

OVER BLACK

SOUNDS of a step ladder being pulled into place. A rope dragged across wood. A loud jolt, like a SANDBAG DROPPING.

SUPER: "Based on True Events"

FADE IN:

1 INT. TRAGEDY HOME/SHED - DAY 1
CU on a TAUT ROPE - swinging and jerking.
CU on pair of GYM SHOES - kicking marks on the plywood floor.
The twitching rope subsides into a slow oscillating swing.

2 EXT. TRAGEDY HOME/BACKYARD - NEXT MORNING 2
The sun is coming up through the trees. *

3 INT. TRAGEDY HOME/KITCHEN - DAY 3
DESTINI (17) walks through the kitchen toward the back door.

4 EXT. TRAGEDY HOME/BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS 4
Destini exits and scans the yard. Approaches shed entrance.
She opens the double doors and starts SCREAMING.
She YELLS to the air as she sprints across the yard.

DESTINI
Don't let Mom come out here! Don't
let Mom come out here!

A4 EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - CONTINUOUS A4
We track her as she runs past the house and down the country road, lost in grief and shock, calling out to no one.
Her cries fade beneath the quiet songs of BIRDS and the rhythmic sound of BATS HITTING BALLS that prelap...

CHANCE
No it doesn't.

KARL
Now wait a minute, maybe he's not
dumb. Maybe he's just dyslexic.

BRAD
No, definitely dumb.

Jared laughs, even Ben grins.

KARL
Maybe you have ADHD. One of my
friends has that.

BRAD
Yeah, and your friend is really
dumb.

All the boys laugh. All except Chance.

21

EXT. FLASH COMPLEX/FIELD #1 - DAY

21

Players hit off row of tees into the outfield.

MIKE
First guy go!

Chance suddenly stops, turns, and walks away into dugout.

MIKE (CONT'D)
Anthony take over.

He follows Chance in. Chance flings his batting gloves.

MIKE (CONT'D)
What's going on, buddy?

Chance suddenly begins to cry. Mike takes it in.

CHANCE
I got held back.

MIKE
Is that why you're crying?

CHANCE
They were teasing me on the bus.

MIKE
Our guys?

CHANCE

Yeah.

Mike turns to Brad, who is watching through the fence.

MIKE

Brad, get the guys here. On the
hop!

Brad gathers team and they walk over in a group.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Fellas. Chance isn't going to be in the same grade with you guys anymore. That hurts him. But what hurts most is his buddies, his teammates teasing him on the bus. It's a fine line between messing with a guy and hurting him.

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Long silence. The guilty boys slouch. Mike more serious than normal.

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*

MIKE (CONT'D)

Back to work. Be brothers.

*

The players disburse. Ben lingers slightly.

BEN

I didn't tease Chance.

MIKE

The thought never entered my mind.

Ben nods, and jogs away. Mike turns back to Chance.

MIKE (CONT'D)

You wanna hear something good about being held back? When you get to high school, none of the other kids'll be able to touch you.

CHANCE

Really?

MIKE

Well yeah. You'll be a year older than your classmates. Can you imagine an eleven year old trying to tackle you? Good luck.

*
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*

Mike waits for Chance's smile and gets it. Pats his shoulder.

MIKE (CONT'D)

What's your least favorite subject?

CHANCE

Math I guess.

MIKE

You like the teacher?

CHANCE
She's a monster.

Mike grins.

MIKE
Monsters are good sometimes. They chase you to places you wouldn't usually go. How do you get good at anything in Flash Baseball?

CHANCE
Millions of reps.

Mike gestures palms up. Chance nods. Mike hands him back the batting gloves.

22	OMITTED SC 22	22
23-28	OMITTED SC 23 - 28	23-28
29	EXT. FLASH COMPLEX/FIELD #1 - DAY	29

Game in progress. Mike pulls in the boys pre-inning.

MIKE
Play wild. If you gotta make errors, make 'em fast. They're not gonna kill you.

JUMP CUT TO:

MIKE (CONT'D)
You're killing me guys. First step.
Three seconds. Comin' at you hard.

Two men on. One out. The batter lifts a high line-drive to left-center. Chance makes a spectacular catch. He fires to second base and doubles up the runner before he can get back.

The crowd goes wild.

Coach Anthony tosses balls to Chance and first baseman Brad as the team runs in. Chance bangs gloves with his teammates.

COACH ANTHONY
Touch the rally monkey before you get up. Get some juju!

Push-in on ragged "rally monkey" doll hooked to the fence. Each player gives it a tap.

77 EXT. BROWN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS - EVENING 77

MONTAGE:

- A) Sign reads, "School Closed - Fair Week".
 - B) Approaching. Chance in van with BROOKE (15). She's buried in her phone. Chance playfully smacks her to look up.
 - C) Teenagers in high visibility jackets direct parking.
 - D) RVs parked in camping area.
 - E) Chance and Brooke look at rabbits and guinea pigs. Sweet.
 - F) See pigs in straw, cows with ear ribbons. Hold hands.
 - G) Chance buys two ride wristbands. Helps Brooke with hers.
 - H) Ride Ferris wheel, carousel, flying cars. All sweetly romantic. Rockwell's America.
 - J) Chance buys massive Elephant Ear. Runs into LOGAN (15) and CHUCK (16) in line. Chance spots Brooke talking to male friend. Tenses. Logan and Chuck notice, shoot grins.
 - K) BB guns, darts, goldfish bowls. Chance uber competitive.
 - L) Chance hurls the ball at the pitching booth and wins a plastic Reds' helmet. Something is off.
 - M) Brooke and Chance in grandstands for Demolition Derby. Chance gives her his coat, and shivers in shorts.
- Brooke's phone CHA-CHINGS an incoming text. Chance looks.

CHANCE
Who's Colton?

78 INT. COLTON'S HOME/BATHROOM - MORNING 78

COLTON HALLIWELL (15) dresses for school. He dons a sharp jacket and rubs gel in his spiky hair.

79 INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY/COLTON'S LOCKER - LATER 79 *

Colton shoves books into his locker and checks his class schedule. Shuts the locker door, REVEALING

GROUP OF FRIENDS and Ben, with Chance making them all laugh. His arm is draped around Brooke, who glances at Colton.