, what are you doing?

SETH

I'm sitting next to my best friend.
What are you doing?

Odie physically lifts Seth out of the chair.

ODIE

I cracked the code. I know how he picks the lab partners. I can pair us up with the girls of our dreams.

Odie looks over at the CHEMISTRY TEACHER (50s).

ODIE (CONT'D)

He does it the same way every class. Total number of kids, divide it by 2, then we count off. Ones pair with threes, twos pair with fours. Is any of this making sense?

We see what Seth sees: little numbers appear over each student's head as he does the math.

SETH

So my partner would be...

Seth's number matches up with a FAT KID picking his nose.

SETH (CONT'D)

Oh Jesus God, no. Not Glenn.

Seth looks over at Ruby Sue.

ODIE (O.S)

Unlimited spank material with an outside shot at hand joes.

The number above Ruby Sue's head sparkles. The same number hovers over an empty seat on the other side of the room. A KID ON CRUTCHES inches his towards the open seat.

ODIE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Thank me later.

ON SETH

Sprinting for the seat. He goes airborne. The kid on crutches positions himself to sit down. Seth lowers his shoulder and takes the kid out. Blind-sided, the kid hits the floor. Seth sits down, composing himself.

KID ON CRUTCHES
(making a scene)
Are you serious, Novacelik!? That was my seat.

SETH
(under his breath)
Just take it easy, man. Hold on.

He goes in his pocket and hands the kid some bills.

KID ON CRUTCHES
Two dollars!

CHEMISTRY TEACHER
Is there a problem here, fellas?

SETH
Nope.

KID ON CRUTCHES
This prick took my seat!

Ruby Sue looks back at them, making accusatory eye contact at Seth. He quickly averts his gaze.

CHEMISTRY TEACHER (CONT'D)
We're gonna be switching seats in a minute to pair up for lab partners so it really doesn't matter where you sit right now.

Seth looks back at Odie. Odie winks at him, knowingly.

The chemistry teacher walks back up front. The kid jabs Seth in the ribs with the knob of his crutch.

KID ON CRUTCHES
Fuck you, Novacelik. Fucking creep.

Seth takes the shot and cringes. We fade out as the teacher starts his count.

INT. CHEMISTRY CLASS - LATER

Seth, now sharing a desk with Ruby Sue spots Odie at a desk with Brie. The plan worked. They silently celebrate, flashing heavy metal horns to each other.

They stop as soon as the girls look up. Once the boys put their heads down, the girls make gag faces at each other.

SETH

Some of these assignments might require us to meet up outside of class. So you'll have to pick me up. Still working on the license.

RUBY SUE

Look, I don't know what kind of scam you and your weirdo friend pulled back there to get partner'd with me and Brie... *but* it tells me you're pretty smart.

SETH

Guilty.

RUBY SUE

This chemistry stuff probably comes really easy for you doesn't it?

SETH

I mean, yeah. I don't drink or smoke or go to parties or anything like that so my brain is like, you know, laser focused.

RUBY SUE

You're really amazing like a little bit. I'm terrible at science.

She touches his arm. A jizz rocket shoots down his spine.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)

Get me an A in this class and I'm gonna owe you a lot of favors.

All Seth hears is handjoes. He fumbles with a beaker, catching it just before it falls off the table.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)

Yeah, another bad grade is gonna kill my GPA. I'll probably be stuck in this town forever.

SETH

Not on my watch. And my watch has
Dave Mustaine on it.

He flashes his Megadeath watch. He's *that* clueless.

RUBY SUE

I don't know how to interpret that.

SETH

Have no fear. Chem-master Seth is
here.

MOMENTS LATER

Seth and Odie, sitting next to each other, working on the
assignment while...

RUBY SUE (O.S.)

Everybody's eyes naturally go to
the top of the pyramid.

Ruby Sue and Brie sit together bullshitting.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)

So I do this vogue thing then
transition into something like...
Hiyah! Sporty Spice.

Ruby throws a kick.

BRIE

So much girl power.

The girls high five.

Seth works on the assignment while Odie brags.

ODIE

See man? Chicks like these, they're
begging for bad boys like us.

SETH

Oh yeah, no doubt. Hey, can you
check my math on this?

Seth slides the paper over for Odie to check.

ODIE

I mean, why should Blaine Barnes
get to finger pop these chicks?
What's he got that we don't?
(looking at the paper)

(MORE)

ODIE (CONT'D)
No, see, this is wrong. It's
supposed to be an isotope.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY - LATER

Ruby Sue holds court at the cool kid table.

RUBY SUE
What if I get my parents a ski trip
for their anniversary?

BRIE
Awww.

RUBY SUE
And when they're gone I'll throw
the most bitchin' party ever.

As her friends laugh and high five, Ruby clocks...

TIFFANY walking toward their table. Ruby Sue deftly pops a
fresh stick of gum in her mouth before Tiffany arrives at the
empty seat next to her.

TIFFANY
Hey, is anybody sitting here?

BRIE
No.

Ruby shoots daggers at Brie.

RUBY SUE
Yeah, but there's gum on it.

Tiffany pulls the chair out and inspects it.

TIFFANY
Really? I don't see any...

Ruby Sue takes the fresh wad of gum out of her mouth and
presses it onto the seat.

RUBY SUE
Sorry.

She turns her attention back to the table like nothing
happened. Tiffany stands there for a beat.

TIFFANY
Can I talk to you for a second?

RUBY SUE
I'm kinda busy... eating lunch.

TIFFANY
Because If I did something to you
or if I threaten you some how...

RUBY SUE
You don't threaten me.

TIFFANY
So what's the problem then?

Ruby stands up, ushering her away from the table as...

Blaine grabs a strawberry off her plate.

BLAINE
Watch this. Skinny post. Deep
route. Right off O'Dell's dome.
Gonna have to be a dime.

Blaine launches the strawberry across the cafeteria.

CAM
That spiral is so tight!

Following its trajectory to...

SETH'S TABLE

Where the strawberry bounces off Odie's face and does a splash landing in Seth's soup.

BLAINE (O.S.)
That's good for six!

ODIE
I'm gonna get that son of bitch,
Blaine Barnes. Mark my words.

Seth tries to dry himself off.

ON RUBY SUE

With Tiffany.

RUBY SUE
Look at them - nerds, skeezers,
wannabees, weirdos. They all want a
seat at that table.

Ruby ushers her through the cafeteria.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)

But you know why none of them try to sit there? Because they're smart enough to know they don't belong.

Ruby Sue pulls a random seat out for Tiffany to sit on.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)

So if you think you're gonna sit at my table then you need to wake up and smell the teen spirit.

TIFFANY

Is that how it's gonna be?

Ruby shrugs.

RUBY SUE

Everybody wants to be on top of the pyramid, but how can it stand without people on the bottom?

Ruby Sue walks away, leaving Tiffany glaring daggers.

INT. HARDING HIGH - AUDITORIUM - DAY

In close on a chubby face pleading for mercy. It's GLENN from chemistry class.

COOL KIDS (O.S.)

Tubs of blubs! Tubs of blubs!

Glenn clings to the side of bleachers as Blaine, Cam and another COOL DUDE try to stuff him into the gap between the bleachers and the wall known as "the crevasse".

BLAINE

Tubs of blubs going in the crevasse!

GLENN

Please! I'm afraid of the dark!

BLAINE

I know, that's why were trying to help you get over your fear.

CAM

He's not gonna fit!

BLAINE

Oh yeah, he is. Look at him, all lubed up with sweat.

Glenn's chubby fingers slide off the ledge as Blaine's foot smushes his face into the darkness.

GLENN (O.S.)

Nooooo!

The cool kids laughter turns into another chant.

COOL KIDS

Tubs of blubs! Tubs of blubs!

TIFFANY (O.S.)

I can't believe you guys did that.

BLAINE

Take it easy, we're just having some fun.

TIFFANY

No, I mean, I can't believe you were able to pick him up! That was awesome. You must be, like, the strongest guy.

She flirtatiously touches his bicep.

BLAINE

I know. I thought he was lying about being afraid of the dark, but the way he fought, man... I think he really is.

Blaine and Cam high five.

RUBY SUE (O.S.)

Who's afraid of the dark?

BLAINE

Nobody. Just guy talk, babe.

He winks at Tiffany and gives Ruby Sue a kiss on the cheek.

RUBY SUE

Hey! Did you just throw somebody into the crevasse?

TIFFANY

Uh... yeah and it was awesome.

RUBY SUE

That's so childish, Blaine.

BLAINE

Jesus, Ruby! Why can't you just let me be me! Everybody else does!

TIFFANY

Yeah. Lighten up, Ruby Sue. Boys will be boys.

Ruby Sue glares at her, furious. Seth, king of bad timing, climbs the bleachers. Trying to act way cooler than he is.

SETH

'Sup dudes! Hey, Ruby Sue.

RUBY SUE

(under her breath)
Oh God. Not this asshole.

TIFFANY

Who's this guy, Ruby? Your new date to the prom?

Seth takes the bait, offers his hand.

SETH

Seth. Novacelik. But you can call me chem-master Seth. Ruby does.

RUBY SUE

I do not call him that!

GLENN (O.S.)

Seth? Is that you? You gotta get me outta here, man.

Seth peers down into the crevasse.

SETH

Glenn?

Blaine and his friends exchange a look. Ruby knows the score.

RUBY SUE

Yeah, fine. Whatever.

Blaine and the boys dump Seth into the crevasse. He goes in easy compared to Tubs of Blubs.

TIFFANY

See! Wasn't that fun?

RUBY SUE

I guess you were right, Tiffany.
I'll see you at cheer practice.
(MORE)

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
(to herself)
We're gonna have a lot of fun then.

Ruby walks down the bleachers.

INT. GIRL'S LOCKER ROOM - AFTERNOON

Ruby Sue takes her poms-poms out of the locker. Brie sits on the locker room bench with a clipboard.

RUBY SUE
How many new tryouts?

BRIE
Five.

RUBY SUE
How many are realistic?

BRIE
One and a half.

RUBY SUE
Tiffany?

BRIE
Yeah. It's like, you'd think they get in the way, but they don't.

RUBY SUE
Alright! God! Enough about her tits. They're all anyone's talking about. It's time we gave her a lesson in humility.

BRIE
Yeah, totally.
(beat)
What's humility?

RUBY SUE
It's like... when you humiliate someone.

BRIE
Oh yeah, totally.

Ruby slams the locker shut.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - AFTERNOON

Ruby Sue paces back and forth in front of a dozen teenage cheerleaders. Brie stands nearby with the clipboard.

RUBY SUE
Let's go Bears! Pyramid position!

The girls start lining up.

Tiffany climbs on top of MARTHA, a heavy-set brick house.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
Hold up! I wanna try something...
Martha, you've been such a trooper.
We never could have pulled off the
Hope Diamond last year without you.

FLASH: INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - LAST YEAR

Martha stands firm, supporting Ruby Sue and four other girls on her shoulders and extended arms. Her body shakes, face bright red, forcing a smile.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - PRESENTLY

The other girls nod their appreciation at Martha.

RUBY SUE
I feel like you haven't got your
chance to really shine. I wanna
make you top position.

Martha's eyes light up.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
Tiffany, since you gained so much
weight this summer, maybe you
should be on bottom?

MARTHA
Yes!

TIFFANY
Are you serious?

MOMENTS LATER

Tiffany trembles beneath Martha's full weight as she sits on her shoulders. Ruby Sue circles them.

RUBY SUE
Back straight. I need a smile,
Tiffany.

Ruby Sue walks behind Tiffany, leaning in, she whispers...

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
Having fun yet?

CHEERLEADER (O.S.)
She can't do it, Ruby!

We remain on Tiffany's quivering face as Ruby Sue walks away.

RUBY SUE (O.S.)
Five more minutes! The first game
is on Friday.

INT. RUBY SUE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ruby Sue and Brie sit in the window frame smoking cigarettes so the smoke goes outside.

BRIE
I heard from Lisa, who is really
good friends with Samantha, that
Tiffany wants to be prom queen.

RUBY SUE
Oh does she?

BRIE
It's what I heard...

RUBY SUE
Well I heard that Tiffany caught a
scorching case of gonorrhea.

BRIE
Oh my God! For reals!?!

RUBY SUE
No, but after we tell everybody
they're gonna think it's for reals.

BRIE
You're like, an evil genius.

They high five.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

The bleachers are filled with students and parents. The football teams jog off the field for halftime. Blaine purposefully bumps into the BEAR MASCOT, knocking him down.

The cheerleaders sprint onto the field shaking poms-poms. They get into a huddle.

RUBY SUE
This is what everybody came here to see. It's halftime, bitches!

They break huddle and count off. Like a well oiled machine they hoist each other into the air. At the very top, standing tall, Ruby Sue beams.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
Hit it!

Music plays and she starts vogueing.

DOWN BELOW

Tiffany and Martha stand at the ready for Ruby's dismount.

MARTHA
I just wanna say, I think it's super brave that you're out here.

TIFFANY
Well, I'm not a quitter, Martha.

MARTHA
I had a UTI once, so I can relate.
(shrugging)
Wiped the wrong way.

TIFFANY
Why are you telling me this?

MARTHA
Because you got the clap from that truck driver...

TIFFANY
What!? Who told you that?

FLASH: INT. GIRL'S LOCKER ROOM - EARLIER

Ruby Sue stands in front of a few of the cheerleaders.

RUBY SUE
Top secret you guys. Tiffany is going through a really bad case of gonorrhoea and needs our support. And you can't tell anybody! Unless it's somebody you really trust.

The girls nod. Ruby Sue holds up a towel, barely touching it.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
 And be really careful what towel
 you use because it's super contagious
 and you don't want people to think
 you're a slut.

She drops the towel into a waste bin.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - PRESENTLY

Tiffany is red in the face, furious.

MARTHA
 So... was the truck driver hot?

Tiffany snaps.

TIFFANY
 (screaming)
 That should be me up there!

Tiffany grabs a handful of Martha's hair, pulling her out of position, dragging them both to the ground...

Transition to SLOW MO: the girls launch Ruby Sue skyward...

Ruby Sue, soaring through the air...

The crowd, gasping...

Blaine in his football jersey, mouth agape.

Seth: shocked. He spills scolding hot cocoa on Odie who screams next to him.

The deafening THUD pulls us out of slow motion.

The crowd goes silent. Ruby Sue - motionless on the field.
 Everything is still, everyone in shock except for...

Tiffany and Martha, fighting on the ground next to Ruby's supine body. Tiffany screams and flails uncontrollably until Martha goes beast mode. She scoops up her much smaller adversary and body slams her directly on top of Ruby Sue.

CROWD
 Oooh.

Fists clenched, Martha breaths heavily, slowly realizing what everyone else knows.

FADE TO BLACK.

OVER BLACK

A heart monitor beeps.

FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

The room is dark. A silhouette lies in bed.

RUBY SUE (O.S.)
Hello?

The silhouette sits up.

RUBY SUE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Hellooo--oooo.

She bangs into something. It falls over with a clang.

RUBY SUE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
What. The. Eff!

INT. HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The NURSE ON CALL is behind the front desk. Tracking Ruby Sue from behind. The nurse has her head down, working.

NURSE
(nose in her work)
May I help you?

RUBY SUE
Yeah. Can you stop whatever you're doing and get me an orange juice or something? My mouth is super dry.

As the nurse finishes up her work.

NURSE
No, but you can go down the hall and get it your...
(looking up)
Holy shit!

Reveal: RUBY SUE is now a 37 year old woman. Dressed in a hospital gown, she sees her own reflection in the mirror behind the nurse.

RUBY SUE
(to her reflection)
What are you looking at? Old Bag.

NURSE
That's... you.

RUBY SUE
Who's me?

ON SCREEN: **Present Day.**

NURSE
(pointing)
That's a mirror.

Ruby Sue waves at the mirror, puts 2 and 2 together - she's not a seventeen year old knock out anymore. She faints.

INT. PSYCHIATRIST OFFICE - LATER

MOM and DAD CONWAY (60s) sit across from an empty desk.

DAD CONWAY
What the hell is going on? I just want to take my daughter home.

The door flies open. Enter DR. BILL (50s) - hyper focused eyes, Billy Mays style 'all natural' jet black beard.

Looking a bit disheveled, he tosses a briefcase on the desk, immediately popping it open.

DR. BILL
Sorry about that. Busy day. I'm Dr. Bill. Are you the parents?

He pulls out a tape recorder and hits record. As...

MOM
Uh... Your nose is bleeding.

DR. BILL
(laughing it off)
Hey! Who's the doctor here.

He wipes his nose on a handkerchief.

DR. BILL (CONT'D)
OK. Let's get to it then.

Dr. Bill takes a deep breath, steels himself. He leans in close to Ruby's dad.

DR. BILL (CONT'D)
(dead serious)
When is the first time you showed
your daughter your penis?

DAD
Come again?

Dr. Bill pulls an anatomically correct doll from his case and sits it on the desk, facing the dad.

DAD (CONT'D)
What the hell is this?

He slides a Polaroid across the desk.

DR. BILL
You tell me.

Mom Conway picks up the photo, eyes it carefully.

MOM
That's not my husband's penis.

Tilting the picture so her husband can see it.

DAD
You son of a bitch.

DR. BILL
Darlene and Bobby Vance?

MOM
Conway! Our daughter was in a coma.

She flings the Polaroid at him.

DR. BILL
Ohh! I'm sorry. They got me running
back and forth between the
courthouse and the hospital. I
swear sometimes I don't know if I'm
coming or going.

He puts the tape recorder back in the briefcase.

DAD
We just want to see our daughter.

DR. BILL
Right, right. Ruby Sue Conway.

He finds his file, gives it a quick read.

DR. BILL (CONT'D)
OK. Yes. I met with your daughter.
Interesting case. It appears she
was unable to perceive any temporal
changes while in the coma.

DAD
What the hell does that mean?

DR. BILL
She thinks she's still a seventeen
year old cheerleader. As far as she
is aware, the accident just
occurred.

Off her parent's wide eyed look...

INTERCUT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - DAY

Ruby Sue, now dressed in her 90s cheerleader uniform, sits in
the waiting room.

RUBY SUE
My pager's not working.

She shakes the pager next to her ear.

INTERCUT. PSYCHIATRIST OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

DR. BILL
It's imperative that Ruby Sue be
allowed to adjust on her own terms.
At her own pace while we monitor
and assess her progress. I'll be
watching this case very closely.
The medical community is going
learn a lot from your mistakes.

Ruby Sue's Mom and Dad look like they just saw a train wreck
happen in front them.

INT. RUBY SUE'S HOUSE - DINNER TABLE - LATER

The sound of silverware sliding across porcelain amplifies
the awkward silence.

Ruby Sue sits across from her parents, not touching her plate. They try their best to make things seem normal.

MOM
Honey, eat something. Please.

RUBY SUE
(bitter)
I'm not hungry.

DAD
Not hungry? After 20 years?

MOM
I know this all seems overwhelming,
but just remember that we're your
family and we're all here for you.

PETER (O.S.)
(Thick African accent)
And these potatoes are delicious.

Reveal: PETER (18), a Nigerian exchange student seated next to Ruby Sue. He puts his hand over hers and smiles sincerely.

RUBY SUE
No. This is not working for me.

She stands up from the table.

MOM
What's wrong with you? Sit back
down and finish your plate.

RUBY SUE
What's wrong with you!? Replacing
me with an African guy?!

DAD
Not replacing you, honoring you.

PETER
And I am honored to call you sister.

RUBY SUE
Is this guy for real?

MOM
Apologize to Peter right now!

DAD
The Ruby Sue fund gives foreign
exchange students an opportunity to
be a real American teenager.

He gestures to some framed pictures of them with kids from various countries of origins over the years.

MOM

It gave us a chance to fill the void you left behind.

Peter stands up.

PETER

And I... one day dream... that you will wake to see all the good done in your name, just as you awoke from your coma today.

Her mom almost comes to tears at his speech.

PETER (CONT'D)

For I am a Ruby Sue kid and I eagerly await the adventures in store for us. Together.

RUBY SUE

Has everybody gone fucking crazy!?

Ruby Sue storms off. Peter looks at her parents.

PETER

Have I overstepped my bounds?

DAD

No. That was beautiful. Thank you, Peter.

Her door slams offscreen.

RUBY SUE (O.S.)

You gave him my fucking room?

PETER

May I also be excused from the place of eating?

Mom and Dad smile at him and nod yes.

EXT. RUBY SUE'S HOUSE - THE NEXT MORNING

The sun rises above the neighborhood.

Dad Conway steps out of the house with his briefcase and coffee. He stops in the middle of the driveway, confused.

DAD
Honey! Did you move the car?

He sips his coffee, scratches his head.

INT. CONWAY CAR - CONTINUOUS

Ruby is behind the wheel. A top 40 hit plays on the radio.
She changes the channel to another song.

RUBY SUE
What happened to all the good
stations?

Focused on the radio, she blows through a stale red light.

EXT. HARDING HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT

Ruby Sue drives the wrong way through the parking lot,
cutting off other cars trying to park.

A TEACHER in SWEATER VEST, waves his hand at the violation.
She hops out of the car, tosses her keys at him. They bounce
of his chest and fall to the ground.

RUBY SUE
In case you need to move it.

She sashays across the parking lot toward the school.

INT. HARDING HIGH SCHOOL - MOMENTS LATER

Two SECURITY GUARDS have Ruby hemmed up. She drags her feet
as they pull her toward the office.

RUBY SUE
What's your problem!? Get off me!

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Ruby Sue's parents and Dr. Bill sit across from PRINCIPAL
SMITH (60), a monotone, Steven Wright style speaker.

PRINCIPAL SMITH
It's not that I don't appreciate
the importance of your situation.
It's that your daughter is forty
years old.

DR. BILL

Physically she is. But mentally, my area of expertise, she is no different from any other student.

PRINCIPAL SMITH

Look, we offer nighttime classes in remedial subjects...

INTERCUT. INT. WAITING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ruby Sue sits in a chair across from a punk rock looking kid with a leather vest and MOHAWK.

MOHAWK

Are you like... somebody's mom or something?

RUBY SUE

Do I look like somebody's mom?

MOHAWK

You look like Ronnie Halbeck's mom. Did he get caught with cigarettes again? Let's take an ussie and tag him on facebook.

RUBY SUE

If you touch my face or my ussie, I'm going to empty a bottle of mace into your eyes.

INTERCUT. INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

DAD

OK, I gotta question. Why the hell am I still paying school taxes if my kid can't go to school here?

PRINCIPAL SMITH

Yeah, I'm still bumping my head against why a 37 year old would want to come back to high school in the first place.

DR. BILL

She thinks she's seventeen! Where else is she gonna go?

PRINCIPAL SMITH

There's still the legal question...

DR. BILL
 Legal? Buddy. This is encouraged.
 We're in the public sector here.
 They'll make you man of the year.

DAD CONWAY
 That speaks to my point!

DR. BILL
 Sure it does! Look, I don't need to
 explain this to an old war horse
 like yourself, but I get her deemed
 special needs and wherever she
 hangs her pom-poms gets a plump
 bump in state funding. Funds which,
 correct me if I'm wrong, get
 distributed at the principal's
 discretion...

PRINCIPAL SMITH
 For no particular reason, I'm
 sensing my mind changing. Mister
 and Misses Conway, how would you
 like a freshly paved parking lot in
 your daughter's honor?

DR. BILL
 Throw in a new scoreboard and you
 got yourself a deal!

Principal Smith pops up and shakes the doctor's hand.

DR. BILL (CONT'D)
 Play your cards right and I'll be
 shipping you weirdos like this on
 the regular.
 (to her parents)
 No offense.
 (to Principal Smith)
 But you know what I'm saying?

CUT TO BLACK:

PRINCIPAL SMITH (OVERLAY)
 Remember when I told you 2016 was
 going to be a year full of
 surprises?

FADE IN:

INT. HARDING HIGH - MATH CLASS - DAY

Two dozen bored to death teenagers look up at Principal Smith from their desks.

PRINCIPAL SMITH

Well here's one - your new
classmate, Ruby Sue Conway. She's
older than my wife. Make her feel
at home...

He leaves Ruby Sue standing in front of the class by herself. All eyes on her. She owns the moment.

RUBY SUE

Sup? I'm Ruby Sue. Here's the 411.
I like Dave Mathews and Jamiroquai.
I'm good at field hockey, cheer
leading and anything I put my mind
to. I don't like losers, back
stabbers or bad perms. Thanks.

The math teacher, MR. PATEL, stands up. He's got a really tight perm on his head. Clearing his throat...

MR. PATEL

Thank you, Ruby Sue. I'm also a fan
of Jamiroquai. Please have a seat.

He motions toward an empty seat in the front.

INT. HARDING HIGH - HALLWAY - DAY

Ruby Sue sashays through the crowded hallway, leaving whispers and murmurs in her path.

TEENAGE BOY (O.S.)

She's older than my mom.

TEENAGE GIRL

I heard she was frozen.

TEENAGE GIRL 2 (O.S.)

O.M.G. Look at her outfit. Are
those pleats?

TEENAGE BOY 2

Whatever. I'd still hit.

Suddenly, Ruby Sue stops dead in her tracks in front of a wall of photographs. Everything else fades away. Like a beacon calling her, she approaches the row of framed pictures: every year's Prom Court.

Tunnel vision on... 1997

Tiffany Baxter and Blaine Barnes, smiling at the camera.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)
That shoulda been us.

Ruby Sue snaps out of it. She's alone in the hallway with SETH NOVACELIK, now 37, dressed like a teacher.

RUBY SUE
I'm sorry? Do I know you?

He takes his glasses off. Gives her a "how about now" pose.

SETH
Nothing?

RUBY SUE
Look. I have a pass. OK? I just don't have it on me.

SETH
It's Seth! From chemistry class...

Drawing a blank, Ruby Sue searches her mind for a match.

SETH (CONT'D)
Your boyfriend threw me in the crevasse. We laughed about it.

RUBY SUE
Ohhh. Right. Yeah...

SETH
I'm a teacher now. Chemistry. Go figure, huh? Matter-a-fact, you're in my eighth period class.

RUBY SUE
Oooh. I don't think I'm gonna make that one, teach.
(whispers)
Girl stuff.

SETH
Yeah, no that's cool. I get it.

He leans against the lockers, tilting his head down.

SETH (CONT'D)
Actually starting a new chapter in my life too. Just got outta rehab.
(MORE)

SETH (CONT'D)

(beat)
Not for drugs.

Clearly reading off the notes he scribbled on his hand...

SETH (CONT'D)

The reason you woke up from that coma is standing right in front of you. Because now I'm ready. Ready to ask you what I've been asking myself for the last 20 years.

He lifts his head. The hallway is empty. She's gone.

SETH (CONT'D)

Me and You.
(trailing off)
Why not?

He sees her turning the corner in the distance. On the wall in front of him, he notices - an empty space where the picture from 1997 was.

INT. CAFETERIA - LUNCH TIME

Ruby Sue enters. Suddenly a hundred talking teenagers become silent. A fork drops. Everyone hears it. After a beat she confidently marches toward the...

COOL TABLE

Ruby Sue reaches for her old seat. BRITTANY (17), the new queen bee, plops a bag down so she can't sit in it.

RUBY SUE

Can you move that hideous bag so I can sit in my seat? Thanks.

BRITTANY

Uh... I know this is a senior table, but I mean... seriously?

The cool kids at the table snicker and laugh.

RUBY SUE

Seriously what? That's my seat.

BRITTANY

Wake up call, lady. This bag belongs here more than you do.

LANCE

You just got owned!

LANCE (17), the coolest boy in school spreads high fives around the table.

RUBY SUE

Is that like getting dissed? Did I get dissed? Did you just diss me?

Brittany stands up, gets in Ruby's face.

BRITTANY

Let me tell you how this works. This is where the hottest haps trend, therefore where the coolest peeps hang. So go back to whatever cryogenic chamber you crawled out of because you're not on this level. Two fingers. You're out!

Brittany flashes a sideways peace sign to cheers from her table. Ruby Sue awkwardly turns and faces the rest of the cafeteria. It looks different, suddenly terrifying.

She makes the long, slow walk to the other side. Students at every table follow Brittany's trend, moving their bags onto empty seats so she can't sit down.

She reaches the end of the line, finds herself staring at...

THE NERD TABLE

Ruby Sue plops down in a seat, feeling humiliated.

RUBY SUE

What the hell happened to this place? It used to be awesome.

TIM (16), a skinny boy with a mouthful of braces, speaks with a cracked, pubescent voice.

TIM

Nobody wants to sit with you because you're 40.

An ASIAN GIRL (16) with bloodshot eyes, clearly high...

ASIAN GIRL

This lady's a narc. I know one when I see one.

RUBY SUE

I'm not a narc, you nerd!

ASIAN GIRL
Yeah, well only nerds sit at this
table so if you're not a narc...

RUBY SUE
First off, I'm not 40. OK? And I'm
not a fucking...

SPLAT! A blob of mashed potatoes lands on her face. Lance,
Brittany and the cool kids high five across the cafeteria.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
(realizing)
I'm a nerd.

TIM
Welcome to reality. I'm Tim.

A big kid, LIONEL (17) extends some napkins so she can wipe
the mashed potatoes off her face.

RUBY SUE
Thanks.

TIM
This is Lionel. It takes him a few
years to warm up to you.

Lionel lowers his head, averting eye contact.

ASIAN GIRL
Way to go. You just made enemies
with Brittany. She's the biggest
bitch in school.

TIM
She throws the best parties though.

ASIAN GIRL
How would you know?

TIM
Because I heard! Anyway she's
really hot so nobody hates her.

ASIAN GIRL
I hate her.

RUBY SUE
Why? What'd she do to you?

ASIAN GIRL
Nothing. She's just a bitch.

TIM

She makes fun of Ruby Suh. A lot.

RUBY SUE

Wait, who, what?

ASIAN GIRL

She makes fun of me, OK. Geez!

RUBY SUE

Yeah, I get that part, but what did he say your name was? Because it sounded like...

ASIAN GIRL

Ruby Suh.

RUBY SUE

OK. That's not gonna fly. You need a new name. She needs a new name.

TIM

Why? Her last name is Suh. With an H. You're Ruby Sue. With an E.

RUBY SUE

I don't care how she spells it. We're pitching new names for her. Everybody. Come on. Let's hear 'em.

Ruby Sue takes out a pad and pencil.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)

Now I'm glad I sat here because this kind of thing needs to get nipped in the bud right away.

TIM

Janet!

Ruby Sue writes it down.

ASIAN GIRL

I'm so confused right now.

She squeezes her head with her hands.

RUBY SUE

Let me clear it up for you. Your new name is Janet. Deal with it.

She tears off the page, hands it to the newly named - Janet.

JANET
I feel like I should argue with
you, but I'm really high right now
so... whatever.

An awkward beat passes.

TIM
Um... Janet, are you gonna finish
those fries?

JANET
(not missing a beat)
No, do you want some?

She slides the basket of fries over and he digs in.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Half a dozen high school girls in tights and work out clothes
are warming up and stretching on the side line. Cheer
captain, Brittany leads them through the drills.

BRITTANY
Let's go ladies!

The girls line up in row. Brittany walks the line eyeing each
of them up and down.

BRITTANY (CONT'D)
Chelsea. Tuck the shirt in or lose
the gut.

CHELSEA (16), chubby, unties the knot in her shirt, covering
her midriff.

BRITTANY (CONT'D)
Sound off! Brittany!

Brittany steps forward, does a high kick and twirl. Each girl
does her own variation on the move down the line.

LISA
Lisa!

SAMANTHA
Samantha!

CHELSEA
Chelsea!

JESSICA
Jessica!

MISSY
Missy!

CHRISSY
Chrissy!

RUBY SUE
Ruby Sue!

The other girls look shocked. They turn and stare as Ruby Sue, mid routine, is calling out her dance moves.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
Roger Rabbit!

The other cheerleaders watch with open mouths, but Ruby Sue hasn't lost a step.

As she notices nobody is following her lead...

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
You guys just gonna watch, what's going on? Running man!

She transitions into the running man. Then...

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
Sporty Spice!

A high kick misses Brittany's nose by less than an inch.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
And that's how it's done.

She has to put her hands on her knees to catch her breath.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
Little winded. Gimme a sec before you ask questions.

A slow clap, steeped in sarcasm, breaks through the line. TIFFANY (still hot at 37) steps forward. Her jacket tells the story: she's the cheerleader coach.

TIFFANY
Well, well, well. I needed to see it to believe it.

Ruby recognizes her right away.

RUBY SUE
(with vitriol)
Tiffany.

TIFFANY

Tryouts are over. Now take your cottage cheese ass off my practice field.

RUBY SUE

Fuck you. I'm working on it and last time I checked I'm still team captain.

BRITTANY

You wanna have a cheer off? We can have a cheer off right now!

Tiffany pushes her back.

TIFFANY

I said... Tryouts are over!

Ruby Sue gets in her face.

RUBY SUE

Nothing is over!

BRITTANY

Mom! I got this! Let me take this bitch down.

TIFFANY

Hey! You take bitches down when I say you take them down.

RUBY SUE

Mom? Ohhh, so that's how those JV moves got on my team.

Tiffany takes a step toward Ruby. Their eyes narrow.

TIFFANY

I think it's time you get to steppin'.

Tiffany takes her jacket off.

RUBY SUE

Get to steppin' up your ass!

Ruby drops her pompoms. They're nose to nose.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)

You wanna squash this beef?

CHEERLEADER (O.S.)

Kick her ass, Coach B!

TIFFANY
 I don't need to kick her ass. I
 already did.
 (to Ruby Sue)
 I did everything she ever wanted.

RUBY SUE
 But I would have done it better.

TIFFANY
 Guess we'll never know. Will we?

Ruby Sue takes a step back.

RUBY SUE
 I guess you're right. Nothing I can
 really do about it.

She starts to walk away. Then...

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
 Unless I invoke rule 17b...

Tiffany's eyes go wide. The cheerleaders gasp.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
 Once a bear, always a bear. Any
 cheerleader in good standing cannot
 be removed against her will.

TIFFANY
 We only made that rule because *you*
 were kicking girls off the team!

RUBY SUE
 I guess it's like a black fly in
 your chardonnay. Bitch!

TIFFANY
 OK. You wanna be a part of this
 team? I got one spot left...

She snaps her fingers. One of the girls carries over the
 mascot BEAR COSTUME.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)
 (whispering)
 Wear the bear.

RUBY SUE
 You wouldn't!

TIFFANY
 I would and I am. Wear. The. Bear!

All the girls start chanting.

CHEERLEADERS
Wear the bear! Wear the bear!

RUBY SUE
Stop it! Stop chanting!

CHEERLEADERS
Wear the bear! Wear the bear!

Two big girls grab her from behind, tying her arms back.

RUBY SUE
No! This is bullying!

Brittany places the bear helmet on Ruby Sue's head.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
(screaming)
I'll murder your babies!

Ruby Sue breaks free, arms flailing. She frantically zig-zags across the field with the helmet on until WHAM! She runs face first into a goal post and falls over.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT - LATER

Ruby Sue stands in the spot where she parked her car. A piece of paper has been taped to the fence. Her car has been towed.

RUBY SUE
If I gotta eat one more shit sandwich today...

She looks over and sees some kids getting on a school bus.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
Ugh. Fine!

She straps her on bookbag and walks toward it.

PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Ruby Sue bangs on the door of the school bus. The BUS DRIVER notices her, opens it.

RUBY SUE
Does this go to Valley Circle?

BUS DRIVER
Hey lady. The yellow ones are for students. Why don't you get an Uber or something?

RUBY SUE
Fuck you, you're the goober!

The door shuts in her face.

INT. RUBY SUE'S HOUSE - EVENING

Peter is at the kitchen table working on a laptop. Ruby walks in, goes straight for the freezer, grabs a tub of ice cream.

RUBY SUE
(re: the carton)
What the hell is gluten free? Fuck it. I'm eating it.
(tasting it)
Oh, that's pretty good.

She goes to town on the ice cream.

PETER
Sister Ruby! Do not spoil your appetite. There are frozen pizza bagels in the toaster oven.

RUBY SUE
What are you doing?

PETER
Updating my social status online.

RUBY SUE
OK, well, you need to stop surfing the web because you're tying up the phone line and people are probably trying to call me.

PETER
I assure you, no one has called.

She walks behind him, looking over his shoulder.

RUBY SUE
That doesn't look like AOL...

MOMENTS LATER

Ruby and Peter eat pizza bagels in front of the laptop. She looks amazed as he guides her through the new technology.

PETER

It is called *wireless*.

(animated)

And it runs at the speed of your imagination. Whatever your innermost dreams may be, the internet can find it.

RUBY SUE

For reals?

PETER

For example, your father dreams of big breasted Japanese women, while your mother dreams of a more fulfilling marriage.

RUBY SUE

Ew. I don't wanna know about that.

PETER

May I have the honor of creating you a facebook page?

RUBY SUE

No! Wait, what is that? Is it cool?

Peter turns the laptop toward him and gets busy.

PETER

It is a cost effective advertising scheme that disguises itself by making users feel important.

RUBY SUE

Why would anybody want that?

PETER

Because it is the best way to keep track of your ex-girlfriend.

(beat)

Say cheese!

She smiles on cue and Peter captures a photo of the two them.

RUBY SUE

Oh hey, that's a really good picture. It's like instant!

BaDing! The computer alerts them of...

PETER
You have a friend request!

RUBY SUE
Really? Already. That's gotta be like a record or something, right? Who is it?

PETER
It could be anyone. Let us see!

RUBY SUE
(excited)
Oh my God!
(instantly disappointed)
Oh shit. It's Seth.

PETER
Shall we accept his request?

Seth's profile pic is of him leaning against a Maserati.

RUBY SUE
(changing her tune)
Ooh. Is that a Maserati? Yeah.
Click on that. Who's all on here?

PETER
Everyone. Here are your parents.

RUBY SUE
Who cares? Type in Luke Perry.

Peter types it in. Ruby watches the screen.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
What happened to his side burns?
Ooh, I wonder if Blaine still has his?
(realizing)
Oh my God, Blaine!

She grabs the computer from Peter and searches for Blaine.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
This is great! It's like a space age yearbook.

Ruby Sue finds Blaine's profile.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
 There he is! Looking good! I wonder
 what he's up to. I can almost see
 his abs under his shirt.

ON SCREEN:

A photo of BLAINE (now 37), looking a *lot* like Luke Perry.
 Scratch that, basically it's Luke Perry.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
 I was gonna play the field, but
 that looks like a nice landing
 spot. Look at his tan, it's golden
 brown. So money.

PETER
 It says he is married, however.

RUBY SUE
 Oh yeah? Let's see what the
 competition looks like.

She clicks on his pictures, turns to Peter.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
 These pizza bagels are delish.

She turns back, sees Blaine with his wife... TIFFANY.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
 What. The. Slut!?

PETER
 Ahh yes. Cheerleader coach, Barnes.
 Your friend has done well for
 himself. She is a mother I would
 most to like to...

RUBY SUE (OVERLAY)
 Fuck you! I'll be home when I feel
 like it.

EXT. RUBY SUE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A '96 Camaro, engine running, waits on Ruby's street. Seth
 leans against it - his best cool guy pose.

Ruby Sue spills out the front door of her house, clinging to
 a bottle of whisky. She stomps towards the Camaro.

RUBY SUE
 What is that? Where's the Maserati?

He opens the passenger seat for her.

SETH
Yeah, uh, that's in the shop...

He slides the seat forward so she can climb in the back.

RUBY SUE (O.S.)
Why's another dude in the car?

Seth climbs into the passenger seat.

INT. '96 CAMARO - MOMENTS LATER

ODIE (now 37) is behind the wheel. Seth is turned around facing Ruby in the backseat.

SETH
You remember Odie, right?

RUBY SUE
Why would I remember Odie?

ODIE
OK, so where we going?

Ruby Sue hands him an address on a piece of paper.

SETH
Wait. Is this where we have the faculty Christmas party? This is Blaine and Tiffany's house.

RUBY SUE
Yeah. We're gonna fuck it up!

ODIE
Nice!

Odie takes a swig of the whisky straight from the bottle.

SETH
I'm sorry. Are you drinking? Hold on! What are we doing?

ODIE
Donuts... on his lawn!

RUBY SUE
Yeah! That's what I'm talking about. Odie gets it.

Ruby Sue and Odie high five over the seat. Seth shoots Odie a nasty look.

SETH

Hey! I'm a teacher. She's my colleague. We can't be doing donuts on their lawn.

RUBY SUE

Don't be such a pussy, Seth. That's your problem. You coulda been cool, but you never had any balls.

ODIE

Yeah. Don't be a pussy, Seth.

SETH

(to Ruby Sue)

Excuse me.

(turning to Odie)

Are you outta your fucking mind?

ODIE

How many times did we used to say we could hang with the cool kids if we only got the chance?

SETH

Cool kids? Do you hear yourself?

ODIE

This is payback. Blaine Barnes is a piece of shit. He's got it coming.

SETH

You're 37 years old!

ODIE

Not tonight I'm not!

Odie kills the headlights, leaves the fogs on. He pushes a tape into the deck. Cranks it.

AC/DC Thunderstruck blares...

EXT. NICE SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - CONTINUOUS

The Camaro goes airborne, cresting a hill. Smashing through the shrubs, it explodes a mailbox on impact.

Dirt, mud and smoke are kicked up from the spinning tires as it carves donuts on the front lawn.

INTERCUT. INT. '96 CAMARO - CONTINUOUS

Odie, bliss on his face, works the wheel. Ruby Sue attempts to pour whisky into her mouth, but the centrifugal force sends the liquid streaming into Seth's face as he death grips the dashboard for safety.

Lights turn on inside the Barnes house.

SETH
Get outta here, man! Go go go!

The Camaro, spinning its tires, sprays hot mud against the windows in the front of the house.

ODIE
I'm trying, man! We're stuck.

RUBY SUE
Lemme out! Open the door!

Ruby Sue climbs over the seat, spilling into Seth's lap.

SETH
What are you doing?

RUBY SUE
Squashing beef. Lemme out!

SETH
Are you crazy? No way!

She opens the door and face plants on the lawn. The Camaro frees itself, hopping the curb, leaving her in the yard.

Police sirens go off in the distance.

ODIE
Five-0. We gotta blow, hoss.

SETH
No! We can't blow! My date is taking a mud bath on the lawn.

ODIE
Sorry dude. They're not gonna get me. Not today. Not ever.

Odie floors it, peeling out in a cloud of smoke. His finger waves goodbye out the window.

ODIE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Fuck you, Barnes!

Ruby Sue gets to her feet. Like an injured boxer, she chicken legs across the lawn, spilling booze all over herself.

RUBY SUE
(re: the whiskey)
Didn't spill a drop.

She downs what's left in a single swig and smashes the bottle against the front door.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
(screaming)
Tiffany!

Police sirens grow louder as they get closer.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
(screaming at the house)
Come out and face me!

The front door opens. It's Tiffany. Ruby charges at her with bad intentions...

WHAM! Suddenly she's flying sideways. A police officer tackles her from the side. They land in the mud.

Ruby Sue looks up from her back at the HULKING FEMALE COP.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
Martha?

MOMENTS LATER

Ruby Sue is handcuffed in the back of the police car, fuming. Brittany, takes selfies against the police car as Ruby Sue curses her from behind the glass.

MARTHA, now a COP, is chatting with Tiffany and her husband, Ruby's old boyfriend, BLAINE.

TIFFANY
Honestly, it's not the property damage or that she tried to attack me, it's Ruby Sue's well being that I'm concerned about.

BLAINE
Is that... is that really her?

Ruby Sue's screams are muffled behind police car glass.

RUBY SUE

Blaine! You asshole! How could you get with her?! She's an STD whore!

BLAINE

Yeah, that's her.

TIFFANY

I don't want her to spend the rest of her life in prison, you know, because she missed so much already.

MARTHA

So you don't want to press charges?

TIFFANY

The thing is, Blaine might want to run for office someday so we don't want to appear soft on crime.

BLAINE

Huh? What?

TIFFANY

Why don't you take Brit inside?

He starts to walk away, but Tiffany pulls him back and jams her tongue down his throat. Her one eye stays open to be sure Ruby sees it. She does and she fumes.

MARTHA

Ahem.

TIFFANY

So yeah... I mean, I know Ruby Sue was the only one who liked you, Martha, but our hands are kinda tied on this one. We're gonna have to press charges to the fullest.

Tiffany goes inside. Martha gives Ruby a thumbs up as she walks back to the...

POLICE CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Leaning against the car, Martha gives Ruby the news.

MARTHA

I got her to drop the charges if you promise not to do it again.

RUBY SUE

I don't know what came over me. I promise it won't happen again.

The bedroom on the second floor lights up behind Martha. Ruby Sue sees Tiffany in the window wearing her prom queen crown. She does a beauty queen wave then gives Ruby the finger.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
 (flipping out)
 I'll kill her!

Ruby rages, slamming her head against the police car window.

Martha spins around to see what's bothering her, but Tiffany quickly disappears behind the curtains.

INT. PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Dr. Bill leans forward in his chair.

DR. BILL
 Would you say it's like they're
 judging you for how you look on the
 outside and not giving you credit
 for who you are on the inside?

RUBY SUE
 Nailed it. Welcome to my life.

DR. BILL
 And you don't see the irony in
 that?

RUBY SUE
 What do you mean? Like a no smoking
 sign on your cigarette break?

DR. BILL
 Uh... no. High school can be a real
 struggle for a lot of kids. Not
 everybody gets to be popular.
 Little example. Talking about
 nobody in particular here...

He leans back in his chair.

DR. BILL (CONT'D)
 Setting - locker room. A young
 freshman drops his pants. No big
 deal, right? Wrong. He's the only
 guy not circumcised. Should that
 haunt him for the rest of high
 school? Is that fair? Huh? People
 drawing anteaters on his locker...

RUBY SUE
Jesus! Who's counseling who here?

DR. BILL
I'm saying there's a lot of good kids that catch a lot of bad breaks. That's life. Figuring out how to live with that is what being an adult is about.

RUBY SUE
I don't want to be an adult. I want to be the prom queen. That's step one. Step two is weather girl. Step three I marry a governor.

DR. BILL
OK, but in the mean time can't you just be friends with the kids who want to be friends with you?

RUBY SUE
Am I talking to a brick wall?
They're nerds!

DR. BILL
You know, Ruby Sue. Sooner or later people like you look back and realize there's more to high school than being popular.

RUBY SUE
And you know what people like you don't realize? That I busted my ass to be popular. You think that's easy? Being the best field hockey player, the best cheerleader, best looking. That didn't fall into my lap. I earned that. Well, maybe not the best looking part, but I lived my life under a microscope because everybody wanted what I had and I never got what I wanted.

DR. BILL
And what's that?

She leans forward in her chair.

RUBY SUE
I want that fucking crown on my fucking head.

DR. BILL
 OK. Well, sounds like we're making
 progress. I know I feel better.

He reaches over and manually turns the little timer on his desk. Ding! Session over.

INT. GYMNASIUM - PEP RALLY - DAY

The marching band plays a tune in front of the stage. Two cheerleaders hold up a giant paper banner of a snarling bear.

Lionel plays tuba in the back of the band. Next to him, Tim stares intensely at the triangle, dinger at the ready.

Confetti cannons erupt as the football team, led by Lance, bursts through the banner in their varsity jackets. They hoot and holler through a column of pom-pom waving cheerleaders.

PRINCIPAL SMITH
 (total deadpan)
 Give it up for your Harding high
 bears.

He holds the mic out for a response and gets only the sad ding of the triangle. The entire school is packed into the gymnasium - bored and could care less.

Ruby Sue stands off to the side in her mascot suit, holding the bear helmet under her arm.

PRINCIPAL SMITH (CONT'D)
 Sounds like you guys are ready to
 take it to the next level. Ladies?

Brittany leads the cheerleaders rushing onto the stage as Principal Smith exits.

PRINCIPAL SMITH (CONT'D)
 (to Brittany)
 I warmed them up for you.

BRITTANY
 Sound off! Brittany!

The cheerleaders sound off in front of the lifeless crowd.

Ruby Sue, dressed as the bear, runs across the stage. Playing the role of hype man, she points at each girl and tries to pump up the crowd.

LISA
 Lisa!

SAMANTHA
Samantha!

CHELSEA
Chelsea!

Tiffany stands off to the side, looking on proudly, mouthing cheers along with the girls.

JESSICA (O.S.)
Jessica!

MISSY (O.S.)
Missy!

CHRISSY (O.S.)
Chrissy!

Tiffany hits the music and the girls go into their routine. Ruby Sue, dressed as the bear, joins in and dances with them.

BRITTANY
(through clenched teeth)
Get off my stage!

RUBY SUE
(in the bear suit)
Your stage? I'm saving this mess.

Tiffany fumes as she motions for Ruby to get off the stage.

When the girls turn and wiggle, the bear turns and wiggles, getting a little bit of a rise from the crowd.

BRITTANY
I said... get off my stage!

Brittany kicks her in the ass, sending her falling into the laps of the marching band. The crowd roars with laughter at Ruby's expense.

ON RUBY - helmet off, red in the face angry. She picks herself up off the floor.

RUBY SUE
Son of a bitch!

The bear helmet lands at Lionel's feet.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
(to Lionel)
Get me back up there!

ON STAGE

The girls do a brief acrobatic routine before forming a giant pyramid with Brittany at the top. The music changes into a classic 90s MC Hammer style tune.

Suddenly, as if propelled by some unseen force, the bear leaps back onto the stage!

Ruby breaks off some funky fresh authentic 90s dance moves.

Brittany is helpless to stop it from the top of the pyramid.

BRITTANY

Get me down!

Ruby Sue hammer dances across the stage. She spins in one spot like a figure skater, faster and faster until Tiffany kills the music. Ruby Sue stands before the shocked, silent crowd, arms raised in victory.

Peter, seated in the audience, leaps to his feet and points.

PETER

That bear is too legit to quit!

The crowd erupts in applause.

CROWD

Bear! Bear! Bear!

Tiffany runs over and closes the curtains on Ruby Sue's celebration as the upstaged cheerleaders look on furiously.

EXT. FIELD HOCKEY GAME - DAY

Less than a dozen people watch as Brittany streaks down the field with the ball.

RUBY SUE (O.S.)

Pass it! Don't be so selfish.

INTERCUT: BENCH - CONTINUOUS

Ruby Sue is on the bench next to Janet.

RUBY SUE

Ugh. If I was in there this game wouldn't even be close.

JANET

Yeah, they'd really be giving it to us. Coach made the right move.

RUBY SUE

Are you kidding me? Field hockey's in my veins. I'm the best player this school ever had. You got that loser blood pumping through your body, I'm trying to give you a cool blood transfusion.

JANET

So how come you never play then?

RUBY SUE

Blood of a champion.

The coach jogs passed them. Ruby shouts out to her.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)

Because our moron coach wouldn't know field hockey gold if it screamed in her face!

FIELD HOCKEY GAME

Brittany weaves between two defenders and scores a goal. The team celebrates around her as a whistle blows signalling the end of the game.

BENCH

Everyone celebrates on the field except for Ruby and Janet.

RUBY SUE

Why aren't you out there celebrating?

JANET

'Cause you said to watch and learn.

RUBY SUE

Then sit up straight. Posture sends a message. And right now yours is saying something ghoulish.

Janet sits up straight as the team comes running back to the bench, still in celebration mode.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)

Nice goal, Brittany.
(sotto)
Took you long enough.

Janet giggles at her zinger. Brittany finishes up at the water cooler and walks over to them.

BRITTANY
Hey, Ruby Sue. There's something I
need to say to you.

Ruby Sue stands up, fists raised.

RUBY SUE
You wanna do it?

BRITTANY
No. Not fight. I just want to tell
you that what you did yesterday was
pretty bad ass. Everybody's talking
about it.

RUBY SUE
Yeah. I guess it was kinda dope.

BRITTANY
Maybe you're cooler than I thought.
So I wanna like, offer you a truce.

RUBY SUE
So offer it.

Brittany looks at her friends. They nod in unison.

BRITTANY
We talked it over and we want you
to be in our study hall group. But
we don't really study though...

RUBY SUE
Lemme guess, you talk shit on
people?

BRITTANY
Pretty much, yeah.
(to her friends)
Told you guys she was cool.

RUBY SUE
OK. Lets do it.

Janet perks up.

BRITTANY
(re: Janet)
Not her though.

Ruby Sue looks at Janet who is still trying her hardest to sit up straight.

RUBY SUE
Oh yeah, of course not.

Janet sneaks back into her ghoulish posture as Ruby leaves with the cool kids.

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

A few kids study quietly in the auditorium.

The cool kids hang out around Lance as he strums a guitar, near the edge of the bleachers.

Brittany and Ruby Sue climb up the steps and join them.

BRITTANY
Lance is probably the best musician.

LANCE
What's another word for babe?

BRITTANY
I don't know. You wanna Google it?

Ruby Sue looks shocked.

RUBY SUE
Umm, Brittany? Once you let a guy do that, no one's gonna respect you. Trust.

Brittany gives her a confused look. Changing subjects.

BRITTANY
Oh my God, you guys, I forgot to tell you. I totally caught Mr. Novacelik checking out Tinder while we were taking our chemistry test.

HOT GIRL
Oh my God!

Everyone laughs, but Ruby's forced laughter is the loudest.

BRITTANY
I know! I bet he spansks it in the bathroom.

POPULAR GIRL
What a horn dog.

RUBY SUE

He totally made a pass at me my first day back. He was all sweaty and nervous. It was disgusting.

LANCE

No way!

RUBY SUE

Wanna know the worst part? I'm pretty sure he finished. Like... in his pants.

Everybody reacts, grossed out.

LANCE

That's a great story. You should write a song about it. I would.

Ruby Sue leans over and whispers in Brittany's ear.

RUBY SUE

(dead serious)

I think Lance wants to fuck me.

Before Brittany can react, Lance jumps to his feet.

LANCE

It's about that time!

BRITTANY

(to Ruby Sue)

Oh, yeah, there's this thing we sometimes do that I invented...

LANCE

Time for one lucky nerd to get tossed into the crevasse!

RUBY SUE

First off, you didn't invent that. And second, it's kinda played out.

BRITTANY

A, I'm pretty sure I did and B, no it's not because it's LOL.

RUBY SUE

I know we're better than them, but do we have to physically throw them in a hole to prove it? Seriously, it's... major redunds.

Everyone just stares at her like she's nuts.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
 Whatever. Fine. So who you gonna
 throw down there?

All the kids smirk, sharing a knowing look.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
 (less confidently)
 So... who you throwing down there?

Brittany takes a step forward.

INT. CREVASSE - CONTINUOUS

Ruby Sue lands on her ass in the darkness. Laughter howls
 above her.

BRITTANY (O.S.)
 FYI! Google is a search engine, you
 dinosaur.

RUBY SUE
 (to herself)
 Dammit! I just got played.

She gets to her feet, squinting into the darkness. She hears
 something moving nearby.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
 Hellooooo! I can hear you.

The blue light of a cell phone screen illuminates a face in
 front of her. It's Tim Manning.

TIM
 Ruby Sue?

RUBY SUE
 (recognizing him)
 Emilio?

TIM
 Um... Tim.

RUBY SUE
 Oh yeah, right. What are you doing
 down here?

TIM
 Probably same thing you're doing.

RUBY SUE
 I didn't get thrown down here if
 that's what you're thinking.
 Somebody buttered the railing and I
 slipped. It's messed up.

A second cell phone illuminates Lionel's face.

LIONEL
 Follow me if you want to live.

RUBY SUE
 How many of you guys are down here?

The lights turn away.

TIM (O.S.)
 It's a world that your kind doesn't
 know about.

Ruby Sue follows.

RUBY SUE
 Hold up! I don't have one of those
 phone lights.

She watches them disappear around the corner.

INT. OBSOLETE STORAGE AREA - CONTINUOUS

Ruby Sue steps into a dead end hallway filled with overhead projectors, VHS players, microfiche machines, etc.

RUBY SUE
 Where are we?

TIM
 School storage. Underneath the gym.

Ruby Sue examines an old, dust covered cabinet. She blows away the dust and reads...

RUBY SUE
 This is the card catalog.

TIM
 The what?

RUBY SUE
 How nerds finds books...

She wanders around the room, looking at everything.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
Overhead projectors... Holy shit!
Is that Oregon trail? What's this
stuff doing down here?

TIM
It's old and useless.

RUBY SUE
But Oregon Trail...

TIM
Once you get used to it, it's
really not that bad down here. Sure
the drop is kinda jarring, but it's
a great place get some work done.

RUBY SUE
That's the most pathetic thing I've
ever heard. Just tell me how to get
outta here.

LIONEL
Crawl through that vent until you
get to the boiler room.

Another cellphone light appears, illuminating a ZIT FACED
CHUBBY KID (15). Orange Dorito dust surrounds his mouth.

ZIT FACE
Take thine enchantment.

He holds out a small bag of Doritos.

ZIT FACE (CONT'D)
As tribute for the rat king.

TIM
(off Ruby's look)
I should've mentioned the rats.
Just give them Doritos and they'll
leave you alone.

RUBY SUE
OK. This is sick. How long has that
dude been down here? No. Don't tell
me. I got a better idea...

INT. CREVASSE - MOMENTS LATER

Ruby Sue stands illuminated beneath a beam of light shining
through the gap.

She points to Lionel.

RUBY SUE
You, Andre, boost me up.

The cool kids can still be heard having a laugh above them.

TIM
They'll just throw you in again.

RUBY SUE
I told you! The rail was buttered.
Clean your ears out.

She starts physically climbing up Lionel. He's not really ready, but he's sturdy enough for it not to matter. Her foot presses against his face.

INT. AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

A hand rises out of the darkness, grabbing the railing. Ruby Sue inhales deep like she's pulling herself out of quicksand.

BRITTANY
Look who's back from the dead.

Ruby Sue stands proudly atop the bleachers.

RUBY SUE
Look at you, back from the...
(insecure)
future.

Every kid in class cranes their necks to see what's going on. Brittany gets emboldened and steps toward her.

BRITTANY
Do you know who you're talking to?

RUBY SUE
Somebody about to get that retarded
smirk wiped off their retarded face.

Brittany gasps.

EVERYONE
Ohhhhh.

Ruby Sue leans in close so just Brittany can hear.

RUBY SUE
(whispering)
Ya played ya' self.

BRITTANY

You know what? I think this study hall is getting *OLD*.

She turns around and walks down the bleachers. Her friends follow her down the aisle.

The door slams behind the cool kids. The other kids in study hall look on in disbelief.

BENEATH THE BLEACHERS - MOMENTS LATER

Like the hand of God, Ruby Sue reaches down into the crevasse.

Tim grabs hold and with a boost up from Lionel he is able to climb out.

STUDY HALL

Ruby Sue helps Tim back to his feet.

TIM

How did you do that?

RUBY SUE

I stood up for myself. You should try it sometime.

She looks back into the crevasse at Lionel with his hands in the air like a toddler waiting to be lifted up.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)

(to Lionel)

Um, you're probably gonna have to go that other way. I have a field hockey game and I don't want to throw my back out so... I guess we'll check you later?

Lionel gives a thumbs up.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

An agitated Ruby sits across from Principal Smith.

PRINCIPAL SMITH

We received an anonymous tip that you used one of the words on our no-no list. Are you aware of this?

RUBY SUE
A what list?

PRINCIPAL WALSH
They're banned words, but nobody likes to "ban words" in fear of being labeled fascists. So here we are, two adults using baby talk.

RUBY SUE
OK. So what did I say?

PRINCIPAL SMITH
You said the R-word. I'm afraid we have a zero tolerance policy on it.

RUBY SUE
What the fu... udge is the R-word?

PRINCIPAL SMITH
I can't say it. All I can say is you fudged up real bad.

RUBY SUE
So how am I supposed to know what I said then?

PRINCIPAL SMITH
Here. The one that starts with R.

He hands her the anonymous tip.

RUBY SUE
Hey! I recognize this handwriting. It wrote 'slut' on my locker this morning.

Ruby Sue reads over the note.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
You can't say retard anymore? Seriously? What do you say when somebody's acting retarded?

PRINCIPAL WALSH
I'm getting the impression you don't understand why that word is offensive so I'm going to give you detention to think about it.

RUBY SUE
I can't have detention. There's a football game today. I'm the bear.

PRINCIPAL SMITH
 Maybe you should have thought of
 that before you used the R-word.

RUBY SUE
 Ugh! This is so retarded.
 (realizing.)
 Fuck.

INT. DETENTION ROOM - DAY

Ruby Sue sits in the back of the room, eyeing up the tough looking kids in detention. The teacher in the SWEATER VEST sits at his desk at the front of the class. He stands up.

SWEATER VEST
 I'm gonna leave you guys alone for
 a minute. But I'll be right outside
 that door. So no trouble making!

RUBY SUE
 Wait! I don't think it's a good
 idea to leave...

Sweater vest is already talking on the phone.

SWEATER VEST
 What's poppin?

The door closes behind him. Immediately all the bad kids spin around and face Ruby Sue.

RUBY SUE
 So um... Which no-no words did you
 guys say?

They just stare at her. The nearest BAD KID takes out a cigarette and lights it.

BAD KID
 Tranny.

RUBY SUE
 You can't say Tranny? Really? So
 what do you call a guy in a dress?

BAD KID
 (deadpan)
 A woman.

Ruby Sue thinks for a beat then...

RUBY SUE

Ohhhh...

She nods like she gets it

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

The stands are packed with students and fans. The marching band plays a halftime tune.

NEARBY - GAME TUNNEL

Tiffany gives her final instructions to the cheer team.

TIFFANY

Alright, let's go! Remember pretty girls in the front. Looking at you pizza face.

The girls sprint toward the field, waving pom-poms.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Seth watches the cheerleaders take the field.

SETH

Hey! Where's the bear?

Other people chime in until a chant moves the crowd.

CROWD

Where's the bear? Where's the bear?

INTERCUT: TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

Ruby Sue charges down the tunnel, carrying the bear helmet.

RUBY SUE

Hold up! I'm here to save this.

Tiffany blocks her from leaving the tunnel.

TIFFANY

Where were you?

RUBY SUE

Detention. Like you didn't know. You sneaky slut.

TIFFANY

Ooh. Detention? That's a direct rule violation. I'm afraid I have to kick you off the team.

RUBY SUE

I am the team. You're gonna have a riot on your hands if you don't let this bear dance.

TIFFANY

No, I think we'll be just fine.

RUBY SUE

Come on! My parents are here! They brought hot cocoa and everything!

Tiffany snatches the bear helmet away from her.

TIFFANY

You disgraced this squad for the last time.

RUBY SUE

I don't get you, Tiffany. You won prom queen, you married Blaine. I'm supposed to hate you, not the other way around.

TIFFANY

(through clenched teeth)
We both know why I hate you.

RUBY SUE

No. I really don't. And believe me, I've had plenty of time to think about it.

TIFFANY

(whispering)
How did you know I had gonorrhoea?

RUBY SUE

Wait. What?

TIFFANY

(screaming)
How did you know I had gonorrhoea!?

Ruby Sue turns red in the face, stifling laughter.

RUBY SUE

Oh my god. You really had that?

Tiffany explodes, tackling Ruby to the ground.

TIFFANY
You wanna wear the bear? You'll
wear it to your fucking grave!

She mounts Ruby and hits her with the fury helmet.

SETH (O.S.)
Ladies! Please!

Seth runs in and breaks them apart.

SETH (CONT'D)
You have to let it go! Let it go!
Both of you.

RUBY SUE
Girl power kick!

Ruby Sue throws a high kick that connects with Seth's face, knocking him to the ground.

Seth is on his back, eyelids fluttering. Ruby points at him.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
(to Tiffany)
You did that!

TIFFANY
You're lucky your boyfriend was
here to save you.

RUBY SUE
As if. He's not my boyfriend.

SETH
(coming to)
Ahhh... What happened?

TIFFANY
This isn't over you bitch.

Tiffany does a quick self inventory then storms off.

RUBY SUE
Ow. That really hurt my foot.

She shakes her foot out as Seth struggles to get back up.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Seth and Ruby Sue sit alone in the empty bleachers.

Seth's eye is completely swollen shut. His nose is stuffed with bloody tissues.

SETH
Does your foot feel better?

RUBY SUE
Yeah, the ice really helps.

Ruby Sue, leg elevated, ices down her foot.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
How's your face?

SETH
Better. I can see shapes out of this eye now.

RUBY SUE
Tiffany is such a bitch. Punching you in the face and stomping on my foot. Who does that?

SETH
You're kinda right. Should I press charges?

RUBY SUE
Nah. That would be tacky.

Beepbeep! The camaro pulls up behind the bleachers.

SETH
That's my ride.

Seth stands up.

SETH (CONT'D)
You gonna be OK here?

RUBY SUE
Yeah, I'm totes cool. I just need to be alone for a minute. You know, like... reflecting and shit.

Seth starts to walk away, then...

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
Seth. Wait.

He turns, revealing a bruise the shape of a bear foot, covering one side of his face. She pretends like she doesn't notice as she extends the bag of mostly melted ice.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
Can you throw this out for me?

She tosses the baggy at him.

SETH
Sure.

It spills all over him when he attempts to catch it. He looks down at the mess. A car horn blasts.

Odie rolls down the window of the Camaro.

ODIE
What the fuck? Happy hour!

SETH
You sure don't want to come with?

RUBY SUE
No, I'm OK. I need to think about some stuff anyway.

SETH
Maybe some other time then?

RUBY SUE
Yeah, sure.

SETH
For real?

RUBY SUE
Yeah. Just bring your Maserati, already. What the fuck?

SETH
Oh yeah, of course. How 'bout Saturday night then?

RUBY SUE
OK. Pick me up.

Beeeeeeep! Odie lays on the horn.

SETH
Awesome! Gotta go!

Seth waves goodbye as he gets in the Camaro.

EXT. FIELD HOCKEY GAME - DAY

Girls run up the field in their skirts. Brittany has control of the ball. A BIG GIRL on the opposing team charges her way. Intimidated, Brittany quickly fires a pass to a teammate down field. It's intercepted by a player on the visiting team.

The two girls move it down field like Lemieux and Gretzky, crisscrossing the breakaway until they put it between the GOALIE's legs.

Tight on the scoreboard, Bears: 0 Visitors: 5.

BENCH

Where Ruby Sue sits next Janet.

RUBY SUE

Come on! These girls suck. If I ate anything today I'd puke. I don't know why they don't put us in.

JANET

Probably because we suck.

RUBY SUE

Even if you suck as bad as you think, there's still no way it could stop me from lighting up that scoreboard. I could beat this team with you shackled to my leg.

(yelling at the field)

Move the ball!

A whistle blows on the field. The COACH brings the team in for a time out. Two girls carry an injured teammate in on a roman chair.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)

We're getting creamed out there!

BRITTANY

Oh, fuck you. That girl has bacne and a voice like Louis Armstrong.

COACH

Ladies! I need you to focus. OK, they're bigger than us, stronger than us, faster than us. But what do we have?

The team goes silent.

COACH (CONT'D)
Teamwork! Looking for teamwork on
that one, guys. Come on!

Ruby Sue points to SHARLENE, the injured player.

RUBY SUE
Sharlene is injured, put me in.

BRITTANY
Take a seat, grandma. This isn't a
knitting contest.

The coach goes over to the Sharlene.

COACH
Can you play?

Sharlene shakes her head, no.

COACH (CONT'D)
Alright? What are we down, five?
Ruby Sue you're in.

RUBY SUE
Yes!

COACH
Not you. Ruby Suh.

Her finger lands on Janet. She freezes. The ref blows the
whistle signalling the end of the time out.

JANET
Uh... I'm really high right now...

BRITTANY
Stay out of my way, stoner.

She purposely bumps Janet's shoulder as she struts past.

JANET
What do I do?

RUBY SUE
Hit somebody!

Ruby Sue shoves Janet onto the field. A piece of tape on the
back of her jersey covers up her name. Written in black
marker it says "Janet".

FIELD HOCKEY GAME - MOMENTS LATER

Janet, head down with the ball, gets knocked to the ground by a bigger girl on the other team.

Ruby Sue paces on the sidelines, fuming.

Brittany gets control of the ball. She sprints up field toward the opposing goal. Raising her stick to shoot... a girl comes out of nowhere and steals the ball. Brittany swings and the ball is gone.

Instead of chasing after her opponent, she grabs the back of her calf and falls to the ground, faking an injury.

BRITTANY

Ahhh!

A whistle sounds. The REFEREE runs up to her. It's Martha, moonlighting as a Field Hockey Ref.

MARTHA

Gonna need another player, Coach.

Brittany, Martha and the Coach look to the sidelines where Ruby Sue is warming up by throwing air punches.

COACH

Here comes a lawsuit... Conway!
You're in.

Ruby Sue puts her mouthpiece in and sprints onto the field.

She runs past Janet.

RUBY SUE

Keep the big one off me.

JANET

How?

RUBY SUE

Tell her a story, blow smoke in her face, whatever you gotta do...

MOMENTS LATER

The two teams line up for a face off. Ruby Sue pushes her own teammate out of the way so she can take the face off.

RUBY SUE

I got it.

Ruby lines up across from a tough girl on the other team.

TOUGH GIRL
I'm gonna bury you on this field.

RUBY SUE
Bring it. Butch.
(beat)
Sorry, Martha.

Martha shrugs and drops the ball in between them.

WHAM! Ruby Sue delivers a forearm shiver to the girl's throat. She goes down gasping for air.

MARTHA (O.S.)
Clean hit!

Ruby commands the ball down the field, weaves through two defenders and puts the ball in the net.

RUBY SUE
That easy!

SCOREBOARD - Bears: 1 Visitors: 5

EXT. FIELD HOCKEY GAME - DAY

Ruby Sue steals the ball as two defenders converge on her. Her stick work is on another level. She knocks the ball between a girl's legs and regains it on the other side.

RUBY SUE
Welcome to the 90s!

She cuts back and jukes out another girl, then rips a shot past the goalie. The whistle blows.

Down field, Janet watches in awe.

JANET
You truly are great.

SCOREBOARD - Bears: 2 Visitors: 6

EXT. TENNIS COURTS - CONTINUOUS

Word spreads. Students and teachers get wind of what's happening. They jog over to the field hockey game.

SOCCER FIELD

More kids get in on the action and jog over to watch the field hockey game.

EXT. FIELD HOCKEY GAME - CONTINUOUS

Janet has the ball, head down and focused on controlling it. The big girl on the visiting team comes out of nowhere. She lays into Janet, knocking her on her ass. She steals the ball, moving it back up field.

Nothing between her and the Bear's goalie. She winds up...

THWAP! Her eyes go cross. Ruby Sue stands behind her, her stick between the girl's legs.

RUBY SUE

We used to call that the vagina popper!

The big girl drops to her knees and Ruby steals the ball.

EXT. PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Seth walks to his car, briefcase in hand. A few kids sprint by him on their way to the field hockey game.

SETH

Whoa! Where's the fire?

TEENAGE GIRL

Crazy old lady's lighting up the scoreboard.

SETH

Crazy old..? Oh my God, Ruby Sue!

EXT. FIELD HOCKEY GAME - MOMENTS LATER

SCOREBOARD - Bears: 6 Visitors: 6

Half the student body is crowded around the field hockey game. Seth pushes his way through the mass of bodies.

NEARBY: The team is huddled around Ruby Sue. She's doubled over, hands on her knees sucking wind.

RUBY SUE

Ok, I scored the last six goals. I don't think they're gonna let me score another one. Somebody else needs to step up.

MARTHA
Let's go ladies. Clock is ticking.

RUBY SUE
Janet, get open.

JANET
(to herself)
Why me?

Ruby Sue is already jogging across the field.

CROWD

Seth, now at the front of the crowd, watches the action.

SETH
Come on, Ruby!

Brittany, stuck behind the growing wall of spectators can't even see her own game.

FACE OFF

Martha prepares to drop the ball.

MARTHA
This is the kinda hard nose field
hockey I been waiting to see for
twenty years. Now finish strong!

She drops the ball. Ruby Sue wins the face off. Half the opposing team converges on her, five sticks hacking at her ankles as... the big girl lowers her shoulder...

Ruby Sue hits the dirt, but the ball is soaring through the air... The crowd watches it sail toward...

JANET
Oh shit. Oh shit. Oh shit.

The ball drops right in front her. She hits it as hard as she can. It's a slow dribbler... under the goalie's stick. GOAL. The whistle blows. The crowd storms the field.

Janet is hoisted up onto the shoulder's of her teammates. Mid celebration, she spots Ruby Sue among the crowd. Their eyes meet. Ruby Sue smiles proudly and gives her a thumbs up.

EXT. PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

Ruby Sue and Janet walk through the parking lot after the game. A convertible filled with kids pulls up next to them.

COOL GUY

Hey, Ruby Sues! We're heading over to pizza dudes to celebrate. You guys coming?

Ruby and Janet look at each other.

COOL GIRL

Come on! It'll be fun!

RUBY SUE

Uh, yeah. We were like, already on our way there.

COOL KIDS

Nice! See you!

The convertible speeds off.

JANET

Shit. I'm supposed to watch a Dr. Who marathon with my cousin.

Ruby grabs her shoulders, looks her straight in the eyes.

RUBY SUE

(dead serious)

Janet. Stick with me and you'll never have to watch another episode of Dr. Who ever again. I promise you this.

JANET

Why? I like that show.

RUBY SUE

No... No you don't.

Janet, slightly confused by that, watches Ruby walk off.

INT. TIFFANY'S CAR - NEARBY - CONTINUOUS

Tiffany and Brittany sit in the car, fuming as they watch everybody praise Ruby Sue and Janet.

TIFFANY

Why'd you let her on the field, are you retarded?

BRITTANY

Mom! You can't say that.

TIFFANY

Oh, gimme a break. I can't say retard in my own car? What's the matter with you?

BRITTANY

How was I supposed to know she was that good?

TIFFANY

She's good at everything! And now everybody knows. She'll spread like a Goddamn wild fire and she's not gonna stop until she has your crown. Now you tell me, how do we put something like that out?

BRITTANY

Start a bunch of other fires, draw away the air and suffocate it.

TIFFANY

What?! Are you stupid? You snuff it out before it starts.

(beat)

Build other fires? What are they teaching you here?

BRITTANY

I play three sports. I'm in five clubs. I'm trying everything. What else do you want me to do?

TIFFANY

I told you not to try and out high school Ruby Sue. But what did you do? You dropped the ball.

Tiffany turns on the engine.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)

From now on, I'm calling the shots. And your birthday party just got cancelled. That's the first shot!

BRITTANY

But Mom! It's my 18th.

TIFFANY

I don't give a fuuuuuuuck.

She floor it. The car jumps the curb and they speed off.

EXT. PIZZA DUDES - EVENING

Establishing: Kids walk up to the local pizza joint where everybody hangs out after school.

INT. PIZZA DUDES - CONTINUOUS

Lionel wears a vertical striped red and white pizza shirt. A little paper hat sits atop his head.

He plops a cheesy, saucy pie down in front of Ruby Sue, Janet and the other field hockey players.

Lionel wanders off as Ruby Sue holds court...

RUBY SUE
Dig in, you guys deserve it.

The other girls reach for some slices. Ruby leans over so only Janet can hear her.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
(whispering)
They totally don't, but part of being popular is making people feel more important than they really are.

The door jingles open. Lance, Brittany and their friends roll in. Lance has a guitar case strapped to his back. Tim, dressed like Lionel, greets him from behind the register.

TIM
Sup, bros? Welcome to Pizza Dudes.

LANCE
Give us a pie. We're taking the table in the back.

TIM
Uh... The one that's reserved under... not your name?

LANCE
That a problem?

Lionel and Tim share a quick look.

TIM
Nope. All yours.

LIONEL

That table was reserved for our
moms, dude.

TIM

Gotta pick your battles, man.

INTERCUT. RUBY SUE'S TABLE - CONTINUOUS

The field hockey players laugh and eat their pizza.

FIELD HOCKEY PLAYER

Ruby Sue... say you like a boy, but
you're not sure he's into you, what
would you do to catch his gaze?

Ruby Sue, busy chewing her pizza, mishears the question.

RUBY SUE

Um, yeah... That's not something
you can catch. They're just born
that way. Weird question though.

The confused players scratch their heads at her answer as
Lance and Brittany stroll up to their table.

BRITTANY

Great game today, guys. Great team
win. Especially you, Ruby Sue.

RUBY SUE

Thanks, your leg looks better.

BRITTANY

It was just a cramp. I'm good now,
Lance stretched me out.

JANET

Maybe phrase that differently.

Ruby Sue high fives her.

RUBY SUE

Yeah, Janet! That was a good one.

BRITTANY

Anyway, I'm throwing a party this
weekend. It's gonna be awesome. You
and your friends should come.

RUBY SUE

Really? That's funny because I'm
throwing a party too.

(MORE)

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)

I was gonna make a big announcement, but I guess now everybody knows...

BRITTANY

Oh! Maybe we can combine parties?

RUBY SUE

Hmm. Well, I would have to invite you first.

Ruby Sue gives Janet a look.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)

What do you think, Janet?

JANET

Lance can come for sure.

Lance pumps his fist.

LANCE

Nice!

Brittany shoots him a dirty look.

RUBY SUE

Let me get back to you Brittany. It's not a no, but it's not a yes.

BRITTANY

Whatever. It's gonna be lame anyway. Come on, Lance. Let's go.

Brittany storms off. Lance smiles at Janet before he leaves.

Ruby Sue catches Janet staring at Lance's butt.

RUBY SUE

Don't make it so obvious.

JANET

What?

RUBY SUE

Your crush on Lance.

Janet blushes.

JANET

He's not bad I guess.

RUBY SUE
 Whatever! You totally want to jump
 his bones.

JANET
 Shh! Be quiet.

Ruby Sue lifts up her legs as if she were in labor.

RUBY SUE
 (teasing obnoxiously)
 You wanna have his babies!

Lance looks over at them. Janet pushes Ruby's legs down.

JANET
 Stop it! OK, yes. I wanna have his
 babies. Geez.

RUBY SUE
 I can help you do that... If you
 want to pry him away from Brittany.

JANET
 You can?

RUBY SUE
 Just be straight with me. What do
 you like about him?

Lionel comes over, starts cleaning up loose cups and napkins.

JANET
 Aside from being like, the hottest
 guy... He's really good at guitar.

LIONEL
 (coughing)
 No he's not.

Ruby Sue raises an eyebrow at Lionel.

RUBY SUE
 (knowing)
 Interesting...

REGISTER - MOMENTS LATER

Ruby Sue approaches the register as Lionel fills up a cup of
 soda behind the counter. His eyes are locked...

ON JANET, in her seat, staring dreamily at...

LANCE jamming on his guitar at the cool table. An unhappy Tim holds sheet music up for him to read. Lance motions for him to turn the page and he does.

REGISTER

Soda overflows the cup as Lionel continues to stare at Janet.

RUBY SUE (O.S.)

Ahem.

He notices Ruby Sue and snaps out of it.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)

Somebody's got a crush on Janet...

LIONEL

No I don't.

RUBY SUE

Come on! You're toast jelly of Lance... Did I say that right?

LIONEL

That guy sucks. I'd play circles around him. Shred him to the bone.

RUBY SUE

OK. I don't believe in tipping, *but* I do have a tip for you.

She leans over the counter.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)

Bring your guitar to my party this weekend. I got a plan.

Ruby Sue walks away then double back when she remembers...

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)

And wear your tightest pants.

INT. HARDING HIGH - CAFETERIA - DAY

Ruby Sue struts toward her table. A bounce in her step, she's feeling like a million bucks.

TEENAGE BOY (O.S.)

Hey, Ruby Sue! See you at the party Saturday!

RUBY SUE

Fuck yeah!

Random waves and salutations come her way. Meanwhile...

At the far end of the cafeteria, Brittany and the cool kid's table seems far less appealing now.

RUBY SUE'S TABLE

This is the place to be. Ruby Sue takes a seat next to Janet, across from Tim and Lionel.

The YEARBOOK GIRL (16) runs over to the table.

YEARBOOK GIRL

I just e-mailed you those questions for the yearbook interview.

Ruby Sue pulls out a smart phone. Ding! The e-mail arrives.

RUBY SUE

Got it!

The Yearbook girl exits.

INTERCUT. HALLWAY, JUST OUTSIDE CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

Tiffany has Brittany cornered in the hallway...

BRITTANY

Now everybody wants to go to her party instead of mine. Everybody thinks she's better at field hockey than me. This is totally not working. You don't even understand.

TIFFANY

Brittany. It's all part of mommy's plan.

BRITTANY

For her to be more popular than me? Some plan, mom!

Tiffany raises a hand to slap her.

TIFFANY

Do you want me to slap the shit out of you in front of your friends? Like I did to your father? Hmm?

Brittany immediately cools off.

BRITTANY

No.

TIFFANY

We need to appear weak before we strike. Didn't I tell you she'd throw a party once she found out about yours?

Brittany nods "yes" as another TEACHER waves to Tiffany. She immediately puts on a facade.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)

Hey! How are you?

Her smile turns deadly serious.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)

Now go in there and get yourself invited to that fucking party.

Brittany sulks back toward the cafeteria.

INT. CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

MISSY and CHRISSY from cheer-leading come over to Ruby Sue's table. Missy pulls out her iPad.

MISSY

Ruby Sue! Settle this debate. Which dress should I wear to your party?

She squeezes between Tim and Lionel, holding up the iPad so Ruby and Janet can see it. Her hair falls in Tim's face.

RUBY SUE

Hmm... Janet?

Chrissy leans over Lionel, pressing herself against him.

JANET

I kinda like the green one.

Tim subtly takes a whiff of Missy's scent.

CHRISSY

Told you! Janet has like, the best style sense.

Lionel and Tim excitedly fist bump under the table.

MISSY

Yeah. We love your glasses.

They run off together as...

TIM
(sincere)
Thank you.

RUBY SUE
For what?

JANET
Incoming...

Brittany plops herself down at the table.

RUBY SUE
What's up, Brittany?

BRITTANY
So I need like... the biggest favor
from you.

RUBY SUE
Yeah. You're not really high on my
favor list right now.

BRITTANY
OK. I know we got off on the wrong
foot or whatever and most of that
was my fault. I admit it, but that
was only because my mom doesn't
like you. She totally pressured me,
but I can't help it. You're cool.

RUBY SUE
Get to the favor already.

Brittany grabs Ruby's hand like she's royalty.

BRITTANY
(breaking down)
Nobody's coming to my party. Please
let me come to yours and say it was
my idea to combine them. Please?

RUBY SUE
Awww. It's like ten thousand
spoons...

JANET
(finishing her line)
When all you need is a knife!

RUBY SUE
Fuck yeah, Janet! Nailed it.

They high five.

BRITTANY

So...

RUBY SUE

Yeah. Fine. We'll combine parties.

BRITTANY

OMG! Thank you so much. This is gonna be the best time ever.

She throws her arms around Ruby Sue.

RUBY SUE

I know.

BRITTANY

OK, there is one more thing though. Somebody has to buy us beer. Like, a lot of it. And vodka.

RUBY SUE

Jesus! Just show your tits to that homeless guy outside the liquor store. He'll get you whatever you want. Amateur hour over here.

BRITTANY

Wait, how long has he been around? Seriously. How old is that guy?

RUBY SUE

Old enough to get me a six pack last week.

BRITTANY

But *you're* over 21...

Ruby Sue's face says it all. She just now realizes this.

RUBY SUE

I know! Hello? It was a joke.

BRITTANY

So then, if I give you the money...

RUBY SUE

Yes. I'll save your lame ass party.

BRITTANY

Thanks. I *won't* forget this.

Brittany leaves. We follow her past a vent in the wall where... Something moves behind the grate. Zit Face looks on with bewilderment.

ZIT FACE

The tides of power are shifting!

A rat stands up on his shoulder. He feeds it a Dorito.

ZIT FACE (CONT'D)

Patience, my little friend. Our time is soon.

He sneaks back into the darkness.

RUBY SUE'S TABLE - CONTINUOUS

JANET

Ew, you really want Brittany at your party?

RUBY SUE

You know what they say. Keep your friends close and your frenemies closer.

Janet nods her head, getting it.

EXT. LIQUOR STORE - DAY

Ruby Sue and Janet walk up to the liquor store.

The creepy HOMELESS GUY perks up when he sees Ruby Sue.

HOMELESS GUY

Hey! Alright. If you're showing, I'm going...

Ruby Sue walks right by, completely ignoring him.

JANET

Is he talking to you?

RUBY SUE

No.

JANET

I don't think I'm allowed in there. Besides I got weed on me, I don't wanna get busted.

RUBY SUE
Relax. Just act like you're exactly
where you're supposed to be.

Ruby Sue opens the door and steps into...

INT. LIQUOR STORE - CONTINUOUS

Ruby and Janet stand in an endless aisle of booze.

JANET
(in awe)
There's so much. Why is there so
much?

She turns to Ruby Sue, already filling her cart with bottles.

RUBY SUE
Cotton candy vodka? This must be in
like every statutory rapist's
liquor cabinet.

She shrugs and throws it in the cart.

REGISTER - MOMENTS LATER

A CLERK smiles as he checks out bottle after bottle of booze.

CLERK
You guys must be having one heck of
a party, huh?

JANET
(blurting it out)
I'm adopted!

The clerk looks confused as Ruby Sue shoves Janet out the door. She grabs the bag full of booze and is just about outside when...

CLERK
Excuse me.

Ruby Sue makes a face, knowing she's busted.

CLERK (CONT'D)
I didn't want to say anything when
your daughter was here, but...

He leans over the counter, whispering...

CLERK (CONT'D)

If I catch you showing your tits in the parking lot again, I'm gonna have to call the cops.

He gives her a look that says "understand me?"

INT. RUBY SUE'S HOUSE - EVENING

Ruby Sue's parents are dressed for a weekend ski trip.

MOM CONWAY

There's pizza bagels in the freezer.

RUBY SUE

I know! We went over this.

Ruby Sue and Peter stand next to each other in the kitchen.

DAD CONWAY

Honey, they'll be fine.

PETER

I have printed some coupons for your ski lift and lodging.

He hands them the coupons with a smile.

MOM CONWAY

You guys are the best!

She hugs them both.

MOM CONWAY (CONT'D)

This is exactly what your father and I needed, Ruby. Thank you.

RUBY SUE

You guys deserve it! Now get outta here, already!

Her dad gives her a hug and picks up their bags. As soon as her parents leave...

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)

I wasn't sure about you, but you kept your mouth shut. I guess you are a Ruby Sue kid. Respect.

Peter gives her a fist bump.

INT. RUBY SUE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Music blasts. Full blown party: The living room is packed with teenagers.

Lance and his band supply the tunes, jamming out on a little stage in the corner.

People make out, do keg stands, rip bong hits...

A really HAMMERED DUDE wobbles through the crowd. He face plants through a coffee table, landing at Ruby Sue's feet.

RUBY SUE

Guys! Cut the music! What the fuck?

The band stops playing. All eyes on Ruby Sue.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)

Somebody get me a sharpie so I can draw on this loser's face!

The crowd erupts! The band jams on.

INTERCUT. INT. SETH'S BASEMENT APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Smooth jazz plays as Seth stands in front of a mirror, getting ready for a romantic evening. He holds two collared shirts up to his chest, deciding which one to wear.

INT. RUBY SUE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

The party rages on. Flip cup in the kitchen. Ruby's team of field hockey players against some football studs. The crowd cheers them on.

CROWD

Go! Go! Go!

Ruby gets the lead, but the football players catch up when one of the girls can't flip her cup in time.

RUBY SUE

Flip it! Flip it!

It comes down to Janet and a really big offensive lineman.

SLOWMO: Janet flips her cup, rotating end over end, until...

REAL TIME

The crowd erupts.

CROWD
Janet! Janet! Janet!

The big lineman offers her a congratulatory fist bump.

OFFENSIVE LINEMAN
That was awesome.

INTERCUT. SETH'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Boink! Seth plucks out a nose hair. Winces from the pain.

INT. RUBY SUE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Through the lens of cell phone camera: Ruby Sue, double
fisted, pours booze down two kid's throats.

RUBY SUE
We're outta cups! Weeze the juice!

Brittany, pokes her face in frame from behind the camera.

BRITTANY
We're so wasted!

Everybody is having fun. A lot of it.

EXT. BACK PATIO - MOMENTS LATER

Tim is talking to Missy. Beer in hand, extra foamy.

Clearly drunk, he puts his hand on her shoulder.

TIM
I've masturbated to you before.

She looks at his hand, resting there on her shoulder.

TIM (CONT'D)
Not with that hand.

He smiles awkwardly.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

A sweet ass Maserati screeches to a halt at a stop sign.

INT. MASERATI - CONTINUOUS

Odie, in sunglasses and driving gloves, sits behind the wheel. Seth looks nervous in the passenger seat.

ODIE

Bennigans gonna be bumping tonight!

SETH

Yeah, so hey, I'm gonna need one more tiny favor from you.

ODIE

(feeling good)

What's that?

SETH

Think you can make yourself scarce once we get to her place?

ODIE

Fuck you! This is my boss's car!
It's my ass on the line here.

SETH

If you're worried about the car,
you can hang out in the trunk.
(off Odie's look)
See, the way a date works...

ODIE

Hey, the way being a man works is
you go get a driver's license and
pick up your own damn dates.

Seth takes a deep breath, coming to terms with his reality.

SETH

Then can you at least tell her
you're my driver?

ODIE

Fuck that! Tell her what I told you
to tell her: Odie is a mean party
animal and he is down with it.

Odie pulls a dime bag from his shirt pocket, flicks it.

SETH

Jesus Christ! What is that?

ODIE

Crushed Ritalin, son!

EXT. RUBY SUE'S STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Cars fill up the driveway and lawn. The party rages inside the house. Peter is sitting on the curb reading a text book with a headlamp when the Maserati pulls up.

PETER

Mr. Novacelik! What brings you to the house of Conway?

SETH

Hey, Peter! I'm picking Ruby Sue up. What's going on in there?

PETER

You mean the festivities? Ruby Sue has chosen tonight to throw this year's dopest party.

SETH

Really? Tonight?

PETER

Oh yes. I myself have elected not to go, for someone of my complexion must work twice as hard to achieve their dreams. Therefore, I am using this opportunity to study.

(off Seth's look)

But if you follow the trail of drunk white teenagers you are assured to find her.

SETH

Peter, I wish I could I say you were wrong.

Seth points down the street.

SETH (CONT'D)

(to Odie)

There's a spot.

INTERCUT. RUBY SUE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Janet watches Lance riff on guitar. He looks her way, winks.

NEARBY

Ruby Sue tops off Brittany's beverage.

RUBY SUE

You know, Brittany. You wouldn't even be that bad of a prom queen. At the end of the day it's still gonna be my crown, but you deserve a piece of it. Like, figuratively, do you know what that means?

Lance's band wraps up the song.

LANCE

Alright! We're gonna take five.

Lance walks off stage, makes a beeline for Janet.

LANCE (CONT'D)

Need a drink?

She slams her beverage in one gulp.

JANET

Yes.

Then...

ON STAGE

A hand pulls the amp cord out of Lance's guitar. He plugs it into a different jack and a heavy metal scale riff swells out of... **Lionel's Twin-necked, V-shaped double guitar.**

He's on stage, power stance, wearing pants tight enough to compromise his decision making.

LIONEL

(into the mic)

This shred medley goes out to Janet.

Every head in the crowd turns. He lets it rip. Fingers moving a thousand miles an hour, shredding like a young Michael Angelo Batio. (Seriously, Google him.)

The crowd is silent, in shock.

NEARBY THE STAGE

Tim, busy making out with Missy, uses his free hand to turn on the fog machine they brought.

ON LIONEL

In the zone. Shredding balls. Melting faces. The crowd to starts to feel it. Heads nod. Sparks fly out of the speakers.

LANCE
He's gonna blow the amp!

JANET
(feeling it)
Hell yeah he is.

Lance runs on stage. He tries to unplug Lionel, but the amp bursts into flames just before he can.

LANCE
Ahhh!

AT THE FRONT DOOR

Peter plugs his ears. Odie and Seth, all about the metal.

ODIE & SETH
Woooooo! Yeah!

They high five as...

WHOOOOP! Red and blue police lights hit the windows.

TEENAGE BOY
Cops!

Kids flee. The curtains catch fire. An entire living room wall goes up in flames.

EXT. RUBY SUE'S STREET - CONTINUOUS

Half a dozen cop cars surround the house. Teenagers flee in every direction. It's mayhem.

Hammered dude runs by with sharpie penises all over his face!

HAMMERED DUDE
Best party ever!

Seth finds Ruby Sue in the chaos, grabs her hand.

SETH
We gotta split!

RUBY SUE
What are you doing here?

SETH
We had a date, remember?

He drags her toward the Maserati down the street.

RUBY SUE
Nice! You brought it. I was
starting to think you didn't really
have one.

It's lights flash when Seth clicks the keys.

INT. MASERATI - MOMENTS LATER

Seth floods the engine. The car bucks forward.

SETH
Goddamnit!

RUBY SUE
Do you even know how to drive this
thing?

He peels out. Then...

Odie materializes out of nowhere, directly in front of the car! Odie hits the hood and rolls up over the windshield. The Maserati stops.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
Oh my God! You just killed
somebody!

Odie pops up by the driver's side window, blood trickling down from his hairline.

ODIE
I'm driving.

He opens the door and pulls Seth out.

EXT. RUBY'S STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Two police cars block the street so traffic can't pass.

ON PETER

Getting arrested. Hands cuffed behind his back, being placed into a squad car as flames engulf the house.

STREET

The Maserati fish tails around the corner. Going way too fast and picking up speed. It bears down on the blockade.

INT. MASERATI - CONTINUOUS

Odie, sunglasses back on his face, blood trickling from his hariline. He floors it.

RUBY SUE
Po-po! Twelve o'clock.

SETH
(warning)
Odie. Odie! ODIE!

ODIE
We're doing 90 in a 15. Can't turn
back from that... Cup your nuts!

EXT. RUBY SUE'S STREET - CONTINUOUS

A cop wisely moves the barricading police car out of the way.

The Maserati blows past the arriving fire trucks.

RUBY SUE (O.S.)
Now that's a fucking party.

Kids line the streets, cheering on the destruction.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HARDING HIGH - HALLWAY - DAY

Two police officers follow Principal Smith down the hall.

ENGLISH CLASS - CONTINUOUS

The door opens. The cops step inside the class.

PRINCIPAL SMITH
Ruby Sue Conway. I'm gonna need you
to come with me.

CLASS
Ooooooh!

Ruby Sue gets up and follows them out.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Martha, in her police blues, sits on the edge of the desk while Principal Smith paces back and forth in front of Ruby.

PRINCIPAL SMITH

This is bad.

Ruby sits across from a television playing scenes from last night's party as recorded on Brittany's phone.

RUBY SUE

(angry sotto)

Tiffany!

MARTHA

Ruby, some of these kids are saying you peer pressured them.

RUBY SUE

Pressured them to do what? Have fun?

PRINCIPAL SMITH

Martha, roll tape please...

INTERCUT. ON SCREEN - SCENE FROM THE PARTY

Ruby Sue holds a kid's legs up while he does a keg stand.

RUBY SUE (ON TV)

Drink faster you wuss!

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

A livid Principal Smith points at the screen.

PRINCIPAL SMITH

Do you know what happens when something like this goes viral?

RUBY SUE

Of course I do. That's why I bought like... a whole a box of rubbers.

PRINCIPAL SMITH

Is that an attempt to make this even worse than it already is?

RUBY SUE

So a couple kids had the time of their life, what's the big deal?

PRINCIPAL SMITH

Well, aside from my job on the line
and the well being of my students,
I guess you're right. It's not.

RUBY SUE (ON TV)

Why do you have a gag reflex? I
thought you were gay.

(beat)

Poser.

The door swings open. Ruby Sue's parents, dressed in ski
attire, rush into the office.

DAD CONWAY

What the hell is going on here? I
just got off the phone with the
insurance company...

MOM CONWAY

They said an industrial strength
fog machine blew our circuits.
Honey, why was there a fog machine
in the house?

RUBY SUE

I don't know where that thing came
from. Actually.

PRINCIPAL SMITH

There's still a criminal matter
here that needs to be addressed.

RUBY SUE

Yeah! That fog machine was
negligent. We should sue them and
get a bigger house.

MARTHA

Ruby, serving alcohol to minors is
a very serious offense. Somebody
has to get in trouble for this.

RUBY SUE

Whoa! Wait a second. There is no
way you can prove there's any
alcohol in those cups.

Martha gives her a look as she hits play on the video.

ON SCREEN

Ruby takes a swig from a bottle of clear booze, holds up a lighter in front of her mouth.

CROWD
Fireball! Fireball! Fireball!

A huge flame shoots out of her mouth as the crowd goes wild.

INTERCUT: PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

MOM CONWAY
Oh Ruby...

Ruby knows she's busted.

DAD CONWAY
Silver lining here. Our daughter's technically retarded. So find me a jury that's gonna convict her.

RUBY SUE
Dad! That's offensive!

DAD CONWAY
You got an underdeveloped brain!

Ruby's Mom has to restrain him.

DAD CONWAY (CONT'D)
I'm losing it here. I'm sorry. It's just... I was having too good of a time on the slopes. I knew something like this would happen.

PRINCIPAL SMITH
Good news, Martha's an alum and she's a damn fine cop.

MARTHA
I talked to these parents and, given the circumstances, they've agreed not to press charges.

Ruby Stands up for a high five.

RUBY SUE
Sweet, Martha! Way to come through.

Martha leaves her hanging.

PRINCIPAL SMITH

Ruby. You're expelled. You probably guessed that. It's the bad news.

RUBY SUE

What the fuck, Martha! I thought we were friends. What's the point of being a cop then if you can't get people out of jail?

MARTHA

I just got you out of jail. There's nothing more I can do. Now I'm sorry, Ruby. But ya played ya self.

Ruby Sue takes a step toward Martha.

RUBY SUE

You know what I'm thinking about right now, Martha?

MARTHA

Don't do it, Ruby.

RUBY SUE

Thinking about going upside your head right now.

PRINCIPAL SMITH

Ladies....

INT. HARDING HIGH - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

The entire school has convened to watch Ruby Sue as she's being escorted out in handcuffs. All eyes on her.

RUBY SUE

Wait! Stop. I need to say something them. They need to hear this!

Martha nods at the cop. He lets Ruby Sue face the school.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)

I'm about to say something that I wish somebody said to me a long time ago...

The bell rings and the hallway clears. Only Tiffany remains. She looks right at Ruby and gives her a slow clap.

TIFFANY

You never could beat me, Ruby Sue.

RUBY SUE
Fuck you! Fuck this school! I'm
tired of being held back by this
place. I'm gonna get a real job and
make some real money. Peace!

Ruby Sue turns and walks face first into a closed door.

FADE TO BLACK.

OVER BLACK

Mmm Mmm Mmm Mmm by the Crash Test Dummies takes us into a
MONTAGE...

EXT. FIELD HOCKEY GAME - DAY

Janet, sitting on the bench by herself.

EXT. DMV - DAY

A wheel runs over an orange cone. Seth is driving. An
INSTRUCTOR sits in the passenger seat with a clipboard.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Brittany and the cool kids laugh as Lance launches a small
carton of chocolate milk at Ruby Sue's old table where it
detonates, exploding on Tim and Lionel.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Peter pulls pizza bagels out of the toaster oven. We follow
him out of the kitchen through the burned down living room.

INT. PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Dr. Bill sits on his desk, pointing at anatomically correct
doll as a terrified family looks on.

EXT. HARDING HIGH - PARKING LOT - DAY

Principal Smith watches as a fresh layer of concrete is put
down over the parking lot.

He looks over his shoulder at..

THE SCOREBOARD - NEARBY

Where workers are painting over Ruby Sue's name.

INT. HARDING HIGH - HALLWAY - DAY (END OF MONTAGE)

Tiffany replaces her 1997 picture in the trophy case. Above her, a banner reads "Vote for Prom Queen". Students line up to stuff ballots into a blue ballot box. Tiffany presides.

INT. CHEMISTRY CLASS - DAY

Two blue ballot boxes are opened up on the table where Seth and two students count the ballots.

Tiffany enters carrying a third ballot box. She plops it down on the table.

TIFFANY

Last one. So exciting!

She leaves as Seth breaks the seal on last ballot box. He notices something and offers a confused look.

INT. HARDING HIGH - HALLWAY - LATER

Tiffany struts down the hallway.

SETH (O.S.)

Tiffany! Hold up.

She spins around to find Seth standing behind her.

SETH (CONT'D)

Yeah, I was hoping maybe you could explain this.

He holds up his hand, covered in faded blue paint.

SETH (CONT'D)

Because it looks like you painted that box to look like one of our ballot boxes. Which would be... pretty awful.

TIFFANY

What's your point?

SETH

Well, I'm a little worried that if I count those ballots there's gonna be a whole lot of Brittany votes and not much else.

TIFFANY

Well I'm a little worried that if people see this picture of you at a teenage booze party, you might lose your job.

She holds up her phone: A picture of Seth at Ruby's party.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)

What do you think?

Seth laughs awkwardly.

SETH

I hate you so fucking much.

TIFFANY

So... I should send it?

SETH

No. You don't have to do that. Not necessary. We just had our signals crossed. We're uncrossed now.

Tiffany smiles and walks away.

TIFFANY

Count the votes. You asshole.

SETH

I'll do that. And hey, maybe you can, you know, delete the picture?
(beat)
No?

She's gone with the slam of a door. Feeling defeated, Seth rubs his face. When he takes his hand away, his face is blue.

EXT. PIZZA DUDES - DAY

Establishing: Spring time. Birds chirp and flowers bloom.

RUBY SUE (OVERLAY)

OK, so one order of pepperoni poppers, one cheesy crust calzone and... a large Pepsi drink.

INT. PIZZA DUDES - CONTINUOUS

Ruby Sue is behind the register wearing the standard red and white striped Pizza Dude uniform.

A teen boy hands her some money.

TEENAGE BOY

Hey uh, I heard you can score us some beers.

Ruby ignores his request.

RUBY SUE

Here's your change, bro. Have a totally awesome day.

Lionel pokes his head out of the back office.

LIONEL

Hey Ruby, can I talk to you?

RUBY SUE

Why? I called him "bro".

LIONEL

Oh, no. That was great. This is about next week's schedule.

He shows her the calendar.

LIONEL (CONT'D)

We're really short handed on Friday the 19th. So if you don't mind picking up an extra shift...

RUBY SUE

Sure, what's poppin'?

She takes the pen from him to write her name on the schedule.

LIONEL

Nothing's popping. I mean, it's just, you know... the prom.

SNAP! Ink hits Lionel's face. The pen explodes in her fist.

LIONEL (CONT'D)

Are you... are you ok?

RUBY SUE

Fine. Why wouldn't I be?

A single tear streams down her cheek.

LIONEL
OK, cool. So I guess we're good?

RUBY SUE
I said I'm fine!

She turns and storms off.

INT. BAXTER RESIDENCE - PROM DAY

Brittany, in front of a mirror, looks gorgeous in her prom dress. Tiffany enters frame wearing her '97 prom queen crown.

TIFFANY
Your entire life has led us to this moment... Legacy. Say it with me.

BRITTANY
Are you gonna wear the crown all night? It's kinda creepy.

TIFFANY
I need you to focus, baby. This is where it starts. Tonight prom queen. Tomorrow weather girl...

BRITTANY
Mom, they already counted the votes. It's kinda out of our hands.

TIFFANY
It's *never* out of our hands.

She grabs Brittany's hand in hers.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)
Now say it with me.

BRITTANY AND TIFFANY
Legacy.

The doorbell rings.

TIFFANY
That's Lance!

Tiffany gives Brittany a hug.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)
Now get outta here, I gotta put my dress on.

EXT. FANCY HOTEL - PROM NIGHT

Kids in tuxedos and prom dresses arrive for the prom.

INT. PROM - NIGHT

Tiffany chaperones, wearing her old prom dress. Her crown sparkles like a disco ball. Blaine is by her side in his tux.

DANCE FLOOR

Teenagers dance and have a good time. Peter is there, so are Brittany and Lance. We recognize some of the cheerleaders and field hockey players too.

NEARBY

Lionel and Tim stand against the wall watching the action.

TIM

We should probably ask somebody to dance. What do you think?

Lionel shrugs.

TIM (CONT'D)

Yeah. Good call. Next song.

ENTRANCE

Seth enters, wearing his tux. He tries to walk past Tiffany and Blaine without making eye contact.

BLAINE

Whoa! Chem-master Seth. Where's my homework, buddy?

He makes Seth flinch then punches him in the arm.

BLAINE (CONT'D)

Ahh. Just kidding.

TIFFANY

Sorry your girlfriend couldn't make it. I guess I'll just have to imagine the look on her face when Brittany wins Prom Queen.

Seth smiles awkwardly and walks away.

BLAINE (O.S.)

Loser.

PUNCH BOWL - CONTINUOUS

Janet, in her prom dress, serves punch. Seth approaches.

JANET
Hey, Mr. Novacelik. Punch?

SETH
You read my mind.

She hands him a cup of punch.

SETH (CONT'D)
Janet, you're a smart kid. Have you ever made a decision that would cost you your career, but you knew it was the right thing to do?

JANET
Um... I'm only 17.

SETH
Let me rephrase the question. Are you hungry?

INTERCUT: INT. PIZZA DUDES - CONTINUOUS

The phone rings. Ruby Sue answers.

RUBY SUE
Pizza dudes... Uh huh... Yeah. It's gonna be a while, I'm like the only one here... What's the address?

Ruby Sue jots the address down.

EXT. FANCY HOTEL - NIGHT

Ruby drives the pizza dude van up to the Prom Venue. She looks out the window and seeing the appropriate signage, puts two and two together.

RUBY SUE
You gotta be kidding me.

INT. PROM - NIGHT

The prom goes on without a hitch. Everyone dancing and having a blast. Principal Smith takes the stage.

The music fades. He taps the mic.

PRINCIPAL SMITH
Ladies and Gentleman. May I have
your attention please.

ON TIFFANY

Ear to ear smile. Then sensing...

TIFFANY
She's here.

Over her shoulder, the door opens and Ruby Sue enters
carrying the pizza.

RUBY SUE
Who ordered the pizza?

Everyone turns, all eyes on Ruby.

PRINCIPAL SMITH (O.S)
I have in this envelope, the name
of your prom queen...

Tiffany pushes her way through the crowd.

TIFFANY
Why is she here?

The crowd parts.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)
Who ordered the Goddamn pizzas!?

Seth steps out from the crowd.

SETH
I did.

TIFFANY
You son of a bitch!

RUBY SUE
Hey! This is between you and me.

TIFFANY
Good! I'm glad you're here. Now I
get to see your face when you
become the first person to lose
prom queen... twice.

Ruby Sue drops the pizza boxes on the floor.

Principal Smith puts his glasses on, opens the envelope.

PRINCIPAL SMITH
This year's prom queen is...

On Ruby. On Brittany. On Tiffany. On Seth...

PRINCIPAL SMITH (CONT'D)
Ruby Sue.

A blood curdling scream escapes Tiffany's throat.

TIFFANY
We had a deal, you chubby fuck!

SETH
For us to have a deal I would've
had to count your bogus votes.

Tiffany lunges forward and strangles Seth.

SETH (CONT'D)
She tried... to rig it...

TIFFANY
I did no such thing!

Seth turns purple.

RUBY SUE
You're killing him!

Ruby Sue tackles Tiffany to the floor. The two women get back to their feet. Tiffany stands between Ruby and the stage.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
That crown is mine. Now get out of
my way. You bitch.

TIFFANY
You'll have to kill me first.

RUBY SUE
If that's how you want to play it.

BRITTANY (O.S.)
No. Stop!

Brittany runs between them.

BRITTANY (CONT'D)
It's over! Let it go! She won.

Tiffany shoves her out of the way.

TIFFANY
Nothing is over!

RUBY SUE
You know, Tiffany. I acted like an asshole, but I was in a coma for twenty years. That's my excuse. What's yours?

TIFFANY
Fuck you! That's my excuse.

Tiffany charges Ruby Sue. They hit the ground hard and gator roll across the dance floor until Seth intervenes.

SETH
Stop! Violence is not the answer.

Suddenly, a hand grabs his shoulder and spins him around.

BLAINE
Get off my wife, Novacelik.

Wham! He drops Seth with a punch to the face.

BLAINE (CONT'D)
Fucking creep!

He grabs Seth by the shirt collar, hoists him up and slaps him across the face. Seth notices...

BLAINE (CONT'D)
What?

A rat is on Blaine's shoulder, trying to bite his ear. He drops Seth and struggles with the rodent.

Blaine throws it. The rat explodes against the wall.

Zit Face hisses from beneath the punch bowl table.

BLAINE (CONT'D)
Now where was I?

He grabs Seth again. Then... a primordial scream echoes out of the darkness.

ON ODIE

Diving off the stage. Soaring through the air.

ODIE
Blaaaaiine!

He lands on Blaine, taking them both to the ground. Blaine scrambles back to his feet.

BLAINE

Jesus Christ! It's raining nerds!

He grabs Odie by the shirt collar and rears back to punch him, then... PZZZZZZZZZZT! Odie tazes his balls.

ODIE

Been waiting twenty years for that.

SETH

You've been waiting 20 years to taze Blaine's nutsack? By the way, you got here really fast.

ODIE

Only got two speeds. Fast and jackhammer fast.

They shake like Arnold and Carl Weathers did in Predator.

Meanwhile... Tiffany and Ruby Sue are still rolling around on the ground, hands around each other's throats. Finally, hotel security arrives and separates them.

TIFFANY

Get off me!

They drag Tiffany out of the ballroom, kicking and screaming.

Ruby Sue dusts herself off. This is her time.

The crowd parts for her. Battered and bruised, she quickly tries to fix her torn shirt as she limps up the stage.

The moment catches up to her. Tears well in her eyes. She turns and bows to accept her crown.

PRINCIPAL SMITH

What are you doing?

RUBY SUE

I'm winning.

He covers the microphone with his hand.

PRINCIPAL SMITH

You didn't win anything. You were expelled. You're not even supposed to be here.

RUBY SUE
But... you just said my name.

PRINCIPAL SMITH
I said...

He points to Janet.

PRINCIPAL SMITH (CONT'D)
(into mic)
Ruby Suh. With an H.

Janet freezes like a deer in headlights. Every face in the crowd spins her way.

PRINCIPAL SMITH (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Please come get this crown before
someone else loses their job.

JANET
Oh, I... uh, I go by Janet now.

PRINCIPAL SMITH
Well, it's up here if you want it.
I'm sorry these animals ruined your
moment. Congratulations.

He hangs the crown on the mic stand and walks off stage.

The crowd parts for Janet. Applause begins to swell as...

Janet makes her way onto the stage. The crowd is behind her, cheering and clapping.

ON STAGE

Ruby Sue has the crown in her hands, white knuckled as she stares at it. Janet approaches, stopping in front of her. After a beat, Ruby looks up at her.

JANET
Maybe we can share it. Like...
friends.

RUBY SUE
Fuck *that*.

She places the crown on Janet's head. The crowd erupts.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
The right person won.

Janet throws her arms around Ruby in a hug.

JANET
Kinda ironic, don't you think?

RUBY SUE
Yeah. I really do think.

Janet turns to the cheering crowd. She's elated.

Ruby Sue walks off the stage.

DANCE FLOOR - MOMENTS LATER

The lights are dimmed as Janet makes her way onto the dance floor. Lance is waiting for her. He extends his hand. She walks past him and takes Lionel's hand. A slow jam plays as they dance and everyone dances around them.

ON BRITTANY

Feeling sorry for herself on the bleachers. A hand reaches out to her. She looks up. It's Tim.

TIM
You've never seemed more obtainable
to me than you do right now.

BRITTANY
I'm not sure what that means.

TIM
Wanna dance?

She takes his hand and joins the rest of the school on the dance floor.

ON RUBY

By the door. She takes one last look at what could've been.

SETH (O.S.)
Hey.

Seth does his best cool guy pose against the wall.

RUBY SUE
Hey yourself.

SETH
You and me. Why not?

RUBY SUE
Because I gotta get back to work?

SETH
Jesus Christ. Just dance with me.

RUBY SUE
OK. All you had to do was ask.

He takes her hand and they finally have their dance. As that one Alanis Morissette song takes us out...

FADE TO BLACK.

SETH (OVERLAY)
So... It's not a Maserati, but it is a convertible...

FADE IN:

CODA: EXT. FANCY HOTEL PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Holding hands, Seth and Ruby Sue walk to his car.

Ruby Sue kisses him.

TIFFANY (O.S.)
Well, isn't that nice.

Seth and Ruby pull apart.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)
The more I think about it. You too losers do deserve each other.

Seth takes a step toward her.

SETH
OK. Tiffany. Enough's enough. Why don't we just call it a...

Wham! Tiffany close fist blasts him in the face. One shot KO. He goes down hard. She shakes out her hand.

TIFFANY
Where's your crown now, bitch?

RUBY SUE
That wasn't my crown.

Ruby points to the crown on Tiffany's head.

RUBY SUE (CONT'D)
That's my crown.

TIFFANY
So come and get it.

They charge at each other.

CUT TO CREDITS.

DURING CREDITS

Ruby Sue and Tiffany trading shots.

BLACK

Tiffany has Ruby Sue in a sleeper hold.

TIFFANY
Shhh. Shhh....

Ruby elbows her in the gut, breaking the hold.

BLACK

Ruby Sue hoists Tiffany up and powerbombs her through the convertible. Tiffany's out. Ruby puts the crown on her head.

THE END.