EXT- OUTSIDE MAIN HOUSE- DAY

A film crew is in the background unloading equipment from a car. The man behind the camera films the ground and the action in front of him while he fiddles with the settings.

CASEY, Mid 30s though carrying an infectiously youthful energy, is the films director. What he lacks in talent he makes up for in enthusiasm.

CASEY
(To the camera man)
So you're just going to film what's going on in the background and shit like that? Do we need to give an introduction or something or are you going to do that all in post?

CUT TO:

INTERVIEW ROOM

Casey sits in a chair with the full set in view behind him. A crew is setting up lights and equipment as he conducts his interview.

CASEY
(Candid)
I'm feeling a lot more optimistic about this project I think. I'm feeling great about the cast, I've never worked with a budget like this before so that's pretty exciting. Really I'm just waiting on my producer to give me the go-ahead on the script and we'll be good to go.

CUT TO:

INT-FILM SET-DAY

Members of the cast start arriving at the house, the director is there to greet them.

CASEY
Hey Guys, just come on in and take a seat.

CUT TO:

Created using Celtx

INTERVIEW ROOM

CHRIS, a talented though overzealous young actor sits to conduct his interview.

CHRIS
(Candid)
To tell you the truth, I’m feeling great about this project! Scripts solid, things seem pretty legit you know? I'm actually playing an insomniac which is new for me. Tried pulling some late nights just to really get into the mindset and everything.

CUT TO:

INT-FILM SET-DAY

The cast and crew are all jammed awkwardly onto one couch as Casey addresses them.

CASEY
(To Crew)
Hey guys! First off I just wanted to thank you all for coming. I really appreciate how professional you’re all being. Now as for today’s schedule-

SCOTT, late 20s, underachiever whose dad got him this job, is playing the opening riff to "Wonderwall."

CASEY
Ha, uh cool song. Do you just mind waiting until I’ve finished running through the schedule?

SCOTT
Yeah sure man.

CASEY
Awesome, thank you. So Ella, You and Chris are going to take that first shot near the stairs and-

He starts playing again.

CASEY
Kay- so anyway Chris-

Created using Celtx

Chris is asleep.

CASEY
Chris!

CHRIS
(Waking up)
Oh- sorry. Just feeling a little tired- really trying to nail that insomniac mindset- you know?

CASEY
You know you can just pretend to do that, right?

This thought is interrupted by a knock at the door.

CASEY
That’s probably Tom. Justin, can you start lighting that hallway?

CUT TO:

DOORWAY

Enter TOM, mid 40s. Tom looks like if Tony Sopranos parents were siblings. He trucks by Casey in a wheelchair as confused glances follow him into the house.

TOM
Casey- friendo, how are things going?

CASEY
We were just about to start, what’s up with the wheelchair?

TOM
Stubbed my toe on the door frame, doctors say I may never walk again. Anyway I have that script for you. I made a few changes, nothing major.

Casey grabs the scripts and begins to flip through it as Tom wheels himself off.

CASEY
Uh…

CUT TO:

Created using Celtx

CASEY
(Candid)
This is not the script I gave him. The names of the characters aren't even the same.

TOM
(Candid)
I just needed to spice things up a touch. There was no sex, no violence, no jokes about farts. It was about his fucking- "Daughter's leukemia" or some shit like that.

CASEY
(Candid)
Flipping through script- confused -So these two characters have a romantic subplot, which is fine I guess but- there supposed to be a father and daughter. So not really sure what to do about that one.

CUT TO:

INT-FILM SET-DAY

Casey is smoking a cigarrette and talking to a woman to his rights.

SARAH, an experienced and confident director of photography, flips through he script with a puzzled expression.

CASEY
(To Sarah)
No, this is going to work, I'm going to make this work and everything is going to be great.

SARAH
(Flipping through script) It calls for so many raccoons. Where are we going to get acting raccoons?

CASEY
(Crazed)
I said we're going to make this work!

Created using Celtx

SARAH
(Candid)
I trust his judgment on this, I'm just worried the stress is starting to get to him already, you know?

CASEY
(Candid, blood on his mouth)
Yeah so I'm a little frustrated about the script thing but I'm not freaking out. We have good people and this is going to work.

SARAH
(From off screen)
Why is there blood all over the bathroom floor?

CASEY
(Candid)
That could have been anybody.

Blood starts to drip from his mouth.

CASEY
(Candid)
Alright so my ulcer is back- everything is absolutely fine otherwise.

CUT TO:

INT-DOORWAY-DAY

Casey opens the door and in steps-

NICK- Nick only has one hand, which Casey attempts to shake.

CASEY
Uh, Hey man. Thanks for getting here so quickly!

CASEY
(Candid)
I hired Nick to make some changes to the script. Ones that make sense...

NICK
Yeah no problem man...wait a second, do I know you from somewhere?

Created using Celtx

CASEY
(Defensively)
Definitely not.

NICK
Wait a second, you're the dude who was banging my grandmother!

CASEY
Nervous laugh

CASEY
(Candid)
I don't know how I'm gonna talk my way out of this one.

NICK
(Candid)
She's 82!

CASEY
(Candid)
I didn't know you could set age preferences on those dating sites, I thought she was 25.

NICK
(Candid)
They dated for three months!

CASEY
(Candid)
My wife left me...again, she won't let me see my kids.

CUT TO:

INT-SET-DAY

Casey is talking to a small woman.

ELLA, late 20s, is a prolific and acclaimed B list actress. She is running lines to herself underneath the film lights.

CASEY
For this scene I'm just looking for something a little more. I really want to see that regret flashing across your face, you get me?

Created using Celtx

ELLA
Absolutely.

CASEY
(Candid)
I honestly couldn't believe Ella said yes to this film, with her schedule being so packed. But She's just such a professional, I really think she's going to bring a lot to this film.

CUT TO:

FILM SET

Casey is directing a scene with Chris and Ella.

CASEY
Alright and…action!

ELLA
I just...I just don't feel the same wa-

CASEY
Cut! Sorry. Boom in the shot. Just watch that, alright Justin.

CUT TO:

JOE, the audio tech, is fiddling clumsily with a boom pole but his arm is in a sling.

JOE
Sorry guys.

ELLA
(Sweetly)
It's OK.

CASEY
Alright. Reset...and...action!

ELLA
I'm sorry, I just don't feel the same-

CASEY
Cut! Justin. Boom again.

Created using Celtx

JOE
I’m really sorry.

ELLA
(Kind)
Do you want to just sit this one out? I’m sure someone would be willing to help you out.

JOE
No, I'm fine, I just have to reposition it.

CASEY
Alright, everyone reset...and...action.

ELLA
I...I just don’t feel the-

CASEY
Cut!

ELLA
What now!?

CASEY
Uh...boom in the shot…

ELLA
(To Justin)
Is there something wrong with you fucking brain!?

JOE
I’m sorry, it’s just the arm…

ELLA
Oh the arm? This fucking arm!?

She walks over and punches Justin in his bad arm.

ELLA
(Candid)
Everyone here is a fucking idiot except for me. This is what I get for doing an indie movie.

Created using Celtx

JOE
(Candid)
I can’t afford surgery for it, my insurance dropped me because of a preexisting condition...

ELLA
(Candid)
Maybe we can replace him with something that would be more of an asset to this production, like a fertilizer bomb.

CASEY
(Candid)
She’s a little grumpy is all. You know how actors can be.

CUT TO:

PROP TABLE

Joe is sitting at a prop table. Ella comes up to him and drops a box of straws in front of him.

ELLA
Pick one.

JUSTIN
Why?

ELLA
Because you’ll be eating out of one of these for a while.

CUT TO:

INT-KITCHEN-DAY

Casey grabs a water bottle from the fridge and opens it. Sarah walks in and grabs a bottle as well.

SARAH
This could be going better.

CASEY
Everything is going according to plan.

Created using Celtx

SARAH
Sure. (She takes a sip and spits it back out right into Chris's face) This isn’t water.

CASEY
Oh no, those ones are water. This is vodka.

SARAH
Why?

CASEY
(chugging vodka)
Did you say something?

CUT TO:

INT-WRITERS ROOM-DAY

Casey walks in while Nick is at the computer.

CASEY
Hey man, how are those rewrites coming?

NICK
I’m watching midgets wrestle.

CASEY
Awesome... just uh, let me know when you’re done with that.

CUT TO:

INT-SET-DAY

Casey is trying to shoot a scene but Chris keeps falling asleep.

CASEY
You alright man?

CHRIS
Just a little sleepy.

Created using Celtx

CHRIS
(Candid)
The only time I've slept this week was when I fell asleep at the wheel last night. Good news is I've begun to see new colors. On the downside I can hear my dead brother moaning my name, he sounds like he's in pain. It's a trade-off.

CUT TO:

INT-KITCHEN-DAY

JUSTIN
Hey Casey, can we talk?

CASEY
(taking bong rip)
Yeah?

JUSTIN
It's just that someone keeps throwing dead birds through the skylight of my apartment.

CASEY
(Candid)
I have no clue who that could be.

ELLA
(Sharpening knife, looks at the camera, then looks back down.)

CUT TO:

INT-MAIN HOUSE-DAY

Nick walks in and hands Casey a script.

NICK
Rewrites are done

CASEY
That's great!

His expression changes as he flips through the script.

CASEY
This is...uh...This is just the script for baby geniuses 2.

Created using Celtx

NICK
Is that a problem?

CASEY
No, no, I mean-

NICK
I'm gonna charge 200 for another day of rewrites just letting you know.

CASEY
OK, no problem. Just uh, send me the invoices tomorrow.

CASEY
(Candid, smoking cigarettes)
Everything is absolutely fine.

CUT TO:

INT-MAIN HOUSE-DAY

Casey grabs Sarah's arm as she passes by him in the kitchen.

CASEY
Sarah, honey, glad you're here. I'm supposed to be buying crack from a white guy with dreadlocks, but I'm really busy. Mind picking it up?

SARAH
Uh-

CASEY
Great here's $400, and take this knife. I don't trust him.

SOPHIA
Um…

CUT TO:

INT-COUCH-DAY

Scott is playing wonderwall on the couch. Chris is asleep next to him. Another man with a script enters.

JON, early 20s, is a relatively unknown character actor and Gods dumbest soldier.

Created using Celtx

JON
Have you guys seen Casey?

Scott keeps playing wonderwall. Chris stares blankly ahead. Casey comes up behind him.

CASEY
Jon! Glad you're here. We're a little behind schedule but I can just push your scene up.

JON
Cool, cool.

TOM
Casey! I need you to come cut my sandwich for me. I'd do it myself but you know- I'm disabled now.

CASEY
(Candid)
Why didn't anyone tell me he was here? I trusted you guys.

CUT TO:

INT-PROP TABLE-DAY

Casey is cutting the crust off Tom's sandwich.

TOM
Bad news kid. Turns out I'm the worst blackjack player on the east coast. So we're going to have to scale back that budget a touch.

CASEY
(Strained laughing)

INT-FILM SET-DAY

Casey is filming Jon's scene with Chris. Jon seems really intense.

JON
(Growling)
They sure are cute...huh?

Created using Celtx

CASEY
Cut, uh Jon. This is supposed to be a little bit of a lighter moment. Can you tone it back a touch?

JON
I don’t know if that really fits with my character.

CASEY
What do you mean?

JON
It just doesn’t fit his backstory, you know?

CASEY
(Candid)
He only has four lines...

Chris falls over.

CASEY
Justin, can you please pick up Chris?

JUSTIN
Yeah su-
(He screams as a dead bird hits him in the back of the head)

CHRIS
(Candid)
Last night God appeared at my door to ask what has become of me.

CUT TO:

INT-KITCHEN-DAY

Jon is leaning up on the counter standing way too close to Casey.

JON
So his mother used to beat him with jumper cables, and his father died of grief after his brother was executed for war crimes.

Created using Celtx

CASEY
You play a zookeeper...you take care of Koala’s.

CUT TO:

INT-MAIN HOUSE-DAY

Casey walks past Joe. Joe turns around as Casey passes and Ella is right behind him. He runs into Sarah, who is holding a cup of coffee.

SARAH
Someone sent this for you.

CASEY
How Nice!
(He takes a sip and spits it back out right into Chris' face)
Yeah that's piss.

SARAH
You knew exactly what that taste was huh?

CASEY
(Candid)
Gonna go ahead and plead the fifth on that one.

SARAH
I don’t know who would have sent you that.

We zoom in on the Nick, who’s just out of view.

CUT TO:

INT-PROP TABLE-DAY

Tom is in his wheelchair at the prop table.

TOM
Casey, glad you’re here. Can you drop this Xanax into my whiskey for me? I’d do it myself but- never walking again. You know how it is?

Created using Celtx

CASEY
Right.

SARAH
Casey, someone’s here for you.

CUT TO:

ANG IN THE INTERVIEW ROOM

ANG, 30s, is the makeup artist. Casey found her on craigslist.

ANG
(Candid)
I'm the makeup artist.

CUT TO:

Casey shakes her hand.

CASEY
Just in time! Can you start doing the head wound on Scott?

ANG
Sure!

She walks over to Scott, who is still playing guitar, and takes a wound she printed out on printer paper to his forehead.

CASEY
What?

ANG
(Candid)
I went to school for this for 8 years.

CUT TO:

INT-KITCHEN-DAY

Casey walks into the kitchen as Sarah grabs another water bottle. She takes a drink and spits it back out right into Chris's face.

SARAH
I took it from the water side that time!

Created using Celtx

CASEY
Oh, we’re out of actual water. It’s all vodka now.

Ella comes in and grabs a bottle. Sarah tries to stop her but she takes a big swig and walks away.

SARAH
(Candid)
Am I the crazy one here?

CUT TO:

INT-WRITERS ROOM-DAY

Casey goes to check on Nick.

CASEY
So, how’s that script coming?

NICK
Done.

CASEY
Oh! Awesome!

He takes it and leaves.

CASEY
(Candid)
See what happens when you don’t lose hope? Things start to turn up.

CUT TO:

INT-MAIN HOUSE-DAY

Nick walks down the stairs to Casey who is reading through the rewrite.

NICK
What do you think of the changes?

CASEY
They’re fine, it's just...the ending.

NICK
What about it?

Created using Celtx

CASEY
Oh nothing, it’s just…about my daughter's cancer. A Bollywood dance number Just seems a little out of place, you know?

NICK
I can do another set of rewrites but I’d need to double the price.

CASEY
(Sick laugh)

CUT TO:

INT-MAIN HOUSE-DAY

Joe walks up to Casey.

JOE
(Hushed)
Something isn’t right.

CASEY
(Exhausted)
Why?

JOE
Things keep getting moved around in my house, and last night my dog went missing.

CASEY
So?

JOE
(Frightened)
Don’t turn around.

CASEY
(Ella is directly behind him)
You’re losing it man.
(Goes to leave)
Oh, hey Ella.

Ella moves towards Joe with murder in her eyes.

CUT TO:

Created using Celtx

INT-KITCHEN-DAY

Sarah walks up to Casey who is eating some sort of plant.

SARAH
What's that?

CASEY
DMT.

SOPHIA
(Candid)
He seems a little on edge, I think.

CASEY
(Candid)
Everything is completely fine.
(Throws up blood)

CUT TO:

INT-MAIN HOUSE-DAY

Casey and Sarah are staring in vain at their shooting schedule.

CASEY
(Drinking Jack straight from the bottle)
Let's just get Chris' monologue shot.

SARAH
Sure, I'll get Scott.

SCOTT
(Squeezing in between them)
You guys want to hear a song?

SARAH
No.

SCOTT
Anyway, here's wonderwall.

CASEY
Where even is Chris?

Chris starts to cross behind him then face-plants.

Created using Celtx

CHRIS
(Candid)
I haven’t slept in weeks. Last night, while I lay awake in my bed I saw the birth of time itself, then I watched in abject horror as its umbilical cord became wrapped around its neck, and it died a sad, slow death.

CUT TO:

INT-DOORWAY-DAY

Tom rolls in through the front door.

TOM
Casey! Baby, gonna need you to go tell my wife I want a divorce. I’d do it myself but, permanently confined to wheels and all.

CASEY
(Crazed)
Great, cool!

CASEY
(Candid, psychotic)
Still don’t have a script! Sophia said our cameras aren’t recording audio anymore and she doesn’t know why. I haven’t seen Joe in hours. And I don’t think I wiped enough this morning, because fuck me right!?

CUT TO:

INT-BATHROOM-DAY

Joe is hiding out in a bathroom with the lights turned off.

JOE
I heard someone sharpening a knife outside my bedroom window last night. We've been hiding out here since yesterd-

Ella kicks through the door and everyone scrambles as she storms in.

CUT TO:

Created using Celtx

INTERVIEW ROOM

CASEY
(Candid, bargaining)
We still have plenty of money to work with so it’s not all bad.

CUT TO:

DOORWAY

TOM
(Barging through door)
So more bad news, turns out I’m an even worse roulette player-

CUT TO:

INTERVIEW ROOM

CASEY
(Candid, cooking heroin)
My wife filed a restraining order against me. She still won’t let me see my kids. So long ball and chain, huh fellas?

CUT TO:

INT-INTERVIEW ROOM-DAY

CHRIS
(Candid)
I can see the future and the past simultaneously.

CUT TO:

INT-PROP TABLE-DAY

Casey is reading an article on assisted suicide. Jon comes up behind him and slaps the script on the table

JON
So, hear me out, I think I’ve tweaked the back story. So it starts just after 9/11-

Scott shows up with his guitar.

Created using Celtx

SCOTT
Need some music?

JON
No.

SCOTT
Anyway, here’s wonderwall.

JON
Is that the only song you can play?

SCOTT
(Candid)
Of course I can play other songs.
(He starts to play "Smells Like Teen Spirit" but he slowly transitions back to wonderwall)

CUT TO:

INT-MAIN HOUSE-DAY

Casey is standing over Sarah as she fiddles with the camera, Joe grabs his arm and spins him around.

JOE
You gotta help me man!

CASEY
What’s your deal dude?

JOE
She’s coming for me, she was in my house last night.

ELLA
(Running her hand across his back)
He won’t protect you.

JOE
(Candid)
She’s crazy!

CASEY
Those pain meds are messing with your head man. You’re hearing shit.

Casey leaves.

Created using Celtx

JOE
Please no…

ELLA
(Off screen)
Better watch your back bitch.

INT-COUCH-DAY

Scott is still playing wonderwall. Chris and Jon are watching him.

CUT TO:

CASEY
(Candid)
(Chris and Jon are beating Scott in the background)
At least the cast is getting along, you know? That’s a silver lining.

INT-FILM SET-DAY

Casey walks on set and calls out to the crew

CASEY
Has anyone seen Joe?

ELLA
Never heard of him.

CASEY
Whatever.

ELLA
(Candid)
Does anyone hear that? From below the floor, muffled, desperate screams perhaps?

CASEY
(Smoking a cigarette)
OK, so we’re going to try this again, and this time, everything is going to be fine.

Chris collapses, we zoom in on Casey looking utterly defeated.

Created using Celtx

SARAH
(Candid)
I think everyone involved in this project should spend...at least the night in jail.

CASEY
So, we can take a break, let Chris sleep it off for an hour or two, and then we'll get right back to filming as if nothing happened at-

The producer walks through the door.

TOM
Oh, I- thought you guys had left for the day.

CASEY
(Candid)
The whole time…

CASEY
You could walk the whole time?!

TOM
(Candid)
I mean, I really did stub my toe.

TOM
Well...

CASEY
Enough! I have been dealing with your shit, with everyone's shit- for 4 fucking weeks! I've had to deal with Nick and his g.i.l.f. Fucking with my rewrites! Joe just took the night off! (We cut to what looks like Joe's feet as he's dragged into the hall) I've done every drug I could find on the DEAs website! And now you, who blew my entire fucking budget gambling, can actually walk! I hate all of you! All of you! I have tried my best, I have tried to hold this fucking shit show together! My Kids won't answer my calls, my stomach ulcer is back, and I think my dog doesn't love me anymore! And for this, for you fucking people! You're all a waste of precious oxygen.

Created using Celtx

Trees have lived and died and weathered the harshest storms to bring us oxygen, and you just wasted it! Every breath you take is contributing to the universe's inevitable heat death! And for what!? Fucking nothing! And I guess it’s just all a fucking joke to you! Like ha-ha, look at me monkey boy! I put my penis in my mouth! I get it, OK!? I fucking get it. Everyone fuck off! Chris, go see a doctor, Ella, go see a therapist, Scott, shove that fucking guitar up your ass, Jon, stop being a freak! Sarah you’re doing fine honey (To Tom) And you!...(He take a long pause and stumbles on his words) Kill yourself! Go home. Everyone go home. Fuck off, die in a hole, I don’t care anymore.

Nick comes down the stairs.

NICK
I don’t see that money in my account there friend-

Casey runs at him and pushes him off camera. We see the cast’s horrified reaction. We cut back to Casey who is now covered in blood.

CASEY
GO!

They all start to leave.

TOM
(Candid)
I guess some people just really can’t handle the pressure.

CHRIS
(Candid)
I have seen everything that has ever been, and everything that will ever be. I am one with the universe, and the universe is one with me.

SARAH
(Candid)
There was just...so much blood.

Created using Celtx

ELLA
(Candid)

This...is what I get for doing an Indy movie.

SCOTT
(Candid)
...Anyway, here’s wonderwall.

END

Created using Celtx