

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.

STENLAND

Huh!? How many times? Pick it up.

Bastion looks down at the poop. He hesitates.

STENLAND

Pick it up! NOW.

Bastion picks up the dog doo.

STENLAND

You're sleeping outside with the dog tonight.

Stenland heads back inside.

STENLAND

You need to learn your lesson.

The kitchen, screen door SLAMS SHUT.