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# **Follow The Leader**

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Webisodes 1- 10

by John Macinnes/additional material by Matt Winn

**FOLLOW THE LEADER - PART 1**

EXT. FREETOWN - DAY

TITLE: 2025

Somewhere in the heartlands of America...the rising sun plucks out this small isolated town enclosed by suburbs of Mac-mansions.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET, FREETOWN - DAY

BRENDAN, 16, cycles his orange BMX along the sidewalk, throwing rolled-up newspapers onto the porches and driveways. He's the only soul around.

The streets of Freetown are impeccably clean and well maintained. Well tended lawns and picket fences stand in front of neat tidy houses overhung by trees in full summer bloom. Not a blade of grass is out of place.

A newspaper bounces off a door and hits the ground.

INSERT: A color picture of the Leader, an imposing man in his late fifties in a dark suit and dark glasses, under the headline 'NEW PURGE PROMISES TO WIPE OUT STATE ENEMIES'. He stands against an orange background.

From nowhere: five note CHIME.

Bright orange TANNY SPEAKERS point to the four corners from every lamp-post in the street.

THE LEADER (O.S.)

Good morning Freetown. Welcome another glorious day. Be thankful to the Leader for making it so. Today's thought: purge.

Placed on the corner of two suburban streets, Brendan passes a BILL-BOARD: an image of The Leader wearing his characteristic black Ray-bans, over the slogan 'CELEBRATE WITH OBEDIENCE'.

EXT. BRENDAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Brendan rests his BMX against a wall and goes inside.

INT. KITCHEN, BRENDAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Brendan's MOTHER - is flicking the glossy pages of a woman's magazine, occasionally glancing at the TV. The kitchen is modern and spotless, a suburban dream.

ON TELEVISION: A newsreader with a smooth appearance and an orange suit sits in front of a picture of the Leader.

NEWSREADER

Government sources report that they are cracking down on dissidents in key urban areas.

Mrs Jones puts her glasses on and studies the screen intently.

NEWSREADER (CONT'D)

A spokesman for the Leader has said that "these elements will be sought out and destroyed. They threaten the very existence of the state".

MRS JONES

(to herself)

They need to get tough with these bastards.

NEWSREADER

And now one of our daily Herostories.

An editorial piece about the heroic exploits of SAMUEL THOMAS, an all American kid, a Nick Lachey-like celebrity about the same age as Brendan. Big close-ups of up-turned, proud faces...rousing MUSIC...IMAGES of the Leader. Samuel Thomas saluting an orange, all-seeing eye flag.

TV

...Samuel never flinched from the danger, never expected reward, thanks or gratitude. He, in his own words, was 'just doing his bit' in freeing the new land from disease. ...But today Samuel Thomas is being given the highest honor that the Leader can bestow - making him a 'Child of Freedom' for his gallant deeds...

She turns to Brendan as he enters, smiling proud with moist eyes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRENDAN

...Mom?

BRENDAN'S MOTHER

You look a little like him.

BRENDAN

Huh?

Brendan's FATHER enters wearing a smart blue suit, vigorously polishing his shoe. He stops momentarily to catch the TV report.

FATHER

Kid's a real role model.

Brendan hands his father the newspaper, then takes a glass from the cupboard.

BRENDAN'S MOTHER

Talk of another purge...

Brendan glances up and catches sight of a girl leaving the house next door. He grabs his bag and heads for the door.

BRENDAN'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

Wait. Let me take a look at you.  
You're going to be a hero someday.  
I just know it. Good luck.

BRENDAN

Mom, it's an exam. I'm not gonna get a medal.

EXT. BRENDAN'S STREET - DAY

Brendan jumps on his BMX. He catches up with the girl he spied from the kitchen window. Sporting a bright yellow sweater and long blonde hair, Laura is a 16 year old all American sweetheart.

BRENDAN

Hey.

LAURA

Hey.

BRENDAN

Done your revision?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LAURA

Don't need to. It's my favorite subject.

BRENDAN

"Leaderthought" is your favorite subject?

LAURA

It's patriotic. The Orange book says even if you don't understand it, "Leaderthought" will always see you right.

BRENDAN

Yeah, guess so.

Laura's phone rings. It has the same distinctive chime as the one that came from the tannoys. Brendan's rings as well. They have identical silver models. They both flip them open and an identical text message appears.

CELLPHONE

Mom is close. Dad is close. The Leader is closer.

Laura flips her phone shut.

LAURA

Makes me feel kinda safe to know he's always watching after us.

BRENDAN

You know he doesn't actually send those messages himself.

Laura hits him.

LAURA

You think I'm some kind of dumbarse.

Brendan runs and she chases him. He jeers at her.

BRENDAN

Sometimes I wonder.

EXT. ANOTHER SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

BRENDAN and LAURA turn the corner. Laura stops in her tracks then crosses in front of Brendan to the other side of the sidewalk.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LAURA

...It gives me the creeps.

Brendan turns, looks up to the source of her repulsion...

A BODY hanging from the neck from a lamp-post right in front of a house - the neck is unnaturally extended, the hands and feet puffed out like balloons, a crow perched on the head plucking at the eyes. A placard has been placed around its neck. It reads "Subversive"

**FOLLOW THE LEADER - PART 2**

EXT. A SUBURBAN STREET IN FREETOWN - DAY

Brendan and Laura are standing on the pavement looking at a dead body hanging from a lamppost. A placard hangs from the neck. Bird twitter above them in the tree-lined street.

LAURA

It's been there nearly three weeks.  
-I know it's supposed to make us  
feel safe and free from 'dis-ease'  
but I dunno. I just wish they'd get  
rid of it.

They walk on.

BRENDAN

Did I hear that straight? Are you  
questioning the judgement of the  
Leadership.

LAURA

No, no...course not.

BRENDAN

Oh, rock-on! I can't believe it.  
Laura Lowell, you're a subversive!  
Who'd have thought it? The daughter  
of the Party Secretary, the  
prettiest girl in school, is  
actually a deadly traitor.

LAURA

Stop it Brendan. It's not funny.

BRENDAN

Just gotta be careful. I just don't  
want to give any state secrets to a  
spy.

A NOISE up the street draws their attention...

A Pontiac sports car screeches towards them, showing off as  
it grinds to a halt. TOMMY, 16, Freetown's leading high  
school jock and Laura's boyfriend, is behind the wheel.  
Tommy's side-kick CONNOR is in the passenger seat. Brendan  
can't help but admire the machine.

LAURA

Your father know you're driving his  
car?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOMMY  
It's not his car.

LAURA  
He gave it to you!?  
(the penny drops)  
...You made it into the Academy.

TOMMY  
That's right. Isn't it awesome?

Brendan touches the wing mirror.

TOMMY (CONT'D)  
Hey watch that!

LAURA  
When do you leave?

TOMMY  
Oh, look at you. You wanna marry a  
paper boy or an Officer in the  
Liberation Army? ...It's not until  
Fall, we have all summer and now we  
have wheels. Come on baby, jump  
in.

Connor climbs into the tiny backseat. Laura steps into the car.

Tommy makes it plain that the invitation doesn't extend to Brendan. The sports car screeches off.

EXT. MCCARTHY HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Milling students. Brendan walks past a statue of The Leader as he makes his way up the stairs in front of the high school.

INT. MCCARTHY HIGH SCHOOL. AN EXAM ROOM - DAY

TWENTY STUDENTS sit quietly behind desks, an Orange book in front of each. A male teacher, Mr. Mayhew, 50's, stands at the front of the class.

MR MAYHEW  
You have forty five minutes to  
complete the paper. Begin.

Everyone picks up their pens. Some open the books. Laura launches confidently straight into the paper.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Tommy looks around the room distractedly. He sees Jed, the 'class creep'. His hair is greasy and unkempt and his clothes worn. He hasn't picked up his pen and is staring at BRITTANY, a pretty girl to his left. Tommy throws a pencil hard that hits Jed in the forehead.

TOMMY

Hey, freakshow. Stop drooling.

INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - DAY

A bell rings as the exam students pile out the room into a corridor. Brendan catches up with Laura.

BRENDAN

Wow. That was tricky.

LAURA

Are you kidding? I aced it.

BRENDAN

I knew I should have done more work on the "The Leader's Four Right Ways".

INT. THE SCHOOL CANTEEN - DAY

STUDENTS stand in line with trays. Laura and Tommy sit down in the area clearly reserved for the 'cool students'. There is a distinctive five note chime and Tommy and Laura both take out their identical cell phones. A message scrolls up. "Pay attention. Government Statement."

All the other students have flipped open their phones now and look up dutifully in expectation to the television screens suspended from the ceiling. All chatter instantly stops as the orange insignia appears on the screens, accompanied by the now familiar chime. The image is replaced by a newsreader. His tone is urgent.

NEWSREADER

Troops on the northern front have made great advances in the last 24 hours repelling Canadian insurgents. Commander Dalton issued the following statement:

The screen cuts to a military man in his mid forties standing by a tank.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COMMANDER DALTON

These guys didn't know what they were letting themselves in for when they attacked the Freestate Army. Unfortunately they won't be going home to tell their wives what happened. Six hundred foreign troops were repelled in a glorious victory.

WHOOPS of applause from the students. The loudest clapping comes from Tommy.

TOMMY

Awesome. I can't wait to get up there and whip those cowards!

INT. THE SCHOOL LIBRARY - DAY

Silence. Miss Van Strattan, the librarian, late twenties, attractive in the modest way that women have to be in Freetown. She sits at a desk at the front of the library, checking in various orange colored books.

On tables dotted along a bookcase students sit buried in their work, all reading or copying from the same orange book. There are several cases of books, some of them different sizes, but all orange. A couple of students have headphones on, listening to small digital devices. They are orange too.

INT. CLASSROOM, MCCARTHY HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Brendan stands before his class. The chalkboard behind is covered with slogans, diagrams. On one side an orange flag, on the other a large picture of The Leader.

BRENDAN

...Most scholars agree that the Leader crystallized his political theory during the hardships of The Long March of May 2013....The Leader...

Laura is listening to his every word - momentarily distracting Brendan. Tommy, two rows behind, clocks Brendan's lapse.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRENDAN (CONT'D)

...Er...The Leader had an instinctual revulsion of the cities, to quote, "Cities were thought to be vessels for civilization, but with civilization came the twin evils of decadence and despair."...

JED is focussed on a A BUG that has dared to stray onto his desk; he herds it with his pencil. He presses the tip of his pencil on its back... the bug caves in. He looks around for another distraction...starts to tap the chair of the girl in front with his foot.

BRENDAN (CONT'D)

And from this realization The Great Leader came to liberate us from Disease of Thought, and the Sick-ness of free-association.

REBECCA - an earnest girl with black plastic glasses - sitting directly in front of Jed, pipes up.

REBECCA

Blessed be The Leader for making it so!

A chorus of her crew chime in on auto-pilot.

CHORUS

Blessed be the Leader! Blessed be The Leader!

Other students punch the air, WHOOP and HOLLER...

REBECCA

(to Jed, re him kicking her chair)

Can you stop that, Jed!?

The class teacher, MR. EMERSON - 28, an earnest looking clean cut young man - gets the class back on track.

MR. EMERSON

Okay, okay. Please Brendan continue. We only have a few more minutes...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BRENDAN

...Then followed the "Great March" through the Mid-West to establish the glorious Freestate. Many agree that the most dangerous part of this was crossing the Mississippi river over the Golden Bridge. It must have been a heroic task. My dad visited the Golden Bridge. He said they were getting shot at the whole time, so I figure maybe it took a couple of days...

A MUMBLING of dissent.

TOMMY

You re-writing the Orange Book now genius?

BRENDAN

No. I ain't saying that. I reckon maybe it was...an approximation or something.

A hush and look of shock on the students' faces.

CONNOR

What do you mean you frickin' queer? An approximation? It says it in the Orange Book. That's what happened, dude.

He picks up his Orange Book and throws it at him. It hits Brendan on the forehead. Half the students in the room start up and start jeering at Brendan. Mr. Emerson pushes Brendan back down in his seat.

MR. EMERSON

Clearly there's some errant thinking going on here young man. You're way off and I think the class knows it. You really need to do some serious self-struggling.

He looks at Brendan seriously.

MR. EMERSON (CONT'D)

I don't think you're really aware how bad 'dis-ease' was. I think you need to do a home study with...(looking around)  
...Laura.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MR. EMERSON (CONT'D)

Maybe she can knock some sense into  
that wooden head of yours. Do you  
mind Laura?

LAURA

No Mr. E. "Dis-ease" is my favorite  
subject. After "Leaderthought".

A five note CHIME. The corridor fills noisily with high  
school KIDS.

**FOLLOW THE LEADER - PART 3**

EXT. MCCARTHY HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Sunshine dapples the school buildings.

INT. MCCARTHY HIGH SCHOOL, A CORRIDOR -DAY

The high school corridor is busy with students. Rebecca catches up with Brendan.

REBECCA

If your having trouble with your self-struggle, Brendan, maybe you should come to one of our assemblies. I had some problems last year and it really cleared things up for me. It's not all serious, and we're not all geeks. Come, it's fun.

BRENDAN

I might do that sometime.

As Brendan walks off, Jed takes his place. He stares at the pretty BRITTANY, whilst talking to REBECCA.

JED

Can I join your club?

JED (CONT'D)

I hear it's a riot.

REBECCA

Jed...

BRITTANY

Just disappear, Jed.

REBECCA

You wouldn't like it. It's not...your thing.

JED

Oh, what's my thing?

REBECCA

You're-

BRITTANY

-Come along if you think you'll like it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She glances conspiratorially at Rebecca.

BRITTANY (CONT'D)  
We meet every Thursday...in the  
library.

JED  
Thursday. In the library.

BRITTANY  
You do know where the library is..?

Jed smirks, stares at Brittany for an uncomfortably long moment, sizing her up with dead eyes...

JED  
...You're pretty.

He slouches off. The girls break into GIGGLES.

REBECCA  
Oh my God, Brittany. What's he  
going to do to you?

BRITTANY  
He wouldn't dare. Emerson says  
that if he gets one more demerit  
he'll be sent to the war zone.

EXT. GAMES YARD, MCCARTHY HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

After school. Football practice, led by Emerson. Fifteen students line up in two teams.

EMERSON  
OK. Let's try this defence tactic  
again.

TOMMY and CONNOR glance at JED and a smirk passes between them. The ball is thrown to JED who runs at them with it. Connor trips him and Tommy lands heavily on top of him, crushing his head against the ground. Tommy gets up slowly, looking at Jed prostrate on the ground.

TOMMY  
Sorry dude.

JED  
Get off me, you jerk!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOMMY

Listen Freakshow, you gotta control that dribbling mouth of yours. It's disgusting and upsetting the girls.

As Tommy gets up he places himself between Jed and Emerson, kicking Jed in the ribs as he does so. Jed doubles up, gasping for breath.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

You trying to say something buddy?

Laura sits in the bleachers with a couple of girlfriends - having totally missed the action down below. LAURA is instead looking at Emerson on the edge of the pitch.

BRITTANY

He's dreamy, don't you think?

LAURA

Mr. Emerson?

BRITTANY

Come on, I've seen you in class, always sitting by the front, ever since he arrived.

There's a shout from the pitch. Connor launches the football into the air. Tommy sprints to intercept it...Reaches for it...traps it easily. The girls in the bleachers look over and applaud.

EXT. A SUBURBAN STREET IN FREETOWN - DAY

Laura and Brendan walk the tree-lined streets of Freetown. The sun casts long afternoon summer shadows on the manicured lawns.

BRENDAN

It just doesn't make sense. How can half a million troops cross a bridge that small in a day?

LAURA

It's the People's Army. If that's what it says in the Orange Book, that's what happened. Anyway, were you there?

Brendan shrugs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRENDAN

Nope. But sometimes I wonder if the guys that wrote this book were there either.

LAURA

Look, the Leader was there and he wrote the book. If you don't believe it why don't you go and join the brave soldiers on the front. Then you can see for yourself what sacrifice is really about. You don't know anything about it.

Laura pushes in front of him, barely containing her annoyance, disappearing into the garden. Brendan is about to follow her when his phone chimes again. He dutifully opens up the message which reads: "The Leader is thinking so you don't have to." Now that he's by himself he shuts the phone, distinctly annoyed.

INT. THE LOWELL'S KITCHEN - DAY

The Lowells live in a chocolate box suburban house. MRS LOWELL is a conservatively dressed woman in her mid-forties with greying hair brushed back.

BRENDAN

Good evening Mrs Lowell.

MRS LOWELL

Evening Brendan. Study group?

Brendan nods and glances at Laura. She doesn't look happy.

MRS LOWELL (CONT'D)

What's the subject?

LAURA

"Dis-ease". Brendan doesn't realize the sacrifices some people have made for this country. Mr. Emerson wants me to help him do a self-struggle.

Brendan sits down at the kitchen table. Mrs Lowell is preparing some vegetables that she's assembling in a big pot on the stove.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MRS LOWELL

'Dis-ease' was a terrible thing. Back then, this town was riddled with it. It was a violent, crude, nasty place. There were bars, gambling, prostitution, drugs, guns, nothing mattered here. Now it's better. People know what to expect. People are happier. I like it this way.

**FOLLOW THE LEADER - PART 4**

INT. LAURA'S BEDROOM. NIGHT

Laura's bedroom is adorned with images of the Leader. By her bed is an alarm clock with his face on it. On the bed is a large collection of small orange bears. There is a computer on a desk that looks exactly the same as Brendan's. Laura and Brendan are watching a TV show about the daughter of the Leader.

LAURA

She's so great. Doing all the wonderful work that she does with those animals.

BRENDAN

Yeah she's really cool.

Brendan turns the sound down on the tv.

BRENDAN (CONT'D)

Maybe we should do the self struggle.

Laura stares at him impatiently.

LAURA

OK. I'm waiting.

Brendan takes in a deep breath.

BRENDAN

OK. Well it was an evil thing to doubt the fact that the glorious army crossed the Golden Bridge in one day...but....Well, there's just certain things that no matter how I think about them, I don't get.

LAURA

Listen, dummie. It's not your *job* to think about them. That's why we have the Leader. That's his job.

BRENDAN

I guess if I understood the struggle better I'd be a better citizen.

Laura shrugs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LAURA

I don't think you understand the four rights. That's your problem.

BRENDAN

Yeah, I'm sure you got me there. I just don't follow some of the basics. Like, if he was in prison and they took everything away from him, how did he write the book?

LAURA

Are you now trying to say the Leader didn't write the Orange Book?

BRENDAN

I just don't get it. How do you write a book without a pen or paper?

LAURA

My father is local party secretary. If he heard what you just said, he'd...he'd have you arrested.

Brendan leans in, draws her towards him and kisses her deep on the lips.

LAURA (CONT'D)

What are you doing? Tommy will...

BRENDAN

Will what?

LAURA

Brendan Jones, I don't like what you're doing and I don't like what you're saying. You're scaring me.

EXT. A SUBURBAN STREET IN FREETOWN. NIGHT

MR EMERSON walks up a little winding path to his neatly laid out suburban house.

INT. EMERSON'S LIVING ROOM. NIGHT.

He's exhausted after a day's teaching. There's a drinks cabinet next to the window and Emerson pours himself a scotch. He takes a gulp and moves slowly to the window, peering nervously out to the street.

INT. EMERSON'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Emerson is crouched underneath his sink, turning a screwdriver, slowly prizing free a panel of wooden flooring.

INT. EMERSON'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT.

Mr Emerson sits down with several books under his arms. He turns out the lights and takes a small candle which he lights delicately. He opens up one of the books then glances up at the window furtively.

EXT. A STREET NEAR EMERSON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

LAURA walks along the tree-lined street. In the distance she can see a teacher, Miss Van Strattan. Miss Van Strattan stops in front of Mr Emerson's house. Mr Emerson opens the door and he quickly guides her inside.

LAURA approaches the house curiously. The front windows are drawn, but she can see something flickering from a window to the side. She pauses for a second, then gingerly edges down the path to the side window.

She peers through the window. Miss Van Strattan and Emerson are crouched round a candle, examining a book carefully, their eyes excited, turning the pages in wonder. Around them are other books, all different colors. Green, brown, red, faded and dusty. Laura stares mesmerized, shocked.

INT. THE SHOPPING MALL/INSIDE "THE FREEDOM BURGER COMPANY" - NIGHT

TOMMY and CONNOR are staring up at the backlit orange board, showing the different value meals available. Tommy turns to the server behind the bar. It's Brittany. She looks particularly cute, now in her "Freedom Burger" uniform.

TOMMY

Hey, baby. I got an idea. Why don't you and I get married?

BRITTANY

Come on Tommy. Give me your order. There's people in line.

TOMMY

OK. Give me a second here. Two Freedom burgers, and two orders of the special Victory Chicken Combo. I'm starving baby...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Laura walks in. Notices Tommy. Tommy winks at Brittany. LAURA pinches TOMMY.

LAURA  
Hey, mister. What are you doing?

TOMMY  
Just being friendly.

INT. TOMMY'S CAR, SHOPPING MALL CARPARK - NIGHT

TOMMY ravenously consumes his meal. LAURA'S food remains on her lap. She's deep in thought.

TOMMY  
How was the geek? I don't like you hanging out with that guy.

TOMMY throws his food aside and strokes Laura's body.

TOMMY (CONT'D)  
Did you miss me?

His hands start unbuttoning her shirt.

LAURA  
No, Tommy.

TOMMY  
Come on babe. We're practically married.

His hand slides inside her top. She pushes him away.

TOMMY (CONT'D)  
What's the matter with you?

LAURA  
I saw Miss Van Stratten go into Mr Emerson's house.

TOMMY claps enthusiastically.

TOMMY  
Good job. I was beginning to think he was a queer.

LAURA  
Just shuttup a second, will ya? I dunno why, but I looked inside the window. And there they were, all in front of them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOMMY

What?

LAURA

Books, Tommy. Books everywhere.  
....different colored books. Green  
ones, red ones, there were some  
blue ones as well. Kinda old and  
musty.

TOMMY

I knew that guy was a treacherous  
bastard.

LAURA

What should we do?

TOMMY

I know what to do. They trained us  
in the cadets for a situation like  
this.

He strokes her arm gently. His lips move towards her. They  
kiss passionately.

**FOLLOW THE LEADER - PART 5**

EXT. A PARK IN FREETOWN - NIGHT

KIDS skateboarding. This is the run down part of town. From beneath an underpass appears Jed. He's holding a bag in one hand. His left eye is bruised and swollen.

Jed unzips the holdall and takes out a gleaming silver box, a hard disk player. The KIDS eyes widen excitedly.

JED  
I found some "Raid".

KID 1  
How d'you get it?

JED  
I cracked one of the banned sites.

Jed presses play on the hard disk music player. Weird aggressive music echoes round the park. One of the kids runs over and presses stop on the machine.

KID 2  
You can't play that here. They'll arrest all of us and send us to the front.

Jed presses play again. Turns the music up to full volume.

KID 1  
You got some kinda death wish?

The KIDS run off under the bridge.

There are some houses on the side of the park and lights instantly go on in several upstairs windows.

Jed is balancing on the skateboard in rhythm to the music. There is a loud crackle and a voice is heard from a loudhailer attached to a tree.

LOUDHAILER  
Anti-social behavior is not tolerated in Freetown. Anti-social behavior is not...

Jed picks up the skateboard and hurls it at the loudhailer. It hits it and the two come crashing to the ground.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET. FREETOWN - MORNING

Students get on an orange school bus. The familiar five note chime.

LOUDHAILER

Welcome to another glorious day.  
Be thankful to the Leader for  
making it so. Today's thought: the  
enemy within.

INT. THE HEADMASTER'S OFFICE. MCCARTHY HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

The headmaster, Mr SPINOTTI, a severe looking man in a grey suit and Laura's father, Mr Lowell, the man we recognize from the Army photograph in the Lowell house, are seated. Tommy stands opposite them.

LOWELL

And the books were all different colors?

TOMMY

Absolutely, sir. Red and green and I think some brown ones too. Old.

The men glance at each other.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

The guy's a traitor, sir. He's working for the resistance.

HEADMASTER

OK. OK. What does the Party think?

MR LOWELL

This is an open and shut case of 'dis-ease'. I'm just grateful we can stop this man and his accomplice before he infects the whole school.

TOMMY

Do you want me to arrest him, sir?

HEADMASTER

Let's let the authorities deal with this. Go back to class. Say nothing.

Tommy salutes. Lowell stands to attention and salutes back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LOWELL  
Good work, soldier.

INT. CLASSROOM, MCCARTHY HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Every student has a little ORANGE BOOK in their hands. MR. EMERSON is on his feet wandering between them.

MR. EMERSON  
There's been a lot in the newspaper and on TV about subversives in the past few days so I thought we could talk today about how to spot a subversive. So maybe someone could tell us, what does a subversive look like?

BRITTANY puts her hand up eagerly.

BRITTANY  
You can always tell one. They look kinda greasy, shady.

REBECCA points, laughing.

REBECCA  
You just described Jed.

The class starts jeers.

JED  
I ain't a subversive.

Tommy puts his hand up.

EMERSON  
Yes, Tommy.

TOMMY  
Just like one of us. Me...or you. That's why they're so dangerous. Subversives look like anyone, Mr Emerson. But when you find one, wherever it's hiding, you gotta cut it out. It's like a boil, a sore. You know what I mean, sir?

EMERSON  
Thankyou Tommy. Very good.

The five note chime. The students get to their feet.

EXT. THE SCHOOL YARD - DAY

KIDS at play, milling about in groups.

A RUMBLE, in the distance...approaching. It's getting louder...more distinct. Brendan walks out of the school building and looks over.

KIDS drop balls, skipping ropes, stop whatever they are doing and gaze up. The noise of two large humvees with smoked black windows. Some of the YOUNGER KIDS look nervous, uncertain what to expect...Tommy stands boldly in the middle of the field.

TOMMY

It's okay...They're the army.  
They're here to protect us.

Mr. Emerson and the rest of the STAFF file into the yard.

The Humvees pass and pull up front of the school steps.

Jed smiles. He's getting-off on the army's arrival.

A group of TEACHERS approach.

The humvee doors open and out steps Commander Walsh - a toned man in his early 40's with a stern cold face, dressed in army fatigues.

COMMANDER WALSH

(shaking hands with the  
Principal Spinotti)  
Greetings from The Leader.

His TEAM disembark behind - a group of six men and women dressed in army fatigues. Two men in identical dark suits carry briefcases.

Brendan watches them make their way to the school buildings.

**FOLLOW THE LEADER - PART 6**

INT. MCCARTHY HIGH SCHOOL, EMERSON'S CLASSROOM - DAY.

Neatly dressed and arranged behind tables, the students each have a copy of the orange book in front of them as they listen intently to Emerson's lesson.

Emerson goes to the blackboard and writes a word on the board: "Purge".

MR. EMERSON

There's a word we'll be hearing a lot about in the coming months. Maybe someone could tell us about it.

REBECCA throws up her arm.

REBECCA

(reading)

"Purge: to rid oneself of a Diseased thought, feeling, memory, or condition, resulting in a sense of cathartic release and bliss."

MR. EMERSON

Excellent Rebecca. Does anyone want to tell the class how Purge relates to their daily life?

Sarah, a pale earnest girl, shoots her hand up.

MR. EMERSON (CONT'D)

Sarah.

SARAH

I purge my thoughts every morning. I suffer from chronic dreams when I sleep. The Healer prescribed Aderol but I still wake up with Diseased thoughts.

The door opens without warning. Commander Walsh enters. He is followed by the two men in dark grey suits and two soldiers.

COMMANDER WALSH

Stay seated. Relax, I don't want to disturb you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MR. EMERSON

We're honored to have you join us,  
Sir.

COMMANDER WALSH

I view it as a privilege to witness  
the personal growth of our  
children. Many lives are sacrificed  
at the front making our borders  
secure but it's here, in the  
classroom, that the real battle is  
won or lost...and it is where we  
need to be most vigilant. Isn't  
that right, Mr Emerson?...Carry on.

MR. EMERSON

Of course. So how do you rid  
yourself of these dreams, Sarah?

SARAH

Through pain.

Commander Walsh nods in agreement. Sarah holds her palms up  
for the class - DRIED BLOOD AROUND AN OOZING WOUND on each  
hand. Brendan notices Laura flinch while the rest of the  
class admire her devotion.

SARAH (CONT'D)

It's the only thing that works. I  
welcome the pain, it liberates me  
from Dis-ease.

MR. EMERSON

That's good, Sarah. Anyone else?

Commander Walsh raises his hand.

MR. EMERSON (CONT'D)

Commander..?

COMMANDER WALSH

What about you, Mr. Emerson?

MR. EMERSON

Me?

COMMANDER WALSH

How do you cleanse yourself when  
tempted by dis-ease?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MR. EMERSON

I'm not sure I quite follow,  
Commander.

Walsh gets to his feet...wanders around the class. He has a powerful presence. He chooses his words carefully, sombre but with a hint of a smile.

COMMANDER WALSH

It has been my life's work to purge  
subversive elements and Dis-ease  
within our system...I find Dis-ease  
everywhere, in the most unexpected  
places. I know where to look  
because I know what it feeds off.

(he has the classes full  
attention)

...You're lucky. Born after The  
Liberation...Many in my generation  
have been unable to rid themselves -  
to 'purge' themselves - of Dis-  
ease. But you must not feel sorry  
for the afflicted. Dis-ease festers  
with pity. Re-education is the only  
known hope...but it's not a course  
of treatment that works for  
everyone.

(a beat)

Dis-ease feeds on innocence. I'm  
sorry to inform you that subversion  
is happening right now...in this  
school...in this class.

The pupils look at each other surprised. Walsh turns and gives a nod to a soldier standing by the door. He ushers in TWO MORE, who are each carrying a box. They put them on the desk in front of Emerson. Walsh takes out a book from one of the boxes. Holds it aloft.

COMMANDER WALSH (CONT'D)

Please tell the class what this is  
Mr. Emerson.

Emerson is white with fear. Walsh runs the book under his nose...winces. Laura looks at Tommy, aghast. Tommy nods, self-satisfied.

COMMANDER WALSH (CONT'D)

...Mr. Emerson?

(looks up from the book)

You must recognize it, Mr. Emerson.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

COMMANDER WALSH (CONT'D)

...It's The Constitution of The  
United States of America. You may  
be aware that Freestate is no  
longer part of the United States of  
America.

Emerson drops to his knees, a blubbering, quivering wreck.

MR. EMERSON

I, I wasn't-

COMMANDER WALSH

You admit that these are yours too?

MR. EMERSON

Yes...

COMMANDER WALSH

Then at least there is hope.

(to his assistant)

Get him out of here.

Emerson is led away...MUTTERING apologies under his breath. A  
smile forms on Jed's face. His is the only one.

**FOLLOW THE LEADER - PART 7**

EXT. MCCARTHY HIGH SCHOOL

The day is drawing to a close, the sun setting behind the school buildings.

INT. MCCARTHY HIGH SCHOOL, CORRIDOR - DAY

Emerson is manhandled down the school corridor by two soldiers. He looks terrified.

INT. MCCARTHY HIGH SCHOOL, MR EMERSON'S CLASS - DAY

A sits at the back of the class, smiling contentedly. The rest of the class look nervous.

COMMANDER WALSH

Today is a momentous day. The Great Leader, in all his wisdom, has decreed exams are an abuse of students by Subversives and therefore will be abolished. And, as of this moment, school is suspended! ...Blessed be The Leader for making it so!

CHORUS

Blessed be the Leader! Blessed be The Leader!

Walsh readies to leave.

TOMMY

...Sir? What do we do now?

REBECCA

Yeah?

COMMANDER WALSH

Follow the Leader. You'll know what is right...you're innocent. ...Public denunciations are taking place tomorrow in the gymnasium. I doubt any of you are old enough to remember one...should be a real show. You can all help by writing personal denunciations. This is your chance to tell the community what you've been through.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COMMANDER WALSH (CONT'D)

How your innocent minds have been abused by tricksters and con-men. Be diligent, be angry. Don't be afraid to express your rage. It's the last homework assignment you'll have. Make the Leader proud.

Walsh and his two colleagues file out. Tommy leaps on a table and kicks some papers.

TOMMY

No more school!

CONNOR

All right!

Brendan looks out of the window...

Sees Mr.Emerson, Miss Van Strattan and some of the other teachers being led away.

EXT. MCCARTHY HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Students lounge around on the steps and lawn outside the main entrance. It's like a party.

Brendan collects his BMX from the bike rack.

INT. KITCHEN, BRENDAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Brendan stands in front of the TV.

ON THE TV: The news report shows a school just like Brendan's - STUDENTS milling around just having fun. Other shots show adults/teachers being led away. A reporter interviews some of the students.

Brendan's mother joins her son.

ON TV:

REPORTER

What do you think of the Leader's decree to suspend schooling?

STUDENT#1

Dude, the man's a god!

STUDENT#2

I think it's awesome. There are a lot of teachers out there that are kind of shady.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STUDENT#2 (CONT'D)

We trusted these guys and look how they treated us...

REPORTER

(turning to camera)

We still don't have the full picture of what is happening, but a press conference with The Leader is scheduled-

STUDENT CHORUS

Blessed be the Leader! Blessed be the Leader!

REPORTER

...Well, all I can report is that it's made these youngsters very happy! Back to you, Ken.

KEN, the anchor in the studio:

KEN

Thank you Peter.

(to the camera)

Today's events are part of a wide-reaching purge of all major institutions...Schools, colleges, factories, offices...We have to be vigilant to finally cleanse ourselves of the enemy within.

ON BRENDAN AND HIS MOTHER:

BRENDAN

It's happening everywhere.

INT. BRENDAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Like any other teenager's room - trophies, orange pendants...picture of the Leader on the wall.

On a study table by the window is a silver computer. It is sleek and modern with no markings apart from a small orange insignia. The computer screen is bordered by a web browser in the distinctive orange color of the state and in simple black letters across the top reads: "Freestate Computer Services. Watching you so you are never alone."

Brendan moves his cursor to the white in the middle of the orange border and writes a sentence...deletes it. Stares at the empty page. The soft MURMURING of his parents talking downstairs intrude on his thoughts.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He creeps across the floor to where it meets the wall. There he kneels to the level of an air-vent. He gently pushes the vent open...puts his ear to the grill.

BRENDAN'S FATHER (O.S.)  
 ...I don't know, it's just what I  
 picked up. I wasn't in the room.

BRENDAN'S MOTHER (O.S.)  
 Well, how many? Anyone we know?

INT. LIVING ROOM, BRENDAN'S HOUSE

BRENDAN'S FATHER  
 Jeff Korsinski's name came up.

Brendan's mother is shocked and angry.

BRENDAN'S MOTHER  
 I knew those two weren't real  
 patriots. And to think they used to  
 eat dinner in our house. In this  
 this very room!

Brendan enters, startling his parents.

BRENDAN'S MOTHER (CONT'D)  
 What is it Brendan?

BRENDAN  
 I'm having trouble with my  
 assignment.

BRENDAN'S FATHER  
 School's been suspended.

BRENDAN  
 We're supposed to write a  
 denunciation of Mr Emerson.

BRENDAN'S MOTHER  
 So?

BRENDAN  
 I can't think of anything.

BRENDAN'S MOTHER  
 He had a forbidden book didn't he?

BRENDAN  
 Yeah, but he never did anything  
 subversive...nothing that I saw.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRENDAN'S MOTHER

Well...just make something up.  
He's all ready been found guilty,  
so...

BRENDAN'S FATHER

You don't want to stand there with  
nothing to say.

BRENDAN

You want me to lie?

BRENDAN'S FATHER

It's not lying. It's confirming  
what we already know.

INT. THE LOWELL'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mr and Mrs Lowell and Laura sit at the kitchen table.

MR LOWELL

Dear Leader, thank you for the food  
we are about to eat and the hope  
you have given us.

The other two repeat the words under their breath. Laura  
doesn't touch her food. She looks worried, distracted.

LAURA

Do you think he'll come back to  
school after re-education?

MR LOWELL

We just don't know. He's pretty far  
gone.

Tears well up in her eyes.

MR LOWELL (CONT'D)

You did the right thing. He will  
thank you for it in the long run.

**FOLLOW THE LEADER - PART 8**

EXT. STREET - DAY

Sunlight streams through the blooming trees. Attached to a lamp post is an orange tannoy speakers - five note CHIME:

THE LEADER (O.S.)  
 An important day, Freetown.  
 Everyone must play their part.  
 Action is called for: be violent.

EXT. MCCARTHY HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Students excitedly draw up on bikes and in cars. Brendan parks his bike in the last remaining space in the bike rack. The distant shrill and beat of a MARCHING BAND reaches his ears. He looks up with foreboding.

INT. GYMNASIUM, MCCARTHY HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

A carnival. Barely room to spit.

The school's MARCHING BAND, dressed in full orange regalia, struts its stuff to one side. Everyone is fired-up, hands in the air, BAYING FOR BLOOD.

ON THE STAGE: Six TEACHERS and ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF are forced to stand - Mr. Emerson is one of them, bloodied and bruised, Miss Van Strattan another. Each has glue poured over their shaved heads and wearing dunce hats. They're held tightly by a couple of students. Placards around their necks with slogans: 'QUESTION NOTHING!', 'KNOWLEDGE IS DIS-EASE!', 'I POISONED MY STUDENTS'.

Commander Walsh is speaking into a mic. The Principal stands to the side, shifting nervously from one foot to the other.

Brendan pushes his way through the crowd. He spots Laura with Brittany and Rebecca not far from the stage...

BRENDAN  
 (shouting)  
 Where's Tommy?

She points at the stage, shocked by what's going on. On the stage, Tommy is holding both Miss Van Stratten's arms up in a jet-plane position, forcing her down in agony. Jed and Connor hold Mr. Emerson in a shoulder-lock.

BRENDAN (CONT'D)  
 What's happening?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Before she can answer...

COMMANDER WALSH  
 (speaking over the PA  
 system)  
 Look at them...They look kinda  
 pathetic now, don't they. They,  
 who thought they could fool  
 you...how stupid they were!

The crowd CHEER.

COMMANDER WALSH (CONT'D)  
 Let's begin. Who wants to start the  
 denunciation.

A cheer goes up again as Jed releases his grip and approaches  
 Walsh. Walsh gleefully hands the microphone to Jed.

JED  
 I always knew there was something  
 wrong with Mr. Emerson. And he knew  
 it. That's why he wanted to expel  
 me!

The crowd BOO, further revving Jed.

JED (CONT'D)  
 He used to make things up about  
 me...give me detention so I'd have  
 to stay behind after school. That's  
 when he showed me them books. I was  
 sick to my stomach. He tried to  
 make me read one of 'em. I wouldn't  
 do it.

BRENDAN  
 (to Laura)  
 He's crazy.

JED  
 Every time I refused he gave me a  
 demerit.

PERSON IN CROWD  
 Lynch him! String him up!

BRENDAN  
 (to Laura)  
 What?! This is insane.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

PERSON IN CROWD  
No! Cut him! Castrate the  
subversive!

Jed hands the mic back to Walsh and baths in his new-found  
glory...his eyes land on Brendan a few feet from the stage.

COMMANDER WALSH  
...Who else? Step up, this is your  
time!

JED  
(shouting)  
Brendan!  
(pointing)  
Brendan Jones was his  
favorite...let him speak!

COMMANDER WALSH  
(bellowing over the PA)  
Brendan...where is Brendan Jones?

Brendan is shoved towards the stage. Walsh crouches  
down...offers up the microphone.

JED  
Say something you idiot!

The crowd CHEER...

...it fades as Brendan stands mute.

LAURA  
(*soto*: to Brendan)  
Say something!

COMMANDER WALSH  
Brendan..? Do you want to tell us  
something?

The moment feels like forever...

LAURA  
(shoving Brendan aside,  
snatching the mic)  
He made a joke about the glorious  
Leader.

The crowd goes bananas again...some throw objects at the  
stage. Laura pushes past Brendan...storms off. Brendan runs  
after her.

**FOLLOW THE LEADER - PART 9**

EXT. MCCARTHY HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

A thin plume of smoke is rising from behind the school. The skyline looks ominous.

INT. MCCARTHY HIGH SCHOOL. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE THE GYM - DAY

Laura runs from the gymnasium. Brendan chases after her, catches hold of her...swings her around to face him.

BRENDAN

What are you doing?!

LAURA

Saving your neck! Don't you get it? It doesn't matter what anyone says in there...I saw him with my own eyes. He had them all. He was caught red-handed.

Brendan is shocked.

BRENDAN

You...?

LAURA

Yes it was me. I was disgusted. I'm glad this is happening. Now we can be safe from dis-ease.

INT. GYMNASIUM, MACARTHY HIGH SCHOOL

In a lapse moment, Emerson somehow breaks free. Before anyone beyond the immediate bystanders realizes, he has made it to the gymnasium doors. A few KIDS give chase, alerting Jed. He spins around, flies after Emerson.

INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE THE GYM

BAM! The gym doors burst open...

In a blind panic, Emerson almost stumbles into them running as fast as his legs will carry him.

Two, three, six, nine...a GANG of kids pile after him.

...Jed, hot on their heels.

Brendan and Laura follow.

EXT. GAMES YARD, MCCARTHY HIGH SCHOOL

Emerson gasps for air...stumbles...

The gang is upon him...running alongside, cruelly letting him run his last steps, taunting him with the possibility of escape.

He trips...falls, his face hitting the dirt. He's surrounded by a group of students - smiling, excited faces.

Suddenly a space around Emerson opens up.

Jed circles the prone Emerson, cutting a swathe through the crowd like a shark through a school of white-bait...biding his time, choosing his moment.

Utterly helpless, Emerson persists in trying to crawl away.

Jed snatches a BASEBALL BAT from a grubby 12-YEAR-OLD. He uses it to poke and prod Emerson.

MR. EMERSON

...Please...please...don't...I'm  
sorry...I...

JED

What was that, Mr. Emerson? You're  
sorry? No, Mr. Emerson, you're not  
sorry...but you will be!

CROWD GUY (O.S.)

Confess your crimes, Emerson.

JED

So, you like to infect our young  
brains with your trash. Make us  
impure and vile like you, Mr.  
Emerson?

MR. EMERSON

...Please...

JED

That's not the correct answer, Mr.  
Emerson...You're not very good at  
this Mr. Emerson. I think I'm  
going to have to punish you.

Brendan breaks into the circle. Jed glares at him.

OUTSIDE THE CROWD:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Laura can't see through the mass of bodies. She hides her face in her hand, CRYING.

IN THE CIRCLE:

Jed gazes at the FACES in the crowd - they're hungry for blood.

BRENDAN

Jed.

JED

(to Emerson)

Get up! You bastard, get up! You lazy-!

Emerson lies prone in ball, shaking.

JED (CONT'D)

I ordered you to get up!

Emerson just about manages to haul himself onto his knees. Jed offers the baseball bat to Brendan.

BRENDAN

You're out of your tiny mind.

JED

You're Dis-eased.

STUDENTS

Finish him! Do him!

Jed lifts the bat. Emerson covers his eyes. He's about to bring it down, but pauses and smiles.

JED

Take him back to the gym. We need to find out who his accomplices are. A class in re-education ought to loosen his tongue.

Jed bends down to Emerson lying on the ground.

JED (CONT'D)

Ain't that right, Mr E?

The students haul him up and take him away. Jed turns to Brendan.

JED (CONT'D)

I'm worried about you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Jed leads the students and Emerson back to the gymnasium. Brendan stays put as the crowd starts to disperse. A couple of the GUYS spit on Brendan as they pass.

OUTSIDE THE CIRCLE

Laura is buried in Tommy's chest, enveloped by his arm.

TOMMY

Babe...why are you crying? What's wrong?

(to a guy in the crowd)

Did you get him?

GUY

Fuckin' A.

TOMMY

Good job. Laura..?

LAURA

I didn't mean for this to happen.

TOMMY

This is nothing. This is just the beginning. Don't you see? The Leader is burying the past...wiping out old ways, old thinking. We are the future, Laura. It's ours. We answer to no one except The Leader.

(looks her in the eye)

...Laura, I love you. I want us to get married.

LAURA

Tommy...

TOMMY

We don't have to make it a big deal...but I think it's important. In these uncertain times, it's important to commit. For us...for the future.

(hugs her)

LAURA

Tommy, I'm scared.

TOMMY

It's okay to be afraid. The Leader says, 'Fear is the ammunition of the nation'.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

TOMMY (CONT'D)

...I'm not going to let anything  
happen to you, Laura. I love you.

Laura's and Tommy's cell phone ring in unison. They open up  
the identical message.

CELLPHONES

"Show no mercy. Together we will  
destroy subversives".

**FOLLOW THE LEADER - PART 10**

EXT. MCCARTHY HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

OTHER SIDE OF THE FIELD

SMOKE rises from one of the upper windows. SOMEONE IS THROWING BUNDLES OF PAPERS from another.

Brendan starts to walk across the field towards the school...somewhere in the distance, the marching band STRIKES UP again.

EXT. MCCARTHY HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

On his way to the bike rack, Brendan observes...Tommy talking with the Commander and the school Principal. At one point the Commander puts his hand on Tommy's shoulder. Their conversation ends with Tommy giving the Commander a stiff salute...the Commander responds in kind. Tommy shakes the Principal's hand.

Brendan pulls his bike out of the rack.

SCHOOL GATE

Eric - one of Tommy's crew - and a couple of other kids - KELSEY and VAUGHN - from Brendan's year linger around the gate. They're jubilant, joking around. Eric spots Brendan...his demeanor shifts.

ERIC

Where are you going?

Kelsey and Vaughn encircle Brendan. Intimidating.

BRENDAN

Haven't you heard? School's been suspended until further notice.

ERIC

Nobody's to leave. There's work to be done.

BRENDAN

Who says?

ERIC

Tommy.

A stand off...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRENDAN

...The Orange Book says; "The Commander teaches the Soldier how to be, but the Soldier teaches the Commander how to do."...Does that make things clearer?

ERIC

Huh?

BRENDAN

It means go fuck yourself, Eric.

Vaughn SNIGGERS. Brendan pushes through them.

ERIC

(calling out)

Let's see if you're such a smart-ass when I report you!

Eric glares at Vaughn.

EXT. GAMES YARD, MCCARTHY HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Laura picks paper off the floor of the basketball court. A BONFIRE rages in the middle. Sarah and Brittany run around, gleefully catching paper as it floats down from the upper floor. Sarah tosses her catch onto the burning pyre. She returns to Laura, examining a PIECE OF PAPER that she spared from the flames.

She hands Laura the paper.

SARAH

You got a Distinction....97.2 grade average! That must be some kind of record.

Whoever assessed Laura's paper has scrawled 'EXCELLENT!' on the front page. Downcast, she walks over to the fire and throws it on the pile...watches as the flames take hold of it.

INT. LIVING ROOM, BRENDAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Brendan's mother sits in an armchair, darning a pair of pants under a standing lamp. A CREEK from above causes her to stop, glance up.

INT. OUTSIDE BRENDAN'S ROOM, BRENDAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A tray containing a covered plate sits on the floor. Brendan reaches out, pulls the tray into his room... Closes the door.

INT. LIVING ROOM, BRENDAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Brendan's father can be HEARD coming through the front door. He enters the living room.

BRENDAN'S FATHER

They've been questioning everyone.  
Lucy Fisher is dead. She jumped  
off the roof...

BRENDAN'S MOTHER

She was one too?

BRENDAN'S FATHER

They asked me to formally denounce  
Jeff. In front of the whole  
workforce.

(she looks away)

...I have to give them an answer  
tomorrow.

For the first time Mrs Jones looks shaken. She stands, touches his face. He puts a reassuring arm on her shoulder. They hug.

BRENDAN'S FATHER (CONT'D)

We'll be fine. It's not us. We've  
done nothing wrong.

There's a tear in her eye.

The DOORBELL sounds.

Brendan's parents fearfully look at each other. Brendan's mother calmly goes to the door.

INT. FRONT DOOR, BRENDAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

She opens the door to JEFF KORSINSKI, his eyes nervously darting back to the road.

BRENDAN'S MOTHER

You can't come in.

JEFF KORSINSKI

I need to speak to Ken.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRENDAN'S MOTHER  
You're going to get everyone in  
trouble.

Brendan's father appears.

JEFF KORSINSKI  
...Ken.

INT. BRENDAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Brendan listens intently to a SUPPRESSED ARGUMENT going on  
down stairs. The door SLAMS SHUT.

Brendan goes to his window, peers out, sees...Jeff Korsinski  
marching away down the drive. He turns back to the house and  
shouts at the closed door.

JEFF KORSINSKI  
Hey Ken! It's not just me. They'll  
get us all in the end. Just you  
watch, buddy! Just you watch.