

Forever Dad

By

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FADE IN:

INT. MODEST LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

SUPER: 1974, WOLLONGONG, AUSTRALIA

A ten year old fair hair freckled girl, SHELLY, sits in a dimly lit room. She's curled up like a ball with a blanket on the couch. Her full attention's on the T V as she bites her nails. Sound of thunder and lightning fills the room.

INSERT - OLD B/W TV SCREEN - A creepy scene from the 1963 movie 'The Haunting' plays out.

Shelly anxiously watches. Her body frozen in fear.

The front door, which leads into the living room, flies open. Shelly screams and hides under the blanket.

A man in his thirties, in overalls/dungarees, medium build, KEV, enters. He carries a lunch box and a newspaper.

KEV

Shelly! What's goin' on? What are you doin' up this late?

Shelly looks from under the blanket.

SHELLY

Oh Dad, I'm so glad it was you. I though you were a ghost.

Kev looks at what's playing on the T V and turns it off.

KEV

Aww Shelly. Ya too young to be watchin' this rubbish. Does ya Mum know you're up?

Shelly shakes her head. She looks down, remorseful and pouts.

KEV (CONT'D)

Well ya better get ta bed before she does. Goo on.

Shelly gets up and runs out of the room.

INT. MODEST MAIN BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kev and his wife MERYL are sound asleep in bed. Their door's open, the room semi-lit from a hallway light. CRACK! KAZUM! Thunder so loud the house shakes. Lightning lights up the room. The muffled sounds of a wild storm raging outside.

Shelly hurries into the room. She looks terrified.

SHELLY
Dad. Dad. Wake up.

Meryl is a sound sleeper but Kev's now half awake.

KEV
Shelly, is that you? What's goin
on love?

SHELLY
I keep hearin' noises. I think
there's ghosts. Can I sleep with
you and Mum?

KEV
It's just the storm love. Go back
ta bed.

SHELLY
Dad, I'm real scared Dad. Please
Dad.

KEV
Awww Shelly.

Kev drags himself out of bed.

INT. SHELLY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kev tucks Shelly into bed. Her bedroom light is on. On her wall are Countdown and Bay City Rollers posters. Shelly looks terrified. The storm continues to rage outside.

KEV
Now love, what's all this silly
talk about ghosts?

SHELLY
I keep hearin strange noises Dad
and it sounds like the ghosts are
coming to get me.

KEV
Oh Shelly, don't ya know there's no
such thing as ghosts.

SHELLY
But Dad it was on the T V.

KEV

That's a movie love, a silly movie. Don't ya think if there were ghosts it woulda been on the front page of the Mercury and on the Win news.

SHELLY

You promise there's no ghosts?

KEV

Well there hasn't been a shred of evidence so far. Now go ta sleep love. All that noise ya hearin is just the storm, that's all.

SHELLY

Can you leave the light on Dad?

KEV

Sure love. And I'll leave both our bedroom doors open. We're just across the hall.

SHELLY

Thanks Dad.

KEV

Nite nite Shell.

Kev kisses her on the forehead and exits. Shelly lies on her back. Her eyes dart all around. She's terrified.

INT. MODEST SMALL OFFICE - DAY

SUPER: FORTY YEARS LATER, MIDWEST USA

MR PEEBLES - late forties, glasses, nerdy, short sleeve business shirt - sits behind a neat desk with PC, photo of mother and stationary. Soaring eagle motivation poster on back wall. He flicks through a resume and some certificates.

MR PEEBLES

So Sandy, can you tell me a little bit about yourself and why you think you'd be an asset to Southside Home Care?

SHELLY, an attractive freckled fifty year old with a pleasant smile and dressed casual sits up in her chair.

SHELLY

Actually it's Shelly.

MR PEEBLES

Sorry.

SHELLY

I worked as a Disability Support worker in Australia for fifteen years, helping client's, autistic spectrum, teaching living skills, community access, client advocacy.

MR PEEBLES

What are you called down under?

SHELLY

Disability Support worker.

(beat)

I do like the title Direct Support Professional better - sounds like I should get paid more. Not that I'm in this for the money.

MR PEEBLES

And what attracted you to this line of work Shelly?

SHELLY

Well Mr Peebles, I'm a firm believer that everyone should be given a fair go. Everyone has the right to feel valued and live a full rewarding life.

MR PEEBLES

Was that last bit from our brochure?

SHELLY

I think so.

MR PEEBLES

When can you start?

INT. SHELLY'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Shelly sits at a kitchen table. Sitting opposite is her father KEV - mid seventies with leathery skin from a lifetime in the sun. They're about to eat dinner - fried sausages, mashed potato, carrots and peas.

KEV

Sorry about the dinner love. Had a hell of a time findin' decent snags. And I looked everywhere but couldn't find any tomato sauce.

SHELLY

Ketchup.

KEV

Huh?

SHELLY

Tomato sauce is called ketchup.

KEV

Catch up. Funny name.
Why don't they call it tomata
sauce?

SHELLY

Just the way it is. Bit strange if
we all spoke the same. Wouldn't it?

KEV

Yeah there's a lot different here.

SHELLY

Give it more time Dad. You've only
been here a few munts.

KEV

Well maybe if you let me borrow yah
car, I could better submerse me
self into the cultcha.

SHELLY

Now Dad, we've been over this,
you've only got a New South Wales
license and over here they drive on
the opposite side so I don't--

KEV

Oh bloody ell. I'm only seventy
five, I think I've still got enough
grey matta workin to keep to the
right and not kill anyone.

SHELLY

Give me a bit more time to warm to
the idea.

KEV

Yes Mum!

They both smirk.

SHELLY

So I've got some great news.

KEV

We're movin' back to Wollongong?

SHELLY

No no! I've got a job.

KEV

You gotta job? Well good on ya love. What's the job?

SHELLY

I'm a Direct Support Professional.

KEV

What's that?

SHELLY

You know how I was a Disability Support Worker in Wollongong, same thing.

KEV

Aww that's good. You're good at that.

SHELLY

Yeah, it's with a group home on Phoenix Road, other side of town. Only problem is it's shift work.

KEV

Aww well you do what you gotta do love. You'll be right. When do you start?

SHELLY

Monday's my first shift. Afternoon shift. Mr Peebles, the Manager is going to introduce me ta everyone.

EXT. PHOENIX ROAD GROUP HOME - DAY

A modest single storey brick veneer home has a wide front door and a concrete ramp at the entrance. A white van is parked in the driveway. Some small shrubs at the front. It's a busy street, a large bus speeds past.

MR PEEBLES

So Sandy, this here is our Phoenix Road Group home. We have four clients living at this address.

SHELLY

It's Shelly.

MR PEEBLES
I keep doing that. Sorry Shelly!

SHELLY
No worries.

MR PEEBLES
Let's meet everyone.

INT. GROUP HOME LIVING ROOM - DAY

JAMES (30) black, athletic, smiles as he flaps his hands and jumps on the spot. MARCUS (20) Asian with down syndrome stands nearby smiling. FREDDY (26) overweight, dressed in a chipmunk onesie sits on a couch. All watch TV.

INSERT - COLOR TV SCREEN - A Wiggles DVD - 'Wake Up Jeff'.

Sitting on a kitchen chair off to one side is TINA (60) attractive, dressed in jeans and a casual top. Beside Tina is PHIL (24) with extensive face piercing and dressed all in black. Both are smiling.

James, Marcus and Freddy continue to enjoy the Wiggles.

The doorbell rings. Tina gets up to answer it.

Tina opens the door. Mr Peebles and Shelly enter.

MR PEEBLES
Shelly, this is Tina. Tina helps
with the community access.
(to Tina)
Shelly will be on the B shift with
Bonnet. This is her first day.

TINA
Hi Shelly.

SHELLY
Hi Tina.

TINA
We've had a big day. We went to
the Mall in the morning, the Park
in the afternoon and now we are all
just chilling out on some Wiggles.

MR PEEBLES
Great. I wanted to introduce
Shelly to you and the guys from C
shift and of course all our
clients. Where's Kirk?

SHELLY
(friendly smile)
Hi James.

James is shy and avoids eye contact. He looks away.

SHELLY (CONT'D)
Hi Marcus. Do you like the
Wiggles?

Marcus smiles and nods yes.

TINA
And over on the couch is Freddy.

SHELLY
Hi Freddy.

Freddy stands up and moves near Shelly.

FREDDY
What is your accent? Are you New
Zealand like Peter Jackson?

SHELLY
No, I'm Australian. I love your
costume.

FREDDY
It's not a costume. I'm a
chipmunk. My species is human
chipmunk. On planet Chipmunk
there's human chipmunk, cow
chipmunk, dog chipmunk, cat
chipmunk and chipmunk chipmunk.

SHELLY
Well I'm pleased to meet you Mister
Chipmunk.

Shelly shakes Freddy's hand.

FREDDY
(pleased)
Yes I am!

MR PEEBLES
I'll show you the kitchen Shelly
and introduce you to Maria and my
nephew Kirk.

Mr Peebles walks through a swinging door and Shelly follows.

INT. GROUP HOME KITCHEN - DAY

Kirk's still fanning farts into Maria's face when the kitchen door swings open. He quickly pretends that he is fanning a bad odour away.

On entry Shelly and Mr Peebles have to gasp cause of the stench. Maria's stressed.

KIRK

Oh Maria. Hi Uncle Nigel. I think maybe Maria's soiled herself again.

MR PEEBLES

You might want to open up a window Kirk.

KIRK

Good idea Uncle Nigel.

Kirk opens a window.

Shelly comforts Maria who's distressed.

SHELLY

Not feeling well sweetheart? I'm Shelly and I'll get you cleaned up. It'll be okay.

Shelly pats Maria's face which calms her down.

KIRK

Oh I'll do that.

MR PEEBLES

Kirk this is Shelly, she's going to be working with Bonnet. Shelly, this is my nephew Kirk.

KIRK

Hi Shelly, look I'll do that.

SHELLY

Hi Kirk, no I'm okay. I've got this. Besides your shift's almost over. Me and Maria are going to be good friends, aren't we sweetheart.

Shelly pushes Maria out of the kitchen.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

We can catch up next time Kirk, bye.

KIRK
 (looks worried)
 Yeah bye.

Shelly exits the kitchen with Maria.

MR PEEBLES
 Isn't she great Kirk? I think
 Sandy is going to fit right in.

KIRK
 Sandy?

EXT. PHOENIX ROAD GROUP HOME - NIGHT

The single level Group home is poorly lit from nearby streetlights. A white van is parked in the driveway. A large bus speeds past.

INT. GROUP HOME LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

James is on the same spot flapping his hands. Marcus stands nearby smiling. A fifty something hippie - BONNET - wears a t-shirt, faded jeans and a bandana. He sits on the couch where Freddy sat. Their full attention is on the television.

INSERT - COLOR TV SCREEN - Episode from a H.R Puffin Stuff DVD. A character in a tree costume and Witchy Poo interact.

Sitting on a chair off to one side is Shelly. Sitting beside her watching the DVD is Maria, now calm and smiling.

SHELLY
 So Bonnet, I was wondering--

BONNET
 One minute, one minute.
 (chuckles)
 Sorry, I just love that bit. You were saying.

SHELLY
 What does afternoon shift entail?

BONNET
 (focuses on T V)
 Well we make sure everyone's fed, clean, medicated and ready for bed. After a day out, everyone usually wants to just chill out.
 (chuckles)
 Oh that Witchy Poo just cracks me up.

SHELLY

So everyone's eaten and these three have had a wash. Where's Freddy?

BONNET

Oh every night he just listens to this old antique radio him and his Dad rebuilt years ago.

SHELLY

Oh does he listen to music?

BONNET

Nah, just some Community Radio station, real amateur hour. He'll listen for hours, even talks back sometimes, he thinks they can hear him. Ha Ha. Aw this episode is mad.

SHELLY

So Bonnet, do I have to wash him?

BONNET

Aww no no. Freddy's really good. Just get him a clean onesie for bed and a towel and a chair for his clothes. He has a shower himself.

SHELLY

Okay, I'll go and set him up. But before I do, I wanted to ask you about Kirk.

BONNET

Do not cross him Shelly. He lies, he's abusive, he's manipulative, has zero empathy. And they're his good qualities. Classic sociopath.

SHELLY

Hmm, that might explain what happened when I first met him in the kitchen. He dropped his guts and blamed Maria. Said she'd soiled herself but she hadn't.

BONNET

My last partner, Jackie, found him being abusive to Marcus. She tried reporting him to Peebles but it ended up a case of she said, he said. So she quit and moved to Alaska to put some distance between her and that son of a bitch.

SHELLY

Sounds like one sick pup. Wonder what we're going to do about him?

BONNET

Not much we can do I'm afraid. Mr Peebles is his Uncle and he's got him fooled. I'm praying for some divine intervention.

SHELLY

Hmm, okay I'm off to see our resident chipmunk.

(turns to Maria)

Back soon sweetie.

INT. GROUP HOME HALLWAY - NIGHT

Shelly walks down a hallway and stops at a bedroom door. She's carrying a towel.

On the door's a sign "CHIPMUNKS ONLY! KEEP OUT!". From behind the door, Shelly hears the muffled sound of a talk back radio station. She strains to listen. There is also the sound of Freddy talking. Shelly knocks.

FREDDY (O.S.)

One second please.

Freddy opens the door.

Shelly catches a glimpse of a wall covered in animated chipmunk pictures and a 1930s four foot tall skyscraper style antique radio with a wooden cabinet and a large dial.

SHELLY

Time for your shower mate.

Freddy exits his room and closes the door behind him.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

Okay Freddy, here's your towel. There's already a chair in the bathroom to put your clothes on. Do you have clean pyjamas?

Freddy grabs the towel.

FREDDY

I have more chipmunk fur hanging up.

Freddy heads for the bathroom and leaves Shelly standing at his door. Shelly hears the bathroom door slam.

SHELLY

Well I guess I better get you some
clean fur.

INT. FREDDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Shelly enters Freddy's room. The walls are covered in chipmunk animated pictures. On his bed is a Chipmunk quilt cover. Shelly walks to the built in wardrobe and opens it.

There's twenty chipmunk onesies hanging in the wardrobe, there's no other clothes.

Shelly grabs a chipmunk onesie and closes the wardrobe. Shelly looks around at the wall. She notices a picture amongst the various chipmunk animated pictures.

The picture is Freddy aged around twenty in chipmunk onesie standing between an elderly couple. All three are smiling, Freddy shows his teeth. The father is a Professor type and the mother looks Italian on an electric mobility scooter.

Shelly smiles and she looks around the room. She notices the 1930s large skyscraper style antique radio.

The 'Zenith' radio is in pristine condition and is around four feet tall, with a large dial and a large wooden knob.

Reflection of light causes the dial to glitter and sparkle.

Shelly walks over to the large radio and places her hand on the radio. She admires the fine workmanship and design.

Her hand reaches for the large wooden knob. She turns it on.

A pilot light behind the dial slowly comes on.

RADIO (V.O.)

Hello Freddy.

SHELLY

(surprised)

Hello?

RADIO (V.O.)

Errr. As I was saying 'Hello Freddy' has been now running to packed houses for the last three weeks. So if you're ever out in the tri-county area why not do yourself a favor and see 'Hello Freddy'. And now for the weather, scattered clouds in the morning but

(MORE)

RADIO (V.O.)(CONT'D)
 this will quickly clear and the
 forecast is for clear skies and
 fine weather all week. Happy days!

Shelly looks pleased to hear the forecast for fine weather.

RADIO (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 So this concludes the program for
 WKRP Community Radio. This has
 been John Kruegerrrrrrrr. John
 (beat)
 Kruegermen. John Kruegermen.
 Sorry. That damn tourettes. This
 has been John Kruegermen signing
 off. Pooh shit bum piss. Sorry
 sorry.

Shelly looks puzzled by the strange broadcast.

Shelly turns off the large wooden knob.

Shelly walks out and shuts the door.

The pilot light on the radio dial slowly fades off.

EXT. SHELLY'S HOUSE - DAY

It's an overcast day. Shelly's house is modest. There is
 an old model station wagon in the driveway.

INT. SHELLY'S KITCHEN - DAY

Kev sits at the table drinking tea. He's holding a pen,
 working on a shopping list. He has his reading glasses on.

Shelly walks in wearing pyjamas. She's half asleep.

SHELLY
 (yawning)
 Morning Dad.

KEV
 Mornin' love. Here let me get you
 a cuppa.

Kev pours Shelly a cup of tea from a tea pot with a cozy.
 He places the sugar and milk beside her cup.

SHELLY
 Thanks Dad.

Shelly adds some milk and sugar and stirs her cup.

KEV

So how did it go? How was your first shift?

SHELLY

The clients, there's four of them. They're all sweethearts. The bloke I work with, Bonnet, he's great. There's another fella on another shift. He's a bit iffee. But over all I think it's going to work out.

KEV

That's good.
So how's this shift stuff work?

SHELLY

Well it goes day, day, arvo, arvo, night, night then four days off. Then it starts over again.

KEV

Four days off! Hey that's not bad!

SHELLY

So what are we doin' this mornin' Dad? I don't need to get ready till around two.

KEV

Well I'm puttin' togetha a shopping list. I'm gunna try makin a family meat pie, just like ya Mum use ta make. We could have it for lunch on account you're on arvo shift.

SHELLY

Sounds good.

Kev picks up his pen, returns to the shopping list.

KEV

Well we need a pound of mince.

SHELLY

Ground Beef.

KEV

Huh?

SHELLY

They call mince ground beef.

KEV
 Oh, Okay. A pound of ground beef.
 Puff Pastry?

SHELLY
 Yep.

KEV
 It's not called crusto or
 somethin'?

SHELLY
 No. Puff Pastry.

KEV
 That's good. And we'll need some
 gravy, onions and some catch up.

SHELLY
 Ketchup!

KEV
 Aw right. Ketchup!

EXT. SHELLY'S HOUSE - DAY

It's an overcast day. Shelly's wagon is in her driveway.
 Kev exits the house and heads for the wagon.

EXT. SHELLY'S STATION WAGON - DAY

Shelly is behind the wheel, parked in the driveway. The
 engine's running. Kev hops in.

INT. SHELLY'S STATION WAGON - DAY

Kev closes the door. He turns to Shelly.

KEV
 Hold on love. Betta grab a broolly.
 Looks like it's about to rain.

SHELLY
 Dad. No need. I heard the weather
 forecast. It's going to clear.
 Blue skies.

Shelly reverses out of the driveway. Kev looks concerned as
 he looks up at the grey sky.

EXT. SUPERMARKET PARKING LOT - DAY

There's a heavy downpour as Shelly pulls into the parking
 lot. Everyone's using umbrellas.

INT. SHELLY'S STATION WAGON - DAY

Kev looks at the heavy rainfall.

KEV
Blue skies?

SHELLY
Sorry Dad, radio said blue skies.
I'll drop you off near the door.

EXT. SUPERMARKET PARKING LOT - DAY

Shelly drops Kev off near the door. He runs inside. Shelly drives off to look for a space.

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

Kev waits with an empty cart in the fruit and veg. Most shoppers have an umbrella dangling off their cart's handle.

Shelly comes in soaking wet. She looks like a drowned rat.

SHELLY
I had to park miles away.

KEV
Sorry love. Hey, could you wait here a sec. This trolley's got a dodgy wheel.

TINA (O.S.)
Hi Shelly.

Shelly turns around to see Tina pushing a cart a quarter full of groceries. An umbrella hangs off the handle.

SHELLY
Oh Hi Tina. Not at work?

TINA
No it's my day off. Can you believe it, rain on your day off. Typical.

SHELLY
Oh I must be a sight. The forecast on the radio was blue skies.

TINA
Oh my, I'd be making a formal complaint dear. Everyone's been forecasting heavy rain, possible flooding. It's all due to Cyclone Daisy out off the coast.

SHELLY

Hmmm I guess I should have
listened to my Dad. He wanted to
bring an umbrella.

TINA

Oh! So this handsome dry gentleman
is your father! I wasn't sure.
Hello I'm Tina.

KEV

G'day Tina. I'm Kev.

TINA

G'day. G'day Kev. So what are you
two up to on this miserable day?

SHELLY

Dad's making an Aussie meat pie.
His speciality.

TINA

Oh a man that can cook. Wonderful.

SHELLY

And you?

TINA

Oh I'm just doing some shopping for
me and my cats. I usually like to
do some gardening on my days off
but I guess today it's spring
cleaning.

SHELLY

Well we better go, Dad's still
gotta cook, and I've got to get
ready for afternoon shift.

TINA

Yes of course. Well bye Shelly.
See you at work. Bye Kev. Lovely
to meet you.

SHELLY

Bye Tina

KEV

Ta ta Teen.

Shelly and Kev head off towards the meat section. The cart
makes a CLACK CLACK CLACK sound.

KEV (CONT'D)
 I knew I shoulda changed this
 trolley. That clickety clackings
 gunna drive me bonkers.

EXT. SHELLY'S HOUSE - DAY

It's raining heavy. Shelly's wagon's in the driveway.

INT. SHELLY'S KITCHEN - DAY

Kev and Shelly sit back. They look stuffed. Dirty empty
 plates are before them.

SHELLY
 Did good Dad. You did Mum proud.

KEV
 Yeah. Did okay for an old fella.

SHELLY
 I'll help you with the dishes.
 We'll have it cleaned up in a jiff.

KEV
 Naaah. You sit down and rest
 before your shift. I'll knock this
 over in no time. I'll be right.

SHELLY
 Thanks Dad. So what's your plans?

KEV
 Besides a bit of washin up. Nothin.

SHELLY
 Why don't you watch a game on T V?

KEV
 There's no game on darl. No Rugby
 League, no cricket, not even A F L.

SHELLY
 Why don't you watch some American
 sport? They've got gridiron,
 basketball and baseball. Actually
 I think there's a baseball game on
 tonight.

KEV
 I can't watch that!

SHELLY
 Why not?

KEV

Baseball is a different code.
Changin' codes is like changin'
religions. It's just not done.

SHELLY

Oh that's bullshit dad. If we'd
all had moved to Melbourne you'd be
a big A F L fan, right?

KEV

Well yeah.

SHELLY

Same thing.

KEV

Yeah but I'm too old Shell. I'd
never pick up the rules.

SHELLY

You know when you're too old? When
you're in a box six feet under.

KEV

I've checked out baseball and it
looks real boring.

SHELLY

Can't be as bad as watchin'
cricket. Now that's boring.

KEV

Now now. Don't talk ill of cricket
girlie. That's un-Australian.

SHELLY

You know what's un-Australian? Not
givin' somethin a fair go.

KEV

aww I don't know Shell--

SHELLY

All I'm asking is to give baseball
a fair go. If you're quick on the
uptake it might sway me on letting
you use my car.

KEV

(rolls eyes)

I suppose I could check out the
baseball game on the telly.

Shelly gets up from her chair and kisses Kev on the cheek.

SHELLY
Thanks Dad.

Shelly exits the kitchen. Kev is left pondering.

EXT. PHOENIX ROAD GROUP HOME - DAY

Shelly pulls up in front of the Group home in her wagon.
It's overcast.

Bonnet pulls up in an old VW beetle across the street.

Shelly is out of her wagon. She waits for Bonnet.

Bonnet's out of the VW. He gives Shelly a wave. Bonnet
looks both ways. He waits for a large bus to go by and then
crosses the street.

SHELLY
Hi Bonnet.

BONNET
Hi Shelly. Ready for another
exciting afternoon shift?

SHELLY
Fit and raring to go.

Bonnet and Shelly head for the front door. They're met by
Kirk who's just leaving.

KIRK
Bonnet. Yo.

BONNET
Hi Kirk.

KIRK
Hi Shelly, I'm Kirk. We met the
other day.

SHELLY
G'day Kirk.

KIRK
Welcome to the Southside Home Care
family. Maybe one day I can show
you some of my many spider tattoos.

SHELLY
Ah well um--

KIRK

See this one?

(points to a tattoo)

Black Widow

(points to another)

Tarantula. I'm also a fan of your Aussie spiders, red back, Sydney Funnel web. Those tattoos are

(points at pants)

Down under.

SHELLY

That's nice Kirk but I've got to be going insi--

KIRK

Would you like to see them?

(imitates aussie accent)

If yah're a luckee Sheila, ya might see mee diga-ree-doo!

(beat)

So what do you think?

SHELLY

Vulgar, uncouth, inappropriate, sleazy, gross, distasteful.

KIRK

No no. The accent. What'd you think of the accent? The chicks really dig it.

SHELLY

Oh, the accent. On par with those actors in Pacific Rim.

KIRK

Really? Wow. Cool.

(beat)

Hey, you didn't think I was comin on to you, did you? Cause you are really way way way too old for me.

SHELLY

Well that's--

KIRK

Nice chat but I've got a four o'clock at the tattoo palour. I'm getting a mouse spider on my neck. Bye Shelly, Bonnet.

Kirk walks out to a motorbike parked at the curb. He puts on a helmet with a spider web design.

Kirk starts his motorbike and revs on down the street.

BONNET

So Shelly. Join the club. You've been kirk-a-fied.

SHELLY

Real charmer, ain't he.

BONNET

So. Pacific Rim?

SHELLY

Kids movie. Godzilas. Worst Australian accents ever!

INT. GROUP HOME LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

James and Marcus are on their usual spots. Bonnet's on the couch still in the same clothes as yesterday - t-shirt, jeans and a bandana. Everyone's attention is on the TV.

INSERT - TV SCREEN - Opening title sequence and theme music for Budgie the little Helicopter.

Sitting off to one side also watching TV is Shelly and beside her is Maria. Shelly sneezes. She uses a tissue.

BONNET

Sounds like you're getting a cold.

SHELLY

I hope not, I got caught in the rain this morning.

BONNET

Didn't you have an umbrella? Everyone was predicting heavy rain.

SHELLY

Well not everyone. Freddy's radio predicted blue skies.

Bonnet's face drops. Bonnet gets up and moves to the other side of the room. He calls Shelly over.

BONNET

You touched Freddy's radio?

SHELLY

Well I was getting him some clean clothes for his shower and I kinda
(beat)
Switched it on. I was curious.

BONNET

Do not let Freddy find out you touched Dad Radio.

SHELLY

Dad Radio?

BONNET

Yeah Dad Radio. Freddy and his Dad rebuilt it from scratch just before his Dad passed away. He is super possessive about it. Tina tried moving it once to clean up his room and he went nuts. Punched a hole in the wall.

SHELLY

Oh I didn't know.

BONNET

Did he have it tuned in to that Community Radio station I hear he always listens to? The one he thinks they can hear him.

SHELLY

Well that's the weird thing. When I first turned it on, the radio said "Hello Freddy". Like it thought I was Freddy. It was like something out of the Twilight zone. But then he was talking about some popular play called "Hello Freddy". Must of been a coincidence.

BONNET

Did they play any music or say anything?

SHELLY

Well the DJ was a real amateur, he actually had tourettes. He gave a weather forecast of clear skies and then mentioned the station was closing down for the evening. Oh and he said I was listening to WKRP Community radio.

BONNET

That can't be right. You must of heard wrong.

SHELLY

Why not?

BONNET

WKRP? Ever heard of WKRP in Cincinnati? Famous retro TV sitcom.

SHELLY

Well I'd love to find out who they are so I can give them a piece of my mind. I got so drenched. Oh, I just remembered. The DJ with tourettes. His name was John Kruegermen. Ring any bells?

BONNET

(looks shocked)
Did you say Krueger?

SHELLY

No Kruegermen.

BONNET

That's a relief, cause for a second I thought you said John Krueger. Now that would be crazy.

SHELLY

Who's John Krueger?

BONNET

John Krueger. Professor John Krueger. That's Freddy's dad. He died of cancer five years ago. For a moment I thought you'd been listening to a ghost.

Shelly has a shocked look on her face.

INT. GROUP HOME HALLWAY - NIGHT

Shelly walks down a hallway and stops at Freddy's bedroom door. She carries a towel.

On the door is a sign "CHIPMUNKS ONLY! KEEP OUT!". From behind the door Shelly can hear the muffled sound of the radio and Freddy talking. Shelly knocks.

FREDDY (O.S.)

One second please.

Freddy opens the door.

Shelly catches a glimpse of the large zenith antique radio.

SHELLY

Time for your shower mate.

Freddy exits his room and closes the door behind him.

SHELLY (CONT'D)
 Okay Freddy, here's your towel.
 Usual drill. Chair in the bathroom
 for your clothes. What about a
 clean fur suit?

Freddy grabs the towel.

FREDDY
 I have more chipmunk fur hanging
 up.

Freddy heads for the bathroom and leaves Shelly standing at
 his door. Shelly hears the bathroom door slam.

SHELLY
 Well I guess I better get you some
 clean fur. Again.

INT. FREDDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Shelly enters Freddy's room. She keeps well away from the
 radio as she heads for the wardrobe.

Shelly opens the wardrobe to reveal twenty chipmunk onesies
 hanging up.

Shelly grabs a chipmunk onesie and closes the wardrobe.

Shelly turns and focuses on the Zenith antique radio.

SHELLY
 Walk away Shell. Just walk away.

Shelly walks over to the Zenith antique radio.

Shelly's hand reaches for the wooden knob. She pauses, then
 clicks it on. The pilot light behind the dial slowly comes
 on.

RADIO (V.O.)
 Hi

SHELLY
 Hello Professor John Krueger?

RADIO (V.O.)
 This is John Kruegermen, for
 Community radio WRKP. WRKP, not
 WKRP, oops. Not only do I have
 tourettes but dyslexia as well. Oh
 crap, pooh, bum, bum, shit, piss.

SHELLY
Can you hear me Professor?

RADIO (V.O.)
I can hear you.
(beat)
I can hear you all out there in
radio land saying "Why is this guy
on the air?" Well it's community
radio, so bite me!

Shelly turns the knob off and she turns to leave. She suddenly has a thought. She turns back to the radio.

Shelly turns the dial of the radio and turns the wooden knob. The pilot light behind the dial slowly turns on.

RADIO (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Hi

SHELLY
Hello Professor Krueger?

RADIO (V.O.)
This is John Kruegermen.

Shelly quickly turns the knob off and the dial back. She bolts out of the room and closes the door behind her.

INT. GROUP HOME HALLWAY - NIGHT

Shelly stands outside Freddy's room. She is physically shaken and tries to catch her breath. She raises her hand and it's shaking like a leaf.

EXT. SHELLY'S HOUSE - DAY

It's raining. The old station wagon is in the driveway.

INT. SHELLY'S KITCHEN - DAY

Shelly sits at the table. She looks anxious in her pyjamas. Kev places a large mug of coffee before her and sits down opposite with his own. Before him - a half filled crossword.

KEV
Well love, there could be a number
of explanations on what happened.

SHELLY
Such as?

KEV

Maybe the Professor's still alive.
Maybe he faked his own death and
now the radio's the only way he can
talk to his son, like a two way.

SHELLY

But why fake his own death?

KEV

Maybe he borrowed plutonium from
Libyan terrorists or he invented a
car that runs on water and now the
oil companies want him dead.

SHELLY

Are those explanations from movies?

KEV

Maybe, I don't know.

SHELLY

I don't know that sounds--

KEV

Okay, well what if it's a two way
but it's someone besides the Dad,
you know, an uncle or someone else.

SHELLY

I guess that could be possible.

KEV

Well maybe the whole thing's a
coincidence, the similar name and
maybe this community station gives
out bad advice.

SHELLY

But everytime I turned it on, he'd
reintroduce himself. And what about
the dial?

KEV

Well maybe the transmission's a
loop, for testing. And maybe the
dial's broken. Freddy might listen
to this crazy station cause it's
what the radio's stuck on.

SHELLY

What are the odds that there could
be so many coincidences?

KEV

Well what else could it be Shell?
Freddy's talking to a ghost?

SHELLY

I know it sounds silly Dad but that
radio's haunted. I don't know if I
can ever go back in that room.

KEV

love, what have I been tellin you
since you were a little girl?

SHELLY

There's no such thing as ghosts.

KEV

That's right. So we can scratch the
ghost theory. That leaves
(holds up one finger)
Radio's a two way and father faked
his own death.
(holds up two fingers)
Radio's a two way and it's an uncle
or friend.
(holds up three fingers)
And the long shot, it's all a big
coincidence.

Shelly nods and half smiles at her father.

SHELLY

Yeah, what was I thinkin. Haunted
radio phewf. How silly! Thanks Dad.

KEV

No worries love. Any time.

Kev returns to his crossword. Shelly looks scared and unsure.

INT. GROUP HOME LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

James is on the same spot flapping his hands. Marcus stands
nearby smiling. Kirk sits on the couch flicking through
tattoo photos on his iPhone. James and Marcus's attention
is on the television

On the television is the opening title and theme music for
TeleTubbies. Marcus and James jump up and down and get
excited with the verse - 'Time for TeleTubbies, Time for
Teletubbies'.

Kirk looks up at the T V and the two clients and rolls his
eyes. Kirk returns to the iPhone.

Marcus and James continue to enjoy the TeleTubbies.

Kirk sneezes a big wet sneeze into his hand. Kirk looks down at his hand, ponders then gives an evil smile.

Kirk stands and from behind wipes his hand on Marcus's hair.

KIRK
Good boy Marcus! Good Boy!

Marcus turns around and smiles at Kirk and then returns to watch the TeleTubbies with James.

Kirk looks smug as he sits back down on the couch and resumes viewing the images on his iPhone.

INT. FREDDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Freddy sits in front of his P C in a chipmunk onesie typing.

RADIO (V.O.)
Freddy? I need to talk to you about something important.

FREDDY
What's that?

RADIO (V.O.)
I need you to promise me you'll keep Dad Radio a bi-i-i-i-i-g big secret. Okay.

FREDDY
O-kay.

RADIO (V.O.)
So you have to make sure no one finds out about me and you need to tell everyone to keeeeeeeep out. Only Chipmunks.

FREDDY
O-kay!

RADIO (V.O.)
Now that's my brave chipmunk.

Freddy gives a big grin to this remark.

INT. GROUP HOME LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Shelly and Bonnet sit on the couch. Bonnet wears his usual clothes. They're watching an epic TV Drama set in Ancient Rome. The screen is full of Roman centurions.

BONNET

I don't get it. Why does every program about the Roman Empire always have the Romans speak with English accents? I mean, wouldn't an Italian accent make more sense?

SHELLY

I don't know Bonnet. I'd keep thinkin' it was some weird episode of the Sopranos.

(beat)

Look um this might sound strange but do you believe in ghosts?

Bonnet's poker face slowly breaks into a smile.

BONNET

If I turn my FM radio to 81.5 at 2:15 AM on the third Tuesday of the month, I can hear my Mom.

SHELLY

Your Mom's dead?

BONNET

Yeah she died twelve years ago. Run over by a bus. The 8 15.

Shelly nods thoughtfully.

BONNET (CONT'D)

Of course I've gotta be off my dial but if I listen hard on that third Tuesday of the month, in the wee small hours, I can just manage to hear her through all that static.

SHELLY

I'm gunna blurt this out. I think John Krueger haunts Freddy's radio.

Bonnet nods.

BONNET

Sounds like your typical Scooby-Doo episode. So what's the plan Velma?

SHELLY

Unravel the mystery. I'm leanin' towards a ghost. My Dad however doesn't believe in ghosts. He's sure there's a logical explanation.

BONNET

On the outcome of every Scooby-Doo episode, your Dad's probably right. But then again ghosts are very cunning. They only communicate with stoners or clients like Freddy. Folks who are never taken serious.

SHELLY

You're not stoned now, are you?

BONNET

Stoned at work. No way! Shelly please! I'm a professional!

SHELLY

Sorry Bonnet. That was insensitive of me. Way uncool. Sorry.

Bonnet looks a little upset and a little annoyed.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

We cool.

BONNET

Yeah we cool.

Shelly stands up and moves away from the couch.

SHELLY

Hey Bonnet. I'll take the first watch. Have a nap. Need to google something on the computer anyway.

BONNET

You sure?

SHELLY

My punishment for being an insensitive jerk.

Shelly exits. Bonnet turns off the T V and lies down. He gets himself comfortable, uses a cushion as a pillow.

BONNET

(to himself)

I'm gunna need a nap after that joint in the bathroom.

INT. GROUP HOME STUDY - NIGHT

Shelly sits before a personal computer. There's a pad before her and she is holding a pen. She underlines something.

The pad on the desk has a heading 'Possible Theories' which Shelly underlines. Under the heading are the points - "1. Two way - Father faked own death"; "2. Two way - Uncle/Friend"; "3. Big Coincidence"; "4. Ghost"

Shelly types something on the computer's keyboard.

In a Google search field, Shelly enters 'WRKP'

Shelly hits Enter.

The Search page returns with 'No Results Found'.

Shelly practices her two finger typing.

In the search field, Shelly enters 'Hello Freddy play'.

She clicks Enter.

The web page again returns with 'No Results Found'.

Shelly looks determined as she types away.

In the Search field, 'John Kruegermen' is entered.

Shelly taps Enter.

The Search page returns a third time with 'No Results Found'.

Shelly crosses out something on the pad.

She crosses out "3. Big Coincidence"

Shelly taps her pen on the pad and ponders.

She returns to the computer's keyboard and types away.

In the search field 'Professor John Krueger' appears.

Shelly jabs the Enter key.

The Search page returns a large number of results.

The mouse arrow moves over the first entry.

Shelly double clicks.

INSERT COMPUTER SCREEN: A page titled "Trail blazers in A.I." opens. On main page are pictures of Professor John Krueger (60s) grey hair and beard. Also in the picture, is PROFESSOR BARNEY ALLEN(50) black and overweight. Both smile.

Shelly writes in the pad 'Professor Barney Allen'.

Shelly rips out the page with the Professor's name. She neatly folds up the page and slips it into her handbag.

EXT. SHELLY'S HOUSE - DAY

It's overcast. The old station wagon is in the driveway.

INT. SHELLY'S KITCHEN - DAY

Kev sits at the table, drinks tea while reading the newspaper.

A wall clock on the wall indicates it's 3:10 PM.

Shelly walks in wearing pyjamas. She is half asleep.

SHELLY
(yawning)
Morning Dad.

KEV
G'day love. It's arvo.

Shelly looks up and notices the time.

Kev gets up and gets a plate off the stove.

Kev puts it in front of Shelly. The plate has a fried egg, fried tomato, bacon and sausages.

SHELLY
This looks great. I'm starving.

KEV
Thought you'd be hungry. I just made it. Toast? Coffee?

SHELLY
Yes please.

Kev walks over to the kitchen bench. He turns on an electric kettle and puts sliced bread in a toaster.

SHELLY (CONT'D)
So what have you been up to?

KEV
(making coffee)
Done some laundry, been down the shops, got the paper and watched a movie on the Telly.

Shelly is enjoying the breakfast.

The toaster pops and Kev butters the toast.

SHELLY

Geez, I've slept most of the day.

Kev places the toast and coffee near Shelly and sits down.

KEV

Welcome to night shift. So how's the mystery with the radio goin'?

SHELLY

I did a bit of investigating on the internet last night and I can rule out that it's a coincidence.

KEV

Ahh, so process of elimination it must be one of the two way scenarios; father faked own death or it's a friend or uncle.

SHELLY

Well technically it could still be a ghost.

Kev glares at Shelly over his glasses. He looks cranky.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

No ghost! What am I saying?

(long beat)

So Dad, how's the baseball going?

KEV

It's not darl. I started watchin a game on Tuesdee and I couldn't work it out. I tried watchin' another game last night and I fell asleep.

SHELLY

But we made a deal Dad, you'd give baseball a fair go and I'd get you back on the road.

KEV

I know love but it's just too hard. I'm too bloody old to get used to new sports and new words and new ways. I'm just too bloody old.

SHELLY

What is it Dad? Homesick?

KEV

Well kinda. I mean it wouldn't be so bad if I had somethin' to do but I'm so bored. Back home I'd play bowls twice a week and there was bingo and the Fridee night meat raffle at the club. And on the telly I could always watch the Footy or the Cricket.

Shelly nods thoughtfully.

SHELLY

Sorry Dad.

KEV

Don't be sad love. As they say, ya can't teach an old dog new tricks.

SHELLY

Look, maybe I went about this all wrong. Can ya give it another month. If you still hate it here, I'll drop you off at the airport.

KEV

Okay love, anotha month.

INT. GROUP HOME LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

James is on the same spot flapping his hands. Marcus stands nearby smiling. Kirk sits on the couch flicking through spider tattoo photos on his iPhone. James and Marcus's attention is on the television

On the television is the opening title and theme music for Rubbadubbers. Marcus and James jump up and down and are excited with the upbeat theme music

Kirk looks up at the T V and the two clients and rolls his eyes. Kirk returns to the iPhone.

Marcus and James continue to enjoy the Rubbadubbers.

Kirk feels something in his jacket pocket. Kirk pulls out a plastic banana from his pocket with an evil grin.

Kirk shows the plastic banana to James.

KIRK

Oh James. Look what I have?

James goes hysterical at the sight of the plastic banana and runs and cowers in the corner of the room. James is frightened by the sight of the plastic banana.

JAMES
NA NA NA NA NA! NA NA NA NA NA!

Kirk approaches James with the plastic banana and James runs in a panic to the other corner of the room cowering and avoiding eye contact with the plastic banana.

JAMES (CONT'D)
NA NA NA NA NA! NA NA NA NA NA!

Phil enters from the kitchen and sees what is happening.

PHIL
Kirk! Don't you know James has a banana phobia.

KIRK
(smirking)
Yeah!
(beat)
That's why I'm doing it. It's funny!

PHIL
Kirk, I don't think you're suited for this work.

KIRK
I'm just having a bit of fun. It's not even real. Look! It's plastic.

Kirk holds the banana towards James.

JAMES
NA NA NA NA NA! NA NA NA NA NA!

James runs out of the Living room.

KIRK
I'm in the habit of carrying it in my pocket. Another few hundred times of this and he'll be cured.

Kirk exits the room in pursuit of James.

Phil shakes his head. He looks helpless and concerned. James's cries of 'Na Na Na' can be heard from another room.

INT. FREDDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Freddy sits in front of his P C in a chipmunk onesie. He looks tired.

RADIO (V.O.)
Do you have the screenplay
'Chipmunk Planet' open?

FREDDY
Yes.

RADIO (V.O.)
So what happens next?

FREDDY
Um. Morphis, leader of the cat
chipmunks plans a coo-de-ta and
Brummington has to stop it!

RADIO (V.O.)
That's right, that's the next
scene.

FREDDY
I'm going to call Peter Jackson in
New Zealand and ask him to make
this right now!

RADIO (V.O.)
Freddy, we need to write a screen
play first, then we need to win a
contest and then we'll get a movie
deal.

FREDDY
But I want to do it now errrrrrrrrr.
(bangs keyboard)

RADIO (V.O.)
Freddy, it's going to take time. A
long long time. But if you try
real hard, then we'll do it.

FREDDY
(getting upset)
Why won't you come here? I need
you to help me errrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr!

RADIO (V.O.)
I can't.

FREDDY
Why not?

RADIO (V.O.)

I just can't but you can talk to me
anytime you want. I'm always here
to listen.

FREDDY

But I need you errrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr!

RADIO (V.O.)

Now Freddy, human chipmunks must be
brave. Are you brave?

FREDDY

Yes I am.

RADIO (V.O.)

Good cause if human chipmunks
aren't brave, how are they ever
going to save the chipmunk
chipmunks from the evil cat
chipmunks. So are you brave?

FREDDY

I'll be brave.

RADIO (V.O.)

Now that's my brave chipmunk.

Freddy gives a big grin to this remark.

INT. GROUP HOME LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Shelly and Bonnet sit opposite ends of the couch. Bonnet
wears his usual attire. They are watching television.

BONNET

How goes your ghost mystery Velma?

SHELLY

Well Shaggy...
My Dad's convinced there's a
logical explanation and me, well
I'm not too sure.
I mean, how likely is it Freddy's
Dad faked his own death? And why
would anyone do such a thing.

BONNET

Well Freddy's Dad was an expert on
artificial intelligence. Maybe his
coworkers were all killed - victims
of high stakes industrial espionage
and he needs to play dead or else.

SHELLY
So you think it's feasible?

BONNET
Happens all the time.

SHELLY
You mean in the movies. That happens all the time in the movies. Actually I think that was the plot from last night's Van Damme movie.

Bonnet shrugs.

On the television is a commercial for the Milwaukee Brewers baseball team and Miller Park Stadium.

Shelly sits up and focuses on the commercial.

The television commercial finishes.

SHELLY
Bonnet, what day do they play Major League Baseball?

BONNET
What do you mean what day? Just about every day during the season.

SHELLY
How long would it take to get to Milwaukee?

BONNET
Awww two and a half, maybe three hours. Are you thinking of watching a game at Miller Park?

SHELLY
Well I think Dad might get a kick out of it.

BONNET
Cool. Hey I can lend you my GPS.

SHELLY
Awww that would be awesome.

BONNET
You can borrow it on one condition. Take a holiday from your haunted radio mystery obsession. Your gunna blow a head gasket. Deal?

SHELLY

Deal.

Shelly is now more upbeat and all smiles.

INT. FREDDY'S ROOM - DAY

The antique Zenith radio has it's pilot lamp on. Freddy appears and turns the volume knob clockwise.

RADIO (V.O.)

You left me on again Freddy! You need to keep turning the volume control until you hear the click.

FREDDY (O.S.)

Oooooop!

RADIO (V.O.)

I spent all last night listening to you snoring! Have you been eating too many jelly doughnuts? Are you a chubby chippie?

FREDDY (O.S.)

My secret.

RADIO (V.O.)

Freddy! You need to stay healthy. Jelly doughnuts once a month and cut down on the twinkies!

FREDDY (O.S.)

But I no like healthy food errrrrr!

RADIO (V.O.)

Freddy! You need to take care of yourself son. If you don't you'll end up like me. Try and eat better and go for a walk or play a sport.

FREDDY (O.S.)

Okay Dad.

There is the sound of a Twinkie wrapper.

RADIO (V.O.)

IS THAT A TWINKIE WRAPPER?

Freddy shoves a twinkie into his mouth.

FREDDY

(mouth full)

No. Nothing.

EXT. SHELLY'S STREET - DAY

Kev and Shelly are in the wagon. It's an overcast day. Kev is behind the wheel.

INT. SHELLY'S STATION WAGON - DAY

SHELLY
Okay Dad. Are you ready?

Kev adjusts mirror and checks side mirror and seat belt.

KEV
Ah huh.

SHELLY
Oh I should have asked, you've driven a stick shift before, right?

KEV
A what?

SHELLY
A stick shift. A ah manual.

KEV
Aw a manual, of course.

SHELLY
Great. Well let's get started.

EXT. SHELLY'S STREET - DAY

Kev starts the car. He takes off but has problems releasing the clutch and it hops down the street for a hundred yards. Some street kids on bicycles gawk at Kev. His window's down.

KEV
Haven't you seen a kangaroo hop before? It's big down under.

INT. SHELLY'S STATION WAGON - DAY

SHELLY
I thought you said you'd driven a manual before.

KEV
Yeah. But not since sixty two. I mean who still drives manuals?

SHELLY
I do.

KEV

Why?

SHELLY

Cause it was cheap. Now can we at least get out of our street?

KEV

Hold ya horses.

EXT. SHELLY'S STREET - DAY

The car takes off but this time less jerking. Further down the street the jerking stops. The car veers to the left side of the empty street.

SHELLY (O.S.)

WRONG SIDE DAD!

The car moves back to the right hand side.

EXT. PHOENIX ROAD GROUP HOME - NIGHT

The Group home is poorly lit from streetlights closeby. A white van is parked in the driveway. A bus speeds past.

INT. GROUP HOME LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Phil is sound asleep on the couch.

INT. GROUP HOME STUDY - NIGHT

Kirk sits before a personal computer. His face appears as if he is very excited and breathless as he stares at the screen. Kirk's hand works double time under the desk.

KIRK

Oooh. Oooh. Oooh.

Kirk continues to masturbate and his full attention is on the screen. Kirk finally reaches a climax and his face contorts and his eyes roll back.

KIRK (CONT'D)

aaaaah.

(beat)

aaaaah.

(beat)

aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah.

Kirk lifts up his hand that had previously been under the table and looks at his palm. He looks from side to side and flicks his hand several times onto the floor. Kirk wipes his hand on the back of his shirt and pants.

Kirk puts his hand back under the table and pulls up his fly - ZIP! He gazes lustfully at the screen as he stands.

KIRK (CONT'D)
Fuck you're hot!

On the screen is a large hairy tarantula.

EXT. SHELLY'S STREET - DAY

Both Kev and Shelly are inside the Station wagon. It's an overcast day. Kev is behind the wheel.

INT. SHELLY'S STATION WAGON - DAY

SHELLY
Okay Dad are you ready?

Shelly turns on a GPS Navigator attached to the windshield.

She presses a button. A red line appears on the screen.

GPS
Calculating your destination.

KEV
Here, what's that stuck to the
windscreen?

SHELLY
It's windshield Dad.

KEV
Aww God, another word. Windshield?
(shakes head)
No, this thingee.

SHELLY
It's a GPS Dad. Bonnet at work let
me borrow it.

KEV
What's it for?

SHELLY
It's so you don't need a map or ask
for directions. You just punch in
where you want to go, which Bonnet
already has, and it'll tell you how
to get there.

KEV
Technology ayy, amazing.
So where are we goin?

SHELLY
Oh you'll see.

EXT. SHELLY'S STREET - DAY

The car takes off with a few small hops from the curb and drives on down the street.

EXT. INTERSTATE 94 WESTBOUND - DAY

Shelly's car travels in a middle lane on a multilane freeway. The GPS gives an instruction to take the next exit.

SHELLY (O.S.)
Get over to the right Dad. We need
to take the next exit.

Shelly's wagon drives past a large sign which indicates next exit is Milwaukee.

EXT. MILLER PARK PARKING LOT - DAY

The wagon pulls into a large parking lot. Kev parks the car. Kev and Shelly exit the car. Lots of families and couples and groups of friends are headed towards a large stadium.

KEV
So where are we?

SHELLY
Miller Park Dad. We're going to
watch a Major League Baseball game.

KEV
But darl, I told you I wasn't
interested in --

SHELLY
That was from watching a little
screen. You can't get inspired
watching a little screen.

KEV
Aww I don't know--

SHELLY
We're here now Dad. Please Dad,
just give it one more go.

KEV
Okay love.

SHELLY
Thanks Dad.

The two walk towards the stadium with the rest of the crowd.

EXT. MILLER PARK STADIUM - DAY

Kev and Shelly enter the stadium.

Kev stops. He is in awe at the sheer enormity and immense structures of the stadium. He is spellbound.

Shelly taps Kev on the elbow to get him to continue walking.

Shelly and Kev find their seats and sit down. Various other fans, mainly families are also finding their seats.

SERIES OF SHOTS - FUN DAY AT MILLER PARK

- A) Pitcher winds up and throws a fast ball complete with sports commentary.
- B) Kev is seated. Shelly arrives with hot dogs and Millers baseball caps. She places a cap on Kev, he's happy like a big kid. Kev tries hotdog and gives thumbs up.
- C) Batter gets ready, waits, swings and hits the ball.
- D) Enthusiastic fans use hand gestures and yell out.
- E) A batter hits the ball and runs for first. He makes it to first and is safe.
- F) Shelly and Kev both wear new caps and watch intently.
- G) Batter hits a home run. Crowd cheers as he runs all bases. The batter follows a team mate to home base.
- H) The enormous scoreboard displays 'HOME RUN' with animation. Fireworks erupt over the scoreboard.

Shelly and Kev walk with the crowd back to the parking lot.

SHELLY
So, what didya think, still boring?

KEV
You know Shell, I haven't felt like that since I was a little kid. It was like all me Christmases had come at once. Thanks love.

SHELLY

No worries Dad. My pleasure. Worth it just to see a smile on yah face.

Kev and Shelly smile and look happy as they walk to the car.

INT. GROUP HOME LIVING ROOM - DAY

James and Marcus look out the front window - it's bright and sunny outside. James flaps his hands and Marcus runs back to the couch and then back to the window to look out.

Maria also looks outside and seems restless.

Freddy on the couch is anxious and agitated as he channel surfs with the remote. Freddy's frustration escalates as he fails to find anything to watch. He throws the remote aside.

FREDDY

This is very boring. I hate it! I hate it! I hate it! Errrrrrrrrrrr.

Shelly and Bonnet stand off to the side and watch this restless behaviour.

SHELLY

It looks like such a lovely sunny day outside. After all that rain I guess everyone's stir crazy. Can't we take them all down to the park?

BONNET

I'm afraid not, it's company policy. We need three staff members to take everyone out away from the home. Tina's off Tuesdays and Sundays so those days are always a problem.

SHELLY

I just hate seeing everyone so anxious. Hey I know, if I get my Dad to come in, could we take the group out then?

BONNET

I don't think so Shelly, he'd need to be a staff member with the right training.

SHELLY

I get it. I get it. Hey, can we take everyone out to the backyard?

BONNET

Sure, that's not a problem. I have tried that in the past. Everyone seems to get bored after ten minutes.

SHELLY

Well when I was a kid my Dad always was good at organizing backyard games. We would have fun all day in our own backyard. Do you mind if I can see if he can come and help out, you know, as a volunteer.

BONNET

Of course not. I'd never knock back a hand.

SHELLY

Great. Well I'll just give him a call.

Shelly pulls out her cell and speed dials Kev.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

He's always complaining he's got nothing to do.

(talks into phone)

Dad. You know where the group home is don't you. On Phoenix Road.

(Shelly listens)

Well we need you to help us out for a few hours if you're not busy.

(Shelly listens)

You're not. Great. Okay, see you in ten. Bye Dad.

EXT. GROUP HOME BACKYARD - DAY

Freddy, James, Marcus, Maria and Shelly are in a level fenced yard, near the back fence. The yard has no shrubs or trees, just lawn. It's a sunny day. Freddy looks bored.

Kev and Bonnet are near the house facing the yard. Outdoor barbecue behind them. Bonnet holds up a Tee-Ball set.

KEV

That's good. We can use that. Set it up just where you are.

Bonnet sets up the Tee-Ball base.

BONNET

Here good?

KEV
Great. Great. Now we need them
white square thingees.

BONNET
You mean bases.

KEV
Yeah bases. Do you have anything
we could use?

Bonnet walks over to a recycle bin near the house. He pulls
out a number of pizza boxes.

BONNET
Maybe we can use the lids from
these pizza boxes.

KEV
Good thinking son.

BONNET
Thanks Dad.

Shelly and the four clients look bored.

FREDDY
Shelly? If there is any bees you
protect me. Okay?

SHELLY
I'll protect you Freddy.

KEV
Okay guys, we're ready.

Tee-Ball and pizza box lids are laid out as a small diamond.

KEV (CONT'D)
Welcome to the Backyard Baseball
Grand Final!

BONNET
World Series.

KEV
Oh right. Welcome to the Backyard
Baseball World Series!

Freddy, James and Marcus jump for joy. Maria giggles and
Shelly looks happy.

SERIES OF SHOTS - BACKYARD BASEBALL WORLD SERIES

- A) Shelly helps Maria hit the Tee-Ball. Maria giggles, she is happy. Shelly pushes Maria around the diamond.
- B) Marcus jumps up and down for joy. He hits the Tee-Ball and runs around the diamond. Everyone cheers.
- C) Freddy in his chipmunk onesie hits the Tee-Ball and runs around the diamond. Everyone cheers.
- D) James picks up the bat, he is no longer flapping. He hits the ball hard. Bonnet and Kev are astonished. James runs around the diamond flapping and smiling.
- E) Shelly helps Maria hit the Tee-Ball. Maria is giggling and happy. Shelly pushes Maria around the diamond.
- F) Marcus jumps up and down for joy. He hits the Tee-Ball and runs around the diamond. Everyone cheers.
- G) Freddy in his chipmunk onesie hits the Tee-Ball and runs around the diamond. Everyone cheers.
- H) James picks up the bat, he is no longer flapping. He hits the ball hard and it flies high and over the fence

KEV
Six and out!

BONNET
What do you mean out? He hit that
out of the park, it's a home run!

KEV
Aw yeah. Sorry. Wrong game.

On the outdoor table are cans of root beer. Kev gives Maria a smile and pushes her wheelchair over to the table.

KEV (CONT'D)
I reckon we deserve a drink and a
break before the next innings.
What'ya think everyone?

FREDDY
Yeah!

Kev pushes Maria to the outdoor table. Other clients follow.

KEV
What's to drink? Root beer? Ha Ha.

Shelly and Bonnet lager behind, they have a chance to chat.

BONNET

What's new in the zoo Nancy Drew?

SHELLY

What happened to Velma?

BONNET

Velma or Nancy. Ladies choice.

SHELLY

Well I always wanted to be Daphne.

BONNET

Makes sense. You're both redheads.

SHELLY

So Bonnet would you keep watch while I check out Freddy's radio?

BONNET

Please Shelly give it a rest. Life needs a bit of mystery. It's good.

SHELLY

I can't do that. I just gots ta know. Must be the Daphne in me.

Shelly darts off for the Group Home backdoor. Bonnet shakes his head. He proceeds to the outdoor table and the others.

INT. FREDDY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Freddy's room is empty. The door is flung open, Shelly enters. She quickly closes the door.

Zenith radio sits silent against the wall. Shelly examines the outside of the radio. She moves one side out and checks for any ID plates. There are none. She moves the radio back and proceeds to closely examine the front up close.

EXT. GROUP HOME BACKYARD - DAY

Bonnet and Kev sit with the clients at the outdoor table enjoying root beers. Freddy jumps to his feet.

FREDDY

I need to wear my red baseball cap!

Freddy heads for the group home. Bonnet jumps up to follow.

BONNET

Freddy! Hold up!

INT. FREDDY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Shelly continues to closely examine the front of the radio. She hears the muffled noise of Bonnet calling 'Freddy'.

Shelly hides far side out of sight between the bed and wall.

Freddy enters and looks through the drawers for his red cap. He proceeds to look inside his wardrobe.

Shelly notices a red baseball cap with a 'B' under her nose. Freddy's feet are only a few feet away.

Bonnet rushes in.

BONNET

Freddy! I saw your cap in the TV room. It was on the couch.

FREDDY

Oh boy!

Freddy and Bonnet rush out. Shelly gets up, red cap in hand.

INT. GROUP HOME LIVING ROOM - DAY

Freddy and Bonnet look under cushions. Shelly enters with the cap hidden. She pretends she found it under the couch.

SHELLY

Here is your cap Freddy.

FREDDY

Oh boy!

Freddy puts the red baseball cap. It has a large blue 'B'.

SHELLY

What's the B stand for?

FREDDY

Brummington the chipmunk. That me!

SHELLY

Is that your chipmunk name?

Freddy nods with a big cheesy grin.

EXT. GROUP HOME BACKYARD - DAY

The clients, Kev, Bonnet and Shelly are back playing backyard baseball world series.

Bonnet fields. He flashes Shelly a smirk. Shakes his head.

Shelly gives a cute 'Who me?' shrug and coy smile.

Freddy is up to bat with his red cap.

SHELLY
Go Brummington!

SHELLY | BONNET
Go Brumminton! Go Brummington!

Freddy hits the Tee-Ball hard and runs for first base.

INT. FREDDY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Freddy sits in front of his P C in a chipmunk onesie. He is looking at the computer screen and giggling to himself.

RADIO (V.O) (O.S.)
Someone's in a good mood. What
have you been up to squirt?

FREDDY
I played baseball and I made three
home runs.

RADIO (V.O) (O.S.)
Well done Freddy! Well done! Where
did you play?

FREDDY
In the backyard. It was the world
series.

RADIO (V.O) (O.S.)
Boy, I would've loved to have seen
that. Well I guess you deserve a
twinkie to celebrate your win.

FREDDY
But I don't have any twinkies.

RADIO (V.O) (O.S.)
Sure you do. Bottom desk drawer.

FREDDY
Hey, how do you know? My secret!

RADIO (V.O) (O.S.)
(Ghostly voice)
Dad Radio knows eve-ry-thing!

FREDDY
(crossly)
Hey quit it Dad. Stop foolin!

RADIO (V.O) (O.S.)
 Sorry son.

Freddy opens a drawer and pulls out about four twinkies. He starts to open them all.

RADIO (V.O) (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Just one, okay? Just one.

Freddy giggles as he shoves all the twinkies into his mouth.

INT. SHELLY'S KITCHEN - DAY

Kev sits alone drinking a cup of tea. He wears his reading glasses and pen in hand does the crossword. Shelly walks in.

SHELLY
 So Dad, how do you feel after being on your feet all day yesterday?

KEV
 Never betta love, never betta.

SHELLY
 Well I'm glad you turned up. The clients had a lovely time. Everyone loved havin you there.

KEV
 Well they're a lovely bunch a kids. I know they're not kids but you know what I mean. And Bonnet's a nice bloke as well.

SHELLY
 Thanks Dad. Tina's there today, but the next time I'm on day and Tina's away, would you be okay with helpin again?

KEV
 Course love. Of course. Love to.

Shelly pours herself a cup of tea from the tea pot.

SHELLY
 So what's your plans today Dad?

KEV
 Well I was going to buy some nice sausages from a deli butcher shop I found other side of town. I was gunna see if I could borrow ya car. Save me havin to catch the bus.

SHELLY

I think we can arrange somethin'.
You'll need to drop me off and pick
me up from work though.

KEV

Not a problem love. I'll also have
a go at changin the oil on the car
when I get back. Did ya find me
some rags?

SHELLY

I found some jerseys Rick left
behind. You can use them as rags.

Shelly gestures to new MLB jerseys draped over back of a
chair adjacent to Kev. Kev picks one up and inspects it.

KEV

You sure you want me to use these?
They look brand new.

SHELLY

Use em. Rick's never comin back.

Shelly shrugs and sips her tea.

INT. GROUP HOME DINING ROOM - DAY

Marcus, James, Freddy and Maria sit around a table having
mid morning snacks and drinks.

Tina stands nearby, Shelly and Bonnet are behind her.

TINA

Okay Gang, it's a lovely day. I
thought we could all spend the day
at the park.

Freddy starts banging on the table.

FREDDY

Baseball! Baseball! Baseball!

Marcus starts banging on the table and James starts flapping
in unison. Even Maria is rocking in unison and giggling.

Tina looks bewildered. She turns to Shelly and Bonnet for
an explanation.

INT. BUTCHERS - DAY

Kev stands in front of a counter at the butchers. His cell
phone rings. Kev answers it.

KEV

Hi Shell.

(beat)

Okay love. I'll be there in ten.

Kev puts the cell phone back in his pocket.

KEV (CONT'D)

Hey mate, can I get another dozen
of them sausages?

The Butcher from behind the counter weighs some sausages.

BUTCHER

Not a problem.

EXT. GROUP HOME BACKYARD - DAY

Freddy, James, Marcus and Maria all play Backyard Baseball with the Tee-Ball in the backyard. Tina, Shelly and Bonnet help the clients play. Everyone's happy.

Kev cooks sausages on the barbecue.

TINA

I'm so glad your Dad was able to
help out today.

SHELLY

Dad had a ball yesterday and I knew
he'd be happy to help.

TINA

He even bought lunch for everyone.
He's great.

SHELLY

Oh Dad's in his elements. He loves
nothin better than to throw a few
snags on the barbie.

Shelly and Tina watch Kev. He looks happy turning the sausages over on the hot plate. Mr Peebles arrives and introduces himself to Kev. The two are talking about something. Kev says something and Mr Peebles laughs.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

Oh dear, I hope it's okay with Mr
Peebles that my Dad's here.

TINA

I'm sure Peebles will be fine with
your Dad being here. He has no
problems with volunteers helping.

Tina walks off to assist Maria with the backyard baseball.

Mr Peebles mutters something to Kev and comes towards Shelly

MR PEEBLES

Hi Sandy. Just met your father.
What a character.

SHELLY

It's Shelly.

MR PEEBLES

Oh um sorry. Shelly. Met your
Dad. What an asset.

SHELLY

So it's not a problem if he
volunteers from time to time?

MR PEEBLES

Problem? No. It's wonderful. Best
thing is we don't need to pay him.
He can volunteer any time he likes.

(smiles)

Well I need to get back to the
office. Keep up the good work. Bye.

(shouts out)

Bye everyone!

Bonnet and Tina, helping out in the game, wave goodbye.

Mr Peebles leaves and on his way out waves goodbye to Kev.

EXT. GROUP HOME BACKYARD - LATER

Everyone sits around an outdoor table. Cooked sausages, cans
of Pepsi, napkins, ketchup and buns are in the centre of the
table. Everyone's eating sausages and buns.

KEV

So how's the snags?

Everyone has their mouths full. Shelly nods, Tina gives a
thumbs up, Bonnet mutters good. The clients are all
enjoying the sausages with ketchup on the buns.

FREDDY

Deliciousful!

KEV

I've american-ified the aussie
sausage sizzle with the ketchup and
hot dog buns.

SHELLY

Nice Dad. So what were you and Mr Peebles talking about?

KEV

Aww you mean the guy with the glasses. Ahh is he important?

SHELLY

Yes, he's my boss. What did you tell him?

KEV

Well he wanted to know what I used to do for work in Australia and I might have pulled his leg a little.

SHELLY

Dad, what did you tell im?

KEV

Well I think he was expectin I was some kinda Jackaroo or crocodile--

SHELLY

What did you tell im?

KEV

Wallaby Wrangler.

Bonnet snorts and Tina coughs up her lunch.

SHELLY

Dad! What possessed you to say that? I mean is there actually such a thing?

KEV

I just felt like I'd be lettin him down if I said metallurgist. All I could think of at short notice.

SHELLY

Oh great. My Dad the Wallaby Wrangler.

Bonnet and Tina chuckle. The party continue with their lunch.

INT. FREDDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Freddy sits behind his computer.

FREDDY
 Guess what? We played in the
 world series again today and I ran
 three home runs!

RADIO (V.O) (O.S.)
 Wow! You must be the first
 chipmunk who's played in the world
 series.

FREDDY
 (pleased with himself)
 Yes I am!

There's a knock on Freddy's bedroom door.

FEMALE CARER (O.S.)
 (muffled)
 Time for your shower Freddy!

FREDDY
 COMING!

RADIO (V.O) (O.S.)
 Freddy. Remember to get your own
 clean chipmunk fur. We don't want
 anyone coming in here. Chipmunks
 only. Remember?

FREDDY
 Okay Dad.

Freddy gets up from his PC desk.

Freddy opens the wardrobe to reveal twenty chipmunk onesies.

Freddy grabs a chipmunk onesie and closes the wardrobe.

Freddy walks over to the Zenith antique radio.

FREDDY
 Back soon.

RADIO (O.S.)
 Remember to scrub behind those ears.

Freddy turns off the antique radio and walks out the door.
 He closes the door behind him.

INT. SHELLY'S KITCHEN - DAY

Shelly sits at the table drinking a cup of tea.

Kev enters the kitchen holding his back.

KEV

Ahh Shell, these bones are feelin pretty sore this morning. Think I need this one to be a rest day.

SHELLY

Not surprising Dad, with the baseball and the volunteering you haven't stopped for days. Actually I feel like I need a quiet one too.

Kev sits down. Shelly gets up and gets him a cup of tea.

KEV

So love, how's the mystery with Freddy's radio goin?

SHELLY

Still a mystery. I sometimes hear him talkin to some--

KEV

Well makes sense. Must be a two way radio.

SHELLY

Well it still could be a ghost.

Kev glares at Shelly, shakes his head.

KEV

Bloody hell Shelly. Enough with that ghost stuff. I got enough of that when you were a kid.

SHELLY

But Dad.

KEV

I don't wanna hear silly talk. You're a grown woman for god sake.

SHELLY

Sorry Dad, I'm just leavin my--

KEV

I'm goin for a walk.
(stands up)
I'll get more milk when I'm out.

Kev gruffly heads for the door.

SHELLY

Sorry Dad.

INT. SHOPPING MALL FOOD COURT - DAY

Kirk sits at a large table on his own in a food court which is almost empty. Various fast food vendors are nearby.

Kirk uses his iPhone, he swipes through various photos of spider tattoos.

Tina, Phil and the clients arrive. Freddy, James, Marcus and Phil sit down at Kirk's table.

TINA

We could of really done with an extra hand Kirk.

KIRK

Well it's not my fault I'm claustrophobic. Those dark movie theatres freak me out. Besides, Disney movies make me wanna hurl, it's all that sugary wholesome goody good family bullshit.

TINA

Well we're here so I guess we managed.

(looks at clients)

You guys were excellent in the movies. Thank you everyone.

Marcus jumps up and gives Tina a high five, he then gives Phil a high five. Marcus goes over to Kirk and holds his hand up for a high five.

Kirk looks up from his iPhone and ignores Marcus.

TINA (CONT'D)

Kirk! Give Marcus a high five.

Kirk rolls his eyes and finally gives Marcus a high five. Marcus sits back down.

TINA (CONT'D)

I'm taking Maria to the bathroom, I'll be back in ten minutes.

Tina pushes Maria's wheelchair and they exit.

Two Goth girls in black with facial piercings look through music CDs on the outskirts of a music store nearby.

Kirk notices the Goth girls.

KIRK
Phil, I'm going to talk to those
girls over there. Won't be long.

PHIL
Kirk, I don't think that's a--

KIRK
Thanks buddy. Back soon.

Kirk leaves the table.

Kirk approaches the Goth girls at the music store and strikes up a conversation. Kirk says something and the girls giggle. Kirk shows the girls his various tattoos.

Back at the table with Phil, James, Marcus and Freddy, a boy runs by pulling a colorful red balloon. James gets up and gives chase to the balloon. Marcus joins him on the chase.

PHIL
Oh no. Freddy stay here. Don't
move.

FREDDY
But I need to pee.

PHIL
I'll be back in a minute, stay
here.

Phil runs off to catch James and Marcus.

Freddy wiggles in his chair. He needs to pee.

Kirk chats with the Goth girls. Freddy approaches Kirk. Freddy wears his usual chipmunk onesie.

FREDDY
Kirk, take me to the bathroom. I
need to pee.

GOTH GIRL 1
Do you know this freak Kirk?

KIRK
As if. Beat it freak.

GOTH GIRL 2
If you don't know him, how does he
know your name?

GOTH GIRL 1
Yeah Kirk? How does he?

KIRK

I don't know. Hey get lost weirdo.

FREDDY

I need to go Pee Kirk. Errrrrr. I need to pee.

GOTH GIRL 2

Hey Stacey, I think Kirk here is one of those furry perverts.

GOTH GIRL 1

Errr. How gross! They probably pee on each other. Ooooooooh!

GOTH GIRL 2

Come on Stace, lets get away from these sickos.

The Goth girls exit in a hurry.

FREDDY

I need to pee Kirk. Please Kirk. I need to pee.

Kirk grabs Freddy by the arm and leads him away.

KIRK

Oh you're gunna pay for this Freddy. You're gunna pay.

INT. GROUP HOME LIVING ROOM - DAY

Shelly enters from the front door. She hears Freddy moaning and Tina and Kirk shouting at each other in another room.

Kirk enters the living room on his way to the front door. He's closely followed by Tina and they're followed by Freddy.

TINA

What did you do Kirk!

KIRK

It was an accident! Shit happens! Maybe it's about time he got a radio that was made this century!

Kirk leaves and slams the front door. Tina shakes her head. Freddy wails and bawls. He goes to Shelly to be consoled.

SHELLY

(comforts Freddy)

What's wrong Freddy? Tell Shelly what's wrong my little chipmunk.

FREDDY

Errrrrr Errrrr. Dad Radio dead
Shelly. Dad Radio Dead. Errrrrr.

SHELLY

(comforts Freddy)

Oh there there.

(to Tina)

What happened?

TINA

Kirk knocked over Freddy's antique
radio and now it won't turn on. He
reckons it was an accident but I'm
not too sure. Kirk's been seething
about something all afternoon.

Freddy continues to be very distraught and wails and bawls
on Shelly's shoulder.

SHELLY

You know I think Kev might be able
to fix your radio.

(to Tina)

Dad used to be into Ham radio and
electronics years ago. He even
built his own hi fi.

FREDDY

Kev make Dad Radio talk again?

SHELLY

Kev will try and if he can't we'll
find someone who will.

FREDDY

(wails)

Errrrr. But I need Dad Radio
Shelly. I need it. Errrrrrr.

SHELLY

I know Freddy. I know. Let me
take Dad Radio away so we can get
him to talk again. Okay?

Freddy is distressed and cries on Shelly's shoulder. Shelly
comforts him and pats his back.

SHELLY

(to Tina)

Could you drop off the radio at my
place? I'll call Dad and let him
know what's going on.

Tina nods.

Freddy continues to cry on Shelly's shoulder. She comforts him and pats his back.

INT. SHELLY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kev has the radio on top of the coffee table. The back cover is off. He's looking inside with a flashlight. Kev looks bewildered. Tools and a meter are also on the table. The front door opens and Shelly enters looking tired.

KEV
How's Freddy?

SHELLY
Poor chipmunk cried himself to sleep. So what's the verdict?

KEV
I got no idea what I'm lookin at. My knowledge of electronics is pre Nineteen Eighties. I was hopin there might be a circuit diagram on the back but nothin. The insides look nuthin like my old Ham Radio.

SHELLY
So what do you think Dad? Still think it's a two way radio.

KEV
Well from what I can tell, it looks that way. Found a microphone inside to pick up Freddy's voice and my guess is most of these gadgets are scramblin devices.

SHELLY
Scramblin Devices?

KEV
Yeah, you know, to keep the conversations with Freddy top secret like. Fits in with someone who faked his own death and wants to keep a low key.

SHELLY
So no chance it's a ghost?

KEV
(a little cross)
No! I told ya there's no ghosts!

SHELLY

Sorry Dad.

KEV

Freddy's Dad must of pissed someone off big time to go to this trouble.

SHELLY

So Dad, can you fix it?

KEV

I've done some basic checks, fuses, wiring, but couldn't find anything. Sorry love, this is beyond me.

Shelly looks disappointed. She suddenly has an idea. Shelly walks over to her handbag and pulls out a slip of paper. Shelly walks over to a small desk with a computer.

KEV (CONT'D)

What are ya doin' love?

Shelly sits at the computer desk. She types on the keyboard as she reads the slip of paper.

SHELLY

I think I may have found someone who can help. Fancy a trip out to the local University tomorrow?

INSERT - COMPUTER MONITOR SCREEN

On the screen is a photo of Professor Barney Allen smiling on a University's website. Above is the heading "School of Neuroscience" and below the caption "Prof. Barney Allen".

INT. SHELLY'S STATION WAGON - DAY

Kev drives and Shelly rides shotgun. The Radio lies flat back of the wagon.

KEV

So who are we seein love?

SHELLY

Professor Allen. He's a colleague of Freddy's Dad. If anyone can fix that fancy two way, it's him.

KEV

If Freddy's Dad's takin all these precautions, is it smart to show up with this radio? For all we know, this fella's office could be bugged.

SHELLY

Good point Dad, we better not let
on we know it's a fancy two way.
We'll play dumb.

KEV

Two dumb Aussies from down under.
That shouldn't be too hard.

INT. PROFESSOR BARNEY ALLEN'S OFFICE - DAY

PROFESSOR BARNEY ALLEN is a thickset early fifties
Professor. He sits behind his desk, uses his computer.

The Professor's door is open. Shelly knocks. Kev is behind
her. Shelly waits at the doorway.

SHELLY

Professor Allen? My name is
Shelly. We spoke on the phone?

BARNEY ALLEN

Oh yes. Come in. Come in.

Shelly enters followed by Kev wheeling in the radio on a two
wheel trolley.

SHELLY

This is my father Kev.

BARNEY ALLEN

Hello.

KEV

G'day.

SHELLY

Professor, as I mentioned on the
phone, I'm a Direct Support
Professional, I work with Freddy,
Professor Krueger's son.

BARNEY ALLEN

Oh yes. How is Freddy?

SHELLY

He is quite stressed Professor
Allen. Quite stressed. You see
the radio he and his father built
together is broken and as his
father is no longer around we were
hoping you might be able to fix it.

BARNEY ALLEN

Well I don't really know--

SHELLY

Professor Allen, this radio is Freddy's one link to his father who is no longer around and you would make one chipmunk very happy if you could just have a look.

BARNEY ALLEN

But it's not my field of--

SHELLY

Please Professor. One look.

BARNEY ALLEN

Okay. For Freddy okay. I'll see what I can do.

SHELLY

Thank you Professor. Thank You.

Kev puts the radio down off the trolley.

KEV

Thanks mate.

Shelly places a card on the corner of the desk.

SHELLY

This has my cell number and email address. Call or email me anytime. Thank you Professor.

The Professor nods.

Kev and Shelly exit.

The Professor looks at the radio. He looks confused.

INT. SHELLY'S STATION WAGON - DAY

Shelly drives and Kev is in the passenger seat. Kev keeps looking in the rear vision mirror.

SHELLY

Dad, what are ya doin?

KEV

Checkin no one's followin us. We took a huge risk takin that radio to the Professor. He wasn't keen on gettin involved was he?

SHELLY

Well the CIA or drug cartell or whoever it is which made Freddy's Dad fake his own death can't be watchin all the time.

KEV

Hope not. So what do we do now?

SHELLY

We go home and wait. Hopefully the Professor will fix the radio today.

Kev continues looking in the rear vision mirror.

INT. PROFESSOR BARNEY ALLEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Professor Allen sits behind his desk.

BARNEY ALLEN

It's been five years John. How do you feel?

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.)

Feel? I haven't felt anything for years.

(beat)

So Barney, hearing from me again, were you surprized?

BARNEY ALLEN

Surprized would be a colossal understatement.

(beat)

So um, how was the--

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.)

The end, well I didn't experience the last couple of days, but yeah it was horrible.

BARNEY ALLEN

(voice quivers)

Sorry John I wasn't there much --

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.)

It's okay Barney. It's okay. I wouldn't want you to remember me like that. I was a mess.

(beat)

So give me a run down on what you've done.

BARNEY ALLEN

I've upgraded your system to include open office if you need a text editor and I've also installed a u-s-b broadband stick as well as a g-mail account.

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.)

Thanks Barney, that's great. What's my g-mail ID.

BARNEY ALLEN

It's J Krueger all in lower case and 2 n d tagged on the end.

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.)

Shorthand for second. I like it. So who dropped me off?

BARNEY ALLEN

Some Aussie lady and her Dad. The lady's one of Freddy's carers. She seemed nice.

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.)

So do they know what's going on?

BARNEY ALLEN

No, I think they're pretty much in the dark as I was initially. Probably thought I was an electronics expert or something. Do you want me to tell them?

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.)

I think we keep this our secret for now. If that's okay with you?

BARNEY ALLEN

A Okay with me. I'm going to call them now to come pick you up but promise me something John.

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.)

What's that?

BARNEY ALLEN

Keep in touch.

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.)

Of course. Thanks Barney.

Barney smiles.

INT. FREDDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The Zenith antique radio is back against the wall.

Kev plugs the radio into a nearby power outlet.

Freddy and Shelly anxiously wait in front of the radio.

KEV

Okay, time to turn it on and see if it works.

SHELLY

I think we'll let Freddy check if it works on his own. What do you think Freddy?

FREDDY

(thumbs up, smiling)
Good idea! Out you go. Privacy time.

Freddy shepherds Kev and Shelly towards the door.

SHELLY

We'll wait outside your door. Let us know it's working. Okay Freddy?

FREDDY

Okay. Out you go.

Freddy shuts his bedroom door behind Shelly and Kev.

Freddy walks over to the radio and turns it on.

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.)

Hi Freddy. Are you there?

FREDDY

Dad! You're alive!

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.)

I'm here my little chipmunk!

FREDDY

One moment Dad. IT'S WORKING!

INT. GROUP HOME HALLWAY - NIGHT

Shelly has her ear up against Freddy's door smiling.

SHELLY

OKAY!

(to Kev quietly)
I heard him say 'Dad'. It's his
Dad. He's talking to his Dad.

KEV

Mystery solved.

INT. GROUP HOME LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

James and Marcus stand in front of the couch. Bonnet is on the couch and Maria and Tina are off to the side of the couch, Tina sits on a chair. They're all watching T V.

Kev and Shelly enter the room, Tina and Bonnet look up.

SHELLY

We're glad to report all is well
again in the chipmunk universe.

Bonnet and Tina both smile and look pleased. Bonnet nods.

TINA

Oh that's wonderful. You both are
amazing.

SHELLY

Oh it was nothing.

KEV

(holding back)
Speak for yourself, that radio's
heavy.

TINA

(playfully)
Oh you poor old man.
(stands up)
Come on, I'll take you home.

KEV

I've learnt never to argue with a
pretty lady. See ya folks.

TINA

Bye Maria, bye Marcus, Bye James.
(to Shelly)
Bye. Bye Bonnet.

Kev and Tina exit the Living room out through the front door.

Shelly sits down near Bonnet. She looks exhausted.

BONNET
 Hey you don't think Tina and your
 Dad are--

SHELLY
 (grimaces)
 Oh Bonnet. Please. That's gross!

Shelly pushes Bonnet. Bonnet chuckles.

BONNET
 So what did you discover Daph?

SHELLY
 My Dad was right all along. It's
 some fancy two way radio and we
 heard Freddy call him Dad.

BONNET
 I'm a little bit disappointed it
 wasn't a ghost.

SHELLY
 I am too. Still, I feel really
 silly tellin Dad it was a ghost.

BONNET
 Parents have a knack of making us
 feel silly. In his eyes you'll
 always be his little girl.

SHELLY
 And he'll be forever Dad.

INT. FREDDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Freddy sits in front of his computer.

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.)
 So Freddy, what happened.

FREDDY
 Kirk was mean to me Errrrrrr. He's
 a jerk! He knocked you over errrr!

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.)
 And did someone get me fixed.

FREDDY
 Shelly and Kev. They're my
 friends.

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.)
Okay we need to keep everyone out
of your room Freddy. Even your
friends Kev and Shelly. Chipmunks
only. Okay Mr Brummington Chipmunk?

FREDDY
Okay Dad.

Freddy looks happy and smiles.

INT. SHELLY'S KITCHEN - DAY

Kev sits at the table wearing his reading glasses. He's
holding a pen and doing the crossword in the newspaper.

Shelly walks in wearing pyjamas. She is half asleep.

SHELLY
(yawning)
Morning Dad.

KEV
Mornin' love. Here let me make you
a cuppa.

Kev goes to stand up but grabs his back in pain.

KEV
Owwwww!

SHELLY
No worries Dad. You sit down and
give your back a rest.

Kev sits back down, holding his back grimacing.

KEV
I think I've done somethin to me
back. Today's a rest day for me.

Shelly goes into the kitchen to make herself some tea.

SHELLY
Sorry Dad, I should have helped you
a bit more with the radio.

Shelly makes herself some breakfast in the kitchen.

KEV
(under his breath)
Don't think it was the radio.

Shelly's busy in the kitchen and doesn't pay full attention.

SHELLY

Did you say somethin Dad?

KEV

Nothin love. Just thinkin out loud.

Kev smiles and returns to the crossword.

Shelly gives Kev a sideways look as she's uncertain what she heard. Shelly returns to preparing breakfast.

EXT. PHOENIX ROAD GROUP HOME - NIGHT

The Group home is poorly lit from nearby streetlights. A white van is parked in the driveway. A large bus speeds past.

INT. GROUP HOME LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Shelly and Bonnet sit on the couch. They both look bored watching television. Bonnet channel surfs with the remote.

SHELLY

So Bonnet if you want to have a nap, I'll take the first watch.

BONNET

Maybe later. I'm a bit bored now that you've cracked the mystery.

SHELLY

Me too and there's absolutley nothing on television.

(beat)

So how is your ghost mystery going?

BONNET

Well it's not a mystery, it's Mom.

SHELLY

Sure you don't want me and Dad to--

BONNET

No no no. You might scare Mom away. Losin' your Mom is the hardest thing in life. Don't wanna lose her again.

SHELLY

Do you ever get over it? Losin' ya Mum that is.

There's a pain in Shelly and Bonnet's eyes. Both look teary.

BONNET

Not sure. Don't think so.

Bonnet and Shelly look glum and bored. Both return to the T V. Bonnet continues to channel surf with the remote.

EXT. SUPERMARKET PARKING LOT - DAY

Shelly's wagon pulls into the supermarket parking lot. Kev drives. He is alone. Kev pulls into an empty space.

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

Kev pushes an empty cart down an isle with condiments.

Kev scans the shelves, searching for something. He looks up and down and side to side at all the items on the shelf.

A heavy middle aged female STOCK CLERK packs shelves nearby.

KEV

Excuse me love, can ya tell me
where ya ketchup is?

The fat clerk stops what she's doing and walks over to Kev.

STOCK CLERK

Look straight ahead.

Kev looks in front of him.

There are various varieties of ketchup on the shelf.

STOCK CLERK (CONT'D)

(belligerent)

Can you see it now! Maybe you
should open your eyes next time!

The stock clerk returns to packing the shelf.

KEV

(cranky)

Yeah I bloody see it.

Kev puts two ketchup bottles in the cart and continues on.

KEV (CONT'D)

(under breath)

No wonder we hate askin directions.

Kev pushes his cart near the front of the store and stops a middle aged female SUPERMARKET CLERK walking by.

KEV (CONT'D)

Excuse me love, can ya tell me
where the alah-min-yum foil is.

SUPERMARKET CLERK

I'm sorry sir, what were you after?

KEV

Al-a-min-yum foil. You know, they
use it for the kid's sangas.

SUPERMARKET CLERK

I'm sorry sir, I'm not sure what
you're after.

The supermarket clerk stops a SECOND SUPERMARKET CLERK,
(50s) female, who just happens to be walking by.

SUPERMARKET CLERK (CONT'D)

Judy, can you help? I'm trying to
work out what this customer is
after?

The second supermarket clerk turns to Kev and smiles.

KEV

Al-a-min-yum foil. You know, they
use it to wrap up sangas.

SECOND SUPERMARKET CLERK

Just not getting it.
(talks slowly)
Maybe if you say it slowly.
(turns to colleague)
Think he's a stroke victim.

KEV

Bloody hell! I will have a stroke
in a minute if ya can't work this
one out. Allah-minium Foil.

SECOND SUPERMARKET CLERK

(turns to colleague)
Allah. Oh I think he's moslem.
(turns back to Kev)
Sorry this is a supermarket, not a
mosque. You can't pray here. Sorry.

Kev holds and shakes his head in frustration.

A thirty-ish neatly dressed male STORE MANAGER walks by.

SUPERMARKET CLERK

John, we're having trouble understanding this customer. We think he might be a stroke victim or a moslem or maybe both.

The Store Manager smiles and looks at Kev.

Kev is now quite frustrated.

KEV

Allah-minium foil.

STORE MANAGER

No idea. Maybe if you spell it.

KEV

Allah-minium A L U M I N I U M
allah-minium. Allah-minium foil.

STORE MANAGER

He wants aloo-minum foil.

The Store Manager and both clerks roar with laughter.

Kev is getting very very angry.

KEV

I don't want aloo-minum foil! I want Allah-minium foil!

STORE MANAGER

Of course you do.

The Manager looks at both clerks and does crazy eyes.

The two supermarket clerks chuckles at Kev's expense.

SUPERMARKET CLERK

(chuckling)

I'll show him where it is.

Kev is upset at being made a fool. He follows the clerk.

The Store Manager and other supermarket clerk snicker.

A FEMALE CASHIER puts Kev's groceries in a bag.

Kev pays the cashier. He looks up.

The Store Manager and the two supermarket clerks look Kev's way. They are all laughing at him.

FEMALE CASHIER
(indifferently)
Have a nice day.

KEV
(under breath)
No thanks to you lot.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

A rusty Chevy Vega cruises down a leafy suburban street.

INT. CHEVY VEGA - DAY

Driving is SPUD (30s), an overweight stoner and riding shotgun holding a small digital video camera is GARY (30s) a goth. Both their windows are down. They look excited as they look out for anyone walking along the sidewalk.

In the back seat of the Vega, is Kirk. He sits near the right window that's down. Beside him are a dozen filled water balloons. He looks hyped as he scans the sidewalk.

Spud points to a mother pushing a baby stroller just ahead.

SPUD
There! There!

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

A latino mother (20s) pushes her baby stroller along the sidewalk of the leafy suburban street.

INTERCUT INT. CHEVY VEGA AND EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

Gary holds the camera aimed at the mother and Kirk has hold of a water balloon in his hand. He throws the balloon hard.

The mother is hit hard on the shoulder. The balloon bursts and she is soaked, some water sprays over the stroller. She yelps in pain, there are tears in her eyes. She glares at the Vega and hurls abuse in Mexican.

Gary continues to film. Kirk leans out the window.

KIRK
Go back to Mexico! Fuckin' wetback!

The Vega speeds off leaving the wet mother far behind. The three are in hysterics over their cruel prank.

GARY
That's gunna get like a million hits. Great throwin Kirk.

SPUD
Hey Kirk, what's in the balloons?

KIRK
Piss. Just plain old piss.

The three are in hysterics over Kirk's reply.

EXT. SUPERMARKET PARKING LOT - DAY

Kev pushes his cart full of groceries out of the supermarket.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

The Chevy Vega cruises down another suburban street. There are no sign of any pedestrians.

INT. CHEVY VEGA - DAY

Spud, Gary and Kirk search for more victims.

SPUD
Where is everyone?

GARY
It's like everyone's disappeared.

KIRK
Hey we should swing by the
supermarket parking lot.

Spud and Gary nod and chuckle in agreement.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

The Chevy Vega speeds off down the suburban street.

EXT. SUPERMARKET PARKING LOT - DAY

Kev loads groceries into the back of the wagon.

The Chevy Vega drives past. Gary operates the camera, Kirk throws a water balloon hard out the window.

Kev is knocked over. He is wet and groceries strewn about.

The Vega speeds off for the parking lot exit.

INT. CHEVY VEGA - DAY

Spud, Gary and Kirk are in hysterics.

SPUD
Man, you got that old Geezer good.

Spud looks in the rear view mirror. Kev slowly gets up.

EXT. SUPERMARKET PARKING LOT - DAY

Kev slowly gets up. He is upset as he glares at the Vega.

KEV
BLOODY MONGRELS!

Kev picks up the groceries. Shoppers returning to their cars are reluctant to help Kev who appears crazed and dishevelled.

INT. SHELLY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Kev has three suitcases open and is packing one. The stereo plays loudly Peter Allen's "I still call Australia Home"

Shelly enters in her pyjamas, she is still sleepy. She turns off the music. Kev looks up.

SHELLY
Dad? What's with the loud music? I could have slept for another hour.

KEV
Sorry love. Forgot you were asleep.

Shelly notices the suitcases.

SHELLY
So Dad, what's with the packin?

KEV
Well Love I saw some great specials on flights to Sydney for the next few days and I'm real homesick.

SHELLY
But Dad, why? You've been getting into the baseball, you're a hit with Tina and the clients. Why are you homesick? What happened?

KEV
I'm just homesick, that's all. I miss me old life Shell, that's all.

SHELLY
Did you have a bad day? Is that it? Come across some dick heads. You know there's plenty of dick heads and bad days back in Australia too.

KEV

Look I just don't wanna get into specifics, I just miss Australia, you know gumtrees, the countryside, the outback. I miss it Shell.

SHELLY

(disappointed)

You said a month Dad.

KEV

I don't belong here love.

SHELLY

But you haven't given it a fair go!

KEV

I have love, I have.

Shelly looks very sad.

SHELLY

Dad, this is gunna sound selfish but I want you to stay, for me.

KEV

You don't want an old bugger like me around.

SHELLY

Of course I do. I've loved havin you take care of me and helping out at Pheonix Road. And I'd probably be in the mad house over the Dad Radio Mystery if it wasn't for you.

Kev raises a smile.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

What do you say Dad? This place could be your second chance, your second innings. What'ya say?

KEV

Okay Shell, I'll give it another fortnight. Not a day more!

SHELLY

Thanks Dad.

INT. GROUP HOME LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Shelly and Bonnet sit on the couch. They look bored watching television.

BONNET

Shelly, if you want to have a nap,
I'll keep a look out.

SHELLY

I'm not tired. Maybe later.

BONNET

So how did an Aussie girl end up
working for Southside?

SHELLY

Well I don't want to bore you.

BONNET

It's gotta be more interesting than
what's on the tube tonight.

SHELLY

Well I did this type of work for a
few years down under. I then met
my X - Rick. We married and moved
back here, Rick's from the U S.

BONNET

Your X?

SHELLY

Separated last year. The bastard
left me for his secretary.

BONNET

So how's your Dad come into this?

SHELLY

A week after Rick moved out I got a
call from Dad. Mum had died.
Heart attack.

(wipes eyes)

Anyway I took the next plane to
Sydney to help with the funeral.
I'm an only child. Stayed with Dad
for six months, convinced him to
come back with me and here we are.

BONNET

How's your Dad adjusting to living
here?

SHELLY

Well in the last couple of weeks,
with the volunteering and Tina and
the baseball I really thought he
was starting to feel at home here.

Shelly shrugs.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

But today he said he was missin
Australia, the gumtrees and the
outback. Funny thing is he's only
gone outback once.

BONNET

You know this country has a pretty
cool outback. Maybe you and your
Dad should go on a road trip.
Route sixty six. Check it out.

SHELLY

Bonnet. You are a genius. Route
sixty six?

BONNET

Yep. America's main street. The
Mother road.

SHELLY

Bonnet. Have a nap. I'm going to
google Route sixty six.

Shelly gets up and exits.

BONNET

I figure I just earnt myself a nap.

Bonnet lies down on the couch, closes his eyes and smiles.

EXT. SHELLY'S HOUSE - DAY

It's a sunny day and the station wagon's parked with Kev and
Shelly inside. Shelly's behind the wheel.

INT. SHELLY'S STATION WAGON - DAY

Shelly is behind the wheel. The wagon's packed with luggage.

SHELLY

Have we got everything?

KEV

I think so, where we headed?

SHELLY

No where in particular. I'm just
keen to show you this place isn't
all freeways and shopping malls.
Thought it be nice to check out
this country's outback.

KEV

Don't we need a G P thingee?

SHELLY

No need Dad, we just gotta follow
the signs for Route sixty six.

Kev looks a little excited. Shelly starts the car.

EXT. SHELLY'S STREET - DAY

The car pulls out from curb and heads on down the street.

MONTAGE OF NEXT TWO DAYS - ROAD TRIP ALONG ROUTE SIXTY SIX

- A) Scenic country side and sites - Route 66 Illinois.
- B) Kev and Shelly are talking and enjoying the road trip.
- C) Wagon travels through scenic St Louis, Illinois.
- D) Wagon travels down a scenic road - Route 66 Missouri.
- E) Shelly is asleep and Kev is driving.
- F) Wagon drives over a scenic old bridge - Route 66 Missouri.
- G) Wagon drives through scenic ozarks - Route 66 Missouri.
- H) Shelly fills up at an old fashioned service station - Kev is asleep in the passenger seat.
- I) Wagon drives over a scenic old bridge - Route 66 Kansas.
- J) Wagon drives through scenic Tulsa - Route 66 Oklahoma.
- K) Kev and Shelly are talking and enjoying the road trip.
- L) Wagon drives through scenic Oklahoma City - Route 66.
It's now dusk.
- M) Station wagon has its headlights on - it's night.
- N) Shelly's driving, looks tired. Kev's asleep. It's night.
- O) Wagon pulls into a roadside motel with a Vacant sign on.
It's night. The wagon parks in front of a motel room.
- P) Wagon reverses out from parking space in front of motel
room and drives off. It's dawn.
- Q) Wagon drives through scenic Amarillo - Route 66 Texas.
- R) Wagon drives down a scenic road - Route 66 New Mexico.

S) Kev and Shelly exit a fifties style diner in scenic New Mexico desert. They get into the wagon and drive off.

T) Wagon drives down a scenic road - Route 66 New Mexico.

U) Wagon drives through scenic Winslow - Route 66 Arizona.

V) Shelly is driving and Kev is asleep.

W) Wagon drives down a scenic road - Route 66 Arizona.

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. DIRT PARKING LOT - ADJACENT GRAND CANYON - DUSK

The wagon parks in a rustic National Park parking lot.

INT. SHELLY'S STATION WAGON - DUSK

Kev wakes up as the car comes to a stop.

KEV

Where are we?

SHELLY

I took a little detour off route sixty six. Figure you might want to see it.

KEV

See it? What are you talkin about Shelly?

SHELLY

No time to explain, we'll miss the show. Hurry Dad. We gotta hurry.

Shelly exits the car and Kev pushes himself to hurry up.

EXT. DIRT PARKING LOT - ADJACENT GRAND CANYON - DUSK

Shelly walks away from the car in a hurry. There's half a dozen cars parked nearby. Kev's still confused and follows.

EXT. SOUTHERN GRAND CANYON LOOKOUT - DUSK

Shelly walks towards a lookout where there are about a dozen people, mainly families, looking out in awe.

Kev tries to catch up to see what everyone is looking at.

Kev reaches Shelly and he looks and realizes he is looking over the Grand Canyon.

Kev is mesmerized by the sight. Shelly notices Kev's reaction, smiles and returns to enjoying the view.

The Grand Canyon's immensity and grandeur is breathtaking. The long afternoon shadows highlights its many angles, faces, crevices, size and immensity.

Shelly turns to Kev who is still mesmerised and in awe.

SHELLY

So whatya think Dad? Bit better than the lookout at Hill sixty.

KEV

Ahh it's it's um ah ... there's no word that can come close to say how bloody wonderful it is.

Shelly turns back to enjoy the view.

The Grand Canyon view at sunset is glorious.

Shelly turns back to Kev who is now crying.

SHELLY

Dad are you okay?

KEV

Sorry love, I always told ya Mum I'd take her here one day.

Kev wipes the tears from his eyes.

SHELLY

Oh Dad, I think you just did.

Shelly holds on to her father's arm and they continue to enjoy sunset over the Grand Canyon.

EXT. PHOENIX ROAD GROUP HOME - NIGHT

The single level Group home is poorly lit from nearby streetlights. A white van is parked in the driveway. A large bus speeds past the home.

INT. GROUP HOME LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Phil is sound asleep on the couch.

INT. GROUP HOME STUDY - NIGHT

Kirk sits before a PC. He plays a youtube clip where Kev is hit with a water balloon and falls over, groceries strewn all over the parking lot. He chuckles to himself.

Kirk shakes out six red pills from a medicine bottle and swallows them. He types on the keyboard and hits enter.

On the screen is a screen full of furotica adult only cartoons - mainly anthropomorphic sexy female foxes with large breasts in lingerie.

Kirk shakes out more red pills and swallows while viewing more furry pornography. On screen more anthropomorphic sexy female foxes with large breasts in lingerie.

Kirk looks aroused as he continues to focus on the screen.

INT. GROUP HOME LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Phil is sound asleep on the couch.

Kirk creeps in behind the couch.

KIRK

Hey Phil. Are you awake?

Phil is sound asleep on the couch.

INT. FREDDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Freddy's room is dimly lit. Freddy is sound asleep in his bed. He wears a chipmunk onesie.

INT. GROUP HOME HALLWAY - NIGHT

Kirk walks down a hallway and stops at Freddy's bedroom door.

Kirk slowly opens the door and enters the bedroom.

INT. FREDDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The Zenith radio is against the wall. The radio has been left on, the pilot light behind the dial is still on.

FREDDY (O.S.)

Kirk? What are you doing here?
Stop it Kirk? Don't don't.

KIRK (O.S.)

(low)
Shutup or I'll smash your radio to bits.

FREDDY (O.S.)

Please no Kirk. Don't Kirk. No-o-o.
Don't. Dad. Help me Daddy. Help me.

KIRK (O.S.)
 (low)
 Shutup or I'll fuckin smash it.
 It'll be over in a minute.

FREDDY (O.S.)
 (muffled)
 No-o-o-o. Daddy help. Daddy help
 me. No-o-o-o-o. Daddy help me.

EXT. PHOENIX ROAD GROUP HOME - DAY

SUPER: THREE DAYS LATER

It's an overcast day. A white van is parked in the driveway. A large bus speeds past the group home.

INT. GROUP HOME LIVING ROOM - DAY

James stands flapping his hands. Marcus stands nearby smiling. Bonnet sits on one end of the couch and Shelly on the other. Tina sits off to one side of the couch on a chair next to Maria. The client's are all watching T V.

On the television is a Thomas The Tank Engine DVD. Thomas has fallen into a muddy pond.

TINA
 Well Shelly, it sounds like you and
 your Dad had a wonderful road trip.

SHELLY
 It was great, especially the Grand
 Canyon. Scenery was spectacular.
 Got back late last night. Dad's
 buggered so he's home resting.

TINA
 I'd love to hear what your Dad
 thought of the trip. Would it be
 okay if I dropped by after seven?

SHELLY
 Dad would love it. You're welcome
 to come over if you want Bonnet.

BONNET
 No can do Shell bear. I need to
 listen to that special radio
 program tonight. You know, the one
 I told you all about. Mother and
 son program. Eighty one point five.

Bonnet gives Shelly a huge wink.

SHELLY

Try not to get too wasted Bonnet.
We need you bright eyed and bushy
tailed eight A M sharp.

(beat)

So where's our resident chipmunk?

TINA

Freddy's been down in the dumps
lately. Spending a lot of time in
his room. He's not the usual
cheery chipmunk that he usually is.

SHELLY

Has his radio stopped working?

TINA

No no, I can still hear the radio
working and him talking back as
usual. I've also heard him sobbing
a lot as well. Maybe his
medication needs adjusting.

Shelly looks puzzled.

SHELLY

Oh that's sad to hear. So where
are we taking everyone today?

TINA

I was hoping the park but it looks
like it's going to rain so we could
all go to the mall. What do you
think everyone?

James looks happy flapping his hand. Marcus nods and smiles.
Maria giggles and seems to be nodding as well.

SHELLY

Well it looks like the mall is fine
with these three. I'll just tell
Freddy where we're going.

INT. GROUP HOME HALLWAY - DAY

Shelly walks down the hallway and stops at Freddy's door.

Shelly knocks on Freddy's bedroom door.

SHELLY

Freddy, it's Shelly. We're all
going down to the mall. We're
about to leave.

FREDDY (O.S.)
Go away errrrrrrrr.

SHELLY
But Freddy, don't you want to come?
I'll be real sad if you don't want
to come.

FREDDY (O.S.)
I don't care errrrrrrrr.

SHELLY
Please Freddy. Please come out.
Shelly misses you. It won't be the
same without you Brummington.

FREDDY (O.S.)
I don't care. Go away Shelly. Go
away errrrrrrrr!

INT. GROUP HOME LIVING ROOM - DAY

James and Marcus are still in front of the couch and Maria and Tina sit off to one side. Bonnet hasn't moved either, sits one end of the couch. Shelly enters the room.

SHELLY
We've got a problem. Freddy
refuses to come to the mall. Told
me to go away. What should we do?

TINA
Oh dear, we had a lot of problems
getting him to come out the last
two days. Does he sound like he
might do something silly?

SHELLY
I don't think so. If you two want
to take these three to the mall, I
can stay and keep checking on him.

TINA
Well policy is we need three to
take the clients out but as there's
only three, well, what do you think
Bonnet?

BONNET
I think we'll be okay. We'll make
it a short visit to the mall. Come
on guys.

Bonnet gets up and steers James and Marcus towards the front door. Tina pushes Maria towards the front door as well.

SHELLY

I'll keep checking on Freddy.
Hopefully get him to come out of
his room.

TINA

Good luck.

BONNET

Bye.

Bonnet, Tina and the three clients leave. Shelly looks concerned and is left pondering what to do.

EXT. SHELLY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

It's raining heavily. The house is dimly lit from nearby streetlights. The old station wagon is in the driveway.

INT. SHELLY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kev, Tina and Shelly sit on the couch, Tina is in the middle. Shelly shows Tina photos of the road trip on an iPad that's on the coffee table.

SHELLY

The pics of the Grand Canyon just
don't give it justice. It was
amazing.

TINA

You know, that's one place I
haven't been to yet and I've lived
here all my life.

KEV

Well Shell, next time we go we
should take Tina with us.

TINA

Well I wouldn't want to impose.

SHELLY

More the merrier. And another
driver would really make it a lot
easier.

KEV

So it's settled, next road trip
you're coming.

Kev and Tina smile at each other. There is thunder outside.

TINA

Thanks Kev, that sounds wonderful.
(beat)
So Shelly, how did you go with
Freddy today?

SHELLY

Checked on him every fifteen
minutes and finally got him to come
out of his room to watch some T V.
He is really down, poor chipmunk.

TINA

Yes, I'm not sure what's going on
with Freddy. He might need his
medication adjusted. Some of these
pills cause depression as a side
effect. I'll mention it to Peebles.

SHELLY

Look Tina, I've been meaning to ask
you. I heard a rumour that
Freddy's Dad might not be dead,
that he might have faked his death.

Tina shakes her head and looks a little angry.

TINA

Oh my God, where do people come up
with such nonsense?

SHELLY

So it's not true, there is no way
he faked his own death.

TINA

Absolutely no way cause I'm the one
that found him dead.

As Tina utters 'dead' there's thunder and lightning outside.

SERIES OF SHOTS - TINA'S FLASHBACKS

- A) John Krueger looks weak, thin and very very ill. He
gives Freddy a long hug. There are tears in his
eyes. They're in the group home's living room.

TINA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

The last time I saw Freddy's Dad,
John Krueger alive, his body was
riddled with cancer and he had been
given only a few weeks to live.

- B) John Krueger gives Tina a long hand shake, tears are in his eyes and they're both in the home's living room.

TINA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 He told me to take good care of his son and said good bye as if it was for the last time.

- C) Phil and Tina are in the group homes van, they are driving somewhere. Younger Phil has no face piercings.

TINA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Freddy's Dad had been seeing Freddy every day, but for the next two days he didn't show. We tried calling but no answer so young Phil and I drove out to see him.

- D) Tina knocks on the door of a single level suburban house. As she knocks the door opens.
- E) Tina enters and finds a lifeless body face down on the living room floor. A half empty bottle of pills lay on the floor not far away.

TINA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 I found his body, dead on his living room floor. He was cold and stiff as rigamortis had set in.

INT. SHELLY'S LIVING ROOM - BACK TO PRESENT

The wild storm continues outside as Tina retells her story.

TINA (CONT'D)
 It was quite an unnerving experience. So don't listen to these silly rumours Shelly. Professor John Krueger is dead.

Shelly and Kev look at each other in shock. Sound of thunder and lightning outside emphasizes the chilling moment.

INT. SHELLY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Shelly is sound asleep in a double bed. There's a wild storm raging outside complete with thunder and lightning.

A hallway light half lights up the room. Kev enters.

KEV
 Shell. Shell. Wake up.

Shelly is now half awake.

SHELLY

Dad, is that you? What's goin on?

Shelly sits up.

KEV

Shell. How can you sleep? Didn't you hear Tina? Freddy's Dad's dead. Freddy's been talking to a ghost all this time.

SHELLY

But Dad, there has to be a logical explanation. You taught me that.

KEV

Your old man's full of shit love.

Kev is shaking. Tears stream down his face.

SHELLY

What do ya mean Dad?

KEV

I was haunted by a ghost when I was a kid and I've never forgotten it.

Kevin looks scared as he retells his ghost story.

FLASHBACK - EXT. KEV'S BACKYARD (1947) - DAY

Ten year old Kev retrieves eggs from a backyard chicken coop. Kev wears shorts and a white button shirt two sizes too big. Backyard has a gum tree, lemon tree, metal drum for burning rubbish and outdoor toilet with a moon shaped cutout on door.

On the back porch of an old weatherboard house rocks GRAN GAMBLE, ninety, deaf, very old and wrinkly. She smokes a pipe as she rocks back and forth wearing a wide brim sun hat.

KEV (V.O.)

Summer of forty seven. That was the last summer my grandma Gran Gamble lived with us. She was almost deaf and blind but still enjoyed her pipe and rocking chair.

Young Kev shows Gran Gamble a small basket full with eggs. Gran Gamble takes a close look at the eggs, nods and smiles.

EXT. KEV'S BACKYARD (1948) - DAY

Slightly older Kev (11) exits the chicken coop with a basket full of eggs. He heads for the back door. Kev passes the back porch where the rocking chair still resides, now empty.

EXT. KEV'S BACKYARD (1948) - NIGHT

It's a dark miserable night. Drizzly with erratic downpours. Kev heads for the outside toilet with a broken umbrella. He makes his destination, slamming the door behind him.

KEV (V.O.)

They were hard times. Heaven help
if you had to take a crap in the
middle of a miserable rainy night.
The dunny was out the back.

The outside toilet door remains closed. A fog rolls in on the drizzly night. The rocking chair starts to rock. This is strange as there is no wind. The rocking gets faster and faster. Toilet door opens and rocking stops. Kev is unaware.

Kev uses the broken umbrella. He stops on the back porch to close the umbrella. Kev smell something, smells familiar.

KEV (V.O.) (CONT'D)

When I was going inside I got a
whiff of somethin I couldn't quite
place but it was familiar. It
seemed this smell got stronger near
the rocking chair.

The rocking chair leans forward. It defies gravity. Kev comes near. He follows his nose.

KEV (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I then remembered. Gran's apple
tobacco.

Young Kev stares at the rocking chair, notices the peculiar forward lean. He tries a closer inspection on why it leans.

KEV (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And then it happened.

Kev is bewildered with the lean. On Kev's touch it rocks back and forth at break neck speed like some wound up toy.

KEV (V.O.) (CONT'D)

The chair rocked back and forth so
fast it was just a blur. The
chair, it was haunted by Gran
Gamble. That I'm certain.

Young Kev is frozen in fear as the chair rocks back and forth at rapid speed. He looks terrified.

KEV (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And as much as I wanted to run from there, I couldn't. It was as if my feet had been nailed to the floor.

The rocking chair stops abruptly. Young Kev, in shock, runs as fast as he can for the backdoor. He slams it behind him.

KEV (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I later realised it was the anniversary of my Grans death.

END OF FLASHBACK.

INT. SHELLY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Shelly sits up in bed. Kev looks shaken.

SHELLY
Could it have been a bad dream?

KEV
For many years I had convinced myself it had been just a vivid dream but I always knew, in my heart of hearts that it was real.

SHELLY
Dad, I can neither confirm or deny the existence of ghosts but I still think there must be a logical explanation for Freddy's radio.

KEV
Well Sherlock, his father's dead and Freddy's still talkin to him.

SHELLY
Yeah but it doesn't make sense. How does his friend Barney fit into all of this. He didn't seem the type to fix haunted radios.

Kev shrugs. He still appears anxious and scared.

INT. SHELLY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Shelly sits behind a computer. Kev looks over her shoulder.

KEV

What if he's in on it? What if he's a Professor in parapsychology like those guys in Ghost Busters or he's involved in the occult or somethin'?

SHELLY

Pull yourself together Dad. There will be a logical explanation. I'm asking him straight out, what's the deal with Freddy's radio.

Shelly presses the enter button.

KEV

Is it done? Your E message thingy.

SHELLY

Yep. Hopefully we'll have an answer by morning.
Come on Dad. Lets get some sleep.

Shelly and Kev head upstairs to bed.

EXT. BONNET'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Bonnet sucks on a huge bong. He sits back on an old comfy couch in a cluttered living room. A half dismantled motorbike; a bass guitar and amp; and a pinball machine, along with Bonnet's couch and a coffee table fill the room.

A HD flat screen television cranks out an AC DC video loud.

Bonnet looks wasted as he rocks out stoned on the couch. He notices something on the wall as he rocks out. He stops.

BONNET

Oh shit!

On the wall is a black Kit-Cat clock. It's almost 2 am.

Bonnet is on his knees on shag carpet before a hi fi stereo. He fiddles with switches and knobs. A squelchy static noise erupts out of the speakers. The hi fi tuner readout displays 80.0, 80.1, 80.2. The numbers climb to 81.5 and stops.

Bonnet listens hard. Through the white noise, in a voice half human half static, Bonnet's mother can be heard.

BONNET'S MOTHER (V.O.)

Stop smoking dope! Stop smoking dope!

BONNET

Are you there? Mom? Mom? Mom?

INT. SHELLY'S KITCHEN - DAY

Kev sits at the table drinking tea. He looks anxious. Shelly enters half asleep in her pyjamas.

SHELLY
Morning Dad. Sleep much?

KEV
Morning love. Not really. You?

SHELLY
Not bad. So would you like me to check my email.

Kev emphatically nods.

INT. SHELLY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Shelly sits at the computer. Kev looks over her shoulder.

SHELLY
Nothing yet.

KEV
You sure?

SHELLY
Ahh well, you know these academics. This is way too early for em. I'll check my email later at work.

KEV
Good idea Love.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE PROFESSOR BARNEY ALLEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Professor Barney Allen unlocks his office door. A middle aged FEMALE COLLEAGUE walks by.

FEMALE COLLEAGUE
How was the break up at the lake?

PROFESSOR BARNEY ALLEN
The weather was perfect, the fish were biting. I had five days of no phone, no T V, no radio, no internet. Just me and mother nature. It was incredible!

FEMALE COLLEAGUE
Lucky you!

Barney enters the office smiling and carrying a briefcase.

INT. PROFESSOR BARNEY ALLEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Barney is in front of his P C.

INSERT COMPUTER SCREEN:

The mouse arrow hovers over an outlook icon. Outlook opens. Under the inbox are various unread messages. The top one is from 'jkrueger2nd@gmail.com'.

Barney looks at the screen intensely.

INSERT COMPUTER SCREEN:

The mouse arrow hovers over the unread message from 'jkrueger2nd@gmail.com'. The email message opens.

Barney's eyes move from side to side as he reads the email. His faces is no longer smiling, he looks gravely concerned.

Barney grabs Shelly's card off the desk and places it near the keyboard. He types out her email address from the card.

EXT. GROUP HOME BACKYARD - DAY

A fine day. James, Marcus and Maria play backyard baseball. Tina is with Maria. Bonnet assists Marcus batting.

Kev finishes cooking rissoles on the barbecue. He places them on a large plate. Kev turns off the barbecue.

Shelly sets the outdoor table. On the table are hamburger buns, cans of drink, cutlery, napkins, ketchup, paper plates and a plate stacked high with cooked rissoles.

Shelly walks over to Kev to pick up the plate of rissoles.

KEV

Well that's all the rissoles
cooked.

SHELLY

Great work Dad.

Shelly places the plate of rissoles on the table.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

Okay everyone! Time for lunch!

James bats. He swings. CRACK! It soars over the back fence.

BONNET

Good timing, James has just hit our
only ball over the fence and I'm
not up to jumpin any more fences.

Tina pushes Maria back to the outdoor table. Bonnet rounds up Marcus and James and manages to get them to the table.

Tina, Bonnet and the three clients all sit down to eat.

Shelly heads towards the house.

SHELLY

I'll see if I can get Freddy to come out for some lunch.

TINA

Good idea.

Shelly stops for a moment with Kev before heading inside.

SHELLY

I'll check my email as well.

KEV

Oh goodo. Let me know as soon as you find out somethin. Will ya?

SHELLY

Yeah yeah. Course Dad.

Shelly continues towards the house.

Kev sits down near Tina.

Bonnet has a rissole and a bun on his plate. He looks at the rissole suspiciously.

BONNET

Hey Kev, what the hell are these things?

KEV

They're aussie rissoles. They're a cross between a burger and a meat ball. Made em me-self.

Bonnet tries one and grimaces.

BONNET

Are they suppose to taste like that?

Kev takes a bite of a rissole on his plate.

KEV

They're okay. We Aussies aren't as fussy as you lot. Ya might need a bit more ketchup Bonnet.

The clients enjoy eating their rissole burgers.

Tina relishes her rissole burger.

TINA

Well they taste super yummy to me
Kev. Thanks for making them.

KEV

Thanks love. My pleasure. I've
also made lamingtons for afternoon
tea. They're great with a cuppa.

BONNET

Kev, you're killing the Aussie male
macho image with all this baking
and cooking.

KEV

Well I can't help it if I'm a SNAG.

BONNET

You're an aussie sausage?

KEV

No SNAG. Sensitive New Age Guy.

BONNET

Shouldn't that be Silly New Age
Geyser.

KEV

Hey watch it son.

BONNET

Sorry Dad.

Everyone's in good spirits as Kev and Bonnet continue their
banter. Kev turns to find Tina amused. She smiles sweetly.

KEV

This one's a cheeky bugger.

INT. GROUP HOME HALLWAY - DAY

Shelly knocks on Freddy's bedroom door.

SHELLY

Freddy, please come outside. It's
a sunny day and we all really miss
you. Kev's cooked some meat and
we'd all love it if you came
outside and joined us.

FREDDY (O.S.)
Go away errrrrrrrr.

SHELLY
Please Freddy, please come outside.
I'll be real sad if you don't.

FREDDY (O.S.)
I don't care errrrrrrrr.

EXT. GROUP HOME BACKYARD - DAY

Everyone's still around the table enjoying their lunch.

KEV
We've still got plenty of rissoles
left. Teen?

TINA
(looks full)
No thanks Kev. I'm full. Trying to
save some room for one of your
lamingtons later.

KEV
What about you son? Are ya
chockers yet. For someone who
doesn't like em you certainly
polished off three quick smart.

BONNET
(looks full, smiles)
The extra ketchup did the trick.

INT. GROUP HOME STUDY - NIGHT

Shelly sits down before a computer screen. She types in
something onto a keyboard and hits enter.

EXT. GROUP HOME BACKYARD - DAY

Everyone's still around the table. All have stopped eating.
Everyone's in a good mood drinking cans of cola.

KEV
Well I better see where's Shelly
and Freddy.

Kev picks up a rissole off his plate and holds it up in one
hand like a huge round dial, turning it back and forth.

KEV (CONT'D)
Hey Bonnet, see ya round like a
rissole.

Tina and Bonnet chuckle at Kev's playful nature.

Kev leaves the table in good spirits and heads for the home.

INT. GROUP HOME STUDY - DAY

Shelly's eyes move back and forth as she reads from the computer screen. She is mortified and in shock. Teary eyed, lips quiver, she raises her hands to her face and sobs hard.

KEV (O.S.)
Shelly? Where are you?

Kev enters. His happy demeanour replaced with concern.

KEV (CONT'D)
Shelly, what is it darl?

SHELLY
Oh Dad, I just read an email from Barney and he says that Kirk's been molesting Freddy.

Shelly sobs hard. She slowly regains her composure.

SHELLY (CONT'D)
That bastard's supposed to be taking care of him and he's been molesting him. That's why Freddy's so upset.

Shelly starts crying against her Dad. Kev seems confused.

KEV
But Darl, how would that Barney fella know that Kirk's been molestin Freddy?

Shelly wipes her eyes and looks at the screen.

SHELLY
He sent a link to a website, he said he hopes that'll explain how.

Shelly sobs and moves her mouse and clicks the mouse button.

INSERT - COMPUTER MONITOR SCREEN

YouTube website is titled "Object Oriented View of Consciousness"

A grey haired Professor in his late sixties and full beard - JOHN KRUEGER - stands at the front of a Lecture Room. He holds a remote control in one hand.

JOHN KRUEGER

Welcome to an introduction on work myself and Professor Barney Allen have been pioneering in. To understand what we're doing, we'll cover some basics.

Professor Krueger presses a button on the remote.

A diagram appears on the screen. Left hand side is animated drawing of a PC on a desk with a stick man user sitting; on right hand side is an animated human head. Below centred are bullet points - CPU, Input/Output, RAM, Hard Disk, User.

JOHN KRUEGER (O.S.) (CONT'D)

The human brain is a computer with an organic CPU; input out devices are our senses; RAM like fast memory for speech, motor skills and facial recognition; hard disk like memory for long term memory and the user is ourselves.

Professor Krueger re-appears in front of the audience.

JOHN KRUEGER (CONT'D)

We need one more thing for a computer to be of any use. Any one?

Professor Krueger looks around, murmurs from the audience.

JOHN KRUEGER (CONT'D)

Software? Program? Yes that's right we need a program to run for the computer to be of any use.

Professor Krueger presses a button on the remote.

Picture of four students seated - two rows of two. Label near each student's head is the word - "Consciousness".

JOHN KRUEGER (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Just like a PC, we too need a system program or operating system to operate. This operating system, this program I call Consciousness and it runs every time we are awake. Every human being runs their own unique version, their own unique Conscious instance.

Professor Krueger re-appears in front of the audience. He is joined by Professor Allen - black, thickset, late forties.

JOHN KRUEGER (CONT'D)

Okay so everyone in this room is currently running their own unique Conscious instance. Well everyone except for the guy fast asleep in the third row.

Professors Krueger and Allan smirk, chuckles from the audience.

JOHN KRUEGER (CONT'D)

My colleague Professor Allen and I have spent the last fifteen years working towards saving one's memories and the blue print of an individual's brain in digital format. To make a backup of one's own Conscious instance.

(beat)

Any questions?

MALE 1 IN AUDIENCE (O.S.)

Professor, what's the benefits of recording one's Conscious instance.

JOHN KRUEGER

Well your Conscious instance is the essence of who you are. Your memories, your views, it's you. Why would anyone want to use cryogenics with its high risks when they could save themselves digitally and be downloaded to a clone sometime in the future. Any other questions? Yes up the back.

MALE 2 IN AUDIENCE (O.S.)

Yo Professor. I'm wonderin if you got a P C with a kick ass C P U and heaps of Hard disk space and loads of memory, could you like download yourself inside the computer?

JOHN KRUEGER

(smirks)

What was that? Kick ass C P U.

(chuckles in audience)

I think my colleague Professor Allen would be able to best answer that.

BARNEY ALLEN

With ongoing advancements in C P U technology and our research, this will one day be possible. Soon.

The students in the audience appear alert and interested.

BARNEY ALLEN

However, lack of access to all five senses for extended periods could prove detrimental to the instance.

The Youtube video stops.

INT. GROUP HOME STUDY - DAY

Shelly turns to her father looking for answers.

SHELLY

What's it all mean Dad? Most of that went over my head.

KEV

Well I got the gist of it. Freddy's Dad and that Barney fella were workin on ways to download yourself onto a computa. That radio in Freddy's room isn't a radio, it's a super computa and Freddy's Dad is inside.

Shelly looks shocked.

EXT. GROUP HOME BACKYARD - DAY

Tina, Bonnet and the three clients all seem to be enjoying themselves around the table.

Kev arrives back at the table. He looks shattered and spent.

Tina and Bonnet notice Kev's drastic change in demeanour.

TINA

Kev. What's wrong? Has something happened?

KEV

Me and Shell heard some shocking news. Bonnet, can you go inside and see Shell, she'll explain.

Bonnet gets up.

BONNET

Sure Kev.

Bonnet returns to the house with haste.

Kev falls into the chair next to Tina.

TINA

Kev. Tell me. What happened?

KEV

Oh Teen.

Kev turns to Tina and cries on her shoulder. Tina pats his shoulder and comforts him.

INT. GROUP HOME LIVING ROOM - DAY

Shelly waits on the couch looking anxious. Bonnet enters.

BONNET

Shelly, what's going on? Kev said you both heard some shocking news.

SHELLY

We did Bonnet. We found out Kirk has been molesting Freddy.

Bonnet looks shocked like he's been just hit in the gut.

BONNET

Are you quite sure? I know Kirk's a piece of shit but these are real serious allegations. I mean are you one hundred percent sure?

SHELLY

Without a doubt.

BONNET

What do you plan to do?

SHELLY

Well I just called him, asked him to come down. He wasn't happy as it's his day off but I managed to convince him. Said it was real important.

BONNET

What are you going tell him?

SHELLY

I'm gunna tell him to piss off. Was hoping you could back me up for moral support and be there so he doesn't try anything stupid.

BONNET

Yeah sure, but shouldn't we call the police. Let them handle it.

SHELLY

We could but it's complicated and Kirk's slippery. I'm hoping if we confront him with what we know he will piss off. That's my angle.

EXT. PHOENIX ROAD GROUP HOME - DAY

Shelly and Bonnet wait on the front lawn. A Bus speeds past.

Kirk pulls up on his motor bike. He parks it at the curb and takes off his helmet. He acknowledges Shelly and Bonnet.

KIRK

Yo! What's going on?

SHELLY

I'm gunna make this simple. Resign today and we won't press charges.

KIRK

What the fuck! Bonnet what's this loopy bitch on about?

SHELLY

I know what you've been doing Kirk. I know you've been abusing the clients.

KIRK

Oh really. Well no one's gunna believe a bunch of retards.

SHELLY

You're a heartless bastard! Anyone who uses the 'R' word shouldn't be working in the industry.

KIRK

Oh you don't like that word. What about fuckups, mistakes, LOSERS!

SHELLY

They're not losers Kirk. Life's just dealt them a tough hand and our job is to make sure they get a fair go. So you need to piss off!

KIRK

You must be high. I'm never gunna walk out on this job. Takin care of these retards is easy money. So Shelly, Sandy, Sheila whatever your fuckin name is. Bring it on!

SHELLY

I'm never gonna let you near any of those clients ever again.

KIRK

Oh yeah, we'll see about that.

Kirk puts his helmet back on.

KIRK (CONT'D)

I'm off to see Uncle Nigel. First I'll tell him how I've seen Bonnet smoking joints around the home. Urine test and Bonnet, you're gone.

SHELLY

Why would you want to--

BONNET

No it's okay Shell. Go ahead Kirk. It'll be worth it just to see you burn.

Kirk climbs back on his motorbike.

KIRK

Then I'll tell Uncle Nigel how I caught his precious Sandy giving Marcus and James handjobs at the same time. Once you're gone, things will get back to normal.

Shelly shakes her head in disgust.

SHELLY

You're a dirty little cockroach.

KIRK

Oh and you and Bonnet and the rest of the retards are LOSERS!

BONNET

The only loser in all of this is going to be you Kirk.

Kirk stares hard at Bonnet, he looks furious. Kirk gets off his motorbike and throws his helmet hard at Bonnet

Bonnet is bowled over by the flying helmet. Kirk runs up to Bonnet and starts kicking into him.

KIRK

LOSER! LOSER! I DON'T THINK SO!

Shelly runs towards a side gate. She yells out for help.

SHELLY
DAD! HELP! QUICK!

Kirk continues to lay the boot into Bonnet. Bonnet covers his head and face. Kirk looks deranged. Kev runs up to Kirk and tries to pull him off Bonnet.

KEV
Get off him!

Kirk pushes Kev to the ground and continues to kick Bonnet. James arrives and picks up Kirk and throws him to the ground. Marcus is not far behind and excitedly looks on.

Shelly checks on Bonnet who slowly gets up, bruised but okay.

Shelly and Bonnet help Kev up who is also shaken but okay. Marcus stands near Shelly.

James runs past the four on towards the house.

JAMES
NA NA NA NA NA! NA NA NA NA NA!

Kirk runs towards Kev, Shelly, Bonnet and Marcus as he pursues James. He is holding the plastic banana. He abruptly stops ten feet in front of the four.

Kev, Shelly, Bonnet and Marcus stand firm. They form a united front in the middle of the front yard. Marcus is smiling, the other three look serious.

Kirk considers his next move and angrily throws the banana at Marcus.

Kev catches the banana inches in front of Marcus's face.

KIRK
Bunch of Losers.

Kirk turns and leaves.

Kirk hops on his motorbike and starts it up.

KIRK (CONT'D)
So long retards!

Kev seems to be deeply offended by this remark.

Kirk pulls away from the curb.

Kev looks at the plastic banana in his hand. Kev has a thought. Kev throws the plastic banana like a boomerang.

Kirk rides his bike down the street. A bus approaches from the opposite direction.

Kev, Shelly, Bonnet and Marcus watch what unfolds. There is the sound of a Bus horn, screeching of tires, a large SMASH and finally a spinning of a hub cap. Kev, Shelly and Bonnet grimace at the site of a horrific accident.

Marcus smiles and jumps up and down.

Shelly and Bonnet look away. Kev grimaces at the sight. Kev lifts his hand and catches the returning banana.

INT. FREDDY'S BEDROOM - DAY

SUPER: ONE YEAR LATER

Kev sits on Freddy's bed.

Dad Radio is switched on. The pilot light is on.

KEV

Tell me John, why'd ya do it?

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.)

Do what Kev?

KEV

Download ya self onto a computa.

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.)

It's kinda complicated.

KEV

I'm listenin'.

SERIES OF SHOTS - JOHN'S FLASHBACKS

A) Freddy is a fat kid around eight wearing a Chipmunk onesie. He sits at a table, drawing chipmunk pictures with crayons. Similar pictures cover the wall.

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.)

When Freddy was growing up, my wife and I lived on hope. We'd hope maybe next year Freddy's condition would improve. Maybe, just maybe he'd catch up.

- B) Freddy is a fat teen around fourteen wearing a Chipmunk onesie. He sits at a table, drawing chipmunk pictures with crayons. Similar pictures cover the wall.
- C) Freddy is a fat young man around eighteen wearing a Chipmunk onesie. He sits at a table, drawing chipmunk pictures with crayons. Similar pictures cover the wall.

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And then one day you realize, this
is as good as it gets --
-- and you accept it.

- D) Eighteen year old Freddy, late forties Professor Krueger and wife PENNY, attractive dark haired lady in an electric mobility scooter are window shopping in a mall. Freddy holds the Professor's hand.

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

You accept it and you become their
best friend, their everything. You
get lost in their imaginary world
just so they can talk to someone.

- E) Eighteen year old Freddy in chipmunk onesie gets his face painted at a fair. John stands near by. Mothers with young children wait in line. The young children look at Freddy with astonishment and disbelief.
- F) Eighteen year old Freddy in chipmunk onesie holds John's hand. They're in line to see a Disney children's movie. Most of the line comprises of Mothers with little girls. The girls look at Freddy with disbelief.

INT. FREDDY'S BEDROOM - DAY - RETURN TO PRESENT

Dad Radio is switched on. The pilot light is on.

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And then life kicks you square in
the teeth yet again.

KEV (O.S.)

How's that?

FLASHBACK - EXT. CEMETARY - DAY

Tombstone reads "Penny Krueger. Beloved Wife and Mother"

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.)

You realize that life's short.

Late forties John in a suit and eighteen year old Freddy in a onesie stand before the fresh grave. John is distraught holding a large bunch of white roses. Freddy's smiling, he has hold of a plush chipmunk doll.

The roses and plush doll are placed on the fresh grave.

INT. FREDDY'S BEDROOM - DAY - RETURN TO PRESENT

Dad Radio is switched on. The pilot light is on.

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.)

And you wonder - How is he going to handle being alone? How is he going to cope? Who's going to take the time to listen to him, to take an interest in him? And that's all these kids want Kev, for someone to take an interest. To feel special. To feel valued.

KEV

You're a good Dad John.

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.)

Thanks Kev, that's about the nicest thing someone's ever said to me.

KEV

So John, I've been wonderin'. If you're here, does that mean there's no heaven?

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.)

Well Kev, I'm not the original, I'm just an echo of my original self. I like to think the original is up there in heaven playing pool with Isaac Newton and Albert Einstein.

KEV

So this Isaac Newton and Albert Einstein. Are they real good pool players?

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.)

No Kev, they're scientists.

KEV

I know mate, I know. I was just pullin' ya leg.

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.)

Ha, Ha, Ha.

KEV

That's if ya had one.

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.)

Ha, Ha, Ha.

KEV

Sorry mate. I love ta kid. I told Peebles I was a wallaby wrangler.

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.)

Ha, Ha, Ha.

KEV

And he believed me.

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.)

Ha, Ha, Ha. That's funny. I would of guessed crocodile hunter.

KEV

Naah just a borin old metallurgist.

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.)

Well Kev, if you ever want to shoot the breeze, I'm here.

KEV

Careful, I'll take you up on that.

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.)

Please do. I love Freddy so much, but there's a limit to how much anyone can talk about 'Chipmunk Planet'. It's really good to talk about something else occasionally.

KEV

We all need variety mate. Especially radios.

JOHN KRUEGER (V.O.)

Ha Ha Ha.

EXT. GROUP HOME BACK YARD - DAY

Bonnet cooks snags on the barbeque. Mr Peebles is near him and Shelly off to the side. Peebles watches Bonnet cook.

MR PEEBLES

Careful Bonnet, you're burning them.

BONNET
They're fine.

MR PEEBLES
Maybe we should have waited for
Kev.

Kev arrives.

MR PEEBLES (CONT'D)
Kev, I think you better take over.
Bonnet's burning the sausages.

Kev inspects the cooking.

KEV
Naah. They're okay. A bit of
burnts good. Actually he's doin
okay. Good work son.

BONNET
Thanks Dad.

SHELLY
Where were you Dad?

KEV
Listenin' to the radio. Talk Back.

Shelly smiles and nods.

Tina arrives carrying two bags of groceries.

TINA
I've got more buns and more of that
ketchup you like Kev.

KEV
Thanks love.

Tina heads for the outdoor table with the groceries.

Mr Peebles steps away from the barbeque. Faces everyone.

MR PEEBLES
Everyone, everyone. Attention.
Today is the first year anniversary
of Shelly and Kev starting here at
Phoenix Road. And I just want to
thank them for doing such a
wonderful job. And I'd also like
to say it's taken me a year but I
am no longer calling Shelly Sandy.

Everyone chuckles. Mr Peebles holds up his can of drink.

MR PEEBLES (CONT'D)
A toast. To Shelly and Kev.

Everyone holds up their cans of pepsi or root beer.

EVERYONE
Shelly and Kev!

Mr Peebles returns back near Shelly.

MR PEEBLES
Oh Shelly, I've been meaning to
ask. How's our new client doing?

Nearby is Kirk in a wheelchair. He is unable to speak, spit
dribbles down his chin.

SHELLY
Kirk is doing well.

MR PEEBLES
I'm so glad we were able to get
Kirk placed here. I managed to
find a home for Maria that was
nearer to her family. You know,
Kirk spent years helping others and
now we get to repay the favor. I
guess that's karma.

SHELLY
Certainly is Nigel, certainly is.

MR PEEBLES
I'm told the brain injury Kirk
sustained was severe but I actually
think he knows where he is.

SHELLY
I hope so Nigel, I really hope so.

Kirk whimpers at this comment, spit dribbles down his chin.

Shelly pulls out a letter from her handbag.

SHELLY
Oh I almost forgot, there was a
letter in the mailbox for Freddy.

Freddy gets up. He is very excited. He grabs the letter.

FREDDY
Oh boy!

Freddy turns to Shelly.

FREDDY (CONT'D)
Shelly open. Shelly read.

Freddy gives Shelly back the letter.

SHELLY
Okay Freddy.

Shelly reads the letter and smiles.

SHELLY (CONT'D)
Oh boy I never realized Freddy.
Your name is Freddy Krueger.

FREDDY
(pats chest)
That me, Freddy Krueger. Shelly
open the letter now please! Errrr!

Shelly opens the letter.

As Shelly reads the letter, her eyes light up. She smiles.

SHELLY
It's a letter from Flame Dog.
(excited)
Freddy your screenplay 'Chipmunk
Planet'. It came second in the
Flame Dog Screenplay Competition.

Freddy jumps up and down.

FREDDY
Yaaaayyyy!!

Mr Peebles turns to Tina confused looking for an explanation.

TINA
It's a screenplay Freddy and his
Dad worked on before he died. We
entered it into a contest for him.

Mr Peebles nods and smiles.

Shelly continues reading the letter.

SHELLY
(excited)
And that's not all, Peter Jackson's
production company want to make it
into a movie.

FREDDY

Oh boy! Peter Jackson is the
bestest Director in the whole
universe.

(holds up finger)

I'll call him Uncle Peter Jackson!

Freddy walks off excited.

Mr Peebles, Kev and Bonnet are in front of the barbeque.

MR PEEBLES

Hey Kev, next time, why don't you
throw some shrimp on the barbie.

KEV

We call em prawns. In Australia,
shrimp is a derogatory term for a
little person.

MR PEEBLES

Derogatory? That's a big word for
a wallaby wrangler.

Bonnet has to bite his lip so as to not laugh.

MR PEEBLES (CONT'D)

So Kev, do you ever think about
going home?

KEV

Aw yeah, all the time. Specially
after a long day here. Lucky we
only live a few blocks over.

Mr Peebles looks at Shelly confused.

Shelly shrugs and smiles.

Bonnet uses tongs and places the cooked sausages on a plate.
Shelly grabs the plate off him and exits. Tina follows.
Bonnet continues to cook the rest of the sausages.

KEV (CONT'D)

So has anyone been followin' the
baseball? The Cubs are lookin'
good this year.

Bonnet makes a comment. Mr Peebles joins in on the
discussion. The backyard party continues.

CAPTION: THE END

FADE OUT: