

TED

"Military Man"

Written by

Jesse Riback

Based on Ted, the Peacock original series

10848 Victory Blvd North Hollywood CA 91606
973-224-2953
Jriback64@gmail.com

ACT ONE

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - DAY

TED (age unknown, teddy bear) and JOHN (18) walk through the college fair.

They pass by "Northeastern" "Boston College" and "Tufts."

JOHN

How did summer go that fast?

TED

Yeah, remember when we spent a week at the beach and you became a lifeguard. Then some grandma started drowning and you tried to save her but you didn't want to give her mouth to mouth because she had gingivitis. But then she just died right there on the beach with hundreds of people watching?

JOHN

Thanks for reminding me-

They pass by the University of Alabama booth.

TED

Alabama would be sick. Roll Tide!

JOHN

Don't get ahead of yourself. We still have another year in High-

TED

Another year to lose your virginity. You know you can't be a virgin going to college, right?

JOHN

For the last time, it's not just about sex-

TED

Yeah, yeah, yeah. It's about a emotional connection or some shit.

JOHN

It is.

TED

Fuckin' O.J, man, interrupting you and Bethany... How does he sleep at night knowing the crimes he has committed? Preventing two young love birds their first time having sex? O.J Simpson is the reason you're still a virgin. That might have been the worst thing he's ever done.

They pass the ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY REP (20s), annoying nerd with a coiled mustache-

ARIZONA STATE REP

Did somebody say virgin?

TED

Come on John, let's check it out.

JOHN

I don't know, it's all the way across the country.

TED

The girls at Arizona State practically go to class topless.

ARIZONA STATE REP

It's true.

Ted and John approach the booth and are handed the brochure.

Pictures show HOT STUDENTS playing volleyball and tanning by the pool.

TED

This is incredible.

ARIZONA STATE REP

I can see you're not totally convinced. I have someone I want you to meet.

Out comes JENNY (23). She looks like Pamela Anderson straight out of *Baywatch* with a tight Arizona State T-Shirt.

JENNY

So, what's it gonna take to get you to Arizona State?

TED

Will you be there?

JENNY

Yeah-

TED

Oh, we're there. Hold on, you look very familiar...

JENNY

Really? I get that a lot.

TED

I know you from somewhere. I just can't put my finger *in* it-

Jenny laughs.

JOHN

Isn't it *on it*?

BLAIRE (22), John's cousin, leaves the UMass Amherst booth and joins them.

BLAIRE

Arizona State? Seriously?

TED

I'm reading here they have some excellent programs.

JENNY

We have a top five program in environmental science.

TED

Oh, I'm sorry. Have you guys met? Blaire, Jenny. Jenny, Blaire.

BLAIRE

(to John)

You think you can afford to go out of state?

JOHN

I don't know, I haven't thought-

JENNY

We have scholarship opportunities-

TED

He's not getting a scholarship.

BLAIRE

He's not getting a scholarship.

JOHN

Hey.

JENNY

I could help you apply, John. There are some scholarships that aren't purely academic.

JOHN

I don't play sports.

JENNY

There's community service?

TED

He doesn't do community service.

JENNY

Are you poor?

BLAIRE

You can't ask that.

TED

Unfortunately, John's father makes just above the minimum to get financial aid.

BLAIRE

How would you know that?

TED

I've done my research. I tried to buy a Suzuki 500 last winter but couldn't get the poor person discount.

Jenny grabs an Arizona State folder filled with paperwork.

She puts her business card on top and hands it to John.

JENNY

If you want to be a Sun Devil, we can make it work. My business card is on top if you have any questions. Or if you just want to talk.

She winks at John.

JOHN

Uhh...thanks.

TED

Bye Jenny.

Ted, John, and Blaire walk away to the water fountain.

TED (CONT'D)

John, she totally wants you.
Imagine thousands of girls, just
like that.

BLAIRE

You know you're not going to
Arizona State, right?

JOHN

I know, it's probably not going to
happen.

TED

Are you serious right now, John?
Did you not hear about their
environmental science program? It's
top five.

They walk towards the exit.

BLAIRE

UMass is the best option. It's in
state and you wouldn't have to pay
for housing.

TED

We're not living with Matty and
Suze.

BLAIRE

Did I ask you?

TED

Tell her John.

JOHN

I want to experience college, you
know, *Revenge of the Nerds* style.

BLAIRE

Oh, so dressing up like Darth Vader
and sexually assaulting a girl?

TED

Every good character has flaws. Man
oh man, I cannot wait to smoke the
fattest bowl when I get home.

BLAIRE

You guys don't think I wanted to
leave? Move out?

Beat.

BLAIRE (CONT'D)

You want to spend four years in debt and get some STD's in Tempe? Be my guest.

TED

Where the fuck is Tempe?

BLAIRE

Tempe, Arizona. That's where Arizona State is.

They pass the US ARMY booth on their way out.

PRIVATE (28) looks like a real life piece of army propaganda approaches-

PRIVATE

(to John)

Young Man, how would you like to perform your G-d given right and enlist in the United States military?

TED

No thanks. He's good.

JOHN

Yeah, I'm okay. Thanks though.

They all walk past Private.

TED

Could you imagine? John in the army? Getting a tank that's built like an RV, singing *Dooh wah diddy didde dee diddi dum*, mud wrestling with John Candy.

BLAIRE

Is *Stripes* the only thing you know about the military?

TED

Yes it is Blaire. Yes it is.

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

John, Ted, and Blaire eat dinner with...

MATTY (45), John's Dad, and SUZE (44), John's Mom.

SUZE

You're not going to guess what I found vacuuming under the couch!

John and Ted whisper to each other-

JOHN

You don't think she found it, do you?

TED

What? The weed, porn or the machetes?

Suze pulls out a G.I JOE ACTION FIGURE and Matty smiles.

He takes it from Suze and starts playing with it.

MATTY

Commander, Commander. Shots fired due West everybody down!

TED

John, I have to say, it's amazing you're not more fucked up.

SUZE

(to Joe)

Your dad was so excited to give you his little G.I Joe-

MATTY

He's not little!

SUZE

But John, you never showed any interest in it.

MATTY

That's because he's a fuckin fruit. He'd rather hang out with his teddy bear.

BLAIRE

Didn't we talk about not being homophobic?

Suze pivots the conversation-

SUZE

So, how was school today? My little Senior...

JOHN

We had the college fair today.

Matty looks up from his action figure-

SUZE

Oh yeah?

MATTY

Don't get any funny ideas, I'm not paying for you to become a broke, unemployed alcoholic.

SUZE

Matty-

BLAIRE

You know, I actually don't 100% disagree with that.

MATTY

You're gonna join the military just like your old man did. And just like my old man did. And just like his old man did.

TED

That's a lot of old man did's. We're not joining the military.

MATTY

(to Ted)

Don't speak for John, you're not his father.

John's about to jump in the conversation but is cut off.

SUZE

If he wants to go to college then-

MATTY

He can go after the military.

SUZE

If John doesn't want to join the military you shouldn't force him.

MATTY

He's still a boy. The military, and Sergeant Wiseman, will mold him into man. Like me.

BLAIRE

And what a manly man you are.

Suze laughs-

MATTY
 (to Suze)
 You weren't complaining last night.

BLAIRE
 (fake gags)
 Gross!

MATTY
 Sergeant Wiseman broke me out of my shell! That's what John needs. He needs positive male influences.

TED
 What about me? I'm not a positive male influence?

SUZE
 John, what colleges did you look at the fair?

John's about to respond when Ted cuts him off.

TED
 Arizona State.

MATTY
 Arizona State? Yeah, fuckin' right!

TED
 They have a top five program in environmental science.

SUZE
 Arizona's far, isn't it?

MATTY
 Far? It's across the country.

SUZE
 I hear the local community college-

BLAIRE
 Or UMass-

John tries to get a word in one more time. He can't.

MATTY
 He's enlisting. Sergeant Wiseman.

TED
 Arizona State. Sun, beach, boobs-

John pounds his fists on the table-

JOHN

ENOUGH! I don't know why all of you think you can decide my life! This whole time, literally this whole time, nobody has asked me what I wanted. Do any of you care?

SUZE

Of course I care.

JOHN

Just once I want you to ask me what I want.

John stands up angrily and exits.

TED

I'm sorry guys, John's a little pent up. He's still a virgin.

MATTY

Ted, seriously?

BLAIRE

You have to admit you're not the best influence.

TED

Me?

MATTY

He doesn't have a girlfriend, his grades are piss poor. But worst of all, because of you, he doesn't want to join the military!

TED

Hey, we all want what's best for John.

MATTY

You're on thin ice my friend. One more fuck up, you're out of here.

TED

So I'm on double secret probation?

MATTY

That's why you want to go to Arizona State? You want to live out some *Animal House* fantasy? Well guess what? I'm not paying for it!

TED
 You know what? I'm gonna go check
 on John.

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

John lays in bed sadly-

Ted enters.

TED
 You alright buddy?

JOHN
 Leave me alone.

TED
 I'm going to help you, John. You
 know I'll always be there for you.

John doesn't respond. Ted exits to the hallway-

TED (CONT'D)
 John will see how lucky he is to
 have me. I'll show him. I'll show
 them all.

Ted goes in the bathroom with a phone. He takes out the
 Arizona State brochures with Jenny's business card.

He then opens a secret drawer, taking out...

A BINDER OF PROSTITUTES. He FLIPS pages until he see's Jenny!

TED (CONT'D)
 I knew it!

Ted calls Jenny's number-

TED (CONT'D)
 Jenny... I know where I remember
 you from... You, Candi, and
 Krystal... Yeah... you're great
 hookers.

Beat.

TED (CONT'D)
 Sorry, sex workers. Remember John,
 the cute, innocent looking kid?

Beat.

TED (CONT'D)

Yeah. I'm a great friend for him,
I'm helping him out. You're gonna
rock his world Jenny, aren't you?

Beat.

TED (CONT'D)

Just do me a favor, don't tell him
you're a hooker... Sorry, sex
worker...

Beat.

TED (CONT'D)

Perfect, see you tomorrow night.
Yup, he has condoms.

ACT TWO**INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY**

John watches cartoons on TV.

Matty plays with his G.I Joe as Suze and Blaire watch him-

BLAIRE

How long has he been playing with that?

SUZE

He hasn't stopped since last night. How's your, uhh, friend who's a girl?

BLAIRE

We broke up.

SUZE

Oh, I'm sorry.

Beat.

BLAIRE

Doesn't it seem quiet down here?

SUZE

Yeah, it does.

BLAIRE

(to John)

Where's Ted?

John shrugs.

INT. BOSTON THEATRE CENTER - DAY

Ted enters the will call area.

He's on the other side of the glass as a THEATRE SALESMAN (40) who wears heavy eye black.

TED

Are there any shows today?

THEATRE SALESMAN

Of course! We have *Miss Saigon*, *Le Mis*, *Phantom of the Opera*-

TED

I need your least homosexual
musical please.

THEATRE SALESMAN

Excuse me? Going to the theatre
doesn't make you gay.

TED

It doesn't hurt.

THEATRE SALESMAN

I take great offense to that.

TED

Do you have anything that wouldn't
want to make me blow my brains out?

THEATRE SALESMAN

Fiddler on the Roof?

TED

He won't like the Jew one... Look,
these tickets aren't for me,
they're for my friend's dad. Is
there a show he'd like? What would
you take your old-school father to
see?

THEATRE SALESMAN

The only show he tolerates is
Oklahoma. He says it reminds of him
of the good ol' days. Whatever that
means.

TED

Perfect. I'll take three tickets.

INT. PHARMACY - DAY

Ted walks the shaving department aisle singing "Oklahoma."

TED

*Oook-lahoma, where the wind comes
sweepin' down the plain...*

WEIRD GUY from last season appears-

WEIRD GUY

*And the wavin' wheat can sure smell
sweet, when the wind comes right
behind the rain...*

TED
You didn't get fired yet?

WEIRD GUY
Oh, I don't work here.

TED
That's concerning.

WEIRD GUY
What can I help you with today?

TED
You don't work here.

WEIRD GUY
Need a ball shaver for your friend
John, huh?

TED
How do you know that?

Weird Guy picks up a razor from the aisle.

WEIRD GUY
You're going to want the premium
electric, one cut motion. It cleans
up my Audience Memberal area
beautifully.

Weird Guy hands Ted the razor as the MANAGER (30) enters-

MANAGER
(to Weird Guy)
What did I tell you? Get out of
here!

Ted stands with the ball shaver as the Weird Guy runs off.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Matty, Suze, John, and Blaire watch TV.

Matty still has G.I Joe on his knee.

MATTY
I made an appointment for us at the
army base tomorrow to see Sergeant
Wiseman. He's a little tough in the
beginning, but once you get to know
him, he'll change your life.

JOHN

Ted and I were gonna go to the movies.

Before Matty can argue-

Ted BARGES through the front door.

TED

I come bearing gifts!

BLAIRE

Where were you all morning?

TED

I have planned a magical evening for you guys. I know how much you enjoy the theatre...

SUZE

I haven't been to a show in years!

MATTY

The theatre? Do I look gay?

BLAIRE

Going to the theatre doesn't make you gay.

MATTY

They're singing and dancing all about their emotions. They're not doing what men are supposed to do.

BLAIRE

They're not playing with their G.I Joe action figure at 50 years old?

TED

Guys, guys. I had a feeling Matty would have this reaction. So I got three tickets to the least gay musical I could find.

BLAIRE

I disagree with the theatre being gay-

TED

You have three center orchestra seats for *Oook-lahoma...*

MATTY

You know what happened to Abe Lincoln at the theatre? Three words. John Wilkes Booth.

BLAIRE

Are you comparing yourself to Abraham Lincoln?

SUZE

I'm putting on my theatre dress!

BLAIRE

Theatre dress?

SUZE

I haven't been in a while but the women wear dresses and the men wear suits. It's fun to feel important.

MATTY

Ugh, I don't want to wear a suit.

Matty and Suze exit to get dressed as Ted sits next to John-

BLAIRE

(to Ted)

You're getting us out of the house for a reason. Aren't you?

TED

What, I can't do something nice?

Blaire looks at him suspiciously.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER - NIGHT

John lays on the couch.

Suze and Blaire wait by the door. Both in fancy dresses.

Matty tries to tuck in his suit but it's too small.

MATTY

Damn dryer, shrinking all my clothes.

BLAIRE

The dryer... Right.

MATTY

You look good Blaire, like an actual woman.

TED

You're gonna be late. If you don't
get out of here soon, I'm gonna
take the ticket myself.

They exit but Matty turns around and looks directly at Ted.

MATTY

Thin ice, my friend. Thin ice.

Ted closes the door on them and runs to John.

TED

Big night, tonight John. Big night.

JOHN

What are you talking about?

TED

Remember Jenny, the Arizona State-

JOHN

Yeah-

TED

She's coming over tonight with a
couple of friends.

JOHN

I'm not in the mood.

TED

You saw how hot she was-

JOHN

She was hot.

TED

Besides, she's coming over to help
you with Arizona State stuff. It's
an educational visit.

JOHN

(smiles)

She did wink at me.

TED

She did buddy, yes!

Ted throws John a box.

JOHN

What's this?

TED

A present.

John opens the box. It's the ball shaver.

TED (CONT'D)

It's for your downstairs area.

JOHN

I don't want to shave down there.

TED

Why not? I do it.

JOHN

You don't have a-

TED

What do you think my tag is for?

JOHN

Disgusting.

TED

Trust me, you need to shave. Be prepared, just in case.

JOHN

You said it's just Arizona State stuff.

TED

But she winked at you.

JOHN

She did wink at me.

TED

This could be that girlfriend you're looking for.

JOHN

You know what? You're right.

TED

Let's have ourselves a night!

ACT THREEINT. BATHROOM/INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

John holds the shaver. His pants down to his waist.

Ted talks to him from the other side of the door.

TED

Now, stand over the toilet.

JOHN

Why?

TED

So the hair goes straight in the bowl. No mess, no clean up.

JOHN

Which way do I do it? Up, down?

TED

You're overthinking it.

JOHN

What if I cut myself?

TED

You're not gonna cut yourself.

JOHN

Do I use shaving cream?

TED

Oh my God, stop being a pussy and shave.

John turns the shaver on, it BUZZES.

Beat.

JOHN

Wow, it's bigger than I thought down there.

Ted opens the door.

TED

Let me see.

John turns around quickly. Nobody sees anything.

JOHN
Get the fuck out of here!

The doorbell RINGS-

JOHN (CONT'D)
Is that them?

TED
Don't worry, I'll entertain them.
Don't rush in there, Edward.

Ted runs away, forgetting to close the door.

JOHN
Edward?

TED (O.S.)
Edward Scissorhands.

JOHN
Ted! The door!

It's too late. Ted is gone.

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - FRONT ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Ted opens the front door to-

Jenny and her two giggly friends CANDI (23) and KRYSTAL (23) enter.

TED
Jenny, Candi, Krystal.

CANDI
Aww, if it isn't my favorite Teddy bear.

They hear a YELL from the bathroom-

JOHN (O.S.)
OW!

TED
You all good, John?

Ted and the Girls look concerned.

INT. BATHROOM/ INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Ted, Jenny, Candi, and Krystal walk up the stairs.

They see John with his underwear wrapped around his ankles with a shaver in hand-

Ted, Krystal, and Candi starts laughing-

TED
You don't like to close doors
around here?

JOHN
You left it open!

JENNY
You look cute flustered.

JOHN
(to Jenny)
Thanks.
(to Ted)
Close the fucking door!

TED
My bad. Are you bleeding?

JOHN
(voice crack)
Just close the door! Please!

Ted SLAMS the door shut.

TED
Sorry. You're not gonna bleed out,
are you?

JOHN
I don't think so.

TED
Just hold a tissue on it for a
minute, you'll be good.

Krystal takes out a bag of cocaine and smiles eagerly-

TED (CONT'D)
That'll lift our spirits.

INT. THEATRE - NIGHT

Matty, Suze, and Blaire are the only people dressed fancily.
They walk down the aisle to their seats.

BLAIRE

Why are we the only one's dressed
like this?

Matty readjusts his pants.

MATTY

I'm getting a wedgie.

SUZE

The last time I came to the theatre
everybody dressed up.

They find their seats and sit down.

SUZE (CONT'D)

Oooh, I'm so excited. We never do
stuff like this.

MATTY

Yeah, we have a television.

BLAIRE

So?

MATTY

We can watch whatever we want,
whenever we want. Change the
volume, get up and take a leak.
Here, you have to watch what's in
front of you, and pay extra for it.

The lights fade - it's showtime.

The play starts and they hear the "Oh, What a Beautiful
Mornin" by the *Oklahoma* cast.

SUZE

That is one handsome cowboy.

MATTY

That guy looks like your uncle.
What was his name again?

SUZE

He does not look like Uncle Dave.

A AUDIENCE MEMBER (50) in front turns around and looks at
them sternly.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Shhhhh!

Matty rolls his eyes.

MATTY

At home we can talk, you know.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ted and Krystal share a line of cocaine and meet in the middle. Their noses BONK, all of them LAUGH.

TED

I forgot how fun you guys are.

John walks down the stairs slowly.

He stops when he sees Ted, Candi, and Krystal doing cocaine.

TED (CONT'D)

The man of the hour.

Jenny stands up-

JENNY

Hey John.

JOHN

Uh, hi... Ted, what are you doing?

TED

Don't worry, I'll clean it up before your parents get home.

JENNY

(to John)

I brought the ASU stuff if you wanna look at it with me?

John stammers as-

TED

Come on John. She wants to help you-

JENNY

Want to go upstairs?

TED

Go, John. She'll answer any questions you have.

JOHN

Okay, sure.

John and Jenny walk upstairs.

TED
We'll be down here if you need
anything.

Ted looks at Krystal.

TED (CONT'D)
Another line?

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

John and Jenny enter.

John sits at his desk while Jenny sits on his bed.

JENNY
You don't want to sit with me?

JOHN
Sorry, it's not every day a girl
jumps in my bed.

JENNY
I didn't see two chairs. Were you
going to make me stand, John?

JOHN
No, sorry, I-uh.

JENNY
I like your bunk beds, very *manly*.

Jenny takes out the Arizona State application.

JENNY (CONT'D)
Sit down.

John sits at the edge of the bed.

JENNY (CONT'D)
You can read it from back there?

JOHN
I have 20/20 vision. So, you're a
student at ASU?

JENNY
Yeah, but it's so expensive.

JOHN
That's why you're a student rep?

JENNY

Yeah...

They hear HOOTIN' and HOLLERIN' from downstairs.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Let's take a look at your application.

INT. THEATRE - NIGHT

"The Surrey with the Fringe on Top" by the *Oklahoma* plays.

Matty, Suze, and Blaire are enjoying it, all tapping their feet to the beat.

SUZE

They're pretty talented, huh?

MATTY

Not bad.

SUZE

See, we should go to the theatre more often.

BLAIRE

I'm not a fan of the themes going on here.

MATTY

Themes? Just enjoy the play.

The AUDIENCE MEMBER (45) turns around, shushing them.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Shhh!

MATTY

What's this guys' problem?

The Audience Member turns around, shushing them yet again.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Shhh!

MATTY

Shhh!

SUZE

Stop it, it's alright.

They go back to enjoying the play-

SUZE (CONT'D)

(to Matty)

Can we buy the CD so we can listen
to this all the time?

MATTY

That's actually not a bad idea.

BLAIRE

So you're having fun?

MATTY

I never said that.

The Audience Member turns around again-

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Shhh!

MATTY

Shhh!

A SECURITY GUARD approaches-

AUDIENCE MEMBER

These people won't shut up. I am
trying to enjoy Rogers and
Hammerstein's finest production.

MATTY

Who and who?

SECURITY GUARD

I'm going to have to ask you to
leave.

MATTY

Leave!?! We haven't done anything!

The Security Guard picks up Matty and his pants SPLIT!

The Audience Member LAUGHS hysterically.

SECURITY GUARD

You too!

AUDIENCE MEMBER

No, I'm the victim here.

SECURITY GUARD

Out now!

The Audience Member points at Matty and Suze.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

You will rue the day you messed
with William Childers the fourth.
Rue! I will find you, I will watch
you, I will know every detail about
you, and when you least expect
it... Good night.

Blaire, Matty, and Suze look at each other scared.

BLAIRE

Psycho.

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

John and Jenny sit closer in the bed reading the application.

JOHN

(sarcasm)

They weren't kidding when they said
this was a hard school to get into.

JENNY

You're funny. I like you.

JOHN

You're not so bad yourself.

Jenny leans in and they kiss briefly.

JENNY

(stammers)

I'm so glad Ted paid, set this
up... He's a good friend.

Jenny leans in again but John moves away, standing up.

JOHN

Paid?

JENNY

Shit. You didn't know?

JOHN

Of course not. I thought you...

JENNY

...I'm sorry, it's just that
school's expensive, and being a rep
still wasn't paying the bills. I'm
not proud of it but-

They hear Ted MOAN in delight from downstairs-

TED (O.S.)
Oh yeah, flick that tag! You're worth every penny!

JOHN
You're a...

JENNY
Yeah-

JOHN
(angry)
I can't believe Ted did this... So you never liked me?

JENNY
You're cute John.

Jenny looks at John's lap and laughs.

JENNY (CONT'D)
Whoa.. You seem to think I'm cute too.

JOHN
What do you mean?

Jenny looks at John and throws him a pillow.

John looks down at his wet shorts and immediately covers himself with a pillow.

JENNY
Nothing to be embarrassed about.

The garage door OPENS.

JOHN
Fuck, fuckety, fuck, fuck.

JENNY
Who's that?

JOHN
My parents.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Matty, Suze, and Blaire walk to the house as Matty sings "Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'"

MATTY

Oh, what a beautiful mornin'... Oh, what a beautiful day... I've got a beautiful feeling...

BLAIRE

I thought liking the theatre made you gay?

MATTY

Who said I liked it?

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ted brings his head out of Krystal's lap.

His face is full of cocaine.

TED

Shit, shitty, shit, shit.

The door SWINGS OPEN.

Matty, Suze, and Blaire walk in on the horror show.

MATTY

Everything's going my way...

SUZE

Oh my-

Matty stops singing when he sees-

MATTY

Who the fuck is this! What the fuck is going on!

BLAIRE

Ted, I must say, you've outdone yourself.

SUZE

Where's John?

TED

I can explain.

John walks down the stairs and Jenny is right behind him.

John still has a pillow covering his crotch.

Suze grabs her forehead- about to faint.

SUZE
My antique throw pillow.

JOHN
I can't believe you hired a hooker
for me!

MATTY
A hooker!?!

TED
They're called sex workers actually-

BLAIRE
Or, you could, I don't know, call
them by their first names?

JENNY
Yes! Thank you!

MATTY
(to Ted)
I want you gone. I need you gone.

TED
Come on, I'm John's best bud, I'm
looking out for him. Tell him,
John?

John looks away from Ted.

TED (CONT'D)
You can't be a virgin still? It's
bad for you socially.

MATTY
Ted! I've had it. Go.

John won't look at Ted.

TED
Wow. You're not going to defend me?

JOHN
I'm done defending you.

TED
Fine, you want me gone. I'll go.

Ted hopes the others will stop him. They don't.

TED (CONT'D)
But if I leave, if I step out that
door, I'm never coming back.

Ted looks at John again but John looks away from Ted.

TED (CONT'D)

I mean it. I'm walking towards the door... I'm gonna twist the knob...

Ted opens the door.

TED (CONT'D)

One foot out the door. I'm really leaving. Never coming back... John, it can't end like this.

John looks the other way. Ted exits.

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

Walking down these steps... it's goodbye forever...

Ted's voice turns quiet. He's gone. The girls still sit there-

JENNY

Alright, I think we're gonna go.

MATTY

You're still here!?!!

SUZE

(to John)

I'm disappointed-

MATTY

I'm a lot more than disappointed!

JOHN

I didn't know, I swear to God. But, Ted, even though he was dead wrong, at least looks out for me.

MATTY

You think I don't look out for you?

JOHN

You either complain or yell at me. If you couldn't tell... I could use a father once in a while.

John walks up the stairs.

Matty hangs his head.

Jenny and the girls slink out.

Krystal gives her business card to Matty.

Matty throws it back at her.

ACT FOUREXT. ARMY BASE - DAY

Matty and John walk past soldiers doing drills and pushups.

It's obvious John doesn't fit the mold.

MATTY

Look around. This what it means to be a man. They'll teach you better than I can. Definitely better than Ted can.

John sighs, he doesn't care enough to argue.

MATTY (CONT'D)

Ted has broken you. Sergeant Wiseman will fix you. Just like he did for me.

SERGEANT WISEMAN (70s), sweaty and intense, enters-

SERGEANT WISEMAN

Mr. Bennett and Mr. Bennett thank you for being so prompt at 0800 hours on the dot.

Matty attempts to salute.

MATTY

Sir, yes
(yells)
Ow!

JOHN

You alright?

MATTY

Fuck. I got a cramp in my shoulder. Sir.

SERGEANT WISEMAN

Hopefully your son isn't as weak as you. And you, Mr. Bennett, are and have always been weak.

MATTY

I'm not weak. I just haven't done the salute in thirty years-

SERGEANT WISEMAN
(to John)
-What's your name, soldier?

JOHN
John.

SERGEANT WISEMAN
Is that how you address a
commanding officer?

MATTY
Salute him.
(to Sergeant)
Sorry, sir.

John does a half-hearted salute-

SERGEANT WISEMAN
(sighs angrily)
Let's get going. We have so little
time but so many places to see.

JOHN
(whispers to Matty)
Is it me or is he giving off Willy
Wonka vibes?

Matty laughs-

SERGEANT WISEMAN
Something funny?

MATTY
No, sir. Sorry.

SERGEANT WISEMAN
I like jokes! I like to laugh! Tell
me what was so funny!

JOHN
It's really nothing.

SERGEANT WISEMAN
You're speaking to a commanding
officer. You will address me as-

MATTY
Sorry. It's really nothing, sir.

SERGEANT WISEMAN
Some job you did raising him. I
knew you'd amount to nothing short
of a failure. And I'm always right.

Matty's face drops.

John looks at his Dad disappointed he's not sticking up for himself.

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - DAY

Ted walks up the porch with a box of chocolates.

He builds himself up and RINGS the doorbell.

Blaire opens the door.

BLAIRE

You shouldn't be here.

TED

Can I apologize to John?

BLAIRE

It's not up to me.

TED

You know I had to sleep under a bridge last night? I woke up with a guy who kept repeating his own name, *Dennis, Dennis, Dennis*, as he cuddled against me like I was his wife of fifty years.

BLAIRE

Sounds like fun.

TED

Just let me apologize to him. Please.

BLAIRE

John and Matty aren't here.

TED

Where are they?

BLAIRE

The army base.

TED

The army base?

BLAIRE

I know.

TED

He doesn't want to go to college?

Suze yells from inside.

SUZE (O.S.)

Who's at the door?

BLAIRE

Ted.

Suze comes to the door.

SUZE

You can't be here.

TED

Hey, I never asked, how was
Oklahoma?

SUZE

It was fantastic. The singing, the
dancing, and the cowboy was very
attractive-

TED

I knew you'd like it.

SUZE

You're distracting me. You have to
leave.

TED

You won't let me apologize?

SUZE

I'm sorry. I think it's for the
best if you two spend some time
apart.

TED

But I have nowhere to go.

SUZE

I'm sorry.

TED

Can you at least let me get my
stuff?

Suze looks at Blaire and sighs.

SUZE

Be quick.

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - JOHN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ted carries a bindle and packs up some of his belongings. His INSTRUCTION MANUAL, a BOWTIE, and some PORN MAGAZINES.

He then opens the desk drawer and takes out John's COLLEGE APPLICATION MATERIALS. He puts them in his bindle.

EXT. ARMY BASE - DAY

Sergeant Wiseman walks John and Matty past the obstacle course.

Soldiers on their arms and knees training through the mud.

SERGEANT WISEMAN

This is meant to replicate battles in the field. If one can not complete this, they will most likely be shot in the skull and die a slow and painful death.

John looks terrified.

MATTY

Sir, can I talk to you?

SERGEANT WISEMAN

Make it quick Bennett.

Matty walks to the side and Private follows.

MATTY

You're supposed to be talking the place up, convincing my son it's a good place to help him form into a man. Like you did for me. Not scare the living shit out of him, sir.

SERGEANT WISEMAN

I am only expressing the harsh realities of everyday life. This should excite him and get his estrogen flowing.

MATTY

Don't you mean testosterone, sir?

SERGEANT WISEMAN

It seems I have failed into making you a man. I take responsibility for turning you into a potential fag.

John watches sadly as Matty is talked down to-

MATTY

Hey, I've learned you can't say that.

SERGEANT WISEMAN

Who told you that? A homo? You are an embarrassment to my legacy Bennett. I wish you were never in my squadron. You are a lost cause.

John looks down at his shoes.

Matty knows he has to stand up for himself and his son.

MATTY

You know what, fuck you! Sir!

SERGEANT WISEMAN

That's it. Your back talk will not be tolerated. 25 pushups.

MATTY

(jokes)
Good one.

SERGEANT WISEMAN

Do I look like a funny guy to you?

MATTY

You said you liked to laugh?

John beams at Matty.

SERGEANT WISEMAN

You want to be the funny guy? 50 pushups.

John laughs.

SERGEANT WISEMAN (CONT'D)

You think it's funny too? 80 pushups.

John and Matty look at each other, "we're doing this?"

SERGEANT WISEMAN (CONT'D)

(top of his lungs)
You will do what you're told!

Scared, they both go down into the push up position.

They do them very slowly.

SERGEANT WISEMAN (CONT'D)
You two are some of the most
embarrassing, sack of turd,
incompetent imbeciles I have ever-

MATTY
(out of breath)
I can't do anymore.

John lays on the ground, failing.

SERGEANT WISEMAN
You are weak. You are not men. And,
you, John, will never be a man.

John lays depressed. His self-esteem gone.

MATTY
Don't talk to my son like that.

SERGEANT WISEMAN
Don't be so sensitive.

Matty stands up.

MATTY
Come on, John. Let's go.

SERGEANT WISEMAN
The tour is not over.

MATTY
It is now. We don't need to listen
to you.

SERGEANT WISEMAN
You are disrespecting your country!

MATTY
I'm not disrespecting the country.
I'm disrespecting you.

John smiles, standing up.

He's thrilled his dad stood up for him.

MATTY (CONT'D)
Let's go home.

JOHN
You got it.

They exit.

MATTY
I'm sorry, son.

John PATS Matty's back. "It's okay."

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - DAY

Ted carries a pile of college applications and paperwork higher than his head.

"UMass Amherst" "Boston University" and "Boston College" are noticeable.

He places them beside the door.

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN TABLE - NIGHT

Matty and John enter laughing as Suze sits-

JOHN
(mimics Wiseman)
You will never know what it means
to be a man.

SUZE
How was the base? Was it nice
catching up with Sergeant Wiseman?

Matty and John still laugh-

MATTY
Yeah, John's not joining the
military. I don't know why I
convinced myself into liking that
man?

Suze is relieved-

Blaire enters with a stack of enveloped and packets.

JOHN
What's that?

BLAIRE
I don't know, they showed up at the
doorstep.

Blaire puts them on the table.

Five completed college applications: all having John's name on them written in pen.

JOHN
This had to be Ted, right?

Blaire grabs a white envelope from the counter. She reads it.

BLAIRE
"I'm sorry for everything. Your
best bud, Ted."

John opens it and it's a whole letter-

JOHN
He wrote me an apology letter and
everything. And... he's living with
the monkey's in the zoo?

SUZE
Ted did a nice thing...

BLAIRE
For somebody else, surprising.

John smiles, looking at Ted's letter.

MATTY
FUCK!

SUZE
What? What's wrong? Is it your
heart again?

Matty grabs his car keys angrily.

MATTY
Come on John!

JOHN
Where are we going?

MATTY
We're getting that fuckin' teddy
bear!

EXT. ZOO - NIGHT

Ted eats a banana sitting with two other monkeys.

TED
So his parents get kicked out of
the theatre and they come home at
the worst possible time.

The monkeys don't seem like they're listening.

TED (CONT'D)

I have it all over my face,
Krystal's half naked, John walks
down the stairs with a pillow
covering his penis.

The monkey's exit, swinging away.

TED (CONT'D)

(shrugs)
I thought it was funny.

Matty and John appear at the other side of the fence.

JOHN

You're living at the zoo?

TED

No, I just come here for fun once
in a while to talk to the monkeys.
(beat)
Yes, I live at the zoo!

MATTY

You did a nice thing, Ted.

TED

So, you got my letter?

JOHN

Yeah, thank you. It means a lot,
applying-

TED

You know I'll always be your
Thunder Buddy.

JOHN

Thunder Buddy's for life.

MATTY

I want you to know, you're still on
thin ice-

TED

Listen, I should never have brought
the sex workers to the house. I
never should have hired one for
John. I never should have eaten
cocaine out from of Krystal's lap-

MATTY

Enough! Before I change my mind.

TED
Does this mean?

JOHN
Let's go home.

TED
I'll be better. You have my word.
John, I'm sorry for not listening
to you and trying to take care of
everything myself.

JOHN
You know what, I'm sorry too. I can
control my own actions.

MATTY
Enough of this soapbox, lovey dovey
crap. I'm missing the Sox game.

Ted starts to climb the fence.

TED
If you want a girlfriend to cuddle
with, Mr. Sensitive, then I'll be
the best wing-bear you could ever
have.

MATTY
Hey, there's nothing wrong with
being a little sensitive.

TED
Wow, the theatre does make you gay.

MATTY
(jokes)
I will leave you here, you know.

Ted climbs the fence and throws his banana peel at a monkey.

The monkey gets angry.

EXT. BACKYARD - A FEW DAYS LATER

John and Ted share a bong sitting in their spot.

TED
Take my advice, don't ever sleep
under a bridge.

Ted takes out another college application from behind his
back: Arizona State.

TED (CONT'D)
Surprise!

JOHN
Arizona State?

TED
Why not? It's a safety school.

JOHN
You sneaky, sneaky fuck.

TED
Let's have ourselves a year John.

CAMERA PANS UP to the night sky.

CUT TO BLACK.

"Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin" by the *Oklahoma* cast plays over the ending credits.