

THE BUS

Written by
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*Use the FORWARD and BACKWARD buttons on
your remote to advance through the script.*

TEASER

1.

FADE IN:

EXT. SCHOOL BUS - A SUN SHINY MORNING

Chuck Mangione's "FEELS SO GOOD" plays. An empty bus rumbles down a pleasant street of Chippewa.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - SAME

Devoid of students and serene in its emptiness. At the wheel, ARTHUR DE FINO, a chunky 5'1", 40 year old, with eyes that have likely seen their share of abuse. Greasy and unkempt, he is a true GROWN-UP GEEK. He slows down the bus.

Doors open. MILLIE gets on, does a tight-lipped nod to him, wipes off a seat with a Kleenex, and sits.

DISSOLVE TO:

Doors open. NEAL and BILL get on, engrossed in new comic books. Doors CLOSE. Beat. Doors OPEN. SAM gets on. Gives an IRRITATED NOD to Neal and Bill for not waiting.

DISSOLVE TO:

Doors open. ELI gets on and excitedly hugs Arthur. Arthur reciprocates with an uneasy and stiff pat on Eli's back.

DISSOLVE TO:

Doors open. KIM KELLEY, KAREN SCARFOLLI, and JUDY LEMETTI stand poised like cowgirls. The song "FEELS SO GOOD" STOPS. Arthur's expression turns to dread. The Geeks look puzzled, ala "what's she doing here?" Kim scowls at Arthur.

ARTHUR

I thought my bus saw the last of you.

KIM

Yeah, well guess again, handsome.

ARTHUR

I see your still polite as ever.

KIM

I see your just as short as ever.

Karen and Judy laugh. The passengers fidget uncomfortably, not knowing what to make of the exchange.

ARTHUR

Just - please - the three of you, just sit down. I don't want any trouble. This year has been just wonderful without you so far.

KIM

Blah blah blah - bite me.

Karen and Judy cackle in laughter. Arthur mutters under his breath, shuts the door, and PULLS OUT. Kim surveys the shocked faces of the passengers.

KIM (cont'd)

You butt-uglies have a problem?

They all avert their eyes like they're looking at the Medusa.^{3.}
As the Girls walk to the back of the bus, each passenger receives a slap to the head - except for Eli who is tucked in, "air raid" style.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SCHOOL BUS - LATER

MORE KIDS are on - mostly Geeky freshman types who HAVE to ride. Arthur looks in his long REAR VIEW MIRROR. Notices Kim laughing and raising hell - and sitting on the back of a seat, her head almost touching the ceiling.

ARTHUR

Hey! Sit down or I'll pull this bus over!

Kim sits. The girls laugh.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SCHOOL BUS - LATER

Even MORE KIDS are on. All watch terrified, as the Girls tear apart GORDON CRISP's lunchbag. Gordon grabs for it and slips and falls onto someone's lap. The Girls are in hysterics. Arthur watches in his mirror.

ARTHUR

Hey! Leave that boy alone or I'll
pull this bus over!

Gordon snatches back what's left of his lunch. The Banshees retreat and resume their obnoxious laughter.

DISSOLVE TO: INT. SCHOOL BUS - LATER
FULL to capacity. SOUNDS of rowdy female laughter come from the back. Kim snatches a BOOM BOX from an unsuspecting Geek. Switches it on, spins through the static-y dial until she hears the song, "BLACK BETTY".

KIM

YEAH!

She CRANKS it until the speakers distort. Nearby students cringe and/or cover their ears.

SONG

Oh, Black Betty, bam-a-lam...!

ARTHUR

Hey! Turn that thing down!

The girls get up and JAM - they don't so much like the song as they do raising holy hell. Arthur sees.

ARTHUR (cont'd)

Hey, sit down! I mean it! I'll
pull this bus over!

He LOCKS eyes with Kim in the mirror. Kim stares back, challenging.

KIM

THEN PULL IT OVER!

Arthur takes a deep breath and PULLS OVER. ALL on the bus are shocked. Arthur hops to his feet and walks up to Kim. He comes up to about her nose.

ARTHUR
(yelling over the music)
Turn off that radio and sit down!

KIM
What?

ARTHUR
Turn off the radio and sit down!

KIM
Can't hear you! Radio's too loud!

A few students laugh. Most seem sad. Kim turns the volume even HIGHER. The Girls resume their dance party.

ARTHUR
EVERYONE BE QUIET!

With that, Arthur SNATCHES the radio from Kim. Shuts it off. Silence. An intense staring match between Kim and Arthur.

ARTHUR (cont'd)
(through clenched teeth)
Now sit down.

The whole bus seems to be holding its breath.

ARTHUR (cont'd)
Did you hear what I said?

Kim's eyes narrow. A dangerous rage boils to the surface.

KIM
(slowly; hissing)
I've got news for you. No one
tells me what to do. Not you - not
no one. You hear me?

Arthur makes an infinitesimal movement of stepping back. Kim
sees it as weakness and moves in for the kill

KIM (cont'd)
What are you anyway? Huh? You're
just a pathetic sack that can't do
anything but drive a bus. Now get
your greasy loser ass back up there
and take us to school.

Arthur's eyes show shock. Kim's stare is venomous, hateful.
Beat. Arthur realizes that he's lost the battle. He sets
down the boom box and makes his way back to the driver's
seat. As he passes, Sam looks up at his face - it's damaged.
Arthur sits down. Puts the bus into gear.

Kim switches the radio back on and cranks it. "BLACK BETTY"
resumes. She and the Girls resume their evil, dance party.

DOLLY down the aisle - we see the broken and exhausted faces^{7.}
of the passengers. Stop on the Geeks.

NEAL

Man, I can't wait until I can drive
myself to school.

CUT TO: MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

FADE IN: EXT. SMOKING PATIO - MORNING

Lindsay, Nick, and Ken watch Daniel as he tosses a cigarette
into the air and tries to catch it in his mouth. It breaks.

LINDSAY

Hey, if you get good enough maybe
you should go on the Gong Show.

KEN

They wouldn't even let him on the
Bong Show.

DANIEL

Drum roll, sweet Nicholas.

Nick drum rolls a book. Kim approaches. Daniel tosses the
cig. Kim knocks it onto the ground and grinds it to pulp.

DANIEL (cont'd)

Good morning to you too, cupcake.

Daniel tries to kiss her. She jerks away.

KIM

Where the hell were you? You were supposed to pick me up!

DANIEL

Oh baby, I forgot. I'm sorry.

KIM

I had to take the bus, you moron! The bus! Like some kid.

LINDSAY

He said he was sorry.

KIM

What are you, his mother?

DANIEL

Ease up? I had to deal with my Dad. It was a rough morning.

KIM

Who cares?

DANIEL

I care. He's my Dad.

KIM

I can see the resemblance. You're about as brain dead as he is.

That stings Daniel hard. Takes a breath - trying not to lose his cool.

DANIEL

Do you want to take that back?

KIM

Why should I take it back?

DANIEL

(a serious warning)

Kim, I think you better get your ass away from me for a second.

KIM

What did he ever do for you beside beat the crap out of you - you should be glad he's a zombie.

Silence. Daniel rubs his eyes.

KIM (cont'd)

What's the big deal, you say a lot worse stuff than that about him.

Daniel blows like a pressure cooker. A CROWD slowly forms.

DANIEL

What is the matter with you?! Do
you like pissing people off?! You
like that people hate you?

KIM

Everyone doesn't hate me.

DANIEL

Guess again! Why would anyone hang
out with you? Why do I? Who wants
to be around a mean sadistic bitch?
You want to bag on families? Okay.
At least mine aren't a bunch of
white trash welfare leeches.

Silence. Kim looks around at the horrified faces of the
crowd - they truly FEAR her. She screams:

KIM

WE'RE FINISHED DANIEL! FINISHED
FOREVER! I HATE YOU!

Kim shoves through the crowd and into the school.

CUT TO: INT. MAIN HALLWAY - SAME

CAMERA FOLLOWS Kim as she BARRELS down the hall. She passes
the ever-so-charismatic Mr. Kowchevski.

MR. KOWCHEVSKI

Hey! Slow down!

She doesn't.

KIM TURNS THE CORNER, dodges a KID or two, and SLAMS into Millie causing a CERAMIC UNICORN to shatter on the floor.

KIM

Watch out, dork!

MILLIE

My unicorn! She broke my unicorn!

Unfazed, Kim continues running. Sam, Neal, and Bill are RUNNING up the hall in the OPPOSITE direction. They see Kim and veer around her, still moving fast.

CAMERA SWITCHES DIRECTIONS AND PACES THEM.

SAM

I'm dead. This is the third time I forgot my stuff on the bus. I hope it's still out there.

NEAL

It's worth a try.

BILL

No way.

THEY TURN THE CORNER, barreling, and run SMACK into Mr. Kowchevski. He winces in pain and clutches his neck.

MR. KOWCHEVSKI

Ghaa! What is the matter with you?

SAM

Sorry Mr. Kowchevski - it's an emergency.

Mr. K. corrals them against the lockers. He's pissed.

MR. KOWCHEVSKI

Godarnit! This is how people get hurt!

The Geeks are squirming to escape. Sam stammers:

SAM

But Mr. Kowchevski, we gotta go - if we don't get back to...

MR. KOWCHEVSKI

You're not going anywhere.

(rubbing his neck)

Ouch! In fact, I'm giving all three of you detentions.

SAM / NEAL / BILL

What? Please? Oh no! Mercy.

MR. KOWCHEVSKI

13.

Alright stop - you're breaking my heart. Okay - I want the three of you bozos to walk away - in fact, I want you to walk away in slow motion.

They look at him with a "WHAT?" expression.

MR. KOWCHEVSKI (cont'd)

That's right - *slow motion*. Your choice - slow-mo or detention-o.

Geeks look at each other - easy choice. Mr. K rubs his neck and watches as they walk away in SLOW MOTION through the following. Kids stop and point, enjoying the strange sight.

SAM

Whitman's going to hang me.

BILL

Oh yeah she is.

NEAL

Don't worry. It's like Doc Schweiber says, to every problem there's always a solution.

BILL

I've never heard your Dad say that.

NEAL

Not that Doc Schweiber, nimrod, me
Doc Schweiber. Easy fix, Sam - use
the patented "Grandfather died"
excuse. Pour it on, go into
detail, and remember - always be
emotionally involved with your story.

They start to pick up a little speed. Mr. K warns.

MR. KOWCHEVSKI

Slow down.

Back to Mr. K., they silently mouth-mock "slow down."

CUT TO: INT. CAFETERIA - SAME DAY

Ken, Nick, and Daniel at a table. Ken eats an enormous
portion of Beef Stew. Daniel picks at a Sno-Ball. Nick
makes a LOUD ENGINE SOUNDS and mimes driving.

KEN

That's a Camaro?

Nick nods YES while shifting gears.

KEN (cont'd)

It sounds more like a Chevelle.

Nick emphatically nods NO while shifting to fourth gear.

DANIEL

Dorks.

Lindsay walks up.

LINDSAY

Hey.

DANIEL / NICK / KEN

Hey.

LINDSAY

What's up? You guys seen Kim?

KEN

Not since this morning's blood
bath.

LINDSAY

(to Daniel)

You talk to her yet?

Daniel nods no.

LINDSAY (cont'd)

You seen her?

Daniel gestures, referring to a NEARBY TABLE. Lindsay looks.
ANGLE ON TABLE - Kim, Karen and, Judy are having a ball.

LINDSAY (cont'd)

She seems okay - I'm going to go
say hi to her.

DANIEL

Lindsay, don't.

LINDSAY

What? I'm going to go talk to her.

DANIEL

No. I'm serious, don't.

LINDSAY

I can't talk to my friend?

DANIEL

After what she did to me this
morning?

LINDSAY

What exactly did she do to you that
you didn't do right back to her?

Lindsay smiles and walks toward Kim's table.

KEN

Burn.

DANIEL

Can it, Ken - I'm not in the mood.

KEN

Right-on.

Daniel leans, trying to hear across the cafeteria.

ANGLE ON KIM'S TABLE - Lindsay sits down and says something to Kim. Kim says something that makes the whole table laugh.

DANIEL (cont'd) (O.S.)

What she saying?

Kim looks to Daniel. Just as she lifts her hand to flip him the FINGER, a FAT FOOTBALL PLAYER walks by (screening the gesture for the censors). Daniel stands, knocking over his chair.

DANIEL

WHAT'S THAT?! HUH? WHAT'S THAT?!

ANGLE ON KIM'S TABLE - all, including Lindsay, look away from Daniel as though he doesn't exist.

Daniel storms out of the nearest EXIT. Nick embellishes Daniel's exit with peel out noises.

CUT TO: INT. CLASS - NEXT PERIOD

The radiant MISS WHITMAN listens as Sam explains.

SAM

... yeah, it was sad, but Grandpa was really old. I mean... Mr. Crawford, I did the homework. I did. It's just that I left it at the funeral parlor, and well, I couldn't ask my Mom to go back there after what she'd been through.

Sam is finished. Miss Whitman creaks off her chair.

MR. CRAWFORD

Mr. Weir, I've been teaching school for 43 years and until today, I thought I'd heard every excuse in the book. I salute you.

SAM

You mean you believe me?

MR. CRAWFORD

Believe you? Heavens to Betsy, no - I said I salute you. Besides, your pal, Eli, brought these for you. You left them on the bus.

Miss Whitman points to Sam's books - they plainly sit on the front desk. Sam's face drops. He looks around.

ANGLE ON NEAL - he is wiping his face with his hand. Oy.
ANGLE ON BILL - he knowingly nods. Sam is indeed screwed.

CUT TO: INT. WEIR HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - THAT NIGHT
Harold is reading the paper and Jean is setting the table.
Sam SLINKS IN, trying not to be noticed.

SAM

Hey Dad.

Jean is MIFFED.

JEAN

Hold it, hold it. Get back here.

SAM

What?

HAROLD

What's this about Grandpa dying?

SAM

She called?

JEAN

Yes, she called. What the heck is
going on in school? Are you
finding trouble around every
corner?

SAM

Um.

JEAN

Why would you make up a story like that Sam? She said you did your homework. Why can't you just tell the truth?

SAM

I... thought I'd get in trouble?

HAROLD (cont'd)

You can't take the truth lightly Sam. You lie your way through High School, you know what you'll be when you grow up?

SAM

A liar?

HAROLD

(shocked but pleased)

That's right! And I'm curious - which grandfather did you dig up just to kill off again?

SAM

I didn't say.

HAROLD

Ah, so he takes death lightly too.

Lindsay ENTERS from the kitchen.

JEAN

Sam, why do you keep leaving your books on the bus? What happens on that bus anyway?

SAM

Kim Kelley is what happened. She never rides the bus - and she went nuts - even for her. She almost gave Uncle Creepy a nervous breakdown.

LINDSAY

She's having a bad day.

HAROLD

Who's Uncle Creepy? Is that your friend Bill?

SAM

Uncle Creepy is the bus driver.

HAROLD

Well, he's a Civil Servant and he deserves to be treated with respect.

JEAN

If Kim's on the bus tomorrow, just try to ignore her. There's more important things for you to worry about.

SAM

I know Mom. And I'm sorry I lied.

JEAN

You're forgiven.

HAROLD

I'd still like to know which Grandpa he dug up.

CUT TO: INT. BUS - NEXT MORNING

The bus moves. Millie, Eli, Sam, Neal, and Bill are in the same seats. Sam and Bill strain to see out of the window.

BILL

Please no Kim, please no Kim,
please no Kim, please no...

SAM

Can you knock it off and move?
You're like a plague, Bill.

NEAL

If what Sam says is true, she's too preoccupied with her own grief to even go to school. Ms. Kelley will not ride today. Trust Doc Schweiber.

BILL

Doc Schweiber?

NEAL

Yes William?

BILL

Miss Kelly rides

ANGLE OUT OF BUS WINDOW - Kim Kelley waits at the stop.
ON THE BUS. Doors open. Kim CLIMBS ON, eyes red - she's been CRYING. Arthur GLARES. Voice shaking, he asks:

ARTHUR

What are you doing on my bus?

Kim walks in and sits. Arthur nods disgust. Instead of confrontation, he opts to pull out. Drives for a moment.

BILL

Here we go again.

SAM

Shh.

ANGLE INTO ARTHUR'S MIRROR - Kim is lighting a cigarette.

ARTHUR (cont'd)
You're *smoking*?! PUT THAT OUT!

Kim takes a hit.

ARTHUR (cont'd)
I SAID PUT THAT OUT!

ANGLE ON KIM - She thinks, takes one more drag, and FLICKS the burning cigarette at Arthur. BULL'S-EYE -- it hits the back of his head and sparks careen. Arthur YELPS.

CUT TO: EXT. SCHOOL BUS - SAME
It takes a DANGEROUS swerve. SOUNDS of SCREAMS.

CUT TO: INT. SCHOOL BUS - SAME
ANGLE ON Arthur - His head is ready to EXPLODE. He's had it.

ANGLE ON GEEKS, MILLIE, & ELI - No one dares say a word.

ANGLE OUT OF BUS WINDOW - THREE GEEKY KIDS wait at their stop. Their jaws drop as the speeding bus passes them.

CUT TO: EXT. BUS STOP - A MINUTE LATER
Two more GEEKY KIDS get passed by the rogue bus.

CUT TO: INT. SCHOOL BUS - CONTINUOUS

NEAL
Is this some kind of joke?

SAM

Hey mister, we're going kinda fast.

BILL

And now we're kinda going the wrong way.

KIM

Where the hell are you going?!

Millie gets up and sits next to Eli.

MILLIE

Don't worry, Eli, we're just taking a little detour.

ELI

Ha ha detour! She made Arthur mad.

KIM

Arthur?! HA! He's about the size of Arthur! Come on King Arthur! Ya like going fast? You gonna crash the bus? Then CRASH IT!

BILL

Do you think it's a good idea to continue to harass him?

KIM

(snaps, Linda Blair-like)
Are you talking to me, geek!?

CUT TO: EXT. INDUSTRIAL SECTION OF TOWN - A BIT LATER
The song "GROOVE LINE" (or "SLOW RIDE") plays through the following bus sequences.

The bus drives by. Alarmed faces look out at the street.

CUT TO: INT. SCHOOL BUS - SAME

NEAL

I hate to alarm anyone, but we are
no longer in our school district.

(to Arthur)

Sir, can you take us to our school
please?

The bus hops over a curb as it turns a corner.

KIM

Yeee-haa!

NEAL

Gotcha. No school.

DISSOLVE TO: EXT. RURAL FARM ROAD - 15 MINUTES LATER
THE BUS zooms by.

CUT TO: INT. SCHOOL BUS, RURAL ROAD - SAME

Geeks have settled in. Millie, almost in tears, hugs Eli.

SAM

Any idea where we are?

NEAL

Not even a clue.

BILL

Someone tell me this isn't happening.

MILLIE

It's okay, Eli. Everything's okay.

ELI

I know. Everything's okay. This is fun.

Kim, feet up, smokes another cigarette

KIM

You know "Arthur", our parents are gonna sue your ass off for this.

CUT TO: EXT. SCHOOL BUS, RURAL ROAD - SAME

The bus crashes through an abandoned FIRE GATE and onto a DIRT ROAD. It bumps through thick, blinding brush.

CUT TO: INT. SCHOOL BUS - SAME

Branches THRASH the windows. The Geeks get BUMPED around. Kim smokes.

CUT TO: EXT. SCHOOL BUS, FIELD - MINUTES LATER

The bus pulls out of the brush and into the middle of a
SPARSE FIELD.

CUT TO: INT. SCHOOL BUS - SAME

It stops with a hard jerk. The song, "GROOVE LINE" stops.
Arthur sits, frozen. Beat.

KIM

Are we supposed to be impressed?

Arthur pops up, stomps to Kim, and goes FACE TO FACE with
her. He is POSSESSED with anger.

ARTHUR

You... the things I would do to you.

Kim's defiance now has a distinct tone of fear.

KIM

In your dreams.

Arthur turns around, yanks out the CB mic, pulls the keys
from the ignition and EXITS the bus.

ANGLE OUT OF BUS window - Arthur walks across the field and
VANISHES into the woods.

ANGLE ON PASSENGERS - They are ALL too stunned to speak.
Until...

BILL

I think we're going to get out of
gym today.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN: INT. BUS - 8:30 AM

Everyone still stares in shock. Kim throws her feet up.

KIM

Good riddance to that jerk.

SAM

Where are we?

NEAL

This is what's known as bufu Egypt.

MILLIE

Don't say that. Eli, this is just
a little detour. Kind of like a field trip.

ELI

(cheerful)

Like a field trip. Field trip to
the museum. Ha ha I like that.

KIM

Ha ha I like it too. He's got the right idea.

MILLIE

Don't listen to her, Eli. It's her fault we're even out here.

BILL

(whispers to Sam and Neal)
Where do you supposed he went?

SAM

How do I know?

NEAL

I'm sure he's out there cooling off. He'll be back any second - we'll get to school today.

MILLIE

We better get to school today - I have nine years of perfect attendance.

NEAL

Nine years? What are you

KIM

It's a free day off! Would you jerks rather be in school?

SAM / NEAL / BILL

No.

MILLIE

Yes.

ELI

(looks at them)

No. Yes, yes. No! Yes! Yes, this
is better. This is better than school.

KIM

A kick in the butt is better than school.

Eli slaps his hand over his mouth.

CUT TO: INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - AN HOUR LATER, 9AM

Bell rings. Kids pour into the hall for passing period.

Lindsay walks. Spots Daniel, truckin'. Paces him. He nods.

LINDSAY

Hey stranger. How ya been?

DANIEL

(cooly distant)

I've been okay.

LINDSAY

How's your Dad?

DANIEL

He's good.

LINDSAY

Why are you walking so fast?

DANIEL

I gotta get to class.

LINDSAY

And I'm supposed to believe you're okay? You're funny.

She whacks him trying to cheer him up. It doesn't work.
Lindsay locks the brakes.

LINDSAY

What's wrong with you? There's no reason to be mad at me here.

DANIEL

Why are you siding with her?

LINDSAY

I'm not siding with anyone.

DANIEL

I'll talk to you later, huh?

LINDSAY

(throws up her hands)

Alright. I give up. All I was trying to do was help. Maybe be a friend to both of you?

Lindsay walks away. Daniel is left alone.

CUT TO: EXT. FIELD - SAME

ALL are OUTSIDE lounging. Millie and Eli sit together looking at a book. Kim, with her shirt tied up Jamaican style, paints her toenails. The Geeks sit about 20 feet away from her. Bill ogles her, over the top of a comic book.

SAM

If she sees you drooling, Bill,
you're dead.

NEAL

Don't provoke her man.

BILL

She digs me.

KIM

(noticing)

What is your problem, Coke bottles?

BILL

Nothing. I was looking at your
toenails. That's a pretty color.

Kim gets up and stomps to them.

KIM

What are you, some kind of a perv?

BILL

Um... well... no.

KIM

You like my toenails? I should
make you do them.

She throws a foot onto his COMIC BOOK.

BILL

Ahhh! Get off! That's the first
appearance of Wolverine!

Bill pulls the comic - it rips in HALF. He looks at it and
emits a PRIMAL NOISE (that sounds incredibly like Ted
Knight). He groans and rolls around like he's been stabbed.

BILL (cont'd)

Oh ho ho ho ho! Ohhh my god! It's
worthless! That was the backbone
of my empire and now it's gone! Oh
ho ho ho!

Kim falls into HYSTERICS over Bill's groans. She ROLLS in
the grass mocking and laughing.

KIM

"Oh ho ho ho." You sound like Ted
Baxter! Haa haha! "Oh ho ho!"

She rolls into Millie with a thump. Millie GLARES at her.

35.

KIM

What?

MILLIE

Why did you do that?

KIM

Do what?

MILLIE

Look at him! That was the first appearance of Wolverine. Why?

The Geeks console Bill as the groaning continues.

KIM

Hey, he ripped it. Besides, it's funny!

MILLIE

It's not funny -- it's mean. And you're mean. You hear me! Your insanelly mean!

Kim takes a breath about to RIP into Millie.

ELI

Nobody like meanies.

Eli's words have a defusing effect on Kim. She walks away. 36.

KIM

What-ever.

ANGLE ON GEEKS - Bill clutches the two pieces of comic book.

SAM

Take it easy, Bill, we'll be out of here soon.

BILL

(still a mess)

What are you talking about? No one knows where we are. We could die out here. We could. If Uncle Creepy doesn't come back and kill us we could be out here til we rot.

SAM

What?

NEAL

Someone will come for us. An entire school bus does not just slip through the cracks.

CUT TO: INT. SCHOOL HALL - 10AM

A BELL RINGS. Kids pour into the halls.

CUT TO: INT. AUTO SHOP, SAME TIME

MR. GUYEVSKI smokes a cigarette and speaks to a class of FREAKS and MOTOR HEADS. Nick and Ken sit on a cherry 1975 Nova. Daniel lays across four chairs with a book over his face.

MR. GUYEVSKI

.. Sepsis and Chamba, keep working on that Le Baron - and try to finish it before we're all old and gray. Andopolis and Miller, you guys like that Nova?

They both look up. Their grins tell all.

MR. GUYEVSKI (cont'd)

Good. Give it the works. Belts, oil, tune, time - everything.

NICK

Excellent.

ANGLE ON DOOR - Mr. Kowchevski enters. Guyevski goes to him.

MR. GUYEVSKI (cont'd)

Hang tight.

NICK

What's Hitler doing here?

Guy and Kow shake hands, exchange a few words, and look to the Nova. Nick and Ken hop off the hood.

38.

KEN

Please don't tell me this machine belongs to him.

Mr. K nods in annoyance and walks over. The pain in his neck seems to have gotten worse.

MR. KOWCHEVSKI

Lucky me. Guyevski tells me you two grease monkeys are good with cars.

KEN

The finest no money will buy.

MR. KOWCHEVSKI

Good. And look, I don't care what you do the rest of the day but just make sure the dope smoke is cleared out of your brains while you're working on this thing.

Ken and Nick are stunned. The guys within earshot "Ooo."

MR. KOWCHEVSKI (cont'd)

Oh yeah, big secret.

Mr. K. reaches into the Nova's GLOVE COMPARTMENT and pulls out a bottle of PRESCRIPTION PILLS. He winces again and holds his neck. The guys watch. Mr. K is sort of busted.

MR. KOWCHEVSKI (cont'd)
Pain pills - and believe me, you
pansies don't know the meaning of
the word pain.

Mr. K. exits the room with Mr. Guyevski. Beat. Ken and Nick SCRAMBLE into the Nova and WRESTLE for the glove compartment.

KEN & NICK
Aaah!

Items get pulled out. The search is fruitless. They slump.

KEN
I'm keeping this flare out of principle.

NICK
God! I hate that guy!

KEN
Hey, this is your chance to get the
bastard. Let's sugar his tank.

Their eyes light up.

NICK

Excellent! We'll sugar him!

(a revelation)

No! He'll know it was us.

DANIEL

How 'bout cat piss in the vents -
he'd never figure out it was us.

NICK

I ain't touching cat piss.

CUT TO: EXT. FIELD - SAME

The sun is high in the sky. They all lounge. Millie and Eli play a flashcard picture game. Kim sits, drawing BIZARRE pictures on her arm with an El Marko. The Geeks sit about 50 feet away from them.

BILL

Ten o'clock.

SAM

This is crazy. They've forgotten
about us.

NEAL

No one's forgotten anything. It's
just a question of locating us.

Bill, spirit broken, still cradles his ravaged comic book.

BILL (CONT'D)

We are so dead. Uncle Creepy's going to come back and hack us into garbage disposal size pieces - and I don't really care.

SAM

He's miles from here by now.

BILL

Then why do I feel his eyes on me?

NEAL

Because you're on the verge of insanity. Look, we gotta get out of here and find a phone - it's really quite simple. I saw a house on the way in here.

SAM

What? There was no house.

Kim comes walking over. Bill cradles his head.

SAM (cont'd)

Don't even look at her Bill.

KIM

I'm hungry. You Geeks eat a lot of candy, don't you? Whattaya got?

They all look at her, afraid to answer. Bill makes a lame attempt to be assertive.

42.

BILL

No, we don't eat candy. We pack smart and nutritious lunches.

Kim looks at them, then to the bus. The Geeks look at the bus. Beat. Kim TEARS toward the bus. The Geeks haul ass after her, yelling. She gets there WAY before them and swings the door closed. They pound on the door.

GEEKS

No! Please! That's our lunch!
We'll die out here!

Kim waves three lunch bags in the window. She sits and starts ripping at them like a vampire eating a roast. The Geeks slide down the bus door in defeat.

ANGLE ON MILLIE AND ELI - Eli clutches his Charlie's Angels lunchbox.

ELI

I'm glad you took my lunchbox for me.

Millie sneaks a Chips A'hoy from brown bag.

MILLIE

It's called thinking one move ahead of your opponent. I learned it playing chess against my brother.

CUT TO: INT. SCHOOL HALL - 11AM

Bell rings. Another passing period. Lindsay walks down the hall. Daniel walks up next to her. Paces her

DANIEL

How's it going?

LINDSAY

(cooly distant)

It's going.

DANIEL

Hey, I want to thank you for something.

LINDSAY

Thank me? For what?

DANIEL

You asked me how my Dad was doing.

Thanks. That's... that's pretty nice.

LINDSAY

Well, you said it's been rough.

DANIEL

Yeah, yeah it has been.

They stop.

DANIEL (cont'd)

Hey I don't want you mad at me too.

LINDSAY

I'm not. Have you seen Kim yet?

DANIEL

I think she's avoiding me. I ain't seen her all day. You seen her?

LINDSAY

No.

DANIEL

Hold on, stop.

They STOP. Daniel leans in CLOSE and tenderly takes an eyelash from Lindsay's face. She is a little shocked.

DANIEL (cont'd)

Eyelash. Make a wish.

LINDSAY

(closes her eyes)

Okay. Made one.

She blows the eyelash from Daniel's hand. They're still unusually close.

LINDSAY (cont'd)

Listen, why don't you just go find her and apologize.

DANIEL

Find who?

LINDSAY

I'm serious.

DANIEL

I will. She has gym. I'll catch her outside the lockers.

He raises a lecherous eyebrow and walks away. Lindsay is flushed, not sure what to make of the flirty encounter.

EXT. FIELD - 11:30 AM

ANGLE ON KIM - She sits alone. Around her, empty baggies and wrappers from the lunches. She lays on her back, eats cherries, and spits the pits straight up into the air.

ANGLE ON MILLIE AND ELI - They close the last page of one of Eli's picture books. Eli is happy. Millie is bummed out.

ELI

Okay, again

MILLIE

I don't want to play anymore, Eli.
I just want to go to school. Nine years, Eli, nine years.

ELI

(pats her on the back)

I know, nine years, nine years.

ANGLE ON GEEKS - Nearby. Neal nervously paces. Sam stares, blankly at Kim. Bill lays face down.

SAM

I didn't think a girl could eat that much.

BILL

I wonder if there's a way I could kill myself before he kills me.

SAM

She even ate my black licorice - that's why I bring it - no one likes black licorice..

BILL

For some reason, I always thought I was going to die in a plane crash.

NEAL

ENOUGH! Between the sun and you two guys, my IQ is dropping by the second. I'm leaving. Whoever's coming, let's go.

Bill sees that Sam is wavering. He warns:

BILL

Don't. He's out there waiting.

NEAL

And so what if he is, Bill? So what?! Are you better off here?!

Kim walks over. She spits a pit that CLANKS off Bill's glasses.

KIM

What's going on? You geeks having a fight?

NEAL

No, we're not. And we're leaving.

KIM

Ha. You've been talking about leaving for an hour, but all I've seen so far is three little chickens who are too scared to even go into the woods to pee.

BILL

(unconvincing)

Maybe we don't feel like peeing.
Besides, Uncle Creepy is out there.

KIM

Who?

NEAL

The bus driver. Remember him? The
guy you made go nutzoid?

BILL

Yeah, you're the first one he's
going to kill anyway. He's out
there. Oh yes, he's out there.

KIM

Shut up, he is not.

BILL

Oh yes, he's out there breathing
and waiting like Jason.

SAM

Jason who?

BILL

Duh. Jason. Friday the 13th. Oh,
that's right your Mommy wouldn't
let you see it.

(realizes)

(MORE)

BILL (cont'd)

Oh no, he really is like Jason, if
you stop and think about it.

KIM

Just shut up about Jason, okay?

NEAL

Oh, touched a nerve, did we?

KIM

Shut up geek!

NEAL

(nyah-nyah cadence)

Arthur's coming ba-a-ck and he's as
mad as Ja-ason.

BILL

(same cadence)

Maybe he'll have a mache-ete with
Kim Kelly's na-ame on it.

KIM

SHUT UP!

SAM

Or maybe he'll just tie you to the
bus and torture you.

BILL

He did say he was going to do things to you -- god, I hope that includes torture.

KIM

Listen, shut up or else, you bunch of sorry pathetic rejects!

Beat. They all feel the sting of her words.

SAM

(with a new confidence)

Or what? Or what Kim?! You can't do anything else to us.

(decides)

You know what? I'm with Neal.
Let's get out of here. Come on Bill, let's go before the blood starts spattering.

Bill gets up. All three quietly start to walk across the field toward the woods.

KIM

If you guys go, I'll kick all three of your asses! I'm serious.

They VANISH into the woods.

KIM (cont'd)
GET BACK HERE!

She looks to Millie and Eli. They look blankly at her.

KIM (cont'd)
What?!

CUT TO: INT. HALLWAY - SAME

Daniel waits outside of the GIRL'S LOCKER ROOM. Bell rings and girls pour out. He eyeballs each and everyone. The last few trickle out - no Kim. He spots KAREN and JUDY.

DANIEL
Hey, Mother Juggs and Speed, you
seen Kim?

KAREN
No slime pit - and whatever you
said to her, she's still ultra-
pissed.

JUDY
Yeah, and now she's taking it out on us.

KAREN
She told me and my Ma to go to hell
this morning and she wound up
taking the bus again.

DANIEL

Yap yap yap - was she in gym or not?

KAREN

What are you deaf? We ain't seen her all day.

Karen and Judy walk away. Daniel looks around, puzzled.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN: EXT. WOODS, 11:45 AM

The Geeks trudge through the woods. They've been hiking for awhile. Bill chews on something.

NEAL

I'm sure it's this way. It was a little white house. Have some faith you guys.

BILL

I need food.

SAM

Maybe you better spit that out.

BILL

You're probably right.

Bill spits out something mulchy. Look to Neal.

BILL (cont'd)

Thanks to Eule Gibbons and his wild hickory nuts, now my stomach is really killing me.

SAM

Bill, even an idiot wouldn't chew on bark.

NEAL

Hey, I happen to know a little more about survival than the two of you.

SAM

Yeah, right.

NEAL

Oh please, if this were the Himalayas, you two would be dead by now. It's called survival of the fittest.

SAM

Like you're fit?

NEAL

At least I have some muscle on my bones.

SAM

I got muscles.

NEAL

Yeah, enough to keep you alive for a few hours.

BILL

If this were the Himalayas, I wouldn't think twice before eating both of you guys.

NEAL

Who said anything about eating each other?

BILL

I did. I'm hungry.

CUT TO: INT. SCHOOL BUS - SAME

Millie and Eli watch as Kim, laying under the steering wheel, fumbles with some wires around the ignition.

KIM

I saw my brother do this a hundred times - I think it has to do with electricity and stuff.

Millie looks at a photo of Arthur and an OLD WOMAN that is taped to the visor.

MILLIE (cont'd)
He's got a really old girlfriend.

ELI
(laughs)
That's not his girlfriend, that's
his mother.

KIM
(from beneath the dashboard)
Howda you know?

ELI
She goes to our church. My Momma
says that he's so poor he still
lives at home.

ZAP! A spark comes from the wires. Kim jumps and and bumps
her head on the wheel.

KIM
Ya! He lives with his mom? What a
sad sack.

Kim comes out. Sits on the floor facing them.

MILLIE
The really sad thing is that after
today he'll probably lose his job
and then they'll be even poorer.

ELI

Poorer? More poor?

MILLIE

Well yeah, and if he goes to jail,
that means his Mom won't have
anyone to support her and she may
wind up being put in a poor home
for old poor people.

ELI

They have things like that?

KIM

No they don't have things like that
- do they?

MILLIE

That's what I heard.

ELI

Arthur's in a lot of trouble, isn't he?

MILLIE

I think so.

(beat)

And now his Mom has to suffer too.

Kim is clearly affected. She gets up, goes to the back of
the bus, and sits, staring out the window. Silence.

KIM

Hey, it's not like I wanted any of this to happen!

CUT TO: INT. AUTO SHOP - 12:00

The Nova's hood is open. Parts everywhere. Nick and Ken kick back, look at Hot Rod magazines, and eat their junk food munchy lunch. Foghat's "SLOW RIDE" plays in the BG.

KEN

What if we file the brake cable down to a hair so he bashes into a wall or something?

NICK

What if we loosen the steering wheel so it comes off in his hands on the expressway?

KEN

What if we ran the exhaust into the back seat so he gets brain damage while he's driving home?

NICK

Oo! Check this out - look what these guys did to this Nova.

He tosses a magazine to Ken who fumbles it.

KEN

Excellent.

NICK

Why don't we Nitro-size this beast?

KEN

Hell no. Why would we want to do
Kowchevski a favor?

NICK

Would we be?

Nick imitates Mr. K wincing and holding his neck.

NICK (cont'd)

"You pansies don't know the meaning
of pain."

Nick and Ken look at each other. Inspiration so rarely
strikes. They smile. "SLOW RIDE" kicks into JAM mode.

DANIEL

(warns, from inside the Nova)

Hey - it's too quiet out there.

CUT TO: EXT. WOODS - 12:30 PM

The Geeks trudge along, sweaty and dirty.

SAM

White house, huh?

(sarcastic)

Which white house should we pick?

There's so many of them out here.

BILL

Let's pick the one were they're
serving hot lunches.

NEAL

Maybe if I got a little support
instead of constant doubting from
the both of you...

(sees something)

Hold it! There! There it is!

What did I tell you!? LET'S GO!

ANGLE INTO WOODS - A white structure is barely visible.
CAMERA PACES them as they SPRINT through the woods.

NEAL (cont'd)

I knew it! You guys think I'm
always so full of it. Well, when
they rescue us because of my
brilliant moves, I'm going to make
you eat your words. You're gonna
eat every last syllab...

They all slow down. Their expressions instantly drop from excitement to disappointment. They stop in front of a DILAPIDATED OLD SHACK. They all hang heads, defeated.

60.

BILL
WHERE ARE WE?!

NEAL
This is not the same house! This is the direction you wanted to go, Sam! We're lost and I blame you.

SAM
What? All I said is that you didn't know which way north was.

NEAL
Well maybe if you weren't so wishy washy all the time, I could blame you for something.

SAM
Me? Wishy washy?

NEAL
You are. You never stand up for anything. You let everything and everyone kick you around.

SAM

I do not.

BILL

He's right - you're pretty
spineless.

SAM

Shut up Bill!

NEAL

(to Bill)

And you! Do you ever stop boo-
hooing? First your Hulk gets
ripped, then the Driver's gonna
kill you, then you're so hungry
you're going to pass out. My god --
it's like traveling with my 80 year
old grandmother.

BILL

Except I'm not trying to French
kiss you.

Sam laughs heartily at Neal's expense.

NEAL

I am so sick of both of you.

SAM

Oh yeah? Well maybe I'm sick of both of you.

BILL

I was sick of both you back in seventh grade.

Everyone sufficiently insulted and stung, they silently continue the trek.

CUT TO: INT. SCHOOL BUS - SAME

Eli sits in the back napping. Millie and Kim sit across the aisle from each other. There is a peaceful calm in the bus.

MILLIE

I hate horror movies too. I just don't see the point. Why pay four dollars to get scared?

KIM

Oh my god - that's exactly what I say all the time. Hey, what's your favorite TV show?

MILLIE

CHIPS of course.

KIM

No way! I love CHIPS! Eric Estrada is so hot. Whoa, would I love to jump his bones.

MILLIE

(whispers lasciviously)

Me too.

They both laugh. Then comes the awkward moment when they realize that they should have nothing in common.

MILLIE

You know yesterday when you broke my unicorn?

KIM

Yeah.

MILLIE

You made me cry.

Kim is stunned. She takes a second.

KIM

Is it too late to say I'm sorry?

MILLIE

No.

KIM

I was hoping you'd say it was.

(half to herself)

I don't know, maybe Daniel was right.

MILLIE

About what?

Kim gets up. Starts pacing.

KIM (cont'd)

About me. About being so mean all the time.

MILLIE

That was me.

KIM

(busted; ashamed)

Yeah, I know - and him, too. I miss Daniel so much.

MILLIE

I miss my boyfriend too.

KIM

You have a ...?

(catches herself being mean)

That's so sweet. What's his name.

MILLIE

Um... Tommy.
(raises an eyebrow)
So?

KIM

What? Tommy's an okay name.

MILLIE

No, I meant - so, are you going to
say you're sorry?

KIM

(takes a moment)
Yeah, I guess I'm sorry.

MILLIE

Apology accepted. Thank you.

KIM

You want some gum?

MILLIE

Yes please!

DISSOLVE TO: INT. AUTO SHOP, 1:00 PM
The shop is empty. The Nova is still in a state of
disrepair. Lindsay sticks her head into the shop door.

LINDSAY

Hello? Hello?

She is about to leave. Daniel waves from the back of the Nova. He is still far from his usual self.

LINDSAY

Watcha doing?

DANIEL

Just laying here thinking. Come on, get in.

Daniel kicks open the back door and sits up. Lindsay gets into the Nova and sits next to Daniel. He leans over her and closes the door.

LINDSAY

Still no sign?

DANIEL

No.

LINDSAY

Where the guys?

DANIEL

Guyevski told them they better get motivated - so...

He points to the outside door and mimes a hit off a joint. 67.

LINDSAY
Wonderful. You okay?

DANIEL
Not really.

They sit quietly for a moment.

DANIEL (cont'd)
What am I going to do with her?
We're like one of those sick old
couples who aren't happy unless
they're miserable - and I don't
want to be that.

LINDSAY
Then don't be.

DANIEL
I wish it was that easy - like
turning off a switch. Half the
time I'm with her I want to wring
her neck - then I can't see being
without her.

LINDSAY
You love her.

DANIEL

Na, it's not that - it's, I don't know, I get who she is - you know?

LINDSAY

You love her, Daniel.

DANIEL

Well, if that's what you want to call it.

LINDSAY

Why can't you say it? There's no crime in it.

DANIEL

I know - it's cool - she's cool. I just wish she was...

LINDSAY

What?

DANIEL

I don't know - more like you.

Lindsay is in shock -- but she likes it.

LINDSAY

Daniel... I don't know what to say that.

Daniel sees something. Puts his finger over Lindsay's mouth.

DANIEL

Shh.

ANGLE ON DOOR - Mr. Kowchevski ENTERS. Looks around.

INSIDE THE NOVA - Daniel and Lindsay duck low together.

ANGLE ON KOWCHEVSKI - Walks to his Nova. Looks in the hood at the unfinished job. Upset, he smacks the grill, causing him to grimace in PAIN. Less than thrilled, he EXITS.

INSIDE THE NOVA - SOUND of the shop door closing. Daniel and Lindsay's heads touch as they stay low and out of sight. Their breathing is accelerated from the close call. Their eyes lock. Their noses brush. They move in simultaneously for a passionate KISS.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN: INT. AUTO SHOP, CONTINUED

Lindsay and Daniel pull apart from their lip lock. They are still close - and completely shocked. They whisper:

LINDSAY

Wuh... wow. How did that happen?

DANIEL

I don't know.

LINDSAY

That was... was...

DANIEL

Incredible?

LINDSAY

Y... yeah.

A KNOCK at the window scares the crap out of them. They quickly pull apart. NICK is at the window. He has a look of extreme urgency. Ken stands behind him.

NICK

(sees Lindsay)

Linds! I was just going to find you. The bus, your brother's bus - it's missing.

LINDSAY

What?!

DANIEL

I bet that's where Kim is!

NICK

They've been trying to reach them
on the CB, but no one's responded
all morning.

She looks to Daniel. They're both in shock.

LINDSAY

Oh my god - I hope they're okay!

INT. SCHOOL BUS - SAME

Kim, Millie, and Eli sit at the front of the bus, singing.

KIM, MILLIE, & ELI

There was a farmer had a dog and
Bingo was his name-o.

(clap, clap)

N-G-O.

(clap, clap)

N-G-O.

(clap, clap)

N-G-O. And Bingo was his name-o.

Kim stops singing. Eyes widen in shock as she stares over
Eli and Millie's shoulder. Millie continues singing.

ELI

Come on Kim, we still three more letters. What's wrong?

KIM

(staring; frozen)

Oh no.

ANGLE OUT WINDOW - Arthur stands at the edge of the woods.

ELI (cont'd)

It's Arthur! HEY ARTHUR!

Eli runs OUT of the bus. Kim is HORRIFIED.

KIM

Don't!

ELI

He's back! Hooray!

KIM

Eli, come back! Oh god, please don't hurt him.

ANGLE OUT WINDOW - Eli runs to Arthur. They speak for a moment. They HUG and begin walking back to the bus.

MILLIE

I think you can relax - it doesn't look like he intends on torturing you. I was pretty sure he wouldn't.

KIM

I wasn't.

CUT TO: EXT. WOODS, SAME TIME

The Geeks stomp along, separated by an irritated and comfortable distance. Sam has walking stick. Neal has his shirt tied around his head. Bill smears mud stripes on his face like war paint.

NEAL

(to Bill)

What's that supposed to prove?

BILL

Nothing. If I'm going to die out here, at least I want to look like a Warrior.

NEAL

You look more like a putz.

SAM

At least he doesn't look like Karnak.

NEAL

Who asked you?

SAM

He did.

BILL

(ala Johnny Carson's Karnak)
May a short Jewish boy in the woods
irritate you until you're dead.

NEAL

You're Karnak sucks.

BILL

You both suck.

SAM

What did I do - putz?

CUT TO: INT. SCHOOL BUS - SAME

Arthur and Eli ENTER. Arthur stares at the floor, with the
look and sound of supreme defeat.

ARTHUR

Okay, we're going back to school.

Eli sits. Arthur sits. Stares out the windshield. Beat.
The mood is like a funeral.

ARTHUR

What I did was wrong - and now - it's over.

Kim stares at the floor, too overwhelmed with guilt to speak.

KIM

Listen, I...

ARTHUR

AH! Don't say a word. Just let me drive.

Arthur plugs the CB mic back in. Talks into it.

ARTHUR (cont'd)

Base, this is Bus 17. Over.

CB VOICE

Bus 17?! What's your 20? Is everything okay? Over.

ARTHUR

Everything's fine. Over.

CB VOICE

For chrissake Arthur! What the hell is going on out there?!

ARTHUR

We... I had a little problem but everything's fine. I'm on my way back. Over and out.

CB VOICE

Arthur...!

Arthur pulls the mic out again.

ARTHUR
We're leaving.

MILLIE
But Mr. Arthur? We can't leave -
we're missing three students.

ARTHUR
Hey, if they're gone, they're gone.

KIM
No way! Those three Geeks might be
lost out there.

ARTHUR
I said we're leaving!

Arthur puts the key into where the ignition WAS - wires
dangle. He drops his head.

ARTHUR (cont'd)
Who... did... this?

KIM
(defiant)
I did.

Arthur jumps off his seat just like earlier.

ARTHUR
NOW I GOTTA FIX THIS!

KIM
THEN FIX IT!

Eli covers his ear and sinks into his chair.

CUT TO: EXT. WOODS, SAME TIME
Geeks are still walking and bickering.

NEAL
You know, if today has accomplished
anything, it's showed me what poor
excuses of friends you two really
are. There you have it. I have spoken.

SAM
You hear that, Bill? The great and
powerful Oz has spoken

BILL
Oh, is the *small* and powerful Oz
speaking to me again?

SAM
Shut up Bill!.

BILL
You shut up - ass.

SAM

Don't call me an ass - ass!

NEAL

Shut up you guys.

BILL & SAM

You shut up!

NEAL

No really! Stop! Stop talking for
a second - I think I hear voices.

All stop and listen. SOUNDS of DISTANT voices.

SAM

Where's it coming from?

All three spin around, trying to zero in.

SAM (cont'd)

This way!

CAMERA PACES them as they RUN toward the voices.

NEAL

I knew it! I knew I saw a house!
And you jerks wouldn't believe me!

The EDGE of the woods is ahead of them.

GEEKS POV - Same field. Same bus. Same voices yelling.

BILL
Us jerks, huh?

ANGLE ON GEEKS - They walk back to the bus, heads hung and defeated by the day.

NEAL (cont'd)
Thank god it's all over.

SAM
It's all over alright.

NEAL
What's that suppose to mean?

Sam glares at Neal. Neal glares back. Bill glares at both of them. It's been a tiring and trying day in the woods.

DISSOLVE TO: EXT. SCHOOL BUS - LATER
Rumbles down the road. The song, "THE LONG WAY HOME" plays.

CUT TO: INT. SCHOOL BUS - SAME
Arthur drives, hands squeezing the wheel. Millie and Eli sit together. Kim sits alone. The Geeks all sit as far from each other as possible. The day has taken its toll on all.

CUT TO: INT. AUTO SHOP - SAME TIME

Nick and Ken close the hood of the Nova. They both have shit-eating-grins.

NICK

Well done.

KEN

Truly some of our finest work.

They slap each other fives.

CUT TO: EXT. SCHOOL - SOME TIME LATER

Scholl lets out. The bus PULLS UP. Lindsay and Daniel wait with a FEW TEACHERS. There is a BROWN COUNTY CAR with a FEW SCHOOL OFFICIALS also waiting.

DANIEL

(quietly, to Lindsay)

How you feel?

LINDSAY

Hm? I'm fine. Now that it's finally here.

DANIEL

No, I mean about the other thing?
How you feel about that?

LINDSAY

I don't know - guilty. You?

DANIEL

Mostly scared. And guilty, I guess. It was incredible. Do... uh, do you think we should...?

LINDSAY

Look! There's Sam. Sam!

CUT TO: INT. SCHOOL BUS - SAME

It stops. Millie and Eli are first up to exit.

ELI

Thanks for the ride! Bye bye.

ARTHUR

Bye Eli, you be a good boy.

ELI

I am. Bye bye Arthur.

MILLIE

See ya. I hope everything turns out okay.

(remembers)

Hey! I better go see if they'll still keep my attendance record intact.

ANGLE OUT OF BUS DOOR - Eli is greeted by a Teacher. Millie SPRINTS toward the school's entrance.

The Geeks are next off. Somber and quiet.

ARTHUR (cont'd)
Take care guys. Sorry.

SAM / NEAL / BILL
It's cool. No prob. It was kind
of fun.

They EXIT. Kim remains seated. Arthur senses her.

ARTHUR
(without looking back)
Why is there still a student on
this bus?

KIM
Can I say something?

CUT TO: EXT. SCHOOL BUS - SAME
The Teachers present, all greet the students and begin the
debriefing. Lindsay hugs Sam hard.

LINDSAY
Sam, oh my god, are you okay?

SAM
Ow, let go - I'm fine.

LINDSAY

What in the world happened?

SAM

Just a little unscheduled field trip - it was actually kind of fun.

NEAL

Yeah, fun like oral surgery.

DANIEL

(trying to see in the bus)
What's she doing in there?

CUT TO: INT. SCHOOL BUS - SAME

Arthur knows he has Kim's attention. He closes his eyes, deep in contemplation.

ARTHUR

Life is amazing, isn't it?
(looks out at the school)
When I went to high school, kids like you made my life miserable - the cruelty, the ridicule. And the only peace I could find was knowing that once I got older, things would change.

(laughs)

Isn't that stupid?

(MORE)

ARTHUR (cont'd)

People like you are the one
constant in life - people who live
to cause other people pain.

A flood of emotions seizes Kim - she chokes back a sob.

ARTHUR (cont'd)

You'll never change.

Arthur gets up and goes to the door.

KIM

I can.

He looks back at her, face red and wet.

KIM (cont'd)

I... can.

ARTHUR

Go to hell.

He exits, leaving Kim alone.

CUT TO: EXT. SCHOOL BUS - SAME

Arthur walks up to the angry Officials. They surround him.
Daniel is still trying to see Kim

LINDSAY

Here she comes.

Kim steps off. Head down. Slowly walks to Daniel. Stops.
He holds a hand out. She rushes him for a heavy hug.

DANIEL

You miss me blondie?

She nods like a little girl.

DANIEL (cont'd)

I missed you too. Come here.

He holds her face and kisses her.

KIM

I'm sorry if I hurt you.

DANIEL

It's cool.

KIM

I've got such a big mouth.

DANIEL

I thought I'd never see you again.
I mean you know how to piss off
people.

KIM

That's going to change - I swear
that's going to change. I love you baby.

DANIEL

I know you do.

They hug. Over Kim's shoulder, Daniel makes eye contact with Lindsay. He has a look of CONFUSION. Lindsay equally confused. She breaks the contact. Turns to Sam.

LINDSAY

Come on Sam, let's go home.

Sam looks to Neal and Bill. They're standing there, looking at the ground, uncomfortable.

SAM

I... uh, I kind of had plans to
play Atari at Neal's. If, um...

Neal looks up at Sam.

NEAL

I just got Space Invaders II if
anyone's interested in taking on
the champ.

BILL

I'll take you on.

SAM

I'll take you both on.

Lindsay pinches Sam's cheeks and kisses him.

LINDSAY

Oh, my baby brother - it's so good
to see you.

SAM

Stop it Lindsay.

Sam turns to Neal and Bill. They're all filthy and somewhat
ashamed. They move as one and start to walk away.

CUT TO: EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - SAME

Mr. Kowchevski, with stiff neck, carefully gets into his car.

Nick and Ken, trying to suppress laughter, watch from behind
another car.

ANOTHER AREA OF THE PARKING LOT

The Geeks walk together, solemn and serious. There is the
SQUEAL of car tires. They spin around.

ANGLE ON THE NOVA - It SPEEDS by. Mr. Kowchevski is pinned to his seat, grimacing in pain and TRYING to gain control of his car.

ANGLE ON GEEKS - they look at each other.

SAM
Should we?

Neal and Bill nods "yes."

SAM / NEAL / BILL
SLOW DOWN!

ANGLE ON NICK AND KEN - They're laughing their asses off.

ANGLE ON GEEKS - They try to remain serious. Neal looks at Bill's war stripes - he begins to laugh. Sam tries not to, but, he too, begins to laugh. Bill's lips purse solemnly - until he finally joins them in laughter.

They laugh as they walk down the sidewalk away from CAMERA.

FADE OUT:

THE END