

FAMILY BIZ

"Just-In-Time" [Production# 14A]

by James Nadler

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FAMILY BIZ

Just-In-Time

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. ELI'S BEDROOM -- DAY

ELI KELLER (16, rocker dude) sleeps the sleep of the dead.
RONNIE (12, his hyper younger sister) shakes him. Hard.

RONNIE

Eli, wake up!

ELI

No... I didn't eat it...

RONNIE

You're late! Oooh. And he's drooling.
(beat)
Teenagers.

OFF Eli's SNORT -

SWOOSH TO:

INT. MAC-MASS HIGH: FRONT HALL -- DAY

Eli stumbles in. Looks around. All clear. No one there.

REVEAL PRINCIPAL PAL (mid-forties, bitter, scary). Eli jumps.

ELI

Whoa! You scared me. Good one.

PRINCIPAL PAL

You're late.

ELI

So I better get going...

PRINCIPAL PAL

...and so is your paper for English.
And Geography. And Phys Ed. PHYS
ED! You're all the teachers talk
about.

ELI

Really? Sweet.

PRINCIPAL PAL

Eli. Do you really want to repeat
this year?

ELI

(smiles)

...it has been an awesome year...

PRINCIPAL PAL

Move! Move! Move!

Eli scurries along and...

SWOOSH TO:

EXT. MAC-MASS HIGH: PICNIC TABLES -- DAY

CAITLIN and DAKOTA TOYOTA sit on the table. Eli runs up.

CAITLIN

Eli, you're late.

DAKOTA TOYOTA

Living on Eli Time.

CAITLIN

Who's late to chill?

ELI

I'm sorry guys I'll make it up to you.

(beat, realization)

Time check?

Eli checks his watch... but it's not on his wrist.

ELI (CONT'D)

Forgot my...

Eli grabs Caitlin's wrist to check her watch.

ELI (CONT'D)

Oh no. I'm late for my date with -

SWOOSH TO:

EXT. CAFÉ INFERNO PATIO -- DAY

TRACY DUPONT-ROYMONT (16, every boy's fevered dream) sips a smoothie. Eli runs up...

ELI

Trace! I am so, so sorry...

REVEAL CODY FLOWERS (the school's badboy) at Trace's table.

CODY FLOWERS

For what?

ELI

Oh man, Cody. How could you cut in on me like this?

CODY FLOWERS

Cut in? No way. I'd never do that to you. Without your permission.

(smiles to Trace)

I'm loyal.

TRACE

Eli, you stood me up. Not acceptable.

ELI

But I'm not late. We said smoothies at four thirty. And it's only...

CODY FLOWERS

(off his watch)

Four forty five. Living on Eli time.

ELI

...which is totally within the zone.

TRACE

Four thirty on Tuesday and today is...?

ELI

Wednesday...

CODY FLOWERS

Twenty-four hours late. A new record.

(the cheer)

Eli! Eli! Eli!

ELI

Dude. You're not helping.

OFF Eli dying -

FADE OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. ATTIC -- DAY

An old broken clock hangs on the wall. Its second hand quivers at 2:45.

PAN DOWN TO FIND -

Eli begging his Dad, DAVE KELLER.

ELI

Dad, you have got to get me off of Eli Time.

DAVE

You sound desperate.

ELI

That's why I'm here.

DAVE

And only thirty-five minutes late for our appointment. Not bad.

ELI

I've tried everything to be on time. I set my watch ahead ten minutes...

Eli goes to show Dave his watch. But... no watch.

DAVE

What watch?

ELI

I tried getting up super early....

OFF Eli recalling -

FLASH TO:

INT. ELI'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT (PAST)

THREE ALARM LOCKS BUZZ, RING, CLATTER

And Eli sleeps the sleep of the dead. Ronnie shakes him.

RONNIE

Eli! It's four in the morning!

ELI

Five more minutes.

RONNIE

Wake up! Wake up! Wake up!

ELI

...ten more minutes.

INT. ATTIC - MOMENTS LATER

Eli paces.

ELI

I even tried time travel.

FLASH TO:

INT. MAC-MASS HIGH: FRONT HALL -- DAY (FANTASY)

Wearing a SPACE SUIT Eli walks into school through a cloud of rocket exhaust. We hear the gentle HOOPER... HOOPER of his breathing apparatus. Dakota cowers.

DAKOTA TOYOTA

Don't harm us, Space Dude.

ELI

Do not be afraid.

(flips open visor)

I come in peace. From your future.
Now take me to your geography quiz.

DAKOTA TOYOTA

Missed it. That was last period,
Space Dude.

ELI

(Shatner-esque)

Noooooooooo!

TRANSPORTER BEAM BACK TO:

INT. ATTIC -- MOMENTS LATER (REALITY)

Eli shakes himself awake from that nightmare.

ELI

Or was that just a dream?

DAVE

(sincere)

No. No time travel doesn't have to be a dream, son. We raise a little research and development money, hire just the right scientists...

ELI

Dad, this is serious.

DAVE

(covering)

Oh right... go on...

ELI

Being on Eli Time is putting the most important relationship in my life at total risk.

DAVE

(chuckles)

Son, I can forgive you...

ELI

No not you, Dad. Trace.

DAVE

Oh right. Go on.

ELI

Here's my plan. You get me a car and a responsible adult - could even be you - as my designated driver. Car plus driver equals I get where I need to go on time.

DAVE

Simple... maybe simple minded... No car. But that does give me an idea.

ELI

A motorcycle?

DAVE

(ignores that)

No. Instead we apply the manufacturing principle of Just-In-Time. Car makers never have their parts on hand. Parts arrive to the assembly line as needed. Pretend that you're a hubcap. Roll to each appointment Just-In-Time.

As Eli considers that -

FLASH TO:

INT. MAC-MASS HIGH: HALLWAY -- DAY (FANTASY)

Eli somersaults down the hall in a German wheel. STUDENTS stare at him.

ELI

Just in time.

(MORE)

ELI (CONT'D)

Just in time. I'm gonna make it on
just in time...just in time.

FLASH TO:

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

As Eli and Dave walk and talk into the room...

DAVE

And so like a good parts manager
I'll guide you on your path to market.

ELI

All day?

DAVE

Yes. One on one. Mano a mano.

We find AVALON KELLER (15, aspires to be Type A but only makes B+) and TONIA KELLER (Eli's distracted Mom).

Avalon is doing cheerleader type maneuvers with two CABBAGES (instead of pompoms).

As Eli enters, Avalon abruptly stops her practice...

ELI

Or what if I just try a little bit
to get places early?

Avalon and Tonia crack up.

TONIA

Oh honey, that is so sweet.

AVALON

Sweet and deluded.

TONIA

Avalon, be supportive. We all know
that women are much better organized
than men... We have to juggle so
much more. Home... career... ruling
small countries on the weekends.

DAVE

That is a little sexist...
(off Tonia's look)
...but accurate.

ELI

(competitive)

You know... maybe with Dad's help I
can be just as on time as Little-
Miss-Overachiever.

AVALON

Knock yourself out.

Dave draws Eli aside.

DAVE

Let's be realistic, son. Let's just
get you there on time. No point
shooting for the moon when we're
just trying to get on the bus.

FLASH TO:

EXT. MAC-MASS HIGH -- DAY (FANTASY)

Eli dressed as an Astronaut waits at the boss stop with Dakota
Toyota.

DAKOTA TOYOTA

Hey Space Dude. What's up?

ELI

I think I missed the shuttle bus to
the space shuttle.

DAKOTA TOYOTA

And the best class trip ever. The
Moons of Mars. Martian Princesses
make me smiiiiiiile.

ELI

(Shatner-esque)

Noooooooooo!

FLASH TO:

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER (REALITY)

Avalon hurries off.

AVALON

Well I gotta go. Can't be late.

ELI

Late for what?

Avalon reaches back into the room and grabs her cabbages.

AVALON

(evasive, mysterious)
Stuff.

TONIA

Good luck, honey!

ELI

(suspicious, intrigued)
"Stuff"? What stuff?

DAVE

Who cares. Okay all this stuff?

Dave spreads his hands wide.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Look where it is. It's all out here,
out here. In outer space. I need
you...I need you to...

SLAM. Dave brings his hands together. Eli jumps.

DAVE (CONT'D)

To focus!
(rapid fire)
When's you first class? Last class?
Study breaks? Recess? Chem labs.
Practice time for your oboe?

ELI

I don't play the oboe.

TONIA

You could have if you had just
practiced. It's all about the
embouchure.

Tonia practices her imaginary woodwind with a juicy RASPBERRY
blowing spit into Eli's face. Eli recoils.

DAVE

(rapid fire)
Times you hang with your colleagues
to gather soft information? You
know -- gossip. Snack time? Lunch?
Other fueling stops of the Eli
machine? Down time? Nap time?

ELI

Right after lunch. What's for dinner?

DAVE

(gets him on track)

Eli, if I am going to organize your critical path through the next few days I need all your info.

(off Eli's look)

No worries. I'll be with you every step of the way.

OFF Eli's dread -

DAVE'S DESKTOP

We travel from home to school. A COLOUR CODED LAMINATED SCHEDULE for Eli unfolds like a road map.

INT. MAC-MASS HIGH: BOYS' WASHROOM -- DAY

Dave bursts into the room, schedule in hand.

DAVE

ELI! What are you doing? Trying to look good for the ladies?

Dave ruffles Eli's hair.

ELI

I just had my part right.

DAVE

(re: scheduler)

Okay, we only scheduled five minutes of free time. This is the last time I let you go to the bathroom alone...

ELI

You're going to leave me with some deep emotional scars.

DAVE

As a parent that's my job. Now..

INT. MAC-MASS HIGH: HALLWAY (CONTINUOUS) -- DAY 2

Dave and Eli emerge from the washroom.

DAVE

...move.

Eli heads right.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Towards class.

Eli reverses direction.

ELI

Right.

Eli reverses directions again.

ELI (CONT'D)

I'm a little hungry. I need to get something from the vending machine.

DAVE

Eli!

ELI

Right. Well actually left.

Eli reverses directions again. They start down the hall. Eli stops abruptly, distracted by -

A new HOT GIRL.

ELI (CONT'D)

(to Dave)

Who's she?

DAVE

Keep going.

Eli stops at...

ELI

Hey, is that a new health poster? Cool colors.

DAVE

Move! Move! Move!

Dave hustles Eli along.

CUT TO:

INT. MAC-MASS HIGH: HALLWAY/OUTSIDE ELI'S CLASS -- DAY

Dave arrives.

DAVE

And here we are... thirty seconds to spare. Eli?

Dave whips around. Where's Eli?

DAVE (CONT'D)

Eli!

ON ELI AND SAM SIDEKICK, trading comic books (in mylar bags, natch).

SAM SIDEKICK

How about this? *Stratosblast* thirty-seven for your *Evil Clown* special edition?

ELI

Tempting. That would complete my series...

As Dave pulls Eli OUT OF FRAME -

ELI (CONT'D)

Urk!

And they run into...

PRINCIPAL PAL

Mr. Keller, Eli. Good, you're here together.

DAVE

Can't talk now. We need to hustle this young learner to class.

PRINCIPAL PAL

When can we talk about Eli's future?

DAVE

Friday after school.

ELI

My people will call your people.

As Dave marks up Eli's Schedule with a marker, he shoves Eli forward.

DAVE & PRINCIPAL PAL

Move! Move! Move!

CUT AHEAD TO:

INT. MAC-MASS HIGH: HALLWAY -- DAY 2

Dave tries to move Eli down the hall. Eli lags behind...

DAVE

Study hall is this way...

ELI

(smells something)
But lunch is this way.

Eli blows past Dave like a speed walker.

ELI (CONT'D)

Dad, faster. Focus. It's lunch.

SWOOSH TO:

EXT. MAC-MASS HIGH: PICNIC TABLES -- DAY

And Dave pushes Eli right to... Caitlin and Dakota.

CAITLIN

Eli, you're on time!

ELI

Victory! Thanks, Dad.

Beat. A bit winded, Dave hangs, happy.

ELI (CONT'D)

Dad?

DAVE

Oh right. Right. Don't mind me.

Dave drifts a few steps away. And hides behind a tree.

CAITLIN

What's the deal with your dad?

ELI

He's lonely. Working at home he kinda misses the human interaction.

DAVE

(overheard that)

That's true.

(pops out from behind
the tree)But, really, I'm here for Eli.
Keeping him on track.

Dave retreats behind the tree.

ELI

(whispers)

He just needs to feel useful.

DAVE

Also true. We all do. All of us.
Everyone.

And he goes back behind the tree.

DAKOTA TOYOTA

(really whispers)

He's got ears like a bat.

DAVE
(behind tree)
Thank you.

CAITLIN
(flirty)
So Mr. Eli Keller... I was thinking
we could check out the new comics
when they come in tomorrow.

ELI
Yeah I'm totally down.

DAKOTA TOYOTA
Dude, a moment.
(to Caitlin)
A little guy talk... I mean guy talk.

CAITLIN
Manly grunts. Got it.

Dakota Toyota pulls Eli aside, KNOCKS on his noggin.

DAKOTA TOYOTA
Dude. Tomorrow? After school?
Cheerleader tryouts?

ELI
Oh, right. Don't sweat it. With my
Dad on my case, I'll be there.

From across the yard, Dave calls over...

DAVE
And where are these cheerleaders
going to be?

Caitlin shoots Eli a disgusted look.

Eli shoots a "don't kill me" smile back at Caitlin.

DAVE (CONT'D)
It's got to be in the schedule.

ELI
Dad, I'll get back to you on that.

DAVE
We have to mark it down. Along with
all your other appointments.
(note in schedule)
What are these cheerleaders going to
look like?

Caitlin simmers. OFF Eli's sheepish smiles --

CUT TO:

INT. FAMILY ROOM -- DAY

Dave and Eli come in from the Mud Room.

ELI

...and home. Whoo hoooo!

He checks his wrist. Still no watch. He checks Dave's wrist.

ELI (CONT'D)

On time. To the second. Dad, I don't say this often but... your planrked. Thank you.

Dave's scribbled all over Eli's schedule. He's worried.

DAVE

Friday's looking tricky though

ELI

But with you riding shotgun I can squeeze in even more cool stuff.

DAVE

More cool stuff?!

Avalon swings through.

AVALON

Need a favour. There's a pizza in it for you.

ELI

I'm in.

DAVE

Don't you want to know what it is?

ELI

A round form of food topped by pepperoni and... oh, what favour?

AVALON

Tomorrow you pick up Ronnie after school for me.

ELI

Hang on. Why can't you do it?

AVALON

I have some...thing.

ELI
(suspicious)
Think? What thing?

AVALON
(points behind Eli)
Look! Cookies!

ELI
(looks around)
Where?

And Avalon disappears. Eli turns back.

ELI (CONT'D)
How does she do that?

Eli heads into...

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

...and Dave follows.

DAVE
By distracting you, son. Which is
not all that hard to do. Which is
why you are always late.

ELI
I disagree.

DAVE
Eli, you get distracted by food.

Distracted, Eli opens the fridge.

ELI
Let's see what we've got.

DAVE
...by girls...

ELI
Wonder if Trace is still mad at me?
Maybe if I bring her some salsa...

Now RONNIE KELLER scooters in to protest.

RONNIE
Dad, why do I have to be picked up
by Eli? He's completely unreliable.

ELI
Not anymore.
(MORE)

ELI (CONT'D)

I have everything under control.

(a declaration)

I'll show you. Tomorrow after school.

DAVE

Someone's getting a bit cocky.

(a challenge back)

You'll make every appointment you've scheduled?

ELI

Yes.

DAVE

No cancellations.

ELI

Nope. I am focused.

The phone RINGS. Distracted, Eli picks up.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. MAC-MASS HIGH: HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Trace is on her cell phone.

TRACE

Hello.

ELI

Trace! Hi. Avalon's not here...

TRACE

That's okay. I wanted you.

ELI

Really? Right. Of course you did.

TRACE

I'm giving you another chance.

ELI

Why? I mean: Great.

TRACE

Cody explained what happened.

ELI

He did?

TRACE

I think it's kinda cool that you saved that old lady's life.

ELI
(scrambling, what?)
I really didn't do much...

TRACE
Eli you are too modest. Mouth to
mouth? And she had a mustache?
That is so brave. You're lucky Cody
is your friend. He really had to
convince me...

ELI
So smoothies...Friday?

Dave waves at Eli trying to prevent a disaster. Stop!

TRACE
Friday. Five o'clock. Bye.

Eli hangs up, so very happy.

ELI
YES!

Dave and Ronnie stare at him.

ELI (CONT'D)
What? Oh. It's just one more thing.
Little thing. Really important thing.
On Friday afternoon.

DAVE
Ronnie. Conference.

Dave and Ronnie go to the kitchen island. They unfold the
Eli Laminated Schedule and confer. Dave marks down...

DAVE (CONT'D)
And Trace at five pm...

RONNIE
Wow. Daddy... that's... impossible.

DAVE
That's what I was thinking.

RONNIE
Something has to give.

DAVE
Probably Trace.

ELI
No way. We said no cancellations.
Cancel Trace? That's crazy talk.

RONNIE

What if... you go here first... then
double back... here. It's doable...

DAVE

If we have a strong tail wind. I
don't know.

ELI

Dad, I really need your help here.

DAVE

Okay. Eli, we'll try this...

ELI

Excellent.

DAVE

...my way. I have an idea. But
just remember we are in this together.

SMASH SWOOSH TO:

INT. MAC-MASS HIGH: HALLWAY -- DAY

CLOSE ON ELI, not exactly happy.

ELI

Dad, when you said "together..."

REVEAL Dave and Eli wearing regular clothes but with huge
SAFETY HARNESSSES strapped to the shoulders and chests.

ELI (CONT'D)

I didn't expect to be this together.

Dave takes out a BUNGEE CORD and hooks it up to their belts.

DAVE

This way you can't wander off.

Eli stretches to the end of the cord. It SPROINGS. Eli
snaps back to Dave.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Bungee. I love the sound of that.
Bungee. Bungee. Bungee.

OFF Eli, queasy -

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. MAC-MASS HIGH: FRONT OF SCHOOL -- DAY

Just to establish where we are.

CUT TO:

INT. MAC-MASS HIGH: HALLWAY -- DAY

Dave on the move. Tethered to his Dad, Eli lags behind.

The Bungee cords tense and SPROING - Eli shoots forward.

DAVE

Keep up. Keep focused. Your schedule
today is too tight for slacking.

(re: the bungees)

Or slack. These are your life lines.

OFF Eli, considering that -

FLASH TO:

EXT. SPACE -- ENDLESS NIGHT (FANTASY)

Eli-The-Astronaut floats in the nothingness, one very long
bungee is his life line. We hear the gentle HOOPER HOOPER
of his breathing. [Prod note: green screen and actor action].

ELI

Where am I?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. COMPUTER GUTS -- SAME TIME

One red light BLINKS as Eli talks.

DAVE (V.O.)

(ala Hal in 2001)

Just drifting...through space...

Eli.

ELI

Whheeee....

DAVE (V.O.)

Please pay attention, Eli.

ELI

Whheeeeeeeee....!

DAVE (V.O.)

What if I got distracted like you,
Eli?

ELI

Hey, I think I can see our house.

DAVE (V.O.)

You're on a mission, Eli.

ELI

Right. To Planet Trace.

(beat)

Dave, I'm having trouble breathing...
oxygen's going... Pull me into the
ship... Urgent...

DAVE (V.O.)

What? Was I supposed to be watching
the Oh Two levels? I was texting my
buds. Don't worry, Eli. I'll be
back. Right after my snack, Eli.

Eli pulls in the bungee/lifeline and examines the end.

The end is shorn off.

ELI

NOOOOOOOOO!

FLASH TO:

INT. MAC-MASS HIGH: HALLWAY - LATER (REALITY)

The bell RINGS. School is over. Students escape. Eli
wanders out still trying to shake off that vision.

DAVE

Ready, Eli?

ELI

Think so.

They step into their harnesses. Sam Sidekick watches.

ELI (CONT'D)

(explains)

Parachute club.

As Dave CLIPS the bungee cords between them -

DAVE

Clipped. Stretch.

They stretch to the limit of the bungees and SPROING back.

They pound their feet to get their blood moving.

ELI

Countdown.

DAVE

Three... two... one... and...

DAVE & ELI

Nyaaaaaah!

ELI

Coming through!

Eli and Dave sprint down the hall scattering STUDENTS and SLAMMING lockers in their mad charge.

Avalon leaves a classroom. But the mad rush forces her back.

AVALON

Hey! I'll be late.

(at the door)

Let me out! Would you let me through.

But the other students won't move.

CUT TO:

INT. MAC-MASS HIGH: FRONT HALL - MOMENTS LATER

Dave and Eli meet with Principal Pal. She considers them as they jog in place.

PRINCIPAL PAL

Good to see you more involved with your kids' lives...

DAVE

Thank you.

PRINCIPAL PAL

...but parents have to learn when it's time to cut the cord. Maybe we should go to my office...

ELI

No time!

PRINCIPAL PAL

We need to discuss Eli's problem with time management.

ELI

No time!

As Eli runs off, dragging Dave along -

DAVE

He's doing greaaaaaat...

SWOOSH TO:

INT. MAC-MASS HIGH: HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Eli and Dave run back down the hall, scattering more students.

Avalon pokes her head out of the classroom.

AVALON

Hey!

And Avalon gets pushed back into her classroom again.

AVALON (CONT'D)

Noooooooo!

CUT TO:

EXT. MAC-MASS HIGH: SPORTS FIELD -- DAY

Dave and Eli join Dakota on the slope overlooking the field.

DAKOTA TOYOTA

Just in time.

On the field, COACH HAGGIS leads the cheerleader tryouts. Instead of pompoms, the girls practice with cabbages.

COACH HAGGIS

Come on, ladies. Let's get going!

As the girls pump their cabbages -

COACH HAGGIS (CONT'D)

Build that upper body cheering strength. Give me a "C"...

GIRLS (O.S.)

C...

DAKOTA TOYOTA

They're going to start throwing the cabbages soon.

Avalon limps onto the field.

COACH HAGGIS

You're late, Keller.

AVALON

Sorry.

COACH HAGGIS

And you're out.

AVALON

What?

COACH HAGGIS

No room for slackers on my squad.
This is all about dedication. Hard
work. And timeliness. My squad is
timely.

(to cheerleaders)

And peppy! Pep! Pep! Pep!

ON ELI, DAVE AND DAKOTA.

ELI

Avalon was late. And for cheerleading.
Never thought I'd see that!

Avalon limps back to Eli.

ELI (CONT'D)

So, Av, maybe women can't juggle as
much as men.

DAKOTA TOYOTA

(watching cheerleaders)

But they can sure show school spirit.

AVALON

It's all your fault. You made me
late! Both of you. You mowed me
down in the hall. You... hall mowers.

DAVE

(remorseful)

Maybe, Chicken, this is for the best.
You really think that cheerleading
is the right fit for you?

AVALON

Yes, I know it's extremely perky but
it is fun! And very important in
certain high school social circles.

DAKOTA TOYOTA

(watching cheerleaders)

They are...soooooo peppy.

DAVE

Let's go.

ELI

But it's just getting good.

Dave pulls Eli away.

HOLD ON AVALON AND DAKOTA.

AVALON

You know what I'm thinking...

DAKOTA TOYOTA

How do they jump so high? With so much grace?

AVALON

No... how do I seek revenge? With your help. Where is Eli heading...? Dakota? Where is he going...?

Dakota skitters away from her, a little scared.

CUT TO:

EXT. GAMERVILLE -- DAY

Caitlin waits for Eli by the back door. Eli and Dave run up.

CAITLIN

(warning)
Parking meter.

Too late. They get tangled around a parking meter.

ELI

Ow, ow, ow.

DAVE

Clockwise. You go clockwise. I'll go counterclockwise.

Eli looks for his watch. He still does not have it on.

DAVE (CONT'D)

That way.

While they are still entangled...

ELI

Hi Caitlin.

CAITLIN

Some really cool titles came in. Let's check them out.

DAVE

No time.

CAITLIN

Excuse me.

DAVE

According to the sched you don't
have the time to go in and browse.

(hands Caitlin a twenty)

Caitlin, could you buy some comics
for my son. Oooh and the latest issue
of *Stratosblast* for me.

ELI

What fun is that?

Dave takes Eli aside.

DAVE

Eli. Focus. What's your goal?

ELI

(quietly)

Trace. You're right. Stay here.

Dave holds onto the parking meter.

DAVE

I'm ready. Go.

Eli stretches the bungee cord to the breaking point to Caitlin
for privacy.

ELI

I'll make this up to you.

CAITLIN

You better.

And... SPROING...

Eli bounces back, right into Dave's arms.

DAVE

Let's go, go, go.

Dave and Eli rush off. Re-entangled in the parking meter.
Disentangle themselves again. Rush off again...

OFF Caitlin's frustration -

SWOOSH TO:

EXT. RONNIE'S SCHOOL -- DAY

CLOSE ON RONNIE as she waits for her pick-up.

Her eyes widen.

DAVE & ELI (O.S.)

Nyaaaaah!

And they swoop her up and keep on going.

RONNIE

Best. Ride. Ever.

SWOOSH TO:

EXT. CAFÉ INFERNO PATIO - DAY

Eli and Dave run up...carrying Ronnie. Dave is winded.
They see -

TRACE AT HER TABLE.

BACK ON ELI AND DAVE -

Eli grabs Dave's wrist. Checks his watch.

ELI

Just in time.

Eli considers himself: sweaty, disheveled and tied to Dad.

Trace spots them.

TRACE

Eli, over here. Hi Mr. Keller.

DAVE

Hey Trace.

ELI

Okay Dad. We did it. We arrived.
I didn't miss anything. You can go.

DAVE

Right. Going...
(tries to unhook)
The bungees are all twisty.

They are stuck. Eli struggles with the harness.

ELI

Why is this so tight?

DAVE

Safety. Go with it. We'll work
this out.

ELI

(to Trace, trying for
smooth)
Hey there.

TRACE

Hey, Eli. Crazy day?

ELI

Had some business to take care of...

TRACE

With your Dad...? What's with the
bungee? Separation anxiety? And
your sister?

ON RONNIE AND DAVE -

As Dave strains backwards against the pull of the bungee.

RONNIE

I'm hungry. It is snack time.

DAVE

Didn't you eat your lunch?

RONNIE

Yes and now it's snack time.

BACK TO TRACE AND ELI.

ELI

This is one of those funny stories.

Eli tries to sit. He yanks Dave forward to get enough slack.

ELI (CONT'D)

I know I'm laughing. On the inside.

DAVE

Excuse me. Do you mind if I have
some water?

ELI

Yes... I do....

DAVE

Running over here... whoa. Too many
hours behind the desk.

(pounds his tummy)

I have got to get back in shape.

ELI

And back to your attic.

TRACE

Eli, be nice. When our parents get older, we have to look out for them.

Trace hands him the water.

DAVE

Thank you.

RONNIE

Still hungry.

And Avalon saunters up.

AVALON

Hey Trace.

ELI

Wha --

TRACE

Your entire family shows up on your dates? That is so... old world.

ELI

Well, not my mom....

TRACE

Too bad. She's a lot of fun.

AVALON

Maybe we got our signals crossed. In these busy times it's so easy to get confused.

RONNIE

Or hungry.

AVALON

Let me check the schedule.

Avalon grabs Eli's schedule and... as planned...

AVALON (CONT'D)

Look, an ice cream truck!

While everyone looks off distracted, Avalon scribbles something onto Eli's schedule.

RONNIE

There's no...

AVALON

Dad, have you looked at this?

DAVE

I'm living it.

AVALON

Look again.

Dave extends to the end of the line. He reads the schedule.

DAVE

Oh.

ON ELI -

He leans back as the bungees get tauter.

ELI

Ow, ow, ow.

Suddenly, the bungee goes slack.

ELI (CONT'D)

Finally.

REVEAL DAVE -

Right next to Eli.

DAVE

Trace. It's been lovely... but we have to go.

ELI

No we don't.

DAVE

Yes. We. Do.

Dave rushes off... SPROING... Eli gets yanked behind him.

ELI

Cody!

From nowhere, Cody Flowers appears.

CODY FLOWERS

I'm on it.

He slides in next to Trace.

CODY FLOWERS (CONT'D)

You see Eli and his dad are in training for the World Championship... freestyle bungee sprinting team.

TRACE

Really?

CODY FLOWERS

Okay. They're junior fire fighters. In smoke filled buildings firemen, they bungee themselves together...
(off her look)
I have no clue.

CUT TO:

EXT. GAMERVILLE -- DAY

...past Gamerville where they dodge Caitlin with her bag of comics and the -

CAITLIN

(warning)
Parking Meter.

Eli swoops by grabbing a bag of comics.

ELI

Thaaaaaanks....

...they race to...

SWOOSH TO:

EXT. MAC-MASS HIGH: SPORTS FIELD -- DAY 3

...past the cheerleader try-outs...

ELI

Wow. That's so...

Eli pauses, grabs an errant cabbage, only to get jerked forward by Dave...

ELI (CONT'D)

PEEEEEPPPPPPY!

SWOOSH TO:

INT. FRONT HALL -- DAY

Eli and Dave burst in. Mmentum carries Eli up the stairs, Dave into the kitchen. They snag themselves on the banister.

DAVE & ELI

Whoa.

DAVE

Down the stairs.

ELI

Coming down.

DAVE

(exhales, checks watch)

And just in time.

ELI

Excellent. Just in time for what?

DAVE

Last stop of your day. The most important one.

Dave heads into...

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

...where Eli pursues him.

ELI

What? I missed the cheerleader tryouts, the new comics and blew my date with Trace.

(beat)

Okay, okay I get it. I wasn't paying attention to my life. Things got a little wonky. I'll try harder. We can hug now if that's required.

DAVE

I think we're fine.

ELI

But what is so important that I have to be here right now?

DAVE

Keller Family dinner. And your mom's cooking. We are not missing that.

(off Eli's look)

It's in your schedule.

Eli grabs the schedule.

ELI

That's not my writing.

Dave grabs the schedule.

DAVE

It's not my writing. Okay but then
who...?

Eli realizes what's going on. He picks up the cabbages.
Starts a routine.

ELI

Give me an "A"...

DAVE

A.

ELI

Give me a V... and so on. And so
on. What's that spell...? Avalon.

REVEAL Avalon in the kitchen door. She carries garden shears.

AVALON

Hi.

SLICE. Avalon sets Eli and Dave free by cutting the cord.

AVALON (CONT'D)

Now this craziness is over.

ELI

Maybe for me... but not for you.

As Eli circles Avalon...

OFF Eli, not happy at all -

CUT TO:

INT. FAMILY ROOM -- DAY

Dave meets with Avalon and Eli.

AVALON

You know, he did ruin my tryout.

ELI

But not on purpose. The way you
messed up my date.

AVALON

Dad, is this really necessary?

DAVE

No. But it's fair.

REVEAL Avalon's punishment.

Eli and Avalon are tethered together by bungees.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Make sure he gets home for dinner.

Dave leaves. Beat.

Avalon and Eli head off in separate directions and SPROING back at each other.

AVALON

Okay. Where to, Bungee Boy?

ELI

To Gamerville to pick up some comics.

(in her face)

But first, I have a hankering for a pesto garlic hot sausage pizza with extra onions. Mmm mmm.

Beat.

AVALON

Dad!

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

