

The Question

written by

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INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

A crowded hallway lined with lockers on both sides. Students moving quickly carrying stacks of textbooks.

ALEX REYNOLDS (15), a slim rebellious freshman dressed in skater brands of clothing. In his hands he holds a bouquet of a dozen pink roses and a Valentines day card in an envelope that says Meagan. He walks directly to a locker opens it and places the roses and card inside the locker. He closes the locker. CLANG. He quickly walks to an exit at the end of the same hall opens a large door with a push to open handle and exits the school.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

The sun is shining down on the school parking lot. There are vehicles arriving, parking, and already parked but none leaving. Alex walks to a small Jeep opens the passenger door gets in.

INT. JEEP - CONTINUOUS

Alex closes the door THUNK after climbing into the jeep. TYLER COLEMAN (17), an athletic junior has been impatiently waiting in the drivers seat. He starts the jeep and backs out of the parking spot.

TYLER COLEMAN

About time, bro.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Sorry. Let's just get out of here.

The jeep approaches a small guard shack at the parking lot's exit.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Where do you guys think your going?

TYLER COLEMAN

My friend forgot something he needs for class today we are just going to get it and come back.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Okay.

The resource officer shrugged his shoulders as he returned to the shack and opened the gate.

The Jeep windows roll up and it drives out the parking lot.

EXT. HIGHWAY 90 - MOMENTS LATER

The small Jeep flies down the HWY loud music can be heard coming from inside. The HWY has small town rush hour traffic.

The sun is shining brightly

a blinking caution light hanging above a 4 way intersection in the distance.

Loud music.

ALEX and TYLER shout over it.

ALEX REYNOLDS
Man I can't believe that worked.

TYLER COLEMAN
Yeah, I do it all the time.

The sun shines and glares excessively on the JEEP windshield blinding TYLER and ALEX.

They reach the intersection where the caution lights hang.

When they glare is gone they both shout.

ALEX REYNOLDS
OH SHIT!

TYLER slams on the brakes.

The jeep collides with a stopped vehicle.

TYLER'S airbag deploys.

ALEX slams into the window shield.

CRACK!

The glass goes from clear to a whiter color.

The windshield spiderwebs and nearly shatters.

ALEX flies backward into his seat unconscious after nearly being ejected.

Silence.

TYLER COLEMAN
Get out your bleeding all over my jeep!

ALEX wakes.

He gets out of the Jeep.

His face is cut and pouring blood.

He stumbles around the clearing near the jeep.

He holds his arm and broken wrist in front of his chest.

TYLER COLEMAN (CONT'D)
Never mind the Jeeps totaled.

Traffic continues past the scene of the accident including school buses and some of their classmates see them.

An ambulance arrives and rush to ALEX.

They strap him down and carry him into the ambulance.

INT. AMBULANCE - CONTINUOUS

ALEX REYNOLDS
What's happening, where are we going?

PARAMEDIC
We're taking you to the hospital.
You've been in an accident and you're in shock. Everything's going to be OK.

ALEX REYNOLDS
OK.

The Paramedics perform diagnostics and assess the seriousness of ALEX's injuries on the way to the ER.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY

A small well lit room in the back of the ER. There is an empty bed with clean linen. A pile of blood stained clothing and shoes sit stacked on a chair.

GRANDMA (50's), enters the room a look of horror crosses her face when she sees the blood covered clothes.

NURSE (20's) enters

NURSE
Ma'am he's lost a lot of blood.
He's gone into emergency surgery right now.

(MORE)

NURSE (CONT'D)

If you want to have a seat and wait
here the doctor will come speak
with you after surgery.

GRANDMA sits down in a seat next to the clothing recognizes
that ALEX's shoes are ruined they have so much blood on them.

GRANDMA

OK I'll wait.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - LATER

GRANDMA is still waiting in the chair.

DOCTOR (40's), enters in a white coat holding a clipboard

DOCTOR

Ms. Reynolds?

GRANDMA

Yes.

DOCTOR

The surgery was successful. Alex is
in the intensive care unit. We have
him medicated so he's not in any
pain.

GRANDMA

When can I see him?

DOCTOR

Now if you'd like.

INT. INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - NIGHT

Alex is on a hospital bed inside of a small cubicle like ICU
room. Several tubes and wires connecting him to medical
equipment are attached to him. A heart monitor is beeping
BEEP...BEEP...BEEP.

Grandma is sitting at Alex's bedside.

Alex opens his eyes

ALEX REYNOLDS

Wherr am I?

GRANDMA

Your in the ICU at the hospital.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Am am I going to be alright?

GRANDMA

You hit your head really hard. The doctors don't know the extent of the damage yet but your going to live.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Wheres Tyler?

GRANDMA

He is fine he didn't get hurt.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Oh. I'm hurting!

GRANDMA

I'll get a nurse

GRANDMA uses a remote control style device to page a nurse.

NURSE

What do you need?

ALEX REYNOLDS

I am hurting so bad.

NURSE

I can give you something for that. The doctor has ordered you demerol.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Ok

The nurse leaves and comes back moments later with a syringe that she injects into Alex's IV.

NURSE

You should feel better in just a few seconds sweetie.

Alex's body noticeably relaxes and he falls asleep.

INT. INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - AFTERNOON

A nurse enters the room. GRANDMA is no longer there.

NURSE

You have a visitor, do you want to see her.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Yeah

The nurse exits and moments later Meagan (15), enters the ICU room.

MEAGAN GREER

Hi.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Hi.

MEAGAN GREER

I loved the flowers you left me
thank you so much.

ALEX REYNOLDS

You're welcome.

MEAGAN GREER

I hope you feel better soon. I just
wanted to come and let you know I
am thinking of you I can't stay
though my mom says I have to go.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Thank you for coming. I love you.

MEAGAN GREER

I love you too.

MEAGAN leans down and kisses ALEX'S cheek then exits the ICU.
Alex uses his device to call a nurse.

NURSE

How can I help you?

ALEX REYNOLDS

I am hurting so much.

NURSE

I'll go get you another injection
of demerol.

The nurse exits and returns moments later with a syringe and
vial she draws the medicine up into the syringe out of the
vial and then injects it into ALEX'S IV.

ALEX REYNOLDS

I feel better now.

NURSE

That's good let me know if you need
anything else.

The nurse exits and leaves.

INT. INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - DAY

A nurse enters the room holding an envelope with a huge red stamp on it that says "JAIL MAIL" she lays it on a table near ALEX'S bed.

NURSE

You've got some mail sweetheart.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Thank you.

ALEX reaches over and picks up the envelope and sees the big stamp he frowns noticeably and pulls the piece of paper out of the white envelope.

DAD

Dear son, I heard about your accident. I hope you're OK. I am so worried. I have been reading my bible a lot and you should too. I wish I could be there with you and take the pain you're in for you but I can't. Write me back when you can and let me know what happened. Your in my prayers. Love, your Dad.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Can I have my pain medicine now?

NURSE

Sure honey.

The nurse gives him another IV injection.

Relief spreads across the expression on his face removing the frown caused by the letter.

He puts the letter back in the envelope and stares at the JAIL MAIL stamp.

INT. INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - MONTAGE

A physical therapist gets ALEX out of bed and helps him take his first steps since the accident.

A NURSE injects his IV with demerol

The PT Continues with little progress

A NURSE injects his IV with demerol

The PT Continues with slight progress

A NURSE injects his IV with demerol.

The PT makes major progress

The doctor discharges ALEX

A brief shot of the ride home with his GRANDMA.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - ALEX'S BEDROOM - DAY

The bedroom has a small twin size bed a PC on a desk and a small weight bench. The bed has pillows on it but is not made the door to his room is open and

Alex is sitting on his weight bench looking at himself in the mirror for the first time.

His GRANDMA walks to his open door shes holding a pill bottle and he snaps out of his fixation with his face.

GRANDMA

Alex we need to talk about something.

ALEX REYNOLDS

What's up?

GRANDMA

I hope you don't get upset but the school board is not going to allow you back into school yet. They say your presence could be disruptive so they are going to put you in a homeschool program for a while and see how your doing in a few months.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Really? I won't be able to see my girlfriend though!

GRANDMA

Yeah I know that's going to be hard but you can still see her outside of school and talk to her on the phone. There not giving you a choice anyway.

ALEX REYNOLDS

OK is that all?

GRANDMA

1 more thing. I just picked up your pain medicine It's an oxycodone that's a really strong medicine.

ALEX REYNOLDS

I need one of those now.

GRANDMA

Ok

GRANDMA opens the bottle and gets a pill out and hands it to ALEX who then puts it in his mouth and washes it down with a drink from a nearby glass of water on his desk. GRANDMA walks away from the door into another room. ALEX picks up a cordless phone and dials TYLER COLEMAN'S number and puts the phone to his ear. The phone audibly rings. TYLER answers.

TYLER COLEMAN

Hello?

ALEX REYNOLDS

Hey, man!

TYLER COLEMAN

Alex!? I'm so glad you're alright. I'm really sorry about everything that happened.

ALEX REYNOLDS

It's OK. I am not mad. I heard you weren't hurt.

TYLER COLEMAN

Nah. I came out fine man. It was the sun that caused it. I was blinded and couldn't see anything by the time I regained my vision it was too late.

ALEX REYNOLDS

My wrist is broke and I have stitches in my hand and lip. Face is cut up some on the forehead and around the eyes. I got lucky I guess.

TYLER COLEMAN

Yeah man you really are. I totaled the jeep. I'll send you the wreckage photos. from the insurance company on messenger. You almost got thrown out onto the highway.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Well the good news is I don't have to go to school anymore. They're putting me in a home school program.

TYLER COLEMAN

Woah that's pretty cool.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Yeah, I mean I really hate school except for seeing my girlfriend.

TYLER COLEMAN

Alright man I'm going to send those pictures over in a minute. Is it ok if I come by to see you tonight?

ALEX REYNOLDS

Yeah sure.

TYLER COLEMAN

Alright cool. I'll see you later bro.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Later.

Alex hangs up the phone and puts it back on the charger base beside his PC.

Alex sits down in his office chair in front of his computer.

Alex clicks with the mouse a few times and brings up an instant messaging window. He opens a slideshow of photos.

COMPUTER SCREEN:

Photos show the damage to the jeep including the part he did with his head alone pushing the passenger side window three quarters of the way out.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Hey granny come here for a second!

Grandma comes into the room quickly.

GRANDMA

What is it? Are you OK?

ALEX REYNOLDS

Yeah I'm good. I want you to see the wreck photos TYLER just sent me.

Alex points to the slideshow that is pulled up on his monitor. Grandmas jaw drops.

GRANDMA

Oh my goodness that is awful I can't believe that happened to you!

ALEX REYNOLDS

Yeah I know. Well I'm tired I'm going to take a nap.

ALEX climbs into his bed somewhat noticeably altered by the pain medicine and scratching his nose. GRANDMA continues looking at the photos as ALEX drifts off to sleep.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - ALEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

Alex wakes up to the sound of knocking on the door.

He reluctantly gets out of the bed and quickly walks to the living room to open it.

TYLER is standing there waiting on the front porch.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Come in.

ALEX leads TYLER straight into his bedroom and they closes the door behind them.

TYLER COLEMAN

You look rough man.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Yeah I know. I feel rough too.

TYLER COLEMAN

Can you get any money?

ALEX REYNOLDS

Yeah I can get twenty bucks from my grandma why?

TYLER COLEMAN

I can get you something to help you feel better.

ALEX REYNOLDS

OK.

ALEX disappears outside his room for a few moments and then returns with \$20 clutched in his left hand that's not in a cast.

ALEX REYNOLDS (CONT'D)

I got it.

TYLER COLEMAN

Cool let's go.

ALEX and TYLER exit the house and walk to a small red truck sitting in the driveway.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Nice! You didn't tell me you got another vehicle.

TYLER COLEMAN

Yeah it's just an old truck that my family already owns.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Oh cool.

INT. SMALL TRUCK - NIGHT

The two seater truck has a tan cloth interior and a manual transmission stick shift between the driver and passenger seat.

ALEX fastens his seatbelt as the truck's ignition brings the quiet motor to life.

ALEX REYNOLDS

So where are we going?

TYLER COLEMAN

We're just going a few blocks away to see my dude?

The truck pulls into a cul de sac and parks.

DARYL BRYANT (20s), stands leaning against a shining red firebird.

Gangster rap is blaring out of it and subwoofers booming.

TYLER and ALEX exit the truck.

EXT. DARYL BRYANT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

DARYL BRYANT
What's up what's up? Who you got
with you there Tyler?

TYLER COLEMAN
This is my friend Alex.

ALEX REYNOLDS
Hey man.

DARYL BRYANT
Oh my gosh. Alex Reynolds long time
no see homey.

ALEX REYNOLDS
Yeah it's been a while.

TYLER COLEMAN
Wait a second do you two know each
other?

ALEX REYNOLDS
Yeah he was my neighbor years ago.

DARYL BRYANT
Sho Was. What can I do for you?

TYLER COLEMAN
That's funny I never thought you
would know each other. I just need
a dub bro.

DARYL BRYANT
I got you man.

DARYL produces a small baggie of marijuana and hands it to
TYLER. ALEX then hands DARYL the money.

TYLER COLEMAN
Thanks man.

DARYL BRYANT
No problem. Hey Alex it was good
seeing you. Let me give you my
number and hit me up sometime.

DARYL gets a pen out of his firebird

Daryl writes down his number on a rolling paper and hands it
to ALEX.

ALEX REYNOLDS
I'll be sure too!

DARYL BRYANT
Alright you two be careful. Peace.

TYLER COLEMAN
Later man.

INT. TYLER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

TYLER and ALEX enter a living area through a sliding glass
ALEX closes it behind him. The floor is carpeted there's a
floor mounted box shaped big screen TV in front of a couch
and a recliner off to the side of the couch.

TYLER COLEMAN
Make yourself at home bro my
parents are out of town for a few
days.

ALEX REYNOLDS
Sweet man.

TYLER walks into another room and comes right back smiling
and holding a baggie containing a half ounce of marijuana.

TYLER COLEMAN
I went back to where I crashed the
jeep and found the weed I hid in
the bushes.

ALEX starts laughing.

ALEX REYNOLDS
Are you for real?

TYLER COLEMAN
Yeah. You can play video games or
watch TV I'm going to be a few
minutes.

ALEX grabs a remote and turns on the TV then turns on the
game console and begins playing a street racing game.

TYLER is rushing around grabbing odd supplies including a
milk jug full of water, a pocket knife, a lunchbox style
cooler. ALEX loses a race.

ALEX REYNOLDS
Damn it!

ALEX cocks his head to the side and looks at TYLER.

TYLER is pouring the water in the cooler and then begins cutting the bottom third of the jug

ALEX REYNOLDS (CONT'D)
What the hell are you doing?

TYLER COLEMAN
Hold on you'll see in a minute.

ALEX resumes playing the racing game. TYLER grabs a roll of aluminum foil CRINKLE RIP he unrolls a piece and tears it off and starts folding it around where the lid of the milk jug should be.

TYLER COLEMAN (CONT'D)
Almost done.

Tyler is inserting a straw into a hole on the side of the jug.

He grabs a bud out of his baggie and breaks it up and sprinkles it in the aluminum foil bowl.

TYLER Sparks a lighter and ignites the bud filling the jug with smoke then pushing it down in the water to force the smoke into his lungs.

ALEX REYNOLDS
Oh my God that's a big hit.

TYLER COLEMAN
Come over here I'll show you what to do.

ALEX gets off the couch and joins TYLER on the other side of the room by the newly created contraption.

TYLER COLEMAN (CONT'D)
This is called a gravity bong.
Watch how I use it.

ALEX watches intently as TYLER fires up the bong then exhaling a large amount of smoke and having a coughing fit.

TYLER COLEMAN (CONT'D)
Now you try it.

TYLER lights the bowl and ALEX hits it and starts coughing.

BEGIN MONTAGE

A short montage of smoking and reloading the bowl takes place.

ALEX goes into more of a stupor even mistakenly putting his mouth on the lit marijuana instead of the straw the montage

ALEX falls asleep in a stupor in a smoke filled room.

END MONTAGE

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - DAY

ALEX climbs out of TYLER'S pickup truck and waves and turns his back to it as it pulls out.

ALEX walks to his front porch opens a glass storm door and then the front door itself.

Grandma is sitting on the couch in the living room when he enters.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Good morning

GRANDMA

Good morning. Where have you been?

ALEX REYNOLDS

I stayed the night at TYLERS.

GRANDMA

You should have called me I was worried.

ALEX REYNOLDS

I'm sorry.

GRANDMA

Do you want me to make breakfast?

ALEX REYNOLDS

Yeah I need my pain medicine too.

GRANDMA

I don't know how you take that stuff. I took someone time and it made me feel so funny I never took it again.

ALEX REYNOLDS

It makes me feel better it doesn't bother me.

GRANDMA

Well I'll bring some with your breakfast.

GRANDMA heads into the kitchen

ALEX goes into his room and sits at his computer.

He picks up the cordless phone and dials MEAGAN'S number then puts the phone to his ear.

RING....RING....RING....RING

MEAGAN GREER

Hello?

ALEX REYNOLDS

Good morning beautiful.

MEAGAN GREER

Aww Hey sweetheart. How are you feeling?

ALEX REYNOLDS

Better now that I hear your voice.

MEAGAN GREER

You're so sweet. My mom said when you got home she would take us to see a movie. Do you feel up to it?

ALEX REYNOLDS

Of course!

MEAGAN GREER

Alright we will come pick you up around 1.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Cool. See you then love you.

MEAGAN GREER

Love you too bye.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Bye

ALEX pushes the end button and places the phone back on the charger beside his computer monitor.

He uses his mouse to open a fantasy MMORPG. He's grinding his broadsword wielding character up to another level by battling monsters.

GRANDMA reappears behind him holding a plate of eggs and toast and a glass of orange juice.

GRANDMA
Breakfast is done.

ALEX accepts the food and drink and begins consuming it while sitting at his computer.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)
Who were you talking to?

ALEX REYNOLDS
MEAGAN

GRANDMA
How is she?

ALEX REYNOLDS
She's good. Her mom is coming to pick me up after lunch to take us to the movies. So I am going to try to not take that pill after all.

GRANDMA
You two better behave.

ALEX REYNOLDS
We will.

ALEX reaches in his pocket and finds the rolling paper with DARYL'S phone number. He places it on his desk by the phone.

ALEX REYNOLDS (CONT'D)
I saw our old neighbor DARYL for a minute last night.

GRANDMA
Where at?

ALEX REYNOLDS
Just ran into him while I was out. He told me to call him so I guess at least i'll have someone to hang with while I am out of school.

GRANDMA
That's good.

ALEX REYNOLDS
Do you have a stamp and envelope? I am going to write to my dad.

GRANDMA
Just give it to me when you're finished and I'll take it to the post office and mail it.

ALEX REYNOLDS

OK

ALEX goes and gets a notebook and pen from somewhere in his closet and then returns to the desk and starts writing while he finishes his breakfast.

GRANDMA leaves the room.

ALEX REYNOLDS (CONT'D)

Dear dad, I got your letter while I was in the hospital. I am home now. I am going to make a full recovery so try not to worry. I love and miss you. ALEX

ALEX tears the paper out of the spiral notebook and takes the letter to his grandma leaving his dirty dishes on his desk.

ALEX REYNOLDS (CONT'D)

Here's the letter for dad. I'm going to take a shower and get ready to see Meagan.

GRANDMA takes the letter from him and ALEX turns and walks away.

EXT. MOVIE THEATER - DAY

ALEX and MEAGAN stand together in line holding hands and waiting to buy their tickets.

MEAGAN GREER

What do you want to see?

ALEX REYNOLDS

There's a new superhero movie out that I think looks good called CHEF JUSTICE.

MEAGAN rolls her eyes

ALEX REYNOLDS (CONT'D)

What?

MEAGAN GREER

I don't want to watch a superhero movie.

ALEX REYNOLDS

OK. You pick then I am happy no matter what as long as I am with you.

MEAGAN smiles as they approach the counter.

MEAGAN GREER
Two tickets please.

INT. MOVIE THEATER - DAY

ALEX and MEAGAN sit in a corner area with not many seats by themselves. They have soft drinks on each side of them.

A projector light shines above them beaming a larger than life image onto the big screen.

ALEX puts his arm around MEAGAN. They look at each other and ALEX moves his face towards MEAGAN and they start to kiss.

EXT. MOVIE THEATER - DAY

ALEX and MEAGAN holding hands outside the theater again.

MEAGAN GREER
Do you want to come back to my place and hang out? We can have a get together with some of our friends from school.

ALEX REYNOLDS
Definitely. Let's do it.

A silver minivan pulls up to the curb in front of the movie theater behind them and blows its horn.

ALEX and MEAGAN turn to look.

MEAGAN GREER
Come on let's go.

They briskly move to the large back door of the van ALEX opens the door for MEAGAN and closes it after he is inside.

INT. MEAGAN'S GARAGE - NIGHT

MEAGAN is sitting with some girls quietly talking while ALEX and a few other boys from school are standing in a circle talking about the accident. ALEX walks over to MEAGAN.

ALEX REYNOLDS
Can we go somewhere private for a minute. There is something I need to tell you in person before I leave.

MEAGAN GREER
We can go to my room.

INT. MEAGAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

ALEX and MEAGAN are sitting on the edge of her full size bed.

ALEX scoots closer and takes MEAGAN'S hand in his while looking her in the eye.

MEAGAN GREER
What's going on ALEX?

ALEX REYNOLDS
The school is not letting me come back for a little while. They say my cuts from the accident will cause a distraction.

MEAGAN GREER
Oh my God! How long?

ALEX REYNOLDS
Not sure. Months at least.

MEAGAN GREER
What will we do? We won't see each other all week anymore.

ALEX REYNOLDS
We will just have to talk on the phone and hopefully your mom will let me visit again like tonight.

MEAGAN GREER
OK. We can make it work.

ALEX REYNOLDS
I know we can.

MEAGAN GREER
You promise?

ALEX REYNOLDS
I promise.

ALEX and MEAGAN hug each other tightly.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - NIGHT

ALEX walk's into his home. GRANDMA is watching the news.

ALEX REYNOLDS

I'm home.

GRANDMA

Did you have fun?

ALEX REYNOLDS

Yeah. Where are my pills. I'm ready for some now.

GRANDMA

They're in the medicine cabinet
I'll get them and bring you a
drink.

ALEX walks past GRANDMA before she rises from the couch and ALEX goes into his room and starts playing the MMORPG on his PC.

Alex is momentarily distracted by DARYL'S number lying beside his phone.

He grabs it and reaches for the phone hesitating before he grabs it then looks at the PC and back at the number and back to the PC and then puts the number down.

Fantasy music pours out of the speakers as he accepts a quest and then begins traveling through the virtual fantasy world.

GRANDMA arrives with a can coke and an oxycodone.

He doesn't notice he's hunched over and immersed in the game.

She taps him on the shoulder.

ALEX REYNOLDS

What? Oh yeah. Thanks

He takes the pill and washes it down with the coke and sits it on his desk.

GRANDMA

I hope you feel better. Let me know
if you need anything else.

ALEX goes back to his game not replying to his GRANDMA who simply walks away.

BEGIN MONTAGE

ALEX battles monsters, and completes quests.

The light of the PC screen being the only light in the room.

END MONTAGE

ALEX gets up from the desk and slowly creeps out of his room into the hallway and down the hallway to GRANDMA'S door

Grandma is snoring.

Alex creeps back down the hallway to the bathroom and searches the medicine cabinet for his oxycodone.

The bottle is mixed in with many other assorted prescriptions in the cabinet.

Alex removes the top and pours a handful of the pills out into his hand consumes one and puts the rest in his pocket.

Closes the bottle back up and places it in medicine cabinet.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - DAY

ALEX climbs out of bed. Moves the mouse on his PC and the screen says 12:00. Picks up the phone and calls DARYL.

RING...RING...RING...

DARYL BRYANT

Hello?

ALEX REYNOLDS

Hey it's ALEX REYNOLDS.

DARYL BRYANT

Hey ALEX I been wondering when I'd hear from you. You need some more?

ALEX REYNOLDS

Yeah. I don't have any money though.

DARYL BRYANT

What do you got?

ALEX REYNOLDS

I have some oxy.

DARYL BRYANT

That's better than cash with me homey. Bring me some and I'll hook you up fat.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Alright I'll be by soon.

DARYL BRYANT

Bet.

Click. ALEX puts the phone back on the charger.

EXT. DARYL BRYANT'S HOUSE - DAY

ALEX walks up the driveway to DARYL'S house.

DARYL sits in his firebird music is playing at a low volume.

ALEX goes to the passenger side of the vehicle and DARYL signals for him to get in and he does.

ALEX raises his cast up to show DARYL.

DARYL BRYANT

Why is your arm in a cast bro?

ALEX REYNOLDS

My wrist is broke.

DARYL BRYANT

I saw that when you were here. I didn't ask you what happened.

ALEX REYNOLDS

I was in a car wreck with TYLER.

DARYL BRYANT

I can't believe he never mentioned that. Well that explains the oxy then.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Yeah I have a prescription.

ALEX reaches into his pocket and pulls out the pills and reveals them in an open palm to DARYL. DARYL eyes the pills takes one in his hand and examines it closely.

Daryl reaches into his console and pulls out a baggie with a half ounce of cannabis showing it to ALEX.

DARYL BRYANT

This look like a good trade?

ALEX REYNOLDS

Yeah it looks good.

DARYL BRYANT

Bet.

ALEX and DARYL exchange drugs. Then DARYL pulls out 4 joints.

DARYL BRYANT (CONT'D)
You down for a smoke session?

ALEX REYNOLDS
Yeah for sure.

DARYL sparks the first joint and hits it then passes it to ALEX who hits it.

DARYL BRYANT
You live far from here?

ALEX REYNOLDS
Nah. Just a couple blocks away.

DARYL BRYANT
Cool. I can't believe it's been so many years since we were neighbors. How's your grandma?

ALEX REYNOLDS
She's well. She is at work right now.

DARYL BRYANT
That's good I'm glad to hear it. Why aren't you in school?

ALEX REYNOLDS
I'm not allowed until I heal from the wreck.

DARYL BRYANT
Oh for real. Well I'm glad you came over.

BEGIN MONTAGE

ALEX and DARYL sit in the car smoking the joints. Laughing and catching up.

END MONTAGE

ALEX REYNOLDS
Ok well I'm gonna head out.

DARYL BRYANT
Peace bro. Hit me up.

ALEX REYNOLDS
I will.

ALEX exits the vehicle closing the door behind him and begins walking back the way he had came.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - DAY

ALEX heads straight through his house to the kitchen. He starts microwaving pizza rolls and eating snack cakes while they are being heated.

He opens a can coke and gets his pizza rolls and heads into his room begins playing his PC game while devouring his food.

The phone starts ringing

ALEX REYNOLDS

Hello?

TYLER COLEMAN

Yo!

ALEX REYNOLDS

What's up?

TYLER COLEMAN

Craven is throwing a hotel party for his birthday tonight! He wanted to know if you wanted to come.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Hell yeah!

TYLER COLEMAN

Cool I'll come pick you up.

ALEX REYNOLDS

I have some bud should I bring it?

TYLER COLEMAN

Nah save it. Everyone there might not be cool.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Got it.

TYLER COLEMAN

See you tonight.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Bye.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

ALEX and TYLER enter a hotel room crowded with high school kids. CRAVEN (17), a high school junior greets them.

CRAVEN BREEDLOVE

ALEX! TYLER! Glad you two could
make it!

ALEX REYNOLDS

Happy birthday Craven!

TYLER COLEMAN

We wouldn't miss it!

CRAVEN BREEDLOVE

Help yourselves guys the booze is
on ice in the bathtub.

ALEX and TYLER go into the bathroom. The tub is packed full of ice and alcohol.

They both grab beers and pop top they head back into the main room and join the party sipping brews.

ALEX REYNOLDS

This is actually the first time I
have ever drank.

CRAVEN BREEDLOVE

Really? You're going to love it.

CRAVEN hands ALEX a bottle of bourbon he is drinking from.

CRAVEN BREEDLOVE (CONT'D)

Try this.

ALEX takes the bottle and takes a drink. Gagging and making a face.

ALEX REYNOLDS

It burns.

TYLER COLEMAN

Come on don't be a bitch turn the
bottle up.

ALEX turns the bottle upside down and takes a huge gulp and chases it with his beer.

TYLER COLEMAN (CONT'D)

That's my boy!

ALEX REYNOLDS

Your turn.

TYLER COLEMAN

Give it here.

ALEX holds the bottle out and TYLER snatches it and takes a huge drink chasing it down with his beer.

CRAVEN BREEDLOVE

TYLER want to trade licks?

TYLER COLEMAN

Let's go!

ALEX and CRAVEN roll up their shirt sleeves and start punching each other as hard as they can.

ALEX parts with them and goes to mingle in the party joining a group of kids sitting at a table by the wall.

HOTEL PARTIER #1

How's it going?

ALEX REYNOLDS

Good! Can I drink with yall?

HOTEL PARTIER #1

Absolutely!

ALEX reaches for the whisky on the table and takes another drink followed by another sip of beer.

HOTEL PARTIER #2

What happened to your arm?

ALEX REYNOLDS

I was in a car wreck. It broke my wrist.

HOTEL PARTIER #2

That sucks. Here take another drink that will make you feel better.

The partier slides ALEX the bottle back after taking a drink herself and he takes another drink.

TYLER and CRAVEN and few more of the guys are still trading licks in the background.

HOTEL PARTIER #1

I haven't seen you at any of CRAVEN'S parties before.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Yeah I'm a freshman this is my first one.

HOTEL PARTIER #1

That's cool. You know there's more alcohol in the tub right?

ALEX REYNOLDS

Yeah. I am going to go get another beer.

ALEX gets up from the table and heads to the bathroom and starts stumbling trying to get through the crowd.

A partier is in the bathroom drinking.

HOTEL PARTIER #3

Hey man you want some of this?

He brandishes a large glass bottle full of brown liquor.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Sure!

HOTEL PARTIER #3

Chug it man!

ALEX chugs several gulps of the liquid.

The partiers pats him on the back.

ALEX grabs a beer from the tub and takes a drink of it.

ALEX stumbles back into the main room where all the kids are now drunken.

ALEX walks into a wall trying to get back to his chair.

TYLER who is now tired of trading licks notices and starts laughing. Some of the kids start flicking quarters at ALEX and he doesn't even notice.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK...

ALEX and some of the other partiers open the door and two police officers are standing there.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Umm Hello!

POLICE OFFICER #1

We got a call about a disturbance. What are you kids doing in there?

ALEX REYNOLDS
We're just hanging out.

The POLICE OFFICER radioes in to dispatch.

POLICE OFFICER #1
We got teenage party in progress at
the hotel.

DISPATCH
10-4

POLICE OFFICER #2
Alright everybody here's what's
about to happen. You're going to
pour out all the alcohol and call
your parents to come get you now.

The police stand guard while some of the partiers pour out
booze and others take turns on the hotel room phone calling
someone to come get them.

ALEX walks over to CRAVEN.

ALEX REYNOLDS
Craven can I ride home with you? So
my grandma doesn't find out.

CRAVEN BREEDLOVE
Sure, my mom is coming.

ALEX REYNOLDS
Thanks.

Headlights pull up behind the police and they allow CRAVEN
and ALEX and a couple more partiers out of the room.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - DAY

ALEX is sitting on the edge of his bed rubbing his eyes and
temples and groaning. He gets up and grabs the phone.

RING...RING...RING

DARYL BRYANT
Hello?

ALEX REYNOLDS
Hey can I come chill? I got drunk
last night and I feel like shit
this morning.

DARYL BRYANT
Yeah man bring a few of those oxys
though.

ALEX REYNOLDS
For sure. See you in a few.

ALEX takes a shower then grabs a few pills out of the
medicine cabinet. Then he walks out the door.

EXT. DARYL BRYANT'S HOUSE - DAY

ALEX stands on the stoop in front of DARYL'S side door.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

The door opens and DARYL standing there smiling.

DARYL BRYANT
Yo ALEX! Come on in.

ALEX REYNOLDS
Hey!

INT. DARYL'S HOUSE - DAY

ALEX walks through a cluttered kitchen following DARYL into
his living room. They sit on a couch with a glass coffee
table in front of it.

ALEX pulls out the pills and lays them on the table.

DARYL BRYANT
You ever snort these?

ALEX REYNOLDS
Nah man.

DARYL BRYANT
Oh man you're wasting them then.
You want to snort some with me?
They're a lot better that way?

ALEX REYNOLDS
I don't care I feel like shit man.
My head hurts bad.

DARYL laughs

Daryl crushes the pills and scrapes them into lines of powder
rolls up a \$20 bill and snorts one.

Daryl hands the rolled up money to Alex

Alex snorts the other line with the bill and hands it back.

DARYL BRYANT

You see what I did?

ALEX snorts a line of the powder and gives DARYL his bill back.

DARYL BRYANT (CONT'D)

Get ready. It's going to kick in a lot faster and stronger like this.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Don't worry I'm ready for it.

DARYL BRYANT

Come with me I want to show you something.

ALEX follows DARYL through the house to a bedroom. DARYL pulls an ice cream tub down off the top of an armoire. The top is covered tightly in a dark plastic material. DARYL pulls the cover off and shows the inside to ALEX.

ALEX REYNOLDS

What is it?

DARYL BRYANT

It's fungus! Mushrooms!

ALEX REYNOLDS

What do they do?

DARYL BRYANT

You've heard of acid right? It's like that they make you trip. It's a lot of fun.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Sounds scary.

DARYL BRYANT

Nah broski. I'll let you know when they're ready we will eat some together.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Alright.

DARYL covers the mushrooms back up with the plastic and places it back on top of the armoire. ALEX'S mood gets better.

ALEX REYNOLDS (CONT'D)
You wanna go do something?

DARYL BRYANT
I thought you didn't feel good.

ALEX REYNOLDS
I feel great. What you talking
about?

DARYL laughs

DARYL BRYANT
Alright let's ride homeboy.

ALEX REYNOLDS
Will you roll some of this first?

ALEX holds his bag of weed out. DARYL grabs it.

EXT. DARYL'S FIREBIRD - DAY

ALEX and DARYL pass weed back and forth as they cruise around country backroads the stereo system bumping. DARYL flips a joint roach out the window and then turns the stereo down.

DARYL BRYANT
You still gaming a lot? I remember
you had all the consoles back in
the day.

ALEX REYNOLDS
Oh yeah! I'm still a gamer. Mostly
PC now.

DARYL BRYANT
I'll take you to meet one of my
boys sometime there's always a
crowd over there smoking and
gaming.

ALEX REYNOLDS
You still fishing?

DARYL BRYANT
Damn right.

ALEX REYNOLDS
Caught any fish lately?

DARYL BRYANT

I haven't had much luck lately. We need to go sometime for old time sake.

ALEX REYNOLDS

I'd like that I haven't been fishing since we were neighbors.

DARYL BRYANT

We can swing back by the house and grab my poles right now if you want.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Let's do it.

INT. DARYL'S HOUSE - DAY

ALEX and DARYL go back inside the house.

DARYL BRYANT

Want to do a couple more lines of oxy?

ALEX REYNOLDS

I don't know. I feel pretty good.

DARYL BRYANT

Can I get another then? I have a high tolerance.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Ok

DARYL BRYANT

Will you get it ready while I grab the poles and tackle box and put them in the car?

ALEX REYNOLDS

Yeah I got you.

ALEX goes into the living room and starts preparing the line. Daryl is rushing back and forth excitedly now wearing a goofy fishing hat and carrying poles and a tackle box out of the house. Then he joins ALEX in the living room.

DARYL BRYANT

This all for me?

ALEX REYNOLDS

Yep.

DARYL rolls up a bill and does it.

DARYL BRYANT
Thanks bro. Let's go.

EXT. ROSE LAKES - DAY

Close up view of a spinner bait being reeled in through dark murky waters. ALEX and DARYL stand on the path that surrounds the stocked ponds casting and reeling in.

ALEX REYNOLDS
Do you catch a lot of fish here.

DARYL BRYANT
Yeah this lake is stocked. But still sometimes the only thing I catch is a buzz.

ALEX laughs at the remark

ALEX REYNOLDS
Good one bro

DARYL BRYANT
So you got a girlfriend or anything now?

ALEX REYNOLDS
Yeah. I won't be seeing her much for a while though not being in school.

DARYL BRYANT
Try not to get too bummed out about it. You'll be back before long

ALEX REYNOLDS
Yeah it's hard though I miss her so much.

ALEX'S fishing line gets a tug and he yanks it back and starts reeling in furiously.

DARYL BRYANT
Reel it in! Reel it in!

ALEX wrestles the bass in DARYL helps him remove it from the hook and examine it. Then DARYL throws it back in the water.

DARYL BRYANT (CONT'D)
Good job! That was a nice one.

ALEX sits down in a folding chair that's set up behind them and nods out DARYL laughs and then starts casting his pole again.

EXT. ROSE LAKES - NIGHT

DARYL takes the final puff on a joint and throws it down. All the fishing equipment is ready to go. DARYL gives ALEX a nudge in his chair.

DARYL BRYANT

ALEX man wake up!

ALEX REYNOLDS

Oh shit! How long was I out?

DARYL BRYANT

For a while it's getting dark. Come on i'll give you a ride home.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Cool bro thanks.

DARYL and ALEX grab their fishing supplies and start the hike back to the car.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - NIGHT

ALEX closes the door behind him after entering his house. GRANDMA is sitting on the couch watching television.

GRANDMA eyes ALEX.

GRANDMA

ALEX, honey are you alright? What time did you come in last night? I know you were in bed when I went to work this morning but before then I didn't know if you were coming home again or not.

ALEX REYNOLDS

I'm fine granny. I don't know what time it was. I've been fishing with Daryl all day today.

GRANDMA

Okay then. There's left overs in the kitchen just warm it up if your hungry.

ALEX REYNOLDS
Thanks granny.

ALEX goes into his room and grabs the phone. He dials MEAGAN'S number.

RING...RING...RING

MEAGAN GREER
Hello?

ALEX REYNOLDS
Hey baby!

MEAGAN GREER
Alex! I haven't heard from you in a couple days.

ALEX REYNOLDS
Yeah, I've been in a lot of pain.
I'm sorry.

MEAGAN GREER
Don't be sorry. I understand.

Male voices can be heard in the background of the call.

ALEX REYNOLDS
Who is that?

MEAGAN GREER
I don't know it must have been the TV. You should get some rest. I need to get off here I have homework.

ALEX REYNOLDS
Ok. Love you bye.

MEAGAN GREER
Bye.

Alex hangs up the phone putting it back on the charger. He digs through his closet to find a shoebox he opens and puts the rest of his marijuana in it.

A newspaper clipping he saved in the shoebox catches his eye. He pulls it out and looks at it. There's a huge color photo of stacks of cash and bags of meth.

The headline reads JASON REYNOLDS ARRESTED FOR TRAFFICKING. ALEX puts it back in the box suddenly and stashes it away in the closet.

Alex turns the lights out and lays down.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - DAY

Alex is checking the mailbox. He is thumbing through a stack of bills and junk mail and then he finds a JAIL MAIL stamped letter from his dad.

Alex walks back to his porch from the roadside mailbox sits down on the wicker porch furniture and opens the letter.

DAD

Dear Son, I was happy to get your letter and read that you are OK after the accident. I'm so glad the Lord answered my prayers to protect you. I have been moved to the work house so now I get to get out of my cell and work and earn time off my sentence while I'm here. I also can get contact visits if you and your granny want to come visit me. You're in my prayers. Love, DAD

Alex puts the letter back in the envelope and heads inside the house.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - DAY

Alex digs through his closet to find his shoebox with things he's secretly saving in it. He finds it opens it and puts the new letter inside of it. Then puts the box back in the closet.

Alex gets one of his oxy and crushes it does a line off his computer desk. Then he logs into the game.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Alex is nodded out asleep sitting up in front of his PC.

The warrior is dead on the screen.

GRANDMA

Alex! Alex! Wake up!

Alex stirs back to consciousness.

ALEX REYNOLDS

Oh hey granny! When did you get home?

GRANDMA

Just now. Have you been taking more
of your pills than your supposed
to?

Grandma lowers her eyes at Alex.

ALEX REYNOLDS

No, I was just tired and upset so I
guess I feel asleep. I don't
remember falling asleep.

GRANDMA

What has upset you?

ALEX REYNOLDS

I got another letter from my dad.
He wants us to come visit him.

GRANDMA

Ok.