

THE CARPET

Written by

Chris Zell

Czell@comcast.net

EXT. STREET - DAY

A car is driving down Beecher Lane. It's 1966 in Melden and this is the town's first try at suburban sprawl. It's called Beecher Farms because it had been owned by the Beecher family for four generations before the last remaining member decided the farm life wasn't for him anymore. Now the town fathers hope other area farms follow Beecher's lead.

The houses are all similar in design with the same size yards. All of the lawns are perfect with 'For Sale' signs pounded into about a third of them. It's a bright new day on Beecher Lane. At least that's what the brochure says.

EXT. 32 BEECHER LANE - CONTINUOUS

The car stops at a house with a for sale sign. SUSAN FORESTER, 21, jumps out of the car and runs up to the for sale sign. She struggles to pull the post out of the ground. BOB FORESTER, 26, ambles out of the car. He meets Susan at the sign and together they get it out of the ground. Bob takes it out of Susan's hands and throws it onto the lawn.

Susan hugs Bob as they admire the house.

INT. 32 BEECHER LANE - MOMENTS LATER

We go through the barren home. The kitchen has the newest appliances but all of the other rooms are empty. The living room has large windows that cast a bright light into the room. It's still except for some odd reason the carpet seems to be lightly shaking.

Susan and Bob enter the home so we join them in the foyer. Susan is so excited to be in their new home. She starts jogging through the house. Bob is more subdued. He stands waiting in the foyer.

They're just getting back from their honeymoon but, although they are tired, their excitement about their new life together is keeping them moving.

Susan enters the foyer through the living room.

SUSAN

I can't wait to start getting  
settled in our new home.

Susan walks up to Bob.

SUSAN (CONT'D)  
What time did you say the movers  
would be here?

Bob turns slowly and slaps Susan in the face. Susan stumbles back grabbing her stinging face. She is shocked. Bob hasn't changed his expression.

BOB  
You're my wife now.

Bob spreads his arms wide.

BOB (CONT'D)  
And this is the last decision you  
make.

Bob takes a step toward Susan. She steps back against the wall.

BOB (CONT'D)  
Because you had to be close to your  
mother I'm going to have to bust my  
ass for the next thirty years just  
to pay for this shit hole.

Bob starts pacing in front of Susan.

BOB (CONT'D)  
Twenty-three thousand dollars. Who  
the fuck pays twenty-three thousand  
dollars for a home? We got robbed.

SUSAN  
My father says it's value will  
never. . .

BOB  
. . .shut the fuck up about your  
father.

Bob looks around the house.

BOB (CONT'D)  
And what about you having to have  
four bedrooms because you want  
three kids? You think we're going  
to have three kids in a year?

Bob leans into Susan.

BOB (CONT'D)  
I'll be lucky if I can afford one.  
Hell, I'll be lucky if I can find  
time to stop working to come home  
and fuck you.

Bob leans back thinking.

BOB (CONT'D)  
And your fucking father. He's half  
a mile away. You know he'll be here  
every day with helpful hints for me  
keep up appearances.

Bob shakes his head.

BOB (CONT'D)  
And your mother. Holy shit, she'll  
be here so often we should just  
give her the master bedroom.

Quickly Bob steps to Susan who reacts in terror. Bob backs  
off and takes a couple of steps into the living room. He  
takes a cigarette out of the pack and lights it.

SUSAN  
Why are you acting this way? You've  
never put your hands on me before.

Susan puts her hands on Bob's back. He stands there smoking  
for a beat. From the window we see the moving truck pull into  
the driveway. Bob turns and pulls the cigarette out of his  
mouth.

BOB  
Because you're my wife and I'm  
showing you who makes the rules.

Bob brushes past Susan as walks to the front door.

BOB (CONT'D)  
And the first rule is that fucking  
carpet gotta go.

Bob tosses his cigarette onto the carpet. The carpet vibrates  
where the embers are. Susan rushes in to retrieve the  
cigarette but leaves an ember behind. She turns to exit the  
house.

As she does strands of carpet begin to pat out the ember. It  
doesn't take long until the ember has disappeared and the  
strand of carpets that were burnt begin to rejuvenate.

BOB (V.O.)  
Put that in the living room on that  
ugly ass carpet.

The carpet vibrates and a low mumbling sound can be heard. A shadow falls over the carpet as the MOVERS enter carrying a couch. They place the couch down and exit.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Susan is on the phone. She's wrapping and unwrapping the cord around her hand as she speaks. The sounds of furniture being moved can be heard in the background.

SUSAN  
But, Mom, he's never hit me before.  
I couldn't believe it.

MOTHER (V.O.)  
It's just stress, dear. Your father  
was quite the bear for a long time  
when we got house. But look how we  
ended up.

SUSAN  
You barely talk and sleep in  
separate rooms. That's not quite  
the married life I envisioned.

MOTHER (V.O.)  
He snores! What do you want me to  
do? Lose sleep? Susan, don't worry.  
It'll all work out for the best.  
What's he doing now?

SUSAN  
He's taking everything that was  
just put in the living room out.

MOTHER (V.O.)  
Why?

SUSAN  
He hates the carpet.

MOTHER (V.O.)  
Hates the carpet? How can he hate  
the carpet? He's only been there an  
hour. Tell him to live with it.  
It'll grow on him.

SUSAN  
I know. I don't know what his  
problem is.

MOTHER (V.O.)  
Want me to come over? Talk some  
sense into him?

SUSAN  
No.

BOB (O.S.)  
What's in this TV? Bricks?

MOTHER (V.O.)  
Was that him screaming?

SUSAN  
Yes.

MOTHER (V.O.)  
I'm coming over.

SUSAN  
No, mom, don't  
(pause)  
Mom? Mom?

Susan hangs up the phone.

SUSAN (CONT'D)  
Great. She'll be a lot of help.

Susan looks toward the living room where she can hear Bob  
grunting and moving items. She considers for a second going  
in there but for what?

SUSAN (CONT'D)  
Let him do his thing.

She walks to the refrigerator, takes out a bottle of wine,  
closes the door and pulls a wine glass out of a box.

SUSAN (CONT'D)  
At least one of us will enjoy the  
first day in our new home.

Susan exits the kitchen into the back yard.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bob is moving the last piece of furniture out of the room. The dining room is stacked with items and the foyer is impassable.

Bob is staring at the carpet. He's dirty and sweaty and mad at the world. Getting this carpet out of the house is the one thing he feels as if he can control.

BOB  
This fucking carpet.

Bob stomps on the carpet. The carpet ripples slightly. Bob is too angry to ever notice.

Bob walks to the threshold and tries to get his fingers under the carpet. He's working it but he's having no luck. After some effort he stands up. He looks into the dining room but sees it's impassable. Turns around and the foyer is the same. He looks around the room but doesn't find an appropriate tool. He thinks for a moment before reaching into his pocket. On his key chain is a small knife. Bob goes to the corner and begins prying the carpet up. It's definitely not easy but, after some work, he's making some progress.

Bob gets one piece of the corner up and fights to keep it in his hand. Finally he gets more fingers on it than one complete hand. After some more pulling he makes room to get his other hand in there.

Slowly he begins to stand up. He's straining but slowly making progress.

BOB (CONT'D)  
What the fuck is keeping this shit  
down?

Bob keeps pulling as the carpet begins to separate from the floor. Suddenly the carpet begins to vibrate in his hands. The carpet seems to be putting up a fight. But Bob is winning. The carpet is coming up.

From the other end of the room the carpet begins to move. It's bunching up just behind Bob. Bob is still straining, still pulling, The carpet is beginning to be pulled away from the wall inch by inch.

Suddenly the section he's holding begins to wave, slowly at first but, as he pulls away more of the carpet the wave gets bigger.

BOB (CONT'D)  
This fucking. . .

The carpet snaps a wave into Bob that forces him to be pushed backwards. He trips over the lump the carpet has made in the floor and with one more wave Bob is thrown through the window.

BOB (CONT'D)  
Whoa, what the. . .?

Bob falls out the window, glass and wood following him down. After Bob is out of the house the carpet begins to shake and go back to it's original position.

After the corner snaps back down securely the carpet looks as if a roller is passing underneath it from one end to the next. After that ends the carpet becomes completely still as if nothing ever happened.

SUSAN (O.S.)  
Screams!

EXT. SIDE OF HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

We see Susan looking at something gruesome. We zoom out to reveal that Bob has impaled his neck on the working end of a garden hoe. A collection of new yard equipment had been placed in a barrel. The equipment had ribbons and bows on them.

Tied to the barrel is a balloon that reads 'Welcome!' With a note tied to it saying, 'Welcome to the neighborhood!' The balloon and note are hitting the lifeless Bob in the face because the string is tangled under his arm.

Bob begins to slowly slide sideways and then he begins to fall. As he's falling his head snaps forward with his face falling into his chest. The garden hoe becomes dislodged and, with the barrel and it's contents falls next to Bob. The 'Welcome' balloon is now floating happily away from Bob's face.

SND FX POLICE SIREN

NEIGHBORS begin to gather. The police car arrives. a COP takes one look at the situation and immediately gets on the microphone.

POLICEMAN  
We're going to need an ambulance  
and some other officers for  
support.

DISPATCHER (V.O.)  
What's the nature of the accident?



The Cop looks around and sees that he's too close to neighbors.

POLICEMAN

Back away please. Have some respect.

As the neighbors begin to slowly sort of kinda of back away the Cop whispers into his microphone.

POLICEMAN (CONT'D)

Looks like a guy was almost decapitated by a hoe.

DISPATCHER (V.O.)

We don't get many hookers in that area.

POLICEMAN

No, not a hooker. A garden hoe.

DISPATCHER (V.O.)

That's a new one on me. Back-up should arrive shortly.

POLICEMAN

10-4.

The Cop looks over Bob and for the first time sees Susan.

POLICEMAN (CONT'D)

Ma'am, are you related to the victim?

SUSAN

He's my husband.

POLICEMAN

Could you go back into the house, please? We'll have someone in to talk to you shortly.

We pan over Bob's body until we arrive at a still shocked Susan who follows her instructions. As she's walking into the house we hear,

MOTHER (V.O.)

What's going on here? This is my daughters house? What are all you people doing on her lawn?

SUSAN

Go in the house, mother, I'll try to explain there.

MOTHER (V.O.)  
You'd better. All these people are  
going to ruin your lawn.

Susan turns the corner.

EXT. BEECHER LANE - DAY

A car is driving down Beecher Lane. It's 2016 in Melden and this is the towns oldest developed section. It's still in fairly good condition but it has seen better days.

Most of the houses are of similar in design with pretty much the same size yards. Except for the McMansions sprinkled throughout. All of the lawns are spotty, some couldn't truly be called lawns, with 'For Sale' signs pounded into most of them.

EXT. 32 BEECHER LANE - CONTINUOUS

The car stops at a house with a for sale sign. SCOTT and a visibly pregnant MERI SIMPSON slowly get out of the car. They're a couple in their late 30's and life is beginning to wear on them. Out of the backseat their kids, 13 year old BOBBY and 16 year old ERIC, pile out.

They start the trek up to the front door of their new home. As Scott passes the 'For Sale' sign he goes to lift it from the ground but the moment he puts his hand on it it falls. He leaves it there. He'll have one of the kids get it later.

INT. 32 BEECHER LANE - MOMENTS LATER

We go through the barren home. The kitchen has newish appliances but they all work and all of the cabinet are open. The living room has large windows that cast a bright light into the room. It's still except for some odd reason the carpet seems to be shaking and emitting a sound. Like a distant high pitched hum. When we hear the front door opens the sound and motion stops.

The Simpson's enter the house and the kids start tearing around the house. Eric is the first to run through the first floor so he races upstairs. In no time flat we hear.

ERIC  
My room. This is my room. I called  
this room.

SCOTT  
It had better not be the master  
bedroom to the right.

MERI  
Or the babies room next to it.

ERIC  
Okay, this room, the one on the end  
to left, that's my room. Suckers!

MERI  
Eric, what have I told you. . .

SND FX BEDROOM DOOR SLAMS

SCOTT  
. . .fuck him. He's out of the way.

Bobby completes his inspection of the house and stands next  
to his parents.

BOBBY  
What room do I get?

SCOTT  
The one that's left.

Scott and Meri exit the foyer.

SCOTT (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Why couldn't we have left the  
genius at the old house?

MERI (O.S.)  
Scott, stop it. When are the movers  
coming?

Bobby slowly begins to walk up the stairs.

SCOTT (O.S.)  
They said three.

MERI (O.S.)  
It's quarter of.

SCOTT (O.S.)  
Then they'll be here soon. At least  
we know where Bobby's genius comes  
from.

Bobby reaches the top of the stairs and quietly enters his  
room.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The kitchen is spotless and other than an island in the middle of the room it looks the same as in 1966. All of the cabinets are open to reveal they're totally empty and totally clean.

MERI  
Knock it off, asshole.

Meri is looking around.

MERI (CONT'D)  
I wonder what the last people used  
to clean? This place is spotless.

Scott isn't listening he's off in his own world.

SCOTT  
Two hundred and twelve thousand  
dollars. I can't believe you talked  
me into paying two hundred and  
twelve thousand dollars. Who pays  
that for houses? We got robbed.

MERI  
Stop your bitching. I got a plan,  
remember I told you?

SCOTT  
Is that the plan where you get rich  
panning for gold out of bottles of  
goldschlager shot by shot by shot?

Meri gives him the look. Scott ignores her and revels in his comedic victory.

SCOTT (CONT'D)  
Thank you, Too Much Joy, for your  
perfect come back.

MERI  
You're an idiot, have I ever told  
you that?

SCOTT  
I think it was the first thing you  
ever said to me.

MERI  
With any luck it'll be the last.

Meri spots a single piece of paper on the island. The last owners, the Sherman's, left a pastel sheet of paper with flowers adorning the borders there. It read, in Mr. Sherman's impeccable script, "Good Luck". Hastily scrawled beneath in Mrs. Sherman's hand it reads, "You'll need it." It seems a rather ominous warning in such an impeccable house. Meri holds it up for Scott.

MERI (CONT'D)

A little weird.

SCOTT

Two sides to every story.

Meri exits the kitchen. We follow her to the front door.

MERI

I wonder where those movers are?

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The Simpson's, except for Bobby, are all sitting on the floor of the living room. Bobby is laying on the carpet and seems just fine with it.

They're all on whatever devices they had with them on the drive because, as is evident, they have nothing else. The only illumination is from those devices.

MERI

Listen to me, it's nine thirty which, last time I checked was nowhere near three o'clock.

(pause)

I don't give a fuck about miscommunication with your driver. It says on this paper that delivery will be between three and five. Even taking five into this matter, that's still nowhere near fucking nine thirty.

(pause)

I will not calm the down. I've got three kids here who have to sleep.

ERIC

I can stay up all night.

MERI

Shut up.

(pause)

No, not you. One of my exhausted kids.

(MORE)

MERI (CONT'D)

(pause)

That's very nice that you'll work something out on the bill but, you can see my problem, can't you? Five people, zero beds, zero way to cook dinner. And do you know why? Because all my shit is on your truck that, from what you told me is, one, not even in the state and two, off the road for the evening. So that means your drivers have a bed tonight, right?

(pause)

I don't care if it's in the back of the cab.

ERIC

I'd be cool to sleep in the back of the truck cab. I'd do it.

MERI

Eric. . .I can't even send you to your fucking room.

(pause and chuckles)

Yep, not you, one of my starving kids again.

Scott stands up and takes the phone from Meri.

SCOTT

Hi, it's Scott again. Listen, I know you've done the best you can and sometimes life takes all your shit.

MERI

Listen to Mr. Philosophical here.

SCOTT

Thanks, thanks, I'll attach it to the paperwork. Talk to you tomorrow.

Scott hangs up the phone.

MERI

What'd ya do that for? I wanted to scream for a little while longer.

SCOTT

Here's what we're going to do.  
We're going to go out to dinner  
then go to a hotel for the evening  
and, by this time tomorrow, we'll  
be in the new house.

MERI

Great, after a month of screaming  
poor mouth you're going to spring  
for a night on the town.

SCOTT

Nope, it comes off the bill  
tomorrow.

MERI

I'll believe it when I see it.

SCOTT

Let's go.

No one moves. Scott tries again more forcefully

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Get the fuck up and let's go.

Eric pops right up but Bobby is still laying on the carpet.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Bobby! Get up, let's go.

BOBBY

I'll stay here.

MERI

You can't stay here.

BOBBY

I like the carpet. It'll be all  
right.

Eric walks over and kicks Bobby. The carpet around Bobby  
imperceptibly moves. Bobby runs his hands over it.

ERIC

Idiot, this carpet sucks.

MERI

Eric.

BOBBY

No, it's a nice carpet.

SCOTT

Get up.

Scott reaches down and picks Bobby up by the scruff of the neck. While lifting Bobby the carpet sways under Scott's feet and he stumbles. But he stays up and plants Bobby on the ground.

Slowly the Simpson's begin to exit the living room. Bobby is the last one out of the room and is the only one looking at the carpet. It gently waves across the floor.

MERI

It really is a hideous carpet. You know one day we're going to have to replace it.

SCOTT

That's fine. I'll just stick my fifth job between my second and fourth.

SND FX DOOR CLOSING

The carpet sways and makes chattering sounds for a moment before it calms down and is still.

EXT. 32 BEECHER LANE - DAY

The moving truck arrives. Scott and Meri are directing the MOVERS. Eric is running around the front yard inspecting the truck.

Across the street some NEIGHBORS have gathered to check out the new inhabitants of 32 Beecher Lane.

MERI

Okay, kids, time to find something else to do.

ERIC

But I have to help. . .

MERI

. . .just go. I'll text you when it's over.

ERIC

What am I supposed to do?



MERI

I don't know. Look, there are some kids across the street. See if they'll show you around.

Meri looks around.

MERI (CONT'D)

Bobby? Where the fuck is Bobby?

Scott arrives from in the house pulling an unwilling to exit Bobby.

SCOTT

Here he is. He way laying on the carpet.

Scott pushes Bobby outdoors.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

I swear he's half a moron.

MERI

He's just fine.

Meri stops and adjusts Bobby.

MERI (CONT'D)

Why don't you go check out the neighborhood? Find fun things to do.

BOBBY

But I want to stay here. The carpet is nice.

SCOTT

He's getting weirder. I swear if he was thirteen I woulda caught him humping the carpet.

MERI

Scott!

SCOTT

I'm just saying, he seemed pretty enamored by it.

Meri scoots a reluctant Bobby down the stairs as the movers bring in some more furniture.

MERI

Just go have fun.

Bobby dejectedly walks down the path. Across the street Eric has found a group of boys and they're walking down the street. There are no kids left. Just a smattering of adults and, having seen just as much as they need to assess their new neighbors, they begin to disperse.

All but one man, JAMES, 50. You couldn't see him with the crowd there. He was just a man sitting on his stairs. Nothing remarkable about James. He's just another person.

Bobby looks around and there is no one his age around. As a matter of fact, by the time he's looking around, there's no one. But James. Having no other option Bobby ambles over to James.

Bobby reaches James' property but stops at the property line. He stares at James for a second. James does the same to Bobby.

JAMES

Go on, boy. I don't want to meet  
another neighbor who'll be gone in  
a New York minute.

Bobby doesn't know what any of that means so continues to stand there.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Is there something wrong with you,  
boy?

BOBBY

I'm Bobby. I live across the  
street.

JAMES

I know you live across the street.  
Didn't you see me watching you walk  
over here? Damn boy, is there  
something wrong with your head?

BOBBY

No. What's your name?

JAMES

Not that it's gonna matter a whole  
lot to you but they call me James.

BOBBY

Hi James. How long have you lived  
here?

JAMES

Oh, you just meet me and you want the whole story, is that it? Well, come on up and we'll talk a while. Looks like your parents don't need you underfoot anyway.

Bobby starts walking up the path. James waves to Meri and Scot as he begins to stand up. They wave back grateful not to have Bobby underfoot.

Bobby reaches James then hold out his hand to shake.

BOBBY

I'm Bobby.

JAMES

I know. You already told me that. I'm old not mental.

With a bit of curmudgeon James reaches out and shakes Bobby's hand.

BOBBY

Hi James.

JAMES

Let's go out back and sit awhile.

James walks down the stairs and leads Bobby to the back yard. Bobby dutifully follows.

EXT. JAMES'S BACK YARD - MOMENTS LATER

James and Bobby are sitting in lawn chairs looking out at James' back yard view. In the back there's a McMansion and on each side of him there are McMansions. Bobby looks around at the constricted area.

BOBBY

Those are nice houses.

JAMES

They're eyesores, Bobby. When I first moved here as a younger man you never would have seen the likes of these monstrosities. It was a nice place to live and bring up your kids.

BOBBY

How long have you lived here?

JAMES

Forty years. Lived here since I was ten. My parents were the third people to buy into Beecher. The most modern development in the state at the time.

BOBBY

Why do you think we won't be neighbors for long?

James looks at Bobby with knowledge he knows the young boy will take years to acquire.

JAMES

Don't know what it is but nobody stays long in that house. The last people there, the Sherman's, they seemed like nice people but they had this yippie little dog and one day it just up and vanished. Probably got out but they wouldn't believe that. She said the dog would never leave the house without her. So she blamed the house and it started to make her crazy. Started a shrine to the dog all around the house. She couldn't live there any longer so made old Allan sell it. Pity too, nice fellow. Kept up with his yard.

BOBBY

Because a lady lost her dog you think we won't live there long?

JAMES

It's not just that. Strange things have always happened in that house. As a matter of fact, and don't tell no one I told you this, but the very first people to live there only lasted a day.

BOBBY

How do you only live somewhere for a day?

JAMES

Fall out the window and almost get decapitated, that's how.

BOBBY

Like in the movies?

JAMES  
Nah, not like the movies. Those  
movie deaths are so hokey.

MERI (O.C.)  
Bobby? Are you back here?

Meri turns into the backyard.

MERI (CONT'D)  
Here you are. I hope he's not  
bothering you. I just told him to  
go off until the movers were done.

James begins to stand.

JAMES  
No bother at all. We've just been  
getting to know each other.

James takes a few steps and greets Meri with a handshake.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
I'm James.

MERI  
Meri. And I see you've met Bobby.

JAMES  
Fine young boy.

Meri looks around the backyard.

MERI  
Interesting view.

JAMES  
Used to be I could see half the  
neighborhood in their yards cooking  
out or enjoying. Now half the days  
sun don't even shine on my lawn.

BOBBY  
James doesn't think we'll live  
around here too long.

James looks at Bobby.

JAMES  
Now why did you go and say that?

James looks at Meri.

JAMES (CONT'D)

I was just saying, for some reason,  
most people don't stay in that  
house for long.

MERI

I can assure you we're planning on  
being here for a long time.

JAMES

I'm sure the other people felt the  
same way.

There's a little concern coursing through Meri. It's a  
strange conversation to be having especially with an eight  
year old involved.

MERI

I guess time will tell.

Meri grabs Bobby's hand.

MERI (CONT'D)

The movers are about done. You  
should be coming home to start  
straightening out your room.

Meri reaches out her other hand to shake James'.

MERI (CONT'D)

Nice to meet you, James. We'll have  
you over for dinner as soon as we  
get settled.

JAMES

That'd be nice. Can't say I've ever  
actually been in that house.

MERI

Then it's about time.

Meri tugs Bobby's arm gently.

MERI (CONT'D)

Time to go. Say goodbye to James.

Walking away Bobby turns back to James.

BOBBY

Nice to meet you.

JAMES

Nice to meet you too, Bobby.

Meri and Bobby turn and exit.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
Hope I meet you again.

EXT. BEECHER LANE - MOMENTS LATER

Meri and Bobby are walking across the street.

BOBBY  
He said he's lived here for forty years and the first person who lived in our house fell out the window and died. Isn't that cool?

MERI  
That's nice. It might be a good thing if you didn't hang around James without me or dad, okay?

BOBBY  
But he's my friend.

They reach 32 Beecher.

MERI  
Just do what I tell you. Now go inside and fix up your room.

BOBBY  
I'd rather stay in the living room.

MERI  
Go fix up your room.

Bobby begrudgingly enters the house and goes to his room.

Meri turns around and looks toward James' house. She sees James at his front door looking out. He waves as he slowly closes his front door.

Meri turns back and enters the house. She's not quite sure what to take from that encounter.

EXT. BEECHER LANE - MOMENTS LATER

Eric is walking down the street. He's happy because he's made some friends. He's texting them as he's walking. He walks past a house with a dog lounging on the grass. As Eric passes the dog jumps up. The dog is on high alert right now. He looks around before seeing the issue.

Eric is blindly walking down the street unaware there is a potential threat ready to pounce. We see the dog racing toward Eric. It's getting closer and closer until it grabs Eric's leg and start biting it.

Eric breaks away and starts running/limping down the street. The dog, satisfied that his threat has passed, calmly walks back to his spot and lies down.

INT. FOYER - MOMENTS LATER

Eric bursts into the house and turns quickly into the living room.

ERIC

Mom!

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Eric is standing in the living room. Blood is staining his sneaker and the carpet. He's half in shock.

ERIC

Mom! Mom!

MERI (O.C.)

Eric, what is it? We're busy right now.

ERIC

I got bit by a dog.

MERI (O.C.)

Stop clowning around. We don't need your nonsense today. Go to your room and fix it up.

ERIC

I'm not kidding. I was walking down the street and a dog bit me.

MERI (O.C.)

If your kidding I'm going to kill you.

Meri enters the living room and sees Eric bleeding on the carpet.

MERI (CONT'D)

What are you doing on the carpet?  
Get off the fucking carpet.



Eric limps off the carpet to the foyer.

MERI (CONT'D)  
Keep going. Go outside. It's the  
last thing we need you bleeding all  
over the house.

Eric exits the house. Meri stands there for a moment  
wondering what to do. Scott enters the living room.

SCOTT  
What's going on?

MERI  
Eric got bit by a dog.

SCOTT  
Stupid kid. Where is he?

MERI  
I sent him outside.

Scott begins to exit the living room.

SCOTT  
Okay, let's bring him to the  
hospital. Get some towels so he  
doesn't bleed all over the car.

Scott exits the house. Meri is still standing there wondering  
what to do. A few feet away from her is a pool of blood.

SCOTT (O.C.) (CONT'D)  
Come on, Meri, bring out a towel.  
He got bit pretty bad.

That snaps Meri into action. She exits the living room. All  
we see now is the pool of blood. We hear Meri making noise  
and moving through the house. Still closing in on the pool of  
blood we hear her exit the house.

The carpet is beginning to stir. At first slowly but then all  
the fibers covered in blood begins to vibrate. Drop by drop  
the blood begins to get absorbed by the carpet.

MERI (O.C.)  
Oh my god, where is the nearest  
hospital? We don't know where the  
nearest hospital is.  
(pause)  
James! James! Where's the nearest  
hospital?

JAMES (O.C.)  
About half a mile away. Put him in  
the car I'll take you there.

The carpet is making short work of the blood. By the time we  
hear the vehicles pulling away all of the blood has been  
absorbed by the carpet.

After the work is done a few seconds later the carpet shivers  
and seems to fall asleep.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Bobby is laying on the carpet. He's acting as if he's getting  
a massage. He's laughing and truly enjoying himself. You can  
see ripples float thorough every inch of the carpet. The  
carpet is enjoying itself too.

The bustle of Eric, Meri, Scott and James coming in the door  
startles Bobby and forces the carpet to stop moving.

Eric bursts in the room first.

ERIC  
Get out of my way. Can't you see I  
was mauled by a vicious animal?

Eric stomps on Bobby with his good foot on the way by. The  
carpet shudders and Eric loses his balance.

ERIC (CONT'D)  
See? I can barely walk the injuries  
are so severe. And there you are,  
like an idiot, laying in the way.

Scott, Meri and James walk into the living room.

SCOTT  
Stop your bitching. It was just  
eight stitches.

ERIC  
But the doctor said they were very  
deep cuts and I should stay off my  
feet for a week or so. So I guess I  
won't be able to. . .

MERI  
. . .you're enrolling in school  
tomorrow.

ERIC  
Aw, mom, I don't think. . .

MERI  
 . . .do you know ow many stitches  
 they used to sew me back together  
 after giving birth to you.

ERIC BOBBY  
 Mom! Mom!

SCOTT  
 Get up stairs and get ready for  
 bed.

ERIC BOBBY  
 Aww, dad. Aww, dad.

SCOTT (CONT'D)  
 Just get.

Eric and Bobby get up. Eric exaggerates his injury during his  
 exit. Bobby walks up to James and extends his hand. James  
 takes it and shakes his hand.

BOBBY  
 Good night, James, it was nice to  
 meet you.

JAMES  
 And a pleasure to meet you.

Bobby gives his mother and father a quick hug then it's off  
 to bed.

BOBBY  
 Good night.

Eric clumsily makes his way past everyone with nary a word.

MERI  
 Good night, Eric.

Eric mumbles a reply.

ERIC  
 Night.

MERI  
 If you're not up by seven I promise  
 you I'll put more than eight  
 stitches in your head.

Eric continues slowly upstairs.

James is looking around the house. It has to be familiar but in that Twilight Zone way. You're in the same world but everything is just a little off.

JAMES

I can't believe you have that old carpet. That's the original carpet.

ERIC

Looks it.

JAMES

Pretty sturdy. We had it up until about five years ago. Three kids, dogs, cats, wear and tear. Stood up for over thirty years.

James looks at the carpet.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Tell ya the truth, I sort of miss it. Lota memories were had on that old carpet.

ERIC

Then you can have it. I hate it.

JAMES

Aw, come on, Eric. Let it live with you.

Eric runs his foot over the carpet. The carpet bristles a little.

MERI

Thanks for taking us to the hospital.

JAMES

Last I could do. With those two boys you'd better get yourself a frequent flyers card.

They chuckle while standing there for a second pretty much wrung out of small talk.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Well, I'd better let you get to it.

James shakes hands with Eric and Meri.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Welcome to the neighborhood. Hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

James turns to exit.

MERI  
James, one thing.

James turns back.

MERI (CONT'D)  
Bobby mentioned something about  
someone dying here. Is that true or  
were you just entertaining him with  
ghost stories.

James is a little embarrassed.

JAMES  
Sorry if I spooked him.

MERI  
No, he was actually excited to  
think about it.

James hesitates and ponders if he should say anything.

JAMES  
It's just that it seems people  
don't stay in this house for every  
long and people tend to get hurt  
who live here. Like your boy today.

SCOTT  
That was just some dog. That could  
happen anywhere.

JAMES  
True but it didn't happen until you  
moved here.

SCOTT  
I'm sorry, James, no disrespect  
meant but I just don't go in for  
old wives tales.

JAMES  
All I'm saying is I've seen more  
than my share of ambulances and  
moving vans parked outside this  
house.

(pause)  
Now I'm not saying it's a haunted  
house or any of that nonsense but  
you just have to go with the facts.

MERI  
I appreciate you letting us in on a  
little street lore.

Meri holds her arm out.

MERI (CONT'D)  
Let me show you out.

Meri leads James out of the house.

MERI (CONT'D)  
Once we get settled we'll have you  
over for dinner to thank you.

They reach the front door.

JAMES  
I'd appreciate that. Since the  
misses died home cooked meals are a  
scarcity for me.

MERI  
You let me know what you want and  
I'll make it.

JAMES  
I'll get back to you. Night, Meri,  
Eric.

MERI  
Night.

Meri walks back into the living room where Eric is staring at  
the carpet. He feels her looking at him so looks up at her.

ERIC  
I swear it was moving.

MERI  
What?

ERIC  
The carpet. It seemed to like move  
when James was talking about the  
house.

MERI  
So now are you going to let ghost  
stories get to you too?

Meri grabs Eric's arm.

MERI (CONT'D)  
Let's go to bed.

They turn to exit the living room. Eric flips off the light. They hit the stairway to go upstairs. As they vanish from view the carpet ebbs and flows rapidly for a few seconds before settling back down.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Eric and Rick are sitting on the couch watching TV.

RICK  
Why do we have to watch TV over here? The TV in my room is bigger than this one.

ERIC  
I have to stay home after school until my mother gets back from work.

RICK  
When's she getting home? I hate it here. It's so small. I've never actually been in one of the small houses before.

ERIC  
How come?

RICK  
Just old people or weirdos lived in them. This house had a lot of weirdos.

ERIC  
What do you mean?

RICK  
I don't know. They seemed normal but then acted weird. None of them stayed here very long. People were always dying in this house. I used to be scared of it. That's the only reason I came here today. To check it out and see how weird it is.

ERIC  
So? How weird is it?

RICK  
Not bad. Sort of a dump compared to  
my house though.

SND FX FRONT DOOR OPENING

BOBBY  
Mom? Are you home?

ERIC  
She's not here, asshole.

Bobby walks into the living room.

BOBBY  
Mom told you not to call me that.

RICK  
Who's this little asshole?

The carpet in front of Bobby sways ever so slightly.

ERIC  
It's my little brother, asshole.

BOBBY  
I'm telling ma.

Eric gets off the couch and slightly limps toward Bobby. You can see the dog bite on his leg. It's healed some but it's still bleeding a little. He took the bandage off to try and show people what a tough guy he is.

Eric grabs Bobby by the arm and pulls him into the living room.

BOBBY (CONT'D)  
Hey, watch it.

Eric gets Bobby in a head lock and slams his face into the couch. While he's there Rick can't help but to give him a shot in the kidney.

BOBBY (CONT'D)  
Oww. Stop it.

RICK  
Make us.

Rick stands up so now the two of them are standing in front of Bobby.

ERIC  
Yeah, make us.



Bobby sits there knowing Eric is going to show off for his new friend.

RICK  
What should we do with him?

Rick slaps Bobby in the head.

At the other side of the room the carpet starts to roil.

ERIC  
I don't know. Maybe we should hang  
him out the window by his ankles.

Eric and Rick each grab an ankle and start to lift Bobby off the couch.

BOBBY  
No! Put me down!

The TV set starts to shake.

ERIC  
I know what we should do.

They drop Bobby on the floor. Eric quickly sits on him.

ERIC (CONT'D)  
We should make him drink dog bite  
blood.

RICK  
Yeah.

BOBBY  
No!

Rick grabs Bobby's arms and pins them to his body. Bobby struggles but Rick is too strong for him. Eric positions himself and starts to squeeze his calf. Bobby is thrashing and shaking his head from side to side.

A few drops of blood fall from Earl's wound. They fall from his leg and narrowly miss Bobby's face landing on the carpet.

Suddenly the coffee table starts to shake then a wave under Bobby standing him straight up pushing Rick off him sending him sprawling on the floor.

BOBBY (CONT'D)  
Get off me.

Bobby turns to Eric just as the carpet shivers under him. Bobby shoves Eric who loses his balance and falls to the floor.

BOBBY (CONT'D)  
Leave me alone!

Bobby stares at Eric and Eric feels fear.

BOBBY (CONT'D)  
If you or your friend ever touch me  
again I'll have you killed.

Eric and Rick slowly start to get up. Bobby stands stock still. Eric squeezes past Bobby never losing eye contact. He knows the game has changed. Eric meets Rick in the middle of the living room. Eric and Rick start backing out of the living room never taking their eyes off Bobby.

As Bobby stands there we see the blood spots get smaller and smaller until they vanish. The carpet quivers for a few seconds before becoming still.

MERI (O.C.)  
I'm home.

Eric and Rick walk past Meri and out the door.

ERIC  
I'm outta here.

MERI  
Aren't you going to introduce me to  
your friend?

EXT. 32 BEECHER LANE - CONTINUOUS

Earl and Rick hit the path and keep going. Now that they're out they're gathering back their swagger.

RICK  
I'll have you killed. What's up  
with your brother? He think he's in  
a gang or something?

ERIC  
He's always been a little fucked in  
the head.

Rick looks back at the house.

RICK  
Yeah, fucked is a good word for  
him.

Eric and Rick reach the sidewalk where they see James sitting on his stairs. The second floor of a McMansion towering over his home. He nods to them as they turn and walk towards Rick's house.

EXT. BEECHER LANE - DAY

Rick is walking down the street and passes 32 Beecher Lane. He stops for a moment before proceeding up the path.

INT. 32 BEECHER LANE - MOMENTS LATER

Bobby is sitting on the couch watching TV. All is calm, all is quiet.

SND FX DOORBELL

Bobby gets up to answer the door.

INT. FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Bobby gets to the door and sees that it's Rick. He's not happy about this.

BOBBY  
Eric's not here.

RICK  
I know.

Rick opens the door and pushes in. Bobby retreats to the living room with Rick close behind.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bobby is in the middle of the living room with Rick close behind.

RICK  
So, what's all this talk about you  
going to have me killed if I fucked  
with you again?

BOBBY  
I was scared. You were ganging up  
on me.

RICK  
Yeah, and now I'm fucking with  
again.

Rick punches Bobby in the stomach. Bobby falls to the ground. Rick starts celebrating as if he's just won the heavy weight crown.

RICK (CONT'D)  
And look at me! I'm still alive!

Rick kicks Bobby.

The carpet surrounding the pair begins to wave and shake. A high pitched hum lightly pierces the air. Rick continues to stand over Bobby in victory.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Where's the tough guy now?

Bobby begins to stand. When he's halfway up Rick takes a step forward and pushes Bobby back down.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Where do you think you're going?  
You're my bitch now.

The carpet begins to gather around Rick. Bobby scurries into the dining room.

INT. DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bobby continues to push himself away from the living room.

RICK (O.C.)  
What the fuck?

Bobby is frightened by what he sees.

EXT. BEECHER LANE - CONTINUOUS

James is out of his car walking toward his front door. He hears sounds of a struggle coming from 32 Beecher. He looks over and stops.

EXT. 32 BEECHER LANE - CONTINUOUS

Through the window we see a figure falling down to the ground. And then it's all quiet for a moment before we see Bobby walk toward the window. He sees James and waves.

EXT. BEECHER LANE - CONTINUOUS

James sees Bobby at the window.

JAMES  
Everything all right there?

Bobby nods and leaves the window. In a moment he's at the front door and jogging over to James' house.

BOBBY  
Hi.

JAMES  
Hi, everything all right? I thought I saw someone fall.

BOBBY  
That was me. I tripped.

JAMES  
You okay?

BOBBY  
Yeah, I was just running around the house because no one was there. You won't tell my mother, right?

James laughs.

JAMES  
Don't worry about it. I can't tell you the things I did when I was your age.

Meri drives past and waves.

MERI  
Are you bothering James, Bobby?

JAMES  
Not at all. We were just catching up.

James pats Bobby on the shoulder.

MERI  
Okay, come home now, Bobby. I'm sure you have homework to do.

Bobby starts to go home.

BOBBY  
Bye, James.

JAMES  
See ya, Bobby.

Meri pulls into the driveway and gets out of the car. Bobby stops at the car and helps Meri take in some groceries. James watches them until they're in the house. He looks toward the living room. He sees Meri pass through without issue. He turns and heads into his house.

EXT. BEECHER LANE - DAY

Local news trucks are parked all along Beecher Lane. A gathering of PEOPLE, REPORTERS and TECHNICIANS are gathered in front of a McMansion. A WOMAN is standing in front of the camera talking.

James drives down the street passing PEOPLE on both sides of the street taping and stapling flyers on every pole. James pulls into his driveway, gets out of his car and heads toward the gathering.

WOMAN  
And we haven't heard from him in  
three days.

REPORTER 1  
When was the last time you saw him?

WOMAN  
Three days ago when he left for  
school.

REPORTER 2  
What have the police reported?

WOMAN  
They've been unable to locate him  
which is why we're coming to the  
public.

The Woman holds up a flyer.

WOMAN (CONT'D)  
If anyone has any information about  
my son, Rick, please call the  
number on the flyer. We've offered  
a reward. . .

A MAN handing out flyers hands one to James. We see a picture of Rick and some information on the flyer.

WOMAN (CONT'D)  
. . .of ten thousand dollars to  
anyone who helps us find our boy.

SND FX A SMATTERING OF VOICES

James turns away from the event and heads back toward his house. He glances over to 32 Beecher and sees Bobby standing in the doorway. When he sees James looking at him he backs away and closes the door.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Scott, Meri, Eric and Bobby are around the dinner table eating. Everyone is looking at Meri except for Eric. He's staring straight down.

MERI  
Wasn't the boy who is missing the  
one I saw you with a few days ago?

ERIC  
Yeah. We're in the same class.

MERI  
Did you see him that day?

ERIC  
Yeah. In class like I said.

MERI  
So were you friends?

ERIC  
Not really. Sort of. He was kind of  
stuck up.

SCOTT  
Eric, look at your mother when  
she's talking.

Slowly Eric looks up. The first face he sees is Bobby's staring back at him.

SCOTT (CONT'D)  
Now is that so hard?

It seems to be for Eric. He quickly looks away from Bobby.

ERIC  
I'm going to go to my room.

Eric gets up and exits.

SCOTT  
That was weird.

MERI  
One of his schoolmates is missing.  
He's a little shaken up about it.

SCOTT  
Kid's probably camped out with some  
girl at his parents lake house.

BOBBY  
Or maybe he's dead.

MERI  
Why would you say such a thing?

BOBBY  
It happens. I see it all the time  
on those shows you watch.

SCOTT  
I told you not to watch those shows  
all the time. It's probably  
affecting the baby.

Scott leans over and speaks to Meri's belly.

SCOTT (CONT'D)  
Don't worry, little girl, the  
worlds not as scary as your mommy  
makes it seem.

MERI  
Stop it.

BOBBY  
They'll never find him.

Scott and Meri are startled by the question.

SCOTT  
They'll find him. Rich kid like  
that? They'll hire Scotland Yard to  
find him.

BOBBY  
No, he's gone.

Bobby turns his attention to his food. Scott and Meri  
exchange looks. Bobby sure seemed certain.



INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

A two year old, THERESA, is crawling on the floor. She's a happy child playing on the carpet. Bobby is sitting on the couch watching his sister. Meri is in the kitchen.

MERI (O.C.)  
Bring Theresa in. It's feeding  
time.

Bobby holds his hands out for his sister. The carpet speeds Theresa across the carpet effortlessly. Just as Bobby is picking her up Scott can be heard entering the house.

MERI (O.C.) (CONT'D)  
Oh good, Scott, you're home. Can  
you. . .

Scott has just stepped into the living room.

SCOTT  
. . .can you give me one fu. . .

Scott sees Bobby and Theresa and he knows if he continues there will be hell to pay.

SCOTT (CONT'D)  
. . .what?

MERI (O.C.)  
Never mind.

Scott takes Theresa from Bobby and starts heading to the kitchen. Bobby just stares at his father.

SCOTT  
It's my one night off of the week.  
What do you want?

Scott exits the living room.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Meri and Scott are standing in the kitchen. Scott hands Theresa to Meri. Their dialog is low so they think Bobby can't hear them.

MERI  
At least you get a night off. Do  
you know the last time I got to  
punch out and go home?

SCOTT

Yeah, I bet you bust your ass nine hours straight here. You don't sit one your ass ever.

MERI

That's not the issue. The issue is that I. . .

SCOTT

. . .want what you want and fuck the guy who pays for everything.

Scott leans close to Meri.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

You're the one who wanted another kid. You're the reason we had to buy this house. You're the reason I'm working two full time jobs.

Scott points toward the living room.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

That one will, hopefully be off to school in a few years. Eric's in the army.

MERI

He's coming back for a visit in a couple of months.

SCOTT

I couldn't give two shits about that. What I'm saying is if you didn't want another kid. . .

Meri puts her hands over Theresa's ears.

MERI

. . .she can hear you?

SCOTT

She can't understand a fucking word I'm saying. And what I'm saying is in a few years we could have been free. But now I'm fucked for life.

Scott leans back.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

And you want a night off.

Scott opens the refrigerator and pulls out a bottle of beer. He opens it and throws the cap in the sink.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Funny.

He takes a sip and exits the kitchen.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Scott is on a chair while Bobby is on the couch they're watching TV.

We see Scott reclining on the chair nodding off. On a table next to the chair are four empty beer bottles and a mostly full one. Scott is nodding off.

Without warning the table beside him begins to shake. Bottles clang, the vibration becomes more intense, Scott continues on his nod as one bottle falls over and in quick succession so do the others. They begin to fall off the table. When the first one falls the mostly full bottle topples over. Beer starts to spill off the table onto the floor.

MERI (O.C.)

What is going on in there?

The now somewhat full bottle rolls onto the floor just as Scott wakes. He sees the bottle start to roll off the table. He reaches for it but only succeeds in knocking the table over. The carpet is completely still with the bottles still rolling around. Just as Meri arrives at the dining room door.

MERI (CONT'D)

Did you know the fucking table over again? What the fuck is wrong with you?

SCOTT

I didn't. . .I was sleeping. . .

Scott looks over at Bobby as Meri leans over to stand up the table and pick up the bottles.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

. . .tell her I was just sleeping there.

Without much emphasis Bobby says,

BOBBY

He was sleeping there last time I looked.

Scott knows that's not much of a defense from Bobby. He adopts a 'what do you expect?' posture and attitude.

SCOTT

The last time I looked. Nice hand there, son.

Scott turns back to Meri who is putting the last bottle back.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

I was fucking sleeping, I don't know what to tell you.

MERI

How convenient. Just like the last ten times that's happened. You're always sleeping. You must be the clumsiest sleeping in the world.

SCOTT

Go fuck yourself. I can't explain it.

MERI

You can never explain anything.

Meri points to the beer stain on the carpet.

MERI (CONT'D)

And I'm not cleaning that up.

Meri exits.

SCOTT

Good.

Scott stands there for a moment before exiting. We can hear him go out the front door as Bobby sits there quietly.

From across the room we see the large beer stain in the carpet begin to disappear. When it's gone Bobby laughs.

BOBBY

Are you even old enough to drink?

The carpet waves across the floor emitting a low hum.

EXT. BEECHER LANE - MORNING

Bobby is walking to school by himself. He walks past a telephone pole and there's a beat, torn, barely readable flyer offering a reward for information on helping locate Rick. A few poles have flyers in the same or worse shape.

EXT. BEECHER LANE - LATER

Bobby is walking down Beecher Lane on his way to school. He turns the corner out of view.

EXT. SCHOOL - LATER

Bobby walks past a group of BOYS. It's obvious that one of them, ED, is the ring leader. He's already harassing a smaller BOY as Bobby tries to pass by unnoticed.

ED

Who's going to believe you when you tell them the president of the class, homecoming king, the kid from a family who, one day if you're lucky, is going to buy you and put you to work for us is extorting you for ten bucks?

Ed pushes the Boy away. The Boy hurries off. Ed seems Bobby and points at him.

ED (CONT'D)

You? Come here.

Bobby pretends not to see or hear him but he's grabbed by one of the other Boys and pulled closer to Ed.

ED (CONT'D)

You can run but you can ever hide.  
You got my ten bucks?

BOBBY

No.

Ed stands up.

ED

Well then, you know what that means.

Ed cuffs Bobby in the head.

ED (CONT'D)

We got ourselves an appointment after school.

Ed shoves Bobby away. A few of the Boys walk behind Bobby for a few steps.

ED (CONT'D)  
Text it to yourself so you don't  
forget.

Bobby keeps walking away as Ed is congratulated by all his  
Boys.

EXT. SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

Ed is standing, surrounded by his friends, searching for  
Bobby. Bobby is nowhere to be found. A pissed Ed storms off  
to his car and drives away.

EXT. STREET - LATER

Bobby is waking down the street looking behind him the entire  
time. Bobby stops at the corner of Beecher Lane and looks  
around before he proceeds.

EXT. 32 BEECHER LANE - CONTINUOUS

Ed's car is parked in front of Bobby's house. Ed is texting.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Bobby pulls his head back and sighs. He looks around before  
ducking into someone's backyard.

EXT. BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Bobby is moving quickly through backyards until he gets to  
his own. He goes to the back door and tries it but it's  
locked.

Bobby knows he only has one option left. And that's to try  
and race Ed to the front door. Bobby heads to the side of the  
house and slowly moves to the corner.

Bobby peeks around the corner and sees that Ed is distracted  
with his texting. He knows this is his one shot. Bobby stands  
up straight, takes the front door key out of his pocket and  
makes a run for it.

EXT. 32 BEECHER LANE - CONTINUOUS

Bobby is running to his front door. It takes a few precious  
seconds for Ed to notice Bobby.

He drops his phone on the passenger seat, gets out of the car and starts running to the front door.

It's a tight race and seemingly could go to either of them. Bobby gets to the door first and seems like he'll get away safely but he has trouble getting the key in the keyhole. This chews up the precious time Bobby had in the lead.

Bobby opens the door just as Ed reaches for him. But Bobby gets inside but Ed throws his full weight into the door and Bobby can't shut it.

Bobby is losing this battle to Ed. Finally the door flies open and Bobby stumbles back. He gets up just in time to head into the living room where he is quickly followed by Ed.

ED

Thought you could escape me?

Ed grabs Bobby and slaps him in the head. Bobby winches and the carpet mummies. Ed looks around the house.

ED (CONT'D)

Damn, you don't have a single thing  
in this shit hole I want.

Ed pulls Bobby closer.

ED (CONT'D)

So I guess I'll just have to kick  
your ass.

BOBBY

You don't want to hit me.

ED

Oh, that's where you're wrong.  
That's exactly what I want to do.

Bobby struggles to get free but Ed gets in a few shots before he does. Now he's standing a few feet away.

ED (CONT'D)

Aren't you going to run away?

BOBBY

No.

ED

Oh, you're going to stand up to me?  
This should be interesting.

Ed tries to take a step toward Bobby but can't.

ED (CONT'D)  
What the fuck?

Ed starts to struggle to reach Bobby as the carpet quickly crawls up his legs until it reaches up and wraps around his hands. The carpet snaps Ed's hands to his side.

ED (CONT'D)  
What the fuck is this?

Bobby calmly walks up to Ed.

BOBBY  
It's payback to a bully.

Bobby begins beating Ed. Ed struggles but can't get away for stop the onslaught. Bobby is going a little wild. He's punching and kicking Ed. Ed is absorbing the blows and trying to fall over but can't.

Bobby steps back and surveys his prey. He's starting to like this. He could get used to this. The carpet feels the shift in Bobby's attitude so the carpet begins to retreat from Ed's body. Ed crumbles to the ground. As soon as he can he begins to crawl away.

ED  
I'm going to tell everyone about  
this fucked up carpet.

BOBBY  
Who'd believe you? My carpet held  
you while I whipped your ass? Do  
you hear how crazy that sounds?  
Your parents will send you to so  
many therapists you'll be crazy  
when they get done with you.

Bobby stands over Ed. Ed keeps crawling away with Ed following him.

BOBBY (CONT'D)  
What do you think your friends will  
think if you brought that story to  
them? They'll think you made it up  
because you got your ass kicked by  
me.

Ed reaches the front door and crawls through. He picks himself up and runs to his car. He gets in and the first thing he looks at is his beat up face. He grimaces. He starts the car and drives away.



Bobby comes out with a towel wiping the blood off his face. He watches Ed drive off. Bobby looks across the street and sees James.

JAMES  
Friend of yours?

BOBBY  
Let's just say we have an understanding.

EXT. SCHOOL - MORNING

The school yard is crowded with KIDS going to class. Ed's friends are still near him but he's lost some luster. Bobby walks right next to them.

BOBBY  
Hi Ed.

Ed's friends don't know where to look.

ED  
Hi.

Bobby continues on to school and Ed's friends begin to slowly walk away. Some tap him in the shoulder as they're leaving. It doesn't take long until Ed is sitting there alone.

INT. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Bobby is alone in the living room. He's laying on the carpet rubbing as you would a pet. The carpet is waving and flowing. Bobby is being lifted up slightly as if he's body surfing. Bobby is laughing and having a great time by himself.

SND FX FRONT DOOR OPENING

The moment that sound is heard the carpet becomes totally still. Bobby is still petting it and enjoying himself.

SCOTT  
What the hell are you doing?

Bobby looks up at his father who just walked into the living room.

BOBBY  
I'm watching TV.

SCOTT  
Looks a little funny to me.

Scott steps next to Bobby.

SCOTT (CONT'D)  
Is something a little funny going on?

BOBBY  
No, I'm just laying here watching TV.

Scott steps on Bobby putting his full weight on his body.

BOBBY (CONT'D)  
Owww, stop you're hurting me.

The carpet shakes and flutters slightly as Scott walks up Bobby's entire body.

SCOTT  
Get up. Sit on the couch like a normal kid.

Scott steps off Bobby.

SCOTT (CONT'D)  
Why does my kid have to be an idiot?

Scott exits the living room.

SCOTT (O.C.) (CONT'D)  
If I look in there and you're still on that carpet I'm going to beat the shit out of you.

Bobby slowly begins to stand up. Some strands of carpet reaches up and caress his face. Bobby rubs them back.

SCOTT (O.C.) (CONT'D)  
I don't hear any movement there.

Bobby stands up and throws himself onto the couch.

BOBBY  
Happy now?

SCOTT (O.C.)  
Did I hear you say something?

BOBBY  
It was the TV.

Bobby sulks on the couch. The carpet jiggles just enough for you to know it's there.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Meri is sitting in the kitchen. She has a wine bottle in front of her with a half filled wine glass. She takes a sip as lights shine in from the driveway.

Meri fills her wine glass and waits.

SND FX FRONT DOOR OPENING

Scott walks into the kitchen. He's obviously been at a bar all night.

SCOTT

Hey, what's up? I didn't think  
you'd still be up.

Scott walks to the refrigerator and gets a beer. He leans on the sink and opens it. He's standing behind Meri.

MERI

Do you want to get a divorce?

Scott seems surprised but is he? A slight hum is heard from the living room.

SCOTT

No! What would give you that idea?  
Is there someone in the living  
room?

Meri turns around.

MERI

You're never here and when you are  
all we do is fight.

SCOTT

Well, if we fight tonight it's all  
on you. I was in a great mood when  
I walked in here.

MERI

You don't seem to give a shit about  
me anymore and I know you don't  
like Bobby.

SCOTT

Ah, he's all right, I guess. He's  
just a little weird. He'll grow out  
of it.

MERI

I just don't know what to do anymore. I'm tired all the time from being with the baby, I don't get any support. . .

SCOTT

. . . here we go.

Scott drops the beer bottle in the sink. He reaches into the refrigerator for another one.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

It's the same fucking thing with you. You explain it to me how I can work three jobs, have one night off a week to relax and still have time to support you?

MERI

Maybe if we downsized you could quit a job. With Eric on his own maybe we could move to a smaller place.

Suddenly things begin to shake starting in the living room but quickly items start to shake and fall around the house.

Scott grabs the sink.

SCOTT

Is this a fucking earthquake?

Meri stands up and she and Scott exit the kitchen.

EXT. 32 BEECHER LANE - MOMENTS LATER

Scott and Meri are standing on the porch being illuminated by the porch light. They assumed neighbors would be out in the street due to the earthquake but it's totally empty. We can see some TVs are on in some houses. But many of the homes are dark. We see James illuminated by his TV sitting there as if nothing happened.

Scott and Meri look at each other puzzled.

MERI

Can we at least think about moving?

Through the window we see the curtains shake.

SCOTT

Are you out of your fucking mind?  
You're the one who wanted this  
dump. Now you decided you'd rather  
have more of me?

Scott reaches out and grabs Meri's hair and pulls her close to his face. He kisses her hard. When he's done he releases her hair and Meri pulls away.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

There, that good enough for you?

Scott turns and walks into the house. After a beat the porch light goes off and Meri is standing there in the dark. She's looking across the street and she sees James walk to his window and close his curtains.

EXT. SCHOOL - MORNING

Bobby is walking into the school but he's not alone. He's surrounded by half of the crowd that once surrounded Ed. Every step he takes it's as if he has to say hi to someone else. He's holding his head up high and bringing a bit of a swagger with him.

Bobby stops at a locker and begins to spin the combination. His crew disperses to their own locker with the requisite elaborate good-bye rituals.

Bobby opens the locker and ANDREA walks up to him.

ANDREA

Hi, Bobby.

Bobby looks at her and, despite his new found status in the school, it's still a new phenomenon so he's a little flustered to have the attention of this pretty girl.

BOBBY

Hi, Andrea. What's happening?

ANDREA

Not much. School mostly. Sometimes  
I go out.

Andrea, as forward as this approach seems, is still a little nervous about this.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

I was wondering if you're going to  
the youth center Saturday.

BOBBY

What's go. . .

Andrea nervously speeds through the next dialog.

ANDREA

. . .there are going to be a couple  
of bands and I was wonder if you  
were going maybe we could get  
together there.

Andrea relaxes having said everything she wanted to say.

BOBBY

That sounds. . .

Bobby pauses and swings his locker door.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

. . .damn!

ANDREA

What?

BOBBY

My brother is coming home from the  
army Saturday. We're having a  
cookout for him.

Both Bobby and Andrea try to come up with something.

ANDREA

It doesn't start until seven, maybe  
you could. . .

BOBBY

. . .maybe you could come to the  
cookout then when it's time for the  
bands we can go from there.

Andrea is thrilled at the suggestion.

ANDREA

That sounds great.

BOBBY

I'll have to ask my mother but I'm  
sure that won't be a problem.

ANDREA

Okay then. I'll talk to you later  
about it?

Bobby takes out his phone. Andrea didn't have to she had her's at the ready.

BOBBY

What's your number? I'll text you right after I talk to her.

ANDREA

781-555-4858.

Bobby punches in the numbers and he's on his way.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

Okay, then, I'll hear from you later.

BOBBY

As soon as I know.

Andrea starts walking down the hall. Bobby watches her go. A BOY comes up from behind Bobby and pats him on the back.

BOY

Way to go, Bobby.

Bobby smiles at his good fortune as he shuts his locker and makes his way to class.

INT. KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Meri is feeding Theresa when Bobby walks in. He's talking too rapidly and is stepping over his words.

BOBBY

Hi mom, I met. . .she's really nice. . .so she wants to go see a band so I was wondering. . .I met her at school. . .she's so cool so I was wondering if I could invite her to the cookout that we're having this Saturday. You know we're having a cookout, right?

MERI

I think I may have heard something about it.

BOBBY

So can she come?

MERI

I don't see why not.

Before Meri is finished with her sentence Bobby has his phone out. He starts to text when he hears,

MERI (CONT'D)

But. . .

Bobby stops dead in his tracks. He stands up straight and his fingers hover over his phone screen. He doesn't know what the 'but' is but it's usually not a good thing.

MERI (CONT'D)

. . .I'd like to meet her first.

Bobby is relieved. He's sure that he can do.

BOBBY

Oh, yeah, okay.

Bobby exits the kitchen texting a mile a minute. Meri smiles and continues feeding Theresa.

EXT. 32 BEECHER LANE - AFTERNOON

Andrea is standing on the porch ringing the bell. Before the bell has stopped chiming Bobby is at the door.

BOBBY

Hi, hi, come in.

Bobby opens the screen door and holds it open for Andrea who walks in.

INT. FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Bobby and Andrea are standing in the doorway neither of them are quite certain what to do.

MERI (O.C.)

Bobby, take her into the living room. I'll be down after I get Theresa settled.

Bobby leads Andrea into the living room. Almost immediately Andrea trips. Bobby is quick to catch her. They're face to face for a longer beat than necessary. Soon they both decide this is too long and Bobby helps her stand.

BOBBY

Must have got your shoe caught in the carpet.



ANDREA

Yeah, I'm not that clumsy usually.

Bobby looks at the carpet and it's undulating rapidly. Bobby doesn't like the looks of this.

BOBBY

Let's go wait for my mother in the kitchen.

Bobby starts to hurry Andrea out but the carpet bunches just in front of her and she falls. This time Bobby couldn't catch her.

ANDREA

Oww.

Bobby leans over to help her up. The whole time he's hoping nothing untoward will happen. Andrea gets righted and sees blood coming out of one of her fingers. Bobby quickly grabs it.

BOBBY

Must have hit a pin in the floor.  
Let's wash it up.

Bobby leads Andrea out of the living room. He turns around and looks toward the carpet. The carpet has risen up and is surrounding the coffee table.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Stop it.

Bobby snaps at the carpet which recedes.

ANDREA

Stop what?

BOBBY

Oh, I'm just concerned about your cut and was hoping the blood stopped.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

ANDREA

Oh this?

Andrea says pulling her finger from Bobby's hand.

ANDREA (CONT'D)  
This is nothing. One year in  
softball I was walking onto the  
field and a ball smashed into my  
head.

Bobby and Andrea reach the sink. Bobby turns it on and puts  
her finger under it. With her other hand she points to her  
head.

ANDREA (CONT'D)  
Sixteen stitches.

Andrea pulls her finger out of the water. It's barely  
bleeding anymore. Bobby gives her a towel to dry just as Meri  
enters.

MERI  
Hi, I'm Mrs. Simpson.

Andrea holds out here hand.

ANDREA  
Hi, I'm Andrea.

Meri, Bobby and Andrea stand there silent for a moment.

MERI  
Okay, met her. She can come. Now  
you make sure she gets home safe.

Meri walks deeper into the kitchen.

MERI (CONT'D)  
Lovely meeting you, Andrea. I'm  
looking forward to seeing you  
Saturday.

Bobby and Andrea stand there for a beat. They're not quite  
sure what they've just witnessed but they are glad it was the  
simplest third degree they've ever received. They exit the  
kitchen.

INT. FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Andrea and Bobby walk toward the front door. Bobby holds the  
door open and Andrea exits. Bobby looks at the carpet and  
it's shaking. He leans toward the living room.

BOBBY  
Stop it. It's not a big deal. She's  
a friend.

ANDREA (O.C.)  
Are you coming, Bobby?

BOBBY  
Just a second.

EXT. 32 BEECHER LANE - CONTINUOUS

Bobby runs down the stairs catching up to Andrea on the walk.

ANDREA  
Who were you talking to?

BOBBY  
My mother. She was sort of busting  
my balls.

Andrea laughs.

ANDREA  
You just wait until my family meets  
you. They'll be all over you.  
They're all crazy.

They reach the end of the walk and hit the sidewalk.

BOBBY  
You haven't met everyone who lives  
there. Trust me, weird stuff  
happens all the time.

Bobby and Andrea walk down the street.

EXT. BACKYARD - AFTERNOON

The Simpson's yard is filled with PEOPLE. TEENAGERS who are Eric's contemporaries, NEIGHBORS, just a load of people. Everyone is having fun and awaiting the guest of honor. James is talking to Bobby with Andrea at his side.

JAMES  
Do you think he'd have changed  
much?

BOBBY  
Maybe. I hope the army made him a  
nicer person.

JAMES  
I don't really think that's what  
they do.

Eric and Scott walk through the back door. People start cheering and rushing up to see him. Meri beats her way through the crowd to get to her first born.

ANDREA

Is that your brother? He looks so grown-up.

Bobby gives Andrea a dejected look.

MERI

My baby!

Eric is stoic as his mother hugs him. He has a haunted look about him. He scans the yard but doesn't engage any of the people there to see him. Meri stops hugging him long enough to take a good look at him.

MERI (CONT'D)

What are they feeding you?

BOY (V.O.)

Raw meat.

People laugh as Meri goes back to hugging Eric. He breaks it off this time.

SCOTT

Let someone else have a chance.

Scott almost has to drag Meri away. He finally gets her away and people surround Eric who isn't moved by any of this.

Bobby, James and Andrea are still standing in the same spot.

JAMES

Aren't you going to say hi to your brother?

BOBBY

There's plenty of time later.

ANDREA

I'd like to meet him now.

Dejected again he motions for Andrea to follow him and heads toward his brother.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

This will be so exciting. I love meeting friends family.

Bobby is less excited as they run into his father first.

SCOTT  
So, this your girlfriend?

Scott says giving Andrea the once over.

BOBBY  
Dad, Andrea. Andrea this is my  
father.

Andrea holds out her hand.

ANDREA  
Nice to meet you, Mr. Simpson.

Scott takes her hand and kisses it.

SCOTT  
Scott. Do I look like a mister  
Simpson to you?

Scott looks into the backyard.

SCOTT (CONT'D)  
Hey, real nice to meet you Amanda.

BOBBY  
It's Andrea.

SCOTT  
Whatever. Nice to meet you. And now  
it's going to be nice to meet a  
beer.

Bobby and Andrea continue on to meet Eric. When Eric sees  
them he steps past people to see him. Bobby is bracing for  
the worst.

ERIC  
If it isn't my baby brother and his  
new squeeze.

BOBBY  
Knock it off.

Eric grabs Bobby a little more forcefully than he should.  
Bobby can't break away but he keeps struggling.

ERIC  
Little baby brother can't take a  
little ball breaking about his cute  
new girlfriend.

Bobby finally breaks away and is looking at his brother closely. He sees a change in his brother. He's straightening himself out as Meri arrives.

MERI

Oh, Eric, I see you met Andrea.  
Isn't she the cutest little thing.

Eric stares directly at Bobby.

ERIC

Sure is, ma. Bobby here better be careful or I might scoop in and take her for myself.

Meri and Andrea laugh nervously as Eric continues to stare at Bobby. Meri puts her arm around Andrea and begins to lead her off.

MERI

Come on, Andrea, let me introduce you to some other people. I'm sure the boys have a lot to catch up on.

Bobby nervously calls as Andrea walks away.

BOBBY

I'll be over in a minute, Andrea.

Meri and Andrea are swallowed up by the crowd as Eric leans close to Bobby's face.

ERIC

Do you know why I came back here?

Bobby shakes his head no.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Because I'm going to kill all of you while you sleep.

Bobby is frightened by Eric demeanor. After a beat Eric laughs and jostles Bobby around.

ERIC (CONT'D)

I'm just fucking with ya! Just going all army bad ass on ya.

Eric steps past Bobby as if he's not there then whoops and raises his arms in the air.

ERIC (CONT'D)

It's so great to be back home with my family and friends!

Everyone cheers, raises drinks and carries on. Eric starts to walk toward the group. Bobby walks off toward the grill. James watches him as Bobby grabs a couple of burgers and heads out using the side of the house. Meri walks up to him with Theresa in her arms.

MERI

Here, hold your sister. You must have missed her.

Eric walks past.

ERIC

I don't want to hold that thing.

Meri stands there shocked as Eric greets a friend.

Scott walks up to James with two beers. Scott opens his and throws the bottle cap onto the ground.

SCOTT

Look at that. I never thought he'd amount to shit.

James opens the beer and puts the bottle cap in his pocket.

JAMES

That's not much of a fatherly thing to say.

Scott shrugs his shoulders.

SCOTT

What can I say? I'm not much of a father.

Scott walks off toward a WOMAN. He sneaks up behind her and grabs her around the waist. She yelps and then laughs. They start having a good old time for themselves as James walks off in the same direction as Bobby.

EXT. SIDE OF HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

James is walking down the side of the house. As he passes the living room window he hears someone talking. He stops for a moment to listen.

BOBBY

I'm not asking much. Just like her. She's very cool. If you like me you should like her.

James smiles. Bobby's trying to convince someone to give Andrea a shot. James turns the corner.

EXT. 32 BEECHER LANE - CONTINUOUS

James looks in the front window and sees Bobby standing in the middle of the living room looking at the floor. He can't hear what he's saying but he can see Bobby is still making his case.

JAMES  
Something just ain't right.

James finishes the rest of his beer and slides it through the slats of the railing. He turns and heads toward home.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Bobby is sitting on the couch dejected. The room is quiet and still. Andrea walks in and the carpet shakes.

ANDREA  
Here you are.

Andrea sits on the couch without incident.

ANDREA (CONT'D)  
I was looking for you.

Andrea waits for a beat.

ANDREA (CONT'D)  
What's the matter?

Bobby doesn't answer.

ANDREA (CONT'D)  
Are you upset that your brother is home?

BOBBY  
He's different is all.

ANDREA  
He's growing up.

BOBBY  
No, it's different. He was always a bully to me but it was different this time. Like he really meant it.



Andrea scoots closer to Bobby on the couch. Items on the coffee table rattle. Andrea looks puzzled.

BOBBY (CONT'D)  
Sometimes the house rattles when  
big trucks go by.

Andrea accepts that but she lives in the neighborhood and her house doesn't rattle.

ANDREA  
Let's go out to the yard. It's  
really fun out there.

BOBBY  
I think I'd rather just walk you  
home.

The rattling on the coffee table stops. Andrea is a little surprised by this but she stands.

ANDREA  
Oh, okay. Let me just say goodbye  
to your mother.

BOBBY  
No, I'll let her know.

Bobby stands up. Andrea holds out her hand for him to take. He just starts walking away. Feeling dejected Andrea follows.

EXT. ANDREA'S HOUSE - LATER

Bobby and Andrea are standing in front of Andrea's house. They're having a very serious discussion.

ANDREA  
But what did I do?

BOBBY  
Nothing. This isn't about you. I  
really like you but. . .

ANDREA  
. . .but what?

BOBBY  
It's just with my brother back it's  
going to be crazy for awhile. I  
know later tonight him and my  
father are going to get into it.

ANDREA  
That has nothing to do with us.

BOBBY  
But it does. Everything that  
happens in that house hurts  
someone.

Bobby pauses and shuffles his feet avoiding looking at her.

BOBBY (CONT'D)  
And until my brother leaves it's  
just going to get worse. I can feel  
it.

ANDREA  
We just won't go there.

BOBBY  
Can we just take a break?

ANDREA  
A break? After one date?

Andrea is incredulous and isn't going with any of this.

BOBBY  
Just until my brother is gone. I  
just don't want to see you get  
hurt.

ANDREA  
Why would I get hurt?

BOBBY  
Just by being with me.

Bobby leans over and quickly kisses her cheek before turning  
to walk away.

BOBBY (CONT'D)  
I'll call you when he leaves.

Bobby takes a few steps away.

ANDREA  
Don't bother.

Bobby stops and wants to turn back but he doesn't. Andrea  
jogs into her house. After a beat Bobby starts walking away.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Bobby is laying on the living room floor. The carpet is rolling up and down his body as he pets it. All is well for Bobby.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Scott and Eric are sitting around the table having a beer. Meri has Theresa sitting on the island playing with her.

THERESA

Momma.

Meri breaks into a big smile.

MERI

Did you hear that?

Scott and Eric either didn't hear it or don't care. Meri carries Theresa over to them and leans the baby over to Scott.

MERI (CONT'D)

Kiss Theresa good night.

Scott kiss Theresa. Meri pauses for a moment but decides to swing Theresa over toward Eric who turns away. Meri almost says something but holds it in. Unhappily. As she turns to exit she shoots a look at Scott. Meri and Theresa exit.

Scott and Eric sit there in silence for a few beats.

SCOTT

What's up with that?

ERIC

What?

SCOTT

That shit with your sister? Your mother said earlier you wouldn't hold her and now you blew off a kiss.

ERIC

I don't want to get to know her.

SCOTT

What does that mean?

ERIC

She doesn't mean anything to me so  
I don't want her to know me.

Scott reaches over and slaps Eric's head. Eric's eyes turn dark for a moment but he doesn't react.

SCOTT

Knock off your bullshit.

Eric picks up his beer and finishes it off. He walks to a cooler on the island and takes out two beers. He puts one on the table in front of Scott and opens the other one as he sits down.

ERIC

Life's uncertain. It's best not to  
make attachments.

SCOTT

Is that what today's army is  
teaching you? Leave that guy behind  
because he doesn't mean anything to  
you.

ERIC

It has nothing to do with the army.  
Life's shit. Your life is shit.  
You've said it yourself.

SCOTT

But that doesn't give you the right  
to be an asshole.

ERIC

The world is a mess. Why would you  
bring a kid into the world knowing  
what's going on?

SCOTT

We wanted her.

ERIC

Bullshit. When mom was pregnant all  
you did was get pissed off.

SCOTT

Yeah but now that she's. . .

ERIC

. . .more bullshit. You sucked as a  
father to me what makes you think  
you'll be better with her?

Scott stands up as does Eric. The age old standoff has begun.

SCOTT

I was the one who had to. . .

ERIC

. . .work all those hours so we can  
blah blah blah. Stow it. Heard it.

Scott grabs him and slams him into the island. Eric swings and punches Scott in the side of the face. Scott releases one hand and begins to throw a punch.

MERI

Cut this shit out.

Meri gets between them and separates them. Warily they both back off.

MERI (CONT'D)

I swear if you make noise to wake  
up the baby I'll kill both of you.

Meri takes the partially full and empty beer bottles off the table and pours them into the sink.

MERI (CONT'D)

I think we've had enough  
festivities for one day.

Scott and Eric are still staring at one another. Meri walks over and kisses Eric on the cheek.

MERI (CONT'D)

Time for everyone to go to bed.

No one moves. Meri puts both hands on Eric and gently steers him toward the staircase. He breaks eye contact and turns to exit. Immediately Meri turns to Scott.

MERI (CONT'D)

What the fuck is wrong with you?  
Can't I leave you in a room alone  
with your son for two minutes.

SCOTT

He started it. He. . .

MERI

. . .you're pathetic.

Meri turns to head into the living room.

MERI (CONT'D)

Go to bed.

Meri exits the kitchen leaving Scott standing there. After a long beat he turns to head to the bedroom.

SND FX A TV SHOW

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Eric's bedroom door slowly opens. He looks up and down the hallway. All the doors are closed. He steps into the hallway. He's dressed in all black with a hood on. He starts walking down the hallway up to a door.

INT. THERESA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Theresa is sleeping in her crib. Eric slowly walks up to the crib. He leans over the crib and looks in. He reaches into the crib, leans over so we can't see anything and moves his arm across her body.

INT. SCOTT AND MERI'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Scott and Meri are sleeping in their bed. Eric slowly walks up to the bed. He stands beside Meri's side. He watches her sleep for a moment before raising his hand.

Then we see him hold his finger up to her and mouth the words 'Bang'.

He then raises the finger gun toward Scott and repeats the task.

INT. BOBBY'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Bobby is sleeping in his bed. Eric slowly walks up to the bed. He stands at the foot of Bobby's bed. He watches him sleep for a moment before raising his. . .

BOBBY

What are you doing?

Bobby sits up in bed and Eric drops his hands.

ERIC

I couldn't sleep so I got dressed  
to check the house and perimeter.

BOBBY  
You dressed like a ninja to check  
the house?

ERIC  
It keeps me calm.

BOBBY  
What happened to you?

Eric turns to exit.

ERIC  
I opened my eyes.

Eric exits the bedroom. Bobby sits there trying to figure out what just happened. He gets up and walks to his window. He looks out and see Eric's black clad figure stalking around the neighborhood.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Scott is sitting at the kitchen table eating. No one else is in the house. Eric walks in. Before he sits down or gets anything Scott starts.

SCOTT  
What's this shit I hear about you  
creepy crawling around the  
neighborhood last night?

Eric stops for a moment but then goes right to the refrigerator and pulls out some orange juice. He grabs a glass and starts pouring.

ERIC  
Couldn't sleep so went for a walk.

SCOTT  
Bobby said you were dressed as a  
ninja.

ERIC  
Not quite. It's the gear I have  
with me. You wouldn't want me to  
walk around the neighborhood  
dressed in my uniform, would you?

Eric sits down. Scott is just staring at him.

SCOTT  
Your brother said you were staring  
at him from the bottom of his bed.

ERIC  
Just checking. It's my training  
now.

Eric stands up.

SCOTT  
Did you check your mother and me?

Eric ignores the question and begins to walk away. Scott jumps up quickly and grabs Eric. Eric turns around and punches Scott. He falls into the kitchen table. Items fall.

Eric takes a step toward Scott as he pushes himself off the table. He swings at Eric but misses. Eric charges him and they sprawl across the table to the floor.

Scott gets up first and kicks Eric in the side. Scott goes to stomp him but Eric rolls away and sweeps Scott's legs. He only hits one so Scott only falls back.

Eric gets up and Scott charges him and slams him into the island. Eric punches Scott in the face as Scott continues to throw body shots.

Scott head butts Eric and breaks his nose but it also causes a gash in Scott's forehead. The men break apart for a moment before Eric takes a run at Scott. Scott leans over and hits Eric in the stomach with his shoulder and runs with him into the dining room where they crash into the dining room table sending it toppling over.

INT. DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Scott starts to lean up to punch Eric in the face when Eric grabs Scott by the throat. Scott tries to get his hands off his throat but is having a rough time of it.

Scott starts to grab at Eric's fingers but his eyes are bulging and he is starting to lose strength. Scott gets Eric's index finger free and keeps pulling at it.

The finger snaps and Eric screams but he keeps his hands on Scott's throat. Slowly Scott's hands begin to slide down Eric's arms. His arms fall to the floor but Eric keeps squeezing.

SND FX BACK DOOR OPENING

MERI  
We're home  
(pause)  
What the hell went on here?



Meri walks into the dining room holding Theresa with Bobby close behind.

MERI (CONT'D)  
Eric! What did you do?

Eric starts to stand up releasing Scott for the first time. Scott tumbles over.

Bobby looks in but Meri quickly hands him Theresa.

MERI (CONT'D)  
Take the baby and run.

Bobby takes Theresa away from the danger. Meri is watching Eric stand over her husbands body. She takes tentative steps further into the room.

MERI (CONT'D)  
Why Eric? Why?

Meri leans down, never taking her eyes off Eric, and checks Scott. She starts to sob.

MERI (CONT'D)  
Eric look what you've done?

Eric stands there very still but his eyes are glowering. Meri stands up.

MERI (CONT'D)  
We've got to get help.

ERIC  
There is no help. There is no help  
at the end.

Eric reaches out and quickly grabs Meri. She struggles but it's no use.

ERIC (CONT'D)  
He deserved to die.

MERI  
No, Eric, no he didn't. He was your  
father.

ERIC  
He was no father to me. He was  
never a protector of me.

Eric reaches behind his back and pulls out a very real pistol and places it at her temple.

ERIC (CONT'D)  
This is my only protector.

MERI  
Eric, no. Put that down right now.

Eric starts laughing an evil laugh.

ERIC  
That's so sweet. Thinking you can  
mother me out of something. But  
it's too late. It's too late for  
all of us.

MERI  
It's never too late. We can work  
this out.

ERIC  
Stop being stupid. I came here to  
take care of everything and I won't  
leave her until I do.

Eric pushes Meri against the wall and points the gun fitted  
with a silencer at her face. Meri grimaces.

MERI  
No, Eric, please. Someone has to  
raise the kids.

Eric starts laughing again.

ERIC  
You really are stupid, you know  
that? My only regret is that I  
don't get to kill them in front of  
you.

Eric cocks the pistol.

BOBBY (O.C.)  
Maybe you can kill one of them in  
front of her.

Eric turns to see his brother in the living room.

MERI  
Bobby! No. Take Theresa and get out  
of here.

Eric hits Meri in the face with the pistol. She falls to the  
floor.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bobby is standing in the middle of the living room. Theresa is nowhere to be found.

BOBBY

No. It's time he and I had it out.

Eric is standing in the dining room. He wants a vantage point to keep an eye on both of his victims.

ERIC (O.C.)

Look at you! Thinking you're all grown up.

Eric steps to the threshold but not close enough. At his feet the carpet is waving and shivering. But it just can't get him.

BOBBY

What happened to you? Don't get me wrong, you were an asshole as a brother.

ERIC

You're welcome.

BOBBY

But this? This isn't you.

ERIC

How the fuck do you know? You don't know anything about me.

BOBBY

Then tell me.

ERIC

You'd never understand it.

Eric points the gun at Bobby.

MERI

No.

Eric turns to Meri then back to Bobby.

BOBBY

Why don't you be a man and do it with your hands?

Eric laughs and steps to the side so Bobby gets a good look at his dead father.

ERIC

You want a piece of me? After I did this?

Eric laugh gets louder and more creepy as he quickly points the gun at Meri and shoots her in the leg.

BOBBY

No!

ERIC

Don't worry, you little pussy, I just shot her in the leg. Because after I beat the shit out of you I'm going to carry you in front of her and kill you while she watches.

Meri whimpers but Bobby stands there without flinching. Eric puts the pistol on a cabinet out of reach of Meri.

BOBBY

Sounds like a plan.

Eric finishes putting the pistol down and quickly turns and runs toward Bobby at full speed. A war cry in his voice.

Bobby stands still.

Eric gets closer. And closer and closer. And mere feet from being able to bowl over Bobby he abruptly stops. He looks down and sees the carpet has wrapped around his feet and is quickly rising up his body.

ERIC

What the fuck is this?

Eric continues to struggle, groan and do everything within his dwindling powers to grab Bobby.

The carpet grabs his arms but Eric puts up a good fight. In the end, he's no competition for the carpet. His arms are pulled to his side and he is mummified.

Meri crawls to the edge of the living room and is utterly shocked at what she is seeing. She has no words for the sight she is witnessing.

The carpet begins to crush Eric's body. He screams out in pain. The carpet quickly climbs up his face and covers his mouth. Eric continues to scream but he is finally and forever muffled.

Eric continues to battle but the carpet is turning his bones to dust.

SND FX BONES CRUSHING

His body is getting smaller and smaller as the crushing moves up his body. Blood oozes through the carpet. Lumps of flesh protrude from small openings.

Eric's body is getting smaller and smaller. The carpet is now tightening around his throat. Eric's eyes bulge and are full of blood. The carpet begins to wind around his head and he is completely enveloped.

The carpet squeezes Eric's head until

SND FX CRUSHING POP

The carpet begins to pull the dust that was once Eric into itself. After some intense vibrating with items around the room shaking and Bobby fighting to remain upright all is still.

SND FX FRONT DOOR OPENING

JAMES (O.C.)

Is everything okay here?

James enters the living room. Meri is bleeding and in shock as she slowly crawls into the living room. She's stroking the carpet as she goes. Bobby hasn't moved from his spot. James pulls out his cellphone and dials.

DISPATCHER (V.O.)

911, what is your emergency?

JAMES

A woman's been shot at 32 Beecher.  
It looks like she was hit in the  
leg.

DISPATCHER (V.O.)

A unit is on the way.

James shuts off his phone, steps into the living room and goes to Meri. When he gets into the middle of the living room he sees Scott's lifeless body.

JAMES

Bobby, get over here.

Bobby walks over to James and Meri.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Put your hands above your mother's  
knee and squeeze hard.

Bobby does as he's told as James stands up and takes a step back. He's inspecting the scene.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
We're going to have to get one  
story and stick to it.

Meri and Bobby exchange looks.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
I saw everything.

Meri and Bobby look at James.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
Yes, even that carpet monster.

The carpet buckles and James loses his balance. He grabs the wall to steady himself.

BOBBY  
He doesn't like to be call a  
monster.

JAMES  
Not a bad monster.

James leans down and pets the carpet.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
A good monster.

The carpet caresses James' hand.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
One that we can put to good use.

They all exchange glances.

SND FX POLICE SIREN

EXT. 32 BEECHER LANE - LATER

Police, fire and medical are all over Beecher Lane. Neighbors are gawking. Meri is on a stretcher being wheeled down the path.

MERI  
I came home saw what he had done to  
my husband I started to yell at him  
and then he shot me.

INT. BOBBY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Two POLICE OFFICERS are standing over Bobby sitting on his bed.

BOBBY  
Mom told me to take my sister  
upstairs and just as I got her in  
her crib I heard the shot.

EXT. JAMES'S BACK YARD - CONTINUOUS

James is holding Theresa while two POLICE OFFICERS are standing next to him.

JAMES  
I heard the shot and rushed out to  
see what it was. I saw the older  
boy, Eric, run out of the house and  
down the street.

POLICEMAN 2  
Was he still armed?

JAMES  
I didn't see anything but the night  
before, late at night, I saw him  
walking down the street in this  
black body suit.

POLICEMAN 2  
What was he doing?

JAMES  
Just looking around. It looked  
weird to me.

POLICEMAN 2  
Why didn't you call last night?

JAMES  
I knew it was the neighbors kid. I  
was just as the cookout for him  
that day. So I didn't think  
anything bad was going to happen.

They all nod gravely at that line.

DISPATCHER (V.O.)  
Sarge, the MPs want to speak with  
you.

The POLICEMAN takes his microphone off his uniform.

POLICEMAN 2

Tell them I'll be available in ten.

The Policeman puts the microphone away. He reaches his hand out to James.

POLICEMAN 2 (CONT'D)

Thanks for the information. Are you sure you don't want family services to take care of the little girl?

JAMES

No, no, no. After what she's gone through she'd kill me if she had to go looking for this one.

INT. TV STATION - EVENING

A NEWSCASTER is sitting at his desk. After his third word a military photo of Eric pops up.

NEWSCASTER

This just in, Eric Simpson is on the run from the police after slaying his father and wounding his mother earlier today. Police say Simpson is considered armed and dangerous. We have also been told he has extensive hand to hand military combat so if you see Simpson do not approach him. Call the authorities right away.

(pause)

Now let's go to Linda Clarke live at the scene.

EXT. BEECHER LANE - CONTINUOUS

A fly over shot shows a bustling Beecher Lane. Fire trucks are pulling away but people and police cars still line the street. Satellite trucks from news organizations have set up and everyone is doing their live broadcast. We watch this scene until we:

FADE TO BLACK.