

UPPERS AND DOWNERS

PILOT

THE RIGHT FIT

Written by:

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Based on, My Family

Address
Phone Number

TEASER

INT. MCGREGOR/ALLEN HOUSE - LILY'S ROOM - 6 A.M. - 2007

LILY MCGREGOR (12) sits up in her bed in an over-sized KISS T-shirt, glaring at her wire framed glasses on the dresser.

LILY (V.O.)
The first day of school is Hell in
the McGregor/Allen home. Especially
when it's on a Friday, because
that's just cruel.

Lily flops face down on her bed.

INT. MCGREGOR/ALLEN HOUSE - KITCHEN - EARLY MORNING

CINDY ALLEN (45) is flipping troubling pancakes at the stove, in a turtleneck and brown apron. She looks up at the ceiling and sighs.

CINDY
Lily! Will! Max has been waiting
for you guys to get up.

MAX ALLEN (7) runs around the linoleum kitchen in a circle; wearing full on sleeper pj's. His MUSIC is BLASTING, and he is anxiously screeching.

MUSIC
"Five in the air, let's do it
together! Five to the side, who
cares about the weather!"

GREG ALLEN (50) sits at the table, gripping his coffee cup mercilessly.

GREG
Max, turn that down.

CINDY
Pick your battles, Greg.
(beat)
Max, Mommy needs to make a phone
call to your new speech therapist.
Turn it down.

MUSIC
"Hey! Hey! Hey! Together!"

Max jumps in the air and stomps his feet on the floor. Greg's coffee spills from the vibrations.

Lily turns the corner wearing a white polo and baggy dress pants, pleats and all. She shoots a laser stare at Cindy.

LILY
Mom, you bought me men's dress pants!

CINDY
They were in that catalog Will has to order from for his private high school. Those are REAL women's dress pants.

WILL MCGREGOR (15) turns the corner, wearing the same dress pants as Lily. Will looks down at Lily's pants.

WILL
You're making this so easy for me.

Lily drops to the floor. Will smiles at Max dancing.

WILL (CONT'D)
(to Max)
Hey, buddy.

MAX
Yeah, Bud-ee!

LILY
Do you see this, Mom?! SAME pants.
Do you want grand-kids?

CINDY
You're not wearing pants that look like they are painted on.

Lily is tearing up.

CINDY (CONT'D)
When I was your age, I had one pair of pants. My grandma made them for me and they were made of yellow polyester.

GREG
Lily, You're over-reacting.

LILY (V.O.)
That's Greg, my step-dad. He enjoys reading products reviews online, but never buying anything.

Just then, the neighbor, NANCY LANE (55) barges in the kitchen door. She has a bold new haircut.

NANCY

I got Max a first day of school
shirt!

Nancy waves the shirt in the air. Max backs away from Nancy,
holding his mouth. He begins gagging. Nancy panics.

CINDY

Oh, Nancy! It's just Max's sensory
issues. When people come in the
house too fast, he gets
overwhelmed.

NANCY

But he never gaged like that
before?

Max vomits on Lily's pants. Lily gasps, but then smiles.

CINDY

He might not recognize you, with
your new hair cut.

Max vomits again. Will looks over at the vomit, and pushes
his plate of pancakes away. Greg stands up from the table,
about to pull his hair out.

GREG

Cind, there's barf on the floor!
This is why we aren't getting hard
wood floors. Disaster!

Nancy fixes her hair, self-conscious.

CINDY

Nanc, your hair looks great by the
way!

Nancy steps out the door in an emotional state.

LILY

(smiling)

I guess I'll be cold in my skirt
today.

CINDY

No, it's cold out. You have another
pair of pants in your drawer.

Lily eyes tear up again. Max runs out of the kitchen.

He comes back, moments later, with a pair of his pants. He
hands them to Lily. She tries to keep her punk face on, but
can't stop herself from laughing.

LILY (V.O.)
And then, there's Max. My half-brother. He has Downs-Syndrome and Autism. I think he's the sanest one in the family.

Will walks over to his backpack and looks inside.

WILL
Max puked in my backpack.

ACT ONE

INT. WILL'S SCHOOL BUS - MORNING

Will squeezes through a sea of kids free-styling and dealing pot, while suspicious water bottles roll across the floor.

LILY (V.O.)
Since Will grew a foot over the Summer, he went from 5,4' to 6,4'. This was his chance to reinvent himself. Be COOL.

Will finally sees the familiar face of his friend, PETE. He slides in next to him.

PETE
Dang, you really did get tall! You suck.

WILL
Deane still on this route?

PETE
Does the bus still smell like cheap booze?

Will and Pete take a deep breath in, and nod at each other. BIG BEN, complete with afro, shimmies over to Will's row. He leans over the seat, CHOPPING on his GUM.

BIG BEN
Gregor, you gunna pussy out on me again this year, or are you gunna throw down for some green?

Pete shrugs at Will.

WILL
I don't have any money on me man.

BIG BEN
You frontin'.

Awkward pause of stressful eye contact. Will laughs. Then he pulls a ten dollar bill from his pocket and slaps it in Ben's hand. They bro-hug.

BIG BEN (CONT'D)
Aw shit, Gregor is rolling high
this year!

Big Ben walks away. Pete slaps Will in the arm.

PETE
So, now you are smoking pot with
Big Ben and Deane? What's next, you
joining the Manic Disciples?

WILL
(sarcastic)
No, I can't join the Manics. I'm
not Latino.

PETE
I can see it now. You're grounded,
and I'm alone watching cartoon
reruns on Saturday night.

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BLACKTOP - MORNING

Lily slides open the mini van door; Max darts out of the van with lightning speed. He pushes through lines of kids waiting to go inside. Lily freezes, watching the chaos.

CINDY
Lily, go get your brother, before
he runs onto the street!

Max weaves his way through photo-bombing first day of school pictures and kids playing kickball. Lily is tailing behind him, apologizing to everyone she passes. Lily takes a kickball to the face.

LILY (V.O.)
Hard to BLEND IN with gangster
pants, chasing your brother in
front of the whole school.

Lily finally catches him, and walks over to where her class is gathered. A group of girls in Lily's class, all turn to her as she walks up. Boys try giving Max high fives, but he crosses his arms anxiously.

BOY CLASSMATE
(obnoxious)
Why won't he give me a high five!?

Max moans, and starts violently chewing on his rubber chewy tube.

GIRL CLASSMATE
My dog has one of those...

Cindy is getting her talk on with the other moms, completely unaware of what is happening.

LILY
He is having a sensory over-load right now, because of all the people. And it's NOT a dog toy. It's for speech therapy; to help his gross motor skills.

GIRL CLASSMATE
His gross what?

Kids continue to try and give Max high fives. One girl, TANYA, freezes before she reaches out her hand to Max.

TANYA
Can I catch it?

LILY
What?

The girls giggle.

TANYA
You know...

LILY
No Tanya, you can't catch it.

Max has lost all patience, so he flings his arms backwards to release some anxiety. One arm slaps Tanya across the face. Tanya reacts like she has just been slain by the spirit at a healing service.

TANYA
Your brother hit me IN THE FACE.

Max runs over to Lily's side, frightened by Tanya.

LILY
He didn't mean too.

Lily looks down at Max and smiles. Tanya and her posse close Lily out of their circle. Lily's best friend, HANNAH, runs up to her and hugs her. Hannah looks around and notices the tension and Lily's terrible pants.

LILY (V.O.)

My best friend Hannah has really cool parents. She is one of those people that never went through an ugly phase.

HANNAH

Your mom won the pants shopping battle again?

LILY

We're 0 and 5.

Lily's mom waves at her, as she walks away with Max. Hannah and Lily look at each other.

LILY (CONT'D)

I think she is trying to kill me.
If so, you can have my Mandy Moore CD.

INT. WILL'S HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - LATE MORNING

Pete and Will walk down the hallway, filled with rich snobs and hard-core gangsters.

LILY (V.O.)

There were two types of kids at my brother's high school. The rich kids, whose parents are never home, and have endless supplies of alcohol. And the kids that live in the bad neighborhoods, with drug connections. My brother and Pete weren't either one.

A rich bombshell, KRISTA, does a double take at Will, passing by her locker.

KRISTA

Hey, Gregor!

Will rewinds back over to her faster than a horse can pee.
Pete follows suit.

LILY (V.O.)

Last year, Will was obsessed with Krista, and she didn't know his first name. Pretty sure she still doesn't.

WILL

Oh hey, Krista.

KRISTA

You lost your baby fat.

WILL

Ha, yeah...

KRISTA

Anyway, I'm having some people over after school.

WILL

Wow, really? That sounds cool but--

PETE

--We take the bus home.

Will gives Pete daggers.

KRISTA

Oh lame, my parents have a huge liquor cabinet.

Will looks around and sees a flyer for men's volleyball tryouts.

WILL

Yeah, but today I'll be around after tryouts.

PETE

For what?

WILL

Men's volleyball...

KRISTA

Manly. So, I'll meet you in the gym then?

WILL

Yeah.

The BELL RINGS.

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - LUNCH ROOM - NOON

The lunch room is ROARING with KIDS. Lily is walking back from the water fountain, when her crush approaches. GRANT. With his buzzed hair cut and boyish grin; he was a heart throb.

GRANT
Lily, I need to ask you a very important question.

LILY
Oh, yeah, okay.

Lily blushes.

GRANT
I need to give you this note.

LILY
Oh, sure.

Lily takes the note and starts to open it.

GRANT
--Can you give it to Hannah?

Lily's face melts. She nods frantically.

LILY
Oh yeah, totally!

GRANT
Great, thanks.

Grant walks away.

LILY (SOTTO)
It's the pants...just tell yourself it's the pants.

INT. PARK DISTRICT - FRONT OFFICE - SAME TIME

Cindy walks up to the front desk of the Park District with Max. Cindy is flustered, and can't get Max to get up off the floor.

CINDY
Is Mrs. Kesser here? We need to discuss the aid situation for tomorrow.
(beat)
Max, get up please?

Max sighs and shakes his head.

The woman at the front desk gives a disingenuous nod, and looks down at Max, moaning on the floor. She steps away from her desk.

The woman returns to her desk with MRS. KESSER. She is a one of those teachers that is always wearing a season themed sweater.

MRS. KESSER
Cindy, glad you stopped by.

Mrs. Kesser is clearly not glad.

CINDY
I just thought we should talk about Max's aid, since he starts Monday. The woman you suggested to be his aid should be fine, but I'd love to go over more with her.

Max waves at Mrs. Kesser from the floor. She grimaces back at him.

MRS. KESSER
Cindy, I don't know how to tell you this. I myself, and several other parents, don't feel comfortable with Max being in the class.

CINDY
I don't understand. We already worked all this out. Several meetings and phone calls--

MRS. KESSER
Some parents signed a petition. I'm sorry, but I can't compromise the learning experience of the other children.

CINDY
This is completely unacceptable. Max is showing up to school on Monday; I don't care what the petition says.

MRS. KESSER
It's important to realize that Max is not the right fit for a typical functioning class.

Cindy puts on her war face and heads towards the door. Max gets up off the floor, gives Mrs. Kesser a hug and follows Cindy out of the office. Mrs. Kesser remorsefully watches Max leave.

ACT TWO

INT. WILL'S HIGH SCHOOL - GYM - 3 P.M.

Will is SPIKING VOLLEYBALLS over the net, that another boy is serving to him. The COACH is watching, impressed. He blows his whistle and everyone stops.

COACH

All right fellas, I will post the team tonight. For those of you that made it; I will see you at practice Saturday night.

All the boys head towards the locker room, while Will begins putting the volleyballs away. The coach walks up to him.

COACH (CONT'D)

You have real talent for someone who has never played volleyball before. Don't go rubbing it in to the other guys, but I'll see you Saturday for practice.

WILL

Wow. Thanks, Coach!

Will relishes in his success. Coach walks over to his office.

Big Ben walks into the doorway of the gym, and nods at Will.

BIG BEN

Gregor, we got things to do!

Will looks like someone dumped ice down his back.

WILL

Aw man, I totally forgot! I...I'll catch you on Monday. I gotta be somewhere.

BIG BEN

I damn missed the bus for you, so we doing this now.

Pete runs over to Will, from the outside gym door.

PETE

I just ran into Krista. She is leaving in five minutes.

(beat)

Oh and LUCKILY, Luke lives by us, so we have a ride home. You're welcome.

Will looks over at Big Ben in the doorway.

WILL

Yeah, you go ahead. I'll meet you in the parking lot.

INT. KRISTA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - 4:30 P.M.

Will is sitting next to Pete on the couch, as Krista starts pouring some shots of Oval Vodka on an over-priced coffee table. Will's eyes are completely glazed over. Pete studies him closely.

KRISTA

You guys this is like six grand a bottle, so you can thank my rich alcoholic parents. Cheers!

Everyone raises their shot glasses and shouts. CLINK.

PETE

(whispering to Will)

You have got to be kidding...you're high, aren't you?

WILL

Dude, I don't wanna talk about it right now.

Krista stumbles over to Will with a shot, and hands it to him.

KRISTA

Throw it back!

Will tosses the shot back and smiles at Krista. She stumbles onward.

PETE

When did you tell your mom you'd be home?

WILL

(laughing)

Pete, I feel amazing!

PETE
I'm going to find Luke before we
both get grounded.

WILL
Yeah, sorry man.

Will stares at the bottle of vodka on the coffee table.

INT. MCGREGOR/ALLEN HOUSE - FRONT ENTRYWAY - MORNING

Lily and Will sit on the bottom of the staircase, backpacks ready, staring at the door. Will is dressed in clothes for volleyball practice. Lily is wearing her KISS T-shirt and jeans. Cindy walks past the kids and stops in front of them.

CINDY
Lily, I really don't like that
shirt.

LILY
It's Dad's.

CINDY
You pack everything for the
weekend? Your brother's inhaler?
Benadryl? Church clothes? Make sure
you guys make it to church!

LILY
Yeah, I got it.

LILY (SOTTO) (CONT'D)
At least Dad will understand me.

CINDY
And your brother has practice
tonight at five.

LILY
I know Mom, you told me already.

CINDY
Okay.
(beat)
Looks like he is late again.

WILL
It's fine, Mom. Dad is really busy.

Cindy walks away.

Max runs over to Lily and Will to try and get their attention, but they are in the dumps. Max starts shimmying and shaking his butt in front of the staircase. Lily and Will crack a smile. Will pulls out his PHONE and plays his RINGTONE, "MONEY MAKER". Max starts breaking it down as they are quietly cry-laughing.

Cindy turns the corner, outraged by the rap music.

CINDY

What is this? Uh, turn it off! I don't want you guys listening to this stuff.

LILY

Max loves it.

CINDY

OFF.

Will turns his phone off quickly. Lily pops her head up to the front window.

LILY

Dad's here!

Lily and Will charge out the door, as fast as they can.

INT. TIM MCGREGOR'S CAR - LATE MORNING

Will is beaming in the front seat next to TIM MCGREGOR (45). Lily is sitting in the back middle seat, gripping her backpack. Tim is your standard dad in jorts and a polo; never seems to have a care in the world.

WILL

Dad, I made the volleyball team!

TIM

Volleyball?!

WILL

Yeah. It's actually pretty sweet.

TIM

Hmm.

LILY

Will has practice tonight at five. Mom wanted me to remind you.

TIM
Sure, Lil. Don't worry, Little
Cindy.

LILY
(uncomfortably laughing)
Mom hates when I wear your old KISS
shirt. But I still wear it.

TIM
Oh yeah? Ha.

Lily fixes her T-shirt. The car pulls up to an old run down
Victorian house. Will turns back at Lily, full of confusion.

LILY
Where are we, Dad?

TIM
Home. Oh, that's right you guys
haven't seen it yet.

The dog, Maggie, runs past the car, with a dead mouse in her
mouth. Tim gets out of the car to greet her.

TIM (CONT'D)
You find that in the basement,
Mags?

EXT. TIM MCGREGOR'S HOUSE - 11 A.M.

Lily and Will hesitate at the front door of the new house. A
ROOF SHINGLE falls down onto an OVERGROWN BUSH.

LILY (V.O.)
My dad does this at least once a
year. My step-mom, Donna, is a
realtor. They buy rotting old
houses and live in them; while they
transform into something Martha
Stewart would live in.
(beat)
Unfortunately, they sell them as
soon as that happens.

WILL
It looks cool, Dad.

TIM
Yeah. You kids are going to love
it. Go on inside and put something
on TV. I'll be back; I have to run
some errands for Donna.

INT. TIM MCGREGOR'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NOON

Lily is sitting on the end of the couch, unsure how to take in the crack house of a living room. Will leaps onto the couch, embracing the dusty interior.

WILL

This is pretty great, huh Lil? They kept their old couch. This couch is the best for naps.

Will flips the TV ON.

LILY

My room is a kitchen.

WILL

Aw, don't worry, Dad said he was going to move that old sink out of there.

LILY

You like YOUR room? The basement?! I can see your room through the holes in the kitchen floor.

WILL

It's going to look so cool when they finish it down there. Plus, that's cool you can pass me snacks from upstairs.

LILY

The tiles on the bathroom floor came up with my foot when I stepped on them.

WILL

If I put on the Disney Channel, will you calm down?

LILY

Mermaid movie, channel 64.

INT. TIM MCGREGOR'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - 4:30 P.M.

Lily and Will's eyes are zoned out, looking at the TV.

INT. TIM MCGREGOR'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Lily walks into the kitchen and pulls a box of crackers from the cabinet.

LILY
Dad isn't back yet. I'm so hungry.
You think Donna would be mad if I
ate these crackers?

WILL (O.S.)
She might eat you.

Lily puts the crackers back and glances at the stove clock.
It reads "4:35".

LILY
Will, it's past four-thirty!

Will runs into the kitchen.

WILL
Really? Oh, I'm sure Dad will be
back any minute then. He knows I
have practice.

INT. TIM MCGREGOR'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - 7 P.M.

Lily and Will stare at each other from across the kitchen
table. Most of the lights are off in the house. DONNA enters
the kitchen, carrying a bunch of paperwork.

DONNA
Your dad is on his way with pizza.

WILL
Cool. Where's Ryan?

DONNA
Boarding school started. Me and
your dad dropped him off last
weekend up there. Stayed to see his
first game.

WILL
Oh.

LILY (V.O.)
If there was ever a fist fight
between Donna and my dad; I'd put
my money on Donna.

Tim enters the kitchen, carrying a pizza and hardware
shopping bags.

TIM
Kids, if you're hungry, I got a
pizza.

Will rushes over to the pizza. Lily sits at the table, nervously twitching her fingers.

TIM (CONT'D)

You don't like pizza now, Lil?
There is pop in the fridge. Did I
mention, it's MOUNTAIN DEW?

LILY

Oh, sorry. I just, I realized we
never made it to Will's practice.

TIM

Oh shoot. Sorry Will. Your mom
talked you into doing that anyway,
right?

WILL

Ha. Oh. Yeah, she always does that
crap.

Lily stares at Will across the kitchen.

LILY

Will is really good, actually.

TIM

Oh yeah. I'm sure he is, sweetie.

INT. TIM MCGREGOR'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Tim and Donna are sitting on the couch in their pajamas drinking coffee and watching a home improvement show. Lily walks up behind the couch, wearing a sundress. She waits until her dad notices her.

TIM

Oh Lily, all dressed up huh? There
is coffee cake in the kitchen.

LILY

Oh cool.

Lily fidgets behind the couch. She tries breathing heavily, so her dad realizes she is still there. Tim turns back around to look at her.

TIM

What do you need, Hun?

Lily kicks her foot on the rug, and looks down at the floor.

LILY
Me? Nothing. I was just, well mom
said we have to go to church so...

Tim stretches his arms back and yawns. Donna glares at Tim.

TIM
You know honey, I am feeling really
tired today. But we will try and
figure something out. Go get
yourself some coffee cake, you
little worrier.

INT. TIM MCGREGOR'S HOUSE - LILY'S ROOM - NOON

Lily is sitting on her bed in the fetal position, on the look
out for spiders.

LILY (SOTTO)
Mom is going to freak out at me.

Will steps into Lily's room. He is wearing his khaki dress
pants and a button up.

WILL
So, we going to church?

LILY
I doubt it.

WILL
Mom won't be too mad, Lily.

LILY
At YOU.

WILL
Well, I just spilled coffee on my
church pants. Maybe mom will focus
on that, and forget all the other
stuff?

Lily won't look up at Will. Will squats down and let's a fart
rip. Lily jolts up and smirks at Will, trying not to laugh.

LILY
Gross! Not in my room.

WILL
I'm just exterminating the spiders.

Lily gut laughs. Will hikes up his pants and starts STOMPING
around the room.

WILL (CONT'D)

Yes Ma'am, I ain't never seen a spider last through my gassing. You are save now.

LILY

Are the fumes save for people, Sir?

WILL

Sure, little missy! Just don't lite a match within fifty feet of the gassed area.

They both start laughing.

TIM (O.S.)

Hey guys, can you keep it down up there?!

Lily and Will instantly go mute.

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

Thank you!

Angry murmurs of Donna sound from downstairs.

INT. TIM MCGREGOR'S CAR - EVENING

Tim is driving Will and Lily back home. The car is silent.

TIM

So, you guys have a fun weekend?

LILY

Oh, yeah.

WILL

The new house is great.

Beat.

TIM

Better than hanging out with your mom on the weekends, I'm sure. Ha.

WILL

Yeah, mom can be crazy.

LILY

She bought me men's school pants...

TIM
Sounds like your mom. What's the
reason for that?

LILY
She thought the girl pants were too
tight. I don't know.

Tim pulls up on the curb in front of the house.

TIM
I'm sorry you guys have to deal
with that, not much I can do. Well,
glad you guys had fun this weekend.

EXT. MCGREGOR/ALLEN HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - EVENING

Tim is standing behind Lily and Will, as they ring the doorbell. Cindy opens the door and Max rushes to greet them. He runs right into Lily's arms. The hug was just what she needed; she looks like a nervous wreck.

CINDY
Hello, Tim.

TIM
Well guys, guess I'll see you next
weekend.

CINDY
It's the following weekend, Tim.

TIM
Yeah, thanks Cindy.

Tim hugs Lily and Will.

TIM (CONT'D)
Love you guys.

WILL
Yep.

LILY
Love you too, Dad.

Tim walks off the porch, down the driveway. Lily and Will watch him drive away.

INT. MCGREGOR/ALLEN HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Will is scouting out the fridge. Lily is looking in the cabinets.

CINDY

Why are you guys so hungry? Didn't your father make sure you had dinner?

LILY

Not really.

CINDY

Not really? Did you guys make it to church? Will, what is on your pants?!

WILL

Oh, that? Coffee.

CINDY

Lily, did you get to church?

Lily nervously looks through the cabinet.

CINDY (CONT'D)

Lily?!

LILY

We really tried.

CINDY

You didn't make it again? Great! Uh, let me get you guys some leftovers.

Cindy starts heating up plates in the microwave.

CINDY (CONT'D)

Oh Will, how did practice go?

WILL

Great.

CINDY

Yeah? Good. Lily did you watch?

Will pleads at Lily.

LILY

No.

CINDY
Where were you?

LILY
With Donna...

CINDY
Donna? Doing what?

LILY
I am tired.

Lily gets up from the table.

CINDY
Lily!

LILY
What?

CINDY
What did you do!?

Lily starts tearing up.

LILY
We went to the store, okay? Gosh,
can you stop it?! You always yell
at me for no reason when I come
back from Dad's.

Lily storms out of the kitchen and Cindy follows her with her
eyes. She sighs.

ACT THREE

INT. MCGREGOR/ALLEN HOUSE - KITCHEN - 6 A.M.

Cindy turns the corner with Max, to find Will is already
sitting at the table.

CINDY
Will? Up already?

Will is disconnected, staring out the window.

CINDY (CONT'D)
Will?!

Will jerks towards Cindy.

WILL
What?!

CINDY
Hey, no need to be a grouch.

Lily death marches over to the table next to Will, in her big pants.

WILL
I'm not hungry, Mom.

Cindy places her famous pancakes in front of both of them.
Max turns on his MUSIC, and starts his morning dance routine.

CINDY
You're not leaving without eating something.

WILL
Uh! This is crap!

LILY
(to Will)
What's the trouble, exterminator?

WILL
Shut up!

CINDY
Hey!

Max runs over and gives Will his favorite stuffed animal.
Lily looks at Will; hurt.

INT. WILL'S SCHOOL BUS - MORNING

Will steps on his bus and sits next to Pete. Pete is still upset with him. Will is drunk; just trying to focus on not getting caught.

WILL
Pete!
(beat)
Pete, I need to tell you something.

PETE
What, Will!?

WILL
I'm drunk right now.

PETE
Why the hell did you do that?

WILL
I'm just having some fun, okay?

Big Ben passes Will and slaps him on the shoulder.

BIG BEN
Gregor in the house!

PETE
Josh said Coach was pissed you missed practice.

WILL
Yeah, my dad took me to this auto show, so I couldn't make it. He already bought the tickets.

PETE
Nice! How was it?

WILL
It was awesome.

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - LUNCH ROOM - NOON

Lily sits at a lunch table alone. She looks over to see Hannah, eating with Grant. Hannah waves over at Lily and shrugs her shoulders. Tanya and her clique stop in front of Lily's table.

TANYA
We all know you like Grant.

LILY
What? I never said that.

TANYA
He did. He could tell you liked him.

The girls laugh.

LILY
I think you like him, Tanya.

TANYA
Maybe Grant wants to sit over here and have lunch with you? I'll ask him.

Tanya yells across the lunch room:

TANYA (CONT'D)
Hey Grant! Lily wants you to sit by
her! You guys can have a real date!

The lunch room freezes for a moment, and then BURSTS into
LAUGHTER. Lily's face turns red, as she fights back some
tears.

LILY (V.O.)
Boy bullies punch you in the face,
but girl bullies...poop on your
soul.

INT. MCGREGOR/ALLEN HOUSE - KITCHEN - 3:30 P.M.

Lily is sitting up against the wall on the kitchen floor,
feeding Max pretzels. Will walks through the door from the
bus; hung-over.

Cindy is interviewing a sassy woman, JESSICA, at the table.

CINDY
So have you been an aid for special
needs kids before?

JESSICA
Don't worry my sister has kids and
they special all right.

Cindy tries to laugh, but can't quite get it out.

CINDY
Right. Do you have first aid
experience? Max tends to choke on
food and he may vomit at times.

JESSICA
I don't do puke.

CINDY
Well, he isn't potty trained fully
yet. Is that an issue with you?

JESSICA
I don't touch poop. I'll take the
job, but there are things I just
won't do. But he need a lunch...I
give it to him.

CINDY
Well, thanks for stopping by. I
will be getting back to you soon.

Cindy leads Jessica towards the front door.

Cindy enters back into the kitchen.

CINDY (CONT'D)

Well, that was terrible. The people they send me for aids are ridiculous. The school won't provide an aid anymore; I'll find my own! He was supposed to start school today and they won't let him attend the program.

Will is stuffing his faces with cookies.

CINDY (CONT'D)

Two cookies, Will! Your coach called today. He left a message saying he wanted to talk to me. Any idea why?

WILL

How should I know?

CINDY

Okay. Lily pack up Max's car bag. We are ALL going to his new speech therapist.

LILY

I have homework.

CINDY

Bring it with; you can do it in the car. I've heard great things about this lady. I've been waiting for months to get a time slot.

INT. MCGREGOR MINI VAN - 4 P.M.

Will is in the front seat and Lily is in the back, next to Max. Max is dancing in his car seat, to the same WIGGLES SONG on REPEAT, "BIG RED CAR". He is waving his hands in the air, smiling and GROANING with excitement. Lily is holding her hands over her ears, with a math book in her lap.

LILY

I can't focus with Greg Wiggle singing about his car, Mom!

CINDY

I know honey, but Max will scream
if I turn it off. I can help you
with your homework in their lobby.

MUSIC

"THE ROAD WE TRAVEL IS A BUMPY
RIDE. YOU KNOW THERE'S NOT A LOT OF
ROOM INSIDE, AS WE SING OUR SONG!"

WILL

Please God, take me now.

CINDY

Will, your attitude!

INT. SPEECH THERAPIST LOBBY - 4:30 P.M.

Lily is trying to read over her math book, while Will builds
Legos with Max in the corner. The THERAPIST steps into the
lobby. She looks like she would rather be anywhere, but where
she is.

The RECEPTIONIST motions the therapist over to the desk.

RECEPTIONIST

An Adam called for you. Said he had
to change dinner to five-thirty.
Ow, ow! Who's the guy?

THERAPIST

Crap, I thought we agreed six-
thirty. I scheduled another
session.

The receptionist points to Max. The therapist turns around,
reluctant.

THERAPIST (CONT'D)

Max?

CINDY

We're here! Great to finally meet
you. It's so hard to find a GOOD
therapist. I was told you are well
worth the wait.

The woman looks over at Max with pure disgust, as he chews on
his chewy tube. Drool dripping down his chin.

THERAPIST

Oh, he has one of those. Great.
Well, on the first few sessions
it's easier if the parents come in
with me, to work with the child.
So, come on back.

CINDY

Oh, of course. Lily, You can come
too. I will help you with your
math.

Lily and Cindy follow the therapist with Max, into the hall.

INT. SPEECH THERAPIST ROOM - SAME TIME

Lily is sitting in a chair off to the side with her mom, as
the therapist settles down next to Max. The therapist is
keeping her distance from him. She grabs an alphabet puzzle
and points to the letter "A".

THERAPIST

A. Max, can you say A?

Max smiles and waves at Lily doing her homework.

THERAPIST (CONT'D)

I need you to focus, Max! Sound it
out, Ahhh.

(beat)

Okay, maybe we should warm you up
first.

The therapist puts on rubber gloves and starts rubbing Max's
gum line with her pointer finger. She leans in closer to him.
She notices drool on her glove and becomes annoyed.

CINDY

Just to let you know he is
sensitive to smells. If you have
any strong perfumes on; he might
gag.

THERAPIST

Thanks.

(beat)

Wow, he is totally resisting my
prompts. His control is really bad;
low muscle tone.

CINDY

That's why he's here.

THERAPIST

I mean, his case might be too extreme for me. I generally only handle mild cases.

TAG

INT. SPEECH THERAPIST ROOM - 5 P.M.

Will steps into the room, to interrupt the awkward tension between Cindy and the therapist.

WILL

We leaving yet?

CINDY

Just finishing up, Will.

Therapist is discreetly texting on her phone.

THERAPIST

I could recommend someone else for you.

CINDY

Thanks, but you are the fourth recommendation I've received.

THERAPIST

Again, I am sorry to cut this short. He just isn't the right fit for our staff.

CINDY

Funny, when I filled out his paperwork, no one seemed to think your facility couldn't handle his needs.

THERAPIST

Our front desk isn't equipped to make that call. The first meeting is like a consultation.

Max gets a whiff of the therapist's perfume, and starts to gag.

WILL

Aw, buddy. It's okay!

Max turns and vomits on the therapist's high heels. She glares at Cindy. She tries wiggling out of her shoes and hits the floor, landing in the vomit pile.

CINDY
Awfully sorry. Thanks for your
time. Let's go, guys.

WILL
Pleasure meeting you.

Cindy drags Will away from flirting with the therapist.

EXT. SPEECH THERAPIST - 5:30 P.M.

All four of them walk out of the therapist's office like it's
the end of "THE BREAKFAST CLUB".

INT. MCGREGOR MINI VAN - SAME TIME

Everyone is laughing. Will gives Max a high-five.

WILL
Barf game strong, buddy!

CINDY
That woman was a piece of work.

MAX
Yeah!

LILY
You tell em, Max!

Will turns around in his seat to look at Max. Grinning. He
pushes the stereo button on.

WILL
Max, I think I know a song perfect
for car dancing. It's called, "Big
Red Car". You know it?

MAX
Yeah!

Will turns the volume up and the song starts. Will sings
along with the CD:

WILL
"Toot, toot, chugga, chugga. Big
red car. We travel near and we
travel far. Toot, toot, chugga,
chugga. Big red car. We're gunna
ride the whole day long."

Will points to Lily.

WILL (CONT'D)

Now, Lily's in the backseat,
playing her guitar. Lily's in the
backseat.

LILY

(singing)

"Of the big red car!"

Lily plays air guitar. She smiles at Max. He smiles back.

FADE OUT.