

SCRIPT TITLE

Written by

Name of First Writer

Based on, If Any

Address  
Phone Number

FADE IN

EXT. - DAY

WE CLOSE ON A NEWSPAPER VENDING MACHINE

The paper's headline reads - SCHOOL VOTE FAILS, then fades and letter by letter reappears as ANIMAL ABUSER KILLED BY OWN DOG.

EXT.- DAY - NEXT

ARIELS DOWN TO A SMALL TOWN NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

IN THE BACK YARD

We see a small, knuckles scratched hand gently removing a collar from DEMON, a large DOBERMAN dog standing upright with paws and head above a chain linked fence. The collar has sharp studs on both sides. His neck is bloodied. The dog licks the hand.

NEXT

We obviously see the sneakers and legs of a young boy. Moving up we find he is sitting on a bed two hand holding DEMON'S collar.

INT.22B MORNING GLORY LANE - TILTON NEW HAMPSHIRE U.S.A.  
THE 60'S - DAY

IN THE KITCHEN

SUPER: DAY ONE

BIG ERNIE (thirty three) is seated at one end of a cheap Formica table in the center of the room. His wife DORIS (twenty six) occupies the opposite end with her son JIMMY (twelve) taking up the middle position. The setting and serving is breakfast. Ernie sports a food stained T-shirt over his grossly overweight body. He is a known drunk and vicious bully of women and children. Doris is impeccably dressed and Jimmy is dressed well and appropriately for his age. There is a strong sense of tension as Doris and Jimmy stare at their plates and Ernie eats quickly and loudly. A true slob obviously not enjoying his daily hangover. He stops in mid fork feed and turns to Jimmy.

ERNIE

Where's my god dammed paper?

JIMMY

I didn't have any extras. If I come up short they come out of my pay at 15 cents a piece. You need to be put on my route to get it everyday.

ERNIE

You may think that rag is magic but it isn't worth 2 cents never mind 15. Most of the time I wouldn't read it to save my life. I'll check it out for free but I'm not paying for it. Tomorrow's News today. That doesn't make any sense.

JIMMY

The paper is printed by 11:30 every night. If something big happens after that, and there was a way to change the headlines, that would be tomorrow's news today.

ERNIE

What. Do they have magicians working for them with magic wands?

JIMMY

Maybe.

ERNIE

You're a weird ass kid. There is something really wrong with you.

Jimmy looks at Doris.

JIMMY

I gotta go.

ERNIE

Where do you think you're going?

JIMMY

I'm going over to Billy's house to work on our bikes.

ERNIE

I told you before I don't want you hanging around with that trouble maker.

JIMMY

Billy's not a trouble maker. He's my best friend. All we're going to do is work on our bikes.

ERNIE

That's what you think! You're staying right here and helping your mother with the laundry and clean this shit hole up.

Ernie points his fork at Jimmy.

ERNIE (CONT'D)

And you stay away from who I tell you to or else. That includes that idiot Billy Morris.

DORIS

Oh Ernie, let him go to Billy's. He does his route and goes to school all week. He needs to be with his friends some on weekends.

Ernie's fork now swings to Doris.

ERNIE

You stay out of this. I have the say in this house.

DORIS

I just...

ERNIE

Drop it and finish eating or both of you just get the hell away from me.

Ernie focuses on Jimmy.

ERNIE (CONT'D)

You think just because you have a route and a couple of dollars you run this house. Well you don't. This my house, and don't you forget it. You're just like that no good Billy.

JIMMY

I'd rather be like him than you.  
You're just plain mean and everyone  
says so.

Jimmy stands up quickly and his chair tips to the floor with a BANG. He runs for the doorway to the living room. Doris raises a hand to her cheek, she knows what's coming. Ernie jumps up and runs for Jimmy catching him by the hair at the doorway and pulls him to the floor. Jimmy curls into a customary ball just as Ernie lands his first kick on Jimmy's back.

Doris SHOUTS.

DORIS

Ernie! Stop! You're hurting him.

Ernie kicks Jimmy again.

ERNIE

That's the whole idea. He needs to  
know who's boss.

Doris runs to Jimmy's defense and tries to pull Ernie away by the arm. Ernie face slaps Doris to the floor. Jimmy tries to get up to help his mother. Ernie kicks him again as he steps over him to go into the living room.

Ernie is heard YELLING from the living room.

ERNIE (CONT'D)

I told you two before not to run  
your mouths!

The TV begins to play LOUDLY.

Doris and Jimmy crawl to each other.

JIMMY

Mama, we have to get away from him  
before he kills us. This isn't  
getting better, it's getting worse.

DORIS

I'm sorry Jimmy. You're right. I  
never thought it would get this  
bad.

INT. THE TILTON MORNING NEWS OFFICES - ASSISTANT EDITORS  
OFFICE - DAY - NEXT

SUPER: DAY TWO

We are in the office of CHARLES GREELY (seventy) Assistant Editor of THE TILTON MORNING NEWS. Greely, as he is called, stands looking out a window that reveals most of Main Street through the reversed painted words THE TILTON MORNING NEWS and under it TOMORROWS NEWS TODAY.

There is a KNOCK on the door. Greely turns and SHOUTS.

GREELY

Come in.

Jimmy enters, leaving the door open.

GREELY (CONT'D)

You're late. It's six already.  
Were you born in a barn? Shut the  
door.

Jimmy turns and haphazardly pushes the door which does not close all the way. He starts toward it to finish the job.

GREELY (CONT'D)

Forget it and sit down. You  
probably don't have doors in your  
house anyway.

Jimmy sits opposite Greely at a desk.

GREELY (CONT'D)

Well, you have done it again. I've  
had calls from half of your route.  
I should fire you and get it over  
with. You're just like that  
worthless father of yours.

JIMMY

He's not my father! And I am not  
like him! I'm not like anybody.

GREELY

A step father is a father. Even  
that poor excuse for one.

(MORE)

GREELY (CONT'D)

He's a drunken bastard of a town bully and you're a trouble maker just like him. I should never've given you a chance. You think you're special but you're not.

JIMMY

You didn't give me my route, MR. STEBINS did.

GREELY

Stebins may own this paper but I run it, he knows it, and don't you forget it.

JIMMY

I haven't forgotten that you gave me the longest route knowing I would be late for school or yelled at by Ernie for getting up early and waking him up. I have the worst customers and they don't pay on time or at all. I do a great job. I deliver when and what I'm suppose to.

GREELY

You ungrateful little bastard. You got a new bike out of it didn't you. Now get out of my office before I kick you in the ass.

Jimmy leaves the office looking back and bumps right into Mr.Stebins in the hallway. Stebins rubs Jimmy's head.

MR.STEBINS

Rough day Jimmy?

JIMMY

Average Mr. Stebins.

MR.STEBINS

There's something special about you Jimmy. You hang in there. I see big things for you.

EXT. MORING GLORY LANE -ARIELS - DAY -NEXT

We close from tree tops to reveal Jimmy at speed on his red WESTERN FLYER bike with saddle and front baskets stuffed with pre-rolled banded papers. He leans to his right under the weight of a full shoulder delivery bag.

Jimmy has a very long route with a lot of deadbeat, complaining customers that he reserves a special treatment for.

SERIES OF SHOTS - PAYBACK IS A BITCH

-As Jimmy comes to MR. EDWARDS house we see that his highly developed, championship worthy paper throw will find Mr. Edwards once again crawling under his car if he wants early headlines.

-MR. SHAW is seen waiting by his pool with a long pole that he knows he will be using if he wants to check the days weather forecast on page three. He shakes his fist as his copy of THE TILTON MORNING NEWS makes it's usual splashdown.

-OLD MAID WATERMAN comes off her porch accompanied by her fierce guard dog PRECIOUS and fast walks to the front yard high bush landing zone of her horoscope for the day. She turns to Jimmy and yells as Precious barks her best to earn her keep.

OLD MAID WATERMAN

You'll get yours's Jimmy Jones.

Jimmy looks back and laughs.

TIRES SCREEHING. A LOUD CRASHING SOUND

END SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY - NEXT

Jimmy is in the waiting area. He is scuffed up but in good working order. Jimmy is nervously reading a local merchant's flyer in his wait to be picked up by just Doris he hopes. The flyer reads FATHER'S DAY SALE AT ART'S SPORTING GOODS.



HUNTING KNIVES ONLY \$3.99. Jimmy starts to count his paper money.

JIMMY  
\$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00

A look of comfort washes over Jimmy's face birthing a mischievous smile.

OVER JIMMY'S SHOULDER - SAME

Ernie struts into the waiting area with Doris walking front to side of him holding onto his shoulder while talking to him as he ignores her. They arrive in front of Jimmy with Ernie stopping short and Doris bouncing off him.

ERNIE  
Well. Look who can't even ride a bike without almost killing themselves and wrecking it. I hope you don't think your going to just hang around licking your wounds, and you can forget about trying to fix that bike because you're walking your route from now on.

DORIS  
Please Ernie. Not now. He's hurt. Let's just go home.

JIMMY  
Can we stop at Art's on the way?

ERNIE  
Bullshit.

JIMMY  
Well it was going to be a surprise for you for Father's Day, but if you wait outside it still can be.

SUPER: DAY FOUR

INT. 22B MORNING GLORY LANE - DAY

IN THE KITCHEN

Jimmy and Doris are seated close to each other at the table. They are smiling.

FLASHBACK TO DAY THREE

INT.22B MORNING GLORY LANE - TILTON NEW HAMPSHIRE U.S.A. -  
EVENING

Jimmy is in his room holding the knife. He slowly closes his eyes.

INSIDE JIMMY JONES' HEAD

We see the newspaper vending machine HEADLINE - HEATWAVE  
begin to fade.

EXT. MORNING GLORY LANE - DAY - NEXT

SERIES OF SHOTS - WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND.

-Mr. Edwards crawls out from under his car and unrolls his  
paper to the HEADLINES -BIG ERNIE BASS STABBED TO DEATH.

TOWN BULLY DIES IN BAR FIGHT.

-Mr. Shaw reads from his dripping news on page two, PAPERBOY  
HIT BY CAR.

-Old Maid Waterman finally shakes her horoscope from the bush  
and sees that not only does she "need to be more  
understanding with others, especially youths", but on the  
opposite page she finds that - PAPERBOY UNHURT IN BIKE  
ACCIDENT.

-Mr. Greely quizzically proof reads the classifieds -  
ASSISTANT EDITOR NEEDED IMMEDIATELY. MUST WORK WELL WITH ALL  
AGES.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

RETURN TO DAY FOUR

SUPER: BACK TO DAY FOUR

Jimmy and Doris are seated close together at the breakfast table, smiling. Doris leans over to hug Jimmy.

DORIS

What are you going to do today  
sweetheart?

JIMMY

I'm going over to Billy's and work  
on my bike.

DORIS

That's nice.

THE END

ROLL CREDITS.

BREAK INTO CREDITS

43 CEDAR STREET TILTON NEW HAMSHIRE - DAY - NEXT

BILLY MORRIS' HOUSE

IN THE BACK YARD.

We see Jimmy and Billy with their bikes upside down resting on bars and seats on the ground. Tools and car parts lay spilled on the ground from a tool box.

BILLY

We better pick up before my step  
father gets home. He'll take the  
strap to me for using his tools.  
He's still treating me and my mom  
like shit. Some nights when he's  
passed out on the couch I just want  
to hold a pillow on his face.

Jimmy has the look of wheels turning between his ears. He picks up a used wiper blade.

JIMMY  
Is from your father's car?

BILLY  
Yeah, he just changed them  
yesterday.

JIMMY  
Can I have it?

BILLY  
I guess so. What are going to do  
with it?

JIMMY  
Oh, I'll think of something.

CREDITS RETURN