

Sophomore: Senior Retreat

FADE IN:

INT. KEVIN PARKER ACADEMY - HENRY'S CLASSROOM

Henry is in his class teaching. The chalkboard behind him reads the date Thursday, June 16th 2016.

HENRY BAKER

So, let's talk about last night's assignment, how'd we do?

STUDENT 1

Aw, c'mon, Mr. Baker, there's like 2 weeks left of school. Did this assignment really count?

HENRY BAKER

(Laughing at the student)

Yes, Greg. It counts.

STUDENT 1

(Sighs)

HENRY BAKER

Hey, it was a 1000 word assignment. You'll be doing triple that in less than 3 months. Let's go- assignments out.

The students shuffle about and take out the assignment, all look disinterested as they can feel the summer near.

HENRY BAKER (CONT'D)

Ok, how about... Pam, which historical figure did you choose to write about?

PAM

I chose to write about the great American boxer, Rocky Balboa.

HENRY BAKER

(Dumbfounded)

What?

PAM

Rocky Balboa. Rocky was a man born in Philadelphia in 19..

STUDENT 2

Rocky isn't dead, you idiot.
Baker said he had to be dead.

The student turns and high fives a classmate.

PAM

Shut up, George! Mr. Baker,
should I continue?

HENRY BAKER

Well, Pam. Firstly, Rocky Balboa
isn't dead, because, and which
brings me to point number two,
Rocky is a fictional character
played by a man named Sylvester
Stallone.

STUDENT 2

Is that the cat?

HENRY BAKER

(Giving the student
a death stare)

Ok, moving on, how about...

The bell rings signaling the end of class.

HENRY BAKER (CONT'D)

Thank God. See everyone tomorrow,
no homework tonight!

The students file out of the classroom happily.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

The principal is having a conversation with a teacher. The
principal has a drawing in her hands.

PRINCIPAL

Do you really think it's that
big?

TEACHER 1

Yeah, I don't know, I mean it
can't be right?! Maybe it's
photoshop.

PRINCIPAL

Well, do we remember what his
father looks like?

Henry walks into the room.

HENRY BAKER

Whose father are we talking about? Hello, Becca!

TEACHER 1

Mr. Hingle?

HENRY BAKER

Nope, I don't think so why?

TEACHER 1

Alright, let me go handle this!

Becca leaves the room in a rush, Henry gives her a confused look, but refocuses on his conversation with the principal.

PRINCIPAL

Thanks for coming down, Henry.

HENRY BAKER

Sure, Ms. Jackson, what's up?

PRINCIPAL

Who will be covering for your classes while you're on the retreat?

HENRY BAKER

(Cautiously)

I don't know. Wouldn't that be your job?

PRINCIPAL

Do you think I have time for you to be a smartass right now? Do you think I called you here to waste time, or to talk about how your girlfriend up and left you? I need a substitute. Know of anyone?

HENRY BAKER

(Contemplates for a moment)

He probably isn't qualified, but, Pipen could do it?

PRINCIPAL

Qualified? There's two weeks left of school, all I am thinking about right now is my cruise to Hawaii, and a strong man's hands massaging my back, while I drink white sangria and not think of this place.

HENRY BAKER

(Feeling slighted)

I can ask him tonight, and let you know in the morning.

PRINCIPAL

Uh no, I'll give him a ring now.. I would prefer a more immediate ..answer.

HENRY BAKER

Alright, anything else then? I was going to go to the breakroom and...

PRINCIPAL

No, I think that's all.

Henry begins to walk out of the office.

PRINCIPAL

WAIT. WHERE DID YOU CHOOSE TO GO THIS YEAR? I KEEP BEING ASKED AND I CAN'T SEEM TO FIND ANY DOCUMENTS ON IT?

HENRY BAKER

I didn't pick it, remember? You told Conor McCloud he could.

PRINCIPAL

I... what?

The principal reminiscences months in the past. She is in her office. She looks a bit disheveled, and she tops off a coffee mug filled with whiskey. Conor McCloud walks in, she stumbles to put the bottle away, McCloud closes the door, he walks over to a bookshelf and takes a mug from the shelf, heads toward her desk and sits down.

CONOR MCCLOUD

I see I came at the right time.

CONOR MCCLOUD (CONT'D)

C'mon, Ms. Jackson, pour me in.

PRINCIPAL

There's coffee in the break room,
Mr. McCloud.

CONOR MCCLOUD

Nancy, there's like 3 days
before summer, pour me in.

PRINCIPAL

(Hesitates, before
giving a smirk)

So, what brings you here?

CONOR MCCLOUD

(Lifting his glass)

No business while mugs are full.
Cheers!

Conor McCloud takes a sip.

CONOR MCCLOUD (CONT'D)

You have exquisite taste.

PRINCIPAL

Thank you.

Nancy raises her glass and takes a sip. Before they know it
their glasses are empty and enjoying each others'
conversation

CONOR MCCLOUD

So I said to her, 'Darlene,
that's not your husband,' and she
said.. 'Then who was in my
mouth?'

Both begin to laugh hysterically before Ms. Jackson collects
herself.

PRINICPAL

Oh, that was funny, Mr. McCloud.
Now, I have a meeting in 5
minutes. Grab a mint, and get
out.

Conor McCloud gets up to leave and a brochure falls off his lap, reminding him of why he came to the office in the first place.

CONOR MCCLOUD

Ms. Jackson, do you love a good deal?

PRINCIPAL

Yeah, of course, everyone loves a good deal.

CONOR MCCLOUD

Perfect, then let me take the seniors to a farm outside the city, they'll learn to work with their hands, be productive and self sufficient. Plus, it's a quarter of the cost of the usual retreat.

PRINCIPAL

A quarter?

CONOR MCCLOUD

A fraction of the cost, and it will be something the kids *actually* want to do.

PRINCIPAL

Alright, McCloud, it may be the whiskey talking, but, OK. You can go to your little farm.

Henry begins to speak, shaking the principal from her memory and back to the present.

HENRY BAKER

Do you not remember?

PRINCIPAL

(Regrettably)

No, no, I remember.

The principal picks up her phone and begins to frantically dial.

HENRY BAKER

Ok... well see you, Nancy.

PRINICPAL

(Without lifting her
eyes)

Are you still here?

EXT. HENRY'S HOUSE - BACKYARD

Pipen is on a floatie in a large sized kiddie pool filled with balls that belong in a ball pit. He has a pipe, a beer, and pizza on a floatie next to him. Unrecognizable music is playing. He is watching videos on his phone, his phone is in a ziplock bag to prevent wetness. It begins to ring, it's an unknown number.

PIPEN SCOTT

(While answering
phone)

Huh, I wonder who this could be.
Aloha, friend.

PRINICIPAL

Pipen?

Pipen immediately recognizes that his boss is on the other line.

PIPEN

Uh, Nancy? Did I miss class?

PRINICPAL

No Pip, you didn't miss class.
(Flirty)
I need a favor.

PIPEN SCOTT

Oh man, you gave me a heart
attack. How have you been, how
long has it been? Since the
performance review?

PRINICIPAL

Well, that's far too long isn't
it?

PIPEN SCOTT

And thank you again for the full
time offer, I really appreciate
it.

PRINICIPAL

Pipen, you earned it. You have been a great addition to Kevin Parker Academy... and I was hoping you could come in for the rest of the week. Fill in for Henry while he goes on the retreat.

PIPEN SCOTT

Ah yes, the retreat, are you also being left behind? What a drag, right?

PRINCIPAL

Pip, I am pretty busy I-

PIPEN SCOTT

(Forgetting who he is speaking with)

Everyone is going but me! Don't they know I love to retreat, I retreat all the time. Well I guess I can fill in, better than sitting around getting high all day.

PRINICIPAL

Did you just say...

Pipen realizes his mistake and quickly ends the phone call.

PIPEN SCOTT

Alright Nance, tomorrow then!
Bye!

Pipen hangs up the phone.

PIPEN SCOTT (CONT'D)

Woah, that was a close one.
Where's my lighter?

A lighter in a plastic bag floats by.

EXT. ON THE BUS TO THE RETREAT

Henry Baker, James Zune, Conor McCloud, a bus driver, and a group of seniors are on a bus heading to the retreat. The teachers are in the first row of seats.

JAMES ZUNE

So, what did you fellas bring?

HENRY BAKER

Just the usual stuff, sleeping bag, toothbrush...

JAMES ZUNE

No, you idiot. I meant booze. There was no way you planned on getting through this sober right?

CONOR MCCLOUD

(Pulls a small bottle of craft whiskey from his bag)

Went and grabbed myself a little something special for the trip, what about you?

JAMES ZUNE

(Pulls out a massive bottle of tequila)

These amish people better have limes.

HENRY BAKER

What the- guys this is a school trip, this has to be against school code, maybe even illegal.

JAMES ZUNE

Last time I checked you were legally allowed to drink, no?

CONOR MCCLOUD

And I will not be sharing a \$400 bottle of whiskey with students.

HENRY BAKER

\$400?!?!

CONOR MCCLOUD

No Henry, you sucker, the amount is irrelevant. I won't be sharing it with anyone.

HENRY BAKER

You guys can't go 48 hours being sober, sad.

JAMES ZUNE

You can't go 48 hours without
being a bitch.

The boys settle in for a long trip. Henry peers out the window before dozing off.

EXT. VERN'S RANCH - THE BUS ARRIVES

The bus arrives, and the three teachers step off the bus. They see a massive ranch, beautifully maintained, that mirrors the brochure exactly.

HENRY BAKER

Wow, I was not expecting this.

JAMES ZUNE

I feel like we just won a game of
Oregon Trail.

Conor McCloud's grin widens as he jumps back on the bus to collect the students.

CONOR MCCLOUD

We have arrived! Let's unpack the
bus! Lets go! Lets go! Lets go,
no time to waste!

The students begin to file off the bus.

STUDENT 3

What the F-

HENRY BAKER

Woah, easy there, Bishop

STUDENT 4

There's no cell service??

STUDENT 5

What the fuck!

CONOR MCCLOUD

What a treat this is. Here, I
will be collecting all cellular
devices anyway. This is a
retreat, not an indulge.

Mr. McCloud collects the phones and hands the students a few maps.

CONOR MCCLOUD (CONT'D)

Ok then, this map shows where the lodging cabins are, you are to go there and and drop off your belongings. In 30 minutes we will meet here at the main barn.

The students scatter.

HENRY BAKER

Did that say Manson River?

JAMES ZUNE

I think I saw a James Jones Garden ...

CONOR MCCLOUD

Must be after the football player.

HENRY BAKER

Or the murderers...

JAMES ZUNE

Yeah, murdered like NFL Blitz, after the whistle.

HENRY BAKER

Jesus... Where are we?

Suddenly a man appears. He approaches the teachers and extends his hand to Conor McCloud.

VERNON

You must be Conor McCloud.

CONOR MCCLOUD

Indeed, I am. And who are you? Besides a man with a great handshake.

VERNON

You can only make one first impression. I am the man that responded to your letter. I'm Vernon Beck, and welcome to The Blue Ranch.

CONOR MCCLOUD

Ah, nice to meet you, Vernon, and thanks again for inviting us. The students are dropping off their bags. And these are my colleagues, Henry Baker, and James Zune.

HENRY BAKER

(Already skeptical)

Nice to meet you.

VERNON

Likewise, why don't I give you all a quick tour of the ranch.

JAMES ZUNE

We have a map, we can figure it out.

VERNON

(Creepily)

I insist.

The four men begin to walk.

VERNON (CONT'D)

Down that direction is a small creek, we created a dam so now we are able to fish. On the other side there is where we do the laundry, and further down we bathe.

VERNON (CONT'D)

(Pointing to a large barn)

That there is the mess hall. That's where we eat- All food is grown, prepared, and eaten on camp.

CONOR MCCLOUD

Admirable. Very admirable.

VERNON

Yes. Yes, it is.

(Pointing to another
area)

That's the grand hall, where we
have our gatherings, meetings,
and social events. Next to it is
where all the workshops are,
leather making, steel work,
sciences, etc.

JAMES ZUNE

Sciences? What kind of science?

VERNON

Well, you gotta know your crops,
son, lots of science on a farm.
Ever see a weathervane? That's
science.

JAMES ZUNE

Sure, but-

VERNON

As I was saying, what else, oh
yeah, the campfire is right here
in front of us.

(Laughing)

And I guess you all already know
where the cabins are.

A person begins crowing in the distance, imitating a bird.

VERNON (CONT'D)

Well, boys, enjoy your stay here,
and whatever we can do to make it
better, we sure hope to do so.
The kids are welcomed to explore
the grounds. Everyone here runs
on a tight schedule but they're
welcomed to learn what they'd
like.

The crowing continues.

VERNON (CONT'D)

That's for me, let me take care
of that. Oh, and dinner is 7pm
sharp! Don't be late, we sure can
eat!

Vernon walks off. The teachers talk among themselves besides the campfire.

HERNY BAKER
Sciences? I don't know about that.

JAMES ZUNE
It does seem a little off, and old Vern seems like he's missing a few ingredients. If you know what I mean.

HENRY BAKER
Where did you hear about this camp again?

The scene follows a sequence from Conor McCloud's memory as he explains.

CONOR MCLCLOUD
It was back in December, I went to this bonfire party in the woods with that girl, Apricot. Well, I don't really remember much of that night, but when we got back to the parking lot this brochure was in her car windshield wipers, I saw how amazing it look and it said write to this address for more information so I did.

JAMES ZUNE
(Interrupting)
Wait wait, you wrote, like a letter?

CONOR MCLCLOUD
Yes, you fool.
(Shamefully,
mimicking)
"Like a letter". Do you know what those are? Can you even write?

HENRY BAKER
Woah, settle down. Stay focused. so you wrote a letter saying what?

McCloud continues.

CONOR MCCLOUD

Originally, I thought it would be a great place for myself to visit, but when Vernon told me about the group rate, I figured how could I not go!? And considering how I have alienated or burnt most bridges in my life, I decided to use the students to get me the cheaper rate.

JAMES ZUNE

That's brilliant.

HENRY BAKER

No! It's asinine!

CONOR MCCLOUD

I had a quick chat with Nancy, explaining how I would be saving the school money, and here we are.

HENRY BAKER

Ok, well, let's just keep an eye out. I do not want to see how Nancy Jackson would react if something happened to these kids.

INT. KEVIN PARKER ACADEMY - HENRY'S CLASSROOM

Pipen is dressed in a shirt and tie. He is covering a class for Henry as a substitute. He's forgets that these are teenagers and not his pre-schoolers. He begins to hand out crayons and coloring books, the only material he has with him.

STUDENT 6

You want us to color? Are we 4?

PIPEN SCOTT

See, I forgot you weren't 4, and that's why I brought this stuff. It's a fan favorite with my class.

STUDENT 7

So, we need to color for 45 minutes?

PIPEN SCOTT

Well, I guess we could chat? Talk about our paradigms?

STUDENT 7

What's a paradigm?

PIPEN SCOTT

I'm glad you asked! Coloring books away, kids, we are gonna sing a song about paradigms. I mean have a *conversation*. I forgot that you are tweens now.

STUDENT 8

What the fuck's a tween?

PIPEN SCOTT

A tween is certainly not supposed to use that kind of language, Peter. Now, everyone, desks in a circle.

The class arrange their seats into a Socratic circle and begin to engage in a surprisingly in-depth conversation.

STUDENT 6

So what you're saying is that these lines on the coloring sheet are just our comfort zone, and to grow we must go beyond our comfort zone? And everything inside that comfort zone is our paradigm?

Students nod their heads.

PIPEN SCOTT

Ah, very good, Jane, you're picking this up quite quickly! Ok, guys, does anyone else have anything to add?

The students' arms all go up, eager to participate, but the bell rings signaling the end of the class.

PIPEN SCOTT (CONT'D)

Alright, bye, everyone. Remember to email me, or maybe get a fun group chat going.

The students exit the classroom.

PIPEN SCOTT (CONT'D)

Wow, I am exhausted. I do not know how those guys work up here, it's like an episode of shark tank.

Pipen leaves the classroom, headed toward the break room with juice box in hand. Jessica approaches him in a hurry.

JESSICA

Pip, have you heard from Henry, or the other teachers?

Pipen pulls out a walkie-talkie.

PIPEN SCOTT

No, I haven't actually. I tried to get through to them about 20 minutes ago. The class and I were having a great chat and we had a question for Henry.

JESSICA

During class? Pipen, I don't think you should be doing that.

PIPEN SCOTT

You're right, he is probably busy right now.

JESSICA

Anyway, Ms. Jackson has been trying to get in touch with them, and no one is answering. She is starting to get pretty pissed.

PIPEN SCOTT

Oh no, I don't want the fam to be mad at one another!

JESSICA

Fam?

PIPEN SCOTT

Yeah! You, Me, Nancy, the boys. I consider us to be a big happy family. Like, Like Mike.

JESSICA

(Slightly honored)

Oh wow, that's so sweet of you.. I...

PIPEN SCOTT

Now's not the time, fam. Gotta help the guys. Follow me.

Pipen brings Jess into a small janitor's closet, they are intimately close to one another. Pipen breaks out an outdated cellphone and begins to dial each of his friends. All the calls go to voicemail, he can't get through to any of them.

PIPEN SCOTT (CONT'D)

(Overreacting)

God, I'm so frustrated when I can't talk to my friends!

JESSICA

Woah, relax, I'm sure they're just out of range. When is your next class? I will distract Nancy in the meantime.

PIPEN SCOTT

What time is it now?

JESSICA

2:18.

PIPEN SCOTT

Ok, next one is at 2:10.

(Calculating)

Oh, shit. Gotta go, Jess!

Pipen exits the class room and rushes back to the classroom he is supposed to be teaching in. The students are sitting in the classroom, surprisingly well behaved, most are just on their phones.

PIPEN SCOTT (CONT'D)

(Slightly out of breath)

Ah, perfect, I was thinking the same thing. Your phones are out, is anyone expecting an important call? Uh, raise your hands if you are expecting an important phone call.

The students ignore Pipen.

PIPEN SCOTT (CONT'D)

Ok, well, then phones away, I will keep mine out because I AM expecting a very important call.

All the students raise their hands.

PIPEN SCOTT (CONT'D)

In that case, you can leave them out! Let's begin.

Pipen begins playing "heads up" with the kids. He is in the middle of his turn when his phone rings.

STUDENT 9

Mr. Scott, I think that phone call you're waiting for is happening!

PIPEN SCOTT

Billy! What kind of hint is that?

STUDENT 9

Your phone is ringing.

PIPEN SCOTT

BILLY WE ARE DOWN 3 POINTS!

A buzzer sounds.

PIPEN SCOTT (CONT'D)

Goddamn it, Billy.

PIPEN SCOTT (CONT'D)

Ok kids, everyone pull out an Ibook or something, I gotta take this.

Pipen enters the hallway and sees 3 missed calls from Henry. He dials him back.

PIPEN SCOTT (CONT'D)

Hey man!

HENRY BAKER

Dude, why are you calling me so much? Aren't you at school?

PIPEN SCOTT

Class is going grreat right now, the kids are just playing Fourth-night on their phones.

HENRY BAKER

Why do they have their phones out? Pipen, what is going on?

PIPEN SCOTT

Woah, woah, I think I should be the one asking the questions here! Why are you dodging Ms. Jackson's phone calls?

HENRY BAKER

I'm not dodging them. I'm in the middle of nowhere. There is no service on this weird farm.

PIPEN SCOTT

Jessica is covering for you and told Nancy that, but Nancy isn't happy.

HENRY BAKER

Is she ever?

PIPEN SCOTT

Where are you all anyway, you know I am still sad you didn't invite me.

HENRY BAKER

The Blue Farm or Ranch or something. Some sort of amish community, I guess. The kids are loving it.

PIPEN SCOTT

Hm, why does that sound familiar?

HENRY BAKER

You've been here?

PIPEN SCOTT

That's it! Beck's Blues. Its a street drug.

HENRY BAKER

What?

PIPEN SCOTT

You remember when I was howling at the moon last weekend...

HENRY BAKER

Holy Shit, this guy is a drug dealer?

PIPEN SCOTT

No, no-

HENRY BAKER

Really, because he sold you drugs?

PIPEN SCOTT

No, he gave them to me. He's a religious leader, like a priest.

HENRY BAKER

Pipen. Where the hell am I? I have 30 students here. Ok, I gotta go, man. YOU NEED to distract Nancy tonight, OK? She can't be asking any questions about this, I'll get the kids home tomorrow. DO NOT say a word about the farm, or drugs, or this conversation again, got it?

PIPEN SCOTT

Sure thing, dude. But now that you'll be home tomorrow, I was thinking we could..

HENRY BAKER

Not now, Pip!

Henry hangs up the phone.

INT. THE BLUE RANCH - MESS HALL

A group of students sitting down at the mess hall. They are eating dinner and talking amongst themselves after a long day of working activities on the ranch.

STUDENT 10

I hate to say it, but I actually learned some cool shit today.

STUDENT 11

When I realized I wouldn't have my cell phone for the day, I thought I would freak out. But being in nature, and working with my hands was nice!

STUDENT 12

Yeah, I agree, it's been better than expected, but the people are weirdos, right?

STUDENT 10

Stop that! They're just different!

STUDENT 12

I know, I know, but like they choose to live like this? I talked to one girl who was 24, that is only 6 years older than us, is this where you wanna be in six years?

STUDENT 11

True. Imagine living here?

A few of the residents of the ranch come and sit with the students of Quiet Streams.

RANCHER TEVYN

Hey guys, did you enjoy your day?

STUDENT 10

Yeah, we were just talking about it! It was great actually.

RANCHER DANI

We are glad you see our way of life, it really is liberating!

STUDENT 11

Yeah, it must get tough though, right, living without technology and other stuff?

RANCHER DANI

We do what Vern wants, he knows what's best.

STUDENT 12

Uh, yeah, but c'mon don't you miss a good burger from McDonald's?

RANCHER TEVYN

Listen, we will be at the campfire after dark. Come and let us show you how great this place really is!

STUDENT 10

Sure! We would love to come.

RANCHER DANI

Great!

The ranchers leave the table, next to them are the teachers, having their dinner and covertly listening to the conversation.

HENRY BAKER

We have to leave tomorrow morning.

CONOR MCCLOUD

Nonsense, the kids are having a great time. This is a success, don't try to ruin this.

HENRY BAKER

What? No, seriously, I was just talking to Pipen and-

JAMES ZUNE

And what? He is not here, let McCloud have his moment.

CONOR MCCLOUD

Thank you, James, I appreciate you, both physically and physiologically.

HENRY BAKER

Are you both drunk?

MCCLOUD AND ZUNE

Yes.

HENRY BAKER

Jesus. Listen to me, I just got off the phone with Pipen, this farm we are on isn't a farm at all, it's some sort of drug cult.

JAMES ZUNE
(Surprised)

What?

CONOR MCCLOUD
Well, that doesn't mean it can't
be a farm.

JAMES ZUNE
(Confused)

What?

CONOR MCCLOUD
It can be both a cult and a farm.

HENRY BAKER
Is that what you care about right
now?

CONOR MCCLOUD
I don't care about any of this,
actually. The kids are having a
good time, this whiskey is making
me feel warm, and I think the
butter maker has a thing for me.

Henry pulls the guys aside to talk more quietly.

HENRY BAKER
They make a drug. Pipen has done
it, he was howling with wolves or
some shit, the students can't get
their hands on it.

JAMES ZUNE
I suppose letting the students
act like Pip in anyway is
irresponsible.

CONOR MCCLOUD
Ok, ok, so we just don't let them
do drugs, it's easy.

HENRY BAKER
It sounds like they're going to a
campfire tonight, let's make sure
we are there, and that bedtime is
at 9pm.

CONOR MCCLOUD

(Drunkenly)

9pm, Henry? They're nearly adults, let them do drugs if they choose, let them choose their path in life.

HENRY BAKER

How hammered are you? You're going to not only lose your job, but go to jail if these kids even find out where we are.

JAMES ZUNE

God, I'm really having a dilemma here, I love McCloud's party and bullshit attitude right now, but I also have the sweetest job ever and wouldn't last a minute in jail, ahhhhhhhhh, fuck. Ok, no drugs for the students.

HENRY BAKER

(Sighs in relief)

Thank God. Let's get out of here, they're starting to clear out.

The teachers exit the mess hall.

INT. KEVIN PARKER ACADEMY - END OF DAY

Meanwhile, Pipen is readying to leave for the day, hoping to avoid Ms. Jackson at all costs.

PRINCIPAL

Oh, Mr. Scott. Hold on one second! Hold on!

Pipen picks up his pace walking away from the principal pretending not to hear her. Ms. Jackson picks up her hustle and tracks him down.

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)

Mr. Scott! Have you spoken to any of your incompetent friends today?

PIPEN SCOTT

(Pretending to think)

Hmm. Now that you mention it, I have not. Have you?

PRINCIPAL

(Suspiciously)

No, I have not. They were supposed to check in. They have 30 students, and I haven't heard from them since they left this morning.

PIPEN SCOTT

I heard they might be out of cell range, so-

PRINCIPAL

Why is everyone telling me it's out of cell range, it's 20-effing-16.. Those teachers better not ef this up.

PIPEN SCOTT

Nance, why don't we go get a drink, I know a place nearby that makes the silkiest chai tea!

PRINCIPAL

A coffee?

(Sighs and rolls her eyes)

I could use a drink...

PIPEN SCOTT

Great! Should you follow me, or..

PRINCIPAL

No, get in your car, I don't want coffee, I'm not 16. There's a bar a couple blocks away. You'll be my driver.

PIPEN SCOTT

(Shocked)

Nancy, on a school night! How naughty.

PRINCIPAL

Behave.

EXT. THE BLUE RANCH - CAMPFIRE

Some students and some members of the ranch are sitting around a campfire. The teachers are also there, both Conor McCloud and James Zune are very drunk. A disinterested, sober Henry looks down at his watch, the clock reads 8:45 PM.

STUDENT 10

So, you guys never leave the farm?

RANCHER

(Tranquilly)

There's no need to, everyone and everything we have is right here.

STUDENT 11

It seems great but what about technology and normal stuff adults do, like going to the movies?

STUDENT 13

Or, museums, restaurants... there is soo much you guys are missing out on.

RANCHER

We don't need that stuff, we have fun in other ways.

STUDENT 12

Like nature, music, and each other...

STUDENT 13

Seems, a little bland. You're, what, 25 at most? You should be having fun, partying!

RANCHER

How about we just show you? Wait here.

The two Ranchers head off. Henry takes the opportunity to talk with the students.

HENRY BAKER

Alright, guys, it's bedtime. We have an early morning.

STUDENT 10

(Disappointingly)

Really, Mr. Baker, it's 9pm, and this is our senior retreat. Shouldn't we get a chance to do something fun?! Let us stay longer, please!

CONOR MCCLOUD

Yeah, c'mon, Henry, you're being a little ridiculous.

HENRY BAKER

(Snapping at McCloud)

I'm not talking to you, am I? Let's go, all students to the cabins. Let's go, let's go.

STUDENTS

(Groan)

The students are disappointed and reluctantly begin to go back to the cabin for the night, Henry escorting close behind. Conor and James catch up to them.

JAMES ZUNE

Hey man, aren't you being a little tough?

HENRY BAKER

No, I don't think that I am being a little tough. I think we are on some sort of drug-cult-farm, and you want these kids to be out, and what... do drugs all night?

JAMES ZUNE

Who said anything about drugs, they were just hanging out?

HENRY BAKER

(Temper rising)

Hanging out? What do you think those people were going to go get? What do you think they do to have "fun", I'll tell you, probably get high and, and, and.. have sex with each other...

JAMES ZUNE

Uh, news flash, man, it sounds pretty fun when you put it like that.

HENRY BAKER

Shut up, man, go do a headcount at the far cabins with McCloud, I'll check the one nearest the lake and meet you back at the fire in 15 minutes, OK? Did you bring tape for the doors?

JAMES ZUNE

Yup.

EXT. THE BLUE RANCH - OUTSIDE THE CABINS

The teachers are finishing their head count, all the students are accounted for. They close the door behind them and tape over the door. Henry is already waiting by the campfire when Conor and James get there.

CONOR MCCLOUD

Great, did you tell everyone else to go to bed too, dad?

HENRY BAKER

No, they were gone when I got back, but figured I would start us a small fire. Sorry I snapped before, you got anything left to drink?

JAMES ZUNE

(Handing Henry the bottle)

Atta boy, drink up.

HENRY BAKER

Everyone is safe and in bed. I guess I can cool down.

CONOR MCCLOUD

Thank god, use the stick from your ass to roast some marshmallow. Let's get this fire roaring!

JAMES ZUNE

Cheers, lads!

The teachers have a few drinks and share some stories around the fire. Decompressing after a long and confusing day. Henry reaches for another glass when he begins to hear the sound of drums and music in the distance. They jump up to go check it out.

HENRY BAKER

Those bastards, I'll give every single one of them detention from now until their college orientation. Let's go check the cabins, let's split up like before.

JAMES ZUNE

Eff that! We aren't splitting up, it's pitch black out here.

CONOR MCCLOUD

This isn't an episode of Scooby Doo. No one wearing a monster mask is going to snatch you up.

JAMES ZUNE

You're right, McCloud. Not a monster in a mask, just a drug dealer, brainwashing young women. Probably.

HENRY BAKER

Fair point, fine, we stick together.

CONOR MCCLOUD

Jinkies, you guys are bitches.

The teachers check the cabins, but no tape is broken, they begin to walk away back towards the fire when they see a small group of people walking in the distance.

HENRY BAKER

Hey, look, there are some people. Let's see if they know where the music is coming from.

Henry hustles to catch up to the group of people.

HENRY BAKER (CONT'D)

Hey, hello there! Thanks for your time. Uhm, we heard some music earlier by the campfire, you know what that's all about?

RANCHER

Yeah man, that is coming from Vern's Castle.

JAMES ZUNE

Castle?

RANCHER

Well, it's just the big barn filled with some old furniture, but yeah, he calls it his castle. He is having a sermon tonight. We are headed that way now.

CONOR MCCLOUD

Sounds motivational.

RANCHER

Very. Spiritual. And after, we celebrate.

CONOR MCCLOUD

We're in!

RANCHER

Follow us.

HENRY BAKER

We'll catch up in a minute.

The ranchers walk towards the growing blare of music. Henry becoming upset turns to McCloud.

HENRY BAKER (CONT'D)

Are you nuts?

CONOR MCCLOUD

What? You wanted to find where the music was coming from and we did, let's go.

HENRY BAKER

And what do you think they're going to be doing in there? It can't be good. It's probably drugs.

JAMES ZUNE

Oh, it is definitely drugs.

HENRY BAKER

It's a no for me. Absolutely not.

CONOR MCCLOUD

Listen, Shaggy, the gang is going to solve this mystery with or without you.

Henry reluctantly follows Zune and McCloud. The music begins to get louder, they are headed in the right direction. They finally reach the "castle" and peer through the window, the room is filled with bright colors and people enjoying themselves. They round the corner to the entrance and open the door.

HENRY BAKER

Holy shit, where am I?

CONOR MCCLOUD

It smells like a hippie's vagina in here.

JAMES ZUNE

Jesus, are those people stomping on berries? Are they juicing right now?

HENRY BAKER

Ok, let's just stick together and try to find Vern. Oh, and listen to me. Do not touch anything, and do not allow anything near your mouths.

The boys begin to meander when suddenly Henry's phone begins to ring.

HENRY BAKER (CONT'D)

Shit, it's Pip, it's too loud to hear him in here. I'm going to step outside, do not leave this spot.

Henry makes his way to the exit of the barn and answers the phone.

HENRY BAKER (CONT'D)

Pipen, Pip, whats going on?

PIPEN SCOTT

Dude, I'm out to dinner!

HENRY BAKER

Uh great, I'm glad you're super excited about that, but I can't-

PIPEN SCOTT

With Nance!

HENRY BAKER

Nancy Jackson?!

PIPEN SCOTT

I must say, it is going quite well. What are you guys up to?

HENRY BAKER

Pip, remember that is your boss and not a blind date. You can't give her the patented Pipen 5 star treatment.

PIPEN SCOTT

Oh, you already know she is getting the patented Pipen 5 star treatment. She is a lady after all. Is that music I hear in the background?

HENRY BAKER

Yeah, we are about to go talk to this guy Vern about leaving tomorrow. It's going to be impossible, there are so many people at this party.

PIPEN SCOTT

Party? What the hell, you guys said it was a boring camping trip! Are you on on drugs? Damn, this is so unfair.

HENRY BAKER

No, no, Pip, I'm not letting these animals get high on a work trip, I have to go.

(Checks the time on
his watch)

You better have Nancy home in 30 minutes.

PIPEN SCOTT

Sure thing, dad, but... uh, could you bring me home some of those drugs?

HENRY BAKER
(Sighs and hangs up
the phone)

PIPEN SCOTT

Henry?

Henry heads back inside to find the other teachers. The barn is much more crowded than before making it hard for Henry to see through the sea of people.

HENRY BAKER
Ah, shit.

Henry begins to roam the crowd. He makes his way to a room where he stumbles upon Vern sitting in a circle on the ground with a group of people. Henry approaches.

HENRY BAKER (CONT'D)
Excuse me, excuse me. Vern, I
hate to interrupt, but could I
have a word with you?

VERN
Well, of course you can, take a
seat friend.

HENRY BAKER
I really meant somewhere a little
bit more private.

VERN
We are all family here, what you
say to me can be said to
everyone, isn't that right,
family?

GROUP
Yes, Vern.

HENRY BAKER
Uh, I love the family harmony and
whatnot, but, get up, we gotta
chat.

VERN
I see, it must be a serious
matter, let's go over here.

Vern brings Henry to an area away from the party, but it is only separated by a thin bed sheet. Henry settles for knowing he probably won't find a more private area.

VERN (CONT'D)

What can I do you for, partner?

HENRY BAKER

Listen, I know what you are doing here, and I swear I'll call the cops right now if you don't let me and my friends, and these kids go home tomorrow!

VERN

(Slightly laughing)

Ok partner, if that's what you all want. This is a peaceful farm, we are family, remember?

HENRY BAKER

Wait, what? Just like that? No issue at all? Aren't you afraid I'll call the cops on you, or tell people about this weird place?

VERN

Well, are you gonna call the cops?

HENRY BAKER

No.

VERN

I know our life isn't easy to understand. And we know it seems a little weird. But, I think we are a little weird, aren't we? Hey, you're a teacher right? Don't you want what's best for your students?

HENRY BAKER

Of course, I do, but I think -

VERN

We are the same. That's all I want. These "students" of mine, are just here to learn, sometimes you gotta be a bit more open minded, a bit more relaxed.

Vern pulls the sheet back, James Zune and Conor McCloud are sitting in the circle. They turn to see Henry talking to Vern.

JAMES ZUNE

Shit, we thought you bitched out
and went to bed.

HENRY BAKER

(To McCloud)

No, I was here fixing the problem
you created.

CONOR MCCLOUD

What problem? The kids are
sleeping, and we are having a
nice time, c'mon, relax now.

VERN

See, even your buddies know you
gotta relax, here this will help
a bit.

Vern holds out a small blue pill in his hand.

HENRY BAKER

Woah, woah, I don't know about
that. You relax.

JAMES ZUNE

I'll take it.

CONOR MCCLOUD

Got any more of that Farmer Vern?

Vern hold out more blue pills, he hands one to Conor McCloud
who swallows it happily.

CONOR MCCLOUD (CONT'D)

See, Henry, if it wasn't safe,
would I do it?

(Holding out one more
pill)

HENRY BAKER

And I'll be OK by morning? And we
can leave the ground at 8 am?

JAMES ZUNE

Sure, man.

Henry pauses before swallowing the pill.

HENRY BAKER

Alright. Now what?

CONOR MCCLOUD

We wait!

JAMES ZUNE

That hippie back home is going to be so jealous!

CONOR MCCLOUD

What's the cause for celebration anyway?

VERN

We figured we should have one more celebration before we go, ya know, a farewell party?

JAMES ZUNE

Farewell? You guys moving?

VERN

Moving on, indeed.

CONOR MCCLOUD

All good things must come to an end right?

JAMES ZUNE

Where you headed to?

VERN

Good question, boys, hard to tell where we'll end up. But the family and I will be together on this journey.

Suddenly the boys begin to feel something strange. The drugs are beginning to kick in.

VERN (CONT'D)

Join us on the journey. Don't be afraid.

The teachers begin to fully feel the effects of the drugs. Meanwhile, Pipen and Nancy are back at Henry's having a drink. The night goes on and the teachers are deep in a trance surrounded by music and lights. They party deep into the night.

INT. THE BLUE RANCH - THE NEXT MORNING

Henry is looking at his watch, it's 7:45 AM. James Zune and Conor McCloud are sleeping on the bus. Henry is outside the bus as student pour on. He is exhausted from lack of sleep. But he can't recall much from the night before.

STUDENT 10

What gives, Mr. Baker, why are we leaving so abruptly?

HENRY BAKER

(Having to think on his toes)

Uh, there was a grizzly bear sighting.

STUDENT 10

Really?

HENRY BAKER

Yeah, mauled two annoying students asking too many questions. Get on the bus.

STUDENT 10

(Rolls eyes)

The students finish getting on the bus and the group pulls away from the ranch.

INT. HENRY'S HOUSE - LATER THAT DAY

The boys return from the senior trip. They finally arrive back to Henry's house to see Pipen is cleaning furiously, the news is playing on the TV. Henry, James, and Conor walk through the front door, and are shocked and confused to see him cleaning.

HENRY BAKER

Since when do you clean?

CONOR MCCLOUD

Or watch the news?

PIPEN SCOTT

Woah, hey fellas! Aren't you guys supposed to be staying there another night?

JAMES ZUNE

It was a cult, you hippie. How long did you want us to keep students there?

CONOR MCCLOUD

No, Pipen you are right. We should have stayed another night. Henry over here ruined it for everyone, it could have been even better than the first night.

PIPEN SCOTT

Oh, what did you guys get up to?

HENRY BAKER

(Quick to interrupt)

Nothing! That music you heard ended shortly after.

(Changing the subject before any more questions))

How was dinner with Nance?

JAMES ZUNE

Dinner with Nance? Woah, spill.

PIPEN SCOTT

(Fumbling his words)

Dinner with Nance, uh, you know fine, dinnery, there was food.

JAMES ZUNE

Did you make out?

PIPEN SCOTT

Of course not! She's my boss!

(Winks at Henry)

HENRY BAKER

Why are you winking at me?

A special report on the news gets the attention of the teachers. They all turn toward the television.

NEWSCASTER

This just in. Reports are saying 48 people have been found dead in a remote area about 4 hours north of the city. The people were believed to belong to a cult ran by a man named Vernon Beck. Beck is believed to be the head of this cult and encouraged all to participate in the continuing of their families "journey". The deceased seemed to have ingested a liquid poison of some sort, it is unbeknownst if all took this drug voluntarily or not. With Q.S.N.N, I am Kim Augustus.

END.