

FAMILY BIZ

"Damage Control" [Prod Ep #102]
(formerly "Day One")

by James Nadler

FINAL POST SCRIPT

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Family Biz
"Damage Control"

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. KELLER LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

1:00 AM. ELI KELLER (16, gaming demi-god) plays SILT, a first person shooter PC game. Its sandy-blue colors wash across his face in the darkened room. Eli rocks.

We hear CHA-BOOM from the screen. Victory for Eli!

ELI
(to the screen)
You just got owned. You enter my
realm you... ah... wipe your feet!
For... I! Am! Eli!

And we hear alien warriors GASP, CRY their last.

CUT TO:

INT. AVALON & RONNIE'S ROOM -- SAME TIME

AVALON KELLER (15, social striver) ignores the alien death CRIES. Cell glued to her ear, she chats with a gal pal.

AVALON
(into phone)
No, that's just Eli. Hormones,
aliens... he's going through that
boy phase.

RONNIE KELLER (11, sensible) is in her bed watching the ALL NIGHT SHOPPING CHANNEL on a small TV.

RONNIE
Shhhh! This is important.

There's a BEEP BEEP on Avalon's line.

AVALON
(into phone)
Oh. One sec. Another call.

DAVE KELLER (early 40s, sleep deprived, former corporate gunslinger) stumbles in...half asleep.

DAVE
Wha... what's going on?

AVALON

Nothing, Dad. Go back to sleep.
(into phone)
No, Trace did not snub me.

ON DAVE as he tries to wake up and focus. LULLABY THEME PLAYS.

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

That's just a rumor. I'm sure she'll
return my calls. Some time.

From the living room below we hear more ALIENS DIE.

ELI (O.S.)

(triumphant)
AH HAH!

DAVE

(groggy)
Who's yelling? Someone's in pain.

RONNIE

Eli. Downstairs.

DAVE

Eli's in trouble..?

RONNIE

Shhhh.

DAVE

(head clears)
Oh yeah, riiight. Eli is in trouble.
(to Ronnie)
Get to bed.

RONNIE

I am.

DAVE

Get to sleep.

RONNIE

I don't have a bedtime.

AVALON

(into phone)
That's just my Dad. It's like he's
always around now. Yeah, we're
adjusting.

Dave shoots Avalon the classic Dad glare. LULLABY MUSIC plays.

AVALON (CONT'D)

(smiles)
Good night, Dad. Love you.

DAVE

'Night!

And Dave kills the light. From the darkness...

AVALON (O.S.)

Hey!

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Eli wins. Eli pumps his fist in victory.

ELI

Okay! Bring on the Seventh Level!

Eli leans back in his chair. Content. At peace. Falls instantly asleep.

A moment later, Dave pads into the room.

DAVE

Eli do you have any idea what time..?

Dave reaches to turn off the computer.

ELI

(eyes closed)

Don't.

Dave reaches again.

ELI (CONT'D)

(eyes closed)

No. Seventh level.

Dave reaches forward one last time.

ELI (CONT'D)

(eyes still closed)

No. What did I say?

DAVE

How does he do that?

Defeated, Dave takes off.

HOLD ON Eli blissfully snoring as we -

FADE OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. MAC-MASS HIGH SCHOOL: HALLWAY -- DAY

Eli and his best bud DAKOTA TOYOTA walk and talk.

ELI

Last night, I took it to the next level.

DAKOTA TOYOTA

With Caitlin? 'Bout time, man.

ELI

What are you talking about?

Dakota Toyota realizes that he may have said too much.

DAKOTA TOYOTA

Dunno. What are you talking about?

ELI

Silt. Seventh Level. I qualified for the International Silt Tourney.

DAKOTA TOYOTA

You're a lock. There is no gamer or shut-in alive who can take you. Dude!

ELI

Dude!

Like jungle beasts, they bump chests. Dakota falls back against the locker.

DAKOTA TOYOTA

Owwwww! That hurt.

ELI

In more ways than one.

Eli extracts a mashed chocolate bar from his breast pocket... shrugs... unwraps and eats.

ELI (CONT'D)

Later, man.

They split off and Eli shambles to -

INT. MAC-MASS HIGH: HALLWAY #2 -- CONTINUOUS

- where he sees his bud CAITLIN (16, gamer chick). Caitlin tries to play it cool... but she's smitten. As they pass -

CAITLIN

Hi... Eli.

ELI

(oblivious)

Hey, Caitlin.

And Eli moves on. Avalon falls into step with him.

AVALON

Hey, big brother.

ELI

Ooookay, what do you want?

AVALON

Yellow Stayne.

ELI

Man, I really hope you are talking about the band.

Eli peels off into a class trying to end their talk but --

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. MAC-MASS HIGH: CAFETERIA -- LATER

-- Avalon sits at Eli's table to continue their conversation.

AVALON

You are going to book Yellow Stayne for our house party.

ELI

Didn't Dad say no more unsupervised parties? No more late nights? No more fun... of any kind?

AVALON

Exactly. This is a major crisis. I heard that my social status has slipped.

ELI

If you're still hanging with me it's not just a rumour.

AVALON

We have to do something. We need to do some serious damage control.

ELI

"Damage control?" Who talks like that?

WIPE TO:

EXT. KELLER HOUSE/ADMIRAL ROAD -- DAY

Dave walks with ANNA SOFIA ANTONIA GARCÉS-KELLER (42, chic) as she heads to her airport limo. Dave carries her bags.

DAVE

We need serious damage control.

TONIA

David...

DAVE

I'm really worried about the kids.
Did you know that Ronnie doesn't
have a bedtime?

TONIA

She has a bedtime.

DAVE

Which is..?

TONIA

When she goes to bed.
(reality check)
Honey, I know we have not been around.
But it's not like they've been raised
by wolves... they've been raised by
absentee wolves. Okay, wolves away
on business trips.
(off Dave's panic)
I'm sure you can handle it.

They kiss. Tonia's limo pulls away.

OFF Dave waving, concerned --

CUT TO:

INT. MAC-MASS HIGH: CAFETERIA -- MOMENTS LATER

Eli and Avalon.

ELI

Why do we have to throw a party?

AVALON

Not just a party. The biggest bash
ever. Damage control, remember.
How do we turn this around? We need
to boost my - I mean our - social
standing.
(off his confusion)
Let me put this in terms you
understand. Basketball.

FLASH TO:

INT. BASKETBALL ARENA OF THE MIND (**FANTASY**) -- DAY

...where Avalon strides through the gym decked out in her Team Avalon Basketball jersey.

Her jersey falls right to the hardwood. She passes...

STUDENTS wear a mix of basketball uniforms and regular street wear. They flirt with each other on the benches or dribble their balls to class.

AVALON

(narrating)

High school is just like basketball.
And I am a star player. I can see
every social play before it happens.

Avalon tosses the ball. It rolls to...

ELI AND HIS BUDS.

Eli stops the ball with his foot. He sits with Caitlin and Dakota Toyota completely "nerded out" playing computer games.

AVALON (CONT'D)

Okay, Eli, there's you and your "buds"
trapped in your own zone.

ANGLE ON THE BENCH -

Eyes never leaving his game, Eli kicks the ball to -

AVALON (CONT'D)

The Drama Club. Warming the bench.

Black clad THESPIANS stare out in teen despair.

AVALON (CONT'D)

They're dying to get in the game but
don't know how. And at Center Court,
holding court...

TRACY DUPONT-ROYMONT (16, sleek, powerful, African Canadian). Self-absorbed and self-assured, Trace spins a basketball on her finger and glitters in the silvery spot light.

She is attended by her POSSE: glam girls OCEAN, RIVER & BROOKE guard her. Trace tosses the ball away.

BACK TO ELI. He looks up from his video game.

ELI

(smitten)

Tracy DuPont-Roymont.

AVALON

Everyone likes her.

Avalon tries to get through to Trace but the Posse play the man (Avalon) and blocks her out.

AVALON (CONT'D)

Trace is the center of the universe.

CUT TO:

INT. MAC-MASS HIGH: CAFETERIA (**REALITY**) -- CONTINUOUS

Back to Avalon and Eli. Back to real life.

ELI

If the universe had bleachers and smelled like old socks.

AVALON

So I need to throw a great party to impress Trace. How can I impress her if she won't come to my party? So I make my play. I get the word out.

CUT TO:

INT. BASKETBALL ARENA OF THE MIND (**FANTASY**) -- DAY

Avalon guns her ball to her gal pal, JADE, a lanky blonde dressed in a Ref's uniform.

FREEZE ON JADE

AVALON (V.O.)

(narrating)

I tell Jade that Yellow Stayne is playing at our house party.

Jade fires a pass to Caitlin.

JADE

Think fast!

FREEZE ON CAITLIN.

AVALON (V.O.)

Knowing that she'll tell Caitlin and she'll tell someone who will tell someone. And on and on until...

In a flurry of fancy passes between the Posse, the ball (and the story) is handed to...

FREEZE ON TRACE.

AVALON (V.O.) (CONT'D)

...word gets to Trace who thinks that Yellow Stayne is killer. This is their final reunion tour - Yellow backed by Stayne.

Trace lines up her shot at the basket. FREEZE ON TRACE.

AVALON (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Trace has to invite herself over, to hang, to be my friend.

Trace sinks the basket. Three points!

Trace catches up to Avalon.

TRACE

So I guess I'll be dropping by for your big house party.

AVALON

Trace, that's so sweet of you to ask. Friday after school. See you then.

TRACE

See you then.

Trace drifts away.

Avalon leaps in the air. Victory! Avalon does a spasmodic, victory chicken dance.

FLASH TO:

INT. MAC-MASS HIGH: CAFETERIA (**REALITY**) -- MOMENTS LATER

Eli reconsiders Avalon and her proposal.

ELI

And what do I get in return if I help?

AVALON

Home court advantage. You're so obviously crushing on Trace. She'll be at our place. You can invite her upstairs and finally show her your...
(sarcastic)

Stratosblast comic collection.
(beat, fierce)

But just remember she was my friend first.

ELI

Or I could just ask her out myself.

AVALON

(smiles, kind)

You could. How would that go..?

OFF Eli, imagining -

FLASH TO:

DAVE (CONT'D)

They're really two sides of the same coin.

As Dave tucks Ronnie in -

DAVE (CONT'D)

There you go. All comfy cosy. All right? All set?

RONNIE

Is this what a bedtime's like?

DAVE

(unsure)

Yeah. Sure. What...what else should we be doing? Comes next?

RONNIE

You tell me a bedtime story. A real bedtime story.

DAVE

Right. Like one with a princess?

RONNIE

No. Like what you did at Sealton. Tell me about the big bad merger. What did you do before they fired you, Daddy?

Dave swallows, nervously.

OFF Dave, trying to be brave -

FLASH TO:

INT. SEALTON INDUSTRIES (**PAST/STORY**) -- DAY

A grey office in a grey world. Dave addresses his fellow WORKERS. Dave fires them up.

DAVE

Why can't we have a paperless office?
I say: Shred it! Shred it all!

Workers CHEER! Dave shreds.

HAL GROOM (38, corporate drone) sifts through shreds of paper from the recycle bin.

HAL

But I needed that file. It had my notes. And my lunch money.

FLASH TO:

INT. AVALON & RONNIE'S ROOM (**PRESENT**)-- MOMENTS LATER

Ronnie's all tucked in, ready for her bedtime story.

RONNIE

That's great, Daddy. Tell me another one. Only this time act it out with stuffies.

She hands him her stuffed toy, BLUEBERRY THE BROWN OWL.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

This can be you.

And she hands him a DOLPHIN.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

And this can be your team member. I think this will become my favorite bedtime story.

DAVE

Okay... well, Ronnie, at Sealton I was a problem solver.

(mimes the dolphin talking)

Oh no! Something horrible has happened and I don't know what to do.

(mimes the owl as himself)

Hal, do we have a problem...?

FLASH TO:

INT. SEALTON INDUSTRIES: DAVE'S CUBICLE (**PAST/STORY**) -- DAY

Dave (in business suit and 'tude) perches on his desk opposite Hal. Hal holds a coffee mug.

DAVE

...or a challenge?

HAL

(tries to escape)

No, no problem, Dave. Really.

DAVE

Hal, you can share.

HAL

We... oh...

(gives in)

We're out of sugar, Dave.

DAVE

(man of action)

Okay. Let's get a committee going, Hal. I want to know why you're not getting the sugar you need. Book the boardroom, Sue. And can you get the VP of Purchasing on the line, STAT?

(to the room)

And folks, call your loved ones. It's gonna be a late one.

Dave leaves. Pause. Work continues. Daves pops back into the room.

DAVE

Hey! Let's bounce on this, people!

OFF Dave's winning smile -

FLASH TO:

INT. AVALON & RONNIE'S ROOM (**PRESENT**)-- MOMENTS LATER

Ronnie's stuffies including DUCK DUCK the duck are arranged on the floor around a child's play table conducting their board meeting.

RONNIE

(worried)

Daddy, did you do something wrong at Sealton Industries?

DAVE

On no, Pumpkin. I was good. Maybe too good.

OFF Dave remembering -

FLASH TO:

INT. SEALTON INDUSTRIES (**PAST**)- DAY

Hal and BEARDED GUY sip coffee and watch Dave work the phone.

DAVE

(into phone)

Yes, invoicing is a challenge. But so was polio. And we conquered that.

ANGLE ON HAL AND BEARDED GUY -

HAL

He'll solve all our problems until we have no problems. And no jobs.

BACK TO DAVE -

DAVE
(into phone)
Global warming? No no. Not a
problem. Let's build a fluorocarbon
filter around the planet. Any old
underwear 'round the office?

BACK TO HAL AND BEARDED GUY -

HAL
Someone's becoming a problem.

BEARDED GUY
Or a challenge.

Dave overheard that last remark. He half turns...

OFF Dave's concern -

FLASH TO:

INT. AVALON & RONNIE'S ROOM (**PRESENT**)-- NIGHT

Dave quickly wraps up the story and puts back the stuffies.

DAVE
And they all lived happily ever after
in a paper-less world. Yay!
(mimics Blueberry)
I like that. No paper. Eco-friendly.
(normal voice)
Okay sweetheart, that's it for
tonight. Alright?

RONNIE
(stalling for time)
Just one more story, Daddy? Please?

As LULLABY MUSIC PLAYS...

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN -- DAY

Eli cuts through the room with Dakota Toyota close behind.

DAKOTA TOYOTA
How are you gonna book Yellow Stayne?

ELI
I'm not... exactly. I just need to
access one document on their manager's
PDA. I hack in... change their
schedule and presto they arrive.

Eli flings open the door to discover that...

INT. LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

...the computer, his computer, is gone.

ELI

Where's my computer? Where's
everything?

DAKOTA TOYOTA

Someone cleaned your house. Spooky.

ELI

(yells)

Dad!

OFF Eli's frustration --

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. KELLER HOUSE -- MOMENTS LATER

We CRANE UP to the attic where...

CUT TO:

INT. ATTIC -- CONTINUOUS

...Dave clears boxes to find a spot for Eli's computer on his desk.

ELI
But it's my computer.

DAVE
It's the family computer.

ELI
And I'm family. I need the computer.

DAVE
For what? Homework?

ELI
No...

DAVE
To help the homeless? Stop world
hunger?

ELI
...After I get some other stuff done.

DAVE
Eli, while I'm here, sorting things
out, getting my career mojo moving
again, I need a working office.
Sorry.

Dave hands Eli the plug. Eli plugs the computer in.

CUT TO:

INT. AVALON & RONNIE'S ROOM -- DAY

Avalon and Ronnie.

AVALON
You let him take my cell phone? I
just left it here to charge!

RONNIE

Dad said your cell gets the best reception. Potential clients need to be able to reach him at any time.

AVALON

Why are we listening to him? And why are you in bed?

The LULLABY MUSIC plays.

RONNIE

It's bedtime.

AVALON

It's five o'clock.
(yells up)
Dad!

CUT TO:

INT. ATTIC -- SAME TIME

Eli and Dave. Dave kind of heard Avalon's cry of anguish.

DAVE

Who keeps yelling..?

ELI

If you take the computer, you're taking me off the grid. No Silt. No em-ail. No instant messaging. You know what this will do to me?

OFF ELI, considering his future -

FLASH TO:

EXT. LANEWAY BEHIND THE KELLER HOUSE (**FANTASY**) -- DAY

ELI THE HERMIT (now 35, long dirty hair, a toothless wonder) pushes along his shopping cart of recyclables.

Dakota Toyota (now 35, cardigan) is shocked at Eli's state.

DAKOTA TOYOTA

Eli? Eli Keller?
(off Eli's confusion)
When you stopped text messaging, they said you died.

Eli the Hermit experiences a moment of lucidity.

ELI THE HERMIT

Dakota? Dakota Toyota? Without wireless, I've been so alone. Do you... want to read my manifesto?

Eli thrusts a ream of crumpled paper into Dakota's hands.

DAKOTA TOYOTA

This isn't even typed, Dude.

ELI

Yeah, I can't even read it myself
any more.

FLASH TO:

INT. ATTIC (**REALITY**) -- MOMENTS LATER

Eli shakes his head clear of his vision.

Dave keeps going, moving boxes, clearing his work space as
he talks.

DAVE

Come on Eli, we went through this
the other day. We all have to adjust
our expectations. I know this won't
be easy but - okay, do you really
need all that gear?

ELI

Well... yes...

DAVE

No, you don't. Things have to change
around here. And I'll be with you
kids every step of the way.

OFF Eli's concern -

CUT TO:

INT. FAMILY ROOM -- NIGHT

Eli and Avalon confer.

AVALON

Eli, we can't reschedule. Trace is
already coming.

ELI

She is..? Did she mention me..?

AVALON

She mentioned boys in general and
you do fall into that category...

ELI

Awesome. Okay! This party must
happen.

CUT TO:

INT. ATTIC -- NIGHT

Eli sneaks Dakota Toyota inside...

Dakota Toyota knocks over the old bird cage.

ELI

Shhhh.

Eli and Dakota Toyota operate the computer, *Mission: Impossible style*. All whispers.

ELI (CONT'D)

Here we go. Yellow Stayne. Accessing their site...

DAKOTA TOYOTA

You have no clue what you are doing, do you?

(admiration)

Man, you fake it so well.

COMPUTER SITE

Enter authorization sample.

ELI

Back door to their server...find the Easter Egg...

COMPUTER SITE

System accessed. Stand by. Stand by.

ELI

And it worked...it worked...

(can't believe his luck)

IT WORKED! Shhh. And I just change their itinerary on their manager's computer...from New York to...my house.

COMPUTER SITE

Stand by. Stand by. Entering now.

CUT TO:

INT. ANIMATION -- CONTINUOUS

CSI STYLE we DIVE INTO THE COMPUTER...ZIP ACROSS the cyber-superhighway, dodge a COMPUTER VIRUS and reach -

CUT TO:

INT. YELLOW STAYNE'S LIMO: BACK SEAT -- DAY

ECU FAX MACHINE

The machine DING-DONGS. A MAN rips a fax from the car machine.

LIMO DRIVER (O.S.)

This is for you, Mr. Stayne...

MICK YELLOW (punkish, puckish Brit) grabs the fax and reads it. SIMON STAYNE (30, razor thin, all mascara) snoozes beside him, exhausted.

MICK YELLOW

The Avalon? Don't know that venue.

I thought we were flying to Sidney.

(hands in the air)

Send us where you will oh tour

director. I am just a rolling stone.

OFF Stayne, asleep...

CUT TO:

DAVE'S DESK TOP

Animated time transition. The week speeds by and we are in...

CUT TO:

INT. MAC-MASS HIGH: HALLWAY -- DAY

Exhausted, Eli shlumps to class. Caitlin accosts him.

CAITLIN

Why won't you return my e-mails?

ELI

I haven't been on-line. Things with my Dad are kinda out of control.

CAITLIN

So why am I off your IM buddy list? If you've got a girlfriend and she's territorial, I understand.

ELI

I don't have a girlfriend.

CAITLIN

I can see why if you never answer her e-mails.

OFF Eli, confused --

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Avalon and Eli walk the room as Eli gives Avalon his update.

ELI

Stage goes here. Lighting, here.
And here. Three equipment trucks.
They'll all need parking, Avalon.

AVALON

Do it.

ELI

Yeah but we can only park two on the
street.

AVALON

It'll work out. What about Dad?

ELI

He can find his own parking.
(beat, off Av's look)
We'll... have to work around him.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN / LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Dave pours himself a coffee. Avalon does her homework on
the island but really she's keeping watch on Dave.

In the Living Room Eli gives a ROADIE ADVANCE MAN the pre-
concert tour.

ELI

The green room will be out this way.
(and so on)

DAVE

Who was that with Eli?

AVALON

(covering)
Ahhhh... math tutor.

DAVE

Eli's having trouble in math? I'm
on it.

CUT TO:

INT. ATTIC -- NIGHT

Dave tutors Eli late into the night. Eli is dying of boredom.

DAVE

And then we carry the four!

ELI

Got it.

The LULLABY THEME PLAYS.

ELI (CONT'D)

(tries to leave)

I'm bushed. Got to get some sleep.
Want to build the old bone density.

DAVE

Come on son, we can do this.

(upbeat)

Hey, let's pull an all-nighter!

OFF Eli, exhausted...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN -- DAY

Eli zonked from lack of sleep nearly drowns in his cereal.
Avalon pulls his head up by his hair.

ELI

Owww.

AVALON

Hey, I thought you were the king of
the all nighters.

ELI

When I'm playing Silt... not when
I'm baby sitting Dad.

AVALON

But everything's cool for the party,
right?

ELI

No, no, definitely uncool. I can't
get Dad out of the house.

AVALON

You have to do something. Send him
on a shopping excursion. I know -
get him a job.

ELI

By Friday?

AVALON

Today is Friday.

ELI

That's a problem.

AVALON

Challenge.

ELI

Problem. Problem. Problem.

AVALON

You can do it. Yes, you can.

(claps, a cheerleader)

Okay! Team! Let's go! Go! Go!

Okay. Team.

Eli just stares at her.

AVALON (CONT'D)

A little spirit here?

(pointed)

Okay. Who wants to dance with Trace?

ELI

(claps)

Let's go. Go, go, go! Okay. Team.

AVALON

Gooooo ELI! Whooooo!

ELI

Yeah.

OFF Eli, thinking things through -

CUT TO:

INT. ATTIC -- DAY

Dave stares out the window.

Eli stares at Dave staring out the window. KNOCKS lightly on the door jamb.

Dave turns...

DAVE

Hey. Shouldn't you be heading to school?

ELI

Yeah. I just wanted to talk.

DAVE

Do I have this in my book?

ELI

No. Dad, this is that spontaneous talk thing.

DAVE

Okay. I'm good with that. What's up?

ELI

I've been thinking. A lot. About this week. About something you once told me.

DAVE

(quoting Dave-isms)
The customer is always right except when they're wrong?

ELI

No.

DAVE

Keep to your knitting?

ELI

No.

DAVE

Always tighten the lid on the mayo?

FLASH TO:

INT. KITCHEN -- SAME TIME

Avalon struggles to uncap the mayonnaise.

AVALON

Dad!

FLASH TO:

INT. ATTIC -- MOMENTS LATER

Back to Eli and Dave. Dave looks around, trying to place the scream of anguish.

ELI

No, Dad. About you getting back out there. Out of the attic. You told me that there are no problems in life, only challenges.

DAVE

Well that was a stupid thing to say. You're sixteen and I wouldn't tell your sisters this but we have a real honking big problem.

ELI

Uh... really?

DAVE

I am out of a job.

ELI

You know in many ways I'm like still
a kid so...

DAVE

You know how hard it is for someone
my age to get his career moving again?

ELI

...so you don't have to tell me
everything.

DAVE

I'm a guy who solves problems and I
don't know how to solve this.

ELI

(flailing)

But. But. But you could try. Right?

DAVE

(beat, realization)

Yeah. I could.

Eli realizes he has an opening and runs with it.

ELI

And, and you're going to go out there
and try, try all day - out there -
at least until ten p.m. That would
make us ah... so proud of you, Dad.

DAVE

I'm turning this around, Eli. I am
turning this ship around. I am.

ELI

Yeah!

DAVE

Come here you inspirational little
Dude.

Dave crushes Eli in a bear hug.

ELI

Dad? Oxygen?

DAVE

We're gonna do this.

ELI

Yes, we are!

OFF Dave, misting up -

EXT. KELLER HOUSE/ADMIRAL ROAD -- DAY

Avalon is in front of the house. Eli trots down the walk.

ELI

All clear!

AVALON

It worked?

ELI

Sound check's at three.

YELLOW STAYNE'S EMO PUNK ANTHEM "In the Ghetto" (by Trip the Off) PLAYS over the action.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET BY PARK -- DAY

Dave and two CORPORATE EXECUTIVES stride up the street on the way to work. Dave takes a deep breath. This is it. A new start.

Dave slows. Stops. Considers his options and...

Dave swerves off the sidewalk and into...

EXT. PARK -- MOMENTS LATER

Nowhere to go, Dave approaches an OLD MAN sitting at a chess table.

OLD MAN

Five bucks a game - no credit.

The Old Man takes out a chess clock.

Dave takes off his jacket, takes his seat.

CUT TO:

EXT. KELLER HOUSE/ADMIRAL ROAD -- DAY

Eli waves in a huge EQUIPMENT TRUCK.

JUMP CUTS TO:

ROADIES jump out the parked truck. Unload equipment. Haul cables through the front door.

A SECOND TRUCK backs in. BEEPS as it goes.

Mick Yellow and Simon Stayne step out from their limo. As Mick Yellow surveys the house -

MICK YELLOW

Well it's small...but authentic.

(MORE)

MICK YELLOW (CONT'D)

(nostalgic)

Reminds of playing the Rock Cave.
That first gig... the smell and spit
of the crowd pressed against the
stage... the human connection...

(beat)

Rock and roll!

MUSIC CONTINUES OVER -

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK -- DAY

Dave plays chess with the Old Man.

In the background a PALE BOY in a hoodie, carrying a hockey
stick like a scythe, watches the action.

OLD MAN

You some sort of businessman?

The Pale Boy heads closer for a better vantage point.

Dave stares at him, Dad-like.

DAVE

I'm working it out.

(to the Boy)

Shouldn't you be in school? Or doing
something useful with your life?

OLD MAN

(to Dave)

Shouldn't you? Business. Who needs
business? It's all about...

DAVE

Family.

OLD MAN

No. Chess. Checkmate. Pay.

OFF Dave considering things -

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM -- DAY

ON STAGE and without missing a beat, Yellow Stain WAILS
through their three chord teen angst punk ballad. The room
ROCKS. A mosh pit of Teens pogo, swarm, collide to the music.

Trace arrives. Avalon yells a greeting (overwhelmed by the
music).

Trace nods with excitement. She approves.

Avalon smiles, heads her way through the throng -

ELI JOINS TRACE -

ELI

Hey!

TRACE

Hi! This is - ! This is...

ELI

I know!

Yellow Stayne hits their power chorus.

TRACE

Come on, let's dance!

Eli can't believe his luck. Eli and Trace (and everyone) dances.

The song, teens, lights build to a frenzy.

Trace and Eli share a smile, look in each other's eyes and -

BHHHHSSSSVVVVVMMMMM

The lights and sound die. Just. Like. That.

REVEAL DAVID KELLER

He holds up the plug he just pulled.

DAVE

I'm back.

AVALON

I can't believe this. He did it again.

(protest)

Dad. Poor timing. Could we discuss this...

DAVE

Oh we'll discuss this. Later.

(to the teens)

That's it, folks. Wrap it up.

AVALON

No.

DAVE

Show's over.

MICK YELLOW

Encore!

Teens ROAR back.

DAVE

No. No encore! NO ENCORE! No encore
in my living room my melodically
challenged friends. Thank you for
coming.

As Dave restores order -

DAVE (CONT'D)

Thank you. Thank you. Let's go
folks.

(to passing kid)

Hey, that's my guacamole!

Dave grabs back a bowl from a passing TEEN.

And as Trace leaves she passes -

TRACE

Later, Avalon. Much later, Eli.

Eli shlumps, defeated. HOLD ON Avalon's despair and -

FLASH TO:

INT. BASKETBALL ARENA OF THE MIND (**FANTASY**) -- DAY

Jade the Ref WHISTLES Avalon down.

JADE

Number 2. Penalty for social
climbing! You're out of the game!

The Drama Club STOMP their feet on the floor.

THESPIANS

One of us! One of us! One of us!

FLASH TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM (**REALITY**) -- MOMENTS LATER

As Dave escorts the teens from the house...

AVALON

Okay, this is a problem.

ELI

Challenge.

AVALON

Stop that.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROOF TOP -- DAY

Ronnie hangs with Avalon. Avalon puts a positive spin on events.

AVALON

Best party ever. Except for how it ended of course.

RONNIE

It was okay. But next time get loot bags.

OFF Avalon's smile -

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

FADE IN:

INT. YELLOW STAYNE'S LIMO: BACK SEAT -- DAY

Mick Yellow is post-performance pumped, sweaty. Stayne, way cooler, wears his cap low over his eyes.

MICK YELLOW

We ROCKED. Just like in '83.

'83...'83? No, '84. Yeah '84.

Back to the roots, man. Whoooooooooooo!

(beat)

And you what's even better, Stayne?

I think we brought a little light to

the lives of the Keller family. I

heard that their pa is unemployed.

Lives in the attic. Sad. We should

sit back, collect our royalties and

count our blessings. Right, Stayne?

Stayne?

No response. Mick Yellow lifts Stayne's cap. Stayne is asleep. As the LULLABY THEME PLAYS:

MICK YELLOW (CONT'D)

Sleep well, Stayne. Sleep well.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROOF TOP -- DAY

Eli exults.

ELI

Rock and roll!

FADE OUT:

END OF SHOW