

LAND OF MISFIT BOYS  
an original screenplay by  
Cannon Rosenau

FADE IN:

EXT. IDAHOPE BOYS' HOME - EVENING

IdahoPe Boys' Home, a sprawling estate in the mountains of North Idaho. It's dressed up in Christmas glory - lights, sledding hills, Christmas trees.

Boys of all ages are everywhere (about 40 total), just being boys, enjoying the winter wonderland running amok in blissful chaos: ice fishing, sledding, snow ball fights and a giant bonfire. A couple Australian Shepherd dogs join the fun.

DAISY-ROSE JOHNSON, 30ish, steps into the chaos, hands on her hips with a stern look. A smile creeps onto her face as she tackles, KING, one of the teen boys, and whitewashes him in the snow. They laugh.

VARIOUS TEACHERS, including a quirky science teacher MRS. STIDWELL, 50s, (who looks a lot like a female version of Doc Brown) are among all the fun.

CHARLIE JOHNSON, 70, white hair, white beard, sits around the campfire with a group of the boys. He talks to FREDDY, 10, King's little brother.

FREDDY

How far away is Hawaii from here?

CHARLIE

Oh, about 29 hundred miles.

FREDDY

That's probably too far for me to ride my bike.

CHARLIE

Yes, considering you're not supposed to ride your bike past the driveway.

He hands Freddy a cup of cocoa from a nearby camp table.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Besides, you know Daisy-Rose is just crazy enough to bring the lot of you over for a visit.

He lifts his cocoa mug, Freddy follows suit. CHEERS!

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Mele Kalikimaka!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HAWAIIAN TIKI BAR - NEXT YEAR

The "Cheers" fades into Mia Tai glasses. Charlie sits poolside at the tiki bar on a bright Hawaii day, resembling a tropical Santa.

Another OLD DUDE sits next to him with a shirt that says "Retired: I worked my whole life for this shirt!"

CHARLIE/OLD DUDE  
To Retirement!

They both take sips.

OLD DUDE  
What day is it?

CHARLIE  
Who cares!

Charlie's phone RINGS. He answers.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
Aloha, Daisy-Rose.

CUT TO:

INT. IDAHOPE OFFICE - SAME TIME -- DAY

Daisy-Rose sits at her tornado of a desk.

DAISY-ROSE  
I don't know how you juggled all this for over thirty years. There's always so much office work, I have no time for the boys.

INTERCUT HAWAII/IDAHOPE

CHARLIE  
Slow down. Breathe.

Daisy-Rose closes her eyes and breathes.

DAISY-ROSE  
I'm buried.

There's a KNOCK at her office door.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)  
Hold on, dad. Come in.

Freddy enters.

FREDDY  
Miss Johnson?

DAISY-ROSE  
Please, you don't have to call me  
that. It's so -

She sticks her nose in the air and mimes drinking tea with her pinky out. Freddy smiles.

FREDDY  
You were supposed to help me with my  
volcano for science.

DAISY-ROSE  
I'm so sorry, sweetie. I completely  
forgot. I'll be there in five, okay?

He nods and exits. Daisy-Rose's head drops onto her desk. Papers fall to the floor.

CHARLIE  
Hey, you still there?

Daisy-Rose doesn't move.

DAISY-ROSE  
(muffled)  
I'm still here.

Charlie takes another sip of his drink.

CHARLIE  
Hire someone who can do the office  
stuff. The operations, someone to  
make all the little decisions for  
you. Then you can focus on the boys.

DAISY-ROSE  
But you did both.

CHARLIE  
But I always had you to help.

She lifts her head off the desk, there's hope.

DAISY-ROSE  
You're right. Mahalo. Gotta go  
post an ad.

CHARLIE  
Remember. An ounce of faith equals...

DAISY-ROSE  
A buttload of peace. I remember.

She hangs up.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. APP HUB TECHNOLOGIES - DAY

This place is crawling with HIPSTERS on scooters and skateboards. There's even a GUY ON STILTS.

SEAN OLIVER, 30ish, peers at the activity over his computer from his desk through the glass wall. His desk is spotless and organized as his polo and khakis. He focuses back onto his screen.

One of the hipsters, JASPER MARTIN, 30ish, lets himself in and takes a seat, albeit in a yoga squat, but a seat nonetheless.

Sean keeps typing on his computer, while Jasper sits there quietly.

SEAN  
(without looking up)  
Did you need something, Jasper?

Jasper stands up, gives him the index finger "just a minute" sign and does a backbend.

JASPER  
Yes, we need to talk.

SEAN  
Sounds serious.

He gives Jasper his full attention.

JASPER  
Well, some of us got to thinking and you're just not vibin' with the posse.

SEAN  
Say what?

JASPER  
You're not a good fit.

SEAN  
But I helped found this company.

JASPER  
Yeah, but the clause in the contract says we can vote you out. Let's face it, you're a plain ol' round peg in a round hole. Adios.

With that, he leaves Sean dumbfounded.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JAVA HUT COFFEE SHOP - MORNING

AUNT JENNY, 50s, slings coffee to all the town's morning zombies. Daisy-Rose is next up.

DAISY-ROSE  
Good morning, Aunt Jenny.

AUNT JENNY  
What's your poison this morning,  
sweet girl? We've got a buttered  
rum latte or a peppermint bark mocha  
on special.

DAISY-ROSE  
Oh man, those both sound so good.  
Um, peppermint please.

Aunt Jenny turns toward her barista, TANDY (late 20s).

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)  
No, wait. Buttered rum. No  
peppermint. Ack.

AUNT JENNY  
Are you sure? This might be life  
changing. You better be certain.

Daisy-Rose throws a five dollar bill on the counter as the customers get antsy behind her.

DAISY-ROSE  
Ha ha. Making fun of me always helps.  
Just surprise me.

Aunt Jenny hands the order slip to the young barista, TANDY. Daisy-Rose steps aside so the next customer can go. She checks her phone as she waits for her coffee and replies to an e-mail.

TANDY  
Daisy-Rose.

Daisy-Rose picks up her coffee cup.

TANDY (CONT'D)  
This one's yours too.

DAISY-ROSE  
One of each. Thanks, Tandy! Now  
which one to drink first?

Daisy-Rose waves good-bye to Aunt Jenny as she heads out.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. IDAHOPE OFFICE - A LITTLE LATER

Daisy-Rose, King, Freddy and their tiny brother, FRANKIE, 5, attempt to organize her piles of papers. Frankie's really just drawing on them.

The dogs lay on the office floor.

KING

D.R., how do you expect to teach us life skills when you're, um, lacking yourself?

FREDDY

Shh, be nice, King.

FRANKIE

Yeah, be nice.

DAISY-ROSE

Yeah, be nice. I'm just teaching you what not to do.

KING

I'll say.

She smiles at the beloved boys.

DAISY-ROSE

Now that I've taught you so well and you know all you need to know, I'm going to have you boys help me conduct my interviews.

FREDDY

I think one of them is here already.

Daisy-Rose opens the door wider to reveal BERTA, 40, with her coke bottle glasses.

The boys step aside, but keep their eyes peeled, as Daisy-Rose ushers her in and extends her hand.

DAISY-ROSE

You must be Berta. Have a seat.

Berta sits on a pile of papers on the chair, but carries on professionally.

BERTA

Here's my resume. You'll find my  
credentials are sufficient.

Freddy looks into her magnified eyes, fascinated.

FREDDY

You have giant pretty eyes.

BERTA

Anyway, as I was saying, my  
experience...

Frankie steps up into her bubble.

FRANKIE

Wow, she does.

He inhales a big ol' whiff of Berta.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

She also smells like cheese.

Freddy ushers Frankie back over to King. Daisy-Rose flashes  
a grin at the boys, then stifles it so Berta won't see.

The dogs each sniff her ankles then WHINE and lay back down.

DAISY-ROSE

So full of imagination, this bunch.  
Your resume is impressive. I have a  
couple more interviews and then we'll  
be in touch.

Berta gets up, brushes the paper sheets off her skirt and  
leaves.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

I don't know about you guys, but I  
like her.

KING

You still have two more people to  
interview. There's a reason they  
call them "informed decisions."

Daisy-Rose rolls her eyes at him.

DAISY-ROSE

You're right, you're always right.  
If you were old enough, I'd let you  
run this joint. A natural leader.

FREDDY

He'd be just like your dad. A resident here and then the head honcho.

DAISY-ROSE

He's ornery like him too.

FRANKIE

Let's bring in the next person. I wonder what they smell like!

They all laugh as the next JOB CANDIDATE enters.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JAVA HUT COFFEE SHOP - SAME TIME

Sean sits at one of the cafe tables with his tablet device. Aunt Jenny elbows Tandy - they're shocked; you'd think Sean had a second nose growing out of his forehead.

AUNT JENNY

What's his story?

TANDY

Well, no one just stops here unless they've taken a wrong turn at the highway fork on their way to the resort. Especially not cute guys without wedding rings.

AUNT JENNY

That happens a lot. We should capitalize on that. He's not dressed for the mountain, maybe he's visiting family.

TANDY

Do you recognize him?

Aunt Jenny shakes her head.

TANDY (CONT'D)

Exactly. You *know* all the families in town. Go refill his coffee.

AUNT JENNY

Giving the boss orders, are we?

Aunt Jenny walks over to Sean and refills his black coffee and hands him a candy cane.

SEAN

Oh. Thank you.

Aunt Jenny peers over his shoulder to see that he's looking at the Idahope Boys Home website. He whips around. Aunt Jenny jumps.

SEAN (CONT'D)

You know, I could help you build an online ordering platform so people don't have to wait in line.

Jenny looks at the FOLKS IN LINE, everyone is smiling and chatting.

AUNT JENNY

I don't think they mind.

She hands him a bunch more candy canes from her apron.

AUNT JENNY (CONT'D)

Bring these to the boys at the home. You're not the only nosey one.

She walks off. Sean cracks a little smile.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. IDAHOPE OFFICE - A LITTLE LATER

Frankie, Freddy, King and Daisy-Rose wait as Sean enters the office. The dogs are still in their spots.

FREDDY

Please, take a seat.

Sean nods. Freddy rejoins his brothers while Sean moves the stack of papers off the chair and onto the desk.

KING

A bit of a wet noodle, but organized. That's good.

DAISY-ROSE

You can see why we need to hire someone.

FRANKIE

He smells like peppermint. That's good too.

SEAN

Oh, yeah, here. The coffee lady sent these.

He hands the boys each a candy cane.

FREDDY

Can we eat them now, Daisy-Rose?

She smiles and nods.

DAISY-ROSE

You boys have helped me enough, why  
don't you go take your union breaks?

The boys wave and exit, the dogs follow behind them. Sean  
CLEARS HIS THROAT.

SEAN

Nice boys. Not what I expected from  
a place like this.

DAISY-ROSE

What exactly did you think the boys  
would be like? Running around and  
lighting the place on fire? They  
didn't get a good start to life, but  
they're good kids...

Freddy runs in frantic.

FREDDY

King's playing with matches again.  
He was trying to light the candy  
cane on fire and there was a box...

Daisy-Rose jumps up, papers fly from her lap. She grabs the  
fire extinguisher from the corner and runs out with Freddy.

Sean remains in his seat. His eyes focus on the tornado of  
a desk. He picks up a stack of paper and organizes the pages.

DISSOLVE TO:

MOMENTS LATER

Daisy-Rose comes back in to find Sean on her side of the  
desk. The desk! It's organized with a clear "Inbox" and  
"Outbox" - it practically sparkles. She checks the trash  
bin, no papers.

DAISY-ROSE

Are you some sort of wizard? Wait,  
don't answer that. I don't care.  
You've just made my decision very  
easy. And that, you'll learn, is  
priceless to me. But I suppose I  
should look at your qualifications  
again.

She looks around for the papers she had. He hands them out to her as she takes a seat on the other side of the desk.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

Will you be moving to our small slice of Heaven in the mountains or will you be commuting the two hours from the Valley?

SEAN

I'm prepared for either scenario.

DAISY-ROSE

Okay, well, we have a vacant cabin that we can offer as a housing benefit. It would reduce your salary by five-hundred bucks.

SEAN

Well, you can't even get a studio apartment for that price. Plus the savings in gas, wear and tear on my car. Utilities.

He looks up as if at a calculator in his head.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Mind if we take a look?

She gestures toward the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. SEAN'S CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

They approach a small log cabin with a covered front porch, complete with two Adirondack chairs.

SEAN

That's quite a hike from the office.

DAISY-ROSE

Yeah, but turn around. Take one of those chairs for a test drive.

Sean obeys, his demeanor remains unchanged. Daisy-Rose takes the chair next to him. The dogs join them on the porch. The view is spectacular - you can see hills with snowy Evergreen trees for miles, a huge, sparkling lake in the near distance.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

I've lived up here most of my life and it still takes my breath away every time.

SEAN

You grew up in this cabin?

DAISY-ROSE

No, I grew up in the original residence. When I came back from college to work here in an official capacity, dad built this one for himself and I moved back into the original. This one faces away from the property, so you won't always feel like you live at work.

They get up and head inside.

INT. SEAN'S CABIN - CONTINUOUS

They stomp the snow off their boots. The interior is plain with no knickknacks, but it is a clean, pretty log cabin with a woodsy interior.

DAISY-ROSE

So, as you can see it is a boring bachelor pad.

SEAN

Well, then it's perfect for me. I don't like clutter. And I'm a bachelor.

Daisy-Rose leads him to a window on the wall opposite the front door.

DAISY-ROSE

From this side of the house, you can see all the buildings on the property.

He joins her at the window. She points out the different buildings.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

There's the activity center. And the dorms are over there.

There's a blast and a fiery explosion in the distance and green smog hovers over the building. Sean's eyebrows skyrocket, Daisy-Rose remains unfazed.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

The science lab. Over there, the office. Way back there our little experimental Christmas tree farm. It's almost ready to harvest. There's the cafeteria. You can add meals to your list of job perks.

Sean smiles.

SEAN

Noted.

DAISY-ROSE

Lawrence is the best cook. He sources his ingredients locally, the best he can. It's a little tougher this time of year. The boys have the most fantastic garden in the summer. And he makes sure to teach each boy how to cook. Handy, especially the ones who age out of the system. Just as my dad taught him.

SEAN

Lawrence was a resident here?

She nods.

DAISY-ROSE

So was my dad. His dad, my grandfather, was killed in World War Two.

They continue the tour into the kitchen. Sean inspects the cupboards.

SEAN

And your grandmother?

DAISY-ROSE

According to local folklore, she went crazy, had to be locked up in the sanitarium until the day she died.

She shows Sean the bedroom door.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

According to the kinder people, she died of a broken heart.

Sean nods and walks toward the front door.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, you probably have stuff to do and I'm just rambling on and on. I tend to do that. I grew up around all these boys. Well, not these ones, but ones like them. They start very closed off, barriers up. I'm doing it again.

SEAN

It's okay. When do you want me to start?

DAISY-ROSE

Tomorrow. Or is that too soon?  
Next Monday? When can you?

SEAN

I'll head back to the Valley and pack up my apartment tonight. So I'll be back tomorrow to unpack and really organize that office.

DAISY-ROSE

Tomorrow then. Good.

She dangles the keys for Sean. He takes them and smiles politely.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CAFETERIA - EVENING

Frankie, Freddy, King and a GROUP of other boys (including a tween boy named XANDER) sit around a cafeteria table. They enjoy food that looks like deliciously beautiful home cooking.

KING

We're lucky we're still here.

FRANKIE

Yeah.

He takes a bite.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Why?

KING

Remember Julius? He said his new family only eats raw vegetables.

EWs all around.

KING (CONT'D)

They had giant mushrooms and called them steaks! They don't even wash the dirt off it. They say it's full of minerals.

More EWs. Daisy-Rose comes over and sits down with her tray of food.

DAISY-ROSE

What's "Ew"? Do I stink?

She sniffs her armpits.

FREDDY

No, you always smell like flowers.

Like your name.

She gives him a little squeeze and a smile.

Mrs. Stidwell walks by with a lunch tray contraption around her neck. The doohickey feeds her automatically, but missing her mouth with every bite. She has slop all over her face, but at least her hands are free to read and take notes as she walks out of the cafeteria.

FRANKIE

Wow, that's cool. I want one of those. I could eat all the time.

KING

Well, you better ask Santa for one. D-R, who'd you pick for the job?

FREDDY

Cheese girl, cardboard girl or peppermint guy?

DAISY-ROSE

Peppermint guy. I mean Sean. Mr. Oliver. Now he can do all the boring stuff. And I can focus on planning the Christmas party with you guys.

They all get excited.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

This year, we'll make it so big we'll call it an extravaganza!

XANDER

Will Charlie come back from Hawaii for the party?

FRANKIE

She said call it a 'stravagamsa.

XANDER

Will Charlie come to the extravaganza?

DAISY-ROSE

No, but we can build a Charlie.

Confused looks from the boys. Daisy-Rose is completely animated.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

We'll build a body. Stuff a shirt with pillows.

KING

Not just any shirt. His Idaho Vandals shirt.

DAISY-ROSE

Yes. And we'll put the tablet on for his big fat head. And he's going to be on video chat for the entire party.

The boys stack their empty trays.

XANDER

I bet Mrs. Stidwell will let us work on it for a science project. We can make the body robotic.

Daisy-Rose smiles and nods.

DAISY-ROSE

Great idea! Okay, lets go tell Lawrence thank you for another delicious meal, shall we?

She gets up, the boys follow her lead as LAWRENCE, 50s, waves to them from behind the food counter.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. IDAHOPE OFFICE - MORNING

The office desk is messy again. Daisy-Rose sits with her feet up on the desk, she holds her cell phone to her ear and takes a sip of coffee.

She sets the cup down on the desk and it tips due to her mess of papers.

DAISY-ROSE

Hold on, I'm putting you on speaker.

She does and throws the phone on the desk as she searches for something to wipe up the mess with.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

Go on, Belinda, I'm listening.

She grabs a sweater off the back of her chair and sops it up.

BELINDA (O.S.)

So anyway, Jack keeps making excuses about each of the babysitters we interviewed. That one is shady or that one gave me the stink-eye. I think he's scared.

DAISY-ROSE

Of what?

BELINDA (O.S.)

Of going out. We're going to be the old people at the bar. Or if we have fun, we'll turn into bad parents. Who knows?

Daisy-Rose's desk phone RINGS. She peers at the caller ID.

DAISY-ROSE

I gotta go, it's one of the social workers. Tell Jack he better have it figured out by tomorrow. I'm coming to your birthday party no matter what.

BELINDA (O.S.)

He can stay home with the kids for all I care. I'm coming to my birthday no matter what too! Love ya. Bye.

DAISY-ROSE

You too. Bye.

Daisy-Rose taps the cell "off" and picks up the office phone.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

Idaho Boys Home, Daisy-Rose speaking.

She grabs a pen and takes notes on a paper scrap.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

He's 14? Rough age even under the best circumstances. Yes, we have a bed for him. Today? That's fine. Email me his file.

Sean raps on the door as it opens. Daisy-Rose waves him in.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

Yeah, the roads are plowed and sanded,  
you should be able to make it up.  
We look forward to meeting Griffin.

She hangs up and exhales.

SEAN

That call seemed pretty serious.

DAISY-ROSE

It's always bittersweet getting a  
new boy.

SEAN

How so?

DAISY-ROSE

Usually, they've just had trauma or  
have been bounced from foster home  
to foster home. Also traumatic.  
Bitter. But I love each and every  
boy that comes here. Sweet.

SEAN

I have to admit, I don't have any  
experience with kids. Besides the  
overgrown ones I worked with before.

She gets up from the desk and grabs a stack of paper mess.

DAISY-ROSE

That's okay, as long you're good at  
the boring stuff. Organizing the  
receipts, budgeting the grants,  
deciding on vendors. Deciding on  
what brand of ketchup to buy. Why  
they offer 11 different kinds of  
ketchup is beyond me.

SEAN

Okay, so add tedious decisions to my  
job descriptions. Got it.

He winks as he methodically sorts the stack she gave him.

DAISY-ROSE

Sorry. I'm just happy to get back  
to running the activities and focusing  
on the boys.

He glances at the computer screen.

SEAN

It looks like that email came in.  
I'll print it for you.

A couple clicks of the mouse and the paper spits out of the printer. Daisy-Rose retrieves it and the notes she wrote on that scrap paper.

DAISY-ROSE

Thank you. Also, do you mind responding to her and getting your background check cleared through her?

SEAN

Will do, boss.

DAISY-ROSE

I'll check in with you later and see if you have any questions. Or you can find me around the property.

He gets busy with his nerd tasks with all the receipts and computer.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ACTIVITY CENTER - A LITTLE LATER

Daisy-Rose sits on the bleachers with a GROUP of boys including King, Freddy and Frankie. Frankie draws on a pad of paper with markers.

King holds Daisy-Rose's phone as they talk to Charlie on video chat. He has snorkel gear on his head.

CHARLIE

No, Frankie, I'm not allowed to pet the turtles. I wish. They're bigger than you. One snuck up behind me and I thought it was a shark!

FREDDY

Did you wet your shorts?

CHARLIE

Who knows? My shorts were already wet.

They all laugh.

DAISY-ROSE

On that note. We love you. Have fun!

They all wave as she shuts off the phone. The boys all go back to playing the various activities in the center (basketball, air hockey, foosball etc.).

FREDDY

That gives me an idea. We should have a Hawaiian Christmas theme for our party.

KING

That's a stupid idea.

Daisy-Rose glares at King. He knows what to do.

KING (CONT'D)

Sorry, Freddy.

Freddy sniffles.

FREDDY

It's okay.

DAISY-ROSE

And?

He rolls his eyes.

KING

And there's no such thing as a bad idea.

FREDDY

Exactly. We can make pineapple and turtle ice sculptures for decorations.

DAISY-ROSE

Yes, yes, I smell what you're cookin', Fred.

Frankie hands her his pad of paper and a marker. She jots down notes.

FREDDY

That's all I got.

KING

Well, if you insist on going with his idiotic idea...

He gets the look from Daisy-Rose.

KING (CONT'D)

I mean since we're going along with my dear little brother's brilliant  
(MORE)

KING (CONT'D)

idea, you can write down that we should turn our sleds into surf boards.

DAISY-ROSE

I love that.

FRANKIE

Flip flop Christmas cookies!

DAISY-ROSE

Good!

Her marker's burnin' rubber, she's writing so fast.

FREDDY

The music class can learn how to play the ukulele.

She writes it down then her phone BUZZES. She passes the pad and marker to King.

DAISY-ROSE

Keep going, but don't be late for class. I get to go meet our new boy, Griffin. I'm putting him in your room.

KING

Ah, man. I just got these dorks trained to leave my stuff alone.

She gets up and heads to the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. IDAHOPE BOYS' HOME - MOMENTS LATER

A car pulls to a stop. NETTY, 40, grabs her briefcase and hops out of the car. Daisy-Rose meets her in front of the car.

The boy, GRIFFIN, 14, stays in the front seat, a frown so deep, you'd think his face would crack if he tried to smile.

NETTY

Daisy-Rose. Hello.

DAISY-ROSE

Hi, Netty. I haven't seen you in awhile. Which is both bad and good.

NETTY

I suppose so. This one...

She points her head toward the boy in the car.

NETTY (CONT'D)

He's going to be challenging, I'm afraid. Recently placed, but already has gone through four foster homes. Well, I'm sure you read the file.

DAISY-ROSE

I did. Four homes in three months. I thought that was a typo. Yikes.

She looks over at the car, Griffin doesn't make eye contact. Netty hands Daisy-Rose some folders.

NETTY

Here's the rest of his file. Oh and on top is your new hire's background check. He's good to go.

DAISY-ROSE

You're so efficient.

NETTY

Well, I try to make sure every case is settled this time of year. So they're at least not in limbo for Christmas.

Netty flicks her head to signal Griffin to get out of the car. He gets out robotlike with a backpack and a plastic bag - sadly, all his belongings in the world.

NETTY (CONT'D)

Griffin, this is Daisy-Rose.

GRIFFIN

Stupid name.

Daisy-Rose's eyes narrow.

DAISY-ROSE

I know. File a complaint with my dead mom.

Netty relaxes into a half-smile, as she gets back into the car. Daisy-Rose waves her off.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

We'll get you settled in, you can just relax until lunch time.

They trek up the hill toward the dorms.

CUT TO:

INT. IDAHOPE DORMS - MOMENTS LATER

The room is sectioned off for a more cozy ambiance. Each sub-room has two sets of bunk beds, a tv, desk and toy box.

DAISY-ROSE

I'll put you on King's bunk. He's 14 too. His two little brothers are on the other bunk in this room.

GRIFFIN

What is this? The land of stupid names?

DAISY-ROSE

He's on the top bunk so you can take the lower bunk. If you don't like the gray comforter, I can get you blue, yellow, red or orange.

She looks at his blank, motionless face.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

Well, anyway, you don't have to decide now. I know I wouldn't be able pick a color that quick. Or at all.

She studies him for a moment.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

Unless there's anything else, I'll leave you to it. The cafeteria is out the main doors and across the courtyard. You can't miss it, just follow your nose.

She exits, leaving him still motionless.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAFETERIA - AFTERNOON

Boys trickle out of the cafeteria toward the playground and sleds, still inhaling their juice boxes and sandwiches.

CHAOS breaks out in front of the dorms. King is at the second story window tossing Griffin's bags out. Griffin is outside yelling back up.

GRIFFIN

You better watch your back, Queen. And your front and your sides. And after I finish that, I'm gonna break your face.

Daisy-Rose runs over to Griffin.

DAISY-ROSE

Let's take a walk.

(Up to King)

You. Go wait for me in the office.

GRIFFIN

A walk with you. Yeah, right.

He takes off into the nearby woods. A nearby boy, AUSTIN, laughs.

AUSTIN

He ain't gonna get very far. We'll send him up to the office when he comes back.

DAISY-ROSE

Newbies always learn the hard way, don't they?

AUSTIN

I know I did. I got bored of walking around the same tree after five minutes.

DAISY-ROSE

That's because you're a fast learner.

She winks at him as they continue to their opposite ways.

CUT TO:

INT. IDAHOPE OFFICE - A LITTLE LATER

Sean compares two papers side by side. His eyes dart back and forth from one to the other.

He's saved by a light KNOCK on the office door. The door opens slowly before he can answer as Daisy-Rose peeks her head in. She's holding the files Netty gave her.

DAISY-ROSE

Hey. Not that you need it, but I have some more paperwork for you. Your cleared background check and the rest of Griffin's file. How's it going in here?

She lays each of the files on his desk.

SEAN

I can't figure out why you have two invoices from two separate orders on the same date, both for ten cases of toilet paper each.

DAISY-ROSE

They both seemed so good. On one hand, this one...

She taps on one of the invoices.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

...is much softer. But on the other hand, the boys far outnumber the girls and this one was a much better deal. I found out why it's a better deal. It's like sliding down a sandpaper slide.

She shutters as she sits down in one of the chairs in front of his desk and sets the files down in front of her.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

I got overwhelmed trying to choose. So we got both. You're going to see a lot of those. It's not like it won't get used.

SEAN

True. I just thought I'd double check. I'm just getting to the budget stuff.

He studies her a moment.

SEAN (CONT'D)

You really aren't good at making decisions are you?

DAISY-ROSE

Do you know why my name is Daisy-Rose?

SEAN

Because your parents were hippies?

DAISY-ROSE

Not really. Well, maybe. My dad told me a story about the time they made their own deodorant. I guess it attracted a lot of bears during mating season.

Sean smiles.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

Anyway, hippies or not, my mom couldn't decide if I should be Daisy or Rose. So she, like me with the toilet paper, picked both.

SEAN

So instead of a middle name, you have two first names?

DAISY-ROSE

Oh, it's worse when you put my middle names together with my first names. Daisy-Rose Liberty-Hope Johnson.

SEAN

That's a mouthful, isn't it? I thought mine was bad.

DAISY-ROSE

Huh?

SEAN

Well, since you have my background check file there, I'm sure you already know my dirty little secret.

She shakes her head, staring blankly at him.

SEAN (CONT'D)

You didn't read it? But you already had leased me the cabin. Can't you get in trouble with the state for that?

DAISY-ROSE

Don't get your panties in a bunch. I knew you were fine. When you've been at a job literally your entire life, you can read people.

SEAN

Well, I have to get back to work. Do you need me to do anything with that new boy's file?

DAISY-ROSE

His name's Griffin. You can look it over, so you have an idea about what he's gone through. But I already took care of all the case notes. I should actually go check and see if he came back out of the woods yet.

He picks up Griffin's files and places it neatly in the "Inbox." He throws his employee file into the desk drawer and locks it.

SEAN

He went into the woods? By himself?

She waves off his worry.

DAISY-ROSE

Psshhh. It's fine, they've all tried to run at one time or another. But they either get bored after five minutes or the dogs herd them back.

He runs out in a flash. She rolls her eyes, exhales and gets up to follow.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. IDAHOPE WOODS - A LITTLE LATER

Sean walks through the woods at a brisk pace.

SEAN

Griffin? Griffin?

Several yards behind, Daisy-Rose looks for Sean.

DAISY-ROSE

Sean? Sean?

She stops and smells the air.

Ahead of her, Sean leans down and studies a track in the snow.

Daisy-Rose finally sees Sean and catches up to him.

SEAN

Have you found him?

DAISY-ROSE

No. None of the boys have seen him come back yet.

SEAN

I didn't spot any footprints over here. Just some hoof prints.

DAISY-ROSE

You did? Get next to the tree. Those are fresh. There's a moose nearby. I smelled it.

They huddle next to the tree.

SEAN  
You smelled it?

DAISY-ROSE  
Well, I thought I was just smelling  
my own snot. But if you saw prints,  
then...

She points. There's a giant baby moose nearby.

SEAN  
It's a baby. When there's a baby,  
there's an over-protective mother  
nearby.

DAISY-ROSE  
Exactly. I don't think Griffin has  
any outdoor experience.

They quickly move to the protection of another tree.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)  
Griffin? Griffin?

SEAN  
Griffin? Wait. There he is. And  
there's mama moose.

Griffin stands frozen as the seven foot tall mama moose stares  
him down.

DAISY-ROSE  
Griffin!

He looks over.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)  
Slowly, slowly back up and get behind  
a tree.

Mama moose lets out a snort. Griffin jumps.

SEAN  
Stay calm, Griffin. They don't attack  
unless they feel threatened.

Griffin backs up and gets behind the tree.

DAISY-ROSE  
Good, Griffin. Wait there.

She grabs Sean's arm and pulls him to the next tree.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

C'mon. He's scared. He probably won't admit it though.

They make their way to Griffin's tree. Baby moose runs up to mama moose.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

Follow us, Griffin.

He obeys as they all make their way tree by tree to exit the woods. The moose pair walks off in the opposite direction.

SEAN

That was scary. A mama moose is nothing to trifle with. You didn't even flinch, Griffin.

GRIFFIN

Man, that was nuttin' to be scared of.

DAISY-ROSE

Okay, but if you see them again, just get behind something like the tree. You can't outrun a moose, so don't even try. Their legs are longer than RuPaul's.

Griffin shrugs.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

I talked to King and he's going to let you keep the top bunk. His brother gave him his. We good?

He shrugs again and nods slightly.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

Good, I'll see you later. We can see what classes you want.

He takes off. Sean and Daisy-Rose leisurely walk toward the office buildings.

SEAN

RuPaul? He had no idea who you were referring to.

DAISY-ROSE

Ah, but you did.

She winks at him.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)  
Thanks for your help. You have good instincts.

SEAN  
I just had a feeling. It's a gift.

DAISY-ROSE  
Humble too.

That makes Sean laugh. They part ways as he heads back into the office building and Daisy-Rose into the activity center.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. IDAHOPE DORMS - NIGHT

King, Freddy, Frankie and now Griffin settle into their bunks.

FREDDY  
Hey, Griffin. I hear you saw a moose today.

FRANKIE  
You did? Were you scared?

GRIFFIN  
No, I wasn't scared, you little twerp.

King jumps down off his bunk.

KING  
Don't talk to my brother like that.

Griffin sits up.

GRIFFIN  
What are ya gonna do about it? Tell your little mommy on me?

Daisy-Rose enters with a smile, which fades quickly as she reads the room.

GRIFFIN (CONT'D)  
There she is. Go on, tattle your mommy on me. Wittle baby King doesn't wike when I call his bwother names.

DAISY-ROSE  
First of all, I'm no one's mommy, I could never take the place of someone that meant so much. Good or bad. Second, is anyone going to tell me what's going on?

FREDDY

Griffin called Frankie a twerp and King didn't like it. Even though King calls him that all the time.

DAISY-ROSE

I get it. Only he can talk to his own brother that way. My friend Belinda's big sister was like that. She'd call Belinda ugly, ugly names.

King and Griffin keep staring each other down.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

One time, Belinda and I got in a fight over some hideous sweater that we both loved. What were we thinking? Anyway, as soon as *I* called her an idiot, her sister decked me.

Frankie's eyes bug out.

FRANKIE

You got punched?

Daisy-Rose points to her jaw-line.

DAISY-ROSE

Right here. It was black and blue and yellow and purple for my school picture.

GRIFFIN

She's never going to stop talking, is she?

Griffin lays his head back down. King steps back toward his bunk.

DAISY-ROSE

I'm glad she did it. Belinda and I teamed up and pranked her sister after that.

Daisy-Rose snaps her fingers.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

That's it. I've got a mission. Get your snow stuff on. Meet me outside my house. Bring snow shovels. You too, Griffin.

He rolls his eyes and sits up. The other boys chatter, excitedly as she leaves.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SEAN'S CABIN - LATER

Daisy-Rose leads King, Freddy, Frankie and even Griffin on a hike in the knee-deep snow up toward Sean's cabin. Daisy-Rose turns around and puts her index finger on her lips.

DAISY-ROSE

Shhhh.

(whispers)

I don't see any lights, but who knows, he may be sipping cocoa in the dark, thinking of ways to be boring.

The younger two boys giggle.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

Okay, start digging.

The boys and Daisy-Rose all start shoveling snow from the yard onto the porch in front of the front door.

DISSOLVE TO:

LATER

There's a wall of snow that blocks Sean's front porch. The boys and Daisy-Rose admire a job well done.

DAISY-ROSE

I'll wait for him in the office tomorrow and I'll tell you how late he is when I see you at lunch.

KING

If he gets there by lunch.

Griffin laughs and fist bumps King. Progress.

DAISY-ROSE

Now let's go see if we can find some cocoa in the kitchen.

FRANKIE

Yes!

Daisy-Rose hops onto the shovel part and sleds down the hill. The boys follow suit.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. IDAHOPE OFFICE - MORNING

Daisy-Rose sits at Sean's desk on the computer. She's printing some old Christmas party pictures from the year before with her dad.

She attempts to open that desk drawer but it's jammed. She pulls harder, it opens. The file isn't in there.

SEAN (O.S.)  
Looking for something?

She looks up as Sean's coming through the door with a smirk.

SEAN (CONT'D)  
What?

DAISY-ROSE  
Oh, nothing. How, how...

SEAN  
How'd I make it out of my cabin?

He looks at his watch.

SEAN (CONT'D)  
Before 9AM even?

DAISY-ROSE  
I have no idea what you're talking about. I was going to ask how you are settling in.

She takes a drink of her coffee, trying to hide behind the cup.

SEAN  
I'll have you know, I was an Eagle Scout. I have my pottery badge, stamp collecting or philately as my people call it, personal management, obviously. And bugling.

He walks past her and sits in the chair in front of the desk.

SEAN (CONT'D)  
But my search and rescue badge included some avalanche training.

He puts his feet up on the desk, smug. She gets up.

DAISY-ROSE  
Well, I'll let you start on that budget. Bye.

She runs out the door.

DAISY-ROSE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Bugling?

He moves to behind the desk.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CAFETERIA - AFTERNOON

Daisy-Rose holds her tray out as Lawrence scoops some deliciously rich homemade macaroni onto it next to a beautifully green kale and beet salad.

DAISY-ROSE

Marry me, Lawrence. You'd be the next best thing to marrying this meal.

He bats his eyes at her playfully.

LAWRENCE

Keep talkin' and I just might say yes. Especially, if your Aunt Jenny turns me down one more time.

DAISY-ROSE

Give her time. You've only been dating off and on for twenty years.

LAWRENCE

Is that all? Twenty-two, actually.

Daisy-Rose slides her tray along the counter as she steps out of the way of other boys waiting in line behind her.

DAISY-ROSE

Have you had a chance to meet Griffin yet?

Lawrence smirks and nods.

LAWRENCE

He reminds me of a more intense version of King when King was new here.

DAISY-ROSE

And from what I've heard from dad, not unlike yourself. Which is what inspired me to study social work. Even thought I hate the paperwork. But, you, sir, are an inspiration.

LAWRENCE

You're embarrassing me in front of my friends.

He winks at THE BOY IN LINE.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

I have my wish list for ingredients for the Christmas party. Luau themed of course.

He pulls a paper out of his apron smock and hands it to her.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Make it happen, capt'n. These boys deserve only the best of Roast Beasts!

DAISY-ROSE

Aye, aye, Dr. Seuss!

She salutes him, grabs her tray and is on her way.

INT. ACTIVITY CENTER - A LITTLE LATER

A couple GROUPS OF BOYS that include King and Freddy scrimmage on the basketball court. King dribbles the ball up the court to his team's hoop.

Out of bounds, slightly out of sight is where Griffin takes out a can of spray paint from his backpack. King stops short which confuses the boys on the court. He points with his arm still cradling the ball.

FREDDY

(whispering)

We should do something.

KING

Let him. He needs a good butt whoopin' from D-R. Go get her.

Freddy dutifully runs out of the Activity Center. Griffin turns around and glares at the other boys then quickly returns to defacing the wall.

On the wall, he outlines an offensive likeness of Daisy-Rose who arrives being pulled by Freddy. The boys all quietly retreat to the bleachers to watch the action.

Daisy-Rose continues to observe behind him as he outlines a devil horn out of her head. He moves to the other side of the caricature and shakes the spray paint can.

DAISY-ROSE

Wait!

Griffin jumps and then coolly turns around.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)  
What other colors do you have?

He shrugs, nods at his backpack and steps back. Daisy-Rose helps herself to a couple cans. She shakes the hot pink and decorates the devil horn.

The boys in the bleachers and Griffin stare wide-eyed as she takes the fluorescent green and writes: "Daisy-Rose is a weirdo unicorn!"

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)  
Thank you, Griffin. I've always  
thought this wall was boring.

Freddy jumps down from the bleachers.

FREDDY  
Can I use some of your paint?

Griffin shrugs as various boys excitedly follow suit.

DAISY-ROSE  
Keep it appropriate, please. And on  
the wall. King, Griffin? You guys  
are in charge of keeping it clean.

KING  
Yes, ma'am.

Griffin nods.

CUT TO:

INT. IDAHOPE OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Sean sits at the desk, punching the keys of the ten-key calculator. The desk phone RINGS.

SEAN  
Idahope office, Sean speaking.

He grabs a notepad and pencil.

CUT TO:

INT. BELINDA'S LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Belinda holds her phone with her shoulder as TWO PRESCHOOLERS run around her.

BELINDA

Please tell Daisy-Rose that I managed to get a birthday miracle. Not only did we find a babysitter, but she's going to be here an hour earlier than planned. I'm taking advantage of every minute.

INTERCUT BELINDA/SEAN

SEAN

I'll give her the message.

BELINDA

Hey, you're welcome to come too. We're gonna party like it's 2009.

SEAN

Don't you mean 1999?

BELINDA

I was 9 in 1999, so I'd rather not. Please come. The more the merrier.

SEAN

You want me to come to your birthday? You don't even know me. Are you sure?

BELINDA

Well, you're new here. You should get out and meet the locals. And also my husband is not thrilled with the estrogen to testosterone ratio.

SEAN

That's so kind of you. I'll think about it. Where's the party?

BELINDA

Sasquatch Mountain Bar.

One of the preschoolers WAILS.

BELINDA (CONT'D)

Got to go! Hope to see you there.

She hangs up and scoops up the kid.

CUT TO:

INT. IDAHOPE OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Sean hangs up the phone, smile on his face. The smile fades as he continues punching his unfriendly numbers into the ten-key.

He lets out a giant SIGH. He picks up the phone again just as Daisy-Rose enters. He puts the phone down.

SEAN

You are just person I needed to talk to.

DAISY-ROSE

Oh, yeah? Well, what do you need?

She heads over to a file cabinet drawer and pulls out a green binder, decorated in glitter that says "Annual Party."

SEAN

Can you tell me when we are due to receive our next funding grant?

DAISY-ROSE

I believe February first. Why?

She tucks Lawrence's list inside the binder, cradling it as she sits down.

SEAN

We're bust. There's no funds left. We can pay Lawrence and the teachers through December. I have savings tucked away, so I am fine to defer my paycheck.

Daisy-Rose nods along.

DAISY-ROSE

We do get some donations from good Samaritans that trickle, especially this time of year.

SEAN

Good, then we can work on paying off last year's back property taxes.

He studies her convicted face.

SEAN (CONT'D)

I see you haven't paid yourself a salary since your dad left.

DAISY-ROSE

Well, I have a roof and I have meals.  
Aunt Jenny spoils me with lattes.  
What more do I need?

(a beat)

How are there no funds left? This  
is why I hired you. I hated this  
part of the job.

SEAN

Well, you didn't do a terrible job.  
Maybe it wasn't wise to take all the  
boys to Hawaii to visit your dad  
over spring break. You blew through  
a majority of the budget right there.

She stands up in a flash.

DAISY-ROSE

I don't regret one minute of that  
trip for each one of those very  
deserving boys. All of them got  
something positive out of that trip.  
Watch little Frankie grow up and  
become a renowned marine biologist.  
And...

Sean rubs his temples as if it will get her to shut up.

SEAN

I don't doubt that for a second.  
And once we get the budget on track,  
maybe that can be something we add  
in annually.

DAISY-ROSE

Really?

SEAN

Well, it would take some serious  
buckling down. Miserly.

She sits back into the chair calmly and sets the binder on  
the desk.

DAISY-ROSE

Okay, we can do that.

SEAN

Like Scrooge style miserly.

She nods.

DAISY-ROSE

Yes. I get it. But, I do need to know what my budget is for the Christmas party.

SEAN

Uh-uh. No Christmas party.

DAISY-ROSE

What if we skip Hawaii next year?

He shakes his head.

SEAN

Don't you get it? You blew through the budget. There's no party. And likely no Hawaii next year or the year after either.

DAISY-ROSE

But, the boys look forward to this party every year.

SEAN

I'm sorry. It just can't happen. Do you understand?

She stands up and yanks the binder off the desk, sending some papers to the floor as she heads toward the door.

DAISY-ROSE

Fine!

SEAN

Good.

She exits, but pokes her head back in.

DAISY-ROSE

Fine!

She slams the door.

SEAN

Real great.

He picks up the papers that flew out of her binder. He studies it: a picture of King with a huge smile next to Daisy-Rose at the party as she points at a strange looking snowman.

Sean slumps his head onto the desk.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DAISY-ROSE'S BEDROOM - A LITTLE LATER

Daisy-Rose hastily searches through her clothes in her closet, her phone cradled in her shoulder.

DAISY-ROSE

Belinda, I've never wanted to punch someone so hard. He was so smug. Almost like he enjoyed canceling the kids' Christmas party. Stupid Grinch.

She yanks an outfit off the hanger rack and tosses it on her bed.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

You invited him? No, I'm not mad. You were just being nice. Besides, he's so awkward and weird, there's no way he'll show up. Okay, birthday girl, I'll see you soon!

Daisy-Rose tosses the phone onto the bed now too.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SASQUATCH MOUNTAIN BAR - LATER

A giant metal Sasquatch statue wearing a Santa hat decorates the front of the quirky bar. Daisy-Rose approaches and smiles up at it.

DAISY-ROSE

Good to see you, George.

She heads inside.

INT. SASQUATCH MOUNTAIN BAR - CONTINUOUS

A bouquet of balloons makes it easy for Daisy-Rose to find Belinda's party. Belinda, her husband JACK, Jasper (the hipster from the tech company), Aunt Jenny, and a FEW OTHER WOMEN are having a great time.

Daisy-Rose pecks Aunt Jenny on the cheek.

AUNT JENNY

Hi, baby.

DAISY-ROSE

Hi, Auntie. Lawrence said there'll be a hot meal ready for you at midnight. Whatever that means.

Aunt Jenny smiles.

AUNT JENNY  
Exactly as it sounds.

Daisy-Rose runs over and lands on Belinda in a hug.

DAISY-ROSE  
Happy birthday!

She plants a wet kiss onto the birthday girl's cheek.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)  
You look...wow. Have you lost weight?  
Specifically, two toddler-sized  
weights?

BELINDA  
Yes. And it feels good. Does that  
make me a bad mom?

DAISY-ROSE  
Who cares? You get one break a year.  
Your hubby looks good too. If he  
smiles any bigger, his face might  
fall off. Hi, Jack.

JACK  
Hey, D! You want a beer or a glass  
of wine?

JASPER  
Don't make her pick. If I remember  
correctly, she'll have a breakdown.

Jasper gets up from the table and wheels over in retro roller  
skates to Daisy-Rose cautiously, offering a beer. Her eyes  
pop wide open as she dismantles her hug from Jack.

DAISY-ROSE  
(whispers in Jack's  
ear)  
What the heck is he doing here?

She pastes on a big fake smile as she takes the beer from  
Jasper.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)  
Hey, Jasper. Long time, no see.

JASPER  
Yeah, I know, I'm sorry. I've been  
holed up at work.

DAISY-ROSE  
For five years?

Jasper hangs his head.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)  
Nevermind. Let's just have fun.  
The gang's together and it's Bee's  
birthday. Let there be cake.

JASPER  
That's the spirit.

Jack steals Jasper away as Belinda comes back over to Daisy-Rose.

BELINDA  
Sorry, I should have warned you.

DAISY-ROSE  
Don't be sorry. Just because we  
were stupid enough to venture out of  
the friend zone doesn't mean you  
have to suffer.

BELINDA  
From friend zone to war zone.

DAISY-ROSE  
And very, very, very slowly back to  
friend zone. Very very slowly.

BELINDA  
You're a good woman. Cheers.

They clink their beer glasses and drink.

DISSOLVE TO:

LATER

Belinda, Daisy-Rose and Jasper are on stage singing karaoke to Hanson's "Mmmmbop." They finish up and the karaoke HOST takes the stage.

HOST  
That was, um, inspiring. But I'm  
gonna turn it back to the  
professionals.

A COUNTRY BAND takes the stage as Daisy-Rose, Belinda and Jasper head back to the party group.

Aunt Jenny claps enthusiastically. Jack greets Belinda with a kiss.

JACK

That song never gets old when you guys perform it. Unlike my wife. Cuz she's super old.

BELINDA

Not as old as you, grandpa.

Belinda playfully hits him, then nestles back into his arms.

JACK

Daisy-Rose, I think your new work guy's here.

Daisy-Rose looks around. Jack points as Sean comes back from the bar.

SEAN

Happy birthday, Belinda. Thanks for inviting me. Hello, Daisy-Rose.

She rolls her eyes and GRUNTS.

JASPER

Hi, Sean. Small world.

SEAN

Small indeed. Jasper. Jasper who fired me from my own company. What are you doing here?

JASPER

I'm from here. Known these guys forever.

BELINDA

Wait? You guys know each other?

Daisy-Rose shrinks back to Aunt Jenny's side.

DAISY-ROSE

Things just got really awkward.

AUNT JENNY

That's my cue. I've got enchiladas waiting for me in my oven.

Aunt Jenny smiles and pinches Daisy-Rose's cheek.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JAVA HUT COFFEE SHOP - MORNING

Daisy-Rose, Jasper, Belinda and her two kids sit around a cafe table drinking their fancy coffees.

The adults look rough after a fun night.

JASPER

I still can't believe Charlie moved to Hawaii.

DAISY-ROSE

You should go visit him.

He nods as he takes a sip of his coffee.

JASPER

He had me teach him how to use the internet, when we were stuck with dial-up on the mountain mind you, specifically so he could research the different islands.

BELINDA

The minute you showed up at Idahope, Charlie had you pegged as a techy.

Jasper twirls his hipster mustache.

JASPER

He did. I honestly think he already knew how to do half the stuff he made me...

(air quotes)

...teach him.

DAISY-ROSE

He's a turd like that.

One of Belinda's preschoolers SQUEALS in delight.

PRESCHOOLER

Turd! Turd, turd, turd.

Belinda gives Daisy-Rose a playful death-stare. Daisy-Rose winces.

DAISY-ROSE

Oops, sorry. I guess I owe you an overnight babysitting.

BELINDA

Your crime doesn't match that harsh of a punishment.

Daisy-Rose smiles and pinches one of the kiddo's cheeks.

JASPER

I still can't believe you're a mom now.

DAISY-ROSE

To two!

She holds up two fingers to punctuate.

BELINDA

Well, now that you two have gotten  
over yourselves, maybe you won't be  
afraid to come visit.

Daisy-Rose and Jasper look at each other and giggle awkwardly.

Sean enters the coffee shop, spots the group and turns on  
his heel. Daisy-Rose sees that and gets up to go after him,  
leaving Belinda and Jasper.

DAISY-ROSE

Sean! Sean, wait!

He obliges and steps to the side of the exit door. Daisy-  
Rose joins him.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

Are you okay? You seemed pretty  
upset last night.

SEAN

Why would I be upset?

He glares over at Jasper.

DAISY-ROSE

Let me get you a coffee.

SEAN

Don't make me remind you that you  
have no money.

DAISY-ROSE

Okay, let Aunt Jenny give you a coffee  
on my behalf.

They step into the line. Aunt Jenny looks up at them so  
Daisy-Rose uses hand signals to order for him.

SEAN

I thought you were mad at me.

She shrugs.

DAISY-ROSE

Sure, but I guess you're only trying  
to do what I hired you to do.

Aunt Jenny places a drink on the counter for Sean and gets back to work. Daisy-Rose swipes it up and hands it to him.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)  
Come on. Sit down with us.

She leads him to their table. Jasper's gone and Belinda is bundling up the kiddos.

BELINDA  
Jasper told me to tell you bye. He had to get back to the Valley. Something about some big nerd project they're working on.

Sean scoots into an open seat.

SEAN  
I wonder if he's building a new app for the city account or just refactoring.

Daisy-Rose and Belinda blink blankly at him.

SEAN (CONT'D)  
Sorry. That was my account. Landed it a few years ago, developed, maintained...

He shakes his head.

SEAN (CONT'D)  
I guess it doesn't matter what he does with it.

Belinda zips up the kids coats.

PRESCHOOLER  
Turd, turd, turd.

Sean actually cracks a smile and looks at the kid.

SEAN  
My thoughts exactly, kid.

Belinda shrugs, waves and leads her ducklings out of the coffee shop. Daisy-Rose joins Sean.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. IDAHOPE BOYS' HOME - DAY

Daisy-Rose and a group of the boys, including Griffin, Freddy, Frankie and King, study the ground armed with spiral notebooks. The dogs run around happily with their pack.

DAISY-ROSE

Anyone see these little prints over here?

The boys gather around her.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

That's got bunny tracks. Or a squirrel. No, bunny is right.

GRIFFIN

Who cares?

King follows the track to a nearby tree. Freddy wanders beyond the tree.

KING

It's a squirrel. See? The tracks end at the tree. That sucker went right on up the tree.

DAISY-ROSE

But did you know that rabbits can climb trees in dire situations and with great effort?

KING

Like how I turn into the Hulk if anyone messes with my brothers.

Daisy-Rose puts her finger to her nose as in "on the nose" and nods.

KING (CONT'D)

Yeah, this is definitely still from a squirrel. It took a straight shot up.

FREDDY

Big pile of moose poop over here.

DAISY-ROSE

Good find. Write it down, Fred!

One of the dogs start munching on the moose poop pile.

FREDDY

Gross. That's not kibble, you sicko.

Frankie approaches Daisy-Rose with a shed deer antler.

FRANKIE

Wook. I think it came from one of Santa's Wain-deers.

She grabs it from him and studies it. She gives it a little sniff.

DAISY-ROSE

Oooh, I think you're right. What do you think Santa's reindeer were doing here on our mountain?

FRANKIE

I bet they were practicing where to land.

FREDDY

Yeah, getting ready for Christmas.

FRANKIE

No, because I bet Santa is gonna bring them to our party so we can pet them. I never petted a waindeer yet.

The boys get excited.

KING

That's a great idea, D-R. You could text Santa and ask him to bring his real reindeer to the Christmas party!

GRIFFIN

Text Santa? What are you, four?

King elbows him.

KING

No, but he is.

Griffin backs off. All the boys jump up and down with lots of "YEAHS" all around. Daisy-Rose plops down in the snow.

DAISY-ROSE

About that. I'm really sorry, but the party isn't in the budget this year. We blew all the money on Hawaii.

KING

But we've never not had a party. The party is our Christmas tradition. Like real families have.

FREDDY

When Frankie was a baby and it was our first Christmas here, that was the first day I ever saw King smile.

KING

Frankie has never had a Christmas without it.

The boys sit around Daisy-Rose. Frankie starts to cry.

FRANKIE

Santa's not coming this year? He forgot about us? Everyone always forgets about us.

Daisy-Rose pulls him close.

DAISY-ROSE

He would never ever forget about you boys. Santa doesn't need the party to remember you. You'll see.

GRIFFIN

Makes no difference to me.

DAISY-ROSE

Why don't you boys go see if Mrs. Stidwell needs any help in her lab. I have some work to do.

Daisy-Rose gets up and marches off. The boys head toward the lab which glows green in the distance.

CUT TO:

INT. APP HUB TECHNOLOGIES - DAY

CALVIN (40s), the receptionist, studies his face in a hand held mirror. You can tell his looks have faded, but he's well groomed. He makes pouty lips and then tugs at the excess turkey neck/chin.

CALVIN

Beauty is beyond age. Calvin on the cover of GQ. Beauty is beyond...

The elevator DINGS. Calvin puts down the mirror as MARLEY (60s) a pretty hippy lady with a Stevie Nicks fashion sense steps off.

CALVIN (CONT'D)

Hello, welcome to App Hub. How can I assist you today?

MARLEY

Hi, uh...

She looks at the plaque on the desk that says "Calvin, Receptionist" with a hand-written sticky note attached that that says, "and model."

MARLEY (CONT'D)

...Calvin. I'm here to see, my son, Ocean. Is he here today?

CALVIN

Ocean? There's no one here by that name. I'd remember that.

MARLEY

He goes by Sean most of the time.

CALVIN

Sean. Hmm. I'm new, but that sounds familiar. Everyone's in a development meeting. Do you want to come back later?

MARLEY

I'll wait. I didn't warn him that I was dropping by. Thanks.

There's a row of different types of chairs such as bean bag, papasan, hammock swing, egg chair and a yoga ball. Marley balances comfortably on the yoga ball and grabs a book out of her crocheted satchel.

Calvin noisily flips through a fashion magazine behind the counter, his chin rests on his fist. He SIGHS. Marley looks up but goes back to her book.

Calvin flips the pages with more vigor and SIGHS louder. Marley shuts her book and looks up at Calvin and smiles.

CALVIN

Back in Milan, I was on the cover of all the magazines.

MARLEY

Milan? How glamorous! Well, no wonder why they put you right up front here to greet everyone. Everyone likes a nice face.

She makes her way back to the counter. Calvin smiles dreamily.

CALVIN

Yeah?

He checks the mirror to confirm.

CALVIN (CONT'D)

I'm only working here to save up for my updated headshots.

MARLEY

It can be hard to start over especially so far from home. Do you have any of your work?

Calvin excitedly pulls a stack of copy out of the drawer and plops it on the counter. She browses through titles such as "The General Store Coupon Book," "Milan High School Times," "Supermarket Weekly Specials," and "Farmer's Bank Newsletter." On each one, he is a whole lot younger with the most spectacular mullet and they clearly say "Milan, Missouri."

MARLEY (CONT'D)

Wow. These are so...um, impressive.

Saved by the bell: Calvin's phone RINGS. He answers and Marley takes her place back on the yoga ball.

DISSOLVE TO:

A LITTLE LATER

Calvin sits back with his feet on the desk still on the telephone.

CALVIN

Well, Candi, that's why we're so perfect together. You're the smart one and I'm the pretty one. I'll see you later after my goat yoga class.

He hangs up the phone with a smile. Marley puts her face deeper into her book. Calvin lets out one of his attention-getting SIGHS again. He clears his throat, AHM.

Marley doesn't take the bait, but she doesn't have to. The meeting lets out and the various EMPLOYEES, including Jasper file out on their various skateboards, scooters and wheelie shoes to the lobby area.

JASPER

Mama Marley, what are you doing here?

Marley gets up and gives Jasper a hug. She holds onto his shoulder and studies him.

MARLEY

Your chakras are off. Are you getting enough sleep?

JASPER  
Haven't you heard? Sean was let go.  
I've been working major O.T.

MARLEY  
Now my chakras are off. How could  
he not tell me?

Jasper shrugs.

JASPER  
It just happened.

MARLEY  
A break will be good for him. Maybe  
he can take this time to really find  
himself. Travel to Cambodia or  
something.

JASPER  
He already found a job. Studious  
Sean.

Marley grabs her purse.

MARLEY  
I worry about that boy though. All  
work and no play...

JASPER  
...Makes Sean a dull boy. He's up  
at the boys' home on Sasquatch  
Mountain.

MARLEY  
Well, that's a good start. Good  
seein' you, Jasper.

She turns to Calvin.

MARLEY (CONT'D)  
I hope to see you on the cover of  
the Valley Banker or something as  
big as that soon!

She winks at them and is on her way.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CAFETERIA - EVENING

All the boys finish up their dinners as Sean grabs a plate  
from Lawrence. Lawrence nods at the boys to dismiss them.  
They scurry out.

Sean takes a seat, Lawrence joins him.

LAWRENCE

So, how are you adjusting to life up in the mountains?

SEAN

It's definitely peaceful.

LAWRENCE

When the boys are all sleeping.

SEAN

Right. I definitely can get used to eating like a king. You should open your own restaurant. You'd make a killing.

Sean savors a bite of food.

LAWRENCE

I thought about it once before, but I could never leave these boys.

SEAN

If you change your mind, I know some good investors. One taste of this, man, and they would throw money at you.

Sean finishes the last food from his plate.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Well, I should go finish up my work and turn in.

Lawrence checks his watch and taps his fingers nervously.

LAWRENCE

Hey, do you think you could get your investors to throw money at the boys' Christmas party?

SEAN

I can ask. But you've seen the show Shark Tank, haven't you? If there's no return on the investment, there's no investment.

Sean stands up, gathers his plate and starts to walk off.

LAWRENCE

Wait.

Sean turns around. Awkward silence.

Freddie pokes his head in the door and gives Lawrence a wave.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)  
Nevermind. See you around.

Sean gives a wave and puts his plate in the bus tub.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Sean walks down the hall and enters the office door.

INT. IDAHOPE OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

It's dark and as he walks in he hears a CRUNCH noise under his feet. He flips the light on.

Behold, what a sight! His entire office is covered tautly in tin foil.

SEAN  
What the?

There's a single sheet of paper laying on top of his tin foiled computer keyboard. He picks it up and reads it.

SEAN (CONT'D)  
Figure out the party budget. Or  
else we'll do worse than this.

He SIGHS and slumps into his tin foil chair. As the chair compresses down, a bull horn BLOWS DEAFENING LOUD. He falls backward off the chair, sending the chair flying to the floor too. You can see the bull horn duct taped to the now flipped-over chair.

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA - SAME TIME

Lawrence and the boys gather around a tablet to watch the live streaming video of Sean's office, laughing hysterically.

FREDDY  
I can't wait to tell Daisy-Rose about  
this.

LAWRENCE  
But first, go get your chores done  
before she gets back from town.

The boys huff and puff and some roll their eyes, especially Griffin.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)  
Go on now. Griffin, I could use  
your help prepping for tomorrow.

GRIFFIN  
Whatever. I guess.

And they all dutifully scurry off.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAISY-ROSE'S CAR - SAME TIME

Daisy-Rose drives her big beater of a 4 wheel drive vehicle equipped with a plow on the front to the base of the snowy mountain road.

She's dressed in her yoga gear, her yoga mat sits in the passenger seat. She rocks out to MUSIC.

She takes a right at the "IDAHOPE BOYS' HOME, 3 MILES" sign. She spots a small car pulled off to the side of the road just beyond the sign.

She slows down and we can see Marley behind the wheel checking her paper map as Daisy-Rose passes her by.

Daisy-Rose registers that there was a human there and reverses back to her. She gets out and walks up next to Marley's window, which she's now rolled down.

DAISY-ROSE  
Are you lost? Can I help you find  
where you're going?

MARLEY  
Well, I guess it's just three miles  
up that way. But this map doesn't  
even show the road.

She tosses it in the back seat.

DAISY-ROSE  
No, I don't think so. Only thing up  
there is Idahope. And we're not  
expecting any visitors.

MARLEY  
Oh, sorry, you're right. I didn't  
tell my son I was coming.

She sticks her arm out the window for a handshake.

MARLEY (CONT'D)  
Ocean's mom.

Daisy-Rose offers an uncertain handshake in return.

DAISY-ROSE

Ocean? We don't have a boy by that name. Sorry, you'll have to turn around and go.

MARLEY

Sean. Sean's my son.

Daisy-Rose smiles big.

DAISY-ROSE

Hop in. You'll never get up the mountain in that thing. Especially, this time of year.

Marley grabs a few bags out of her trunk and they both hop into Daisy-Rose's big rig. Marley moves the yoga mat off her seat. And up the mountain they go.

MARLEY

Just get back from yoga?

DAISY-ROSE

In theory.

They bounce around on the rough road. Marley gives her a questioning look.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

I couldn't decide between the hot yoga class or the power yoga class. Or the hot power yoga class. So I sat in the lobby and stared at the magazines.

MARLEY

And didn't know which one to read? I see why your aura is so yellow.

An awkward silence.

DAISY-ROSE

I'm just going to say it. Is Sean, er, Ocean adopted?

Marley laughs.

MARLEY

Nope. Pushed him out in our bathtub myself.

DAISY-ROSE

Is his father an accountant or a Wall Street guy? I see no relation between you.

MARLEY

Nope. His dad's an old hippy like me. He's currently on a soul searching trip.

DAISY-ROSE

Oooh, that sounds exciting. Where'd he go? India? Jerusalem? Atlantic City?

MARLEY

Zambia. Teaching agricultural skills to the locals. But he's the one learning.

She kicks her feet up onto the dash.

DAISY-ROSE

How exciting. I would never have guessed that for Sean's dad in a million years.

MARLEY

My son's wound pretty tight, isn't he?

Daisy-Rose nods vigorously.

DAISY-ROSE

I mean, that's why I hired him. But he's driving me crazy.

The Idahope estate comes into view.

MARLEY

Give him time. He might surprise you. Wow, this place is beautiful.

Daisy-Rose puts the car into low gear as they drive practically vertically up.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SEAN'S CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

Marley and Daisy-Rose trek up to Sean's front porch and ring the doorbell.

MARLEY

Look at that view. Wow.

DAISY-ROSE

You should see it in the spring.  
And summer. Actually, the fall takes  
your breath away too.

Marley puts a caring hand on her shoulder.

MARLEY

Each holds its own majestic beauty,  
I'm certain. You don't have to pick  
a favorite.

DAISY-ROSE

You're right.

They ring the doorbell again. Finally Sean opens the door.  
He's disheveled and does not hide his horror well.

SEAN

Mom, what are you doing here? How'd  
you...

He leans in for a hug with his mom anyway.

DAISY-ROSE

Hello, Ocean.

She smirks. He runs his hand through his hair, tempted to  
pull it out. He waves them in.

INT. SEAN'S CABIN - CONTINUOUS

They step into the cozy cabin - a fire crackles in the stone  
fireplace. Sean sits back down behind a mountain of binders  
and paperwork covering the coffee table.

Marley looks around at the cabin decor (or lack thereof) and  
out the windows.

DAISY-ROSE

Woah. Are you okay?

She gestures to the mess.

SEAN

I'm going through all my old investor  
contacts from App-Hub hoping they  
have at least some end of year funds  
to make a tax deductible donation.  
I'm sure not all of them are sharks.  
At least to chip away at the property  
tax bill.

DAISY-ROSE

Good idea. That's why we don't pay  
you the big bucks.

She winks. He manages a smile. Marley sits next to Sean  
and pats his knee.

MARLEY

This place is gorgeous. Do you mind  
if I crash on the couch through the  
New Year?

Sean's smile falls right off his face. Awkward. Daisy-Rose  
notices.

DAISY-ROSE

Marley, I have an extra bedroom that  
would be way more comfortable. We  
just have to get your background  
check and you can stay as long as  
you like.

Marley looks over at Sean for approval.

MARLEY

If you really don't mind.

DAISY-ROSE

Please. I would love it. Another  
girl on the property is the dream!

SEAN

Where's dad?

MARLEY

Farming in Africa.

Sean scoffs.

MARLEY (CONT'D)

Ocean's always been skeptical of our  
pilgrimages.

DAISY-ROSE

Now, Sean, not your circus, not your  
monkeys.

MARLEY

That's what I always tell him.

Sean hangs his head.

SEAN

Oh no, there's two of them. Circus  
is right.

MARLEY

Now you know why we never gave you a sibling. Wouldn't want to be outnumbered. Let's go, I'm beat. This is going to be so fun.

Daisy-Rose grabs Marley by the hand and away they go.

Sean still has his head down, but the word "GALA" catches his eye on the page he's resting on. He lifts his eyes to see.

He sits up and rips the page out of the book.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DAISY-ROSE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Daisy-Rose rubs her eyes as she sleepily stumbles to the coffee maker, still in her pajamas. She grabs for the carafe then jumps back suddenly as she tries to figure out what she's looking at.

It's Marley hanging upside down in some sort of inversion therapy move from the wood beam by rubber band straps.

Marley does a flowing acrobatic somersault around to her feet and unhooks.

MARLEY

Good morning. Wanna try?

DAISY-ROSE

Sure. Let me get some caffeine in me first.

MARLEY

Oh, no, you don't want to do that. Heartburn city. C'mon. It'll be like you did that yoga last night.

Marley assists Daisy-Rose into the harness and hoists her up.

MARLEY (CONT'D)

Now flip upside down.

And for a glorious moment Daisy-Rose is suspended upside down, floating. And then...

OOF. She's on her head.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. IDAHOPE OFFICE - A LITTLE LATER

The office is still covered in foil. Only the top of the desk is unwrapped to reveal the phone and computer.

Sean's busy CLICK-CLACKING on the computer. Daisy-Rose walks in, now dressed and with a small bandage on her forehead.

DAISY-ROSE

Are you part of some sort of alien probe?

SEAN

This is a gift from the boys. And I'm pretty sure Lawrence.

DAISY-ROSE

They must be mad at you.

SEAN

I'm not the one who blew through their money.

Daisy-Rose slams her purse down with a THUD.

DAISY-ROSE

For your information, I used my credit cards too.

Sean shakes his head at the stupidity, but softens.

SEAN

I'm sorry. That was harsh. I'm a little on edge with my mom here.

DAISY-ROSE

What's your guys's deal anyway?

SEAN

Nothing. And everything. Moving on. What happened to your head?

DAISY-ROSE

Inversion therapy gone bad.

He unwraps the printer and clicks the mouse to print.

SEAN

Sounds about right. I actually have an idea for the party.

Daisy-Rose perks up.

DAISY-ROSE

Party? There's gonna be a party?

SEAN

Don't get excited yet. How do you feel about turning the party into a fundraiser. I was thinking that the investors I know won't just give away the money, but they'll show up to hob-nob then be glad to give it away. As long as it makes them look good.

DAISY-ROSE

Absolutely not.

SEAN

You can't decide on toilet paper, but this you put your foot down on? Why not?

DAISY-ROSE

What did you do for Christmas every year?

SEAN

C'mon, you've met my mother. We were in a different place every year.

DAISY-ROSE

Okay, but I'm sure there was something you did every year that was consistent.

He considers and nods in agreement.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

My mom would make fresh squeezed orange juice with the oranges from our stockings. The end result was a shot glass full of pulpy orange juice but it was sure fun to watch her at the kitchen counter. Every year I looked forward to it. I could count on it. It doesn't seem like much but it's the little things that give the boys even just a tiny piece of normal for them to cling to when they grow up. Something they can pass on to their own kids one day.

Sean taps his fingers.

SEAN

I think I get it. Mom would lose the stockings on our

(MORE)

SEAN (CONT'D)

(air quotes)

Pilgramages every year so she'd knit me a new one. I could count on that.

He taps his fingers again. He stands up with a CRINKLE of the foil. He paces as he brainstorms.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Okay, so what if we solicit for double the donations of both cash and items? We do the fundraising the Saturday before Christmas and then still put on the party for the kids on Christmas Eve.

DAISY-ROSE

I suppose a few of the boys wouldn't mind, how did you call it? Hobnobbing? They'll love the word at least. Just don't invite any of the businesses from the resort.

Sean cocks his head to ask why.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

Prank gone wrong. That's all I'll say. They won't give us a penny. Actually, we should probably give them our pennies.

SEAN

Noted. I'll budget for a lawsuit payment. But first a SMALL party. Make your lists, cut the budget in half. Then cut that one in half. Got it?

She jumps up with a CRINKLE and wraps her arms around him.

DAISY-ROSE

Thank you.

They linger longer than necessary as Marley walks in.

MARLEY

Sean? What's going on here?

Sean untangles himself from Daisy-Rose.

SEAN

Nothing. We're just co-workers.

DAISY-ROSE

Friends.

SEAN  
Yeah, friends.

MARLEY  
No, not that. I already know you  
guys have good vibes on each other.  
The foil. How bad did your OCD get,  
son?

He shrugs.

SEAN  
I like the foil. It feels like I'm  
on a nice and sterile alien ship.

Daisy-Rose looks at him fondly and giggles at his little  
joke.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SCIENCE LAB - DAY

Mrs. Stidwell, now resembling Dr. Frankenstein, flicks a  
button off and on frantically on a clicker style remote.  
She watches the robotic body as nothing happens. She bangs  
the remote on the metal table.

MRS. STIDWELL  
C'mon, Life! Do you hear me? Give  
my creation life!

She goes back to flipping the switch frantically.

Freddy slips into the lab and takes his seat. He SNEEZES.  
Mrs. Stidwell lets out a startled scream.

MRS. STIDWELL (CONT'D)  
What the? How did it sneeze, I  
haven't built its face yet?

Freddy smiles.

FREDDY  
I didn't mean to scare you, Mrs.  
Stidwell. I wanted to come in early  
and see if I could do some extra  
credit lab work.

MRS. STIDWELL  
Your lab work is excellent. What  
would improve your scores is polishing  
up on your math skills. You can  
find a practice page at the end of  
each unit chapter.

FREDDY

Yuck. Okay. What are you working on?

MRS. STIDWELL

Charlie's robot body for the party.

FREDDY

Wait. There's gonna be a party? I thought it was canceled.

He grabs the clicker from her and tinkers with it.

MRS. STIDWELL

Well, it's not official, so keep it between us, but I have some ideas.

Freddy flips the switch; alas, the robot legs walk.

MRS. STIDWELL (CONT'D)

You did it, Dr. Frankenstein.

She gives him a high five. The robot legs glitch into a stanky-leg style dance. They laugh as the other students file in for class.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CAFETERIA - EVENING

The boys and regular staff are all well into dinner and not with the usual enthusiasm for Lawrence's cooking - the meal is pretty sad.

Marley rushes in and approaches Lawrence at the counter.

MARLEY

Sorry, I'm late.

He dishes her up some questionable looking slop.

MARLEY (CONT'D)

What is this?

LAWRENCE

Budget cuts. And leftover pork.

MARLEY

Well, is the pork humanely raised, free range and organic? We put out what we put in you know!

If looks could kill, Lawrence would be on death row.

MARLEY (CONT'D)

Better yet, do you have any pork-free pork?

Lawrence slams down his ladle, slop sprays everywhere. Marley's life is saved by Daisy-Rose's approach. Daisy-Rose swipes some slop off her own cheek and sucks it off her finger.

DAISY-ROSE

Mmm. What's going on here?

LAWRENCE

I can't work like this for much longer. This hippy keeps rubbing it in my face that I am working with sub-par product.

MARLEY

I prefer to be called a free spirit.

DAISY-ROSE

And I think it was you, Lawrence, who rubbed it in my face.

Lawrence softens into a smile. They all start laughing.

LAWRENCE

You're right, Marley, we put out what we put in. Garbage in and my garbage attitude comes out.

Daisy-Rose pats him on the shoulder. They all move to a nearby table as the boys finish up.

DAISY-ROSE

It's okay. Sean and I have been brainstorming. There's a light at the end of the tunnel. No, inside the tunnel.

LAWRENCE

You like him. You batted your eyes when you said his name. Oh, Sean.

She smacks him like a schoolgirl.

DAISY-ROSE

Shut up! No, I don't! He's so...so blah.

MARLEY

Hey, that's my son. And yes, he is.

Daisy-Rose gets up to escape, heads over to the Group of Boys...and Jasper who just came in.

MARLEY (CONT'D)

And yes, she does.

LAWRENCE

Where you going, Daisy-Rose?

DAISY-ROSE

Away from you two, for one. It's time. Right boys?

The Group of Boys all nod and agree in excitement. Daisy-Rose winks at Jasper.

CUT TO:

EXT. SEAN'S CABIN - LATER

Lawrence, Marley, Mrs. Stidwell, Jasper, the dogs and all the Boys stand below the porch while Daisy-Rose knocks on the front door.

MARLEY

Time for what?

MRS. STIDWELL

You'll see.

Sean opens the door, already in his jammies and open robe. He beams at Daisy-Rose and comes in for an awkward hug. He stops when he sees the group (and Jasper) below the porch.

Marley belts out "Deck the Halls." Everyone looks at her like she's the crazy person they know she is. The dogs wail along with her. You can almost hear the record scratch Marley realizes the weird looks and stops singing.

MARLEY

What? We're not caroling?

Daisy-Rose waves Sean to follow as the group heads down the hill to the...

EXT. CHRISTMAS TREE FARM - CONTINUOUS

There's several rows of beautiful Christmas trees. Everyone stops in their tracks to admire before they finish the descent down the hill.

DAISY-ROSE

Four score and seven years ago, we planted some trees. But not just any trees.

FREDDY

Hear ye, hear ye!

DAISY-ROSE

Our good friend Jasper facilitated the planting of this Christmas tree patch, before he went on to change...

She lingers a look at his face - is that regret she sees?

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

To um, change his career from horticulture which would have kept him here. Anyways, thank you for this, it will help in more ways than you know. Griffin, King? Do the honors.

Griffin and King come forward through the group with a gas-powered chainsaw. King starts that puppy up and it purrs like a cat. He cuts down his first victim: a beautiful Douglas Fir.

Marley falls to her knees and WAILS.

MARLEY

Noooo! You killed it. Mother Earth forgive them.

King hands the chainsaw to Griffin who cuts down another tree. Freddy and Frankie console Marley.

FREDDY

It's okay, miss Marley.

FRANKIE

Yeah, people cut down twees all the time. That's how we heat our houses.

FREDDY

And we plant new ones all the time.

Marley wipes her nose.

MARLEY

Well, that's true. It's the circle of life. Thanks, Freddy. You too, Frankie. Let's go see how we can help.

FRANKIE

I like the twiangle of life.

She takes their little hands and they go help Daisy-Rose and Jasper twine up the trees for transport.

Sean avoids Daisy-Rose and Jasper like the plague. Luckily the two teen boys with the chain saw need supervision.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. JAVA HUT COFFEE SHOP - LATER

Daisy-Rose pulls her tank of a vehicle with the trailer fully loaded with all the trees into the side parking lot.

Aunt Jenny greets them as she hops out with Lawrence, Jasper, Griffin, King and a reluctant Sean, still in his robe.

Daisy-Rose playfully elbows Sean as the others begin to unload. They grab opposite ends of a tree together.

DAISY-ROSE

Don't let him get you down.  
Forgiveness isn't just for the other  
person, you know.

She nods toward Jasper as they place the tree against the cafe with the others and go back to the vehicle to get another.

SEAN

He just gets under my skin. He's so pompous. What kind of person fires you from your own company?

DAISY-ROSE

Now you know how I feel when you try to take over the boys' party plans I've helped with since before I could even say Christmas.

She pats his arm.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

Besides, the cosmics say that everything happens for a reason.

SEAN

Point taken. I think we can have some wiggle room to let you and the boys use the profits from the tree lot however you want.

DAISY-ROSE

I planned on it.

He cracks a smile.

SEAN

Cosmics? You've been hanging out with my mom too long.

DAISY-ROSE

I know, I tried telling her we're celebrating Christmas not Cosmic-mas.

She looks into his eyes, they linger a bit longer than normal.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

All right. Back to work, you're cutting into my profits.

They take another tree off the trailer.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JAVA HUT COFFEE SHOP - A LITTLE LATER

Griffin and King sit across from each other at a booth sipping cocoa with beautiful mile-high whipped cream and sprinkles. Ah, diabetes in a mug.

GRIFFIN

What's the big deal about this stupid party anyway?

King shrugs.

KING

I dunno. It's like they're trying to create something magical.

GRIFFIN

Magical? That's the stupidest thing I've ever heard.

KING

Right? That's what they all say: "Christmas is so magical." Blah, blah, blah. I don't get it, but it makes them all in a good mood and the little kids seem to like it.

They both slurp their whip cream down. Griffin sniffs his mug and considers for a moment.

GRIFFIN

I guess I get it. This smells like my grandma's house. We spent a couple Christmas's there. We played games and ate so many cookies my brother threw up.

KING

You have a brother too?

GRIFFIN

Yeah. He's deployed, but he said when he gets back I can live with him.

KING

That's cool. What about your grandma's house?

Griffin shakes his head and slurps more cocoa.

KING (CONT'D)

I only remember Christmas here. I guess it can feel sort of magical.

GRIFFIN

I hear that guy Sean shut it down.

KING

I know. What a jerk. Add that to the garbage heap of our childhood.

His turn to hide his feelings behind his cocoa as he slurps it up.

DAISY-ROSE (O.S.)

Attention, everyone!

The boys turn to see Daisy-Rose standing on a chair. All the other adults are gathered too, which now includes Belinda and Tandy who is behind the counter pumping out coffee drinks.

Jasper and Tandy's hands graze as she passes him his mug, they lock eyes. Tandy smiles shyly, although there's no telling what's happening behind Jasper's 'stache.

Sean sits by himself at a nearby table perusing the newspaper.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

I have some good news. The rumors are true, you can tell the boys when we get back up the hill that...

She smiles at King and Griffin.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

...the party is officially back on. And I don't mean the humiliating hobnobbing fundraising party. I mean the actual Christmas celebration.

LAWRENCE

How? You're not cutting out my food budget completely are you?

DAISY-ROSE

Are you kidding? Once we get all the books out of the red, you're getting double the budget.

Sean looks up from the paper and CLEARS HIS THROAT.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

Hopefully at least a ten-percent increase.

Sean nods his approval.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

Regardless. Everyone please raise your mugs to first, Aunt Jenny, for letting us turn her parking lot into a tree lot.

Aunt Jenny gives a humble wave.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

I've been feeling like I let everyone down. I've really been struggling with that in fact. So my biggest heartfelt thanks to someone who recently took me by surprise...

Sean smiles prematurely in anticipation of his name.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

He's really made an impact for not only me, but our boys: Jasper.

Sean's face melts.

Tandy's face lights up.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

Jasper has convinced the board to direct all of their charitable funds to Idahope. Jasper, get over here and tell us about this foundation of yours.

Everyone claps for Jasper as he removes his wheelie shoes before stepping onto the chair (safety first).

SEAN

(to himself)

I started that foundation.

He's had enough - he takes off. Daisy-Rose and Belinda converse with their eyes as if saying "WTH?" But both shrug it off as Jasper makes his self-congratulatory speech.

The newspaper left on the table shows a want-ad for the Resort. Next to the want-ad, you see Calvin (the model/receptionist) in an advertisement for Goat Cheese Farms. Good for him.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. IDAHOPE BOYS' HOME - MORNING

The property radiates peace and tranquillity as the busy boys are all sound asleep and the sun comes up over the mountain.

It doesn't last long: a snowmobile flies up with two people on it, Sean and a SNOWMOBILER WOMAN, both in helmets that say "The Resort." Sean jumps off and hands the helmet back to her.

SEAN

Thanks for the ride.

The Snowmobiler Woman REVS the engine to say goodbye and speeds off in a flurry of snow.

Sean hikes it up to his cabin and heads inside.

INT. SEAN'S CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Sean strips off his coat and tosses it onto a nearby chair.

MARLEY (O.S.)

You're not going to hang it up?

Sean jumps out of his skin, hand on his heart. He flicks on the light to reveal Marley on the couch, sitting criss-cross applesauce.

SEAN

Mom! What are you doing here?

MARLEY

Waiting up for you. You had everyone worried sick. It's not like you at all.

SEAN

Isn't that what you want? For me to be different? More like you and dad?

Sean puts a log onto the fire and cops a squat on the hearth.

MARLEY

No. Well, yeah. A little. You're just so high-strung.

SEAN

Well, one of us had to be that way or else the Winnebago would have been repossessed more than once. And if living in a Winnebago wasn't homeless enough...

MARLEY

You always were good with money.

Sean gives up and gets up to go to the kitchen.

SEAN

Do you want to stay for coffee, mom?

MARLEY

I'd love to. But afterward, you really, really need to go apologize to Daisy-Rose. She was up all night, worried sick about you.

Sean nods.

MARLEY (CONT'D)

I finally convinced her to let me wrap her in my weighted lavender blanket.

Sean runs the loud coffee grinder, it's much more pleasant than listening to his mother.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CAFETERIA - SAME TIME

Lawrence and Griffin are behind the counter rolling out all sorts of cookie doughs.

LAWRENCE

That's perfect, Griff. You've done this before, haven't you?

Griffin shrugs, but smiles.

The other boys are all chattering over Lawrence's beautiful biscuits and gravy. Freddy, King and Frankie sit at a table with a few other boys.

KING

This is really good. I'll have your sausage, Frankie.

Frankie hands King his plate.

KING (CONT'D)  
Thanks, bud.

FRANKIE  
When can we go work on our sweds?

FREDDY  
Sss-LLLL-eds.

FRANKIE  
That's what I said. S-LL-Weds.

Freddy and King laugh.

KING  
As soon as you're done with your  
breakfast. We'll have to get those  
pictures of surf boards that Daisy-  
Rose printed for us.

FREDDY  
That reminds me, I need to go finish  
soldering the fingers onto Robot  
Charlie.

He takes off.

CUT TO:

INT. DAISY-ROSE'S BEDROOM - A LITTLE LATER

Daisy-Rose saws some serious logs. She's tucked in nicely  
with Marley's tie-dyed weighted blanket.

From her POV a handsome chiseled fireman, BRAD, stands over  
her as she opens one eye and starts to come to as she hears  
her name. Or is she dreaming?

BRAD  
Daisy-Rose. Wake up.

She shuts her eyes tight to keep the dream going.

SEAN  
Daisy-Rose! Get up!

She sits up quick, her hair a rat's nest on top of her head.  
She wipes the drool from the side of her mouth.

DAISY-ROSE  
What the? What's going on? Oh, hey  
Brad!

BRAD

Come with me. Your science lab burned down.

DAISY-ROSE

Again?

She grabs a coat and they head out quick.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCIENCE LAB - MOMENTS LATER

Brad the Fireman is ten steps ahead of Daisy-Rose and Sean as they approach the charred, smoldering building. Nothing but remnants of lab stations.

Everyone is gathered at the scene. The dogs are running around sniffing everything, making sure everyone is safe.

SEAN

What do you mean *again*?

She shrugs and heads over to a distraught Mrs. Stidwell who has her arm around a terrified Freddy. Daisy-Rose scoops up little Frankie.

Sean wanders over to Lawrence.

SEAN (CONT'D)

What does she mean *again*? Our insurance is going to drop us if this is a regular thing.

LAWRENCE

What insurance?

Sean can't even handle it, but Brad the Fireman interrupts before his head has a chance to explode.

BRAD

Excuse me. First of all, I'd like to say that I'm sorry this happened. Again.

Sean shakes his head, he still can't believe it.

SEAN

(to himself)

Again? Why?

BRAD

As you know, the time it takes to get the trucks up this road, this

(MORE)

BRAD (CONT'D)  
could have been so much worse. But  
luckily, King is a brilliant leader  
and a quick thinker.

DAISY-ROSE  
That's what I always say!

FRANKIE  
She does. I heard it!

Freddy keeps his head down.

MARLEY  
Yep, he does have a naturally yellow  
aura. The color of the solar plexus  
chakra, the source of his personal  
power.

Everyone stares blankly at her.

MARLEY (CONT'D)  
Nevermind, go on.

BRAD  
He saw the smoke and didn't hesitate  
to call 9-1-1. But he didn't stop  
there. He rallied all the older  
boys and knew where each and every  
extinguisher was located and formed  
a barrier around the building with  
the retardant foam.

King shrugs but beams with pride.

BRAD (CONT'D)  
If it's okay with Daisy-Rose, would  
you like to work down at the station  
a couple days a week. You wouldn't  
be a firefighter, yet. But we have  
plenty of other stuff for you to do  
and learn. As long as you keep your  
grades up.

King looks at Daisy-Rose. She nods.

KING  
Okay.

Everyone applauds, even Sean.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. IDAHOPE OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Sean sits at his desk, head resting on his fist. Remnants of the great foil caper are apparent. Daisy-Rose taps on the cracked door.

DAISY-ROSE

Hey. I didn't get a chance to yell at you.

SEAN

Oh, then please come in.

She does and sits across from him at the desk.

SEAN (CONT'D)

How are you so happy? How do you do this?

DAISY-ROSE

An ounce of faith is worth a buttload of peace.

He's not convinced.

SEAN

Profound.

Daisy-Rose grabs the phone off the desk and dials. She touches the speaker-phone button and places the phone on the desk.

CHARLIE (O.S.)

Aloha, my Daisy-Rose.

DAISY-ROSE

Hi, dad. Say hi to Sean.

SEAN

Hi, Charlie.

CHARLIE (O.S.)

Hello, Ocean, I've heard so much about you.

Sean glares at Daisy-Rose.

SEAN

Clearly.

DAISY-ROSE

Dad, give the speech you give to all the new boys.

EXT. HAWAIIAN TIKI BAR - SAME TIME

Charlie's shirt says, "Adult Daycare Provider: The Bartender."  
He stands behind the Tiki Bar as he makes drinks for a couple  
of day-drinking SAD SAPS.

CHARLIE  
Keeping in mind, this inspirational  
speech is given to the foster boys  
that age out of the system under  
our, well, now your care.

Charlie shakes the drink shaker and pours.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
Things happen in everyone's life  
that there's no control over. Right?

Sad Saps both nod. Charlie slides their drinks across the  
bar to them.

SEAN (O.S.)  
Absolutely.

CHARLIE  
Exactly. Have you ever thought about  
why the windshield is so much larger  
than the rearview mirror?

One Sad Sap rubs his chin, the other purses his lips in deep  
thought.

SEAN (O.S.)  
Not really.

CHARLIE  
It's not safe to always be looking  
behind you. It's so much better to  
look in front of you.

The Sad Saps look around at the gorgeous beach and palm trees.  
They both sit up a little taller.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
If you don't like the scenery, sure  
you can take a right or a left. And  
sometimes when there's no options or  
the road gets bumpy you just stay  
the course, push ahead. Eventually,  
a new path awaits.

DAISY-ROSE (O.S.)  
And?

CHARLIE

And an ounce of faith is worth a  
buttload of peace.

The Sad Saps leave their cash tips on the bar and frolic  
away gleefully. A new lease on life.

INT. IDAHOPE OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Sean has a smile on his face.

DAISY-ROSE

I told you.

SEAN

Yes, you did.

CHARLIE (O.S.)

I got to go. Customers.

CLICK. He's off the phone.

DAISY-ROSE

Customers?

She hangs up her end. She grabs Sean's hands.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

I really appreciate everything you've  
done here. Please hang in there and  
you'll see why this place is so  
special.

SEAN

I can tell you one reason why it's  
so special.

He looks into her eyes. But darn his timing, Jasper peeks  
his head in.

JASPER

You ready? Oh, hey, Sean, you can  
come too if you want.

DAISY-ROSE

We're just heading to town to get  
some stuff for the party.

SEAN

What about the lab? Shouldn't we  
focus on paying for that first?

DAISY-ROSE

Eh, it's Christmas break, we'll worry about that later. They can do science in the Activity Center until it's rebuilt. Again.

Sean loosens up and actually smiles at her blasé attitude. His smile fades when he looks over at Jasper.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

C'mon, it'll be fun. Your mom's coming with us.

SEAN

Nah, I have some budget stuff to look at.

DAISY-ROSE

Suit yourself.

She winks at him, gets up and leaves with a smug Jasper.

DISSOLVE TO:

MONTAGE - VARIOUS

A) INT. CAFETERIA - Lawrence and Griffin work seamlessly in the kitchen producing beautiful flip flop gingerbread cookies, roast beasts and fancy trimmings.

B) EXT. IDAHOPE - Lights are being strung by Mrs. Stidwell and other people, fake palm trees are being set, snowmen being built by some of the boys. One snowman in particular with a Hawaiian shirt resembles Charlie. Some snow sculptures of turtles and pineapples are also there.

C) INT. ACTIVITY CENTER - King, Freddy, Frankie and other boys all work on making the sleds look like surf boards.

D) INT. OFFICE - Sean, phone cradled in his shoulder, intently types on his computer. You see the Resort logo on the screen.

E) INT. BELINDA'S - Belinda and Jack wrap little gifts, while their Preschoolers keep grabbing them and running off. Chaos as usual.

F) EXT. TOWN - Jasper, Marley and Daisy-Rose carry a boat load of shopping bags as they walk down the sidewalk. Jasper and Marley clearly hit it off (in a mother/son way).

G) INT. JAVA HUT - Aunt Jenny and Tandy prepare dozens of single serve cups with dry ingredients for cocoas (candy canes, marshmallows and chocolate chips).

MONTAGE END

INT. JAVA HUT COFFEE SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Marley, Jasper and Daisy-Rose come in for a warm-up and to take a load off from all their shopping.

Aunt Jenny pushes Tandy from behind the counter.

TANDY

Hi, Jasper. What can I get you?

JASPER

How about a cappuccino? Extra foam.

Daisy-Rose stomps on his foot hard under the table. He winces.

JASPER (CONT'D)

Oh, um, also, your phone number?

TANDY

I thought you'd never ask!

She goes back to the counter and writes her number on his cup before making the drink.

DAISY-ROSE

I hope you're sharing your drink because next to you we're invincible.

MARLEY

Special things happen when Saturn and Jupiter align. It only happens every twenty years.

DAISY-ROSE

Yeah, but Christmas is magical every year.

Aunt Jenny brings over drinks for Marley and Daisy-Rose, she pulls up a seat. Tandy shyly drops off Jasper's drink and returns to her station.

AUNT JENNY

Woah, you have quite the haul.

She attempts to peak into a bag, Daisy-Rose slaps her hand away.

DAISY-ROSE

Mind your business.

AUNT JENNY

Fine, well, anyway it seems everything's coming together.

(MORE)

AUNT JENNY (CONT'D)  
 Daisy-Rose, you sure work better  
 when there's a fire under your belt.  
 No time to think about the choices.

Sean enters the coffee shop.

MARLEY  
 Speaking of easy choices for you.

Aunt Jenny smiles back at Marley.

DAISY-ROSE  
 Nah, he definitely doesn't like me.  
 I'm pretty sure he's leaving us for  
 the Resort.

She shows Aunt Jenny her phone which shows "The Resort, App  
 designed by Ocean Enterprises."

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)  
 Besides, glass houses, Auntie.  
 (Coughing)  
 Can't commit after 22 years.

Aunt Jenny waves her off and leaves the seat for Sean.

SEAN  
 I'm glad I found you. I'd like to  
 talk to you later if you can.

She nods.

SEAN (CONT'D)  
 But first is there anything else you  
 need for the Extravaganza?

DAISY-ROSE  
 We got the Christmas Jammies, food  
 and cocoa is covered. Belinda and  
 Jack were able to put a little  
 something together. We can always  
 do more in the surprise department,  
 but I think we're as good as we're  
 gonna get. And RSVPs are in for our  
 exclusive guest list.

Jasper and Marley are giving each other funny looks.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)  
 Oh, just tell him.

MARLEY  
 I talked to your dad today.  
 (MORE)

MARLEY (CONT'D)

We'll wait for him. You want to go with me to pick him up at the airport later?

SEAN

Why not? I'm in the Christmas spirit.

JASPER

What time do we leave, Mama Marley?

Sean bites his lip, he's really trying hard to be cool. Daisy-Rose catches his eye and offers a smile of encouragement.

CUT TO:

INT. MARLEY'S CAR - LATER

Jasper and Sean are shoulder to shoulder in the cramped backseat, no thanks to all the luggage pushing Sean into Jasper. Jasper wears a red and black African Shirt. Sean has his green one crumpled in his lap.

Marley drives on the highway, her husband, ALVIN beams in the passenger seat. He looks like an old but skinny Jerry Garcia wearing a yellow African shirt, similar to Jasper's.

ALVIN

I missed you guys so much. What a journey. I went there to teach, but somehow I ended up learning so much.

Sean rolls his eyes, he's heard it all before. Jasper leans in and listens intently.

JASPER

Thanks for the great shirt, dad.

ALVIN

You're welcome, son.

Marley checks Sean's reaction in the rearview as all the beads hanging from it sway. He's scowling, of course.

MARLEY

You figure out your Christmas surprise yet, Ocean?

SEAN

Not in the slightest.

MARLEY

We're adopting Jasper.

ALVIN  
You're going to have that brother  
you always wanted.

Sean slaps his palm to his forehead.

SEAN  
Can you even do that? He's a grown  
man-child.

Sean glances at Jasper's signature wheelie shoe jamming into  
his kneecap.

ALVIN  
Adult adoptions are more common than  
you think. It solidifies a familial  
bond.

JASPER  
What d'ya say? Brothers?

SEAN  
First, we like the same girl and now  
we share parents?

JASPER  
You like Tandy too?

SEAN  
Yes, wait, no. I thought you and  
Daisy-Rose were...Tandy from the  
coffee shop?

Jasper smiles dreamily.

SEAN (CONT'D)  
Well, yeah, okay. Brothers. I guess.

He extends a handshake to Jasper.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ACTIVITY CENTER - NIGHT

All 40 boys and the dogs are gathered around the tree in  
their adorable matching Christmas Jammies. Even, Griffin and  
King are in the spirit.

The Activity Center looks festive and cozy. Daisy-Rose sits  
next to the tree facing them. There's just the pile of small  
gifts that Belinda was working on under the tree.

DAISY-ROSE

Before we start the movie, who can tell me what they're most excited about tomorrow?

Frankie raises his hand enthusiastically. She points at him.

FRANKIE

The cookies!

She points to Xander.

XANDER

To see our friends and feel like family.

DAISY-ROSE

Right. You know what Charlie always said: our family may not be what other people consider perfect but...

FREDDY

...We get what we get and we don't throw a fit.

DAISY-ROSE

Well, that applies too. To most families actually. Thank you, Freddy.

Lawrence hands out his special gourmet popcorn balls.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

I was going to say that we can find joy in any circumstance. And I know I love each one of you so much. Although, I'm very, very sorry that you're missing people special to you, I am glad that I get to be with you.

ALL

We love you too, Daisy-Rose.

DAISY-ROSE

Now, let's watch the movie then get ready for Santa to come tonight. And then our party!

FRANKIE

Our stravananza!

All the boys CHEER.

CUT TO:

INT. ACTIVITY CENTER - MORNING

Daisy-Rose enters the room and hits the lights. The tree now has triple the gifts under it. Hung in a line on the wall next to the tree are knitted stockings with names of each the boys.

Daisy-Rose wanders over to the stockings, gently touching them as she looks.

SEAN (O.S.)

Looks pretty great, doesn't it?

Daisy-Rose turns around to find Sean standing very close to her. Oh, the good kind of tension.

DAISY-ROSE

Yes, don't ruin it by telling me your news.

SEAN

What news?

DAISY-ROSE

Didn't you take a job at the Resort? Not that it matters to me. You've been a pain in my neck since the minute you got here.

SEAN

Daisy-Rose, you drive me crazy too.

He gently pulls her under the mistletoe and they kiss. Finally.

SEAN (CONT'D)

And yes, I was sub-contracted by the Resort to build their app. For a boat load of cash and a generous offer for the boys. I belong here. This place is special. You're special.

DAISY-ROSE

Oh, thank goodness, you're staying. I don't know what I'd do without you. What did you get for the boys?

Sean smiles.

CUT TO:

A LITTLE LATER

The boys are all going crazy with excitement.

GRIFFIN

I can't believe I have my own skis.

KING

I can't believe we get to take lessons.

GRIFFIN

Grandma always said that was a rich person's hobby. I'm rich!

Freddy and Frankie happily hug their knitted stockings. Daisy-Rose hangs back and smiles. Marley approaches her.

MARLEY

Kismet is a funny thing. Alvin's flight got bumped, causing him to have a long enough layover in Miami where he found all of the knitted stockings at a Goodwill. And a few extras. He even had time to stitch the names in.

DAISY-ROSE

The Lord does work in mysterious ways.

Her phone rings. It's Charlie on video chat, beautiful palm trees in his background. He's wearing a Leg Lamp T-shirt.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

Hi, dad! Merry Christmas.

CHARLIE

Mele Kalikimaka!

Charlie sneaks up behind her, all the boys GIGGLE. On her phone, you see the back of her head, still with the palm trees. She turns around.

DAISY-ROSE

What the heck? Hi, daddy! You're back?

FREDDY

This is almost as cool as our robot, huh, Mrs. Stidwell?

Mrs. Stidwell nods.

CHARLIE

Retirement got boring without all of you guys. FYI, I am no bartender.

They embrace. All the boys run up and hug him too.

SEAN

Glad my green-screen app did the trick.

DAISY-ROSE

You've been busy! Which reminds me. I better get busy squeezing all these oranges.

Sean hands her a beautiful crystal citrus juicer with a red bow on it.

She hands him a canvas print of an old postage stamp.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

I could only afford a picture of the stamp.

SEAN

The Two-Cent Blue Hawaiian Missionary. I love it. And I love you, Daisy-Rose.

DAISY-ROSE

I love you too, Ocean. I'm sure of it.

They embrace. All the boys make barf faces.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. IDAHOPE BOYS' HOME - EVENING

The party is in full swing, much like last year's. Aunt Jenny serves up the cocoas. Daisy Rose stands on a wood stump.

DAISY-ROSE

Places everyone. Aunt Jenny, will you please go put this on?

She hands her a wedding dress. Aunt Jenny looks up and sees Lawrence, decked out waiting for her at the pergola.

DAISY-ROSE (CONT'D)

You want me to make decisions. I'm deciding, it is time for you to marry that man.

AUNT JENNY

You're right.

DAISY-ROSE

Well, what are you waiting for?

Aunt Jenny takes the dress and runs to go get ready.

DISSOLVE TO:

A LITTLE LATER

A ROMANTIC CHRISTMAS SONG plays as we see Aunt Jenny and Lawrence exchange vows (Marley officiating), they kiss and run back up the aisle. The boys blow bubbles as they run by.

The boys cheers and celebrate with cocoa and the adults cheers with champagne. Daisy-Rose and Sean serve everyone the roast. A true celebration.

A LITTLE LATER

All the adults: Sean, Daisy-Rose, Charlie, Marley, Alvin, Jasper, Tandy, Mrs. Stidwell, Nettie, Calvin, Belinda, Jack, friends from her birthday, Aunt Jenny and Lawrence all sit around the campfire, while the boys all use the surfboard sleds.

King and Griffin reach the bottom of the hill together.

KING

Merry Christmas, Griff.

GRIFFIN

You too, King. You were right. It's pretty magical.

King tosses a snow ball at him, they laugh. It starts to snow.

Music: O HOLY NIGHT.

Daisy-Rose and Sean hold hands as she lays her head on his shoulder.

FADE OUT