

The Lovechild Second Draft

By

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EXT. JOBURG - SANDTON - DAY

Sandton's city centre is a beehive of activity. Cars honk at each other, BUSINESSMEN and WOMEN pace down the pavement.

Large buildings occupy the skyline. One building in particular, with an elegant design, stands apart from the rest.

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

An alarm clock rings, it's ten in the morning. A hand reaches out and hits snooze on the clock.

SAMUEL SCHERER, early thirties, average in every way, stretches in bed.

His bedroom is large and decorated with ornate furniture as well as memorabilia from eighties action films.

The bedroom door opens.

An ELDERLY MAN, in uniform and spectacles, peers into the room.

ELDERLY MAN

Good morning Mr Scherer.

SAM

Morning, Hops.

HOPS

Will you be having the usual today?

SAM

I will.

HOPS

Very good, sir.

Hops turns to leave.

Sam's cellphone vibrates.

SAM

Oh hang on a second there, Hops, buddy.

Hops pauses.

Sam checks his cellphone.

(CONTINUED)

SAM(CONT'D)

Better make this one to go. Got a
big day ahead of me.

INT. APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

HOPS, as he will henceforth be known, prepares breakfast in the kitchen.

The kitchen is massive, filled with all the latest stainless steel gadgets and gizmos.

A shower can be heard running. Loud music is playing.

Hops bobs his head in time with the boom clap of the beat.

INT. APARTMENT - BATHROOM - DAY

The bathroom is also huge. The shower is big enough to do cart wheels inside.

The Beastie Boys' *Intergalactic* is booming in the bathroom.

Sam stands facing the mirror, dances vigorously to the song.

Sam combs his hair, brushes his teeth, applies cologne.

There's a picture of a beautiful woman tacked to the bathroom mirror.

Sam admires the picture then kisses his fingertips and touches the woman's lips.

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Sam slides out of the bathroom in a towel.

He swaggers over to his closet in time with the music.

INT. BEDROOM - CLOSET - DAY

Sam claps his hands twice.

A light in the closet turns on.

The entire closet is filled with expensive clothes.

Sam runs his hand along each of the outfits on their hangers.

Sam stops at a sleek black suit, grins.

INT. UNDERGROUND GARAGE - DAY

Sam stands before a silver Porsche. He presses a key.

The Porsche beeps.

SMASH CUT TO:

The Porsche's wheel spins and screeches.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

The Porsche peels out of the underground parking lot.

The Beastie Boys still blaring over the speakers.

EXT. JOBURG - SANDTON - DAY

The elegant building from before watches over the citizens in the city streets going about their business.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - OFFICE - DAY

The office is full of MEN and WOMEN dressed in suits.

JOEL SCHERER, a mature man in a suit, stands at the head of a table.

JOEL
I don't think I need to remind you
all of the importance of securing
this deal.

The YOUNGER EMPLOYEES scribble down every word in a notepad.

INT. SAM'S PORSCHE(MOVING) - DAY

Sam floors it down a highway, cutting through traffic like Speed Racer.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - OFFICE - DAY

Joel paces along the room full of Young Employees.

JOEL

Here at Scherer Multimedia we pride
ourselves on three core values.

Joel rests his hands on an open seat, stares at a BEAUTIFUL
FEMALE EMPLOYEE.

JOEL(CONT'D)

Honesty.

The Beautiful Female Employee stares back at him. The other
Young Employees scribble every word into their notebooks.

JOEL(CONT'D)

Loyalty.

Joel grins at the Beautiful Female Employee. She bites on
the end of her pencil, staring back at him.

JOEL(CONT'D)

And above all else.

Joel raises a brow, smirking at the Beautiful Young
Employee.

JOEL(CONT'D)

Exquisite taste.

EXT. ELEGANT BUILDING - UNDERGROUND PARKING - DAY

Sam's Porsche swerves into the underground parking.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - LOBBY - DAY

Sam exits an elevator, strolls past a reception desk.

A SECURITY GUARD, uniform, nods at Sam from behind the desk.

SECURITY GUARD

Mr Scherer, looking sharp today.

Sam turns to the security guard, doesn't break pace.

SAM

Ay, not as sharp as you huh?

The Security Guard gives a hefty chuckle.

(CONTINUED)

SECURITY GUARD
Don't work too hard today.

SAM
Can't make any promises.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - UPPER LEVEL - DAY

Sam strolls out of an elevator and onto the floor.

The room is filled with cubicles.

Sam paces through the corridors between the cubicles.

OFFICE WORKERS, neck ties and white-pressed shirts, answer calls.

OFFICE WORKERS(O.S.)
Thank you for calling Scherer
Multimedia, how may I help you?

A CHUBBY MAN, beard, balding, pops up from behind his cubicle. He sees Sam.

CHUBBY MAN
Oh here he comes.

Sam hears him and perks up.

SAM
(joking)
Pravesh! Looking a little thinner
man, your wife leave you again?

PRAVESH
No, I told you we got ourselves a
time-share.

Sam and Pravesh shake hands, brush thumbs and break.

SAM
Have a good one huh buddy.

PRAVESH
Likewise, brother.

Sam continues down the long corridor of cubicles.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - UPPER LEVEL - DAY

STEVEN, a handsome but hard-nosed partner, stands with his flock of JERKOFFS on the other end of the floor, away from the cubicles.

He sees Sam greeting everyone as he makes his way down the corridor.

STEVEN
(to a Jerkoff)
Look at this asshole.

The Jerkoff turns to see Sam.

Steven and the Jerkoff glare at Sam.

Sam finishes up the warm welcome by the cubicles and heads toward Steven and his flock.

STEVEN (CONT'D)
(to Sam)
Young Sammy Davis, how's it hanging?

Steven delivers his line with sincerity and a side of bleached pearly whites.

SAM
Oh you know big Steve, just doing what I do best.

Sam and Steven shake hands like old private school chums.

JERKOFF
And what is that exactly?

The comment kills the jovial mood.

Sam looks confused.

Steven stares daggers into the Jerkoff.

SAM
Come again?

Steven chuckles awkwardly.

STEVEN
(intervenes)
Don't mind him.

Steven gently guides Sam away from the Jerkoffs and down another corridor.

(CONTINUED)

STEVEN(CONT'D)

Sam, I've been thinking about that position in Mauritius.

SAM

Oh that's great, you should totally take it.

Steven chuckles, pats Sam on the back.

STEVEN

I think we both know that you're the better man for a job like that.

Sam checks his watch.

SAM

Hey, whoa, before you even go there, I gotta head to the office.

STEVEN

Consider it at least. It'd be perfect for you. Besides who wants to work in this drab, big city anyway?

SAM

Ok, buddy, will do.

Sam walks to an elevator, steps in.

SAM(CONT'D)

See you in twenty, big Steve.

STEVEN

Huh?

SAM

The meeting. My dad's been going on about it for weeks now.

STEVEN

Oh yes, the big meeting.

SAM

Alright I gotta go now.

STEVEN

Alright, Sammy Davis, see you in twenty.

Steven smiles at Sam.

The elevator doors shut.

(CONTINUED)

Steven's smile fades instantly.

STEVEN
Asshole.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - TOP FLOOR - DAY

Sam exits the elevator one last time.

The top floor is a large area with a receptionist desk.

There are two corner offices behind the receptionist desk.

ANGELA, a young, voluptuous woman with stylish dreads, staples a stack of papers at the desk.

SAM
Morning Angie.

ANGELA
It's twelve thirty.

SAM
Then I'm right on time.

Sam strolls to the corner office on the right.

SAM
Is my dad in?

ANGELA
No, should've been back by now. He was giving the newbies their first big project.

SAM
Ah, poor guy, he really cares about giving them a warm welcome.

Sam enters his office.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - SAM'S OFFICE - DAY

There's a big screen tv, a playstation, putting green and soda-fountain in the office.

Sam takes his jacket off, sits at a large mahogany desk.

He turns his computer on, waits for it to boot up.

Sam's eyes scour the office, he taps his fingers on the desk.

(CONTINUED)

There's a knock at the door.

SAM(CONT'D)

Come in.

Angie steps into the office.

ANGELA

You gonna get on those excel sheets
or should I take care of it?

SAM

Aw gee, I already have so much on
my plate. I mean I gotta go to the
meeting.

Angela nods.

SAM(CONT'D)

Then I have like four pages of a
pdf to read through before I clock
out at four.

Angela smiles.

ANGELA

I got you, baby. Angie's gonna take
care of it for you.

SAM

You're the best.

ANGELA

Then why can't I get a raise?

SAM

(chuckles)

Well, you'll have to speak to the
big man himself about that one.

Angela rolls her eyes, smiles.

Sam stands, puts his jacket on.

SAM

I better get going, don't wanna be
late for another meeting.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - UPPER LEVEL - MEETING ROOM - DAY

Joel is at the head of a long table, Steven sits to his right.

The rest of the seats are occupied by PARTNERS, a pack of silent, gray men.

JOEL

I've asked you all here today
because I have some important news.

The Partners listen closely.

JOEL(CONT'D)

I founded this company with my
wife, Vivian, more than thirty
years ago. It has always been of
the utmost importance--

The door bursts open.

The Partners all look to see Sam enter.

SAM

Hey, hi, sorry guys.

JOEL

Sam, we weren't expecting you.

SAM

But I'm a partner aren't I?

Joel glances at the other Partners, they all give disparaging looks.

JOEL

Yes but you deal with the
employees. Uniform inspections and
what not. This is more of a
business, finance kind of meeting.

SAM

But I was listening to a podcast
last night and it said that it's
important for young entrepreneurs
to diversify their skillsets.

Joel sighs.

JOEL

Alright fine. Have a seat then.

Joel shows Sam a chair in the corner.

(CONTINUED)

JOEL(CONT'D)

Now as I was saying.

The sound of a chair scraping against a floor.

Joel looks to see Sam trying to squeeze the wooden chair in between two Partners at the table.

SAM

Sorry guys. Ok, I'm good, carry on, daddio.

There's a subtle groan from all the Partners.

JOEL

Anyway, Vivian and I always had a grand vision for how we would end our time here at the company. Sadly, she isn't here to do it with me.

The Partners all look down as if in mourning.

JOEL(CONT'D)

But, I am here and will see it through the way Vivian would've wanted. As you all know our next big client, BabyTrue, are looking for their next campaign to be spectacular.

Steven and all of the Partners grin at each other.

JOEL(CONT'D)

And so in announcing my retirement I am offering my seat, as chairman of Scherer Multimedia to any of you who can secure a deal with them.

SAM

You're quitting!?

JOEL

I'm not quitting I'm retiring, Sam. There's a difference.

SAM

Can't we talk about this?

Joel looks around, the partners all look away.

Steven taps Joel.

STEVEN

Go on. I'll handle the rest from here.

JOEL

Thank you.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - UPPER LEVEL - HALLWAY - DAY

Joel and Sam stand outside the office.

SAM

Come on, Dad, you can't retire. What about the company?

JOEL

I'm tired, Sam. Tired from building everything you see around you.

SAM

Take a vacation then.

JOEL

No, Sam, this time I mean it, I'm done.

SAM

But who's gonna take over?

JOEL

Well, as you heard, one of the Partners will take over.

SAM

But I can't take over, I'm still learning the tricks of the trade.

Joel laughs.

JOEL

Oh don't worry, you aren't eligible to take over. I made that very clear to everyone involved.

Sam chuckles as well, he thinks he's in on the joke.

SAM

Hey Dad, don't worry.

Sam taps the window pane of the office.

(CONTINUED)

SAM(CONT'D)

It's sound proof, remember? They won't hear you tell me that I, as your rightful heir, will take control of the company.

JOEL

Sam, listen to me, you're not capable of taking over.

SAM

What are you talking about? I'm a Partner, graduated cum laude from UCT, top of the class. I've been here for eight years now.

JOEL

Do you remember what you studied?

SAM

Uhm, something to do with history. It was a while ago, I was drinking heavily at the time.

JOEL

Politics, you studied politics for Christ sake. And you failed every single class.

SAM

What? No I didn't.

Joel looks at Sam very seriously.

JOEL

No Sam, you failed. Failed miserably, I had to buy them a new rugby field to make sure you weren't expelled.

SAM

Dad, I don't understand.

JOEL

It's my fault. I thought I was helping you.

SAM

Helping me with what?

JOEL

Sam, how do I put this. You've never been the most focused or even normal child.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

Dad?

JOEL

You remember that teacher who used to pick on you?

SAM

Mr Kok, yeah he got a new teaching opportunity in Korea.

JOEL

No, Sam, he didn't.

SAM

You mean you--

JOEL

Got him fired from Grays and made sure he couldn't use his cv for toilet paper.

SAM

So that time I scored the winning tri in high school and the fullback sprained his knee before he could tackle me?

Joel nods.

SAM

The standing ovation I got for improvising my part in MacBeth after I forgot my lines?

Joel nods.

Sam takes a step back, hurt by the revelation.

SAM(CONT'D)

The time Miss Botha took me into the changerooms and gave me a handy?

JOEL

What?

SAM

Uh nothing.

Joel looks at his son, confused.

(CONTINUED)

JOEL

Sam, listen, you're a wonderful person but you haven't done a hard day's work in your entire life.

Sam takes a deep breath, tears form in his eyes. He looks up at Joel, enraged.

SAM

(tantrum)

That's only because you never let me.

JOEL

Sam, settle down.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - UPPER LEVEL - MEETING ROOM - DAY

The Partners all watch Sam jump up and down like a child but they can't hear anything.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - UPPER LEVEL - HALLWAY - DAY

Sam has tears in his eyes.

SAM

How could you do this to me?

Joel tries to console him.

SAM(CONT'D)

I'm gonna show you, Dad. I'll show you that I can get that deal then you'll be sorry you ever doubted me.

Sam turns and runs.

JOEL

Son, wait.

INT. APARTMENT - LOUNGE - NIGHT

Sam sits on a couch, looking at a photo of a beautiful woman, on his phone.

Sam's phone rings. The ID says Bianca.

Sam lights up, rushes to answer.

(CONTINUED)

SAM
(into phone)
Bianca, baby, I was just looking at
your--

BIANCA
(slurring)
Hey Sammy. Listen, I need a top up
pronto.

SAM
I sent you twenty last week.

BIANCA
Yeah but Paulo wants us to stay and
take a few more photos.

SAM
Uhm, okay.

Sam can hear Bianca trying to stifle a giggle.

SAM(CONT'D)
Is there someone with you?

BIANCA
No, it's just me. I'll be waiting
for that top up baby.

SAM
Ok, I'll see you in a week then, I
guess. I love you.

BIANCA
Bye.

Bianca hangs up.

Sam looks at the phone, disheartened.

HOPS(O.S.)
Shall I put your French cassoulet
in the fridge, sir.

Hops is wearing a chef's hat and apron over his suit.

The door bell rings. Sam gets up to answer the door.

SAM
(to Hops)
Uh yeah, you know what, take it
with you.

Sam opens the door.

(CONTINUED)

AMY, glitter make up, rainbow coloured hair, stands in the doorway.

SAM
Amy? Is that you?

AMY
Sam! It's been so long.

Amy hugs Sam enthusiastically, enters his apartment.

AMY(CONT'D)
I see you did the whole bachelor
decor thing with the apartment.

SAM
What are you doing here?

Amy turns to Sam, looks him deep in the eyes.

AMY
I missed my flight Sammy and now we
don't have anywhere to go.

SAM
What flight?

AMY
The one taking me back to Cape
Town. So you see, I was
wondering....

Amy walks her fingers up Sam's chest.

AMY(CONT'D)
If you'd be the best ex-boyfriend
ever and let us stay over for the
night.

Sam gently removes Amy's hand from his chest.

SAM
I don't think that's such a good
idea.

Amy pouts.

AMY
It'd only be for a night. We don't
have anywhere else to go.

SAM
Who's we?

Sam looks at the door and sees TYLER, a seven year old boy standing in the doorway.

SAM(CONT'D)
Who's that?

AMY
(to Tyler)
It's okay, come here, this is
mommy's friend.

Tyler slowly enters, shuffles over to Amy.

AMY(CONT'D)
(to Tyler)
Say hello.

TYLER
Hi.

SAM
Amy, you have a kid.

AMY
I know, who'd have thought huh? So
would it be a terrible idea if we
stayed just for the night?

Sam looks at Amy then at Tyler.

SAM
I guess not. You guys can stay in
one of the guest rooms.

Amy pulls in close.

AMY
How about your bedroom.

Sam, uncomfortable, glances at Tyler.

SAM
Uh, no thank you.

Sam steps back.

SAM(CONT'D)
Hops will show you guys around.

Sam turns and walks to his room.

(CONTINUED)

AMY
Where are you going?

SAM
To bed. I'm over this crappy day.

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Sam's asleep in bed. His cellphone rings.

Sam answers it.

SAM
Hello?

JOEL(O.S.)
You awake yet?

SAM
I am now.

JOEL(O.S.)
Good, now listen. I thought about
our argument yesterday.

SAM
Yeah?

JOEL(O.S.)
I've decided to let you do a pitch
for BabyTrue.

SAM
Really? Oh gee dad, you won't
regret it, I promise.

JOEL(O.S.)
Be here tomorrow at ten sharp.

Joel hangs up.

Sam looks up from his phone, a new sense of purpose.

INT. APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Sam strolls down a hallway, enters the kitchen.

Tyler sits by a counter, eating a bowl of cereal.

Sam raises a brow, the apartment is dead quiet.

(CONTINUED)

SAM
(awkward)
Hey there, sport.

TYLER
Hi.

SAM
Your mom around?

TYLER
No.

Tyler scoops a spoonful of cereal into his mouth.

Sam is pensive.

SAM
Well, do you know where she is?

TYLER
She said she'd be back just now.

Sam strolls to the fridge, sips from a two liter of milk.

SAM
Well she better get back soon,
cause I gotta be at work in
about....

Sam checks his watch.

SAM(CONT'D)
Three and a half hours.

Tyler silently eats his cereal. Sam watches him, concerned.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - JOEL'S OFFICE - DAY

Joel and Steven are alone in the office.

STEVEN
I think this is a terrible idea.

Joel chuckles.

JOEL
Oh lighten up. I think it'd be fun
to see if three million rand in
private schooling taught my son
anything about pitching to a bunch
of reps.

(CONTINUED)

STEVEN

But Joel, with all due respect and I really mean all due respect, Sam is....

JOEL

Incompetent?

STEVEN

A moron.

Joel considers this then shrugs.

JOEL

That may be true but damnit, I saw a fire in him yesterday that really got me thinking.

Steven tenses.

JOEL(CONT'D)

What if I've been stifling the gumption my son had all along by helping him his entire life.

STEVEN

So you want to give him a chance with one of the biggest deals our company's ever had the chance of securing?

Joel looks away, thinks hard about the question.

JOEL

Yeah, why not.

Steven presses his fingers to his forehead.

STEVEN

Joel, I just can't see this ending well.

JOEL

Relax, will you. The Partners are making bets as we speak. I got five grand saying he only wakes up after the reps are gone.

Steven grins and looks at Joel.

The two of them cackle like evil geniuses.

INT. APARTMENT - LOUNGE - DAY

Sam has a his phone pressed to his ear. He paces back and forth.

He sees Hops and Tyler playing swingball on the patio outside. Tyler's winning by far.

AMY(O.S.)

Hello?

SAM

Amy, where the hell are you and why's your kid still at my apartment?

AMY(O.S.)

Psych. I'm not with my phone right now. Leave a message and I'll get back to you.

Sam hangs up, screams in frustration.

Hops and Tyler stop playing and look at him.

Sam walks out onto the patio.

SAM

Hops, I'm gonna need you to watch the kid for next couple of days alright?

HOPS

I'm sorry I can't do that, sir.

SAM

What?

HOPS

Don't you remember, sir?

Hops takes a pamphlet out of his pocket.

HOPS(CONT'D)

I'm going back home to England to watch the migration of the great swan colonies.

SAM

Swan colonies? But who's gonna look after the kid till his mom gets back?

(CONTINUED)

Hops pulls a long bright yellow cap out of his jacket pocket and puts it on.

HOPS

I'm sure you'll figure something out, sir.

Hops turns to Tyler.

HOPS(CONT'D)

You've won the battle but the war isn't over just yet, young man.

Tyler grins at him. Hops shakes Tyler's hand.

HOPS(CONT'D)

And now, if you'll excuse me, I've got a plane to catch.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - HALLWAY - DAY

Hops exits the apartment with a suitcase.

Sam rushes to catch up with him.

SAM

Hops, wait, I can't do this alone. I don't know the first thing about taking care of a kid.

Hops turns to Sam, places his hands on Sam's shoulders.

HOPS

Sam, there is greatness in you. You have your father's tenacity and your mother's heart. I believe that you can do this.

Hops turns and walks off.

Sam clings to the doorway, reaching for Hops.

SAM

(melodramatic)

No, come back, I can't do this without you.

Down the hall, CHARLOTTE, petite, pretty, watches Sam.

Sam sees her.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

Hey, you're the babysitter for the Ramatella's aren't you?

CHARLOTTE

I am.

SAM

Well that's perfect because I've got a kid in here.

Sam lights up, points into the apartment.

SAM(CONT'D)

And he's got no one to watch him.

Charlotte is apprehensive.

SAM(CONT'D)

So how about you do what you do best and watch him while I go to work? Just till I can get a hold of his mother.

CHARLOTTE

Oh, uh, I actually have another job I'm going to right now--

SAM

I'll pay you ten grand plus you can use my jacuzzi.

Charlotte pauses, thinks for a moment.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Sam's Porche races out of the underground garage.

INT. APARTMENT - LOUNGE - DAY

Charlotte sits on the couch next to Tyler, counting out hundred rand bills.

She glances at Tyler mashing buttons on a Playstation remote.

CHARLOTTE

Do you know where your mom is?

(CONTINUED)

TYLER

No, she said she'd be back soon.

CHARLOTTE

Oh, I see.

Tyler's stomach rumbles. Tyler touches it.

TYLER(CONT'D)

I'm hungry.

Charlotte looks at him then at the stack of hundreds on the coffee table.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - SAM'S OFFICE - DAY

Sam sits at his desk prepping for his pitch with BabyTrue.

There's a knock at the door.

SAM

Come in.

Steven enters.

STEVEN

Hey buddy. How's it going with the pitch?

SAM

Awful. I mean who knew you had to actually write a speech before you do a presentation?

Steven pauses, he can't tell if Sam's joking.

SAM(CONT'D)

But whatever, I feel like I'm getting the hang of this.

STEVEN

You do?

SAM

Yeah, check it out.

Sam turns his computer screen to Steven. The presentation he's working on doesn't look half bad.

STEVEN

Hey, not bad, way to go, big man.

Sam smiles, checks the screen.

(CONTINUED)

SAM
Oh no, that's the template I'm
using.

Sam clicks on another tab.

SAM(CONT'D)
This one's mine.

Steven cringes at the presentation. There are different
fonts, letter spacings and the headings are off center.

STEVEN
Oh uh, very good.

Sam smiles.

STEVEN(CONT'D)
Well I just wanted to come in and
make sure you're doing okay.

SAM
Aw gee, big Steve, that's real nice
of you.

Steven smiles that fake-ass smile.

STEVEN
Any time, buddy.

Steven turns to the door, stops.

STEVEN
Oh and Sam....

SAM
Yeah?

STEVEN
Remember that the pitch's being
held in B building, not A.

SAM
That's strange. We always do
pitches in A.

STEVEN
Your dad wanted to change things
up. Make sure we were all on an
even playing field.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

Ahh, I get you. Good looking out,
big Steve.

STEVEN

You got it man.

Steven leaves.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

INT. MALL - VARIOUS STORES - DAY

- Charlotte and Tyler play games at an arcade.
- Charlotte and Tyler play laser tag.
- Charlotte models various outfits for Tyler.
- Tyler models various outfits for Charlotte.
- Charlotte and Tyler leave a shop dressed in fancy new clothes.

END MONTAGE:

EXT. MALL - WATER FOUNTAIN - DAY

Charlotte and Tyler sit together on the edge of the fountain.

Both of them have an ice-cream cone.

TYLER

Can we do this again tomorrow?

CHARLOTTE

Convince your dad to pay me another
ten grand and we can do this all
summer.

TYLER

Sam's not my dad.

CHARLOTTE

Oh, then who is he?

(CONTINUED)

TYLER

He's friends with my mom.

Charlotte glances at Tyler.

CHARLOTTE

Tyler?

Tyler eats his ice-cream.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

What does your mom do for a living?

TYLER

A living?

CHARLOTTE

What job does she do?

TYLER

Oh, she's a dancer.

CHARLOTTE

That's cool. What kind? Ballet,
tap?

TYLER

She does tricks on a pole.

Charlotte grimaces, checks her phone.

CHARLOTTE

Come on let's get back home.

INT. APARTMENT - LOUNGE - DAY

Sam is sitting on the couch, working with a stack of papers
on the coffee table.

The front door opens. Charlotte and Tyler enter.

CHARLOTTE

Hi.

TYLER

Hi, Sam.

SAM

Hi guys.

Tyler runs outside onto the patio.

Charlotte goes to Sam.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLOTTE

Wow, looks you've got a lot on your plate.

SAM

Yeah. I have to do this big pitch before tomorrow to show my dad I'm not a moron.

Charlotte giggles. She thinks Sam's joking.

Charlotte looks at Tyler.

CHARLOTTE

Where'd his mom go?

SAM

Supposedly she's in Cape Town.

CHARLOTTE

You don't think it's a little odd?

SAM

Well Amy's always been like that. Odd.

CHARLOTTE

I see. Well, I'm gonna be on my way.

Charlotte turns to go.

SAM

Hey, thanks for looking after him today. I really appreciate it.

Charlotte turns back to Sam.

CHARLOTTE

It's no problem. He's very sweet.

Sam looks at Tyler playing swingball on the patio.

SAM

So, same deal tomorrow?

CHARLOTTE

I can't. I'm seeing my boyfriend.

SAM

But I need you to. I tell you what, how about you and your boyfriend come over and spend the day in the apartment?

CHARLOTTE
I'm sorry, Sam.

Charlotte exits the apartment.

SAM
Hey wait. Does he like helicopters?
I can get you a ride in one.

No reply.

SAM(CONT'D)
I'm serious. My dad owns like four
of them.

INT. APARTMENT - LOUNGE - NIGHT

Tyler sits on the couch playing Playstation.

Sam sits next to him, rehearsing his pitch.

Sam sniffs a few times, looks at Tyler.

SAM
Yo buddy, how long's it been since
you took a shower?

Tyler pauses, looks at Sam.

INT. APARTMENT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Tyler enters the bathroom in goggles, swim trunks, a snorkel
and flippers.

Sam waits in the bathroom with his phone in hand.

SAM
Alright, you ready to get clean?

Tyler nods.

SAM(CONT'D)
You wanna watch some Adventure Time
while your at it?

Tyler nods.

Sam taps his phone.

A flat screen TV on the wall turns on.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

There's soap and shampoo on the rack there and some aftershave under the sink for if you're feeling fancy.

INT. APARTMENT - LOUNGE - DAY

Sam sits on the couch, the phone to his ear.

AMY(O.S.)

Hello?

SAM

Amy! Is this really you or the voicemail you?

AMY(O.S.)

What? Who is this?

SAM

It's the the bestest ex-boyfriend ever, Sam. Where the hell are you?

AMY(O.S.)

Oh, Sam, hey.

Sam can hear music blaring in the background.

SAM

Tyler's still here at my place. You need to come pick him up.

AMY(O.S.)

I can't. I'm at Africa Burn.

SAM

Amy, you can't just leave your kid at my place and run away to a festival.

AMY(O.S.)

I thought it'd be the responsible thing to do.

SAM

How on earth is leaving your kid with a stranger responsible?

AMY(O.S.)

Well I thought it'd be good for him to get to know his daddy.

(CONTINUED)

SAM
What are you talking about?

AMY(O.S.)
Tyler's yours, Sam.

Sam's eyes widen.

SAM
What?

AMY(O.S.)
You remember when I bumped into you
and your dad at the gala in twenty
eleven?

SAM
Oh no.

AMY(O.S.)
I'm sorry, Sam. I have to go now.

SAM
No, Amy, wait.

Amy hangs up.

Sam looks at the phone, looks down the hallway.

Sam hears a knock at the door.

SAM
Hops, the door.

Beat.

SAM
(to himself)
Oh yeah. He's not here.

Sam trudges over to the door, opens it.

BIANCA, a swimsuit model, stands with her suitcases in the doorway.

BIANCA
Hey baby. Did you miss me?

SAM
Bianca? I thought--

Bianca kisses Sam passionately. They stumble to the couch.

Sam enjoys it but breaks away.

(CONTINUED)

SAM(CONT'D)

Babe--

Bianca pushes Sam down on the couch, sits on his lap, kisses him.

BIANCA

Paulo got some incredible shots of me on the beach in the Maldives.

SAM

I'm glad but listen--

Bianca ravishes Sam with open mouth kisses.

Sam gives in and grabs hold of Bianca, kisses her neck.

Behind the couch, in the kitchen, Tyler enters in pajamas.

Bianca doesn't see him. She's lost in lust.

Tyler disappears behind an island countertop. The fridge door opens.

Bianca breaks away from Sam's embrace, grabs the collar of her top.

BIANCA

I'm gonna work you good tonight.

Bianca begins to lift her top.

SAM

Bianca wait--

Bianca hears the sound of someone SUCKING AN EMPTY JUICE BOX.

Bianca stops dead, sees Tyler.

TYLER

What's she gonna work on, Sam?

Bianca covers up, confused.

BIANCA

Sam, who's this?

SAM

That's what I was trying to tell you.

Bianca gets off Sam's lap. She keeps looking at Tyler, confused.

(CONTINUED)

Sam stands and looks at Tyler.

SAM
Uhh, Tyler. Come over here for a
minute, buddy.

Tyler walks around the couch, stands by Sam.

SAM(CONT'D)
Bianca, this is Tyler.

TYLER
(to Bianca)
Hello.

BIANCA
(catty)
Hi. Sam, I want to know right now
who this little boy is.

Sam looks at Tyler, places a hand on his shoulder.

SAM
Well, Tyler is....

Sam looks up at Bianca, a father's pride in his eyes.

SAM(CONT'D)
My son.

Tyler looks up at Sam.

Sam delivers the line like it's the greatest honour that has
ever been bestowed upon him. His smile is genuine.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Bianca marches out the apartment, upset.

Sam chases after her.

SAM
Baby, wait.

Bianca stops and turns.

SAM(CONT'D)
I don't get what the big deal is. I
thought you'd be happy to have a
kid around.

(CONTINUED)

BIANCA
I can't do this.

INT. APARTMENT - LOUNGE - NIGHT

Tyler watches the argument from the couch. He sucks from the juice box.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Bianca takes hold of her suitcase. Sam steps out into the hall.

SAM
Do what?

BIANCA
Us.

SAM
Bianca, baby, what are you saying?

BIANCA
I'm going to Amanda's. Call me when you decide to stop playing around.

Bianca takes her suitcases and leaves.

Sam watches her go, heartbroken.

INT. APARTMENT - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tyler gets comfy under a duvet on a double bed. The lamp on his bedside is on.

Sam walks in, sits on the edge of the bed, rubs his forehead.

SAM
Ok, buddy, guess it's time to get some shut eye.

Tyler nods.

Sam, despondent, reaches to turn the lamp off.

TYLER
Sam.

Sam stops.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

Yeah?

TYLER

Are you really my dad?

SAM

Yeah, seems like it.

TYLER

Does that mean I have to stay here?

SAM

We'll chat about this tomorrow.

Sam reaches for the lamp again.

TYLER

Sam.

Sam looks at Tyler.

TYLER(CONT'D)

Does my mom still want me?

Sam softens, comforts Tyler.

SAM

Are you kidding? She just thought it would be a good idea for us to get to know each other.

Tyler looks down.

TYLER

Ok.

Sam rubs Tyler's hair, stands, kills the night light.

SAM

Now rest up. We've got a big day tomorrow.

Sam strolls to the door, exits.

TYLER

Sam.

Sam pops his head back in.

TYLER(CONT'D)

Will you leave the hallway door a little bit open.

(CONTINUED)

SAM
Sure thing, buddy.

Sam leaves.

Tyler turns, closes his eyes. Drifts off to sleep.

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Sam's cellphone alarm goes off. It's seven thirty.

Sam sits up in bed, silences it.

INT. APARTMENT - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tyler is asleep in the bed.

Sam bursts through the door.

SAM
Time to wake up, buddy.

Tyler is sound asleep.

SAM
Tyler.

Nothing.

Sam looks around, looks back at Tyler.

SAM
Tyler! Wake up!

Tyler shoots up in bed, disoriented.

TYLER
Huh?

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - HALLWAY - DAY

Sam and Tyler, both dressed, exit the apartment.

Sam, laptop bag in hand, locks the door, makes his way down the hallway.

Tyler follows.

SAM
Here, take this.

Sam hands Tyler a coin.

TYLER
What is it?

SAM
It's a magic coin.

Tyler looks at the coin, frowns.

Sam and Tyler stop at the elevator. Sam presses the down button.

TYLER
How can it be magic?

The elevator dings.

SAM
I'll show you on the way. Let's go.

EXT. UNDERGROUND GARAGE - DAY

Sam's Porsche speeds out of the garage.

INT. SAM'S PORSCHE - DAY

The Porsche cruises down a long road.

Tyler sits in the passenger seat.

Sam has the coin in his hand.

SAM
Now, when we go in I want you to do
this for them.

Sam bites the coin in half.

Tyler's eyes widen, he gasps.

TYLER
How did you do that?

Sam grins at him.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

That's nothing, watch this.

Sam blows on the coin. The other half reappears.

Tyler leaps up in his seat.

TYLER

How, Sam? How are you doing that?!

Sam smiles at Tyler's surprise.

SAM

It's a gag coin.

Sam shows Tyler that the coin can bend in half.

TYLER

Ooooooh.

SAM

Think you could do that in the pitch?

Sam hands the coin to Tyler.

Tyler stares at the coin, in awe.

TYLER

Yeah, I can do it.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - BUILDING B - DAY

Sam has the laptop bag slung over his shoulder. He holds Tyler's hand as they make their way through the building.

Sam goes to a reception desk.

A FAT WOMAN, looks up at him.

SAM

Hi, I'm here for the big pitch.

The Fat Woman checks her journal.

WOMAN

Twelfth floor, Mr Scherer.

SAM

Thank you.

Sam, still holding Tyler's hand, takes off.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - BUILDING B - DAY

Sam and Tyler exit the elevator.

Sam sees a trio of JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN sitting in a conference room at the end of the hall.

SAM

(to Tyler)

Ok, those must be the guys. I need you to be good and do it like I told you alright?

Tyler nods, shy.

INT. BUILDING B - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Sam enters the room, big smile, Tyler in tow.

SAM

Gentlemen. It's a pleasure to be here with you today.

Sam shakes their hands. Tyler also shakes their hands.

The Businessmen look confused.

Sam sets up the presentation, stands before the Businessmen.

SAM(CONT'D)

(loud)

I am not sure where my father is but I am sure he will be here soon.

The Businessmen frown and look at each other.

The HEAD of the trio turns to his RIGHT.

HEAD

Nani?

RIGHT

Shirimasen.

SAM

Now before we get started, my uh assistant is going to do a little trick for you.

Tyler shows a coin to the Businessmen.

They're intrigued.

(CONTINUED)

SAM(CONT'D)

Now as we all know, businesses need money.

Tyler slides one hand over the other, the coin disappears, obviously into his other hand.

The Businessmen eye each other, chuckle.

HEAD

(subtitles)

Why is this child doing magic for us?

RIGHT

(subtitles)

I don't know but he sure is cute.

SAM

And we all know a strong marketing campaign is a good way to make money.

Tyler makes the coin reappear.

The Businessmen pretend to be astonished.

Tyler stays in character.

SAM(CONT'D)

But without proper guidance, your profits could be cut in half.

Tyler pretends to bite the coin, shows the Businessmen. The coin is in half.

The Businessmen are surprised for real this time.

Sam smiles, winks at the Businessmen.

Tyler smiles.

SAM

So allow me to present to you, BabyTrue, your new marketing campaign breakdown.

Sam presses a button on his keyboard. Gestures like a showman.

An animated cover page projects onto a wall. It's very colourful, sparkles fly across the page.

Tyler takes a bow.

(CONTINUED)

The Businessmen cheer. Left claps enthusiastically.

The office door opens.

A MAN IN A SUIT enters.

SUIT

What's going on in here?

SAM

Who are you?

SUIT

Michael. I'm meeting with the reps
from Yamatoro inc.

Sam frowns.

SAM

Sorry buddy, I think you're in the
wrong....

Sam looks at the three Japanese Businessmen.

Through the window, behind them, Sam can see into building
A.

He sees Steven doing his pitch on the twelfth floor in A
building.

Sam's eyes widen.

SAM

Mother--

INT. BUILDING B - HALLWAY - DAY

Sam sprints, holding Tyler under his one arm, his bag under
the other.

INT. BUILDING B - OFFICE FLOOR - DAY

Sam sprints past an EMPLOYEE, sending a stack of papers
flying.

INT. BUILDING A - RECEPTION - DAY

Sam sprints past the reception desk. The Security Guard from earlier smiles.

SECURITY GUARD

Go get em, Mr Scherer.

The Security Guard sees Tyler hanging on to Sam for dear life, frowns.

INT. BUILDING A - TWELFTH FLOOR - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Steven is giving his presentation to Joel, the Partners and the REP, looks like a female Skrillex.

STEVEN

With a seven percent increase in viewership per hour we can....

Joel sits beside the Rep.

The Rep yawns, Joel takes notice.

The door bursts open, Sam enters.

SAM

Sorry I'm late.

Sam places his bag and Tyler down on a table.

Tyler doesn't look so good.

SAM(CONT'D)

(to Steven)

I was fed some faulty information.

Steven rolls his eyes, looks at Joel.

The Rep raises a brow, intrigued.

JOEL

Why's there a kid in the conference room, Sam?

STEVEN

Probably hired him for the "presentation".

Tyler tugs on Sam's pant leg.

(CONTINUED)

TYLER

Sam.

SAM

(distracted)

Not now, buddy. Well, if you must know, he's my son.

JOEL

Your son!? What in God's name is going on here?

Tyler spews vomit all over the conference room floor.

Steven jumps back.

STEVEN

Jesus!

The Rep is laughing her head off.

SAM

Oh no.

Sam grabs a paper from a desk, hands it to Tyler.

JOEL

(to Rep)

I'm so sorry about this.

Tyler wipes his mouth with the paper. Sam rubs his back.

SAM

Feeling alright buddy?

TYLER

Yeah.

SAM

Hey can somebody go grab Mavis?

(shouts)

Mavis!

Joel stands, furious.

JOEL

Dammit, Sam! Why couldn't you just let this one slide like you do with everything else?

Sam is about to retort when he hears the Rep laughing and clapping.

Joel, Steven and Sam look at her, confused.

(CONTINUED)

REP

Oh my goodness! This is great.

The Rep stands, removes her trendy glasses, wipes her eyes.

REP(CONT'D)

You had me going in the beginning
when all these boring old men
walked in talking about stats.

The Rep giggles.

The Partners look at her, frowning.

REP(CONT'D)

But I see it all so clearly now.
The boy, the old men, the fake
puke. The phony hatred you have for
your own son.

Joel plays along.

JOEL

Uhh yes, phony hatred.

Joel eyes the Partners and Steven.

They play along as well, laughing.

The Partners wag their fingers.

PARTNERS

Ahh we almost got you.

REP

Well, gentlemen. Consider me
thoroughly impressed with a concept
so brilliant I can hardly put words
to it.

SAM

Concept? No, listen, we don't do
that here--

JOEL

Sam!

Sam shuts it.

The Rep shakes Joel's hand.

REP

We'll be in touch Mr Scherer.

The Rep leaves. Joel glares at Sam.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - JOEL'S OFFICE - DAY

Sam stands with Joel in the office.

Angela plays with Tyler by her desk.

JOEL

I need answers Sam and I need them right now. Who is that child and where are his parents?

SAM

He's Amy's kid. And apparently mine.

JOEL

Apparently? You mean you don't even know for sure?

SAM

I only found out yesterday.

JOEL

This is very serious, Sam. You need to take him to a social worker straight away. I'll get you a lawyer and we'll find out where that bimbo went.

SAM

Social services? No, Dad, I can't send him off to a home. He won't last five minutes.

Joel eyes Sam, dead serious.

JOEL

You're gonna get a paternity test done. This isn't the first time a woman's used her body to exploit a Scherer.

Sam looks through the office glass pane, makes sure Tyler's still okay.

(CONTINUED)

JOEL(CONT'D)

How much does she want huh?

SAM

Amy? Nothing. She just left him with me.

JOEL

Where is she?

SAM

She said she was at Africa Burn.

JOEL

I'll get Herman to look into it. Until then you make sure nothing happens to the kid.

SAM

Dad, you know me, I'd never do that. He's precious cargo.

Joel turns, paces.

JOEL

The meeting went well.

SAM

(elated)

You think?

JOEL

Yes. But it's not over yet. I need you to do something for me.

SAM

Anything, you name it.

JOEL

I want you to drive the Vivian down to my retirement dinner.

SAM

Oh gee, dad. I'll do my best. You won't regret this.

JOEL

I hope not.

INT. BURGER BAR - NIGHT

Sam and Tyler sit at a counter in a diner-themed burger bar.

Tyler takes a bite out of a large burger.

SAM

You did real good today, buddy.

Tyler swallows.

TYLER

Even though I puked?

SAM

Especially because you puked.

Tyler grins.

The diner's front door opens.

Tyler turns, sees a MOTHER and her DAUGHTER, seven, enter. They're holding hands.

Sam notices Tyler watching the Mother and Daughter.

Tyler turns back to his plate, the burger still in his hand.

SAM

You not gonna finish your burger?

Tyler shakes his head, sullen.

TYLER

Can I speak to my mom?

Sam pauses.

SAM

I don't think that's such a great idea.

TYLER

What do you mean?

SAM

She's not with her phone at the moment.

TYLER

She doesn't want to speak to me?

(CONTINUED)

SAM
No, it's not that. She's just--

TYLER
(shouts)
Let me speak to her.

All of the PATRONS in the diner stop and stare at Sam and Tyler.

Sam notices he's being watched.

SAM
Whoa, buddy, I know you miss her
but there's nothing I can do.

TYLER
You're lying to me.

SAM
Now hang on just a minute.

Tyler screams.

Sam's eyes widen.

The Patrons frown at Sam.

SAM
Tyler. Stop. Stop it. Please.

Tyler hops off his stool, jumps up and down screaming.

Sam grabs at his coat pockets to find his phone.

SAM
Alright, alright. I'll call her.

A MANAGER, middle aged, uniform, approaches Sam.

MANAGER
Everything okay?

SAM
Yeah we're just having a little
argument here.

Sam whips his phone out, shows Tyler.

SAM(CONT'D)
Look, buddy, I'm gonna call her
right now.

The Manager crosses his arms.

(CONTINUED)

MANAGER

I'm gonna have to ask you to
leave.

EXT. UPMARKET PLAZA - NIGHT

Tyler runs through the plaza, Sam's phone pressed to his
ear.

Sam, laptop bag, Tyler's jacket in hand, chases after him.

SAM

Tyler!

AMY(O.S.)

Hello?

Tyler stops, pants.

TYLER

Mom?

AMY(O.S.)

Psych. I'm not with my phone right
now. Leave a message and I'll get
back to you.

TYLER

Hello? Mom?

Tyler looks at the phone, frustrated. He taps the screen.

Sam catches up to Tyler, bends over, exhausted.

SAM

Tyler... you can't... just....

Tyler raises the phone into the air.

Sam looks up, sees him.

SAM

Tyler, no!

Tyler tosses the phone onto the ground. The screen cracks.

Sam drops his laptop bag, stands straight up.

SAM(CONT'D)

Hey! You're out of line!

(CONTINUED)

TYLER

I want my mom!

SAM

She isn't here! I can't believe you broke my phone! Do you have any idea how much it costs?

Sam's fuming.

Tyler cowers.

SAM(CONT'D)

And believe me, if I knew where she was I'd have you out of here in no time flat!

TYLER

I'm sorry.

Tyler sniffles.

SAM

Sorry doesn't cut it! What's the matter with you?

Tyler buries his face in his palms, cries.

Sam stops, takes a breath. Looks at Tyler's jacket still in his hand.

SAM(CONT'D)

Buddy.

Tyler sobs.

Sam takes a step closer, bends down to Tyler's level.

TYLER

(stutters)

I'm sorry I threw your phone.

SAM

It's okay, I've got like five of them anyway.

Tyler looks at Sam.

SAM(CONT'D)

Now listen, I'm just as confused as you are. A week ago I had a plan for my life and now it's like my whole world's done a one eighty.

(CONTINUED)

Tyler listens closely to Sam.

SAM(CONT'D)

But you and I are in it together
until I can get a hold of your mom,
okay?

Tyler nods, rushes Sam with a guilty hug.

Sam places a hand out to balance himself, places his other
hand on Tyler's back.

INT. DNA TESTING LAB - CONSULTATION ROOM - DAY

Sam and Tyler sit beside each other on a hospital bed.

TYLER

Why are we doing this again?

SAM

Uhh, we have to make sure that
neither of us is sick before we go
camping.

TYLER

Oh. I've never been camping.

SAM

Wanna know a secret?

Tyler nods.

SAM(CONT'D)

Neither have I. It's gonna be an
adventure for both of us.

Tyler smiles.

A NURSE enters, wipes Tyler's arm with a cotton ball. She
preps the needle.

NURSE

Don't look, sweetie.

TYLER

Sam, I'm scared.

SAM

It's okay buddy. Just close your
eyes and bite down hard.

Tyler does this.

(CONTINUED)

The Nurse inserts the needle.

Tyler squirms then holds.

The Nurse wipes again with the cotton swab.

SAM

See now that wasn't so bad--

A SECOND NURSE enters, wipes Sam's arm, plunges the needle into it.

SAM

(pain)

Oh my G--

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - HALLWAY - DAY

Charlotte sits on a bench in the hallway, crying.

Tyler and Sam exit an elevator, they see Charlotte.

Tyler runs over to Charlotte.

TYLER

Hey Charlotte. What's wrong?

Charlotte looks up at Tyler.

CHARLOTTE

My boyfriend broke up with me.

Sam walks over.

SAM

Hey, is uhh, everything alright?

TYLER

Her boyfriend broke up with her.

Charlotte giggles a little.

SAM

Oh man, that's the worst. You wanna come inside? You can drink a slushy or something?

CHARLOTTE

No, no. I'll be fine. He's just such an asshole.

(CONTINUED)

TYLER

That's a naughty word.

Sam laughs at Tyler. Charlotte laughs at him too.

INT. APARTMENT - LOUNGE - NIGHT

Tyler's asleep in his pajamas on the couch.

INT. APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Tyler and Charlotte sit on tall stools by the kitchen island countertop.

They're eating Chinese take out.

Charlotte giggles.

SAM

Yeah, it's true. I've never been camping, what can I say?

CHARLOTTE

Well, I think it's sweet that you're turning a work assignment into a father-son bonding experience.

Sam looks at Tyler, disheartened for a moment.

SAM

Yeah.

Charlotte notices.

CHARLOTTE

So, your mom and dad just decided one day to quit their jobs and start their own company?

SAM

Yeah, more my mom than my dad. He's always played it a little more on the safe side.

CHARLOTTE

Well, it seems to be working.

Charlotte gestures to the sheer opulence of the apartment.

Sam smirks, nods.

(CONTINUED)

SAM
You're studying at the moment
right?

Charlotte raises a brow.

CHARLOTTE
I am.

SAM
Let me guess. Child psychology?

CHARLOTTE
Almost. Engineering.

SAM
(impressed)
Wow, you're gonna be an engineer?
What kind?

CHARLOTTE
Electrical. Well, that's if I can
afford my final year next year.

SAM
How much is it?

Charlotte looks at Sam.

CHARLOTTE
Oh, no.

Charlotte chuckles.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
I didn't mean it like that.

SAM
Like what?

Beat.

Charlotte smiles.

CHARLOTTE
Nothing. It's getting late. I
should go.

Charlotte stands from the stool. Sam gets up too.

SAM
Hey so listen, about the road trip.
I was hoping you'd have the next
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SAM (cont'd)
couple of days spare to help me
watch over Tyler.

CHARLOTTE
I wish I could but I have to go to
class this week. Isn't there anyone
else you could call?

SAM
Tyler doesn't like anyone else as
much as you. I need someone who's
good with him.

Charlotte blushes, averts her eyes.

SAM(CONT'D)
(joking)
Name your price. Just don't be too
ridiculous okay, I'm not made of
money.

Charlotte considers this seriously.

EXT. LARGE GARAGE - DAY

Tyler and Charlotte wait outside a garage door.

The door opens.

The Vivian, a vintage sedan, rolls out of the garage. Sam's
at the wheel.

SAM
What do you think?

TYLER
Wow, we get to drive in this?

SAM
Oh yeah. Hop in.

Tyler climbs into the car. Charlotte follows.

EXT. OPEN ROAD - DAY

Sam stares out at the open road.

Tyler has his head out the window, sitting on Charlotte's
lap.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLOTTE

So what's the deal with this car?

SAM

My mom's father died. So she inherited it but she had to sell it when they were first trying to build Scherer Multimedia. She always swore that she'd get it back.

CHARLOTTE

She sounds like quite the woman.

SAM

Oh, she was. Dad said he'd never find anyone he liked even half as much as her.

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

There are tents spread out across a field of grass.

Sam and Tyler sit by a fire. A giant luxury tent set up behind them.

Charlotte steps out of the tent.

CHARLOTTE

I'm gonna go find a lighter.

SAM

You smoke?

CHARLOTTE

Little bit.

SAM

Well, just scream if any wild animals attack you.

CHARLOTTE

Uhh sure.

Charlotte strolls off.

TYLER

Are there really wild animals out there?

(CONTINUED)

SAM
Not any dangerous ones.

TYLER
Oh okay.

Sam hands Tyler one of two thin metal rods. He reaches into a packet of marshmallows and skewers one on the end of each rod.

SAM
You ever roasted a marshmallow before?

TYLER
No, is it hard?

SAM
I don't think so. You just gotta hold it out over the flame like this.

Sam points his rod at the fire. Tyler does the same.

SAM
Now I read somewhere that the trick is to not roast it for too--

TYLER
Look it's on fire.

SAM
What?

Sam sees that the end of his rod is burning.

SAM
Dammit.

Sam flings the rod back. The flaming marshmallow goes flying and lands on a camping chair in another campsite.

The chair ignites into flames. A CAMPER sees the fire and screams.

Sam and Tyler sit beside each other on a log. Behind them, the Camper struggles to stamp the fire out.

TYLER
Hey Sam.

SAM

Yeah?

TYLER

What'll happen when my mom comes
back?

The Camper's sandals catch fire from trying to stamp the
flames out. He trips trying to get his sandals off.

SAM

Well, you'll have to decide who you
want to stay with.

TYLER

Can't you and my mom live together?

Sam chuckles.

SAM

We tried that when we dated but it
didn't work out so well.

TYLER

Oh.

Sam looks at Tyler's marshmallow, it's golden brown.

SAM

Bring it in.

Sam places a hand on Tyler's stick, pulls the marshmallow
in.

Tyler blows on it.

TYLER

Sam?

SAM

Yeah?

TYLER

Would you want me to live with you?

Beat.

SAM

Uhh, yeah I would. But the real
question is whether you want to
stay with me?

(CONTINUED)

TYLER

Uh huh. I like your apartment and your Playstation and the Beastie Boys.

SAM

Well I like them too, buddy.

TYLER

I also like you.

Sam smiles, rubs Tyler's hair.

SAM

You're pretty cool too.

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Charlotte sits beside the fire, a blanket around her shoulders.

Sam exits the luxury tent, goes to sit beside Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE

Is he asleep?

SAM

Yeah. Shame, I had to convince him that rangers are patrolling, protecting us from getting mauled by lions in our sleep.

Charlotte giggles.

CHARLOTTE

Look at what I got.

Charlotte produces a spliff from under the blanket.

SAM

You're a stoner?

CHARLOTTE

Shhh.

Sam giggles.

SAM

I mean, I'm just surprised is all.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLOTTE
You gonna hit it with me?

SAM
Why not?

Charlotte puts the spliff in her mouth and lights it. She exhales, hands the joint to Sam.

CHARLOTTE
I was thinking about the story you told me about your parents.

Sam pulls from the spliff.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
I guess this break up just made me appreciate all the more how rare a love like that is.

Sam coughs a little.

SAM
I hear you.

He hands the spliff back to Charlotte.

SAM (CONT'D)
I thought Bianca really loved me.

CHARLOTTE
How long were you two together?

SAM (CONT'D)
Three years.

CHARLOTTE
Long time.

SAM
What about you?

CHARLOTTE
Year and a half.

SAM
You really liked him?

CHARLOTTE
I don't know anymore. You?

SAM

Ahh I think he's alright.

Charlotte softly punches Sam.

CHARLOTTE

You know what I mean.

SAM

I guess. I mean Bianca was a lot of fun. A-lot-of-fun. But I don't know, I always felt like she was so distant.

CHARLOTTE

Nothing lasts anymore.

SAM

I second that.

Sam and Charlotte stare into the fire.

CHARLOTTE

How long will it take for the test results?

SAM

About five to seven days.

CHARLOTTE

What if he isn't yours?

Sam looks away.

SAM

I'll worry about that after I know for sure.

CHARLOTTE

You love him.

SAM

I do. He's the first thing that's ever felt real in my life.

CHARLOTTE

What about the promotion? It'd be tough making time to be a father and a career man.

SAM

I'll figure something out. Besides, I've got you to help me out.

(CONTINUED)

Charlotte smirks at Sam. They share a moment.

Sam breaks.

SAM
Well, I think it's time for me to
hit the sack.

Sam stands. Charlotte remains seated.

SAM(CONT'D)
I'll see you tomorrow.

CHARLOTTE
Sure. Sleep well.

SAM
You too.

Sam turns but stops.

SAM(CONT'D)
Hey Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE
Yeah?

SAM
Thanks for coming along.

EXT. OPEN ROAD - DAY

The Vivian drives down a long open road.

INT. THE VIVIAN - DAY

Sam stares at the road ahead.

Charlotte stares out the passenger window.

Tyler is asleep between them.

EXT. CITY - ROOFTOP PARTY - NIGHT

Lanterns light the rooftop.

GUESTS, evening gowns and suits, chat amongst themselves.

Steven strolls with Joel.

Joel greets a guest.

(CONTINUED)

JOEL
Any word from BabyTrue yet?

STEVEN
Nothing, it's a little unsettling.

JOEL
(to a guest)
Ahh Mr Semanya, pleasure to see you again.

Joel shakes hands with the guest, walks on.

JOEL
They need to hurry up. I'm not going to let a chance like this pass me by.

STEVEN
Where's the Vivian?

JOEL
Sam just called. He's on his way.

STEVEN
Can't believe the Rep bought his shtick at the pitch.

JOEL
Me neither but thank God she did.

EXT. BUILDING - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

The Vivian stops at a red carpet.

A VALLET opens Sam's door.

Sam Charlotte and Tyler get out.

Charlotte and Tyler are in awe of the building's splendor.

A crowd of photographers and regulars shout for Sam's attention from behind a barrier.

Sam hands the Vivian's keys to the Vallet.

SAM
Take good care of her, buddy.

VALLET
Of course, Mr Scherer.

Sam takes Tyler's hand, looks at Charlotte.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

Let's go.

EXT. CITY - ROOFTOP PARTY - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Sam exits an elevator, sees the marvelous Guests and party decorations.

Charlotte and Tyler stand beside him.

CHARLOTTE

Where's your dad?

Sam scans the crowd of Guests.

SAM

I don't see him. I'm gonna go take a closer look.

TYLER

I have to go to the bathroom.

Sam looks at Charlotte.

SAM

Would you mind helping him out while I go find my dad?

CHARLOTTE

Of course.

Charlotte takes Tyler by the hand.

CHARLOTTE(CONT'D)

Come on. Let's find you a bathroom.

Sam looks back out at the crowd, adjusts his coat, slicks his hair back.

EXT. CITY - ROOFTOP PARTY - CENTER AREA - NIGHT

Joel and Steven stand together. Joel sees Sam in the crowd.

JOEL

There he is. Sam, son. Over here.

Sam sees Joel, walks over.

SAM

Hey Dad.

Sam looks at Steven.

(CONTINUED)

SAM(CONT'D)

Steven.

STEVEN

(coughs)

Asshole.

Sam rolls his eyes.

SAM

(to Joel)

Where's the COO? I thought you'd be
liquoring her up by now.

JOEL

Steven said she's on her way. Is
the car safe?

SAM

She is.

Joel breathes a sigh of relief.

JOEL

Would you look at that? Maybe you
were cut out for running a company.

Sam takes the compliment in, gushes.

STEVEN

(to Sam)

Where's your spawn, Sam? You forget
him at a petrol station?

JOEL

Knock it off, Steven.

SAM

Yeah, knock it off, Steven.

Joel places a hand on Sam's back, guides him to a bar.

JOEL

Come have drink with me.

EXT. CITY - ROOFTOP PARTY - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Charlotte and Tyler look at the crowd. They can't find Sam.

They both look a little intimidated by the glitz and glam of
the party.

(CONTINUED)

TYLER
Can you see him?

CHARLOTTE
No, but we'll find him soon enough.

EXT. CITY - ROOFTOP PARTY - BAR - NIGHT

Sam and Joel talk by the bar. Joel is smiling at Sam, proud.

A microphone rings. Sam and Joel turn to see an MC, model-like, stand before the mic on a stage.

MC
Hi everybody. I'd like to take this opportunity to ask Mr Scherer to come up on stage.

Joel acts surprised then waddles over to the stage.

The crowd of glamorous people clap as Joel climbs the stairs to the stage.

Joel steps up to the mic.

JOEL
Hello everyone.

Beat.

JOEL(CONT'D)
First of all I'd like to thank--

Joel's speech drones into the background.

Sam watches Joel from the bar. Bianca makes her way toward Sam. He hasn't seen her yet.

BIANCA
Hi stranger.

SAM
Bianca? What are you doing here?

BIANCA
Did you think I was gonna miss the big party over a little fight?

JOEL
For the sake of our great--

Joel's phone rings.

(CONTINUED)

JOEL(CONT'D)

Pardon me everyone. I'm expecting a very important call.

Joel steps aside and answers his phone.

No one can hear what he's saying.

Sam watches Joel nodding, serious.

Joel hangs up, steps back up to the mic.

JOEL(CONT'D)

Big news everyone. That was the President of BabyTrue. Scherer Multimedia will be in charge of their new ad campaign.

Everyone at the party cheers. Bianca grabs Sam, kisses him.

Charlotte, holding Tyler's hand, sees Bianca kissing Sam. She swallows hard.

JOEL(CONT'D)

Where's my son? Sam, come up here.

Sam smiles big, goes onto stage. Bianca follows, holding on to Sam's arm.

JOEL

(to Guests)

Pay close attention everyone. This kid is going places.

All of the Guests applaud.

Steven sulks on the edge of the rooftop. Then he sees Charlotte and Tyler.

Steven eyes Tyler, an evil idea forming in his brain.

EXT. CITY - ROOFTOP PARTY - BAR - NIGHT

Sam, Bianca, Joel and some FANCY GUESTS all take shots at the bar.

SAM

(to Guests)

And then I told him, "I'll show you, Dad."

Everyone laughs at the top of their lungs.

(CONTINUED)

Charlotte and Tyler approach Sam.

SAM
(slurs)
Oh hey, there they are.

Bianca gives Charlotte and Tyler a nasty side-eye.

CHARLOTTE
It's getting late. I think it's
time to put Tyler to bed.

SAM
(slurs)
Oh yeah, I suppose you're right--

BIANCA
No baby, don't leave. This is your
father's special night. Besides, I
have a very special surprise
waiting for you after all this is
over.

SAM
(slurs)
You do? What is it?

Bianca smiles whispers into Sam's ear, nibbles it.

Sam's eyes roll back into his head.

TYLER
Sam, I wanna go back to the
apartment.

SAM
I hear you buddy.

Sam pulls out a wad of cash, hands it to Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE
Make sure he gets home safe, okay?
And get yourself something nice.

Charlotte stares at Sam, incredulous.

Sam stares back, his eyes droopy.

SAM
What?

Charlotte tosses the stack of hundreds at Sam's face, storms
off with Tyler.

All of the Guests laugh. Sam watches them go then laughs with the Guests.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

-Sam downs drink after drink.

-Sam and Bianca take stupid photos together.

-Sam and Joel glad hand each other.

-Sam and some of the Partners push over an ice sculpture and watch it smash into pieces.

-Bianca grabs Sam by the collar and drags him to the elevator.

-The elevator doors shut on Sam's drunk, red face.

END FLASHBACK:

INT. HOTEL ROOM - BEDROOM - DAY

Sam and Bianca lay together passed out in bed.

Sam wakes up. Bianca exhales.

Sam catches a waft of her morning breath, cringes.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - LOUNGE - DAY

Sam exits the bedroom, holds his head in pain.

Sam sees Tyler sitting on the couch watching cartoons.

SAM

Hey buddy. I see you got home safe.

TYLER

Yeah.

SAM

Is Charlotte around?

TYLER

No, she left.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

What? Where'd she go?

TYLER

She said she's going back to Joburg.

SAM

Ahh, I see. Are you hungry?

TYLER

No, Charlotte gave me cereal before she left.

BIANCA(O.S.)

Sam! I need a tablet, my head is killing me!

Sam frowns, looks at the bedroom door.

Tyler looks at Sam, disappointed.

BIANCA(O.S.)(CONT'D)

Sam!

An alarm goes off on Sam's phone. He checks it.

SAM

Shit! It's already two pm. We're gonna miss our flight.

EXT. HOTEL ENTRANCE - DAY

Sam rushes with Tyler into an Uber.

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

A check-in GIRL hands Sam and Tyler their tickets.

EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

An aeroplane takes off.

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Sam collapses onto his bed.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - STEVEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Steven works on his pitch. His phone rings.

Steven answers the call.

STEVEN

Hello?

Beat.

STEVEN(CONT'D)

You found her?

Beat.

STEVEN(CONT'D)

And you're sure she'll go along
with this?

Steven grins an evil grin.

STEVEN(CONT'D)

Get her on a plane to Joburg at
once.

Beat.

STEVEN(CONT'D)

I look forward to hearing from you
soon.

Steven hangs up. Stares at a photo on his wall.

The photo is of Sam with his eyes cut out.

INT. APARTMENT - LOUNGE - DAY

Sam sits on the couch with Tyler. His phone rings.

Sam answers the call.

SAM

Sam Scherer, hello?

DNA GUY(O.S.)

Mr Scherer, it's Thabo from DNACHE.

Sam sits up. Tyler takes notice.

(CONTINUED)

SAM
Oh, hi doc.

DNA GUY(O.S.)
I'm calling with regards to the
results of your paternity test.

SAM
And?

DNA GUY(O.S.)
Well, Mr Scherer, you are not the
boy's father.

Sam pauses for a moment, looks at Tyler.

DNA GUY(O.S.)(CONT'D)
Mr Scherer?

SAM
Uhh yeah I'm here. Thank you for
your call. I appreciate it.

Sam hangs up.

TYLER
Who was that.

SAM
No one, just some work stuff.

Sam checks his watch.

SAM(CONT'D)
Come on, buddy, it's seven thirty.
Time for us to get a move on.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Joel, Steven and the Partners sit in the office.

JOEL
I will stay on to monitor the
progress for the time being but
until then--

The office door opens. Sam enters.

JOEL
Sam, my boy.

(CONTINUED)

STEVEN

You're late.

JOEL

Oh hush up, Steven. Come and have a seat.

SAM

Dad, I need to tell you something.

JOEL

Well it'll have to wait until after the meeting.

SAM

But it's really important.

Joel turns to the Partners, laughs.

JOEL

If I had two rand for every time I heard that one we'd all be billionaires by now.

The Partners laugh.

JOEL(CONT'D)

(to Sam)

Now sit down and pay attention. This meeting's important.

Sam reluctantly takes a seat.

JOEL

Now, I've appointed two team leaders to handle the follow up meeting with BabyTrue.

The Partners nod.

JOEL(CONT'D)

The first is our man, Steven.

The Partners clap, congratulate Steven.

JOEL(CONT'D)

And the second is, Sam.

Dead silence.

JOEL(CONT'D)

This is the last leg of an epic race gentlemen. Bring me your A game tomorrow. Dismissed.

INT. APARTMENT - OFFICE - NIGHT

Sam's working on the pitch. He looks at a framed photo of his mother.

Sam's phone vibrates. He checks the notification, sees his wallpaper of him, Tyler and Charlotte at the camping site.

His phone rings. It's Amy.

Sam let's the call die.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - SAM'S OFFICE - DAY

Sam opens the door to his office. Tyler enters, Sam follows.

TYLER

Why do I have to come to work with you today?

SAM

Because Charlotte hates my guts and won't return any of my calls.

Tyler frowns.

SAM(CONT'D)

And because I like having you around.

Tyler shrugs, turns on the big screen tv.

Sam sorts through his cue cards then puts them into his backpack.

SAM(CONT'D)

You alright to stay here with Angie for a little bit?

Tyler nods, he's watching cartoons on the tv.

SAM(CONT'D)

Great stuff.

Sam slings his backpack over his shoulder and leaves.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - JOEL'S OFFICE - DAY

Joel briefs Sam and Steven in his office.

JOEL

Alright boys. I hope you're ready for the most important pitch of your lives.

STEVEN

You know it.

SAM

Yeah, I'm ready.

JOEL

Glad to hear it. Now let's go make some money.

Joel exits the office.

Sam and Steven follow.

Steven stops at the door.

STEVEN

Hey Sam.

SAM

Yeah?

STEVEN

I know I've been a little harsh during the last few days but I just wanna say that I admire your desire to prove yourself and may the best man win.

Steven puts his hand out for a shake.

SAM

Well, I can just imagine how frustrating it must be. The position you've slaved away half your life for, maybe getting taken away by the spoiled son of your boss.

Steven fake chuckles.

SAM(CONT'D)

But I appreciate the gesture and to you I say the same. May the best man win.

Sam shakes Steven's hand.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Joel enters the office. The Partners sit in their seats.

Sam and Steven enter as well.

JOEL

Alright. I got word that the CEO of
BabyTrue has just entered the
building.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - RECEPTION - DAY

The CEO OF BABYTRUE, mature woman, suit, strolls in with two
ASSOCIATES beside her.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Joel's phone goes off. He checks it.

JOEL

Alright everyone, places. I'm going
out to greet our guests.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - TOP FLOOR - HALLWAY - DAY

The CEO exits the elevator with her two companions.

Joel greets her.

JOEL

Miss Ramcharan, I'm so pleased to
finally meet you.

RAMCHARAN

I believe you and your team have
got something amazing planned.

JOEL

Only the best for our newest
client. Right this way.

Joel guides Ramcharan down the hall.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Sam is the first to pitch.

SAM

Hello, miss Ramcharan and esteemed guests. Thank you for attending this presentation.

Steven watches from the back of the room.

Sam shows his slides on a projector. They look well thought out and executed.

Sam's phone rings. Sam pauses, reaches into his pocket.

SAM(CONT'D)

Excuse me.

Sam doesn't recognise the number. Hangs up.

Ramcharan is not impressed with what she's seeing.

Steven grins.

SAM(CONT'D)

I apologise. Now, where was I?

Sam sorts through his cue cards.

There's a knock at the door.

Joel raises a brow.

Angie cautiously opens the door, peeks in.

JOEL

Angela? This better be important.

ANGIE

I'm sorry to interrupt, sir. But we have a situation on our hands.

SAM

What is it?

ANGIE

It's Tyler.

Sam frowns.

(CONTINUED)

SAM
Is he okay?

ANGIE
I think you'd better come with me.

SAM
(to Ramcharan)
I'm very sorry Miss Ramcharan, it's
my son, I need to take this.

Sam exits the room.

Joel stands.

JOEL
Sam!

Steven smirks.

Joel and Ramcharan watch Sam speak to Angie outside in the hallway.

Angie quickly tells Sam something in the hallway.

Joel sees Sam run down the hall and out of sight.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Ramcharan looks at her Associates then at Joel.

RAMCHARAN
Is this part of another routine?

Steven stands before Joel can answer. He makes his way to the front of the room.

STEVEN
Don't worry, Joel. I'm sure Sam had
a very good reason for leaving. But
I think that since he's gone I
should go ahead and deliver my
pitch to Miss Ramcharan.

Joel looks at the Partners, Ramcharan.

JOEL
Very well.

Steven grins an evil grin.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - LOBBY - DAY

Sam exits an elevator.

The Security Guard from earlier stands by the counter with Amy and TWO COPS.

Sam goes over to the counter.

SAM

Amy?

SECURITY GUARD

I'm sorry, Mr Scherer, I tried telling them that you were in a meeting.

AMY

I want my kid, Sam.

SAM

Whoa, slow down.

AMY

I've been calling you for a week now. Where is he?

SAM

Calling me? You've been calling me? Amy, you dumped him on my couch and ran away to Africa Burn for the weekend.

The OLDER COP steps forward.

OLDER COP

Mr Scherer, we have permission to take the boy by force if need be.

SAM

The hell you do.

(to Security Guard)

Tell Angie to call Goldstein.

SECURITY GUARD

Right away, sir.

The Security Guard goes behind the counter, picks up a telephone.

AMY

Where's Tyler?

(CONTINUED)

SAM
He's safe upstairs.

AMY
I have a right to see him.

Sam chews on Amy's words, looks at the two Cops.

SECURITY GUARD
She's not picking up, Mr Scherer.

The Older Cop places a hand on Sam's shoulder.

OLDER COP
We don't want to make a scene.
Think of the child.

Sam sighs.

SAM
Alright. Just give me a chance to
explain this to him.

AMY
You've got five minutes.

Sam frowns at Amy.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - SAM'S OFFICE - DAY

Tyler watches cartoons on the tv.

Sam enters the office, sees Tyler.

SAM
Buddy?

Tyler turns to Sam. He can see the lump in Sam's throat.

TYLER
What's wrong?

SAM
It's your mom.

TYLER
Is she hurt?

SAM
No, she's perfectly fine. In fact,
she's downstairs.

TYLER
She's back?

SAM
Yeah.

Sam takes a deep breath.

SAM(CONT'D)
And I think it'd be good if you
came down with me and said hi to
her.

Tyler stares at Sam, he knows something's up.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - LOBBY - DAY

Sam and Tyler exit the elevator.

Tyler has his jacket and a backpack on.

Amy sees Tyler, rushes over to hug him.

AMY
Oh my little boy, my little Tyler,
I missed you so much.

Tyler hugs Amy back. He sees the two Cops behind her.

TYLER
Why are the police here?

AMY
They're helping me.

TYLER
Helping you with what?

AMY
They're helping me take you back.

TYLER
Back to where?

AMY
Back home with me.

Tyler looks at Sam.

TYLER
But what about Sam?

Amy pauses.

(CONTINUED)

AMY

He was just looking after you until
I got back.

Tyler takes a deep breath. He sees Sam looking away.

The Younger Cop takes a step closer.

YOUNGER COP

Come on, son. It's time to go.

Tyler breaks away from Amy's embrace, runs to Sam.

TYLER

I don't want to go.

Tyler hugs Sam's leg.

Sam kneels, looks Tyler in the eye.

SAM

It's okay, buddy, don't be scared.

TYLER

No. Tell them they can't take me.

SAM

I wish I could.

Sam wipes a tear from his eye, hugs Tyler.

SAM(CONT'D)

Now listen, I want you to be brave
for me okay?

Tyler looks down.

Amy marches over, grabs Tyler's hand.

AMY

It's time to go.

TYLER

No!

Tyler resists but the Younger Cop wrestles him away from Sam.

Amy and the Younger Cop make their way to the entrance.

Tyler fights them every step of the way.

(CONTINUED)

TYLER

Let me go! Sam!

Sam runs over to the Older Cop before he leaves as well.

SAM

Listen, just make sure he's okay,
please.

The Older Cop looks at Sam with empathy, nods.

OLDER COP

We'll do all we can.

Sam turns away from the door, stares at the tiles of the lobby's floor.

SECURITY GUARD(O.S.)

Mr Scherer, the meeting.

Sam tenses.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - TOP FLOOR - HALLWAY - DAY

Sam steps out of the elevator, sees Ramcharan and her Associates leaving the conference room.

Steven walks them to the elevator on the other end of the hall.

Ramcharan laughs at one of Steven's slick jokes.

SAM

Miss Ramcharan, wait, please.

Joel intercepts Sam before he can get Ramcharan's attention.

JOEL

Oh no you don't.

SAM

Dad, I can explain.

JOEL

I gave you a chance to prove
yourself and this is how you repay
me?

SAM

It's Amy. She came back and took
Tyler.

(CONTINUED)

JOEL

She was here? In the building?

SAM

Yes. We need to make a plan to get him back. He's not safe with--

JOEL

No Sam. Under no circumstances will I be indulging you any further.

SAM

Indulging me?

JOEL

Steven stole the show after you left. The position's as good as his now.

SAM

What?

JOEL

You blew it, Sam. Only this time, I feel like a fool for trusting you.

Ramcharan, the Associates and Steven enter the elevator.

RAMCHARAN

Are you coming Joel?

Joel turns to them, smiles.

JOEL

I'll be right over.

Joel turns back to Sam.

JOEL(CONT'D)

I want you to take the week off.

SAM

Dad, I can still take over. I'm just in a rough patch right now.

JOEL

Go home, Sam. Go home and think hard about what it is you want.

Sam watches Joel turn and stroll to the elevator on the end of the hallway.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - PARKING LOT - DAY

Sam trudges over to his Porsche, head hung low.

INT. SAM'S PORSCHE - DAY

Sam sits in the driver's seat but suddenly jumps up.

Sam reaches under his butt and pulls out one of Tyler's toys.

Sam stares at the toy, a tear runs down his cheek.

INT. ELEGANT BUILDING - JOEL'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The office door slowly opens. Steven peeks in.

The coast is clear, he's all alone.

Steven takes a seat at Joel's desk. He sees a framed photo of Sam.

Steven chuckles, places his feet on the desk, blocking the photo.

Steven opens a drawer, pulls out a cigar and a glass of premium whiskey.

Steven lights the cigar, inspects the bottle like a connoisseur.

Steven's phone rings. He answers.

STEVEN

Hello, you're on the line with the new head of Scherer Multimedia.

AMY(O.S.)

That's dandy, Mr head. Now, where's the amount I was promised.

Steven puffs his cigar, grins.

STEVEN

Ahh, my trusty accomplice. Your timing today was impeccable.

AMY(O.S.)

I try. Now where's the money? I wanna be out of here before the weekend.

(CONTINUED)

STEVEN

The transfer will be made tomorrow,
ten sharp.

AMY(O.S.)

Good.

STEVEN

One last thing, before you go.

AMY(O.S.)

What?

STEVEN

Was he sad when you took the kid
away?

AMY(O.S.)

Who, Sam?

Steven moves his foot, stares at Sam's photo.

STEVEN

Yes, did it hurt him?

Silence.

Steven smiles.

STEVEN(CONT'D)

I wish you and your son a very safe
trip.

Steven hangs up, puffs his cigar, stares at Sam's photo.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Sam trudges down the hallway, stops at his door.

Charlotte exits the Ramatella's apartment. She stops when
she sees Sam.

Sam, eyes puffy, doesn't notice her. He fiddles with a set
of keys.

Charlotte wants to leave quickly but she sees that Sam's
upset.

Sam fiddles with the keys, turns the lock to open the door.

The door won't budge. Sam looks at the door, incredulous,
tries again.

(CONTINUED)

The door won't open.

Sam, frustrated, twists the key back and forth.

Nothing happens.

Sam, red face, takes his bag off his shoulder and tosses it on the floor.

Sam rips the keys from the door. He's about to toss them down the hall when he sees Charlotte.

SAM
Charlotte?

Charlotte stands by the doorway, pensive.

Sam lowers his arm, runs his hand through his hair, takes a breath.

SAM(CONT'D)
I, I'm sorry. I didn't see you there.

Charlotte softens.

Sam has a lump in his throat. He's trying real hard to keep it all together.

INT. SAM'S PORSCHE - NIGHT

Charlotte and Sam sit together in the Porsche. They're driving down a highway.

CHARLOTTE
Take the next off ramp.

SAM
You sure your uncle can help us?

CHARLOTTE
No, but we don't have many other options right now.

Sam looks over at Charlotte.

SAM
Thank you.

CHARLOTTE
I'm not doing it for you.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

I know.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - NIGHT

Sam's Porsche is parked in the driveway.

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - OFFICE - NIGHT

Sam and Charlotte sit opposite HUGH, a short, middle aged, bespectacled man.

Hugh rests his clasped hands on his desk and looks frankly at Sam.

HUGH

Well, Mr Scherer this certainly is a complicated situation.

SAM

Tell me about it. Is there anything we can do?

HUGH

It'll be tough. But if what you've told me is true, it may not be in the child's best interest to stay with his mother.

Sam smiles.

HUGH

But, that isn't to say the state will grant you legal guardianship.

CHARLOTTE

But who else would look after him?

HUGH

Does he have any other family that you know of?

Sam thinks for a while.

SAM

Only Amy's parents but last I heard they want nothing to do with her.

Hugh leans back in his chair.

(CONTINUED)

HUGH

My advice, put those Scherer
millions to good use and hire a
stellar legal team.

There's a twinkle in Sam's eye.

SAM

Oh I can do stellar.

INT. SAM'S PORSCHE - NIGHT

Sam's got his phone to his ear and his foot flat on the gas.

Charlotte grits her teeth, clings to her seat,
whiteknuckled.

SAM

Angie? Hello?

Beat.

SAM(CONT'D)

Listen, I need you to bring Herbert
and his crew to my apartment right
now.

Beat.

SAM(CONT'D)

I'll see you in ten.

EXT. UNDERGROUND GARAGE - NIGHT

Sam's Porsche swerves into the underground parking.

INT. APARTMENT - LOUNGE - NIGHT

Sam and Charlotte stand with Angie before a group of
LAWYERS, civillian clothing.

ANGIE

Here they are. The legal team your
father used over the years to fend
off those greedy harpies.

CHARLOTTE

Why are there so many?

(CONTINUED)

SAM

My dad got a little uhh busy when he was younger.

CHARLOTTE

Oh, gross.

One of the Lawyers, Herbert, perks up.

HERBERT

Busy is an understatement if I may.

ANGIE

Oh yeah. Everybody knows Joel Scherer's gotten more ass than a toilet seat in a public bus station.

Charlotte raises a brow. Sam goes beet-red.

SAM

Angie, please stop.

ANGIE

You wanted real. This is real right here.

The Lawyers nod in agreement.

ANGIE(CONT'D)

So which one are you gonna take?

Sam examines the Lawyers like puppies in a pet store.

SAM

Aw gee, they all look so good.

CHARLOTTE

Why not take them all then?

Sam raises a brow, grins.

INT. SEEDY BAR - DAY

Amy, scantily clad, hops off of a stage. She struts to a room in the back of the bar.

ANNOUNCER(O.S.)

Let's give a warm round of applause for miss Dignity Daniels in her final performance ever.

A crowd of MEN clap, cheer.

INT. SEEDY BAR - BACKROOM - DAY

A BURLY MAN, cheap suit, unkempt hair, sits at desk smoking a cigarette. He's working on the books for the bar.

Tyler sits on a couch in the room, staring at the ceiling.

Amy enters, strolls over to the desk.

BURLY MAN
You finish up in there?

Amy nods, she has a black eye.

BURLY MAN(CONT'D)
Don't look so sad. It's
unattractive.

AMY
Can I go now?

The Burly Man puffs his cigarette.

BURLY
Yeah, your debt's paid.

Amy looks at Tyler.

EXT. SEEDY BAR - DAY

Amy exits the bar, holding Tyler's hand. She paces down the sidewalk.

TYLER
I'm hungry.

AMY
We'll get something at the airport.

TYLER
I don't wanna go.

AMY
It's not your decision.

A MAN IN A COLLARED SHIRT, approaches Amy with a document in hand.

COLLARED SHIRT
Amy Van Zyl?

(CONTINUED)

AMY

Who wants to know?

COLLARED SHIRT

I have a delivery for you.

TYLER

How does he know your name, mom?

The Man hands Amy the document.

COLLARED SHIRT

You've been served.

INT. STEVEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Steven sits with one of the Partners in his office.

The Partner reads through a document.

STEVEN

What do you think?

PARTNER

It isn't ethical.

STEVEN

To hell with ethical. You think
Joel got to where he was by being a
nice guy?

The Partner leans back in his chair, places the page down on
Steven's desk.

PARTNER

What about the others? I don't
think they'll consent to this.

STEVEN

That's why I chose to share this
very sensitive information with you
and only you.

PARTNER

But what you're talking about here
is fraud.

STEVEN

The investors need to know that the
company's in good hands now that
Joel's gone.

(CONTINUED)

PARTNER

But why involve me?

STEVEN

I served as Joel's right hand. I plugged all the holes in this boat while he charted our course. Now it's time for me to take the wheel.

PARTNER

You want me to be your right hand?

STEVEN

My first mate. Do this one thing for me and I'll make sure you're handsomely rewarded for your loyalty to the company.

The Partner looks at the document, then at Steven.

Steven extends his hand for a shake.

STEVEN(CONT'D)

The investors want a result that they can see. Help me give it to them.

The Partner looks down, swallows, shakes Steven's hand.

Steven grins.

The Partner stands, takes the page and leaves.

Steven's cellphone rings. He answers.

STEVEN

Yellow.

AMY(O.S.)

What the hell is going on here!

Steven holds the phone far from his ear, grits his teeth.

STEVEN

Whoa, whoa, take it easy.

AMY(O.S.)

I'm supposed to be on a plane to the Seychelles and instead I have a piece of paper here telling me I'm due in court on Friday!

(CONTINUED)

STEVEN

What!?

AMY(O.S.)

I swear to God, I'll blow the lid on this whole operation if I'm not out of here by this afternoon.

STEVEN

Who's suing you?

AMY(O.S.)

Who do you think?

Steven leans forward, frowns.

STEVEN

Sam.

AMY(O.S.)

Sort this out or I'm gonna make a fuss too big to stifle.

Amy hangs up.

Steven drops his phone, bangs his hands on his desk.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Sam and his Lawyers sit together planning out the case.

There's a knock at the door.

Sam stands, strolls to the door, opens it.

Steven stands in the doorway.

SAM

Steven?

STEVEN

Young Sammy Davis.

SAM

What are you doing here?

STEVEN

Oh you know, just thought I'd come over and see how you're doing after everything that happened.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

Uhh I'm kind of busy right now.

Sam closes the door but Steven blocks it with his foot.

STEVEN

Listen, I've been thinking about your future with the company.

SAM

Well I appreciate it but I have some really important business to take care of here.

STEVEN

(irritated)

Now listen here you little--

Steven reigns himself in, slicks his hair back, smiles.

STEVEN

How about you swing by my office tomorrow. I've a big project in Iceland that could use your particular skillset.

SAM

No. Thank you.

Sam shuts the door.

INT. COURT HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Sam, Charlotte and his Lawyers stand together outside the Judge's chambers.

Amy arrives, she's wearing formal clothes. She has a LAWYER (AMY'S LAWYER) with her.

Sam sees Amy. She looks haggard.

Charlotte sees that Sam is watching Amy.

CHARLOTTE

You okay?

SAM

I didn't think Amy could afford a lawyer.

Charlotte straightens Sam's collar.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLOTTE

Just make sure Tyler gets the best,
okay?

A BAILIFF opens the doors to the Judge's chambers.

Sam looks at his Lawyers then at Charlotte.

SAM

Alright, guess I have to go now.

CHARLOTTE

Keep me posted.

Sam nods, looks to his Lawyers and motions for them to enter.

Charlotte watches everyone enter, exhales.

INT. COURT HOUSE - JUDGE'S CHAMBERS - DAY

Sam, Amy and their lawyers stand before their tables and chairs in the chamber.

The Bailiff stands before the judge's podium.

BAILIFF

Remain standing for the honourable
Judge Abrahams.

JUDGE ABRAHAMS, mature woman, robes, enters, takes a seat at the podium.

ABRAHAMS

You may now be seated.

Everyone takes their seats.

ABRAHAMS (CONT'D)

Mr Samuel Scherer?

Sam stands with Herbert.

ABRAHAMS (CONT'D)

It has come to my attention, Mr
Scherer, that you are petitioning
for legal guardianship of Tyler Van
Zyl.

SAM

Yes mam.

(CONTINUED)

ABRAHAMS (CONT'D)
Miss Van Zyl.

Amy stands with her Lawyer.

ABRAHAMS
What do you have to say?

AMY'S LAWYER
Honourable Judge Abrahams, we would ask that the court consider that Miss Van Zyl is more than capable of raising her own son.

Abrahams examines some papers on the podium before her.

ABRAHAMS
Mr Scherer, what interest do you have in a child that you have no familial or legal ties to?

SAM
Honourable, Judge Abrahams, I don't believe that it's within Tyler's best interest to stay with Miss Van Zyl.

Judge Abrahams peers over her glasses at Sam.

ABRAHAMS
And you believe that you would be best suited to look after the child?

SAM
I do.

EXT. ELEGANT BUILDING - ROOFTOP - DAY

The camera pans back down to a picnic being held on top of Scherer Multimedia's building.

They have a sky garden up there with trees and picnic blankets.

SUPER: One year later

Sam stands by a braai with some of the Employees.

Tyler runs around with some other Kids from school.

Charlotte strolls over to Sam, holding a BABY.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLOTTE

Hey handsome.

SAM

There's my two favorite girls.

Sam plants a kiss on the Baby's head.

SAM

Pravesh, you want a chop?

PRAVESH

No thanks, Sam, I'm watching my figure.

CHARLOTTE

Your wife didn't leave you again did she?

PRAVESH

She did.

CHARLOTTE

Oh no. I'm so sorry to hear that.

PRAVESH

Don't be. I've got myself a new brown sugar momma.

Angela hugs Pravesh.

SAM

Angie? Jeez who would've thought?

ANGELA

How could I resist his self-deprecating humor and gluttonous appetite?

Everyone smiles.

A helicopter flies in from the open sky.

Sam looks, sees the helicopter land on the roof.

Joel exits the helicopter in a Hawaiin shirt and plakkies.

SAM

Dad?

TYLER

Grandpa.

Tyler runs and gives Joel a hug.

JOEL

Oh there's my big boy.

SAM

I thought you weren't getting back for another three weeks.

JOEL

Well, I thought about it and then I thought, what kind of father would I be if I didn't attend my son's cliche, everything's okay, resolution braai.

CHARLOTTE

Well you've landed just in time. The meat's gonna be ready soon and the credits are waiting to roll after you deliver a heart-felt speech to Sam.

JOEL

Very good. Sam, can I have a word?

SAM

Sure dad.

Sam walks beside Joel.

JOEL

You know, son, I think your mother would be very proud of you right now.

They stop and lean on the rooftop railing.

JOEL(CONT'D)

She always dreamed of handing this company over to you one day and here you are. Doing what you were born to do.

SAM

That means the world to me, dad. What are you gonna do now that you're retired?

JOEL

I'm not sure. Sky's the limit from here I suppose.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

You're right about that.

JOEL

And how are you holding up, running the company and all?

SAM

I'm not gonna lie, it was a real challenge at first.

Sam turns to his friends and family standing around the braai.

SAM(CONT'D)

But I've got a strong team backing me.

Sam looks back at Joel.

JOEL

Just remember that you can't act the fool anymore son. There's always someone watching waiting for you to slip up.

SAM

Don't I know it.

JOEL

Me on the other hand, I can do whatever the hell I want now. Watch this.

Joel hocks a loogie and spits over the edge of the building.

The loogie lands with a sloppy smack.

WINDOW CLEANER(O.S.)

Hey! Who spat on me?

Joel and Sam look down.

They see Steven cleaning windows on a platform three stories below them.

SAM

Uhh sorry.

Sam and Joel pull back from the railing. They're laughing like a couple of naughty school boys.

Sam and Joel make their way back to the braai.

(CONTINUED)

The camera pans up and away from the building.

Now That We Found Love, acoustic this time, plays over the city skyline.

FADE OUT: