

GOOSEBUMPS

Written by

Rob Letterman & Nick Stoller

Based on the Scholastic Book Series Goosebumps

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* 10202 West Washington Boulevard * Culver City, CA 90232 *

FADE IN:

"LOSER" by Beck playing as we establish...

EXT. BIDDLE HOUSE - NIGHT

A large suburban home with a sprawling lawn full of big trees. It sits alone with no neighbors in sight.

TITLE: 1993

INT. BIDDLE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Nicely decorated. Affluent. An ornate cuckoo clock sits between bookshelves at the bottom of a staircase.

The music is emanating from the basement. It gets louder as we descend stairs into...

INT. BIDDLE HOUSE - BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

The song is a music video playing on TV. The MTV logo spins into view, ending the song and starting an episode of *Beavis & Butthead*. That's when we find...

... an awkward teen sitting at his PC computer playing WOLFENSTEIN 3D. This is HORACE BIDDLE and he's home alone.

THE DOORBELL CHIMES

Horace looks up from his computer. Squints.

INT. BIDDLE HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Horace answers the front door only to find no one there. He closes the door and heads back to the basement when...

The doorbell CHIMES again.

He turns back and slowly opens the door. This time...

FLASH!

Horace is blinded as we reveal a TEENAGE BOY holding a Polaroid camera.

TEENAGE BOY
(menacingly)
Say Cheese.

Horace rubs his eyes, backing into a MONSTER. We quickly realize it's a TEENAGE GIRL in a Halloween mask. She pulls the mask off as 3 MORE TEENAGERS push their way into the house.

Things start to move fast and chaotic as the teenagers encircle Horace, pranking and teasing him.

One winds the cuckoo clock back, over and over, to get the bird to come out and say "cuckoo" repeatedly. Another offers Horace a cupcake - there are worms in it.

All this while the Teenage Boy takes endless photos of Horace, the flashes going off in his face as the pictures fall to the floor.

Like a caged animal, Horace runs for the stairs to his basement. The teenagers take chase, almost catching him before he scrambles downstairs, locking the door behind him.

They start pounding on the door trying to open it.

TEENAGE GIRL

Trick or treat! Trick or treat!

They pound on the basement door. Then a third kid starts flipping the circuit breaker switch, making the lights flicker. The switch throws a spark, starting a fire. It quickly spreads.

TEENAGE BOY

Hey, get out of there!

They desperately try to open the door but it's stuck. The whole room is engulfed. The kids run out of the house.

EXT. BIDDLE HOUSE

Flames lick up the side of the house as our teenagers race away. For a moment the flames form the face of Horace Biddle.

EPISODE 1: SAY CHEESE AND DIE!

FADE UP ON:

EXT. BIDDLE HOUSE - MORNING

TITLE: PRESENT DAY

The house looks run-down now. Windows boarded up. A FOR LEASE sign on the lawn looks like it's been there for decades. We reveal a brand new JEEP WRANGLER pulling up to a stop sign.

INT. WRANGLER - CONTINUOUS

ISAIAH, 17 (smart and cocky star quarterback), sits shotgun. JAMES, his closest friend, drives. They stare at the house as our score grows spookier and more intense.

JAMES

You hear that someone actually rented the place?

ISAIAH

I don't know who would want to live there. Not after what happened.

The camera pushes in on Isaiah as the music swells.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)

Some people say Biddle's still alive, locked up in the basement, living off wallpaper glue.

The spooky music abruptly stops. Isaiah smiles, full of charm and cocky confidence.

JAMES

That's so dumb.

James and Isaiah start laughing hysterically.

ISAIAH

You know what's not dumb? If wallpaper glue came in different flavors.

JAMES

Mocha.

ISAIAH

Sour blue raspberry.

EXT. WRANGLER - CONTINUOUS

We CRANE UP as they drive away and continue their banter.

JAMES

Cola.

ISAIAH
Pork dumpling.

JAMES
Pancake.

ISAIAH
I want pancakes so bad right now.

JAMES
I love our morning talks. We should
do a podcast.

EXT. TOWN - CONTINUOUS

VARIOUS SHOTS OF them driving through TOWN. It's a crumbling small town that has seen better days just like the Biddle House. As they approach the HIGH SCHOOL and pull into the parking lot, we PRELAP CHEERING...

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYM - MORNING

The bleachers are filled with students. The morning assembly is a pep rally for the football team. James now dressed in a VIKING MASCOT COSTUME waves a plastic sword around to get the crowd going as COACH RIFKIN (60s), standing in the middle of the court, thunders into the mic.

COACH RIFKIN
--let's give it up for our team
captain and my favorite person --
not supposed to say that but I just
did -- Isaiah Howard!

Over the roar from the bleachers we swing the camera around to two nerdy band members who hold a massive banner. ISABELLA (quiet, intense, loner) is one of them.

ISABELLA
(mumbling)
Please don't run through the banner
it took us days to make it --

ISAIAH BURSTS THROUGH THE BANNER! He then waves his arms up, getting everyone to cheer like crazy; then down so everyone goes quiet and then up so everyone goes crazy again. He grabs the mic from Coach and speaks from the heart.

ISAIAH
(into mic)
Hello everybody!

SCHOOL CROWD
Hello Isaiah!

ISAIAH
Ok let's bring it down cause I'm
gonna get real with you.

Beat. It's dramatically silent.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
I know the school and the district
has fallen on hard times since we
lost the State Championship in '93.
But all that's about to change,
because this is quite simply the
best team we've had since then!

Everyone cheers.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
This is our year! This is our time!
The glory days are no longer behind
us. They're right at our
fingertips. This is the beginning
of turning everything around. I
love this town! I love this game! I
love you guys!

A rando kid pipes up.

RANDO KID
I love you too!

ISAIAH
Love you back, Owen! Nowwww let's
goooo!!!

The crowd explodes. Isaiah does a STANDING BACKFLIP. James
thrusts his sword skyward and starts humping the air.

COACH RIFKIN
Stop humping the air James we've
discussed this --

JAMES
But I'm humping us to victory!

COACH RIFKIN
Not a thing!

Camera swings back to Isabella at the side of Isaiah,
watching him finish his speech.

ISABELLA

Please don't drop the mic, it's
super expensive--

Isaiah drops the mic. Isabella quickly picks it up. The school BELL RINGS drowning her out and we cut to...

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - MORNING

It's the day before Halloween. SPOOKY DECORATIONS ABOUND. Classroom doors are painted like gravestones. We find Isaiah and James at their lockers. James quickly stuffs his mascot outfit in his locker as SAM, Isaiah's football teammate, walks over.

SAM

You crushed that backflip, bro.

He high-fives Isaiah as James joins in--

JAMES

Totally, bro. Backflips are lit.

James high-fives Sam. Then holds onto Sam's hand a little too long. Sam awkwardly pulls his hand away.

SAM

Ok well I gotta go.

Isaiah watches James stare after Sam.

ISAIAH

No offense but I don't think you're
his type.

JAMES

How do you know what his type is?

ISAIAH

His locker is filled with photos of
John Cena and the guy from *The
Kissing Booth*.

JAMES

Maybe he appreciates their acting
skills.

ISAIAH

Yeah that must be it.

Isaiah spots MADISON CHUN (charismatic, athletic, driven, no-nonsense) heading towards them. He waves.

JAMES

What's the deal with you and
Madison? You guys a thing now?

ISAIAH

We don't like to put labels on
stuff.

Madison reaches them and plants a kiss on Isaiah.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)

(to James, mouthing the
words)

We're a thing.

MADISON

Check this out.

Madison shows her phone with a TikTok boomerang clip of her
scoring a bicycle kick goal in soccer over and over again.

JAMES

Wow, how do you do that?

MADISON

Endless practice, James. That's not
why I'm showing you guys. Look at
the comments.

TROLLISH COMMENTS in the form of endless POOP EMOJIS. James
laughs, despite himself.

MADISON (CONT'D)

Really?

JAMES

I mean endless poop emojis. Epic.

ISAIAH

Who cares what some troll thinks
about your TikTok.

MADISON

That's the thing! I shouldn't care!
But I do. And that makes me even
madder.

ISAIAH

But think about how mad the troll's
going to be when you become the
next Megan Rapinoe, babe --

MADISON

Oh we're calling each other babe
now?

ISAIAH

(flirty)
I guess we are.

James makes a disgusted face. The bell rings and they all
head to their first class.

INT. DRAMA CLASS - LATER

Isaiah, Madison and James on stage finishing a scene from
Avengers: Endgame. It's the part where Tony Stark is dying
and it is super dramatic.

ISAIAH

(as Tony Stark)
Hey Pep.
(cough, cough)

MADISON

(as Pepper Potts)
Tony look at me. It's going to be
okay. You can rest now.

JAMES

(as Peter Parker)
You did it sir.

They finish. The drama teacher MRS. HERNANDEZ, wrapped in
scarves, theatrical, comes up.

MRS. HERNANDEZ

Very good. Very emotional. Again, I
would prefer if you chose plays,
not movie scenes. This is a theater
class.

ISAIAH

But don't movies turn into plays
eventually? My cousin saw *Lion King*
on Broadway.

MRS. HERNANDEZ

That is part of a bigger
conversation about the death of
art. Anyways, who's next?

JANE (real smart, nerdy but cool nerdy) raises her hand,
enthusiastically.

JANE

I am.

Jane makes her way to the stage.

JANE (CONT'D)

I will be doing a scene from
Glengarry Glen Ross --
(to Isaiah, smirks)
-- which is an actual play.

ISAIAH

(smirking back)
That became a movie.

Madison clocks their exchange as she and Isaiah take their seats to watch.

JANE

(on stage)

Due to the gross overreach of the school board censorship, I will be replacing the f word with "flipping." I will also be playing all of the characters since no one else was willing to memorize all these lines.

MRS. HERNANDEZ

(exasperated)

Noted, Jane. Please stop talking and just begin.

Jane starts the scene by writing on a chalkboard: A. B. C.

JANE

(overly aggressive)

"A-B-C. A-always, B-be, C-closing.
Always be closing.

(spinning around)

What's my name you ask? Flip you, that's my name. Flip you mother-flipping flipper! I drive an eighty thousand dollar BMW. That's my name, you motherflipping birches!

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - LATER

Everyone exits class. Madison gives Isaiah a kiss goodbye.

ISAIAH

We're just casually kissing each other now.

MADISON

I guess we are.

She splits away with James as a kid skateboards down the center railing and crashes face first. This is JEFF (hides his insecurity behind reckless behavior, attempting and not succeeding at growing a mustache).

ISAIAH

Damn, Jeff. You ok?

Isaiah helps Jeff stand up. Jeff spits out blood.

JEFF

(way too mellow for what
just happened)
Yeah it's all good.

COLIN STOKES, (40s) a well-meaning teacher, yells from down the hall.

COLIN

I saw that Jeff!

ISAIAH

Take off. I'll CRT this guy and buy
you thirty seconds.

Jeff takes off running. Isaiah steps in front of Colin.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)

Hey, Mr. Stokes, I had a question
about Critical Race Theory --

COLIN

Not now!

Colin continues and then returns.

COLIN (CONT'D)

But not not now. I respect whatever
opinion you and your parents have
on any of all of that. Please don't
post this interaction.

(then)

What was I doing?

Colin wanders off. Isaiah turns his attention to Jane exiting drama class.

ISAIAH

You ok? What's up?

JANE
 (annoyed)
 No one gets high art in this
 school. I performed a classic in
 there.

ISAIAH
 Maybe next time do a scene from
Finding Nemo or *The Office* or *Black
 Panther*.

JANE
 THOSE AREN'T PLAYS!

Isaiah gestures at RANDOM STUDENTS passing by.

ISAIAH
 Wakanda Forever!

RANDO STUDENTS
 Wakanda Forever!

ISAIAH
 (to Jane)
 See what I'm saying?

Isaiah opens a door for her, gentleman-like.

INT. HISTORY CLASS - CONTINUOUS

She enters and he follows her in.

JANE
 (rolling her eyes)
 How am I in every one of your
 classes?

ISAIAH
 Cause you're in love with me.

JANE
 Yeah that must be it.

They take their seats which are right next to each other.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BIDDLE HOUSE - DAY

BARRY HOWARD (40s, hasn't had the easiest life) stands with
 his boss, NORMAN PETROVICH (50s, has had a pretty easy life
 except for the part where he ran from a gang in Ukraine).

BARRY

No.

NORMAN

What do you mean 'no'? You don't really believe all the horse crap about this place.

BARRY

It doesn't matter what I believe.
(then)
How did you even manage to rent this house out --

NORMAN

Dude is from out of town.

BARRY

Does the dude know the history --

NORMAN

Yeah. The dude thought the history was "cool as balls." But if you can't do this, I find someone else. There are other contractors in town. And who knows, if they do a good job maybe I shift all my work to them, American-style.

BARRY

Never mind. I got it.
(turns, yells)
Ok, let's get started.

REVEAL Barry's crew in a pick-up outside the Biddle House. They back up a dumpster and get ready to go to work. Barry gathers himself and heads in.

EXT. BIDDLE HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - CONTINUOUS

Barry stops at the edge of the porch as if there is an invisible barrier. He peers through the open front door. He then picks up a crowbar and pries the boards off the door and walks into the house.

INT. BIDDLE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Dust and cobwebs cover everything. Barry wanders through the old house past an old CUCKOO CLOCK. He refuses to touch anything as if the entire place is radioactive.

THE HALLWAY

Barry makes his way down the narrow hall and finally discovers--

THE BASEMENT DOOR

--it's been painted over several times -- as if someone tried to hide its location. Barry pushes on the handle. It's stuck. The way it was all those years ago. Clearly, no one has been down there since. Satisfied, Barry turns --

NORMAN

Boo.

Barry REFLEXIVELY PUNCHES Norman in the face.

NORMAN (CONT'D)

Ah!

BARRY

You scared the crap out of me!

NORMAN

I was just having fun doing the Punk'd!

BARRY

How is that fun!? Let me get you some ice.

Barry helps Norman out of the house. We stay with the door a beat until -- It slowly OPENS on its own!

EXT. BIDDLE HOUSE - DAY

As Barry guides Norman outside, he clocks a junk pile of a CAR across the street. Inside the car is NORA (40s). Batshit crazy eyes and bedhead as a defining hairstyle. She clutches a Bible, staring at the house.

NORA

(speaking in tongue)

Kar-ru-mar-ri-od-on-na-lo-ma-mo-la-nu-kar-ra-no...

Nora locks eyes with Barry, breaking her trance and immediately drives off.

EXT. BARRY'S HOUSE - DUSK

Barry drives up. He's covered in dust from working all day. He looks at his little house and heads in.

INT. BARRY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

LAURA (40s), tired, remembers when she wasn't, is getting dinner ready. Barry enters.

BARRY
I took the job.

LAURA
I thought you said you would never work on that house.

BARRY
Well it was either that or not make any money. What do you want from me?

Laura turns away, not wanting to get into it. Barry opens a beer. He notices a letter on the counter.

BARRY (CONT'D)
What's this?

LAURA
Don't worry about it --

Laura reaches for it. Barry snatches it away.

BARRY
Where is he?

LAURA
Don't do this now --

Barry heads towards the back of the house --

INT. ISAIAH'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Isaiah does pull-ups on one of those little closet bars while watching videos on his laptop of himself at practice passing the ball. Knock on the door. Barry enters.

BARRY
We need to talk, Isaiah.

ISAIAH
(ignoring Barry, focused on the video)
I'm not giving the ball enough spin, just a bit more spin, like ten percent --

BARRY
(raising his voice)
Isaiah!

Barry uses the decibel level that all parents use to get their teenager's attention. Isaiah closes his computer. Barry takes a seat across from him. Laura stands in the doorway. Barry shows the letter. It's Isaiah's grades. All Cs.

BARRY (CONT'D)
We talked about this. You promised you would take your grades seriously this year.

ISAIAH
I do take them seriously.

BARRY
Getting Cs is not taking things seriously.

ISAIAH
I will have you know C is a passing grade.

BARRY
We had a deal, son. You have to get good grades if you want to play football. I'm talking As.

ISAIAH
What? That's not fair.

BARRY
Life's not fair.

ISAIAH
No, life is fair. My life was fair until like sixty seconds ago when you made it not fair by changing the rules.

BARRY
I'm not joking around. You need to get good grades or you're not getting out of this town.

ISAIAH
I don't care about getting out of this town. That's your thing. I love this town.

BARRY

Isaiah, I'm not letting you make the same mistake I did.

ISAIAH

What, you mean lose the State Championship in '93? Don't worry, I'm gonna fix all that.

BARRY

I don't care about State Championships. The State Championship is not the reason this town is the way it is. And I can't let you get stuck here and end up eating crap for a living the way I have to.

ISAIAH

(now pleading)

But Dad I made a promise to the whole school that we would win State. If I don't play we don't have a chance. Everything's riding on me playing.

BARRY

I'm not letting you play with these grades. I'm sorry.

Isaiah gets to his feet, furious.

ISAIAH

It's not up to you. I'm playing.

BARRY

(stern)

No you are not.

ISAIAH

(raising his voice)

Yes I am!

BARRY

(yelling)

Isaiah, unless you get an A on your next test you're not playing. End of story!

LAURA

Barry!

Isaiah storms out of the house. Laura turns to Barry.

LAURA (CONT'D)

You don't have to yell at him. You have to talk to your son, communicate with him. That's the problem with him and you.

BARRY

(raising his voice at her)
So that's my problem!?

LAURA

Yes. And that's the problem with you and me.

Laura storms out and we stay with Barry for a beat...

EXT. ISAIAH'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - LATER

Isaiah sits on an old swing, despondent. He holds a beaten-up Nerf football in his hand and stares up at the sky. The wooden fence that separates his backyard from his neighbor's has a few slats missing.

VOICE (O.S.)

Yua Ukey?

Jane slips through the opening in the backyard fence. She's his next-door neighbor. She speaks in a child-like secret language that swaps letters around. We will subtitle it.

ISAIAH

(our secret language,
really?)
Uar sicrit lengaegi, rielly?

JANE

(We always used it when
one of us was in trouble)
Wi elveys ased ot whin uni uf as
wes on truabli.

Isaiah switches back to English.

ISAIAH

Well, we're not eight anymore. And I'm fine.

JANE

No you're not. You're doing your Isaiah face.

ISAIAH

What's Isaiah face?

JANE

(impression)

Hey I'm Isaiah and everything is cool cause I'm cool cool cool.

(then)

I heard everything from my window. But if you don't want to talk that's fine. I can go back to reading *Infinite Jest*. The novel is so mid-nineties cis white straight male important writer style it's kind of adorable and throwbacky...

She turns to go back to her house, then...

ISAIAH

My dad's trying to take away my thing.

Jane takes a seat next to him on the swing.

JANE

What are you talking about?

ISAIAH

Your thing is you're smart and kind of nerdy, but cool nerdy. And James' thing is he's the funniest person I know. And that kid Jeff's thing... is... he gets hurt a lot but never seems to mind. Everyone has a thing. My thing is to win the championship and breathe some glory back into this town. And my dad doesn't get it. I mean who doesn't love this town besides my dad?

JANE

Well I kind of hate it too. I mean I can't wait for my mom to get settled in the city so I can move in with her.

ISAIAH

Well you're a weirdo.

Jane shoves him playfully. There's a little something between them.

JANE

Look, your dad said if you get an A on your next test you could play, right? So do that.

(MORE)

JANE (CONT'D)

There's a test tomorrow in History.
How much of the Constitution have
you read?

ISAIAH

I'm still on page one.

JANE

It doesn't have page numbers. It
was a scroll.

ISAIAH

Like the Torah?

JANE

I don't understand what you do and
don't know.

ISAIAH

I'm messing with you. I know the
Constitution is a scroll. What I
don't know are the words in the
scroll because I haven't read it.
And I'm not going to get it done by
the test tomorrow, so here's an
idea...

Isaiah starts to brighten, getting an idea.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)

What if you helped me on it?

JANE

Like study? That could be fun --

ISAIAH

No nerd.

(in secret language)

Like give me the answers.

JANE

Cheat?!

ISAIAH

It won't be cheating. The teacher
is new and the test is all multiple
choice. And you know how the secret
language swaps letters around? We
can use it like a code.

Beat.

JANE

That's cheating.

ISAIAH
Call it whatever you want.

JANE
I just did. It's cheating.

Jane's DOORBELL rings and we hear her father call out...

JANE'S FATHER (O.S.)
Jane! Can you get the door?

Jane hops off the swing and heads back towards the fence. Isaiah moves to cut her off, pleading.

ISAIAH
Please, Jane.
(staring off, emotional)
My whole life people have been telling me what I could do and couldn't do. I've always listened to them and believed what they said. I don't wanna do that anymore. In this life you don't have to prove nothing to nobody but yourself.

A tear rolls down Isaiah's face. Jane is moved.

JANE
(in secret language)
Promise just this once?

ISAIAH
(in secret language)
Just this once.

Jane grudgingly nods, yes, and then slips through the fence. We follow her across her backyard and into...

INT. JANE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

She walks to the front door. Someone is pressing the doorbell repeatedly.

JANE
I'm coming! Jeez!

She swings the door open and is startled by Nora standing there, her crazy eyes burning into Jane. It's a chilling moment. Nora holds a Bible under her arm.

NORA
Where is he???

JANE
(calling out)
Uhhh... Dad?!

REVEAL Jane's dad is Colin the teacher.

COLIN
I got it, Jane.

Jane steps back and watches this interaction.

COLIN (CONT'D)
Nora, what are you doing here?

NORA
The door has opened. Someone's
rented the Biddle House.

COLIN
So what does that have to do with
me?

NORA
Ask your ex-wife. She'll know.

Nora's car horn starts BLARING. REVEAL Nora's son is Jeff.

JEFF
Mom!

He's leaning over the backseat, honking the car horn, clearly mortified by his wacko mother. Nora rushes back to her car as Jane locks eyes with Jeff.

JANE
Hey, Jeff.

Jeff mouths "sorry" then quickly looks away humiliated as Nora gets in the car and drives away.

JANE (CONT'D)
What did she mean, ask Mom?

COLIN
I have no idea. If you haven't
noticed your mother and I don't
exactly talk.

JANE
Ok, then I'll ask her myself when
she calls me back.

COLIN
If she calls you back.

Jane gets upset.

COLIN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, that was immature of me--

Jane marches into her room and closes the door. Colin knocks on the door.

COLIN (CONT'D)

Jane... want me to order a pizza?

(silence)

Or pick up boba?

Beat. Through the door...

JANE (O.S.)

Boba. Milk tea. Large. And a cake pop.

Colin smiles to himself and heads off, ordering on his phone.

INT. HISTORY CLASS - NEXT DAY

MR. BRATT, the new History teacher, leans back in his chair, reading McSweeney's and listening to music in his headphones. He occasionally looks up to check on the class -- all of whom are heads down, taking the test.

ANGLE ON ISAIAH & JANE

She writes a letter at the top of her page, which he reads as code and circles the correct answer on his test.

Jane looks up a few times, nervously checking on Mr. Bratt who seems preoccupied with his music, before she goes back to scribbling the letters down for Isaiah.

It's all working according to plan until Jane looks up and just to the left of the blackboard sees a massive quote:

"My whole life people have been telling me what I could do and couldn't do. I've always listened to them and believed what they said. I don't wanna do that anymore. In this life you don't have to prove nothing to nobody but yourself." -- from the movie *Rudy*

Jane turns red with anger. She stops writing the letters at the top of her page. Isaiah coughs for her to keep going. She shakes her head no. He coughs again. She angrily shakes her head no again.

SLAM. Bratt's hand comes down on Jane's desk. She's startled. The bell rings.

MR. BRATT
 (unaware of the cheating)
 Test over, folks! Have a great All
 Hallow's Eve.

EXT. HISTORY CLASS - CONTINUOUS

Isaiah and Jane walk out of the classroom together.

ISAIAH
 What was that? I didn't finish!

JANE
Rudy?! You delivered the speech
 from *Rudy*! And I fell for it like
 some idiot!

ISAIAH
 Well *Rudy*'s situation and my
 situation are super similar --

JANE
Rudy was a short underdog loser;
 you're tall and the most popular
 kid in school --

ISAIAH
 Thank you --

JANE
 -- I wasn't complimenting you! You
 know what? Your problem isn't with
 your grades or your dad or even
 saving this town. It's that you
 expect everything to come easy for
 you like it does with football.
 You're just scared to be the guy
 who isn't the star quarterback.

She's spot on. Isaiah drops his cocky confidence and for the first time we see a real vulnerability coming from him. This is broken up when Madison JUMPS into Isaiah's arms.

MADISON
 Hey, babe --

ISAIAH
 Hey...

She kisses Isaiah and then eyes Jane.

MADISON
 What were you guys talking about?

JANE

Rudy. You should see it.

Jane takes off.

MADISON

Is that a play?

JANE (O.S.)

It's not a play!!!

INT. ISAIAH'S BEDROOM - DUSK

Isaiah is shirtless and holds a small hammer and wears a crappy blond wig. He looks at his computer. REVEAL he's watching a DIY YouTube video "MAKE YOUR OWN THOR COSTUME." He looks nothing like the costume on the website.

INT. ISAIAH'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Isaiah scurries towards the front door. Barry looks up from the kitchen table.

BARRY

Isaiah, where are you going?

Isaiah stops at the door, turns.

ISAIAH

To a Halloween party. Or do I need to get an A for that too?

Isaiah grabs his jacket and leaves, pissed.

EXT. ISAIAH'S HOUSE - DUSK

The Wrangler is parked at the foot of the driveway. James, Madison, and Madison's friend WENDY wait inside. Isaiah starts towards them when he hears...

JANE

(in secret language)

Isaiah, can we talk about what happened?

Jane is on her porch. She looks apprehensive and desperate to speak to him. Isaiah, feeling vexed from what she said to him at school, glances at the Wrangler.

ISAIAH
 (in English, coldly)
 I'm kind of in a rush, Jane.

ANGLE ON THE CAR where Madison clocks Jane and Isaiah having a moment. Jane, dejected, watches Isaiah run over to the car.

INT. JAMES'S WRANGLER - CONTINUOUS

Isaiah walks up to the car and hops in the backseat with Madison. Madison is dressed as Uma Thurman in Kill Bill. Wendy's a zombie cheerleader. James is a sexy cat.

ISAIAH
 Are you a sexy cat?

JAMES
 Yeah. What're you dressed as? Wait,
 let me guess a romance novel cover?

ISAIAH
 No --

WENDY
 A handyman from a porno --

ISAIAH
 No --

MADISON
 You're just shirtless. You have no
 costume, you just forgot a shirt --

ISAIAH
 No I'm Thor.

Isaiah holds up his hammer and points to the crappy wig. No one gets it.

JAMES
 Why is Thor wearing cargo pants?

Beat.

ISAIAH
 To carry his hammer. Whatever let's
 just go.

Everyone laughs as they drive off.

EXT. BIDDLE HOUSE - NIGHT

Lit only by moonlight, we see the pitch-black silhouette of the house. This is broken up by the headlights of James's Wrangler, approaching in the distance. The THUMPING SOUND of whatever song they're listening to ringing out...

INT. WRANGLER - TRAVELING

Everyone is dancing in the car, bumping to the music, except for Isaiah. What Jane said to him, the situation with his father, it's all weighing down on him. Out of the corner of his eye, Isaiah spots the Biddle House.

ISAIAH

Stop the car.

James pulls to a stop across from the house.

JAMES

Why? Did you finally realize your costume sucks?

WENDY

Good one.

JAMES

Thanks. I have a dozen more locked and loaded.

ISAIAH

I feel like doing something crazy tonight.

JAMES

Like change your costume?

WENDY

Eleven more.

Isaiah throws on his jacket and gets out of the car. The others get out and follow him across the property towards...

EXT. BIDDLE HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - CONTINUOUS

Isaiah runs up to the door and tries to open it.

ISAIAH

It's locked.

JAMES

No one could have seen this
eventuality.

Isaiah leads them around the PORCH to the...

SIDE OF THE HOUSE

As Isaiah stops in front of a ground floor window...

JAMES (CONT'D)

(to Isaiah)

Why do you want to go in here so
bad? Wait, is it a secret costume
shop?

WENDY

Ten more!

ISAIAH

My dad just finished renovating
this house. Let's see what he's
done with the place. And un-
renovate it.

Isaiah SMASHES the window with his hammer!

Long deadpan beat. Everyone stares perturbed. They clearly
don't do this kind of thing -- including Isaiah.

MADISON

(slowly)

Isaiah, are you ok?

Isaiah, covering his feelings, puts up a showboat front.

ISAIAH

I'm fantastic.

Isaiah does a weird robot dance to show how ok he is.

JAMES

That doesn't convince us.

Isaiah drops the dance and turns to the window.

ISAIAH

You guys coming or what?

He climbs through the broken window.

JAMES
(to Madison & Wendy)
C'mon, historically, Daddy issues
have always led to positive
outcomes.

James climbs through the window and they grudgingly follow.

INT. BIDDLE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

It's dark as they make their way inside.

MADISON
(nervous)
Is this the house that kid died in?

ISAIAH
Yeah, in the basement. It caught on
fire and he got sealed inside.

Isaiah finds a switch and turns on the lights, revealing a newly restored living room circa 1990s. A time capsule of the era replete with oversized Pottery Barn furniture.

WENDY
Oh look. It's like we walked onto
the set of that show *Friends*.
Spooky.

JAMES
How weird is that season when Ross
has the monkey?

MADISON
Can we go to the party now? I'm
already bored.

ISAIAH
Not yet, we need to mess the place
up.

MADISON
Babe, I'm not trashing a house.
That's crazy. And dumb.

JAMES
And illegal... I think.

ISAIAH
Fine. We won't vandalize it. I just
want to make it un-rentable.

JAMES

How do we do that? Poop somewhere weird?

WENDY

Gross.

JAMES

I don't know, just riffing here.

ISAIAH

We'll pull the breakers out of the fuse box. Can't rent a house with faulty wiring.

CUT TO A SHOT FROM THE END OF THE HALLWAY

The camera slowly finds the basement door. Still ajar from when Barry left. Suddenly it CREAKS OPEN FURTHER!

BACK TO ISAIAH

The sound catches his attention.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)

You hear that?

Isaiah starts walking towards the sound.

JAMES

Dude! Don't walk towards the creepy sound.

Too late. Isaiah makes his way down the hall. The rest of them follow on his heels until they reach...

THE BASEMENT DOOR

It's now wide open. Isaiah stops in front of it. The rest of them pile in behind him.

ISAIAH

This leads to the basement. I bet the fuse box is down there.

JAMES

You mean down there where the kid burned alive?

Isaiah reaches inside to flip on a light. The switch doesn't work. Isaiah pulls out his phone. Uses it as a flashlight. They all peer into the basement. It's a pitch-black abyss.

MADISON
 (apprehensively)
 Isaiah, let's just leave. This
 isn't fun anymore.

WENDY
 I don't know, I'm kind of having
 fun now.

MADISON
 Wendy?!

Isaiah grabs Madison's hand, assuringly.

ISAIAH
 I'll be right back.

He gives her a wink and then disappears down the stairs.

INT. BIDDLE HOUSE - BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

In an homage to every creepy stairs scene, Isaiah slowly descends the stairs, and steps into the basement.

Isaiah shines his phone light around the room. Everything is black, charred long ago from a fire.

INT. BIDDLE HOUSE - HALLWAY - SAME

At the same moment THE BASEMENT DOOR SLAMS SHUT!

MADISON
 So not funny, James.

JAMES
 I didn't do that.

James tries to open the door, but it won't budge.

JAMES (CONT'D)
 It's totally stuck.

INT. BIDDLE HOUSE - BASEMENT - AT THE SAME TIME

The light passes over the bookshelf with the old TV, and the desk with Horace's PC Computer. Both things petrified in charcoal and burnt plastic. He passes over a chair. There's a strange sound. He swings the light back. The chair is noticeably closer. He passes the chair and hears a sound. He swings back and the chair is even closer. He startles and drops the phone.

It goes pitch-black. In the dark, he picks up the phone. He shines it back at the chair and for a split second there's a ghoulish version of HORACE BIDDLE sitting in the chair.

ISAIAH

AHHH!

Isaiah instantly drops the phone again. He quickly grabs for it and shines it at the chair. No Biddle. But there is a METAL CASE there instead.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)

That was so weird.

Isaiah picks up the case, examining it. And SNAP! It unfolds, revealing it's the POLAROID CAMERA!

INT. BIDDLE HOUSE - HALLWAY - TOP OF STAIRS

James puts all his weight into trying to open the door.

MADISON

(freaking out)

Stop messing around and open the door.

JAMES

I can't. I'm serious.

James loses his grip and falls backward, knocking all of them to the floor while banging his head against THE CUCKOO CLOCK - which suddenly starts ticking. And from James' POV we see the bird dart out of the clock to say "cuckoo." Then the sound of CREAKING FOOTSTEPS ASCEND from the basement.

JAMES (CONT'D)

(nervously)

Isaiah, is that you?

The footsteps stop. Their attention laser focused on the basement door. Then...

The door suddenly swings open, followed by a BRIGHT FLASH!

Everyone flips out SCREAMING TERRIFIED as we realize it's...

ISAIAH

Say Cheese!!!

Isaiah cracks up laughing, pranking them as the house lights stop flickering and come back on. The flash of light was from the Polaroid picture that Isaiah just took of James.

JAMES

Oh my god, you suck.

James starts laughing with Isaiah, but not Madison - she's seriously upset.

MADISON

Not funny.

ISAIAH

It was a little.

He takes a photo of her.

WENDY

Take one of me.

Wendy purses her lips the way kids do for their Instagram. Flash. Isaiah fires off a shot and the camera spits out another photo. Wendy grabs her photo and studies it...

WENDY (CONT'D)

It's blank. Is it broken?

ISAIAH

It's an old Polaroid. The pictures take like forever. I can sell this on eBay. Make some cheddar.

JAMES

Hashtag always be hustlin'.

James and Isaiah high-five. The girls watch like it's the lamest thing on Earth. Then Isaiah turns to James.

ISAIAH

(hushed)

Not gonna lie. It was creepy down there. Thought I saw something--

This is broken up by headlights approaching the house. Isaiah collapses the camera and stuffs it and the undeveloped photos into his jacket pocket.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)

Someone's coming. C'mon we can sneak out the back.

They all race out of the house and we CUT TO...

EXT. PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

The Wrangler parks and they hop out. Madison clearly upset.

ISAIAH

Hey, you ok?

MADISON

No I'm not ok! That whole thing was seriously not ok! And now I'm getting trolled again.

Madison shows Isaiah her TikTok. It's been besieged again by the troll.

MADISON (CONT'D)

I hate Halloween. It's just an excuse for jerks to act like jerks, you included. The only good thing about Halloween is candy corn which you can now have on Thanksgiving without all the spooky attitude.

Madison cuts herself off as she spots Jane, arriving at the party dressed as a man with glasses.

MADISON (CONT'D)

Why didn't I think of this before?

ISAIAH

What?

MADISON

It's Jane. She's the troll.

ISAIAH

Why would she troll you?

MADISON

She's jealous.

ISAIAH

Of what?

MADISON

Us, Isaiah!

ISAIAH

She's not jealous. It's not like that between us. Besides she's mean to people's faces, not behind their backs.

MADISON

I like being direct so I'm just going to say it. I get a weird vibe from that girl. Like she likes you. But I like you.

(MORE)

MADISON (CONT'D)

And I don't like it when another girl likes the guy that I like. It's not that revolutionary an idea. It's pretty basic stuff here. It's basically the premise of every Taylor Swift song.

Madison storms off into the party.

JAMES

She's funny.

James gives Isaiah a supportive pat on the back.

ISAIAH

Must be a lot easier when it's all dudes.

JAMES

What're you talking about?

ISAIAH

You know... dating.

James spots Sam.

JAMES

It... isn't.

James splits off towards Sam.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Yo, Sam!

Isaiah dumps his jacket in the car, the camera and photos still in the pocket, and heads towards Jane.

EXT. PARTY HOUSE - FRONT STEPS - CONTINUOUS

ISAIAH

Hey, Jane.

JANE

Oh hi, you ready to apologize to me? Also where's your shirt?

ISAIAH

I'm Thor. What are you dressed as?

JANE

Jonathan Franzen. But ironically because he's part of the patriarchy.

ISAIAH

I don't understand one thing you just said. But I have something really important to ask you: are you trolling Madison on TikTok?

JANE

What? I don't even have TikTok.

ISAIAH

Look, I'm sorry I did the *Rudy* thing. Okay? But now, I think we should maybe cool it for a little bit, ya know?

JANE

Cool what?

ISAIAH

This.

JANE

What? Talking to each other?

ISAIAH

Yes. It's not you it's me.

JANE

It can't be either of us! We're not dating!

Jane storms off as Jeff appears. He's holding a dirt covered cup and loitering on the porch with his *Jackass* friends.

JEFF

Lady problems?

ISAIAH

Kind of. What's up with the cup?

Jeff reveals the cup is filled with weird looking worms.

JEFF

It's a cup we filled with worms.

ISAIAH

Yeah I can see that.

JEFF

We just found these bitches tonight.

Jeff drops a worm on his forehead. The worm immediately slithers into his ear and is GONE. WTF?!?!

ISAIAH
Whoa! You ok?!

Jeff starts shaking his head to get the worm out.

JEFF
Yeah it's all good.
(to his friend)
Yo stick your knife in there and
see if you can dig this thing out.

Isaiah grimaces as he enters the house.

INT. PARTY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The party's in full swing. The music is incredibly loud. And the lighting is weirdly intense. This becomes a purely visual sequence of Isaiah searching for Madison in a party that is becoming more and more intense. Isaiah thinks he sees Madison but then is blocked by a GIRL IN A REALISTIC MONSTER MASK. And yes it looks like the mask in our prologue. He tries to get past her. She won't let him. She's seductive and a little scary.

INT. PARTY HOUSE - UPSTAIRS BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Madison walks upstairs. It's quieter up here.

MADISON
(talking as she types)
Jane, I know it's you. Just stop.

She sends her comment. No reply. It's over. Then DING. She gets a comment back from the troll.

MADISON (CONT'D)
(reading aloud)
I'm not Jane.
(typing, playing along)
Ok, then who are you?
(reading aloud)
Look around and figure it out.

Madison steps out of the bathroom and enters...

THE HALLWAY

No one there.

MADISON (CONT'D)
(typing)
You're lying.
(MORE)

MADISON (CONT'D)

You're not here, Jane.

(reading)

Don't call me Jane! And your
costume. How original.

Madison is suddenly creeped out. She types into her phone.

MADISON (CONT'D)

(typing)

Where are you?

(reading)

Right behind you.

Madison slowly turns and at the end of the hallway the
GHOULISH LOOKING BIDDLE stands there.

MADISON (CONT'D)

Who are you?

Biddle floats towards her, his toes dragging on the carpet.
Madison SCREAMS.

INT. PARTY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME

The music drowns out Madison's screams. Isaiah can't hear her
as he tries to push past the monster mask girl.

INT. PARTY HOUSE - UPSTAIRS - AS BEFORE

Madison backpedals, freaked out, and runs into a bedroom. She
slams the door and locks it. She slowly turns around. And
Biddle is now in the bedroom. He FLIES RIGHT AT HER WHILE
HOWLING WITH AN UNEARTHLY SCREAM.

INT. PARTY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME

Isaiah pushes past Masked Girl through a scrum of dancing
kids searching for Madison as a HIGH-PITCHED SCREAM cuts
through the room from the TOP OF THE STAIRS. Isaiah looks up
and watches in horror as Madison FALLS DOWN THE STAIRS in a
BRUTAL WAY.

PRE-LAP SCHOOL BELL RINGING as we DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER

They're all eating together: Wendy, James, Isaiah, and Sam.

ISAIAH

Have you seen Madison? She won't return my texts or calls.

WENDY

She's at home. I think she's shaken up.

JAMES

What happened?

WENDY

Nobody knows. She won't tell anyone.

Wendy clears her throat.

ISAIAH

Hey can you give me a ride to Madison's house after school? So I can check on her?

Wendy coughs.

JAMES

Sure.

Wendy starts coughing a lot.

ISAIAH

You ok? You need some water?

Suddenly Wendy starts convulsing as she turns towards Isaiah and grasps her face with both hands. Her skin is TURNING RED COVERED IN HIVES, it's horrible! Colin runs over.

COLIN

What did she eat?! Was it nuts?

ISAIAH

I don't know...

Colin grabs the EpiPen from the emergency first aid in the cafeteria. He jabs Wendy with it and Wendy inhales deeply, finally able to breathe.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

Paramedics load Wendy into an ambulance. Isaiah and James watch as they approach the Wrangler.

JAMES

We're dropping like flies.

ISAIAH

What?

JAMES

First Madison. Then Wendy. Who's next?

James looks at Isaiah dead serious. Then laughs.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Oh my god you totally bought it! I was kidding! You literally just had the dumbest face. You were like ahhhhh.

Isaiah, however, is shaken. As they get into the Wrangler, James sees Sam.

INT. WRANGLER - CONTINUOUS

JAMES

Oh there's Sam, yo Sam --

ISAIAH

James, with everything going on, can we not do the Sam thing right now?

JAMES

What does that mean?

ISAIAH

It means he's out of your league and it ain't happening.

James looks at Isaiah, hurt.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)

I'm sorry that wasn't cool of me.
 (then, weakly)
 I was just joking. It was a bad joke.
 (awkwardly)
 You're totally within his league.

JAMES

(fronting)
 It's cool.

James starts the car and pulls out of the parking lot onto the street.

JAMES (CONT'D)
 You left your jacket in the
 backseat last night.

Isaiah reaches over the seat and grabs his jacket.

The POLAROID CAMERA and PICTURES he took last night fall out.
 As James drives, Isaiah studies the pictures. His jaw drops
 instantly as we reverse to see what he sees.

ECU ON THE PHOTOS

The pictures are now developed and the one he is looking at
 is a photo of Madison, but instead of showing the moment when
 he took it, it shows her falling down the stairs, Biddle
 above her staring down.

ISAIAH
 What the hell?

Isaiah flips through the other photos. They aren't what he
 took. They depict terrible situations:

- Wendy in mid-scream. Her hands touching her face which is
 grotesquely lizard like and blood red. Over her shoulder is
 Biddle.

- and finally the picture he took of James. Which is this
 very moment only sitting in the backseat is Biddle.

Isaiah slowly puts the photos down and cranes his neck to
 look in the backseat. Biddle is now there and his face
 contorts grotesque!

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
 AHHHHHH!!!!

Startled, James SPINS THE CAR OUT. It's terrifying. James
 finally gets control of the Wrangler.

JAMES
 What's wrong with you?

ISAIAH
 He was in the backseat!

JAMES
 Who?

James looks over his shoulder into the backseat.

JAMES (CONT'D)
 There's no one there.

Isaiah looks ahead and through the windshield sees Biddle on the road directly in front of them. They're about to hit him. Isaiah grabs the wheel of the car and yanks it to avoid hitting Biddle.

The car rolls over and over until it finally stops right side up. They're miraculously fine. But the car is a mess. Beat of silence, then...

JAMES (CONT'D)
ARE YOU CRAZY!? THIS CAR WAS LESS
THAN THREE MONTHS OLD!

EXT. SIDE OF THE ROAD - LATER

James and Isaiah wait as the TOW TRUCK DRIVER loads the Wrangler onto the bed of the truck.

ISAIAH
I said I'm sorry.

JAMES
I heard you. But you're not making
any sense.

ISAIAH
I'm telling you Biddle was in the
car with us and then on the road.
And he's in the photos of Wendy and
Madison before bad stuff happened
to them and it predicted what
happened to them --

JAMES
What are you saying?

ISAIAH
I'm saying this camera is haunted!
It's a haunted camera.

JAMES
Ok, so, then where are these
photos?

ISAIAH
I don't know. They must have flown
out of the car when we crashed.

JAMES
You mean when you crashed a car
that was less than three months old
for literally no reason.

(MORE)

JAMES (CONT'D)

A car that was fully loaded with the Rubicon trim. This car has been backordered for like a year!

ISAIAH

It's not my fault. It's this camera!

JAMES

(softening)

Ok. Can I see the camera?

Isaiah very gingerly hands the camera over to James.

ISAIAH

Be careful. There's like a devil or something in it.

James carefully examines the camera. He then quickly brings it up and snaps a photo of Isaiah.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)

WHOOAAA! NOOOO! WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT!?!?!?

JAMES

CAUSE THE CAMERA IS NOT CURSED DUDE! THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A DEVIL IN A POLAROID CAMERA! THAT ISN'T REAL! YOU KNOW WHAT'S REAL? THE LIMITED EDITION TUSCADERO PEARL COAT EXTERIOR PAINT! THAT'S REAL! OR RATHER WAS REAL!

The Tow Truck Driver heads over.

TOW TRUCK DRIVER

It's all set. Sign here.

James signs the papers.

TOW TRUCK DRIVER (CONT'D)

(whistles)

Rubicon with the pearl coat. My wife's been on a waiting list for this one for almost a year now.

James points at the Tow Truck Driver. "See?"

JAMES

I don't think I want you in the tow truck with me.

ISAIAH

You're not going to give me a ride home? That's not cool, man.

JAMES

You're less than a mile from your house! I just need some time to get over this! Jesus! I think this is me being pretty cool all things considered! Honestly I should win a goddamn award for how cool I'm being!

TOW TRUCK DRIVER

The Coolies.

JAMES

What?!

TOW TRUCK DRIVER

That's what the award show would be called.

JAMES

Can we please go!?

The Tow Truck takes off, kicking up a dirt cloud as Isaiah looks at the camera and the photo that James took of him.

The blood drains from his face and we reverse to see Isaiah's worst nightmare. The picture is of him seriously injured on the field at tomorrow's game with Biddle standing over him.
MATCH CUT TO...

INT. ISAIAH'S BEDROOM - DUSK

Isaiah sits on his bed, staring at the Polaroid picture. He's googled "Biddle House" and is researching old news articles. Headlines come up: "One Dead in Tragic Fire." "Horace Biddle Dead at 15." "Arson Suspected in Biddle Tragedy." "Vikings Lose State Championship by a Hair." There's a KNOCK on his door. Barry enters.

BARRY

I need to show you something.

Barry raises his phone. It's Isaiah History test score. He got an A-. Barry pulls Isaiah into a hug.

BARRY (CONT'D)

(while in the hug)

I'm so proud of you. You lived up to your side of the deal.

(MORE)

BARRY (CONT'D)

And now I'm going to live up to mine. I'll see you at tomorrow's game.

Isaiah wiggles out of the hug, guiltily.

ISAIAH

I don't know if I should play now--

BARRY

(confused)

Hey, I know I was being harsh the other day. I just want what's best for you--

ISAIAH

That's not it.

Barry sees Isaiah struggling.

BARRY

What's going on, Isaiah? You can talk to me... about anything.

Isaiah looks down at the camera and the photo. He doesn't even know where to start.

ISAIAH

The Biddle kid.

Barry immediately straightens.

BARRY

What about him?

ISAIAH

I went into the house and I think there's something really wrong --

BARRY

You did what?! Goddamn it, Isaiah. How many times have I told you to stay away from there?!

ISAIAH

Why? Did a weird sex thing happen to you in there?

BARRY

What? No! Where did you come up with that?

ISAIAH

I don't know, that's just where my brain went because you're always so cagey about it.

BARRY

Nothing like that happened. Just don't go near that house, understand?

Isaiah looks down at the camera.

ISAIAH

But Dad...

BARRY

(raising his voice)
Enough!

ISAIAH

I thought I could talk to you about anything.

Isaiah grabs the camera and storms out.

EXT. JANE'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

Jane rushing inside, fumbles with the key to the front door.

ISAIAH (O.S.)

(in secret language)
Can I talk to you?

She spins to see Isaiah, stepping onto the porch.

JANE

(in English)
I thought we were taking a break from talking to each other.

ISAIAH

This is different. This is serious.

JANE

I can't be the person you only talk to when you're having problems! And by the way your problems aren't problems! Your life is perfect--

ISAIAH

Perfect? You kidding me? My parents are on the verge of getting a divorce and they think I can't tell.

This stops Jane.

JANE

I'm so sorry. Of course I'll talk to you about this. When my parents got divorced --

ISAIAH

That's actually not what I want to talk to you about. I found this camera and everyone I've taken a photo of has been cursed by Horace Biddle, that kid who died in the fire. And now this camera is coming for me. It says I'm going to break my leg tomorrow at the game. And if I don't play it'll kill our record and we won't make State. I'm boxed in by this thing. I mean look at it! It's terrifying!

He tries to show her the Polaroid camera and the photo, but a car suddenly pulls up to the house and parks. It's Mr. Bratt the new history teacher.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)

What's he doing here?

JANE

Don't worry about it. I don't want to burden you with more than you can handle.

Jane grabs the Polaroid camera and throws it on the ground.

JANE (CONT'D)

There! Your problem's solved! The scary camera has been defeated. I can't believe I bought that divorce shit. I mean, "scary" camera... IT'S NOT EVEN DIGITAL.

Jane slams the door in his face. Beat as Isaiah stares at the camera on the ground, then slowly smiles getting an idea.

ISAIAH

That's it.

EXT. ISAIAH'S HOUSE - YARD - NIGHT

Isaiah levels his Thor hammer and smashes the Polaroid camera to pieces. Then puts the pieces into a blender and grinds them up. Then pours lighter fluid over the pieces and sets them on fire. He waits until there is nothing left of the camera but melted bits of plastic.

ISAIAH
This better work.

PRELAP Marching Band music as we MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

The BAND playing "Cake by the Ocean" by DNCE. We TRACK DOWN THE SIDELINES landing on ISAIAH who's nervously looking around for signs of the Biddle Boy. So far so good.

Suddenly, there's a clap on his shoulder. It's James.

JAMES
Hey.

ISAIAH
Hey.

JAMES
I'm sorry I got so mad.

ISAIAH
It's cool. I'm sorry I destroyed your car.

JAMES
It's cool. I got the new Bronco.

ISAIAH
Already?

JAMES
My parents kind of had it on backorder simultaneously with the Rubicon. How are you though?

ISAIAH
Good. I think I'm going to be ok. I think I dealt with my camera problem.
(then)
I destroyed it in a blender. And then melted it.

JAMES

Ok. Whatever works.

James then runs out onto the field, pumping the crowd up and humping the air. Coach Rifkin appears.

COACH RIFKIN

You got this?

ISAIAH

I got this.

Rifkin claps Isaiah on the shoulder. Isaiah nervously smiles. He's got this.

BEGIN A MONTAGE OF ISAIAH gaining confidence as he goes and then having the best game of his life: The CROWD going nuts in the bleachers.

It all culminates with Isaiah taking a snap, and throwing a perfect spiral to Sam for the TOUCHDOWN! Isaiah races to the sideline, celebrating by smashing players' helmets. The half-time whistle blows and the band plays "Thriller." Isaiah runs into the locker room, psyched, all problems solved.

Barry sits with Laura in the stands, smiling proud, watches Isaiah head to the lockers on top of the world; then Barry's startled by Nora, the crazy woman who was parked outside the Biddle House earlier. She stares coldly at him from the opposite end of the bleachers. Barry turns as we cut to...

James on the sidelines looking for his mascot sword. Out of the corner of his eye, he spots someone slipping under the bleachers with it and goes to investigate.

UNDER THE BLEACHERS

It's surprisingly eerie and empty feeling even though there are hundreds of people sitting above. James takes a few steps and then stops as we catch the back of a figure stepping towards him. James' jaw drops, terrified.

JAMES

Oh crap...

INT. LOCKER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Halftime is almost over. Everyone scrambles to their lockers to grab helmets and head back out.

SAM

Yo dude. You were right. I think we have a shot to win the whole thing.

ISAIAH
That's what I've been saying.

SAM
See you out there.

Isaiah opens his locker and turns white. Right there on the shelf in front of him is the Polaroid camera. In pristine condition. Back from the dead. Before he has a chance to process, Isaiah gets pushed along with the rest of the team out of the locker room--

INT. TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

-- through the tunnel. He's pushed against his will as part of the scrum of players.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Isaiah's in a trance now. Special teams returning the kickoff in the background. Everything moving in slow-motion. Suddenly, he's snapped out of it by Coach Rifkin, grabbing his jersey and pulling him over.

COACH RIFKIN
702 Q-Stop.

ISAIAH
You want me to run it?!

COACH RIFKIN
They won't see it coming. Get out there, killer.

Isaiah, dazed, gets pushed onto the field with the rest of the offense and climbs into...

THE HUDDLE

Isaiah gathers the players around him for the first play.

ISAIAH
Ok, look, what's our goal today?

SAM
To... win? We just talked about this.

ISAIAH
No. It's to protect the QB. That is our goal.

SAM

That's not the goal. The goal is definitely always to win.

ISAIAH

Generally that's true. But right now the goal just became protect me. Even if that means we lose.

SAM

Bro, have you lost your mind?

RUNNING BACK

Yo! Finish the conversation in the next huddle. What's the play?

ISAIAH

Shotgun on three.

SAM

Coach called for a run.

ISAIAH

Just do it!

They break, a bit confused, and line up for...

ISAIAH (CONT'D)

Set!

As Isaiah counts his huts -- he gets further and further away from the opposing team until he's easily twenty yards back.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)

Green eighty-two green eighty-two
hut hut hut --

The Coach watches like WTF are you doing as the ball's snapped and Isaiah tries to quickly throw it, but a defender breaks the line and charges. Isaiah panics, scrambles out of the pocket, screaming scared the entire time.

3 MORE DEFENDERS close in from the other side. With no options Isaiah sprints full steam down the line.

A combination of athleticism and fear for his life propels him forward. Suddenly it looks like he's not only in the clear, he's going to score!

The end zone coming into view -- holy shit! He's going to make it, it's all going to be okay, he looks behind him, then back towards the end zone where BIDDLE STANDS RIGHT AHEAD OF HIM.

Biddle's mouth DROPS WIDE OPEN, like a snake unhinging its lower jaw... Isaiah, shocked, slows down and gets BRUTALLY TACKLED from behind.

ANGLE THE BLEACHERS

Everyone stands up, worried. Coach Rifkin runs onto the field as Barry and Laura scramble down to the turf.

We race with them as they push their way through the players and REFS surrounding Isaiah and we reveal:

Isaiah writhing, holding his knee -- matching the image in his Polaroid picture. His worst nightmare has come true.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - LATER

Isaiah is in a hospital bed, his leg up in a sling. He sees ISABELLA, the weird girl from the band, staring from the hall. She looks totally distraught.

ISAIAH

What're you doing here?

ISABELLA

(awkwardly)

My mom's your doctor. Sorry about your leg --

Isabella abruptly heads off. Her mother, VICTORIA, walks in along with Barry and Laura. Barry and Laura are smiling.

VICTORIA

Got all the images back. With therapy you'll make a full recovery.

Isaiah sighs, relieved.

ISAIAH

Thank God. How soon until I can play?

VICTORIA

Rehabilitation for an injury like this usually takes six to eight months.

LAURA

Isn't that wonderful. You're going to be 100 percent.

ISAIAH

No! That'll knock me out for the season --

BARRY

You can still play in the future--

ISAIAH

The whole point is to win the State Championship and without me how's that going to happen now, what am I if I don't do that, I'm nothing without that --

BARRY

Isaiah, you're smart and you've proven that when you put your energy into school, you excel at that too.

Isaiah shakes his head, not accepting any of this.

ISAIAH

Dad, you don't get it.

BARRY

You're going to figure out a different path that might not be what you hoped for but will be just as satisfying, if not more so--

ISAIAH

(blurting it out)
I cheated on the test.

Barry doesn't know how to respond. Isaiah turns away from his dad, angry at him but really angry at himself.

VICTORIA

You could always switch to water polo, it's low impact.

They all look at her. She edges out of the room.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Barry, downcast, walks to his car and finds Nora standing in front of it.

NORA

The house was to be left alone.

BARRY

I had no choice. I needed the work.
I need the money.

NORA

"He will by no means clear the
guilty, visiting the sins of the
fathers on the children."

BARRY

Would it kill you to talk normal?

NORA

We're in deep shit.

Nora climbs in her car and we see Jeff sitting in the passenger seat with his right ear freshly bandaged having just visited the ER. Nora drives away as Barry looks back at the hospital.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - ANOTHER DAY

Isaiah makes his way down the hall on crutches. The students move in slow motion. He brushes past Jeff and Isabella who both look equally distraught for different reasons.

Then he stops when he sees Jane. They lock eyes. She looks glum and distressed. She glances past Isaiah at Mr. Bratt standing in a doorway, eyeing them disapprovingly.

ISAIAH

(off Bratt)

My dad told him about the test. I'm
sorry, Jane. It's all my fault.

JANE

(coldly)

It doesn't matter anymore.

She walks away. Of all the things that are bringing Isaiah down this is the worst of it -- not having that bond with Jane. Which until now, he never fully appreciated having. Jane leaves and Isaiah turns to see Wendy cleaning out MADISON'S LOCKER.

ISAIAH

What're you doing?

WENDY

Madison is going to transfer
schools. Her parents told me to
pick up her stuff.

James approaches. We haven't seen him since the moment under the bleachers and it's clear whatever happened spooked him.

JAMES

Hey got the new Bronco. I can give you a ride home.

ISAIAH

That's cool. I'll get home on my own.

JAMES

It's just there's something I need to tell you.

ISAIAH

Maybe another time, ok?

The bell rings. Isaiah opens his locker and pulls out his Varsity jacket. Behind the jacket is the Polaroid camera. Isaiah heads towards the exit. Wendy turns to James.

WENDY

He's gone full emo. It's kind of hot.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Isaiah tosses his Varsity jacket and the camera into the garbage can and starts to cross the lot. His whole life crumbling around him.

EXT. CENTER OF TOWN - LATER

Isaiah stops in the middle of town. He stares out, numbly, at all the people walking by. He drops his backpack and takes a seat on a bench. The backpack clicks on the ground. He searches it and finds...

THE POLAROID CAMERA. Glistening like new. At this point all Isaiah can do is laugh.

ISAIAH

You want to haunt me, Biddle? Fine. You win.

He turns the camera towards his face.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)

Do your worst.

Isaiah takes a selfie. The camera takes multiple photos FLASH FLASH FLASH FLASH. They fall to the ground. A brisk Fall wind blows. He shivers and grabs the photos. He's shocked as he flips through them. Each picture shows a different angle of the town in chaos; hints of what we will unpack in future episodes: GIANT WORMS, MULTIPLE JAMESES, a rampaging WEREWOLF, but what really sinks in is the final photo: it's Jane and she is about to be attacked by a HIDEOUS MONSTER.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)

Oh no.

FADE OUT.