

THE FANTABULOUS ADVENTURE OF DOGBOY

by
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FADE IN:

The underside of a car.

A blue wire runs down from the engine.

A hand connects the wire to a small BLACK BOX.

A digital display blinks on. A clock stopped at 00:30:00.

A LAUGH and FOOTSTEPS.

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

WYLIE, a slight boy with a look in his eyes befitting his name, lies winded on the pavement.

An ATHLETIC TEEN stands above him. He holds his basketball.

ATHLETIC TEEN
What? The little chump can't handle
a little defense?

Wylie GROANS. Rolls onto his side.

The teen kicks him in the stomach.

WYLIE
Augh!

ATHLETIC TEEN
Didn't see that coming?

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

MOM, a beautiful woman with kind eyes and dark hair, sits on a couch and pets Wylie's head.

DAD, a mystical man, sits next to them.

WYLIE
Nobody likes me.
(sniffles)
I've got rotten luck.

DAD
What do I always say?

WYLIE
We make our own luck.

Dad gives Wylie a playful punch in the arm.

DAD
I think we could use a family
weekend.

Wylie gives one big SNIFF and wipes his nose.

WYLIE
(smiles)
Can we go to the amusement park?

EXT. HOUSE - DAWN

A car sits in the driveway. Dad shoves a cooler in the back.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Wylie reads a comic book in the backseat.

Sunlight refracts through the window. Wylie shields his eyes.

Mom opens the passenger-side door and climbs in. Her hair
falls over the seat.

Dad gets in and hands Mom a map. She unfolds it.

DAD
Everyone ready?

MOM
You bet!

WYLIE
Yeah!

Dad starts the engine.

UNDERNEATH THE CAR

the timer on the black box reads:

00:29:59

00:29:58

00:29:57

INSIDE THE CAR

Dad backs out of the driveway.

EXT. OPEN ROAD - DAY

The car chugs down a steep hill.

UNDERNEATH

00:00:02

00:00:01

INT. CAR - SAME

Mom and Dad hum along to a tune on the radio.

Wylie sleeps on the backseat.

The engine CLICKS.

EXT. ROAD - SAME

The car jerks forward. Sparks fly out from underneath.

INT. CAR - SAME

Mom reaches for Wylie.

Dad hits the brake.

EXT. ROAD - SAME

The car gains speed.

INT. CAR - SAME

Dad throws the gear shift up and down.

DAD
Buckle him in!

Mom unbuckles her belt. Leans over the seat.

She shakes Wylie.

MOM
Wylie! Wylie, for the love of God!
Wake up!

EXT. OPEN ROAD - SAME

The front of the car skids against the pavement.
It barrels into the woods.

INT. CAR - SAME

Dad pulls Mom down into her seat.
Mom fights against him.

MOM
Let me go!

Dad's eyes roll into the back of his head. He freezes.

AN ORANGE FLASH

FLASHFORWARD - MOMENTS FROM NOW

Mom's head BLASTS through the windshield. Her hair tangles in
the broken glass.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

Dad comes to.

He cradles Mom's cheeks in his hands.

DAD
I love you.

Tears roll down Mom's face.

EXT. CLIFF - DAY

The car soars off the edge.

SERIES OF SHOTS

- A) Birds scatter from the tree tops.
- B) Wylie is thrown to the floor of the car.
- C) The steering column slams into Dad's gut.
- D) Mom's head BLASTS through the windshield.
- E) A breeze tosses leaves into the air around the wreckage.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Wylie wakes up on the floor of the car.

Mom's hair hangs over the seat.

Wylie sits up.

He touches Mom's hair. Glass shards sprinkle down.

He climbs up on the seat.

Dad lies still underneath the steering wheel.

Mom's face is blanched and lifeless.

WYLIE

Mommy?

He taps her shoulder.

WYLIE

Mommy, wake up.

Dad coughs. Drops of blood escape his lips.

DAD

(wheezing)

She's... gone...

WYLIE

No!

DAD

Son... She's gone... and I don't
have... long.

(grunts)

I can't move. Get my wallet... back
pocket.

Wylie hugs his knees.

WYLIE

No, no.

DAD

Now!

Wylie shakes as he retrieves Dad's wallet.

He opens it.

His school picture stares back from a thin plastic sleeve.

DAD

There's a... key... behind your
picture... Take it...

Wylie feels behind the picture.

He pulls the KEY out.

DAD

Wylie... Take my hand. Quickly.

Wylie grasps Dad's hand tight in his.

An ORANGE AURA materializes around them.

FLASHFORWARD - THE ATTIC

A trunk sits underneath some boxes in a dusty corner.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

Blood trickles down Dad's lips.

DAD

Your... Your legacy...

Dad's cheeks puff out.

His body tightens.

He falls lifeless against the seat.

WYLIE

Dad?

Wylie waivers. Falls asleep as the AURA fades.

INT. CAR - DAY

Wylie SNORES, asleep against the car door.

A dog BARKS.

Wylie wakes up. He pushes on the door. Won't open.

He kicks it once. Twice.

It CREAKS.

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

Wylie crawls from the wreckage.

The DOG, a robust mutt with a matted coat, trots over.

He licks at Wylie's shoes.

WHISPER (V.O.)
Follow him...

The dog breaks into the woods.

EXT. CLIFF - DAY

The dog leads Wylie along a steep path.

Wylie stumbles. Falls.

The dog trots back to him.

He nudges Wylie with his nose. Wylie pushes himself up.

The dog runs up the path.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Wylie follows the dog out of the woods.

The dog YIPS at a car in the distance.

Wylie jumps up. Waves the car down.

It stops. An OLD MAN pushes the door open.

Wylie runs over. He stops, turns and WHISTLES.

WYLIE
C'mon, boy?

The dog runs back towards the woods.

It turns back. Gazes at Wylie.

Wylie nods.

The dog disappears among the trees.

INT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

Wylie sits in a pew and stares at his feet.

A preacher stands in between to a pair of caskets.

Wylie marches up.

He takes a wilted rose. Lays it on Mom's chest.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Wylie sits next to a lawyer at a wooden table.

A JUDGE sits at the bench.

JUDGE

... and pursuant to his parents
wishes, this court awards custody
of the child to his father's half-
brother... a Mr. Randolph.

RANDOLPH, a foul miscreant with an air of social grace, sits
at the back of the courtroom.

He parts his unkempt hair. Looks over his dark glasses.

RANDOLPH

Gee. Thanks, brother.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Randolph stands in the doorway. Wylie folds his clothes.

RANDOLPH

Pack up. I'll be in your parent's
room.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Wylie peeks into the hallway.

Randolph dumps out a jewelry box into a satchel.

Wylie creeps into the hallway. Ducks around the corner.

INT. ATTIC - SAME

Wylie takes the boxes off the TRUNK.

He pulls the KEY out of his pocket. Sticks it in the lock.

He opens the trunk.

He pulls three THROWING KNIFES from the trunk, followed by

NECROFANCY FLASH PAPER

and a bag filled with

SMALL RED TABLETS

labeled WEE GLIMMERS.

Wylie takes one of the tablets and throws it across the room.
It pops and glimmers bright. Spins across the attic floor.

He pulls a cape from the trunk. Places it on the floor.

The only item left in the trunk is a MASK.

The face of a border collie.

The eyes are cut out, replaced with red lenses.

Wylie touches the mask.

FLASHFORWARD - DARKNESS

Wylie pulls the mask down over his face,

SWEEPS THE CAPE

over his head and disappears.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

Wylie smiles.

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT - NIGHT

The athletic teen shakes a can of spray paint.

He kneels down. Paints an "F" on the pavement.

A RUSTLE from the bushes.

ATHLETIC TEEN
Who's there?

He takes a step towards the bushes.
Three red tablets fly from the bushes.
They POP near his feet. The teen jumps back.
DOGBOY leaps from the bushes.
He pulls a KNIFE from his cape.

ATHLETIC TEEN
What are you thinking, kid?

DOGBOY
You're out kinda late, huh?

The teen steps towards him.
Dogboy runs at the teen. Tackles him. Jumps back up.
He kicks the teen in the stomach.
The teen GROANS.
Dogboy pulls off his mask. He winks at the teen.

WYLIE
Didn't see that coming?

INT. BUS - DAY

Wylie stares out the window. Randolph sleeps in the seat beside him. A bell DINGS.

BUS DRIVER (O.S.)
Next stop: Colta City.

INT. UNCLE RANDOLPH'S LOFT

Milk-crate chairs sit in front of an old television.
Randolph enters with Wylie, who struggles with his TRUNK.

RANDOLPH
You can see I'm a man of modest means. I expect you'll find a job.

Wylie nods.

INT. CLOSET - NIGHT

Randolph pulls on a chain hanging from the ceiling.

A light bulb CRACKLES on.

Most of the space on the floor is occupied by a SMALL MATTRESS. There are rusted cabinets mounted on the wall.

WYLIE

This is it?

Randolph shoves Wylie onto the mattress.

RANDOLPH

You're lucky I had this much room
to spare.

Randolph SLAMS the door.

The light flickers out.

EXT. ALPHA BETA MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

Wylie stands across the street.

A GROUP OF BOYS kick a hacky-sack around.

Members of the Key Club hang a sign near the entrance to the school -- GIVE YOUR SODA TABS TO THE HOMELESS.

Wylie pulls a mirror out of his bookbag. Pushes CHUNKS OF HAIR out of his eyes. Satisfied, he puts the mirror away.

A deep breath. He closes his eyes. He swallows -- hard.

Wylie walks across the street.

INT. LOCKERS - DAY

The bell RINGS. Students flood into the hallway.

PRINCIPAL KANE weaves through the swirling cluster of children with Wylie close behind.

Principal Kane taps CINDY, a scrappy girl, on the shoulder.

Cindy ducks. Turns around with fist raised to strike.

PRINCIPAL KANE
Miss McNeill?

CINDY
Yeah? Whu'da'ya want?

She recognizes Principal Kane and lowers her fist.

CINDY
Principal Kane! You're looking
brilliant, as per usual.

PRINCIPAL KANE
(turns to Wylie)
Such a nice girl.

Cindy sticks her tongue out at Wylie.

PRINCIPAL KANE
Wylie is new here. I'd like you to
show him around.

CINDY
Definitely should not be a problem,
sir.

INT. A-V ROOM - DAY

Cindy adjusts the FOCUS RING on a camera. Wylie watches her.

BUGS, the school bully, saunters in.

Cindy looks up from her work.

CINDY
I don't need you bothering my crew.

BUGS
Chill out, Ice Queen.

Bugs notices Wylie. He stares him down.

BUGS
Who's this geek?

Wylie takes a step back.

CINDY
Bugs, don't mess with him.

Bugs pushes Wylie back. Wylie steps on a wire. The monitor on
the camera BLINKS out.

Cindy twists Bugs's arm behind his back.

She pushes him out the door.

CINDY
We have a newscast to put out here.
You go be a jerk someplace else.

She shoves him out.

WYLIE
That was awesome.

CINDY
You'd better sit over there.

WYLIE
But Principal Kane said --

Cindy raises her fist.

CINDY
Sit. Down.

Wylie takes a seat in the corner of the room.

A NERDY GUY approaches him.

NERDY GUY
What's your name?

WYLIE
Wylie.

NERDY GUY
Wylie? Like the coyote?

WYLIE
Yeah, I guess.

NERDY GUY
Sweet.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Wylie steps off the bus. Pulls a paper out of his pocket --

THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP - 523 S. 4TH STREET.

INT. THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP - DAY - SAME

The walls are lined with shelves stuffed with gags, gadgets, and gizmos. A sign behind the counter reads

HELP! I'M STARTING TO LIKE IT HERE!

MR. HORUM, a European with a familiar manner and an affable gaze, slides his thumb into a MINIATURE GUILLOTINE.

A CUSTOMER watches as Mr. Horum JAMS the blade down. It severs the thumb, which falls on the counter.

MR. HORUM
Is really simple, hmmb?

Mr. Horum unclenches his fist and reveals his real thumb, attached and unharmed.

The bell above the front door RINGS.

Wylie walks in.

He sees the fake thumb.

WYLIE
Neat.

MR. HORUM
And what are you needing?

Wylie digs through a basket of DISCOUNT GAGS.

WYLIE
I need some good tricks.

Mr. Horum gestures to the shelves behind him.

MR. HORUM
You find right place, boy-oh.

He takes a length of rope.

Pulls it taut.

MR. HORUM
Here is magic you need right here,
I betcha.

Mr. Horum throws the rope at a vase.

It wraps around the vase. Tightens.

A hairline crack shoots up the side.
The vase breaks.

Wylie SIGHS.

MR. HORUM
Trick no good for you?

WYLIE
My dad taught me a trick like that.

MR. HORUM
Your pop do magic, hmmb?

WYLIE
He was a real magician.

MR. HORUM
Be careful. You must have got some
crazy somewhere along the way!

Mr. Horum LAUGHS. The customer joins in.

Mr. Horum grabs another trick on the shelf.

MR. HORUM
Well we need super-duper fancy
trick for magician's son then.

The bell above the door RINGS.

Wylie is gone.

EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

Raindrops patter on the already damp sidewalk.

Water floods through the gutters.

People run into shops and under awnings and inside any other
place that will keep them out of the rain.

Wylie sits on the curb with his bare feet in the gutter. His
tennis shoes hang over his shoulder.

A BUSINESS MAN barrels down the sidewalk, an umbrella in one
hand and a cell phone in the other. Beads of water bounce off
his ALLIGATOR SKIN SHOES. He stops at the corner.

Wylie smiles at him.

The business man turns up his nose.

FLASHFORWARD - ACROSS THE STREET

The business man steps onto the sidewalk.

A thief steps from the shadows, his face obscured.

THIEF

Them's some nice shoes. I'd look
proper in nice shoes like them.

The thief pulls out a small knife.

BUSINESS MAN

(on phone)

Gladys, call 9-1-1. I'm at --

The thief dives into the business man.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

Wylie looks at the business man in horror.

BUSINESS MAN

Can't they drive all the scum out
of the city and be done with it?

The business man steps into the intersection.

Wylie shrugs. Takes the shoes from his shoulder.

Spins them around his head.

Chucks them at the man's legs.

The business man trips. Falls into a big puddle.

He picks himself up. Wrings out his drenched clothes.

BUSINESS MAN

You just ruined a six-thousand
suit, you little creep.

He throws the shoes into Wylie's chest.

WYLIE

I was helping you!

BUSINESS MAN

Police!

The business man looks around frantically.

BUSINESS MAN
And for this I pay taxes.

ACROSS THE STREET

the thief stalks away from the intersection.
Wylie stick his feet in his shoes. They SLURP on.
The business man grabs Wylie's shirt.

BUSINESS MAN
You're going nowhere, young man.

Wylie looks around. Some BIG GUYS watch them from inside a pub.

WYLIE
You're not my dad!

The big guys move in.
The business man releases Wylie.
Holds his hands in the air.

BUSINESS MAN
Whoa, guys. You don't understand.

Wylie darts away.

INT. UNCLE RANDOLPH'S LOFT - NIGHT

Randolph sits on a crate.
He sorts DOLLAR BILLS into even stacks.
Wylie sits in the corner. He shuffles some cards.

RANDOLPH
Can't you do that in your room?
Your uncle is busy.

WYLIE
What's your job?

RANDOLPH
Keep your nose out of it.

WYLIE
What's the big deal?

Randolph leans forward.

RANDOLPH

In this world there are people who get it all handled to them. They leave their mom's bellies naked and cold and get wrapped up in silk sheets. I didn't have their luck.

WYLIE

My dad says you make your own luck.

Randolph LAUGHS.

RANDOLPH

He didn't make his, Wylie. Fate isn't our friend. Every once in a while it'll give you something good... Dangle it like a master might dangle a string in front of his kitten. Then the master takes away the string and all you has left is the memory and the sneaking suspicion that it was all for someone else's amusement.

Randolph lurches up. Shoves some cash in his pocket.

RANDOLPH

When I come back I don't want you out here.

WYLIE

If my parents knew how you were --

RANDOLPH

They're dead, nephew. Better get used to being alone.

Randolph switches out the lights on his way out the door.

Wylie sits in the dark.

INT. LUNCHROOM - DAY

Wylie and Cindy sit across from each other.

Cindy pours some

CHOCOLATE MILK

over her half-eaten SALISBURY STEAK.

Wylie sticks out his tongue.

WYLIE
That's sick.

CINDY
Glad you approve, short stack.

Cindy point to Bugs, who kisses a cute girl.

CINDY
What's so great about kissing? I
know I don't want some jerk
sticking his tongue in my mouth.

Wylie gazes at Cindy -- He snaps out of it.

WYLIE
Yeah. Gross.

Wylie picks at his peas with a plastic fork.

WYLIE
So what are you doing after school?

CINDY
I'm working on a story.

WYLIE
What about?

Cindy's eyes light up.

CINDY
You've heard about Mayor Lane?

Wylie shakes his head.

CINDY
He's being investigated for taking
bribes from drug companies. I guess
there was some sort of vaccine that
he let them test out on the West
Side. I'm going to talk to him.

WYLIE
Like the mayor of Colta City is
gonna talk to a kid.

Cindy grabs Wylie's collar. Pulls him close.

CINDY
I'm a reporter. He has to talk.

WYLIE

Geez. Excuse me.

Cindy lets go of his shirt. Wylie picks up his tray.

WYLIE

Good luck on your story.

Wylie takes a few steps. Bugs sticks his foot out.

Wylie trips. Catches himself. Stares at Bugs.

Cindy jumps up. Pokes Bugs in the chest.

CINDY

Bugs, if we weren't in school I'd
brain you.

BUGS

Aw, who needs that walking calamity
anyway? I figure you don't want him
around neither... you're just too
much of a gentleman to let him
know.

Bugs HIGH FIVES a friend.

Cindy holds her FISTS in the air.

Wylie steps between them.

WYLIE

(to Cindy)

Don't fight. He doesn't scare me.

He looks Bugs up and down. Walks away.

INT. THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP - DAY

Mr. Horum refills a display with clown noses.

The bell above the door RINGS.

Wylie steps in.

Mr. Horum turns around.

MR. HORUM

Ah, the magician's son!

WYLIE

I'm sorry about the way I blew out
of here the other day.

Horum grabs a box from underneath the counter.

MR. HORUM

No, is good. I thought you fool me
about magic, so I fool back. When I
no see you go I say "Ah! This must
be son of magician."

Mr. Horum turns the combination on the box to 3-6-4.

It CLICKS open.

MR. HORUM

I have real expert tricks.

Mr. Horum pulls a sword from the box.

He leans his head back. Swallows the sword.

WYLIE

Wicked.

INT. CLOSET - NIGHT

Wylie sits on his bed with his cape and a sewing kit.

He wets a thread. Pushes it through the eye of a needle.

FLASHFORWARD - IN THE CLOSET

Randolph paces, agitated.

He SLAPS Wylie across the face.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

Wylie shoves the cape in the trunk. Checks the lock.

There is a HARD KNOCK.

RANDOLPH (O.S.)

Wylie!

Wylie takes a step back. And another.

Randolph rips open the door.

He holds an empty tuna tin.

RANDOLPH
I told you not to touch my food.

WYLIE
I gotta eat, don't I?

Randolph paces.

RANDOLPH
What did I say when you moved in?

WYLIE
Welcome?

Randolph SLAPS Wylie across the face.

RANDOLPH
Don't be a comedian, Wylie. I'm not
one to laugh.

Wylie rubs his blushed cheek. SNIFFS.

Randolph leaves.

WYLIE
(whispers)
Jerk.

He unlocks the trunk. Yanks out the cape.

Pushes the fabric back to reveal a hidden pocket.

He grabs some WEE GLIMMERS. Fills the pocket.

FOOTSTEPS. A DOOR OPENS. CLOSES. Tumblers CLICK into place.

Wylie throws the cape over his shoulders. Slips on the mask.

Dogboy climbs out his window onto the

FIRE ESCAPE

and ascends the ladder.

EXT. ROOF - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Dogboy climbs over the ledge.

He looks back, the alley far below.

His BREATH quickens. He rips off the mask. GULPS some air.

He takes a few breaths. Puts the mask back on.

He sprints across the rooftop.

He reaches the opposite edge. Looks over. A

PARKING GARAGE

waits a few feet below.

He jumps down. Lands crouched.

Runs to the stairwell.

INT. STAIRWELL -- SAME

Dogboy runs down the stairs. PANTS.

FLASHFORWARD -- INSIDE THE PARKING GARAGE

A WOMAN's body falls against the wall. A sign: LEVEL 3.

She SCREAMS.

A cowboy's shadow darts across the wall.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

Dogboy stops cold.

He is on LEVEL 3.

INT. LEVEL 3 - SAME

Dogboy crawls underneath an old car.

He pulls his KNIVES from his cape. Holds them at the ready.

INT. LEVEL 3 - NIGHT - LATER

A woman scuffles across the concrete.

She stops at the old car. Searches through her bag.

WOMAN

If I left them in the office...

UNDER THE CAR

Dogboy sleeps.

Wylie's eyes snap open.

He jerks his head up. BANGS it on the oil filter.

IN THE PARKING GARAGE

The Cowboy, a reject from a bad television western, slides out from behind the opposite row of cars.

He approaches the woman.

THE COWBOY

S-s-sorry d-darling, b-b-beg your p-
pardon. D-do you need s-s-some
help?

The woman searches frantically for her keys.

The Cowboy takes the woman's nervous hand.

THE COWBOY

D-don't p-put up a fight. It'll b-
bounce off the raf-rafters.

He takes her bag.

The woman's eyes grow wide. Her voice CRACKS.

The Cowboy puts his finger to her lips.

THE COWBOY

Shh.

UNDER THE CAR

Dogboy grabs a sheet of FLASH PAPER from his cape. Stuffs it under the Cowboy's boot.

IN THE PARKING GARAGE

The Cowboy touches the woman's cheek. She shudders.

THE COWBOY

D-don't you frown. You sure are p-
pretty. Let's g-go d-down, and
spend a night in the city.

UNDER THE CAR

Dogboy lights the paper -- A FLASH.

IN THE PARKING GARAGE

Smoke drifts past the Cowboy's lecherous face.

He looks down.

His boot is on fire.

He stomps the flame out.

Dogboy jabs the Cowboy's calf with his knife.

THE COWBOY

Augh!

Dogboy pulls the knife back.

The Cowboy loses his balance. Tips over.

He sees Dogboy under the car.

THE COWBOY

What in t-t-tarnation?!

Dogboy rolls out. Leaps to his feet.

DOGBOY

I didn't want to hurt you.

He brandishes his knife.

DOGBOY

If you don't leave I'll stick you
again.

The Cowboy backs away.

THE COWBOY

D-don't you folks worry. I g-got
the p-point. I'm in a hurry to g-
get out of this j-joint.

He limps into the shadows.

Dogboy turns to the woman.

DOGBOY

Hi there, lady. Tell the world this
crook has paid -- thanks to "The
Amazing Dogboy!"

He takes a bow.

WOMAN

You let him get away. I wouldn't call that "amazing."

DOGBOY

How about fantastic?

The woman shakes her head.

DOGBOY

Awesome? Fabulous?

The woman picks up her bag.

WOMAN

How about... fantabulous?

Dogboy puts his knife away.

DOGBOY

That'll work.

WOMAN

What's a boy your age doing out this late anyway?

DOGBOY

Um... sight seeing?

WOMAN

In a parking garage?

Dogboy shrugs.

He grabs some WEE GLIMMERS from his cape.

DOGBOY

It's been fun saving you. And remember...

He throws the WEE GLIMMERS down.

They EXPLODE.

The woman shields her eyes.

DOGBOY (O.S.)

I'm Dogboy.

The glimmers fade. He is gone.

The woman allows herself an odd smile.

INT. DARK ROOM - NIGHT

ANDRUS, a charming man in a black hood, sits in the shadows.

The Cowboy sits across from him. He holds his hat over his heart.

THE COWBOY
I'm s-sorry. I d-dun g-got caught.

Andrus rises.

ANDRUS
The police?

THE COWBOY
It wasn't a c-cop who c-c-chopped
me. It was a little t-twerp, d-
dressed like a d-d-dog.

ANDRUS
Of course. Well, we'll do better
tomorrow night, won't we?

The Cowboy smiles and puts on his hat.

THE COWBOY
I re-re-reckon.

INT. THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP - DAY

Mr. Horum hands Wylie a SVENGALI DECK.

MR. HORUM
This expert deck. Does many tricks.

Wylie takes the cards out. He shuffles them.

WYLIE
Say, you wouldn't be hiring,
would'ya?

Mr. Horum takes off his glasses.

MR. HORUM
Ah! Now I see, hmmb? You want
Horum's money!

WYLIE
Kinda, yeah.

Mr. Horum gives Wylie a stern look.

MR. HORUM
This...

He smiles.

MR. HORUM
I can do. Come tomorrow... three.

WYLIE
AM or PM?

Mr. Horum puts his glasses on. Tends to the shelves.

MR. HORUM
No, three in morning. Of course PM!
And dress nice.

He gestures at Wylie's tattered pants.

WYLIE
You got it!

Wylie runs out the door. The bell RINGS.

MR. HORUM
I pay for this, I betcha.

INT. ENCLAVE - NIGHT

A large cavern. The walls equal parts concrete and earth.
Train seats filled with nasty men are lined up in front of a
BARE STAGE

barely visible in the dim light.

A THIEF takes a swig from a bottle. He BURPS loudly.

Sways back and forth.

Passes out.

The BUM next to him jumps up.

He rifles through the thief's pockets. More men scuttle
over.

The lights go down. The crowd stops.

ANDRUS (O.S.)
Gentlemen...

A spotlight comes upon Andrus.

He steps to the edge of the stage.

ANDRUS
How are we ever to accomplish
anything if we continue to fight
each other?

The crowd CHEERS.

ANDRUS
Quiet.

Instant SILENCE.

ANDRUS
The people above us do not care if
we survive. They sit in their
houses with their old money and ask
that we, the hopeless, be thrown in
cages. Yet, they live in cages.
They spend thousands of dollars on
devices meant to protect them from
the men who didn't have the luck to
be born into fortune...

He points at a man in the crowd.

ANDRUS
The men they spit upon when they
walk into the bank.

Andrus bows his head.

ANDRUS
God didn't give us what they have.

He looks up.

ANDRUS
Now we stand together and take what
they have because we deserve it...

Andrus waits. SILENCE.

ANDRUS
You may applaud.

UPROARIOUS APPLAUSE fills the enclave.

ANDRUS
Some would like to take our destiny
away from us.

The crowd is SHOCKED.

ANDRUS
A boy dressed as a dog has hurt us.

BUM
Where is'ee? I'll take his eyes!

The thieves ROAR.

ANDRUS
Do not harm him! Watch him. Play
with him. Find out what he knows.

Andrus points at a HUSTLER.

ANDRUS
Who has protected you?

The Hustler puts his hand over his heart.

HUSTLER
(screams)
Andrus!

Andrus points to the Bum.

ANDRUS
Who will protect you?

The Bum jumps up. Hand over his heart.

BUM
Andrus!

Andrus raises his arms.

ANDRUS
Who?

The crowd rises.

Look in awe at their leader. STOMP their feet.

THIEVES AND MUGGERS
ANDRUS!

The spotlight GOES OUT.

THIEVES AND MUGGERS
ANDRUS! ANDRUS!

INT. UNCLE RANDOLPH'S LOFT - NIGHT

A blue light from the television shines on
WYLIE,
who sleeps on the floor.

NEWSMAN (FILTERED)
Police remain baffled as muggings
rise in Center City. More at eleven
here on WRDB.

The door SLAMS open. Randolph stumbles in with a FRIENDLY
GIRL under his arm.

He sees Wylie. Pushes the girl into the hallway.

RANDOLPH
Won't be a second, love.

Randolph shuts the door.

KICKS Wylie in the stomach.

Wylie jerks awake.

RANDOLPH
I thought I tol' you to stay in
your room.

Wylie rubs his side.

WYLIE
You mean my closet?

Randolph SLAPS Wylie's face.

RANDOLPH
We had a simple arrangement.

He grabs Wylie by the hair. Drags him into the

INT. CLOSET - SAME

Randolph throws Wylie down on the mattress.

RANDOLPH
I'll be back in the morning. If
you're still here I'll be reuniting
you with your parents.

WYLIE
I don't have anyone else.

RANDOLPH
(laughs)
Who would want you?

INT. LOCKERS - DAY

The hallway is empty except for Cindy, who pulls a notebook
out of her locker.

She closes the locker to find

PRINCIPAL KANE

behind it.

PRINCIPAL KANE
Miss McNeil, we need a word.

CINDY
Hey, is that a new suit?

PRINCIPAL KANE
Where is Wylie?

Cindy takes a step back.

CINDY
Class, I guess. It's not like I'm
his girlfriend or something.

PRINCIPAL KANE
Be that as it may, you were told to
take his hand. I don't want to see
you without him.

CINDY
But what if I have to --

She whispers something in his ear.

CINDY
That's gross, sir.

PRINCIPAL KANE
You know what I mean, McNeil.

Wylie walks up behind the principal.

CINDY
He's right there.
(under her breath)
Ya' big palooka.

PRINCIPAL KANE
What was that?

CINDY
Nothing, sir. Glad we found him.

PRINCIPAL KANE
Good day, Miss McNeil.

Principal Kane stomps away.

Wylie RUBS HIS TEMPLES.

CINDY
You okay?

WYLIE
Not really... My uncle--

CINDY
Oh, that's cute. You thought I
actually cared.

She SLAMS her locker closed.

CINDY
I've been talking to this kid from
the West Side that has some very
interesting information on the
Mayor, but I can't get the mayor's
office to talk to me.

WYLIE
They don't know a good reporter
when they see one.

Cindy smiles at Wylie.

She quickly puts an end to that.

CINDY

Ya' know what? I don't need a pep talk... especially from the new kid.

Cindy walks away. Passes Bugs.

She ducks into a classroom.

Bugs turns to face Wylie.

BUGS

Ms. Lonely Hearts herself. Bet you get all kinds of questions.

Wylie takes a step towards Bugs--

BUGS

Back to your planter, wall flower.

Bugs LAUGHS. Wylie seethes.

EXT. THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP - DAY

There is a sign in the window:

MAGICAL HOURS 11-6

INT. THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP - SAME

Mr. Horum stands behind the counter. Flips through a catalog.

Wylie shelves items. Takes quick glances at the old man.

Mr. Horum NOTICES.

MR. HORUM

Wylie, why you work here?

WYLIE

I needed a job?

MR. HORUM

What your job then?

Wylie grabs three METAL RINGS off the shelf and tries to put them together.

WYLIE

I'm not sure.

Wylie drops one of the rings.

Mr. Horum GRUNTS as he leans over. Picks the ring up.

MR. HORUM
Job is a -- what you say? Trilogy?
Trinity? Job is three parts.

Mr. Horum grabs the other rings from Wylie. He holds one up.

MR. HORUM
First part is people. There all
kinds of people... clowns, doctors,
bums even. But they all important
to us. We take care of them.

WYLIE
But what if they're bad people?

MR. HORUM
Then we no let them do bad. But
still we care. Show them tricks.
Carry bags. We make them happy,
hmmmb?

Wylie nods.

Mr. Horum holds another ring up in the air.

MR. HORUM
Second part friendship. We work at
same place, but we still are
friends. I show you new tricks, you
show me some. We cover each other.

Mr. Horum checks Wylie's eyes.

MR. HORUM
Right, second part no problem.

Mr. Horum holds up the third ring.

MR. HORUM
Third part respect. We no make
excuse here. If you make mistake,
you tell me and you learn. You
respect --

Mr. Horum LINKS two of the rings.

MR. HORUM
-- friends --

He links the last ring to the other two.

MR. HORUM
-- and people, job stay together.
You no do this--

He shakes the center ring.
The other rings fall off.
CRASH to the ground.

MR. HORUM
The whole thing fall apart, I
betcha.

Wylie gathers the rings. Pulls them taut.

WYLIE
Then we keep it together.

INT./EXT. THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP - NIGHT

Wylie turns the sign in the window from OPEN to CLOSED.

He opens the door. Looks back.

WYLIE
Later, Mr. Horum!

He takes a few steps down the street and steals into the

EXT. ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

Wylie ducks behind a disused dumpster.

A section of brick is missing from the wall.

Wylie slips inside his

INT. HIDEOUT - CONTINUOUS

A sparse space with a large pipe that runs down the center.

Wylie's trunk sits at the foot of a crude bed made up of old newspapers and a flimsy sheet.

Wylie opens the trunk.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

The street is eerie and empty.

A NURSE stands outside. Puffs on a cigarette.

An AGITATION from the shadows.

The nurse throws down the cigarette. Moves to the entrance.

She runs into HOT JOHN, a reject from the cover of a body-building magazine with a wooden mallet where his right hand should be.

He smiles. Missing a few important teeth.

HOT JOHN

Smokin' is a real dirty thing. I ain't gonna let work on people after smokin'. It ain't-- what's the word... Like if it ain't clean?

The Nurse backs away.

NURSE

Sanitary?

HOT JOHN

Yeah! It ain't stationary!

He raises his mallet-hand.

The nurse cowers, but then --

FLASHES OF LIGHT

and Dogboy lands a haymaker across Hot John's cheek.

Hot John rubs his face, startled.

Dogboy runs to the nurse.

DOGBOY

Get inside and call the police.
This looks like a job for Dogboy!

The nurse runs inside.

HOT JOHN

Dogboy? Andrus was lookin' for a kid what dressed like a dog.

DOGBOY

Ohh! Is there a reward? Because we can split the reward. I won't say anything if you won't. One thing --

Dogboy JUMPS on Hot John's back. Puts him in a choke hold.

Hot John reaches behind him.
Grabs Dogboy's cape.

HOT JOHN

I used to have a puppy like you.

YANKS him off.
Holds him a few feet off the ground.

HOT JOHN

He used to play like he was fighting me, too.

Hot John holds up his mallet hand.

HOT JOHN

He don't play anymore.

Dogboy unclasps his cape.
Falls to the ground.
Flips backwards a few feet.

WYLIE

Didn't your mom ever tell you it's not nice to hit people?

Hot John rushes Dogboy. Locks him in a bear hug.

HOT JOHN

When you're as big as me you can do what you want.

Hot John squeezes Dogboy.

Dogboy's body goes limp

HOT JOHN

Nobody's gonna stop Hot John.

FADE TO BLACK.

HOT JOHN (O.S.)

Is it him?

THE COWBOY (O.S.)

My d-d-usty eyes d-do recognize.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

The Cowboy and Hot John hover over an unconscious Dogboy.

OSBERT, a portly man in spectacles, sits on a park bench.

HOT JOHN

I done good?

OSBERT

On the contrary, my brutish companion, you have done exceedingly well. I didn't expect one with such meager aptitude to remember our leader's directive.

Hot John scratches his head, confused.

OSBERT

You "done good."

Hot John grins.

The Cowboy plucks a blade of grass. Chews on it.

He leans down. Picks up a throwing knife.

THE COWBOY

He stuck me like a p-pig. I'd like to s-s-stick him... and s-shorten his life.

OSBERT

As is your right... But may I suggest we present him to Andrus unharmed? He may have use for the boy. If not, I'm sure he'll allow you your revenge.

The Cowboy sets the knife down.

He spits. The spittle lands on the red lens in Dogboy's mask. His eyes flick open.

He sneaks his fingers around the knife.

OSBERT

Now, if Hot John would be so kind as to transport our captive.

HOT JOHN

Huh?

OSBERT
Grab the kid.

HOT JOHN
Oh. Okay.

Dogboy conceals the knife.

Hot John picks up Dogboy. Throws him over his shoulder.

The Cowboy narrows his eyes. Looks Dogboy up and down.

THE COWBOY
I c-c-can't wait t-to t-tan yer
hide, b-b-boy.

DOGBOY
I double-dog dare you.

Dogboy SLASHES Hot John's shoulder.

Hot John stumbles. Loses his grip on the wily superhero.

Dogboy does a half-turn. Lands on his feet.

The Cowboy lunges at him.

Dogboy jumps out of the way.

He runs away from the two thugs --

right into Osbert, who uses his considerable girth to block.

Dogboy dives between Osbert's legs.

Osbert PLOPS down on Dogboy's back.

DOGBOY
(grunts)
Ever hear of a treadmill?

OSBERT
Get over here, you dolts! Our plum
is departing.

The Cowboy pushes Hot John towards them.

HOT JOHN
Nobody pushes me.

Hot John throttles The Cowboy.

Dogboy reaches back and tickles Osbert sides.

OSBERT
Oh! Ho! Ho-ha!

Osbert falls forward. Dogboy, now free, jumps up.

Disappears into the woods.

Osbert retrieves his glasses. Cleans them.

OSBERT
A query: To what end can a brain
function if the limbs do not
cooperate?

Hot John holds The Cowboy above his head.

HOT JOHN
You're confusin' me again, Osbert.

OSBERT
I know, Hot John.

Hot John sets The Cowboy down. Pokes at his scarred shoulder.

Osbert looks after Dogboy.

OSBERT
Andrus will not be pleased.

INT. DARK ROOM - NIGHT

The Cowboy, Hot John, and Osbert sit underneath a bright hanging light.

They shift in their seats like school kids in the principal's office.

Andrus sits in a dim corner.

ANDRUS
I would be lying if I said I was
pleased. However, your encounter
with the boy has afforded us some
insight into his abilities.
Nevertheless, mistakes were made.

Andrus stands.

ANDRUS
Ego proceeded instruction, and one
of you must be held accountable.

The Cowboy takes off his hat. Gets down on his knees.
Osbert and Hot John look at each other.

INT. THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP - DAY

Mr. Horum hits a button on the cash register. It CHINGS open.
He takes out a few bills. Hands them to an anxious Wylie.
Wylie counts the money.

MR. HORUM
No worry. Is all there.

WYLIE
Do I get an employee discount?

Mr. Horum arches his eyebrows.

MR. HORUM
What you want?

WYLIE
I need a cape.

Mr. Horum grabs his belly. LAUGHS.

MR. HORUM
What you need cape for? To jump
buildings, uh-huh.

WYLIE
Heh-heh. No. To distract my
audience.

MR. HORUM
You do show for your friends?

Wylie looks away.

WYLIE
Um, There's this... talent show--

Mr. Horum puts his finger to his lips.

MR. HORUM
Enough said. I got the best cape
for you, I betcha!

Mr. Horum pulls out a roll of black velvet.

He winks at Wylie. Unfurls the roll.

A black cape with a high collar.

MR. HORUM
This cape I wear when I was
magician. You like?

Wylie tries it on.

WYLIE
It's great, Mr. Horum. How much?

Mr. Horum frowns.

MR. HORUM
We friends, right?

WYLIE
Sure.

MR. HORUM
And what friends do again?

WYLIE
Cover each other.

MR. HORUM
Ah-ha! And what cape do?

Wylie stares for a moment.

WYLIE
It... covers me?

Mr. Horum claps.

MR. HORUM
Ha! Smart boy! I cover you. You
cover me.

Wylie takes off the cape.

WYLIE
You're my best friend, Mr. Horum.

Mr Horum ruffles Wylie's hair.

MR. HORUM
Good. Now you go. You hard worker,
but you need to be kid, too.

EXT. DIXON PARK - DAY

Legions of kids in roller blades skate around.

A big banner reads:

WRDB TV 3 PRESENTS - SKATE DAY IN THE PARK

ALLY REVELO, a young reporter, stands by a statue of a fat man in a business suit.

She rubs her fingers across her teeth. Takes a sip from her water bottle. One look at her copy.

She holds a microphone up in front of her.

Cindy holds a large camera on her shoulder. She holds up her fingers: 5. 4. 3. 2 --

ALLY

Thank, Dave. We're out here celebrating Skate Day in the Park. Children from several area school have come together to spend a "Skate-tastic" day sponsored by WRDB. Join me at six for the full story. This is Ally Revelo, reporting from Dixon Park.

Ally smiles for a few seconds. Relaxes.

ALLY

Did I look okay?

Cindy adjusts the focus ring. Steadies herself.

CINDY

You looked great.

ALLY

No, I looked like crap, but thanks for trying.

Cindy puts the camera down.

ALLY

Meet back here in an hour and we'll start the interviews.

CINDY

I don't need a break.

ALLY
Go be a kid, Cindy.

EXT. DIXON PARK - DAY - LATER

Cindy sits on a bench. Watches the other kids skate.
Wylie holds two hot dogs. He offers one to her.
Bugs skates past. Snatches the hot dog from his hand.

BUGS
Thanks, miss. I'm starving!

Wylie grabs Bugs's collar.

WYLIE
That's for Cindy, jerk.

Bugs breaks Wylie's grip.

BUGS
You should save the chivalry for a
real girl.

Cindy has fire in her eyes.

BUGS
Thanks for the food.

Bugs LAUGHS. Takes a bite of the hot dog. Skates away.

Wylie sits down next to Cindy.

He gives her the other hot dog. She wolfs it down.

WYLIE
If there weren't teachers around
I'd clobber that guy.

Cindy takes the last bite. Puts on her skates.

WYLIE
Cindy, where are you going?

CINDY
Butt out, new kid. I'm not afraid
of him or the teachers or anybody.

She stands up. Straps on her helmet.

CINDY
I'm gonna kick his butt.

She skates off.

Wylie gets up.

FLASHFORWARD -- NEAR THE STATUE

Bugs is bloody. Unconscious in the middle of Dixon Park.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

Wylie runs after her.

EXT. SIDEWALK NEAR DIXON PARK - SAME

Osbert and Hot John walk down the street. Hot John with a bandage on his shoulder. Osbert looking thicker than usual.

HOT JOHN
There's sure a lot of cops, Osbert.

Osbert SIGHS.

OSBERT
Andrus knew there would be.

HOT JOHN
Kids ain't clean, though.

Osbert produces a pack of wet-naps from his vest.

OSBERT
Fear not, my obsessive-compulsive
brute. These claim to kill...

Osbert flips the package over.

OSBERT
99.9 percent of all known germs.

Hot John reaches for them. Osbert pulls them away.

OSBERT
Ah, not until after we're done.

HOT JOHN
But I--

OSBERT

My dear John, do you wish to share
the fate of our rhyming friend?

Hot John's eyes grow wide and fearful.

HOT JOHN

That ain't funny! Andrus ain't --

OSBERT

Andrus isn't going to harm us... as
long as we get the boy.

EXT. DIXON PARK - SAME

Cindy closes in on Bugs.

Wylie runs up behind her. Grabs her shoulder.

She stops. Her skates roll out from under her.

She falls hard on the ground. Looks up at Wylie.

CINDY

You should start running now.

WYLIE

Don't fight Bugs. We both know you
would win. What's the point?

Cindy sits up.

CINDY

The point is he's a bully, and
nobody ever pushes people like him
around. I'd pay to see that.

BUGS (O.S.)

Somebody get this creep off me!

They both look.

WYLIE

What the--?

Not them. Not here.

WYLIE

Nuts. I'm... uh... late for work.

HOT JOHN lifts Bugs over his head.

Osbert stands next to him, a lump under his sweater-vest.

CINDY
Fine, miss all the...

She turns around. Wylie is gone.

CINDY
...fun?

Ally runs up. Grabs her.

ALLY
Get your camera. This is news!

A few policemen creep towards the thugs.

OSBERT
Officers, as Oscar Wilde once
wrote: "Do not rise..."

Osbert pulls up his sweater-vest to reveal a bomb.

OSBERT
"...it will avail thee nothing."

The policemen ease back.

THIEVES slither out of the storm drains. From the crowd.

They force the policemen to the ground.

BUGS
Ohgodohgodohgod.

OSBERT
Thank you for being gentlemen,
officers.

Osbert adjusts his glasses. Paces.

OSBERT
My conscience would suffer greatly
if this boy were to come to harm,
but the man who holds him doesn't
have any such scruple.

Hot John twists Bugs's arm. He YELPS.

OSBERT
We're looking for a boy that
dresses up like a dog.

Dogboy leaps from the crowd.

DOGBOY
Hey, Cranky. Long time, no eat?

Osbert frowns.

OSBERT
This would be him.

Dogboy points to Bugs.

DOGBOY
Let him go.

OSBERT
We'll trade him...

Osbert points at Dogboy.

OSBERT
...one boy for another.

Dogboy unsheathes his knife. Crouches down. Ready to leap.

OSBERT
Don't fight. It's foolish.

DOGBOY
There's not many other ways to deal
with bullies like you.

Osbert smiles. Nods.

OSBERT
Proceed, Hot John.

Hot John pulls back his mallet-hand.

CRACKS Bugs in the nose. Blood gushes out.

Cindy let a small smile cross her lips as she zooms in.

OSBERT
Will you come with us, or do I
allow Hot John his fun?

Hot John smiles.

HOT JOHN
I love hitting stuff.

Dogboy puts away his knife.

DOGBOY
Don't hurt anybody.

Hot John sets Bugs on the ground.

Osbert produces a vile. WHIFFS it near Dogboy's nose.

Dogboy falls.

Hot John catches him. Tosses him on his shoulder.

Osbert unstraps the bomb from his torso.

Presses a button. BEEP.

Sets the bomb next to the unconscious Bugs.

OSBERT
Don't follow us, lest I explode
this device. With that, my men and
I shall humbly retreat.

Osbert bows. Motions for Hot John.

The thieves surround them as they leave the park.

INT. DARK ROOM - NIGHT

Andrus sits across from Wylie, tied to a chair.

WYLIE
Why don't you take off that hood?
You took my mask. It's only fair.

Andrus LAUGHS.

ANDRUS
Do you think life is fair, Wylie?

Wylie glares at Andrus.

WYLIE
How do you know my--?

ANDRUS
You are important. You matter.

WYLIE

I don't even know you.

ANDRUS

But I know you. A child. Lost.
Alone. Hopeful that someone will
notice you long enough to realize
that, for all your bravado, you
need a mentor... A guide.

Andrus puts his hand on Wylie's shoulder.

ANDRUS

I've been where you are.

Wylie loooooooks at Andrus. Turns away.

WYLIE

I don't need anybody.

ANDRUS

Who'll care that your missing,
Wylie? Will anyone notice that you
haven't made it home?

Wylie spits at Andrus.

WYLIE

You don't know about my life.

ANDRUS

I was abandoned, too. Cast aside in
favor of somebody stronger.

Wylie lets a tear escape.

WYLIE

You can still stand alone.

ANDRUS

But haven't we tried? And haven't
we failed in spite of the trying?

Wylie looks at the ground.

Andrus leans in. Hugs Wylie.

ANDRUS

We can be each other's family. You
have a new home here.

WYLIE

But--

Tears roll down Wylie's cheeks.

Andrus unties Wylie's hands.

ANDRUS

Get your things and come back.

Andrus offers Wylie his mask.

ANDRUS

We'll help you.

INT. THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP - DAY

Mr. Horum stares at the blank television.

The bell above the door RINGS. Wylie comes in.

MR. HORUM

Ahh, There is that friend of mine.
The liar.

WYLIE

What?

Mr Horum hits play on the VCR.

MR. HORUM

Not only liar, but liar who forgets
he lie.

ON THE TELEVISION

Dogboy and Osbert face off at Dixon Park.

ALLY (FILTERED)
--things took a turn for the weird
when two men demanded a boy dressed
like a dog.

Hot John picks up Dogboy.

ALLY (CONT'D)
Police are unsure whether this
"Dogboy" is a member of the alleged
guild of--

IN THE SHOP

Mr. Horum pauses the tape.

Mr. Horum points at Dogboy's cape.

MR. HORUM
You think I no recognize cape I
give you? "Talent Show," hmph!

WYLIE
I'm -- I'm sorry, sir.

MR. HORUM
We supposed to cover each other.

Mr. Horum shuts off the television. Walks over to Wylie.

MR. HORUM
Must I be friends with liar?

Wylie SNIFFS, but then his eyes narrow.

WYLIE
You aren't my friend. You're just
some old guy who doesn't have
anyone else.

Wylie turns to the door.

WYLIE
I won't be in again. I have to
spend time with my family.

He SLAMS the door.

EXT. ALLEY

Wylie watches from atop a trash can as Andrus

GLIDES

behind Hot John. He comes back over to Wylie and produces a

WALLET

from his sleeve.

INT. PLATFORM - NIGHT

Wylie and Andrus crouch down. A train whizzes by above them.

ANDRUS

I want you to try it now.

Wylie stands as the train fades in the distance.

He climbs up onto the

EXT. PLATFORM - SAME

Wylie stands in the middle of the crowd.

He creeps up to a BORED MAN. He reaches for the man's wallet.

FLASHFORWARD -- A KITCHEN

Bored Man sits at a small folding table with his WIFE.

WIFE

That was everything?

BORED MAN

My whole paycheck.

The wife begins to cry. Strokes her bulbous belly.

WIFE

What about him?

BORED MAN

We'll figure something out, dear.

(looks away)

We have to.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

Wylie shivers. His eyes open wide.

His hand is half-way to Bored Man's back pocket.

Bored Man sees him.

BORED MAN

What do you think you're doing?

WYLIE

Oh. Hi, I... Uh, nothing. Sorry.

Bored Man looks doubtful. Takes a step away from him.

INT. PLATFORM - SAME

Andrus stands over Wylie.

WYLIE

I couldn't. He didn't deserve it.

Andrus grabs Wylie. Shakes him.

ANDRUS

How would you know?

WYLIE

I just knew.

Andrus turns away from Wylie.

ANDRUS

You deliberately disobeyed me. If you don't tell me why --

WYLIE

I saw his home. He needs the money.

Andrus turns back to Wylie.

WYLIE

Sometimes, when I'm right in the middle of something, I get these... pictures in my head. Like what would happen if I didn't step in to change it.

ANDRUS

You expect me to believe that you can see the future?

WYLIE

I guess.

ANDRUS

And that's why you disobeyed?

Wylie nods.

FLASH FORWARD -- SECONDS FROM NOW

Andrus tackles Wylie. Wrests him to the ground.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

Wylie jumps to one side as

ANDRUS

leaps towards him.

Andrus hits the ground.

ANDRUS

Amazing.

He picks himself up.

He puts his arm around Wylie. Leads him into a tunnel.

ANDRUS

Let's go home, son.

Wylie prickles at the word.

INT. DARK ROOM - NIGHT

Wylie and Andrus sit in front of Osbert, who jots some things down on a blackboard.

OSBERT

...so if we consider time to be a straight line...

Osbert draws a line on the board.

OSBERT

We must assume our young friend's "present" exists as a single point on that line.

Osbert draws a smiley face at the start of the line.

OSBERT

We'll call this one Dogboy Alpha. If somebody is in danger the Dogboy of the future...

Osbert draws a second smiley face ahead of the first.

OSBERT

... or Dogboy Beta, will send information about said event to the Dogboy Alpha, allowing him to address the problem.

ANDRUS

But how can we use it?

OSBERT

An example: If the police mean to stop us --

Osbert draws a red vertical through the time line.

OSBERT

-- then Dogboy Beta would see this potential danger before we ever encountered it.

Osbert turns to his class.

OSBERT

By utilizing Dogboy's talents we can convert these unknowns to known factors, thereby increasing our chance of success.

WYLIE

But we wont hurt nobody, right?

ANDRUS

If there's one rule I live by it's this: everything in moderation.

INT. SUBWAY TUNNEL - NIGHT

A tram stops in the tunnel.

Hot John, Osbert, and Dogboy climb on board.

INT. SUBWAY CAR - CONTINUOUS

The car is empty, save for Dogboy and the two thugs.

They creep to the front. Look through the windows to the

NEXT CAR

where several PASSENGERS wait to get off.

Osbert looks at Dogboy.

Dogboy closes his eyes.

FLASHFORWARD -- THE NEXT CAR

Hot John bursts into the car. Grabs a convenient person.

A man in a green suit jumps up. Pulls out a gun.

MAN

Freeze! Police!

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

Dogboy points to the man in green.

DOGBOY

Wait for him to get off.

The train pulls to a stop. In

THE NEXT CAR

The Man gets off with a few other passengers.

The doors SWOOSH shut.

The train pulls out.

Hot John bursts into the car. Grabs a convenient person.

He throws the person into the wall.

HOT JOHN

We want whatever you got, or else I
pound all of you!

Osbert steps in.

Produces a bag.

Collects the passenger's assets.

Dogboy watches them work. Wrings his hands.

INT. LUNCHROOM - DAY

Wylie gobbles up a slice of pizza.

Cindy sits across the table. Scribbles in a notebook.

Cindy SIGHS. Puts down her pen.

CINDY

Seems like the police should be able to find some stupid kid in a Halloween costume.

Cindy looks around the lunchroom.

CINDY

Unless he has powers.

Wylie CHOKES on his pizza.

WYLIE

Yeah right.

CINDY

No, for serious. These kids from the West Side --

Bugs walks up. His arm is in a cast.

BUGS

(under his breath)

I'm sorry about the other day.

CINDY

What?

BUGS

I'm sorry for messing with you and the new kid, okay? I was a jerk.

Cindy smiles.

BUGS

I hope you'll accept my apology.

CINDY

Sure, Bugs. I'm --

Wylie hits Bug's cast. Bugs SCREAMS.

WYLIE

Get away from us!

Bugs walks over to his friends.

Cindy kicks Wylie.

WYLIE

What was that for?

CINDY

He apologized.

WYLIE

He's still a jerk.

Wylie picks up his tray and stomps away --
right into Principal Kane.

PRINCIPAL KANE

Wylie, I need to see you in my
office. Now.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Wylie slumps in a wicker chair.

Principal Kane sits at his desk.

WYLIE

I didn't mean to hit him. School's
been really stressful.

PRINCIPAL KANE

Your teachers tell me you haven't
been doing your assignments.

WYLIE

Excuse me for having a life.

PRINCIPAL KANE

A life that includes your
responsibilities here.

He hits a button.

PRINCIPAL KANE

Send him in, Anna.

He lets the button go.

PRINCIPAL KANE

I've asked you guardian to come in
for a little discussion.

Randolph walks in.

RANDOLPH

Wylie, your principal tells me
you've been a very bad boy.

Randolph takes the seat next to Wylie.

WYLIE

He threw --

Randolph CLAPS his hand over Wylie's mouth.

RANDOLPH

I threw a fit when I heard about
this. I assure you we will make
sure he studies. And no more
hitting people, young man.

Randolph forces Wylie to nod his head.

He shakes Principal Kane's hand.

PRINCIPAL KANE

Thank you, sir. If only more
parents were as direct as you.

RANDOLPH

If only.

He snatches Wylie. Pulls him out of the office.

EXT. ALPHA BETA MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

Randolph pushes Wylie out the front doors.

Spins him around.

WYLIE

Why are you here?

RANDOLPH

When a police officer comes to my door in the middle of the day I tend to take an interest.

Randolph pushes Wylie against the wall.

RANDOLPH

You will go to school, and you will do well. If I open my door to a cop again... Well, you know what they do to runaways, I'm sure.

Wylie spits in Randolph's face.

RANDOLPH

You bold little --

WYLIE

I have a new family now. They won't let you hurt me.

RANDOLPH

Watch who you trust, Wylie.

He lets him go.

RANDOLPH

You might not like them once you get to know them.

INT. SPA - DAY

Several women sit tied and gagged in the middle of the room.

A policeman unties one of them.

She points to a door with an EXIT sign above it.

EXT. ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

The policeman runs into the alley.

Looks around.

Nobody.

A headline spins in:

"GUILD OF THIEVES" BAFFLE POLICE

EXT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Hot John knocks groceries out of an elderly BAG BOY's hands.

Hot John pulls back his hammer hand and smiles.

The bag boy puts up his fists. Braces himself.

Hot John taps him on the head.

He passes out.

Another headline:

HAMMER-HANDED HENCHMEN HAMPERS HEALTH

EXT. STORE FRONT - NIGHT

A man exits. Puts a cash bag under his arm.

Pulls down a metal gate. Locks it.

Osbert and Dogboy stand across the street.

Osbert pushes him towards the man.

Dogboy pulls some WEE GLIMMERS from his cape and throws them into the man's eyes.

THE FRONT PAGE

A grainy picture of Dogboy and the man.

The headline:

DOGBOY: VILLAIN OR VICTIM?

INT. ENCLAVE - NIGHT

Andrus holds up a newspaper:

SECURITY UPPED FOR 4TH BASH

He rips the paper in half.

The enclave is thick with thieves.

ANDRUS

They think themselves our
protectors. They find themselves
just. But we are the freedom
fighters. We are the revolution.

The thieves CHEER.

ANDRUS

I'd like to introduce all of you to
our newest weapon, Dogboy!

Andrus gestures stage left.

THIEVES AND MUGGERS

Dogboy! Dogboy!

Dogboy does not appear.

INT. TUNNEL - NIGHT

Water shoots from a broken pipe onto a rusted subway car.

Wylie kneels next to it. Washes his hands.

WHISPER (V.O.)

Wylie...

An ORANGE AURA materializes around him.

His eyes dance in the sockets as he drifts into the air.

WYLIE

Who are you?

WHISPER (V.O.)

We make our own luck...

WYLIE

Dad? But you're --

DAD (V.O.)

I live on in you...

The aura around Wylie glows brighter.

He bobs through space towards the subway car.

WYLIE
Can I see you again?

DAD (V.O.)
*You waste your legacy. You live
with cowards and thieves.*

WYLIE
Andrus takes care of me. He's a
good guy.

DAD (V.O.)
Is he?

The aura fades as Wylie drifts back to the ground.

The subway car begins to shake.

VOICE (O.S.)
Hel he! H-hel he!

INT. OLD SUBWAY CAR - SAME

A train HOWLS in the distance.

The metal doors SCREECH open. Light pours in.

Wylie enters.

A SCREAM from the shadows.

A figure jerks around in the back of the car.

Wylie walks towards him.

Another SCREAM, the sound of a slow death.

Wylie takes a deep breath.

He throws down some WEE GLIMMERS --

They illuminate The Cowboy, who is tied to a pole. His cheeks
are sunken. Dried blood on his jowls.

WYLIE
Golly...

THE COWBOY
Ha-ah! Huh uhuh ahuh!

He SCREAMS. His mouth opens wide.

A black and foul gash where his tongue should be.
He fights against the ropes.
His shoulder POPS out of socket.
He slumps.

THE COWBOY
Uhh! Awl eh, uh, ooh ah!

Wylie SCREAMS and falls back.

HOT JOHN (O.S.)
Andrus ain't gonna be happy.

Wylie looks up. Hot John towers over him.

INT. DARK ROOM - SAME

Andrus looks at a diagram of a stage attached to the wall.

Hot John drags Wylie into the room.

ANDRUS
I didn't to manhandle him.

HOT JOHN
But he was--

Andrus slaps Hot John.

ANDRUS
Let him go.

Hot John releases Wylie. Rubs his cheek. Leaves.

Wylie stands up.

Andrus turns to the diagram.

ANDRUS
The Forth of July. Thousands of
people crowded into Dixon Park.
Imagine our guild members as they
slip through the crowd --

WYLIE

Did you hurt that cowboy?

Andrus leans down. Puts his hand on Wylie's shoulder.

ANDRUS

I'm the one who asked for it to be done.

WYLIE

Why?

ANDRUS

He let you get away.

Wylie backs up.

WYLIE

You aren't a good guy.

ANDRUS

I never claimed to be.

WYLIE

I won't help you any more.

Andrus LAUGHS.

ANDRUS

Why? You've already broken the laws of man. You belong down here with us. Nobody up there wants you.

Wylie puts his hand behind his back. Lifts up his shirt.

He wraps his fingers around a KNIFE sheathed to his back.

WYLIE

I'm a little scared, is all.

ANDRUS

We don't have the luxury of fear. But don't worry --

Andrus ruffles Wylie's hair.

ANDRUS

We'll win this together.

Wylie smiles.

Andrus points to the diagram.

ANDRUS

Now, this is where Liquid Dynamite
will enter.

Wylie unsheathes the knife.

ANDRUS

And this is the police cordon.

WYLIE

Sounds like you've been busy,
Andrus. One thing...

Wylie stabs Andrus in the arm.

WYLIE

Where do we stick you?

Andrus falls to his knees.

Wylie runs to the door.

Andrus reaches for him.

ANDRUS

Wylie!

Wylie turns back.

ANDRUS

We could've saved the world.

INT. TUNNEL - SAME

Wylie pulls his cape on as he sprints down the tracks.

He stops.

Two tunnels fork off in different directions.

Down one two dots of light approach.

 ANDRUS (O.S.)
 He can't be far, you slack-jaw.

Wylie slips his mask on. Runs into the empty tunnel.

EXT. SUBWAY STATION - SAME

A wooden panel explodes off the wall.

PASSENGERS turn and look.

Dogboy leaps out of the wall.

Runs to the edge of the platform.

One way out.

Across the tracks.

Andrus and Hot John emerge from the wall.

Andrus looks around. Sees Wylie.

 ANDRUS
 Stop him!

Dogboy crouches down.

Hot John rushes at him.

He looks down the tunnel --

A TRAIN APPROACHES

He looks behind him --

HOT JOHN BEARS DOWN

Dogboy leaps

ACROSS THE TRACKS

As Hot John grabs his leg he

GLOWS ORANGE.

Hot John GASPS. Pulls back his hand. It SIZZLES.

Wylie lands on the opposite platform.

He disappears behind the incoming tram.

ANDRUS
You had him!

Hot John holds out his hand. A dark burn in his palm.

HOT JOHN
He must'a learned a new trick.

The train pulls away. Dogboy is GONE.

INT. THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP - NIGHT

A small lamp lights Mr. Horum as he counts the day's profits.

The bell above the door rings.

Mr. Horum jerks his head up.

A man stands in the shadows.

MR. HORUM
No magic left tonight.

MAN (O.S.)
Do you know a boy named Wylie?

Mr. Horum nods.

MR. HORUM
Good kid? A little too smart?

The man,

ANDRUS,

steps out of the shadows. Pulls out a gun.

ANDRUS
I need to leave a message for him.

EXT. THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP - CONTINUOUS

A GUNSHOT, a flash of light, a CRY from inside.

CUT TO:

INT. THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP - DAY

The bell above the door RINGS. Enter Wylie.

WYLIE

Hello?

He takes a few steps.

WYLIE

Mr. Horum? I came to say I'm sorry.
I wasn't trying to be a jerk or
nothing...

Wylie stands next to the door to the back room.

A GUTTURAL SOUND from behind the counter.

He leaps across the counter.

Mr. Horum lies unconscious on the floor.

A dark red stain runs down his leg.

Wylie kneels down. Shakes him.

His eyes open.

MR. HORUM

Magician's son. What you do?

WYLIE

I didn't have nothing to do with
this, I swear.

Mr. Horum sits up.

MR. HORUM

Well... ugh... We ask you friend.
He say different, I think.

WYLIE

My friend?

MR. HORUM

Man in mask. Sound like friend of
yours.

Andrus.

WYLIE
Come on. We need to get you
someplace safe.

Wylie hauls Mr. Horum onto his feet.

MR. HORUM
Your friend come back?

WYLIE
You're my friend. We'll cover each
other, right?

Horum takes a few careful steps. He limps, but he'll make it.

MR. HORUM
Yes, boy-oh. We friends.

INT. HIDEOUT - NIGHT

Mr. Horum lies on the makeshift bed.

Wylie puts a blanket over him. Tears strips off an old shirt.

MR. HORUM
You live here whole time?

WYLIE
Since my uncle kicked me out.

Wylie puts the strips into a kettle. He places the kettle
over a small fire.

MR. HORUM
Why you no tell me? I give you
place to stay.

Wylie stirs the boiling water.

A rat runs up. Sniffs his shoe.

WYLIE
And leave all this?

MR. HORUM
Man in mask say he need you back.
He say he hurt girl? Then Bang!
Boom! He shoot my leg.

Wylie moves strips from the kettle to a trashcan lid.

WYLIE
Girl? He couldn't mean Cindy...

MR. HORUM
You have girlfriend?
(winks)
Hootcha, hootcha.

Wylie sticks out his tongue.

WYLIE
She's a girl I know. From school.

Mr. Horum nods.

MR. HORUM
Uh-huh.

Wylie picks up a strip. Throws it on Horum's wounded leg.

Horum jerks up.

MR. HORUM
Ahh! You crazy? Where you learn
first aid... internets?

WYLIE
The scouts. Now calm down, this'll
keep it from getting infected.

Wylie takes the used strip. Throws down a fresh one.

MR. HORUM
Heesh. I get no infection if you
kill me, hmmb?

Wylie tosses a handful of sand on the fire. It puffs out.

MR. HORUM
How you know man in mask?

Wylie lies down. Covers up with his cape.

WYLIE
He told me we'd save the world, but
I guess that's what the bad guys
think when nobody'll let them know
their wrong.

Mr. Horum closes his eyes. Lays his hands on his chest.

MR. HORUM

You be the one to tell him now, I
betcha.

INT. A-V ROOM - DAY

Cindy pulls some pages from the printer.

She walks to the door. Grabs the handle. Turns it --

Wylie explodes through the door. Knocks Cindy over.

CINDY

Why in the world did you do that?

WYLIE

Geez! I'm sorry...

Wylie takes her hand. Pulls her up.

She twists his arm behind his back.

He flips around.

Yanks his arm out of her hands.

Wylie GLARES at Cindy with eyes wrought in hellfire.

WYLIE

Sit. Down.

Cindy sits down.

WYLIE

There's a very dangerous guy who's
trying to hurt me.

CINDY

Who, Bugs? I'll gladly help him.

Wylie pulls up a chair in front of Cindy. Sits.

WYLIE

No, somebody worse, and he might
try to hurt you too.

CINDY

Why would anybody be after a nobody
like you?

Wylie bows his head. Looks at Cindy.

WYLIE
 (whispers)
 Because... I'm Dogboy.

Cindy eyes grow big. Her mouth drops open.
 She LAUGHS.

CINDY
 Ha! Wait'll I tell --

WYLIE
 Shh! Don't tell anyone. The police
 think I'm a bad guy. Maybe I am.

Wylie bows his head. Paws at his damp eyes.

WYLIE
 I tried to be good, I really did.

CINDY
 You're for real, aren't you?

Wylie looks up. SNIFFS.

WYLIE
 Yeah...

He grabs a camcorder off the table. Holds it out to her.

WYLIE
 ... and I need your help.

INT. HIDEOUT - NIGHT

Wylie, Mr. Horum, and Cindy sit cross-legged around the fire.

WYLIE
 So we all know our jobs?

Cindy and Mr. Horum nod.

Wylie pulls on his mask.

Dogboy hops to his feet.

He grabs a LENGTH OF ROPE and his THROWING KNIVES.

Mr. Horum takes him aside.

MR. HORUM
 You get new tricks?

DOGBOY

Sure do.

Horum takes a yellowed handkerchief from his pocket.

Inside is a small sliver dollar. Horum gives it a little shine on his shirt.

Offers it to Dogboy.

MR. HORUM

This my lucky coin. First money I make in America.

DOGBOY

Aw, Mr. Horum, I couldn't.

Horum grabs Dogboy's hand. Shoves the silver dollar in it.

Dogboy looks at the coin, but then hands it back.

DOGBOY

If it's all the same to you, I'd rather do it on my own.

Mr. Horum smiles. Takes the coin back.

Cindy walks over.

MR. HORUM

I put out fire.

He winks at Cindy. Walk away.

CINDY

That outfit is really lame, you know.

Dogboy adjusts his cape.

DOGBOY

I kind of threw it together.

Cindy grabs his hand.

CINDY

Be careful, okay?

He lifts up the mask. Leans in. Kisses her cheek.

CINDY

Hey!

She drops his hand, then wipes her cheek.

CINDY
Are you gross or something?

Dogboy slips the mask back on.

DOGBOY
I was kidding.

Dogboy runs out of the hideout.

Cindy sneaks a smile.

EXT. DIXON PARK - NIGHT

A crowd pushes through the park towards a large stage.

A banner proclaims "FREEDOM CONCERT."

NEXT TO THE STAGE

Cops mill about a large company of police vans.

A street grate SLAMS open.

A leather bag lands on the pavement.

TICK, TOCK.

Pudgy finger tips reach up.

A GRUNT.

Osbert pulls himself onto the street.

INT. STAGE - SAME

Dogboy crawls underneath some large pipes.

He stops. Pulls out a cheap walkie-talkie.

DOGBOY
Dogboy here. Can you hear me?

The walkie-talkie SCREECHES.

MR. HORUM (FILTERED)
Right, right...

EXT. DIXON PARK - SAME

Mr. Horum pulls up behind the crowd in a ragged cargo van.

MR. HORUM
 (to radio)
 I come to right place now.

DOGBOY (O.S.)
 Cool. I'll see you at the end.
 Dogboy out.

The walkie-talkie CLICKS off.

Horum gets out of his van. Limpes around to the back.

He opens the rear doors.

Three separate METAL RINGS lie in a pile of illusions.

Mr. Horum picks them up.

Holds them together. Puts his hand through the center.

He pulls it back and lets two rings fall.

They are linked together.

EXT. PRESS BOX - SAME

Cindy adjusts the focus ring on a camera.

Satisfied, she zooms her camera in on the crowd.

Families bond.

Couples cuddle under blankets.

Ally runs up.

ALLY
 You're ready right?

CINDY
 Ready to go.

Cindy takes a close look at Ally's forehead.

ALLY
 What?

CINDY

Ally, don't freak, but there's a huge red blotch on your forehead.

Ally grabs a mirror.

ALLY

Half the county is going to see this thing! Oh, oh -- must... sit.

Ally falls into a chair. Breaths deep.

ALLY

One... two... three... four...

Cindy grabs the walkie-talkie attached to her belt.

CINDY

I'm ready, Dogboy. Finally got Ms. Evening News off my back.

INT. BACKSTAGE - SAME

Dogboy crouches down behind a crate.

STAGEHANDS run around with various equipment.

CINDY (FILTERED)

We're good to go.

DOGBOY

(whispers)

I'm on my way to the nest.

Dogboy peeks out around the crate.

Hot John knocks out a stagehand.

Dogboy climbs onto the crate.

He ascends a rope-ladder to the top of the stage.

EXT. STREET - ACROSS FROM DIXON PARK - NIGHT

Two COLLEGE KIDS emerge from the subway station.

COLLEGE KID 1

So my moms is all like "Be careful." Then I'm all like "Chiz-nill, moms. I've kicked it on the west side at three in the morn."

COLLEGE KID 2
Yeah, it's not like the freaks are
going to show up at a stupid
concert anyway. Hey, do you think
we brought enough water?

College Kid 1 looks through his backpack.

LOUD MUSIC plays in the park.

College Kid 2's eyes grow wide.

COLLEGE KID 2
We have to go. Now.

COLLEGE KID 1
Chill. We gots plenty of time, yo.

College Kid 2 runs away.

College Kid 1 puts his bookbag back on.

COLLEGE KID 1
Where you running, fool?

Somebody COUGHS behind him.

He turns around.

A mob of

THIEVES

lurch towards the park and a very frightened College Kid 1.

He turns tail and runs after his friend.

The thieves fan out and enter the park.

EMCEE (O.S.)
Let's get this Independence Day
started, folks!

EXT. DIXON PARK - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The EMCEE leaps onto the stage.

Twin red rockets launch behind him.

They EXPLODE in the air.

Multi-colored sparkles rain down.

The crowd CHEERS.

The thieves slither in between the people.

A Drunk Mugger liberates a man's wallet.

He takes a sip from a paper bag and CHUCKLES.

A Thin Mugger stands behind an affluent woman with a precious stone affixed to her hat.

He plucks it out.

EXT. PRESS BOX - SAME

Cindy watches the mugger vanish in the crowd through the camera's viewfinder.

She grabs her walkie-talkie.

CINDY
Dogboy. The guild is here.

DOGBOY (FILTERED)
Waiting for the big hen to fly.
Dogboy out.

CINDY
Hens can't fly, dork.

Cindy looks in the viewfinder.

Osbert pushes his way through the crowd. A leather satchel gripped against his chest.

EXT. DIXON PARK - POLICE AREA - CONTINUOUS

Osbert approaches OFFICER LINK, a brisk woman.

OSBERT
Pardon me, miss?

Officer link shines a flashlight into his eyes. He shields them.

OFFICER LINK
Can I help you, sir?

OSBERT
Lowering your light would be a magnificent first step.

Officer Link brings it down to her hip.

OSBERT
I wonder if I could pass through?
My group is on the other side of
your barricade.

Hot John stands across the way. Osbert waves to him.

OSBERT
(yells)
One second!

Hot John nods. Waves back.

OSBERT
That's my dolt of a brother.

Link looks Osbert over.

She puts the flashlight in her belt. Opens the gate.

OFFICER LINK
No stops along the way.

OSBERT
My dear lady, I wouldn't dare.

EXT. STAGE - SAME

Dogboy stands on the catwalk high above the stage.

Below him, the Emcee sits down on a stool. The lights dim.

EMCEE
Now, we can't forget the real
reason we're all here tonight...

He pulls an index card from his jacket.

EMCEE
Kleinfelder's syndrome is a
diseased that effects one out of
every thousand men.

Dogboy's walkie-talkie CHIRPS.

CINDY (FILTERED)
Dogboy, the fat guy from the park
just entered the police zone.

Dogboy snatches the walkie-talkie.

DOGBOY
What's he doing?

CINDY (FILTERED)
Walking.

DOGBOY
He'll keep. Dogboy out.

CINDY
Shouldn't you --

DOGBOY
Wait for the hen to fly. Dogboy
out.

CINDY
Fine. I'll catch him myself.

DOGBOY
Cindy, don't move. I need you right
where you are.

Silence.

DOGBOY
Cindy?

FLASHFORWARD -- POLICE AREA

Ambulances skid to a stop. Smoke fills the air.

Police vans are turned over and burning.

Some police officers twitch, but most are scorched beyond
recognition.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

Dogboy yells into the walkie-talkie.

DOGBOY
Cindy! Do not go down there!

Dogboy tears down the ladder.

EXT. DIXON PARK - POLICE AREA - SAME

Cindy sneaks around the barricade.

She wiggles into a sizable gap --

She makes it about half-way.

A large hand grabs her.

RIPS her off her feet.

HOT JOHN
You're Dogboy's girly, ain't 'cha?

Cindy claws at Hot John's wrist. He keeps a hold of her.

HOT JOHN
Andrus said you might be poking
around. Where's your boyfriend?

Cindy tries to kick Hot John. He holds her at arm's length.

DOGBOY (O.S.)
Looking for me, bright eyes?

Hot John snaps his head around.

Cindy kicks him hard in the chest.

He drops her.

She runs to Dogboy's side.

CINDY
What should we do?

DOGBOY
"We" should do our jobs. Get back
to the camera. Radio me as soon as
you see Andrus.

CINDY
You're lucky your a superhero. I
don't let people boss me around.

Hot John runs, gunning for Dogboy.

DOGBOY
I know. Go.

She runs away.

Hot John lunges at Dogboy who

DROPS AND ROLLS

through Hot John's legs.

Hot John stumbles.

He turns back around as Dogboy gets to his feet.

Hot John raises his hammer-hand. Take a step towards Dogboy.

HOT JOHN

Why are you fighting? I've beat you
up twice already.

Another step. Dogboy stands his ground.

DOGBOY

I don't know when to lie down. It's
a problem. Maybe I should --

FLASHFORWARD -- SECONDS FROM NOW

Hot John rears back.

Brings down the hammer hand on top of Dogboy's head.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

Hot John rears back.

The hammer comes down.

With inches to spare, Dogboy moves his head.

Hot John lands a mean blow to Dogboy's shoulder.

Dogboy stands there. Waivers. Falls over.

EXT. DIXON PARK - POLICE AREA - SAME

Osbert drops his leather satchel --

TICK, TOCK

-- and kicks it under a police van.

He nods to the SERGEANT. Exits the area.

EXT. STAGE - SAME

The Emcee reads from his note card

EMCEE

...best way to help is by calling
our toll free number which should --

A STAGEHAND runs out. Whispers into his ears.

EMCEE
 (to Stagehand)
 Okay.
 (to crowd)
 Which will be appearing on your
 television screens shortly. And
 now, let's start the show!

Fireworks zoom into the air behind him and EXPLODE.

EMCEE
 And here they come to blow your
 minds... Give it up for Liquid
 Dynamite!

ANDRUS (O.S.)
 I'm afraid there's been --

Andrus steps out from the wings.

ANDRUS
 -- a change in the line up.

EXT. DIXON PARK - CROWD - CONTINUOUS

Osbert pulls out a GARAGE DOOR REMOTE.

He pushes through the crowd.

Cindy steps out from behind some brush. Follows him.

EXT. DIXON PARK - POLICE AREA - SAME

The Sergeant pokes Officer Link's shoulder.

SERGEANT
 Did you let a man pass through?

Officer Link shrivels.

OFFICER LINK
 Yeah, Sarge. Some nerd.

The Sergeant shakes his head.

SERGEANT
 Link, when we have a closed area we
keep that area closed. Otherwise
 our security could be blown wide --

BOOM.

A cloud of flame rolls out from underneath a van.

Fire engulfs the police cordon.

EXT. DIXON PARK - CONTINUOUS

Hot John runs with Dogboy on his shoulder.

He swats through the crowd with his hammer-hand like a hunter clearing brush with a machete.

The crowd pushes away from the explosion.

Dark smoke puffs into the air. Fire licks the sky.

Hot John rushes past a light post. Dogboy grabs onto it.

Hot John stumbles, then falls face-first into a garbage can.

Dogboy does a twist in the air. Lands on his feet.

HOT JOHN
Get me out of here!

An Old Man observes the scene.

Dogboy CHUCKLES.

DOGBOY
I think he'll keep.

Dogboy turns towards the stage.

DOGBOY
Oh, no.

EXT. STAGE - SAME

The Emcee lies on the ground. Andrus grinds the heel of his boot into his neck.

ANDRUS
Is that all you had to say?

EMCEE
(gasping)
Yes, sir.

Andrus releases him. Walks to center stage.

ANDRUS

My friend... My neighbors... My people... Do not panic. I'm here to sooth your fears.

The thieves assemble at the outer edges of the crowd.

They link arms. Hold the crowd in.

ANDRUS

We all have fears; the fear of death, the unknown, failure. We work and study and scrimp and save and hope that, one day, we won't have to fear anything. Yet we remain afraid.

Andrus steps to the edge of the stage.

ANDRUS

I offer everyone here, and everyone watching at home, an opportunity. Tonight we begin to fix the flaws in our world...

He gestures towards the fire.

ANDRUS

We are the new order. The revolution.

Lights wash over the crowd.

ANDRUS

Who's with us?

The crowd is silent.

The thieves push in from all directions.

A HUSBAND wraps his arms around his WIFE and CHILD.

The crowd crushes in on them.

ANDRUS

Don't choose the life of a casualty.

The baby CRIES. The parents push closer together.

ANDRUS

Who's with us?

Dogboy LEAPS down onto the stage.

DOGBOY
Oh! Can I be a member of your
super-secret club?

ANDRUS
Hold on, folks. I won't be long

He throws the microphone down.

The crowd relaxes.

The wife comforts her child. The husband comforts the wife.

Andrus charges at Dogboy.

EXT. DIXON PARK - SAME

Horum juggles a few balls in the air.

Osbert walks past.

MR. HORUM
You get out? Good. Things get bad
in there, I betcha.

OSBERT
I assure you, sir, they already
have.

EXT. STAGE - SAME

Andrus holds Dogboy down.

ANDRUS
You stupid child. Look around you.
I have an army. Who do you have?

Dogboy struggles against him.

ANDRUS
Wylie. Lost, alone. So bitter.

Dogboy jabs his knee into Andrus's stomach.

Andrus recoils.

Dogboy rolls out from under him. Leaps to his feet.

He grabs the LENGTH OF ROPE from his belt.

ANDRUS (O.S.)
Another one of Daddy's tricks?

Andrus throws a bass drum at Dogboy, who
JUMPS out of the way.

Dogboy hurls the rope.

It unfurls as it soars through the air.

The rope SMACKS Andrus's head.

Tightens around his mask.

DOGBOY
Pretty neat, huh?

Andrus tugs at the ropes.

He GASPS for air.

Falls on his knees.

CHOKES.

Keep pulling.

Sinks ever nearer to the ground.

Pushes on his mask.

QUICK BREATH.

Lies still on his belly.

Dogboy takes a step towards him.

Andrus twitches. COUGHS.

Pulls his mask off.

Dogboy takes another step towards him.

Andrus is on his hands and knees. His head is down.

He. picks. his. head. up.

Dogboy backs away as his

UNCLE RANDOLPH

throws the mask at him. He smiles.

RANDOLPH
Hello, nephew.

EXT. PRESS BOX - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Cindy leans on the banister. Watches the fight.

Ally stands behind her.

ALLY
What happened?

CINDY
That Dogboy kid just knocked off
the other guy's mask.

ALLY
Who is he?

CINDY
Never seen 'em.

EXT. STAGE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Randolph rises to his feet.

Dogboy stands there frozen.

RANDOLPH
Didn't see this in one of your
little visions? This must be a bit
awkward for you.

Dogboy grabs his knife.

RANDOLPH
I suppose you didn't have the
powers before the car wreck. You
couldn't have seen me under the
car, or watching you pull out that
day. I'll bet you thought it was an
accident, a mechanical malfunction.
But if your father ever taught me
anything, Wylie, it's this:

Randolph kicks the knife out of Dogboy's hand.

RANDOLPH
We make our own luck.

DOGBOY
You killed them?

Dogboy punches Randolph in the gut.

Randolph grabs his hands.

RANDOLPH
He would have made you waste your
gifts, just like he wasted his.

Dogboy kicks at him.

RANDOLPH
Oh, they named you Wylie for a
reason!

Randolph throws him to the ground.

RANDOLPH
He couldn't handle his powers. They
should have been mine, but I got
them anyway...

He kicks Dogboy in the gut.

RANDOLPH
When they gave you to me.

Dogboy cowers. GROANS.

Randolph turns around. Picks up the microphone.

RANDOLPH
So sorry for the interruption.

All is silent.

RANDOLPH
Commence! Begin! Comience!

The thieves push in again.

RANDOLPH
Who is with us?

The crowd claps loudly. CHEERS.

Randolph basks in applause and an

ORANGE GLOW

from behind.

The crowd's CHEERS grow louder.

The glow GLOWS brighter.

Randolph looks behind him.

Dogboy, with a spectacular orange aura, floats several meters above the stage.

EXT. PRESS BOX - CONTINUOUS

Cindy rubs her eyes.

CINDY

He never told me he could do that.

EXT. DIXON PARK - CONTINUOUS

Mr. Horum looks up at the stage.

MR. HORUM

Now that an expert trick.

EXT. STAGE - CONTINUOUS

Randolph gawks at Dogboy.

RANDOLPH

Your dad never managed that.

Randolph jump up. Grabs Dogboy's ankle.

His skin SIZZLES.

He loosens his grip. Sucks on his fingers.

He pulls a gun from underneath his shirt.

The crowd GASPS.

Randolph aims the gun at Dogboy's head.

RANDOLPH

Sorry, nephew, but if you won't play nice, I'll make you play dead.

He cocks the hammer.

Dogboy looks down on him.

The lenses in his mask glow hot.

He holds out his hand.

Randolph pulls the trigger. BANG.

A bolt of

ORANGE LIGHT

shoots out of Dogboy's hand.

Melts the bullet.

Smashes into Randolph's chest.

Randolph flies across the stage.

Crashes into a support beam. Knocks him out.

IN THE CROWD

the thieves continue to pilfer.

Dogboy leans his head back. His aura glows WHITE.

DOGBOY

Leave.

The thieves trip over themselves as they run away.

The aura fades.

Dogboy alights on the stage. Grabs the microphone.

DOGBOY

I'm sorry I got a little confused
for a while. Don't worry. I'll be a
good guy, or at least I'll try.

He glows again. Floats a few feet in the air.

DOGBOY

It's been fun saving you.
Remember...

He gives a thumbs up.

DOGBOY

I'm Dogboy.

EXT. DIXON PARK - SAME

Cindy sits next to Horum in the back of the van.

A CLUNK on the roof.

Horum looks up.

Dogboy stands on top, triumphant.

INT. VAN - NIGHT - LATER

Wylie sits in the passenger seat. Looks at his mask.

Mr. Horum cruises down the road.

Cindy leans in from the backseat.

CINDY

And then you shot that beam and
BAM! But I don't have to tell you.
You were up there doing it.

WYLIE

Cindy, I'm a little tired. Could we
talk about this later?

CINDY

Yeah, new kid. One thing first...

She leans in and KISSES him. His

EYES BUG OUT

but then he relaxes into it.

Cindy breaks the kiss.

CINDY

You did a good thing.

Wylie grins foolishly.

WYLIE

You too.

Cindy punches Wylie in the arm. Climbs into the back.

MR. HORUM

Where you live now?

Wylie yawns.

WYLIE

In the hideout. You know that.

MR. HORUM

While you fight I think. "Predsha,"
I say, "Predsha, why he live in
wall when you have four walls?" I
have extra bed. You live with me...
Now we are family, hmmb?

Wylie's face is mashed against the window. He SNORES.

MR. HORUM

We fix it up soon.

Mr. Horum drives into the night.

BLACK FRAME

CAPTION:

ONE WEEK LATER

CAPTION FADES OUT

EXT. THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP

Wylie, Cindy, and Mr. Horum watch

TELEVISION

MAYOR LANE stands at a podium.

MAYOR LANE

...the mysterious leader of the
thieves guild remains in a coma.
Every effort is being made to
discover his identity.

Wylie practices juggling.

WYLIE

He can stay in that coma as far as
I'm concerned.

Cindy fumes.

CINDY

What a jerk! He poisons a bunch of kids, gets off, and stands there in front of everybody with a huge smile on his face!

Wylie holds Cindy's hand.

WYLIE

I'm sure Mayor Lane's not such a bad guy.

ON THE TELEVISION

MAYOR LANE

... and while we all appreciate this Dogboy's help, I must condemn his actions. Vigilantism can not be tolerated. Better to trust the skilled Colta City Police Department. They have to answer to somebody, at least.

The reporters CHUCKLE.

BOY (O.S.)

Can you believe this guy?

The camera pulls back to reveal a

LARGE HOVERCRAFT

carrying a cadre of teenagers with makeshift costumes.

The boy, COAXIAL, an energetic greaser with silver hair, stands at the front of the ship.

COAXIAL

Did you think we'd forgot, Mayor?

MATERIAL GIRL, a short blond fashion plate, takes off her jacket. Closes her eyes. The jacket

MORPHS

into a metal net with a line attached.

She hands it to Coaxial.

He tosses the net over the side of the hovercraft.

It ensnares Mayor Lane. Coaxial pulls him up.

Some policemen run over. Pull out their guns.

Coaxial touches his temple.

The cops SCREAM.

Drop their guns.

Grab their heads. Fall to their knees.

Coaxial pulls the Mayor into the craft.

BACK IN THE SHOP

Wylie turns to Cindy.

WYLIE

I have to go.

Cindy grabs his arm.

CINDY

Wait. I think I know those kids...
They live on the west side.

WYLIE

Well, I have to go after them. You
can't just go kidnap the mayor.

CINDY

Glad somebody finally did.

Wylie tosses her a walkie-talkie.

WYLIE

I need directions.

He heads for the back room.

Mr. Horum tosses him his cape.

MR. HORUM

Be home early. By six.

WYLIE

AM or PM?

MR. HORUM

Up to you.

Cindy catches up to him. Kisses him.

CINDY
Promise me you'll talk to them
first. They have their reasons.

Wylie smiles at Cindy.

WYLIE
I'll handle it.

He runs into the back.

INT. BACK ROOM - SAME

Wylie pulls on his mask.

Ties his cape.

Grabs some WEE GLIMMERS and a KNIFE.

EXT. ALLEY - SAME

Dogboy runs out the back door.

Stands above an open street grate.

He leaps into the grate. Falls. The darkness swallows him.

A small ORANGE GLOW.

It brightens.

The GLOW illuminates everything as we

FADE OUT.

The End