THE DANGEROUS BOOK FOR BOYS

"How To Walk on the Moon" (PILOT)

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Based on 'The Dangerous Book for Boys'
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MOON SHOT ENTERTAINMENT
COLD OPEN

GRAND FUNK RAILROAD’s “WE’RE AN AMERICAN BAND” BLASTS.

EXT. MCKENNA HOME - DAY

It’s obvious boys live here. Middle class Cincinnati suburb.

INT. MCKENNA HOME - VARIOUS ROOMS - MORNING

DASH (11, jock, kinda dim), clutching a gamer’s controller, whizzes past. Older brother LIAM (14, book smart) in pursuit. Dash dodges & weaves like a running back. A typical morning.

DASH
He cuts right, fakes left--no one’s gonna catch him!

LIAM
Asswipe! I will crush your freakin’ head! Give it back!

Speeding into the kitchen they nearly collide with their mother, BETH (40, pretty). Another brother, WYATT (10, sensitive and observant), sits at the table wearing headphones. Without distracting from his Modern Science magazine, he lifts his cereal bowl just before the boys careen off the table. The fight continues down the hall.

BETH
Liam! Dash! Stop racing through the- Tiffany, would you please turn down the music!!!

INT. TIFFANY’S ROOM - DAY

TIFFANY’s face is hidden as she is bent over brushing out her long grey hair.

TIFFANY
(mockingly)
Turn down the music.

Popping back up WE SEE that Tiffany is actually a grandma. She’s a hippie of about 65, but beautiful, in her own way.

TIFFANY
Turn down the music.

She begrudgingly dials down the knob on a vintage stereo.

TIFFANY
(loudly)
It’s called rock and roll, people!

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Beth tidies up her uber-organized kitchen, but is wary of Wyatt’s mood. She plucks off his headphones.
BETH
No headphones at the table.

Strange SOUNDS are coming from the headphones.

BETH
What are you listening to?

WYATT
Whale mating sounds. It relaxes me.

BETH
Hey, guess what? I’m sending out a patent application today!

WYATT
(lighting up)
For which invention?

BETH
The pickle popper!

WYATT
That was one of Dad’s best. If it sells like the Lid Lifter... (indicates to his mother) We’ll be rich.

Beth twists the lid off a jar with the help of a rubber disc.

BETH
Ha! I wish. We sold just enough of these suckers to buy ourselves the 12 year old Chevy Astro Van.

WYATT
The Van That Can.

Suddenly a pair of big, gnarled feet are plopped onto the table in front of Wyatt. They belong to his grandmother.

Tiffany
Your mom told me you gave her a groovy foot rub. Let’s see what you got.

Wyatt is horrified.

Tiffany
I went out boogalooing last night. They’re killing me.

WYATT
What’s book-a-looping?
TIFFANY
Boog-aloo. Dancing. Your old grandma
had her first date in a long time.
(offering a pumice stone)
Don’t forget to shave my corns.

Beth is about to object but... Off-Screen we hear a LOUD CRASH! Followed by DASH CRACKING UP.

BETH
Wyatt, I could use your help.

Wyatt gives his mother a “thanks” look as he follows her out.

INT. DASH & WYATT’S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Beth and Wyatt enter the monkey house. Liam is on the floor, holding his side, writhing. A bookshelf is knocked over.

BETH
What is going on in here?!

LIAM
It’s his fault! Ow.

DASH
He’s the spaz, not me!

LIAM
I was saving those elixirs for Ludvik!

BETH
Who’s Ludvik?

DASH
This stupid French guy he’s fighting in World of Warcraft.

LIAM
He’s not French, he’s Czech!

DASH
(scoffing)
Like there’s a difference.

Liam socks his brother in the arm and the fight is back on. Dash puts him in a headlock. Beth issues a PIERCING WHISTLE. The boys finally stop. Exasperated, Beth yells to the world.

BETH
Family meeting. Kitchen in 5!

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING - FEW MINUTES LATER

The family is gathered around the table. The three boys, heads bowed in shame, hands in their laps. Beth paces.
BETH
We’ve all been through a lot lately, and there’s more... tough times ahead, but we’re just not being nice to each other lately. We’re not acting like a family. I’m not mad, I’m disappointed.

TIFFANY
(whispering to Beth)
Go easy. Look how sad they are.

BETH
(looking at her boys)
On the table. NOW.

The boys sheepishly reveal that they were all playing with their iPhones under the table. They surrender them. Beth takes a moment, then switches tactics.

BETH (CONT’D)
You boys go back to school in two days, and this weekend is... would’ve been your father’s 45th birthday. I think we should do... something. Your dad made such a big deal out of your birthdays, it seems right that we honor his... So, any ideas?

Silence. No one seems motivated -- not even Tiffany, who’s suddenly fascinated with her fingernails. Wyatt is also ambivalent about the idea, but wants to support his mother.

WYATT
Um, what if... what if we have some friends over and we show them Dad’s inventions?

BETH
That’s an interesting idea. They were his pride and joy. You guys like it?

LIAM
I guess. DASH
I dunno.

BETH
The inventions need a little spiffing up... We should all help Wyatt with his plan.

Wyatt reacts, “my plan?”. The boys nod without enthusiasm.

TIFFANY
Whatever you want, hon.

LIAM
Is the meeting over?
BETH
(sighing)
Adjourned.

Liam and Dash bolt from the room.

TIFFANY
I need some grub.

Tiffany crosses to the fridge. Wyatt and Beth whisper...

WYATT
It was just an idea, not a plan.

BETH
Oh Wyatt, if you don’t think -

WYATT
(finishing her sentence)
-Think I can handle it? Of course I can... It’s, It’s just kinda - crazy.
(off her concerned look)
In a good way. Dad loved crazy ideas.

TIFFANY
I’d make my own omelette, but I just can’t find anything in this kitchen.

Beth makes a playful “she drives me crazy” look to Wyatt that Tiffany can’t see. Wyatt smiles. Beth kisses his forehead.

BETH
Allow me.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Wyatt crosses through the living room. He stops by a framed photograph that sits atop a dresser in front of a window.

INSERT: A smiling, handsome man with three young boys.

It’s Wyatt’s recently deceased father, Patrick. Wyatt smiles.

Suddenly there’s a RAP at the window above the dresser. Wyatt looks up to see a MAN outside the window - his face pressed up against it. And the man looks EXACTLY LIKE HIS FATHER.

MAN
Surprise!

Wyatt’s eyes flutter and he faints out of the frame.

END OF COLD OPEN
ACT ONE

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Wyatt’s POV: A fuzzy image of a ceiling and distorted faces. We HEAR a CACOPHONY OF VOICES SPEAKING RANDOMLY ODD PHRASES. Wyatt comes to and sits up. The family is gathered around, including the man who looks like his father. Wyatt sees him and starts to faint again but his mother prevents that.

BETH
No no, stay with us, honey.

WYATT
I’m okay.

MAN
Sorry I scared you, Wyatt.

TIFFANY
Wyatt! You remember your Uncle Terry!

UNCLE TERRY (45, well-meaning underachiever) smiles at Wyatt.

DASH
(to Terry)
Wyatt’s a fainter.

LIAM
It’s called syncope. Shock triggers a reduction in blood flow and cuts off --

DASH
Bla bla bla... I faked chopping off my finger once, blood squirting all over. Wyatt went down hard. Lights out!

BETH
Still not funny, Dash. I’m sorry, Wyatt, are you okay?

She hands Wyatt a glass of water. He nods and takes a sip.

UNCLE TERRY
Seems like yesterday, but it’s been over five years since I’ve been here.

WYATT
(trying to remember)
Did you burn down our tree-house?

UNCLE TERRY
That was all conjecture and hearsay.
BETH
How did you happen to come home now?
Been trying to reach you for months.

TIFFANY
I sent my baby boy a message.

BETH
How? Email?

TIFFANY
(tapping her temple)
Mind Mail.

UNCLE TERRY
(indicates his brain)
Got my wires crossed up a bit, but
once I heard Tiffany’s call, I bolted.

Beth and her sons exchange looks. Are those two insane?

DASH
You call grandma, Tiffany?

TERRY
Yeah... that’s her name.

TIFFANY
Everyone knew Patrick was smart,
(caresses Terry’s face)
but little brother has some brains too.

LIAM
I thought dad and Uncle Terry were
identical twins?

TIFFANY
Oh no, Terry’s a good nine minutes
younger, and he was always... more
delicate. I breast fed him ‘til seven.

Terry smiles at Tiffany, sharing the happy memory.

WYATT
(hopefully to Beth)
Months, right?
(off Beth’s head shake)
Eeew.

TIFFANY
Are you hungry, honey?

UNCLE TERRY
Famished.
Tiffany undoes her sweater. *Beth and the boys object*, but Tiffany just removes the sweater and heads into the kitchen.

**TIFFANY**
I’d make you an awesome breakfast, but-

**BETH**
I know, can’t find anything. I got it.

**INT. KITCHEN - LATER**

Beth cleans while Uncle Terry and Tiffany enjoy a big breakfast. The boys stare at their long-lost uncle.

**UNCLE TERRY**
A party! That is a killer plan, Wyatt!

**WYATT**
It’s not a party! It’s not even a plan - It was just an idea, that’s all.

**UNCLE TERRY (CONT’D)**
Pat wouldn’t want a bunch of sobbing, boring speeches. A party! Perfecto!

**TIFFANY**
And it’s your birthday, too!

**BETH**
We weren’t really picturing a party-

**UNCLE TERRY**
We’ll make it totally rad! Hey, we should get a Kiss cover band!

**LIAM**
Let’s just get Kiss. What the hell else are they doing?

**UNCLE TERRY**
Beth, you’ve had so much - let me lift this burden off of your shoulders.

(his hands like claws)

See? This is me lifting the weight off your shoulders... ah, it’s so heavy.

Beth, uncertain, grins & nods. She’s non-confrontational.

**INT. GARAGE - DAY**

Patrick’s workshop. Wyatt worried, peruses his father’s diverse inventions and experiments -- most covered in dust, dirt, and in disrepair. Wyatt’s not at all ready to dive in.

**INT. DASH & WYATT’S BEDROOM - LATER**

Wyatt’s in a bottom bunk-bed, halfheartedly playing a game of online chess on his iPad. He looks over at Dash, who zombie-stares at a Playstation screen. It’s Madden NFL 2008.
WYATT
Dash... You, um, ever think about Dad?

On Dash’s back. He stops playing... shifts uncomfortably, gives a pained, cursory glance at Wyatt, then goes back to playing. Liam enters with a box filled with his stuff.

LIAM
Mom says I have to move in, Uncle Terry’s getting the den for now.

DASH
No. Way.

LIAM
You think I’m happy about this? Last year I had to give up my room to grandma, now I have to give up the den to Bizarro Dad? It’s total B.S.!

Liam grabs Wyatt and flips him onto the floor.

WYATT
Liam!

LIAM
Seniority.

Liam sits on the bottom bunk with his box.

DASH
Go sleep on the living room couch.

LIAM
That thing smells like a cat’s butt.

DASH
Wyatt, you sleep on it.

WYATT
I’m allergic to cats - and cat butts. (a pause)
So, gonna help with Dad’s inventions?

DASH
Liam!

LIAM
Chill. We’ve got all week. Uncle Terry’s got the party.

WYATT
How long is Uncle Terry going to stay?

Liam unfolds his laptop and puts on a headset.

LIAM
Until he gets arrested again.
WYATT
...Again?

LIAM
Silence, mortal! I’m about to enter the Forest of Shadows.

The SOUND of fingers on buttons. Wyatt returns to his iPad.

INT. HALLWAY/TIFFANY’S ROOM - LATER

The walls vibrate with JEFFERSON AIRPLANE’S “WHITE RABBIT.” Beth passes Tiffany’s room, sees her slowly mirror-dancing.

INT. DASH & WYATT’S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Beth enters. Sees Wyatt in a corner on an air mattress, reading, headphones on, a pillow over his head, blocking out -

DASH
Dig! Dig! Oh no you don’t,
(chump! YEA-NO-NO-NOOO! FOUL?!) Wanna mess with a level 54 Paladin?! Eat Flametongue Spell-- HEY, OFF MY ELF!

LIAM
WHAT FOUL?!

BETH
Okay, I think you guys have-
(nobody hears her)
HEY! YO! MOM HERE! HELLOOO!!!

She exhales, and exits.

INT. BETH’S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

She opens the top drawer of her dresser and takes out an envelope. Written on it: “DB4B”

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Beth runs her finger down a circuit breaker panel. She finds the breaker marked “DASH & WYATT”. She switches it off.

WE HEAR THE BOYS MOAN “NOOOO!”, “WHAT?”, “WHY?!” The boys stream out of the room complaining. Beth waits for quiet...

BETH
I have something here from your dad.

Beth holds out the envelope. The boys stare at it apprehensively -- then attack it like a cobra strike. Dash muscles his way in first and tears it open. He reads aloud.

DASH
“Under the Ga-nome”.

The boys look at Beth... thinking. Then suddenly sprint away.
INT/EXT. MCKENNA YARD & HOUSE - MONTAGE - DAY

IN QUICK WHIP PANS, the boys race around collecting clues -
- Dash lifting up a garden gnome. Underneath is a note that reads: “Tree house”.
- Wyatt ripping off a note taped in the ‘fire ravaged’ tree house. It reads: “BBQ.”
- Dash is hunched over a Weber grill, digging through the ashes. He uncovers a note in a baggie: “Purple Haze.”
- Tiffany pulls a record from her collection – Jimi Hendrix, and hands it to Liam. He finds a card inside: “Bermuda”.

They’re finally stumped. They stare at the card... Then Wyatt smiles and runs from the room. His brothers give chase.

INT. ATTIC - CONTINUOUS

PUSH IN ON a steamer trunk. A flashlight illuminates a yellowed, peeling vintage sticker that reads “Bermuda”.

Wyatt flips open the trunk. His brothers catch up behind him.

The boys peer inside but only see a thick book with a red cover, embossed in gold glitter are the words –

**THE DANGEROUS BOOK FOR BOYS**

*What the hell is it?! They look for anything else... nope.*

DASH
Damn. I was hoping it was a puppy.

LIAM
There’s no air holes, moron!

WYATT
It’s too dark up here, let’s go downstairs.

On Wyatt’s flashlight clicking off, WE CUT TO –

INT. LIVING ROOM - A MINUTE LATER

The boys lie side by side on the floor, about to open the amazing DANGEROUS BOOK. Beth holds out another envelope.

BETH
There’s also a letter from your dad.
(off the boys immobility)
Do you want me to read it?

They nod cautiously. They divert their eyes into the book.
Hi kiddos. Hey, I know this may seem weird, but I had a lot of fun making this book for you guys. I know it must feel like I’m not there – but I am...

On every page of this book.

The book is pages and pages of hand-written, crossed out, annotated, erased entries. There are maps, photos, diagrams, dog-eared, coffee ringed, and smudged pages, with wide-ranging topics: How to build a go-cart, Lists of great books, How to shoot a crossbow, Stories of bravery, How to tie any knot, Historic battles, How to talk to girls, The rules of football, The 7 wonders of the world, etc. A wondrous book.

Maybe, if this book sparks your imagination, you’ll put down the gadgets for a few minutes.

The boys snap a look to mom when their name is mentioned.

Wyatt, I want you to have a chess match with a real person. Dash, I want you play football with other boys.

Liam, I want you to fight a real war.

(Beth gasps)

Joking. Liam, seriously, I’m joking! But maybe you could discuss peace strategies... I love you boys. Be dangerously good - and take some chances. Remember my motto: Just do it! Wait, no that’s Nike. Mine is: You can’t succeed unless you’re willing to fail. Life’s an adventure, so live it!

The three boys are excitedly flipping through the pages.

As night falls, we hear the boys talking over each other. “Chariot races!”, “Pirates!”, “Tiger Tanks!”, etc.

Terry is on the phone, while Beth unloads the dishwasher.

Hold on a sec? Gotta count the change we found under the sofa cushions in the orphanage’s common room.

Terry covers the receiver, grinning slyly at Beth.
BETH
It’s amazing how much you look like Patrick, and yet you’re nothing alike.

UNCLE TERRY
Ah... I don’t know. You couldn’t tell us apart when you first dated Pat?

BETH
That’s not true – I could always tell.

UNCLE TERRY
Like your first kiss with Pat at midnight on the rooftop of the motel in Daytona Beach on spring break?

BETH
Pat told you that story?

UNCLE TERRY
Well... no, he, uh, he wasn’t there...

Beth’s eyes open wide, mouth agape.

BETH
THAT WAS YOU?! YOU BRAT! YOU JERK!

Her shock turns to laughter, pummeling Terry with oven mitts.

BETH
He never told me that!
(sudden shift)
Eew! Now I know why he smelled like sage that night, that’s what you wear!

UNCLE TERRY
The cowboy cologne.

More pummeling. Terry laughs, then gets back on the phone.

UNCLE TERRY (CONT’D)
I’m back... What? Really? Oh, that’s awesome! The orphans will be so happy.
(he hangs up the phone)
Boom! Just got a killer deal on a deluxe fog maker.

BETH
(cheesy idea)
A fog maker? You’re kidding.
(sarcastically)
Why don’t ya get a frozen margarita machine while you’re at it?
UNCLE TERRY  
(on the same wave length)  
Oh, the lovely Margarita will be here!

An oven mitt smacks him in the face.

INT. DASH & WYATT’S BEDROOM – A WHILE LATER

Liam and Dash have returned to their electronic devices. But Wyatt is still completely hooked on the Dangerous Book.

TIFFANY (O.S.)  
Wyatt, my dogs are killin’ me!

Wyatt jumps, book under his arm, wanting to hide – but where?

INT. KITCHEN – CONTINUOUS

Wyatt zips into the kitchen.

TIFFANY (O.S.)  
Wyatt! Where are you?!

He slips into the pantry and pulls the door closed behind him, just as Tiffany peeks into the kitchen. Empty.

INT. PANTRY – CONTINUOUS

Darkness. A flashlight clicks on. Wyatt sits on the floor, waiting for the danger to pass. Might as well read DB4B, Oh, that’s what it means. He eagerly digs back into the book.

CLOSE ON the book, an entry that is titled – 

HOW TO LAND ON THE MOON: The Apollo Missions

Taped on the page is a photograph of Wyatt, age 5, wearing a homemade astronaut costume -- tin foil suit, white football helmet, ski goggles, etc. Wyatt smiles, devours the rich information like a boy who just found the entrance to Narnia.

WYATT  
(quietly)  
The command module separates from the Saturn rocket. Cool... It rotates and docks with the lunar module, also known as the LEM.

SUDDENLY – A LOUD BURST OF STATIC! Wyatt is startled. THEN – A CRACKLY VOICE SPEAKS!:

VOICE (O.S.)  
Do you read me? Come in, Adventurer.

Wyatt looks up from the book and HE’S SUDDENLY INSIDE –
INT. APOLLO SPACE CAPSULE - DAY

Wyatt, in full astronaut suit and helmet, sits alone in the cockpit of the Apollo spacecraft. He’s slack-jawed. Ecstatic, but also apprehensive. He looks out a porthole window to see:

The beautiful Earth in all its colorful glory. Magnificent.

ANOTHER BURST OF STATIC, followed by the Voice.

VOICE (OVER INTERCOM)
Adventurer, this is Houston, come in.

Wyatt sees a button that reads ‘COM’. He pushes it.

WYATT
Um. Hello?

VOICE
Wyatt! There you are. Glad to hear communication’s back up and running.

WYATT
(confused)
...Dad? Is, is that you?

INT. MISSION CONTROL, HOUSTON - CONTINUOUS

Busy place. Wearing a headset and squeezing a stress ball is Wyatt’s dad, PATRICK [45, Same actor as Uncle Terry]. Healthy and happy. Like Ed Harris from ‘Apollo 13’ (crew-cut and all).

PATRICK
Yep, it’s me. Well, there’s lots of dads around here so we better keep it official. I’m Houston, you’re Adventurer.

INTERCUT WITH -

INT. SPACE CAPSULE - CONTINUOUS

Wyatt is trying to make sense of what is happening to him.

DASH (O.C.)
Why don’t you have the TV on, dummy?

Where did Dash come from? Dash punches a button and on comes a TV screen. Wyatt can see Patrick at mission control. He’s caught in a state of happy disbelief...

WYATT
Dad?! It’s really you!

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

INT. SPACE CAPSULE - A MOMENT LATER

Now it appears that Wyatt is just plain freaked out.

PATRICK
Adventurer? Adventurer do you read?

WYATT
(to himself)
How do I get out of here?

LIAM
The hatch.

Wyatt (now without a helmet) turns. What? Liam’s in the previously empty seat beside him! He’s not wearing a helmet either, and eats reconstituted food from a tube.

DASH
But you’ll explode like an egg in a microwave. I saw that on YouTube.

Dash is doing zero-gravity somersaults - couldn’t be happier.

WYATT
No, no, how do I get out of this dream?!

DASH
Awesome! Even my puke floats!

PATRICK
Adventurer, do you copy?

LIAM
Better tell dad you hear him numbnuts.

WYATT
(pressing COM button)
Yes, yes, I’m here dad.

PATRICK
Oh good, I thought we lost ya again.
(whispering)
And remember buddy, it’s Houston.

WYATT
Right. Right, sorry.

PATRICK
Okay, you’re a go.

WYATT
Go? Go where?
PATRICK
To the moon.

Wyatt looks up from the console to see the Moon. THE MOON!

An exterior view of the space capsule shows it is docked to a lunar module. And it’s heading toward the moon.

BACK INSIDE THE CAPSULE -

WYATT
WHAT?! No, I can’t. I can’t do that!
I’m ten!

THEN, ON THE TV SCREEN -

Tiffany crowds next to Patrick, admiring his appearance.

TIFFANY
Ohh, I like the haircut, Patrick.

(like a 7 year old)
Moooooomp, I’m at work!

TIFFANY
(looks at Wyatt)
There you are, you little sneak!

INT. PANTRY - DAY

A light clicks on and Wyatt looks up. His grandmother is staring down at him. WE ARE CLEARLY BACK IN REAL LIFE. Wyatt can’t possibly begin to make sense of what just happened.

TIFFANY
Well? These feet aren’t going to rub themselves!

EXT. MCKENNA HOME - MORNING

America wakes up. A dog takes a crap on the front lawn, the nefarious pet owner looks both ways and then takes off. Jerk.

INT. DASH & WYATT’S BEDROOM - MORNING

An aerosol can being sprayed into a sneaker. The can reads: McKenna’s ‘Stink No More!’ A foot slips into the sneaker.

As Wyatt dresses for school, he spots a moon globe on his dresser. He examines it... thinking: What happened yesterday?

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Uncle Terry, with party-planning notes, is at the table.
WYATT
(upon entering)
Grandma, some old motorcycle guy is
outside - think he’s waiting for you.

Beth cleans, Tiffany prims herself. Wyatt takes a seat.

Tiffany
My date!

Beth
In the morning?

Tiffany
My blood sugar crashes after lunch.

Wyatt places a piece of bread into a strange, chunky device. Wyatt cranks a handle like a salad-spinner... and voila! The bread is now buttered toast!

Uncle Terry
Hey Tiffany, if you ever hook up with my dad again let me know... it would be kinda cool to meet him.

Tiffany
That would be cool. Wonder if he ever achieved his dream?

We wait... Beth seems to be the only one that’s curious.

Beth
Okay! I’ll bite. What was his dream?

Tiffany
(confused by the question)
Well, I really don’t know, Beth. It’s his dream. I barely knew the man.

Beth
Ok, time to go! Astro-van leaves in 5!

Beth exits to her bedroom, Tiffany to the front door.

Uncle Terry
This party is going to rock! We’ve got game booths, fireworks, hot wings with a ranch dressing fountain, a petting zoo. And you boys won’t believe this, but I once worked as a carny -

Liam
Not remotely hard to believe - - so I’ve got a lead on a Tilt-A-Whirl. Best of all...
He holds up a publicity photo of FOUR LITTLE PEOPLE, in black-and-white makeup and studded leather costumes.

UNCLE TERRY
We’ve got Mini Kiss.

Wyatt and Liam gape at the photo, while Dash stuffs his face.

DASH
Love the Mini Kiss.

INT. MCKENNA ASTRO VAN – DAY
Beth drives the boys to school. Dash up front – RADIO is ON.

Wyatt and Liam gape at the photo, while Dash stuffs his face.

DASH
Love the Mini Kiss.

INT. MCKENNA ASTRO VAN – DAY
Beth drives the boys to school. Dash up front – RADIO is ON.

WYATT
Liam. Remember how Dad used to imitate the radio?

LIAM
(deer in headlights)
Uh...yeah. Um, I kinda...um...
(looks out the car window)
Oh, look... you ever notice that the Home Depot sign is orange? Hmph. Interesting. I just now noticed that.

Once again, one of Wyatt’s brothers won’t engage.

INT. MR. TREE’S CLASSROOM – DAY
Kids are streaming into the 4th grade class, including WYATT. SAM, a timid, nerdy, Filipino boy, with little command of English, approaches Wyatt. They stare at each other a bit...

SAM
I not knowing when you come back, ipso fatso, made completion four food-group mobile without you. Don’t be mad.

WYATT
(smiles at his friend)
I’m not mad, Sam. Ipso facto.

A hand clasps Wyatt on the shoulder belonging to MR. TREE, his teacher. He CLAPS HIS HANDS to command attention.

MR. TREE
Quiet down, now, quiet down. Let’s welcome Wyatt back to class.

He presents Wyatt like a show-n-tell. Kids ad-lib hello’s.
MR. TREE
(oh so sensitive)
We need to let Wyatt know that he has
support in this classroom. Because
he’s hurting. Deep down inside. Here.

He touches Wyatt’s heart. The public attention is
excruciating for Wyatt. He wants to crawl in a hole.

MR. TREE
It’s the kind of hurt you can’t put a
band-aid on.
(his real self)
Alright, take a seat.

Wyatt makes a beeline to his desk. As he sits, he notices a
pretty, exotic-looking classmate, MAYA, giving him a warm,
sympathetic smile... the kind a young boy will remember.

INT. MR. TREE’S CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

As Mr. Tree drones on about quadrilaterals, Wyatt wearily
glances up at the clock. The second hand ticks down 5, 4, 3,

PATRICK (O.S.)
Two, One, Zero. Adventurer -

PULL BACK from the schoolroom clock to SEE it’s now inside...

INT. LUNAR MODULE CAPSULE - DAY

Secondhand points North. Wyatt’s back inside the spaceship!

PATRICK (ON TV SCREEN)
Disengage the LEM from Command Module.

WYATT (INTO COM)
Houston, I can’t do this! Send someone
else. You need to send someone else!

The moon is way bigger and closer than before.

SUDDENLY MR. TREE’S face appears in the porthole next to
Wyatt! Like in a horror movie! Wyatt SHRIEKS.

MR. TREE
Looks like the smartest boy in class
discovered something he can’t do!

Wyatt pulls down the porthole shade.

PATRICK
Commander, press the big red button.

Wyatt presses a button that is labeled: big red button.
LIGHTS START FLASHING! The ship shakes uncontrollably.
WYATT
What’s happening?!

ON TV SCREEN – Another Patrick enters frame. Two Patricks!

NEW PATRICK
Terry! Stop trying to take over!
Sorry, Commander, your uncle snuck in here while I was getting my Ovaltine.

Uncle Terry grins and exits. Meanwhile, Wyatt is panicking.

WYATT
How do I fix this?!

PATRICK
It’s simple. You just need to take –

LIAM
GET OFF ME!!!

Dash has Liam in a headlock.

DASH
In space, no one can smell your farts.

WYATT
STOP! MOON! CRASH! HOUSTON!!!

PATRICK
Don’t worry, the answer is –

 SUDDENLY – A VERY LOUD BELL STARTS RINGING!

INT. MR. TREE’S CLASSROOM – CONTINUOUS

THE BELL SOUND CONTINUES. Students are rushing out the door, except for Sam, Maya, and Mr. Tree who just stare at Wyatt.

MR. TREE
Are you okay?
(Wyatt nods)
Then get the H-E-double-hockey-sticks out of my classroom. It’s recess.

Wyatt is still recovering, and wondering how the fantasy occurred at school, without the book. It scares him a little.

INT. MCKENNA HOME – FRONT DOOR – LATER

The boys burst into the house, followed by their mother.

BETH
We’re home! Children are present!
INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Tiffany hustles Slim out of her room toward the front door. Beth sighs, trying to cope. Chocolate helps, then she exits.

INT. GARAGE - DAY

QUICK CUTS of Wyatt working with his father’s inventions -- a dirty job; dusty, dirty, oily. Things falling apart, he jams his finger – he’s determined, but getting more frustrated...

INT. DASH & WYATT’S BEDROOM - SOON AFTER

Wyatt pokes his head in. He has soot on his face like a chimney sweep. Liam plays W.O.W., Dash reads a comic book.

    WYATT
    You guys said you would help me.

    LIAM
    Can’t! Ludvik has me pinned down!

    DASH
    Me neither. I’m doing homework.

    WYATT
    No, you’re not.

    DASH
    Any minute now.

Frustrated, Wyatt pulls out the Dangerous Book.

INT. PANTRY/KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Wyatt, cleaned up now, closes himself inside the pantry. Flashlight on, he opens the Dangerous Book to a chapter heading: “How to skip a stone on water.” He closes his eyes. Trying to ‘will’ himself into the fantasy... Nothing. He folds his arms and nods, a la “I Dream of Jeannie”. Nada.

As Wyatt sits, he overhears his mother on the phone and cracks open the pantry door to see her through the sliver.

    BETH
    No, Mom, I don’t think the patents are a waste of money. Patrick’s inventions have created a - goodly amount of income... Well, your goodly is just different from my goodly... Of course I’m worried about the boys - Mom, I gotta go... I know you do, Bye.

As Beth puts the phone back on the cradle, Wyatt sneaks out of the pantry, slips out of the room -- then re-enters...
WYATT
Hey, Mom.

BETH
(nods at Dangerous Book)
So you’re the only one who stuck with it, huh?

WYATT
Liam and Dash really like it. They just had other stuff they had to do.

BETH
(gently)
Hey, how’s it going -

WYATT
With the inventions?
(covering for her sake)
Really great.Yep.

Beth cocks her head and smiles wryly at him. Wyatt pauses.

WYATT
Um, are you okay with Uncle Terry -

BETH
Taking over the party planning?
(covering for his sake)
I trust that he’ll do the right thing.

Finishing each others sentences is nothing new for them.

UNCLE TERRY (O.S.)
(singing loudly)
... You keep on shouting, you keep on shouting...

They turn to the window. Uncle Terry is on the stage, using a hammer as a mic, He gyrates - pretending to be Gene Simmons.

UNCLE TERRY
IIIId wanna rock and roll all niiight!
And party ev-ery day!

Terry loses his balance, tumbling off the stage.

BETH
I’ll get the first aid kit.

WYATT
I’ll get an ice pack.

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

EXT. FRONT YARD, MCKENNA HOME - MORNING OF PARTY

Uncle Terry, with a bandaged head, directs guys unloading a truck. Stage lights, cotton candy, a spin-wheel game, etc.

Wyatt watching from the porch. Inscrutable.

INT. GARAGE - DAY

Wyatt enters and crosses to the biggest contraption - it looks like some kind of crazy carnival ride, with five unicycles welded together in a circle. A plaque...

THE DYNAMO CAROUSEL: Invented 2014

Is affixed to the beast. Wyatt sits on a seat and pedals. It won’t budge. He stands and puts his weight into it. The machine groans but doesn’t budge. CRACK! A pedal snaps and Wyatt tumbles to the ground... He angrily wipes away a tear.

INT. HALLWAY/GRANDMA’S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tiffany’s drying her hair with one towel and wearing another.

TIFFFANY

What’s shakin’, Wyatt?

WYATT

(nervously at her door)
Grandma, can you... help me fix one of Dad’s inventions? I can’t do it alone.

TIFFFANY

(flustered)
Gosh, sweetie, No, I’m not handy. And I’m going out in a little while...

Beat. Wyatt starts to leave -- but then turns back.

WYATT

Why won’t anyone talk about Dad?

Tiffany sighs. She sits on the bed and beckons Wyatt to join her. He does. She takes his hand.

TIFFFANY

Oh, honey. There’s a good reason... If we talk about Patrick now, he’ll think we’re calling him back. We need to let his spirit make its journey.

WYATT

(confused)
Oh. So... when can we talk about dad?
TIFFANY
He needs three moon cycles to reach
his bliss in the Celestial Terminus.

Wyatt is motionless with confusion. Tiffany smiles, then she
abruptly stands, goes back to drying her hair.

TIFFANY
Hey, do me a solid?

WYATT
Do a solid?

TIFFANY
Yeah, a favor. Hand me the, the – on
the dresser...

Tiffany gestures to the dresser. Wyatt picks up a glass bong.

WYATT
The vase?

TIFFANY
(flustered)
Uh, no, no, not the flower vase...that
I use for flowers. The hair brush.

As she gestures vigorously, her towel slips off to the floor.

TIFFANY
Oops!

Wyatt gets an eyeful, and......... There he goes. He faints.

BLACKNESS... TWINKLING STARS supply the only light. FLOATING
IN SPACE is... Tiffany? YEP. AND SHE’S NAKED! (Pixilated)

TIFFANY
Forget you saw this, sweetie...

EXT./INT. SPACE CAPSULE - DAY

Wyatt peering out of the porthole window of the capsule.

WYATT
(squeezing his eyes shut)
I want to... but I know I never will.

The Apollo space capsule ZOOMS INTO FULL FRAME. Impressive.

PATRICK (V.O.)
Adventurer!

BANG! Inside the capsule, Dash, floating upside down, punches
things. Liam is playing World of Warcraft on a computer.
DASH
I am ASTRONAUTUS, God of strong...things!

LIAM
NOOO! A Death Knight! Where’s my enchanted runeblade?!

PATRICK (ON TV)
Prepare for lunar landing!

Wyatt looks out the windshield. The moon is rapidly getting closer! A LOUDER BANG as Dash smashes the control panel. Sparks and flames! THE SHIP STARTS TO SPIN!

DASH
HELP! WYATT!!!

LIAM
WHAT DO WE DO?!!!

WYATT
(to Patrick, panicked)
Look, you said you had the answer! WHAT IS IT?!

PATRICK
It’s you. For you to become a leader.

Wyatt is petrified, but swallows his fear in a deep breathe.

WYATT
Dash, put that fire out! Liam, plot the landing trajectory and speed!

Dash grabs an extinguisher and blasts the flames. Liam jumps on his computer. Wyatt grabs a controller.

WYATT
Dash, front and center.

Dash releases the extinguisher and rushes up to Wyatt.

WYATT (CONT’D)
I need you to slow us down.

(Dash shakes his head)
You can do this, I know you can.

(handing him the controller)
It’s like a video game. Give short trigger bursts, until the needle goes under the red line.

DASH
Okay. If I accidentally kill us, I’ll just start the level over again.

WYATT
It’s not that much like a video game.

LIAM
I have coordinates and landing specs.
WYATT
Great. Enter the data into the main frame. Dash, are we stabilized?

DASH
The thingy is under the thingy... Now!

WYATT
Excellent! Good work guys. Follow me! We have to get in the Lunar Module!

THE SCREEN IS FILLED WITH JETS OF FIRE shooting right at us.
From the moon’s surface, the LEM makes a perfect landing. Inside, the boys CHEER and hug each other. Then...
Outside, Wyatt in full space suit, perched low on the ladder. Wyatt’s boot is about to touch the moon’s surface!

WYATT (O.C.)
One small step for man. One giant -

DASH
- Hunk of green cheese!

Dash knocks Wyatt aside, landing on the moon first. He’s without a spacesuit and runs off, laughing like a madman.

MONTAGE -
The helmet-less boys ecstatically moon-hop. Liam is examining soil with some instruments. Dash pops moon dust in his mouth.

DASH
(shocked - spits it out)
That’s not cheese!
(warning his brothers)
Hey, IT’S NOT CHEESE!

Wyatt sees Maya & Sam (his friends from school). Sam waves, Maya smiles at him the same way she did in class.

The brothers are high-fiving. “We did it!” “You did it, Wyatt!” This is the first time we see Wyatt happy.

Wyatt notices something peeking out from the grey soil. He brushes it off. It’s the Dangerous Book. Wyatt picks it up. He closes his eyes...

WYATT
Dad, are you still here?

A pause.

PATRICK (O.C.)
Always.
Wyatt turns. His father is standing nearby, dressed in the same clothes from Mission Control. Patrick picks Wyatt up. Wyatt looks up at his father, who smiles as he carries him.

INT. HALLWAY, MCKENNA HOME - DAY

CLOSE ON Wyatt’s face in someone’s arms. His eyes open.

HIS POV - now it’s Uncle Terry carrying him. Wyatt smiles.

WE SEE the rest of the family gathered.

BETH
Are you okay, sweetie?

WYATT
Yes. I want to call a family meeting.

Dash and Liam guffaw. But Beth sees that Wyatt’s serious.

BETH
Everyone. Living room in 2!

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

As Wyatt addresses his family WE PAN AROUND the entire group, ending on some random OLD GUY wearing a bow tie.

WYATT
Okay, I want to talk about – Uh, wait, who are you?

OLD GUY
I’m Joe. I’m taking Tiffany out.

TIFFANY
Oh, yeah, I forgot in all the hoopla.

UNCLE TERRY
(thumbs up)
Alright, Mom.

TIFFANY
I exude a natural attractant to men. Like Cinnabon.

WYATT
Well, Mr. Joe, can she make it another day? We need to have an important family discussion.

OLD GUY JOE
But this was our third date. And you know what that means...
WYATT
Actually, I don’t.

TIFFANY
(somewhat affronted)
I never promised you a trip to the candy store, Joe.

DASH
(to Joe, earnestly)
Don’t feel bad, she never promised me a trip to the candy store either.

Beth blanches... Awkward silence. Joe gets up and leaves.

OLD GUY JOE
Ah heck, I even splashed on some Aqua Velva for the occasion.

The front door CLOSES. They all look at each other.

BETH
Is this about the party?

WYATT
Well, yes. And no. It’s about Dad. I, um, I want us to talk about him...
Maybe everyone could say just one thing about him... anything...

A long silent pause...

LIAM
I remember how Dad tipped everyone. Not just waiters and delivery guys, but bus drivers and doctors.

They all laugh at this.

DASH
I remember how Dad had six toes on his right foot. That was weird. And two were webbed! He swam like Aquaman.

More laughter. Who goes next?

TIFFANY
Patrick gave a heck of a foot rub. He was like a Michelangelo of foot rubs.

WYATT
(gently)
Grandma, is that really what you wanted to say?
TIFFANY
(honest self-reflection)
... No, honey... it’s not. Guess I’ve been trying to run away from these feelings, ‘cause I miss him so much. Maybe that’s why lately I’ve been trying to get my groove on...

Wyatt looks at his mother for some clarity.

BETH
It’s, uh, it’s when you find ways to make yourself - feel better.

TIFFANY
I remember Patrick’s smile. Ah, his beautiful smile made me feel... loved.

A tear rolls down Tiffany’s cheek. Beth takes her hand.

UNCLE TERRY
I wouldn’t have graduated high school without him. He took a test for me once - Okay, he took a couple of - fine! - he took several tests for me. And the SATs. Anyway, Wyatt’s turn.

WYATT
I remember how Dad made me finish everything I started - even things I hated. Like that stupid diorama of Washington crossing the Delaware.

BETH
That came out so well.

WYATT
It was junk! But like Dad said: You can’t succeed unless you’re willing to fail. I know what he means now.

DASH
Okay, Mom.

BETH
Okay. I remember the way your father loved to sing along to songs, but could never get the lyrics right.

UNCLE TERRY
That’s right! When we were kids, he’d sing that Creedence song...

(singing)
And I wonder, still I wonder - who’ll stop Lorraine!
Laughter erupts.

LIAM
What about this one...
(belting it out)
Every time you go - away... you take a piece of meat with you.

BETH
Even our first dance at our wedding, we chose a Stevie Wonder song. He sang so softly and lovingly into my ear...
(singing sweetly)
Isn’t she lovely
Isn’t she’a waterfall
Isn’t she preg-nant
Les-bian mar-i-gold...

This has gotten them all cracking up and crying now.

BETH (CONT’D)
God, a party? What was I thinking?

UNCLE TERRY
No, I messed it up... I think I was just keeping busy – so I wouldn’t...

He trails off... Tiffany pulls him close, kisses his head.

UNCLE TERRY (CONT’D)
I’ll call and cancel everything.

WYATT
Wait. I didn’t know you could laugh and cry. We should have a party.

OFF of family’s intrigued reaction, WE CUT TO –

EXT. MCKENNA BACKYARD – LATE AFTERNOON

Wyatt and Beth watch the party unfold in full swing. Guests are milling about. The ranch dressing fountain is a big hit.

Terry, surrounded by folks, ignites a fuse to a mannequin.

UNCLE TERRY
Simply light the wick, and behold...
Rapunzel’s Magical Sparkling Hair!

Nothing happens. He’s confused but undaunted, trying again.

At another booth, Liam demonstrates the “Bread Buddy”, the auto-buttering device we saw Wyatt use earlier.
Liam
Butter goes here. Cranking the handle this way creates friction to toast the bread. Clockwise applies the butter. (handle is stuck)
Just a sec.

The handle breaks off, launching the butter into the air, which SPLATS on the back of a man’s suit. He turns but sees nothing. Liam feigns ignorance. The man turns back around.

Grandma puts “A Real Head Scratcher”, a battery powered head massager, on a woman’s head and flips the switch — it shakes so vigorously it pulls off the woman’s wig.

Dash (O.C.)
First, I spray the “Stink No More”.

Dash uses an aerosol can to spray into an old sneaker.

Dash
Now take a deep whiff of that bad boy.

Woman
Oh my God, that’s worse! Like something died in there!
(she leaves, muttering)
Why do I always fall for those things?

The others give Dash dirty looks. Dash looks at the can...

Dash
Wait, I used “Smell Enhancer!” My bad!

A well-to-do OLDER COUPLE walk into the party. They’re very confused by what they’re seeing.

Beth and Wyatt observed the mishaps. Beth musters a smile.

Beth
I, I think it’s going pretty well.

Wyatt
Mom. Grandma and Grandpa are here.

Female Voice (O.S.)
Elizabeth?!

Beth cringes. DOUGLAS and ELLIE WALDRON approach Beth.

Ellie
Elizabeth! What on earth is going on?

Douglas
Is this some kind of yard sale? Are things that bad?!
BETH
Everything’s great. Let me explain -

BOOM! SHRIEK!

They turn to see Terry, singed from the explosion, smiling. The head of the mannequin is gone. Sparks emit from the neck.

Beth’s parents look at her with disappointment. She shrinks. Wyatt sees this. Beth appeals to Wyatt in weakening bravado.

BETH
Well, all these need instructions, and, your father’s not here, so...

Wyatt looks at his mother with defiance. The power stops her.

WYATT
Yes he is, Mom. Dad’s here. And he’ll always be with us when we need him.

Wyatt steel himself and steps up onto the stage.

WYATT (CONT’D)
(a mantra to himself)
You can’t succeed unless you’re willing to fail.
(to the crowd, nervously)
Um, hi. I, uh - can I say something?

Beth lets go a PIERCING WHISTLE. All is quiet.

BETH
My son has something to say.

WYATT
(apprehensively)
So, uh... So, I wanted to show-

GUEST IN THE BACK
Speak up!

WYATT
(more loudly)
Um, yeah, I wanted to show everyone my dad’s last invention. The Dynamo Carousel. He called it a Smile Maker.

He pulls a sheet off the five-seat contraption we saw in the garage, but now it appears cleaner, grander, more curious.

WYATT (CONT’D)
Dad finished it, but we never got a chance to use it. Dash, Liam, Mom, will you guys come up here? Uncle Terry, we need you, too.
The family members step forward and Wyatt motions for them to get onto the seats of the Dynamo Carousel. They do.

WYATT (CONT’D)
I tried to make it work the other day but I couldn’t, because I was alone... And what I realized is that it takes a group of people, acting as one, to make it work. A team. It takes a family, to make anything worth doing, work.

Beth beams with pride at her son, as he takes his seat.

LIAM
(aside to Wyatt)
You sure this is gonna work?

WYATT
(whispers back)
It has to.
(to his family)
Okay. Let’s give it a try.

They each start to pedal. One pedal has been doctored with copious amounts of duct tape. The carousel CREAKS and SQUEAKS as it turns ever-so-slowly. The family shares worried looks. They all put more weight into it. It starts RATTLING. A few NOTES of a SONG PLAY, painfully slowly with the movement.

WYATT (CONT’D)
Oh no. Please. Please do something.
(with quiet intensity)
Pedal harder!

The gathered friends look on with embarrassed curiosity. The family wants to quit. This is an epic fail in the making.

WYATT (CONT’D)
No! No, we don’t quit. We keep working together. We have to keep going!

The cylinder WHIRLS inside the core, but still... Beth keeps pedaling but her heart breaks for Wyatt. The family grunts and complains as their sweat equity shows no dividends.

Beth’s parents are horrified by the debacle.

WYATT (CONT’D)
(to heaven, whispering)
Dad, you said you’d always be here...

Wyatt’s is crestfallen... But suddenly changes to: quizzical.

Wyatt’s POV. An ON/OFF Switch high up on the Dynamo Carousel.
Wyatt reaches up and flips the switch - **ON**.

A **SUDDEN BURST** of LIGHT and SOUND escape from the carousel as if had been waiting for just this moment. **JOYOUS AND BRIGHT**.

**GASPS** from the crowd. Smoke rings burst out of the top! The interior cylinder is awash in **SPINNING COLOR**. **SPARKLERS RED GLARE**. **CALLIOPE MUSIC BLARES**! It’s ridiculous and beautiful at the same time. The guests break into **APPLAUSE & LAUGHTER**.

Beth’s parents are amazed and charmed, in spite of themselves. Douglas wants to pedal. Beth dismounts, as do the rest, and others take their places. The carousel slows down during the exchange - adding to the fun of the team effort!

Uncle Terry notices something away from the action.

**UNCLE TERRY**

Ah, crap, I knew I forgot something.

**WHIP PAN TO** -

**MINI KISS**, in full leather and make-up regalia.

**UNCLE TERRY (CONT’D)**

**MINI KISS**!

The crowd **CHEERS**. Dash is confused, and says to Liam...

**DASH**

That’s Mini Kiss? Oh wow, I thought we were talking about little chocolates.

Beth kisses and embraces Wyatt with love and pride.

**BETH**

Your dad would have loved this!

Wyatt smiles at her, genuinely happy. He looks up at the sky.

**WE TILT UP** from the party to the **MOON**. Full & Steadfast.

**THE END**

**TAG**

Mini Kiss BELTS out “I Wanna Rock and Roll All Night”. Everyone cuts loose, dancing, laughing, and having a blast.

This family just might make it after all...