

One Small Step

Pilot

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY (D1)

Two 12-year-old boys, JOSH and KYLE, race down the staircase. Josh's shorts reveal his prosthetic leg.

JOSH  
I get the last chocolate chip cookie sandwich!

KYLE  
I'm the guest!

They hit the bottom of the stairs and race across the living room, shoving each other as they go. Kyle breaks ahead.

KYLE (CONT'D)  
Woo!

JOSH  
Shortcut!

Josh tries to jump the couch, but the foot of his prosthetic leg catches on it and he goes down. Hard.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
Aaahhh!

Josh doesn't get back up. Kyle stops, tentatively looks back.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
Ah, dangit. My joint popped out of place...

KYLE  
You're not trying to trick me, are you?

JOSH  
What?!

KYLE  
You pretend to get hurt, I stop to go help the kid with the prosthetic leg, then you run right past me and get the last chocolate chip cookie sandwich and laugh?

JOSH  
What is wrong with you?! Just grab my cell so I can call my mom.

KYLE  
(feels bad)  
Okay... I'm sorry, that was stupid.

Kyle hurries back toward the stairs, crossing back past Josh. The second his back is to Josh, a huge smile spreads across Josh's face and he stands up and sneaks toward the kitchen -- it was all a trick.

KYLE (CONT'D)  
I got too caught up in ice cream. I'm  
really sorry --

Kyle looks back to see Josh hurrying toward the kitchen.

KYLE (CONT'D)  
Nooo! You played on my good nature!

Josh bolts into the kitchen. Kyle sprints after him.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Kyle bursts in to find Josh reaching into the freezer. He rushes over to him.

KYLE  
You're splitting that with me!

Josh pulls out the ice cream sandwich box.

JOSH  
No, way! You fell for it!

Josh looks in the box -- it's empty.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
It's gone!

VOICE (O.S.)  
Looking for this..?

A high-backed swivel chair rotates, revealing Josh's little sister, LUISA (8), holding the last chocolate chip cookie ice cream sandwich.

LUISA  
(GIVES THE SANDWICH A HUGE SNIFF) It  
smells delicious.

Josh and Kyle start toward her:

JOSH/KYLE  
Give me that! / That's mine!

Luisa's eyes go wide with fear. She gives the entire sandwich a huge lick.

JOSH  
Ew, gross!

KYLE  
I'll still eat it.

LUISA  
No you won't.

Luisa takes a big bite, then:

LUISA (CONT'D)  
(holds head)  
Ahh! Brain freeze! Aah! Ahhhh!

She bolts to the sink, turns on the faucet and shoves her mouth underneath it, drinking cold water. As Josh crosses to her:

JOSH  
Ha! That's what you get for eating the last ice cream sandwich!

Luisa grabs the sink water hose and turns it on the boys.

JOSH/KYLE  
Aaah! / How is that so cold?!

Kyle bolts for the door. In the scramble to get away, Josh trips over a chair and hits the ground hard, ironically, actually damaging his prosthetic leg (we see the foot twisted). Luisa stands over him and squirts water right in his face.

JOSH  
Luisa, I can't run because my prosthetic leg is jacked! Are you that cruel?!

Luisa stops squirting. Then:

LUISA  
I'm your sister, not your mama.

She squirts him relentlessly again. Josh starts crawling toward the door.

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER (D1)

Josh, MAGGIE, MATTHEW and Luisa enter, loaded down with reusable shopping bags. Maggie moves with purpose across the room.

MAGGIE

Josh, sweetie, we've discussed this a thousand times. We're done.

CAMERA FOLLOWS them into:

INT. DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The dining room was converted into the homeschool room long ago. Three desks, classroom decorations on the wall, a bookshelf, big whiteboard, etc. A lot of love was put into making this room a comfortable and fun learning environment. Maggie, Matthew and Luisa empty bags of new school supplies over the following. Josh follows Maggie around the room as she unpacks.

MATTHEW

(to Josh)

You're wasting your breath. We're trapped in this tan-carpeted prison forever.

MAGGIE

(bit playful)

See, Matthew gets it.

JOSH

But, Mom, I want to have a typical school experience. That shared camaraderie of going to assemblies or staying up late to finish my first research paper or running for class President...

MATTHEW

Wow, your dreams are lame.

LUISA

My dreams are fun! There's usually unicorns.

MAGGIE

Josh, look, I understand your side of this, but at home, I can make sure you get an education tailored just for you. Here you can thrive academically, emotionally in a comfortable and safe environment.

JOSH

Ah, and there it is. By safe, you obviously mean "I don't want my son with one leg going to public middle school because he can't handle it."

Maggie stops unpacking.

MAGGIE

Are you really saying that with a straight face?

JOSH

Mom, I can handle myself in public school. I go out in the world every day and do so many things most people thought I never could. I play soccer...

POP TO:

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Josh scores a goal. He and his teammates cheer.

BACK TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY (PRESENT)

Back where we were.

JOSH

Ski race...

POP TO:

INT. SKI SLOPE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Josh skis across the finish line. He raises his arms triumphantly. The **crowd cheers**.

BACK TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY (PRESENT)

Back where we were.

JOSH

I even did that ridiculous headlock competition.

INT. GYM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

A banner reads, "12th Annual Headlock Competition". Josh has a BEEFY KID in a headlock. A REFEREE counts the final second, then **blows the whistle**, declares Josh the winner. The **crowd cheers**.

BACK TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY (PRESENT)

Where we were.

MAGGIE

You're right, Josh. You have done all those things. Because I have never let anyone, including you, treat you any differently because of your leg. Remember the soccer coach?

POP TO:

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - SIDELINES - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Maggie, stern-faced, takes a step closer to the SOCCER COACH, entering his personal space.

MAGGIE

I'm sorry, I didn't quite hear you. What did you say about my son?

SOCCER COACH

(changing his tune)  
What I meant to say was... we'd be delighted to have your son try out and treat him just like any other kid trying out for the team.

MAGGIE

Ah, sorry, I must have misheard you.

POP BACK TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY (PRESENT)

MAGGIE

And the skiing coach?

POP TO:

INT. SKI SCHOOL BUILDING - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Everyone is in winter gear, skis all around. Maggie is in the same stance, facing the Skiing Coach.

SKIING COACH  
(clearly uncomfortable)  
I said we'd be delighted to have your  
son try out and treat him just like  
any other kid trying out for the team.

POP BACK TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY (PRESENT)

MAGGIE  
And the guy who ran that headlock  
competition?

POP TO:

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - SIDELINES - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Mom has a BURLY GUY in a headlock.

BURLY GUY  
(struggling a bit)  
I already said yes...

MAGGIE  
I know, but I like this.

BURLY GUY  
(genuine)  
You are a natural.

POP BACK TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY (PRESENT)

Back where we were. Maggie beams.

MAGGIE  
I righted a social wrong that day.

LUISA  
And got third place.

Luisa high-fives mom. Then, GARY (dad) enters, home from  
work.

GARY  
Hey, guys.

JOSH  
Dad, please tell Mom public school  
isn't that bad.



GARY

Oh. This again. Fun.

MAGGIE

Gary, please back me up here.

GARY

Honey, you know I do not take sides in this argument.

MAGGIE

Which means you always let me be the bad guy.

GARY

(half-joking)

No, I let you choose whether or not to be the bad guy.

(then)

But, honestly, Maggie, he's right. I went to public school. It's not that bad.

JOSH

Ha! You took my side!

Gary realizes his mistake. Maggie turns to Josh.

MAGGIE

Josh, public school is going to be challenging for you in ways you can't even imagine. It's my job to imagine them for you.

JOSH

Mom, you've always inspired me to never back down from a challenge... even if that challenge is trying to convince my Mom she's wrong.

MAGGIE

What if she's right?

JOSH

Then, maybe I need to find that out for myself.

Maggie looks at Josh a beat, then puts her hands on either side of his face:

MAGGIE

(softening)

It helps that I'm the one who taught you how to debate.

(MORE)

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

(then)  
Okay.

JOSH  
(thrilled)  
Really?!

MATTHEW  
(angry shock)  
Really?!

LUISA  
(stronger angry shock)  
Really?!

GARY  
(calm shock)  
Really?

Josh jumps around, celebrating.

MAGGIE  
But Matthew's going with you.

MATTHEW  
Yes!

Matthew jumps around, celebrating.

JOSH  
Whoa, what? He's only starting sixth grade. I did sixth grade at home.

MATTHEW  
Dude, shut it!

MAGGIE  
You'll be in the same building. If anything happens, he'll be there to tell me all the details.

Matthew reaches up to throw his arm around Josh's shoulder.

MATTHEW  
Don't worry, Mom, I'll look out for my big bro.

They all **laugh** at the spindly Matthew a beat, then:

MAGGIE  
No, sweetie, Mommy needs a snitch.

Josh shrugs off Matthew's arm.

LUISA

Ooh, I'll be your snitch!

MAGGIE

No, baby, you stay home with me.

Maggie pulls her in close. Luisa frowns. THEN:

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

BUT...

JOSH

What?! No buts, no buts!

MAGGIE

(to Josh)

If the slightest bad thing happens to you, I will yank both of you out of there so fast. Got it?

JOSH/MATTHEW

Got it. / Deal.

JOSH

(to Matthew, still can't believe it)

We're going to public school!

Josh and Matthew jump around in a circle, celebrating.

MATTHEW

Let's get fro-yo to celebrate!

JOSH

Let's go-yo!

As they boys run out.

MATTHEW

Dude, you ruined it!

The boys are gone. Luisa sulks out, as Gary crosses to Maggie, comforts her.

GARY

Honey, I know this is hard, but we've raised kids with good heads on their shoulders. They'll be okay.

He pulls her in. Maggie rests her head on his shoulder:

MAGGIE  
(softening)  
I hope so... (THEN) If not, it's all  
your fault.

With that Maggie walks out. Then:

GARY  
I shoulda worked late.

As Gary shuffles out, we...

CUT TO:

EXT./ESTAB. SUBURBAN SHOPS - LATER (D1)

CAMERA PANS: This is a modern, walkable set of shops. No parking spots nearby. There's a lot of foot traffic. Bikes and scooters are parked outside the shops.

WE FIND: A frozen yogurt shop.

INT. "JO JO'S FROYO" FROYO SHOP - LATER (D1)

WE FIND: Matthew and Josh fill their fro-yo cups, as KYLE enters, carrying a yearbook.

KYLE  
Hey, guys.

The three of them greet one another.

JOSH

MATTHEW

Hey, Kyle.

Hey, man.

Kyle hands Josh his yearbook.

KYLE  
I don't know why you want it, but  
here's my yearbook.

JOSH  
Ooh, thanks.

Josh eagerly takes the book from Kyle, starts scanning it. As Kyle grabs a fro-yo cup:

KYLE  
Just a heads-up -- there are a bunch  
of pictures of me in there. I don't  
wanna brag, but I got pretty popular  
in 6th grade. Kids started calling me  
'The Mayor' of the class. It's silly,  
it's silly...

JOSH

Well, Mr. Mayor I look forward to seeing you in action. (OFF KYLE'S LOOK) Matt and I are going to public school this year!

Kyle is stone faced.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Dude, aren't you pumped?!

KYLE

Totally, yes, of course. I'm just - this is my shocked face. Congratulations!

Kyle gives them both "dude hugs." As the boys cross and add toppings:

JOSH

I read in one of my motivational books if you say a person's name and shake their hand the first time you meet them, it makes them like you more; you become friends faster.

(re: yearbook)

So I'm gonna memorize everyone in our class so I can introduce myself to all of them on the first day of school.

KYLE

That's a terrible idea. You're gonna totally embarrass yourself.

MATTHEW

Yeah, you're gonna totally embarrass yourself.

(delighted)

That's an amazing idea, you should do that.

KYLE

Josh, man, look I've seen you make friends like...

(snaps)

...that, but this is different. You're walking in there brand new on the first day of middle school. You set a bad tone for yourself and it's game over.

JOSH

Don't worry, I know what I'm doing.

Josh starts toward the counter, bumping into a patron.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Oh, I'm so sorry.

The patron does that look down to Josh's leg, then:

PATRON

No, I'm sorry.

(re: Josh's leg)

Did I hurt you? Here... let me take your yogurt to the counter--

He reaches for Josh's yogurt, but Josh moves it out of reach.

JOSH

No, sir, thank you, I'm good. The leg's metal -- so super sturdy.

Josh knocks on his leg in a bit of a goofy way.

PATRON

(laughs, then)

Still has a sense of humor. So brave.

The patron pats Josh on the shoulder, then crosses off. Josh shakes his head.

KYLE

What the heck was that?

JOSH

A reminder... You guys, please don't tell kids at school about my leg.

KYLE

They might notice.

JOSH

("really?")

I'll wear pants.

(then)

I'll tell people eventually, but I just want kids to get to know me for me. If my leg is the first thing they know about me, that's all they'll care about and I'll just be "the kid with the leg."

MATTHEW

Dude, your leg is basically the only interesting thing about you. You should totally use it.

Josh heads to the counter to pay. The boys follow.

JOSH

I don't want anyone to treat me any differently. I wanna make friends because they like me, not because they feel bad for me.

KYLE

Of course. I won't say anything.

MATTHEW

I don't care, sure.

Josh nods, sets his yogurt on the scale. The EMPLOYEE looks down at Josh's leg, then:

EMPLOYEE

It's all good, bro. On the house.

JOSH

Oh... Thanks.  
(leaning into it, rubbing his knee)  
It gets so stiff during the day...

Josh theatrically limps away.

KYLE

(sotto)  
I thought you didn't want people to treat you differently because of your leg.

JOSH

("duh")  
Dude, free yogurt.

Josh continues to put on a show, limping toward the door.

CUT TO:

EXT./ESTAB. MEADOWVIEW K-8 SCHOOL - LATER (D3)

Students hurry in to start their day.

INT. MEADOWVIEW K-8 SCHOOL - MAIN HALLWAY - SAME TIME (D3)

Students excitedly greet one another, talk. Josh and Matthew enter, smiles on their faces. They stop and take it in.

JOSH

(beaming)  
New year, new school.

MATTHEW

We did it, Josh. We're free.

ANGLE ON: Josh, all smiles, taking in the hustle and bustle of the entryway.

JOSH

Yeah, it's surreal... I can't believe it's actually hap--

Josh turns as we WIDEN TO SEE Matthew is gone.

JOSH (CONT'D)

And he's gone...

JOSH (CONT'D)

(to himself)

Which friends should I make first..?

JOSH'S POV: Josh scans the hallways. He EVENTUALLY FINDS a DIVERSE GROUP OF POPULAR BOYS AND GIRLS. One of the girls, GABRIELLA, stands out:

JOSH (CONT'D)

(to himself)

Gabriella Marquez. Sixth grade class president. I definitely want to meet her.

Josh marches right up to the group --

GABRIELLA

...I mean, it was nice, but I just wanted to be--

-- And sticks his hand right into their huddle and says:

JOSH

Gabriella Marquez. I'm Josh Doogan.

The kids turn and look blankly at Josh. He smiles waiting for Gabriella to shake his hand. a beat, then:

GABRIELLA

Um, we have to go.

The kids turn and walk off in the other direction, talking and **laughing** among themselves.

JOSH

(trying to make himself feel better)

I made them laugh.



Then, Josh turns and sheepishly walks off.

CUT TO:

INT. MEADOWVIEW K-8 SCHOOL - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER (D3)

Josh walks down the hallway, shaking hands with students as he passes. The kids all have the same surprised/blank look, not knowing what to make of him.

JOSH

Hey, Dave Conrad, Josh Doogan. Good to meet you. Love that haircut.

(then)

There's Brendan Mort. Morty. What's up? Josh Doogan. It's a pleasure. If you want, you can call me Doogan. It'll be our thing.

(off no response)

We'll figure it out.

Josh spots Kyle.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Kyle!

They greet.

KYLE

What's up, man? Welcome to day one!

JOSH

Crazy, right?!

KYLE

You find your locker?

JOSH

No, not yet.

He shows Kyle a slip of paper.

KYLE

(re: paper)

I think that's down here...

They start off. Josh eyes Kyle as a few kids pass them. Then:

JOSH

Why isn't anyone saying hi to you?

KYLE

What?

JOSH

You were the "mayor of the class" last year, right?

KYLE

Look, there's like this unspoken social rule that the cooler you are, the more no one says hi to you.

JOSH

(not buying it)

Hmm, really? That seems pretty weird.

KYLE

It is weird, but it's a thing. So, if no one says hi to me, that's how it's supposed to be, so don't point it out. Please.

JOSH

(happy to go along with it)

Of course.

(then)

Can I call you, Mr. Mayor?

KYLE

No.

As they round the corner.

JOSH

How about The Honorable Kyle Tucker?

KYLE

Maybe.

We follow them into:

INT. ANOTHER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

As they enter the hallway, Josh notices a giant corkboard along the wall, filled top to bottom with sheets of paper. Josh stops, holds his chest.

JOSH

(excited gasp)

His gasp **startles Kyle.**

KYLE

(genuinely scared)

Are you all right?! Are you having a heart attack?! Should I start punching your chest?!?!?

Josh races over to the corkboard. We now see the papers are sign-up sheets for school clubs.

JOSH  
This is it, Kyle. This is why I'm  
here...  
(with great reverence)  
Clubs...

Josh pulls out a pen and starts moving in a row, writing his name on every sheet.

KYLE  
Dude, you can't sign up for every  
club.

JOSH  
I'm twelve years overdue for school  
clubs. I have a lot of time to make  
up.

KYLE  
(re: sheets)  
Yeah, but these two are at the exact  
same time, and that's girls  
basketball.

JOSH  
I can be a cheerleader.

KYLE  
Oh. That's actually pretty smart.

JOSH  
Then why don't you sign up, Mr. Mayor?

KYLE  
Oh, no, cool kids don't do clubs. It's  
kind of a rule.

JOSH  
Come on, Kyle, I know this seems  
boring to you, but this is the chance  
to try new things and find what you  
like, find out who you are. Just try  
something.

Josh holds out the pen.

KYLE  
Okay, fine...

Kyle takes the pen and signs up on a sheet.

JOSH  
(re: sheet)  
Ooh, chess club, Kyle I'm impress--

Kyle can barely hold in a laugh. Josh just saw it:

JOSH (CONT'D)  
(re: name on sheet)  
Stu Pid?

KYLE  
Ha! Classic!

**Kyle laughs**, and Josh shakes his head, then goes back to signing up for clubs.

CUT TO:

EXT./ESTAB. MEADOWVIEW K-8 SCHOOL - LATER (D3)

INT. MEADOWVIEW K-8 SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - LUNCH TIME (D3)

Josh and Kyle enter, trays in hand. Josh, wide-eyed, pauses in the doorway, takes in the room: the tables, the kids...

JOSH  
It's just like in the movies... It's beautiful!

Then, Matthew, trying to squeeze past, bumps into Josh.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
Ohp, sorry...  
(turns and sees)  
Oh, hey, Matt.  
(enjoying saying this)  
How's your first day in public school?

MATTHEW  
Pretty good.

Matthew holds up a notepad.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)  
I found a whole mess 'a bathroom passes. I'm gonna be peeing A LOT this year.  
(then, re: Josh's tray)  
Ooh, there are cookies?

JOSH  
(points)  
Yeah, they're right by the--

Matthew snags Josh's cookie and hurries off.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
(super casual)  
He's the worst.

Josh eyes the packed cafeteria.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
So... how do you know where to sit?  
This wasn't covered in the school  
handbook. Unless I missed it--

Josh shifts his tray, so he can reach one hand into his bag.  
Kyle stops him.

KYLE  
Buddy, do not pull out the school  
handbook in here.  
(then)  
There's no rule, you just kinda find a  
spot and sit where you want.

Then Josh sees them: Gabriella and the popular kids from  
earlier. And there's an open seat right next to Gabriella.

JOSH  
How about there?

KYLE  
You're really gonna go embarrass  
yourself again?

JOSH  
Chapter 10, page 126 of *How to Make  
Friends and Impress People*:  
"Persistence is the key to success."

Josh starts off toward the table.

KYLE  
Josh, no--

Kyle takes a step toward Josh, but Matthew jumps in and  
blocks his path.

MATTHEW  
Dude, no! This'll be hilarious!

Kyle shucks and jives then gets around Matthew. Matthew  
chases after Kyle, as Kyle hurries after Josh. The trio each  
dodge kids and backpacks as they zig and zag toward the  
table. Josh closes in on them. Suddenly, everything goes  
into:

SLOW-MO: It's an intense, slow-mo scene, as Josh rounds the final corner and is steps away from the table. Kyle racing as fast as he can, rounds the corner right behind Josh. Josh is steps away -- Kyle gives a burst of speed and reaches out his hand to grab Josh:

KYLE  
(slow-mo)  
Nooooooooo!

Kyle's hand swipes... air, just as Josh ducks it, sitting down, right next to Gabriella. Back to:

NORMAL SPEED:

Josh sets down his tray, sticks out his hand to Gabriella.

JOSH  
Hey, Gabriella... Josh Doogan. We met  
in the hallway this morning...

Josh's hand once again hangs there in mid-air. Gabriella, taken aback, **chuckles**.

ON: Matthew and Kyle, watching from nearby.

MATTHEW  
Oh. My. Hilarious.

KYLE  
(mortified for him)  
Oh, Josh...

ON: Josh and Gabriella. Josh still smiles, hand out. Gabriella looks down at it, then up at Josh. Then... she shakes it.

GABRIELLA  
Hey... I'm Gabriella. Which you  
already knew, apparently... Uh, do you  
know everyone? This is Steve...

As Gabriella goes around the table, introducing Josh to the group of kids, Kyle is wide-eyed in awe and Matthew's jaw is on the floor.

MATTHEW  
(negative "no way!")  
That worked?!

KYLE  
(positive "no way!")  
That worked?!

ON: Josh and the popular kids.

GABRIELLA  
So, you're new to school?

JOSH  
Uh, yeah, any school, actually. I was  
homeschooled most of my life.

STEVE  
Oh, wow. What's that like?

JOSH  
Well, y'know, it's basically a tan-  
carpeted prison.

THE KIDS  
(laugh)

ON: Matthew:

MATTHEW  
That's my line!

WIDEN TO SEE: Kids at nearby tables gawk over at Josh, as the  
girls **laugh** at what he just said. Josh is in heaven. Kyle  
beams.

CUT TO:

INT. MEADOWVIEW K-8 SCHOOL - HALLWAY - LATER (D3)

CLOSE ON: Josh, walking down the hallway, grinning ear-to-  
ear.

WIDEN TO REVEAL: everyone smiles at him. Kyle is by his side.

KID #1  
Hey, it's Cafeteria Kid!

JOSH  
'Sup!  
Big high-five.

KID #2  
Hey, man!

JOSH  
High-five!  
Big high-five.

KYLE  
(shaking head)  
This is unbelievable. Day one and you  
are, without a doubt, the most popular  
kid in school.

JOSH

I told you, people are just shy. You gotta break down the barriers.

(then, suddenly faux terrified)

Wait, if no one talks to the cool kids and everyone's saying hi to me, does that mean I'm really actually not cool?

KYLE

(realizes)

You knew I was lying?

JOSH

Well, yeah. I mean, what 6th grader nicknames anyone "The Mayor"?

KYLE

Yeah. I should've gone with Li'l LeBron.

JOSH

No, you shouldn't've.

(then)

You know you don't have to lie to me about how popular you are.

KYLE

Yeah, well, it's a little embarrassing. Especially now that you're Cafeteria Kid.

JOSH

Well, don't worry, young Mr. Tucker...

Josh puts his arm around Kyle's shoulders, being genuine but silly at the same time. Like he's the old veteran taking a new recruit under his wing.

JOSH (CONT'D)

(self-important voice)

Cafeteria Kid will take you under his wing and show you the ropes.

Josh and Kyle **laugh**.

ANGLE ON: Further down the hallway, an 8th grader, DEVON, eyes Josh high-fiving a student. Devon turns to his BUDDIES.

DEVON

It took me three years to get a sweet nickname. This kid's been here one day..?



DEVON'S FRIEND  
Doesn't seem right, Sideburns.

Devon strokes his sideburns...

DEVON  
No, it doesn't.

Josh and Kyle reach Devon. Devon sticks out his leg and trips Josh. For good measure, he shoves Josh down over his leg, sending Josh falling flat on his face.

When the knee of Josh's prosthetic leg hits the ground, the force causes it to pop off and Josh's prosthetic slides out of his pant leg and onto the floor.

DEVON'S FRIEND  
Sideburns ripped off Cafeteria Kid's leg!

Kids scatter! Devon leans down over Josh. Josh recoils, covers his face.

JOSH  
Ah! Don't hit me!

DEVON  
Dude, I'm not gonna hit you. I wouldn't've even tripped you if I knew about your leg.

Devon offers his hand to help Josh up.

JOSH  
Oh, what, you won't bully me just because I have a fake leg?

DEVON  
What?

JOSH  
That's discrimination! You should beat me up just like anybody else!

DEVON  
(twisted in 1,000 different directions, fumfering)

Then, Matthew rushes in.

MATTHEW  
Dude, what are you doing?!

Devon turns to Matthew, caught... but Matthew's talking to Josh.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

Mom's gonna pull us out of school!

Matthew starts to help Josh up.

JOSH

He shoved me!

MATTHEW

Mom won't care! Come on...

A very confused Devon finally just runs off. Matthew has Josh on his feet. Kyle grabs Josh's leg then Josh throws his arms around his and Matthew's shoulders. They help him down the hall.

KYLE

Let's get you to the nurse.

JOSH

The nurse? It's a fake leg. I need a screwdriver.

KYLE

("got it")  
Shop class.

They make a hard turn and head down the opposite direction.

CUT TO:

INT. MEADOWVIEW K-8 SCHOOL - HALLWAY - LATER (D3)

Josh and Kyle walk down the hall. Instead of high-fives, kids whisper as Josh passes by. We overhear one girl say:

GIRL

(quiet)  
That's the kid with the leg...

JOSH

And there it is.

KYLE

Yeah, I get why you kept it a secret.  
(tiny bit jealous)  
At least you still have a nickname.

Josh gives Kyle a look -- clearly this consolation doesn't help. Josh goes to open a classroom door, but a student, TIM, jumps in.

TIM

Oh, I got that for you...

Tim starts to open the door, but Josh grabs the doorknob.

JOSH

(but frustrated)

It's all good. I got it.

TIM

Nah, bro, I insist.

Tim tries to open the door, but Josh pulls it shut again.

JOSH

Really, I can open it.

TIM

But, I--

JOSH

Back off, Tim!

Tim lets go and hurries away.

KYLE

I gotta say, that sounded a little  
less harsh because you knew his name.

Josh takes a breath, then he and Kyle enter.

CUT TO:

INT. MEADOWVIEW K-8 SCHOOL - ENTRYWAY - CONTINUOUS (D3)

School is over. Kids stream toward the exit, mill around, etc. Josh and Kyle enter. A kid, GRANT, walks up to them (Throughout the following, Josh just keeps steadily walking forward).

GRANT

Hey, bro, I just want you to know I'm  
totally cool with the leg thing and  
don't, like, think anything less of  
you.

JOSH

Why would you think anything less of  
me just because I have a fake leg?

GRANT

Well, um, I don't, so, not an issue!

He pats Josh on the shoulder and hurries off.

JOSH  
(to himself, sigh)  
And there's the shoulder pat...

A girl, DIANA, hurries up.

DIANA  
Excuse me.  
(re: leg)  
Is the foot fake, too?

JOSH  
Stop for a minute and think about what  
you just asked?

They walk on. Diana exchanges a "what the heck?" look with her sympathetic friend. A kid, GABE, overheard this exchange and walks up to Josh and Kyle as they walk.

GABE  
(to Josh)  
Dude, I'm sorry you gotta deal with  
idiots like that askin' stupid  
questions about your leg.

JOSH  
Oh, thanks, man. I really appreciate  
that.

GABE  
Of course. Some people just have no  
tact.  
(then)  
So, how'd you lose it? Shark attack?

Josh is stunned. He stops. Then:

JOSH  
(messing with him)  
Uh, yep. Yep, it was a shark attack.

GABE  
Whoa, no way! Which beach did it  
happen at?

JOSH  
(messing with him)  
Uh, which beach do you and your family  
go on vacation?

GABE  
Hudson Beach.

JOSH

That was the beach!

GABE

No!!

Gabe runs off.

KYLE

You just ruined his vacation.

Josh nods, Then:

JOSH

Well, it was fun to be Cafeteria Kid for an hour. Now it just feels like everyone has x-ray vision and is looking through my pants. Which sounds creepier than I meant it to be.

KYLE

Hey, man, you're still getting way more attention than I ever have. Maybe I should start walking with a limp...

Kyle takes a few limping steps.

JOSH

Don't do that.

KYLE

Yeah, sorry.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY OFF ENTRYWAY - MINUTES LATER (D3)

Josh stands at the activity sign-up board, swiping one long pen stroke across each sheet, methodically crossing off his name. Matthew sees him, rushes over.

MATTHEW

Whoa, whoa, whoa, please tell me you're not crossing off Stu Pid.

JOSH

No.

MATTHEW

Good.

(building laughter)

Because that is classic. Someone's gonna have to call that name on the first day of the club.

**Matthew thinks this is hysterical.** Then:

JOSH

Well, they won't have to call Josh Doogan.

He crosses off his name.

MATTHEW

I thought you were all stoked to join those stupid clubs.

JOSH

Suddenly... not so much.

KIDS (O.S.)

(laughing)

They both look up to see Gabriella and the group of kids from the cafeteria across the hall.

MATTHEW

(re: Gabriella)

At least she's still your friend, right..?

JOSH

She was... I don't know...

Beat, then:

JOSH (CONT'D)

I just wish I coulda had more time for people to get to know me before I became "The Kid With The Leg"... Maybe Mom was right...

MATTHEW

Of course Mom was right.

Josh turns, eyes-wide.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

Kids are the worst. Look at how I treat you. And I'm family.

Josh thinks a beat, then:

JOSH

This did not go at all how I imagined... If I come back tomorrow, I'm just gonna be "the kid with the leg" the next two years.

MATTHEW

Yeah, so then just do what you've always done; show 'em what the kid with the leg can do.

A nice moment between them.

JOSH

Thanks, Matt.

Josh goes in for a hug -- Matthew backs off.

MATTHEW

(re: crowd)

Dude... people...

Josh backs off. Matthew hurries out. Josh turns and looks at the sign-up sheets a beat... then walks out.

CUT TO:

INT. HOME - LATER (D3)

Gary paces furiously just inside the front door a beat, then Josh and Kyle enter.

JOSH

Hey, Dad. Why are you home?

Gary looks around, making sure the three of them are alone.

GARY

I came home early to intercept any bad news. How did it go?

JOSH

Uh, well...

GARY

Oh, no, what happened?

JOSH

Everything's fine. Mostly fine, this kid tripped me, but...

GARY

Whoa, what?

MATTHEW

Yeah, his leg popped off. But, don't, worry, I was there to take care of it.

Josh gives him a "what are you talking about?" look. Then, Gary leads Josh toward the couch.

GARY

Josh, sit. How's the joint? Is your knee okay?

JOSH

Dad, dad, I'm fine. Physically, at least. It's just... Now I'm "The Kid With The Leg."

GARY

(knowing)

You got the questions?

JOSH

Shark attack.

GARY

Ugh, that's the worst.

(then)

I'm really sorry.

JOSH

Yeah, me, too.

GARY

(cautious)

Do you wanna go back?

JOSH

Um... I don't know.

Gary sits next to Josh.

GARY

Son, I know -- actually, I can't ever quite know how hard it is to be you, but... sometimes in life, we all fall. Sometimes, quite literally... But, you have to ask yourself -- why do we fall? So we can learn to pick ourselves up.

JOSH

Did you just quote Batman to me?

GARY

I did, but, wow, come on, that is just a perfect line.

Matthew nods in agreement.

Then.



GARY (CONT'D)

(to Josh)

Look, here's my version: tomorrow...  
it couldn't go any worse, right?

JOSH

(with a bit of a chuckle)

No, I can't imagine how it would.

GARY

Great. So tomorrow's already a better  
day.

A nice moment between the two of them. Gary gives Josh a hug

JOSH

Thanks, Dad.

GARY

No problem, buddy...

Then:

GARY (CONT'D)

(turn)

But your mother cannot know about  
this. I will hear about it until the  
day I die.

Then Maggie enters from the kitchen, rushing over to the  
boys.

MAGGIE

Josh! Matthew!

GARY

There she is!

Maggie gives the boys big hugs.

MAGGIE

How horrible was it? Pretty horrible,  
right? No one will think any less of  
you if you don't go back.

Gary and Matthew look expectantly to Josh:

JOSH

Um... no, Mom, it was fine. Good day.  
And tomorrow's gonna be even better.

Josh sneaks Gary a knowing look.

MAGGIE

(conflicted)

Well... I'm glad you had a good day.

(struggling)

And are going back tomorrow...

Josh gives his mom a big hug. He holds it a beat, then:

JOSH

Thanks, Mom.

She smiles. Then:

MAGGIE

So, I bought some more chocolate chip  
ice cream sandwiches...

The boys cheer and rush toward the kitchen, jockeying for  
first position.

MATTHEW

Dibs!

JOSH

There's no dibs!

MATTHEW

That's what losers always say!

The boys burst into the kitchen. Gary puts his arm around  
Maggie as they follow the boys.

CAMERA STAYS AND WE SEE Luisa peeking around a corner, having  
heard all of this. A broad smile crosses her face.

LUISA

Ooh... a secret. Interesting...

Eyes still on the kitchen door, Luisa lifts another ice cream  
sandwich up to her mouth and takes a satisfying bite. Then:

LUISA (CONT'D)

Ahh! Brain freeze! Why is this a  
thing?!

Luisa writhes around, holding her head.

FADE OUT.

END OF EPISODE