

1 INT. MINI-VAN - AFTERNOON 1

Strapped into a child's seat in the back of a mini-van is MIKEY, 6, a bit dirty and disheveled as 6 year-olds are prone to be. At Mikey's side is a teddy bear. The door next to him is open.

Mikey stares out the window at a two story house in front of the van.

Nobody is in the front seat of the van. Mikey struggles but unbuckles himself from the child's seat. He pops out of the van and walks into the house, teddy bear in hand.

2 INT. BEDROOM - EVENING 2

Mikey crawls into a sleeping bag on the floor, holds his teddy bear tight.

A bed peaks into frame, the covers bunched up around what could be feet.

3 INT. KITCHEN - DAY 3

Mikey stands in the kitchen, staring up at boxes of cereal on the counter top, out of reach.

He jumps and tries to grab the box, but it's out of reach.

4 INT. KITCHEN - LATER 4

A broom handle awkwardly sweeps across the countertop, knocking a box of cereal on it's side but not any closer to Mikey.

5 INT. KITCHEN - LATER 5

The sound of a chair scooting across the floor.

Mikey pulls a chair from the kitchen table to the kitchen counter.

He climbs onto the chair and finally reaches the fallen box of cereal. He reaches further up and grabs a bowl from the shelf.

Mikey pours himself a big bowl of cereal, then jumps down off the chair, bowl in hand, and goes to the refrigerator.

The door opens, but the light does not come on inside. Mikey pulls out a carton of milk and shuts the refrigerator door.

Mikey sets the bowl and milk carton at the table, then scoots himself into a chair and sits for his meal.

He opens the carton and pours chunky spoiled milk into his bowl. Mikey scrunches his brow at the bowl with the weird milk, then closes the carton and dips his spoon in anyway.

Mikey lifts a large spoonful. He picks up teddy in one hand, the spoon in the other.

MIKEY

Hungry?

Mikey rams the spoonful into teddy's mouth, which just causes the teddy bear's mouth area to become damp.

Mikey cracks up, giggling at the mess.

Mikey smiles, then takes a spoonful for himself. He holds it in for a moment, then spits everything back out.

Mikey glares at the carton of milk.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

Gross. Gross. Gross.

Mikey looks around the kitchen, working the bad taste out of his mouth.

Mikey spots a white bag on the counter.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

Sugar.

Mikey jumps back up on the chair, pulls the white bag close, it's flour.

He works at the bag but can't open it. Mikey looks up at the knife block.

He reaches up towards the knife block where various blades and a pair of heavy duty scissors sit.

6 INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

6

A scream from the kitchen.

MIKEY (O.S.)

Mom!

Mikey's footsteps sound through the house. Mikey runs into the bedroom holding his finger.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

Ouwee ouwee ouwee.

Mikey runs to the side of a large bed. Under the covers, but faces showing, are Mikey's Parents. They look to have been dead for a week.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

Ouwee ouwee ouwee.

Mike holds up his finger, a tiny cut swells with a little bit of blood. Mikey shows this to his dead mother.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

Kiss it.

Mikey holds his finger up closer to his mother's face. He presses the finger on her lips then pulls it off quickly and stops crying, her mouth cold and stiff.

The smear of blood on his Mother's lips contrasts with her pale skin.

Mikey closes the door. A pink dress hangs on the outside of the door.

7

INT. HOUSE - LATER

7

Mikey runs around the house, imitating the noise of an airplane. This mixes in with a rash of giggling.

In and out of the living room and he runs.

Around his neck with his head poking through, Mikey wears a ripped newspaper, the bulk of which flutters behind him like a cape.

Mikey jumps on a chair, hands raised up. We catch a glimpse of the newspaper.

"SUPERFLU SPREADS, NEW YORK ISSUES MARSHALL LAW"

And below that...

"CASUALTIES HIT CATASTROPHIC HIGH"

Mikey jumps from the chair.

"KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK."

Mikey freezes.

He looks around the living room.

"KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK."

Mikey runs to a window. He peeks out.

At the door, in reflective sunglasses with a baseball cap stands WILL, 12. Confident, curious, the epitome of an American youth. A yellow bandana is tied around Will's arm.

Will chomps on gum, blows a bubble. He raises his hand to the door.

Mikey jumps down as...

"KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK."

WILL (O.S.)
Anyone in there?

Mikey's eyes go wide. He jumps back up to the window.

Will walks back to take in the whole house. He scans then locks in on Mikey in the window, smiles, and waves.

WILL (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Hey kid. I saw you bud. You hungry?
I got a candy bar with your name on
it.

Mikey takes a step to the door, unable to help himself. He peeks from the small window right next to the door.

Will sits in the grass, munching on a candy bar. He pulls out a soda from his bag.

8 EXT. HOUSE - DAY

8

The front door opens slowly. Mikey peeks out.

Will smiles at Mikey from his seat, twenty feet away. He holds out the candy bar he's eating.

Will's right hand is stained a shade of red.

WILL
You want a bite Superman?

Mikey takes a step towards Will, pauses and looks back at his cape. He grabs the candy bar from Will's hand then walks back to his house and sits on the step to eat it.

WILL (CONT'D)
 Heck yeah it's good right. A kid
 without a candy bar is a shame, a
 damn shame. That's what my dad
 always said. Damn shame.

Will laughs to himself.

Mikey eats the candy bar, walks back to the house.

WILL (CONT'D)
 You got anyone in there. Anyone
 alive I mean?

Mikey looks up at the house.

WILL (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 I know. You got your parents in
 there I bet. Am I right? They went
 and died on you. Croaked.

9 INT. HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON 9

Mikey enters the house, waves at Will outside before walking
 into the living room.

WILL (V.O.)
 It's a damn shame. Like my dad
 said. Well, I know what it feels
 like to have your parents go ahead
 and die on you. Happened to me...

10 INT. HOUSE - LATER 10

Mikey sits and stares at the door into his parents bedroom
 under a Mikey-made house fort.

WILL (V.O.)
 You're scared I bet. I'd bet you my
 arm.

Mikey looks around his canopied area, the dirt pile looks
 sad.

Mikey works on a tube of nearly empty toothpaste, forces the
 last bit into his mouth and chews it like it's a meal.

WILL (V.O.)
 Makes sense. You should be scared.
 I'd be scared out here in the woods
 alone. Don't know who's out here.

Laughter outside grabs Mikey's attention.

Mikey stands, listening.

Another bout of laughter, this time louder.

Mikey runs to the window. Outside sits Will against a tree. He has a comic book in his lap, reading.

WILL (V.O.)

You know what? You should come back to the city with me. I got my friends there who could be your friends easy enough. They're a lot like you, I found most of em the same way. We only got one rule.

While Mikey watches, Will kicks his head back and laughs at something in the book.

Mikey walks to the door, leaves the house.

Through the window Mikey approaches Will, sits.

MIKEY (V.O.)

What rules?

Will points at something and cracks up. Mikey reacts to Will's laugh with a smile and giggle.

11 EXT. HOUSE - MORNING

11

Mikey sleeps in the grass.

WILL (V.O.)

You gotta be ok to be scared. You learn what to be scared of then be ok with it. Like being scared of leaving your house, or losing your parents...being left behind.

Mikey's eyes open.

Mikey sits up. He looks around, Will isn't there.

MIKEY

Hello?

No reply. Mikey stands up, spins around.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

Hello, where are you?

Mikey waits, no reply.

MIKEY (CONT'D)
Hello! Where are you! Are you
there?

Mikey waits again, still nothing.

Mikey runs to the house, opens the door. He pokes his head
inside.

MIKEY (CONT'D)
Are you in here?

No reply.

Mikey runs back down. There isn't a bag, a comic, a candy
bar, no sign.

Mikey grows frantic, tears come immediately. He falls to his
knees, cries.

WILL
Hey kid. I got some bad news.

Mikey stands back up. Will sits in the front seat of the mini-
van, trying the key.

Mikey runs over to him and instinctively hugs Will.

WILL (CONT'D)
Wow. You really got spooked.

Mikey holds the hug, nods his head. A slight grin appears on
Will's face.

WILL (CONT'D)
I gotta go. Can't wait around here
anymore. I want you to come with
but won't force you.

Mikey breaks the hug, walks towards the house, stops halfway
there and turns around to look at Will.

WILL (CONT'D)
Whatcha think?

Mikey stands up, unsure.

The living room, there are drawings all over, including on
the dark television screen.

13 INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS 13

The kitchen, empty and smelly from the fridge.

14 INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS 14

The pink dress hangs outside the door, a floating headless outline of his mother.

15 EXT. HOUSE - DAY 15

Will ties Mikey's sneakers, then pats his feet when he's done.

WILL
Ready?

Mikey stands up, holds the teddy bear tight. Will ruffles his hair, takes his hand. The superman newspaper cape is back around his neck.

The two walk back towards the woods behind the house. Mikey turns around halfway back and pauses.

WILL (CONT'D)
What?

Will looks at the house.

WILL (CONT'D)
You want me to say something for your parents?

Mikey nods.

WILL (CONT'D)
Ok.

Will takes a deep breath.

WILL (CONT'D)
Parents. You're dead like everyone else. We ain't hungry so don't worry about us. We'll take care of ourselves now.

Will looks down at Mikey who wipes his nose. Will takes one last look at the house.

WILL (CONT'D)
We're outta here, don't wait up.

Will takes Mikey's hand, the two walk into the woods.

The house looks darker than usual now that the two boys have left it.

FADE TO:

16 EXT. ROAD - DAY 16

Will walks, Mikey trailing.

MIKEY

*Row row row your boat, gently down
the stream, merrily merrily...*

WILL

Ok, enough with the row your boat
already.

17 EXT. FOREST - DAY 17

Will walks through a path in the woods, Mikey riding piggy
back.

WILL

And nobody could beat Goliath in
any of the battles. They were all
too scared. So there's also this
kid who's a shepherd who's scared
but he's ok with his...

MIKEY

Row row row your...

WILL

Listen to the story.

18 EXT. FIELD - DAY 18

Will leads Mikey through a field. It's difficult with the
crops in place.

19 EXT. WOODS CLEARING - DAY 19

Mikey walks in front of Will through a clearing, head down.

MIKEY

*Row row row your boat, gently down
the stream. Merrily merrily merrily
merrily life is but a dream.*

(MORE)

MIKEY (CONT'D)

*Row row row your boat, gently down
the stream. Merrily merrily merrily
merrily life is but a dream. Row
row row...*

Mikey stops suddenly, looks up. Will isn't behind him.

Mikey turns in a circle, Will is nowhere.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

Will?

Mikey looks around frantically.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

Will!

Mikey looks extremely small alone in the clearing.

20

EXT. TREES - DAY

20

Will watches as Mikey screams, hidden in the brush, a slight smile on his face.

FADE TO BLACK.