Popular: Summer School "Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea"

by The Wild Pikachu

POPULAR: SUMMER SCHOOL

"BETWEEN THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA"

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. JOSH AND LILY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

ANGLE: THE DOORWAY

From somewhere in the darkness beyond, there are the sounds of stumbling, and a crash.

JOSH (O.S.)

Oww!!

A moment later, Josh appears in the doorway, wrapped in a blanket.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Lily? Honey?

Only silence greets him.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Baby? Can I come in?

No response.

JOSH (CONT'D)

(sighs)

Come on, Lily, it's been a week! It's cold out there!

Nothing.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Can I at least have a pillow?

A moment later, a pillow comes sailing through the air, hitting him square in the face.

FLIP CUT TO:

INT. MCQUEEN KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mackenzie is in her bassinet, cooing while Harrison plays with her, when Jane and Sam come in through the kitchen doors.

HARRISON

Hey, guys.

He notices something—strange—about their body language.

HARRISON (CONT'D)

What?

Mother and daughter trade a glance.

SAM

(grinning)

They're taking Brooke off the respirator in the morning!

HARRISON

Really?! That's great!

JANE

The doctor said she was breathing well enough on her own that she doesn't need it anymore.

As Jane walks over to Mackenzie, Harrison is surprised when Sam takes his hand and fairly pulls him up the stairs.

CUT TO:

INT. BROOKE AND SAM'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Sam sits Harrison forcefully down on her bed, and sits across from him.

SAM

Harrison, I've been thinking. About us.

HARRISON

(cautiously)

Okay...

SAM

Look, I think the problem is, we're tiptoeing around, waiting for the right time for..."it"...to happen. There's just too much pressure. So, I have decided to take the initiative, and solve our problem.

Harrison shrugs helplessly.

Sam reaches past him, under her bed, and pulls out a magazine, holding it up for him to see. The magazine has a photo of a cheesy honeymoon suite on the cover, along with the title "101 L.A. Passion Pits".

Harrison does a double-take.

WHITE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. BROOKE AND SAM'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

HARRISON

(scratching his head)

Ah, Sam...I'm not sure what to say.

SAM

(flipping through the magazine)
There are some great places in
here, really romantic.

HARRISON

Uh, yeah, Sam-

SAM

Come on, Harrison. It's perfect. We plan the moment. We pick a time, a place, and we just do it...get it out of the way.

HARRISON

Oh, that's real romantic.

Sam gets up, frustrated, and throws herself down on the bed.

SAM

I'm telling you, I'm going psycho here.

Harrison furls his brow.

HARRISON

Is it that time of the month?

SAM

(indignant)

No!!

He stands up and looks down at her.

HARRISON

This is because of Brooke, isn't it?

SAM

What—what do you mean?

HARRISON

It's because...Brooke and I...

Sam looks away.

SAM

Maybe.

HARRISON

Sam...

SAM

All right. I have a problem with the fact that Brooke has shared something with you that I haven't. (beat)

It's...like I'm still on the outside looking in.

Harrison sits on the edge of the bed and takes her hand.

HARRISON

I love you, Sam.

He puts her hand against his heart.

HARRISON (CONT'D)

We don't have to make love for you to be in here. You already are.

He reaches down and tenderly brushes the hair away from her face.

HARRISON (CONT'D)

Look, school'll be out soon. We've got the whole summer. When Brooke is better...we'll do something incredibly romantic. Promise.

CUT TO:

INT. JOSH AND LILY'S KITCHEN - MORNING

Lily is sitting at their tiny table, eating, when Josh sits down across from her. She glares at him for a moment, then pointedly picks up the newspaper and holds it in front of her face.

JOSH

(gamely)

Come on, baby, you can't not talk to me forever, right?

Apparently so; more silence is her only response.

JOSH (CONT'D)

For the hundredth time, I'm sorry I didn't tell you about the letter!

He waits, but gets nothing in return.

JOSH (CONT'D)

(disgruntled)

Aw...forget it.

He gets up and stomps off. Only then does Lily lower the paper and look after him, lip trembling.

CUT TO:

EST. KENNEDY HIGH - DAY

Just an establishing shot.

CUT TO:

INT. CHEMISTRY CLASS

Miss Glass is, as usual, having fun with teaching.

GT_iASS

All right, listen up! As you know, tomorrow is the start of finals—or, as I like to call it, "Watch 'Em Squirm Week"! This time has a special place in my heart; it's my chance to wreak vengeance for having to put up with you the rest of the year.

From the doorway, Vice-Principal Krupps clears his throat.

GLASS (CONT'D)

(a bit nervously)

Oh—Mr. Krupps. To what do we owe the honor of this visit?

Krupps walks into the room.

KRUPPS

Miss Glass—as you're aware, under the Comprehensive Education Reform Act of 1999, one class is selected each year to report standardized test results to the State.

(MORE)

KRUPPS (CONT'D)

Therefore, tomorrow, instead of your own final exam, you will administer the chemistry section of the STAR-7 test.

A horrified gasp arises from the kids.

SAM

(raising her hand)

Mr. Krupps? What if we don't pass the test?

KRUPPS

Well, those students who fail to pass the exam will have to return this summer for a remedial chemistry class...

He turns to Miss Glass, who is cracking up over the kids' misery.

KRUPPS (CONT'D)

...which Miss Glass will be teaching.

The grin vanishes from her face instantly. Krupps claps his hands together.

KRUPPS (CONT'D)

(to Miss Glass)

Well, I'll let you get back to your class.

He turns back to the kids.

KRUPPS (CONT'D)

I wish everyone the best tomorrow.

Krupps walks out, leaving everyone in the room in shock. Sam throws a questioning look at Harrison, sitting next to her.

HARRISON

(nodding)

Oh, we're dead.

Sam drops her head to the table.

CUT TO:

INT. GIRLS' BATHROOM - LATER

Lily is sitting on the tuffet, leafing through a thick book, when Sam walks in.

LILY

(looking up)

Hey.

(holding up the book)

I found a chemistry textbook in the library.

SAM

Oh, so you're the one who got it.

Sam sits down next to Lily.

LIL

This is hopeless.

SAM

Lily... I have a problem.

LILY

So do I—I don't wanna go to summer school!

SAM

No, I mean...another problem.

Lily sets the book down.

LILY

What is it?

SAM

It's Harrison.

Lily raises an eyebrow.

LILY

Really? I thought...

SAM

Well— It's me. It—it's me and Harrison.

LILY

(concerned)

Are you two not getting along?

SAM

No. Yes. I mean— We are. Getting along. In fact, we're doing great.

LILY

But...?

SAM

(sighs)

But... Okay, this is probably really silly, but...we haven't...

Lily makes a "go on" motion.

SAM (CONT'D)

We haven't...gone to the next level.

LILY

Is Harrison pressuring you?

Sam gets up and starts pacing.

SAM

No! No— $\underline{I'm}$ the one doing the pressuring. Harrison's fine with it.

LILY

Oh . . .

SAM

Harrison said he wanted the moment to be right. So I said, fine, we'll plan a time and place to do it. But he didn't think that sounded romantic.

Lily eyes her suspiciously.

LILY

Sam...you didn't buy that trashy "Passion Pits" magazine, did you?

Sam lets her expression answer. Then she rubs her hands over her face.

SAM

Okay, I am acting like a total slut, aren't I?

LILY

Well...

Sam throws her arms up in despair.

SAM

I just want so badly for this thing with Harrison to work...

LILY

And, you're jealous because he slept with Brooke.

Sam turns and stares at her.

SAM

Why is this so obvious to everyone?!

LILY

(laughs)

It doesn't exactly take a rocket scientist to figure that out.

SAM

All right, I'm jealous, I admit it. (considers)

Also... I'm tired of waiting.

She gestures at Lily.

SAM (CONT'D)

It's not like YOU have that problem, being married to Josh.

LILY

(downcast)

Well... Josh and I aren't exactly the picture of wedded bliss.

SAM

(shocked)

What??

She sits back down next to Lily.

LILY

(reluctantly)

In fact, if you want to be technical about it, we haven't...

SAM

(puzzled)

Why?

LILY

Well, first we were living with my mom, and then we were living with Miss Glass... And then...we got into this huge fight, and...we haven't exactly been speaking to each other since.

SAM

Lily! Why didn't you say something?!

LILY

I wanted to, but... You've been so busy with Brooke, and you already gave us all that money...

SAM

(firmly)

Nonsense. You are gonna tell me, right now, what the problem is.

LILY

(wiping her eyes)

I...found out he was keeping things
from me.

SAM

(alarmed)

It's not... There isn't someone else??

LILY

No!

She reaches into her bag, pulls out the letter and hands it to Sam. As Sam starts to read, her eyes grow wide.

SAM

Wow...

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA - NOON

Sam is eating alone when Josh comes up to her.

JOSH

Where's Harrison?

SAM

Off trying to score a crash course in chemistry.

JOSH

Good.

(sitting down)

I need your help.

SAM

If this is about Lily, she already told me.

JOSH

So-you know about the letter.

SAM

Yes, I know... Josh, what were you thinking?!

JOSH

(gesturing)

I just—didn't want her to get involved with it.

SAM

Josh, you're <u>married!</u> You're supposed to be involved with everything about each other's lives!

JOSH

I know, I screwed up. But, Sam—I tried to apologize! I've apologized like a hundred times. She won't even look at me.

Sam closes her eyes and thinks for a moment.

SAM

All right—I will <u>try</u> to help you work things out.

JOSH

(relieved)

Thanks.

SAM

BUT you have to promise me that you won't ever do anything like this again.

JOSH

I won't. I swear—I've learned my lesson.

SAM

Okay—meet me in the Supply Room in fifteen minutes.

JOSH

(a bit confused)

Uh, all right.

Sam gets up and walks away.

CUT TO:

INT. SUPPLY ROOM - LATER

Josh is standing and marking time in this narrow room, whose main feature is wall-to-wall shelves filled with all manner of school supplies. The door opens and Sam prods Lily in.

LILY

...Sam, I don't understand what-

She stops short when she sees Josh, but Sam propels her forward.

SAM

(firmly)

All right. You two are <u>in love</u>, and you have been fighting for far too long. So, you are going to work this out, right here, right now.

Lily folds her arms and glares at the wall.

JOSH

(tiredly)

Sam, I don't think this is gonna work.

SAM

Guys, believe me when I tell you, this is for your own good.

JOSH

What—?

Sam take two quick steps back, and slams the door shut. Lily and Josh both rush the door, as they hear the lock turning. They pound on the door.

JOSH/LILY

Sam!!!

SAM (O.S.)

(from the other side)

Talk!!!

LILY

Sam, open the door!

SAM (O.S.)

(sing-song)

Good-byeeee...

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Sam pockets the key and saunters away, humming to herself.

CUT TO:

EXT. A PARK - DAY

Brooke and Clarence are sitting on opposite ends of a bench.

CLARENCE

Hey—haven't we been here before?

Brooke looks around idly.

BROOKE

I don't know. Maybe.

Clarence stews for a few moments.

CLARENCE

Aren't you curious?

Brooke just shrugs.

CLARENCE (CONT'D)

You know, Brooke, you're getting to be a real downer lately.

BROOKE

(sourly)

Well, I'm sorry if I haven't been entertaining you.

Clarence jumps up and starts pacing.

CLARENCE

Man! You are a tough nut to crack. I thought Harrison was stubborn, but he was a piece of cake compared to you!

BROOKE

(bitterly)

Thanks.

CLARENCE

Okay—you're frustrated. I get that. But...you can't just give up.

BROOKE

Why not? Why can't I just sit on this bench until the end of time?

CLARENCE

Well...you just can't.

Brooke folds her arms across her chest and settles back defiantly. Clarence sighs, and settles on his heels in front of her.

CLARENCE (CONT'D)

Brooke, I'm trying to help.

BROOKE

I'm tired of this. I look, and I look, and I haven't found any answers at all.

CLARENCE

That's because you haven't asked any questions.

BROOKE

(glaring)

I've done nothing but ask questions.

CLARENCE

(laughs)

Not to ME. To yourself.

(MORE)

CONTINUED: (2)

CLARENCE (CONT'D)

That's the only way you're going to find the answers you want.

BROOKE

(shaking her head)

What??

CLARENCE

Look-

Brooke suddenly puts her finger to her lips.

BROOKE

Shhh...what's that?

Clarence shuts up and cocks his head, and soon a sound wafts through the air: a rhythmic tapping noise. Brooke gets up and heads off over a small knoll, following the sound, with Clarence close behind.

At the top of the knoll, Brooke stops abruptly, causing Clarence to almost run into her back.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

(pointing) Who's THAT??

Clarence follows her gaze, down the shallow slope to a basketball court—where someone is dribbling a basketball. Without waiting for an answer, Brooke takes off down the hill.

CUT TO:

EXT. AN OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURT - CONTINUOUS

Brooke pulls up at the edge of the court, where a tall—very tall—lanky, teenaged girl is dancing around, easily dribbling around and between her legs. When she sees Brooke, she picks up the ball and holds it on her hip, watching her expectantly. Brooke peers closely at her for a moment.

BROOKE

(tentatively)

Mackenzie?

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. THE BASKETBALL COURT - CONTINUOUS

MACKENZIE

Hey, Brooke.

BROOKE

(shaking her head)

I don't get it.

Mackenzie starts dribbling the basketball again, lazily from hand to hand.

MACKENZIE

What's to get? You wanted to see me—here I am.

Brooke looks over at Clarence, who is standing next to her now.

BROOKE

I did?

He shrugs in response.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

(to Mackenzie)

How are you?

Mackenzie does a 360-degree spin between dribbles.

MACKENZIE

Don't I look okay?

BROOKE

(at a loss)

I didn't think you'd be so...tall.

MACKENZIE

(laughs)

I'm gonna be in the WNBA. D'ja know that?

BROOKE

(slowly)

No...I didn't.

MACKENZIE

(nods)

Number one draft pick.

Brooke casts a sidelong glance at Clarence, who nods a confirmation.

Mackenzie picks up the ball and holds it chest-high.

MACKENZIE (CONT'D)

Hey—wanna play?

Brooke throws up her hands defensively.

BROOKE

Oh, I... I mean...I'm a cheerleader, not a jock. Uh, jockette.

Mackenzie tsks and tosses the ball to Clarence.

MACKENZIE

You can play, right?

Clarence steps out onto the court, lazily dribbling the ball.

CLARENCE

I'm not sure about this... I mean, I know these are special circumstances and all, but you're still a girl...

BROOKE

(indignant)

Hey!!

An impish grin crosses Mackenzie's face, and she reaches out and swipes the ball away from Clarence. In one smooth motion she spins, drives to the basket, leaps, and slams the ball though the hoop. Then she tracks down the ball and trots back to where Clarence is looking dumfounded, and Brooke is jumping up and down and clapping delightedly.

MACKENZIE

C'mon, sis. You never played with me in real life.

A curious expression descends upon Brooke's face.

BROOKE

Why not?

Clarence looks back at her.

CONTINUED: (2)

CLARENCE

Well, for one thing, back there, you're seventeen years older than she is.

Brooke's face sours as she tries to wrap her mind around the idea of being in her late thirties.

MACKENZIE

(staring at Clarence)
Man, you must have had like <u>no</u>
girlfriends when you were alive.

CLARENCE

(spreading his hands)

What??

Mackenzie bounces the ball to Brooke.

MACKENZIE

(beckoning)

Come on. Two on one.

BROOKE

Are you really that good?

MACKENZIE

(wagging her eyebrows)

Yeah, I am.

So Brooke dribbles the ball out onto the court...

CUT TO:

INT. SUPPLY ROOM

Josh and Lily are standing a few feet apart, arms crossed, sneaking glances at each other and quickly turning away before getting caught. Finally Josh walks away, and yanks on a gym mat that is resting against the wall. After the mat plops to the floor, he sits down on it glumly, chin in his hands.

JOSH

You know, maybe our parents were right. Maybe we shouldn't have gotten married.

THAT throws Lily completely. She spins and gapes at him.

LILY

What???

JOSH

Lily, we don't even know how to fight. All the books say we're supposed to talk things out. But all we do is...not talk. I mean, I love you more than anything in the world, but—I hate this.

LILY

Baby, I hate this too! I don't wanna be mad all the time!

She sits down on the mat next to him.

LILY (CONT'D)

It just hurt so much, that you were doing things behind my back.

JOSH

It wasn't behind your back. Not really. I forgot all about it until the letter came.

LILY

Wait—how did you even get involved with these people?

JOSH

It was back in December...

EFFECT CUT TO:

FLASHBACK

INT. A CONFERENCE ROOM

A sign on the wall reads "EX-TEAM" and, underneath, "Burn Your Jockstrap". Josh is sitting at the conference table, along with a counselor.

COUNSELOR

Here at Extraordinary Teens Escaping the Athletic Mentality, we seek to enrich those who have taken the bold step of swearing off school sports in favor of a more rewarding lifestyle.

JOSH

(nodding)

Yeah, that's what I want to do—enrich myself.

(MORE)

JOSH (CONT'D)

It's just—I don't really know what I want to do, now.

COUNSELOR

That's not surprising. Many exstudent jocks are unaware of the rich and diverse world of opportunities which exists outside the locker room. That's where we can help. With just a few short tests, we can pinpoint the non-athletic activities best suited for you.

JOSH

Hey, I'm game—I mean, I'm ready.

COUNSELOR

(encouraging)

There you go!

The counselor pushes a piece of paper across the table.

COUNSELOR (CONT'D)

Just fill out this form, and we'll send you across the hall to our testing center. By the end of this afternoon, you'll be well on your way to a full and satisfying life without school sports.

DISSOLVE TO:

THE SUPPLY ROOM

JOSH

Anyway, I never heard anything from them, and I just forgot about it.

LILY

Until last week.

JOSH

Yeah.

(beat)

There just wasn't any point in telling you, Lily. I'm not gonna take it anyway.

LILY

Why not?

JOSH

(surprised)

Why not? Lily!

LILY

They've set you up with a paid summer internship at the Pacific National Institute for Oceanographic Studies.

JOSH

Yeah—in Monterey! Lily, we got married so I wouldn't have to move away.

LILY

But that was for a whole year. This is just two months.

JOSH

You're saying you think I should take it?

LILY

I'm saying, you shouldn't turn it down, because of me. I don't want you to do that.

JOSH

Baby, I don't wanna be away from you.

LILY

I don't wanna be away from you either... But, realistically, we have to look at our financial prospects right now.

JOSH

Well... It IS kinda a lot of money. I called them, just to, you know, check, and they said it would pay five thousand dollars for the summer.

LILY

(goggling)

My God, Josh!!!

JOSH

And—I was thinking... Being around fish might be cool.

LILY

Yes! You—you would be working with nature, helping to preserve our endangered marine wildlife... Hey, maybe you could get some time off at the end of July, and then I could come up there, and we could still go to Cure the Bay together.

JOSH

Yeah, I bet they'd be down with that, seeing as it's an environmental thing and all.

(cautiously)

So...does this mean I'm taking the job?

LILY

Do you want to?

JOSH

(nodding slowly)

Yeah. I think so.

LILY

Then...I want you to, too.

JOSH

And... We're not fighting anymore, right?

LILY

(laughing)

No, we're not fighting anymore.

JOSH

Good.

Lily lays her head on Josh's shoulder.

LILY

Baby, I was wrong. The silent treatment—it doesn't solve anything. It just...hurts both people.

JOSH

So next time, we'll just yell and scream at each other, like other married people.

CONTINUED: (3)

 \mathtt{LILY}

(grinning)

Yeah.

Josh wraps his arms around Lily and kisses her.

LILY (CONT'D)

(conspiratorially)

You know, Josh...

JOSH

What?

Lily pats the mat meaningfully; Josh's eyes go wide when he realizes what she's suggesting.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Lily! We couldn't!

(beat)

Could we?

LILY

The door's locked...

They grin at each other goofily.

SLIDE CUT TO:

EST. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - DAY

ANGLE: A CLOSED DOOR

The sign on the door reads: "Dr. Kilcare - Psychiatry"

CUT TO:

INT. DR. KILCARE'S OFFICE

The good doctor is sitting behind his desk, across from Cherry Cherry.

KILCARE

Mrs. Cherry—unfortunately we haven't been able to pinpoint the cause of your daughter's hallucinations.

CHERRY CHERRY

I knew it—you're all a bunch of quacks!

KILCARE

(holding up a hand)

However, we believe that the most effective form of treatment at this point...would be a lobotomy.

CHERRY CHERRY

(brow furling)

Ya wanna take part of her brain out?

KILCARE

Well...essentially, yes.

CHERRY CHERRY

Well, I don't know what good it's gonna do, cuttin' out somethin' that ain't there to begin with.

(throws up her hands)

But—you're the docs.

She fishes into her bag and pulls out a couple of thick bundles of cash, which she sets on the desk.

CHERRY CHERRY (CONT'D)

I hope this'll cover it.

The doctor's eyes light up as he snaps up the money.

KILCARE

We'll schedule the procedure for tomorrow evening.

(beat)

You, ah, realize that she might need...um...longer-term care after.

CHERRY CHERRY

I'll pay whatever it takes.

KILCARE

(grinning)

That's what we like to hear.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - LATER

Sam walks up to the door of the Supply Room and unlocks it.

SAM

(opening the door)

Okay, I hope you two aren't still-

Sam takes on step in before gasping and bolting from the room, flattening herself against the wall with her hands over her eyes.

JOSH/LILY

(from inside)

Sorry!

Sam takes a moment to try to start breathing again.

SAM

Uh...ah...key?

She takes the key and holds it blindly through the open door.

JOSH

(from inside)

Thanks!

Sam pulls her hand back and shakes her arms, trying to get the heebie-jeebies out of her system.

SAM

Okay...uh...you guys just...come out...uh...whenever, okay...?

LILY

(from inside)

Thanks, Sam!

The door closes and locks from the inside. Sam grabs her knees for a second, taking a couple of deep breaths, before moving off, none too steadily.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EST. KENNEDY HIGH - THE NEXT DAY

Another establishing shot.

CUT TO:

INT. GIRLS' BATHROOM

Lily, Sam and Carmen are holding a conference.

CARMEN

Okay, what is so important?

LILY

I need you guys to help me save Mary Cherry.

SAM

Okay, normally, I try to sympathize with Mary Cherry—but right now, we are just moments away from walking into chemistry class and dooming ourselves to a long, hot, boring stretch of summer school.

LILY

Guys! This is serious! I hacked into the hospital database, and they have her scheduled for a lobotomy at four-thirty this afternoon!

CARMEN

You know, they ARE doctors—okay, so they're greedy and corrupt, but still, they're doctors. Maybe... maybe a lobotomy is the best thing for her.

LILY

But she's not crazy! I know what's wrong with her! Look—I got into her locker, and I found a bunch of these.

She holds up an empty plastic bottle with a lightning bolt label.

Carmen takes the bottle.

CARMEN

Yeah, this is that new energy drink. Mary Cherry was guzzling these by the case when we were working out for Bring It tryouts. She swore it melted off body fat.

LILY

But I read at health-food-watch-dotcom that this drink contains the extract from an exotic herb from Thailand. I did some research, and I found out that ingesting this extract can cause psychotic behavior!

SAM

So you think Mary Cherry had an allergic reaction to this stuff.

LILY

Exactly! But, it said the effects go away after a week to ten days. She should be fine now—well, as fine as she usually is. Except that she's locked in the psych ward, about to get her brain cut up!

SAM

Okay, you've convinced me. So...we just tell the doctors what the problem is.

CARMEN

Yeah, but... They wanna put her in an institution and milk her for her mother's money. They might not even want to listen to us.

LILY

If we can get her out of there, then we can prove that she's back to normal.

SAM

So-we need a plan.

Carmen and Sam look at Lily expectantly.

SAM (CONT'D)

You don't have a plan?

LILY

(defensively)

I'm working on it. I need you guys to meet me at the hospital right after school.

Sam and Carmen exchange glances.

CARMEN

We're there.

FLIP CUT TO:

INT. CHEMISTRY CLASS - MOMENTS LATER

Lily, Carmen and Sam walk in together.

GLASS

(looking up)

About time! McPherson, get the door.

Sam turns back and closes the door before taking her seat.

GLASS (CONT'D)

Now, then! In front of you, you will find the STAR-7 chemistry test. You will have until the end of class to complete this test. You will then place your completed tests in this box.

She taps a cardboard box on the table.

GLASS (CONT'D)

They will then be scored according to this key.

She holds up a booklet labeled "Answer Key", and deliberately lays it on the table.

GLASS (CONT'D)

Now, to ensure that I am not bombarded with a host of pointless questions, I am going to curl up with the latest issue of "Purrfect Breeding" and a Barry Manilow greatest hits CD.

(MORE)

GLASS (CONT'D)

I do <u>not</u> expect to be disturbed unless the building is burning down! UNDERSTOOD?!

The kids trade looks. Miss Glass sits down, sets a pair of earphones over her ears, unfolds her magazine, and turns away from the class.

GLASS (CONT'D)

(waving over the back of the chair)

Begin!

Miss Glass relaxes, while behind her there is a mad scramble for the answer key. In a second, everyone is crowded around the table, grabbing for the booklet.

SAM

(waving her hands)
Hang on, everybody! Wait! Hold
on!!

Finally she gets everyone's attention.

SAM (CONT'D)

Look, we owe it to ourselves, to do this the right way.

(beat)

One person reads the answers out loud, and everyone writes them down.

Everyone nods in general agreement.

CUT INTO:

MONTAGE

of Sam calling out the answers, the other kids filling in bubbles, and finally tests being tossed into the cardboard box.

CUT TO:

INT. CHEMISTRY CLASS - LATER

Miss Glass takes off her headphones and stands up. The answer key is back on the table, and the kids are all sitting innocently at their seats. She reaches over and flips through the tests in the box.

GLASS

I assume there won't be any summer school this year?

SAM

Oh, I think you can count on that, Miss Glass.

The bell rings.

GLASS

Good!

Everyone breaks for the door.

EFFECT CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - LATER

Lily and Carmen are huddled in the corridor.

CARMEN

I dunno about this...

LILY

It'll work. Trust me.

SAM (O.S.)

Well, guys? What do you think?

Carmen and Lily turn around.

ANGLE: SAM

having just stepped out of a restroom. She has her hair up, and is wearing a white lab coat and glasses. Pinned to her lapel is a fake hospital ID badge.

LILY

Not bad.

SAM

Okay-wish me luck.

Sam strides purposefully towards the nurse's desk. The nurse looks up as she approaches.

SAM (CONT'D)

(trying to sound authoritative) Excuse me...I'd like to see Mary Cherry? She's a patient here.

Before the nurse can answer, a doctor—a real doctor—appears at Sam's side.

BUCKMAN

Can I help you? I'm Dr. Buckman. I'm on Miss Cherry's case. And you are...?

SAM

(thinking fast)
Ah, um, Dr...McPherson.

She abruptly sticks out her hand, and gets it shaken.

SAM (CONT'D)

Yes, uh, Miss Cherry's mother, Cherry Cherry, she, ah, just flew me in from, uh, Geneva, where I've been studying, um, brain surgery.

BUCKMAN

(nodding)

Mrs. Cherry does seem to enjoy spending money. You're the third expert we've had in here in the last week.

SAM

(laughing nervously)
Uh, right!

BUCKMAN

No offense, but you seem a bit...young.

SAM

(waves dismissively)
Please, no Doogie Howser jokes.
I've already heard them all.

BUCKMAN

Sorry... So, will you be performing the procedure?

SAM

Oh—no, no...I'll just be, um, observing.

BUCKMAN

To tell you the truth, I'm a bit relieved. This will be my first lobotomy—on a live person, I mean.

(MORE)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUCKMAN (CONT'D)

Say, do you mind if I go over the procedure with you? I'd welcome your input.

SAM

(at a loss)

Well, ah...

Dr. Buckman opens a folder on the counter and begins tracing over x-rays with his finger.

BUCKMAN

I thought I'd make the first incision here, moving laterally...

As Buckman continues talking, Sam looks back at where Carmen and Lily are discreetly watching, throwing her hands up in a silent plea for help. Lily makes a "keep going" motion.

CARMEN

She's in trouble. Should I pull the fire alarm?

LILY

No, no-she can handle it.

CARMEN

(considers)

Should I find out where the fire alarm is?

LILY

Okay, that might be a good idea.

CARMEN

Gotcha.

Meanwhile, Sam turns her attention back to Dr. Buckman just as he is finishing up.

BUCKMAN

...and then I'll close using a radial stitching pattern.

He closes the folder and looks at her expectedly.

SAM

(nodding)

Ah, it's...exactly what I would do.

BUCKMAN

(flirting)

You know, I meant what I said before. Without the glasses and with your hair different, you could really pass for a teenager.

SAM

Yes, if I'd been smart, I would've gone to acting school. I could be on "Roswell" right now.

(shrugs)

But—medicine called, and here I

(changing the subject)
Um, if you don't mind, I'd like to
check in on the patient personally
for a few minutes.

BUCKMAN

Oh-of course.

(to the nurse)

I need the key to six?

The nurse fishes a key out of a drawer and hands it to Dr. Buckman, who in turn hands it over to Sam.

BUCKMAN (CONT'D)

She's in iso room six.

(pointing)

Down the hall, turn right, last door on the left. You don't have to worry—we've got her strapped up tight. She was quite violent when she was admitted.

SAM

Thank you, doctor.

BUCKMAN

(checking his watch)

Well, I've got another patient to see.

He walks away.

BUCKMAN (CONT'D)

(calling back)

I'll see you in scrubs!

SAM

Um, yes!

(trailing off)

(MORE)

CONTINUED: (4)

SAM (CONT'D)

That's, ah...exactly where you'll see me...

Sam takes off down the corridor as quickly as she can without being conspicuous.

CUT TO:

INT. GIRLS' BATHROOM

Cherry Cherry is sitting quietly on the tuffet when Miss Glass comes in, whistling.

GLASS

Oh—I didn't realize...anyone was in here.

CHERRY CHERRY

Greetings, Bobbi Glass. Yes, I, Cherry Cherry, am indulgin' in a moment of reflection. Seein' as how my only daughter has gone 'round the bend, I'm here, communin' with her spirit...whatever that was.

GLASS

Well, she definitely spent more time here than in my class. (considers) Or, any other class.

Cherry Cherry dabs delicately at her eye with a handkerchief.

GLASS (CONT'D)

Um, I'll just—let you get back to your communioning.

With that, Miss Glass backs out the door.

CUT TO:

INT. MARY CHERRY'S ROOM

The door cracks open, and Sam pokes her head in. She rushes over to the bed where Mary Cherry is lying, wrapped in a straightjacket. As she motions Lily inside, Mary Cherry opens her eyes.

MARY CHERRY

Spam? Oh, Lord, I knew it—I've died and gone to Hell!

SAM

(rolls her eyes)
You're not in Hell, Mary Cherry,
you're in the hospital. We're

rescuing you.

MARY CHERRY

We?

She turns her head and focuses on Lily

MARY CHERRY (CONT'D)
I've been in a

Lil Lily! I've been in a nightmare—I dreamed, that I had an identical hip-hop twin sister, and she sent me to an orphanage, and then my Mama, who was really my Daddy, showed up, and took me home, and—

LILY

(holding up a hand)

Mary Cherry, relax. You just had a bad reaction to that energy drink you were drinking so much of. You should be completely back to normal by now.

MARY CHERRY

Is that all? Well, then, get this thing offa me, and get me the heck outta here!

SAM

(nods)

Yep-she's back to normal.

(looking around)

Where's Carmen?

LILY

I, uh...kinda lost her.

Sam throws up her hands quizzically.

SAM

Okay, help me...

CONTINUED: (2)

Together Sam and Lily get Mary Cherry up into a sitting position, and Sam begins to inspect the buckles of the straightjacket.

MARY CHERRY

(impatiently)

What're you doin' back there, Spam?!

SAM

Mary Cherry, if you don't be quiet, I'm gonna let them do that lobotomy on you.

Just then Carmen appears in the doorway, pssting urgently

CARMEN

Guys! There's doctors coming this way!

SAM

Uh-oh. Okay, we have to do this later. Come on—

Sam and Lily stand Mary Cherry up and help her hobble to the door. Carmen is there with a gurney parked in the corridor.

LILY

What's this?

CARMEN

Trust me-just get her on it!

LILY

(to Mary Cherry)

Okay, up you go...

With some grunting and heaving, they manage to get Mary Cherry laid out on the gurney. Carmen throws a sheet over her, and they start to push her down the hallway. Unfortunately, at the first intersection a pair of doctors walking down the cross-corridor spot them.

DOCTOR #1

Hey! What are you doing?!!

Sam looks at Lily.

SAM

Now what?

LILY

RUN!!!

CONTINUED: (3)

They take off, pushing the gurney wildly down the corridor, with the doctors in close pursuit.

DOCTOR #1

Stop!!! Call Security!!!

SAM

(to Lily)

I thought you had a plan!

LILY

This is the plan!!

CARMEN

(pointing)

Elevator!

With Sam pushing the gurney, the run pell-mell for the elevator at the end of the hall.

LILY

Are you sure you know that you're doing?!

CARMEN

Trust me! I saw this in "Star Trek IV"—it worked like a charm!

Lily runs ahead and pushes the call button. The doors open and they pile inside, with their pursuers just seconds behind. Carmen frantically pushes the "Door Close" button, and as the doors close:

LILY

(looking over at Carmen)
Didn't they have transporters in
"Star Trek IV"?

CARMEN

0ops...

The doors close just in the nick of time.

CUT TO:

INT. THE ELEVATOR CAR - CONTINUOUS

Sam looks at the panel and see that Carmen has pushed the "L" button.

SAM

No-second floor! Second floor!

As Carmen presses the "2" button, Sam starts ripping open the straps of Mary Cherry's straightjacket.

SAM (CONT'D)

(to Lily) Get her legs!

In a few moments, Sam is pulling the straightjacket off of Mary Cherry. Lily reaches into her bag and pulls out a dress, handing it to her, while Sam shucks her lab coat.

LILY

Here, put this on!

Mary Cherry examines the garment critically.

MARY CHERRY

Is this off the rack??

LILY

Mary Cherry!!!

MARY CHERRY

Oh, all right...

CARMEN

(to Lily)

YOU saw "Star Trek IV"?

LILY

Well, yeah, it's the one where they—

Carmen realizes where Lily's going:

LILY/CARMEN

(simultaneously)

-save the whales.

CARMEN

(rolls her eyes)

...of course.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER

On the second floor, the elevator doors open. The girls peek out, then run down the hallway, Sam leading the way.

SAM

Come on!!

LILY

Sam, where are we going?!

Sam opens a plain, unmarked door leading to a narrow set of stairs.

SAM

I learned about this when Harrison was here. Come on!

CUT TO:

EXT. HOSPITAL BUILDING

A service door opens, and the girls come rushing out. They check around, then take off across the parking lot.

CUT TO:

INT. GIRLS' BATHROOM - LATER

Cherry Cherry turns in astonishment as the girls come in.

MARY CHERRY

Mama! What are you doing here?

CHERRY CHERRY

More important, child, is what are YOU doing here?! Did they cut your brain up already?

MARY CHERRY

No, Mama, I am cured! I am one hundred-percent sane!

Sam throws a sardonic glance at Lily.

CHERRY CHERRY

(peering closely)

Are you sure?

MARY CHERRY

(grinning)

Cross my heart!

CHERRY CHERRY

Well, praise Jesus!!

As Cherry Cherry heads for her, Mary Cherry throws open her arms and rushes towards her. Of course, Cherry Cherry walks right past her daughter, and she tumbles to the floor.

CHERRY CHERRY (CONT'D)

Now I can face the Board of Directors again!!

Cherry Cherry sweeps right past the girls and out the door.

CARMEN

Guys, I think our work here is done.

She and Sam trade nods, and they turn and walk out; while Mary Cherry picks herself up, still grinning, and gives Lily two big thumbs up.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. MCQUEEN LIVING ROOM

From off-screen, various moans and groans can be heard. Then Brooke walks in and flops down on the sofa, followed by Clarence, who turns out to be the source of the groaning. He collapses heavily into an overstuffed chair.

BROOKE

(eyeing Clarence critically) You need to work out more.

CLARENCE

(huffing)

That's the first time...I've been roped...into a basketball game...

Brooke rolls her eyes and, out of habit, picks up the television remote and clicks it. She blinks in surprise when the television actually comes on.

BROOKE

(leaning forward)
Hey—why didn't you tell me the TV
worked?

A shadow of concern crosses Clarence's face.

CLARENCE

Ah...Brooke, I'm not sure that's a—

BROOKE

(watching)
What's this??

CUT TO:

INSERT: THE TV SCREEN

INT. AN ARENA

The scene of a girls' basketball game. Superimposed on the screen are "2022 NCAA Championship", and, lined up in a row underneath, are a clock labeled "2nd Half", which is ticking down from 05:15, then "UConn 42" and "UCLA 95".

Down on the court, a UConn player has the ball, as the play-byplay announcer and color commentator breathlessly follow the action:

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Pierce holds the ball, looking for Nickens in the post.

COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

They have to force the UCLA defense to extend, and start making perimeter shots. Nothing is working inside for UConn now.

The ball is bounce-passed to another UConn player inside, who dribbles a couple of times, then spins towards the basket.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Nickens with the ball, curls into the lane—

Just as she is shooting the ball, from the side Mackenzie leaps across and swats it away, eliciting a roar from the crowd.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
—BLOCKED BY MCQUEEN!!!

Another UConn player picks up the ball; Mackenzie runs over to quard her.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Deflected to Coleman. That's McQueen's sixth block.

COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

Inside is death for UConn; they cannot get past the long arms of Mackenzie McQueen.

While the UConn player looks for someone to pass the ball to, Mackenzie reaches out and swipes the ball away, sprinting down the court with it.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

McQueen with the steal! Rudin is back on defense.

As the lone UConn player backpedals full-speed towards the basket, Mackenzie pulls up short twenty-five feet away, and fires the ball up.

CONTINUED: (2)

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

McOueen-FOR THREE!!!

The ball swishes through the basket, and the crowd erupts. The referee blows his whistle, and the players start to walk off the court.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Fifty-seven points for Mackenzie McQueen! UConn calls its last time-out, but they have no answer for McQueen!

COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

There <u>is</u> no answer for Mackenzie McQueen; she is <u>everywhere</u> today!

CUT TO:

THE MCQUEEN LIVING ROOM

Brooke is on the edge of the sofa, enraptured.

BROOKE

(awed)

Wow... She really <u>is</u> good.

She looks down at the remote in her hand, thinking.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

Hey—can I get other people on this thing? I wanna see what Nicole's prison cell looks like.

Clarence, who had been caught up in the excitement along with Brooke, frowns again now.

CLARENCE

Brooke, maybe you shouldn't-

But Brooke is already flipping channels. Clarence gets up and steps over to her, intent on taking the remote away—but by the time he gets there, it's too late: she has found what he was afraid she'd find. As she watches the screen, her face crumples and, finally, she starts to cry.

CUT TO:

INSERT: THE TV SCREEN

INT. A DELIVERY ROOM

Where Sam is in labor, while Harrison holds her hand and wipes her forehead.

DOCTOR #2

Okay, Sam, we're going to need a really big push the next time around.

Sam grabs Harrison's arm.

SAM

(panting)

It's too late to call this off, right? Right. Okay.

DOCTOR #2

Okay, here we go—one, two, three...PUSH!

Sam grits her teeth, tenses, and with a muffled squeal, pushes. Meanwhile, Harrison yelps as she crushes his hand.

DOCTOR #2 (CONT'D)

All right, you're doing fine, one more time... One, two, three, PUSH!!!

Sam obedient curls up and pushes again.

SAM

OHHH, I DON'T WANNA DO THIS ANYMORE!!!

DOCTOR #2

You're almost there, just one more big—PUSH!!!

She screams and pushes one more time, then collapses back, panting. Harrison looks at the doctor expectantly; a moment later, the baby's crying fills the room.

DOCTOR #2 (CONT'D)

Congratulations—it's a boy.

The doctor brings the wrapped-up newborn and puts him in Sam's arms. She and Harrison grin at each other, and their son.

THE MCQUEEN LIVING ROOM

Clarence takes the remote from Brooke's unresisting hand and clicks the TV off.

BROOKE

(wiping her eyes)
He really does love her.

CLARENCE

Brooke...

BROOKE

You knew.

She looks at him.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

You said you helped Harrison. You knew what his future was.

Clarence looks away.

CLARENCE

It's only a possibility, Brooke. Nothing's written in stone... anymore. You just have to have faith. Good things will happen, I promise.

Brooke has her face buried in her hands, sniffling.

CLARENCE (CONT'D)

Okay, this is bad. Look, why don't we go do something fun? You look like you could use some cheering up. I know I could. Hey—how about rollerblading? Or—or skateboarding? If I remember right, you were not bad on that board back in the hospital.

Brooke wipes her eyes clear.

BROOKE

(tonelessly)

No.

CLARENCE

No?

She stands up.

BROOKE

I know.

CLARENCE

(nervously)

Ah...know what?

BROOKE

I know where I'm going now.

Without another word, she walks away.

CLARENCE

Oh, hey, wait up!

He scrambles to his feet and takes off after her.

CUT TO:

INT. BROOKE'S HOSPITAL ROOM - EVENING

Sam is sitting by Brooke's bed. Harrison comes up and puts his hand on her shoulder.

HARRISON

How is she?

SAM

(looking down at Brooke)

The same.

Sam stifles a yawn.

HARRISON

Why don't you take a break?

Sam gets up, and Harrison sits in her place.

SAM

I'll be back in a little while.

HARRISON

Oh, no rush.

As Sam walks away, Harrison takes Brooke's hand and kisses it, stifling his own yawn.

CUT TO:

EXT. A STREET - TWILIGHT

Brooke is walking quickly down another deserted street, while Clarence scrambles to keep up.

CLARENCE

Brooke! Come on, slow down!

Brooke walks on, unheeding.

CLARENCE (CONT'D)

Brooke, stop! You're not in the right state of mind to do this!

BROOKE

My state of mind is just fine, thank you.

CLARENCE

Would you <u>listen</u> to yourself?

Brooke stops in front of a nondescript little building.

BROOKE

This is it, isn't it?

CLARENCE

(emphatically)

Brooke, I really want you to reconsider.

Brooke steps up to the front door.

BROOKE

Coming?

Clarence shakes his head grimly.

CLARENCE

I can only take you this far. If you're going to go through that door, you have to do it all by yourself.

She thinks about that for a moment, then jogs back the few steps to him. She takes his hands in hers, and pecks him on the cheek.

BROOKE

Thank you.

She backs away.

CLARENCE

Brooke-

But Brooke raises a hand in farewell, pushes the door open and steps inside.

CUT TO:

INT. INSIDE THE BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

The only thing inside the shallow lobby of the building is a plain counter along the back wall. Standing behind it, Brooke sees the same hostess who greeted her back at the restaurant. Boldly she steps up to the counter.

HOSTESS

(looking up)

Name?

BROOKE

(steady this time)

Brooke McQueen.

HOSTESS

(nods)

Through the door at the end of the hall.

Brooke looks in the direction of the nod, and sees a long, wide hallway (much longer than the size of the building). At the end of the hall is a doorway, filled with blazing white light. She resolutely starts walking down the hallway.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE STREET

A peal of thunder fills the air. Clarence looks skyward.

CLARENCE

You're up there! You do something!

CUT TO:

INT. THE HALLWAY

Brooke walks unflinchingly towards the light.

CUT TO:

INT. BROOKE'S HOSPITAL ROOM

Harrison is asleep, his head resting on the hand which still holds Brooke's.

And on the EKG monitor, the steady pulse line spikes once.

CUT TO:

THE HALLWAY

Brooke is still walking steadily forward. But just a few steps away from the end of the hall, a whispery, indistinct voice makes her falter.

VOICE (O.S.)

Brooooke...

Her pace broken, she looks up, down and around. The voice grows stronger:

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

Brooke...

Finally she turns completely around—and sees Harrison standing there, perhaps twenty feet behind her.

BROOKE

(puzzled)

Harrison?

HARRISON

Brooke... What are you doing?

His eyes shift past her to the light, and he gasps as he realizes its meaning.

HARRISON (CONT'D)

Oh, Brooke...no!

She manages a wan smile.

BROOKE

It's time.

HARRISON

(anguished)

No... You're getting better, and you'll wake up soon, and...

Brooke shakes her head wistfully.

HARRISON (CONT'D)

(desperately)

Brooke, please... You can't leave... What about your dad? And Sam, and—and Mackenzie??

BROOKE

She'll be fine. You'll all be fine... I know.

HARRISON

(choking up)

Brooke—please...don't—

BROOKE

I'm sorry—

(nods towards the light)

-I have to go now.

She turns away and begins walking the last few feet.

HARRISON

(panicking)

NOOO!! Brooke!! Stop!!!

Brooke walks on.

HARRISON (CONT'D)

BROOKE, I LOVE YOU!!!!!

And halfway through the doorway, bathed in the brilliant white light, Brooke turns, and—

CUT TO:

BROOKE'S HOSPITAL ROOM

--Harrison starts awake, to the sounds of alarms going off all over the room.

A doctor and nurse run into the room; the nurse pulls Harrison up and pushes him outside.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

As more people rush by and into the room, Harrison bangs his hand weakly against the wall, sobbing, and slides down to the floor. From the end of the corridor Sam comes running fulltilt; falling to her knees, she wraps her arms around him.

They hold each other, rocking, as Sam begins to cry along with Harrison.

Finally a strong hand takes hold of Sam's shoulder and lifts her up; she grabs Harrison and pulls him up as well. As various people are leaving Brooke's room, they stand at the doorway, looking in.

CUT TO:

INT. BROOKE'S HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A human curtain of white coats surrounds Brooke's bed, which gradually parts as people turn and walk out. Finally Sam and Harrison are able to see Brooke lying there—her eyes open. She turns her head ever so slightly towards them, and manages to lift one hand briefly. Sam cries out and runs to the bed, gingerly hugging her, while Harrison stands there, fresh tears running down his cheeks.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT FOUR

THE END