

CYCLONE

BY

DAHLIA D. WELSH

Based on a really great idea

DahliaWelsh@gmail.com  
WGAW Registered

FADE IN.

EXT. CONEY ISLAND, BROOKLYN - DAY

THE WIND BLOWS and the OCEAN CRASHES on the packed beach. Seagulls fly up above, there is LAUGHTER from people playing carnival games and SCREAMS of terror and delight as people ride the Cyclone roller coaster.

SAM REYNOLDS (8) and a BEACH BOY (8) are throwing a frisbee back and forth as TRENT REYNOLDS (Sam's dad, early 30s) and PATTY REYNOLDS (Sam's mom, mid 30s) watch.

EXT. CYCLONE ROLLER COASTER - LATER THAT DAY

Trent is standing in front of the Cyclone with his arm around Sam's shoulder. They are in awe of the roller coaster.

TRENT

You know your mom and I grew up riding the Cyclone.

SAM

Wow.

TRENT

It is one of the oldest roller coasters still in operation in the world. It was built in the early 1920s, I think.

SAM

And you grew up riding it, so that makes you pretty old then.

TRENT

In kid years yes, I guess. There is nothing like a ride on the good ole Cyclone.

The line to ride the Cyclone is down the block and around the corner, there is at least a two hour wait. Patty walks over to Trent and Sam. She is eating an Italian ice, LIGHTENING FLASHES.

PATTY

Time to go guys.

SAM

But we didn't ride the Cyclone.

PATTY

They're gonna shut it down any  
minute because of the lightening  
and-

THUNDER CLAP.

TRENT

(To Sam)

I'm working the next couple of  
weekends but the next weekend I'm  
off we'll come back and ride the  
Cyclone all day just the two of us.

SAM

Promise?

TRENT

Have I ever not kept a promise?

TITLE: SIX YEARS LATER

EXT. KNOTT'S BERRY FARM AMUSEMENT PARK - DAY

SAM REYNOLDS (14) and his best friend MALCOLM TROY (14) run  
to the first car on the Xcelerator roller coaster. The ride  
is checked by a COASTER OPERATOR who gives the thumbs up and  
the coaster takes off.

INT. KNOTT'S BERRY FARM AMUSEMENT PARK - LATER

The boys are running through the park. They are having a  
great time.

INT. TROY SUV - LATER THAT NIGHT

CLAIRE TROY (Malcolm's Mother, mid-30s) and JOE TROY  
(Malcolm's Father, mid-30s) are driving the boys home. Sam  
and Malcolm are asleep in the back seat. Sam's head slips to  
Malcolm's shoulder, Malcolm unconsciously pushes him away.  
Claire turns around and looks at them in the back seat, she  
smiles.

INT. LA JOLLA HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY CLASS - DAY

THE SCHOOL BELL RINGS

The class is talking, texting, throwing papers at one another  
and STUDENT ONE unzips STUDENT TWO's back pack, its contents  
spill all over the floor.

The HISTORY TEACHER enters the classroom and looks around exasperated. He uses a remote to turn on the smart board - a seventy inch LCD screen used for teaching. He chooses World War II for their lesson. BERNARD (aka Nardo) CABALLERO (15) is stuck in the 80s, he is also a wanna be gangster with a heart of gold. Nardo takes out a similar remote and changes the channel. THE CLASS erupts into laughter. The history teacher doesn't react.

HISTORY TEACHER

Okay, everyone thank Nardo for your pop quiz.

The CLASS moans, a couple of people throw pens at Nardo.

NARDO

Don't blame me, blame the system.  
I'm a product of the system.

HISTORY TEACHER

Everyone close your books and put them in the aisle next to you. Androids, iPhones, tablets, computers, abacuses, carrier pigeons and anything other than a pencil will be grounds for instant failure.

The history teacher hands out answer sheets. MELINDA COATES (14) rushes in, she takes her seat in front of Sam.

MELINDA

I'm sorry swim practice went late.

Melinda's hair is still wet, it falls onto Sam's desk just as he's about to touch it Melinda turns around.

MELINDA (CONT'D)

(smiling)  
No cheating.

Melinda turns back around. The history teacher walks up and down the row checking each desk for cheaters. Nardo opens his mouth and sticks out his tongue.

NARDO

Need me to squat and cough?

HISTORY TEACHER

No, save that for your next trip to juvie. Okay, okay looking good people.

The history teacher is done making the rounds and stands in the back so he can watch the class.

HISTORY TEACHER (CONT'D)  
Thirty seconds per question.

The class groans. The history teacher starts a timer on the smart board.

HISTORY TEACHER (CONT'D)  
Time starts as soon as I have finished asking the question. Alright, question numero uno.

Malcolm's hand shoots up.

HISTORY TEACHER (CONT'D)  
This is written not oral Malcolm.

MALCOLM  
But I already know the answer.

HISTORY TEACHER  
Of course you do, but all the same I have to ask it first. Alright class pregunta one.

EXT. REYNOLDS HOUSE - NIGHT

Nardo tramples through the Reynolds' flower bed and yanks flowers out. He pricks himself on a rose thorn and shakes the dirt off of the roots.

INT. REYNOLDS HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

THE FRONT DOOR BELL RINGS

PATTY opens the door to find Nardo hiding behind a bouquet of her uprooted flowers.

NARDO  
It's a lovely night Mrs. Reynolds or can I call you Patty?  
(off look)  
Mrs. Reynolds.

Nardo hands Patty the flowers that still have dirt on them. He tries to conceal something down his pant leg but it's slipping. Patty looks at him suspiciously.

NARDO (CONT'D)  
Would Sam be home by chance?

PATTY  
Upstairs, Sam! Nardo's here!

Patty steps aside and Nardo enters. He goes for a kiss but Patty dodges him.

NARDO  
You have an eyelash on your cheek.

Nardo reaches for Patty's cheek she twists his finger.

NARDO (CONT'D)  
Ow, ow, ow. Uncle!

Nardo goes upstairs. TRENT REYNOLDS walks over and hugs Patty from behind. He kisses her on the cheek.

TRENT  
I think he likes you.

BROOKE (O.C.)  
Is Nardo gonna be my new daddy?

BROOKE aka "Brooky" REYNOLDS (5), precocious and reminiscent of Drew Barrymore's character Birdy in "E.T.", appears out of nowhere carrying a brown teddy bear.

TRENT  
Maybe, honey.

PATTY  
Of course not!

Brooke walks off.

BROOKE  
Time will tell, only time will tell.

PATTY  
Haven't you ever wondered why a kid that old is always hanging around Sam and Malcolm?

TRENT  
He's only a year older. He's just big for his age. I was big for my age remember? And look at me now.  
(sings)  
Patty's got a boyfriend. Patty's got a boyfriend.

Trent walks away. Patty is not amused.