

SCENE I

EXT. STENLAND'S BACKYARD - DAY

Bastion is pitching. Nick is crowding the plate with a  
BASEBALL BAT.

BASTION (KID)  
Two balls. Two strikes.

Bastion winds up. It's a curve ball. Nick doesn't swing.

BASTION (KID)  
Sttttttriiiiike three! You're out  
Salva-mander!

Bastion strides in and grabs the bat from Nick, but Nick  
doesn't let go.

NICK (KID)  
What!? That wasn't a strike!

BASTION (KID)  
You're out! Play third. You had  
your chance.

They start fighting over the bat. It turns into a tug-of-war.

NICK (KID)  
No, I'm not!

BASTION (KID)  
Ouuut!

NICK (KID)  
That ball was WAY outside!

BASTION (KID)  
Nuh uh... OUT!

NICK (KID)  
Not even CLOSE.

BASTION (KID)  
Your stance is TRASH. You bat like  
a hunched-back retard!

NICK (KID)  
That's only because you can't see  
straight, GRANDMA.

BASTION (KID)  
You're such a sore loser.

NICK (KID)  
Let go of the bat.

BASTION (KID)  
Give it up turkey legs. Know where  
the strike zone is.

NICK (KID)  
Let go!

BASTION (KID)  
Make me!

Neither one lets go of their end of the bat. Nick yanks the bat. Bastion purposely lets go. The bat RAMS into Nick's gut. Nick leans over GASPING.

SEAN (KID)  
Ohhhh! You just got frosted!

KID 1  
Eat your flakes!

Nick TACKLES Bastion, and RUBS HIS FACE in the dirt. Stenland's body shadows over the kids FIGHTING.

STENLAND  
Both of you get up RIGHT NOW.

Bastion and Nick stop immediately. Fear covers their faces.

STENLAND  
(to Bastion)  
Are you gonna embarrass me like  
that? Rolling around like a dog.  
(to Nick)  
Give me that bat.

Stenland takes the bat from Nick.

STENLAND  
Take your shirts off. NOW.

Nick and Bastion take their shirts off.

STENLAND  
Alright, you filthy, pecker-rats.

Stenland swigs his beer.

STENLAND  
You stand here in this corner, and  
you over there.

Nick and Bastion obey.

STENLAND  
Now we're gonna finish this.  
(swigs his beer)  
Like men.

All the Kids remain silent. Stenland CRUSHES his beer can.

STENLAND  
(to Bastion)  
Don't you dare disrespect our  
family name. I taught you better  
than that. Now put your fists up.  
Both of you.

Bastion and Nick look at one another.

STENLAND  
I'm not going to ask you feather  
dicks again.

Bastion puts his fists up. Nick doesn't.

STENLAND  
(to Nick)  
Nick, you have my permission to  
fight back, but I want you to  
know... you don't have to do this.  
You could run home like a PUSSY.

Nick clenches his fists.

STENLAND  
(to Bastion)  
Bastion, do me proud.

Bastion and Nick hesitantly circle one another. Nick PUSHES  
Bastion. The Kids SHOUT!

NICK (KID)  
C'mon! Hit me! What are you waiting  
for?

Bastion PUNCHES Nick square in the face. Nick FALLS DOWN.

STENLAND  
(to Bastion)  
There you go. Now you got the  
upperhand.

Nick lies on the ground broken. Stenland crouches down to see  
Nick's face. It's bruised and busted. Blood is dripping from  
his nose.

STENLAND

Nick, are you okay? You're not  
going to tell your parents about  
this... are you?

Nick's eyes are glossed over. Stenland stands up and helps  
Nick to his feet.

STENLAND

Bastion, this is your  
responsibility.

Stenland heads back to the house and steps in some DOG SHIT.

STENLAND

How many times have I told you to  
clean up after the GOD DAMN DOG!?

Stenland SLAPS the shit out of Bastion. Bastion SOBS.