

Video Game High School: Season 1 V.3.4

Revision 3

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RocketJump, LLC
October 11, 2011

LEVEL 0

EXT. FIELD OF FIRE, RUINS OF TORONTO 1

A bullet-riddled sign reads: "Welcome to Toronto." An air raid siren howls in the distance.

In the streets, a BATTLE RAGES. Three BADASS COMMANDOS (**RED TEAM**) **FREEZERBURN**, **ACID REFLUX**, and a third soldier take cover and defend a **INTEL BRIEFCASE** sitting on a **STAND**.

Across the street, a squad of **ENEMIES** in MEXICAN ARMY OUTFITS (BLUE TEAM) close in, barraging them with gunfire. The third soldier goes down.

FREEZERBURN
Man down! We're all gonna die!

ACID REFLUX
Where the heck is Brian D?

EXT. SHITTY DUPLEX-- DAY 2

BRIAN D pedals his BICYCLE frantically through the street. He skids to a halt in front of the house and jumps off his bike.

K-POP
How was the long way home, Brian D?
Sweaty enough for you?

Brian D sighs. Sitting on the front stoop are three KOREAN RTS BULLIES: **K-POP**, **OLDBOY**, and **3-D** (sporting 3-D glasses ala that guy in *Back to the Future*). They surround him.

BRIAN D
Can we do this later, K-Pop? I'm late for a clan match!

3-D
Hah! This FPS twitcher thinks he's gonna be the next Law.

OldBoy ducks behind Brian and 3-D TABLE TOPS him. Brian hits the dirt. They laugh.

BRIAN D
What do you guys want, already?

(CONTINUED)

K-POP
Same thing every Realtime
Stratagenius wants...

He flips out a BUTTERFLY KNIFE USB THUMB DRIVE and waves it menacingly in his face.

K-POP
Resources.

INT. TV STUDIO - IRL

3

IRL, a View-esque talk show, returns from commercial. The host, **ROSALIE**, addresses the camera.

ROSALIE
Our next guest was Pwn Zone's
amateur player of the year, and
Petite Elite's hunkiest teen gamer
of the decade.

BELLA
He's also Varsity FPS Captain at
Video Game High School. And sorry
ladies, he's taken.

ESME
Hold on to your rumble packs, cause
here comes The Law!

THE LAW appears wearing a guitar. A jock jam blares through the speakers.

THE LAW
'Lawreadyforthis?!?'

The crowd goes BANANAS! He duck walks to the couches and throws the guitar into the crowd.

THE LAW
Who wants to see a trick shot demo!

The crowd goes wild. A girl faints.

EXT. SHITTY DUPLEX-- DAY

4

3 combat gear for your avatar.

BRIAN D
It took me three weeks to grind for
that stuff!

(CONTINUED)

K-POP

And it took me three seconds. I
guess that's what you'd call...

He whacks Brian in the face with the stretchy cord- ugh!

OLDBOY

Strategy.

Old Boy and K-Pop hop onto a TANDEM BIKE. They pedal frantically, and the bike slowly lifts into the air. 3-D directs their liftoff. Brian dusts himself off on the ground.

K-POP

GG, Brian D. See ya tomorrow.

3-D

Yeah! See you tomorrow... *forever!*

K Pop and the gang blast off on their hover bike. Brian scrambles up from the ground and runs into the house.

INT. BRIAN'S HOUSE-- CONTINUOUS

5

Brian barges into the messy living room, where his **MOM** (wearing a beer helmet holstering energy drinks) lounges on the couch playing an MMO. He races past her.

BRIAN

Heymomschoolwasgreatloveyoubye!

MOM

Uh huh...

Brian runs by a TV playing Law's IRL show. PUSH INTO the TV:

INT. IRL STUDIO

6

The Law sits at a console. Server names SCROLL on a screen behind him like a roulette wheel.

BELLA

Now you told me this is what's
called a "pub stomp" backstage?

ROSALIE

What *ELSE* happened backstage,
Bella?

Catcalls from the crowd. Bella fake-laughs.

(CONTINUED)

THE LAW

Anyway girls, pub-stomping is when
a pro like me goes into a random
server and lays down the-- lemme
hear you out there!

CROWD

LONG ARM OF THE LAW!

THE LAW

I love this crowd!

INT. FIELD OF FIRE, RUINS OF TORONTO

7

Freezer Burn and Acid Reflux hole up behind cover. Team
Mexico players close in from ALL SIDES.

They look up: two TEAM MEXICO players have snuck up behind
them with MACHINE GUNS! They freeze. The bad guys take aim--

BLAM! BLAM!

And their heads EXPLODE! They fall to the ground, revealing
BRIAN D standing behind them with two smoking pistols.

BRIAN D

Sorry I'm late!

Brian switches over to a shotgun and runs over to them.

FREEZERBURN

BrianD! Thank god you're here!

ACID REFLUX

Glad you could make it, captain.

Fist pounds all around.

BRIAN D

Left flank. Occham's Laser on
three?

FREEZERBURN

Just like the Milwaukee
invitational.

INTERCUT: INT. BRIAN'S ROOM

8

Brian sits at a shitty old computer, wearing a headset. His mom shouts from the other room:

MOM (O.S.)

Brian! Put the cat out!

BRIAN

-But first I have to put the cat out!

In his room, Brian leaps up from his chair and runs out the door still wearing his headset.

EXT. FIELD OF FIRE, RUINS OF TORONTO

8A

Freezerburn and Acid Reflux stare dumbfounded at Brian's stock-still avatar. His mouth flaps as he calls after his cat.

BRIAN

C'mere, Cheeto!

FREEZERBURN

Brian D is so cool.

Suddenly, their UNIFORMS change into MEXICAN ARMY outfits! They look down, puzzled.

ACID REFLUX

Why'd we restack?

COMPUTER VOICE (O.S.)

The Law. Has Entered. The Game.

Freezerburn and Acid Reflux share a TERRIFIED LOOK. The Team Mexico players stop dead in their tracks.

TEAM MEXICO PLAYER

Madre de Dios! El Law!!

ACID REFLUX

Okay, nobody panic--

KABLAM! Acid Reflux takes a bullet to the head. Freezerburn looks up: ACROSS THE MAP, he sees THE LAW, back turned, holding out a smoking rifle. The Law whips his head around and locks eyes with Freezerburn.

(CONTINUED)

FREEZERBURN

RUN!!

Freezerburn and the other Mexico players FLEE IN TERROR. Brian's avatar stands obliviously as people get GUNNED DOWN all around him. BLOOD spatters onto his face.

BRIAN

Chee-to...

INT. BRIAN'S APARTMENT

9

Cheeto SNARLS as Brian backs him into a corner.

BRIAN

Good Cheeto. Good kitty.

Cheeto POUNCES and latches onto Brian's face.

BRIAN

Aaah! Son of a--

Brian struggles towards the door. He trips past the TELEVISION, showing The Law owning dudes in Field of Fire.

INT. IRL STUDIO

10

The hosts and the crowd cheer Law on as he wreaks havoc in the match (his in-game antics projected on a screen behind him).

THE LAW

This move's called the Shanghai Shotguns.

INTERCUT: INT. FIELD OF FIRE, RUINS OF TORONTO

10A

BOOM! The Law takes out a guy with a dazzling move. The crowd oohs and aahs. The Law sets his sights on Brian's avatar.

THE LAW

Looks like this guy is AFK. Let's have some fun with him.

The Law walks up to Brian. Brian's still rambling at Cheeto.

BRIAN

Ow! Mom, where's the iodine?

The Law raises an eyebrow, then smirks.

(CONTINUED)

THE LAW
Whatever, kid.

He puts a grenade on Brian's head. The crowd goes NUTS.

INT. IRL STUDIO- OMITTED 10B

EXT. SHITTY DUPLEX-- DAY 11

The door swings open and Brian heaves Cheeto outside.

EXT. FIELD OF FIRE, RUINS OF TORONTO A11

The Law paces away from Brian and DRAWS HIS PISTOL...

INT. BRIAN'S HOUSE-- CONTINUOUS 11A

Brian sprints through the house towards his room...

INTERCUT: INT. FIELD OF FIRE, RUINS OF TORONTO 12

... as The Law closes an eye and TAKES AIM at the grenade.
He COCKS the hammer.

INT. BRIAN'S APARTMENT 13

-Brian runs through the kitchen, past a HOT POCKET sitting
on the table. He skids to a halt and rushes back to grab it.

EXT. FIELD OF FIRE, RUINS OF TORONTO 13A

-The Law lowers his gun, shakes his head. He rolls his
shoulders, loosening up. Milking the crowd.

INT. BRIAN'S APARTMENT 13B

-Brian kicks down his door and jumps into his roller chair.
Hot Pocket in mouth, he SLIDES to the computer...

EXT. FIELD OF FIRE, RUINS OF TORONTO 13C

-The Law QUICK DRAWS his pistol and FIRES IT FROM THE HIP.

ENTER SUPER SLOW MOTION:

The bullet hits the GRENADE PIN and POPS IT OUT. Amazingly, the grenade stays still on Brian's head. The Law smiles.

Brian's avatar looks up. The GRENADE falls from his head!

The Law snarls. Brian watches the grenade fall past his face.

Brian dives back and WHACKS the grenade with the butt of his shotgun! It FLIES through the air, back towards The Law.

The Law fires another shot at Brian. The bullet sails a millimeter past his head. Brian SPINS the shotgun around and

--BOOM! BLASTS the grenade, KILLING THE LAW INSTANTLY!

RAMP OUT OF SUPER SLOW MOTION

Brian falls to the ground...

CUT TO:

INT. BRIAN'S ROOM 14

... as he FALLS BACK into his chair, munching his hot pocket.

BRIAN

Phew! Close one. Ow, hot-hot-hot!

INT. IRL STUDIO 15

The Crowd, the hosts, and Law are all completely speechless. Tense silence. Law's JOCK JAM blares up again.

LAW'S VOICE (RECORDING)

Lawreadyforthis?

The TV shuts off. Beat. Then it TURNS BACK ON with:

INT. NEWS ROOM

16

An anchor looks dire as he delivers the news.

NEWS ANCHOR

... the President's condition still unknown at this time. The nation waits with bated breath as--

INT. PWN ZONE STUDIOS

16A

An obnoxious, ESPN-style MOTION GRAPHIC interrupts him - it's a PWNZONE FRAG ALERT.

SCOTT SLANDERS

Hold onto your joysticks, Zoners!
We got ourselves a late breaking
Frag Alert. Shot Bot, what'cha got?

SHOTBOT

VGHS Superstar The Law brained by a
no-name-nooblet in a pubstomp gone
wrong. My computation? Frag of the
CENTURY! Peep the replay!

A quick replay of Brian's kill. We pull out to reveal the clip is playing on a KOREAN MORNING SHOW.

INT. KOREAN NEWS ROOM

16B

KOREAN TV HOST

(subtitled)

Our sources tell us that unranked
player Brian D has already been
invited to attend the prestigious
and exclusive Video Game High
School.

Over the anchor's shoulder, we see a HIDDEN CAMERA SHOT of Brian's house. Brian receives a PACKAGE from a delivery guy-- Brian's eyes grow wide as he looks at the return address.

EXT. BRIAN'S APARTMENT

16C

We cut to K-POP and his buddies being interviewed in front of Brian's apartment.

(CONTINUED)

K-POP

Yeah, that's right, I was totally hanging out with Brian when he got the call from VGHS.

OLDBOY

We love you, Brian D!

INT. NEWS ROOM

16D

Camera pulls back to a PUNDIT SHOW: "The Agreement Corner."

PUNDIT 1

Give me a break! What makes this flash-in-the-pan fluker think he's got what it takes?

PUNDIT 2

Ron, I completely agree! VGHS is the most intense pro gaming academy in the *country*. Just look at their acceptance video:

INT. VGHS

16E

We cut to DEAN **ERNIE CALHOUN** addressing the freshman class at VGHS. The Law stands on stage behind him.

CALHOUN

You will not study physics. You will study physics engines! You will not study art, you will study the Art of War! You will learn biology by bathing in the blood of your enemies!

We pull out to:

INT. BRIAN'S ROOM

17

Brian holds a TABLET playing a video of the speech.

CALHOUN (VIDEO)

Sound good? Well then. Welcome to VGHS.

BRIAN

Wow. This is actually happening.

Brian closes the tablet to reveal a VGHS CREST on the leatherbound cover.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN

Everyone says I won't make it. But I have to try. I mean, I've wanted to play on a VGHS team since I was E for Everyone. I hope you'll understand.

Pull back. Brian is talking to CHEETO. He pets him-- Cheeto hisses and BITES his hand. Brian chuckles, bittersweet.

BRIAN

Classic Cheeto. I'll miss this back- and-forth. Take care of mom, okay?

An enthusiastic TECH GUY pokes his head in the door.

TECH GUY

Brian? Your Zoostcast is live.

Brian rises. He walks out into:

INT. BRIAN'S HOUSE-- CONTINUOUS

18

We hear the buzz of REPORTERS outside. Brian's mom plays WOW on the couch, oblivious to a live newscast of their HOUSE on the TV. Brian stops to kiss her on the head.

BRIAN

Love you, mom. I put some extra food in your bowl.

He heads for the front door.

BRIAN'S MOM

Where ya going?

BRIAN

I'm going to VGHS.

Brian opens the door: CAMERA FLASHES and SUNLIGHT blast into the room. His mom RECOILS like Nosferatu from the sunlight. Brian steps into golden daylight and EMBRACES HIS DESTINY.

THE END

LEVEL 1

EXT. VGHS: KOJIMA QUAD-- DAY

A18

Welcome to VGHS! HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC accompanies a rapid-fire **MONTAGE** of shots of the school and every day life within its hallowed halls:

-RTS PLAYERS duke it out over 3D BATTLEFIELDS, lined up along a lunch table a la a chess club.

-A crowd of rowdy FIGHTING GAMERS cheer on as two of their cohorts spar on the lawn with HOLOGRAM AVATARS.

-FPS PLAYERS practice their moves, playing on translucent, razor-thin monitors with sweet FUTURISTIC CONTROLLERS.

-Two kids kick a HOVER BALL around. One of them runs past a window to catch the ball. We PAN UP TO:

BRIAN D, watching out the window, excited as a kid at Disneyland: ON NO PARENT'S DAY!!!

INT. CALHOUN'S OFFICE-- DAY

18A

Brian squirms in his chair and staring out the window. Ki types furiously into her tablet as Calhoun addresses them.

CALHOUN

Am I getting through to you,
BrianD?

BRIAN

Huh? Yes sir. Straight through.

CALHOUN

I swear, every year it's the same
cutscene: Some media darling with a
five second kill reel comes
breezing into school on a golden
ticket.

Calhoun slaps two ID BADGES down on the table.

CALHOUN

Well, buckle up, kid, 'cause that
ticket put you on a plane straight
to hell! And the inflight movie is
Super Hell!

BRIAN

Understood sir! I know it'll be
rough here, but I had some practice
at the Milwaukee invitational.

(CONTINUED)

Brian goes to grab his ID. Calhoun swats his hand away.

CALHOUN

ORLY?

Calhoun mashes a button on his deck. A screen behind him displays THE LADDER: a leaderboard showing the names and point ranks of every player at VGHS. Brian is at the bottom.

CALHOUN

Still feeling cocky, Mr. Milwaukee?
You're the lowest ranked player in
the school.

BRIAN

I should probably go practice then.

CALHOUN

And as for you, Ki Swan. I don't
care what games your parents
designed, you won't be getting any
special... what the frag are you
doing?

Ki finally looks up.

KI

Well, sir, you cut such an imposing
figure, I thought I'd make a game
about you.

She hits start. A cartoon hologram of CALHOUN appears on her tablet and starts beating on a cartoon hologram of BRIAN.

BRIAN

Awesome! What are my moves?

Brian tenses up when he sees Calhoun SCOWLING at Ki's game. Then Cartoon Calhoun decapitates Brian with a SWEET UPPERCUT. Calhoun's face turns to a smile. He chuckles.

CALHOUN

Calhoun always wins. Acceptable.
Now scram you scrubs!

KI

Don't we get a welcome buddy?

CALHOUN

COOL YOUR JETS Miss Swan, I was
getting there! Your orientation
guide is...

Calhoun checks a piece of paper. He SMILES.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN

You saw that? I mean, yes, I am--

JENNY

ColdTurkey, get BrianD here a drink!

BRIAN

What? No, I--

COLDTURKEY

Who's BrianD? Kid with the lame hat?

Brian swiftly throws the fedora off his head and pulls on backwards VGHS baseball cap.

BRIAN

Lame hat? Only cool hats for this noggin.

PIEPUPPY

I guess that's cool-- WHOA, CHECK OUT THE COOL HAT ON THAT KOOL KID!

Camera WHIP PANS to **GAMES DEAN**, a nerdy freshman upon whose head Brian's hat has landed. He looks up at the fedora, baffled-- then he ROLLS WITH IT AND SUDDENLY BECOMES COOL.

JENNY

Hey, sweet hat, frosh!

GAMES DEAN

The name's Games. Games Dean.

Games Dean SNAPS his fingers-- his two nerdy FRIENDS scam and two HOT BABES roll up. Games Dean rolls out.

KI

Brian. Your secret weapon seems to have misfired.

JENNY

Come on, D! We doin' this or what?

Jenny gestures to the controllers on the table.

BRIAN

Oh what? No, sorry. Not here to fight. You're our welcome buddy!

Everybody GROANS. Fun's over.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN

What? She's supposed to show us around and stuff.

JENNY

Sorry guys, duty calls.

Jenny gets up from the table and leads them away.

INT. DORMS

22

Jenny, Ki and Brian are right in front of Brian's Dorm.

JENNY

And this concludes our tour of VGHS.

KI

You took us in a straight line to the freshman dorms and said nothing.

BRIAN

I loved the tour, personally. So, wonderin if I could pick your brain a bit about getting on JV.

JENNY

JV? You're the lowest ranked player in the school.

BRIAN

Wow, that tidbit really zipped around.

Jenny rolls her eyes and points to a leaderboard just behind Brian. Brian turns to see his name at the bottom.

BRIAN

Oh...

Brian turns to see Jenny walking off.

BRIAN

Oh.

KI

And I don't even know where my room is.

(CONTINUED)

TED (O.S.)

Okay, seriously guys, fun's over!

BOOM! The door flies open and **TED WONG** stumbles into the hallway, followed by two taller FRESHMEN (**ANNIHILIST** and **JUMPIN' JAX**). Annihilist carries Ted's GUITAR HERO CONTROLLER.

ANNIHILIST

What's wrong, baby Wong? I thought you rockstars knew how to party!

JUMPIN' JAX

Yeah, Annihilist! Totally yeah!

TED

All right boys, you got me--

Ted looks up and spots Ki. He smiles.

TED

Oh, hey. Ted Wong.

KI

Ki Swan. 1360 points. Fighter.

TED

Welcome to the Frag Floor, Ki--

Annihilist JABS Ted in the stomach with the guitar, knocking the wind out of him.

BRIAN

Hey, leave him alone!

The two bullies turn to Brian.

JUMPIN' JAX

What are you gonna do? Stop us?
'Cause no! Not at all no!

KI

Brian, maybe we should get the RA.

ANNIHILIST

Did your girlfriend just get here?
This loser IS the RA.

TED

Welcome to the Frag Floor. Are you really his girlfriend, 'cause--

Annihilist jabs Ted again. Jumpin' Jax spots Brian's box of shitty gear and snatches it.

(CONTINUED)

JUMPIN' JAX
Well lookie these stupid lookies.

BRIAN
Give that back.

Annihilist drops the guitar and rummages through Brian's box.
He pulls out CHIBA and HANZO.

ANNIHILIST
"Chiba" and "Hanzo"? Where'd you
get this junk? The poor store?

BRIAN
Where'd you get your manners? The
rude store?

KI
Oh my goodness!

TED
Yeah! Sweet burn, dude!

Annihilist scowls.

ANNIHILIST
Nobody insults my manners.

BRIAN
Nobody insults my gear.

TED
And nobody insults my new best
friend!

ANNIHILIST
That sounds like a challenge.

BRIAN
It does?

CLOSE UP on Ted.

TED
Whoa, whoa whoa. You guys can't
fight in my hallway.

Beat. Ted THROWS UP HIS ARMS and shouts to the whole floor.

TED
RRRUMBLE IN THE RRRRRUMPUS ROOOOM!

We PULL OUT from the close up to reveal

INT. RUMPUS ROOM-- MOMENTS LATER

23

-Ted is standing in the middle of the rumpus room. A bloodthirsty CROWD OF STUDENTS gathers around Annihilist and a bewildered Brian. They CHANT and pump their fists.

CROWD OF STUDENTS
FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT!

BRIAN
Crap. Crap. Crap. Crap.

TED
Okay, fellas, you know the dealie-o-- single life, no respawns. Player 1, ready?

ANNIHILIST
BRING IT!

Annihilist CHUGS an energy drink.

TED
New best friend, ready?

Ki rushes up to Brian, showing him her tablet.

KI
Brian, I just looked at the official rulebook. You REALLY need to read paragraphs 12 through 90.

BRIAN
Any chance you can paraphrase?

KI
Okay, uh... Read rules. Important.

BRIAN
That's not what I meant--

-Annihilist SLAMS the empty can against his head.

ANNIHILIST
AAAAARRRGFHGGGGH!

BRIAN
AAAAAHHHHH!!

TED
- LET'S DO IT!

Their screens light up, the crowd CHEERS, and we CUT TO:

INT. FIELD OF FIRE-- DAY

24

Annihilist goes after him like the juggernaut: a panicked Brian RUNS and HIDES.

Brian gets into cover, but his KEYBOARD BREAKS DOWN ON HIM-- the spacebar gets stuck and he can't stop jumping.

BRIAN

Aw, come on!

He pounds the keyboard, accidentally SHOOTING OFF HIS GUN. Brian looks down at his gear, frustrated.

BRIAN

Great timing, Chiba!

The gunshot gives away his position to Annihilist, who grins maniacally as he bears down on him.

ANNIHILIST

No more bullets, Brian...

Thinking fast, Brian starts leaping from cover to cover as Annihilist draws closer, then TAKES HIM OUT with a knife kill once he wanders within his range.

INT. RUMPUS ROOM

25

Brian leaps into the air, fist pumping as the crowd cheers.

BRIAN

Who's workin' at the poor store now?!

Annihilist's game deck POWERS DOWN to an ominous dark red. His screen shows his score drop below zero. The crowd goes SILENT.

BRIAN

Wait. What just happened?

KI

Brian, Paragraph 90, section 3. Should a student's rank drop below zero points, he is automatically, ruthlessly and instantly-

JENNY (O.S)

Expelled.

Everyone turns. Jenny stands, leaning against the doorway. The word "Expelled" flashes across Annihilist's screen.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN

Oh my God...

Annihilist holds back a tear, lip trembling. He quietly packs up his gear. He gets up and walks to Brian.

BRIAN

Annihilist, dude, I didn't know-

Annihilist brushes past Brian. He pauses to look at Jumpin Jax, who turns away in shame. Annihilist stomps out the door.

The crowd awkwardly shuffles out. Brian sits still, mortified. Jenny gives him a nod.

JENNY

Welcome to VGHS.

Jenny leaves. Ki chases after her.

KI

Jenny, wait! Where's my room!

Ted pats Brian on the back.

TED

On the plus side, that guy was supposed to be your roommate.

BRIAN

Plus side? How is that a plus side?

Off Ted's SUPER STOKED GRIN, we FLIP CUT TO:

INT. TED AND BRIAN'S ROOM-- NIGHT

26

Brian D cleans Chiba and Hanzo, expression blank. Ted BOUNCES on his bed, shredding a solo on his guitar hero controller.

TED

Yeah! Best roommate friends forever!

Ted attempts a flying windmill powerchord and falls off the bed with a THUD.

TED (O.S.)

I'm okay!

A SPRING pops out of Chiba. Brian sighs. He looks over at a brand new OFFICIAL VGHS GAME DECK sitting on his desk. Brian looks back down at his shitty old gear, pensive.

EXT. DORM-- NIGHT

27

Brian holds Chiba and Hanzo over an open DUMPSTER.

THE LAW (O.S.)

The One Shot Wonder. We meet at last.

Brian startles. THE LAW stands behind him, next to one of his "I Want You" POSTERS.

BRIAN

Oh! Uh, hey... The Law.

THE LAW

I'm just Law around here. Don't mean to pry, Bri-guy, but, whatcha doin' out here?

BRIAN

Nothing! I was just, uh--

THE LAW

-You were gonna toss your gear out, weren't you?

BRIAN

Yeah... this school's a little different than I thought it'd be. Chiba and Hanzo just feel out of place.

The Law takes Brian's keyboard. He smiles as he admires it.

THE LAW

Brian. Who we talkin' about here? Your gear? Or you?

The Law does the I Want You pose again. Brian cracks a smile. The Law chuckles, gestures to the poster.

THE LAW

I know, right? Listen, Brian, I know it's scary trying to fit in around here. But this school's about being the best. And you can't be the best unless you be yourself. Never forget that. Never let anyone break you.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN

You really mean that?

THE LAW

Yeah. More than anything in the world.

The Law BREAKS HIS KEYBOARD IN HALF. Brian GASPS! Law continues to crush Brian's mouse in his hand as he talks.

THE LAW

Too bad you're in MY world now.

BRIAN

Chiba! Hanzo!

THE LAW

Don't you get it, Brian? I AM VGHS.
Welcome to *ME*.

The Law swaggers away. Brian drops to his knees and clutches his destroyed gear. Off Brian's reaction, we CUT TO BLACK.

THE END

LEVEL 2

INT. VGHS HALLWAY-- DAY

28

Ted and Brian rush through the hallway during PASSING PERIOD. Brian fumbles with a map to the school.

BRIAN

How are you lost? You're the R.A.!

TED

Hey, you're the one who overslept.

BRIAN

Sorry, I was practicing with my new game deck. I gotta get good if want to impress Jenny Matrix--

-Brian bumps right into JENNY.

JENNY

Hey, Brian.

Heads turn in the hallway. A crowd gathers around.

(CONTINUED)

JENNY

Loved watching you kill Annihilist last night. Impressive. Like a spot on JV?

BRIAN

Whoa... are you serious?

JENNY

Double-stuf serious. JV could use a boost in the cute department. Welcome to the team!

She HUGS him. Brian blushes. She whispers into his ear, but THE LAW'S voice comes out.

JENNY/THE LAW

And... WELCOME TO MEEEEEEEEEE!

Brian pushes her back-- her grinning face has turned into THE LAW'S! The "Meeee" turns into a piercing, SHRIEKING NOISE.

BRIAN

Ah! Is anyone else hearing this?!?

Brian looks up at the crowd: everyone stands motionless, silent. Games Dean's HAT floats above his head.

GAMES DEAN

Nope.

Games Dean STRETCHES HIS NECK to reach the hat. He runs off. Brian looks around, terrified. The Law's manic grin grows UNNATURALLY WIDE. From the abyss inside emerges CHEETO.

BRIAN

Cheeto?

CHEETO

KILLING SPREE.

Cheeto reaches a paw out and taps Brian's nose. CUT TO:

INT. BRIAN AND TED'S ROOM-- MORNING

29

Brian (asleep in bed) wakes with a START, scattering energy drinks and his game deck to the floor.

BRIAN

AAAH!

(CONTINUED)

He catches his breath. Out of nowhere, TED swings in from the top of the frame, hanging upside down above Brian.

TED
Mornin', roomie!

BRIAN
AAAAH!

Brian falls out of his bed onto the ground.

TED
Pizza brunch?

INT. HALLWAY-- DAY

30

Ted gets a CAN of PIZZA from a vending machine. He cracks it open and scarfs a big tasty slice, getting tomato sauce all over his face.

As students pass them, Brian gets GLARES, FINGER-GUNS, and THROAT-SLITS thrown his way.

BRIAN
Man, what is with everyone today?

TED
Uh, you killed the #1 player in the school. You got a kid kicked on your first day. You're the guy to beat right now. Just like this pizza-- everyone wants a piece of you!

BRIAN
I gotta keep my head down.

TED
You're right, we could throw a party.

BRIAN
I didn't say that.

TED
In your honor.

BRIAN
What?

(CONTINUED)

TED
Called Brianpalooza.

BRIAN
No!

KI appears next to them in the hallway.

KI
Hi, Brian. I have a question about
Brianpalooza.

BRIAN
Oh, COME ON!

Ki hands Brian a flier for "BRIANPALOOZA: FEAT. BRIAN D.
STARTS 2NIGHT @ ROCK O'CLOCK", with a photo of Brian's
sleeping face. Someone has drawn a big CROSSHAIR over
Brian's face, and crossed out his eyes with Xs.

Brian GLARES at Ted.

TED
We have a very aggressive street
team.

KI
I was wondering what time Rock
O'Clock is?

TED
Oh you know, half past Rad.

KI
But when is half past Rad?

TED
A quarter to Score.

BRIAN
Never! Ted - every twitcher in this
school wants to fight me. I'm not
going to throw them a party! Can
we please just...

They round the corner and spot The Law, his cronies, and
Jenny. Brian stops in his tracks.

BRIAN
... Chill out next to this
PizzaDunx Machine? Hey, this could
be our new hangout spot, amirite?

Brian tries leaning up against it, hiding his face a bit.

(CONTINUED)

KI

I prefer a naturally-occurring
hangout spot.

Ted turns and sees The Law, who totally saw what Brian did there. He laughs, winks at Ted.

TED

Oh, dude. Really? A party's one
thing, but you can't even walk past
the Law? It's time to stop hiding
in the shadows and shine like the
star you are!

Brian looks over at The Law-- and sees him slurp a CAT TAIL into his mouth! Brian double takes-- The Law is eating Ramen.

BRIAN

I'll stick to the shadows, thanks.

Brian takes off in the other direction. He bumps into CALHOUN, spilling his mug of COFFEE. Calhoun snarls.

TED

(whispering)

We'll see you in class.

INT. CALHOUN'S OFFICE

30A

CALHOUN paces back and forth in his office, pouring a new cup of coffee. Brian sits in a chair, intimidated.

CALHOUN

What's gaming all about, Brian D?

BRIAN

Uh, well, I've always thought--

CALHOUN

-I'm sure "Brian's Big Book Of
Gaming" would tell me it's all
about picking fights. Expelling
roommates. Landing the cover of *The
Wall Street Journal*.

Calhoun turns around.

CALHOUN

You wanna know what gaming's really
about?

(CONTINUED)

He points to a plaque on the wall that reads, "'It's All About the Game'-- Sgt. Ernie Calhoun."

CALHOUN
It's all about the game.

BRIAN
Gaming's all about the game, sir?

CALHOUN
I knew you wouldn't understand.

Calhoun brings up the LADDER again. Brian's name still hovers at the bottom.

CALHOUN
You might have snagged some points wasting Annihilist, but you're still deep in the danger zone, kid. If you wanna last more than a week here, I'd start keeping a lower profile.

BRIAN
I hear you, Sir. I was just telling my friends: low profile, that's my game.

CALHOUN
Really?

Calhoun pulls up the blinds on his window, revealing BRIANPALOOZA PARTY POSTERS stuck all over it. Brian winces.

CALHOUN
Does that game include a minigame about being full of crap? Now get of my office!

Brian leaves. Calhoun pulls the blinds down, rips them off, revealing the dumb posters again.

INT. FPS 101 CLASS

31

ACE, a scruffy FPS professor, addresses his freshman class.

ACE
Welcome, gang, to FPS 101. I'm Ace. I know what y'all are thinking. "Hey, I got into VGHS, what's with this back-to-basics stuff?" Well, let me set you straight on that
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ACE (cont'd)
one, pardners: you don't know squat
about First Person Shooting!
Freshman year's about two things:
fundamentals and-

Brian makes his tardy entrance.

ACE
-First impressions. Brian D, I
presume?

BRIAN
Sorry, I'm late sir.

ACE
Well, you've already broken Ace's
First Rule.

BRIAN
Be punctual?

ACE
No. Rule #1 is "Know Ace's Rules".
If you had been punctual, you would
have known that.

BRIAN
Sorry, Mr. Ace.

ACE
Just call me Ace. Mr. Ace is my
dad. Rule #1, Brian!

Ace points to Rule #5: "Mr. Ace is my Dad!", as he says
this. Ted, sitting next to Ki, waves Brian over. He sits
down.

TED
Dude, check out who our TA is!

Ki and Brian look up to see JENNY MATRIX.

ACE
I'm sure you all know our TA Jenny
Matrix. She's the new Junior
Varsity FPS captain. She's also
pickin' an honorary freshman to
play in the JV/Varsity scrimmage
tomorrow.

(CONTINUED)

JENNY

That's right Ace. Personally, I think it's a huge waste of time, but it's tradition.

Ki whispers to Brian.

KI

Brian, that could be you wasting her time tomorrow!

BRIAN

I don't know, Ki...

ACE

You think any of these cheesedusters have what it takes?

JENNY

Rule #12 Ace. Let's not get ahead of ourselves. But maybe one of you noobs will prove me wrong. Let's hit the pit.

EXT. FIELD OF FIRE TRAINING MAP

32

Jenny runs through a TRAINING COURSE from *Field of Fire* (ala Modern Warfare 2's "The Pit"). Jenny paces and picks out her gear before entering the course.

JENNY

People underestimate the Pit because the enemies are made of cardboard. But trust me-- if you know the Pit, you know yourself.

Jenny takes her first shot as a CARDBOARD MOUNTIE pops up.

INTERCUT: INT. FPS CLASS

33

Two freshman scoff at the silly exercise.

JUMPIN' JAX

Play games by yourself? I got better things to do in my sleep.

Brian watches Jenny tear it up. Meanwhile, Ted chats up Ki.

BRIAN

This is great, I could play this level in my sleep.

(CONTINUED)

TED

Yeah, great. So, Ki-- back to our favorite romance languages. What was yours again? Spanish? Italian?

KI

C++.

TED

Molto benne.

EXT. FIELD OF FIRE TRAINING COURSE-- DAY

34

Back into the game, Jenny blasts through the map with super precision. She comes to the final part of the map.

JENNY

Be fast. Be efficient. And above all else--

A final guy pops out after she's run out of ammo-- she whips out her combat knife and slashes the guy with it.

JENNY

Be resourceful.

INT. FPS 101 CLASS

35

The class claps, impressed. Jenny's time comes up: 39 seconds.

ACE

Thirty nine seconds. Not bad Matrix. Just shy of the record.

BRIAN

(whispering to Ted)

That's not right. You can get like, 10 seconds faster than that.

Ted's not even listening to him-- he's making eyes at Ki.

JENNY

-Brian D! Something to share?

BRIAN

No Sir. Sorry. It wasn't important.

JENNY

Good. Then shut up.

Ki shoots her hand up.

(CONTINUED)

KI

Brian was just saying he can do the course faster much than you, Jenny.

The class "ooh"s. Brian's face goes pale. Ki gives him a thumbs up.

ACE

That I'd like to see! What do you think, class?

Class cheers sarcastically.

TED

(sing-song)

Honorary Freshman...

BRIAN

Uh...

JENNY

Come on. Show us what you've got.

Gauntlet officially thrown. Ted gives Brian an enthusiastic thumbs up. Brian gulps, pulls out his game deck.

BRIAN

Game on?

EXT. FIELD OF FIRE TRAINING COURSE-- DAY

36

Brian pops into the training map. We see him pick out his guns: Brian takes the GRENADES and the TOMAHAWK. LAUGHTER already from the class. Brian takes a quick breath-- "you can do this."

Brian charges blindly through the first room and drops a C-4. He approaches the second room and lobs a bunch of grenades.

He runs through the second door and detonates the C-4, wiping out the first room instantly. The class gasps. As he runs through the second room, the MOUNTIES pop up and the GRENADES Brian lobbed land right on them, perfectly timed.

INT. FPS 101 CLASS

37

People start to cheer. Ace and Jenny look up, impressed.

EXT. FIELD OF FIRE TRAINING COURSE-- DAY 37A

Brian enters the FINAL room. He's out of grenades.

INT. FPS 101 CLASS 37B

Brian looks up from the game over at Jenny to make sure she's watching.

EXT. FIELD OF FIRE TRAINING COURSE-- DAY 37C

Distracted, he misplaces his TOMAHAWK THROW:

It BOUNCES off the wall as Brian charges through the room and RICOCHETS towards the final cutout just as it pops up-- but it NAILS Brian in the head instead.

LAUGHTER from the class. As Brian falls, we match cut to:

INT. CAFETERIA 38

Brian faceplants into a plate of MASHED POTATOES, sitting with Ted and Ki. Someone walks by and taunts him with a "nice shot, Brian!" Ki scribbles furiously on her tablet.

TED

Cheer up Brian. At least no one wants to fight you anymore.

Ki suddenly looks up.

KI

I've figured it out. Rock O'Clock is 3:32!... we've missed Brianpalooza.

BRIAN

(muffled by potatoes:
subtitled)

Calhoun wants me dead, I'm late for Ace's class. Oh! And I can forget about playing in that scrimmage, because Jenny probably thinks I'm the biggest dork in the universe.

Jenny steps up to the table. Jenny, Ted and Ki exchange baffled looks.

(CONTINUED)

TED

Um... so, Jenny's here!

Brian looks up, taking the plate of mashed potatoes with him. The plate slides off his face-- right as it falls, he catches the plate with one hand and puts on a pair of SWEET SHADES with the other. Globbs of mashed potato drip from his face.

BRIAN

What up, Matrix?

JENNY

Uh... hey...

BRIAN

What brings you to our neck of the cafeteria... woods?

JENNY

Well I was gonna invite you to my party tonight because that was one of the sickest Pit runs I've ever seen, but-- sorry, can you just...

She gestures to his face.

BRIAN

Huh? Oh! I probably look like a douchebag right now.

He takes the sunglasses off.

BRIAN

Sunglasses indoors. What was I thinking?

KI

So, you were saying something about a cool party we're all invited to?

JENNY

Whatever. I'll text you the deets.

BRIAN

Sounds groovy, Jenny. Or should I say...

He puts on the sunglasses.

BRIAN

Grav--

(CONTINUED)

TED

-Brian, she already left.

Ki turns to Ted.

KI

First date?

TED

First date!

BRIAN

Three way fist pound?

Ted puts his fists out. Ki pounds it. Brian-- blinded by mashed potato-- SLUGS Ted in the face!

THE END

LEVEL 3

INT. PARTY-- NIGHT

39

If a LAN PARTY and a FIGHT CLUB made out at a RAVE, it'd look a lot like this. Gamers cluster around flatscreen monitors, throwing down in fighting games, shooters, racers, and more.

Ted, Ki and Brian enter, bewildered. Ted hover-hands Ki.

KI

So, you're bribing your way into the JV/Varsity scrimmage with cake?

BRIAN

Coconut cake! Let's just say I'm a 12th level Pastrymancer. Once Jenny tastes this bad boy, I'm in.

Brian reveals his secret weapon: a COCONUT CAKE in a box. The text reads "Happy Party, Jenny, let's go coco-nuts!" Ted rubs his temples.

TED

Wait! That reminds me. I need to tell you something. What was it, what was it, what was it--

JENNY (O.S.)

-Brian D! You made it!

(CONTINUED)

Jenny rushes up to them while throwing out a crushed energy drink. She high fives people on the way over. PIEPUPPY throws her a new drink.

PIEPUPPY
Party Animal Matrix!

Jenny catches the drink, pops it open and takes a gulp.

BRIAN
Hey there Jenn--

JENNY
I gotta show you - I totally nailed it. Come on, in my room.

BRIAN
What? Your room - uh, where should I put this bad boy?

JENNY
Give it to the party! Let them eat cake!

Jenny tosses her drink aside, grabs the cake from Brian and PUNTS it across the party. Brian's jaw drops.

JENNY
Hurry up already!

She drags him off. A beat as Ted turns awkwardly to Ki.

TED
So, uh... wanna play some videogames?

INT. JENNY'S ROOM-- NIGHT

40

Jenny drags Brian into her room. It's a TOTAL MESS: clothes/underwear and TOURNAMENT TROPHIES strewn all over the place. Jenny roots through the piles of junk.

BRIAN
So... lotta cool stuff in this room.

JENNY
Huh? Yeah, hi. It's a mess. Sit anywhere.

Brian looks at the messy bed. Brian uses a trophy from the ground to clear a place to sit.

(CONTINUED)

Jenny finds her GAME CONTROLLER under a pile of stuff and plops down onto the bed next to Brian.

JENNY

Okay, this is gonna blow your mind.

She boots up Field of Fire training level. A new high score!

JENNY

Bam! Beat your time! Suck it.

BRIAN

Oh, wow. Great job, that's like... the only highscore I've held in anything. Well, that and *Dance Ex Machina*-

JENNY

(incredulous)

-You play DXM.

BRIAN

...which I don't play anymore. 'Cause it's a lame baby game, for babies.

- Jenny gets off the bed and heads towards her closet.

BRIAN

I play manly games now, like war and--

She opens her closet. It is full of DXM trophies and awards.

BRIAN

-oh my God, you're a twelfth level dancemancer! Did I say baby game? I meant... babe game. For... people.

JENNY

No, it's a baby game. Which is why if you tell anyone there's a DXM machine gathering dust in my garage, I will literally murder you.

BRIAN

You don't play anymore? But you were clearly the shiz!

JENNY

Not according to my mom. She kinda coaches the Denver Commandos.

(CONTINUED)

Jenny points to a PICTURE on the wall-- it's Jenny's MOM standing in front of a team of PRO GAMERS.

BRIAN

Full disclosure, I totally knew that.

JENNY

Let's just say this is an FPS family. And she expects me to make the pros, so...

BRIAN

And you're totally gonna! But that's no excuse not to get your dance on. Let's go fire that baby up. This is a party.

JENNY

Yeah... speaking of which...

She pretends to get all amped again.

JENNY

I could totally slam another drink right now! Let's do it!

Jenny grabs Brian and drags him out of the room.

INT. PARTY-- NIGHT

41

CU: Shots of Ted firing up the big *AXE LEGENDS* (future Guitar Hero) cabinet, slinging the guitar, adjusting the strap, slicking his hair.

REVEAL as he turns around: Ki sitting down, watching him pump himself up. As Ted talks to her, he picks out a song and selects the highest difficulty.

TED

I have rockstar in my blood, Ki. I don't know how to tell you this, but... *my dad is three time Guitar Hero World Champion Freddie Wong.*

KI

I assume that's impressive since you've chosen the hardest difficulty.

Ted chuckles, lowers his shades.

(CONTINUED)

TED

Gotta play hard to rock hard, Ki.

The song starts up: Ted NAILS the opening chords. Then...

PLONKPLONK-- Ted flails wildly through the song, totally blowing it. He gets flustered, struggles with the controller.

TED

Geez... who calibrated this thing?

Ted FAILS OUT almost instantly. Awkward pause.

TED

Sorry about that, uh, lousy guitar--

KI

-Let's play my game!

TED

Whoa, you make games?

KI

That's right. The one I'm working on is actually for children, but on the plus side there's no way to lose.

TED

I'm in.

INT. DEN-- NIGHT

42

Jenny and Brian enter the DEN: a bunch of gamers hang out on couches and slam energy drinks. They CHEER when Jenny enters.

JENNY

What's up, guys? Brian, this gang of ruffians is the FPS team.

She points to people and introduces them. Brian waves.

JENNY

Cold Turkey, Piepuppy, Bebop-- I'm sure you already know The Law.

Brian stops in his tracks when he sees THE LAW hanging with the guys. The Law turns around and is cool as a cucumber.

(CONTINUED)

THE LAW

Hey man. Great to finally meet you.

Law puts out his hand to shake Brian's.

BRIAN

Uh--uh, I...

Law turns to Jenny.

THE LAW

He ain't much of a talker, is he?
Relax dude, I should be nervous to
meet you. I mean, I'm not, but...

JENNY

All right Law, stop screwing with
the freshman.

THE LAW

Aye aye, JV Captain Buzzkill. Hey
Bri-guy, you want some cake?

JENNY

There's cake? Where!

GAMES DEAN (O.S.)

Right here, Jenny.

Jenny and Brian turn-- GAMES DEAN sits at a nearby table,
wearing Brian's HAT and holding Brian's CAKE BOX.

COLD TURKEY

Games Dean brought us a kickin'
coconut cake!

GAMES DEAN

Check it. I baked it for you.

He looks directly at Brian as he opens the box, revealing
Brian's cake (a bit messy). Games Dean smirks.

BRIAN

Dude, are you kidding me--

JENNY

-Dude? Are you coco-kidding me? I'm
coo-coo for coconut cake!

COLD TURKEY

Is this guy in the scrimmage
tomorrow or what?

(CONTINUED)

GAMES DEAN

Dig in, everybody!

JENNY

Wooo!

Jenny hands her drink to Brian. Everyone descends on the cake. Brian stands outside the circle flustered.

BRIAN

My cake...

JENNY (O.S.)

This is delicious!

Brian sighs. He takes a swig of his drink-- the Law SLAPS the drink into his face-- it spills all over Brian.

THE LAW

Whoa there! Sorry about that. Here, I gotcha.

BRIAN

Seriously?

The Law busts out a handkerchief and rubs it in Brian's face.

THE LAW

Speaking of apologies-- about your keyboard. I was way out of line yesterday. I'm super-d-duper broken up about it. How 'bout we bury that hatchet VGHS-style: with a little friendly competitish. Pick any game in the house.

BRIAN

How dumb do you think I am? Leave me alone, dude. I'm here to party.

THE LAW

Oh ok. Maybe you'd like to see a little party trick then? A dash of magic? A splash of razmatazz?

As the Law says this, he does a series of magic tricks with the handkerchief and applies a DASHING FAKE MUSTACHE. (Which he will keep until episode six-- Matt)

BRIAN

None of that sounds good. Look Law, I'm not gonna fall for your stupid

-

(CONTINUED)

The Law jumps back as if Brian just said something shocking.

THE LAW
(raising his voice)
Woah, the size of this kid's
pokeballs. Everybody! Brian here
just challenged me to a throwdown!

The gamers GASP. Jenny stands up.

JENNY
Brian, seriously?

BRIAN
Jenny, no, I didn't-

JENNY
Awesome! That's how I like to
PARTY!

Jenny opens the door and shouts to the party:

JENNY
Brian's gonna fight the Law!

Outside, a bloodthirsty crowd ROARS. The Law stares at Brian with a grin.

THE LAW
It's super effective.

INT. PARTY-- NIGHT

43

3D graphics of cubes, fireworks, and a bunch of other weird shit whirl around in space. We pull out to see Ted's perplexed face as Ki demos her GAME for him on a TABLET.

KI
And since mathematically it's the
only shape that always rights
itself, I thought the Gomboc would
make a good mini-boss. I dunno,
maybe it's stupid, though...

TED
What? No! It's... really cool,
uh... you can call it the Gomboss!

Ki GASPS, blown away by this idea.

(CONTINUED)

PUNK DRIFTER (O.S)

Call that a game? More like a LAME.

Two Punk Drifters are right behind Ted and Ki. They pump imaginary breaks as they drift their hands into a high five.

TED

Hey, leave her alone. Ki's weird math game is way cooler than drift racing.

One of the punks grabs her tablet.

PUNK DRIFTER

Cooler than *Overdrift*? Maybe in Lameland!

PUNK DRIFTER 2

Sweet callback, bro!

TED

Give that back or else!

DRIFT KING (O.S.)

Is that a challenge, Theodore?

THE DRIFT KING comes swaggering around the corner. The punk drifters kneel in his presence.

TED

Drift King. What do you want?

DRIFT KING

One race, Ted! One race and the lady's weird math game is yours.

TED

So you're extorting people now? Not very chivalrous, *my liege*.

DRIFT KING

Desperate times, Ted. I haven't felt true competition since last we duelled. Have ye not the need for speed?

KI

Ted! I forgot to hit save on my game folder! If that tablet shuts off...

(CONTINUED)

TED

I won't let that happen, Ki. You're on, DK-- let's drift!

INT. GAME ROOM-- NIGHT

44

Brian frantically scans the room: packed between ARCADE MACHINES and consoles, an unruly CROWD chants for blood. Brian looks at the Law, smiling in the center of the room.

THE LAW

Like I said-- pick any game in the house.

BRIAN

Yep. Got it. Thanks.

(muttering to himself)

Two fights in two days. Good job, Brian.

PIEPUPPY

It don't matter what you pick-- you're gonna lose.

Brian looks up at Jenny, cheering with the rest of them. Then he LOCKS EYES with a game across the room. A LIGHT BULB goes off in his head. Brian smiles.

BRIAN

Any game in the house, right?

The Law nods.

BRIAN

Law, We know you're king of the mouse. But are you leet on your feet? - DANCE EX MACHINA!!!

GASPS from the crowd.

THE LAW

Come on, man. That's a baby game.

BRIAN

Then you should feel right at home.

OH, SNAP! The crowd "oooohs" at Brian's zinger. The Law scowls. Jenny's eyes go wide.

THE LAW

Gunnars.

Someone tosses the Law a SWEET PAIR OF SHADES.

INT. GARAGE-- NIGHT

A44

The partiers crowd around a beat-up old DXM MACHINE in Jenny's garage. Brian and The Law stand on the dance boards.

THE LAW

Games Dean, drop me a fatass beat.

Games Dean, leaning against the machine, gives the cabinet a FONZ ELBOW! DXM lights up. Brian and The Law STRIKE A POSE.

EPIC GAME MONTAGE:

BEGIN! A RIGHTEOUS DANCE JAM fills the air. A flurry of arrows scroll down the monitor. The Law NAILS EVERY NOTE. Brian is playing loose, not doing as well as The Law.

INT. JENNY'S HOUSE-DRIFT ROOM

44A

CUT TO: TED drifting around a corner, neck and neck with the the Drift King. Ki and the punk drifters watch from behind.

INT. GARAGE-- NIGHT

44B

CUT TO: The Law dances rigidly and flawless. Law looks over and Jenny is cheering, but not at him. He glances at Brian--
-and DOUBLE-TAKES. Brian's flubbing badly but is WORKING THE CROWD like James Brown. They LOVE HIM!

INT. JENNY'S HOUSE-DRIFT ROOM

44C

CUT TO: The DK moves in to sideswipe Ted when - TED BURSTS FORWARD and leaves him in his dust.

INT. GARAGE-- NIGHT

44D

CUT TO: The Law dances HARDER, FASTER, pounding riff after riff. But no one gives a shit-- they're too busy HAVING FUN. Jenny can't help but smile.

INT. JENNY'S HOUSE-DRIFT ROOM

44E

Ted crosses the finish line right as the song ends with a BANG. Ted's screen flashes: "LOSER!" Pan over to DK's screen: By barely a second, he FINISHED FIRST.

INT. GARAGE-- NIGHT

44F

The crowd erupts. Brian bows. The Law's veneer of charm collapses for a mere second, before he smooths it over and quiets down the crowd.

THE LAW

Wow! I mean, I totally won, but can this guy dance or what?

The crowd CHEERS again. The Law shakes Brian's hand.

THE LAW

(whispering)

Cute trick, kid. But you can't duck me forever.

The Law steps off the platform and into the crowd.

INT. PARTY-- NIGHT

45

Ted grips the steering wheel, dripping sweat, breathing hard. One of the punks tosses the tablet to the other.

PUNK DRIFTER

Guess we'll be keepin' this!

In mid-air, DK intercepts the game and stares daggers at his servants

DRIFT KING

Nay. The lady will have her game back.

Drift King stands up and bows his head as he presents the game back to Ki. The gomboc boss is still twirling on the tablet.

DRIFT KING

Or should I say, your "gomboc"?

Ki suppresses a girlish giggle. He's quite the charmer. Ted's still losing his shit, staring straight ahead at the screen. DK leans in to whisper in Ted's ear.

DRIFT KING

Well-fought, old friend. Our paths shall cross again.

With a flourish, DK storms off, his two cronies in tow. Ki comes up to Ted with her tablet held in front of his face.

(CONTINUED)

KI

Ted, look! It auto-saved! Uh, Ted?

POV TED: Ted looks at Ki, but all he can hear are the ROAR OF ENGINES and the SQUEAL OF TIRES. His vision starts to SWIRL around him. Ki blinks, confused. She busts out her tablet.

KI

(taking notes)

Boyfriend displays extreme confusion after exposure to drift racing.

BRAKES SCREECH in Ted's head. **END POV.**

TED

Boyfriend?!? Score!

INT. PARTY-- NIGHT

46

Brian's DXM display has sparked a full-on DANCE PARTY in the game room. Brian spots Jenny apart from the crowd, standing by the open garage door. He approaches her.

BRIAN

Hey. Can you believe Jenny Matrix has a lame baby game in her garage? What a lose--OH.

JENNY

Laugh it up. I'm still gonna murder you.

BRIAN

Hey, you wanna kill the life of the party, go ahead.

Jenny punches him on the arm.

BRIAN

Ow! Careful, that's my mouse arm. I'm gonna need that for the scrimmage tomorrow.

JENNY

Oh really? And what makes you think I'm gonna put you on my team?

BRIAN

Well, I'm... uh, um-- that was actually all the fake confidence I could muster. And that REALLY hurt.

(CONTINUED)

JENNY

Whatever. I needed to pick somebody like six hours ago anyway. Spot's yours if you want it.

BRIAN

Really?!? I mean, uh... cool, thanks. Whatever. I'm in. Won't let you down.

Jenny cracks a smile.

BRIAN

So, uh, maybe after the scrim tomorrow, you and I can grab a burger, or--

The Law pops up from behind Jenny, throws his arms around her, and steals a quick KISS on her cheek.

THE LAW

Hey there mash potatoes, mind if I borrow my girlfriend for a moment?

JENNY

What is that thing on your face?

THE LAW

It's called a mustache.

JENNY

Oh my God. All right, catch you later, Brian.

THE LAW

Yeah, catch you later, Brian!

BRIAN

Uh... bye.

The Law pulls Jenny away into the crowd. Brian watches them DANCE-- he looks like he just got punched in the gut. Suddenly, Ted and Ki run up to Brian. Ted grabs him.

TED

Brian! I just remembered that thing-- Jenny and Law are--

He turns and sees them dancing.

TED

Oh daaaaaaaaamn--

THE END

LEVEL 4

INT. RHYTHM METHOD CLASS

47

TED stands in front of a microphone. All eyes are on him, as he brandishes his favorite guitar hero controller.

TED

Ladies and gentlemen, it's my honor to TA Rhythm Gaming this year, a sport of true champions - something you two losers back there could stand to learn something about -

Ted looks at the two DRIFTERS he smoked at Jenny's party. They pound their palms menacingly, clad in their drift suits.

Brian sits in the front row with Ki, holding an imported *Dance Ex Machina* game. He writes a note in the "notes" section of the manual.

KI

You draw in the notes section too?!

BRIAN

Just writing a little note to give Jenny after the scrimmage. Not a love note or anything. She totally has a boyfriend - who hates me. It's more of an "it's all cool, let's be friends" sort of note.

KI

Oh. I like to draw extra lines to turn it into graph paper.

Two students: J-POP and MORIARTY walk up to Brian.

J-POP

Yo Brian-- kick ass out there!

BRIAN

Thanks. I'll give it my best.

MORIARTY

Good, 'cause we got two weeks allowance on you beating the Law!

J-pop pats Brian on the back and they take their seats. Ted fires up a strobe light and clears his throat.

(CONTINUED)

TED

The Sultan of Shred. The Prince of Pentatonic. The raddest dad with the baddest ad - itude. FREDDIE WONG! My dad!

Ted throws down the mic and pulls out his guitar. He nails the first note and begins to play a rock song on easy mode.

Freddie bursts into the classroom on his BMX bike shredding his guitar. Speakers on the back play the sound of a roaring motorcycle. A spotlight follows him as he circles the class.

FREDDIE

Sup losers! Or should I say heroes? No! You're losers. That's why you came to this class. To learn from the best - me. Freddie Wong. Hero.

Baffled reactions from the class. Ted, wailing on his guitar, beams proudly at Freddie.

BRIAN

Woah, did Ted get way better at Axe Legends?

KI

He's on no fail mode.

Ted is barely playing, just rocking out and smiling at his friends and his Dad. He is having a blast.

FREDDIE

1st rule of Heroism! Give the people what they want. When you're a hero people wanna be you. They want to do you. They want to be you while they do you. But watch out, 'cause if you don't give them what they want, they'll divorce you, take your dirt bike, and stick you with a no-good loser son.

Ted smiles obliviously. The rest of the class is horrified.

FREDDIE

Second and final rule of Heroism -

Freddie BRAKES HARD as he turns a corner. The tires SCREECH. Ted's eyes go WIDE. **ENTER SLOW MOTION:**

POV: TED-- Over the SQUEAL of burning rubber, the bike tires TRANSFORM into CAR TIRES drifting around a bend! Car noises ECHO around him.

(CONTINUED)

Ted can't take it. He starts missing every note. He looks down at his guitar-- it's turned into a STEERING WHEEL.

Ted locks eyes with Freddie-- his face FLASHES, turning into THE DRIFT KING. Ted shrieks and stumbles back and -

-PLOWS into Freddie. **END SLOW MOTION**

The two of them fall into a pile on the floor as the class erupts in laughter. Freddie gets up and looks down at him with scorn. Ted sits up: his guitar is BROKEN IN HALF.

TED

Jessica Alba! Nooooo!

INT. HALLWAY-- DAY

48

Brian and Ki are staring at Ted, who seems unfazed by everything that just happened. Ki holds his busted guitar.

TED

So, you guys want to get some pizza?

BRIAN

Ted, that was really brutal. Are you sure you're okay?

TED

100 percent, buddy. Just a little low on fuel.

BRIAN

Okay, well... I gotta get to the scrimmage, buddy. Ki, can you take care of him for a while?

KI

I'm on it. Good luck, Brian.

TED

Yeah, man! Don't worry about me. Good dad out there! I mean good love, Dad. Good luck, Brian. See ya!

Ted waves as Brian walks off.

INT. HALLWAY-- DAY

49

Brian walks down the hallway. Along the way, he bumps into McCHEESE, who gives him a high five.

MCCHEESE

Go get 'em, Brian! Break the Law!

BRIAN D

Thanks, man! Cool slogan.

Brian smiles. Then he spots a POSTER hanging from a locker: someone's made a boxing-style poster of him and the Law squaring off. Brian checks it out, shrugs, then rounds a corner. His JAW DROPS:

-A CROWD gathers around GAMES DEAN, taking bets at the end of the hall (he wears a green visor over his fedora). Brian pushes his way through the crowd.

GAMES DEAN

Takin' all bets!

MATTCHAT

Give me 20 on Brian D!

GAMES DEAN

A risk-taker! You got it. Hey, speak of the devil!

Everyone spots Brian D. They CHEER. Brian waves politely as he squeezes through the crowd. A student, CHRIS, leans over and whispers to him.

CHRIS

Hey man. Just stay alive for three minutes in there and I'll be rich!

Brian pushes past him and gets to a CLASSROOM DOOR. As he steps inside, Games Dean calls out to him, publicly:

GAMES DEAN

Say hi to the Law for me, Brian. No pressure!

OMITTED

50

INT. CLASSROOM-- DAY

51

JENNY paces in front of a 3-D *Field of Fire* map, barking out orders to the JUNIOR VARSITY FPS TEAM. Brian pays close attention.

JENNY

Listen up! Every year JV goes up against Varsity, and every year they get rolled. But this time, we're putting a point on that scoreboard.

RICO

That's what they say every year!

JENNY

No, that's what they say every year. And that's why we lose. So here we go: we're running Panama Pincer. We've been practicing this all summer, so no excuses. Any questions?

Brian, alone, raises his hand. Jenny sighs.

JENNY

What is it, Brian?

BRIAN

I wasn't here this summer, so who should I go with?

DIZ

Hey, dancey boy, why don't you--

JENNY

-Shut up. Brian. You're with me.

Catcalls, etc. from the team.

BRIAN

I won't let you down, Captain. And can I just add on a personal level--

JENNY

-All right, great, everyone get to class. Dismissed!

They start to leave-- Jenny stays behind to pack up. Brian nervously approaches her.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN
Hey. You got a minute?

JENNY
What's up?

BRIAN
Nothing. Just, uh, thought you
might be interested in *this*.

He holds up the DXM GAME to give her. She's stone-faced.

BRIAN
It's the new DXM. Fresh import. You
might wanna check out the notes
section, too.

JENNY
I'm pretty busy, Brian.

BRIAN
Oh. Okay. I understand. Well, if
your time frees up...

Brian gestures with the game. Brian turns away, a bit
dejected. A guilty look flashes on Jenny's face and she
calls back to him.

JENNY
Hey.

He turns around.

BRIAN
Yeah?

JENNY
Stay away from the Law out there.
This is team CTF, not a deathmatch.
Follow my orders and you'll be
okay.

BRIAN
You got it, Captain.

INT. LOCKER ROOM

52

Brian pumps himself up in front of a MIRROR.

BRIAN
Stay frosty, B-D. Jenny wants you
to avoid the Law? Consider it done.
He won't even know I'm there -

(CONTINUED)

Brian does a goofy karate pose.

BRIAN
-Ninja style.

-THE LAW and his cronies (COLD TURKEY, ALLITERATOR, and PIEPUPPY) burst in through the door. Brian ducks into a nearby locker-- ninja style.

THE LAW (O.S.)
She said, but I didn't even see the shorts!

Everyone laughs at Law's HILARIOUS joke. Brian watches through the slats as The Law and the VARSITY FPS TEAM enter the room and get suited up for the match.

COLD TURKEY
Victory burgers after the game?

BRIAN
(whispering)
More like defeataritos.
Defeataritos with cheese.

PIEPUPPY
Speaking of dead meat-- what was Jenny thinking picking Brian D for her team?

BRIAN
Probably thinking I'm awesome.

THE LAW
She wasn't thinking. She was following orders.

Brian reacts to this betrayal.

COLD TURKEY
Wait- you *told* her to put Brian in the match?

THE LAW
Of course. 'Cause while I love a well earned Victory Burg, what I'd really love, more than anything -

The Law RIPS OPEN Brian's locker and stares him in the face (from the team's POV, Law is just talking into a locker for some reason). Brian FREEZES IN TERROR.

(CONTINUED)

THE LAW
- IS TO KILL BRIAN D.

ALLITERATOR
That big baby Brian's bound to
burn, bro.

THE LAW
Nice one, Alliterator. He's going
up in flames, in front of everyone.
And when the smoke clears, there
will be no doubt that he was
nothing but a worthless, no-talent
fluke -

The Law closes the locker.

THE LAW
With... *cheese*...

INT. FIELD OF FIRE MATCH-- DAY

53

The battle rages. Jenny ices opponents left and right as her
team crumbles around her.

Jenny falls back to cover and finds Brian cowering in a
corner.

JENNY
Brian! I'm going for the intel! Get
to that tower and cover me!

She points to a tower across the map.

BRIAN
Uh... I'll stick back and 'nade
spam, sir.

JENNY
I need you in that tower! Move it!

Brian hesitates. An explosion goes off nearby.

JENNY
Dammit Brian, what's your
malfunction!?

BRIAN
Is the Law waiting for me up there?

A beat.

(CONTINUED)

JENNY

Follow my orders or get off my team.

Jenny leaves, guns blazing.

INT. GRAND THEFT AUDITORIUM

54

The crowd watches Brian camp on a giant overhead screen. The players face off on a stage in the center of the room.

TED

What's he doing?

KI

Costing me five hundred bucks! Get with the program, Brian!

Brian, on stage, sweats bullets.

INTERCUT EXT. FIELD OF FIRE

55

Brian takes a quick breath and moves, leaping frantically from cover to cover.

Brian spots a JV Player (BRANDON) behind a churro cart, firing a ROCKET LAUNCHER. Right as Brian reaches him, Brandon gets SHOT IN THE CHEST.

BRANDON

Avenge... me...

Brian peeks above cover to see The Law, back turned. Brian grabs the launcher - decision time. To his left, the tower. To his right, The Law and a shot at glory.

Back in the stands, the bloodthirsty crowd starts cheering.

COMPUTER VOICE

Jenny Matrix has grabbed the intel.

Jenny, intel in hand, ices some Varsity players and runs.

JENNY

(into comms)

Brian, you better be up there...

Brian catches one last glimpse of the Law.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN
(to himself)
Give the people what they want...

Brian charges across the field towards The Law. The crowd CHEERS. Brian KNEE SLIDES in the dirt, takes aim, and FIRES.

The rocket SAILS towards The Law... and MISSES HIM! The rocket continues its course and hits JENNY as she's running with the flag. She gets taken out in a HUGE EXPLOSION.

Brian's jaw DROPS. Then his head EXPLODES.

The Law lowers his pistol.

BEGIN LAW OWNAGE MONTAGE:

Brian gets destroyed by the Law. Over and over and over again. By the end of it, Brian has totally lost the will to live. Even the crowd finds it hard to watch.

Brian's GAMERSCORE plummets. His name falls down the VGHS Rank Ladder, till he's hovering at 1 point, just above the Expulsion Line.

Brian drops to his knees. The Law comes up to him for one FINAL KILL-- levels his pistol at Brian's head. Brian braces for it--

... and the world disappears around them.

COMPUTER VOICE
Game over. Varsity Wins 1-0.

INT. GRAND THEFT AUDITORIUM -- DAY

56

Brian sits at his computer, still in shock. The other JV Players glance at him with disappointment. At the head of the table, Jenny packs up her gear and walks away.

Out in the stands, a CROWD OF STUDENTS mumble with disappointment and file towards the exit. Games Dean waves to Brian as he collects a FISTFUL OF CASH.

Ted and Ki solemnly walk away.

Finally, Brian turns to THE LAW, sitting across from him at the table. The Law holds out an imaginary finger-gun and PULLS THE TRIGGER.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END

LEVEL 5

INT. PWN ZONE STUDIOS

57

The PWN ZONE LOGO flies at the screen. After a barrage of flashy intro graphics, we cut to hosts SCOTT SLANDERS and SHOT BOT.

SCOTT SLANDERS

Stuff your muffins and slam your scones, 'zoners, it's time for a PWN ZONE BRUNCH BREAK: brought to you by Brunchables Brunch Crunch Cereal!

SHOT BOT

Whether for breakfast or lunch, munch on a bunch of Brunch Crunch. Brunchables: punch up your Brunch!

SCOTT SLANDERS

Our top story: Crunch went Brian D's bones as the One Shot Wonder of VGHS was completely obruncherated by the Law in yesterdays FPS Scrimmage.

SHOT BOT

Peep this replay of him going Eggs Benedict Arnold on team mate Jenny Matrix!

A highlight reel of Brian's disastrous performance in the scrimmage plays-- including the shot of him killing Jenny accidentally with a rocket launcher.

INTERCUT: BRIAN D'S ROOM-- MORNING

58

A groggy, depressed Brian lies in bed while Pwn Zone blares in his ear.

INT. PWN ZONE STUDIOS

58A

SCOTT SLANDERS

That last pun felt a little half baked, Shot Bot, but one thing's for sure: any way you slice this melon, Brian D's gonna have a crunch of a time getting up for brunch this morning.

INT. BRIAN D'S ROOM-- MORNING

58B

Brian furrows his brow and summons the strength to face the day. Just as he pulls himself out of bed, he sees...

THE DXM GAME sitting on his desk. Brian frowns. He picks up the game and walks towards the door. The door swings open and TED walks in holding a Quiche, with KI at his side.

TED

Brian! Check it! Ki invented a brunch pizza. She calls it, get this, a "Ki'che".

Without missing a beat, Ki goes to catch the Quiche as it falls from Ted's hands, as he obliviously finger quotes.

KI

I already told you, it's just a coincidence!

TED

Isn't she amazing, dude?

BRIAN

(looking at the game)
You guys are so great together. You two would never betray each other.

TED

Aw man, I suck. You still beaten up over the whole Jenny Matrix thing?

Brian pauses for a moment, pensive. He shakes his head.

BRIAN

No way, man. I'm over it.

TED

That's the tude, dude! It's a new day. Carpe diem!

BRIAN

Carpe diem!

Brian raises the DXM game and then throws it out the window.

KI

Carpe diem!!

Caught up in the moment, Ki throws the quiche out the window.

(CONTINUED)

TED

Hey man, don't listen to him.

BRIAN

Ted, please. I don't even know what that means.

TED

Good, 'cause I really don't have time to explain how sick of a burn that waaaaaaaaaaaaa...

Ted's eyes go wide: he's HYPNOTIZED by the curves of the girl's swirly straw. POWER ZOOM on the straw: A tiny HONDA CIVIC drifts around the curves! Ted's jaw drops.

KI (O.S.)

Ted? Ted! TED!

Ted SNAPS OUT OF IT. He blinks.

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER

60

Ted is sitting at a cafeteria table with Ki. Brian tries to stuff a wrinkled dollar bill into a nearby vending machine.

TED

Huh? What happened?

KI

Ted! Are you ok? You havent said a word for 27 minutes.

TED

No, I'm fine. I just...just...

DRIFT KING (O.S.)

You've seen them. Haven't you, Theodore?

Ted looks up: the DRIFT KING is all up in his grill.

KI

Hi, Drift King!

TED

The visions... what are they, DK?

DRIFT KING

Merely a side effect. Of *DRIFT FEVER!* You've got the bug, Ted. There's no escaping it. Cast off

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DRIFT KING (cont'd)
your plastic guitar and grip the
steering wheel of destiny!

He sits down at the table. In the background, Brian continues to fail at paying for food from a vending machine.

TED
Forget it, DK. Wongs are bred to
shred. I'm signing up for rhythm
gaming and you can't stop me.

DK pounds the table. Brian finally feeds the bill into the machine.

DRIFT KING
Confound it! How can you "Brian D"
your future away on a dying sport?

Brian hears this. He headbutts the machine. His snack gets stuck. Brian continues to headbutt the machine.

DRIFT KING
Look me in the eyes. Tell me that
"hammer ons" and "pull offs" could
possibly compare to the G-force
pull of an A-plus J-turn. The thrum
of a rumble chair as you careen
past the checkered flag. The
churning in your chest as you hear
those three magical words:

The Drift King pounds his chest on every word here.

DRIFT KING
New...Lap...Record.

Ted squares his shoulders and prepares to speak, but can't.

TED
I've... gotta go. Yoga class. Come
on, Ki.

KI
Ted, we don't have Yoga cla--

TED
-I said let's go!

Ted grabs Ki by the hand and leads her out the door. The DK calls out after him.

(CONTINUED)

DRIFT KING

Ted, even a man as fast as you
can't run from himself forever!

Brian finally returns to the table with a bag of chips.

BRIAN

Here ya go, Tedster. Got your
favorite-- Cool Ranch... oh.

The DK snags his chips.

DRIFT KING

Ah! My thanks, Ted's vassal. Though
in the future, I prefer Sour Cream
and Onion.

BRIAN

Who ARE you?

The DK GASPS and throws his cup of soda at Brian.

OMITTED

61

INT. HALLWAY-- DAY

61A

Brian, still wet, struggles to get his locker open-- someone
has written "NOOBS GO HOME" on it. He shakes the handle,
pulling on it hard. It COMES OFF in his hands. He sighs.
Then the door itself starts to FALL DOWN.

THE LAW (O.S.)

Hey there, champ. How ya holdin'
up?

Brian turns around and strikes a cool pose against his
locker to keep it from falling. Law and Jenny stand in front
of him.

BRIAN

What? Oh, you know. Fine. This is
nothing compared to my old school.
Those cats really knew how to haze.

THE LAW

Really? Guess we'll have to step it
up a notch. Ha-ha! JK. Just Rowlin'
you, bro.

Brian laughs it off.

(CONTINUED)

JENNY

So you're okay?

BRIAN

Okay? I'm great! Everything's great, right? You're great, I'm great. You're with The Law-- that's great, by the way. I'm great-- by myself, but that's great, too.

JENNY

Good. Well, I've gotta set up for practice, but I'm glad you're doing--

THE LAW

-Great! Catch ya later babe.

Jenny rolls her eyes and walks away. The Law and Brian watch her round the corner, then GLARE at each other. The hallway is empty. Beat.

BRIAN

I really am doing grea--

-The Law SLAPS Brian in the nuts. Brian cowers, stops propping up the locker: the door falls to the ground and all his gamer gear tumbles out. The Law scampers off.

CALHOUN (O.S.)

(intercom)

Brian D, please report to the Dean's office ASAP. That means right the hell now!

INT - CALHOUN'S OFFICE

62

Brian enters the room-- Calhoun looks out the window, his back turned to him.

CALHOUN

This school took a big risk on you, Brian. And you let us down.

Calhoun gestures to an empty chair.

CALHOUN

Have a seat, kid.

BRIAN

Sir, I know I blew it at the scrimmage, but I figure with

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN (cont'd)
tryouts around the corner, I can
still--

CALHOUN
-VGHS Tryouts are streamed across
the world, and you're one point
away from expulsion. The
administration doesn't like those
odds.

BRIAN
What are you saying?

CALHOUN
I'm saying you're circling the
drain. And we don't need some kid
"BrianD"-ing all over our
reputation-- oh, wait, that's you.
(beat)
That new catchphrase is exactly why
the administration is asking you to
ragequit on your own accord.

Calhoun takes a grim, final sip from his coffee.

CALHOUN
We're asking you to leave VGHS.

EXT. KOJIMA QUAD

63

Brian leaves the building, head hung low. Students snicker
as he walks across the quad- a dead man walking.

Brian notices Jenny and her JV team at a table having a
great time. He looks longingly as they laugh. A hover ball
hits him in the chest.

STUDENT
Hey. Kick back the hover ball!

Brian kicks the ball back with frustration. The ball flies,
and then veers left - into Jenny's table. It fucks shit up
as it hovers around the table while people try to grab it.

Jenny looks up and sees Brian. Brian sadly walks away.

EXT. BEHIND THE SCHOOL

64

Brian turns the corner, fuming. He composes himself for a second-- then he KICKS THE SHIT out of a TRASH CAN.

GAMES DEAN (O.S.)
Tough day, Brian?

Brian glares at GAMES DEAN, standing with his groupies SAL MINEOWN and NATALIE WOUND.

BRIAN D
Hey, Games Dean... what do you want?

Games Dean holds up Brian's discarded DXM game.

GAMES DEAN
Just wondering if you dropped this?

BRIAN
How'd you get that?

Games Dean CHUCKLES and we fade to a FLASHBACK:

EXT. KOJIMA QUAD-- MORNING

65

Games Dean relates the story of his hat and the cake from the party to Sal and Natalie. He puts out his hands as he demonstrates.

GAMES DEAN
So first this hat falls out of the sky, and there was this cake--

-Brian's DXM DISC lands in his left hand (we see he's under BRIAN'S WINDOW). Games Dean gasps. He turns to his right hand, waiting for it--

-Ted's QUICHE nails him in the back of the head.

EXT. BEHIND THE SCHOOL

66

BRIAN
Great. Well, enjoy the game.

GAMES DEAN
Oh I will, but probably not as much as Jenny will enjoy your little "oh, I like you, but don't have the balls to say so" note. Or perchance
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GAMES DEAN (cont'd)
the Law will succumb your Don Juan
de Marksmanship?

Brian just scoffs.

BRIAN
Are you kidding me? This place is
ridiculous--

GAMES DEAN
It's my time in the spotlight
Brian. And you're standing in the
way. It's Games Time.

BRIAN
Ooh, *Games Time*. I like that.
You've got yourself a brand, *Games
Dean*. You want the spotlight? You
can have it. But first, here's what
we're gonna do: We're gonna throw
down. I'm gonna stomp your face.
I'm going to make you cry in front
of your two stupid friends whose
names I don't even wanna know. See,
Games, I'm one point away from
expulsion.

Brian slams his game deck as he sits at a table.

BRIAN
And I'm gonna use that point on
you. All three of you noobs.

GAMES DEAN
Games On.

Games Dean and his two cronies look at each other. They take
their game decks and slam them on the table.

GAMES DEAN
Assault rifles?

BRIAN
Aw - lets get an SMG in there.

GAMES DEAN
Your funeral. Best of three?

BRIAN
First to five.

(CONTINUED)

GAMES DEAN
YOU'RE ON!

EXT. FIELD OF FIRE

67

Montage of Brian getting killed by the three goons. Each kill sees Brian getting more and more upset.

- Brian turns around a corner. He takes a pop shot at one of them. He misses, and Games Dean appears behind Brian and shoots him in the head. SCORE READS 0-1

- Brian runs with an SMG. He dives over a barrier screaming. He chases after two of the guys. Games Dean appears from a doorway and takes a few shots at Brian. Brian turns in time to see the last shot hit him the chest. Games Dean Smiles. SCORE READS 0-2

- Brian D is behind cover as the three bad guys approach. Brian cocks 2 SMGs and screams as he pops out of cover. They unload their clips into Brian. SCORE READS 0-3

- Brian D respawns and Sal Mineown is right there - spawn camping his ass. Brian just sighs, beyond giving a shit, as Sal lifts his gun.

BAM! Sal goes down. SCORE READS 1-3 Brian looks up to see JENNY standing in the game.

EXT. BEHIND THE SCHOOL

68

Jenny sits at the table with Brian. She is focused on her game deck.

BRIAN
What are you doing here?

JENNY
Saving your ass.

EXT. FIELD OF FIRE

69

Brian and Jenny are behind cover as bullets wiz over head.

BRIAN
Your boyfriend put you to this,
too?

Brian gets up. Jenny tries to pull him down, but Brian dives around the corner shooting. He gets riddled with bullets. SCORE READS 1-4.

(CONTINUED)

Brian respawns. Jenny sprints around the corner.

JENNY

Dammit, Brian, what the hell are you doing?

BRIAN

Leaving on my own accord.

Brian starts walking out. Jenny throws his ass against the wall and gets all up in his face.

JENNY

You know what? Fine. I sold you out. But at the end of day, you wanted to be in that game, and you screwed it up. And you can blame the whole damn school if you want to, but right here? Right now?

Jenny flips her pistol around and hands it to Brian.

JENNY

It's all on you.

They look at each other for an intense beat. Brian nods, takes the gun.

BRIAN

Let's dance.

Brian and Jenny split up and go running to cover. Jenny lays down fire as Brian sneaks up behind Games Dean's crew. Brian and Jenny take them out, a well-oiled ass kicking machine.

Jenny plants a KNIFE in Sal Mineown's back. SCORE READS 4-4.

Jenny gives Brian a thumbs up- BAM - she's SHOT IN THE SHOULDER by Games Dean. She dives behind cover. Games Dean closes in on her, unleashing clip after clip.

Brian goes to shoot him, but he clicks empty. Games Dean aims for a kill shot on Jenny--

ENTER SLOW MOTION

-And something SNAPS in Brian. He FLOWS THE FUCK OUT. Brian spots the KNIFE in Sal's back. He rolls over to the body, pulls the knife out and HURLS it in a single motion.

It SAILS ACROSS THE MAP and lands in Games Dean's SKULL. SCORE READS 5-4. Jenny and Brian WIN THE MATCH.

EXT. BEHIND THE SCHOOL

70

Everyone gawks at Brian. The guys pull up their game decks. Games Dean stares at his screen.

GAMES DEAN

B-but... it was Games Time!

Games Dean throws the game across the table to Brian.

GAMES DEAN

This ain't over, Brian D. Cronies,
let's roll.

Games Dean and his cronies roll out. Brian barely registers, still in shock.

JENNY

You should play like that more
often.

Brian turns. Jenny is poker-faced. Brian tosses her the DXM game.

BRIAN

Here. Will you play the stupid game
now?

Jenny smiles.

BRIAN

Thanks for the assist.

Brian walks off.

JENNY

See you at signups tomorrow?

BRIAN

(not turning back)
Aye-aye, Captain.

Brian throws up a salute behind his back. Jenny smiles and opens the DXM game. She takes out the manual and flips through it to the NOTES SECTION. It reads:

"Hey Jenny. Thanks for giving me a shot. And no matter how cool you are, better practice those 5 star songs if you plan on taking me on. BRIAN."

Jenny looks up at Brian as he walks away.

THE END

LEVEL 6

INT. GAMES DEAN'S ROOM: "THE DAILY DEAN"

71

An obnoxious animated intro blasts across the screen: it's time for the DAILY DEAN: Games Dean's daily VGHS gossip vlog. Games Dean appears on the screen, via shitty webcam set up in his room. Annotations galore appear around Games Dean.

GAMES DEAN

'Sup, Deansters, it's me again. Big news today. BrianD did totally come up and challenge me and my friends to a match. He came in all like "What" and I was all like "What". So we were beating him up, till Jenny came out of nowhere and was like, "Don't hurt Brian". And we're like, "What?", and she's like, "Don't".

Yeah. *The Law's* Jenny. I was like, so shocked, that we lost. And like when we left, they were all macking and stuff. Moving in on another guy's girl, Brian? I wouldn't want to be you when The Law finds out. Cuz he's gonna be like, "Whaaaaaaaaaaaa--"

HARD CUT TO RADICAL THEME TUNE OUTRO.

INT. CAFETERIA-- DAY

72

Brian, Ted and Ki huddle around a table watching The Daily Dean. Daily Dean ends and Ted and Ki look at Brian.

BRIAN

Well...its only got like, 400 views.

Student passes by and teases Brian.

MORIARTY

Nice moves last night, lover boy.

KI

Brian, VGHS only has 400 students.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN

I should probably talk to Jenny

TED

(mocking)

"Wahh wahh, I should probably talk to Jenny, wahh wahh".

BRIAN

Ted? You okay there, buddy?

KI

Ted's presenting his new future as a drift racer to Freddie today. I think he's got the butterflies.

TED

I don't have butterflies! I have *dragonflies*! We don't need your presentation, I'll tell him right now!

Ted runs out and, upon seeing FREDDIE coming in the cafeteria, immediately jumps into a trash can. Freddie walks right past.

Jenny, on her way out of the cafeteria, stops to drop something in the trash can, pauses and shakes her head. She continues on.

BRIAN

There she is. I'd better catch up.

KI

I'd better pretend to not see Ted for a few seconds, then wheel him to Freddie's room.

BRIAN

Don't let him eat anything in there.

They part ways.

INT. HALLWAY

73

Brian runs up to Jenny.

BRIAN

Hey Jenny. About today's Daily Dean--

(CONTINUED)

JENNY

Whatever, Games Dean is an idiot.
Hey, I got something for you.

She gives him back the DXM game.

BRIAN

You beat it in one night?!?

JENNY

Your high scores, too.

BRIAN

Great. So, basically, sucks to be me.

JENNY

Yeah, actually... speaking of sucking... we can't hang out anymore.

BRIAN

Totally! Wait, *what*--

JENNY

-Or be friends--WOW, that came out bad. Look, Brian, you're a cool--
The Law's Varsity Captain. My parents expect me to make the team. I can't have everybody talking about--

BRIAN

-What, so the Law wouldn't put you on his team just because everybody thinks you and I...just answered my own question.

JENNY

So, we cool?

BRIAN

What? No! We're the opposite of cool. Jenny, when we played together last night, it was--

JENNY

-Awesome. Yeah. It was. I'm sorry, Brian.

Jenny leaves.

INT. EMPTY CLASSROOM

74

Freddie addresses Ki and Ted, a stern look on his face. Ted, nervous, reads off of INDEX CARDS in front of a big GRAPH.

TED

And, uh, that's why I'm gonna sign up for drift racing this year, dad.
(looks up from the card)
I love you, Dad!

KI

Mr. Wong, we all know Ted will never be a great rhythm gamer. But he needs to hear you say it.

FREDDIE

"You'll never be a great rhythm gamer."

TED

I knew it.

KI

And that concludes our meeting--

FREDDIE

-You know how many *losers* told me that on my way to the top? Pro shredders aren't born, Ted. They're forged through the fire and the flames.

TED

Really?

FREDDIE

-Of course. The only reason I bust your chops is because I know you've got what it takes! You're a Wong. You're *born* to be a pro shredder.

TED

Called it! I knew you really cared

-

FREDDIE

--Now stop whammering and start *hammering*. On. Practice-wise. I'll see you at signups.

Ted beams a mile-wide grin.

(CONTINUED)

TED
Won't let you down this year!

Ted HUGS Ki.

TED
Thanks, Kiwi! That presentation was
tops!

Ted rolls merrily out of the room. The smile fades from
Freddie's face. He turns to Ki.

FREDDIE
So. You're Ted's first groupie.

KI
Ki Swan. 1360 points. Fighter.

Beat as the two of them size each other up.

KI
I don't like you.

She turns to leave.

FREDDIE
Word to the wise, "Kiwi". You've
been his lady for what? A week?
I've been his father twice a month
on weekends for his *entire life*.

Ki stomps out the door in a huff. Freddie calls after her:

FREDDIE
Ted stays where he belongs-- in my
shadow!

EXT. KOJIMA QUAD (OMITTED)-- DAY 75

EXT. SENIOR LAWN/SIGN UP TABLES 76

Brian waits in the long line leading up to FPS SIGNUPS. He
clutches the DXM game, glum. As he approaches, a student
signing up turns and walks away to reveal-- THE LAW, sipping
a glass of limeade.

THE LAW
Hey, Brian.

Brian stops in his tracks. The Law sees him and smiles.
Brian steels his nerves and starts walking to the table.

(CONTINUED)

THE LAW

You here to top off my limeade--

A gorgeous girl fills Law's glass with a pitcher of limeade.

THE LAW

Oh wait, that's why I have her.
Thanks babe. So, why are you here?

BRIAN

Just here to sign up.

Brian steps forward and goes to swipe the card. The Law kicks his feet up on the table, blocking the computer.

THE LAW

Here's the deal, Brian. I did you a favor by sparing your life. Now you're gonna do me a favor by not signing up.

BRIAN

Sorry, Law. Favor train's left the station.

THE LAW

Last chance, tater tot. You really wanna do this?

BRIAN

What would you do, Law? I think you'd sign up.

Brian steps up to swipe the card. Law jumps up and grabs the lanyard around Brian's neck and gets right into his face.

THE LAW

But you're not the Law, are you?

Law takes the lanyard and struts towards the senior lawn. Curious students start heading over to the ruckus.

THE LAW

Believe me, Brian, I get it. You wanna be this.

Brian tries to follow: he's BLOCKED by a big burly SENIOR.

ALLITERATOR

Law says lay off the lawn, loser.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN
(whispering)
Everybody hates you, Alliterator.

THE LAW
I mean, who wouldn't? I've got it
all. I've got the looks...

He winks casually at a passing girl. She faints.

THE LAW
I've got the brains...

Without even looking, The Law strolls by two kids playing
LASER CHESS and CHECKMATES one of them.

THE LAW
I've got this whole school in the
palm of my hand. But wait, there's
more! I've got the girl of your
dreams S'n my D.

He pulls out a comb and runs it through his immaculate hair.

THE LAW
Stylin' my 'do! So, you wanna be
this? You wanna be The Law, Brian?

Law tosses Brian's lanyard to Piepuppy who HOISTS IT UP THE
FLAGPOLE. An armada of LAW'S CRONIES form behind the Law as
he walks back towards Brian.

THE LAW
You gotta get THROUGH The Law
first.

By now, a HUGE CROWD has formed around Brian and the senior
lawn. They cheer at the Law's challenge.

EXT. KOJIMA QUAD-- DAY

77

Ki walks towards signups, the weight of the world on her
shoulders. Ted bounces up to her, smiling ear to ear.

TED
Hey! Sorry I ditched ya back there.
You and my dad get a chance to
talk?

KI
Yes. We did. And... he is your
father. I have to get to Fighting
signups, Ted.

(CONTINUED)

Ki tries to pull away from him. Ted catches up.

TED

Why are you signing up, anyway? I thought you wanted to *make* games.

KI

And what could be better research than playing with the best? 'Kbye.

TED

Hey, Ki, wait up--

-SLAP! A RHYTHM GAMING NERD smacks the graph paper out of Ted's hand. He cackles with another NERD.

RHYTHM GAMING NERD

Yo, Lil' Wong! You making a graph? Of how bad you suck?

KI

I made that graph. Leave him alone!

TED

'Scool, Ki. I got this.

He smiles at the nerds.

TED

Hey, dudes! Pumped for Rhythm Gaming this year? I can't wait to finally join you guys on the team.

NERD #2

You mean you're actually signing up again? Hah! Help me solve for "WHY"!

TED

Um... because, I... I...

-Ted notices the CROWD surrounding Brian and the Law.

TED

... I gotta go help my friend. Bye, guys! Ki, guard my stuff!

Ted runs off to help Brian. The rhythm nerds scoff.

RHYTHM GAMING NERD

Pfft. That guy should do literally *anything* but rhythm gaming.

They leave. Ki picks up Ted's scattered papers. Among them, she finds his SIGN UP CARD. She looks at it for a moment, then looks over at the DRIFT RACING table...

EXT. KOJIMA QUAD-- DAY

78

Brian and The Law stare at each other, face to face, as the building CROWD whispers around them.

BRIAN

You already proved you're better than me. Why are you doing this?

THE LAW

Brian - it's because I can. Because, well, it's fun.

Brian steps on the Lawn, the Law shoves him back.

THE LAW

And because you made it personal. The spotlight wasn't enough, you had to move in on my girl.

BRIAN

Dude, we're just-- we're not even friends!

Law grabs Brian by the collar. Across the quad, Jenny pushes through the crowd and sees them.

THE LAW

(whispering)

Whatever. I'm on to you. Cozy up to my girlfriend so you two can play around together on JV?

BRIAN

Didn't you hear? Jenny's getting on Varsity. Her boyfriend runs the team.

THE LAW

Didn't you also hear? Her boyfriend doesn't give a shit. Jenny stays on JV. This is my year, no one else's. So I suggest you skedaddle.

Law throws him to floor and walks away as the crowd laughs. Ted runs up to Brian.

(CONTINUED)

TED

Brian! Are you okay?

Ted helps Brian up. Brian's eyes are blazing with fury.

THE LAW

Go practice your dance moves Brian.
Sign ups are closed--

-- Brian tackles The Law and starts pounding on him.

BRIAN

She's too good for you, Law!

Law flips and pins Brian, and it turns into an all out brawl. The crowd is cheering. The Law's cronies and Ted swoop in to break up the fight. Ted pulls Brian away as the Seniors pull away The Law.

TED

Leave him alone! Back off!

Law and Brian glare at each other, bloodied and bruised. Brian turns and stares at Ted with absolute determination. Ted looks up and notices Brian's LANYARD on the flag pole.

TED

Ok - ok. I got your back. Go!

Ted releases Brian. Brian runs straight at The Law. Ted lets out a battle cry and charges straight for Law's cronies. The Law takes a swing at Brian-- Brian DODGES past him and runs STRAIGHT FOR THE FLAGPOLE. The Law takes off after him.

KI runs up to the edge of the lawn: her jaw drops as she sees Ted get BEAT DOWN by the Law's cronies. She turns around: the DRIFT KING and a dozen DRIFT RACERS stand behind her.

KI

What are you waiting for? Let's go!

DRIFT KING

To war!

The drifters and Ki charge the Lawn: it's an ALL-OUT BRAWL. Meanwhile, Brian keeps sprinting towards the flagpole, The Law hot on his trail. Brian jukes seniors left and right--

-WHAM! Until he's CLOTHESLINED by Piepuppy! Brian goes DOWN!

The drifters battle with Law's cronies, forming a circle around Ted. The Drift King helps Ted to his feet.

(CONTINUED)

DRIFT KING

Theodore! Are you wounded?

TED

... this doesn't change anything!

POV: BRIAN. Brian lies on the ground, dazed. He sees The Law running towards him, the seniors gathering around. He looks up at the FLAGPOLE... and sees the big MODERN ART STATUE standing next to it. **END POV.**

Brian smiles. The Law moves in for the kill-- Brian ROLLS out of his way and TRIPS him. The Law stumbles. Brian gets up and TAKES OFF again.

SLOW MOTION: The WHOLE SCHOOL watches with bated breath. Brian dodges one last senior and runs up the modern art statue. He JUMPS for the flagpole-- a move straight out of Super Mario!

The Law leaps off a table to try to grab Brian. He misses and eats it. Brian GRABS the lanyard from the pole and LANDS in the dirt. The crowd goes WILD! Jenny's jaw drops. Ted, Ki, and the drift racers CHEER!

CROWD OF STUDENTS

BRIAN D! BRIAN D! BRIAN D!

Brian dusts himself off as the crowd keeps chanting. He walks back across the lawn. He pats Ted on the back and gives Ki a nod-- the awestruck seniors clear a path. Brian swaggers up to the signup tables, his head held high.

The Law emerges from the bushes and rushes across the green. Cold Turkey holds him back and shakes his head.

He stops in front of a stupefied GAMES DEAN. Brian takes the FEDORA off his head. Brian SWIPES his card at the signup computer. The computer displays: "Brian D-- SIGNUP CONFIRMED"

CALHOUN (O.S.)

BRIAN D!

SILENCE cuts through the crowd. Calhoun stands on the senior lawn, fuming. Brian puts on the fedora and turns around.

BRIAN

Yes, Calhoun?

INT. CALHOUN'S OFFICE

79

Now sitting in Calhoun's office, Brian takes the fedora OFF in astonishment!

BRIAN

I'm expelled?!

CALHOUN

I gave you a chance to leave quietly, and THIS IS HOW YOU USE IT? Assaulting a student, inciting a brawl, stealing a hat. But worst of all, Brian? You forgot that it's all about the game.

BRIAN

Sir, please, you can't do this--

CALHOUN

It's done, kid. You're facing a 300 point deduction. 300 points you don't have.

BRIAN

This is a joke, right?

CALHOUN

Do you hear any ROFLcopters, son? Pack your things and go!

Brian's face drops.

EXT. KOJIMA QUAD-- DAY

80

Students are milling about, chatting about the brawl and picking up the little bit of damage. Ted, beat to all hell, limps up to the Rhythm gaming table. Freddie sits behind the table and sneers at his son.

FREDDIE

Looking more like a rockstar every day, kid.

Ted smiles at Freddie as he swipes the card. The machine beeps, and Ki's face appears on the monitor. Display reads "Sign up confirmed: Kimberly Swan."

TED

Wait, what?

(CONTINUED)

FREDDIE

Your stupid girlfriend switched the cards! Guess she's not just a groupie after all...

TED

I'll fix it, pops! I promise!

FREDDIE

Whatever, loser!

Ted runs to the drift racing table.

CUT TO: Ki swipes a card at the drift racing table. Ted's picture appears. Display reads "Sign up confirmed: Ted Wong."

Ted runs up to Ki and pulls her away. His jaw drops when he sees the screen. The DRIFT KING smiles at him from the other side of the table.

DRIFT KING

Welcome to the team, Theodore!

TED

Ki, how could you?

KI

Ted, I know it doesn't seem this way, but this was for your own good.

TED

"My own good"? You ruined everything!

KI

But... but I was only looking out for you--

TED

-You wanna look out for me, Ki? Look from way over there! We're through!

Ted glares at her. Ki hesitates, confused.

KI

Did... did you really want me to go over there--

(CONTINUED)

TED

Yeah!

Tears well in Ki's eyes. She runs off.

INT. SCHOOL-- DAY

81

Brian cleans out his locker. Jenny storms up and SLAMS his locker with her fist. She's PISSED.

JENNY

Hi.

BRIAN

Look, Jenny, I'm really sorry about--

JENNY

-Punching out Law in front of the entire school? Ruining my chances at getting on Varsity this year?

BRIAN

Yes to both those things. And before you punch me, I have to get something off my chest--

JENNY

-What? That you like me? That you were standing up for me against my big, mean boyfriend? I know you're upset that we can't be friends, but you're not the only one who has it tough around here. If you can't suck it up, then leave.

Jenny starts to walk away. Brian calls back to her.

BRIAN

Well, you'll be happy to know I just got expelled. So I *am* leaving.

Jenny stops in her tracks.

BRIAN

Oh! And guess what? Your "big mean boyfriend" told me he wasn't gonna let you on Varsity anyway. So at least you got a show out of it.

Jenny turns back to him, sincerely hurt.

(CONTINUED)

JENNY
You're an asshole.

Jenny walks off. Brian watches her leave, devastated. He closes his locker.

Beat.

The locker door FALLS OFF. Brian sighs and walks away.

THE END

LEVEL 7

OVER BLACK:

BRIAN (V.O.)
Previously... on VGHS.

Heartfelt ACOUSTIC ROCK plays as we begin a 90'S TEEN SOAP OPERA "PREVIOUSLY ON" MONTAGE:

EXT. VGHS: KOJIMA QUAD-- FLASHBACK 82

-The Law sneers at Brian over the signups table.

THE LAW
Jenny? Make Varsity? Not on my
watch, Brian D.

Brian lets out a YELL and PUNCHES Law in the face! Law gasps.

INT. RESTAURANT 82A

-Freddie and Ki sit down in a fancy restaurant over dinner. Freddie sips a glass of RED WINE as he says:

FREDDIE
Sorry, Ki. Ted stays in my
shadow... *where he belongs!*

EXT. WIND SWEPT HILL-SUNSET 82B

-Ted (dressed like Marlon Brando in *The Wild One*) grabs Ki by the shoulders on a WINDSWEPT HILL at SUNSET.

TED
You signed me up for drift
racing?!?

(CONTINUED)

EXT. ARCADE-- NIGHT

84

SUPERTITLE: "One Day Later"

A techno remix of a HOT JAZZ NUMBER plays as we pan back down to the ARCADE, suddenly a lot swankier and displaying the name "BRIAN'S" in big neon lights.

INT. ARCADE-- NIGHT

85

Brian swaggers across the bustling arcade in a dapper DINNER JACKET (ala *Grim Fandango*). He picks an ENERGY DRINK off the tray of a passing waitress-- she winks at him.

Brian gladhands customers as he walks to the back of the arcade. Along the way, he Fonzie-whacks a malfunctioning machine for a player. The machine starts working instantly.

PLAYER

Thanks, Mr. D!

Brian flips the player an extra token and makes his way to the DXM DANCING STAGE: a couple of lovebirds dance along to the song we've been hearing. Sitting at the DJ booth spinning discs for the dancers is THE ANNIHILIST.

ANNIHILIST

'Nother busy night, Mr. D!

Brian spots a bully hassling a little kid trying to play *Field of Fire: Arcade*. He finishes his energy drink.

BRIAN

It's always busy at Brian's.

Brian sets his drink on another passing waitress's tray. He walks off. A CUSTOMER leans in to Annihilist.

CUSTOMER

Is that Brian D? See if he'll play a game with us!

ANNIHILIST

Sorry. Brian never games with the customers.

Brian approaches the bully-- it's Jumpin Jax.

JUMPIN JAX

Scram, scro!

Jumpin Jax goes to punch the kid. Brian grabs his fist.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN
You should head back to VGHS.

JUMPIN' JAX
Whatever, *quitter*. I got tryouts tomorrow.

KID
Thanks Mr D!

Jumpin' Jax walks off. Brian hears SLOW CLAPPING and turns around to see TED seated at the counter, clapping for him.

TED
Always lookin' out for the little guy.

BRIAN
Ted! How long has it been? 20, 24 hours?

TED
You haven't aged a day.

BRIAN
Let's get a slice.

INT. ARCADE - LATER

86

Ted and Brian knock back sodas and 'za at the bar.

TED
Everything sucks now, Brian. Calhoun still won't switch back to rhythm gaming. Some balogna about "being locked in the system once you've signed up."

BRIAN
Sorry to hear that.

TED
On the plus side, though? I checked into it-- you're locked in the system, too! You can totally try out tomorrow!

BRIAN
I don't think it works that way when you're expelled. I mean, even if it did, tomorrow's no good for me. We've got a big birthday party coming in.

(CONTINUED)

TED

Dude. Come on. As much as I love what you've done with this place? It ain't no VGHS.

BRIAN

That's kind of the idea. People actually play games for fun here.

TED

You're telling me we didn't have fun together?

BRIAN

We had some swell times, Ted.

TED

To better days.

They drink. Brian takes a sip, Ted takes a CHUG.

BRIAN

How are you doing, Ted? I was really sad to hear about you and Ki.

Ted SLAMS the soda down on the bar. It fizzes over.

TED

Never say that name to me!

KI (O.S.)

What name? My name? "Ki."

Ki stands behind them. Ted refuses to make eye contact.

BRIAN

Ki! What a surprise!

KI

Yeah, hi.

Ki puts Ted's favorite GUITAR on the counter, all fixed.

KI

Here. Will you stop being mad at me?

TED

Brian, tell Ki that fixing my guitar doesn't make up for breaking my hopes and dreams.

(CONTINUED)

KI

Ted, tell Brian you're a big dumb jerk.

TED

Brian, Ki says that I'm a big dumb-- dammit.

Ted grabs the guitar and stomps off. Awkward beat as Ki and Brian watch him leave.

BRIAN

So, Ki, it's been a long time--

KI

-It's been one day, Brian!

Ki stomps off as well.

INT. ARCADE-- NIGHT

87

Ted walks in a huff through the arcade.

FREDDIE (O.S.)

Can't handle the rock?

Ted stops in his tracks. He turns to see *Freddie Wong's Axe L3g3nds 3*, a guitar arcade machine. A virtual Freddie stares on laughing at passersby.

FREDDIE

Then you'd best walk. Away!

Ted contemplates his entire life, before stepping up the machine. He looks at Virtual Freddie with defiance and plugs in his guitar.

INT./EXT. ARCADE-- NIGHT (OMMITTED)

88

INT. ARCADE-- LATER

88A

Ki sits by herself in another part of the arcade. She works furiously on her TABLET, programming the same GAME (the one with the Gomboc) she was working on at Jenny's party.

Brian comes up and sits down next to her, wordlessly.

KI

Brian, why is Ted so stupid?

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN

Ted isn't... Ted's different.

KI

I apologized, and he's still mad at me. I should be mad at him. I am mad at him! I'm stuck with Rhythm Gaming just because I tried to fix his problems.

BRIAN

Well, Ki, you can't always fix other people's problems. Sometimes, they're... unsolveable.

KI

Like the Hodge Conjecture?

BRIAN

Uh... think of it this way.

Brian points to the Gomboc rolling around on her screen.

BRIAN

Ted's like that Gomboss you've been working on. Sure, he gets knocked around alot. But you've gotta trust him to pick himself back up. And when he does? I'm sure he'll be happy to see you.

Ki looks down at the Gomboc, processing this.

KI

Thank you, Brian.

BRIAN

Take care of yourself, Ki.

Brian holds his fist out for a fistpound. Ki bumps his fist with her head.

INT. OMITTED

89

INTERCUT: EXT. ARCADE/ INT. KI'S HOUSE-- NIGHT (OMITTED) 89A

INT. ARCADE - LATER

90

Brian plays skeeball, deep in thought. A FAMILIAR TUNE wafts over the air: it's the DXM song Brian played back at Jenny's party. Brian looks up and sees a COUPLE dancing away at the DXM booth. He sighs. Brian takes another shot and misses.

JENNY (O.S.)

So. You're running an arcade now.

JENNY stands behind him. Brian tries for nonchalance.

JENNY

That's--

BRIAN

-the best thing ever? I know, right? Hi, Jenny. I'm actually kinda busy at the moment, but hey! Why don't you go play a few games? On the house.

Brian botches his card throwing trick. The card hits Jenny.

JENNY

Brian, look. I'm not great at apologies, but... you getting kicked out, it kinda sucked. So, I'm sorry.

BRIAN

It's ancient history. I was being a jerk, too. Honestly, it was probably for the best. Ted was actually telling me I could even go back for tryouts--

JENNY

-Wait, you can tryout tomorrow?

BRIAN

But why leave all this? I mean, even if they let me play tomorrow, it's not like they'd let me back in.

JENNY

So what? People say I can't make Varsity 'cause I broke up with Law. But if I kick enough ass out there, there's nothing he can do about it. I thought playing at VGHS was your dream or whatever. You've got one

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JENNY (cont'd)
last shot and you're not gonna take
it? What the hell's wrong with you?

Beat.

BRIAN
You broke up with The Law?

JENNY
Jesus, Brian.

BRIAN
No, what? I'm just saying... you
really think I have a shot?

JENNY
Tryouts. You have a shot at
tryouts.

BRIAN
That's what I meant. Totally.

JENNY
Good. So I'll see you tomorrow?

Brian hesitates. He puts down his last ball.

BRIAN
I don't know, Jenny. Honestly, even
if I did go back, VGHS isn't gonna
change. Good luck out there, okay?

Brian starts to walk away. Jenny picks up the ball.

JENNY
Wanna play DXM?

Brian stops.

BRIAN
I dunno, it's kind of a baby game.

JENNY
You're just saying that because you
know you're gonna lose. Come on--
100 spot says we dance.

BRIAN
Okay. You know, this ain't *Field of
Fire*-- skeeball's a man's game--

-Jenny, without looking, throws a ball and aces it into the
100 spot.

INT. ARCADE-- NIGHT

91

Ted flails desperately on his guitar as he duels BOSS MODE FREDDIE in *AXE L3G3NDS*. His note highway turns RED-- he's failing out!

TED

Come on! Come on! No!

The crowd boos. Ted FAILS OUT. Boss Mode Freddie taunts Ted from the game over screen.

FREDDIE

Thanks for playing Freddie Wong's
Axe Lthreegthreends 3.

The Continue Countdown begins on the screen. Ted fishes in his pockets, and a handful of tokens SPILL out all over the floor. He grimaces, and gets on his knees to frantically pick them up.

FREDDIE

Winners don't do drugs, but they
don't suck either! So why don't you
spend those tokens on drugs!

Ted drops in enough tokens just as the countdown runs out. Too late.

FREDDIE

Game over! Wise choice. You'll
never be as good as me. So why even
try?

Ted GOES APESHIT and begins kicking and punching the machine. Freddie just laughs. Ted RIPS his guitar out of the plug and is about to smash it on the screen. When--

--He notices WRITING on the back of the guitar. Ki's writing.

KI (V.O.)

I'm sorry I broke your heart. I
fixed your guitar. Love, Ki.

The DXM melody plays in the air as a TEAR WELLS IN TED'S EYE.

INT. ARCADE - LATER

92

Brian and Jenny stand together on the DXM stage. They begin to loosen up as the slow romantic intro of the song fades to an end. The two of them pose as the song turns it up to 11.

The song kicks into high gear and we BEGIN MONTAGE:

-Brian and Jenny dance to the song: their movements stiff at first, but becoming more natural as they loosen up.

-Ted wanders through the arcade, searching frantically for Ki. He clutches the guitar in his hands.

-The song picks up pace: Jenny and Brian dance harder, faster-- their feet pounding. They LAUGH.

-Ki sits outside. She flicks the gomboc one last time, sighs, and PACKS UP HER STUFF.

-The song builds to a bombastic CLIMAX. A constant STREAM of complicated foot patterns flow down the screen. Brian grins turns to Jenny. She smiles-- they nod. Brian and Jenny JUMP past each other and SWITCH DANCE BOARDS.

- Ted runs outside and sees Ki walking away. He shouts at the top of his lungs:

TED

KIIIII!

Ki stops and turns around. Ted runs up to her, out of breath.

TED

You were right, Ki. I am a big stupid mean dumb jerk. I know you were just trying to protect me, and I'm sorry you're stuck doing rhythm gaming with my dad.

Beat. Ki PUSHES Ted. He falls to the ground, then springs back up, Gomboc-style. Ki's eyes go wide.

TED

Okay, I totally deserved that. Please forgive me. I really miss you, Ki. Can we be friends again?

The music swells as Ki grabs Ted and KISSES HIM PASSIONATELY.

(CONTINUED)

- The song ENDS as Brian and Jenny land another jumping switch. The game plays the audio of a LARGE CROWD CHEERING. Brian and Jenny pant for breath. Brian smiles.

BRIAN

One last shot at my dream? I guess
I can come back for that.

JENNY

Good. 'Cause Brian D with nothing
to lose? That's who I want on my
team.

Brian and Jenny slam a PREDATOR HANDSHAKE/HIGH FIVE. They LOCK EYES for an intense beat.

BRIAN

Almost nothing to lose.

JENNY

Almost?

A string orchestra SWELLS ROMANTICALLY out of nowhere. Brian and Jenny lean in towards each other--

TED (O.S.)

-Jenny! Brian!

-And Ted barges into the moment, holding Ki's hand.

TED

Ki and I totally made up.
(whispering to Brian)
And made out, if you know what I
mean.

BRIAN

Great! I'm super happy for you.

TED

What are you guys up to? 'Cause I'm
thinking four-way high five! Yeah!

Jenny and Brian share a quick look. Ted and Ki HIGH FIVE each other in mid-air. FREEZE FRAME-- an old timey "THE END" appears on the screen.

The romantic music continues for a moment, then the screen SHATTERS with a FIREY ORANGE EXPLOSION.

BADASS ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

NEXT TIME ON VGHS!

(CONTINUED)

CUT TO an ORGY OF GUNFIRE, VIOLENCE AND MAYHEM from our action packed finale, set to HEAVY METAL music to remind our viewers that this show is FOR FUCKING REAL.

THE END

LEVEL 8 - FINAL LEVEL

EXT. VGHS/INT. AUDITORIUM-- DAWN 93

Epic music plays over a **MONTAGE** of VGHS at dawn, as the school prepares for CLAN TRYOUTS.

-A banner unfurls over the entrance of Grand Theft Auditorium. It reads "CLAN TRYOUTS TODAY".

-Inside the auditorium, the LIGHTS flick on.

-VGHS STAFF prepares the main stage of the auditorium for FPS TRYOUTS.

INT. DORMS (CONTINUE MONTAGE) 94

-Brian sits on the edge of his bed, deep in thought. He opens up his GAME DECK-- it starts to glow.

INT. KI'S DORM 95

-Ki slings Ted's GUITAR CONTROLLER over her back. She tightens the strap across her chest.

-Ted pulls on a pair of DRIVING GLOVES. He zips up a slick RACING JACKET and throws on some COOL SUNGLASSES.

INT. BRIAN D'S ROOM 95A

-Brian looks down at his game deck, doubtful and nervous. A KNOCK at the door snaps him out of it. **END MONTAGE.**

Brian gets up and answers the door, revealing TED and KI.

BRIAN

You guys ready to go--

Brian's jaw drops when he sees that Ted and Ki are holding CHIBA and HANZO-- his mouse and keyboard from Episode 1!

(CONTINUED)

TED

Now you're playing with power.

Brian drops his game deck and grabs his gear from Ted.

BRIAN

Chiba! Hanzo! How did you--

TED

-Fished 'em out of the dumpster!
You really think I'd let you throw
away your gear?

KI

I fixed them for you. They should
be fully functional.

TED

Plus I added a few... upgrades.

Ted points out the SWEET DECALS plastered on the keyboard.

BRIAN

You guys are the best friends ever.
I don't know what to say.

TED

Let's go play some video games.

INT. VGHS HALLWAY

96

Brian, Ted and Ki walk down the hallway like TOTAL BADASSES. Heads turn in the hallway as other students notice Brian making his dramatic return to the school.

They approach an intersection. Brian turns to Ted and Ki. He puts out his hands and they do a SWEET TRIPLE HIGH-FIVE. They part ways. Brian walks straight towards the camera.

INT. GRAND THEFT AUDITORIUM (PWN ZONE BOOTH)

97

A crazy INTRO GRAPHIC for "PWN ZONE: CLAN TRYOUTS EDITION" blasts at the screen. Scott Slanders and Shot Bot sit with The Law at a PWN ZONE PRESS BOOTH in the auditorium.

SCOTT SLANDERS

Wake up and smell the taurine,
'zoners! It's that time of year
again: when Legends are pulled
screaming and bloody from the womb
of Glory!

(CONTINUED)

SHOT BOT

That's just one of the many disgusting ways we'll be describing the white-knuckle action of VGHS FPS Clan Tryouts: LIVE here at Grand Theft Auditorium.

SCOTT SLANDERS

And speaking of legends, our special guest today eats legends for Brunch. Hope you grabbed a snack before the match, Law.

THE LAW

Uh... I did, Scott. Thank you.

SHOT BOT

Hah ha! Why don't you give us a rundown on what we're looking at?

Two teams walk out onto the stage: UPPERCLASSMEN (slick, intimidating, wearing matching TEAM UNIFORMS) and UNDERCLASSMEN (scrawny, scruffy, scared out of their minds).

THE LAW

We keep things simple around here: Best-of-five Capture the Case. Upperclassmen versus Underclassmen.

SCOTT SLANDERS

Should be a standard underclassman bloodbath, am I right?

Upperclassmen and underclassmen line up at table: Upperclassmen bust out their game decks and SLAM THEM DOWN in perfect unison.

THE LAW

It's not about which team wins. It's about who impresses the captains. That'd be me, and--

Jenny leads the underclassmen team, fearless.

SHOT BOT

-JV captain Jenny Matrix, who's leading this underclassmen team. She trying to impress you, Law?

THE LAW

If she is, she's got her work cut out for her, because--

(CONTINUED)

SCOTT SLANDERS
STFU, Law, here comes BRIAN D!!!

INT. GRAND THEFT AUDITORIUM

98

A MURMUR roars through the crowd as Brian enters the auditorium. He walks towards the SIGN IN table, where a scowling CALHOUN waits for him. Calhoun slurps his coffee. Brian draws his SIGNUP CARD from his pocket.

CALHOUN
Do you understand what the word
"expelled" means, D?

BRIAN
I'm still in the system, sir. If
the card works, the rules say I can
play.

CALHOUN
Hah! Who sold you that load of
Molyneux? I'm the dungeon keeper
around here and my rules are black
and white: You can't play. Face it,
Brian-- your fable ends here.

BRIAN
I know it does. It was my dream to
play on a VGHS team, and I messed
up--

CALHOUN
-Damn right, you did! So what are
you doing on my battlefield?

BRIAN
This isn't about you and me. And it
isn't about getting back in. I'm
just fighting for one last chance
to play with the best of the best.
To play the game. 'Cause at the end
of the day, Calhoun? It's all about
the game.

Calhoun nods with sage wisdom and approval.

CALHOUN
G.G., Brian D.

He SWIPES Brian's card. Brian and Calhoun FIST POUND. The crowd goes CRAZY.

INTERCUT: INT. GRAND THEFT AUDITORIUM (PWN ZONE BOOTH) 99

Scott Slanders, Shot Bot and the Law watch on, ASTONISHED.

SHOT BOT

I can't believe that worked!

The Law SEETHES with rage as Brian walks up onto the stage. His eyes go WIDE when he sees Brian holding CHIBA and HANZO. Shot Bot whistles.

SCOTT SLANDERS

Check out Brian D's old school gear. Tell me that's not the setup he smoked you with, Law-li-Pop.

Brian makes his way towards the last seat at the table. Above the tables hangs a big screen with the leaderboard and a map of the level. ACE (in referee garb) addresses the two teams.

ACE

Okay, kids, you know the drill. Let's have a clean match out there.

Brian takes a seat next to JENNY. They share a quick smile and we CUT IN TO:

INT. BLUE TEAM INTEL ROOM (FIELD OF FIRE)-- DAY 100

Brian and Jenny stand in the INTELLIGENCE ROOM of the Blue Team base. All around them, other players pick their loadouts and get ready for the upcoming match. Ace's speech continues over an INTERCOM.

ACE (INTERCOM)

Game starts in thirty seconds, y'all. Get busy fragging, or get busy dying! COUNTDOWN!

A big COUNTDOWN TIMER on the wall ticks down from THIRTY SECONDS. Jenny rounds up the troops.

JENNY

Alright, bring it in!

J-POP

You should have stayed home, Brian. You're gonna blow it for all of us.

(CONTINUED)

MORIARTY

Yeah, you're expelled. You've got no chance to make JV.

GAMES DEAN

Hey! I've seen these cats meow. BrianD and Jenny are one hell of a combo. Plan on bringing the thunder?

BRIAN

You know it.

GAMES DEAN

Good enough for me. Jenny?

Games Dean gives Brian a nod. Moriarty and J-Pop shuffle into the crowd as they turn and give Jenny their full attention.

JENNY

Now that you all worked out your feelings, you ready to kick some ass!?

The team roars in agreement. People pat Brian on the back and move towards the exit. The clock ticks down above.

COMPUTER VOICE

Ten... nine... eight...

As the computer counts down, we get a quick **MINI MONTAGE** of players psyching themselves up, checking their gear, staring at the clock, etc.

In the auditorium the crowd waits with eager anticipation. The upperclassmen **GLARE** at their opponents.

Brian and Jenny share one last look.

As the clock hits zero, the door swings open. The team storms out into the battlefield.

EXT. WARZONE/INT. INTEL ROOM (FIELD OF FIRE)/INT. AUDITORIUM
101

BEGIN MONTAGE: The BLUE TEAM (underclassmen) and the RED TEAM (upperclassmen) battle for supremacy in an INTENSE FIREFIGHT. Led by Jenny and Brian, the Blue Team quickly takes the upper hand through impressive tactics and teamwork:

(CONTINUED)

-Brian and Jenny charge across the battlefield, guns blazing.

-Games Dean slams up against cover. Brian tosses him a CLIP. They turn the corner and TAKE OUT a group of upperclassmen inside the RED TEAM INTEL ROOM. Jenny runs in and grabs the RED TEAM BRIEFCASE. NITRO pops up behind her: Brian takes him out.

INT. GRAND THEFT AUDITORIUM

101A

-Back in the AUDITORIUM, Calhoun and Ace smile proudly.

CALHOUN

Hot crowdads, the kid can play.

-As the Blue Team steamrolls the Red Team, we see Brian's PERSONAL SCORE climbing fast on the LEADERBOARDS.

EXT. FIELD OF FIRE

101B

-Back in the game, The entire blue team covers JENNY as she races across the field with the briefcase, Red Team players hot on her trail.

-COLD TURKEY draws a bead on Jenny-- MORIARTY snipes him from a tower. Jenny PLANTS the case!

INTERCUT: INT. GRAND THEFT AUDITORIUM (PWN ZONE BOOTH)

102

Scott Slanders and Shot Bot watch from the press booth, ASTONISHED. Next to them, The Law FUMES. On the leaderboards, the SCORE turns to 1-0.

SHOT BOT

Fry my circuits! Underclassmen draw first blood.

SCOTT SLANDERS

Law, looks like your ex-girlfriend and your arch-rival are really kicking your team's ass!

The Law grits his teeth. Scott Slanders guffaws and SLAPS HIM on the back.

EXT. FIELD OF FIRE

103

- Brian and Jenny (once again carrying the briefcase) run out of the RED TEAM intel room. The door explodes behind them.

- Upperclassmen mow down the underclassmen. J-Pop, hiding behind cover, sees Jenny and Brian running across the field
- BAM. J-Pop gets taken out.

- Brian and Jenny run towards the intel room as Upperclassmen pop up all around them (ala "The Pit" from Ace's class). They efficiently take them out like Tequila and Tony in the *Hard Boiled* hallway scene.

- At the entrance of the Blue Team intel room a group of upperclassmen pop up in front of Jenny. She laterals the briefcase to Brian. Brian catches it and dives in through the window. Jenny pulls out an SMG and covers Brian, but gets mowed down.

- Brian caps the flag.

INTERCUT: INT. GRAND THEFT AUDITORIUM (PWN ZONE BOOTH) 104

Scott and Shot flip out in the press booth. Behind them, the crowd goes wild in the stands.

The leaderboard switches to 2-0. Brian's score rockets up to just below 0.

SCOTT SLANDERS

These underclassmen are one point away from the biggest upset in clan tryouts history!

SHOT BOT

I can't believe what I'm processing here: Another round like that and BrianD could actually get back into the Veeg! How's that do ya, Law?

He turns-- THE LAW IS GONE!

EXT. WARZONE (FIELD OF FIRE)

105

Jenny and the Blue Team players crouch in a trench, the Red Team base in sight. Jenny gives her troops a PUMP UP SPEECH.

(CONTINUED)

JENNY

You three- left flank. Everyone else with me. This is it, boys and girls-

COMPUTER VOICE (V.O.)

-The Law. Has Entered. The Game.

INSTANT PANIC among the underclassmen.

J-POP

The Law?!?

JUMPIN' JAX

Game over! Game over our faces!

JENNY

Keep it together! We panic, we die. But as long as we keep our heads--

-BOOM! Jenny's head gets BLOWN OFF. The underclassmen FREEZE in shock. Up on a hill, THE LAW stands with a sniper rifle.

THE LAW

'Lawreadyforthis?'

The underclassmen turn to each other and SCREAM:

BLUE TEAM PLAYERS

RUN!!!

Brian watches in horror as his team scatters around him.

BEGIN MONTAGE: The Law lays waste to the terrified underclassmen, dealing death to all in his path.

Brian scrambles, teammates dying all around him. He dives for cover and lands at The Law's FEET (holding a pistol and the blue team BRIEFCASE).

They lock eyes. The Law smirks. BLAM-- and Brian gets blown away from the SIDE, by Cold Turkey! Cold Turkey cheers-- the Law scowls and SHOOTS HIM IN THE HEAD.

INTERCUT: INT. PWN ZONE PRESS BOOTH

106

On the projector screen, The Law plants the briefcase. The leaderboard updates: 2-1.

SHOT BOT

Yowza! Lesson learned: hell hath no fury like a Law scorned!

(CONTINUED)

SCOTT SLANDERS

I know me some ownage, but that has
to be one of the fastest case caps
I've ever-- GREAT CARMACK'S GHOST,
THEY JUST SCORED AGAIN!

The Law BLASTS an underclassman through the door to the Red Intel Room, strolls in casually, and caps another point. 2-2.

SHOT BOT

Tie Game! This upperclassmen
comeback is positively
Quakesperian!

SCOTT SLANDERS

Cry havoc, and let slip the Gears
of War, Shot Bot, 'cause it's time
for SUDDEN DEATH.

The crowd cheers in the stands as the words SUDDEN DEATH flash up on the screen.

SHOT BOT

3 minutes. No respawns. No mercy.

END MONTAGE.

INT. BLUE TEAM INTEL ROOM (FIELD OF FIRE)-- DAY

107

It's ANARCHY in the intel room: tempers flare as the Blue Team morale crumbles to pieces. Everyone's shouting at each other, panicked, as Jenny tries to quiet them down.

Brian stands next to Jenny, expression blank. He looks up at the COUNTDOWN TIMER ticking away...

JENNY

Everybody calm down! We can still
win this thing!

MORIARTY

Get real, Matrix! We're done-zo.
The Law is-

BRIAN

-coming for me.

His voice cuts through the noise.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN

The Law's here because I'm here. So
I say let him have me.

Solemn silence from the team. Jenny whispers to Brian.

JENNY

You know you're almost back in the
school, right?

BRIAN

(to Jenny)
I know.
(to team)
Here's the plan, guys.

EXT. WARZONE (FIELD OF FIRE)

108

WIND howls over the EMPTY BATTLEFIELD. Too quiet.

Brian scans the battlefield from behind cover. He spots Games Dean, crouched, leading the Blue team into a DRAINAGE PIPE on the right side of the map.

Brian glances at JENNY, ducked behind a wall on the left side of the map. He gives her a thumbs up-- she nods and disappears around the corner. Brian pulls out a GRENADE, takes a deep breath...

AND PUTS IT ON HIS HEAD. He steps out from cover and shouts:

BRIAN

LAW!!

Brian's voice echoes through the air. Across the map, The Law and RED TEAM come to a halt.

THE LAW

He's mine.

CUT TO:

EXT. WARZONE (FIELD OF FIRE)-- MOMENTS LATER

109

The Law stalks across the map alone, gun drawn. He pokes his head around a corner and spots Brian standing in the open with the grenade on his head.

The Law smirks. Then he hears a TWIG SNAP behind him. The Law SPINS AROUND--

(CONTINUED)

-and draws his gun on JENNY! She levels her pistol at his head. It's a MEXICAN STANDOFF.

THE LAW

Jenny.

JENNY

Law.

THE LAW

Awkward. So, what's happenin' Captainin'?

JENNY

Can we just shoot each other now?

THE LAW

Oh, we could. But... that wouldn't get you on Varsity, would it?

Jenny stays quiet.

THE LAW

Here's how this is gonna work. You're gonna grab the intel. I'm gonna say "hi" to Brian. Aaaand... I'll see you at Varsity practice tomorrow!

JENNY

You think I'd be caught dead on your team?

THE LAW

Jenny, please. I should go before people start talking.

The Law lowers his gun and walks away, cool as a cucumber. Jenny hesitates-- she can't pull the trigger.

CUT TO:

EXT. WARZONE (FIELD OF FIRE)-- MOMENTS LATER

110

Brian waits in the middle of the map, grenade still on his head. The Law steps out into the open and waves to him.

THE LAW

Hi, Brian--

-Suddenly, the Law JERKS like he's been shot in the back.

(CONTINUED)

THE LAW

Blam! Oh no! Jenny just shot me in the back!

He looks behind him-- no one's there.

THE LAW

Oh wait, no she didn't She just stabbed you in the back!

Realizing something's wrong, Brian QUICKDRAWS his pistol-- but The Law is faster. BANG! He shoots the gun out of Brian's hand. BANG! He puts a bullet in Brian's KNEE. Brian falls to the ground.

THE LAW

Really, Brian?

Off screen, we hear an eruption of GUNFIRE and SCREAMS. The Law pulls up a hologram of the LEADERBOARDS: the names of Games Dean and his strike team get CROSSED OUT as they're blown away.

THE LAW

Really?

All hope fades from Brian's eyes as all the upperclassmen pour out onto the field.

THE LAW

Gotta admire your gumption Brian. You really wanna play this game one last time? Well, the clock's tickin', so why don't you put that nade on your noggin, and we'll put this whole "Is anyone on Earth better than The Law" issue to bed.

The Law walks back a few yards and aims his pistol at Brian. The upperclassmen watch on. Brian picks up the grenade and stands tall. He looks down at it, then casts a defiant glare at the Law.

THE LAW

Brian... what's with the look? I'm not the bad guy here. You were nothing, a nobody. And then you met me. And the whole world gave you a shot. And you blew it. You proved you were nothing. But surprise, here's your pal The Law. Giving you one last chance. Are you going to take it? Come on Brian, you've got nothing to lose.

(CONTINUED)

Just then, Brian catches something out of the corner of his eye: IT'S JENNY! She charges towards him. Brian PULLS THE PIN on the grenade.

BRIAN
Almost nothing.

The Law's eyes go wide. He draws his pistol, aims at Brian's head--

JENNY
BRIAN!!

Jenny TOSSES A PISTOL to Brian and FIRES on the upperclassmen with her SMG. As the pistol flies through the air, The Law spins and SHOOTS Jenny. She goes down.

Brian LOBS the grenade towards the upperclassmen and DIVES for the pistol. Brian CATCHES it just as the grenade EXPLODES at the upperclassmen's feet.

Brian springs to his feet and OPENS FIRE with the pistol! In a SPECTACULAR GUNFIGHT, Brian annihilates the ENTIRE RED TEAM and puts a bullet right between The Law's EYES.

The Law's body hits the ground. Brian catches his breath.

INT. GRAND THEFT AUDITORIUM 111

STUNNED SILENCE in the packed auditorium. All eyes focus on the LEADERBOARD as the clock rolls down to ZERO.

The board flashes "BLUE TEAM WINS!" The crowd goes CRAZY! Brian's score shoots up to 300 points!

INT. GRAND THEFT AUDITORIUM (PWN ZONE BOOTH) 112

Shot Bot's head SPINS AROUND and SIRENS flash on his body. Scott Slanders jumps up and down like a kid.

SCOTT SLANDERS
UNDERCLASSMEN WIN!

INT. GRAND THEFT AUDITORIUM 113

On stage, the underclassmen JUMP FOR JOY. Hugs and high fives all around-- everybody swarms around Brian D. He grins from ear to ear.

(CONTINUED)

On the other side of the table, the upperclassmen hang their heads in shame. The Law throws a mini-tantrum and storms off the stage.

Brian and Jenny HUG as their team celebrates around them. They smile at each other-- and LINGER for a moment...

CALHOUN

Brian D!

Aaaand Calhoun ruins it. Brian turns to face him.

BRIAN

Yes, sir?

CALHOUN

Congratulations, kid. You're once again the lowest ranked player at VGHS.

Calhoun and Brian SHAKE HANDS. Brian's team cheers once more. Brian turns to look for Jenny-- but she's GONE.

FADE TO:

INT. LOCKER ROOM-- DAY

114

Brian opens his LOCKER, a smile on his face. He puts CHIBA and HANZO inside.

JENNY (O.S.)

Hey.

Brian turns around. Jenny stands behind him. She tosses him a JUNIOR VARSITY FPS JACKET.

JENNY

Welcome to the team.

BRIAN

Thanks... sorry about Varsity.

JENNY

I'm happy with what I've got.

Another lingering beat...

BRIAN

Listen, Jenny, I--

Jenny pulls Brian in and they share a PASSIONATE KISS.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN

Uh... wow...

JENNY

Sorry. That's the last one. I'm your captain now.

BRIAN

But, that was the first one.

JENNY

I know. Practice starts tomorrow.

Jenny puts out her fist. Brian pounds it. Jenny turns and walks away. Brian closes his locker and SIGHS. Jenny gives the same sigh as she walks out the door.

EXT. KOJIMA QUAD

115

Ted (sporting a DRIFT TEAM JACKET) walks with the Drift King and one of his Punks, laughing it up. Ted notices Ki talking to Freddie.

TED

Sorry guys, gotta run. Catch ya later.

DRIFT KING

Sleep well, young Theodore. For we drift at daybreak!

Ted waves. He runs up to Ki and Freddie.

FREDDIE

Hey Ted. Turns like your lady is quite the rocker.

TED

I'm sure she is Dad. She's pretty awesome at everything.

FREDDIE

You can play it cool all you want Ted, but we both know -

Ki grabs Ted's hand and smiles. Ki notices Brian coming out of the school, jacket draped over his shoulder, looking glum.

KI

Hey, its Brian!

(CONTINUED)

TED

See ya later pops!

Ki and Ted run up to Brian.

TED

BRIAN FREAKING DEEEE!!!

He brightens up immediately. Ted grabs Brian in a big bear hug. Ki awkwardly hugs both of them.

KI

Congratulations, Brian.

TED

I knew you'd make it back. Roomies forever!

BRIAN

Thanks, guys!

(he sees their jackets)

Whoa, you made your teams!

TED

She melted my old man's face off. Literally!

KI

Not literally. But I did very well. So did Ted!

TED

Now put that jacket on and let's grab some victory pizzas.

BRIAN

Pizza sounds great right now.

They head off. Brian struggles to put his jacket on as he walks.

BRIAN

Hey, what size jackets did you get?

Their (ad-lib) conversation fades as they walk across the quad and into the PROVERBIAL SUNSET.

THE END.