

SOS Pilot

written by

RYAN OSTROVSKY

ryan.ostrov@gmail.com
(818)431-1965
rybooks.com

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY

Mrs. Beansly is power-walking through the hallway in high heels holding a stack of papers. She turns a corner and we see Principal Martin ahead of her.

MRS. BEANSLY
Principal Martin! Principal Martin!

Martin notices her and picks up his pace to a fast walk. Mrs. Beansly begins to run, continuing call after him. Finally, she catches up with him.

MRS. BEANSLY (CONT'D)
(out of breath)
Principal Martin, I need to talk to you about the dance this Friday.

MARTIN
I'm sure everything is just fine, Mrs. Beansly. I trust you completely—

MRS. BEANSLY
But the band cancelled last minute, and—and the streamers are the wrong color—it's *enchantment under the sea* not *enchantment under the sea—and-by-the-way-there's-a-volcano—about-to-go-off!*

MARTIN
Now I'm very busy with um...

The history teacher, Prof. Binkley, is walking down the hallway.

MARTIN (CONT'D)
Dirk! Ready for our big meeting?

PROF. BINKLEY
Meeting? Oh god, did you email me? I really need to start checking my inbox. I have a third date tonight and I really think she might be the one—

MARTIN
Okay, okay. Get.

Prof. Binkley continues on. A beat.

MRS. BEANSLEY

Sir, I could really use your opinion on this matter. It's very important to the kids.

MARTIN

Okay, here's what's gonna happen. I'm putting you in charge of the dance party committee—

Mrs. Beansley can hardly contain her excitement.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

—which means, you get complete authority to do whatever you want. Cool?

MRS. BEANSLEY

Oh, but what about the band?

Martin is already down the hall.

MARTIN

I believe in you!

Mrs. Beansley stands there clutching her folders, staring at the abyss that faces her.

EXT. STREET

Supertitle: Candace and Jodi were running up and down the block.

CANDACE

I don't want to go to the mall today.

JODI

Why not? You don't like shopping anymore? I found a lot of really cute pieces at Brandy Melville last week, like, shoutout Brand Melville they got some great clothes.

CANDACE

Girl you know I can't shop there.

JODI

Again, why not? Isn't your new job paying stacks on stacks?

CANDACE

Car payments aren't cheap.
 (To the camera)
 she says being the girl everyone is
 dependent on to use her car.

CAR SEQUENCE

CANDACE

When we go to the movies? Whose car
 do we take? And who never pays for
 gas? [cue jeopardy-style theme]
 if you guessed, no one? You'd be
 right!

CANDACE (CONT'D)

And when we go out, who's the one
 that can't drink too much because
 they're driving everybody else's
 drunk ass home?

Jodi and Liz are on a table

*Candace is awkwardly sitting down, miming a 10x scaled down
 version of Jodi and Liz's exclamations.*

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY

John Simon is hanging out by his locker. He is studying the
 bracelet he had found that evening. He looks over. Olivia is
 chatting up Tommy.

Jessica approaches John Simon.

JESSICA

Hey John Simon!

JOHN SIMON

Aah!

JS gets scared and recoils (maybe landing in a karate pose?)

Jessica sighs.

JESSICA

So, the dance is tomorrow. And
 since you and Becky aren't a thing
 anymore...

JOHN SIMON

Oh yeah. That stupid thing?

Jessica's face drops.

JOHN SIMON (CONT'D)
 You know why is it that every time
 this school tries to force us into
 having a good time, it always
 involves poorly-designed light
 fixtures? Like, I'm sorry, I *do not*
 trust this school's lighting

JESSICA
 Yeah...I guess.

Mrs. Beansley approaches.

MRS. BEANSLEY
 I'm sorry to interrupt. John Simon
 can I speak with you.

JOHN SIMON
 Uh oh.

JESSICA
 Talk to you later.

JOHN SIMON
 Yeah, if I'm not crushed by a fill
 light.

Jessica watches him leave. Barbara giggles as she walks by.

JESSICA
 Oh what do you want, Barbara?

INT. MRS. BEANSLEY'S OFFICE

MRS. BEANSLEY
 John Simon, I've asked you in here—

JOHN SIMON
 Let me guess. Fishing accident?

MRS. BEANSLEY
 No—

JOHN SIMON
 And you need someone with master
 fishing skills?

MRS. BEANSLEY
 ..Are you done?

JS
 Yes.

BEANSLEY

Now I have been given the responsibility of choosing the musical performance for the Big Dance tomorrow.

JS

..Yes?

MRS. BEANSLEY

Well, I have seen you play guitar and you're not terrible.

JS

Say no more, Mrs. Beansley. I'll do it.

MRS. BEANSLEY

I haven't said you can do it yet!

JS

Oh, I'm gonna put a band together. It's gonna be great!

BEANSLEY

Wait! Urgh.

INT. HALLWAY

JS blows by Jessica, who is still waiting out there. Jessica sighs sadly.

JESSICA

Hey, Marley!

EXT. WOODS

Sheriff John Marsh and Deputy Bobby and Deputy Charlie are out inspecting the woods outside the party's house last Friday.

They are strolling along.

DEPUTY BOBBY

What exactly are we out here lookin for, Chief?

SHERIFF MARSH

I don't know. But I'd be kicking myself if there was something to find and we didn't at least look.

DEPUTY CHARLIE
Footprints, sign of a struggle,
maybe...

DEPUTY BOBBY
Wood elves

SHERIFF MARSH
This is interesting..

DEPUTY CHARLIE
What?

Sheriff Marsh bends down. There are some cornflowers placed
neatly in a pile.

DEPUTY CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Corn flowers.

SHERIFF MARSH
I've never seen these growing
around here.

DEPUTY BOBBY
They don't, sheriff. They're a
west-coast flower.

Sheriff Marsh turns around.

SHERIFF MARSH
Are you a botany expert?

DEPUTY BOBBY
I like to make it my business to
know about horticulture.

DEPUTY CHARLIE
Can you make it your business to
learn the law enforcement handbook?

INT. BURGER/SHAKE PLACE

Tommy, Sophie, Bart, Marnie, and Saucer are hanging around at
a table.

TOMMY
So, Sophie. Where you from?

SOPHIE
We're from California.

TOMMY

Oh wow. So what made you come all the way out here?

SOPHIE

My dad got shipped out here. He works in business.

BART

Business, eh?

Bart leans forward with a shady air.

BART (CONT'D)

You know, I've got some business of my own. If you're interested.

Sophie kind of gazes at him emptily. Bart slowly (somewhat dejectedly?) retreats back to his seat.

MARNIE

I'm fucking hungry. I could eat a cow. Oh wait, I'm about to. Haha.

The waitress comes over with the food.

MARNIE (CONT'D)

Food, food, food.

Saucer is celebrating as well.

WAITRESS

And I got a hot fudge for Saucer with extra nuts

SAUCER

Cuz I'm extra nuts for you, baby.

WAITRESS

Don't call me baby

SAUCER

Sorry

SOPHIE

Hey, I heard someone went missing? Becky Graham?

The others are still chewing their food.

SAUCER

Oh yeah. She still hasn't come back yet?

SOPHIE
Come back from where?

SAUCER
Oh, I don't know. You know Becky.

The others murmur in agreement (they know Becky).

SOPHIE
Oh. Okay. So this is like a normal thing?

TOMMY
Well, no. Not really. But like, come on. It's Becky.

Once again, they all nod their heads in agreement. (It's Becky).

SOPHIE
Oh yeah, cuz my dad heard about it he made it sound serious.

TOMMY
Let's put it this way. If Becky Graham doesn't show up *tomorrow night* at the Dance, I will let Saucer tickle me for an hour.

Saucer looks up from his burger, hope gleaming in his eyes.

MARNIE
Speaking of the dance, Sophie. Have you had any gentlemen callers?

SOPHIE
Oh, no callers. Not even a cold caller.

MARNIE
All the guys in this school have their balls cut off. No offense to present company. You should come with us. We're all going as a group.

SOPHIE
Oh, that'd be fun, thanks.

The Scarecrow leans over from the booth.

THE SCARECROW
And don't get into too much trouble now, ya hear?

SOPHIE
Who are you?

THE SCARECROW
I'm the Scarecrow.

SOPHIE
Oh...okay.

INT. BIG DANCE - NIGHT

Rizzo enters with Jessica. Followed by Theo, John Simon, and Marley.

JABARI
Okay, everyone meet on stage at 8:30.

MARLEY
Right behind you, chief.

JS
I'm keeping my eye out for this guy. Remember, tall, black coat.

THEO
Got you.

GYMNASIUM - CONTINUOUS
Candace is hanging out with Jodi and Liz.

Tommy is standing there talking to his friend.

TOMMY'S FRIEND
I'm gonna go spike the punch.

He leaves.

JODI
Oh my god. I think he's alone. I knew he didn't ask anyone.

CANDACE
Go *talk* to him.

JODI
But—

CANDACE
Go.

Candace nudges her. She starts walking and approaches Tommy.

JODI
Hey, Tommy.

TOMMY
Oh, hey Jodi. Man look at this place. Can you believe this is where Jim the Billygoat ate shit at my third grade playoff game?

JODI LAUGHS.
Candace and Liz are watching from afar.

CANDACE
Look at our little girl. All grown up.

LIZ
It feels like it was just yesterday she was peeing in her pants.

CANDACE
That was actually yesterday.

Jonny approaches them and puts his arms around them.

JONNY
Ladies, ladies. You are both looking extravagant as always.

CANDACE
Unhand me, pal.

LIZ
Yeah in your nightmares.

They walk off. Jonny sniffs and looks around, unbothered.

Principal Martin is standing idly. Mrs. Beansley approaches him.

MRS. BEANSLEY
Enjoying the dance?

PRINCIPAL MARTIN
Oh yeah. Having a blast.

CONTINUOUS

Olivia enters with Vivica.

LIZ
3 o'clock.

Candace stares Olivia down.

OLIVIA

At ease, carrot top. I'm just here for the drugs.

CONTINUOUS

John Simon, Theo, Marley, and Rizzo are preparing their equipment on the stage. There is feedback.

JOHN SIMON

Hello, everybody. If I could just get your attention.

Everyone stands and stares at the stage.

JOHN SIMON (CONT'D)

I am John Simon. This is Theo, Rizzo, Marley. We are...what's our band name again?

RIZZO

The Halloween Pumpkins

JOHN SIMON

What? That's a terrible name.

Everyone is standing expectantly. Someone coughs.

JOHN SIMON (CONT'D)

We are the Jack O' Lanterns.

Rizzo slaps his forehead.

RIZZO

Oh my god that's better.

JOHN SIMON

Alright. One two three four!

The boys play a song. It's epic. (Death Metal? Metallica/System of a Down?) People start dancing.

EXT./INT. SIMON HOUSE

Joe knocks on the door. He is rehearsing himself. Cindy opens, with prefab sternness.

JOE

Hey. Mark home?

CINDY

No.

JOE

Anyway, just dropping this off.

Joe hands her an envelope with the alimony. Cindy takes it, crosses her arms.

CINDY

I don't need your charity.

JOE

It's not charity. I'm keeping up my end of the bargain.

Joe starts to walk down the path. Cindy watches him. Joe turns around to say something. Suddenly..

INT. GYMNASIUM - 15 YEARS EARLIER

Joe and Cindy are transported to their high school dance. Young Joe is caught by Young Cindy's beauty. A sweet song is playing. He nervously approaches her and they dance together.

EXT. GYMNASIUM - PRESENT DAY - NIGHT

Outside the Big Dance, JAMES and PERRY are drinking booze out of paper bags.

JAMES

What's the deal with Palo Alto?
Like, is it desert?

PERRY

I'm not sure but-but my dad has a house there.

Someone is standing, watching from farther away.

JAMES

Hold on I'm gonna take a piss.

PERRY

I gotta go too.

They approach the man.

JAMES

Who are you?

The man doesn't say anything.

PERRY

You're kinda creeping me out, man.

The boys retreat.

INT. GYMNASIUM

Sophie is sitting at a table with Tommy, Bart, Marnie, and Saucer. Sophie looks kind of bored. Saucer and Bart are playing Rock Paper Scissors.

BART

Best 27 of 53!

They continue playing.

SOPHIE

I'm gonna go grab some punch.

TOMMY

Has anyone spiked the punch yet?
You know, someone always spikes the
punch at these things.

SOPHIE

Guess I'll find out.

Sophie goes over to the punch bowl. She pours herself some and looks on at the crowd. She sees Candace and Liz having a blast. She sighs and takes a sip.

CONTINUOUS

Jabari comes up to Liz.

JABARI

Can I have this dance?

LIZ

I'm with Candace right now.

Candace looks to see Sophie, alone by the punchbowl.

CANDACE

Go, Liz. I'll be fine.

LIZ

You sure?

CANDACE

Go.

Jabari scoops Liz off. Candace goes over to Sophie.

CANDACE (CONT'D)

Hey.

SOPHIE

Oh, hi.

CANDACE

I'm Candace.

SOPHIE

Sophie.

Awkward sips.

CANDACE

You're new right?

SOPHIE

Yeah, just moved.

CANDACE

Yeah. So where are you from?

SOPHIE

Oh I'm from New York.

Candace kind of leans back to appreciate this.

CANDACE

Wooow. New York, eh? That's cool.

SOPHIE

Haha, thanks I guess. My dad got this job out here so..

CANDACE

You probably miss it, huh?

SOPHIE

Oh, yeah kinda. I mean, you could get pizza within 5 minutes at any time. So that was pretty nice.

CANDACE

That sounds amazing.

SOPHIE

It's nice out here, though. I feel like I'm at summer camp.

CANDACE
Yeah, well. It gets old pretty
fast, sorry to say.

INT. GYMNASIUM - LATER

Candace and Sophie are still talking, intimate, having one of the best nights.

INT. GYMNASIUM - CONTINUOUS

JS is talking to somebody, a girl? He is barely paying attention, scanning the area. He sees A MAN suspiciously sneak out, TALL and BLACK COAT.

JS hands her the drink and follows him out.

JESSICA
That's cool.

INT. HALLWAY

Empty hallway. Balloons. Footsteps/wheels retreating around the corner. JS chases. Turns corner. Broom closet door closes. JS flings open broom closet door.

Janitor looks at him in shock. JS clocks a centerfold of Cindy Crawford on the wall.

JANITOR
(petrified)
Are you going to hurt me?

JS sighs in disappointment and embarrassment.

EXT. GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

The boys run into Mrs. Beansley, who drops some files on the ground.

MRS. BEANSLEY
Boys. Have you been drinking?

JAMES
Not a drop, Mrs. Beansley!

PERRY
Got to go!

MRS. BEANSLEY
Oh, brother. What am I going to do?

Rory goes to pick up the files.

MRS. BEANSLEY (CONT'D)
 Oh, thank you. Gosh, I'm so sorry
 about those two. Are you
 chaperoning?

RORY
 Yes. It's not a problem. At that
 age, what can you do?

MRS. BEANSLEY
 Right? I mean, I try and try to
 knock some sense into these kids,
 but...

A big group of people are leaving: John Simon, Theo, Rizzo,
 Marley, Candace, Liz, Jodi.

CANDACE
 Okay but we're taking my car.

JOHN SIMON
 Holy shit did you see them? Their
 mouths were on the FLOOR!

MARLEY
 That was one for the history books,
 JS.

Rory picks John Simon out of the crowd. He goes into hawk
 mode.

RORY
 Well, it was nice to meet you, Mrs...

MRS. BEANSLEY
 Beansley. Well, *Miss* Beansley.

RORY
 Ah, well I hope to run into you
 again soon.

INT. ASANA'S BEDROOM

WANDA
 Hon, isn't the big dance tonight?

Asana looks up from her magazine.

ASANA
 Oh, yeah. I'm not really interested
 in parading around in a dress.

Wanda comes and sits down on the bed.

WANDA

Are you still worried about Becky?

Asana stays silent.

WANDA (CONT'D)

Hon, you know sometimes people just need to take time for themselves. It's only been a few days.

ASANA'S BEDROM - LATER

Asana turns on the TV. Static. She goes to adjust the antennas. An image appears: a lake. Asana studies it. There is a pit in her stomach.

ASANA'S BEDROOM - LATER

She puts on leather jacket, boots, incognito rugged.

EXT. GYMNASIUM

Jabari and Liz are giggling outside the gym. They Jabari is chatting her up, making her laugh (maybe he'll get lucky). Zoe shows up on her dirt bike.

LIZ

Asana?

ASANA

Liz, I need you.

LIZ

What's wrong girl?

ASANA

I have an awful feeling. I need to go..the lake. I need to go to the lake.

JABARI

Asana, let's just take a breath.

LIZ

Drive Jabroni.

Asana and Liz get in his car.

JABARI

Sure, yeah. To the lake. Just the three of us. Just how I pictured it.

EXT. LAKE

Police are forming a boundary
around the crime scene

Asana and Liz come streaming thru.

DEPUTY BOBBY
(to Asana)
You can't come here mama

Asana streams thru the boundary and sees them excavating a dead body. She instantly knows its Becky—she doesn't need to see. She buries her head in Liz's arms. Liz consoles her. We pan out to the end/emotional climax of the song