

THE SWORD

Written by Robert Douglas Morick Jr.

03 April, 2003 - 08 July, 2003

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Brad Williams  
Dana Rice  
Craig Otto  
Ryan Holmes  
Jason Nowell  
Eric Owens  
Liz Jade  
Will McHenry  
Alexis Reed  
Sean O'Reily  
Bailey Porter  
Kelly Hansel  
Kimmy Fredrickson  
Tasha Brice  
Mr. McKenny  
Mr. Green  
Cody Miller  
Dave Cremenes  
Mike Turner  
Bud Ericson  
Tim Willard

Revision 1  
[July 8, 2003]

SCENE 1

FADE IN

BRAD'S HOUSE INT.- DAY

OPEN ON BRAD WAKING UP TO AN ALARM CLOCK, HE GETS UP, GETS DRESSED,  
AND GRABS A BOOKBAG

CUT TO BRAD'S HOUSE EXT.- DAY

SEAN ROLLS UP IN A MINI-VAN AND BRAD GETS IN, THEY DRIVE OFF

CUT TO SEAN'S CAR INT.- DAY

SEAN

Good morning sunshine.

BRAD

Dude, Sean, don't call me sunshine on the first day of  
school.

SEAN

Oh come on, lighten up, it's the first day of the end.

BRAD

Senior year;

SARCASTICALLY

we're in charge.

SEAN

In charge of what?

BRAD

Well I'm gonna be in charge of the sword I'll tell you that  
much.

SEAN

So what are your ideas for our crappy school paper?

BRAD

It's gonna be a student paper for once. And it's not going  
to be crappy.

SEAN

How do you know you're going to be the editor?

BRAD  
Well, it has to be a senior who's been in journalism for  
all four years, that leaves me and Craig Otto.

SEAN  
What about Craig?

BRAD  
Craig? Oh, Craig's a douche.

SEAN (NOT CONVINCED)  
  
Oh.

CUT TO SEAN'S VAN EXT.- DAY  
THE VAN STOPS IN FRONT OF A HOUSE, ALEXIS GETS IN  
CUT TO SEAN'S VAN INT.- DAY

SEAN  
Good morning sweetheart.

ALEXIS SLUMPS IN THE SEAT AND CLOSES HER EYES

ALEXIS (WITH HER EYES CLOSED)  
Alexis doesn't open for like another hour, try again  
later.

BRAD  
If we have to be up this early so do you.

ALEXIS (OPENING HER EYES BUT STILL GROGGY)  
Screw you.

SHE FLIPS BRAD THE MIDDLE FINGER THE CLOSES HER EYES AGAIN  
BRAD TURNS AROUND AND SIGHS

SCENE 2

DISSOLVE TO SCHOOL EXT.- DAY

WILL AND BAILEY WALK HAND IN HAND ALONG A SIDEWALK

KELLY PASSES THEM AND STOPS TO TALK

KELLY IS VERY FRIENDLY TO BAILEY BUT UNCOMFORTABLE TOWARDS WILL

KELLY (UNCOMFORTABLY)  
Hi.

WILL (UNCOMFORTABLY)  
Hi.

KELLY  
Look Will, I don't know what to say, I mean, I'm not Sandy. I'm sorry about everything that happened last year, I'd really like to try and be friends.

WILL  
You're right, you're not Sandy, but you're a preppy little bitch who will do anything to benefit herself.

KELLY  
You know, I understand why you would think that. Just give me a fair chance?

WILL STANDS THERE, UNCOMFORTABLY.

BAILEY (TO KELLY)  
Give it some time.

KELLY (TO BAILEY)  
Fair enough. So are you ready for our senior year?

BAILEY  
Ready as I'll ever be.

KELLY  
Think about what we talked about on the phone.

BAILEY  
Maybe.

KELLY  
Trust me, you'd be great! I'll see you guys in class.

KELLY LEAVES

WILL

She called you?

BAILEY

Yeah, she apologized for what happened last year and we talked for awhile.

WILL

Why didn't you tell me?

BAILEY

I didn't want you to get mad.

WILL

Sweetie, I'm not gonna get mad over that.

BAILEY

I just know you don't like her.

WILL

What was she saying you'd be great at?

ALEXIS APPROACHES

BAILEY

Nothing.

ALEXIS

So what was that all about? Is Ms. Kelly already trying to ruin your senior year?

WILL

No actually, she uh, just tried to do the whole, 'bury the hatchet' thing.

ALEXIS

The only hatchet she'd ever bury is the one she just used to stab someone in the back with.

WILL

A steel claw behind a velvet paw.

CUT TO CU OF BAILEY LISTENING INTENTLY

SCENE 3

FADE IN

SCHOOL INT.- DAY

ESTABLISHING SHOT OF A DOOR WITH LETTERS ON IT READING "THE SWORD"

CUT TO INT. - THE SWORD OFFICE

GROUP SHOT-SEVEN PEOPLE SIT AROUND AT A LONG TABLE.

AT THE FRONT OF THE ROOM IN FRONT OF A CHALKBOARD IS MR. MCKENNY

SEATED AT THE FRONT IS BRAD, RYAN, AND CRAIG. CRAIG IS A CLEAN CUT ABERCROMBIE SOLDIER WITH NICE HAIR AND EXPENSIVE CLOTHES, RYAN IS HIS TWIN. DIRECTLY BESIDE THEM IS JASON AND ERIC, WHO ARE SITTING ACROSS FROM EACH OTHER. JASON IS DRESSED IN RIPPED JEANS AND A BAGGY BAND SHIRT, HE'S A PUNK, ERIC'S STYLE IS CLOSE TO BRAD'S, THEY ARE SENIORS. DIRECTLY BESIDE THEM ARE LIZ AND DANA, WHO ARE SITTING ACROSS FROM EACH OTHER. LIZ IS A SMALL AND PALE GOTH GIRL, SHE LOOKS QUIET AND DISTURBED, DANA IS NOT QUITE A PREPPY PRINCESS, BUT ALSO NOT QUITE A LOWER MIDDLE CLASS.

A BELL RINGS.

MR. MCKENNY

Welcome to advanced journalism. In this class we will study some of the greatest journalists in history and learn just what the secret to great writing is.

MR. MCKENNY STARTS TO GO ON ABOUT THE REQUIRED MATERIALS FOR THE COURSE AND THE CLASSROOM RULES

CUT TO MS OF THE STUDENTS

RYAN AND CRAIG TALK AMONGST THEMSELVES

CRAIG

Good, one more class that I can sleep in.

RYAN

No crap, this class is cake.

BRAD

Why the fuck are you even in here?

CRAIG

Because it's easy.

JASON

Dude, that's not cool.

MUMBLES

Preppy bitch.

RYAN (TO CRAIG)  
Why is this dirty faggot talking to me?

BRAD  
You know, you ain't got to be a dick or anything.

CRAIG  
You don't got to be queer or anything.

RYAN  
What a loser.

CUT TO MR. MCKENNY

MR. MCKENNY  
So, any questions?

BRAD RAISES HIS HAND

BRAD  
When do we apply for editor positions?

MR. MCKENNY  
I'm glad you asked that, we will meet next Tuesday after school to discuss the school paper leadership, the class is really small this year, so you'll all probably be editors of a department.

RYAN AND CRAIG SCOFF RUDELY

Now we're going to go around the room and introduce ourselves because I don't believe that everyone knows each other. Give us your name and a little about yourself, starting right here in the front.

CRAIG  
I'm Craig Otto and I'm an alcoholic.

RYAN LAUGHS BUT EVERYONE ELSE ROLLS THEIR EYES

RYAN  
I'm Ryan Holmes.

BRAD  
I'm Brad Williams, I'm fourth year journalism and I love to write.

TWO SHOT, CRAIG AND RYAN

CRAIG  
Thank you Peter Jennings.

MS OF THE GROUP

JASON  
Hi, I'm Jason Nowell, I'm a straight-edge fruit-booter, and I got into sports writing my freshman year, and uh, I like it.

TWO SHOT, CRAIG AND RYAN

RYAN  
What's a... fruit-booter?

CRAIG  
You just said you're straight... and you said you're a fruit, how is *that* possible?

CUT TO CU OF MR. MCKENNY

MR. MCKENNY  
Keep your comments to yourself.

CUT TO MS OF THE GROUP

ERIC  
I'm Eric Owens, I started writing opinion columns my sophomore year and people like what I've got to say, I've amassed quite a fan base, couldn't quit on them now.

TWO SHOT, CRAIG AND RYAN

CRAIG (QUIETLY TO RYAN)  
God, this whole class is a bunch of freaking losers.

CUT TO CU OF DANA

DANA  
I'm Dana Rice, I took basic journalism last year and it just really is something I'm passionate about, it's the love of my life.

TWO SHOT, CRAIG AND RYAN

RYAN (QUIETLY TO CRAIG)  
Lesbian?

CRAIG  
Lesbian.

DANA GLARES AT THEM AND GIVES THEM A DIRTY LOOK  
CUT TO MS OF THE GROUP

LIZ  
I'm Liz. I take pictures and you know, whatever.

TWO SHOT, CRAIG AND RYAN

CRAIG  
That one is just too easy.

RYAN  
Yeah.

CUT TO MS, OF THE GROUP

BRAD  
Hey Craig, Ryan, why don't you guys shut up.

MR. MCKENNY  
Let's keep the negative comments to a minimum, please.

CRAIG  
Yeah, all of this negative reinforcement is bad for my learning process.

MR. MCKENNY  
We're not gonna have any problems in here are we?

JASON (SPREADING HIS ARMS)  
Lovin' is what I got.

SCENE 4

A BELL RINGS AS THE SCREEN DISSOLVES TO SCHOOL INT.- DAY, JUST OUTSIDE  
THE DOOR TO THE SWORD  
EVERYONE IS MAKING THEIR WAY OUT OF THE ROOM  
CUT TO THE SWORD OFFICE, INT.- DAY  
BRAD CATCHES DANA

BRAD  
You know, it's a strange thing that I've never met you before.

DANA STOPS AND EYES HIM CURIOUSLY

DANA  
And why is that?

BRAD  
Because I don't usually pass up a beautiful girl.

DANA  
Oh you're so charming.

BRAD  
Yeah I know, cheap charm. I'm just playin, I've seen you around before.

DANA  
It's not a very big school.

BRAD  
So Sophomore? Junior?

DANA  
Junior. Where are you going?

BRAD  
I am headed to Calculus.

DANA  
Well I am going to Algebra Two.

BRAD (EXTENDING HIS ARM)  
I just had this cool idea.

DANA  
And that would be?

BRAD  
We should walk together, like every day.

DANA SMILES AND ACCEPTS AND LOOPS HER ARM THROUGH BRAD'S  
THE EXIT THE SWORD OFFICE TOGETHER

SCENE 5

BRAD, SEAN, ALEXIS, WILL, AND BAILEY ARE IN THE LUNCHROOM AT A TABLE  
WILL IS FURIOUSLY WRITING

SEAN

Oh what a year this is going to be. Every class is total simplicity.

ALEXIS

I've got a feeling that this year is going to be great.

BRAD

What about you Will?

WILL (LOOKING UP FROM HIS WRITING)

I'm bored already, I want out of here.

WILL GOES BACK TO WRITING

BRAD

Cherish it whilst you can bro.

WILL

Whatever.

SEAN

So, did you get The Sword?

BRAD

We won't know until next Tuesday.

ALEXIS

Who else are they going to give it to?

SEAN

Craig?

BRAD

Like I said before, Craig's a douche.

SEAN

You know, I get the craziest feelin' that you are setting yourself up for a big let down.

BRAD

Dude, why is the glass half empty with you? What's with the pessimism?

SEAN

I'm just sayin' bro.

DISSOLVE TO  
SCENE 6  
SCHOOL EXT.- DAY  
WILL IS SITTING ON A BENCH WRITING  
ALEXIS APPROACHES

ALEXIS

Will, hey there.

WILL

What's up Alexis?

ALEXIS

I had a poem I was hoping you could take a look at, I like the rhyme scheme but the meter's all off, maybe you could give me some suggestions?

WILL

On one condition.

ALEXIS

I'm not doing a threesome with you and Bailey.

WILL

Oh in your dreams.

THEY LAUGH

Can you take a look at this one for me?

ALEXIS

Sure.

THEY TRADE PAPERS AND START TO READ

WITHOUT LIFTING THEIR EYES FROM THE PAPERS THEY SAY SIMULTANIOUSLY

BOTH  
You should have this published.

THEY SNAP THEIR HEADS UP WITH A GRIN

ALEXIS  
That was majorly creepy.

WILL  
I'm serious this is really good Alexis.

ALEXIS  
What about the meter?

WILL  
It's only like one syllable here and there, and really,  
it's consistent so it keeps a nice steady beat.

ALEXIS  
I wish I could have it published.

WILL  
We have no medium around here.

ALEXIS  
No doubt.

WILL  
Which sucks because I've got enough stuff in my notebook to  
fill volumes.

ALEXIS  
Me too.

WILL  
So let's do it.

ALEXIS  
Do what?

WILL  
Start a magazine.

ALEXIS  
Just us?

WILL  
We can collect stuff from people all over school.

ALEXIS  
It's a really good idea, you come up with it all by yourself?

WILL  
Not really, I found old copies of a student poetry magazine called *Reflections* in my English teachers filing cabinet.

THEY STAND AND START TO WALK  
CAMERA FOLLOWS

ALEXIS  
Really?

WILL  
Yeah, they stopped it in like '94, I don't know why.

ALEXIS  
Search me, I started going here a year before you did.

WILL  
Sean writes doesn't he?

ALEXIS  
Kinda, it's mostly trite Shakespeare sounding stuff.

WILL  
It's still his work, nothing wrong with Shakespeare.

ALEXIS  
Oh I know. Does Bailey write?

WILL

She says she can't.

ALEXIS

Oh, one of those types.

WILL

I'm trying to get her to open up but it's tough, especially anymore.

ALEXIS

Troubles?

WILL

She's just been hanging out with Kelly a lot recently.

ALEXIS

Kelly? Not the same Kelly that tried to keep you two apart and nearly drove Bailey to suicide last year?

WILL

See, it was really Sandy who was leading that whole thing, Kelly's case is that she was just along for the ride and she feels bad about it.

ALEXIS

And you buy that crap?

WILL

Bailey does.

ALEXIS

Ugh... We've been to hell and back for her, and she's gonna go off and dine with Judas!

WILL

She's at the mall with her right now.

ALEXIS

This is too much for me to handle! The mall? Bailey?

WILL

Yep.

ALEXIS  
With Kelly?

WILL  
And Kimmy and Tasha.

ALEXIS  
William... dear, sweet, William. You poor child.

WILL  
I don't know what's up. But it's really depressing me.

ALEXIS  
Well, let's try not to think about it. Let's think about the magazine.

WILL  
We should seriously talk to Brad about it.

ALEXIS  
If anyone can get us in with The Sword, He can.

THEY STOP WALKING AT A CAR

WILL  
Get me a few poems so I can put together a small sample.

ALEXIS  
Ok, Sean and me'll stop by later tonight.

WILL  
See ya then.

WILL GETS INTO HIS CAR AND ALEXIS WALKS OFF AS HE PULLS AWAY  
FADE OUT

SCENE 7

SWORD OFFICE INT.- DAY

THE SWORD CREW IS ASSEMBLED AS THEY WERE WITH BRAD, CRAIG, AND RYAN AT THE FRONT OF THE MAIN CONFERENCE TABLE AND ERIC, JASON, DANA AND LIZ DESCENDING BACK

MR. MCKENNY IS STANDING

JASON (TO BRAD)

I have got some ill ideas for sports this year.

BRAD

Really? How exciting can you get?

JASON

Check it out, there is like a mass extreme sport following, we got like a mad amount of fruit booters, plywood pushers and BMXers here at this school.

BRAD (TO ERIC)

What?

ERIC

He just said that there's a bunch of rollar-bladers skateboarders and BMX bikers at school.

BRAD (REALIZING)

Oh, well I'll be damned.

JASON

Yeah bra, we start up an extreme sport section we double sales. Skaters and punks don't go near the school paper, if we start documenting their world we give them a reason to buy.

BRAD

Demographics, you just broke the code of marketing. You know, for a smelly, broke, guy with an authority problem; that's pretty intelligent.

JASON

Chicks dig smelly, broke, guys with authority problems.

BRAD

Sad, but true.

JASON (FLIPPING THE BACKSIDE BEAST)

Metallica, party on.

BRAD (TO ERIC)

He's a sports writer?

ERIC  
Trust me, put a pen in his hand and he's Dickie V.

CUT TO CU OF JASON OFF IN HIS OWN WORLD PLAYING RHYTHMS ON THE TABLE  
TO SONGS IN HIS HEAD.  
CUT BACK TO BRAD, HE ONLY MAKES A DISBELIVING FACE  
CUT TO TWO SHOT- LIZ AND DANA  
LIZ HAS HER HEAD DOWN AND IS WRITING ON A PAD OF PAPER IN FRONT OF  
HER

DANA  
Hey Liz.

LIZ BRIEFLY LIFTS HER HEAD AND LOOKS AT DANA THEN GOES LAYS HER HEAD  
BACK DOWN

LIZ  
Hi.

DANA  
So, are you a sophomore?

LIZ IS SILENT

OK.

CUT TO GROUP SHOT  
MR. MCKENNY STANDS AS TO GET EVERYONE'S ATTENTION  
CU OF MR. MCKENNY

MR. MCKENNY  
O.k. Hey everyone, I'm gonna try to keep this meeting short  
and sweet.

HE PICKS UP SOME PACKETS OF PAPER AND STARTS HANDING THEM OUT

These packets have everything for this year in them, field trip forms, rules, department responsibilities, stylebook, and a handbook of administrative guidelines for articles.

CUT TO MLS OF GROUP

JASON

Save some trees bra, why so much junk?

MR. MCKENNY

I'm glad you asked that question, this year I am trying something totally new with The Sword.

BRAD

Totally new?

MR. MCKENNY

This year The Sword will be completely student operated.

CRAIG

Completely?

MR. MCKENNY

Well, both I and Principal Green have agreed that you students are mature enough and responsible enough to run the paper on your own.

THERE IS A COLLECTIVE SMILE AND ENTHUSIASM FROM THE GROUP

Now there are stipulations, if you abuse this great amount of freedom we're giving to you, we'll go back to the old system of the school administration breathing down your necks.

ERIC

So we don't channel article though you anymore?

MR. MCKENNY

No, the go to you guys, the department heads, then to press.

DANA

We're the department heads?

MR. MCKENNY

Yes, the rest of the Sword staff is coming out of the basic Journalism classes and they answer to you guys. Eric, You're the Opinions editor, Jason's got Sports, Dana's got Features, Ryan is head of the News department, Liz is the Art and Layout Editor, Brad is the head floor editor and Craig will be the editor-in-chief.

JASON

Craig's the editor-in-chief?

CUT TO CU OF BRAD WHISPERING TO CRAIG AND RYAN

BRAD

When's the last time either of you wrote an article?

CUT TO CU OF CRAIG WHISPERING BACK TO BRAD

CRAIG

I write articles all the time.

CUT TO THREE SHOT OF JASON WHISPERING TO CRAIG AND RYAN

JASON

You mean your girlfriend writes articles all the time.

CUT TO CU OF RYAN

RYAN

Better my girlfriend than your boyfriend, faggot.

CUT TO TWO SHOT OF JASON SLAPPING RYAN IN THE BACK OF THE HEAD  
RYAN STARTS TO REBUTT  
CUT TO GROUP SHOT

MR. MCKENNY  
Problem gentlemen?

RYAN GLARES AT JASON  
JASON SMILES

JASON  
Naw bra, we're good.

MR. MCKENNY  
I don't want any trouble out of you two, understand?

RYAN  
Well maybe you should tell this homo...

MR. MCKENNY  
I won't hesitate to move someone else up into yor position.

JASON  
You tell him Teacher-Man.

MR. MCKENNY  
You too Jason.

JASON (INNOCENTLY)  
My bad.

MR. MCKENNY  
I hope you all do well on this.

FADE OUT  
SCENE 8  
BRAD'S HOUSE/SEAN'S HOUSE INT.- DAY  
SEAN AND BRAD ARE ON THE PHONE  
INTERCUT WHERE INDICATED  
CU OF BRAD

BRAD  
Un-freaking-belivable!

CUT TO SEAN

SEAN

Oh, what was that you said last Monday? 'Craig's a douche,' 'you're a pessimist', 'why is the glass half empty with you?'

CUT TO BRAD

BRAD

Dude, do you like want me to kick your ass?

CUT TO SEAN

SEAN

Did Mr. McKenny even say why?

CUT TO BRAD

BRAD

Oh yeah, remember last year when Will wanted that poem published for Bailey?

SEAN (THROUGH FILTER)

How could I forget.

BRAD

Well, I published it without approval and Mr. McKenny said that it showed a rebellious attitude.

CUT TO SEAN

SEAN

That sucks.

BRAD (THROUGH FILTER)

That and the fact that Craig's girlfriend writes all of his articles for him, so he looks like some super stylish writer.

CUT TO BRAD

So now, I'm stuck being the head floor editor which means I'm gonna end up doing all of Craig's work and he'll get all the credit for it. This school year bites already.

CUT TO SEAN

SEAN

It's only been seven days.

CUT TO BRAD

BRAD

Only one hundred seventy three left.

FADE OUT

SCENE 9

FADE IN ON MR. MCKENNY AT THE FRONT OF THE ROOM

THE SWORD CREW IS SEATED WITH HEAVY TEXTBOOKS IN FRONT OF THEM

CUT TO CU OF BRAD'S PAGE TO REVEAL THAT THEY ARE LEARNING ABOUT

DOROTHY PARKER

DANA, WHO IS SEATED TO THE LEFT OF BRAD IS LISTENING INTENTLY, AS IS BRAD. JASON, WHO IS TO THE RIGHT OF BRAD, IS LOOKING AT A DAILEY BREAD MAGAZINE UNDER HIS BOOK AND ERIC, WHO IS TO HIS RIGHT IS WRITING IN A NOTEBOOK. TO ERIC'S RIGHT, AT THE END OF THE TABLE, LIZ READS IN HER TEXTBOOK CRAIG AND RYAN ARE WHISPERING AMONG THEMSELVES INDISTINCTLY CRIAG IS SEATED TO THE LEFT OF DANA AND RYAN IS TO THE LEFT OF CRAIG AT THE TABLE'S END.

MR. MCKENNY

Dorothy Parker could be considered the mother of the bad review. When it came to criticizing, she was always the first to make a public stinging comment, Dana, will you read what she said about a novel that she reviewed?

DANA (READS)

This is not a novel to be tossed aside lightly. It should be thrown aside with great force... Ouch.

MR. MCKENNY

Here wit was sharp, her stories were heartfelt, and her poetry was very satirical. Brad would you like to read the poem on the next page?

BRAD

Sure, uh... Razors pain you; Rivers are damp; Acid stain you; And drugs cause cramp. Guns aren't lawful; Nooses give; Gas smells awful; You might as well live.

JASON (LOOKS UP FROM HIS MAGAZINE)

That's some sick stuff right there.

BRAD

It's awesome.

CU OF DANA WHO HAS DETACHED HERSELF FROM THE GROUP AND STARTED TO READ  
CUT BACK TO WS OF THE GROUP

MR. MCKENNY

I want you all to read the review then answer the five response questions after you're done with that we're done, work quietly. Chapter 12 notes are due Thursday.

MR. MCKENNY RETIRES FROM THE FRONT OF THE CLASS AND WALKS INTO THE SMALL OFFICE

CRAIG AND RYAN HAVE CONSTRUCTED A SMALL SLINGSHOT OF A RUBBERBAND AND ARE TRYING TO NAIL ERIC AND LIZ

BRAD TURNS TO DANA

BRAD

You really dig this Dorothy Parker chick don't you?

DANA

She's kind of like, you know, my idol.

BRAD

You're not bitchy enough to have her as an idol.

DANA

She wrote a lot of really influential and beautiful stuff.

CRAIG SLIPS AND NAILS DANA IN THE HEAD WITH A PIECE OF BROKEN PENCIL  
DANA RECOILS INTO BRAD IN PAIN

BRAD (TO CRAIG)

Would you freaking stop?

DANA

That hurt, dick.

CRAIG (INNOCENTLY)

What? I didn't do anything.

DANA

You didn't just nail me in the head with a pencil?

RYAN

He just been sitting here, jeez.

RYAN AND CRAIG TURN TO THE WORK IN FRONT OF THEM AS IF THEY'D BEEN  
DOING NOTHING

BRAD AND DANA TURN BACK TO EACH OTHER, BRAD LOOKS AT THE BOOK AND  
WRITES ON A PIECE OF PAPER AS HE TALKS TO DANA

BRAD

Think anyone would care if we just snuffed those two?

DANA

You know, sometimes I just want to bring my brothers  
paintball gun to school and surprise the hell out of pricks  
like them.

BRAD

You know, they almost justify the columbine killers.

JASON LEANS OVER TO BRAD AND DANA'S CONVERSATION AND MOTIONS FOR THEM  
TO WATCH. JASON GETS UP AND LEAVES THE ROOM.  
CUT TO JASON IN THE BATHROOM AT A SINK

CUT TO CU OF JASON'S HAND TURNING ON THE WARM WATER  
CUT BACK TO WS OF JASON WETTING HIS HANDS, HE LEAVES THE BATHROOM WITH  
HIS HANDS DRIPPING  
CUT BACK TO INT.-OF THE SWORD CLASSROOM BRAD AND DANA ARE WHISPERING  
JASON WALKS IN WITH HIS HANDS STILL FLAT AND TO THE SIDE  
JASON WALKS BEHIND CRAIG AND RYAN CASUALLY THEN WIPES HIS WET HANDS ON  
THEIR CHEEKS.

JASON

Don't ya hate it when you go to the bathroom and piss all  
over yourself.

RYAN AND CRAIG WIPE THEIR CHEEKS QUICKLY IN DISGUST  
ERIC, BRAD, DANA, AND JASON ALL LAUGH EVEN LIZ GRINS  
JASON SITS BACK AT HIS SEAT

CRAIG

Ugh... now I have to be tested for hepatitis!

RYAN

God you unsanitary, lower-class, filth.

JASON

Lighten up you pussy, it's just water.

CRAIG

That was real mature.

MR. MCKENNY WALKS OUT

MR. MCKENNY

What's going on?

RYAN

One of the dregs of modern society just dumped water all  
over us.

MR. MCKENNY

Jason.

BRAD

Jason's been siting there since you went into your office.

CRAIG

Bull-crap, he went to the bathroom and got a handful of water and then dumped it on us.

MR. MCKENNY

What grade are you guys in? Dana, what happened?

DANA

Nothing, we were all just sitting here and I heard Craig say something about... 'watch this' and then he started screaming at Jason.

CRAIG

Oh whatever!

MR. MCKENNY

Get back to work, this is due at the end of class. Ryan, Craig, step into my office.

RYAN

This is so gay.

RYAN AND CRAIG GET UP AND GO INTO HIS OFFICE

DISSOLVE TO

SCENE 10

THE SWORD OFFICE INT.- DAY

A SLOW ESTABLISHING PAN ACROSS THE ROOM REVEALS LIZ AT A LONG TABLE LOOKING OVER SOME PICTURES. DANA AND JASON ARE TYPING ON SOME COMPUTERS AND BRAD IS AT THE MAIN LONG TABLE LOOKING OVER TYPED ARTICLES. THE CAMERA RESTS ON THE WINDOW OF THE DOOR TO CRAIG'S OFFICE. INSIDE CRAIG AND ERIC FACE EACH OTHER, CRAIG IS LOOKING OVER A PEICE OF PAPER.

DISSOLVE TO CRAIG'S OFFICE, INT.

CRAIG (NOT LIFTING HIS EYES FROM THE PAPER)

I don't know why you keep giving me these when you know I'm not going to publish them.

ERIC

What is wrong with this one!

CRAIG

It's too opinionated.

ERIC  
It's an opinion column!

CRAIG  
You're opinions are too controversial.

ERIC  
That's my angle Craig! My opinions are controversial!

CRAIG  
You either tone it down or I'll have you doing the calendar.

ERIC  
You put me on calendar and I'll be sure it includes National Craig Can Suck My Dick Day.

CRAIG  
You'd better watch it or I'll have you thrown out entirely.

ERIC (EXASPERATED)  
Oh my God!

BRAD AND JASON WALK IN

BRAD  
What's all the yelling about?

ERIC  
Brad, what did you think about my dress code article?

BRAD  
I thought it was good, informative, objective, thorough, and well written.

JASON  
Totally.

CRAIG  
It questions the schools authority, we cannot have the schools authority questioned. It starts a mass of letters, complaints, un-authorized petitions, utter anarchy.

AT 'ANARCHY' JASON STARTS TO SAY SOMETHING, BUT BRAD SILENCES HIM WITH A SMALL GESTURE BEFORE HE SAYS SOMETHING DUMB.

ERIC  
look we're not living under a facist regime. Principal Green is not Castro!

JASON (INTERJECTING)  
Although he looks kind of like Hitler.

BRAD (TO JASON)  
Jason, please.

TURNING TO CRAIG

What are they gonna do, throw us in prison as political dissidents?

JASON  
I got a political dis...dent, I'm like related to that George Washington guy.

ERIC  
Not descendent, dissident.

JASON  
Oh, yeah... What's that?

CRAIG  
They'll take the paper away from us.

BRAD  
Us or you?

CRAIG  
The discussion is closed, I want you out of my office.

JASON  
The discussion is closed? What kinda fucking third grade sissy willow...

CRAIG  
Jason, out of my office.

JASON  
Naw, it's ok.

CRAIG  
Jason!

BRAD  
Look Adolph, if you are gonna censor us worse than stars  
and stripes in Vietnam we may as well go back to Mr.  
McKenny breathing down our necks.

CRAIG  
I said the discussion is closed.

JASON  
Again with that shit, Brad bitch slap this flat-liner.

CRAIG  
Jason, out!

JASON  
Naw, dude, it's all right. Don't you worry about me.

THEY ALL IGNORE JASON'S COMMENT AND TURN TO LEAVE

ERIC (BEFORE TURNING TO LEAVE)  
So is that a yes or a no on the article?

CRAIG GLARES AT THEM  
THEY LEAVE CRAIGS OFFICE  
CUT TO ERIC, JASON AND BRAD SITTING AT THE MAIN TABLE

BRAD (MOCKING)  
The discussion is closed, who does he think he is?

ERIC  
I worked really hard on this article.

BRAD

I know you did, it's an awesome article, I'll get it in for you.

JASON

Now that's what I'm talking about. Insubordination, hell yeah.

ERIC

Thanks Brad.

CRAIG POKES HIS OUT OF HIS DOOR

CRAIG

Brad can I see you?

BRAD AND ERIC EXCHANGE A GLANCE  
JASON MOUTH'S THE WORDS FUCK HIM  
BRAD GOES INTO CRAIG'S OFFICE  
BRAD STANDS IN FRONT OF CRAIG

BRAD

What do you want?

CRAIG

What do you think you're doing?

BRAD

Excuse me?

CRAIG

There is a time and a place to question me and in front of the other editing staff is not the place to do it.

BRAD

You're the Editor in Chief, I'm the Editor. That does not mean that I'm your bitch. Relax, I've done this paper in spite of you for three years, I can do one more.

CRAIG

This paper is nothing without me.

BRAD

Look Craig, why don't you take your head from out of your ass and realize that this paper is run by those who contribute, not those who sit behind a desk and pretend to be in charge.

CRAIG

Don't push me Brad, or I'll just have to produce this paper without you.

BRAD LEAVES UNPHASED

FADE OUT

SCENE 11

ESTABLISHING SHOT, EXT. OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING

DISOLVE TO THE SCHOOL LUNCHROOM INT.- DAY

GROUP SHOT OF BRAD, SEAN, ALEXIS, WILL AND BAILEY AT ALL EATING AT THE LUNCH TABLE

BRAD

Is it me or has this been the day from hell.

SEAN

Is Brad upset?

BRAD

Fantastic. Absolutely wonderful, if this shit with Craig keeps up, the first issue's not gonna be out on time.

KELLY WALKS BY WITH HER TRAY AND STOPS

KELLY

Hi Bailey.

BAILEY

Oh, hey Kelly.

KELLY

I just wanted to tell you that your tryout was great!

BAILEY

Really?

KELLY  
Yeah, and being a senior, you're a shoe-in for varsity.

BAILEY  
Awesome!

KELLY  
Well, I'll see you sixth period.

BAILEY  
OK, see ya.

AS KELLY MOVES OFF PAN DOWN TO SHOW BRAD, SEAN AND ALEXIS STARING  
DISBELIEVINGLY

ALEXIS  
Try out for what?

BAILEY  
Cheerleading.

SEAN  
You tried out for cheerleading?

BAILEY  
Yeah, Kelly said that I have real potential.

ALEXIS  
Bailey, don't set yourself up for something you can't  
handle.

BAILEY  
You're just all jealous because I'm getting popular.

BAILEY STANDS AND WALKS OVER TO KELLY'S TABLE

BRAD  
Will?

WILL

We had the same argument last night, there's no use fighting.

ALEXIS  
She's gonna get burned Will.

WILL  
I know.

SEAN  
Pierce my flesh and my flesh is only pierc'd,  
pierce my heart and make me a wounded man.

ALEXIS (LOOKING AT SEAN, CONFUSED)  
What play is that from?

SEAN  
I made it up.

ALEXIS  
I thought so.

WILL  
I like it, it fits.

BRAD  
It's good to see that Shakespeare is alive and well.

ALEXIS  
Speaking of which, Will and I had an idea.

WILL  
We want to start a poetry magazine.

BRAD  
You have my blessing, go for the gold.

ALEXIS  
We want to start a poetry magazine as a division of the sword.

BRAD  
You're funny.

WILL (PULLING OUT A PAPER MAGAZINE)  
At least look at the sample, we can collect work from  
people all over the school.

BRAD  
I like this guys, it is without doubt, a really good idea,  
I just don't think that Craig will consider a second  
publication.

ALEXIS  
You can sell it side by side with The Sword, think of the  
extra profits.

BRAD  
Craig might go for that.

ALEXIS  
Pitch the idea to him.

WILL  
He'll go for it.

SEAN  
Listen to yourselves. Why not be realistic?

BRAD  
You and your half-empty glass!

SEAN  
Alright.

FADE OUT

SCENE 12

ESTABLISHING SHOT, THE SWORD OFFICE EXT.- DAY

DISSOLVE TO THE SWORD OFFICE INT.- DAY

BRAD OPENS THE DOOR TO CRAIG'S OFFICE AND WALKS IN

CUT TO CRAIG'S OFFICE INT.- DAY

BRAD LOOKS AT CRAIG AND CRAIG LOOKS BACK AT HIM

CRAIG  
No.

BRAD  
No what?

CRAIG

What ever you're about to ask.

BRAD

OK, The Sword doesn't need any extra income.

BRAD STARTS TO LEAVE

CRAIG

What?

BRAD

Well we're dying for income, other school organizations are playing out fundraisers already and no one wants to read the crap you're putting into The Sword.

CRAIG

How do you know people don't like it?

BRAD

Craig, why don't you do your job?

CRAIG

What are you talking about?

BRAD

Well, we select a random class a week before the issue comes out, we send them a pilot issue of The Sword to review.

CRAIG

Why?

BRAD

To assess the popularity of the upcoming issue and to find out what our target audience wants to see. You see Craig, this is a school newspaper, aimed at high school students, we cover what they want to see, we print what they like to read, because it's them who pay seventy-five freaking cents an issue.

CRAIG

Why didn't I know about any of this?

BRAD

Cause you're a moron?

CRAIG

I don't appreciate your lip.

BRAD

You know, it's in your guidelines.

CRAIG

Where?

BRAD

Page 24, section 3, pre-issue checklist. What I'm getting at is that at our current rate, sales are gonna be down.

CRAIG

And your fix is?

BRAD

A second publication. Freelance writers working separately. They'll turn in their issues, we'll print and distribute.

CRAIG

I'll want editorial control.

BRAD

Craig you can barely handle editing The Sword, you'll never be able to handle this.

CRAIG

What kind of publication?

BRAD

A poetry magazine.

CRAIG

No.

BRAD

Why not?

CRAIG

Poetry is too abstract to be edited for content.

BRAD  
Lighten up, it's poetry, of the people, by the people, for  
the people.

CRAIG  
That's good Brad, you come up with that yourself?

BRAD  
Fuck you, it's a good idea.

CRAIG  
The discussion is closed.

BRAD  
Don't pull that crap on me Craig.

CRAIG  
The discussion is closed.

BRAD  
We'll sell it for double the cost of the Sword and make a  
fine profit.

CRAIG  
The discussion is closed.

BRAD STARES AT CRAIG FOR A MOMENT THEN MAKES A DISGUSTED FACE

BRAD (AS HE GRABS HIS CROTCH)  
Discuss this.

BRAD LEAVES  
CUT TO BRAD SITTING NEXT TO LIZ  
HER HEAD IS DOWN AND SHE IS WRITING AS USUAL

BRAD  
This is nuts.

LIZ (LIFTING HER HEAD)  
Problems?

BRAD  
Craig's a dick.

LIZ  
Well we all knew that, what's he doing now?

BRAD  
Why are you all of the sudden so talkative? I thought you were like the girl from the Breakfast Club.

LIZ  
I hope you don't mean Molly Ringwold.

BRAD  
No the other one.

LIZ  
So what's up Craig's ass?

BRAD  
Well, I want to start a poetry magazine, but he won't hear of it.

LIZ  
He has no soul.

BRAD  
No soul?

LIZ  
Poetry is the language of the soul, Craig has no soul.

BRAD  
So there's no way that he can understand.

LIZ  
Right.

BRAD  
You know Liz, that's profound, but it doesn't help me at all.

LIZ

I know.

BRAD LAUGHS AND PUTS HIS HEAD DOWN

FADE OUT

SCENE 13

FADE IN

THE SWORD CLASSROOM INT.- DAY

THE SWORD CREW IS ASSEMBLED AT THEIR CLASSROOM SEATS WORKING

DILLENTLY IN THEIR JOURNALISM BOOKS

BRAD GETS UP AND WALKS INTO THE SMALL OFFICE WHERE MR. MCKENNY SITS

BRAD

Mr. McKenny, can I talk to you?

MR. MCKENNY

Sure Brad, have a seat, what's on your mind?

BRAD

Well, it's about The Sword.

MR. MCKENNY

Craig?

BRAD

Yeah. He's not running the paper the way it should be run.

MR. MCKENNY

And how do you think it should be run?

BRAD

With a little more journalistic dignity, Craig knows nothing about running a paper.

MR. MCKENNY

Of course he doesn't, he's a senior in highschool. The experience of running the paper will help him learn, Craig has great leadership potential, he just needs to focus it.

BRAD

Mr. McKenny, he's rude to the staff, he has no aptitude for writing and he doesn't treat people with the respect they deserve.

MR. MCKENNY

I doubt he's all that bad. You have to understand, he's been given a very difficult task to complete. Just let it ride, stick out and know when you should bite your tongue.

BRAD (SIGHS)

Sure.

DISSOLVE TO

SCENE 15

LUNCH ROOM, INT.- DAY

BRAD, WILL, SEAN, AND ALEXIS ARE SEATED AT THE LUNCH TABLE

ALEXIS

WHAT?

BRAD

Too abstract to be edited for content were his words.

ALEXIS

What Bullshit!

WILL

Doesn't he realize that he doesn't have to do a damn thing?

ALEXIS

Except reap the profits of our endeavors?

SEAN

He's power tripping, classic case.

BRAD

Yeah and the fact that he's a major prep has a lot to do with it.

WILL

Speaking of preps.

KELLY, KIMMY, TASHA AND BAILEY WALK BY AND SAY NOTHING TO THE GROUP SITTING DOWN

SEAN (TO WILL)

Are you two still together?

WILL  
As far as I know.

ALEXIS  
Damn Will, that sucks.

CUT TO CUTAWAY SHOT OF ALEXIS AND SEAN HOLDING HANDS UNDER THE TABLE,  
ALEXIS GIVES SEAN'S HAND A NOTICEABLE SQUEEZE  
CUT BACK TO GROUP SHOT

WILL  
This sucks.

SEAN  
This whole year has sucked for you guys.

BRAD  
I just want to graduate.

SEAN  
Brad, why are you doing the paper?

BRAD  
Because it's what I love to do.

SEAN  
What do you love to do?

BRAD  
What do you mean?

SEAN  
I mean what is it about being on the paper that you love to do?

BRAD  
Speak to people, entertain people.

SEAN

So why don't you? Quit fighting for control of the paper and just do what you love. Unless what you love is being in control, then you're just as bad as Craig.

ALEXIS

He's got a point Brad, if you want to entertain then, who cares who's in charge.

BRAD

I just want to see my vision for the paper on the page.

WILL

Your vision?

BRAD STARTS TO REPLY BUT THEN LOWERS HIS GAZE TO THE TRAY IN FRONT OF HIM

CUT TO

SCENE 16

BRAD'S HOUSE, INT.-DAY

BRAD WALKS IN AND THROWS HIS BOOKBAG TO THE SIDE

TRACK AS BRAD WALKS TO THE KITCHEN

CUT TO INT. FRIDGE SHOT

BRAD GRABS A COKE AND SHUTS THE DOOR

CUT TO BRAD'S ROOM

BRAD WALKS IN, OPENS THE COKE, TAKES A COMPOSITION NOTEBOOK OFF OF THE DRESSER AND OPENS IT

HE SIT'S DOWN ON HIS BED AND FLIPS THE PAGES AS HE DRINKS

CUT TO CU OF THE PAGES AS BRAD TURNS TO THE FIRST PAGE

THE WORDS ARE WRITTEN ON THE PAPER AS BRAD READS THEM IN HIS HEAD

BRAD (VO)

August 23, 2000, It's the first day of highschool! I think I liked all my classes, but I can't really judge off the first day. My favorite class was introduction to journalism, I found out that we get to write articles for the school paper, 'The Sword.'

CUT TO CU OF BRAD HE TAKES A SIP AND GRINS  
HE TURNS A COUPLE PAGES UP

September 10, 2000, We had our first newspaper meeting today, it was cool to be in there working with the upperclassmen on the newspaper staff. The seniors are cool, one guy, Brent Insly is helping me develop my angle as a writer. He says that I've got real potential for editorial and opinion articles.

BRAD FLIPS A FEW MORE PAGES

September 20, 2000, I'm so excited! Last week, a kid got suspended from school for skipping and I thought that it was kind of silly. I wrote a satirical parody of the event for the first issue of the paper and when it came out today, everyone loved it. Brent gave me this awesome quote, but couldn't remember who said it,

THE NEXT WORDS HE READS ARE HIGHLIGHTED

'The pen is mightier than the sword'.

BRAD CLOSSES THE JOURNAL AND STANDS UP  
HE SETS HIS COKE ON THE DRESSER AND LEAVES THE ROOM  
CUT TO BRAD SITTING DOWN IN FRONT OF A COMPUTER  
DISSOLVE TO BRAD'S FINGERS TYPING  
DISSOLVE TO BRAD'S HOUSE INT.-NIGHT, BRAD'S FACE IS LIT BY THE BLUE GLOW OF THE COMPUTER MONITOR  
DISSOLVE TO BRAD'S FINGER TYPING  
DISSOLVE TO BRAD'S HAND ON THE MOUSE  
CUT TO A PRINTER PRINTING A DOCUMENT  
CUT TO A WS OF BRAD PICKING UP THE PAPER AND LOOKING IT OVER AFFECTIONATELY  
CUT TO BRAD'S ROOM  
HE WALKS IN WITH THE PAPER AND A FRESH COKE  
BRAD SETS THE PAPER ON THE DRESSER AS HE OPENS THE NEW COKE  
CUT TO CU OF THE PAPER'S TITLE PRESUMING TO BE HUMBLE  
CUT TO CU OF BRAD'S LIGHT SWITCH  
HIS HAND TURNS OUT THE LIGHT  
FADE OUT  
SCENE 17  
THE LUNCHROOM INT.- DAY  
THE CREW SITS AROUND THE LUNCH TABLE AS USUAL EACH HAS A COPY OF THE SWORD

ALEXIS

I have to admit, you've outdone yourself.

SEAN

Well written bro. It says what it needs to say without pointing any fingers.

WILL

Although anyone familiar with the Sword staff could easily figure out who is who.

BRAD

Oh well, I couldn't leave my opinions totally blameless.

DANA APPROACHES

DANA

Hey, can I sit down?

BRAD

Of course.

DANA

I just read your article, I loved it.

BRAD

Thanks, I thought you'd get a smile out of it.

DANA

Have you seen Craig?

BRAD

No, why.

DANA

He's pissed, him and Ryan are on the war path.

BRAD

Good.

KELLY, BAILEY, KIMMY, AND TASHA APPROACH

KELLY

Nice article, jerk.

BRAD

What's your problem Pom-Pom?

KELLY

What gives you the right to judge cheerleaders?

BRAD

Somebody, what the hell is she talking about? I don't remember everything I said in the article.

ALEXIS

I think it's a line that reads something to the effect of 'air-headed cheerleaders using themselves as trophies to be given to whatever conceited prep is the rudest to the most people'.

BRAD

Oh, that line, what's your problem?

KIMMY

You don't know us. You're just jeal...

BRAD

I know, I'm jealous of your popularity. I wish I could go join the cheerleading squad right now and become a state finalist booty-shaker.

TASHA

There are no solo state trophies, duh!

KELLY

Tasha... shut up.

BRAD

What you have is fleeting, cheap thrills of attention now that will be gone the minute you walk off that stage with your diploma.

KELLY

You have no right to bash the cheerleaders, or the poor people, or the minorities, or anyone else you bashed.

SEAN

Can you even read? He doesn't bash poor people, he calls out the druggies and alcoholics.

ALEXIS

And he doesn't bash minorities, he states that they need to stop playing the race card every time they get in trouble.

BRAD

Look, my article was written to offend certain people and since you are offended, looks like I did my job.

KELLY

You're going down for this.

BRAD

Eh, whatever.

WILL

What did you think about it Bailey?

BAILEY

I think he shouldn't have written it.

BRAD

Why not Bailey?

KELLY (TO HER GIRLS)

Come on, let's go.

WILL

What's wrong Bailey? Can't think for yourself?

BAILEY

Why can't you see that for the first time, I'm happy?

WILL

You look it.

BAILEY

It's over Will, if you can't encourage me, I don't want to date you.

THE FANTASTIC FOUR WALKS AWAY

WILL SITS THERE STUNNED AND EVERYONE LOOKS AT HIM WITH PITY

BRAD

She'll come back, Will.

WILL (VIOLENTLY PICKING UP HIS TRAY)

Who cares!

WILL LEAVES IN A STORM OF FURY

SEAN

Well Brad, you conjured the storm. Are you ready for the aftermath?

BRAD SHAKES HIS HEAD

CUT TO

SCENE 18

THE FANTASTIC FOUR IS BEHIND THE BLEACHERS

BAILEY IS CRYING

KELLY STEPS CLOSE TO HER

KELLY

What's wrong?

BAILEY

I can't believe I just did that, I love him.

KELLY

You're a cheerleader now, you can have any popular guy in the school, you don't have to date that socially-repressed, loser, poet.

BAILEY

But I want to date that socially-repressed, loser, poet!

TASHA

He is cute.

KELLY (TO TASHA)

Shut up, Tasha.

TO BAILEY

Bailey, you have to realize that if you're going to be a popular girl you have to be available from time to time. If you stay with one guy too long, other guys will lose interest.

BAILEY

But...

KELLY (SUDDENLY MEAN)

Let me put it this way, if you say another word about it you're off the squad and you can have your poet. Do you want that?

BAILEY

No.

DISSOLVE TO

SCENE 19

THE SWORD CLASSROOM INT.-DAY

THE SWORD CREW IS AT THEIR CLASSROOM POSITIONS

MR. MCKENNY WALKS OUT OF HIS OFFICE AND TAPS BRAD ON THE SHOULDER

BRAD FOLLOWS HIM INTO HIS OFFICE

CUT TO BRAD STANDING IN FRONT OF MR. MCKENNY

MR. MCKENNY

Brad, when I read this article you wrote, I was appalled.

BRAD

What?

MR. MCKENNY

It is totally inappropriate and uncalled for. We can't have a rouge editorialist throwing slams at people in school that he doesn't like.

BRAD

There is no slander, there aren't even any names used. All I did was state my opinion, in an editorial, what a concept.

MR. MCKENNY

Regardless, Craig has talked to me about it and we've decided that...

BRAD

What was I supposed to do? Sit and be miserable my entire senior year writing for a dictatorial egotist who doesn't know jack about producing a paper?

MR. MCKENNY

Brad, there is a time and a place to voice your concerns, and in the first issue of the school newspaper is not acceptable. If you worked for a corporation and said the kinds of things that you've said in here in an office wide memo, they'd fire you.

BRAD

What about a real newspaper?

MR. MCKENNY

Well, that is what Craig and I discussed.

BRAD

Great, my fate is in the hands of Craig.

MR. MCKENNY

Not entirely. He wants to kick you off of the paper...

BRAD

Of course he does.

MR. MCKENNY

But I told him that you are too valuable to the paper to let go. So, I am going to give you a very adult ultimatum.

BRAD

Ultimatum?

MR. MCKENNY

You write a formal apology and publish it the next issue of the sword, or we have to let you go. You'll still be in journalism, but you won't be permitted to publish anything in the paper.

BRAD

I can't do that. Too many people agree with me for me to throw my dignity out like that. Too many people respect my ideals for me to bow under...

MR. MCKENNY

You know Brad, I can practically see the steam venting out of your ears right now. I know you're mad.

BRAD

Mad is an understatement.

MR. MCKENNY  
So give it a day or two thought ok?

BRAD  
Alright.

BRAD WALKS OUT OF THE OFFICE  
CUT TO BRAD SITTING DOWN NEXT TO DANA  
SHE LEANS OVER TO HIM

DANA (WHISPERING)  
What was that all about?

BRAD (WHISPERING)  
Nothing good.

JASON AND ERIC MOVE TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TABLE SO THAT THEY ARE  
OPPOSITE DANA AND BRAD

JASON (WHISPERING)  
What's the dilleo bra?

BRAD (WHISPERING)  
I've gotta apologize for the article or I'm off The Sword.

JASON  
That fuckin' sucks!

BRAD  
No shit, I don't know what the hell to do. McKenny thinks  
that everyone hates me for writing that article.

ERIC  
Everyone backs you man.

BRAD  
Then go tell Mr. McKenny that.

BRAD LOOKS AT ALL OF THEM ONE BY ONE AND THEY ALL LOWER THEIR EYES

JASON

What if he kicks us all off of the sword?

BRAD

You're all too afraid to agree with me? I have to go it alone? Me versus them?

LIZ

We're not as strong as you Brad.

BRAD

They can't fire the entire editorship!

ERIC

Why don't you just suck it up and write the apology, I mean no one is going to believe it except them.

JASON

Yeah dude, just like take one for the team or whatever, we need you.

BRAD (TO DANA)

You agree with them?

DANA

I would write the apology.

BRAD

Liz?

LIZ

Fear is a powerful strong arm.

BRAD LOOKS TO THE SWORD CREW WITH A LOST LOOK IN HIS EYES OF  
FRUSTRATION AND OF SUBMISSION  
THE BELL RINGS AND THE SWORD CREW SCRAMBLES TO GET THEIR THINGS  
THEY ALL LEAVE WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD  
CUT TO

SCENE 20

WILL'S HOUSE EXT.- DAY

BRAD WALKS ONTO THE PORCH AND BANGS ON THE DOOR

WILL ANSWERS

WILL

Hey.

BRAD  
Remember that day when you walked into the sword office  
with that poem and asked me if I'd publish it for you?

WILL  
Yeah.

BRAD  
I need you to return the favor.

WILL  
What do you need?

BRAD  
Some advice.

CUT TO WILL'S HOUSE INT.- DAY  
WILL AND BRAD ARE IN THE LIVING ROOM  
BRAD SITS ON THE COUCH AND WILL SITS IN A CHAIR

WILL  
So you apologize or you're off of the sword?

BRAD  
That's about the gist of it.

WILL  
So what kind of advice do you need from me?

BRAD  
Will, you're a poet, a Deep Poet, what would you do?

WILL  
Before I moved here, I lived in Miami, Florida.

CUT TO A FLASHBACK OF WILL WRITING IN A CLASSROOM

WILL (VO)

My freshman year I started seriously writing poetry, but it was all poems about highschool social classes.

CODY, A DARK CREEPY LOOKING KID WALKS IN THE CLASSROOM AND TALKS TO WILL

One day a kid challenged me that I couldn't write anything that was abstract and evil.

CUT TO WILL IN A DARK LIT ROOM LIGHTING CANDLES  
HE SITS DOWN IN THE CANDLE LIGHT TO WRITE

So I wrote this evil free verse poem about a guy who finds his girlfriend cheating on him. So he kills her and the guy and tells her to go fuck Satan. Then he has sex with her dead body. Needless to say I met the challenge.

CUT TO WILL SHOWING THE POEM TO CODY

BRAD (VO)  
I'm Sorry if I don't see the parallel.

WILL (VO)  
Well, I accidentally left the poem on my dresser.

CUT TO THE POEM SITTING ON HIS DRESSER  
HIS MOM COMES IN, PICKS UP THE PAPER, AND READS IT OVER

And my mom read through it.

CUT TO WILL SITTING ON A COUCH IN FRONT OF HIS MOTHER

I got a pretty good lecture about taste and what I should or should not put down on paper.

CUT BACK TO WILL AND BRAD IN THE LIVING ROOM

WILL

I realized that day that by writing everything that's in my soul, I would inevitably come across things that are dark.

BRAD

I'm still not seeing the connection.

WILL

I apologized to my mom for writing that, but then looked back and felt like, 'Why should I apologize for venting a dark area of my soul?' Why should I be guilty for something that's just simply a part of me. I vowed that day that I would never again apologize for any of my work. And I've held true to that ever since.

BRAD

This isn't a poem though, it's an editorial.

WILL

It's your opinion, and part of you. Why should you have to apologize for the way you feel?

BRAD

If I leave, I let the rest of the staff down.

WILL

Well, I can't make your decision for you. The way I see it, it boils down to either how you feel about them, or how you want them to feel about you.

BRAD

Thanks Will.

BRAD STANDS TO LEAVE THE ROOM

WILL

Anytime.

BRAD PAUSES AT THE DOOR AND TURNS AROUND

BRAD  
You know Will, it took a great poet to win Bailey, maybe  
it'll take a great poet to win her back.

BRAD WALKS OUT THE DOOR  
CUT TO CU OF WILL  
HE PICKS UP A PEN AND CLIPBOARD OFF OF THE COFFEE TABLE  
HE STARTS TO WRITE  
DISSOLVE TO  
SCENE 21  
ESTABLISHING SHOT OF THE SCHOOL EXT.- DAY  
THE SCHOOL LUNCHROOM INT.- DAY  
GROUP SHOT OF BRAD, SEAN, ALEXIS, WILL AND DANA

WILL (TO BRAD)  
So what did you finally decide on?

BRAD (AS HE HANDS HIM A PAPER)  
This.

WILL TAKES TH EPAPER AND SCANS IT

What's that? DANA

Nothing. BRAD

WILL HANDS THE PAPER BACK TO BRAD

You've got balls. WILL

What are you doing? SEAN

You'll all find out soon enough. BRAD

CUT TO

SCENE 22

BRAD WALKS INTO THE SWORD OFFICE OCCUPIED BY RYAN AND CRAIG

BRAD

I have something for you.

BRAD GIVES THE PAPER TO CRAIG

CRAIG

I was kind of hoping you'd just quit.

BRAD

This paper will fall apart.

BRAD TURNS AND WALKS OUT OF THE OFFICE

CRAIG LOOKS AT THE PAPER HE'S JUST BEEN HANDED

AS HE READS BRAD'S VOICE IS HEARD

BRAD (VO)

To Craig J. Otto, Editor-In-Chief of the school  
publication; The Sword.

CUT TO BRAD, SEAN, ALEXIS AND WILL IN A CLASS ROOM WITH PAPERS STREWN  
ABOUT ON THE TABLE BETWEEN THEM

THEY ARE ALL READING AND MARKING PAPERS

It is with great regret that I must inform you of my  
decision to resign from my position as floor editor of The  
Sword. In my three years with The Sword I have seen great  
editors in charge who distributed great publications.

CUT TO CRAIG READING THE PAPER IN HIS OFFICE

CRAIG

You however are not one of them. You will be lucky to keep  
the sword running for the next class to take over. Good  
luck, you'll need it.

RYAN

What a faggot.

CRAIG

Shut up, Ryan. Just shut the hell up.

CUT TO

SCENE 23

BRAD, SEAN, ALEXIS, AND WILL ARE SEATED IN A CLASSROOM EDITING PAPERS

ALEXIS

There is so much here!

SEAN

Who knew so many people thought they could write.

WILL

I'm not judgmental of anyone's work, but some of this is garbage. Listen to this: Roses are red, Violets are blue. My girlfriend is hot, We like to screw.

ALEXIS

What is that format, Italian Sonnet?

SEAN

No, it's Haiku.

THEY ALL LAUGH

WILL

So in the experienced opinion of our veteran editor-in-chief, when do you think we can get this out for sale?

BRAD

Well, if we can ever get through the selection process, typing, editing, and printing usually takes about three weeks.

SEAN

I had no idea it took that long to put out a publication.

BRAD

It'd be easier if we had a bigger staff.

CUT TO

SCENE 24

THE SWORD OFFICE INT.- DAY

ERIC IS AT A COMPUTER PLAYING MINESWEEPER

DANA IS SLEEPING AT A TABLE AND LIZ IS WRITING AS USUAL

JASON BUSTS IN THE DOOR EXCITEDLY

JASON

Craig, bro, Get out here!

CRAIG COMES OUT OF HIS OFFICE

CRAIG

What do you want, Surf-Monkey?

JASON

I'm glad your here I've got a phat mad idea for you, check it out!

JASON SLAMS A SMALL STACK OF PAPERS DOWN ON THE MAIN TABLE

CRAIG

And what is that?

JASON

One hundred signatures.

CRAIG

For what?

JASON

One hundred sly cats who feel that we should have an extreme sports section in the paper.

CRAIG EYES THE STACK OF PAPERS

CRAIG  
That's all well and good except for one thing.

JASON  
What's that?

CRAIG (RIPPING THE PAPERS IN HALF)  
Unauthorized petitions are against school rules.

JASON  
You fucking bitch.

JASON JUMPS AT CRAIG AND TACKELS HIM  
THEY START TO FIGHT BUT ERIC PULLS JASON AWAY AND RYAN PULS CRAIG BACK

ERIC  
That was dirty Craig, I ought to let him beat the shit out of you.

CRAIG (TO JASON)  
You are gone. I want you out of here, now!

JASON  
Fuck you, I don't wanna be a part of your pussy ass paper anyway, I'll go talk to Brad and get on a real magazine!

JASON GRABS HIS STUFF AND LEAVES IN A FLUSTER  
THE REST OF THE SWORD CREW IS ALL TENSELY WATCHING TO SEE WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT

CRAIG  
Get back to work. All of you.

LIZ (STANDING UP)  
Screw you Craig. You are such a dick to everyone. Brad was right, and at least he stood up for himself.

SHE TURNS TO THE OTHER STAFF

And we're all spineless, one by one Craig is going to screw all of us over, it's Jason this time, next time it'll be you, Dana.

SHE TURNS BACK TO CRAIG

Fuck it, I'm not giving you the satisfaction.

LIZ GRABS HER STUFF AND WALKS OUT  
ERIC LOOKS AT CRAIG AND THEN DANA AND FOLLOWS LIZ  
DANA WALKS OUT CLOSE BEHIND ERIC  
CRAIG STANDS THERE IN DISBELIEF

RYAN  
They can't all leave like that, can they?

CRAIG  
Well, they just did.

FADE OUT  
FADE IN ON  
SCENE 25  
CU OF A SMALL PLACARD READING PRINCIPAL GREEN  
CUT TO BRAD SEATED NEXT TO A DERLICT, DAVE

BRAD (TO DAVE)  
So what do you think you're down here for?

DAVE  
I got caught skipping again.

BRAD  
Oh, you come here a lot?

DAVE  
Yeah, I wish they'd just expel me.

BRAD  
Why?

DAVE  
Cause then I could start working full time.

BRAD (EYEING DAVE IN DOUBT)  
Doing what?

DAVE  
Auto body work, I'm making like 16 bucks an hour.

BRAD  
That's \$32,000 a year.

DAVE  
Is it?

BRAD  
That's assuming you work forty hours a week for fifty weeks a year.

DAVE  
Who many weeks are in a year?

BRAD  
Fifty-two.

DAVE (EXCITED)  
\$32,000 a year and I get two weeks off?

BRAD  
Dude, there are cars that cost more than that.

DAVE  
Really?

PRINCIPAL GREEN (OFF CAMERA)  
Come on in Brad.

BRAD (TO DAVE, AS HE GETS UP TO GO)  
Stay in school man.

CUT TO WS OF PRINCIPAL GREENS OFFICE  
BRAD WALKS IN THE DOOR

PRINCIPAL GREEN  
Have a seat Brad.

BRAD SITS DOWN  
BRAD CRANES HIS NECK TO SEE WHAT PAPERS THE PRINCIPAL HAS IN HIS HAND

Do you know why I called you down here?

BRAD  
I can't say that I do.

PRINCIPAL GREEN  
Well, does this look familiar to you?

PRINCIPAL GREEN HANDS BRAD THE PAPERS

BRAD  
Yeah, it's the rough copy of my magazine.

PRINCIPAL GREEN  
Were you planning on distributing this in school.

BRAD  
We were planning on it.

PRINCIPAL GREEN  
Well then it's a good thing I got told about this before  
you did.

BRAD  
Who told you? Where did you even find this?

PRINCIPAL GREEN  
You saved it on the school's server and it doesn't matter  
who told me. The bottom line is, in your student handbook,  
Code 18 states that no student shall produce, sell, or

distribute any unauthorized publication original or otherwise.

BRAD BECOMES VISIBLY AGITATED

And had you distributed this, I would be forced to give you an immediate three-day in-school suspension.

BRAD

That's such crap...

PRINCIPAL GREEN

But, since you haven't distributed it, I'm gonna let you off with a warning.

BRAD

But...

PRINCIPAL GREEN

And we've deleted it off of the hard drives, if you want a poetry magazine or whatever it is you're trying to do, keep it out of school. If I see it again, don't let the consequences surprise you.

CUT TO EXT. OF PRINCIPAL GREEN'S OFFICE DOOR  
BRAD EXITS ANGRY AND PASSES DAVE

DAVE

Sucks to be you.

CUT TO  
SCENE 26  
THE LUNCH ROOM INT.- DAY  
SEATED ARE SEAN, WILL, AND ALEXIS

ALEXIS

Where's Brad?

SEAN

I don't know, I think he got a pass to the office for something.

JASON, ERIC, DANA, AND LIZ ALL APPROACH

SEAN  
Hey Sword people.

DANA  
Where's Brad?

ALEXIS  
Don't know.

ERIC  
We really need to talk to him.

BRAD WALS IN AND SEES ALL OF THEM

BRAD  
What's going on?

JASON  
Brad, dude, it all sorts of sucked. Like I had this petition right? And I like showed to Craig. And the next thing you know... Like whatever and so I was all Like 'you bitch!' and he was all like 'Surf-Monkey' and we were all sorts of like rumblin' and like I was about to kick his ass and... you know what I'm sayin'.

BRAD  
No, what are you talking about?

ERIC  
Him and Craig got into it in the sword office.

LIZ  
And we realized that you were totally right.

DANA  
The Sword isn't worth putting up with Craig.

JASON

Yeah, we all outtied on that dickhead.

BRAD  
Good for you I'm proud.

ERIC  
We want in on your magazine, we all know what we're doing  
you know?

BRAD  
I just got called down to Principal Green's office,  
somebody tipped him off about the magazine and he shut it  
down.

ALEXIS  
What!

WILL  
He can't do that!

BRAD  
Sure he can, and he did.

JASON  
So what you're giving up?

BRAD  
It's over, I'm done trying to fight the system.

JASON AND SEAN BOTH START TO ADDRESS BRAD AT THE SAME TIME  
JASON SAYS DUDE AND SEAN SAYS BRAD  
THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER FOR A SECOND

SEAN (MOTIONING WITH HIS HAND)  
By all means.

JASON  
Dude, you can't quit now.

BRAD  
Why the hell not?

JASON

Because I'm a smelly, broke guy with an authority problem, and when they tell me I can't do something, I'll be damned if I lay down.

BRAD

Then you do it.

JASON

I plan on it, dude, but I don't know a damn thing about producing a paper, I bet no one else does either.

ERIC

You got me.

DANA

I'm a writer, not an editor.

JASON

We all sorts of need you, bro. Don't cop out on us.

BRAD LOOKS AT ALL OF THEM LOOKING AT HIM WITH ANTICIPATION  
THE SILENCE HANGS IN THE AIR FOR A MOMENT  
THE SERIOUS AND DEFEATED LOOK ON BRAD'S FACE TWISTS INTO A GRIN

BRAD

After school, I want everyone to meet at my house at 4:30, bring a laptop if you have one, and bring your best work, we've got a magazine to make.

JASON

Now that's what I'm talking about.

ACROSS THE LUNCH ROOM BAILEY SITS WITH THE OTHER CHEERLEADERS  
CUT TO MS OF THEM, BAILEY IS LOOKING AT WILL AND THE GROUP

KELLY

...right Bailey?

BAILEY JUST STARES

Bailey? BAILEY!

BAILEY (STARTLED)  
I'm sorry, what?

TASHA  
Why do you keep staring at those losers?

KELLY  
Ryan told me that him and Craig shot down their little magazine idea.

KIMMY  
They are such a bunch of pathetic losers.

BAILEY (UNCONVINCINGLY)  
Yeah.

CUT TO LS OF THE GROUP  
THEY HAVE ALL SAT DOWN AND ARE CONVERSING  
CUT TO CU OF WILL, TALKING TO LIZ, WILL IS READING A POEM  
CUT BACK TO BAILEY

KELLY  
See what kind of loser girls he likes?

CUT TO WILL AND LIZ

WILL  
So, you're Deep Poet too.

LIZ  
What do you mean?

WILL  
A poet who understands poetry on an almost spiritual level.  
I'm one, Alexis is one, my best friend Damian is one.

LIZ  
Is it like a society?

WILL (LOOKING IN BAILEY'S DIRECTION, TRAILING OFF)  
Sort of, but it's all very unofficial and according to your  
own...

LIZ (LOOKING BEHIND HER)  
What?

WILL  
Can you excuse me for a moment?

WILL STANDS AND WALKS OFF  
CUT MS OF THE GROUP

SEAN  
What's he doing?

ALEXIS  
He's going towards Bailey.

BRAD  
I think he's about to prove what kind of poet he really is.

ALEXIS  
I think he's beyond poetry.

CUT TO WILL WALKING UP TO BAILEY

WILL  
Bailey.

KELLY  
Get lost Will.

WILL (LOOKING AT KELLY)  
Shut up.

HE LOOKS BACK AT BAILEY

Bailey, I love y...

BAILEY JUMPS UP AND HUGS HIM, CUTTING HIM OFF

KELLY  
Oh, you are so off the squad.

BAILEY (TURNING AROUND TO KELLY)  
Well then I guess I'll have to tell your little secret.

TASHA AND KIMMY  
Don't!

KELLY  
You wouldn't dare.

THE GIRLS STAND TO FACE WILL AND BAILEY  
ALEXIS, JASON, AND BRAD STEP UP BEHIND WILL AND BAILEY  
ALEXIS STEPS UP BESIDE THEM

ALEXIS  
Remember what I did to Sandy last year? You don't want that, not before homecoming.

KELLY  
Get lost bitch.

THE CHEERLEADERS ALL SIT DOWN  
WILL AND BAILEY HUG AND HAVE A QUICK LITTLE KISS  
THEY ALL RETIRE BACK TO THEIR SEATS  
CUT TO A CU OF BRAD WITH HIS ARM AROUND DANA  
DISSOLVE TO  
SCENE 27  
SCHOOL EXT.-DAY  
DANA AND BRAD ARE WALKING IN THE PARKING LOT HOLDING HANDS  
TRACK AS THEY WALK TO BRAD'S VAN

DANA  
You know, yesterday, when we all walked out on Craig, I was terrified to leave.

BRAD

Why?

DANA

Because, I didn't want to give up what I had.

BRAD

It's scary, but liberating.

DANA

Bradley... You've got more guts than most of the kids at this school.

BRAD

I'll tell you who's got guts, kids like Jason who flip backwards off of a sixteen foot ramp riding little tiny wheels.

DANA (LAUGHING)

You know what I mean, even Jason needed you to pave the way.

BRAD

Eh, who cares, we're free now, and we're making our own paper, it doesn't matter who paved the way.

DANA

Can you give me a ride to your house tonight?

BRAD

Of course.

DANA

Brad...

BRAD

Yeah?

DANA KISSES HIM

DANA

Thank you.

BRAD SMILES AT HER AND SHAKES HIS HEAD  
SHE GETS INTO THE CAR AND BRAD WALKS AROUND TO THE OTHER SIDE  
THEY DRIVE OFF  
DISSOLVE TO SCENE 28  
BRAD'S HOUSE INT.-NIGHT  
MUSIC  
BRAD IS OVER ERIC'S SHOULDER AND POINTS TO SOME OF THE WORDS ON THE  
PAPER, INAUDIBLY  
DISSOLVE TO ALEXIS IN FRONT OF A COMPUTER, JASON IS DICTATING TO HER  
DISSOLVE TO BRAD FLIPPING THROUGH SOME PAGES MARKING THINGS OFF AND  
YELLING TO PEOPLE OFF CAMERA  
DISSOLVE TO LIZ AND WILL GOING OVER SOME TYPED PAGES  
DISSOLVE TO A PRINTER PRINTING PAGES  
DISSOLVE TO SEAN TALKING TO BRAD AND GETTING ADVICE  
DISSOLVE TO ALEXIS AT THE COMPUTER RUNNING A SPELL CHECK  
DISSOLVE TO BRAD CIRCLING THINGS ON A TYPED PAGE  
DISSOLVE TO JASON TALKING TO ERIC, JASON HAS A PUZZLED LOOK ON HIS  
FACE  
DISSOLVE TO A PRINTER PRINTING  
DISSOLVE TO A CU OF A TYPED PAGE READING: Troubled Eyes, by Alexis  
Reed  
IT FLIPS  
DISSOLVE TO A CU OF A TYPED PAGE READING: Feather of Love, by William  
McHenry  
IT FLIPS  
DISSOLVE TO A CU OF A TYPED PAGE READING: Socialite, by Liz Jade  
IT FLIPS  
DISSOLVE TO A CU OF A TYPED PAGE READING: Dress Codes: A System of  
Fear, by Eric Owens  
IT FLIPS  
DISSOLVE TO A CU OF A TYPED PAGE READING: X-Treme Force, by Jason  
Nowell  
IT FLIPS  
DISSOLVE TO A CU OF A TYPED PAGE READING: Freedom from Tyranny, by  
Dana Rice  
IT FLIPS  
DISSOLVE TO A CU OF A TYPED PAGE READING: Editor In Chief, Bradley  
Williams  
PULL BACK TO REVEAL THE MAGAZINE IN BRAD'S HANDS  
THE MUSIC ENDS  
EVERYONE IS STANDING AROUND BRAD WITH BRAD IN THE CENTER

BRAD  
It only lacks a title.

JASON  
What about, like, The 'Zine?

BRAD  
Who's Tired?

EVERYONE RAISES THEIR HANDS

Let's order a pizza, I'll worry about the title.

SEAN  
Good idea.

ERIC  
When's it coming out?

BRAD  
I can take it to the printer tomorrow, we'll get back a week from tomorrow. Until then, talk it up, we'll have to sell for a buck.

JASON  
Don't you worry about that, I got some boys who'll help us distribute.

BRAD  
Congratulations kids.

THE SCENE FADES OUT TO BLACK

SCENE 29

WHITE LETTERS FADE ONTO THE BLACK SCREEN ONE WEEK LATER

SCENE 30

THE SWORD OFFICE INT.- DAY

FADE IN ON CRAIG SITTING IN HIS OFFICE

MIKE WALKS IN

CRAIG  
So what have we got?

MIKE  
No news is good news?

CRAIG  
Oh my god.

MIKE  
What?

We're screwed. CRAIG

RYAN POKES HIS HEAD IN THE DOOR

Um, Craig? RYAN

What? CRAIG

Can I talk to you? RYAN

What? CRAIG

RYAN WALKS IN WITH A COPY OF THE MAGAZINE

Look. RYAN

CUT TO

SCENE 31

THE BATHROOM INT.- DAY

A GRITTER KID, BUD, IS STANDING IN A DARK BATHROOM LOOKING LIKE A DRUG DEALER

TIM WALKS IN AND LOOKS AROUND, PARANOID

CUT TO A CU OF AN EXCHANGE

A DOLLAR BILL FOR A MAGAZINE

THE WHOLE SCENE IS PLAYED OUT LIKE A DRUG DEAL

THEY LEAVE QUICKLY

CUT TO

SCENE 32

THE SWORD OFFICE INT.- DAY

CRAIG, RYAN, AND MIKE ARE STANDING THERE LOOKING AT THE MAGAZINE

Everyone's got one. RYAN

CRAIG

That little faggot.

MIKE

This dress code article is pretty good.

CRAIG RIPS THE PAPER AWAY FROM HIM AND TEARS IT  
DISSOLVE TO  
SCENE 33  
THE LUNCHROOM INT.- DAY  
THE CREW IS SITTING AT THEIR TABLE AT LUNCH

BRAD

We did it.

ERIC

Think we're going to get in trouble?

BRAD

Do you believe in what we've done?

ERIC

It is the hottest thing since the backstreet boys.

SEAN

Henry David Thoreau wrote civil disobedience, wherein he said that we're obligated to do what we think is right.

BRAD

Thoreau wasn't smart enough to not get caught. We're in the clear.

ALEXIS

Everyone has one, and our names are all over them.

BRAD

So are 35 other writers who weren't on the production team.

LIZ

They could still come after you.

BRAD

I haven't distributed a single paper.

WILL  
So who's distributing them?

BRAD  
Jason?

JASON  
I got my boys doing it, no one is dumb enough to rat them out.

SEAN  
Year going any better, Brad?

BRAD  
138 days left.

ALEXIS  
But who's counting?

THEY ALL SMILE  
BRAD PICKS UP A COPY OF THE MAGAZINE AND TOSSES IT IN THE MIDDLE OF  
THE TABLE  
A BELL RINGS  
THEY ALL STAND UP AND COLLECT THEIR STUFF  
PULL BACK TO A WS TO SHOW THE MASS OF STUDENTS LEAVING THE LUNCH ROOM  
A GOOD MAJORITY OF THEM ARE READING THE MAGAZINE AS THEY WALK  
ZOOM BACK DOWN FROM THE WS TO A XCU OF THE MAGAZINE BRAD THREW DOWN  
THE TITLE READS: The Pen CENTERED  
UNDER IT IS THE FOLLOWING, CENTERED IN SLIGHTLY SMALLER TEXT: The Pen  
is mightier than The Sword  
FADE OUT  
ROLL CREDITS  
THE END