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IT TAKES TWO TO TANGO

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A BIRD STUDIO PRESENTS

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Edward is standing out the front, Danny standing next to him.

DANNY

Welcome to the Francis Lane High School for Youth. My name's Daniel, but you can call me Danny.

EDWARD

And my name's Edward. But you can call me Edward.

DANNY

Together we form the head of the school captain committee. When our fellow students have a problem, they can always turn to us.

EDWARD

It's a matter of educational dignity.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

A student is clearly role-playing in a deliberately set-up scenario.

HENRY

Oh no, I think someone stole my lunch.

Edward appears out of nowhere, with Danny in shot.

DANNY

Not to worry, fellow peer of mine! I shall find the culprit who did this to you, and return you your lunch. Edward, apprehend that boy!

Daniel points towards a boy standing meters away with a sandwich. Derek. Edward races over to the boy and grabs the sandwich.

EDWARD

(To boy) No, you're supposed to run.

Take two.

Edward races after the boy, who begins running away. Finally Edward catches up to him and wraps his arms around his fleeing body, reaching for the sandwich.

DEREK

Here, just have it far out!

The boy drops the sandwich on the ground and shoves Edward before walking away shaking his head. Edward looks surprised, but joyful.

EDWARD

Got it!

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Edward hands the student in distress his sandwich before high-fiving Daniel.

DANNY

I'm Daniel.

EDWARD

And I'm Edward.

DANNY

Make sure you vote one team Danward this Election.

BOTH

To represent you, there's no better team. Vote Edward and Danny, make true come our dream!

They raise their hands together as if cheering for their own team. End of election video.

EXT. ASSEMBLY HALL - DAY

The boys are standing at the front of the school, looking very smart and cocky. A teacher is standing at the podium.

MR ANDERSON

So with that, please make welcome your new school leaders.

There is a slow clap. Mainly just Henry. Danward rush to the front to make a speech. They are rough, clumsy in appearance, but their speaking is fluent and precise.

DANNY

Thank you once again, to our fellow Year 12's and entire student cohort for voting us in as your School captains for this year.

EDWARD

We hope to help you all reach your full potential, and to be your voice in the school community.

Derek stands up.

DEREK

You rigged it! You rigged all the votes, you scoundrelly, gnarly unwanted nobodies!

Danny looks on in horror. Edward gives a signal to somebody across the room, who throws themselves on top of Derek to shut him up. This is followed by an awkward silence. Everybody looks back at Danward.

DANNY

Here's to the Class of 2015!

In excitement, Danny swings his arm up to wave at the class, knocking over the microphone. Freeze frame.

EDWARD (V.O.)

This is us, Danny and Edward. People used to call us Danward, but that went out of style way back when shipping lost its hip. We're students at the prestigious Francis Lane High School for Youth, and besides getting a 99.95 ATAR, our biggest goal this year is to be famous.

A page turns and we see a montage of footage matching the things Edward is talking about.

EDWARD (V.O.)

Danny and I have grown up together since we were about 5. He's been my best mate forever, and we've always done everything together. Besides fishing, footy, and hotting up Dan's car...

DANNY

I reckon she's right now, mate!

Car revs.

EDWARD (V.O.)

...There's one thing that has our knickers in a knot at the moment. And that's Sofia McArtsy. Well, not my knickers, really. They're pretty fine. But Danny has his eyes set square on her like no other.

We see Sofia walking down the hallway. She is sparkling.

EDWARD (V.O.)

This year, Danny's biggest goal is to win the heart of Sofia McArtsy. And with graduation seemingly just around the corner, he couldn't afford to waste any more time.

Marriage sequence plays over Edward's voiceover. (One long sentence. Edward is overexcited at the prospect of his friend getting married)

You never know, this could just lead to a marriage ceremony with flowers and sunshine and Danny up the front saying his vows to his fiancée Sofia and I'll be there with the rings, and cheering them on will be everyone from school and to top it all off Mr Johnson will be the priest!

Beat.

But for now we were at square one, and we weren't exactly sure how to move forward. Oh, and Danny was one thousand, two hundred and fifty dollars short of a wedding ring.

INT. WALKWAY LOOKOUT - DAY

Danny is standing in the middle of the hallway. He looks like he is waiting for something. Edward leads the camera crew into the hallway.

EDWARD

Danny! Say hi to our documentary team.

Edward whispers to Danny.

I asked them to film our graduation journey, and to follow the whole story between you and Sofia.

Edward gives Danny a cheeky elbow nudge.

DANNY

Oh sweet! Like Catfish!

Edward doesn't understand.

EDWARD

Yeah, sure, something like that. Except, not fish.

Awkward beat. Whispers again.

They're actually just the year 11 Media Studies class. I don't think they know what they're doing, but be nice.

Danny pulls away and they both give cheesy grins for the camera.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

The bell rings, and Danny and Edward are walking down the hallway. Camera is dollying backwards, with a wider focal length (preferably 24mm, As wide as 18mm). Shot in 50 frames per second. Danny points his fingers mimicking a gun at a passerby. Edward spreads his arms wide, as if claiming the hall. All of a sudden, Sofia comes out from a classroom, and they stop dead in their tracks. She is walking with Josh, and looks at them pitifully. Danny grabs his heart and Edward supports his back.

CUT TO

Camera resumes 25 frames per second. Everything speeds back up to normal pace. The stairwell is packed full of students eager to leave. Sofia is meters away from Danward, who exasperatedly make an effort to push their way through. The doors burst open and everyone is walking towards the bus stops. Danward are walking between a class of students, nearing the bus lanes. They see Sofia in the opposite line. Danny throws her a glance, which she responds to by smiling politely and looking away. She looks back, and smiles politely again. Mixed feelings. Suddenly, Josh comes into frame. Woah. Edward and Danny pull grotesque faces. He appears to be concealing Sofia, or protecting her. Josh is tough competition.

INT. BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

Edward and Danny are sitting on the sidelines of a basket ball game. Josh is playing, and Sofia is standing to the side of Danward cheering him on.

EDWARD

You need to be getting her attention, Danny.

DANNY

What do you mean?

EDWARD

Go up and talk to her! Initiate conversation!

Danny looks over at her.

DANNY

I can't! She looks busy.

Pause.

EDWARD

You need a distraction.

Edward looks around. He finds Morten sitting next to him. Bingo. Morten is inspecting a torn open teddy bear that has electrical wires protruding from its stomach.

EDWARD

Hey.

No response. He taps him on the shoulder. Morten is mortified.

EDWARD

Hey kid, would you do me a favour?

MORTEN

I can't, sorry. I've lost the vital blue cable which sustains Berryjam's very existence. This is a matter of life or death.

Edward thinks.

EDWARD

A blue wire, did you say?

Morten looks back at him, inquisitive, nose twitching like a mouse.

EDWARD

I swore I just saw a blue wire on the bottom of that guy's shoe.

He points to Josh.

MORTEN

That guy?

EDWARD

Yes. That guy.

MORTEN

Oh no, he didn't!

Morten races right out into the playing field. He races towards Josh, but as he nears him, he gets hit in the head with the basketball. He falls, out cold. Oh no. Mr Hunchmin blows his whistle, signalling an immediate stop. He storms over to Morten and rolls him over. He checks his pulse.

MR HUNCHMIN

This is ridiculous. The one year I choose not to fill out for insurance.

Mr Hunchmin tries to make a getaway, but a fellow student stops him.

CHRIS

Why are you trying to run away, sir?

MR HUNCHMIN

I'm not! I'm just...

Danny and Edward are in shock. When things look like they can't get any worse, Morten wakes up, spluttering.

MR HUNCHMIN

THANK GOODNESS (pew!) For a second there I thought I would lose my job, have to change my name, and move to another country. Again.

Mr Hunchmin brushes his forehead from sweat. Then he kneels back down to Morten's side.

MR HUNCHMIN

Who did this to you, boy?

Morten, gasping for air, points at Danny and Edward. They get up from their seats and make a clumsy getaway. Slipping all over the place, they are hotly pursued by Mr Hunchmin. Once they make it out the doors, the jump into Danny's car for a clean getaway.

INT. SICK BAY - DAY

Morten is inside, a big bandage across his forehead. Danny and Edward stop themselves from laughing, then open the door. Morten groans frightfully, but Danward have their hands up.

EDWARD

I just wanted to say sorry about what happened out there, buddy. (Almost patronisingly)

DANNY

Yes, so did I.

EDWARD

We didn't think you were ACTUALLY going to run out into the game.

They give a little laugh. Edward pulls a blue cable from his back pocket.

EDWARD

I found your cable though.

Morten mumbles sadly, but the cotton in his mouth stops him from making sense.

MORTEN

It doesn't matter anymore, it's too late to say
Berryjam.

Danward just nod politely.

EDWARD

Yeah, sure.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Danny and Edward are walking out. They are relieved.

EDWARD

We can't do this on our own. We need the help
of an expert.

DANNY

A love expert?

EDWARD

Yeah, sort of.

DANNY

Do you know any love experts?

EDWARD

Of course I do. But this guy's more than just a
love expert. In fact, he's an expert in just about
everything.

DANNY

Really?

Danny begins to lighten up slightly.

DANNY

What's his name?

Edward looks at the camera with a small grin peeling across his face.

EXT. SIDE OF THE ROAD - AFTERNOON

Danward are advancing on a man standing on the side of the road. He is dressed
like a peace protester from the 70's. His cardboard sign reads 'Free the Chicken'.
Danny realises what is happening, and turns back. Edward holds him there.

DANNY

Nope, nope, I'm not doing this.

EDWARD

Danny, if you knew what was good for you,
you'd follow me right now.

DANNY

You said we were going to see a love expert!

EDWARD

He IS a love expert!

DANNY

No, he's not! Look at what his sign says!

Danny looks back at Joe, who is now waving an actual chicken in the air.

JOE

Free the chicken! Down with battery farms!
Down with caged eggs! Let the chickens roam
free!

Danny looks back at Edward, his point proven.

EDWARD

Well what else can you do when you're as
unemployed as him?

DANNY

He doesn't have a job? And you want me to
take advice from him?

EDWARD

Are we discriminating here?

DANNY

No!

EDWARD

Well do you have a job?

DANNY

No.

EDWARD

Exactly, now come on.

Edward walks Danny up to see Joe.

JOE

Hey punks, have you come to free the chicken?

EDWARD

Not today, Smoke'O Joe.

Joe is surprised. He lowers the chicken to his side, and squints behind his opaque prescription sunglasses.

JOE

Ned?

EDWARD

Joe!

JOE

What brings you to these parts, man? Take a seat!

They sit down on the nature strip. Joe strokes the chicken in his lap.

EDWARD

Oh you know. Love.

JOE

Love? Oh!

Joe hands the chicken to Edward and turns back to rummage in his suitcase. He returns with a pink scarf, felt heart-shaped cut outs stitched roughly to the ribbing.

The love doctor is here.

EDWARD

Oh fantastic!

DANNY

Oh fantastic. (Parroting Edward in a demeaning tone)

JOE

So how may I help you today?

DANNY

(To Edward) You come here often?

Nobody hears Danny.

EDWARD

Well actually, it's my friend Danny that needs help.

DANNY

Now hang on just a minute, erm, Joe. May I ask; are you married?

Beat. This conversation just got a bit awkward.

JOE

Married? Me? Um, no.

DANNY

Well, what about a partner. Do you have a... girlfriend?

JOE

(Thinks) No.

DANNY

What about love interests?

JOE

Sure, sure I have.

DANNY

Mutual love interests?

Beat.

JOE

Uhh, not... not really.

DANNY

That's it.

Danny gets up.

I'm not doing this anymore.

Danny storms off. Edward is left with Joe, still holding his chicken. It squawks.

EDWARD

Sorry, Joe.

Edward hands Joe back his chicken and runs after Danny.

EXT. AROUND THE CORNER - AFTERNOON

Danny is walking off. Edward catches up to him.

EDWARD

Danny! Danny wait.

DANNY

What is it now, Ed?

EDWARD

What's the matter?

DANNY

What's the matter?! What do you think the matter is?

EDWARD

You're not allergic to chickens, are you?

DANNY

No!

Edward pulls off a chicken feather stuck to his shirt.

EDWARD

Well then, what is it?

DANNY

I don't trust Joe, Edward. I don't take advice from people who I wouldn't want to trade positions with.

EDWARD

Yeah, okay. That's fair enough.

Edward looks back at the camera crew. He rolls his eyes.

Well what else can we do?

DANNY

I don't know. What about you? Why can't you just come up with a plan by yourself?

EDWARD

Me?

DANNY

Yes, you.

EDWARD

But you said you'd only take advice from people you want to trade positions with.

Beat.

DANNY

Yes, that's right. I would trade positions with you if I could, Ed.

Edward looks touched.

EDWARD

Oh, Danny.

Suddenly they get all emotional and hug. Danny is sobbing, and Edward pats him on the back to settle him. Cue voice over.

EDWARD (V.O)

And so this was the start. The beginning of a massive journey we would undertake together.

INT. OUTSIDE DANNY'S CLASS - DAY

The camera pans down from the class sign, to reveal Edward waiting eagerly with a pen and pad outside Danny's class. Edward is continuing his voice over.

EDWARD (V.O)

Danny had put a lot of trust in me. In fact, I reckon the poor kid trusted me more than I trusted myself. But I had a few tricks up my sleeve.

Danny walks out of class, seeing Edward standing outside.

EDWARD

I've got a plan.

EXT. BEHIND THE SCHOOL - DAY

Montage-like sequence. Edward is sitting on a bench with Danny, showing his elaborate attack tactics spread out on the table. Danny nods approvingly. Ah yes, everything is turning out nicely. More nodding and pointing and approving. All very good ideas.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

An empty classroom. Edward has a game plan of notes stuck to the whiteboard, pointing to them with a rod.

Montage music ends. Edward is being interviewed.

EDWARD

Well, I think we can agree that Josh is probably his biggest competition at this very moment. So in saying that, I thought he would benefit from finding out a bit more about the guy he's up against.

Cut back to the classroom.

DANNY

But, how do I become better than him?

EDWARD

First, Danny my dear fellow, we must find out what makes him so good. And once we know enough about him, we exceed his current benchmark by miles, impressing Sofia and winning her heart right off the bat.

DANNY

We?

EDWARD

(Correcting himself) You.

He points to a sign "The Five Senses".

EDWARD

The five senses. Sound, Sight, Taste, Smell, and Touch. If we're going to find anymore out about Josh, we've got to start here.

DANNY

What do you mean?

EDWARD

Well, if we can find out where he fits into each of these five categories, we'll be a big step ahead of the rest.

DANNY

I see.

EDWARD

Know your enemy.

INT. CHANGE ROOM - DAY

A quick montage of Danward getting ready. They wire Danny up and connect Edward to a walkie talkie. This is all too serious.

EDWARD

First sense; sound.

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

The camera pans from behind a bin, to reveal Edward crouching down, peeking at Danny. He is advancing on Josh, who is sitting down at the table with Sofia. She gets up to leave, and Edward gives the signal for Danny to move in. Danny is ridiculously awkward.

DANNY

Hi, um Josh, I was just wondering if you would mind proof reading my assignment for me?

Josh gives a quick stare. The hate is mutual.

JOSH

How long is it?

DANNY

Oh you only have to read the first paragraph if you like, like it's no big deal actually if you don't want to...

EDWARD

(Through earpiece) DANNY!

Danny holds his ear in agony.

EDWARD

HE MUST READ IT.

Danny gathers himself.

DANNY

Actually, Josh. I would really appreciate it if you would cooperate with me.

Beat.

DANNY

After all, it is my grade on the line.

Josh sighs and begins to read in his head.

EDWARD

TELL HIM TO READ ALOUD.

DANNY

Hey um, would you mind reading it out loud? I just want to know where you're at.

Josh pulls a face and starts from the top, this time reading it out loud. Danny slips a voice recorder from his pocket and up close to his neck, from behind. Before he finishes reading, Danny whips the recorder back into his pocket. Saved.

DANNY

Thanks Josh, that's all!

JOSH

Wait, don't you want me to give you any feedback?

Whoops.

DANNY

Oh of course, yeah. (I knew that)

Josh sits Danny down and they chat about the essay. We cut back to Edward, who scribbles off 'SOUND' in his little notebook.

INT. STACEY'S OFFICE - DAY

We see a sign on the door. It reads 'STACEY ARTUCÈ- VOCAL COACH' Danward enter Stacey's office.

EDWARD

Hi there, is this Stacey?

STACEY

Um, yes?

DANNY

Like, the voice coach Stacey?

STACEY

The one and only.

She stands up to greet them.

EDWARD

Fantastic, well greetings, Stacey, my name is Edward and this is my friend Danny.

DANNY

But you can call me Danny.

She nods and shakes his hand. She also glances at the camera. A bit star struck. Almost like she thinks she is meeting famous people.

STACEY

Oh well, this is all very exciting. How can I help you today, boys?

DANNY

It's okay, they're just the year 11 media studies class.

Edward nudges Danny.

EDWARD

We were just after a bit of help, see. Danny here is hopelessly in love with this girl called Sofia.

DANNY

Hopelessly?

EDWARD

Well, that's why we've come here. He needs a shot at winning her heart, and the only way he can do that is to become more like this guy Josh.

Danny feels the need to rehash a bit more information.

DANNY

He's my biggest competition at the moment. I fear he may win her heart before I get the chance to try.

STACEY

So what would you like me to do?

Edward pulls out the recording.

EDWARD

You see, Stacey, we need your help with this. On this cassette is a recording of Josh's voice.

STACEY

Uh huh.

EDWARD

And we need you to train Danny here, how to speak more like Josh.

STACEY

Well, okay. But that's a little bit absurd, don't you think?

Beat.

EDWARD

Isn't life?

INT. VOICE COACH ROOM - DAY

We see Stacey running through some vocal warm ups with Danny. Edward is at the door. He looks at the camera crew and ushers them outside, closing the door behind him.

EDWARD

So we've just got Stacey in there with Edward now doing some vocal warm ups. It's looking pretty good so far, so I thought I'd just step outside for a bit and check up on my game plan.

He heads outside and turns a corner. It's Smoke-O Joe. He pulls him to a side.

JOE

Hey man, how's it all coming along?

EDWARD

I feel like it's going alright, it's just taking a bit of time.

JOE

Ah, baby steps, baby steps.

EDWARD

Oh,

Edward pulls out his phone and scrolls down.

EDWARD

Here's their most recent conversation. I screen shotted it in case I needed to use it later on.

JOE

Why would you need to save screenshots of another person's conversation?

EDWARD

I don't know, but everyone does it.

JOE

Hmm.

There is a moment of deep thought for Joe.

JOE

Do you think this whole five senses thing is actually going anywhere?

EDWARD

Well, you did say it was-

JOE

It doesn't matter what I said. But I don't think we're making good progress. And besides, what were you going to do when you got to Taste, and Touch?

EDWARD

Well, I was actually...

JOE

You can't just go around tasting people, Ned. We need to stop focusing on Josh, and start focusing on the girl.

EDWARD

Sofia.

JOE

Yes.

EDWARD

Well, what do you suggest?

INT. SHOP - DAY

Danny is standing in the middle of an aisle. Edward is reaching high for something.

DANNY

I don't understand, why did we give up on the last plan?

EDWARD

Because you need to stop focusing on imitating the guy you hate, and start winning the girl you like.

DANNY

But I thought imitating the guy I hated was the only way to win the girl I like?

EDWARD

Nope. That's why I've brought you here today. We're going to get Sofia a gift.

DANNY

Well, she likes books.

EDWARD

Books? Sure, we can go take a look at some books.

INT. BOOKS - DAY

Edward is looking through the bookshelves. He pulls a book out. A shop assistant comes out.

CLIVE

Hi there, can I help you at all?

EDWARD

No, we're right thanks.

CLIVE

Are you sure?

EDWARD

Yeah, I'm sure.

CLIVE

Can I just hang around anyway? I don't have anything else to do and I want to look busy.

EDWARD

Umm... okay.

EDWARD

'Tabitha and the Ambitious Others'? Is she into fantasy?

DANNY

No, I think she's more into real life stories.

Edward flicks over to the autobiographies section.

EDWARD

What about this?

He shows Danny 'Surviving Tracy' by Michael Hantle.

EDWARD

(Spookily) Surviving Tracy.

DANNY

Is that Michael Hantle's book?

EDWARD

Yeah, he came up last year didn't he?

DANNY

Yeah my dad knows him.

EDWARD

Oh cool.

DANNY

But I don't think Sofia would be into that sort of thing.

EDWARD

Of course not.

P.A SYSTEM

Staff member to section 3, thank you. Staff member to section 3.

Clive scuttles off to section 3. Edward puts the book back. Suddenly Danny freezes.

DANNY

12 o'clock.

EDWARD

What?

DANNY

Josh. 12 o'clock.

Edward looks behind him and sees Josh approaching the books.

EDWARD

Quick, let's get out of here.

They get out of there.

EXT. NAKARA SHOPS - DAY

Edward and Danny are sitting on the curb.

EDWARD

You know what, maybe we're in the wrong ball park again.

DANNY

What do you mean?

EDWARD

Maybe instead of buying her something, you could make her something?

DANNY

Like a painting?

EDWARD

Yeah! Are you any good at painting?

DANNY

I could try.

EDWARD

Awesome, well let's give that a shot first thing tomorrow.

ESTABLISHING SHOT. OF SCHOOL.

INT. ART CLASS - DAY

Edward is standing behind Danny. They are both looking at his painting. It is of a love heart, melting into the ocean.

EDWARD

It looks pretty crap.

DANNY

I like it.

EDWARD

Well, I don't. And neither will Sofia.

Danny sighs.

DANNY

Maybe I should just give up now.

EDWARD

Wait, why?

DANNY

Edward, I tried my hardest. And even that's not good enough. I don't know what else I can do.

Danny walks out.

INT. INTERVIEW - DAY

Edward is sitting down, thoughts to the camera.

EDWARD

And at that moment, I almost gave up myself. I wasn't sure what I could do for him anymore. But then just like that, the unexpected happened.

INT. ART CLASS - DAY

Edward is cleaning across the other side of the room. Sofia enters and see's Danny's painting.

SOFIA

Wow, was this here before?

Edward turns around.

EDWARD

Nope. Freshly painted. Don't let it hurt your eyes too much.

SOFIA

(Polite laugh) No, I love it!

EDWARD

You... do? Ahem, I mean. You do?

SOFIA

Yeah, of course! It's clearly been inspired by something from deep within the heart of the artist. It's... sad, but at the same time, it's quite beautiful.

EDWARD

That's pretty damn arty farty.

SOFIA

Sorry?

EDWARD

Yeah nah, I agree.

Beat.

EDWARD

I mean, at first I didn't like it.

SOFIA

Why not?

EDWARD

Well, because I... (pause). Maybe I just didn't quite understand it.

SOFIA

It reminds me of you.

EDWARD

What? Me?

Sofia looks back at Edward, nodding, then returns her gaze back to the painting.

EDWARD

(Surprised) Sad and beautiful?

SOFIA

Yeah.

EDWARD
Oh no, I don't think I'm...

Beat. Edward remembers Danny.

EDWARD
Danny.

SOFIA
Sorry?

EDWARD
No, nothing. I've got to go.

Edward goes.

EXT. SHOPS - DAY

Danward are walking.

DANNY
Are you telling me that she liked my painting?

EDWARD
Loved. She LOVED your painting.

DANNY
Is that what she said?

EDWARD
Her exact words.

DANNY
Wow... did she know I painted it?

EDWARD
Well, no, I don't think she did.

DANNY
So what do I do now?

EDWARD
I don't think there's a moment to waste. We've got to make a serious move before your window of opportunity closes.

DANNY
What do you mean?

EDWARD

We're going to the jewellers.

The cameras slow down as Edward leads Danny off frame.

INT. BACK OF A JEWELLERY SHOP - DAY

A shop assistant is holding a ring out for Danward to inspect.

SHOP ASSISTANT

Is this the one?

EDWARD

Yeah, yeah that's the one.

DANNY

Ned, I don't think I can afford this.

EDWARD

What do you mean?

DANNY

I don't think I have enough money.

EDWARD

How much is it?

SHOP ASSISTANT

Twelve fifty.

EDWARD

Yeah sure, I've got twelve fifty.

He goes for his wallet.

SHOP ASSISTANT

That's twelve hundred, and fifty.

Edward stops.

EDWARD

Oh.

SHOP ASSISTANT

Is this some kind of joke, or?

DANNY

No, I actually am proposing to her.

EDWARD

He actually is.

SHOP ASSISTANT

Well, unfortunately I don't think there's any way I can help you today, boys.

Edward is annoyed.

EDWARD

Danny, just wait outside for a second.

DANNY

Why?

EDWARD

I'll meet you in just a minute, now go.

Danny stumbles out. Edward turns in one final plea.

EDWARD

Now look, I'm begging you. Is there anything you can fix me up with, to help his poor, hopeless case?

SHOP ASSISTANT

I can't give you any more of a discount, I'm sorry.

EDWARD

It doesn't even have to be the real thing. He just has to think it is.

SHOP ASSISTANT

You want a non-genuine?

EDWARD

Sure.

SHOP ASSISTANT

Well, okay.

She returns with another ring, almost a replica. The music begins to build.

SHOP ASSISTANT

This is a replica of a sliver HR41-50. Used for parties, performances, that sort of thing. Made from melted down tin cans and refined by coarse sanding.

EDWARD

That's perfect! How much is it?

SHOP ASSISTANT

Nineteen ninety nine.

Beat.

That is: nineteen dollars and ninety nice cents.

EDWARD

Done.

EXT. SHOPS - DAY

Edward walks past Danny on the curb. He flicks him the box.

EDWARD

Let's roll.

DANNY

You got it?!

EDWARD

I sure did.

DANNY

You didn't steal it, did you?

EDWARD

Of course not. We're school reps! We're meant to be setting an example.

They have reached Danny's car.

DANNY

What time is it?

EDWARD

Only about a quarter past twelve.

DANNY

Well I reckon we can still make our whole school assembly.

EDWARD

Why do you want to go?

Danny just looks at Edward, and puts his hand up to his nose like Father Christmas does in the Night before Christmas. They drive off.

INT. ASSEMBLY HALL - DAY

A nervous presenter is reading out some school notices. Everyone is very bored. They finish, an applause is raised and the mic gets handed back to Mr Anderson.

EXT. SCHOOL CARPARK - DAY

Danny rushes out of the car, shortly followed by Edward. They head towards the auditorium.

DANNY

Sofia IS presenting today, isn't she?

EDWARD

I think so, why?!

DANNY

Follow my lead.

INT. ASSEMBLY HALL - DAY

Mr Anderson is standing out the front of the school.

MR ANDERSON

And that concludes all student bulletin notices.
Is there anything I've missed?

Pause.

If not, I might hand the mic back over to Sofia
who'll wrap the assembly up for this week.

Suddenly the back door of the Auditorium bursts open.

DANNY

Wait!

Danny runs over to the stage, followed by Edward. They take the mic from Mr Anderson.

DANNY

You might think I'm here today to just talk
about boring school captain updates or brag
about the achievements we've accomplished
in the past week.

EDWARD

(Cutting in) Which has been a lot, just... saying.
Don't mean to brag.

DANNY

Yes, indeed. But we're not here for that.

He looks over at Sofia.

DANNY

We're not. (Pause) Today, I'm here to confess something. Something I've been holding inside of me for much too long. Does anyone have a bandaid? Because I think I've fallen in love.

Danny begins butchering romantic lines.

DANNY

Sofia. You're an angel, the sweetest girl I know my far. Ever since you walked into my life, I never wanted you to walk out. I know you find this cheesy, but I'm not afraid to let the whole world know. I'm no organ donor, but I would happily tear out my heart, and give it to you.

STUDENT IN CROWD

Oh gosh.

DANNY

You see, Sofia, it's taken me a while to finally come to terms with the way my heart feels about you.

DANNY

But finally I've gained the courage to ask you this question.

Beat.

DANNY

Sofia...

Danny gets on one knee and drops the mic to the floor. He pulls the box out of his pocket and opens it. A ring.

DANNY

Will you be mine?

The crowd goes mental. Sofia looks embarrassed beyond belief. She grabs the ring in its casing and throws it at Danny's face. He falls to the floor on impact and Edward rushes to help him. The crowd begins to boo. Sofia is crying. She runs out, flustered.

EDWARD

Are you alright, mate?

DANNY

What did I do wrong?

EDWARD

Nothing nothing, girls aren't always as they seem.

DANNY
What are you saying?

EDWARD
I'm saying you should go after her, Dan.

DANNY
But she just assaulted me with a twelve
hundred dollar rock!

EDWARD
Sometimes, Danny, the things that hurt us in
life are worth chasing.

Danny nods, and gets up. He speeds after Sofia.

EXT. BEHIND THE SCHOOL - DAY

Danny is racing after Sofia. He catches up with her and tries to take her hand. She drops it and looks at him.

DANNY
Sofia, look! I know that was embarrassing, and
I'm sorry! I didn't mean to tell you the way I
did, it was all sort of just in the moment and-

SOFIA
Listen, Danny. I don't want to hear what you
have to say. I just want to go now, okay?

DANNY
But you see, Sofia. I'm in love with you.

SOFIA
No, you're not Danny.

Beat.

SOFIA
I don't want you to be.

DANNY
But, why's that?

EXT. ASSEMBLY HALL - DAY

Mr Anderson is ushering everyone out of the auditorium.

MR ANDERSON

Come on, kids, move along! It's all over now.

Edward stands on stage, still unsure what to do now.

MR ANDERSON

That includes you, Ned.

Edward turns around and joins the group of students.

EXT. BEHIND THE SCHOOL - DAY

SOFIA

I just...I don't want to break your heart.

DANNY

Does that mean a no, or?

SOFIA

You're a nice person, Danny. You just, take things the wrong way and you're not helping yourself by pursuing things you should have given up on a long time ago.

Ouch.

DANNY

Oh.

SOFIA

And yes, what you did before embarrassed me beyond belief.

DANNY

I'm sorry. You can still have the ring if you want.

Danny hands Sofia the ring. She refuses to take it.

SOFIA

Now, I really must go before the bell goes.

She begins to walk away.

DANNY

Wait!

Sofia turns around.

DANNY

Can you just answer me one thing? Is it Josh?

SOFIA

What?

DANNY

Do you like Josh?

SOFIA

Josh? (Surprised) No, no it's not Josh.

DANNY

Then I don't understand. Who is it? Who has the keys to your heart?

Sofia sighs, like she doesn't want to break the bad news to him.

SOFIA

I'm not sure I should say.

Beat.

SOFIA

I don't want it to affect your friendship.

Danny looks at Sofia solemnly. The truth is all too clear.

CUT TO

EXT. WEDDING - DAY

The same wedding scenario as imagined by Edward, but this time Edward is marrying Sofia. Danny is standing on the side, and drops his flowers in disgust. He storms off.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Danny is storming towards Edward's class. He reaches his door and bursts it open.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

The teacher looks from the board in shock. Danny sweeps calm across his face, but it is only paper thin.

DANNY

Mr Anderson.

MR ANDERSON

Danny, what can I do for you?

A student exclaims from the front of the class.

STUDENT

Oh hey hey, check out Mr Rejected over here.

Danny shoots them a dirty look. Edward joins in the laughter for a second, then realises who they are laughing at. He shuts up. Danny looks back at Mr Anderson.

DANNY

I need to speak to Edward.

MR ANDERSON

What is it this time?

DANNY

(Thinks) Just an impromptu school captain meeting, sir. We need to discuss an urgent matter from last week's agenda.

MR ANDERSON

Well then, go ahead. But don't be longer than you need.

DANNY

Certainly.

Danny looks at Edward.

DANNY

Edward!

Edward gets up and walks over to Danny.

EDWARD

Don't worry about it, man. She didn't deserve you anyway. But I'm here for you.

DANNY

Sure.

Danny and Edward step outside. The door closes.

STUDENT

(Mockingly) Ooooh!

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

Danny is dragging Edward to the centre of the courtyard.

EDWARD

What did we need to talk about from last week's agenda? I can't remember anything we might've missed.

DANNY

I didn't bring you here to talk about last week's agenda.

EDWARD

Is this about what happened with Sofia?

DANNY

(Sarcastically) OH OF COURSE NOT.

EDWARD

Oh, okay.

Danny turns around and sighs harshly. Pause.

EDWARD

So... it is about Sofia?

Danny snaps back.

DANNY

What about Sofia, huh?

EDWARD

Nothing, I just mean, I know you're still upset about the whole thing. We can sit down and talk about it if you like.

DANNY

What good will sitting down and talking about it do?

EDWARD

Well, maybe we can figure out what went wrong and try again?

DANNY

No, Edward! That's a terrible idea! It was a terrible idea from the start. You don't just give people false hope like that. I opened my heart to her but I was shot down, Ed. I was shot down!

Danny turns around in rage.

EDWARD

Hey man, look, I'm sorry.

Before he can say anymore, Danny launches at Edward's head. He pulls an upwards punch at his jaw. Edward turns back in agony, but Danny grabs his neck and tries to choke him. Edward falls to the floor, Edwards hands still around him. Mr Richmond happens to be walking past, and he swiftly engages in the action by taking hold of Danny's hands and pushing them up against his back. Edward is nursing his face. Danny is trying to attack again, but Mr Richmond has his arms pretty tightly locked.

INT. PRINCIPALS OFFICE - DAY

Edward is sitting back in his chair, holding a blood soaked ice pack to his nose. Danny is moody, crossing his arms and looking at the Principal, then to Edward, then back to the Principal (Mr Richmond).

PRINCIPAL

I cannot believe you have done this to one another.

EDWARD

He started it.

DANNY

He's the reason behind it.

EDWARD

I didn't know she liked me!

DANNY

Yeah sure.

EDWARD

I couldn't even have helped it.

PRINCIPAL

Enough. I'm afraid you both know what the protocol is for physical attacks on other students.

DANNY

Oh no, please sir.

EDWARD

I need a good ATAR!

PRINCIPAL

Immediate suspension.

DANNY

But Sir!

PRINCIPAL

There's nothing I can do about it. It's protocol.
Two weeks isolated tuition.

Principal Richmond looks at the camera.

PRINCIPAL

Stop filming this, please. These are private
matters.

The camera cuts out.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Edward emerges first from the room, into the hallway. He is clearly unsettled. Josh passes him, and Edward deliberately shuns him with his shoulder. He turns around with his hands up in the air, but realises he is too scared to do anything about it.

EDWARD

Actually nah I'm too scared to fight you bye.

Edward continues down the hallway to the staircase. Danny and his parents emerge from the room. Once they are out, Danny breaks down in their arms, crying.

EXT. SAD MONTAGE - DAY

A sad montage follows this scene, comprising of shots featuring Danny and Edward crying, riding in the back seats of cars, doing homework and breaking down etc. Very emotional.

INT. DANNY'S ROOM - DAY

Danny is getting ready for what seems to be an interview.

DANNY

I can't keep moping around. I've got to take
things into my own hands. I need a best friend,
and if Edward won't be one for me, I'll go find
another one myself.

ESTABLISHING SHOT. OF AUDITION ROOM.

INT. AUDITION ROOM - DAY

Danny is sitting on the table, with papers in front of him, He takes a sip from his coffee, and checks the time. Suddenly, Jonathan enters. Music builds in the background, setting the scene for the coming montage.

JONATHAN

Hi, is this the best friend Audition thing?

DANNY

Yeah, sure is. Come on in.

Danny makes some notes.

DANNY

Your name is?

JONATHAN

Jonathan.

DANNY

Nice, I like it. Show me what you've got.

Jonathan performs his routine. Danny looks estranged.

DANNY

Sorry, um. You can leave it there.

Another hopeful comes in. It is Clive.

DANNY

Aren't you the guy from the bookstore?

CLIVE

Oh I'm so glad you remembered me. I saw you were looking for a best friend, and my gosh the honour would be all mine.

Danny looks nervous. Cut to another contender.

LUCY

Lucy, two time aerobatics championship winner, four time callisthenics nationals competitor and twice nominated as the young ballet solo artist of the year.

DANNY

And how did you go?

LUCY

I never got the title. But I've been told being nominated in itself is a massive achievement.

DANNY

Right.

Yet another contender appears on screen.

JACK

Hi, I'm Jack. I can roll my stomach.

Jack rolls his stomach.

DANNY

That's great, Jack. Thanks for sharing.

Josh walks in, turns to face Danny square on, but before he can say anything.

DANNY

Out.

JOSH

But...

DANNY

Out.

James walks in. He smells his armpits. Great.

JAMES

Is your family rich?

DANNY

What?

JAMES

Oh no, it was just a question.

DANNY

What does it matter whether my family is rich or not?

JAMES

I don't know.

Beat.

Did I win?

Danny pulls an unimpressed face. Music stops, and Danny puts his head in his hands. He sighs, and there is a bit of a pause.

DANNY

None of them are anything like Edward.

Beat. Realisation.

DANNY

Like Edward.

Pause.

This is all my fault. I need my friend back!

EXT. EDWARD'S HOUSE - DAY

Danny pulls up out the front of Edward's house. He walks up to the front gate and sees it is padlocked. He turns see a sign tied to the gate, 'Danny Keep Out'. He sighs and jumps the fence.

DANNY

Edward?

He looks around. No sign of life.

Edward?

Danny walks up to the door and knocks. He almost gives up, but relieves his mind of everything he wants to say.

Edward, I'm sorry.

Beat.

I know I've been a terrible friend lately, and there's no excuse for that. What you did for me was done with good intent, but I guess I can only start to see that now. I shouldn't have gotten angry at you the way I did, and worse yet, taken it out on you the way I did.

Danny looks up at the closed door.

You have every reason to not want to be my friend anymore. But I hope you'll forgive me.

Danny goes to leave, but all of a sudden, the door swings open.

EDWARD

Danny! I'm sorry too.

Danny looks back.

DANNY

Oh, Edward!

He runs back at him and grabs him in a tight hug. Yet another demonstration of melodrama within this film. Danny clears his throat, releases Edward from the hug and brushes himself down. He offers a handshake instead, which Edward accepts firmly. Oh how masculine.

INT. LUNCHPLACE - DAY

They are eating lunch together, as friends once again.

DANNY

You know what. I've been thinking, and, maybe I'm not all that in love with Sofia.

EDWARD

What do you mean?

DANNY

Well, honestly it's going to hurt having to let her go. But what's the point in hanging around when she'll never like me back?

EDWARD

I guess so.

DANNY

And you know, (shrugs off with smile) it's happened every other time in my life, so I suppose I'm used to it.

EDWARD

Oh Danny...

DANNY

It's alright. It's true. But at least I'll have you, man.

EDWARD

Always.

Danny picks up Edward's hand in a bit of a handshake, but Edward kisses it.

Beat.

DANNY

I'd kiss you back, but I think it might look a bit weird.

EDWARD

Yeah nah man, don't do it. It felt weird.

They sit back and nod in polite agreement.

EXT/INT. FINAL MONTAGE - DAY

The scene starts with an establishing shot of the school, then cuts closer in to reveal Danward arriving. Shots accompanying Edward's monologue fill the screen.

EDWARD

For the last few weeks of school we had a blast. Danny finally realised what was truly important to him, and in doing so opened up a whole new wave of opportunities for himself. Along the way, he's even showed me what's truly important to myself. He's shown me that whilst good things in life are worth waiting for, nothing is worth wasting time over. Sometimes it's a thin line, but it's a line nonetheless. Also, even after the whole kerfuffle with Danny, Sofia had the guts to tell me how she felt about me.

Pause.

I didn't know what to do, so we egged her car.

Music continues.

At the end of the day we don't come to school for the friends or the girls, or even the captain badges; we come here to learn, to better ourselves for the paths we want to take in the future.

I also learnt that it most certainly does take Two to Tango. You just have to make sure your partner is dancing the same steps.

SCRIPT END.