

TED

"Military Man"

Written by

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Based on, Ted the original series on Peacock

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ACT ONE

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - DAY

TED (age unknown due to being a teddy bear) and JOHN (18) walk the college fair passing by booths like "Northeastern" "Boston College" and "Tufts."

JOHN

Can you believe how fast summer went?

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

Man, I can't wait for college.

JOHN

Don't get too 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

Dude, you can't say that here. You know it's not just my virginity-

TED

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

JOHN

It is.

TED

By the way, that O.J is so selfish.
I mean, does that guy ever think
before he acts?

JOHN

Dude, you're so loud talking about
sex and O.J. This is why we don't
have other friends.

TED

O.J interrupted you and Bethany.
How does he sleep at night knowing
the crimes he committed. Preventing
two young love birds their first
time having sex?

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

ARIZONA STATE REP

Did somebody say sex?

TED

Come on John, let's check it out.

JOHN

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

TED

John, have you seen the girls at
Arizona State? Do you know the
sheer amounts of sex you'll have?

JOHN

It's not just sex I want-

TED

I know, I know. But guys put up
with their girlfriends with the
ultimate goal of... HAVING SEX!

JOHN

Not so loud.

TED

The girls at Arizona State
practically go to class topless.

ARIZONA REP

It's true.

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

Pictures show hot students playing volleyball, tanning by the pool, and having fun.

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

The Arizona State Rep leaves and out comes JENNY (23). She looks like Pamela Anderson straight out of *Baywatch* with an 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 coming. Wait a minute,
you look very familiar...

JENNY
It's Jenny. But, I don't think
we've met.

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

JOHN
Isn't it *on it*?

JENNY
I don't know what to tell you, Ted.

TED
Hold on, I never told you my name-

BLAIRE, leaves her UMass Amherst booth and joins them.

BLAIRE
Arizona State? Seriously?

TED
Blaire, 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, 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 discount.

Jenny takes paperwork, putting her business card on top.

JENNY

If you want to be a Sun Devil we could 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, did you see how hot she was? 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? You're serious? Did you not hear about their environmental science program? It's top five.

Blaire leaves her booth at UMass Amherst and they start to exit the gym.

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 can't wait to smoke the
fattest bowl when I get home.

BLAIRE
I'm gonna let you think about that
on your own time. By the way, you
guys didn't think I wanted to
leave?

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 military booth on their way out. PRIVATE (28)
looks like a real life piece of army propaganda approaches-

PRIVATE
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.

They exit the gym.

TED (CONT'D)

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.

JOHN

Are you just explaining *Stripes*?

TED

Yes I am John. Yes I am. But can we agree, no military?

JOHN

Don't worry, I'd flee to Canada before enlisting.

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

John, Ted, and Blaire sit with MATTY (45) and SUZE (44) for dinner.

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 military action figure and Matty looks like a kid at a candy store.

He grabs 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

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?

MATTY
Give me a break, I didn't call him
a fa-

BLAIRE
I'm gonna stop you right there.

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

I don't want join the military.

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 barfs-

MATTY (CONT'D)

I will not have my manhood
questioned! Sergeant Wiseman broke
me out of my shell, that's what
John needs. He needs positive male
influences.

Matty has a brief realization but shrugs it off.

TED

I'm a positive male influence.

MATTY

You're no Sergeant Wiseman.

SUZE

John, what colleges did you look at
the fair?

TED

Arizona State.

MATTY

Arizona State? Yeah, fuckin' right!

John begins to get frustrated-

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 wouldn't discount community
college-

BLAIRE

Or UMass-

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 you all
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.

MATTY

Somebody get this kid a tampon.

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, you're very close to overstaying your welcome in my home-

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

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, Live out some *Animal House* fantasy. Well guess what? I'm not paying for it!

TED

I think I've overstayed my welcome at this table, I'm gonna go check on John.

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

Ted enters to John laying in bed depressed-

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'll see how lucky he is to have
me. I'll show them.

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 with a binder of prostitutes.
He flips to Jenny's page.

TED (CONT'D)
Ahhhahhh!

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

Matty plays with his G.I Joe as Suze and Blaire watch him-
John watches cartoons on TV.

BLAIRE
How long has he been playing with
that?

SUZE
He hasn't stopped since yesterday
morning. How's your, uhh, friend
who's a girl?

BLAIRE
We broke up.

SUZE
Oh, I'm sorry.

Beat, silence.

BLAIRE
Doesn't it seem quiet down here?

SUZE
Yeah, it does.

BLAIRE
Where's Ted?

INT. BOSTON THEATRE CENTER - DAY

Ted enters the will call area. There are poster graphics of
all of the musicals and plays.

He goes to the will call to talk to the THEATRE SALESMAN 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
*Ooook-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
You want the premium electric, one
cut motion, don't you? It cleans up
my Audience Memberal area
beautifully.

Weird Guy hands Ted the shaver as the MANAGER 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 while 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, it'll change your life.

JOHN
Ted and I were gonna go to the
movies.

Before Matty can argue-

Ted barges in as the front door swings open-

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-

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 theatre being-

TED

You have three center orchestra seats for *Ooook-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 is excited and ignores Matty-

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-

TED
Hey buddy.

John nods at Ted.

BLAIRE
(to Ted)
You're getting us out of the house for a reason. Aren't you?

TED
What, can't I do something nice?

Blaire looks at him suspiciously.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER - NIGHT

John lays on the couch. His hair as greasy as the empty bags of potato chips that surround him.

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 my clothes.

BLAIRE
I'm sure it's the dryer.

MATTY
You look good Blaire, like an actual woman.

Before Blaire can respond, Ted rushes them out the door.

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 friends.

JOHN
I'm not in the mood.

TED
Who is this imposter I'm talking
to? It's sure as hell not John. 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, starting to get his energy back.

JOHN
She did wink at me.

TED
She did buddy, yes!

Ted pulls out a present and throws it at John.

JOHN
What's this?

John opens it revealing the ball shaver.

TED
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
Go shave. Good luck soldier.

INT. BATHROOM/ INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

John holds the shaver and his pants are down to his waist.

Ted talks to him from outside-

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
Stop being a pussy and shave.

John turns the shaver on, it BUZZES.

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

Ted opens the door, only the back of John is shown.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Dude, close the door.

The doorbell RINGS-

JOHN (CONT'D)
Is that them?

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

JOHN
Edward?

TED
Edward Scissorhands.

Ted exits but doesn't close the door-

JOHN
Ted! The door!

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - FRONT ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Ted is already downstairs and opens the front door to-

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

TED
Jenny, Candi, Krystal.

CANDI
Aww, my favorite Teddy bear.

They hear a YELL from the bathroom-

JOHN (O.S.)
OW!

TED
You all good, John?

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
Don't be embarrassed. You look cute
flustered.

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

TED

My bad.

Ted SLAMS the door.

Krystal takes out a bag of cocaine and smiles eagerly-

TED (CONT'D)

Now we're talking.

INT. THEATRE - NIGHT

Matty, Suze, and Blaire are the only people dressed fancily as 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 go dark- it's showtime.

The play starts and they hear the "Main Titles."

Matty points to the stage.

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 in front turns around and looks at them sternly.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Shhhhh!

Matty rolls his eyes.

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 itching his balls.

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.
(to Krystal)
Another line?

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - JOHN'S BEDROOM

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

JOHN
We're not going over Arizona State
stuff?

JENNY
We are. What else did you think?

JOHN
No, sorry. It's just not every day
a girl jumps onto 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, among other things.

They hear HOOTIN' and HOLLERIN' from downstairs.

JOHN
Sounds like they're having fun.

JENNY
You have no idea. Let's take a look at the application questions.

INT. THEATRE - NIGHT

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

MATTY
They're pretty talented, huh?

SUZE
See, we should go to the theatre more often.
(to Blaire)
It's good?

BLAIRE
Yeah, but 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 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'm
trying to enjoy Rogers and
Hammerstein's finest production.

MATTY

Who and who now?

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!

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
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
I'm so glad Ted paid for my
services... He's a good friend.

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

JOHN
Paid?

JENNY
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.
(saddened)
So you never liked me?

JENNY
You're cute John.

Jenny looks at John's lap and laughs.

JENNY (CONT'D)
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 and immediately jumps, turning around.

JENNY
Nothing to be embarrassed about.

The garage door OPENS.

JOHN
Fuck, fuckety, fuck, fuck.

JENNY
Who's that?

JOHN
My parents.

John grabs the pillow and covers himself.

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... Everything's
going my way.*

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.

He runs to the bathroom and looks in the mirror- he sees the state of his face, like he's in *Scarface*.

He splashes water all over his face and runs back-

The door swings open and Matty, Suze, and Blaire walk in on the horror show.

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

BLAIRE
You've outdone yourself Ted.

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

(angrily to Ted)

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)

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 would 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... Gonna twist the knob...

Ted opens the door.

TED (CONT'D)
One foot out the door. I'm really
leaving. Not coming back...

Ted looks to them again but they look the other way.

TED (CONT'D)
John, it can't end like this.

John looks the other way. Ted exits.

TED (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Walking down the steps... Goodbye
forever...

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

JENNY
Alright, I think we're gonna go.

MATTY
(to John)
I can't believe you thought this
was a good idea? Some son of mine.

JOHN
I didn't know, swear to G-d. 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 exits as Matty hangs his head.

Jenny and the girls exit, Krystal gives her business card to
Matty.

Matty throws it on the ground.

ACT THREE

EXT. ARMY BASE - DAY

Matty and John walk past soldiers doing drills and pushups. They are Clean-Cut Military men who are in the best shape of their lives. It's obvious John doesn't fit.

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, doesn't care enough to argue.

MATTY (CONT'D)

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

SERGEANT WISEMAN (70s) sweatier and more intense than the Sergeant from *Full Metal Jacket* enters-

SERGEANT WISEMAN

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

Matty stands and salutes but gets a cramp in his arm-

MATTY

Sir, yes
(yells)
Ow!

JOHN

You alright?

MATTY

Fuck. I pulled my shoulder. Sir.

SERGEANT WISEMAN

Hopefully your son isn't as weak as you. And you, Mr. Bennet, 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
You are almost as big of a buffoon
as your father.
(sighs angrily)
Let's get going. We have so little
time but so many places to see.

JOHN
(whispers to Matty)
Does this guy think he's Willy
Wonka or something?

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 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 takes a deep breath, he's not going to let it go.

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - DAY

Ted walks up the porch with a box of chocolates.

He builds himself up and RINGS the doorbell.

After a moment, Blaire opens the door.

BLAIRE

You shouldn't be here.

TED

Can I apologize to John?

BLAIRE

I think you're past an apology.

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.

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 spent some time
apart.

TED

But I have nowhere to go.

SUZE

I'm sorry, you can't stay here.

TED

At least let me get my stuff.

Suze looks at Blaire and ponders.

SUZE

Be quick.

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

Ted now 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 the 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 very 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.

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?

SERGEANT WISEMAN

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

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.

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

MATTY

You know what, I don't know if I want to send my son to you.

SERGEANT WISEMAN

That's it. Your talk back will not be tolerated. Twenty-five pushups.

MATTY

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? Fifty pushups.

John laughs.

SERGEANT WISEMAN (CONT'D)

You think it's funny too? Fifty 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!

They both get scared and go down into the push up position.

They do them very slowly.

SERGEANT WISEMAN (CONT'D)
What has this country come to? You
two are some of the most
embarrassing, sack of shit,
incompetent imbeciles I have ever-

Matty, out of breath, he's going to pass out.

MATTY
I can't do anymore.

John is drenched in sweat and stops as well.

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
Come on, John. Let's go.

SERGEANT WISEMAN
The tour is not over.

MATTY
It is now.

SERGEANT WISEMAN
You are disrespecting your country!

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

John smiles, thrilled his dad stood up for him.

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

JOHN
You got it.

They exit.

MATTY
What do you say next weekend we do
something else. Your choice.

EXT. BUS STOP - DAY

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

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

He puts on glasses and reads through a very long *list* with all of the application steps.

TED

This is some list. Almost as big as Schindler's.

At the bottom of the pile, off to the side is the Arizona State application.

Ted boards the bus, the bus' destination reads "Unknown."

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN TABLE - DAY

Matty and John enter laughing as Suze sits-

SUZE

How was the base? Was it nice to catch up with Sergeant Wiseman?

JOHN

(mimics Wiseman)

You will never know what it means to be a man.

Matty and John still laugh-

MATTY

Yeah, John's not joining the military. I don't know 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.

It's revealed to be five completed college applications: all having John's name on them written in pen.

JOHN
Boston College, UMass.

SUZE
Somebody's looking out for John.

JOHN
This had to be Ted, right?

Blaire grabs a white envelope from the counter. It says, "I'm sorry John. Your best bud, Ted."

BLAIRE
You have a good gut.

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
Wow. Ted did a nice thing for once.

BLAIRE
For somebody else too, surprising.

MATTY
FUCK!

SUZE
What? What's wrong?

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 dingaling.

The monkey's exit, swinging away.

TED (CONT'D)

(shrugs)

I thought it was a funny story.

JOHN (O.S.)

Ted! Ted!

TED

John! Is that you?

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.

JOHN

Yeah, thank you for applying to
those colleges for me.

TED

Oh, don't mention it.

MATTY

But you're still on thin-

TED

I should never have brought the sex
workers to the house. I never
should have hired one for John.

(MORE)

TED (CONT'D)

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'm
my own Audience Member and I
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

That was a crazy weekend. I never
wanna see Dennis again.

JOHN

Oh, that's why you went to the zoo?

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.