UNTITLED GOLDBERGS SPIN-OFF

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故事由

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ABC 2nd
COLD OPEN

EVERYBODY DANCE NOW! As C & C Music Factory BLASTS, images take us back to the 90s -- everything from “Friends” to Kurt Cobain to “Titanic” to Michael Jordan to “Fresh Prince.”

LUCY (V.O.)
People say the 90s were the last great decade. Sure, maybe there were too many flannel shirts and Right Said Fred said nothing right. But aside from that, it was awesome.

INT. WILLIAM PENN ACADEMY - DAY - 1990SOMETHING

WE SEE VARIOUS CLIPS around our 90s updated school -- girls dressed like the Spice Girls, a handmade poster for the “Seinfeld Club,” a kid checks his schedule on a Palm Pilot.

LUCY (V.O.)
The President was playing the sax on TV and America was getting online. It was an exciting time of change. Well, for most of us.

INT. GYM - DAY

WHAP! A kid is nailed with a ball to the face. A dodgeball game is underway as COACH MELLOR stalks the sidelines in his short shorts. Whistle gleaming. A man in his element.

LUCY (V.O.)
Back then, every school had a teacher like this. Rick T. Mellor. The classic gym coach who wore his feelings on his sleeve and short shorts on his thighs.

MELLOR
There is no triumph without “try!” So “try” harder!
(then)
Never give up! Unless it’s a seat to an old lady on a bus!
(then)
Dream of success! Then force yourself awake and jump some rope!
(then)
Winners never quit! Neither does my ex-wife’s lawyer! Back off!
You can’t get blood from a stone!
LUCY (V.O.)
The man never changed... even when things began to change around him.

BOOM! The gym doors burst open as BEVERLY GOLDBERG makes a dramatic slo-mo entrance. A dodgeball flies towards her. Mellor steps in, catching it like a ninja.

MELLOR
Whoa! No one hit the blonde lady!

BEVERLY
Coach you are as fine a gentleman as you are an athlete.

MELLOR
Kindness is just another muscle, and I keep it jacked.

BEVERLY
Sorry to bother you on your first day back, but we gotta talk.

MELLOR
Dammit! Look, your last little schmuggie graduated last year. You have no one left here to overprotect and inappropriately interfere with.

BEVERLY
Adam is my schmoopie not schmuggie. And you’re right. No more kids means no more Bevy. I’m here to say goodbye.

MELLOR
(gets misty)
Ah dammit, I’m gonna miss those glorious sweaters.

BEVERLY
Aw, don’t you worry. I’ll still lurk around.

MELLOR
No, we all want you gone. I’m just a bit raw, that’s all. Glascott was made Head of School over me. How could that happen?
BEVERLY
Well, the man does have a PhD in education from Yale.

MELLOR
And I have a PhD in winning from Life University. I just...
(then, sincere)
I wanted that job. I’m a Coach. It’s what I do, what I love. I wanted to see this school win.

BEVERLY
Rick. Just ‘cause you didn’t get put in charge doesn’t mean this school doesn’t need you.

MELLOR
You’re right. It’s not about me. It’s about the kids.

We REVEAL a FROSH GEEK is dangling at a rope above them.

FROSH GEEK
Coach, help! I can’t get down!

MELLOR
Stop thinking and start doing, champ! I believe in you!
(to Beverly)
He’s been up there for an hour.

BOOM! The gym doors burst open as ANDRE GLASCOTT makes a dramatic slo-mo entrance. He strides like a bad-ass in his sweater vest and loafers.

LUCY (V.O.)
And even though a few were stuck in the past, you always had teachers like Andre Glascott ready to lead their school into the future.

BAP! Glascott gets PEGGED in the head by a dodgeball. THE SLOW MO CUTS OUT. Mellor and Beverly wince.

GLASCOTT
Ah, dangit! Wow, that burns! I know you did that on purpose, Cody!

Mellor blows his whistle, taking immediate control.
MELLOR
Alright, hit the showers! And wear flip flops! Summer break was a blow out party for the fungus in there!
(to Glascott)
You okay, boss-man?

GLASCOTT
Takes a lot more than a shockingly hard rubber ball to slow down, Ol’ Glascott.

BEVERLY
I’m proud of you, Andre. With me outta your way, you can do anything.

Beverly hugs him, tears in her eyes.

GLASCOTT
Gotta admit, I’m kinda sad you won’t be around to make my life harder, scarier and more difficult in every way.

BEVERLY
That is literally the nicest thing anyone’s ever said to me.

GLASCOTT
There’s gonna be alot of changes around this place, Mellor. Hope you’re ready.

Another dodgeball PEGS Glascott. Mellor stifles a giggle.

MELLOR
That’s ten laps, Cody! Nice arm though.

GLASCOTT
(angrily rubs his neck)
Yep. Lotta changes.

MELLOR
Well, it’s been a hell of a ride, Mrs. G. Time to give you a Coach’s highest honor -- a 21 squat salute.

Indeed, Mellor has begun to do squat thrusts. BAM! The kid drops from above and hits the floor OUT OF FRAME.

END OF COLD OPEN
ACT ONE

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

We CRANE down through the spacious library past the oversized PC computers and microfiche machines. We find LUCY WINSTON (mid 30s, legit cool, in colorful 90s attire a la Elaine Benis) sitting across an empty table from Glascott.

LUCY (V.O.)
It was September 1st, 1990—something, the day that changed everything for me and my kids. And all I had to do was get through the weirdest job interview of my life.

GLASCOTT
So... Lucy, is it? I see you worked as the administrative secretary at a dental practice for seven years. But do you think you’re ready for the high-octane world of our school’s front office?

LUCY
Well. I can answer phones, make copies and also I’m your sister so gimme the stupid job.

GLASCOTT
Let’s keep this professional. Next question -- you going to Mom’s for Thanksgiving?

LUCY
Seriously? That’s your question?

GLASCOTT
Please, I hate it when you’re not there! She’s mean and critical and puts raisins in the yams!

LUCY
Okay, clearly working for you will be complicated. But it means free tuition for my kids. This place has computers and sports and theater and not one metal detector in sight.
GLASCOTT
It also has the best perk of all --
Me and my constant support and
guidance to help undo all your poor
life decisions.

LUCY
Don’t make me punch you at my job
interview, Andre.

GLASCOTT
I’m just saying, I told you not to
marry a roadie! You wouldn’t listen!

LUCY
You were a college nerd! I was
just seventeen! And he had a
Corvette and an ass like Rick
Springfield! I had no choice!

GLASCOTT
Uch. How is Keg anyway?

LUCY
Keg is Keg. Last I heard he was in
Japan touring with the Red Hot
Chili Peppers.

GLASCOTT
Oh, they’re good. The one guy
plays guitar with just a sock on
his wiener.

LUCY
Flea. I think Keg actually handles
the socks.

An awkward beat. Glascott throws his arms around her.

GLASCOTT
You got the job! Welcome to
William Penn Academy!

LUCY
Thank you. Honestly, this is a
life saver. The kids are gonna be
freakin’ thrilled!

EXT. PARKING LOT/FRONT OF SCHOOL — THE NEXT DAY

Lucy parks her Isuzu Trooper and gets out with her daughter
FELICIA (16, a rebel in Doc Martens).
FELICIA
This sucks donkey dong.

LUCY
For now. In time it’ll suck smaller dongs until there’s no dongs at all.

FELICIA
You realize you’re making me give up my entire life, right?

LUCY
That’s the point. Last year, it was like you had a one way ticket to drinking town. And drugs town. And possibly sex town.

FELICIA
Where is this town? It sounds awesome.

GIGI pops in. She’s a 14 year-old quirky gung-ho gal with Aspergers... which wasn’t a thing in the 90s.

GIGI
Well, I’m super pumped to learn and make new best friends!

LUCY
That’s because you’re a kick-ass kid who’s positive and happy.

FELICIA
And weird. And socially awkward.

GIGI
I’m gonna run ahead to put up my signs for the Happy Harmony Club.

LUCY
Uh-oh, I mean, what’s that, punkin?

GIGI
It’s an acappella club that sings boy band songs. It’s gonna be a fun way to meet kids like me and Oscar.

OSCAR nervously climbs out of the car. He’s Gigi’s polar opposite twin, painfully shy and introverted and A GIANT.
OSCAR
Please don’t group me in with you.

GIGI
You got it, bro! Twin powers activate!

OSCAR
Don’t do that.

Gigi runs towards school. Just then a basketball from a pick-up game across the parking lot rolls towards Oscar.

LUCY
Show ‘em what you got, bud.

Oscar picks it up and chucks it a CRAZY long distance. It lands right in one of the kid’s hands. The jocks explode. Their suave leader, DUFFY, calls to him.

DUFFY
Yo, c’mon over! We need a center!

LUCY
That’s your in, Oscar. No one sees you as the shy quiet kid at this school -- annumd he’s running away.

Indeed, Oscar is SPRINTING inside like Carl Lewis. Glascott happily approaches, finger gunning at his niece Felicia.

GLASCOTT
Hey hey! Here comes trouble! I’m joking of course, we desperately hope this is a new chapter for you.

FELICIA
Hi, Uncle Andre. Thank you for putting me in this awful situation.

LUCY
She thinks I’m gonna stalk her in the halls. Which I am.

GLASCOTT
No no. We need clear boundaries here. Lucy, I need you to trust your daughter and not interfere. Felicia, you gotta promise to make good choices at this school.
FELICIA
I like the part where she stays the hell out of my life. It’s a deal.

LUCY
Dammit. I guess I could back off.

GLASCOTT
Great! If anyone gives either of you trouble, lemme know and I’ll handle it. Everyone respects Unkie Andre around this place.

Just then, Glascott notices his red Tercel has been sprayed with 90s silly string to read: “I Heart Ass.”

GLASCOTT (CONT’D)
Dangit! Somebody vandalized Burgundy Lightning!

LUCY (V.O.)
And so I began my new job and the new challenges that came with it.

INT. RECEPTION AREA/GLASCOTT’S OFFICE - DAY

Lucy sits at her desk dialing into AOL on her desktop PC. We hear the HIGH PITCH SHRIEKS of a 90s dial up modem until Andre’s interrupts.

GLASCOTT (O.S.)
Hello? Hello? Hey, Luce? I think the phone lines broke!

LUCY
Hang up, Andre! I’m checking your email!

GLASCOTT (O.S.)
My bad, boss! Oop, I’m the boss! My bad again.

Lucy shakes her head as Mellor enters.

MELLOR
Howdy! You must be the new brains of the operation. I’m Coach.

LUCY
Lucy. Nice shorts.
MELLOR
Thanks. They may not breathe, but they demand respect. If ya’ need anything, just holler. I’m the eyes and ears and biceps of this place.

Glascott charges out of his office.

GLASCOTT
Stop! No need to help, I’m on it. I just called you here to have a chat. Step into my office, Rick.

Mellor crosses into Glascott’s office. REVEAL a MAINTENANCE MAN is removing Glascott’s office door.

MELLOR
What’s Stanley doing with your door?

GLASCOTT
I asked him to remove it. It’s a symbol of the school’s new open door policy.

MELLOR
Even for bathrooms and stuff?

GLASCOTT
No, just this one.

Glascott takes a seat behind his desk. On it is a gleaming new nameplate which reads: “ANDRE GLASCOTT, PhD”.

GLASCOTT (CONT’D)
Listen, I have a real opportunity to change the very fabric of this school. I want this campus to be a safe, open space of communication. How’s that sound?

MELLOR
Like communism.

GLASCOTT
The 80s are done. I got a big list of things that need to change around here — we need respectful language, sensitivity training, healthy lunches, no more throwing chairs and chalk at students.
MELLOR
But that’s how Mrs. Boxerbaum gets her students to shut their pie holes during social studies.

GLASCOTT
Not anymore.

MELLOR
Oh, I see what this is. You want Coach to be your muscle.

GLASCOTT
What? Why would I want that?

MELLOR
Well, you’re coming in on the first day and telling teachers how to do their job. That’s gonna get ugly.

GLASCOTT
Ya think? I was hoping they’d kinda graciously accept my ideas with a respectful hug?

MELLOR
Hah! So who’s the first sucker on your list?

GLASCOTT
Uh... his name’s Todd? You don’t know him.

Glascott glances down at his list. At the top of his progressive ideas -- “CANCEL DODGEBALL”. He GULPS.

MELLOR
Wait, am I the sucker? You don’t like the way I teach?!

GLASCOTT
Of course I do! You’re the best we got! That’s why I called you in!

MELLOR
You mean... I’m getting a promotion?

Glascott sighs, unable to break Mellor’s heart.

GLASCOTT
You’re getting a promotion!
MELLOR
Hot dog! You don’t know how badly I needed this, Andre. So what am I? Second Head of School?

GLASCOTT
Oh God, no. But you are... um, Head Coach of School.

MELLOR
I’ve never heard of that before.

GLASCOTT
It’s part of my new approach to education. Empowering the great people who work for me.

MELLOR
Now I can buy that boat!

GLASCOTT
Don’t buy a boat! It’s not a money kind of promotion. You’re basically exactly what you are now, but... better.

MELLOR
Gotta admit, Andre. I thought you were soft. A pushover. But this promotion just proves me wrong. Let’s celebrate with power shakes!

Mellor pulls a couple of bottles from his duffle bag.

GLASCOTT
Oooh, gotta be firm on this one. No power shakes.

MELLOR
Put it to your lips and drink!

Glascott flinches and drinks. It’s thick and gross.

MELLOR (CONT’D)
That’s the taste of victory! And onions and egg and a whole mess of beans.

GLASCOTT
I do taste beans. Now, if you don’t mind, I don’t wanna be late for my first faculty meeting.
MELLOR
I’d make it fast. In seven minutes you will have to poop.

GLASCOTT
Ah, dangit!

INT. TEACHERS LOUNGE – DAY

Mellor and Lucy watch as a thrilled Glascott leads the meeting in front of the faculty. This is his moment. He’s pumped.

GLASCOTT
...And as part of my new inclusive agenda, I invite all of you to participate in our first “All School Community Share Session.”

MELLOR
What the hell is that?

GLASCOTT
A chance for us all to celebrate, bond and build community spirit.

MELLOR
You mean a pep rally!? I’m in! I’ll arrange everything -- rowdy rags, confetti cannons, marching band geeks!

GLASCOTT
No, stop. It’s not a pep rally, this is my thing.

MELLOR
I think we all agree pep rallies fall under the purview of Head Coach of School.

GLASCOTT
Again. It’s not a pep --

A bright-eyed boy hustles in with roller blades slung over his shoulder and a “No Fear” shirt. This is CHUCK BROWN.

CHUCK
What up?!

LUCY
Sorry, sweetie. This meeting’s teachers only.
GLASCOTT
Actually, this boy isn't a student.
This boy's a science teacher.

LUCY
He’s a whatnow?

CHUCK
It’s okay. Happens a lot, cause
I’m hip and on the students’ level
and say boo ya! I also collect
slap bracelets.

MELLOR
Also your tiny body plays a part in
everyone thinking you’re a child.

CHUCK
Word! Sorry I’m late, my blades
met up with a tiny pebble and they
did NOT get along. What’d I miss?

MELLOR
I’m planning a pep rally. Good
meeting, team! Same time tomorrow!

GLASCOTT
Wait, you can’t just --

The bell RINGS drowning out Glascott. Everyone heads out.
Glascott turns to find MADAME CHARBENAUX (50S, sultry).

MADAME CHARBENAUX
I think you did tres magnifique,
Andre!

GLASCOTT
Oh, Madame Charbenaux, you are very
close to me right now.

MADAME CHARBENAUX
Will I sit with you at coach’s pep ral-lee?

GLASCOTT
It’s not a ral-lee! It’s an all
school community -- know what?
It’s fine. We’re all on the same
team here.
INT. GLASCOTT’S OFFICE – DAY

Glascott angrily paces in front of Lucy.

GLASCOTT
Mellor is my enemy! Where does he get off planning my all-school community share session? I’m Head of School!

LUCY
Well, he’s Head Coach of School.

GLASCOTT
I made that up!

LUCY
Why would you do that?!

GLASCOTT
It was a fake promotion ‘cause I didn’t have the heart to cancel dodgeball!

LUCY
Oooh. I think you gotta tell him.

GLASCOTT
Of course I do! This is horrible, I just wanted to impress you and you’ve already seen the cracks!

LUCY
Andre, I’m your sister. Impressing me went out the window years ago.

GLASCOTT
Aw. You always know just what to say.

LUCY
I’m not here to judge you. I’m here to help you, just like you’re here helping me with my kids.

GLASCOTT
And I give you my word, I will protect those little angels with all my -- OH GOD NO!
Out the window, Glascott spots Felicia sitting in a grove of trees by the quad with a group of burners. Their leader is MIKE STAMM, a grungy kid in a Soundgarden t-shirt.

GLASCOTT (CONT’D)
This is a disaster! Felicia found those bad kids so fast!

LUCY
What? Who are they!?

MELLOR (O.S.)
TREE PEOPLE.

REVEAL Mellor is standing behind Lucy looking out the window.

LUCY/GLASCOTT
Gah! / Don’t do that!

LUCY
Who are tree people!?

MELLOR
A bunch of jokers and tokers who spend lunch hacky sacking and devil sticking. That’s their leader, Mike Stamm.

(then)
Although I don’t know who that sour puss is with him.

LUCY
That’s my daughter.

MELLOR
She’s lovely.

LUCY
Unbelievable. First day she’s already hooked up with Dazed and Confused.

GLASCOTT
We all agreed, Lucy. Trust your daughter. The key to healthy adolescence is having the freedom to make your own choices.

MELLOR
Freedom!? You need to forbid her from looking at those hippies!
GLASCOTT
Why are you even in my office?!

MELLOR
There’s no door so I just came in.

LUCY
You think I shouldn’t trust her?
Our deal was I’d give her space --

MELLOR
Don’t worry! I’ll fix this! The best thing for a troubled kid like her is a contact sport to channel her girl rage!

Mellor storms into the HALLWAY, Glascott and Lucy giving chase.

GLASCOTT
No stop! Doesn’t matter what he thinks! I’m the educator here. I got a damn PhD. I’m handling this!

MELLOR
With what? Hugs and feelings and ponies and rainbows? Teenagers need fear and intimidation -- the two pillars of education!

GLASCOTT
Okay, there’s four pillars and none are scary or mean! Lucy, they made me Head of School for a reason. I know what I’m talking about.

LUCY
You’re right. I gotta go with my brother on this.

MELLOR
Alright, my brother. You win this round.

GLASCOTT
You do know I’m her actual brother, right?

MELLOR
I did not.

Just then, Gigi runs up holding a sign up sheet.
GIGI
Guys, huge news! Someone finally
signed up for my acapella club!

Glascott coolly takes Gigi’s sign-up sheet.

GLASCOTT
See what happens when you have a
little faith in kids?
(re: sheet)
Funny, I know all the students, but
not this Anita Schlong -- Oh my!

GIGI
I know! I already made a friend!

Gigi excitedly grabs the sheet and runs off.

MELLOR
Good news is that happy little
oddball has no clue how hard the
world will be.

LUCY
That’s my daughter.

MELLOR
You have a lovely family.

LUCY (V.O.)
And so I took my brother’s wise
advice and decided to completely
trust Felicia.

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - NIGHT

Lucy is in the laundry room SNIFFING Felicia’s sweater like a
madman. WE REVEAL Felicia is next to her.

FELICIA
Whatcha doin’?

LUCY
Gah! Just making sure this stinks
enough to wash. Laundry detergent
is expensive stuff.

FELICIA
Are you smelling it for crack
smoke?
LUCY
Crack?! What the -- no! I mean, yes, I -- why would you say crack?

FELICIA
To freak you out.

LUCY
I was sniffing for ganj okay? I saw you with the tree people at lunch!

FELICIA
Tree People? Don’t put labels on us. We’re just a loose collective of burners and oddballs.

LUCY
Us?! So you are a tree person!

FELICIA
Okay, you promised to leave me alone. So leave me alone. (thrilled) After all, Uncle Andre has it covered.

Felicia exits. Lucy watches her go with PANIC in her eyes.

EXT. SCHOOL TRACK - DAY
Lucy marches up to Mellor as he coaches the track team.

LUCY
You need to save my daughter from the tree freaks!

MELLOR
But Glascott clearly said his touchy feely garbage is the way to go.

LUCY
Look, my brother’s always been too nice. Felicia doesn’t need ponies and rainbows. She needs the Head Coach of School to get her in line.

MELLOR
That’s what Coach does best. Well, that and benching three times my body weight.
LUCY
Let’s just keep this between us. I don’t want to crush Andre.

MELLOR
Totally get it. Truth is, I care about that man. He promoted me, and believes in me. I will respect and honor him by going behind his back and never telling.

LUCY
Thanks. Um, should we be standing here? Those kids are throwing javelins.

MELLOR
Look at that kid’s noodle arms. He couldn’t throw more than a hundred feet.

BAP! A javelin lands VERY close.

MELLOR (CONT’D)
Whoa! Not bad, Horowitz!

Lucy forces a smile, nervous she’s betrayed her brother.

END ACT ONE
ACT TWO

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Felicia heads down the crowded hallway with Mike Stamm.

LUCY (V.O)
It had been a day since I vowed to Felicia that I wouldn’t interfere in her life. And so I got this guy to do it.

Felicia rounds the corner and runs right into Mellor.

MELLOR
Hey now! Just the girl I was looking for! Go run ten laps around school, Mike Stamm!

Mike Stamm runs off. Felicia looks worried.

FELICIA
What’s happening right now?

MELLOR
I wanted to make you aware of our mandatory sports policy. Every student’s required to be on a team.

FELICIA
I haven’t played sports since field hockey in sixth grade.

MELLOR
Field hockey! Perfect! Practice is at lunch, so be there and not anywhere else like the trees or the back of a van.

FELICIA
Why would I be in the back of a --

MELLOR
We also scrimmage on Saturday nights when the parties happen and on prom night when kids get very reckless and loose moraled.

FELICIA
But that’s the whole point of high school!
MELLOR
Not anymore! See you on the field!

Mellor rushes off leaving a confused Felicia behind.

**INT. MATH CLASSROOM – DAY**

Mellor slips into Chuck Brown’s classroom. Chuck is in a karate gi and slashes with chalk at fractions on the board.

CHUCK
Kee-ya! Reduce here and here. And four-sixteenths has been dishonored and is now a lowly one-quarter.

Chuck bows to the class. The kids laugh. The bell rings.

CHUCK (CONT’D)
Alright, student-sans! Remember to do your dojo work! Sayonara!

The kids file out of the class, high fiving Berman.

MELLOR
What in our beloved America was that?

CHUCK
I’m teaching kids how to reduce fractions, but making it fun.

MELLOR
But... math isn’t fun. It sucks.

CHUCK
It’s fun thanks to me.

MELLOR
I was here. It was still lame. But the good news! I’ve got a recruit for your field hockey team! A young lady who’ll benefit greatly from the power of sports!

CHUCK
But you always say field hockey is an offense to hockey hockey.

MELLOR
I’ve decided to look past that. Oh, by the way, first practice is during lunch. Tell your girl team!
INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Lucy watches from a distance as Gigi goes table to table handing out fliers. After she crosses away, a table of cool, mean girls laugh and mock her.

CATHY
More like Sad Loser Club.

Huge laughs. Way too huge. Glascott pops in next to Lucy.

GLASCOTT
Lucy, you seen Mellor around?

LUCY
Oh, um, not sure. I think he’s in the library or at a dentist appointment. I wouldn’t know.

GLASCOTT
Are you spying on Gigi?

LUCY
Hey, I agreed to stay out of Felicia’s life. You can’t expect me not to help Gigi.

GLASCOTT
I meant all your kids. Trust me, they’ll find their own way. After all, I’m the one with the--

LUCY
PhD, I got it. You mention that a lot.

Glascott heads off. Gigi happily passes by Lucy.

GIGI
Hi, Momma! So good to see you!

Gigi gives Lucy a big hug and exits. Lucy sees Cathy and the popular girls roll their eyes. Lucy calmly approaches them.

LUCY
Hi, are you, um...

CATHY
Uh, Cathy Lee.
LUCY
Right!  Cathy.  Your mom stopped by
to drop off your prescription.  She
wanted me to keep it in my desk.

CATHY
What are you talking about?

LUCY
You know, your lotion for...
(glancing down)
Tchk-tchk.

CATHY
I... don’t need lotion...

LUCY
Oh, I’m sorry.  That’s a secret.
My bad.  Okay.

Cathy’s friends snicker and exit.  Lucy pulls her in close.

LUCY (CONT’D)
Ever roll your eyes at my sweet
girl again, you’ll have a severe
case of crabs.  Get it?

Cathy nods in horror.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Felicia walks to the center of the field where Mellor stands
with Chuck Brown, still in his karate outfit.  There are a
handful of girls in their field hockey uniforms.

MELLOR
Okay!  What a healthy way to spend
lunch hour!  Hockey on a field!

FELICIA
Why is there a boy on the team?

CHUCK
I’m not a boy.  I’m a coach.  I’m
just hip and unorthodox.

FELICIA
And you look like a seven-year-old
wearing pajamas.

FIELD HOCKEY GIRL
I’m hungry.
MELLOR
You shoulda ate before practice!

FELICIA
You mean, like lunch? I am so angry right now.

MELLOR
Let’s see that anger on the field! Now let’s ruin God’s true hockey!

Mellor blows his whistle. It’s game time!

CUT TO:

BOOM! Felicia levels Chuck to the dirt and scores.

CHUCK
Um, penalty?

FELICIA
Know what, Coach? This feels right.

Mellor beams. His plan is working -- until -- he spots a livid Glascott marching across the field for them.

GLASCOTT
Tell me this is not what I think this is!

MELLOR
Okay, ladies! Run laps ‘til your insides hurt! You too, Chuck! Don’t argue, go!

They all groan and run off -- even Chuck.

GLASCOTT
We agreed it’s my job to help Lucy’s kids!

MELLOR
You agreed, I agreed, Lucy didn’t.

GLASCOTT
What?

MELLOR
It’s nothing personal. All that happened was your own flesh and blood secretly went behind your back to use my superior methods.
GLASCOTT
That’s very personal and it’s not your call!

MELLOR
But she likes it! It’s time to stop talking about feelings and put your trust in athletics! It’s why you made me Head Coach of School!

GLASCOTT
No! That’s ridiculous! There’s no such thing! I made it up!

MELLOR
What?

GLASCOTT
I never wanted to promote you! I wanted to cancel dodgeball, but didn’t have the heart!

MELLOR
But... dodgeball is the staple of my entire curriculum!

GLASCOTT
And it embodies everything that I want to change around here! That means no more pep rallies, no more power shakes, and no dodgeball!

MELLOR
This is why I should’ve gotten your job! I could’ve finally gotten some real respect around here, but they gave it to a complete push-over!

GLASCOTT
Well, all you are is a gym coach. That’s why I got the job.

This cuts Mellor deep. He takes a moment.

MELLOR
Alright then, boss. What you say goes. No more dodgeball.

SMASH CUT TO:
INT. GYM - DAY

Bad-ass military music plays. A group of freshman gym students including Oscar sit on the floor. Mellor stands in front of them, deadly serious.

MELLOR
Today, we’re gonna play the grand-daddy of all gym sports. DODGEBALL.

Mellor paces like Tyler Durden from “Fight Club”.

MELLOR (CONT’D)
Before we start, the first rule of dodgeball is: You do not talk about dodgeball. Second rule of dodgeball is: You do not talk about dodgeball.

GEEK
Coach, I have a doctors note that says due to water on my knee, I can sit out.

MELLOR
Fine! Go sit in the hall and tell me if Glascott’s coming. The rest of you! On my whistle! (then, to Oscar)
And you. New biggen. Go easy.

Mellor gives lumbering Oscar a huge wink. He trembles.

OSCAR
Um, I have water on my knee too. And my elbows. Anywhere that bends really.

MELLOR
Freakishly huge and a sense of humor! Have at it.

Mellor blows his whistle. Everyone scrambles as the combat begins. Jocks whip balls at the weak. Oscar is a huge target and hides behind a wall of geeks.

OSCAR
Gah! I give up! Just hit me gently and I’ll lie down and surrender!

DUFFY
Dude! The new kid’s a colossal wuss-bag! Attack the giant!
Oscar is PELTED with balls. He curls up on the floor. It doesn’t stop. Mellor winces at the onslaught.

**INT. RECEPTION AREA – DAY**

Lucy watches aghast as Mellor leads in Oscar with a bloody nose.

**MELLOR**
Call Nurse Steve! Stat! This giant but surprisingly weak baby bird is quite a bleeder!

**LUCY**
He’s my son.

**MELLOR**
Again. Lovely family.

**LUCY**
Oscar, what happened?!

Glascott comes barreling out of his office. Mellor panics.

**MELLOR**
Uh, standard gym class accident. Parachute got a little nuts.

**GLASCOTT**
Were you playing dodgeball?!

**OSCAR**
First rule of dodgeball: You do not talk about dodgeball. So no?

**MELLOR**
Atta boy, shy giant.

**GLASCOTT**
You think you’re a real smarty pants, don’t you?

**MELLOR**
I never wear pants. And like you said, I’m not the brain here. All I am is a gym teacher.

**GLASCOTT**
(to Lucy)
And you. This is how you thank me for giving your kids a second chance? By going behind my back?!
LUCY
Okay, stop making this about your ego like you always do! This is about Felicia!

FELICIA (O.S.)
Excuse me?

REVEAL Felicia and Mike Stamm are in Glascott’s office.

GLASCOTT
Ah, dammit! There’s no door so she heard everything!

LUCY
What is she doing in there?

GLASCOTT
They were cutting class. I was gonna work on some responsibility role playing scenarios.

LUCY
You were cutting class?!

FELICIA
Don’t even start. You had no right to involve these people in my life!

LUCY
It was one day and you were already tree people! I had to do something!

FELICIA
All you’re doing is making me pay for you getting pregnant at seventeen and marrying Peter Frampton's assistant guitar tech!

LUCY
He was lead guitar tech!

FELICIA
Just ‘cause Dad’s not around doesn’t mean I need some meathead in short shorts or Uncle Urkel to father me!
GLASCOTT
For your information, Steve Urkel was a small side character who exploded into a national treasure so that is high praise.

LUCY
Give it a rest, Andre! You put a spin on everything and act like you have all the answers, but your life is a complete mess like mine!

GLASCOTT
Hey, my life is finally looking up! The only problem I have is this whistle-toting numbskull!

MELLOR
Don’t you dare bring my whistle into this! Don’t you dare!

GLASCOTT
You wear it everywhere! It’s weird! I saw you at the mall with it!

MELLOR
You think I’m a joke, but you don’t know how I struggled growing up, lost, with no one who cared. Sports saved me and gave me self worth. All I want is to give that to my students. You should be thanking me for helping your sister ‘cause you can’t hack it.

GLASCOTT
That’s it. You’re fired.

MELLOR
Wait -- what?

GLASCOTT
Who’s the push-over now?

Glascott storms into his office.

GLASCOTT (CONT’D)
Dangit! There’s no door to slam!

END ACT TWO
ACT THREE

INT. GYM - DAY

A banner that once read “Pep Rally” is painted over with the words “ALL SCHOOL COMMUNITY SHARE SESS” That’s it. There wasn’t room for all the letters on the sign. Lucy sits with the faculty, glaring at Felicia sitting with the tree people.

LUCY (V.O.)
My brilliant plan of sending my kids to a better school had gone to hell. And I’d taken my brother and Coach Mellor down with me.

Glascott takes the podium to weak applause.

GLASCOTT
Thank you for that enthusiastic smattering! I’m your new fearless leader and friend Mr. Glascott. Very excited for a new year of respect and togetherness.

ERRRRRT!!! We REVEAL Mr. Mellor DRAGGING from his office a large steamer trunk filled trophies and equipment.

MELLOR
Ooh. Bad timing. Just clearing out my office. Should I come back?

GLASCOTT
No, just get it over with!

Mellor LOUDLY drags the trunk for a painfully long time. EVERYONE watches in awkward silence. Lucy feels awful.

GLASCOTT (CONT’D)
Okay! Welcome to our first ever All-School Community Share Session, a new tradition where we can unite, bond and communicate.

JOCK
William Penn rocks!

Kids start to cheer. Glascott bangs the mic.

GLASCOTT
Please, no outbursts. This is not a pep rally, it’s a share session. So put away those fun rowdy rags.
The band awkwardly begins to play.

GLASCOTT (CONT’D)
And no lively marching band!

The music stops.

GLASCOTT (CONT’D)
I’ve asked the faculty to do a presentation, performance or meditation to start the new year. Let’s enjoy together as a community.

We REVEAL MADAME CHARBENAUX has set up her harp in the center of the gym. She plays a haunting melody with all her heart and soul. Glascott closes his eyes to feel the music. Then -- BANG! Mellor is back lugging his dumbbells across the gym.

MELLOR
Again, my apologies. You wouldn’t believe the amount of equipment a man accumulates over the twenty years he’s dedicated to children.

GLASCOTT
How many trips is this gonna take?

MELLOR

GLASCOTT
Dammit! Someone help him!

A few kids help Mellor as Madame Charbenaux finishes playing.

GLASCOTT (CONT’D)
That was an inspiration and also frustrating. Now, are there any students who would like to come up and express themselves?

Gigi stands up in the bleachers. Lucy’s eyes go wide as her daughter walks towards Glascott. Felicia and Oscar look panicked as Gigi reaches the podium and grabs the mic.

GIGI
Thanks, Uncle Andre! I’m Gigi, president of the Happy Harmony Club. Do you like acapella? Do you like boy bands? Then this is for you!
MIKE STAMM
(coughs)
Freak.

Felicia sinks lower, not brave enough to stick up for Gigi.

LUCY
(under her breath)
Please sit please sit please sit.

GIGI
It seems my posters weren’t selling
the excitement of this club, so I’m
gonna show you what we’re all about.

Gigi blows a pitch pipe and begins to sing the Backstreet Boys opus “I Want it That Way”.

GIGI (CONT’D)
Two, three, four! YOU AREEEE, MY
FIRE / THE ONE, DESIRE / BELIEVE,
WHEN I SAY / I WANT IT THAT WAY.

LUCY (V.O.)
In that moment, I had no idea how
to help Gigi. Having her mom drag
her out of there was definitely not
gonna help her social status.

Gigi’s voice is weak and her timing’s off. Felicia and Oscar
look helpless as kids snicker and boo. Lucy’s had enough.

LUCY
Dammit, I gotta save her --

A hand falls on Lucy’s shoulder. It’s Glascott.

GLASCOTT
Don’t. That’s my job. And I know
just what to do.

EXT. WILLIAM PENN ACADEMY - DAY

Glascott madly sprints out of the school.

GLASCOTT
Rick! RICK! RIIIIIIICK!

We REVEAL Mellor is packing his El Camino. It’s literally
jammed to the gills with trophies. Glascott stops before
him, out of breath.
GLASCOTT (CONT’D)
You were right, it should’ve been a pep rally! It’s a total shit show and I need your help to save it!

MELLOR
Sorry. I’m not a teacher anymore.

GLASCOTT
You’ll always be a teacher.
(then, with difficulty)
Look, I know we have different styles. I tried mine, it didn’t work. But I know what will. A little muscle and hustle.

MELLOR
Those are my things.

GLASCOTT
Please. My niece is in there. She needs me. Needs us.

Mellor nods, fire in his eyes.

INT. GYM – MOMENTS LATER

People are laughing as Gigi continues to sing.

GIGI
AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A HEARTACHE /
TELL ME WHY / AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A
MISTAKE / TELL ME WHY.

Suddenly, Mellor and Glascott step on either side of GIGI and BEGIN TO SING WITH EVERYTHING THEY’VE GOT.

GIGI/MELLOR/GLASCOTT
AM I, YOUR FIRE? / YOUR ONE,
DESIRE.

Gigi gives Glascott a huge smile. Glascott beams and REALLY gets into it. He spins and dances, Mellor and Gigi following.

GIGI/MELLOR/GLASCOTT (CONT’D)
YES I KNOW, IT'S TOO LATE / BUT I
WANT IT THAT WAY.

Mike Stamm holds up a milk carton and winds up to throw at Gigi.
FELICIA

Oh God --

Oscar suddenly leaps up and rejects him -- slapping it back in his face and splattering milk all over the tree people.

OSCAR

That’s my sister! Now listen to the stupid awesome song and clap along!

Duffy and the jocks see the awesome move and go nuts.

DUFFY

Dude! Gentle giant is a bad-ass!

The marching band grabs their instruments and play. Kids leap to their feet and sing along. THE MUSIC SOARS. It’s epic.

EVERYONE

I NEVER WANNA HEAR YOU SAY / I WANT IT THAT WAY.

Chuck wheels out a confetti cannon machine and turns it on. Madame Charbenaux cries with joy. When the song ends, the crowd goes nuts. The BACKSTREET BOYS version BEGINS as Lucy runs up and squeezes a beaming Gigi with all her might.

GIGI

Mom, stop! You’re embarrassing me!

Mellor and Glascott watch the moment, beaming with pride.

MELLOR

This was one hell of an All School Community Whatsit, Andre. You’re gonna be a great Head of School.

GLASCOTT

Not without my Head Coach of School.

MELLOR

You mean...

GLASCOTT

You were right. You got the energy I need to help me run this place.

MELLOR

So I get a raise and half your office?
GLASCOTT
You get nothing.

MELLOR
I’ll take it!

Mellor puts a loving arm around around Glascott. Just then, Felicia passes by with Mike Stamm and the tree-ites.

GLASCOTT
How about tomorrow we take another shot at helping Felicia? Together. As a team.

MELLOR
You got it, partner.

EXT. TREE PEOPLE TREE GROVE - DAY

ROOAAAAARRRRRR! Mellor attacks a giant tree trunk with a ROARING CHAINSAW. Mike Stamm, Felicia and the tree people watch on in horror. Glascott and Lucy charge in.

GLASCOTT
Whoa-whoa! The hell are you doing?!

Mellor stops the saw.

MELLOR
I thought we were on the same page! No trees means no tree people!

FELICIA
Are you kidding me? I told you, I already have a dad.

GLASCOTT
And he’s not here -- but we are.

LUCY
Andre, you don’t have to --

GLASCOTT
(fired up)
No, I do. I’m the head of this damn school and your uncle so you will respect me. Now get your butt to field hockey practice or we got real trouble!
FELICIA
Alright, chill. Tell Coach Chuck
I’m not gonna go easy on him.

Felicia looks at Lucy and can’t help but grin. For the first
time... she feels like she has a dad -- two dads -- looking
out for her.

MELLOR
As for the rest of you! Trees are
closed for lunch! Andre Glascott
is Head of School and there’s gonna
be some big changes to this place!

Glascott looks at Mellor with a smile. They do make a good
team. Then -- CRACK! The tree snaps and falls, flattening a
nearby car. It’s a red Tercel.

GLASCOTT
Ah, man. I just had to park
Burgundy Lighting in the shade.

INT. SCHOOL - VARIOUS - DAY

The Backstreet Boys swells as we see our heroes in action:

–Felicia levels a large opponent on the playing field. A REF
blows a whistle and calls a penalty. Mellor goes nuts and
screams at the ref. Felicia watches on with a smile.

–In a classroom, Madame Charbenaux speaks fluent French with
Duffy the jock. It’s impressive.

–Chuck is back in class and making math fun, wailing on
bongos and singing about calculus.

LUCY (V.O.)
Truth is, I never thought much of
my brother being a teacher. I
thought... it was just another
boring job. But that day, I saw
what he really is. Sure, teachers
aren’t always perfect and don’t
have all the answers...

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

We see a shy geeky girl approach a sign-up sheet for Gigi's
Club. She puts her name on the top line.
LUCY (V.O.)
But the good ones give you more
than just information from a book.
They encourage you to be your best.

We REVEAL Gigi running up, beyond thrilled. It’s a bit much,
but the shy geeky girl has found a friend.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY
Felicia heads in and spots Mike and the tree people at a
table. They wave her over. Felicia takes a moment and sits
at an empty one. She's alone, but not giving up.

LUCY (V.O.)
Even when you didn’t think you
needed help.

Suddenly, Oscar and Gigi sit down with her. Felicia smiles.

INT. RECEPTION AREA - DAY
Lucy, Mellor and Glascott watch as the maintenance man
finishes putting Glascott's door back on.

LUCY (V.O.)
And yeah, the pay sucks and the
hours are long. But the best
teachers -- the ones like my
brother and Coach -- do it cause
it’s who they are.

Glascott goes inside his office, waves and closes it. Mellor
gives a nod of respect. He tries to open it and it's locked.

CHYRON: DEDICATED TO OUR CHILDHOOD HEROES. TEACHERS.

We CUT TO OLD 90s FOOTAGE AND INTERVIEWS WITH...

The real Mr. Mellor. The real Mr. Glascott. The real Chuck
Brown. That’s right -- these teachers are real and still
work to this very day...

END ACT THREE