

Southern Comfort

Pilot

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A pilot for the American Broadcast Company

COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

INT. EMPTY KITCHEN - DAY

MUSIC CUE: "WALK OF LIFE," by DIRE STRAITS

CLOSE ON: A refrigerator, covered in clipped articles and pictures. As we PAN DOWN it, we see:

- A 1990 newspaper clipping, with the headline: "Danny McGrath leads Sarasota High to State Championship!" With a picture of a built, handsome 17 year-old: DANNY MCGRATH. He poses casually in a football uniform, but is clearly flexing.

- Another large clipping: "Danny McGrath Homecoming King second year in a row." Danny poses casually in a tuxedo, but is still obviously flexing.

- A tiny clipping: "Younger McGrath gets superior rating for trombone solo" with a picture of a skinny, awkward-looking 14 year-old: COLIN MCGRATH. A later article immediately underneath it reads "High Schooler forced by older brother to swallow band medal" with a picture of COLIN, looking glum.

- Then, a glossy Newsweek article: "Yale Freshman next Bill Gates?" With a picture of a now eighteen year-old COLIN.

We PAN OVER to the kitchen table and see a woman's hand carefully lay a folded Newspaper on it. We ZOOM IN on the headline: "Sarasota Native Colin McGrath to be on cover of Forbes!" With a picture of COLIN, now 26.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. DAY - SAME TIME

The same folded Newspaper, but this one is still laying in a yard. It's picked up and we WIDEN to see the hand belongs to DANNY MCGRATH, now 30. He's still built, with a Vince Vaughn-like brashness, and standing in the driveway of a HUGE BEACH HOUSE with a "For Sale" sign in the yard. We WIDEN FURTHER to see he's wearing green coveralls with his name sewn on, and standing next to a running lawn mower.

He puts the newspaper back on the lawn and heads back to the riding lawn mower. He gets on it, shifts into gear, and casually ROLLS OVER THE NEWSPAPER. It shreds with a "Thwack!" and flies into the air like confetti. Danny gets a slight smile as he continues to mow through the now-falling newspaper shreds.

END MUSIC CUE.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE POOL AREA - A WHILE LATER

It's the pool area of the same beach house. It's stunning, with a view of the ocean beyond. DANNY finishes skinning leaves out of the pool, then takes off his coveralls and dives into the water. As he swims, JEN MCGRATH, 30 and beautiful, pokes her head up above the wall.

JEN
(TO DANNY) So this is how your company cleans pools?

Danny smiles.

DANNY
Well, I'm not peeing in it. More than I can say for that fountain out front.

JEN
That won't help the wish I just spent a penny on.

Danny gets out of the pool and walks up to her.

DANNY
You don't need a fountain for that, baby.

Danny flexes his bicep and winks cockily.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Wish granted.

JEN
Only if you're doing that to squeeze George Clooney out of your butt.

DANNY
Come on. He's gay.

BOONEY, A gangly, unshaven thirty-year-old, with an overbite and heavy southern accent, (also in work coveralls) sticks his head over the wall, as he slurps a Big Gulp.

BOONEY
Who's gay? I'm okay with queer, but I need to know before I touch 'em.

DANNY
Nobody, Booney. Get back to work.

BOONEY
Can't, brother-- I'm out of weedwhacker string. You think m' shoelace will work?

DANNY

Brother-in-law, Booney. Marrying my
sister is all you've done. Ever.

Booney, notices something in the next yard, and his eyes go
wide.

BOONEY

Son of a Bitch! No wonder we can't get
hired over there. They're using a damn
immigrant!

We see in the next yard, a MEXICAN MAN is mowing the lawn.

BOONEY (CONT'D)

(YELLS TO MAN) Go back to Mexico,
Mexican! Stop stealing our jobs!!

Booney hurls his big gulp at the Mexican man. It smacks him
on the head. The man recovers, then glares at Booney.

MEXICAN MAN

I live here, you asshole!! I'm a surgeon
at Florida General!

Booney looks dumbfounded for a beat, then slinks away. Danny
looks at Jen and sighs.

DANNY

I can't believe Summer married him.
She's fat, but not that fat.

JEN

She's a hundred and thirty pounds, Danny.

Danny shrugs and checks his wristwatch.

DANNY

Alright, Colin's probably at the airport
by now. Let's get over to Mom's so I can
get some champagne on ice before he gets
there.

JEN

You bought champagne for him? That's sweet.

DANNY

What? It's not for him. It's for me.
I'm making my big announcement today.

Jen shakes her head.

JEN

Oh, I see. You have to impress everybody in front of your little brother.

DANNY

(LAUGHING IN DISBELIEF) Impress-- You think I-- Are you-- Oh, man that's--

JEN

Breathe, Danny. The fake shock is cutting off your wind.

Danny stops laughing.

DANNY

Look, I don't have to impress anybody. I've got it good. I mean, look around at all this. Colin and I used to walk by this house every day, wishing it was ours... and now I'm lounging by the pool, Livin' it up. He might be some millionaire geek, but my life is the one that's impressive.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. ROLLING HILLS SUBDIVISION - SAME TIME

A large, black helicopter is landing on the street of a modest subdivision. Several security guards block traffic as the helicopter door opens, and out steps: COLIN MCGRATH, now 26. He's still lanky, but his gawkiness has been replaced by a confident wit. He waves thank you back to the pilot, as LINDA MCGRATH approaches. She's the typical sweet-faced mom.

LINDA

Colin!? Oh, look at this! I can't wait to rub this in the Miller's faces!

COLIN

You just did, Mom. (TO A WOMAN IN THE CROWD) Hi, Mrs. Miller.

MRS. MILLER glares at Linda.

MRS. MILLER

(SEETHING, TO LINDA) At least I have some grand babies!

Mrs. Miller storms off. Linda turns back to Colin and starts to say something.

COLIN
(CUTTING HER OFF) No, I haven't met
anyone yet, Mom.

Linda nods, somewhat disappointed.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROLLING HILLS SUBDIVISION STREET - SAME TIME

DANNY and JEN sit in the truck, waiting behind a long line of cars. Danny looks irritated.

DANNY
Look at this traffic. We're going to be
late to Mom's because some old fart
probably croaked on the sidewalk again.

As Danny complains, Jen pulls a bottle of Dom Perignon out of a paper bag. Her eyes go wide.

JEN
Dom Perignon? Are you serious? You
bought a hundred dollar bottle of
champagne to prove you're a bigshot?

DANNY
Hey, I don't need to prove anything to
anyone. Everyone knows I'm the bigshot
in this--
(noticing something)
Family...

Danny sees the reason for the traffic: The large, black helicopter parked in the street. "McGrath Enterprises" is emblazoned on its side. Danny just stares at it, speechless.

CUT TO:

INT. MOM AND JERRY'S HOUSE - A LITTLE LATER

COLIN sits in the living room, facing LINDA and his Step-Dad JERRY, 60's. Jerry has feathered hair, and upscale Tommy Bahamas clothes, and is smiling a little too much.

LINDA
Isn't it good to have him home, Jerry?

Linda turns and kisses Jerry. Jerry grabs her and kisses her back, PASSIONATELY. Colin looks away.

COLIN
Okay, stop that, please.

Linda and Jerry stop kissing. JERRY smiles at Colin.

JERRY
Well, I think having you here sucks.
(BEAT) Not!

Jerry laughs jovially and starts tickling Colin. Colin tries to get away.

COLIN
That's not appropriate, Jerry. Really...

Jerry stops.

JERRY
You're right. Let's take it slow. Let's not rush into being pals.

Colin relaxes a little, then:

JERRY (CONT'D)
Not!

Jerry lunges in for another tickle. Colin jumps up off the couch, as DANNY and JEN enter. Danny holds the bottle of Dom under his arm.

COLIN
Hey, Danny!

DANNY
Hey! Nice helicopter out there. How'd they get you in the house? Build you a conveyer belt?

Colin's smile fades a little. We can almost see him cower back into little brother mode.

COLIN
No, I uh... It's just a business perk, really--

DANNY
Yeah, I know what you mean. My business is booming too, man. Big time. Here, take a card.

Danny pulls a slightly-worn card out of his wallet and hands it to Colin. Colin looks at it, impressed (for Danny's sake).

COLIN

Wow. McGrath Lawns and Maintenance.
Looks really good, Danny. (NOTICING)
What's "to order call 1-800"--

DANNY

Oh, that's uh... That one is technically
a sample. I am going to place an order
though. Probably with more colors.

COLIN

Oh. Do you need this one back then--

DANNY

No. Hell no. That's yours... All
yours.

COLIN

Okay. Thanks, man.

Colin puts the card in his wallet. Danny watches, sadly.
That was his only card.

DANNY

Well, anyway-- I have a little
announcement to make, so...

Danny hands Jerry the bottle of champagne. Colin notices it.

COLIN

Wow. Dom Perignon. That's nice stuff.

DANNY

Is it? It's just what I usually grab.

Jen looks at Danny incredulously. He ignores her.

COLIN

Well, I have a little announcement, too.
When you're done.

DANNY

Yeah? Well, you go ahead. Please.

COLIN

Okay. I wanted to tell everyone--

DANNY

Nah, I'll go first. (TO FAMILY) I have
officially qualified to try out for the
Arena football league! Who likes the
Florida Firecats, huh!? (CHANTS) Fi-er-
cats! Fi-er-cats!

Linda and Jerry react, excited, and start to chant. Jerry steps over and high fives Danny. Danny beams.

LINDA

Wait-- Colin had something too.

DANNY

Huh? Oh, yeah. (TO COLIN) What's up?
You get some Pentium chip to mate with
a... Linux chip?

COLIN

I'm moving back home.

Linda and Jerry instantly break into hysterics, as Danny goes pale. Everyone, including Jen, joyously hug Colin. Danny just stands there, speechless.

JERRY

Well, this deserves a toast!! To Colin!

Danny watches, horrified, as Jerry pops the cork on the Dom Perignon with a BANG. A quiet whimper escapes from Danny, but only Jen notices. She looks at him, a little worried.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Hey, Danny, you want to give the first
toast?

DANNY

What? Oh, um... Let me just get some
glasses.

Danny takes the bottle from Jerry and exits to the back patio, and out of sight. Jen and Colin share a look of concern.

COLIN

(TO JEN) Is he okay?

JEN

Oh, yeah. He's--

Suddenly, the bottle of champagne flies across the back patio and SMASHES AGAINST A BRICK WALL. Jen doesn't even look.

JEN (CONT'D)

--Fine. Just fine.

And on Colin's unsure reaction, we:

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. MOM AND JERRY'S DRIVEWAY - A FEW MINUTES LATER

DANNY sits on the tailgate of his truck, alone and upset.
JEN comes out and sits next to him.

JEN

Danny, you need to come back inside.
People are worried about you.

DANNY

I'm fine. I just needed to think.

JEN

About sharing a town with your famous
little brother?

DANNY

He's not famous. He's a nerd. You have
to be cool to be famous. I'm famous.
He doesn't have one of these, does he?

Danny holds up his finger to show a large ring.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Class-A State champs. His ring just has
a little french horn on it. (LAUGHS) He
doesn't even wear it anymore.

JEN

Most people don't, Danny.

Danny holds up his ring again.

DANNY

Most people aren't Class-A State champs!

Jen shakes her head.

JEN

Don't be that guy, Danny. That's why I
didn't date you in high school.

DANNY

It is? I thought you just knew I was out
of your league.

Jen raises her eyebrows. Danny immediately regrets saying it.

DANNY (CONT'D)

I said was. Was out of your league.
(OFF JEN'S LOOK) What? That's a
compliment. You got so much hotter.

JEN

Danny, just stop talking. I'm trying to tell you that Colin moving home isn't going to make me, your family or this town think any less of you. But acting like a douchebag will. So stop acting like a douchebag. Okay?

Danny nods. Then smiles shyly at Jen.

DANNY

You're out of my league, aren't you?

JEN

Yes. But you'll get so much hotter.

Jen smiles and kisses him on the cheek, as BOONEY approaches the truck. He's wearing a too-small t-shirt that reads "My husband is an army of one." It doesn't quite cover his stomach.

BOONEY

Hey, Colin here yet? I wanna see if he'll lend me some bones for a "Chick-fil-A" franchise. They're all Christiany, so I'd have Sundays off to get drunk.

Danny and Jen just stare at him.

DANNY

What the hell are you wearing?

BOONEY

(LOOKS DOWN) Oh, all the army wives got one. It's to support Summer while she's in Iraq.

JEN

She's a woman, Booney.

BOONEY

I know. They only printed up these ones, though. I also got a "I Love Bush" hat. (SMILES) But I'm gonna scratch out the picture of the President, you know what I mean?

BOONEY winks slyly and heads inside. Danny looks at Jen.

DANNY

Summer's gotta weigh more than a hundred and thirty pounds.

CUT TO:

INT. MOM AND JERRY'S BACK PATIO - SAME TIME

LINDA and JERRY are giving COLIN a tour of the new pool area. It looks overdone, with a little rock waterfall and wetbar.

COLIN

Look's great, guys. Very... Old Reno.

LINDA

Isn't it nice? We also got the pool heated. It's eighty-eight degrees, now.

COLIN

Well, that's still three degrees less than the air. Refreshing.

JERRY

And I got a horseshoe pit out there, too. Think you can beat me, hotshot? Huh? I'll get the horseshoes!

Jerry hurries out. Colin looks at Linda.

COLIN

Mom, this is weird. You've only been married to him for a year.

LINDA

Yes, but he really wants to be a father to you guys. He never had kids of his own. So, just give him a chance. It's not like your real Dad cares about you.

COLIN

What? He calls me every other day.

LINDA

He does?

Linda looks worried. Then, determined:

LINDA (CONT'D)

Jerry can beat that.

COLIN

I don't want him to.

DANNY enters the pool area, and spots Colin and Linda.

DANNY

Mom, Booney is shoving dollar bills up one of your frozen chickens. Something about a presentation for Colin.

LINDA

Oh, dear. He really is retarded.

Linda hurries into the house. Danny and Colin stand there for an awkward beat.

DANNY

So... Moving back to town, huh?

COLIN

Yeah. I'm starting a new website, so I figured I could do it from anywhere. (THEN) But don't worry, I'm not going to interfere with your life or anything. You probably won't even see me.

DANNY

You think you could interfere with my life? (LAUGHS) Man, that's crazy. My life is way too good for my kid brother to interfere with. I'm like... King of the Sarasota Empire down here, you know?

COLIN

It's "Kingdom," actually, if you're a king.

Danny's chummy smile fades.

DANNY

Yeah? What if you're a little princess and your older brother punches you in the face?

Colin nods meekly.

COLIN

Empire's fine, too.

Danny's smile returns.

DANNY

Just don't worry about me, man. Your big bro is getting along just fine. (REALIZES) Hey, I want to take you somewhere. You're not going to *believe* how good I have it. You have a swimsuit?

COLIN

Yeah, but I've got an appointment in an hour. And, when I wear a swimsuit you call me birdboy and make tweeting noises.

DANNY

That's because you don't have pecs.

COLIN

I know. My problem wasn't with the logic part of it.

DANNY

Look, you've gotta see what I have access to. Meet me at the Brew Shack after your meeting and I'll take you there.

COLIN

(SARCASTIC) I thought band geeks weren't allowed in the Brew Shack.

DANNY

(SERIOUS) They're not. Just yell from the parking lot.

Colin just stares at him, incredulous.

JERRY (O.S.)

Okay, guys. Who's ready to rumbleee!?

We see Jerry is standing in the yard, holding horseshoes. Danny and Colin look at each other. Jerry is weird.

DANNY

(TO JERRY) Maybe next time, Jerry.

JERRY

Alright, fine. But lunch tomorrow at my Country Club. Just us men!

Danny and Colin can't think of an excuse.

DANNY

Fine.

COLIN

Sure, Jerry.

Danny and Colin exit. Jerry watches them go, fondly.

JERRY (CONT'D)

(TO HIMSELF) Man, being a father feels good.

Jerry starts inside, passing by BOONEY.

BOONEY

I'll play you, Dad!

Jerry continues past Booney, completely ignoring him.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BREW SHACK - LATER THAT AFTERNOON

It's a cozy little bar full of locals in their mid-thirties. The walls are lined with "Sarasota High School" banners and memorabilia proclaiming glories of the past. (None more prominently displayed than a framed "McGrath" football jersey.)

Danny stands at the bar with a football cocked in his hand. a crowd is gathered around him, cheering.

CROWD
(YELLING) Five. Four. Three...

DANNY
Yaaaah!!

Danny launches the football across the bar. It slams into a beer that's perched on a stool on the other side, knocking beer everywhere. The crowd cheers as Danny raises his arms in victory. LARRY, 30, Danny's best friend, high fives him.

LARRY
Perfection! (THEN) Though you threw on three, man.

Danny nods cockily.

DANNY
I threw on three so the ball would arrive at one. Most QBs can't time it like that. Just me and Marino... But he doesn't have my power.

Danny swaggers over to the bar and grabs a drink. His friends follow after him.

LARRY
So Colin's in town, huh?

DANNY
Yeah. He's actually moving back here to start his new website. And the last one he sold to Bill Gates. My little brother is a genius.

FRIEND #2
That's great, man. When's he coming by? We haven't seen him since your wedding.

Danny stops drinking his beer and looks at the group, like they're idiots.

DANNY

Well, he can't come in here. He's a band geek.

The friends look at Danny, a little puzzled, as the door opens up a crack and Colin sticks his head in.

COLIN

Danny? You in here?

FRIENDS

Hey! / Colin McGrath! / Get in here!

The friends pull Colin in, as Danny tries to stay collected.

COLIN

Hey, Larry. Ted. Chad--

A football suddenly flies into Colin's chest, and he catches it with an "umpf."

COLIN (CONT'D)

--Football...

Danny walks over and pats Colin on the shoulder.

DANNY

Good catch, homo. That was the Brew Shack test. You are now allowed in.

Danny smiles approvingly.

COLIN

Thanks. Can I catch something to not be called "homo?"

The group laughs. Danny's smile fades, then, trying to get the attention back on him:

DANNY

Hey, guys, I was going to show my little brother here a piece of the Danny McGrath good life. You wanna come along?

FRIENDS

Yeah! / Alright. / I'm in.

DANNY

Awesome. (TO COLIN) Alright, let's go.
But no getting jealous, man. What's mine
is yours. You got that?

COLIN

Yeah, I got it.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH HOUSE POOL - A LITTLE LATER

DANNY

Whhhheew!

Danny runs and cannonballs into the infinity pool of the
beach house. The group of friends are already swimming.

Colin stands on the deck, in shock.

COLIN

This is the surprise?

DANNY

Hell yeah, man! Nobody lives here, so
the realtor hired me to keep up the yard.
I have full access! What a life, huh?

Colin sits down on a step in the shallow end, looking pale.

COLIN

Danny, there's something we should talk
about.

DANNY

You're tiny bird chest?

COLIN

Shut up! I have brain muscle!

Danny smiles and splashes him with water.

DANNY

Come try and get my head under water!

COLIN

No, Danny, Listen--

DANNY

Just try and get my head wet. Here, I'll
put my hands behind my back.

Danny puts his hands behind his back. Colin doesn't move.

COLIN

Danny. I bought--

BOOMING VOICE (O.C.)

Everybody step out of the pool!! Now!

Danny, Colin and the friends look up to see four security guards, pointing taser guns over the fence.

SECURITY GUARD

You are trespassing on private property.
Step out of the pool!

COLIN

It's okay, officer.

DANNY

Yeah, I work here, so...

SECURITY GUARD

I don't care, sir. Step out. All of you
will be detained and prosecuted.

COLIN

That's not necessary. I uh... I own
this house.

SECURITY GUARD

Excuse me?

COLIN

Colin McGrath. I'm the owner. Call the
Homeowners Association and they'll
confirm it.

The guards lower their guns.

SECURITY GUARD

Jesus. You are Colin McGrath.
(SHEEPISH) Sorry, sir. We uh... Have a
nice day.

The security guard nods to the others. They all hurry off.

DANNY

(TO COLIN) Nice! Very smooth. Let's go
before they check out your story.

Danny jumps out of the pool. Colin doesn't.

COLIN

It's not a story, Danny.

Danny stops.

DANNY

What?

COLIN

I, um... I bought this place. I own it.
I was going to tell you when you got used
to the idea of me being back.

Danny just looks at him, speechless. We can see his face go
from shock, to rage, then to swallowing his rage.

COLIN (CONT'D)

...Beeecause I thought you might get mad.
But I know now, that's not the case,
because you're mature enough to--

DANNY

(COLDLY) I have to mow your lawn.

COLIN

What? Danny, I would never make you--

DANNY

No, no. That's my job. Mowing the lawn
of my little brother's "mansion."

Danny heads away.

COLIN

Danny... Danny!

Colin hurries out of the pool and chases after Danny. The
friends look at each other quietly. This is awkward.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - FRONT YARD - A MOMENT LATER

Danny has already unloaded the lawn mower off the back of the
truck, and is sitting on it. He starts the engine as Colin
runs up. They yell above the engine during the following:

COLIN

Please stop, Danny.

DANNY

Why? Am I not getting it low enough for
you!? Here, I'll do it by hand!

Danny squats down and starts yanking out grass by hand.

COLIN

Danny! I can mow my own yard... And you're actually getting the roots there--

DANNY

So, what, you're firing me?

COLIN

No, I--

DANNY

Well, too late. Because I quit! Mow your own damn yard! And why don't you get your own town, too! Because in case you didn't notice-- (HOLDS UP HIS RING) I'm the king of this emp-- Kingdom!!

Danny storms over to his truck and gets in.

COLIN

Danny, don't leave like this.

DANNY

Oh, I'm leaving all right.

Danny shifts the truck in gear and lurches down the driveway; however, he doesn't turn sharply enough and crashes into a concrete fountain-- stopping the truck dead in its tracks. He hops out of the truck and walks back to the lawn mower.

DANNY (CONT'D)

(TO COLIN) I am leaving!

Danny drives the lawn mower down the driveway. It's not as dramatic, but he gets it down the driveway. Until he comes to the front gate, which doesn't open. Danny gets off the mower, trudges back to his truck, hits the remote on the visor, and storms back to the mower. He drives the lawn mower through the now-opening gate and slowly down the road.

Colin stands there and watches, feeling bad. After a moment, the group of friends approaches him.

LARRY

Danny leave?

COLIN

(STARING OFF) Yup... But I have a feeling you can still catch him.

And on Colin's gaze, we:

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. DANNY'S APARTMENT - THE NEXT DAY

DANNY sits on the front stoop of his small condo, drinking a beer. BOONEY is laying on the lawn, sunbathing in a pair of cutoffs, some blublocker sunglasses, and listening to a walkman on headphones. Danny watches as Booney sings the audience response part to Otis Day & the Knights, "Shout."

BOONEY
Shout! (BEAT, THEN QUIETER) Shout!
(BEAT, THE QUIETER) Shout! (BEAT, THEN
WHISPERS) Shout.

Danny shakes his head as Jen comes out the front door.

JEN
You want to talk yet?

DANNY
Talk about what? I'm fine.

BOONEY
Shout. (BEAT, THEN LOUDER) Shout!
(BEAT, THEN YELLS) Shout!

Danny takes his foot and crushes the walkman. Booney, still staring up at the sun, taps the headphones, puzzled.

JEN
(TO DANNY) You seem good.

DANNY
I'm great. Just looking forward to lunch with Jerry and Mr. Money bags.

JEN
It's a house, Danny. He just bought a house. You shouldn't be mad about it.

DANNY
I'm not mad! I'm happy. Hey-- you still have that picture of our dreamhouse? Let's give it to Colin, so he can build it to keep all his queer band instruments in.

JEN
I'm sure we'll have our dreamhouse some day. But we're just fine, here.

DANNY
Jen, this idiot lives with us. (LOOKS AT BOONEY) And I hate him.

Booney takes off the earphones and looks at Danny, hurt.

BOONEY
There ain't no sound, now. I can hear.

DANNY
Oh. (THEN, NOTICING) Are you crying?

BOONEY
Nope. (THEN) Yup.

Booney wipes his eyes and runs inside. Danny shakes his head.

DANNY
(TO JEN) Great, now I have to go pretend I didn't mean it.

BOONEY (O.C.)
(TEARFULLY, FROM INSIDE) I can still hear you!

Danny just sighs.

DANNY
(TO JEN) The thing is, that house was my escape. The one thing that made me feel great about my life.

JEN
Excuse me?

DANNY
(QUICKLY) The one... other thing. I don't know, I'm upset here! Dammit!

Danny grabs his beer can and smashes it. Jen just looks at him.

JEN
Hulk. Mad.

Danny fumes.

DANNY
I have to go to lunch at the club.

Danny gets up and heads inside. Jen smiles and calls after:

JEN
You should wear your ripped purple pants and crash through the wall.

CUT TO:

INT. SANDPIPER COUNTRY CLUB RESTAURANT - LATER

COLIN is sitting at the table, alone. DANNY enters and spots him. He takes a seat at the table and stares off.

COLIN

Hey.

Danny just ignores him. It's tense. Finally, JERRY approaches.

JERRY

Waassssuuup!

Jerry tries to tickle Colin and Danny, who quickly pull away.

DANNY

Don't do that, Jerry.

JERRY

Alright, alright. "Homey don't play that," right? Man, I have been looking forward to this. Just a nice lunch with--

As Jerry says this, a waiter puts a napkin in his lap.

JERRY (CONT'D)

(SNAPS, TO WAITER) I was talking, here. You just ruined my damned conversation!

Jerry throws the napkin onto the floor and kicks it a few feet away. The waiter hurries after it, as Jerry turns back to Danny and Colin, smiling.

JERRY (CONT'D)

So you guys like camping?

DANNY

Colin doesn't. He likes the indoors. So he doesn't get sand in his vagina.

Colin grits his teeth.

COLIN

And Danny likes sports - so he can stare at other guy's cranks.

DANNY

Alright, bitch. Outside.

JERRY

Whoa, whoa. If you boys are having a squabble, let me get in there and help--

The waiter approaches the table with a pitcher of water. Jerry instantly smacks it away, spilling it on the waiter.

JERRY (CONT'D)
(TO WAITER) Bottled water! If I wanted that, I'd go to the 18th green and wrap my mouth around a sprinkler!

Jerry pushes out his chair and stands.

JERRY (CONT'D)
(TO COLIN AND DANNY) I'm going to go get this guy fired. Excuse me.

Jerry storms off. Danny and Colin share a "Jerry is nuts" look, that dissipates their own rift. After a beat:

COLIN
Look, Danny. Everybody is coming over to the new house tonight for a barbecue...

DANNY
I'm busy, thanks. Booney can come. He has to finish edging your koi pond, anyway.

Colin shakes his head and stands up to leave.

COLIN
You know what? Fine. I'm sorry I moved back to town, Danny. You treat me like crap my whole life, and now you're mad I'm going to live in the same town with you. Fine. Be mad.

Danny stands defiantly.

DANNY
I didn't treat you like crap.

COLIN
You treated me like the crap that crap craps out, Danny!

DANNY
I treated you like a brother.

COLIN
You made me swallow my band medal!

DANNY
Oh, no. You swallowed that thing on your own. I just wanted to hold it.

COLIN

You were going to pee on it!

DANNY

(SNAPS) Because you were getting cocky!
Mr. "First chair trombone..."

COLIN

First chair-- Are you kidding me? You were quarterback of the football team, homecoming king, wrestling champ, and dating the captain of the cheerleaders! I didn't even have friends!!

Danny takes this in for a moment, then:

DANNY

I was your--

COLIN

No! No you weren't, Danny. You ignored me. You wouldn't even make eye contact in the halls. You completely ignored me!

DANNY

(BEAT, THEN DEFENSIVELY) I made you swallow that band medal.

Colin sighs in frustration, and walks out of the restaurant. Danny watches him go, feeling a little bad. After a moment, Jerry returns and sits down.

JERRY

Alright, looks like we're eating for free, Ham-bone!

Danny looks at him.

DANNY

What'd you just call me?

JERRY

Oh. (LAUGHS) That was one of the surprises for lunch. I came up with nicknames for us to call each other. Your Papa J is pretty "dope," huh?

Danny looks at Jerry for a moment, then walks out of the restaurant. And on Jerry's confused look, we:

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. MOM AND JERRY'S HOUSE - A LITTLE LATER

DANNY enters and finds LINDA in the kitchen, making potato salad.

DANNY

Hey, Mom.

LINDA

Hey, Danny. Where's your Papa J?

DANNY

I'm not calling him that, Mom. And I'm not going to be joining the Indian Guides with him, either.

Linda sees the "Indian Guides" application she left on the kitchen counter, and surreptitiously puts it in a drawer.

LINDA

So, you're going to Colin's barbecue tonight, right?

DANNY

I don't think he wants me there. And I don't blame him. I'm realizing I made some big mistakes in high school. Even though in the yearbook I only put "not scoring on a black chick" under "regrets."

LINDA

I remember that. And Shanice Johnson's senior quote: "Danny McGrath won't stop hitting on me."

Danny nods, then:

DANNY

Let me ask you something. Colin had friends in high school, right?

LINDA

Sure. There was Bobby, in the band...

DANNY

The kid who'd fart on a sock so he could whiff it? No, he doesn't count.

LINDA

Well, then... I guess that would just leave me.

DANNY

What?

LINDA

Yeah, I was Colin's friend. I used to pick him up at lunch and we'd go get tacos... I'd help him pick out cool clothes at Marshalls. We were pals.

Danny goes pale.

DANNY

(REALIZING, TO HIMSELF) Oh, my God. It was that bad?

LINDA

No, it was good. We were buddies.

DANNY

It was that bad. I ruined his life.

Danny shakes his head and exits.

LINDA

(CALLS AFTER) What are you talking about? Do you know how much fun we had at Grad Night?

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - FRONT YARD - LATER

COLIN walks up to find BOONEY weedwhacking in the front yard. Booney puts the weedwhacker down and smiles at Colin.

BOONEY

Hey, buddy!

COLIN

Hey, Booney. You know, you don't have to do that anymore.

BOONEY

Oh, no, I like it. Maintaining a yard gives me a sense of peace. That's why my pillow is stuffed with grass clippins'. It's softer than feathers, too, 'till it starts to rot.

COLIN

Yeah, I guess there's bound to be a downside to a grass pillow.

Colin starts inside. Booney stops him.

BOONEY

Hey, Colin. One thing... I uh, I know you and Danny don't always get along so nice an stuff... And uh, well, I wanted you to know that I'm your brother, too. And I'm always here for ya.

Colin is touched. He smiles and shakes Booney's hand.

COLIN

Thanks, Booney. I appreciate that.

Booney nods and picks up the weedwhacker. Colin sees that he has only one shoe.

COLIN (CONT'D)

You're missing a shoe there, Booney. Or, you have one too many.

BOONEY

Ah, it wouldn't stay on my foot when I stoled the lace for the weedwhacker.

Booney smiles and starts the weedwhacker.

COLIN

Well, is that really safe?

BOONEY

(YELLING ABOVE WEEDWHACKER) What!?

COLIN

(YELLING) I said is that really--

Booney leans in to hear, and:

BOONEY

Ahhhhhhhhh! Holy mother of--

Booney drops to the ground. Colin hurries down to help him.

BOONEY (CONT'D)

My toe! I sliced off my damn toe!
Ohhhhh God! I need a surgeon!

Booney, rolling on the ground in anguish, looks next door. The MEXICAN NEIGHBOR is watering his garden. Booney and him lock eyes. The Mexican man sighs and puts down the hose.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH HOUSE DRIVEWAY - LATER

DANNY and JEN pull up in Danny's truck.

DANNY
I'm just here to pick Booney up. I'm not staying for the barbecue.

JEN
Yes you are.

Jen gets out of the truck and heads up to the house. Danny fumes for a beat, then gets out of the truck as well.

DANNY
(calling after Jen)
Fine. But I'm not eating anything!

JEN
(calling back)
Yes you are!

Danny grits his teeth and trudges up the driveway after her.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE POOL AREA - A MINUTE LATER

DANNY and JEN approach BOONEY, COLIN, LINDA and JERRY. The Mexican neighbor, MARK, is tending to Booney.

LINDA
Hey, Danny. Booney is just fine.

DANNY
Great.

Danny makes brief eye contact with Colin, then they both look away.

COLIN
I'm going to take a swim. Excuse me.

Colin walks off toward the beach. Jen gives Danny a look, but he looks away. Mark finishes the last stitch.

MARK
(TO BOONEY) Done. Four stitches. Not really "sliced off," but it was deep.

Booney looks at Mark, moved.

BOONEY

You're good people, Mexican. You're like the Lord, but you have washed my feet with your science.

MARK

(BURNING) It's Dr. Garcia, not "Mexican." And it was only four stitches. And I was sloppy.

BOONEY

The point is, you've humbled me, Mexican. I'm a different man now. I am... friend.

Booney extends his hand respectfully. Mark just looks at it.

MARK

I'm not touching you.

Mark walks back towards his house. Booney looks puzzled.

JERRY

Okay, who's ready for some burgers?

Jerry puts on a barbecue apron that reads "You'll eat it like Papa J makes it." Danny shakes his head.

JERRY (CONT'D)

(TO DANNY) Ham-bone, go tell Sweetbiscuit that I'm cranking up the grill.

Jerry smiles and exits to the grill area. Danny stares at him incredulously, then, to Linda:

DANNY

What's *wrong* with him?

LINDA

You don't think "Sweetbiscuit," is good for Colin?

DANNY

No. (THINKS) But I am going to start calling him that.

Danny looks out at the beach, and sees Colin, swimming by himself in the ocean. Jen notices Danny watching him.

JEN

Why don't you go talk to him?

DANNY

What? Aah, I'll wait for him to come to me.

Jen puts her hand on his shoulder.

JEN

Danny. You're his big brother. And no matter how successful and smart Colin is, he's always going to look up to you as a big brother. So start acting like one worth looking up to.

Danny takes this in, but still hesitates. LINDA smiles and starts out to Colin:

LINDA

(YELLING TO COLIN) Mommy will come swim with you, sweetie! Your buddy's on her way!

Linda starts to unbutton her blouse, as Danny goes wide-eyed in terror. This has to stop.

DANNY

No, I'm going! You stay away from him, Mom! I'm going!

Danny hurry's past Linda and out towards Colin. Linda shrugs, and walks back to Jen. Jen smiles at her.

JEN

That was pretty smooth.

LINDA

Yeah, I thought that'd do it.

CUT TO:

EXT. OCEAN - A MINUTE LATER

Colin is hanging out in the water, watching the sun set on the horizon. Danny wades out to him, and watches the sun, too. Colin sees him and nods.

DANNY

Hey.

Colin ignores Danny. Danny steels himself to continue.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Look, uh... I wanted to tell you... the truth is I'm glad your back in town.

(MORE)

DANNY (CONT'D)

I'm really proud of you, you know? I never say it, but... I tell everybody I meet about my little brother Colin, and all the stuff you've done. And I guess that's why I've been afraid having you come back would make me look like... a loser.

Colin looks at Danny.

COLIN

Loser?

Danny nods solemnly.

COLIN (CONT'D)

Danny, You want to know why I came home? Really? To get what you have. A wife that loves me. Some real friends. Nobody in New York likes me for who I really am. Girls only date me because of the success. I told you I never had any friends, well guess what? I still don't. Just Bobby from the trombone section.

DANNY

That dweeb?

COLIN

He's the CEO of Pepsi, now.

DANNY

Man, what *is* it with you guys? (THEN)
Well, look. I'm going to be your friend, now. Like I should have been back then. I mean, I'd like to be.

Colin smiles.

COLIN

I'd like that. And you know, I'm proud of you, too. I even got a little surprise for you. Dan Marino's an investor in the new website... so he agreed to run some drills with you. You know, for the Firecat tryouts.

Danny looks stunned.

DANNY

Dan... Marino? Seriously?

Colin nods. Danny is speechless, then realizes his acting like a schoolgirl, and collects himself.

DANNY (CONT'D)

I mean, sure. I can teach him some stuff.

Colin smiles knowingly, and starts back to shore. Danny moves to block him.

DANNY (CONT'D)

On one condition, though.

COLIN

What's that?

DANNY

You get my head wet.

Colin's smile fades.

COLIN

Danny, I don't want to-- Yeeaaaahhh!

Colin suddenly springs up and grapples onto Danny. Danny swiftly twirls Colin around and slams him into the water. Hair untouched.

DANNY

Booya! You can have all the money in the world, but you can't buy these!

Danny flexes his arms. Colin wipes the water out of his eyes, and springs up for him again, Danny easily hip-tosses him into the water again, and laughs. Colin smiles and lunges for him again, as we:

ANGLE ON: THE BEACH. JEN sits on the sand, watching Danny and Colin wrestle in the water. LINDA sits down next to her. They smile as they watch the brothers getting along.

LINDA

You know, Danny once carried Colin two miles to the hospital when he broke his ankle at kickball. The school wanted to put him in a car, but Danny knew he'd only stop crying if he carried him... He's a good brother.

Jen nods.

JEN

He's a good man. (THEN) With a touch of douchebag. But, I love him.

LINDA

Me, too. And I love seeing them get
along like this. It's nice.

JEN

It sure is.

ANGLE ON: The Ocean. COLIN and DANNY are heading to shore,
laughing. Danny has his arm around Colin. It's as nice a moment
as brothers could have...

Then Danny suddenly stops. Colin looks back at him, confused.

COLIN

What?

DANNY

(realizing)

Wait a minute-- You think I can't get on
the Firecats without Dan Marino helping me?

COLIN

What? No--

DANNY

You think I don't have what it takes?
You think you have to buy my way in!?

COLIN

No, I don't. I swear...

Colin starts to back away from Danny. Danny notices.

DANNY

Where are you going? Come here.

COLIN

No. I don't want to...

DANNY

Come here!

Colin gets a frantic look on his face and turns and runs.
Danny, enraged, runs after him... as we CUE:

DIRE STRAITS "WALK OF LIFE."

And as the music plays over Danny angrily chasing his scared
little brother across the beach, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW