

OPENING CUTSCENES

Scene opens on school pep rally, begin pre-movie credits

Scene cuts to riot in Libya

Scene cuts back to pep rally

Scene quickly cuts back to Libya

Title Screen suspends over riot, Libyans chanting blares

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM-DAY 15 YEARS FUTURE

Text at the bottom of the screen says "2026"

INTERVIEWER

So, Alex, you want to be a U.S. marine.

ALEX

Yes, I believe I'm more than qualified.

INTERVIEWER

Well, lets begin the interview then. Have you suffered from any trauma previously in your life?

A zooming animation plays, we are flashing back.

INT. MILLS HOUSE-LIVING ROOM-DAY

Text at the bottom of the screen says "2011"

Scene opens on reporter for On the Spot News. Camera slowly pans out to reveal normal suburban home, a teenage boy is sitting in chair, watching the report.

REPORTER

Hello everyone, and welcome to On the Spot News. We have breaking news from the Middle East. Riots and violence have swelled to a climax in Libya, analysts say, and could break out into an all-out civil war. We'll have more on this story and what it means for your wallet when we come back.

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2.

Adult in his 40's enters the room, notices the boy watching the news report. He approaches the TV and turns the power off. There are a few seconds of silence. THOMAS speaks with authority and strength, whereas ALEX speaks quietly and submissively.

THOMAS

Did you do your homework?

THOMAS places his keys on the counter, takes off his coat and hangs it up throughout the conversation.

ALEX

No.

THOMAS

Then why are you down here,  
watching TV and wasting time?

ALEX

I don't know.

THOMAS

Go up to your room, right now, and  
finish your homework.

ALEX

Okay.

ALEX leaves the room, presumably to his room. THOMAS walks up the fridge, opens door. Camera focuses on a family picture of THOMAS, ALEX, and a woman. We see a brief sign of emotion flicker across his face.

INT. MILLS HOUSE-ALEX'S ROOM-DAY

ALEX's room is a bare room with minimum furniture and white walls.

ALEX is hunched over a laptop in his room. We see he is typing, but we cannot see what he is doing specifically.

ALEX

(Speaking his thoughts out loud) He  
won't even let me watch the news! I  
don't know what he wants me to do,  
like seriously. I try my best to do  
everything he tells me. But ever  
since last summer, he's been so  
harsh all the time! I just don't  
know what to do. Does anyone have  
any ideas?

(CONTINUED)

As he finishes the line, we see that he has been typing on a blog. He presses the "post" button.

ALEX  
There, now that's done; time for algebra. Yay.

He moves the laptop aside and places a math textbook in its place. ALEX pulls out a notebook and begins doing homework.

We see him write a few things, then erase and start again, clearly frustrated. He repeats this action two more times, then he stands up and walks to the door and walks out.

The camera follows ALEX down to his fathers office. He pauses at the entrance, takes a deep breath, then knocks/enters.

THOMAS'S OFFICE

THOMAS  
What is it Alex? I'm very busy.

ALEX  
Dad? I need your help with something. I don't understand how to multiply two binomials together.

THOMAS  
Does it look like I have time for that right now?

ALEX  
I don't know, I just thought maybe-

THOMAS  
Jesus Alex, as I already said, I am very busy. Unless the house is on fire, I don't want you to come down here and bother me again. Do I make myself clear?

ALEX  
Yes dad.

THOMAS  
And another thing, dad is informal and disrespectful. You either say 'father' or 'sir'.

ALEX  
Yes 'sir'.

ALEX trudges out of the room, and the camera follows him back upstairs. He enters his room and shuts the door.

#### ALEX'S ROOM

Alex walks over to his bed and slumps against it, sitting on the floor. We see a single tear on his cheek.

ALEX'S laptop makes a "ding" noise. He walks over to it, and looks at the screen.

The camera focuses on a comment made on his blog post, saying "Your situation sucks dude. He sounds more like a dictator than a father."

Subtle building music begins to play as another comment gets posted, saying "I agree, sounds like a terrible guy."

Another comment gets put below that one, saying, "I feel sorry for you man. Is there anything we can do?"

A comment pops up below that that states, "Dude you should totally make a twitter page about this, I bet you would get tons of followers."

The music builds to a climax as ALEX opens up a new tab and begins to type t-w-i-t-t

#### ALEX'S ROOM-NIGHT

We see a short clip of the sunset, then the action cuts to ALEX in his room.

ALEX is typing with a fervor, we see he is creating a twitter page called: Dictator Dad

He looks over at his clock, and notices it is 7:59. He quickly climbs into bed and shuts the light off. The camera zooms to the clock as it changes to 8:00.

THOMAS enters the room at 8:00 precisely. He scans the room, and notices ALEX pretending to be asleep. With a short nod, he exits the room.

A few seconds pass. Then we see ALEX'S eye twitch open. He creeps out of bed to his laptop, opens it, and resumes typing.

THOMAS'S ROOM-NIGHT

Quiet piano music begins as we watch THOMAS brush his teeth and climb into bed. We notice it is a queen size bed, but he sleeps on the right half only.

ALEX'S ROOM

The camera is above ALEX, as he wakes up. He is sweating.

The camera follows ALEX downstairs, we see that the thermostat reads 90° F.

KITCHEN

The camera continues to follow ALEX, we see that there is a padlock on the cabinet and there is cereal already in a bowl with a cup of milk next to it.

There is a note next to the bowl, the camera zooms in on it. It reads:

Alex,

CHORES:

Vacuum carpet

Scrub bathroom

Clean dishes

I'll be home around 5. I'll see you after work.

-Dad

1. ALEX'S BUS- MORNING

Alex is sitting in a seat by himself, the bus stops.

A kid around ALEX'S age gets on the bus, sits down next to ALEX.

TEP  
I saw you on Twitter post last night.  
Your dad sounds like a douchebag.

ALEX  
Yeah, I know. He's always like that.  
case.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

7.

JEREMY (cont'd)  
dad, he still sounds like he sucks  
balls. But lets change the subject  
how about that algebra homework  
last night? Pretty hard right?

ALEX  
Oh crap, I completely forgot to do  
it! My dad's gonna kill me!

JEREMY  
You mean that figuratively right?  
(ALEX gives JEREMY a look) Yo I'm  
just kidding stop looking at me  
like that it's just a joke yo.  
But seriously, you can copy mine.  
No big deal. Here.

JEREMY pulls out a notebook with equations and formulas all  
over the pages. He hands it to ALEX.

ALEX  
Thanks man, I appreciate it.

The scene fades to black.

INT. MILLS HOUSE-LIVING ROOM-DAY

Guitar music begins.

The scene opens on ALEX vacuuming the carpet in the living  
room. He doesn't appear to be trying very hard; he is giving  
it a half effort.

INT. MILLS HOUSE-BATHROOM-DAY

ALEX sighs as he sees the grime on the bathroom floor. He  
begins to scrub the floor, struggling to get a few stains  
off.

KITCHEN

We watch ALEX scrub dishes as he stands next to a relatively  
new-looking dishwasher.

ALEX'S ROOM- LATE AFTERNOON

ALEX opens the door and enters. He pulls out a notebook and  
begins writing, but seems to have trouble concentrating.  
After a few seconds, he gets up and heads to his laptop.

ALEX opens up his laptop, and goes to the twitter page. He  
begins typing:

(CONTINUED)

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8.

He's insane! He makes me do a ton of chores everyday, I barely have time to do anything else.

He won't let me use the dishwasher to wash dishes; he tells me some bull about conserving water and learning discipline and work.

None of this was important to him before last summer though. He's definitely changed.

Note: All of these are separate

THOMAS enters and notices what ALEX is doing. ALEX quickly shuts the laptop, but it is too late. THOMAS storms over to ALEX.

THOMAS

What were you just doing?

ALEX

Nothing.

THOMAS

It didn't look like "nothing" to me! What were you thinking? You know that the computer is for school use only! There should be absolutely no other reason for you to be on it.

ALEX

I wasn't doing anything bad...

THOMAS

That's not the point. The point is that you were using your computer, which I gave you solely for school purposes, not for some stupid social media website.

ALEX

I'm done with my homework.

THOMAS

What about your chores?

ALEX

I'm done with them too.

THOMAS

Well then perhaps I should assign more chores.

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

No!

THOMAS

Excuse me?

ALEX

I mean, no, please don't father. I already have plenty of work to do.

THOMAS

As it should be. If you paid more attention and gave more diligence to the chores you already have, you wouldn't have free time like this to waste on the internet.

ALEX

(Slight pause, ALEX works up the courage to speak) Don't you think I deserve at least a little free time?

THOMAS

No, I do not, you- (suddenly realizes) Did you just talk back to me?

ALEX

I meant no disrespect dad.

THOMAS

Well it certainly didn't sound that way to me. (Makes a move closer to ALEX and is face to face)

ALEX

I'm sorry dad.

THOMAS

I don't think sorry is nearly enough. You need to learn that you can't just cover everything up with a cute little, "sorry".

ALEX

I know dad, it won't happen again I promise.

THOMAS

I know it won't happen again, because I'm taking this laptop.

(CONTINUED)



ALEX

What? No you can't! What about for schoolwork?

THOMAS

First of all, you can use it for school just as well in my office under my supervision as you can in your room. Second of all, this is the last time I will calmly deal with you talking back to me.

ALEX

Dad, please. I won't ever use it for anything other than school ever again. You can ground me, make me sleep on the floor, anything but this.

THOMAS

Your reaction is just proving to me that you were up to no good. Now that you have learned not to talk back to me, you should thank me for not taking away more things.

ALEX

What more do I have? What else is there to take? All you can do is give me more chores. Please dad. I'm your son. Don't take away the only thing I have left to... uh...

THOMAS

To what Alex? To what? (Pushes ALEX)

ALEX

To escape from you! Living with you is like a nightmare that I never wake up from. So this laptop is the only thing I can use to get away for a few minutes. And I tell you what, those few minutes are the best few minutes of my whole day.

THOMAS

What the hell is that supposed to mean? There are kids starving around the world or dying in some civil war! You have it great here and have nothing to complain about. I'm instilling discipline in you

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS (cont'd)  
damn it! And apparently I haven't  
been doing a very good job.

ALEX  
Apparently not, because I still  
have some fight in me, and I'm not  
going down without a fight. You can  
crush my hopes and dreams, but  
you're not crushing my spirit.

THOMAS  
Son you sound like a book, no  
wonder you don't have any friends.  
Open your eyes. I am you are my son  
and I can do whatever I want to  
you. I haven't crushed anything  
yet! You, however, make it very  
tempting.

ALEX  
What are you going to do dad? Beat  
me? Make child care services come  
and take me away?

THOMAS  
(Sudden change in demeanor) No! (He  
recovers) I'd like to see them try.  
I mean, if they did, they would be  
making a mistake, because I am  
raising you far better than anyone  
else could. I'm raising how your  
mother would have liked it.

ALEX  
I doubt that.

THOMAS  
You doubt it now, but someday  
you'll thank me.

ALEX  
Thank you for what? Teaching me  
what kind of father exactly not to  
be? Well then you did a really  
great job of that. So thank you.

THOMAS  
You ignorant brat! (THOMAS grabs  
and slams ALEX against the wall)

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

I would apologize, but I thought I couldn't cover everything up with a cute little sorry?

THOMAS

(Brief pause as THOMAS formulates a response) You're never feeling happiness again!

ALEX

Oh shut up! It's not like being grounded is any worse than the hell I go through everyday living with you. If I could just-

THOMAS suddenly flies off the handle and smacks ALEX across the face. There are a few seconds of silence.

THOMAS

I wish your mother were still alive instead of you.

THOMAS turns and storms out of the room, slamming the door. We see he is slightly sorrowful behind the mask of anger.

ALEX, clearly angry, storms over to his laptop. We see that his laptop was recording the entire conversation on a program called Chirbit. The camera focuses on ALEX'S face, and we see a sly grin.

ALEX opens the twitter page and we watch as he posts the entire conversation to twitter, saying to pay attention to the last part.

ALEX reclines in his chair, satisfied with his handiwork.

THOMAS'S OFFICE

We see THOMAS sitting in his chair with a look of rage on his face. The look melts away temporarily into grief, as he looks at a picture of his late wife in uniform.

THOMAS

Amanda, why did you leave me to deal with this kid of yours? You were always better with him than I was.

INT.A CLASSROOM-DAY

ALEX is sitting alone at a desk, the classroom is empty. He is staring intently at his laptop.

A girl walks up to ALEX and sits down at a desk next to his.

ALYSSA

What are you still doing here ALEX?  
Your bus left an hour ago.

ALEX

I don't feel like dealing with him  
Alyssa. He's a complete jerk.

ALYSSA

You mean your dad?

ALEX

Yeah.

ALYSSA

What did the bastard do this time?

ALEX

He hit me.

ALYSSA

Are you serious?

ALEX

Yes I'm serious! Why would I lie  
about that? It still stings.

ALEX touches his cheek gingerly.

ALEX

Ow, yeah it definitely still  
stings.

ALYSSA

Well are you going to tell someone  
about it?

ALEX

Like who Alyssa? Who am I going to  
tell?

ALYSSA

I don't know! The guidance  
counselor, child protective  
services, the police? Somebody.

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

Nah, he didn't hurt me bad enough for any of those people to be too concerned.

ALYSSA

Well why did he hit you?

ALEX

I was talking back to him.

ALYSSA

Well, I mean-

ALEX

Because he was taking my laptop away for being on twitter.

ALYSSA

Oh. I see.

ALEX

He just makes me want to run away, or kill myself or something. Anything to avoid going back to that hell hole.

ALYSSA

Well I mean, his wife did die...

ALEX

A year ago! It's my mom! Does he not think I am affected as well? Besides, she died fighting for our country. He needs to get over it. I'm sick of giving him excuses to mistreat me. I lost her too! The difference is that I've accepted she's dead. He hasn't.

ALYSSA

I guess so. Still I think he deserves a little sympathy.

ALEX

He'll get none from me. Did you listen to the conversation I put on twitter?

ALYSSA

No, I didn't actually.

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

Here, listen to it. You can decide for myself if I deserved getting hit since it seems like you're on his side.

He slides the laptop over to her as the scene cuts.

INT. MILLS HOUSE-LIVING ROOM-DAY

ALEX is watching a news report about the Middle East.

REPORTER

We have an update on our previous story. It appears that the people of Libya are taking action against Muammer Gaddafi, the countries dictator and ruler. It's only a matter of time before they strike, says Dr. Harter, expert on the Arab Spring.

THOMAS enters the room, notices the television is on. He calmly walks over and turns it off.

THOMAS

Go do your homework. Immediately.

ALEX

What if I don't?

THOMAS

Neither of us want to start this again Alex. Please, just go to your room and do your homework.

ALEX

No.

THOMAS

I said go. That means now.

ALEX

No.

THOMAS

What the hell is wrong with you? What started all this? We were fine a week ago!

ALEX

You wanna know what happened to me dad?

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS

Yes, I would very much like to know.

ALEX

I found out I have supporters. People who care about me and my situation. I realized that I can take charge of my own life and break free from you, once and for all.

THOMAS

What are you talking about ALEX? Do you realize how ridiculous you sound? Until you're 18, I have full control over you!

ALEX

Legally you might, but you can't control my will.

THOMAS

I don't want to have to hit you again. I am your father! Actually, this is fun, I'm going to pretend like I care what you have to say knowing full way it's all bull. (THOMAS sits down) I'm all yours. Please, tell me, why don't you have any respect for me?

ALEX

I used to have respect for you, but now all I have for you is my hatred.

THOMAS

Hate is a strong word but frankly I don't really care. So I believe I am done here.

THOMAS turns to leave.

ALEX

Well that's too bad, because I'm not yet done with you.

THOMAS stops, and turns around slowly.

THOMAS

You're not done with me? You're not done with me?!

(CONTINUED)

ALEX  
Yeah, that's right.

THOMAS curls his fingers into a fist. He advances toward ALEX.

THOMAS  
Alright tough guy, just remember  
your mother isn't the only one that  
knows how to fight.

Scene cuts abruptly as ALEX steps away in fear.

INT.A CLASSROOM-DAY

ALEX, JEREMY, and ALYSSA are sitting at a group of tables in a classroom.

ALEX  
I hate him.

ALYSSA  
Don't say that Alex.

JEREMY  
Why not? It's true. He's a total  
jackass.

ALEX  
Yeah, I agree.

ALEX shifts in his seat, we see he has a black eye.

ALYSSA  
Alex! How'd you get that?

ALEX  
Oh this? It's nothing.

JEREMY  
That doesn't look like "nothing" to  
me Alex.

ALEX  
Look guys, just let it go. It's no  
big deal.

ALYSSA  
Are you sure? We're worried about  
you. Right Jeremy?

(CONTINUED)



JEREMY

Well, speak for yourself. (ALYSSA gives JEREMY a look, similar to ALEX'S look earlier) I'm just kidding! Geez, no one around here can take a joke!

ALEX

I have to do something about him. I have to take action.

JEREMY

Yeah! Now that's more like it! Hit him where it hurts!

ALYSSA

Whoa whoa whoa, what kind of action are we talking about here?

ALEX

I don't know... Something drastic.

JEREMY

Well I don't like the sound of that as much... How drastic are we talking about here?

ALEX

(Snaps at JEREMY) It's none of your business.

ALYSSA

We're just trying to help you Alex. We don't want you to make a mistake you're going to regret.

ALEX

The bastard deserves what he has coming to him.

JEREMY

He is your dad though man. You gotta remember that.

ALEX

He's no more of a father to me than this chair. That's it. I'm going to go do something.

ALEX gets up and exits.

(CONTINUED)

ALYSSA

Now see what you've done Jeremy?  
You've encouraged him too far. He  
sounded like some lunatic! We'd  
better go make sure he doesn't do  
anything stupid.

JEREMY

What kind of friends are we then,  
if we follow him around making sure  
he makes the right choices? We've  
just got to give him space, things  
will cool off over time with his  
dad. You'll see.

ALYSSA

I don't know, I would feel guilty  
if something bad happened.

JEREMY

Nothing bad is going to happen!  
This isn't some kind of thriller  
movie. He's not going to "take  
matters into his own hands" or some  
cheesy crap like that.

ALYSSA

I guess you're right. Besides,  
what's the worst that could happen?

JEREMY

Exactly. Of course I'm right. Have  
I ever been wrong? Now come on,  
lets go get some ice cream. I'm  
starving.

INT. MILLS HOUSE-KITCHEN-DAY

ALEX is alone in the kitchen. He has a mug of tea in front  
of him. He is sitting at a table with two chairs. The rest  
of the table is already set.

ALEX turns a bit, and we see he has a bottle with him. He  
opens the bottle slowly.

Finally, he dumps the entire contents of the bottle onto the  
table. He gets out a spoon and begins crushing them into a  
fine powder. He sweeps the powder into a cup.

THOMAS

Alex, is dinner ready yet?

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

Almost!

ALEX holds the cup with the powder in his hands. He glances back and forth between the drink and the cup in his hand. He makes his final decision.

ALEX dumps the powder entirely into THOMAS'S drink, making sure to pour out everything.

THOMAS enters the kitchen, and sees ALEX stirring his tea.

Building music plays.

THOMAS

Why are you stirring my drink like that?

ALEX

I always stir it like this.

THOMAS

So you thought I wouldn't notice what you were doing?

ALEX

I, I don't know what you're talking about.

THOMAS

Alex, do you really think I'm that stupid?

ALEX

No, of course not.

THOMAS

I like it stirred five times, not four. You should know that Alex.

The building music subsides.

ALEX and THOMAS sit at opposite sides of the table. They eat in utter silence for a few minutes. Throughout this period, THOMAS sips his tea.

After a few moments, THOMAS slumps over in his seat, and falls out of his chair. ALEX continues eating as the camera zooms in on ALEX.

As the camera zooms in on ALEX, mildly creepy music begins to play. In the background, quietly playing, is the Gaddafi death video.

The end screen shows, credits begin.