

"MONDAY MORNING QUARTERBACK"

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1 INT. MACHINE SHOP -- DAY

1

An industrial tool complex. Metal's grounded, melted, welded. WORKERS push carts of tubing in doors, push carts of reformed tubing out. Lathes lower into metal chunks, spin out pig-tail refuse.

Among the workers, we pick up FINN TYLER, 30's, athletic build, safety goggles, thick gloves. He presses the lathe down, spins the metal piece around, does it again, spins it around, etc.

In the distance, BOB JACKSON, 30's, a few too many layers of buffalo wings atop what was once a chiseled physique, approaches with a cart, begins downloading Finn's handiwork. He shouts over the machinery.

BOB

Yo, Finn. We kicking out early for the game?

Finn pauses, glances at the clock, gives Bob a wink, returns to his lathe. Bob pushes the cart past MICHAEL WEST, 30's, also large, formerly athletic build, operating another piece of industrial equipment.

MICHAEL

We outta here?

BOB

Soon.

As Bob collects Michael's welding, Finn passes. We FOLLOW Finn as he approaches an office, knocks on the door marked "Supervisor", opens it. Sitting at the desk in a white lab jacket's DARRYL BUNTING, 30's.

FINN

Yo. Darryl. Today's the day. Me and the boys gotta kick off a little early. We'll see you over there?

DARRYL

Finn, this ain't High School no more. This is the real world.

FINN

Right. And we need to leave the real world a little early if we're gonna make it to the game and get our jerseys. We good?

DARRYL

Its not exactly what I'm talking about.

FINN

Is this about you being the backup quarterback? 'Cause we go through this every year. I'm sorry, again, for being the starting quarterback. Listen to me. You listening? I'm sorry I was the starting quarterback in High School. Now we good?

Darryl doesn't respond. Finn turns, puts his fingers to his mouth, whistles.

FINN

We out.
(to Darryl)
See you over there.

2 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL STADIUM -- NIGHT

2

EX-HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYERS stand at the 50 yard line, among them Michael, Bob, Finn. The other players range in age from 19 to 65. Holding a microphone, COACH PERKINS, 50's, introduces players who step forward, wave, step back.

STANDS.

Darryl makes his way down a bleacher aisle. Sitting one row above is Finn's Family - DONNA TYLER, 30's, CHRIS TYLER, 13, and LISA TYLER, 16.

DONNA

Darryl, baby?

Darryl slows.

DARRYL

How you doing, Donna?

Donna references Finn on the field.

DONNA

Thanks for letting my boy out of school early. He finish his homework?

DARRYL

Not all of it, but, you know....

DONNA

Thank you.

She nudges the kids. They sing-song their gratitude like they've reluctantly done a million times.

LISA & CHRIS
Thank you, Mr. Bunting.

Darryl waves, continues on his way.

DONNA
Almost sounded convincing, kids.

CHRIS
Can you see Daddy?

LISA
Won't be hard.

She pantomimes a quarterback's Hail Mary passing motion.

CHRIS
(in mocking tone)
Mr. Hail Mary himself....

LISA
Mom, I have volleyball in the morning.

DONNA
I know, baby.

CHRIS
And I have -

LISA
To play "Call Of Duty".

DONNA
Stop it. We'll leave after they
introduce the cheerleaders.

CHRIS
I can live with that.

THE FIELD.

COACH PERKINS
And Mr. Hail Mary himself....Finn
Tyler!!!

Finn steps up, does the Hail Mary Pass motion, waves to the crowd, Coach Perkins hands him the microphone.

FINN

You know, a team's only as good as its support system. And our football teams have always had the best support system of any school district. Back when we won our 2nd consecutive State Championship, Head Cheerleader, Pam Swanson!!

From the line of cheerleaders steps PAM SWANSON, 30's, clearly kicking aging's butt like a warrior. Michael and Bob both still appreciate her. Finn's respectful, hands the microphone to Pam.

PAM

Thank you, Finn.

FINN

You're welcome, Pam.

She turns to the crowd, proceeds to introduce the other former cheerleaders, most of which have failed to keep up with her.

3 EXT. TYLER HOUSE - ESTABLISHING -- MORNING 3

Nice middle class home. Finn's truck in driveway next to Pam's Prius.

4 INT. TYLER HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM -- MORNING 4

Pam's dressed in Church clothes, finishes up. Finn's in jeans, sneakers.

PAM

Baby, I need you to check out the brakes on my car. I'm really worried.

FINN

You tell me this now? We're both running late?

Finn reaches into his closet, pulls out a football jersey.

PAM

I thought it could wait, but on the way back from Lisa's volleyball game, they seemed like they were really off. I'm worried.

Finn pulls his jersey on.

FINN

Okay.

(MORE)

FINN (CONT'D)

I'll check it out when I get home,
okay?

PAM

(giving in)

Okay.

5 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL STADIUM -- MORNING

5

Finn, Bob and Michael play 3 on 3 football against another team which includes Darryl and a couple other players. Finn's team is on offense and form a small huddle. Darryl and his team stroll at the line of scrimmage.

MICHAEL

Man, we can't let these guys beat
us.

BOB

Darryl'll never let us hear the end
of it.

FINN

They're not beating us, guys.

Finn glances up, sees Darryl staring at him.

FINN

Might make it difficult next week,
but this is football. Play action
waggle stop and go.

They clap. Break the huddle. Darryl eyes Finn. Wants him.

6 INT. CHURCH - CONGREGATION -- MORNING

6

Donna, Lisa and Chris participate in mass. At the pulpit,
PASTOR DAYTON, 40's, Female, gives the sermon.

PASTOR DAYTON

Many times, we find ourselves in
times of trouble and blame others.
We blame co-workers. We blame
friends. We even blame God.

7 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL STADIUM -- MORNING

7

Finn takes the snap and the play goes into motion.

PASTOR DAYTON (O.S.)

When what we need to do, is ask
ourselves, how did I put myself in
this position?

Finn rolls out to the side, but his receiver's covered too
closely. He has to run for it. He has a blocker, but the
other two are in the mix, its rough, pushing, grabbing,
aggression.

8 INT. CHURCH - CONGREGATION -- MORNING 8

Pastor Dayton continues the sermon.

PASTOR DAYTON

How am I culpable in this result?
We don't like the outcome.

9 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL STADIUM -- MORNING 9

Darryl reaches in, gets a hold of Finn, holds on to him
tightly, but Finn spins about, breaks the tackle and runs
the ball into the end zone. Touch down.

PASTOR DAYTON (O.S.)

But are we strong enough to look at
the process and recognize our
participation in the events-

10 INT. CHURCH - CONGREGATION -- MORNING 10

PASTOR DAYTON

- which led to our present scenario?

11 EXT. TYLER HOUSE -- DAY 11

Finn pulls into the driveway. Gets out of the truck, looks
around. Curious the Prius isn't here. A moment later, a
Police Cruiser pulls up. Two POLICE OFFICERS exit the car,
approach Finn.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

12 EXT. TYLER HOUSE -- DAY 12

A plethora of sedans, compacts and trucks trucks.

13 INT. TYLER HOUSE -- DAY 13

A Funeral Reception. Giant photo of Donna. Flowers and
food. Everyone dressed in black.

Bob and Michael are here as well as Darryl, Pastor Dayton, Pam Swanson, Lisa, Chris, DEBBI & JACK INGLEHART, Donna's Mother and Father, 60's, friends, family.

Bob & Michael stand to the side, reference glances at Lisa and Chris sitting by the fireplace. Bob steps through the crowd, leans over to Chris.

BOB

Hey, buddy. Whaddaya say you and me slip into the den and you show me the ropes on Call Of Duty?

Consenting, but without enthusiasm, Chris rises. Lisa glances about the room, sees Pam taking over hostess duties. She's a little too accommodating, a little too enthusiastic. On the other side of the room, Debbi & Jack speak with Finn.

JACK

We'll be by to check up on things.

DEBBI

I spoke with their school, they have us on the kids' cards now in case of, you know-

JACK

In case of emergency.

FINN

I appreciate it.

Pam interrupts with a platter.

PAM

You all okay over here? Anybody need anything? Finn?

Finn turns to Donna's parents, then back to Pam.

FINN

We're good. Thank you.

PAM

Any time, Finn. You need help with Chris and Lisa, I'm your girl.

FINN

I might call you on that. I haven't quite worked things out. Not quite yet.

Pam gives them a nod, steps away as Darryl takes her place.

DARRYL

She was a great woman, Finn. You need a couple days, you take it.

FINN

Thank you. But I'll be there.

Pastor Dayton approaches, addresses Donna's Parents.

PASTOR DAYTON

Mr. & Mrs. Inglehart. A pleasure. May I borrow Finn?

JACK

Please.

Finn steps aside with Pastor Dayton.

PASTOR DAYTON

She was a great human being.

FINN

Yes. She was. Thank you.

Pastor Dayton studies him. He's not well.

PASTOR DAYTON

Finn, the first Sunday of every month, I hold a group grief counseling session in the rectory. I think it might do you and the children some good if you considered attending.

FINN

I appreciate that. Yes, thank you. Thank you, very much.

PASTOR DAYTON

Look, I know Donna's family weren't happy when the church chose a female pastor. And it's no secret that's why they fellowship elsewhere. But I hope you realize, despite your absence, I welcome the opportunity to see your face in mass with your children.

FINN

Religion was more of Donna's thing. She took the kids to mass, made sure they did Catechism, confession. I was more of a....

PASTOR DAYTON

Football player. Understood. Tough choice between sitting in a pew and tossing a pigskin with your buddies on a Sunday morning. Completely get it. But Finn, You're the coach and quarterback, now buddy. You gotta call the plays and make 'em on the field. That's no easy task. You're the George Halas of this household. In the depression, he played, coached and took care of ticket sales. Had to in order to keep things going.

Finn smiles at the reference.

PASTOR DAYTON

You feeling me, Coach?

FINN

I'm feeling you.

PASTOR DAYTON

Alright. Bring it on in here.

She gives him a hug.

PASTOR DAYTON

I gotta soften it up for the basketball fans over there. You need to talk you call me okay?

FINN

Yes, ma'm.

Pastor Dayton moves back into the crowd. Finn remains, surveys the room. Pam gives him a smile. He returns one half-heartedly.

14 INT. TYLER HOUSE -- MORNING

14

Dressed for work, Finn sips coffee as Chris and Lisa pull on jackets, bundle up backpacks. Finn pulls out his wallet.

FINN

Here. Lunch money.

He counts out some bills, sets it on the table. Lisa immediately snatches it up. Chris reaches for it, tries to grab but she keeps it away.

LISA

No. No. NO!

FINN

Lisa.

She quickly counts it out, hands a portion to Chris.

CHRIS

What??! Nu-huh. No.

LISA

I'm the oldest.

He reaches again, she pulls it away.

LISA

I'm the oldest.

Finn grabs it from her. Hands a couple dollars to Chris, extends the rest to her.

LISA

What?! You know what? I'm done.

She grabs her bag and walks toward the door. Chris eyes the money still in his father's hands. Finn nods 'okay' and Chris takes it from him.

CHRIS

That's for your sister. Your sister!

Chris gives a wave, exits the door.

15 INT. MACHINE SHOP -- DAY

15

Finn works his machine. Finishes a piece. Glances at the wall clock - 3pm. We hear a school bell.

16 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL -- DAY

16

Sitting in her car, Pam waves to Chris and Lisa. They open the doors, get in the back.

PAM

Hey, guys. How was school?

They exchange looks.

CHRIS

Great. It was....

LISA

Great. Fantastic.

PAM
 (to Lisa)
 Don't you have Volleyball today?

LISA
 Its canceled 'cause I had a death in
 the family.

Boom! Pam nods.

PAM
 You know, Lisa, I'm not trying to
 take the place of your mother.

LISA
 Good. 'Cause you can't.

PAM
 I'm just an old friend of your
 father's trying to help out during a
 bad time.

LISA
 Great.

PAM
 You guys hungry?

She puts the car in gear, drives away.

17 INT. TYLER HOUSE -- NIGHT

17

Finn closes the front door. Drops his keys, removes his
 coat. He enters the kitchen, glances in the garbage - fast
 food wrappers. From behind, Pam slips her arms around him.

PAM
 How was work?

Finn extricates himself from her.

FINN
 Did my kids have dinner?

PAM
 Yeah, I picked them up something.

FINN
 Look, I'm not a cook, so what do I
 know, but I was hoping you'd get
 them something more substantial than
 fast food.

PAM

Then maybe you should've specified that.

FINN

I believe it was implied when I gave you money and said 'be sure they have a good dinner'.

PAM

Is this how it's gonna be?

FINN

How what's gonna be? Pam, what do you think is going on here? Like exactly.

Pam's taken aback.

FINN

I still love my wife. I will *always*, still love my wife.

PAM

I just thought that -

She grabs her jacket off a chair.

PAM

I wasn't cut out for motherhood. I kinda hoped we could pick up where we left off.

FINN

That was 11th Grade.

PAM

10th, actually. Donna transferred in 11th. Offer still stands if you need help, call me.

FINN

I will.

She exits. Lisa enters, gets a glass of water.

LISA

Mom never liked her.

FINN

Thanks for pointing that out.

LISA

I still don't like her.

FINN
Kinda figured that. Did your brother
give you some -

And she's gone.

FINN
- Lunch money?

18 EXT. CHURCH -- MORNING

18

Finn's truck pulls up. Chris and Lisa are in Sunday best.
He wears a football jersey, opens his wallet.

FINN
(hands a dollar to
Lisa)
For the collection plate.
(hands a dollar to
Chris)
For the collection plate.

As the congregation files in, Finn sees Pastor Dayton crane
her neck at him.

FINN
Alright, out you go. Hurry up, get
a move on. I'll pick you up right
here, wait for me if I'm running
late.

19 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL STADIUM -- MORNING

19

Again, Finn, Bob and Michael play 3 on 3 football. Finn's
head isn't in the game. He over throws, under throws,
fumbles. They bring it in to a huddle.

BOB
What's the problem, there buddy?

FINN
I'm just off is all.

MICHAEL
Its okay, we'll catch up.

BOB
We're down 5 touchdowns, Mike.

Michael shoots him a look.

BOB
Just saying...
(MORE)

BOB (CONT'D)
 (softly)
 ...5 touchdowns is a lot of
 touchdowns.

Finn glances at his watch.

FINN
 I gotta go pretty soon.
 (back in game mode)
 Okay, lets try a post.

BOB
 Maybe we should just jump right to
 the Hail Mary's...

MICHAEL
 Maybe you should just shut up?

They break the huddle. Finn takes the snap.

20 EXT. CHURCH -- DAY

20

No one in parking lot save Chris, Lisa and Pastor Dayton.
 Finn pulls up, leaves the truck running.

FINN
 Sorry, I'm late.

PASTOR DAYTON
 Game go into overtime?

FINN
 Won't happen again.

The kids pile in the truck.

PASTOR DAYTON
 Its the first sunday of the month,
 Finn. Just saying...

FINN
 I appreciate it, Pastor Dayton.
 Thank you.

She turns to the kids.

PASTOR DAYTON
 You guys doing okay?

They nod.

PASTOR DAYTON
 Alright. See you soon I hope.

She steps back. Finn pulls away, glances at the kids, heads down, glances in the rear view mirror at Pastor Dayton. He drives for a bit, mulls it over. Another look at the kids - sad. He exhales. Thinks some more, slows the truck, stops. The kids look at him.

21 INT. CHURCH - RECTORY -- DAY

21

Chairs in a circle. STEVE, 50's, sits with other men, women and children from all walks of life, among them MARIE MINER, 30's. Pastor Dayton watches sympathetically. Finn sits between Chris and Lisa.

MARIE

Its been about a year since the accident. I still think about him every day. Its easier, yes, but I still think about him. I have difficulty driving past schools, seeing other parents with their children. I pretty much gave up going to the movies, let alone parks.

She stirs. The others take it in.

MARIE

Six months back, my husband and I split up. They tell me the odds are pretty high that a couple won't survive the loss of a child and clearly we helped those statistics. I miss him, my husband. I miss them both. When it first happened, it was hard having him around. The silent blame we had for each other. You're trying to comfort this human being you're desperately in love with, trying to be strong for them, let them have the opportunity to be weak while simultaneously resenting them for what you feel is their part in causing this incredible loss, this unbearable pain and chasm you can't possibly overcome let alone attempting to do so without their help. I went through all the stages, all the typical crutches to cope until I had this epiphany that the universe, it listened to me. I wasn't content being a wife and mother. I certainly wasn't ready. And I felt I was doing it by myself.

(MORE)

MARIE (CONT'D)

Wasn't getting the assistance from my better half. And I openly complained, I thought about how I didn't want to be doing this anymore, didn't want the burden of having to care for this other person, how maybe it would be nice to be free. And the universe, it listened to me. It gave me everything I asked for, everything I requested it gave me. And once I had it, once I had what I wanted, what I asked for, I realized how much I wanted back what I'd lost. But it was too late. The universe had already listened. Now it was up to me to adjust to what I'd asked for.

There's a soft silence.

PASTOR DAYTON

Moving forward, what would you ask of the Universe now?

MARIE

I don't want to be hurt, don't want to be alone.

PASTOR DAYTON

Those don't always go hand in hand.

MARIE

Pastor Dayton. That's my answer. I don't want to be alone but I can't see risking being hurt anywhere near this deeply.

PASTOR DAYTON

You're still here, Marie. You're still here.

Marie nods.

PASTOR DAYTON

I for one am glad to see your face. Just like I'm pleased to see this gentleman and his two offspring. Finn, welcome. Is there anything you'd like to discuss anything on your mind?

Finn flashes to a conversation with his wife, "check the brakes". It takes him back, off his game.

FINN
No. I'm here for my family.

PASTOR DAYTON
And how's everybody holding up?
Kids?

CHRIS
(looking at floor)
I miss my mom.

PASTOR DAYTON
She was a great lady. Lisa?

Lisa sits stoically.

LISA
She's dead.

Wow! Ouch!! The room practically flinches in unison.

FINN
You know, I knew this would be a
mistake.
(rising)
Let's go.

CHRIS
I wanna stay.

Lisa stands. She and Finn stare at Chris.

FINN
(to room)
My apologies.

PASTOR DAYTON
Grief is never a mistake.

FINN
Yeah, well, doing it here was.
(to kids)
C'mon, lets go...

CHRIS
I don't wanna go.
(to Pastor Dayton)
I miss my mom.

FINN
Chris.

CHRIS
She did more.

Silence.

CHRIS
(softly)
She did more.

Finn glances at Lisa.

LISA
She did. More.

Finn sits back down. Exhales. Points to Lisa's chair. She stays as well.

FINN
Look. She did more. But I'm one person and I tried to bring some help.

CHRIS
When?

LISA
Pam.

CHRIS
Oh.

LISA
(softly)
Tramp.

Finn turns to her. She rolls her eyes.

FINN
We have to make sacrifices. We have to make adjustments.

CHRIS
(points to himself
and Lisa)
We are.

LISA
Yeah, I don't think you're using the correct pronoun there, dad.

FINN
Excuse me?

LISA
Learned that at school.

FINN
Stop disrespecting me.

LISA
You gotta earn respect.

FINN
The Bible.
(turns to Pastor Dayton)
It says, "respect your mother and
father". I don't think there's
anything that says "respect your son
and daughter...."

PASTOR DAYTON
Oh boy...

CHRIS
You haven't adapted or sacrificed,
Dad. I mean, I love you, but Lisa's
right.

LISA
Mom went to church with us.

CHRIS
You played football.

Lisa raises an eyebrow. Finn glances around room. Judgment.
Infinitum. Steve makes the "Hail Mary" pass motion.

PASTOR DAYTON
Steve, we'd like to avoid judgment.
However.....accurate....it may be....
This is a "do no harm" forum, okay?

Steve shrugs.

PASTOR DAYTON
There's a saying, "pressure makes
diamonds but pressure also breaks
pipes". You've got a lot to think
about, Finn. Its up to you if you're
gonna be cleaving a stone or calling
a plumber. Kids? Take it easy on
the old man, will you? He's lost
someone, too. And you're supposed
to be a family. Try and support
each other. Its a difficult time
for all of you.

22 INT. TYLER HOUSE -- MORNING

22

Finn opens the refrigerator. Pulls out eggs. Cracks them open. Sizzles in a pan. He's making breakfast. The table's set. Lisa and Chris come around the corner in jackets and backpacks.

FINN

Put your things down. Take a seat.

LISA

I'm gonna be late.

FINN

We're all gonna be late. This is what we're doing now. Every day. Every morning.

He slides eggs onto a plate, hands it to her.

FINN

Sit down. Please.

She sets the plate on the table, removes her jacket, sits. Chris does the same. Finn sets a plate down for Chris and himself. Sits across from them.

FINN

Tell me about Volleyball.

LISA

What do you want to know?

FINN

I want you to tell me about it. What's your coach like?

LISA

He's tough. Guess he's fair. I don't like that he punishes us as a team. I mean its not my fault someone else messes up.

FINN

He's trying to teach you guys the value of teamwork, how when you make a mistake everyone suffers.

LISA

Well, I'm suffering, that's for sure.

FINN

You. Little big man. Debate team? How's that working out for you?

CHRIS

Its great. I think Mr. Anderson's really happy with me. I try to take a subject and come at it from a place no one else does. Mom used to -

He drops out. Completely. Finn slides his chair over, hugs his boy.

FINN

It's okay. It's okay. We're gonna get through this. We will. Trust me.

LISA

What? You gonna bring her back?

FINN

Lisa.

Lisa rises, puts on her jacket.

LISA

I'm not getting in the car with that tramp.

FINN

No. You're not. But you will text me you got home safely.

Chris wipes his face.

FINN

C'mon. Let's clean this up and I'll take you all to school.

LISA

You clean it up. I'm gonna wait outside.

Chris rises, helps Finn clear the table. Lisa storms out the front.

CHRIS

In debate terms, we call what Lisa just pulled a "Gut Spread". A weak argument made quickly. Right up there with "Infinity Regressive", which -

He looks up, sees his father's leaning against the counter, not listening. He sets the plates back down on the table. Grabs his backpack, jacket, heads for the door.

Finn comes out of it, turns, realizes what's transpired.

FINN

Chris....

Chris opens the door, exits.

23 INT. MACHINE SHOP -- DAY

23

Its in full swing. Finn enters, pulls out his time card, punches the clock. He passes Darryl's office. Darryl sees him, rises, steps to the door.

DARRYL

Finn? Got a second?

Finn turns about, approaches. Knows what's coming.

DARRYL

What gives?

FINN

Sorry. Won't happen again.

Finn starts to leave.

DARRYL

That's it? Won't happen again.
That's all there is?

FINN

What do you want from me?

DARRYL

I want to know this isn't gonna happen every day.

FINN

Look, you said I could take some time off -

DARRYL

And you declined. I had a guy lined up to take over for you.

FINN

You're buddy? The one who can't throw a pass? That guy?

DARRYL

Yeah, that guy. His name's Jerry by the way. He can't throw a pass but can do this-

Darryl pantomimes drilling a whole.

FINN

Is this 'cause we beat you yesterday?

DARRYL

Why is everything with you about football? Its not about YOU Finn. I have a great deal of empathy for what you're going through but I gotta answer to why things don't add up. I gotta answer for missing time whether its showing up late or leaving early. My guy? Yeah. He can fill in for you. Jerry'll come in, on time, do the job, stay 'til quitting, punch out. Be productive. And he'll do it the moment there's an opening. Ready? Break! Is that football enough for you, champ?

Darryl steps back, heads into his office. Finn proceeds to his work station.

FINN

(softly)

Still can't catch a pass....

24 INT. TYLER HOUSE -- EVENING

24

Finn's making dinner with Chris. Pretty bare. Someone needs to go shopping soon. Chris finishes setting the table.

FINN

Okay, look, I know you're in a pickle, Chris. But you gotta level with me. If she's not at volleyball and she's not here with us now...

CHRIS

Dad, I don't know.

Finn hands him a plate. Serves from the pan.

FINN

Intrinsicness. Right?

Chris looks down.

CHRIS

Dad...

FINN

Did I pronounce it right? A flaw in
the analysis?

Chris sets a plate on the table, takes another from Finn.
Finn serves on it.

CHRIS

Yeah. You pronounced it right.
Don't know that really applies to
what we're talking it about, but...

FINN

Pay flow me, Chris.

CHRIS

Did you log onto Debate.com at lunch?

FINN

I'm trying, son. I'm trying.

Car lights flash the windows. We hear a car, hear voices.
Lisa enters wearing a Letterman's Jacket too big for her.
She attempts to bee line past them.

FINN

Dinner's ready.

LISA

I'm good.

FINN

Lisa!

She stops.

FINN

Dinner's ready.

LISA

I'm -

FINN

Sit. Down.

She concedes. Drops her backpack, moves toward the table,
takes a plate, sits.

FINN

Lose the jacket.

LISA

I'm cold.

FINN

We're at the table. I'm not asking again.

Reluctantly, she removes the jacket. Beneath it she's wearing a revealing top.

FINN

Huh. I see the volleyball uniforms have changed.

Chris snickers.

LISA

(starting to put jacket back on)

Like you ever went to a game.

FINN

Leave it off.

She pulls her arms out of it. Starts eating.

FINN

We haven't said grace.

She drops her fork. Finn reaches out, takes Chris's hand, Lisa's. He bows his head.

FINN

Bless us Oh Lord, and these thy gifts, which we are about to receive, from thy bounty, through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

LISA & CHRIS

Amen.

They begin eating.

FINN

You proud of the way you dress? You like the way boys look at you when you dress that way? You smell like cigarettes.

LISA

Its the jacket.

FINN

Oh, the jacket's been smoking.

LISA

Maybe.

FINN

I'd really like it if you'd refrain from dressing like this and socializing with Letterman Jackets that smoke.

LISA

Don't worry about it.

FINN

I am. I am worrying about it.

LISA

Its none of your business.

FINN

Oh, yes it is. Until you hit 18 and can legally move out you'll do as I say.

LISA

We'll see about that.

FINN

We will. You're grounded for a week.

Lisa laughs.

FINN

Two weeks.

She throws her head back.

FINN

Three weeks.

She claps her hands. Finn abruptly stands.

LISA

What? You gonna hit me? Go for it. I'll have the cops here faster than you can say former high school star arrested for child abuse.

(she rises)

I'm done.

She grabs her backpack, jacket and exits the room. Finn turns to Chris. Chris takes a bite from his plate.

CHRIS

This is really good, dad.

FINN
 Exceptional statement, Chris.
 Exceptional.

Finn sits down. Stares at his son.

FINN
 Any advice, kid?

He's got nothing.

25 INT. MACHINE SHOP -- DAY

25

Finn's working diligently. We hear a phone ring. In the distance, we see Darryl answer it. He leans over, sees Finn and returns to the call. Darryl sets the receiver on his desk, steps out of the office.

DARRYL
 Finn!!!

Finn turns off the machine, removes his gloves as he heads toward the office.

DARRYL
 You got a phone call.

FINN
 Who is it?

DARRYL
 School.

Finn enters the office, takes the call.

FINN
 This is Finn.

He listens.

FINN
 Uh-huh. I hear you, but
 (glances at Darryl)
 I'm at work right now. Can I come
 get her after I've punched out?

He places his hand on his head, glances at Darryl again.

FINN
 Alright. I'll be right there.

Finn hangs up. Doesn't look at Darryl.

FINN

Its my daughter. She's been picked up by the police and they took returned her to school. I have to go get her from the office and they want to talk to me. I'll be back, I'll finish what I need to finish for today. Is that okay?

DARRYL

Doesn't sound like we have much of a choice does it?

Finn exits.

26 INT. HIGH SCHOOL - OFFICE -- DAY

26

Finn and Lisa sit across from a desk. PRINCIPAL ANDERSON, 40's, enters, takes a seat. He has a folder open.

PRINCIPAL ANDERSON

Where to start? First off, our sympathies. Very sorry for your loss.

FINN

Thank you.

PRINCIPAL ANDERSON

Secondly, we've been experiencing some behavior modifications with Lisa that we'd like to see corrected. Her GPA has dropped significantly and she's at risk of being removed from the volleyball team. Not that its much of an issue since she's been missing practice.

FINN

Missing practice?

(to Lisa)

Where are you if you're not at practice?

LISA

With my friends.

FINN

Your friends? Your Letterman Jacket friends?

LISA

Whatever.

PRINCIPAL ANDERSON

The police picked her and a few other kids up at the park. They didn't find anything....illegal.

LISA

See.

PRINCIPAL ANDERSON

They didn't find anything illegal on them. They found items in a nearby trash can which clearly can't be proven in a court of law to be theirs and by law I'm not going to place myself in a vulnerable light by suggesting they were in possession of them.

FINN

But....

PRINCIPAL ANDERSON

One of the young men who was licensed to drive and in possession of the vehicle is at the precinct awaiting his parents' arrival. Given your recent loss, we felt it prudent to give Lisa an opportunity to explain herself to you and get back on track.

There's a knock on the door.

PRINCIPAL ANDERSON

Come in.

Debbi and Jack Inglehart. The In Laws. Awesome.

JACK

We came as soon as we heard.

DEBBI

And we're staying the weekend.

Finn turns to Lisa. Its the first time we see any sense of regret or vulnerability.

FINN

I need to get back to work. I'll see you all tonight.

Debbi and Jack finish cleaning the dishes. Chris sits at the table with Lisa doing homework. Finn enters the house.

Immediately sees what's up. Glances around for good measure - they've cleaned the place.

DEBBI
I saved you a plate.

FINN
I'm fine. Thank you though.

DEBBI
Non-sense.

She removes it from the oven, peels off aluminum foil, sets it on the table.

DEBBI
Sit. Eat. Kids, make room for your father.

Finn takes a seat. Looks at both Lisa and Chris. Only Chris exchanges glances with him. Finn's barely lifted a fork when it begins.

DEBBI
From now on, the children will do their homework after helping clean the dinner dishes.

JACK
I had a word with Principal Anderson. He's going to have the children's teachers communicate which assignments are due and we'll help you monitor their progress.

DEBBI
They'll also alert us to ALL truancies and absences.

JACK
We've also discussed keeping an eye on little miss can't be wrong with the local authorities.

DEBBI
Whom, if I'm to understand correctly, are none too pleased with the company you've been letting her keep.

Finn's completely ceased eating.

DEBBI

Once you're done, sweetie, would you be a sport and take Mr. Inglehart out for some exercise?

FINN

We can do that now if you like.

DEBBI

Don't be silly, eat your dinner. You really need to go shopping. There's practically nothing in the cabinets nor refrigerator to base a decent child's meal.

LISA

I'm finished with my homework. May I PLEASE be excused.

DEBBI

Once Nana gives you a sign off.

28 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL STADIUM -- NIGHT

28

The car's headlights illuminate the field. Finn throws a football with Jack. Jack's nearly out of breath.

JACK

Okay, I think you've run me enough there, sport. Let's take a break.

Finn jogs over, takes a seat next to him on the bleachers.

JACK

I always liked you, Finn. The wife, not so much.

FINN

Really? She hides it well.

JACK

Yeah. She's a whip sometimes. How you holding up?

FINN

I'm doing my best, sir. Doing my best.

JACK

Well, that's what I need to talk to you about. Your best ain't cutting it, son. Ain't cutting it.

FINN

I lost my wife not even a month ago.

JACK

I lost a daughter. You can fall in love again, re-marry. What, tell me, do I do? I can't get her back. I have to let her go because someone plowed into my little girl. You're LUCKY God decided to take only MY daughter. You still have YOURS.

Jack stands, takes a few steps, calms down.

JACK

I want to keep this civil. I do. Finn, I always liked you. From what I can tell, you treated my girl decently, never raised a hand, never went out on her.

Jack pauses.

FINN

You need confirmation from me?

More silence.

FINN

I never raised a hand, never went out on her. She was my wife. I loved her. Still do

JACK

Great. But we have a situation now with these children.

FINN

MY children.

JACK

My *Grandchildren* are not doing well. And once they start down a path, its nearly impossible to retrace those steps and get them back to the start without great compromise. My wife and I have ZERO intention on letting that happen.

FINN

And you think I do?

JACK

We think you're unqualified to properly care for them. And from what we've seen to date, you're validating those worries.

FINN

They're still my children.

JACK

And they'll always be your children. But unless you get them turned around, they'll be living with us.

Finn takes it all in.

JACK

How many State Titles you win with that pass of yours?

FINN

Two.

JACK

(pantomimes pass)
Hail Mary, son.

Jack laughs, moves toward the car. Finn remains seated on the bench.

29 INT. TYLER HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM -- MORNING

29

In bathrobe, Finn reaches into the closet, passes over his football jersey, grabs his suit. He sets it on the bed. Three's a knock at the door.

FINN

Come in.

Dressed for church, Chris cracks the door, sticks his head in.

CHRIS

Dad? Nana wants us to ride with them. Is that okay with you?

FINN

Is that okay with you?

CHRIS

I guess.

FINN

Then its okay with me.

Chris nods. He pulls back, then sticks his head back in.

CHRIS
Hey, Dad?

FINN
Yes?

CHRIS
Are they mad at us?

FINN
They're worried about us. That's all.

CHRIS
Okay.

FINN
I'd really like to get dressed.

Chris pulls back. Shuts the door. Finn begins to take off his robe when there's another knock.

FINN
Chris, I need to get dressed.

There's yet another knock. Finn walks over with purpose, swings the door open.

FINN
Yes, Chris!!

The Ingleharts stand with Chris and Lisa. Chris mouths "sorry".

DEBBI
We're taking the children with us.

FINN
Great. See you there.

She nods, turns the group around.

DEBBI
Let's get on with it. Your father needs to dress before he's late.

30 INT. CHURCH - CONGREGATION -- MORNING

30

Finn enters. Stands alone, searches the room. Nothing. Searches the room a second time. Nothing. He pulls out his cellphone, dials a number, walks toward the back.

FINN

I'm here where are you?

DEBBI (O.S.)

We're at OUR church. They rode in
OUR car and OUR car drives to OUR
church. YOU need to come here.

FINN

I'm at my church. I'm at MY family's
church. I would appreciate it if
you'd bring MY family to OUR church.
You're more than welcome to worship
with us.

DEBBI (O.S.)

We'll see you after we take our
grandchildren to lunch after mass.

FINN

We have our therapy session after
mass.

DEBBI (O.S.)

We'll do our best to make that. If
not...not.

Click. Finn turns his phone off. Takes a moment. Feels
very alone. Very hurt. This is foreign to him. Vulnerable.
He moves into the congregation, takes a seat in the back.
Mass begins.

Feeling out of place, he slips out the back.

31 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL STADIUM -- MORNING

31

Finn drives up, sits in his truck. He's watching the football
game from afar, sees Bob and Michael team with a new
quarterback, JERRY, 30's. Jerry takes the snap, fades back,
fires a pass - touchdown!! The guys celebrate on the field,
should out "JER-RY!! JER-RY!!" as Finn puts his truck into
gear, drives away.

FINN

(shocked, to himself)
He learned to throw a pass...

32 INT. CHURCH - RECTORY -- DAY

32

The group is reassembled. Everyone in their places. Finn
sits looking at the members. Quiet. Taking it all in.

STEVE

I felt as if there was nothing I could do. As if no one loved me and I'd paved a road from which I couldn't return. It started a little bit at a time, a little bit to make me feel better. And it did. Just to get me to sleep. Through the night. It started earlier and earlier then the mornings became harder and I knew I was in trouble. I had a dog and he'd need to go out. Be a good boy, you know. And it was all I could to get out of bed, throw his leash on, take him outside. Very hard. Very hard. Things came to a head when I couldn't take him out and he'd have an accident and I'd get angry at him. He was confused. He'd be standing by the door almost begging me to open it and I couldn't do it. Then he'd have to deal with me being unhappy at him having an accident. That was when I realized I couldn't do this. Couldn't do this on my own and started to reach out, ask the Universe for help. Ask it to let me out, help me heal myself. I don't know much about people, never had much use for them, they kept hurting me, letting me down. And I kept choosing poorly. The wrong girl, the wrong job, the wrong friends. It wasn't until I hit rock bottom that I freed myself from all those people I'd invited in to hurt me, and I started my way back out of the cave I'd burrowed into.

PASTOR DAYTON

But you had the courage to reach out. Steven, that's the difference between life and death, healing and staying wounded. Asking the Universe for help, seeking it out. A lot of us are taught that there's shame in surrendering to ourselves. We're not perfect. None of us. And, though we may not like to admit it, we need each other. To make it through times like this. Ask the Universe for help. Its waiting to help.

Pastor Dayton glances around the room, stops for a moment at Finn, sitting alone, head down.

PASTOR DAYTON
Anyone else want to speak?

Nothing. Marie's looking at Finn as well. Not with pity nor sympathy, but with contemplation. As if she's considering what he's going through, considering reaching out.

33 INT. CHURCH - CONGREGATION -- DAY

33

Pastor Dayton enters the congregation, walks down an aisle, notices Finn sitting at the front. She stops, moves toward him, takes a seat next.

FINN
What I liked most about her, was she didn't like football. I figured, if I could get a girl who didn't like football to fall in love with me, she's the one. 'Cause she'd be in love with me and not the jersey, you know?

PASTOR DAYTON
I get it. Makes sense.

FINN
I don't know what to do. I don't know how to do what she did and I feel like losing everything's just a matter of time. I don't know how to quarterback this team out of the cellar.

PASTOR DAYTON
Maybe its not the quarterback who's gonna lead this team out of the cellar. Maybe its the lineman who throws a well timed block, or the running back who picks up the fumble after the Monster blitzes and strips the ball away.

Pastor Dayton adjusts her seat.

PASTOR DAYTON
Finn, you've always been the star. Always. You fought back and did the unthinkable. Your teams were the only teams which won back to back titles. You know that don't you?

FINN

Yeah, I know that.

PASTOR DAYTON

But you can't quarterback forever. You gotta adjust when the game changes. Team Effort vs. Star Quarterback. What's it gonna be? 'Cause sometimes, its the Lineman who provides the true support. And sometimes, the Quarterback must become a Lineman. IF he truly wants his team to win. Again.

FINN

My wife. She was the real QB on the team. I'm just realizing that now.

PASTOR DAYTON

Where are your kids?

FINN

With the In Laws. Lisa ran into a spot of trouble and they're swooping in to save the day. We were supposed to go to mass together but they neglected to tell me which church -

PASTOR DAYTON

Ahhhhh - the bait and switch. Gotta love that. Well, bless them for coming in to help. It may not seem like it, but despite their methods, they mean well. Its coming from a good place. Listen, you need to do what's best for the kids. You just need to figure out what that is and how to do it.

FINN

Thank you, Pastor.

PASTOR DAYTON

Thank *you*, Finn.

Finn makes his way down the aisle.

PASTOR DAYTON

You're a lineman now, buddy. Make a hole in that defense so your kids can get through.

(points upwards)

Let someone else Quarterback for a while.

34 INT. TYLER HOUSE -- NIGHT

34

Through the curtains, Finn watches his In Laws get into their car and drive away. He releases the blinds, turns to the desk in the living room and sits down at the computer. He opens up Quicken and ponders the password.

Upon the desk are photos of the kids, the family, his wife, their wedding. He stares at the wedding photo, sees their names, their wedding date - Bingo. He punches in their anniversary date.

The Quicken file opens, shows a series of spreadsheets and a pie diagram. Finn takes the pile of envelopes from his side, opens the first and starts to figure out how the whole process works.

He studies the pie diagram. A series of wedges make up the whole and the divisions are clear. Food, electric, fuel, house payments, community, volleyball, school and to his surprise, Finn. The largest wedge of all is Finn. He clicks on it and sees where all the money's going, a list of everything he spends money on, most of it frivolous.

He sits back, again flashes on his wife asking him to check on the brakes. He looks at the stack of bills, the wedge with his name on it.

35 INT. TYLER HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM -- NIGHT

35

Tyler stares at the bed. He crosses the room, sits on the other side of the bed. Gently caresses it, rises, smooths out the covers, stares at it. This is not a happy moment for him, he's realized how much she did, who the real quarterback of this family was.

36 INT. TYLER HOUSE -- NIGHT

36

Finn's back at the computer, jammie pants and t-shirt. He's finished inputting the bills, printing out the checks and seals the last envelope.

He shuts down the computer, turns off the desk lamp, turns to the couch. Finn's set it up to sleep - blanket, pillow. He turns out the main light, lays down, goes to sleep.

37 INT. TYLER HOUSE -- MORNING

37

Breakfast table. Finn, Lisa, Chris.

FINN

I need to ask you both something.

They listen.

FINN

I need to ask you for help. I realized yesterday, we lost more than just our mother and our wife. We lost our quarterback. I made the mistake of seeing myself as the team leader, the point man, the captain. And I wasn't. Your mother was. I can't make up for what she's done. I just can't. But together, the three of us can. And we have to.

He turns in his chair, points to a fold out book of days on the wall.

FINN

Up here is a calendar. I need each of you to put in the dates and times of your activities. When you have volleyball games, when you have debates. In return, I'll do my best to not only be there for you as your humbled father but as your offensive Lineman. 'Cause we all know...

(he points upward)

...who's really quarterbacking this team. Now bring it on in here.

Lisa and Chris rise and group hug with Finn.

38 INT. MACHINE SHOP -- DAY

38

Finn knocks on Darryl's door. Darryl turns around in his chair.

DARRYL

What can I do you for, Finn?

FINN

Got a minute?

Darryl motions to the open chair.

FINN

I need to talk to you about arranging some flex time.

DARRYL

Flex time?

FINN

Mmm-hmmm.

(MORE)

FINN (CONT'D)

I have to figure out how to provide for my family and also be there for them. But I can't do it without your help. Without you, me and my family will be in a harder spot than we already are.

DARRYL

What do you need?

FINN

I need to come in a couple hours early, leave for a couple hours to get my kids off to school, come back, finish up. This time could also fluctuate depending on when my girl's got volleyball and my boy's got debate team.

DARRYL

You're putting me in a bad position here.

FINN

I'm putting you in a great position.

DARRYL

How do you figure? I fire you, I fire a recent widower.

FINN

I'm allowing you to help out a recent widower. I'm allowing you to help a family which can't make it without your help. Look, its no secret me and you haven't been friends. And I'm taking responsibility for that. I had many opportunities to help you, make your life better and I didn't. And because of that, I wouldn't blame you for telling me no. So don't worry about being in a bad position. I put you there. If I'd been a better person, a better friend to you, this conversation would be over.

Darryl sighs. Taps a pencil on the desk.

DARRYL

You gotta make your quota.

FINN

Understood.

DARRYL

You don't make your quota, I HAVE to bring someone in who will. And I can't okay overtime 'cause your bussing your own batches. You gotta take responsibility for that.

FINN

I will.

Finn rises, extends his hand. Darryl stands, shakes Finn's hand.

FINN

Thank you.

Finn starts to leave. Darryl holds his grip.

DARRYL

This doesn't mean your boys can come in and ask for the same deal. I need you to communicate that to them.

FINN

Understood.

Finn exits the office, heads back to his station.

39 INT. GROCERY STORE -- DAY

39

Finn rolls a cart through the grocery store, checking out the meat section. He has zero clue. From a far, we watch him pick up meat, put it down. Marie's watching him. Reluctantly, she makes her way toward him.

MARIE

Don't do that. Butchers hate it when customers pick up and put down the meat. It damages the cellophane and they have to either re-wrap it or throw it out.

She looks at his cart. All but scoffs.

MARIE

I see you've got some quick fix, unhealthy, high sodium choices going on there. You buying food for a mortal enemy? 'Cause they're about to experience a coronary.

Finn stands speechless.

MARIE

Okay, start with what your body needs. It needs protein, it needs fiber, it needs vitamins and minerals. And all those things are found in a variety of foodstuffs which combine to help us function on a daily basis.

FINN

I guess I'm putting some of this stuff back.

MARIE

Yeah, you're gonna put just about ALL of it back. C'mon...

Together, they push their carts, return various items.

MARIE

It kinda sucks they teach you guys how to score touchdowns but fail at preparing you for life.

FINN

You a football fan?

MARIE

Eh, I'm not against it. I used to get a kick out of watching it with my ex-husband. But there's just too many teams for me to really keep up. And all of them pretty much playing on the same day.

FINN

Which team was your ex's favorite?

MARIE

Da Bears. Okay, one thing to remember is you need to provide nutrition but you also need to avoid boredom. Once you get bored, you start buying snacks that aren't the best choice and avoiding eating at home. Bills go up, nutrition plummets. All around bad medicine.

FINN

If I'm holding you up -

Marie waves him off.

MARIE

I have time. Unfortunately, I feel like I have too much of it. I tell myself I'll regret feeling that way in the future, but until then, it's occasionally difficult for me to fill my days. After taking work and sleep into account, time can be dangerous. For me at least.

FINN

Maybe we can help each other. I mean, I need your help. I really do.

MARIE

What can you offer in return?

FINN

I have no idea.

MARIE

You have no idea. You're trying to barter with me but you have no idea what you want to barter.

FINN

Precisely. Listen, I'm not very good at asking for help. I've never been. My entire life. But I'm in a situation now where I'm realizing I need help or I'm gonna lose it all. Everything. And I'm trying. I'm here, I'm listening, I'm opening up to the Universe and asking it for help. And I'm here to help. I'm thinking, if I'd been more receptive, more responsive, I wouldn't be standing here. But yeah, I'm standing here, I'm standing across from you, right here, right now and I'm asking you, will you help me? Will you tell me what I can do for you so you'll help me?

Marie glances around the store. She's sold but slightly embarrassed by his pitch.

MARIE

Sure, yes, you got it. We'll fill your cart up with a bunch of options and, I don't know, I guess I'll help you organize some variety so you and your kids don't have to eat the same

(MORE)

MARIE (CONT'D)
 thing everyday. Do you make their
 lunches?

Finn nods yes.

MARIE
 Okay. So the whole shebang.
 Breakfast, lunches and dinners. Is
 that what I'm hearing?

FINN
 Yes.

MARIE
 Wow. You know they cover all this
 in home-ec?

FINN
 I was too busy being a quarterback.

MARIE
 Gotcha. Okay, Mr. Quarterback.
 Let's do this.

FINN
 I'm a lineman now.

MARIE
 Excuse me?

FINN
 I'm not a quarterback anymore. I'm
 a lineman.

MARIE
 We'll get you fixed up all the same.

She smiles as they push their carts forward.

40 INT. TYLER HOUSE -- DAY

40

The groceries have been put away. The cupboards are stocked.
 There's fresh fruit in baskets, a full jug of water in the
 dispenser, counters are clean.

Finn sits at the table with Marie going over a few pages of
 printed instructions. A list of entrees, a list of side
 dishes, this goes with that, A & C, B & A, etc. All laid
 out like a domestic playbook.

MARIE
 You follow that you're good.

There's a washer/dryer bell sound in the distance. Marie looks up.

MARIE

Be sure to keep an eye on the perishables. When you notice things are starting to get a little on their way, flip through and see where you can use them. Pasta lasts forever. If your bread starts to get a little stiff, you can bring it back to life by spritzing some water on it and sticking it in the microwave. Your kids may not like the idea but if you get it going quickly, like at breakfast, you'll be fine.

There's another bell sound.

MARIE

I got it. You follow that you're good.

She rises, leaves Finn to study the documents.

FINN

I had no idea how complicated this stuff is.

MARIE (O.S.)

None of you guys do. You all just think you live in a restaurant where you show up and stuff appears.

FINN

You got that right. Hey. Marie?

No answer.

FINN

Marie?

Finn stands, moves out of the room.

41 INT. TYLER HOUSE - HALLWAY -- DAY

41

Finn turns into the hallway, sees Marie at the other end standing, frozen, with a laundry basket. She's staring into Chris' room.

Its moving for her. And not moving her in a positive direction. She sees the elements of a young boy's life, a young son's life. The jeans, the toys, the young masculine pieces leading to a young man.

Finn's taken aback. Not sure which way to go with this. Does he comfort her, does he let her work this out? Marie pulls herself together. Sets the basket down. Will not venture into the room. But keeps looking at it.

MARIE

You need to get back to work don't you?

FINN

Yeah, I probably should.

MARIE

I'll grab your kids, make sure they get home safely.

She turns, heads down the hall. Passes him. He's still feeling out of sorts.

42 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL -- DAY

42

Marie's by the car. Chris and Lisa approach. Chris gets into the back, Lisa stands there.

LISA

I'm thinking I'm gonna walk home today.

MARIE

I'm thinking you're getting the car.

LISA

(smiles, laughing)
Oh, yeah?!?

MARIE

Oh, yeah.

Opens the door. Turns to Lisa, moves towards the driver's door.

MARIE

I'm not here to replace your mother, hit on your dad or be a role model. I'm here to take you from A to B and I don't want to waste time being interrogated by the police when you disappear doing whatever it is kids do today instead of planning for their future. So please, for your father's sake, get in the car. Now.

Intimidated, Lisa gets into the vehicle.

MARIE

Thank you.

43 EXT. TYLER HOUSE -- DAY

43

Marie pulls up into the driveway.

MARIE

Your father made you dinner. He asked me to tell you to please have dinner without him and do your homework at the table. He'll be at work a little late but loves you.

CHRIS

Okay. Thank you for the ride.

MARIE

Your welcome.

LISA

Thank you.

MARIE

Your welcome.

Marie watches the kids walk toward the house, enter and drift through the living room. She can't help but portray longing.

44 INT. TYLER HOUSE -- NIGHT

44

Finn runs his hand over the clean dishes drying. Turns to his kids doing their homework at the table.

FINN

Everything okay? Anybody need any help?

He stands over Lisa, kisses her head.

FINN

Chris, you good?

Chris nods his head.

45 INT. MACHINE SHOP -- MORNING

45

Empty. Very early. A door opens, a figure enters, the door shuts. A light turns on. Its Finn. He makes his way to his station.

MATCH DISSOLVE:

46 INT. MACHINE SHOP -- DAY 46

The rest of the place is busy but Finn's not there.

47 INT. TYLER HOUSE -- MORNING 47

Finn stands with a mug of coffee, watches the kids finish their breakfast.

FINN
You good? Okay, lemme have your plates.

He sets the mug down, takes the plates, rinses them off.

FINN
Grab your lunches.

Lisa take a bag looks inside. Chris cranes his neck. She pulls it away.

LISA
I'm the oldest.

Chris makes another attempt. She pulls it away.

LISA
I'm the oldest. Here.

She hands him the other bag.

48 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL -- MORNING 48

Finn drops the kids off.

FINN
Have a good day.

Lisa gives him a kiss.

FINN
Have a good day.

Chris fist bumps him, gets out of the truck. Finn puts it in gear, drives away.

49 INT. MACHINE SHOP -- DAY 49

Finn enters the full operation facility. Removes his jacket, takes his place. Bob swings by.

BOB
 Hey, man, me and Michael were thinking
 about shooting some pool after work.
 You wanna come with?

FINN
 Some other time. Thanks, though.

Michael steps up.

MICHAEL
 We miss our quarterback.

FINN
 You got a new quarterback now. I
 stopped by the other day. Saw you
 guys score a touchdown.

BOB
 Its not the same, Finn. Its just
 not the same.

FINN
 I gotta get back to work, guys.

Bob nods his head. They walk away, passing Darryl.

DARRYL
 Hey, Finn. How's the family?

FINN
 Good. Thanks for asking.

Darryl pats him on the back.

DARRYL
 Alright.

50 INT. TYLER HOUSE -- NIGHT 50

Finn puts the last dish away, turns off the kitchen light.
 He heads over to the living room, lays on the couch, pulls
 up the blanket and readies for sleep.

51 INT. CHURCH - RECTORY -- DAY 51

Group Therapy session. Everyone's here except Finn and his
 kids. Marie's staring at the empty seats, not listening to
 Pastor Dayton as she addresses another participant.

PASTOR DAYTON
 Sometimes, its not about what we
 expect to receive.
 (MORE)

PASTOR DAYTON (CONT'D)

That's where the whole "unconditional" element plays a part. If you're doing something, anything, unconditionally, it means you're doing it without "condition", without pretense, expectation. You're giving it, completely. Like say, you walk by someone and drop a quarter in their cup. Do you expect them to show up and paint your house? Or do you merely want to give them the quarter hoping it will help them someday?

52 EXT. TYLER HOUSE -- DAY

52

Marie pulls up to the driveway. The truck's there and so is the Inglehart car.

53 INT. TYLER HOUSE -- DAY

53

Chris and Lisa sit in the living room with Jack Inglehart. At the kitchen table sits Debbi. The doorbell rings. Debbi rises, answers the door. Marie stands outside.

DEBBI

May I help you?

MARIE

Yes, I'm sorry to interrupt, I was just worried and - is Finn around?

In the background, Finn appears.

FINN

Marie. You okay?

MARIE

Yeah, I -

Marie glances at Debbi.

MARIE

I'm sorry. I shouldn't be here. You're with your family.

She turns away.

FINN

Marie.

(to Debbi)

I'll just be outside.

Debbi stares unconvinced. Jack steps up next to her.

JACK
What's going on?

DEBBI
I'm curious to find out myself.

Finn looks back.

FINN
Excuse us.

He shuts the door. Jack turns to Debbi. Lisa steps up, looks out the window.

LISA
That's just Marie. She's a friend
of our Dad's.

Debbi raises an eyebrow.

LISA
No, not like that.

CHRIS
She's been helping us out.

54 EXT. TYLER HOUSE -- DAY

54

MARIE
I'm sorry I just, didn't see you
guys at Group and I got worried and -

FINN
Don't apologize. You have nothing
to apologize for. Lets go inside.
Meet my In Laws. They're spot
checking us. Apparently I'm on
probation.

MARIE
Uh, yeah, no. I have my own In Law
stories. Certainly don't need anyone
else's.

FINN
Marie. You're my friend. You're at
my house. I'm inviting you in. I
owe you.

MARIE
You don't owe me anything.

FINN

Yes. I do. I owe you an apology. That day you helped me. That day you saw me wandering around the market clueless. You helped me and I let you stand there alone staring at my boy's room when I should've gone to you, I should've said something and I didn't.

55 INT. TYLER HOUSE -- DAY

55

DEBBI

I just think its a little soon for him to have a "friend".

CHRIS

Lisa's right, its not like that.

LISA

(to In Laws)

You don't know what's going on. You don't know how hard he's working.

CHRIS

All he does is work and take care of us. He hasn't thrown a football since Grandpa here took him out to the field.

LISA

You know he doesn't even sleep in his bed? He sleeps out here.

CHRIS

On the couch.

JACK

He sleeps on the couch?

(to Debbi)

Why does he sleep on the couch?

LISA

We don't know, either. But he does. He sleeps on the couch -

CHRIS

Makes us breakfast.

LISA

Takes us to school.

CHRIS

Picks us up. Makes us dinner.

LISA
Goes back to work and you know what
he does after work?

CHRIS
(points at couch)
Sleeps on the couch. Boo-yah!!

Debbi and Jack take it all in. Glance out the window. Chris and Lisa step up behind them. Marie's crying and Finn's holding her.

LISA
She lost her son a little over a
year ago.

CHRIS
He was my age.

LISA
She goes to Group with us.

CHRIS
Always sad.

56 EXT. TYLER HOUSE -- DAY

56

Marie pulls away, glances at the window. The shades rustle as everyone pulls back.

MARIE
Great. I'm putting on a show.

FINN
You're welcome here any time. Any
time. You call me any time. Hey.
Marie.

She looks at him.

FINN
I mean it.

MARIE
Okay.

FINN
You gonna be alright to drive? I
can drive you and have someone follow
with your car. Its no problem.

MARIE
I'll be fine.

FINN
 Alright then.

Marie turns toward her car, stops abruptly.

MARIE
 And, hey, Finn?

FINN
 Yes.

MARIE
 Thank you.

FINN
 You're welcome.

MARIE
 (moving toward her
 car)
 And I lied to you.

FINN
 About?

MARIE
 I love football.

Marie gets into her car.

FINN
 I'm gonna need some recipes you hear?
 Holidays are coming up.
 (to himself as he
 waves)
 You owe me for lying!!

57 INT. TYLER HOUSE -- DAY

57

JACK
 (to Debbi)
 We gotta talk.

58 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL STADIUM -- NIGHT

58

Again, Jack has his car headlights illuminating the field. He and Finn toss the football back and forth. Jack catches it on the run, slows down, waves Finn in.

JACK
 You're running me ragged, Finn.

Finn jogs up to him.

JACK

Have a seat.

He tosses him the ball, they stroll over to the benches.

JACK

Had a fight with the Missus tonight.
Need to run a few things by you.

Finn stops in his tracks.

JACK

All good. Nothing to worry about.
Have a seat. C'mon, don't be making
me feel any older than I am by
standing. Sit down next to me, okay?

Finn does as he's asked.

JACK

Had a fight with the Missus. I think
we need to take the kids for a bit.

FINN

No. You're not gonna do this to me.
You can't do this to me.

JACK

Now, now, Finn its not like that.
Its not like we're TAKING them away
from you.

FINN

Well that's exactly what it sounds
like. You need to take the kids for
a bit. So then I don't see them
then you go to court and then I never
get to see them.

JACK

You've been doing a great job.
Personally, we're both surprised and
impressed.

FINN

Then why you taking them away?

JACK

Let me ask you something. Why are
you sleeping on the couch? Huh?
Can you answer me that? You have a
great big bed and yet you sleep in
the living room on the couch.

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

Its not to watch television. Its not 'cause you can't make it to the bed. So why?

Finn looks off in the distance, fiddles with the ball. Carefully, Jack takes the ball away.

FINN

That was her bed. I don't feel like I deserve to sleep in her bed.

JACK

Precisely. Finn, you've been doing a great job taking care of these kids. A great job. But you haven't taken care of yourself. You haven't given yourself a chance to grieve. And you need to do that. You need to get yourself to a place where you can function again and you won't be able to do that until you're able to step into that room and be happy for her.

FINN

I just.....that morning. She asked me to take a look at the brakes on her car. And I said I'd do it when she got home. She never made it home. And I think if I'd just taken a half hour, just pulled off my jersey and got out the ramps, rolled the car up....

JACK

It wasn't your fault, Finn. The brakes had nothing to do with the accident. The other guy ran the light.

FINN

But I didn't check them for her. Don't you see? My last interaction with my wife was not being there for her. The last time I saw my wife I didn't have time for her. I wanted to play football. I didn't want to sit in a pew with her and our kids. I wanted to go be that quarterback for another couple hours. Hail Mary!!! I wanted to be that guy.

(MORE)

FINN (CONT'D)

I didn't want to be the man I should've been so when I walk in that room, when I pass that bed, when I see where she'd lay down to rest all I feel is shame.

Jack puts a hand on his shoulder.

JACK

She loved you, Finn. She loved who you were, the life you lead. She had no complaints. Believe me. We would've heard. And if you know my wife, and we BOTH do, you can trust that any complaint would've been acted upon. Post haste. She was very, very happy to be your wife. She was very, very happy to be a mother to your children. And you need to take some time, for yourself, for your children, and come to grips with where you are now. You're a good man, Finn. You need to find that out for yourself. And you need to do it now, while you still have time.

Jack rises.

JACK

You know, I think it was John Madden who said "Here's a guy, here's a guy who when he puts his contacts in, he can see better". Put your contacts in, Finn.

Jack tosses Finn the ball, heads for the car.

59 INT. TYLER HOUSE -- MORNING

59

Finn wakes on the couch. Sits up, glances at the kitchen table, starts to rise, realizes the kids are gone, sits back down, leans back and contemplates.

60 INT. MACHINE SHOP -- DAY

60

Finn places a part on the counter, turns off the machine, walks over to Michael, taps him on the shoulder. Michael pauses what he's doing, turns and removes his safety goggles.

MICHAEL

What's up?

FINN

You wanna shoot some pool after work tonight?

Bob rolls by with a cart.

FINN

Bob? You wanna shoot some pool tonight?

BOB

Everything cool on the home front?

FINN

Yeah, yeah. Kids are at the in laws. You guys wanna shoot some pool?

Bob and Michael glance at each other, shrug.

MICHAEL

Sure.

BOB

Yeah, I'm good.

FINN

Awesome. I'm gonna ask the boss to tag along.

Finn walks away, heads towards Darryl's office. Darryl looks up, sees him approach, steps into the doorway.

DARRYL

What's up? Everything okay over there?

FINN

Yeah, all good. Me and the boys are gonna knock some rocks around the table tonight. Wanted to shoot you an invite. You game?

A little suspicious, Darryl glances over Finn's shoulder at Bob and Michael.

DARRYL

Yeah, I'm game.

FINN

Awesome.

Finn starts to leave.

Finn? DARRYL

Finn turns.

Yeah. FINN

DARRYL
Your pace is good but you may wanna
take it down a notch.

My pace? FINN

DARRYL
Yeah. You're production numbers.
They're good. They are. If they
dropped a bit, they'd still be good.

FINN
I'm just doing my part.

DARRYL
You are. I'm just saying, bring
your pace down. Trust me. Bring
the numbers down. We're all good.
You're still good.

FINN
I don't understand.

DARRYL
You don't need to. All you need to
do is bring your numbers down about
10 to 15 per cent. And we never had
this conversation.

FINN
Alright. Sure.

DARRYL
See you guys tonight.

FINN
Absolutely.

Finn heads back to his work station. Darryl watches with
concern.

61 INT. BILLIARDS ESTABLISHMENT -- NIGHT

61

Finn takes his shot, drops a ball in. Takes another, misses,
sits on a stool. The guys take their turns, drop some, don't.

Its quiet. Finn watches. No conversation. Uncomfortable. He clears his throat.

FINN

You know, my wife, she's not coming back, guys.

The cue ball rolls into a pocket. Everyone's floored.

FINN

She's not. Its a fact. I'm dealing with it as best I can. But you guys need to accept that if we're gonna enjoy this game, we gotta interact. We gotta, uh, uh - socialize. That can't happen if you're worried about me. Cause I'm not gonna be fine for a while, but you ain't helping by not talking to me or each other.

Finn rises, takes the cue ball out of the pocket, walks around the table and places it on the felt.

FINN

Bob?

BOB

Yeah, Finn.

FINN

You still pining for the receptionist.

Bob turns to Darryl and then back at Finn with anger.

FINN

(regarding Darryl)
He knows. Right?

DARRYL

Bob, everyone, and I mean EVERYONE...knows.

Michael laughs. Finn takes a shot. Misses. Bob strolls around the table, lines up his shot.

BOB

I'm waiting for the right time.

FINN

So that's a yes.

Bob shoots hard, doesn't get anything in.

MICHAEL
That'd be a yes, Finn.

FINN
And Michael?

MICHAEL
Yeah, Finn.

FINN
I wanted to thank you for not inviting
me to any more of your barbecues.

MICHAEL
Look, I didn't -

FINN
Your wife?

MICHAEL
I know, I know...

FINN
(to Bob)
Am I right?

Bob nods his head.

BOB
(to Darryl)
She does not like me and Finn. At
all.
(slaps Michael's
shoulder)
And I gotta deal with it all by my
lonesome.

MICHAEL
Alright, alright. I'm sorry. She
just hasn't gotten to know you guys
like I know you guys.

FINN
Yeah, its only been since high school.

BOB
She don't hurry up we'll all be -

Bob stops himself.

FINN
Go on. Say it. Its okay. Say it
Bob. We'll all be...

Finn cups a hand over his ear.

FINN
We'll all be....

Darryl walks by, lines up a shot.

DARRYL
We'll all be dead by the time we
finish this game.

MICHAEL
I do miss Donna.

DARRYL
Donna was great.
(to Finn)
Saved your ass on more than one
occasion?

FINN
What? That's crazy talk.

MICHAEL
No, its true.

BOB
It is true, Finn.

FINN
How do you guys know about this?

DARRYL
Finn, everyone, and I mean
EVERYONE...knows.

FINN
What?

Finn steps up to the table, takes a shot.

FINN
Gimme one example.

DARRYL
I'll give you the last example. She
always'd find some way to run into
me and give me a heads up when you
and the other two members of the
gruesome threesome needed to leave
work early.

FINN
What? Donna did that?

DARRYL

Yep. And then, like at the football game, she'd cross my path somehow and say "thanks for letting my out of school early, did he finish all his homework".

FINN

That sounds like Donna.

MICHAEL

She was a good woman, Finn.

BOB

Good woman.

FINN

Yeah.

(to Darryl)

So when are we getting raises?

DARRYL

Awww...that why I'm here? Hit me up for a raise?

FINN

No, man, I'm just busting you's all. Changing the subject's all.

Darryl looks nervous.

FINN

I'm sorry man. Lighten up. It was a joke?

Darryl steps up to the table, lines up a shot.

62 INT. TYLER HOUSE -- NIGHT

62

Finn enters the house, closes the door. He steps into the kitchen, looks around. Its quiet.

63 INT. TYLER HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM -- NIGHT

63

The hallway light turns on and Finn appears at the doorway. He flips on the switch, illuminates the room. He approaches the bed, sits down, sets a hand on his wife's side.

A moment passes and he softly lays back onto the bed. Finn closes his eyes. A moment passes and Donna appears next to him. She caresses his face.

DONNA

Its alright, baby. You're almost there. Just a few more tears.

FINN

I miss you so much.

DONNA

Of course you do. I miss you, too.

FINN

I feel like I let you down. I feel like, I just let you do so much and didn't contribute when I should've and I need you to know that I am so, so -

Finn opens his eyes to look at her. She's gone.

FINN

Sorry.

He sits up and leans over. From the hallway we watch as he begins to weep.

64 INT. CHURCH - RECTORY -- DAY

64

There's an empty chair where Marie normally sits. The rest of the group is there include Finn, Steve, Pastor Dayton.

FINN

Its been tough without them. I've had to deal with what I'm feeling. I'm not used to that. I never wanted to be a Monday Morning Quarterback. But here I am, looking over my shoulder at "woulda-coulda-shoulda".

Finn glances at Steve. Steve just stares back.

FINN

Do you know what I mean? Did you ever feel that way when you lost your mother? I don't know mean to pry, I just don't know if its normal or if I'm....

STEVE

I think there's a certain amount of regret everyone feels. You look back at missed opportunities and realize the time you had to do the right thing's vanished.

(MORE)

STEVE (CONT'D)

So yeah, I know what you mean. And I have felt like what you're going through.

FINN

Thank you.

Steve offers a nod.

PASTOR DAYTON

Its important to go through the emotions, live through them, let them pass through us. But let us not forget there's a new game every week and there's positive in every experience. For instance, the Bears? Last week?

Groans from the men.

PASTOR DAYTON

Yeah? They're never gonna have to go through that experience again.

STEVE

They hope.

PASTOR DAYTON

Well, the odds are in their favor. But like us, like what we're all struggling with, they have to sit in the locker room and accept the score of that day's game. They have to look and see how things may have gone so terribly wrong and how much of their behavior contributed to such a loss. Then let it pass through them, re-engage with life and, for want of a better phrase, course correct.

FINN

Course correct?

PASTOR DAYTON

Yes. Course correct. Change how you've lived your life, change how your decision making process worked and how you came to be sitting in this room.

65 INT. CHURCH - CONGREGATION -- DAY

65

Pastor Dayton enters the congregation. In the distance, she sees Marie sitting in the same spot Finn sat in earlier. Pastor Dayton makes her way over to her.

PASTOR DAYTON

Hey.

Marie looks up.

MARIE

Hey.

PASTOR DAYTON

Mind if I sit down?

MARIE

Please.

Pastor Dayton slips into the pew.

PASTOR DAYTON

We missed you earlier. That seat of yours remained cold for the duration. You can't do that sort of thing to a chair. They're in that room all week, looking forward to being warmed up for an hour so and then - nothing.

Marie smiles.

PASTOR DAYTON

What's going on?

MARIE

I'm afraid.

PASTOR DAYTON

Of?

MARIE

I'm not sure.

PASTOR DAYTON

You know, there's this sensation I've noticed. Particularly when it comes to single people, grieving alone, where the pain, the smoldering sadness, becomes a part of them. And, in the beginning, the process, the desire, is to let it go, get it out of you, get over this.

(MORE)

PASTOR DAYTON (CONT'D)

But then you realize you need to go through the pain, work your way to the other side. When you reach the other side, and its time to let it go. Let it all go. Let the pain go, let the tears go, and, of course, let the reason you were in all that insurmountable pain in the first place, let that go too - you resist.

Marie's eyes say it all - that's where she's at.

MARIE

I feel like I'm losing him all over again.

PASTOR DAYTON

Of course you do. But you're not losing him or letting him go. He's letting you move on with your life while remembering how much, how deeply you loved him. Marie, we become accustomed to sorrow. It becomes who we are. While working our way through it we become used to having it with us everyday and when its time to move on, we worry about what lays ahead and we want to hold onto it as a bizarre safety net or security blanket.

Marie looks away.

PASTOR DAYTON

You mentioned how you asked the universe for something and when it complied you found yourself here with us.

Marie nods.

PASTOR DAYTON

Maybe its time you *really* ask yourself what you'd like the universe to help you with now.

66 INT. TYLER HOUSE -- MORNING

66

The alarm clock goes off by couch. Finn rushes out of the hallway in t-shirt and jammie pants and shuts it off. He's not slept on the couch.

67 INT. TYLER HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM -- MORNING 67

Finn returns to the master bedroom. He slept on his side of the bed. He pulls up the covers, makes the bed, walks over to his wife's side, kneels down and offers a silent prayer. He finishes, opens his eyes, smooths the covers on his wife's side and enters the bathroom.

68 INT. MACHINE SHOP -- DAY 68

Finn works his station. Michael shuts off his machine, walks over to Finn's.

MICHAEL

Hey, Finn?!?!

Finn glances over shoulder, smiles.

MICHAEL

Me and the wife were wondering if you'd like to come over to the homestead this sunday, join in some barbecue and marital ridicule.

Bob passes by.

MICHAEL

Bob can't come unless he brings the receptionist.

BOB

Ha-ha....

Darryl exits the office, closes the door a little too loud.

MICHAEL

What's with him?

BOB

Something's going on, man.

Finn turns to them. Shuts his machine off.

BOB

Seriously. Something's going on.

69 INT. HIGH SCHOOL - DEBATE HALL -- DAY 69

Chris and his TEAM are in a debate with an OPPOSING SCHOOL. Three OFFICIALS sit at a desk between two tables. In a few rows of chairs sit a sporadic group of parents, among them Finn and Jack Inglehart.

FINN

I found something which might work. There's a bedroom for both Lisa and Chris, a loft type thing in the back which is fine for me. I've run the numbers, we have some time, but we're gonna need to downsize soon. I figure, if we put our house on the market, make the move over the summer it won't effect their school and we can be in the new place by the beginning of school next year.

JACK

Any idea what they're debating?

FINN

None what so ever.

They share a laugh.

FINN

He's so smart. Half the time I think I'm fooling him by staring and nodding my head then I realize he's just happy he's got my attention.

JACK

No matter how old they get they're still your kids.

FINN

I hope so.

JACK

Tell you what, why don't you take them home with you.

FINN

Serious?

JACK

Unless you don't want to.

FINN

Of course I want to.

Jack places an arm around Finn.

JACK

How you doing, Finn?

FINN

Better.

CHRIS

Dad?!?

Jack and Finn turn to the debate.

CHRIS

Shhhh.

JACK

(pointing at Finn)

It was him.

70 INT. TYLER HOUSE -- MORNING

70

Finn walks into the kitchen. Chris and Lisa sit at the table. They've made breakfast for the family. Finn sits down, reaches out, takes Chris's hand, Lisa's. He bows his head.

FINN

Bless us Oh Lord, and these thy gifts,
which we are about to receive, from
thy bounty, through Christ, Our Lord.
Amen.

LISA & CHRIS

Amen.

They begin eating.

LISA

I have a game today, Dad. I know
you probably can't make it but
just...FYI.

FINN

I know sweetie. I'll do my best.

Across the table, Donna appears. She reaches over, touches Finn's hand.

DONNA

She just needs to know you're here.
She understands you're trying.

Finn nods and Donna retracts her hand. Finn stares at his plate for what seems like an eternity.

LISA (O.S.)

Dad? Dad....?

Finn looks up. The table's been cleared and both Chris and Lisa stand behind him, jacketed up, backpacks.

LISA

Dad, we gotta get going.

Finn glances around - table's cleared, save his plate, his coffee.

CHRIS

Let's get a move on, old man.
School's awaitin'....

FINN

Lemme make your lunches.

LISA

We're good.

CHRIS

Been there. Done that.

LISA

Dad. Please. Just get dressed.

FINN

On it...

He glances at the other side of the table. Donna's gone.

71 INT. MACHINE SHOP -- DAY

71

Finn's working his station, runs out of materials. He glances around, see Bob.

FINN

Bob?

Points at empty column.

FINN

What's up?

BOB

That's it. Its all gone.

FINN

Yeah, I figured that out on my own.
Hook me up man, I got numbers.

BOB

No. I mean - its ALL gone. There's
no more. I checked.

FINN

What?

Finn walks over to Darryl's office, knocks on the door.
Darryl looks up.

FINN
Hey, Bob says -

DARRYL
Have a seat, Finn.

Finn steps in.

DARRYL
Shut the door. Please.

Finn closes the door, takes a seat.

FINN
I'm out of materials.

DARRYL
Yes. Listen, this is really
uncomfortable. The company's been
looking into automation.

FINN
Automation.

DARRYL
Yes. And, in lieu of your
productivity, its unfortunately moving
forward with automating your station.

FINN
That's why you asked me to slow my
roll.

DARRYL
I can't comment on that, Finn. Look,
off the record, I wanted to keep you
on for as long as possible. This
can't be a good time, I understand
that, believe me. The company's
cost reports are plummeting. There's
only a few jobs which can be
automated. They can get this used
machine from Portland, maybe wait
this financial setback out, save
most everyone's job for a bit. Hope
things improve. Its unfortunate,
but you've inadvertently accelerated
the deadline.

Finn glances out the window at the floor.

FINN

The others?

DARRYL

Michael's going soon. Few months. Tops. Only one safe is Bob. No wife. No dependents. Go figure. Unless you wanna do Bob's job? We let him go instead?

FINN

He's my friend.

DARRYL

Yeah. Plus, he's finally making some headway with the receptionist.

FINN

What am I looking at? How much time?

DARRYL

Given your time with the company, your productivity, I can carry you 3, maybe 4 weeks.

Finn nods, takes it all in.

FINN

My daughter. She has a volleyball game today.

DARRYL

Finn. I know we've had our differences. I'm very, very sorry.

FINN

Am I good? To make the game?

DARRYL

We're good.

Finn stands. Exhales. Extends his hand. Darryl rises, shakes Finn's hand. Finn turns, opens the door, exits the office. He stares at his station, heads the other way.

72 INT. HIGH SCHOOL - VOLLEYBALL GAME -- DAY

72

Finn sits in the stands with a sporadic amount of other parents. Lisa and her team play on the court below. Lisa looks up at Finn, smiles. Finn gives her a nod, a grin.

Past an open door walks Coach Perkins. He pauses, steps back, sees Finn. He enters the gymnasium, steps up the stands and takes a seat next to Finn.

COACH PERKINS

Finn. Here to see the girl?

FINN

Yes. How are you, Coach Perkins?

COACH PERKINS

Ah, you know, need another Finn.
Team needs a decent QB.

FINN

Yeah, well, I'm a lineman, now.
More or less happy to be on the
sidelines.

COACH PERKINS

Gotta transition in life.

FINN

Yes. Listen, I've been doing a lot
of, reflecting, and I wanted to
apologize to you for a lot of my
behavior.

COACH PERKINS

You don't owe me nothing, kid.

FINN

I do. I owe you an apology. I was
a showboat. I took a lot of...space.
I should've listened more. I
should've let you coach me. We won
those games based on long shot passes.
It didn't need to be that way. We
still could've won the games if I'd
kept my head down and played just as
hard. I'm sorry.

COACH PERKINS

Wow. You've come a long way, Finn.
Long way.

(motions toward court)

How's the family? You guys coming
along?

FINN

Yeah, you know, we're adjusting.
The setbacks, they don't ever really
stop. But, I realized, as long as I
have my family, as long as I'm,
present, I'm happier. My kids, they
make me feel like I'm a better man,
a better father. Wish I'd figured
it out a lot sooner but -

COACH PERKINS
 Woulda-coulda-shoulda.

FINN
 Woulda-coulda-shoulda. Exactly.

COACH PERKINS
 Well, Finn. Its great to see you
 again. But I got places to be.

FINN
 Great to see you again, coach.

Coach Perkins rises, takes a step, turns back around.

COACH PERKINS
 Say, Finn, whaddaya say we get dinner
 some time this week? I'd like to
 talk to you about a couple things.

FINN
 Dinner?

COACH PERKINS
 Yeah, dinner. You know, order, eat,
 talk, tip the pretty waitress too
 much.

Finn rolls it over. No way he can afford that.

FINN
 Tell you what - how about you come
 have dinner with my family. Do the
 same thing but at my house and no
 pretty waitress.

COACH PERKINS
 Say the word. Friday?

FINN
 My boy has a debate Friday. How's
 Saturday work for you?

COACH PERKINS
 See you Saturday.

Coach Perkins descends the rest of the stands.

73 INT. GROCERY STORE -- DAY

73

Finn pushes a cart with Marie. Finn's a bit panicked. Marie
 stops at the meat section, lifts up a few packages of steak.

FINN
Really appreciate this.

MARIE
No worries.

FINN
Really. Thank you.

MARIE
Relax, Finn. Okay? You gotta calm down. You're kinda freaking me out.

FINN
He's my Coach.

MARIE
Former. Coach.

FINN
Yeah, but he's still my Coach.

MARIE
Finn. It was High School. C'mon...

FINN
Its more than that. Look, as a kid, my family life was pretty much non-existent. I lived in a group home until I was 8. The "family" I grew up with, didn't have time for much more than cashing a government check and putting me on the school bus. It was like a rooming house, a place to sleep. I graduated from school, hit 18 - boom! They're gone. Coach Perkins, he was my role model. He was the man I looked up to. I never told him, because I was too much into being the "quarterback" and too ashamed to admit I had no one but, its important. At least to me.

Finn glances at the steak prices.

FINN
We should put those back. This is gonna be expensive.

MARIE
Finn, we doing this or not?

FINN
What do you think?

MARIE

I think you do it. I think you've come this far that NOT doing it is giving more power to tragedy rather than taking that power back to you, your family.

FINN

I haven't told them yet.

MARIE

Well, you'll tell them. Be honest with your kids. Be honest with Coach. Things happen in life. Its whom we let them turn us into that we're judged by. No one really cares that I lost my boy or you lost your wife. They don't. They say they do and they offer empathy. But what they REALLY care about is whom we become. Whether we're broken or still holding our head high, still trying. So. Finn. Buddy. Get the steaks. Get the sides. Have the dinner and figure out the next play. Okay?

FINN

Okay, coach.

MARIE

Its gonna be fine.
(she hands him the steaks)
Try not to be such a chick.

FINN

You got it.

MARIE

Now lets get a move on. We're running out of time to get this stuff cooked.

They roll their carts past us. Marie stops suddenly.

MARIE

And hey.

FINN

Yeah?

MARIE

The spices I'm using? Make sure we eat when its time to eat.

(MORE)

MARIE (CONT'D)

These spices have a way of blitzing
the steak.

FINN

Got it.

74 INT. TYLER HOUSE - KITCHEN -- DAY

74

We're at the tail end of what's going on. Dinner's just about made, Marie works the stove, Finn's dealing with vegetables, Lisa the salad.

Chris enters, starts setting the table. Its a flurry of activity. Chris sets out five places, walks over to the living room, grabs an odd chair, drags it back to the table. Marie turns around, does a quick count.

MARIE

(to Chris)

Darling, you got an extra chair there.

Chris looks at Lisa. Lisa turns to Finn.

LISA

She's staying right?

FINN

I -

CHRIS

She did all the work, Dad.

LISA

Yeah, dad.

Lisa turns to Marie.

LISA

You're staying right?

MARIE

No, I can't stay, I look -

CHRIS

Great.

She turns to Chris, about the age of her son, saying nice things to her. Tough call.

DING-DONG!!

Doorbell rings. Lisa slowly steps away, heads for the door. Finn steps up over to the table.

FINN

Marie, if you don't want to stay,
you don't have to.

CHRIS

Dad, you're making her uncomfortable.
(to Marie)
You're staying. You can sit right
here next to me.

He pulls out the chair for her. In the background, Lisa opens the door, lets Coach Perkins in. Marie shoots a look at Finn. Not happy.

FINN

Yep. Got it. Remember that look.
Just lemme know what I gotta do or
buy to get us good again.

Coach and Lisa reach the table.

COACH PERKINS

I didn't know you had a daughter in
college, too?

Marie gracefully laughs, extends her hand.

MARIE

I'm Marie, Coach Perkins.

COACH PERKINS

A pleasure.

FINN

(motioning towards
table)

Please.

Everyone takes their seats.

TIME CUT TO:

75 INT. TYLER HOUSE -- DAY

75

They're deep into dinner.

COACH PERKINS

Finn, I'm assuming you had little to
do with this.

FINN

Actually, this friend of mine hooked
me up with a recipe so if its
baaaadd....

MARIE
He's gonna Monday Morning Quarterback
this, I can tell.

Coach Perkins raises an eyebrow.

COACH PERKINS
You a sports fan, Marie?

MARIE
A little.

COACH PERKINS
You follow our games?

MARIE
You're looking at Anita Marks.

Coach Perkins nods his head.

LISA
Who's Anita Marks?

FINN
Yeah, who's Anita Marks?

MARIE
(to Finn)
Seriously?

COACH PERKINS
Quarterback for the Miami Fury was
it?

MARIE
That's correct. Four years.

COACH PERKINS
Now she's a sports commentator and,
as they say, *personality*.

CHRIS
Dad, you didn't know that?

FINN
Uh....

COACH PERKINS
Yeah, moving on.

FINN
Well -

COACH PERKINS

It's 2nd down, son. Back to you, Marie.

LISA

Wait - so this woman was a professional quarterback?

COACH PERKINS

In a woman's football league.

LISA

But still, a woman in football, that's pretty cool.

MARIE

Sweetie, you ever hear of Georgia Frontiere?

Lisa shakes her head.

FINN

Owner of the St. Louis Rams.

LISA & FINN

Really?

MARIE

Yes, though she was married seven times, which is some sort of record. Or should be. There's Kelli Masters, a top sports agent, Dawn Aponte who's been a VP of Operations, Amy Trask who was CEO of the Raiders.

COACH PERKINS

The "Princess Of Darkness".

MARIE

Katie Blackburn, with the Bengals, who used to play ice hockey at Dartmouth. There's lots of opportunities out there Lisa. You just have to achieve them and part of that is ignoring people who tell you "no" because you're a girl.

Marie glances around the table. Kinda realizes she's been off and running, back pedals.

MARIE

Of course, those choices need to be made with the input of your father Finn over here.

Coach Perkins has been watching her, studying her.

COACH PERKINS

SO. Marie. What's wrong with my team? What do I do to fix it?

MARIE

I'm not an expert, I'm just a fan -

COACH PERKINS

I'm asking.

MARIE

You need to get rid of that assistant coach of yours. Find someone who's gonna watch your back, who's interested in actually doing that job, who can DO the job. Or split the position and hire a special teams coach 'cause lets face it, they suck.

The kids laugh.

FINN

Tell him how you really feel.

MARIE

He asked.

COACH PERKINS

Well, that is kinda why I'm here. You know your football.

FINN

Apparently.

Marie does the "hail, mary" pass pantomime.

MARIE

You know, both times, both years you won the championship?

FINN

I remember.

MARIE

You called the same failed offensive play -

(to Coach)

Or you did - which blew me away. Monster back was KILLING you on that side and when the chips were down you got there? You guys got lucky.

COACH PERKINS

Hail Mary's are always lucky.

FINN

We better get back to dinner or the
spices are gonna take over.

They refocus on the meal. Marie glances up at Lisa, gives
her a wink. It makes Lisa smile.

76 EXT. TYLER HOUSE -- NIGHT

76

Finn walks Coach Perkins out to his car.

COACH PERKINS

How would you like to spend more
time with your family?

FINN

Unfortunately, that's what I got
going on right now. I lost my job,
Coach. I'm looking for a new one.

COACH PERKINS

Well, what would you say if I were
to create an environment where you
worked closer to your kids? Like,
say, in the same building, as your
kids?

FINN

I don't understand.

COACH PERKINS

Coach Harvard's moving on. This
year he was phoning it in. He had
another job lined up with his own
team at another school. I need
someone to fill his spot. And I'm
thinking, the Hail Mary Kid, after
all he's been through, might be the
best choice to help me navigate my
team through the season and these
boys through an important part of
their lives. What do you say, son?

Finn glances back at the house, sees Marie and the kids
cleaning up the table, doing dishes, etc.

COACH PERKINS

You don't take it I'm offering her
the job. Though the more I think
about it the more it seems like she
might actually be the better choice.

77 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL STADIUM -- NIGHT

77

"ONE YEAR LATER"

EX-HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYERS stand at the 50 yard line, among them Michael, Bob, Finn. The other players range in age from 19 to 65. Holding a microphone, Coach Perkins introduces players who step forward, wave, step back.

COACH PERKINS

And Mr. Assistant Coach
himself....Finn Tyler!!!

Finn steps up, waves to the crowd, Coach Perkins hands him the microphone.

FINN

You know, a team's only as good as its support system. And our football teams have always had the best support systems of any school district. Back when Coach Perkins won his 2nd consecutive State Championship, support was lead by Head Cheerleader, Pam Swanson!!

From the line of cheerleaders steps Pam. He hands the microphone to Pam. She turns to the crowd, proceeds to introduce the other former cheerleaders. Finn steps back next to Coach Perkins.

COACH PERKINS

You know, you called those last two plays.

FINN

Yeah, and I threw the Hail Mary.

COACH PERKINS

This how its gonna be, son?

FINN

I'm just a small piece of the bigger picture, Coach. You coming tomorrow afternoon?

COACH PERKINS

Oh, yeah.

78 INT. CHURCH - RECTORY -- MORNING

78

Again, everyone's at Group Therapy, Pastor Dayton, Steve, Finn, Lisa, Chris, the others, but not Marie. There's an empty seat next to Chris.

FINN

It's been a year since we lost our wife and mother. And its been a very difficult course to manage. Twelve months ago, I was more interested in things which had already occurred to me than participating in things as they occurred. I went from being a former star quarterback to being a monday morning quarterback. The guy who looked back and saw exactly what he should've done instead of being the guy who'd done it.

Marie enters the room. Lisa sees and taps Chris to slide over, make room for Marie next to Finn and herself.

Marie places a hand on Lisa's shoulder, has them remain where they're at, takes a seat next to Chris, drapes an arm over his shoulder. He sticks his tongue out at Lisa.

FINN

We've become closer in her absence. And, I believe, have allowed ourselves to let others in to help in times when maybe we can do it alone.

Pastor Dayton glances over at Marie.

FINN

I'll always love and miss my wife. And I'm thankful to the Universe for getting us though this thing safely.

Finn nods. He's done.

PASTOR DAYTON

Good stuff there, Finn.

Pastor Dayton looks around the room.

PASTOR DAYTON

Anyone else want to contribute?

Steve raises his hand.

STEVE

I've had a tough week....

A flag football game. Finn, Bob, Lisa, The Ingleharts on once side. Marie, Michael, Chris, Coach Perkins, Darryl on the other.

Marie's quarterbacking, she takes the snap, drops back, fires off a pass to Coach Perkins who drops the ball.

MARIE

Oh, man!!

They re-huddle.

MARIE

Okay, Coach, first rule of receiving -

COACH PERKINS & MARIE

If you can get your hand on it you can catch it.

COACH PERKINS

I know. I'm....

MARIE

You'll get it, I have faith in you. But I'm throwing to Chris here.

(to Chris)

Make it happen, okay?

He fist bumps her. They break the huddle.

Chris lines up opposite Finn. Marie takes the snap, drops back, fakes a hand off rolls out and sails a pass to Chris who catches it and takes off away from his dad. Touchdown!

Marie watches as Chris dances in the end zone. Lisa steps over to her.

LISA

My dad let him score that you know?

MARIE

You talkin' smack to me, girlfriend? 'Cause all I saw was a player catch a beautifully thrown pass and score a touchdown.

LISA

You staying for dinner? Dad's cooking.

MARIE

Wow. There's a carrot.

She moves closer.

MARIE

Okay, if you drive home with me and we grab some tacos before hand, I'm in.

LISA

You're on.

They move to their respective huddles as Finn and Chris return to the group. Everyone's reassembled.

FINN

What's the score?

COACH PERKINS

Don't ask.

FINN

Really? That bad?

JACK

There a slaughter rule in flag football?

Finn's team huddles up. They're all out of breath.

LISA

We can do it, dad. Just catch the darn thing.

FINN

I'm trying, baby. Its just a new position for me.

BOB

Woulda-shoulda-coulda.

DEBBI

I'd like to get one on the board this afternoon. If at all possible.

FINN

Okay, okay...

They break the huddle. Finn lines up across from Chris. Lisa's quarterbacking, takes the snap, the players go into motion, she lets it sail, Finn runs under, sees it above him, its falling, its falling, he runs harder, extends his hands and catches it....