

INT. NEIL'S BASEMENT - NIGHT

NEIL and STEFAN are sitting on a couch playing Halo 3; both are 18 years old and dressed in graphic tees and hoodies like all high school kids circa 2014.

LUKE

You're actually garbage at this game.

STEFAN

Says the fucking moron with the rocket launcher- get the fuck over here with the Hornet.

LUKE

Not if you're just going to blow us up again.

STEFAN

I've never even done that once.

LUKE

End it.

STEFAN

I'll end your mom.

LUKE

My mom's dead.

STEFAN

Yeah, I said I'd end her.

LUKE

Okay, once I land the Hornet get in and I'll dump you on top of the Scarab so we can skip that bullshit with the --

-- Luke throws his controller at Stefan as both of them explode in the game.

LUKE (CONT'D)

You're actually the dumbest of dumb fucking morons.

STEFAN

We've played through that level so many times- we need a new game bruh.

LUKE

This is the only game that isn't shit- Lucas took the rest to Harvard.

Luke stands up and walks over to a dresser where he starts digging through games.

STEFAN

I can never get over how Anne and Peter named their twins Luke and fucking Lucas- how high were they during the pregnancy and then immediately after up until they had to sign the birth certificate?

LUKE

I don't know; they're both upstairs you should go ask them.

STEFAN

Did he leave World at War?

Luke throws a copy of NBA 2009 at Stefan. Stefan takes one glance at it before trying to throw it back into the dresser from where he's sitting on the couch; he misses the shot. He then quickly gets up and goes to help Luke look for games.

STEFAN (CONT'D)

So just because Lucas jet off to school a week before you did, he thought it would be okay to deprive me of entertainment?

LUKE

I guess so- I'll have to call him up and let him know he needs to come back ASAP.

STEFAN

Did he leave Smash at least? What an asshole move, to take all the good games- especially when he knows you'll be on suicide watch at that dump Harbourfront in a month.

Luke stops searching through the dresser and flips up the cushioned coffee table in front of the couch they were just sitting on.

LUKE

Um, I'll have you know that Harbourfront has been called 'the world's most best university, yes it is, yes it is the world's best'.

STEFAN

That's high praise for an adult day-care, I will give you that.

Luke closes the coffee table and throws himself back on the couch. Stefan stops searching the dresser as well and sits back on the couch.

LUKE

I thought I had Smash, fuck.

STEFAN

Sucks to suck. Playing that at Taylor's was always pretty fun besides the --

LUKE

-- Oh, fuck, yeah I lent it to him years ago. Before the kid got sus as fuck.

Stefan turns to face Luke.

STEFAN

Man, are you kidding me? That's worth at least five hundred on Ebay now.

LUKE

Shut the fuck up.

Stefan pulls out his phone and starts frantically typing.

STEFAN

Kount-kuskula-sixty-nine-eleven calls it a 'classic' and has it listed at five hundred and fifty.

Stefan holds up his phone with the listing by KountKushula6911 selling Super Smash Brothers Melee.

STEFAN (CONT'D)

He's a trusted seller too so you know  
it's legit.

Luke tries to grab the phone to take a closer look but Stefan holds it in place once Luke gets his hands on it. Luke leans in and looks at the listing.

LUKE

I'm not going to do anything to your  
phone. Jesus.

Luke lets go of Stefan's phone and sits back down.

LUKE (CONT'D)

But fuck you weren't kidding.

STEFAN

Yeah, see. I do know some things.  
That's why I'm going to Northwestern.

LUKE

We haven't talked to Taylor in years  
though, not since he started hanging  
out with the narcs. And his dad's  
whole germaphobe thing.

STEFAN

That doesn't matter- how're you going  
to afford meth at Harbourfront  
without that game? You'll feel so  
left out. Plus- why would he even give  
it to you? If I found out I was sitting  
on that I'd just tell you I 'lost' it  
if you came looking. Especially if I  
were him and you were you, because,  
you know, that whole 'stole his  
girlfriend' thing.

LUKE

I mean, that could be more than enough  
beer money for the first few months-  
I could put off getting a job for a  
semester, maybe. Meth too though of  
course.

STEFAN

Okay, just tell him some bullshit to

get in his house then nab the game,  
vro.

LUKE  
Yeah, I'll probably get around to it  
in a few days.

Both of them lie back into the couch and stare at the ceiling.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
Got any weed?

STEFAN  
For you? You wish idiot.

EXT. TAYLOR'S HOUSE - DAY

Luke and Stefan pull up to Taylor's house in Stefan's car. It comes to a stop in front of the driveway.

STEFAN  
So you just told him you wanted to  
'hang out'? That's so weak bruh he'll  
know something's up.

Luke opens the car door and sticks his foot out over the driveway.

LUKE  
What else was I going to tell him?  
It's not like this is fucking Ocean's  
Eleven. I'll be out of that freak show  
in five minutes if you remember to  
call when I text you.

A car comes roaring down the street.

STEFAN  
Well it better work since you owe me  
half for driving you.

Luke starts to maneuver his way out of Stefan's car as the other car comes to a stop dangerously close to Stefan's car.

LUKE  
Fuck no.

STEFAN

Hey- how many friends would drive you  
to and from a heist like this?

The car starts blaring its horn at Stefan's car blocking  
Taylor's driveway. Luke gets out of Stefan's car and stands on  
the driveway.

STEFAN (CONT'D)  
Who the fuck is that --

-- Stefan blares his own hoar and slams his hand against his  
window trying to give the other driver the finger, not realizing  
his own mirror wasn't rolled down. He spins around and points  
his finger at Luke as he drives off.

STEFAN (CONT'D)  
You owe me half!

Luke gives Stefan the finger as he speeds off, and he gets out  
of the way of the other car as it pulls into the driveway. The  
driver is Taylor's dad, DAVE. He's heavyset, roughly 45 years  
old, and wearing a suit. Also, around his face he's wearing a  
surgical mask. Dave gets out of his car and approaches Luke,  
walking briskly.

DAVE  
Hey Luke. Here to see Taylor? Sorry,  
got to get inside.

LUKE  
Yeah, sorry he's --

-- Dave blows past Luke and straight into his house. He motions  
for Luke to follow him inside.

INT. TAYLOR'S HOUSE (ENTRYWAY) - DAY

Luke follows Dave inside and Dave shuts the door behind him.  
The cupboard next to the front door has on it a box of disposable  
plastic gloves, a box of surgical masks, and an anti-bacterial  
spray bottle.

DAVE  
Taylor! You didn't lock the door!  
Take your shoes off.

Luke, a little flustered, takes his shoes off. Dave does the  
same. Dave places his shoes on a plastic mat, then does the same

with Luke's shoes after putting on a pair of plastic gloves. Dave takes the mask he came in wearing off and swaps it out for a new one from the cupboard; he holds his breath as he does this. He then picks up the spray bottle and sprays both pairs of shoes.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Taylor! Your friend is here! One for  
good measure --

-- Dave sprays the bottle once into the air above his head. Dave motions to Luke using the bottle.

DAVE (CONT'D)

You?

LUKE

I'm good.

DAVE

When was the last time you flew?

LUKE

...six years? I went across the  
country for my brother's --

DAVE

-- You should be fine.

Dave puts the spray bottle down. TAYLOR comes downstairs; he's 18 years old, wearing solid colors, and has a surgical mask on.

TAYLOR

Hey Luke! How's --

DAVE

-- Can you get Luke a mask?

TAYLOR

Oh, yeah, Luke if you don't remember  
--

LUKE

-- Oh don't worry I remember.

Luke goes over to the cupboard and puts on a mask.

DAVE

You can't forget to lock the door like  
that, someone could walk in without

being processed.

TAYLOR

Sorry, Dad. I must have forgot on my way in.

DAVE

It's fine- just don't forget again. I'm going to the exclusion zone. You two have fun.

Dave wanders over into the living room where there is a massive plastic outcropping from the wall making a sort of makeshift clean room. He unzips the outer airlock, walks in, then zips it shut behind him.

LUKE

So, ha, it's been a long time man! How have --

TAYLOR

-- Let's go downstairs.

LUKE

Uh, sure, man.

As Luke follows Taylor to the stairs he trains his eyes on the makeshift tent Dave went into.

INT. TAYLOR'S HOUSE (BASEMENT) - DAY

Luke and Taylor make their way down the stairs into the basement. It's walls are covered completely in plastic and it gives off the aura of being completely sterile. Taylor takes his mask off as he walks down the stairs.

TAYLOR

You can take the mask off now. If you want.

LUKE

Are you sure? I remember you yelling at me to keep it on in here.

Taylor shoves his mask into his pocket and turns to face Luke now that they're at the bottom of the stairs.

TAYLOR



I realized that there weren't any germs to worry about a few years ago. My dad didn't like when I told him that, then a few months after I realized he doesn't leave the exclusion zone all that much so whatever.

LUKE

Oh- well that's good! I figured you'd still be in your dad's weird cult.

TAYLOR

Yeah.

Both of them start walking towards the couch and the television.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

I was kind of surprised you wanted to hang out- I mean I sort of told you I never wanted to see you again after that whole Justine thing --

LUKE

-- Yeah, I just figured since we were both going to university we could --

TAYLOR

-- But it's not a big deal anymore, that was like four years ago. Are you guys still together?

Taylor sits down on the couch and Luke hesitantly does the same.

LUKE

Uh, no, actually- we broke up a few weeks after we got together.

TAYLOR

Oh.

Luke instinctively checks his phone. There's one message from Stefan reading 'has mask boy glv3n u the game yit'. Luke quickly locks his phone and puts it back in his pocket.

LUKE

So what have you been up to? McGill's the dream, right?

TAYLOR

Not much. And uh, I didn't get in- I had to go with my last choice, Harbourfront.

Luke perks up.

LUKE

Oh, that's not all bad! I'm --

TAYLOR

-- I remember Stefan used to call it an adult day-care when I told him my sister was going there- he wasn't wrong.

LUKE

Fucking Stefan- how's Anne liking it anyway? I'm actually going to that dump too you know.

TAYLOR

Really?

LUKE

Yeah, really.

Luke checks his phone again. There's another message from Stefan reading 'call yet?'. He puts the phone down on his lap.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Want to play a game or something?

TAYLOR

That's cool! What residence- oh, sure!

Taylor jumps up and starts looking through a bin sitting next to his television.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

I'm in Sunset Hall- my dad kept calling the admissions people until they gave me a single room so he could turn it into a clean room.

LUKE

Oh, same. I got a double in Sunset though- do you still have that copy

of Smash? That was always lit.

TAYLOR

I'm definitely glad I won't have anyone for my dad to freak out, and I can just take all that stuff down when he leaves. Yeah, it's right here!

Taylor holds up Luke's copy of Super Smash Brothers Melee.

LUKE

Oh, dope- let's play that. I remember you used to play the world's worst Ice Climbers.

Luke reaches into his pocket and texts Stefan a message saying 'call now'.

TAYLOR

Says the world's worst Falco.

LUKE

Na, get fucked- Falco ran a train on the Ice Climbers every day for an entire Summer if my memory isn't trash.

Taylor loads his GameCube with the game disc.

TAYLOR

It's trash- I remember you whining like a bitch half the time. Must have sucked to cart this over to my house everyday just to get smoked.

Taylor turns on the GameCube and sits back down on the couch.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Anyway, we can see who's brain works good now.

LUKE

On my life it's not yours.

Both Taylor and Luke select their characters after the game boots up. Taylor picks the Ice Climbers and Luke picks Falco.

LUKE (CONT'D)

If I win this first game, you have to buy me a beer at Harbourfront.

TAYLOR  
Fine, but if I win, you get me one.

LUKE  
You're never seeing that beer.

Just as the round begins in the game, Luke's phone starts ringing.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
Oh, shit- this might be my Mom.

Luke pauses the game and puts his phone to his ear so only he can hear what Stefan is saying.

STEFAN (O.S.)  
Awasssuuhhhhhhhhh.

LUKE  
Yeah, Mom? Oh fuck I forgot- I'll be right there.

Luke hangs his phone up and puts it in his pocket. He stands up, putting down his controller.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
Fuck- I forgot to pick my sister up from her soccer game. I've got to bail. Do you mind if I snag Smash back from you?

TAYLOR  
Sure! That sucks about your sister- are you free later?

Taylor gets up and puts Smash back in its case.

LUKE  
I've got some lame, uh, family thing after- some dinner party or something.

TAYLOR  
Ah, lame. I can show you out- my dad should still be chilling so don't worry about the mask.

Taylor begins handing Luke the game.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

I've thought about selling this thing so many times- one of my friends told me it was like six hundred dollars on Ebay or something crazy.

Luke grabs the game and holds onto it.

LUKE

Are you serious? What kind of dumb fucker would buy a ten year old game for that kind of money.

TAYLOR

Or sell it!

LUKE

Right?

Both of them start walking back upstairs. On the way up Taylor starts slowing down to a stop.

TAYLOR

...You didn't just come over here to get the game, did you? You're not just going to sell the thing?

LUKE

Man, what? No- I wanted to just check in and then, you know, my sister --

TAYLOR

-- That kind of sounds like bullshit. Oh and the fake phone call too- nice one. Not sure why I thought you'd be any different after everything with Justine --

Luke turns around and faces Taylor from higher on the stairs.

LUKE

Oh fucking Justine- it's always Justine with you and it's been fucking years now.

Taylor starts walking up the stairs, Luke starts moving up as Taylor gains ground on him.

TAYLOR  
Just take your stupid game and go blow  
it on a bong or something.

LUKE  
You know what- I think I will.

Both of them storm up onto the main floor.

INT. TAYLOR'S HOUSE (ENTRYWAY) - DAY

Angrily, Luke and Taylor walk to the door.

TAYLOR  
Did you even feel bad- about what you  
did? Do you ever feel bad?

LUKE  
No, fuckhead. Why would I? Especially  
to someone who didn't talk to me for  
four --

DAVE (O.S.)  
-- Is everything okay out there?

There is some rustling within the clean room.

TAYLOR  
Nothing, Dad!

Taylor picks up Luke's shoes, yanks open the door, and throws  
them outside. He motions for Luke to leave.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
Thanks for the visit.

LUKE  
Fuck yourself.

Luke walks out of the house.

TAYLOR  
See you around campus.

Taylor slams the door.

EXT. TAYLOR'S HOUSE - DAY

Luke walks to collect his shoes, laying down the game on the ground as he ties them.

LUKE  
Fucking asshole...

Luke ties his shoes. He then picks up the game and goes to sit on the curb to wait for Stefan. He sits for a while and fiddles with the case. He opens it and inspects the disc. He checks his phone; there's a message sent five minutes ago from Stefan that says '1 min away'. He fiddles for another moment, then sighs and puts the disc back in the case, then walks back to Taylor's house and puts it in his mailbox. As he walks back towards the curb, Stefan pulls up in his car and rolls down the window.

STEFAN  
So? Mission complete?

LUKE  
Na, I never got the chance.

Luke opens the car door and gets in.

STEFAN  
You didn't get the chance? What does that even mean- couldn't handle that germaphobe shit? That always sussed me out.

Stefan starts driving away as Luke closes the door.

LUKE  
Yeah man it was too weird, I had to get out of there. His fuckin' dad's got this whole setup now that looks like something out of Quarantine.

STEFAN  
That's fucking wild.

LUKE  
Yeah, I'll just have to try and get it from him at Harbourfront- apparently he's going there too, and in the same residence as me.

STEFAN  
Bruh I told you Harbourfront is for

morons.

LUKE

Yeah.

Luke stares back at Taylor's house as they turn off his street.

THE END.