

SCRIPT TITLE

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**EXT. HAWKINS TOWN PARK - MORNING**

JOYCE, with a stars and strips visor and clipboard, is in a flurry of activity. Over the loudspeakers we hear EVERYBODY WANTS TO RULE THE WORLD by Tears for Fears. She hurries past PEOPLE and booths, balloons and streamers, and we PULL BACK to INCLUDE a large banner: "HAWKINS ANNUAL LABOR DAY PICNIC".

Joyce approaches a long table covered with a red and white checkered tablecloth. EILEEN WILKINS (43), an ex-gymnast with boundless energy, springs about securing the cloth's errant edges as Joyce hands her a paper from her clipboard.

JOYCE

Here you go, Eileen. Sorry for the last minute. I just need your signature, then back to me before the contest. The pies look great!

Across the top of the adjacent booth, a blue and white banner reads "Pie Easting Contest - 2:00pm."

Inside the booth, NANCY and JONATHON set up for the contest. Jonathon, deep in thought, barely hears Nancy.

NANCY

I can't believe this is our senior year. I know it's going to go by so fast. You're going to capture those Kodak moments for us though, right?

He looks up, offering a smile of acknowledgment.

JONATHON

Sure.

NANCY

Did you get the info from NYU?

JONATHON

Uh, yeah. I got it.

She is frustrated he doesn't offer more.

NANCY

(coaxing)

Well?

JONATHON

I'll look at it later.

Off her disappointed look...

JONATHON (CONT'D)  
 What's the problem? Why the rush?

Across the field, Jonathon notices MIKE and EL walking toward the "Homemade Ice Cream" booth.

ANGLE ON El and Mike.

EL  
 I know it's not due yet. I just  
 want to get it back to the library.  
 (proudly)  
 I've read almost all of them.

MIKE  
 That was a suggested list. No one  
 actually reads over the summer.  
 Super Mario tonight?

EL  
 Hop say I gotta go home.  
 (imitating Hopper)  
 "School night." Oh, can we stop by  
 and see Joyce? I want to thank her.

She gestures toward the Ice Cream booth.

EL (CONT'D)  
 She really helped me out this  
 summer to get ready.

MIKE  
 Do you feel ready?

As El takes in his question, a bit unsure...

MAN (O.S.)  
 Get ready! Get set! Go!

The CRACK of a starter gun rings in the air. Mike and El turn to see MAX and LUCAS tear across a field in a 3-legged race.

Joyce returns to the "Homemade Ice Cream" booth where HOPPER prepares the hand-crank machines with rock salt.

He looks up as Joyce arrives only to notice El and Mike walking toward them. As Joyce puts her things down, he hands her some milk jugs to put in the cooler.

HOPPER  
 Could you give me a hand with this?  
 Thanks. I wanted to talk to you  
 about something before the kids get  
 here.

(MORE)

HOPPER (CONT'D)  
 (nodding toward them)  
 I think the new place in town is better for El...Jane - need to get used to that - but something just doesn't feel right.

JOYCE  
 What do you mean, Hop?

HOPPER  
 I'm worried if I'm giving El the right, I don't know, support?

He is out of his element talking about feelings. Joyce touches his arm with compassion.

JOYCE  
 You worry too much. Everything is fine. Ha, listen to me telling you.

Just then an errant frisbee hits Hopper and he overreacts, screaming at the kids.

HOPPER  
 HEY!!! Watch where you throw that!

Joyce picks up the frisbee and turns to Hopper.

JOYCE  
 (concerned)  
 Okay. What's really eating you?

Joyce tosses the frisbee back as El and Mike enter the booth. El and Joyce share a warm hug.

JOYCE (CONT'D)  
 Hey you. Do you feel ready for your big day tomorrow? It's a big step.

El's eyes cut around to Mike as she answers.

EL  
 (confidently)  
 Yes, absolutely.

El looks over the ice cream toppings, scoops up some M&Ms.

JOYCE  
 You'll be great. Just be yourself. And remember, you can always tell me anything.

DISSOLVE TO:

DUSTIN and STEVE sit across from each other at a table, PIE-MAGEDDON spray-painted in red across the contest banner behind them. CAN'T FIGHT THIS FEELING by REO Speedwagon plays on the loudspeakers. They and other CONTESTANTS have their hands tied behind their backs. Eileen stands behind them.

EILEEN  
(to all contestants)  
Are you ready to dig in?

Dustin smiles broadly at Steve.

STEVE  
I can't believe I let you talk me into this.

DUSTIN  
Don't worry. These losers don't stand a chance against us.

STEVE  
(taunting)  
You mean me. You think you got this? You're going down, little buddy.

DUSTIN  
You're on!

EILEEN  
GO!

The crowd CHEERS their favorite contestants as they dive into their pies, face first. Dustin, clearly in the lead, suddenly sneezes his mouthful of blueberry pie all over Steve.

The CHEERS turn to GROANS as we drop in on...

The "Glass Blowing" booth where BILLY "accidentally" bumps into KAREN.

BILLY  
Mrs. Wheeler. It's crystal clear.

KAREN  
Billy. What's that?

BILLY  
That something is getting neglected.

KAREN  
(curious)  
I beg your pardon?

BILLY

Your lawn, Mrs. Wheeler, looks like  
it needs attention.

He hands her a business card, with a wink...

BILLY (CONT'D)

I've started a little lawn  
maintenance business. I'd  
appreciate the work.

Off Karen...

BACK TO the aftermath of Pie-mageddon as Eileen presents a trophy to a CONTESTENT. Mike, El, Max, Lucas, Will, Nancy and Jonathon console Dustin and Steve as they wipe pie from their faces. Dustin licks his lips as if he could eat more.

All seems well in our little town.

CUT TO: