

OFFSIDE

"Pilot"

by

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COLD OPEN

EXT. QUIET NEIGHBORHOOD & INT. MAYER FAMILY KITCHEN - EARLY
MORNING- CONTINUOUS

FADE IN:

James jogging on a quiet street with his dog, music plugged in ears. We hear his heavy breathing and then it cuts to his music: something powerful and inspiring.

FLASH CUT TO:

Yvette turns on music on kitchen speaker: something mellow. She cracks an egg into frying pan.

FLASH CUT TO:

Garage door opens and Bruce, dressed in a shirt and tie and rubber boots, rolls out lawnmower. He starts his machine and plugs his ears to listen to music: something hard rock and disruptive.

FLASH CUT TO:

James is running. Music continues in the background. He picks-up the pace.

FLASH CUT TO:

Yvette puts bread in the toaster. Looks out the window and notices Bruce cutting the lawn and shakes her head. Music continues in the background.

FLASH CUT TO:

Bruce continues cutting his front lawn. He has a noticeable limp. A next door neighbor, a police officer comes out of his house, and shakes his head at Bruce. Gets into his car.

FLASH CUT TO:

James turns a corner and sees Sam. He races to catch-up to her and gently pushes her out of the way. Keeps running backwards, looking at her laughing.

(CONT'D)

JAMES
Race you home!

Sam gazes at him and has a half smile. She picks-up her pace.

FLASH CUT TO:

Mike, the other neighbor next door comes out in his robe and starts yelling at Bruce.

MIKE
Bruce! You friggin' moron! What the hell? It's 6:30am.

FLASH CUT TO:

Yvette flips eggs onto plates and looks out window and gasps upon seeing her husband completely ignoring her unhappy neighbor. She slams her spatula on the counter and storms out of the kitchen.

FLASH CUT TO:

Mike standing on front porch yelling at Bruce.

MIKE (CONT'D)
Bruce you ignorant piece of...

FLASH CUT TO:

James and Sam come racing down the street, side by side. They stop when they get near their neighboring driveways. They unplug their ears and hear Sam's dad yelling at Bruce.

JAMES
Not again!

WIDEN OUT TO:

EXT. MAYER FRONT YARD AND NEIGHBOR'S YARD: EARLY MORNING

YVETTE
Bruce honey. Your breakfast is ready.

MIKE (YELLING OVER NOISE)
Yvette, I've had it! If Bruce doesn't start obeying the by-laws, I'm filing a complaint!

Sam walks over and tries to calm her dad while James walks over to Bruce to get his attention.

YVETTE

James honey, tell your dad that his
breakfast is ready.

Yvette calmly walks back into the house.

JAMES

(Yelling) Dad! (BREAK)
Dad!

Bruce turns the corner and comes face to face with James. He
kills the motor, turns off his music and looks at James.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Breakfast is ready.

BRUCE

Perfect! (glances over at Mike)
Morning Mike! (smirk)

Bruce rolls the lawnmower back into the garage and shuts the
door.

EXT. NEIGHBOR'S FRONT PORCH: EARLY MORNING

MIKE

(under his breath) Moron.

SAM

Let it go dad.

Mike goes back into the house. James makes his way to Sam.

JAMES

(BREAK) So... anyway... Thought you
weren't supposed to train this
morning?

SAM

Yeah I know. I couldn't sleep. I'm
so nervous about this weekend.

JAMES

No need to be nervous.

SAM

Easy for you to say, you pretty
much have hockey scouts knocking at
your door.

JAMES

Don't worry! You've got this!
You're the toughest girl I know,
and you have more skills than most
of the boys on the team!

SAM

Yeah but I have one setback... I'm a
girl!

JAMES

Whatever. That doesn't mean
anything. (BREAK) Don't worry Sam;
I got your back!

SAM

And I've got yours.

JAMES

Yeah I know. (BREAK) So anyways,
Lenny got his new wheels last night
and he's going to drive to school
today.

SAM

Finally got his grandpa's old car
eh?

JAMES

Yeah! Not sure what kind of beater
he'll be driving. Says he wants to
keep it a surprise until he pulls
in my driveway. He hid it in his
garage so we wouldn't see it.

SAM

Should be interesting.

JAMES

Beats taking the bus!

FLASH CUT TO:

JAMES AND LENNY SHARING A SEAT ON THE BUS. SAM SHARING A SEAT
WITH A SNOTTY, MOUTH BREATHING KID.

BACK TO:

SAM

True that!

JAMES

(starts jogging away) OK gotta go!
Be ready by 7:45!

JAMES (CONT'D)

See ya Sam!

SAM

Not if I see you first.

Sam watches James until he disappears. Smiling.

INT. MAYER FAMILY KITCHEN - MORNING

Yvette and Bruce are sitting at the kitchen table. They take bites of their toast. Noting but crunching sounds and awkward silence in between. James walks in, sensing the tension.

JAMES

(kisses her cheek) Thanks for breakfast Mom!

YVETTE

I figured you would need some protein after training so hard this morning. You know, sometimes I worry that you're working your body too much. You're still growing you know.

JAMES

This is my year! Go big or go home. (break, looks at Bruce) So dad... what's up with you and Mike? Seems to be a big pissing contest between the two of you lately.

YVETTE

(under her breath) Lately?

FLASH CUT TO:

A PREVIOUS ALTERCATION BETWEEN BRUCE AND MIKE.

BACK TO:

BRUCE

You know I can't please the guy. Yesterday he complained that my lawn was too long and that it goes against the by-laws. So today I cut it and he's still not happy.

JAMES

At 6:30 in the morning? I'm sure he wasn't the only neighbor freakin' out.

BRUCE

Whatever.

JAMES

I told you that I was going to cut it tonight after school. You know I love you dad, but sometimes you're... you know...

YVETTE

So James, honey, tell me about this weekend. Remind me about your schedule.

JAMES

I'm on the ice tomorrow all afternoon and Sunday as well. Coach will posting the roaster and early next week and naming the team captain.

YVETTE

So exciting! I'll be able to stay and watch you on Saturday but on Sunday, your father and I have a date!

BRUCE

We do? (BREAK) I didn't tell you that I was away this weekend?

JAMES

Again?

James looks at Yvette. Disappointment in her eyes, sensing his mother's pain.

YVETTE

No, I wasn't aware that you were away for work this weekend. I thought it was next weekend?

BRUCE

Yeah. Next weekend too. I'm flying to Chicago tonight to meet a new client.

YVETTE

Will you be back on time for brunch on Sunday?

(MORE)

YVETTE (CONT'D)

Remember I told you that Julie from work invited all the girls and their husbands for brunch and play board games in the afternoon?

FLASH CUT TO:

BRUCE IMAGINES THE AWKWARDNESS OF SITTING WITH YVETTE AND HER COWORKERS, PLAYING BOARD GAMES WHILE SIPPING ON COCKTAILS.

BACK TO:

BRUCE

Nope. Can't recall.

YVETTE

I was looking forward to this Bruce.

JAMES

Let me guess: you're not coming to the rink this weekend at all?

BRUCE

I'm sorry. Work is work.

JAMES

(staring down at his plate, disappointed) Yeah.

BRUCE

Hockey is your thing. Not mine. (BREAK) You know James, maybe you should start concentrating on other things in life. Hockey is a great past-time for you but you need to...

JAMES

... make sure you have a back-up plan. I know dad.

BRUCE

I just want you to expect the unexpected. That's life.

JAMES

I know Dad. I know that hockey isn't guaranteed. I'm staying on top of my grades; I always have and always will.

BRUCE

Maybe you should get a part-time job?

(MORE)

BRUCE (CONT'D)

(BREAK) You could start paying for some of your hockey fees, maybe then you'll realize that it's an expensive dream!

JAMES

Sure dad.

SFX: Sound of horn.

JAMES (CONT'D)

That's Lenny. Gotta go!

YVETTE

Don't forget your lunch James!

JAMES

Thanks mom! (kisses Yvette on the cheek) Love you!

James runs out the door.

YVETTE

What time is your flight on Sunday?

BRUCE

I should be home by 3.

YVETTE

It would be nice if you could swing by the rink on your way back to pick-up your son. That way I can stay at Julie's a little longer.

BRUCE

Sure.

Bruce and Yvette continue eating their very dry toast. Yvette aggressively chewing.

MAIN TITLE- OFFSIDE

ACT 1

EXT. MAYER FAMILY DRIVEWAY - MORNING

Lenny is sitting in a Chevy Caprice, late 1990s model. He rolls down the window.

JAMES

Nice wheels Lenny!

SAM

Looks like an undercover cop car!

LENNY

Thanks! It is a cop car! My grandpa bought it used after he retired from the force. The best part is that she's got balls! She still has all her cop horsepower!

FLASH CUT TO:

GRANDPA SITTING AT AN INTERSECTION WAITING FOR A GREEN LIGHT. A LOUD CIVIC DRIVEN BY A TEEN PULLS UP BESIDE HIM AND GIVES HIM A NOD. AS THE LIGHT TURNS GREEN, THE TWO CARS RACE THROUGH THE INTERSECTION AND DOWN THE STREET. SOUND OF GRANDPA LAUGHING HYSTERICALLY AS HE PASSES THE CIVIC.

BACK TO:

SAM

So it's a she?

JAMES

Does she have a name?

LENNY

Beyoncé... Bé for short.

SAM

Since when are you a Beyoncé fan?

LENNY

I'm not but she's gonna get me all the single ladies!

JAMES

You're such a nerd!

SAM

Are those curtains in the back window?

LENNY

You betcha'! Those are aftermarket.
Custom made by my grandma!

JAMES

Sweet!

SAM

So what does your grandpa drive
now?

LENNY

He's not allowed to drive. My dad
took away his license 'cause he was
getting in too many fender benders
in his old age.

FLASH CUT TO:

LENNY'S GRANDPA DRIVING ON A BUSY STREET IN TOWN ON A RIDING
LAWNMOWER. MOWING BLADE DOWN ON PAVEMENT, SPITTING OUT A
CLOUD OF DUST AND ROCKS. WAVING AT HONKING CARS TO PASS HIM.

BACK TO:

EXT. MAYER FAMILY DRIVEWAY - SAME TIME

LENNY

Come on, get in!

SAM

(to James) You can have shotgun.

James and Sam get into the car.

INT. LENNY'S CAR - MORNING

JAMES

Double sweet! That means I get to
play DJ on this wicked tape deck!

CONTINUOUS:

- Lenny pulls out a cassette case.
- James pops a tape in the deck.

SAM

Doesn't get more old school than
this!

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET VIEW - MORNING

Car Pulls out of the driveway to the sound of "I'm Just A Gigolo" by David Lee Roth.

INT. LENNY'S CAR - MORNING

Lenny is lip signing to the song. Sam and James are amused.

SAM

I don't know if I should be worried that you know all the words to this song.

James' phone vibrates. He gets a text message.

LENNY

Who is it?

SAM

It's your grandpa- he says he's following us on his riding lawnmower and he's about to pass us! Seriously, can you drive any slower?

LENNY

Cheese and crackers lady! Do you want to walk to school? My dad warned me about speeding.

SAM

You can also cause accidents going to slow!

JAMES

(Staring at his phone) Wow. She just doesn't give up.

LENNY

Who?

JAMES

Amber. Check this out.

Phone screen shows a selfie of Amber with caption

"Not everyone looks this good in the morning".

SAM

She's so pathetic... and looking a little desperate I might add.

LENNY

I don't get it. You have all these babes throwing themselves at you, but you prefer making out with your hockey stick.

JAMES

Gotta stay focused Lenny. Coach said there might be scouts at our game next weekend!

LENNY

You know I live vicariously through you. One date can't hurt.

JAMES

Maybe I should go out with Amber.

SAM

Wait.. what?

JAMES

Just to piss off Kevin. He's so into her but she doesn't give him the time of day.

FLASH CUT TO:

KEVIN TRYING TO IMPRESS AMBER IN A RIDICULOUS WAY BUT FAILS MISERABLY.

BACK TO:

SAM

Since when do you give a shit about Kevin?

JAMES

Sorry. He's just being a bigger prick than usual on and off the ice... especially with you Sam.

SAM

(blushing)

Forget him. He's always going to be a prick.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - MORNING

Lenny pulls into a parking spot at school. James and Sam exit the car. Lenny comes out and keeps his door open.

LENNY

So what do you think? You have to admit she's a smooth ride. You wait til' I decal her out! She's gonna look amazing!

SAM

Holy crap Lenny! You might as well put a ring on her too!

JAMES

Just promise me you won't put one of those noisy aftermarket mufflers on her like Kevin put on his Civic. I don't want people to know we're coming from a mile away!

LENNY

Fine. I'll keep her quiet.

A brand new VW Jetta pulls into the parking spot beside Lenny. License plate: FIGURSK8

Continuous- slow motion

- Lenny stares at the car while it pulls in.
- Sam and James notice it too.
- Josie, a new girl, comes out of the car.
- Lenny's jaw drops.
- Sam closes Lenny's jaw.
- Lenny tries to play it cool and finally shuts his car door, only to get his shirt stuck in the door.
- He struggles to get it out. James helps him.
- He gets himself together and casually leans against the hood of his car.

LENNY (CONT'D)

(to Josie, nodding) Hey.

JOSIE

Hey.

Josie looks at James and gives him a smile. Blushing. Sam notices. Josie walks away. Lenny, James and Sam watch her from a distance.

JAMES

Come on let's go. We don't want to be late for class.

LENNY

(starring at Josie)
Holy schnikes! I think I'm in love.

SAM

Oh come on now Lenny! Don't you go cheating on my girl Bé.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

James, Sam and Lenny are in class along with other students, including Amber. Girls in class flirtatiously say hi to James as he walks by. James kindly says hi. The bell rings as they take their seats.

TEACHER

I finished marking your resumé's.
Although I'm still waiting on a few late submissions. You know who you are. I'm not calling you out.

AMBER

Well mine is taking a little longer to put together. It's not my fault that I've had more work experience than anybody else in this class.

SAM

I don't think anybody cares that you had a few gigs modeling training bras for Walmart.

Students giggle as Amber gives Sam the stink eye.

TEACHER

OK that's enough. (BREAK) Sam, you can keep your unnecessary comments to yourself.

The door opens. Kevin struts in being loud and obnoxious.

KEVIN

Has everyone seen the old cop car parked in the parking lot?

TEACHER

Kevin, you're late and now is not the time to discuss cars from the parking lot.

KEVIN

No but for real. There's an old beat-up cop car in the parking lot and it has curtains in the back window. That's why I'm late; I was checking it out!

TEACHER

Sit Kevin.

KEVIN

Fine.

Kevin walks by Amber and winks. He sits in front of James and looks back at him.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

All set to get your ass kicked this weekend? That "C" is mine this year.

JAMES

You have no idea what leadership means.

SAM

Better leave your mouth at home if you want to make an impression.

KEVIN

Sammy-Sam... you can keep your whole body at home 'cause nobody wants to see you play. It was OK when we were Tykes but now you gotta leave it up to the big boys to play the game.

JAMES

Yup your right Sam; he better leave his mouth at home.

TEACHER

Can we leave the hockey talk for the rink? (BREAK) OK so today I want to talk about a special day coming up which is "Take your kid to work day".

The teacher distributes a form to all the students.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

You get to go to work with one of your parents for the day and see what the real world is all about.

KEVIN

What it's all about? I guess I'll have to go work with Sidney Crosby.

Students chuckle. Sam rolls her eyes and so does the teacher. James raises his hand.

TEACHER

Yes James.

JAMES

I already spend a lot of time in my Mom's classroom volunteering and my dad's office is in a high security building. Does it have to be a parent or can we go to work with somebody else that we know?

TEACHER

As long as your parents sign-off on it, you can go anywhere you want. (sarcastically) Maybe you should get a hold of Crosby?

Students chuckle. Kevin rolls his eyes.

AMBER

You can go to work with my dad if you want. He's a plastic surgeon. Maybe you can sit in on a boob job.

SAM

And isn't your Mom a stripper?

TEACHER

OK girls that's enough.

KEVIN

Can I go?

TEACHER

I said that's enough.

The door opens. Josie, walks-in. Students react differently to the new girl as she is being greeted by the teacher.

CONTINUOUS- SLOW MOTION

- Amber scans her from top to bottom, sizing her out.
- Kevin scans her from top to bottom and shakes his head and smiles.
- Lenny tries to play it cool and leans back into his chair. He falls back.
- Kevin points and laughs at Lenny and encourages other students to do the same.
- Sam and James help Lenny get up and then go back to their seats.

TEACHER

Everyone. This is Josie.

JOSIE

Hey. Sorry I'm late. The principal wanted to give me a quick tour of the school before I headed to class.

TEACHER

Not a problem. We were just getting started. Have a seat.

Josie heads to the back of the class. She looks over at James just as he looks over at her. They lock eyes, both blushing. Sam and Amber both notice their connection.

INT. REC CENTRE-ON THE ICE - DAY

Hockey players warm-up, doing various drills. In the bleachers, Amber and few other girls are holding up a sign "Vote For James", showing her devotion towards James. Sam skates by and flips her the bird. Slow-mo reaction of Amber's reaction. Sam comes to a stop beside James.

SAM

Does she realize that it's a hockey tryout and not a race to see who will be class president?

JAMES

Not sure.

Kevin skates around doing fancy tricks by the boards where all the girls are standing.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Whatever. It keeps Kevin busy!

Coach whistles.

COACH

Kevin! Get over here. OK guys... and gal... gather around. This is your final scrimmage. The team roster will be announced this week on our web page, including who will be captain this season. Give it your best.

James and Kevin meet at center ice for the face-off. Sam is on Kevin's team for the scrimmage.

KEVIN

Ready to be defeated?

JAMES

I thought we told you to leave that mouth at home.

The puck drops. James wins the face off. The players scrimmage. When Kevin gets the puck, he refuses to pass it to Sam. Kevin show-boats his way around the ice. James plays fair and shows leadership and sportsmanship.

INT. REC CENTRE-LOBBY - DAY

James and Sam walk into the lobby after practice, carrying their equipment bags.

SAM

All he did was hog the puck the whole time. How am I supposed to show what I've got when I'm teamed-up with the biggest prick on the team?

JAMES

Don't worry Sam. Coach won't hold it against you. Honestly, if Kevin's dad wasn't sponsoring most of the sports teams in town, I doubt Kevin would make the team with that attitude.

SAM

Yeah I guess. (break) Well you definitely kicked ass out there!

JAMES

Thanks! I just wish my dad would be as proud. He still thinks that I'm chasing an impossible dream. He barely comes to any of my games.

SAM

I honestly think that your dad is just not into hockey. Some people just don't like sports.

JAMES

Yeah. (BREAK) Or maybe he was before he hurt his knee?

SAM

Could be. You got your natural talent somewhere... and it definitely wasn't from your Mom!

FLASH CUT TO:

YVETTE PLAYING SPORTS AND FAILING MISERABLY.

BACK TO:

JAMES

Who knows. He doesn't talk about his childhood. He's such a closed book. (frustrated) And it doesn't matter if he's not into sports, he should still be supportive.

SAM

Did you ever tell him that?

James avoids answering. Sam continues to break the awkward silence

SAM (CONT'D)

Well you know, he's busy. He seems to be gone a lot.

JAMES

Yeah.

SAM

(BREAK) You better not forget who taught you how to play when you become a big star!

JAMES

If. Not when. I won't forget. Plus
I count you being there too.(Break)

Sam blushes as James stares at her briefly. The moment is cut short as Kevin walks by and deliberately knocks James with his hockey bag. Kevin looks back with a grin.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Classy.

SAM

Prick.

MIKE

Hey guys! Good scrimmage out there!
Are you ready to go Sam?

SAM

Yeah Dad.

MIKE

James, do you need a ride home?

JAMES

Thanks but my dad is picking me up
on his way home from the airport.

MIKE

Alright.

Mike keeps walking towards the exit.

SAM

I have an appointment tomorrow
before class so my dad will drive
me. See you in class then?

JAMES

Not if I see you first.

Sam smiles as she walks out the rink. James takes a seat on a bench and waits. Time laps with people coming and going from the rink shows James waiting patiently, checking the time on his phone. He tries to call Yvette and Bruce but neither answer their phones. He calls Lenny.

EXT. REC CENTRE - DAY

Lenny pulls up as James walks out. He pops his trunk and James drops in hockey bag in the car. James gets into the car and they drive off.

INT. LENNY'S CAR - DAY

JAMES

Thanks for the ride. I have no idea where my dad is. He was supposed to pick me up on his way home and I can't reach my mom.

LENNY

No prob!

James notices an old CB radio installed in the dash.

JAMES

What the heck is this?

LENNY

I found it in the trunk. Must be the old CB radio that was in the car back in the day when she was a cop. I spent all afternoon fixing it and installing it. Pretty cool eh?

JAMES

Yeah, pretty cool.

LENNY

I even swapped out the old antenna and replaced it with a multi-purpose antenna. Do you know what that means James?

JAMES

I don't know but I'm sure you're going to tell me.

LENNY

It will allow me to receive a wide range of airwaves. We might be able to hear some real conversations like cop calls and stuff.

JAMES

What does your dad think about that?

LENNY

Let's just say what the Sergeant doesn't know, won't hurt him.

JAMES

Right. (BREAK) Hey, do you mind making a quick stop at the mall?
(MORE)

JAMES (CONT'D)

I want to drop off my resume at SportsWorld.

LENNY

Not a prob. (talking into the CB radio) This is Bé calling home base. We will be traveling off course for approximately 8 kilometers. Over.

JAMES

Oh boy.

VOICE IN RADIO

Roger that.

JAMES

I feel like I'm going on a ride along.

LENNY

Negative James. This is more like undercover.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Lenny veers of path into a more industrial area.

JAMES

(O.S) Where are we going?

LENNY

(O.S) This is a shortcut. It takes us directly behind the mall. My dad uses this road a lot in his cruiser.

They stop at a red light, adjacent to a self-storage locker lot. James stares out the window when he notices something strange.

INT. LENNY'S CAR - DAY

JAMES

What the?

LENNY

What?

JAMES

Lenny, pull over after the lights and kill your engine.

LENNY
What? Why?

JAMES
(Raising voice) Just do it.

LENNY
Ok, OK.

Lenny slowly pulls over and kills his engine. James continues to stare out the window

LENNY (CONT'D)
What? What are we looking at?

JAMES
Him.

LENNY
Who? That man?

JAMES
Yes.

Lenny stares at him for a moment.

LENNY
Is that... your dad?

JAMES
I think so.

LENNY
Flippin' burgers! What is he wearing? (BREAK) And what the hay is he driving?

EXT. STORAGE UNIT PARKING LOT - DAY

Bruce is sharply dressed and groomed. He is standing in front of a closed storage locker, polishing a fancy red sports car, license plate: LVN LIFE.

INT. LENNY'S CAR - DAY

JAMES
What is he doing?

LENNY
It's Bruce 2.0!

EXT. STORAGE UNIT PARKING LOT - DAY

Bruce opens the locker and drives his car inside. He comes back out and takes a quick look around. Lenny and James duck into their seats. Bruce walks over to a few lockers down and opens the door. He immediately shuts it behind him.

INT. LENNY'S CAR - DAY

JAMES

This is so weird. My dad was supposed to be in Chicago this weekend.

LENNY

Obviously not. Unless that sweet machine has turbo rockets that make it fly. (BREAK) Which it could.

James quickly looks at Lenny and shakes his head.

LENNY (CONT'D)

What? Did you see that thing? It's one sweet ride!

JAMES

We're waiting here until he comes out.

LENNY

(excited)

Totally undercover. This is so cool!

EXT. STORAGE UNIT PARKING LOT - DAY

Bruce opens the locker door and pulls out in his old Corolla. He gets out of the car to shut the locker door. He is now dressed like his usual, awkward, untrendy self. He scans the premises one more time before getting into his car.

INT. CAR - DAY

Lenny and James duck down before he gets to close. Bruce drives away.

LENNY

(popping his head to see
if it's safe)

Are we still stopping by the mall?

END OF ACT 1

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